

RUIDOSO

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004 • OUR 57TH YEAR, NO. 90 • 50 CENTS

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Money may delay U.S. 70 roadwork

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Completion of U.S. 70 construction west of Ruidoso may be delayed because some subcontractors and suppliers claim they haven't been paid by J.R. Hale Contracting Co.

But Dave Dawson, project manager for the state Transportation Department, said Wednesday he's optimistic crews will be back on the job Monday.

"There's a lot up in the air," he said. "All of the money due for the project has been paid to J.R."

That comes to about \$13 million, he said, with the project 80 percent complete. The cost of the entire reconstruction and widening is about \$15,760,000, Dawson said.

What remains to be finished includes paving, guardrails, grading, riprap and seeding, and the final striping, he said.

"There are some subs and suppliers who have filed against their surety (bond) for the money due," Dawson said. "We've been trying to work it out. I sent letters to their sureties and to J.R. for an action plan on how they will pay them off and get the job started (again). I'm waiting for responses to the letters."

"We've been meeting with the subs and giving them information." The seven mile project west of the State Highway 48 intersection was started Feb. 1, 2003 and is scheduled to wind down in May.

See DELAY, page 3A

Reservoir water level on the rise

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Taking advantage of the heavier flow of the Ruidoso River, village officials used the month of March to raise the water level in Grindstone Reservoir by 12 feet.

That places the top of the lake, a major source of community water, at 20 feet below the spillway. The goal is to elevate the lake to 8 feet below the spillway. But as the level gets higher, more water is required for each foot because of the larger surface area, said village manager Lorri McKnight.

The only source of water for the reservoir is diversion from the river. "That's on the plus side," McKnight said of the increase in water at the lake. "But on the other side, we had a lot of people in town in March too and there was a lot of water use."

Usage for that month was 117 percent of last year for the same time period, she said. Because of conservation measures, usage has been riding most months at less than 100 percent compared to 2003.

McKnight recommended that the village remain in Phase III water restrictions, which prohibits any outside irrigation. Hand watering of tree

See GRINDSTONE, page 3A



PHOTO BY NIKI PRICE

Swamper Kevin Lehto (right) and sawyer Levi Sanchez, members of the Smokey Bear Hot Shots crew, fell a tree to clear a path for fire line practice near Musket Ball Drive on Thursday, March 25. Crews are preparing for the start of the 2004 fire season.

An early fire season means area firefighters must stay

A STEP AHEAD

BY NIKI PRICE
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

It's early spring on the nation's forestland. Fire managers are starting to review applications, count their shovels and plan for the season ahead, right? Maybe in Montana, where the wildland fire season starts in July. But here in New Mexico, where many a blaze has been fanned by the April winds, the show's already on the road.

At stations across the Lincoln National Forest and adjoining federal lands, firefighters have already checked their equipment, serviced their engines and tested their physical endurance. This week, the Smokey Bear Ranger District's fire threat rating was moved from "moderate," where it has been all winter, to "high."

The season has begun.

Large and in charge

There are many federal agencies protecting the land around Ruidoso, making a map of the region look like a patchwork quilt. But since wildfire rarely respects such manmade boundaries, the Lincoln Interagency Zone dispatch takes over.

This control center gathers profes-

TAKING CHARGE

fire risk and prevention 2004

Part One of a six-part series exploring the nature of fire and fire suppression in the Sacramento Mountains

sionals from six entities, including the U.S. Forest Service and the Mescalero Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and coordinates the mobilization of crews and craft from Alamogordo to western Texas. When an employee or civilian spots a fire, the alert goes right to the center in Alamogordo for confirmation and analysis.

The dispatchers from the Lincoln zone don't just hand orders down — they're also in charge of sending requests up to the Southwest Coordination Center (SWCC) in Albuquerque, the interagency office that provides support to 10 similar zones across Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

But before a fire becomes SWCC's

problem, it's a primary concern for the Lincoln zone's small army of first responders: the initial attack.

Initial attack resources

On the Lincoln National Forest, two crews of around 20 firefighters each have already reported for duty and are hitting the trail.

"They're gearing up right now, getting their refresher and initial training," said Harry Phillips, manager for the Lincoln zone center. "They'll be up to speed no later than the middle of April."

The Smokey Bear Hot Shots, based in Ruidoso, and the Sacramento Hot Shots, headquartered at the Cloudcroft Ranger District, are Type 1 resources: the best-trained crews the U.S. Forest Service has to offer.

The Smokey Bear crew, for example, has just three first-time Hot Shots, but none are rookie firefighters. The Sacramento district turns away more than 50 percent of the applicants for its elite crew, despite the early start that discourages many college student recruits.

The third Type 1 crew in the Lincoln zone, the BIA's Mescalero Hot Shots, has the same level of expertise.

See FIRE, page 2A



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Sherry Hooten-Soele and her cinnamon Australian shepherd, Furbie, enjoy a walk around The Links Public Golf Course, but she favors creating a separate Bark Park for dogs and their owners.

Councilors put 'bark park' on back burner

■ The board likes the idea, but isn't ready to fund it just yet.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Although Ruidoso village councilors said Tuesday they liked the idea of a dog park, they weren't ready to list it as a priority.

Parks and recreation director Rafael Salas is overburdened already, said Councilor Ron Hardeman.

"I think it's a great idea," he said. "But from my point of view, it's not a priority. Rafael doesn't have the staff. He's stretched as it is. Our existing parks are in a state of disrepair."

"I'm a dog lover (but) we are surrounded by national forest where dogs can be walked. It's not like El Paso."

Councilor L. Ray Nunley, who originally asked the staff to look into a Bark Park after a query from a resident, agreed. But he added that he visited a small town east of Thatcher, Ariz., that has one much larger than 100x100 feet, the size suggested as a start by Salas.

"My dog took me for a walk there and we loved it," Nunley said. "It's a great idea, but I agree it's not a priority."

If such a park is created locally, dog owners would be asked to self-police waste, although bags could be provided, Salas said. He's been researching dog parks in other

See PARK, page 3A

FIRE: By land or by air, crews prepared

"They're the highest level of ground firefighters we have. They're the ones we utilize for wildland fire suppression throughout the nation," Phillips said.

The Mescalero force also includes two Type 2 crews, firefighters who pass physical exams and basic training but are not as experienced as Hot Shots. These 40 workers will be mobilized by mid-April, said David Kirgin, the agency's Wildland Fire Program Manager.

Engine crews are gearing up for the season, too. The Smokey Bear Ranger District has two: Engine 133, which covers Ruidoso seven days a week with a staff of eight, and Engine 135, which covers Capitan five days a week with a five-person complement. At a 600-gallon capacity, Engine 133 is considered a Type 3 resource while No. 135 is a Type 6, at 200 gallons.

One Type 3 engine and one Type 6 are housed in Cloudcroft, and the same configuration in Mayhill.

The Mescalero Agency will maintain two Type 3 engines and four Type 6 engines, with a crew of three for each.

Air power

The ground crews won't be on their own for long. This week, a Neptune P-2V air tanker reported for duty at the Alamogordo base. Contracted from Minden Air Corp. of Nevada, this Type 2 aircraft can deliver 2,450 gallons of fire retardant slurry.

Around the middle of April, a Type 3 helicopter and its crew of 12 will come on duty at Apache Summit, near Hwy. 70 on the reservation. It is a cooperative venture with the BIA and Forest Service.

The Village of Ruidoso, Lincoln County and the New Mexico State Forestry office in Capitan are pooling funds to keep a single-engine tanker on call at the Sierra Blanca Regional Airport. County com-

IN THE ZONE

The Lincoln Zone Interagency Coordination Center, often shortened to IZC, dispatches and organizes resources for emergency management across our region. The following agencies participate:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Park Service Bureau of Indian Affairs
- New Mexico Department of Forestry

The dispatch center is an all-risk dispatch facility. It receives reports and processes orders for aircraft, equipment, crews and supplies to southeastern New Mexico and west Texas. To report a fire, call 877-695-1663.

missioners recently approved \$17,500 toward this effort; negotiations should be complete by mid-April.

On the lookout

The region's complement of prevention and detection staff will soon be complete, as well.

Spotters have been hired to provide daylight coverage at the lookout towers on Sacramento Lookout and James Ridge, in the Sacramento district, and Morjeau Lookout, in the SBRD. When fire danger starts to rise, staff from the Village of Ruidoso's fire department will scan the horizon from the Ruidoso lookout tower.

The Mescalero Agency staffs five lookouts during daylight hours: Cienegita, Harley, Pajarita, Five Canyon and Silver. They also utilize prevention staff through a cooperative project with the Mescalero Tribe's award-winning Firewise program, Kirgin said.

Nine seasonal workers, called fire prevention technicians, will be roaming the two districts throughout the sum-

mer. "Normally, they drive to different dispersed camping areas, checking to make sure fire rings are in place, and to make sure that campfires have been put out cold," said SRD Fire Management Officer James Villard. "Some also help on fire cause determination."

"We usually choose them based on their personal skills, dealing with the public and those type of things. They also do Smokey Bear programs at schools and festivals," Villard said.

Four "prevention techs" will serve in the Sacramento district, and the rest in the Smokey Bear.

Bigger efforts

When a blaze grows beyond the scope of initial attack, dispatchers draw from other local resources, both public and private.

The Mescalero agency of the BIA, said Phillips, often provides "the lion's share of the resources in the zone" when a big fire looms. This includes three more Type 2 crews which are on call through the season, plus a variety of bulldozers and other equipment.

Other firefighters at the ready include the Diablos, two Type 2 crews of Mexican nationals that are stationed at Big Bend National Park in Texas. Staff and engines from the Carlsbad and Guadalupe National Parks, the Bitter Lake Wildlife Refuge, and the Bureau of Land Management office in Las Cruces are called upon as well, Phillips said.

"Another resource is a cadre of contract engines that are privately owned and signed up on emergency rental agreements, scattered throughout the zone," he added. "They're private individuals who have purchased engines and staffed them — water tenders and bulldozers, too."

Also on standby are the vol-

HOT LINKS

Southwest Area Wildland Fire Operations Website
General information about firefighting policies and efforts in Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Texas and Oklahoma.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/>

Lincoln Zone Dispatch
Up-to-date information on prescribed burns, crew mobilizations and other news.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln/lzr/web/index.html>

unteer fire departments throughout the zone, which can be mobilized by the New Mexico State Forestry office in Capitan.

"We do have a pretty good pool of resources to draw from. We have quite a bit of inter-agency cooperation," said Phillips.

A short reprieve

The wet March weather has increased fuel moisture in the region, giving crews a little more time to prepare. But no one's letting their guard down.

"The late-season moisture helped a lot. We are in a lot better shape than we have been in the last eight to nine years," Villard said last week. "That could be short-lived, mind you, because predicting the winds in the spring around here is nearly impossible."

"If we got into a real warm trend with lots of winds, we could be back into it within two weeks."



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Former local indicted for molestation

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A Lincoln County grand jury indicted Edd "Ray" Edison, 59, on four child molestation charges last week.

The former Ruidoso resident and developer of the Funtrackers recreation complex on Carrizo Canyon Road, is living in Corpus Christi, Texas. He was charged with one count of criminal sexual penetration and three charges of criminal sexual contact, according to court records. The charges filed last Friday relate to a young girl,

who is a relative of Edison.

Capt. Wolfgang Born of the Ruidoso Police Department said officers traveled to Texas, where Edison was arrested. The original \$300,000 bail set by Ruidoso Magistrate Judge William Butts apparently was reduced by a judge in Texas and Edison is not in jail.

The case, filed in the 12th Judicial District Court in Carrizozo where Judge Karen Parson presides, is being reassigned to another judge, a court spokesman said. Assistant district attorney Michael Kwasniewski is prosecuting the case.

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ENMU regents give support to local branch college



BY DAVE PRICE
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A standing-room only crowd attended the latest meeting of the Eastern New Mexico University Board of Regents, held Wednesday morning in Ruidoso.

The crowd erupted in applause midway through the proceedings, when Regent Blaine Hess told the audience that, at their March 22 meeting, the regents had passed a resolution supporting the effort to make ENMU's Ruidoso campus, technically an instructional center, into a full-fledged branch of the larger university.

"That was but the first step," said ENMU President Steven Gamble. "Now, we need to convince the Commission on Higher Education, the governor and the Legislature." Regent Jay Gurley noted the community should be prepared for what could be a long process, saying that Gov. Richardson's new Task Force on Higher Education, announced March 19,

could speed or slow progress towards branch status.

The task force, according to a release from the Governor's office, is charged with a laundry list of duties, and will "examine the roles of two-year and four year institutions, and determine the effects of their rapid expansion into communities across the state."

The ENMU Board of Regents meeting, the first in Ruidoso in several years, featured the appointment of new officers for the year.

Vice president Marshall Stinnett was selected as the board's new president. Stinnett replaced Hess in the post. Jay Gurley was elected vice president while Tracy Henderson was re-elected by her fellow regents to her post of secretary treasurer.

Also during Wednesday's meeting, the board recognized the efforts of president Gamble. Hess said Gamble had helped bring about two of the most successful years in the school's history, inso-

far as funding and support requests of the Legislature were concerned. "If you have any plans for this Friday," Hess told Gamble, "cancel them." He then presented the president with a white envelope containing two tickets to the Final Four NCAA basketball tournament, to be held this weekend in San Antonio.

In other business, the regents approved a fee increase for a welding instruction program on the Roswell campus, approved preliminary figures for the upcoming budget process - figures projecting a 3 percent increase in compensation for faculty and staff - and approved a tuition increase for ENMU-Roswell.

The regents discussed tuition increases at length. Regent Alva Carter expressed frustration at the Legislature's recent mandates to increase tuition for out-of-state students. This year, that increase is about 28 percent.

The change for the coming year at

ENMU-Roswell will yield a per-credit-hour cost of about \$38.50, placing it in the middle the range of costs for similar institutions across the state, said Judy Armstrong, Provost at ENMU-Roswell.

Tracy Henderson, the lone student representative serving on the ENMU Board of Regents, cast the only vote opposing the tuition hike.

Saying she knew it was necessary, she could not support the increase as a representative of the student body that would be forced to pay the increasing costs.

ENMU-Ruidoso dean Jim Miller was pleased at Wednesday's turnout.

"I was gratified by the number of people that chose to attend the meeting and to express themselves to the Regents and to the senior staff of the university," Miller said. "I think it's a good indication of how much interest there is in a college in the community. The interest was there in the 1980s and it continues today, 20 years later."

GRINDSTONE: High river flow good for lake

FROM PAGE 1A

wells and flower beds is allowed after 3 p.m. and before 10 a.m.

In other water issues, she pointed out that part of the traffic hang-up on State Route 48 was for the moving of a water pipeline along the highway right of way, but the project is almost finished.

A well is being drilled on the high school property as a supplement and backup, she reported.

"It soon will be known as the Nunley well," she said, referring to the repeated urging of Councilor L. Ray Nunley that the well be prepared for use as another source of

water for the village.

The next new well to be developed will be near the existing Hollywood well field area, she said.

Nunley asked about progress on his previous request to provide leeway in water restrictions for drip irrigation, a more efficient system. McKnight said at the next council meeting, she will ask for a May public hearing date on rewording that would cover the issue and, possibly, recommendations from a water task force that is looking at rates and related items.

Councilor Ron Hardeman said all changes should be in place before the summer tourist season starts.

With all the people in town, McKnight said the village may see substantial gross receipts taxes from March.

She reported that the most recent check from the state received last month, representing the village's portion of GRT for the month of January, hit \$587,810.

"That's a really good figure," she said. The three previous years saw checks of \$497,000, \$479,000 and \$490,000, McKnight said.

"We're over \$6 million for the year to date and that's about \$300,000 over last year," she said. She paused and then recalled, "My very first years with the village (in finance), the whole budget was \$6 million."

PARK: Salas says department has more pressing needs

FROM PAGE 1A

areas since October and came back with three potential sites, the best being at the end of Kansas City Street, where some fencing exists that could be used for one side of the park

area. A request for an acre of land isn't feasible with a cost for fencing of \$12 per linear foot, he said.

Two gates also would be needed for \$500 and a water fountain with bottom bubbler to accommodate humans and dogs would cost \$2,000. One bench would be needed at a cost of \$450, he said. The El Paso Dog Park cost \$20,000 for a 100x100-foot area built in an existing neighborhood park, he said.

He consulted a veterinarian about possible communicable

diseases animals could pick up from one another, but was told the risk was minimal as long as dogs were vaccinated.

Proponents talked about staging events at a dog park, such as dog shows and agility trials. Salas said other locations are available for those activities at School House Park, the site of the annual Pet Faire, and the outfield at White Mountain, or the Eagle Creek Sports complex.

He didn't include a dog park in his capital improvement request and many other projects need immediate attention,

he said.

The Bark Park concept could be revived if someone offered a donation of land, materials or for perpetual maintenance, supporters said.

DELAY: 70 West in limbo

FROM PAGE 1A

Calls for comment to the office of J.R. Hale Contracting Company in Albuquerque were not returned.

Lincoln County Commissioner Leo Martine said he's received complaints from some small company owners, who worked on the project but didn't have direct contracts with the state.

Attorney Alan Morel said he is handling two cases trying to collect from the company, and has spoken directly to J.R. Hale.

"He indicated his intent to pay, but that he was having trouble collecting money owed to the company," Morel said. "These are what you would call third-tier subcontractors. I know of one sub who has made a claim against the project bond."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Task force to meet

The Community Center of Lincoln County Task Force will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, April 5 at the Ruidoso Downs Senior Center.

On the agenda will be

grant writing strategies as the task force's plans unfold to apply for a \$25,000 planning grant to help ascertain the need in the county for a community center, and just what facilities such a center should include.

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US 70 Activities Underway In April 2004

Shoulder and lane closures will continue along the 38-mile project corridor through the month of April. Paving has resumed in sections D, E & F with the Hondo to Tinnie 4-lane section complete by mid-April. Excavation, drainage and wall construction will continue in Sections B, C, & F. Bridgework will continue in Section B & C with Rio Bonito deck pour late April. Grading/base course work on the south half of roadway from 70/380 jct westward to San Patricio will continue in April with paving in May.

Various lane shifts, detours and roadway re-striping will occur as the work progresses. Please allow an extra 20-30 minutes in your travel schedule to accommodate general construction activities.

Blasting will continue to be more frequent on weekdays (Mon-Fri), in Section B and F at the following locations: MP 271-273 located West of Glencoe/East of Fox Cave and MP 295-297 located at Tin Top area. Please call the hotline or visit the website for details. Lane closures will begin at 12 pm lasting up to one hour.

Toll Free Hotline: 1-866-653-4069 Website: www.us70hondovalley.com

April Calendar of Events
Next US 70 Hondo Valley Citizens Task Force Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2004

For information call Mary Ann Wootton,
SBC Community Relations Liaison
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*Carrizozo:	Wednesday	April 7, 2004	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
*Corona:	Thursday	April 8, 2004	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
*Capitan:	Wednesday	April 14, 2004	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
*Ruidoso:	Friday	April 16, 2004	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
*Cloudcroft:	Wednesday	April 21, 2004	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
*Hondo:	Friday	April 23, 2004	9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

*There is no Head Start Program in Corona or Cloudcroft

Region IX Education Cooperative
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RUIDOSO NEWS OPINION

PAGE 4A

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FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 20

RUIDOSO NEWS

Dave Price, general manager
Wes Schwengels, editor

A Gannett Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday

OUR OPINION

A tale of two counties offers a lesson of sorts

Lincoln and Catron might look alike, but they're not

Consider this a "tale of two counties," with as great a difference between them as Charles Dickens could ask for...

Both counties share a colorful history, natural beauty and rugged landscapes. But there is a cultural difference — a huge one.

Catron County, the state's largest in area and among the sparsest in population, has made the news recently with the story of a rancher named Kit Laney who was arrested (and perhaps next week will be released) for assault on a peace officer after refusing to remove his cattle from a grazing allotment on the Gila National Forest.

Laney wanted to keep graz-

ing his cattle on the Diamond Bar Allotment, although he had no Forest Service grazing permit. Many Catron ranchers have adamantly opposed any sort of government interference for decades.

Meanwhile, ranchers in Lincoln County, self-described long-term stewards of the land, have over the years voluntarily reduced livestock grazing in the face of continuing drought. The forest now is populated by about 30 percent of its former capacity.

No pressure came from the government. Ranchers credit good USFS staff and their own conservation efforts.

There should be a lesson in this for that other county, where it seems people would rather fight than cooperate.

Here's what Lincoln County didn't get from Santa Fe

More than \$2.6 million in capital spending (known by just about everybody as "legislative pork") by year's end will have reached Lincoln County public entities —

towns and villages, school districts, state-owned facilities like Fort Stanton, and such.

State Sen. Rod Adair, the Roswell Republican who isn't one to speak softly, dropped by the

office Tuesday after an outspoken appearance at that Rotary luncheon, where the Association of Commerce and Industry also gave its pitch on the last Legislature. He passed along the Legislative Council Service's accounting of 2004 legislative pork and where the money went.

In hand now is a list of 56 capital spending requests for projects in Lincoln County totaling \$3.024 million, nearly all sponsored by our county's state lawmakers — Senator Adair, along with three members of the House, Dub Williams of Glencoe, and Dan Foley and Avon Wilson of Roswell, all Republicans.

Those requests, presented in the form of sundry bills and budget line items, ran the gamut from \$5,000 for athletic equipment for the Capitan schools to almost \$900,000 in requests for Fort Stanton preservation and renovation.

But Adair's main point was that about 12 percent of requests (\$355,000) for Lincoln County projects were vetoed by Gov. Bill Richardson, sometimes, he said, without apparent reasons.

Carrizozo projects took the biggest hit, \$100,000 for the municipal swimming pool and \$40,000 for power plant work — both sought by Adair. The town did get \$117,000 approved. The senator, a vocal administration critic, in fact saw six vetoes totaling \$240,000 in Lincoln County projects. That's almost 68 percent of all the vetoed spending.

Foley vetoes came to \$55,000 in the county, while Wilson lost one request, for \$25,000 for ENMU-Ruidoso roof repair, to the

governor's pen.

Williams' \$885,000 in requests, mostly for Ruidoso Downs, plus \$135,000 for the fort and \$100,000 for ENMU-R, escaped untouched by the governor.

But Senator Adair's bottom line is this: "Never has a governor before Richardson vetoed legislators' requests coming from severance tax bonds. That's everybody's money, from state land resources, not the governor's money."

"The governor is an east coast politician who uses his position like a Tammany boss. That's not New Mexico's way," said Adair.

Apparently Adair's own Chavez County took a much heavier hit from the governor. But then, Democrat Sen. Tim Jennings, also from Roswell, laid into the governor on the Senate floor during the session, as we recall, and Adair backed up his county neighbor.

Governor Bill clearly is a different sort than his predecessors, for good or ill, and may well be trying to influence future elections with state largess, like his own requests: \$500,000 for Fort Stanton, \$150,000 for Ruidoso Downs water, \$250,000 for Ruidoso sewer lines — not vetoed.

Oh, yes, and \$17,000 for Carrizozo's Heritage Museum.

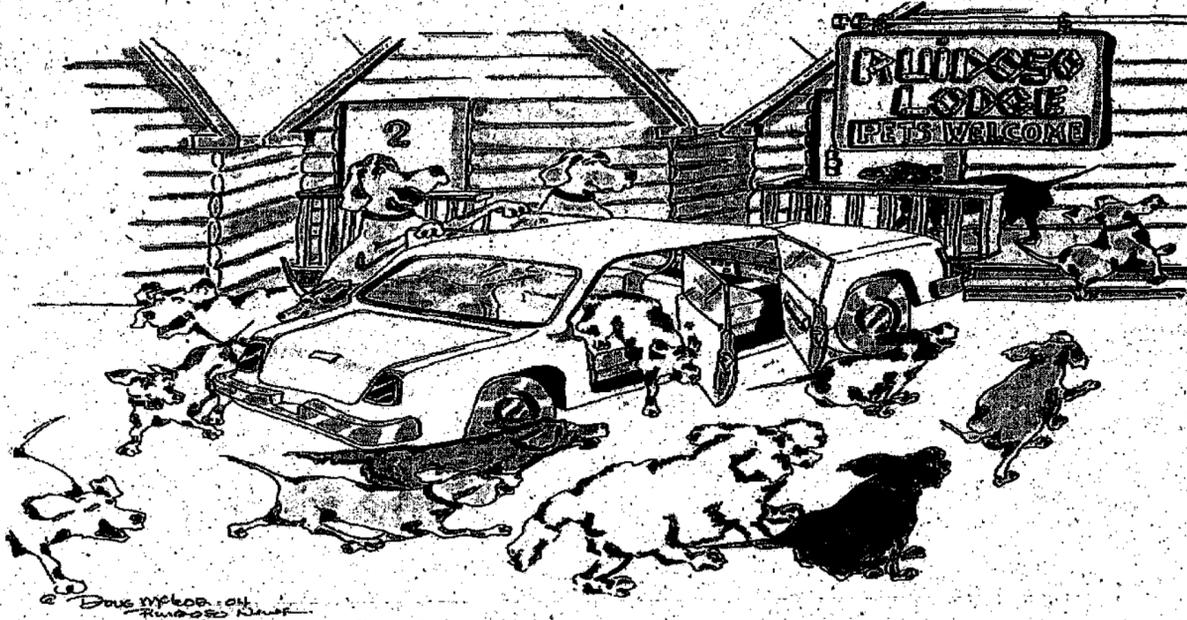
But then, as Adair has said himself, every politician has self-interest.

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 88856; faxed to 257-7053; or sent by e-mail to letters@ruidosonews.com.



YOUR OPINION

More voices urge support for the Arts Council

To the editor:

Are cultural arts important to a community? Ask Santa Fe or Taos. Skiers visit those communities and Santa Fe has state government, but the vast majority of tourists go for cultural arts opportunities. They wander through myriad galleries, visit art museums, attend concerts, participate in arts-related workshops and absorb the "artsy" sophistication of both communities.

Cultural arts communities take time and money to build. Our area has been very fortunate to have an experienced, energetic Arts Council Director in Mary Lea Lane. It takes such a director and supporting office to assist volunteers to create projects like the Great Bear Hunt, Art in Public Places, Concerts in the Park, Street Art Days, Outdoor Sculpture Exhibits, Art after Hours Gallery Walks, and a proposed Chamber Music Festival.

It takes years to build an arts community and have it recognized by tourists.

The Ruidoso Regional Council for the Arts has had a membership drive and is looking to create activities that will earn income. However, one component of the Arts Council's funding will always be securing grants or meeting requests for art related proposals.

The request for proposals now before the Village Council is for art services provided to the community. The Arts Council was the only group to submit in response to the RFP; and yet, the Village is waffling on accepting that proposal. Without such funding assistance from the village and other granting authorities, area art projects simply will not happen — and I think that would be a shame!

No money means no free concerts, no art programs to enrich the community, and no staff to assist volunteers to create projects typical of areas much bigger than our little village. No cultural

arts...well, I hope you see the economic picture. Even so, arts provide much more than economic help for a community. They assist people to look at the world in different ways, encouraging creativity in children and adults alike.

Are cultural arts important to a community? I think so; not only for tourists, but also for residents.

Sandi Browne
Ruidoso

'Build it' so they will come

To the editor:

This...is in reference to Wayne Usrey's commentary in the March 26 issue...I am responding to the column... as a local, full-time resident in Ruidoso, and also as a fiber artist.

Last weekend, four of who are members of the "Ra Ra's" (Ruidoso Art for Ruidoso Artists) traveled to Santa Fe for a class at the Sweeney Convention Center...

During our stay in Santa Fe, along with taking our day class, we shopped (heavily), ate at local restaurants, stayed two nights, bought gas and had a most enjoyable time.

Wouldn't it be great if Ruidoso could offer this type of entertainment and education? And wouldn't the merchants, hotel owners and restaurateurs love this as well?

It could happen here, with the support of our local government. Our Arts Council is trying (its) best to provide education, and with all the local artisans here, who could most certainly teach classes, it would help them as well. We could provide classes in every phase of the arts, from wood, stone, clay, fiber, metal, as well as all forms of mixed-media painting.

And wouldn't it be even better if the men and women who came to participate in those classes brought a spouse or

friends with them, to play golf, ski, go to the races and casinos? The arts business is not seasonal; it is full-time, year in year out. We are so blessed here, to have the talent of all the artisans who reside in our area. But we need the support of our local government to further the arts in this community. I strongly agree with Mr. Usrey and his quote, "Build it and they will come." And come they will, from all over. Our class had pupils from as far away as Washington, D.C. Oh, by the way, our teacher — who is a resident of Albuquerque — said she would love to come here to teach some classes, and return part of her teaching fee to the community to benefit the Art Council. We could, with the support of our local government, have a great art community and bring revenue into our village as well.

Let's get on the ball with this, and watch the people come.

Suzy Komara
Ruidoso

A path of self-destruction

To the editor:

If you feel the way I do, that this country is heading down a path of self-destruction, then the question is why? In my opinion it is the fault of the silent majority — when this country asks schools to take over the role of the parents, teaching sex education in grade school and passing out condoms in the lower grades. The silent majority says and does nothing to stop it.

Movies are seen on TV, making it seem that being gay and having sex is a game to be played by anyone, anywhere, anytime, and marriage isn't considered. Again, the silent majority does nothing to stop it. The minority and the movies argue that it is OK to kill babies, if they don't take their first breath. It seems as

See WILLIAMS, page 5A

GUEST COMMENTARY

The benefits of River Crossing at Ruidoso

BY BRAD TREPTOW
RUIDOSO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By now, most of us have heard of a proposed large development in the Midtown area called River Crossing at Ruidoso. This 14-acre tract will be developed into a park-like setting consisting of retail, office and restaurant space, condominiums, a river trail, and a three-level parking garage.

A project of this magnitude will be a catalyst for future growth as well as an enhancement to the vitality of our midtown business district. It will be a positive for this area in many ways, but specifically it will significantly increase the property's taxable value, it will provide much needed infrastructure enhancements and it will generate new jobs and additional gross receipts tax revenue.

The increased tax valuation will lessen the impact of any future property tax hikes. For this project, the approximate completed market value will be

\$80 million. Appraised value for property tax purposes equals roughly two-thirds of market value. The approximate appraised value for the completed project will be \$53.6 million. The taxable value for New Mexico is one-third the appraised value. Therefore, the approximate taxable value for this project is \$17,866,667. That is 6.75 percent of Ruidoso's 2003 total taxable value, which was \$264,824,230 million.

The increase in total taxable value for Ruidoso means that for every \$10 in property taxes you paid last year, you would now only have to pay \$9.37, to collect the same total amount of tax revenue. It will also mean that future property tax hikes will be less likely with the River Crossing's increased valuation than without it.

Jobs will be very important as well. According to averages used by the developer of River Crossing, two and a half jobs will be created for every 1,000 square feet of office and retail space. For this development, there will be 55,736

square feet of office and retail space, which will translate to 139 jobs. Figuring seven new jobs for every 1,000 square feet of the 7,466-square-foot restaurant portion would translate to more than 50 jobs.

Finally, the full 14 acres will need to be maintained, requiring a projected additional 15 maintenance jobs that will be dedicated for those tasks. Total job creation would be more than 200 new jobs for this area. That means more money would be invested in this area for housing, consumable and disposable items, all of which gets recycled through our economy several times.

Gross receipts tax revenues fuel a municipality's infrastructure. With this development, the annual gross revenue generated from restaurant sales alone is projected to be from \$3 million to \$5 million. The Village of Ruidoso's percentage is 4.225, which translates to a total gross receipts tax generation of \$126,750 to \$211,250 a year. Additional gross

See TREPTOW, page 5A

Officials have few complaints about state funding

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Some of the allocations for Lincoln County entities were cut by the governor, but representatives aren't complaining.

They're happy to see any cash. Leann Weibrecht, Carrizozo village clerk, said Thursday that although Gov. Bill Richardson vetoed about \$140,000 in money set aside by the state Legislature for projects, "We're happy to get whatever we got."

She was contacted recently by staff from the local government division of the state Department of Finance and Administration confirming the final dollars that will come to her town. "For the Heritage Museum, the legis-

lature allocated \$87,000 and the governor cut \$40,000," she said. "For the pool, \$135,000 was allocated and \$100,000 was vetoed. He left \$20,000 for the storage tank alone."

"We received \$420,000 for the (new) city hall last year that the governor gave us. That's pretty good."

Steve Sederwall, mayor of Capitan, also took a positive approach.

"We lost \$90,000 for road improvements, but we ended up with \$100,000 for a baseball field and \$50,000 toward a community center," he said. "Although I would have liked to end up with something for the roads, it's still Christmas."

The mayor said he especially appreciated the active advocacy of State Sen. Rod Adair and State Rep. Dan Foley,

both Republicans from Roswell.

Adair was in Ruidoso earlier this week and clearly was annoyed by the vetoes of the Democratic governor. Many were allocations he championed—totaling about \$275,000 for entities in Lincoln County, and another \$80,000 sponsored by Foley and State Rep. Avon Wilson, another Republican from Roswell.

Other vetoes he pointed out included: • \$30,000 for restroom improvements at historic Fort Stanton sponsored by Adair

• \$75,000 for roof replacement and expansions at Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso in three allocations sponsored by Adair, Foley and Wilson

• \$20,000 for athletic equipment and supplies by Adair.

However, the county still received a healthy financial hand from the legislature and governor. Besides those already mentioned, a Capitan elementary school roof replacement project was given \$50,000 and various other school projects about \$107,000. Corona's driver education program received \$100,000, another \$15,000 went toward repair of the parking lot at Carrizozo Middle School.

Fort Stanton was allocated \$865,000, with \$500,000 of that amount coming directly from the governor.

An allocation sponsored by State Rep. Dub Williams, a Republican from Glenora, secured \$100,000 to renovate at the university building for the One-Stop Center dealing with employment and training issues.

County government ended up with \$30,000 for work on a public health facility and for an annex to house non-violent offenders at the county jail in Carrizozo.

In Ruidoso, the high school received \$30,000 for football equipment and remodeling of a home economics facility, \$40,000 for work on the intersection of Sudderth Drive and Carrizo Canyon, which leads to the Inn of the Mountain Gods and Casino. Another \$25,000 will go toward a sewer line extension on Grindstone and Resort Drives, and the governor kicked in another \$250,000 toward sewer line extensions.

The village's new fire station project was boosted by \$300,000.

In Ruidoso Downs, \$800,000 went to water and sewer related projects.

WILLIAMS: Silent majority needs to start speaking up — and soon

FROM PAGE 4A

though something must be wrong with you, if you do not agree. Again, the silent majority does nothing.

A few have decided that God, in any form, cannot be expressed in this country. The only place a person should express his or her faith is in their home, behind closed doors, or in their church. The few would like to change that, too. Again, the silent majority does nothing.

The country allows the political process to become so polluted with lies, graft, immorality and out-and-out violations of the law. What does the silent majority do? Nothing!

What is wrong with the silent majority? Is it because most of those people are hard working, tax paying, church going, family oriented, law abiding people? No. What is wrong is the silent majorities are silent. They do not speak out, demonstrate, appear on TV and talk non-stop. They remain silent. They don't even

teach values to their own children, but expect teachers and the community to do it. They don't even vote.

I feel we should give the next generation of children the opportunity to grow up in a country where gay means happy, a home includes a Mom and Dad where a high school diploma means a person is able to read, write and balance a checkbook. They should be willing to thank God (their choice) for their opportunities.

I am not writing this letter, or

any other, to convince anyone that they are wrong and I am right. I do not wish to change the opinions of those who disagree with me. I wish to reach those who do agree and ask them to speak up.

If anyone thinks it is right for the schools to teach our children about sex and moral values, even if they aren't the values of their parents; if anyone thinks it is right for two consenting adults to kill the life they have created, as long as it doesn't take its first breath; if anyone feels it is OK

for politicians to lie, take graft, or act in an immoral way while in office...Should God, even in a generic form, not be given his or her due? By all means, get up and shout it from the rooftops for all to hear.

Be honest and open. Put your name on it, so your friends, neighbors and family can know who you are. The silent majority should also be heard. Speak up!

Wayne Williams
Ruidoso Downs

TREPTOW: River Crossing has much to offer

FROM PAGE 4A

receipts tax generation would be created through the retail outlets thus magnifying the above figures, which significantly contribute to the village's operations.

The impact fees for this development will be approximately \$500,000, which will allow the Village of Ruidoso to improve existing water/sewer lines elsewhere in the village, as well as purchase additional wet water rights. The infrastructure enhancements will be significant as well. New electricity, water and sewer lines will be provided for the entire 14-acre development.

Water usage for a development of this size will be a concern. Condominiums will account for more than 80 percent of the developed space and will only be sold as owner-occupied properties, not rental property. According to research completed by the developers, it is projected that higher-end condo units in this region will have an average occupancy rate of 20 percent.

State-of-the-art appliances and fixtures will ensure water conservation and efficient use of utilities. The projected average water consumption rate per person, per day is 47 gallons. This property is currently using water and doing so with 40-year old water lines. The property will be xeriscaped with full-growth plants native to this area, thus reducing the dependency on water. Beginning with the initial architectural draw-

ings, one of the overriding design considerations has been the preservation of every possible tree on the property.

Finally, a project such as this has been identified and discussed in several of the Village of Ruidoso's comprehensive plan meetings with Design Workshop. Although the final plan has yet to be presented and/or adopted by the village council, this type of development will fuel future growth to this area as well as enhance the vitality of the midtown business district. This development includes a three-level parking garage for additional, much needed parking in Midtown. The creation of a river trail allows residents and visitors

alike to take advantage of one of the area's best and most under-used assets, the Rio Ruidoso. Including the parking building and river trail, nearly 40 percent of the 14 acres will be donated back to the Village of Ruidoso in the form of streets, park areas and utilities.

In summary, this project is a model development for the Village of Ruidoso as it complements what discussions have taken place with the comprehensive plan thus far and it fuels growth and long-term vitality for this area on several levels but specifically jobs, gross receipts tax revenues, infrastructure improvements and increased taxable value. This project is a perfect fit for this area as it will

be a significant positive impact in our local economy.

Brad Treptow is the executive director of the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce.



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UPDATE!!!

Gabriel is home and doing better! We hope you'll be able to see him at the dance. Come celebrate and help the family with their expenses. Thank-you.

Where: The Lincoln County Fair Building in Capitan
When: April 3rd, 2004 from 8 to 12 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per couple and \$7 per single for adults
Children under 12 - donation.

There will be a Brown Bag Auction and a concession stand!
Live music by Longhorn Dance Band!





Supporting nearly 60 physicians who care for Lincoln County patients.

The wide range of specialty and core services available at Lincoln County Medical Center would not be possible without the support and medical excellence of our physician community. Undoubtedly, the beautiful country that we live in plays a part in attracting talented physicians. We like to think, too, that physicians choose Ruidoso because Lincoln County Medical Center does an excellent job of helping them do what they do best: improve the health of the people in their care.

In July 2004, LCMC will welcome two new physicians, one who practices internal medicine and one who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology, to our active medical staff, which is now comprised of 16 physicians. The term "active medical staff" refers to a hospital's core group of physicians who hold themselves accountable for the quality of medical care and supporting policies. LCMC's active medical staff is a mix of employed physicians and physicians with independent practices. By specialty, our active medical staff currently includes:

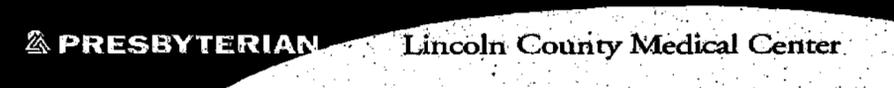
- six family practice physicians;
- ten specialists including: two general surgeons, two orthopedic surgeons, a pulmonologist, a radiologist, an OB/GYN, a gynecologist, a gastroenterologist, and an internal medicine specialist.

An additional 43 physicians make up LCMC's consulting and courtesy staff. While this group of physicians plays a more limited role in medical leadership at the hospital, they are valued and essential partners who make possible a wide range of specialty services and who safeguard the quality of all our services. Included in this group are:

- pathologists (experts in examining human cells for signs of disease);
- cardiologists (heart doctors);
- radiologists;
- ophthalmologists (eye doctors);
- oncologists (experts in the treatment of cancer);
- neurologists (experts in the health of the nervous system);
- cosmetic and reconstructive surgeons;
- additional physicians who specialize in internal medicine, surgery, psychiatry, nephrology (treatment of kidneys), orthopedic surgery, urology (treatment of the urinary tract), and otolaryngology (treatment of the ear, nose and throat).

The LCMC Board of Trustees is proud to offer the community a wide range of services made possible by the physician partners who care for patients in Lincoln County. The board will continue to support physician involvement in the hospital's growth and will continue to respond to the community's needs to ensure that Lincoln County Medical Center is providing the highest quality healthcare value for everyone.

Providing the Highest Quality Healthcare Value for Everyone



PRESBYTERIAN Lincoln County Medical Center

More effective meeting tips

Last week, I addressed some tips on how and when to conduct meetings so they are effective rather than defective. Those tips included defining a purpose for the meeting, setting a time and sticking to it, and, finally, trying to make a meeting fun for attendees especially if there are many meetings within a short time frame.



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

Here are some more effective meeting tips.

If you have an agenda, stick to it. Stay focused on what you want to discuss. If a topic or topics steer you off task, get back on task and adhere to the time frame you established. If the topic is too complex, set another meeting.

Next, seek out your employees' feedback on all aspects of your business or organization. Every employee will have an idea of what improvement can be done, but they may not feel comfortable in sharing unless that input is sought.

Finally, make sure you are accessible to your customers. Do not schedule a meeting at a time when customer traffic is being negatively affected. Schedule your meeting around your customers, even if it may be perceived inconvenient to your staff or employees.

This sounds easy but it is not always the case. For example, if you run a fast-food restaurant, you should not schedule a meeting on Friday afternoon. This action turns off customers quickly and damages your opportunity to be successful. This may mean setting early morning or evening meetings to make sure your customers are not sacrificed in any way.

It is much easier to apologize to your employees and staff than to recover lost business or to grow your business.

Next week's column: "Leadership Opportunities for Personal Improvement."

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

Economy and the Markets

No zebras required

BY MICHAEL SWANSON
WELLS FARGO AND COMPANY

There is an old saying, "When you hear hoof beats don't look for zebras," which means don't look for exotic causes when common ones are more likely.

An extended period of weak payroll expansion has caused many people to look for those metaphorical zebras to explain it. Without a doubt, job loss in certain industries is a direct consequence of competition with low-cost Chinese and Asian suppliers, but standard labor economics can explain much of the current poor employment growth without involving foreign trade. This is good news, because the implications are that better payroll growth will return and a slowdown in personal consumption will not derail the economy.

Labor economics theory holds that everyone has some "reserve" wage rate below which they will not accept a job. To get additional workers onto business payrolls there is a need to bid up compensation to get those last workers with a higher reserve wage rate, but they also need to pay everyone the higher wages.

It is clear that during the boom of the 1990s businesses continued to bid up compensation to find the additional workers they needed to meet their expected needs.

Businesses started out the 1990s with a unit labor cost of 0.58 per unit of real gross value added, and they ended up paying unit labor costs of 0.69 just prior to the recession. This record high unit labor cost did what it was supposed to do and made additional workers available, helping to raise the U.S.'s labor force participation rate to an all-time high of 67.3 percent in the first quarter of 2000. However, expensive labor had started to erode business margins starting as early as the third quarter of 1997, by which time labor force participation had been pushed to 67.2 percent.

Judging by labor force participation and compensation growth, employment grew at an unsustainable rate from early 1995 to late 2000. During

that period, employment growth exceeded labor force growth by an average of one percent each year over the six-year period. The new workers also needed investments in training that increased costs, and employment expansion lowered the rate of labor productivity gains as payrolls expanded faster than output.

As a result, profit growth turned negative from the first quarter of 1998 until the fourth quarter of 2001 at the same time equity markets were bidding up stock prices at a historically high rate. The collision of these factors, along with poor global economic conditions, resulted in major job losses and the lack of employment growth to date.

This week's GDP release shows that business's hard-nosed approach to employment and wage growth has paid off in strong profits. Unit labor costs have fallen to 0.65 and corporate profits have soared to \$1.2 trillion on an annualized basis. Even more encouraging is the generation of internally financed cash flow. Strong demand and substantially reduced unit labor costs have allowed businesses to generate a record excess cash flow of \$91 billion in the fourth quarter of 2003.

Better cash flow and higher capital expenditure, along with a relatively low unit labor cost, will make both capital and employment expansion attractive going forward. Additional analysis, which assumes a labor force participation rate from the mid 1990s and current unit labor costs implies employment growth of approximately 110,000 jobs per month on average through the end of 2005.

Cautious hiring has radically improved business cash flow and its ability to weather negative economic developments without resorting to massive layoffs.

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.

Boom boxes get village attention

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Stores that sell car stereo systems, and speaker should be asked to warn buyers about Ruidoso's noise pollution law, a resident of Carrizo Canyon said Tuesday.

James Boren told village councilors he'd also like to see the police department issue some citations for violation of the ordinance in an attempt to grab the attention of young drivers blasting their radios and CD players with windows rolled down.

The 13-year resident of the canyon said where he lives probably enhances the noise because the sound bounces off the canyon walls, but even on Sudderth Drive, the base beat of

some music can be heard long before the vehicle is visible, he said.

"It's really bad," he said, adding that customers of his recreational vehicle park are starting to complain.

He brought up the issue during the public information segment of Tuesday's regular council meeting, which doesn't allow the board to take any action. But Councilor Ron Hardeman said he's experiencing the same thing because he too lives in a canyon, and the sound "goes right up the walls."

"I would think if there were a few citations, the word would get out among the local kids," Hardeman said. The loud noise also can damage the hearing of the people playing the

stereos, he said.

Boren suggested that Wal-Mart, Stereo by Design and any other local stores selling units be asked to issue warnings and copies of the ordinance.

He reported the problem in his own area to the police and all that seemed to result is that neighborhood drivers now consider it a contest to turn up the volume around his home, Boren said.

"It's become a game," he said. "They'd be easy to catch. You can hear them coming. Just make it a priority for a while."

He doesn't want to see the problem escalate as it has in California, Boren said, adding that he would volunteer to help on any related effort.

A new 'barometer' measures New Mexico's tourism activity

State holds its own during a difficult 2003 travel year

SANTA FE - New Mexico's tourism industry was alive and well throughout 2003, in spite of a summer season that featured wildfires, a weak economy, high gas prices and war in Iraq.

"(Our fly market did not do well in 2003), but... we have held our own, thanks to our marketing efforts at the drive market."

Jon Hendry
Tourism Department
marketing director

"Drive markets across the country picked up considerably at the expense of the fly markets in 2002 because of security concerns," said Jon Hendry, marketing director for the New Mexico Tourism Department earlier this month. "Even though the traditional fly markets, like Florida, New York and California, recovered somewhat in 2003 and ours has not, we have held our own, thanks to our marketing efforts directed at the drive market."

The tourism barometer Hendry backs up his statements with the 2003 New Mexico Tourism Barometer Report, which reveals that by the end of the year, the number of in-state visitors finished nearly dead even with 2002's banner year. Of the lower 48 states with more than 10 million visitors per year, New Mexico's percentage increase in 2002 was the highest in America, thanks to a 25-percent increase in leisure travel, driven by a 17.8 percent increase in outdoor recreation, its highest increase ever.

"We feel that outdoor recreation and leisure travel by visitors living within 800 miles of New Mexico are

the reasons," Hendry said. "Visitors are taking shorter vacations, spending less money, and doing last-minute bookings. New Mexico has certainly benefited from growth in the Mexican visitor drive market."

The New Mexico Tourism Barometer Report, prepared by Southwest Planning & Marketing in February 2004 through its contract with the New Mexico Tourism Department, reveals that new visitors are overcoming nationwide hardships.

Said NMTD Secretary Fred Peralta, "This is a tribute both to the hard work the industry has put into marketing, and the natural attractions that New Mexico offers."

The tourism barometer is based on a sampling of data from representative tourism businesses in 12 regions throughout the state. From Jan. 5 to Feb. 18, 2004, more than 150 tourism-related businesses provided information on their tourism activity.

An index was developed for each business, with the year 2002 set at 100. The indices for 2003 were then averaged to provide a regional index. The regional indices were, in turn, weighted by lodging revenues for the region and aggregated into a statewide index.

The year began relatively strong, with a winter index of 104.6. With the onset of the war in Iraq, the spring index dropped to 96.4, but the rest of the year showed a recovery to the levels of 2002, with the summer index at 100.1 and the fall index at 99.7 compared to the previous year. Overall, 2003, in compar-

son with 2002, finished with an index of 99.8.

Hendry cited growth along the Interstate-40 corridor east of Albuquerque, most of the southern half of the state and the northwest region. Albuquerque was relatively flat, as were the northeast, the Las Cruces and Billy the Kid Country. Santa Fe, the second largest region in visitation, showed a slight decline, as did the area around Taos and I-40 west of Albuquerque.

"The barometer report is probably the timeliest data ever released on the state of the industry in New Mexico," Peralta added.

Billy the Kid country

The 2003 barometer reading for Billy the Kid Country (Lincoln and Otero counties) was listed as follows: Year, 99.7; winter, 101.3; spring, 93.3; summer, 98.6; and fall, 99.3.

Data from the region, called Region 6 by the department, were collected from visitor centers, parks and monuments, museums, a ski resort, and hotels.

Overall travel was flat, with international travel off in 2003. The winter started the year strong, because of excellent ski conditions and growth in the number of skiers coming from Mexico. The war in Iraq resulted in a 7 percent decrease in visitation in the spring.

Visitation nearly recovered during the summer and fall, which were off about 1 percent compared to 2002. This region comprises about 5 percent of all visitations in the state, the tourism department noted.

Focus on Agriculture

Celebrating a national treasure, called peanuts

BY TRACY TAYLOR GRONDINE
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU

Imagine a baseball game without peanuts. There's hardly a better feeling than watching the bottom of the seventh, game tied, as you crack open a peanut, toss the shell on the stadium floor, swig the nut down with a soda and yell at the top of your lungs, "Strike Three!" Peanuts not only play a prominent role in America's favorite pastime, they are also an important revenue source for many U.S. farmers.

Last month, in March, we observed National Peanut Month. It was a good timely to examine the crop's history and celebrate U.S. farmers who produce the small, shelled gems.

Peanuts, first introduced to the United States from Africa in the 1700s, were called groundnuts or ground peas and, according to Virginia-Carolina Peanut Promotions,

were considered excellent for pigs.

Not until Civil War soldiers started eating peanuts, was the crop considered anything but "poor man's food." Soon, circus vendors were calling, "Peanuts. Get your fresh roasted peanuts." And it was Georgia peanut farmer-turned-President Jimmy Carter who even more so popularized the nut during the 1970s.

Today, Americans eat about 2.4 billion pounds of peanuts each year, helping contribute more than \$4 billion to the U.S. economy. And that's good stuff, according to AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Committee member and lifelong peanut grower Ben Boyd.

The 26-year-old Southeast Georgia producer, like many other U.S. peanut growers, says he can't remember a time when he wasn't planting or picking peanuts at his family's farm, which he now operates with his father and brother.

Commentary

Growing peanuts is both expensive and labor intensive where timing and skill is everything. The most critical time in peanut production is at harvest, when the amount of rainfall can determine the success of the crop. Peanuts thrive in a hot climate with adequate-but not constant-rainfall.

After harvest, says Boyd, you pick 'em, turn 'em upside down, dry 'em, grade 'em and put 'em in a warehouse. Easily said for an accomplished peanut producer.

Peanuts reward hard work, says Boyd. The more you toil with the hearty crop, the better yield you will get. A peanut farmer has to be like Winston Churchill, he jokes, "Never give up."

And with the new farm bill, producers are growing even more peanuts. The 2003 U.S. peanut yield - 2,072,075 tons - was the largest in history. Just take a look at candy bars -

the majority of the best sellers contain peanuts. And don't forget about the No. 1 peanut invention, peanut butter. Fifty percent of all U.S. peanuts are used for the product, which by law has to contain at least 90 percent peanuts.

Peanuts are highly nutritious, containing protein, fiber, vitamin E, folic acid and other vitamins and minerals. They contain good fats that help lower bad cholesterol. Peanuts are cholesterol-free and low in saturated fat and have been found to reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer and neural tube birth defects.

Ben Boyd is rightfully proud to be a peanut grower. He says there is nothing in this world he would rather do. He even insists there's boiled peanuts in heaven.

Ben may just be right.

Tracy Taylor Grondine is the director of news services for American Farm Bureau Federation.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Scott Goeller, left, director of the Ski Apache Ski School, welcomed international students from the United World College of the West, located in Montezuma, last weekend.



COURTESY, DOUG MCLEOD

Ingle talks recycling with village

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Earlier in the day, Debra Ingle learned she was reappointed as operations supervisor for the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority. Tuesday evening she asked the Ruidoso Village Council to approve an agreement that should provide more recycling opportunities for village residents and reduce the stream of goods to the regional landfill south of Alamogordo. Although Ruidoso broke away from the garbage collection coalition of the county and its municipalities several years ago, it remains a partner in the landfill.

Ingle told councilors that she worked with municipal solid waste chief Leonard Corona for the past six months to come up with a proposal that would work for Ruidoso. The authority has emphasized recycling since its inception and currently has markets for among other things, aluminum, carpet padding, plastic, appliances, and metal from cars, she said.

Corona was enthusiastic because the agreement will mean fewer trips to the landfill, less paid in tipping fees and more space saved. "They're in the recycling business," said village manager Lorri McKnight. "They can offer more to our citizens. It's a win/win. They will use (40 yard) roll-off containers (at

the village's garbage collection station on Gavilan Canyon Road for the village), or residents can take the material to the recycling headquarters (on Second Street) in Ruidoso Downs. Just bring water bills to prove you're a Ruidoso resident." If the effort is successful, Mayor Leon Eggleston said he would like more locations for recycling. The village also will continue to collect commercial recycling material, but will deliver it to the LCSWA yard.

"They can offer more to our citizens. It's a win/win."

Lorri McKnight
village manager

Democrat Lane seeks seat on probate bench

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

The lone Democrat in the race for Lincoln County probate judge, Charles H. Lane, brings to the contest a lifetime of experience in comforting grieving families and dealing with family estates. Lane was a funeral director for 48 years, seven at Clarke's Chapel of Roses in Ruidoso, where he served as manager. He majored in business at Frank Phillips College in Borger, Texas, then graduated from the Dallas College of Mortuary Science. He later completed psychology classes on grief counseling. "During my years as funeral director, I was involved with many family estates, so I am familiar with the probate process," Lane said. "I think the probate judge should have grief training to better deal with family members in their



Lane

time of sorrow." A resident of the county for nine years, Lane said he also is ready to fulfill the duties of probate judge that go beyond handling probate cases. They include presiding over civil cases, and the ability to sign search and arrest warrants if no magistrate or municipal judge is available. "I believe my experience and knowledge makes me the best person to serve the people of Lincoln County as probate judge," he said. Lane is married to Wilma J. Lane, and they have five grown children, Lynetta Heckathorn, Chuck Lane, Marshall Wiles, Gregory Wiles and Lonnie Wiles. He is a member of the John Bean Masonic Lodge #1333 of El Paso, is a Scottish Rite Mason (a Shriner) and a member of the Captain United Methodist Church.

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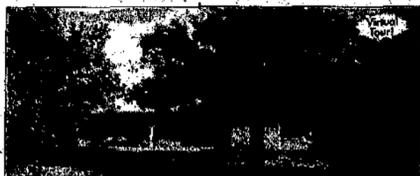
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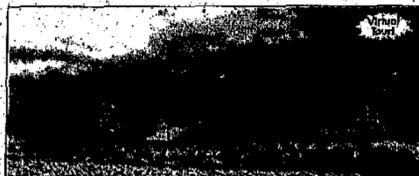
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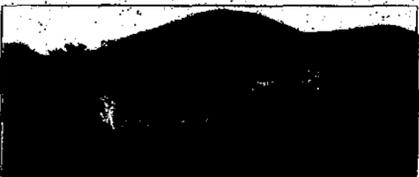
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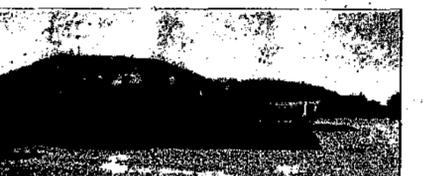
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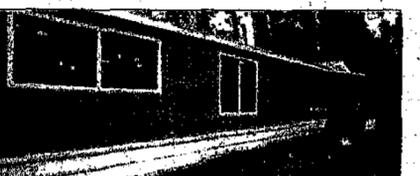
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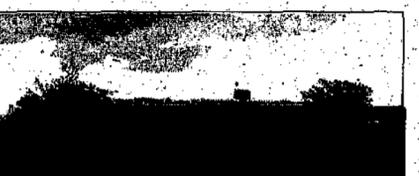
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SPORTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004

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PAGE 1B

You play football like a

GIRL

Normally, that would be an insult of the highest order. But a New York women's professional football team is out to change that perception, with a little help from a Ruidoso community radio station.

BY TODD FUQUA
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Spring has sprung and summer is about to begin. Traditionally, sports fans turn to baseball, golf, hiking and swimming to pique their interests in the long, hot months to come.

Football usually doesn't become a concern — other than draft talk or spring camps — until the fall.

But one football league is set to start its season on Saturday, and gridiron fans can get their fill when the first game is broadcast on KEDU-LP, 102.3 FM.

What makes this game unusual is both the makeup of the league — it's the Independent Women's Football League — and the location of the game. The opening contest features the New York Sharks against the Atlanta Xplosion, and will be the first of eight Sharks games to be broadcast on community radio in Ruidoso.

Why is a women's football team from New York broadcasting all its games on a station located in New Mexico? Sit down, this is going to take a while.

Chance meeting

It all began when Andra Douglas, owner and part-time quarterback and kicker for the Sharks, found her way to Santa Fe to write a book — *Threading the Needle* — on her ownership of the team, where she met Ruidoso-based artist Candye Garrett.

The two hit it off quite well, and Garrett eventually ended up creating a football sculpture for the Sharks to celebrate the team's victory in the IWFL's national championship game last July.

While she was here, Douglas met up with KEDU's Harvey T. Twite, who interviewed Garrett for his morning show.

Twite was quite impressed with Garrett's enthusiasm for the team and the game. He was so impressed, that he started looking into broadcasting the team's games.

"She's really sharp about football, she won me over," Twite said. "She inspired me by wanting to help other young women succeed in sports. You can do anything you put your mind to, and that's a great motto."

Twite and his wife, Ann, have given motivational talks to students in the area, and the radio personality found an ally in Douglas. Thus, a cross-country partnership was born.

Twite is hoping the station's broadcasts — which can be heard internationally at its

Internet website at www.kedu.us — will inspire more young girls to consider the IWFL as an athletic option.

"After all, we're the state with the only woman to score a point in a national college game," Twite said, referring to University of New Mexico place kicker Katie Hnida. "I figured we should adopt this team because they're doing something positive for female athletes."

Flag football start

The Sharks actually got their start in 1998 as a flag football team called the Long Island Sharks, playing in international tournaments and ending up as national champions.

It was then that the team got the attention of the Women's Professional Football League. The league only con-

See SHARKS, page 3B

On Deck

Little League soccer sign-up
Kids wanting to participate in Little League soccer can sign up Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the White Mountain Elementary cafeteria. Early sign-ups are taking place today at Kassy Kids Apparel, 2801 Sudderth Drive. For more information, call 257-3857.

Golf fundraiser
The Ruidoso Junior Golf Association and the Ruidoso High School golf team will be hosting the second of four fund-raising golf scrambles at Alto Lakes Golf and Country Club on Sunday. The tournament will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start, and the fee is \$35 plus a cart fee. Call Alto to sign-up at 336-4232.

Softball meeting
There will be a meeting for the 2004 Ruidoso Softball League board Monday at 6 p.m. at the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center, located at 501 Sudderth Dr. The meeting is for elected board members and those ladies who are interested in voicing their opinion for the women's league.

High Altitude Classic
The second bicycle race in the New Mexico Off-Road Series, the High Altitude Classic, will be run April 25 in Cloudcroft. There will be two different courses — cross country and downhill — with a pre-ride for downhillers on April 24 from noon to 4 p.m. at Ski Cloudcroft. The downhill course is a North Shore-styled singletack with a 700 foot vertical drop, while the cross country course is a nine-mile loop consisting of single track, railroad, grades and fire roads. Approximate elevation ranges from 8,000-8,900 feet. Registration is \$25 for early registra-

side line

Prep Results

Tuesday, March 30
Baseball:
St. Michael's 12, Ruidoso 2
St. Michael's 25, Ruidoso 0
Boys Tennis:
Alamogordo 7, Ruidoso 2
Girls Tennis:
Ruidoso 9, Alamogordo 0

Preps on Tap

Friday, April 2
Softball:
Ruidoso at Socorro (2), 3 p.m.
Mesalero at Eunice (2), 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 3
Softball:
Hatch at Mesalero (2), Noon
Track:
Ruidoso in Dave Mathieu Memorial Invitational at Socorro, 9 a.m.
Captain/Mescalero/Carrizozo/Hondo in Rose Relays at Tularosa, 9 a.m.

Monday, April 5
Baseball:
Jal at Mesalero, 3 p.m.
Boys Golf:
Ruidoso in Leroy Gooch Tournament at Alto Lakes, 9 a.m.
Girls Golf:
Ruidoso in Leroy Gooch Tournament at Cree Meadows, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, April 6
Baseball:
Mesalero at Mesilla Valley (2), 3 p.m.
Ruidoso at New Mexico Military Institute (2), 4 p.m.
Softball:
Portales at Ruidoso (2), 4 p.m.
Boys Golf:
Ruidoso in Leroy Gooch Tournament at the Links, 9 a.m.
Girls Golf:
Ruidoso in Leroy Gooch Tournament at Cree Meadows, 9 a.m.
Tennis:
Ruidoso at Gaddard, 3 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

New York Sharks owner Andra Douglas, seen here going back to pass as the backup quarterback, will see a dream realized Saturday when her team plays its season-opener against the Atlanta Xplosion, with broadcasting provided by KEDU-LP 102.3 FM out of Ruidoso.

Tennis teams split at Alamogordo

BY TODD FUQUA
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Ruidoso girls tennis team dominated, the boys team struggled.

Coach Celeste Franklin was happy in both cases.

"This was our first match after spring break," Franklin said of her teams' matches against Alamogordo on Tuesday. "We hadn't practiced all week as a team, though the kids were able to practice on their own. They looked pretty good."

The Lady Warriors made short work of Alamogordo,

sweeping all matches — doubles and singles — with the exception of Codi Angermiller's junior varsity loss to Alysa Outhwaite in singles.

For the boys, things were a bit rougher. Shane Hoffman and JV players Ted LaCoe and Dillon Hoffman were able to win their singles matches, while Alex Nocella and Shane Hoffman teamed up to defeat

Ray Brown and Sean Zeck for the only Warrior wins.

While the Lady Warriors dominated as a team, the battle at No. 1 singles turned out to be the highlight of the evening.

Heather McDougal battled Alamogordo's

Roma Patel to a tie after two sets, 4-6, 6-4, then played a tie-breaker to determine the victor.

"We hadn't practiced all week as a team, although the kids were able to practice on their own. They looked pretty good."

Celeste Franklin
Ruidoso tennis coach

The winner was the first to 10 points, needing a two-point advantage to claim the victory. McDougal found herself down 7-2 in the extra frame and needed a rally to win 13-11.

"Her match was remarkable," Franklin said. "Roma is such a great player. Heather had to come from behind and really had to bear down."

The rest of the girls' matches were somewhat anti-climactic. Christine Brown, Beth Robinson, Kristen Bewley, Katherine Dunstan all won their matches with relative

See TENNIS, page 3B

Ruidoso baseball team has a bad day at the office

BY TODD FUQUA
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

For four innings, the Ruidoso Warriors baseball team had the defending Class 3A champions sweating.

St. Michael's had come to town for a doubleheader Tuesday, and were leading by just three runs after four innings, but were able to get the hits they needed to pull out a 12-2 victory in the first game.

That hitting kept going in game two, to ridiculous extremes. The Horsemen didn't exactly kill the ball, nor did the Warriors fall apart on defense.

It's just that St. Michael's hit the ball in just the right places and rolled to a 25-0 five-inning massacre in the second game.

"The first game was good and competitive. We didn't have a breakdown in defense," said Ruidoso coach Jim Varnadore. "In that second game, everything went wrong."

Texas-leaguers, bleeders, seeing-eye singles. Whatever you want to call them, they're what killed the Warriors on Tuesday.

Now Ruidoso (6-3) must regroup and prepare for the start of District 4-3A play, when it heads to Roswell to take on New Mexico Military Institute in a 4 p.m. double-header.

The Colts are just a year removed from their two straight state championships in Class 3A, but Varnadore is of the understanding that they're just a bit depleted.

"I talked with their coach earlier in the

year, and they supposedly lost all their pitchers from last year," Varnadore said. "They're down a bit from what they've been in the past, and we should match up well with them."

The Warriors will spend a bit more time in the batting cage and working on defensive situations to prepare for the district opener. But the most important thing to Varnadore is his team's frame of mind — more so than their physical preparedness.

"We have to continue building our confidence," Varnadore said. "We're still probably not as good as we need to be, but we need to believe we are a good ball team."

"We have the talent and experience, and I'm very proud of our senior leadership."

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Leroy Gooch to feature best high school golf talent in state

BY TODD FUQUA

RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Each year, the Leroy Gooch golf tournament plays host to some of the best high school talent the state has to offer. It's often bigger than the state championships held at the end of the year.

This year promises to be no different, as 28 teams in Class 1A/3A, 4A and 5A will come to Ruidoso and compete on three different courses Monday and Tuesday.

It all gets started with a 9 a.m. shotgun start, with the boys teeing off at Alto Lakes and the girls at Cree Meadows Country Club.

"There will be schools here from all over the state," said Ruidoso boys coach Eric Eggleston. "This is a chance for us to see competition we'll see at the state tournament."

Both Ruidoso teams — boys and girls — haven't seen a lot of actual tournament action in a while. The last tournament either played was the Great Eight back on March 16, in which the girls shot a 376 and earned their sixth qualifying leg for state.

The boys haven't played in a tournament since March 9 at Roswell. But golf is a different kind of game in that practice usually is the same thing as playing.

Not that the Warriors have been doing a lot of actual playing lately. Given that they shot

a 341 and 338 in two days at Roswell, Eggleston has been working a lot on chipping, putting and driving.

Ruidoso finally played in practice this week, working for a team score of 320 in the Gooch.

"That would be acceptable," Eggleston said. "It would be achievable to shoot 640 for the two days. That would also be 18 shots better than our last tournament."

Ruidoso senior Colby Gibson believes 320 is well with the Warriors' reach, they just need to believe they can do it.

"We're learning how to win," Gibson said. "If we can be in contention, that would be a good scenario. We can't wait until Monday to play again."

With the first day of boys play at Alto Lakes, Eggleston thinks his team has a good shot at coming out four or five strokes ahead of New Mexico Military Institute, a team the Warrior coach thinks will be the team to beat at state this year.

"They're more than capable of shooting a 320 each day,

based on what I saw them do in Roswell," Eggleston said. "They could struggle at Alto, which is a little tight. They could really light it up at the Links (where the boys play on Tuesday), so if we can come out of Alto with a lead, we could hold on to win."

Of course, NMMI isn't the only school that will be present at this tournament. Portales, Sandia Prep, Grants, Socorro and Hot Springs will also be in town, and any one of them could sneak up.

"NMMI is the favorite, but



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Ruidoso's Kelly Rigby tees off at Hole No. 10 at the Links March 16 during the Great Eight Tournament. The Ruidoso High golf teams, boys and girls, get back into the swing of things Monday during the first round of the two-day Leroy Gooch tournament. The boys start off at Alto Lakes and finish at the Links, while the girls will play both days at Cree Meadows Country Club.

these others might surprise somebody," Eggleston said. "This is a good preview for state, because we'll see a lot of the same kids."

Girls ready to roll

The Lady Warriors have been playing stellar golf of late, securing a leg in every tournament they've played and finishing just behind perennial Class 4A power Goddard at the Great Eight Tournament.

Goddard will be at Cree, as will Class 5A champion Alamogordo.

Coach Les Carter is ready to see his girls against other teams again, as are the Lady Warriors.

"They're getting tired of practice every day," Carter said. "But they're competitive and working hard. Even our freshmen have played long

enough that they're considered veterans."

With senior Kelly Rigby and junior Courtney Gibso leading the way, the Lady Warriors' lineup is more than ably filled out by freshmen Olivia and Alayne Lee and Chrissi Newsome.

The girls are playing a very familiar course — they'll be at Cree both days — but Carter said the home field advantage doesn't always work out in golf.

"There's some added pressure to win your own tournament," Carter said. "We just have to focus on the course instead of the competition."

"That's hard to teach," he added. "The kids can start looking at other players and see how they did on different holes. The way I see it, if they play the course really well, they deserve to win."

IS IT SEPTEMBER ALREADY?



PHOTO COURTESY RUIDOSO DOWNS RACE TRACK

The start of the 2004 race meet at Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino is still more than a month away, but the ticket office was already playing host to buyers on Thursday. What's amazing about this line is that these folks are reserving seats for the All American Futurity, to be run on Labor Day, in September. This group came into town on Wednesday, stayed the night, and were camped out at the track early Thursday morning to get premium seats for the big day a short five months from now.

Ruidoso short-handed at Socorro

BY TODD FUQUA

RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Ruidoso track team has had to battle through some minor adversity in the past few weeks, and that adversity continues Saturday when it heads to Socorro for the Dave Mathieu Memorial.

The Warriors will be without a number of their top performers, thanks to the administering of ACT tests on the same day.

Still, Ruidoso coach Ronny Maskew is trying to make the best of the situation.

"This is a grin and bear it meet," Maskew said. "We're not going to be scoring a lot of points, but I'll be able to enter some kids in events they've not been in before."

"That experience should help us in the long run, when we get to district and state," he added. "Our older kids need that experience also, but they also need to take this test."

This will be the first real competition Ruidoso has seen since spring break. The Warriors were in Belen on March 19, and it was a track meet they had to leave early.

The meet organizers split the boys and girls 3,200 runs into four heats each, extending the running events late into the night.

Maskew held on as long as he could, but finally had to pick up and come home at 10 p.m., at the end of the 200-meter dash.

"I hadn't ever done that before, and hope never to do that again," Maskew said of the early departure. "But we had some improvement in the shot, discus and javelin. Also in the boys and girls sprints."

One performance of note was Katie Coronado's throw in the discus. Her heave of 126 feet, one inch was a new school record.

There are only six schools scheduled to be in Socorro, almost all of them in Class 3A. After that, the Warriors have just four meets before the District 4-3A final in Lovington.

Maskew is hoping to get a good working routine down in those four weeks before the final push to state.

"We hope to get lots done in the six weeks before district," Maskew said.

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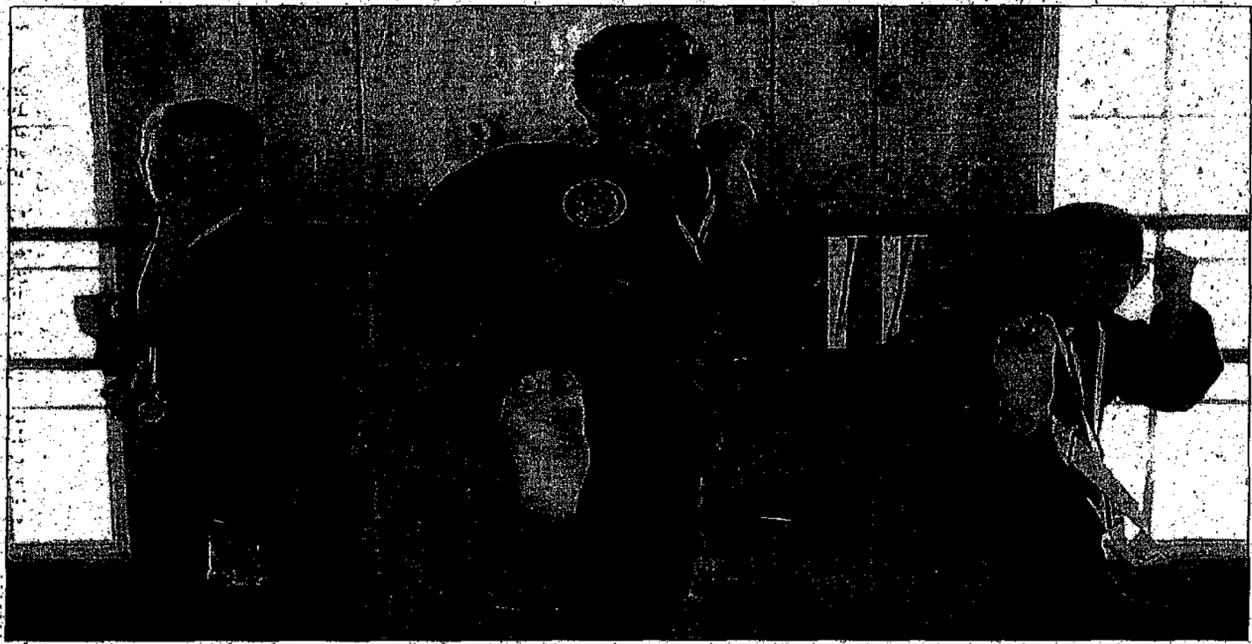
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GOLD MEDAL FORM



Local Taekwondo students Sawyer Miller, left, Gage Barnett, center and Tanner Harvey show off their form recently after returning from the Hamadang Sparring Tournament in Albuquerque Feb. 7. Miller won two silvers in sparring and forms and a bronze in breaking. Barnett took two golds in sparring and forms, while Harvey had two golds in sparring and breaking and one bronze in forms. Also attending the tournament but not pictured were Trevor Fowler, two golds in sparring and forms, and Cameron Haines, one gold in sparring and two silvers in breaking and forms. Miller also attended the New Mexico State Taekwondo tournament and qualified for the nationals in Florida in June.

COURTESY PHOTO

TENNIS: Girls dominate

FROM PAGE 1B

ease, although Jeanette Zagone's victory over Lisa Richardson was a closer, 6-2, 6-3 affair.

In doubles, McDougal and Brown, Robinson and Dunstan, and Zagone and Pruet all breezed through their matches.

Although the boys were pretty soundly defeated, Franklin took it in stride, pointing out that they were facing a much tougher schedule than they had in the past.

"Alamogordo is just a good team," Franklin said. "There wasn't anybody for them that played badly. All our guys played well, and I was pleased."

A 6-2, 6-1 loss by Matt Johnston at No. 1 singles to Michael Dicks pretty much set the tone for the Warriors' matches on the day. Kenny Pennie also defeated Kevin Yeager, 6-1, 6-2 at No. 2 singles to continue the Tigers' dominance.

Even Ruidoso's wins came tough. Shane Hoffman's victory over Brown came down to a playoff in the second set, with Hoffman sking out a 6-3, 7-6(10-6) win.

The Warriors were in Roswell Thursday to face New

Mexico Military Institute, and play again in Roswell next Tuesday, when they take on Goddard at 3 p.m.

Ruidoso tennis results:

Boys
Singles
 No. 1 — Michael Dicks (A) d. Matt Johnston (R), 6-2, 6-1. No. 2 — Kenny Pennie (A) d. Kevin Yeager (R), 6-1, 6-2. No. 3 — Craig Quiroza (A), d. Adrian Olvera (R), 6-0, 6-1. No. 4 — Bo Mars (A) d. Brandon LaCounte (R), 6-1, 6-2. No. 5 — Shane Hoffman (R) d. Ray Brown (A), 6-3, 7-6(10-6). No. 6 — Sean Zeepk (A) d. Alex Nocella (R), 6-4, 6-2. JV — Dillon Hoffman (R) d. Brett Blackstone (A), 9-8(10-3); Ted LaCoe (R) d. Steven Rodriguez (A), 8-5; Claude Taylor (A) d. James Mowell (R), 6-3, 7-5.
Doubles
 No. 1 — Dicks/Pennie (A) d. Johnston/Yeager (R), 8-2. No. 2 — Quiroza/Mars (A) d. Olvera/LaCounte (R), 8-1. No. 3 — S.Hoffman/Nocella (R) d. Brown/Zeepk (A), 8-3.

Girls
Singles
 No. 1 — Heather McDougal (R) d. Roma Patel (A), 4-6, 6-4, 13-11. No. 2 — Christine Brown (R) d. Taylor Renteria (A), 6-0 6-0. No. 3 — Beth Robinson (R) d. Rebecca Richardson (A), 6-1, 6-1. No. 4 — Kristen Bewley (R) d. Fatima Pearce (A), 6-0 6-0. No. 5 — Katherine Dunstan (R) d. Kristen Geary (A), 6-3 6-0. No. 6 — Jeanette Zagone (R) d. Lisa Richardson (A), 6-2 6-3. JV — Alysa Outhwaite (A) d. Codi Angermiller (R), 8-5.
Doubles
 No. 1 — McDougal/Brown (R) d. Johnston/Sarah Van-Vliet (A), 8-6. No. 2 — Robinson/Dunstan (R) d. Richardson/Turnbull (A), 8-1. No. 3 — Zagone/Pruett (R) d. Pearce/Renteria (A), 8-6.



COURTESY PHOTO

Although she's officially the New York Sharks' team owner, Andra Douglas occasionally gets playing time as the backup quarterback and place-kicker. Saturday's season-opener will be played on Douglas' 45th birthday, but her age doesn't bother her in the least. "I can still out-run most of them," she proudly declares.

SHARKS: No 'powder puff' for these ladies

FROM PAGE 1B

sisted of two teams — the Minnesota Vixens and the Lake Michigan Minx — who traveled the country on a barnstorming tour and played a series of games against each other.

"They heard of the Sharks' success, and challenged Douglas' team to a full contact tackle game.

"They combined into one team, and let us use some of their pads and helmets," Douglas said. "We ended up winning 12-6 up there in Minnesota, and it was the coldest I had ever been."

Shortly thereafter, the WSFL had more franchises for sale, and Douglas ended up buying the Sharks franchise for a \$20,000 investment.

"It was a lot of money for me," Douglas said. "But I'm glad I made that investment. No one else was coming forward, and I couldn't let this dream die."

Since that time, the Sharks have left the WSFL, joined the new ISFL, and recently won the league's title game. That success got the team some recognition in the New York area — most notably an appearance by team member Alma "Tonka" Tate on *Live*

With Regis — but Douglas was still disappointed with the relative lack of coverage doled out by area media outlets.

She said there was plenty of interest initially, if only for the novelty of women playing football. But she realizes most people don't view this as real, serious football.

It turns out Twite does. "He gave us the respect that all athletes deserve," Douglas said. "We play some very good football, and this is the most coverage we've ever had."

To the best of Douglas' knowledge, her team is the only women's professional football team with any kind of broadcasting agreement. Both Twite and Douglas are hoping KEDU's broadcasts will spur a New York-area station — and there are many — into bringing games to the airwaves a little closer to the New York area.

"If another station in that area wants to take over, I'll gladly let them," Twite said. "But no one else is doing something like this. We need to empower young women in sports."

Douglas and the Sharks are so appreciative of what KEDU has done, that they're looking into a "New Mexico Day" promotion at one of their home games at August Martin High School in Jamaica, Queens.

"I would love to promote your state and show just how wonderful the people there are," Douglas said. "Everyone I met in Ruidoso was so helpful and kind."

If the Sharks have another successful season, could they possibly make a trip out to Ruidoso to show their appreciation?

"I would love that," said an enthusiastic Douglas.

Senior Olympics qualifying to begin

Several qualifying events for the State Senior Olympics in Las Cruces will be held in the Lincoln County area. The age minimum is 50 years as of Dec. 31, 2004, and a \$5 registration fee entitles individuals to participate in all events. Those competing will be eligible for state and national olympic games. State registration is \$35, due May 17. For more information on registration, contact Bart Young at 257-3193 or e-mail at mbyoung@zianet.com.

Bowling — April 16-17 at Carrizozo Recreation Center, 1 p.m. April 20-22 at Ruidoso Bowling Center, 1 p.m. Singles, doubles, mixed doubles and team.

Billiards — April 27 at Capitan Senior Center, 10 a.m.

Horseshoes — April 30 at Carrizozo Country Club, 10 a.m.

Shuffleboard — May 5 at Ruidoso Senior Center,

10 a.m.

Track and Field — May 8 at Ruidoso High School, 10 a.m. Events include discus, javelin, softball throw, high jump, long jump, standing long jump, shot put, race walking at 400 and 1,500 meters and 5k, 800-meter estimated time run/walk, and 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 meter and 5 and 10k runs.

Recreational events — May 8 at Ruidoso High School gym, 9 a.m. Events include frisbee (accuracy and distance), soccer kick for accuracy and basketball free throw.

Table Tennis — May 10, Ruidoso Senior Center, 10 a.m.

Tennis — May 11 at School House Park, 10 a.m.

Golf — May 15 at the Links golf course, 1 p.m.

Racquetball — If interested, call Bart Young at 257-3193.

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Have you ever heard the question... "Are you doing your personal best?" Though usually referring to workplace endeavors, one can connect that phrase with any of his or her daily performances and relationships. What is your "personal best"?

The answer varies according to individual backgrounds and capabilities as well as different degrees of determination to succeed. Lance Armstrong's personal best as a cyclist is certainly better than the biking enthusiast who only gets out on weekends. However, aren't both glorifying God by taking care of the gifts they were given? Furthermore, doesn't the effort required to stay in shape prepare them for adversity?

The most qualified and determined of us can experience tragedy and loss that jolts our capacity to perform daily tasks and reach goals. What then? Lance Armstrong would probably admit that his personal best was beating cancer, not winning the Tour de France 5 times.

No matter what, we need to focus on God as the inspiration for our "personal best." When we give Him our best as we worship each week, God returns it to us with added strength and peace. Won't you give God your "personal best" this week as you visit your local church or synagogue?

"Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, As to the Lord, and not unto men."
Colossians 3:23

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First Baptist Church
Tinnie. Bill Jones, Pastor. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.

Mescalero Baptist Mission
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Ruidoso Baptist Church 126 Church Drive, Palmer Canyon. 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.

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Gateway Church of Christ 415 Sudderth, Ruidoso, 257-4381. Jimmy Spornman, 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 Captain. Branch 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 Mesalero Trail, Ruidoso. Fr. Ron Thomson, Team Leader. Sunday Eucharist Rite: 8:00 a.m.; Rite II - 10:30 a.m., nursery available for the 10:30 service; Sunday School: 10:30; Youth Group (JDOC, CIA) 1:30-3:30; Wednesday: Daughters of King at noon; Eucharist & healing: 5:30 p.m.; Choir practice: 7:00 p.m.

St. Anne's Episcopal Chapel in Glencoe. Sunday: FULL GOSPEL 9:00 a.m.

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship Int'l. K-Bob's Hwy. 70 in Ruidoso. Dinner at six Mondays. Special Prized Menu. Women Welcome! Ron Rice, 354-0255, e-mail: rgrice@ruidoso-online.com

Mission Fountains of Living Water San Patricio. Sunday School: 10 a.m.; Evening worship: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday and Friday.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Ruidoso - Kingdom Hall - 1102 Gavilan Canyon Rd. 336-4147, 257-7714. Sunday: Public Talk: 10:00 a.m.; Watchtower Study: 10:50 a.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 1116 Gavilan Canyon Rd. 336-4147, 378-7095. Dom. Reunion Publica--1:00 p.m.; Estudio de la Atalaya--1:50 p.m. Mart. Escuela del Ministerio Teocratico--7:00 p.m.; Reunion de Servicio--7:50 p.m. Tue. Estudio de Libro--7:00 p.m.

LUTHERAN
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 1120 Hill Road; 258-1911, 257-5206. 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 Wells Fargo Bank. Bob Sawyer, Pastor. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m., 10:35 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL
Apostolic Pentecostal Assembly, Eternal Life Ministries, Minister: Harry A. Peyton, call for your personal Home Bible study: 430-9640. (Web page) http://www.40daysofchrist.com

The Apostles 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 Cayle Anderson. Sunday school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. 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. 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 Wilbur 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, meets 2nd & 4th Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Pollock Branch: 10:30a.m. Service. Call 336-2170 or 254-0602 for location.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Abundant Life Family Church 2810 Sudderth Drive, Suite 210, 257-1188. Mark Genry, 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 Schlotzsky's Deli. Tuesday: Ruidoso men's Bible study noon at Pizza Hut, Mechem Drive. Wednesday: (Sept. through May) Captain Jr. High and St. High Youth Groups 6:30 p.m. at Christ Community Fellowship. Email: 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 Especial 6:00 pm; Sabado - Kid-in-Revival 11:00 am; Domingo

Servicio General 11:00 am. *All Services are Bilingual - Translation Available - Christ Church in the Downs Ruidoso Downs, 378-8464. Al and Marty Land. Pastors. Sunday: 8:00 Sun a.m., 10:45 am, 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 p.m. 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 88345, 361 E. Hwy. 70, (505) 378-8108. Email: rrobledo@ycos.com

Miracle Life Ministry Center Ron Rice & Catherine Callahan, Ministers Available 24 hours for healing prayer. 324-0255 e-mail miraclelife@ruidoso-online.com

Peace Chapel Interdenominational (ULC) Alto North, 336-7075. Jeanne Price, Pastor. Morning chapel: 6:30 a.m. (Sept. - June); Sun. Service: 11 a.m.

Recreation 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-SECULARIAN
Spiritual Awareness Study Group Minister: George N. Brown, Ph.D. U.L.C. Sundays 1 p.m. - 2:15-1:59

CAPTAIN & LINCOLN CHURCHES

BAPTIST
Trinity Southern Baptist Church (south on Highway 48) Mt. Captain 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) Captain, NM (505) 378-6134

CATHOLIC
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Captain, 354-9102. Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.; Monday Adult Bible Study 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Captain - Highway 48. Les Farwood, 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 la Lincoln - Sunday: Holy Eucharist - 10:30 a.m.

FOUR SQUARE
Captain Foursquare Church Highway 48, Captain. Harold W. Perry, Pastor. Sunday

School: 10 a.m.; Sunday worship: 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study: 7 p.m.

METHODIST
Captain United Methodist Church
Pastor Johanna Anderson and the congregation of Captain 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 Captain. 505-648-2846.

NAZARENE
Angus Church of the Nazarene Angus, 12 miles north of Ruidoso on Hwy. 48. 336-8032. Rick Hutchinson, 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 Captain, Highway 380 West, 354-2458. Ed Vinson, Pastor. Sunday school, 9:30 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

CARRIZO CHURCHES

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
The Word of Life Church
Rev. Chuck Fulton, pastor 648-2339. 711 'E' Ave., Carrizozo, NM. Affiliated with 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 David Borgs, Pastor. Saturday Mass: 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m., Tuesday Adult Bible Study: 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Perry Zimwall, minister. Ave. C at 12th, Carrizozo, NM. Sunday School 10:00 a.m.; Worship Service 11:00 am; Evening Worship 1:15 pm; Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm.

CARRIZO CHURCHES

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. 648-2853/648-2846, Carrizozo. Johanna Anderson, pastor. Sunday school 10:00 a.m.; Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. Choir Practice (Times) 6:30 pm; United Methodist Women Every 3rd Wed. 1:00 pm; Fellowship Dinner 4th Sun. of month 12:30 pm.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Carrizozo Community Church (A/G)
Johnnie L. Johnson, pastor, Corner of C Ave. & Thirteenth, 648-2186. Children's Church 10:30 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 pm.

Carizze Christian Fellowship Leonard Kadosweiser III, Pastor. 36 White Mt. Dr., 3 mi. W. of Inn of the Mountain Gods Mescalero, Sundays 10:30 & 6:30. Wed. 6:30 378-1789

CARRIZO CHURCHES

School: 10 a.m.; Sunday worship: 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study: 7 p.m.

Carrizozo school board listens to principal protest

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

School board president Steve Harkey opened the March Carrizozo Schools board meeting by extending sympathy to the Hightower family on the loss of their son.

Harkey again, as in the last meeting, told guests that the board would not discuss personnel matters and limited speakers in the public input portion of the meeting to 5 minutes.

A crowd of 35 guests were present, most of who came to hear the discussion on the agenda item reserved by John Tate. Tate and the people he represented presented a list of signatures as a petition outlining their desire to retain Steve Barron as prin-

cipal.

Harkey told the crowd that upon the advice of their attorney, Ramon Vigil of the Cutty Law Firm in Albuquerque, they were not going to discuss the issue. When verbally accused of not owning up to a mistake, Harkey emphatically stated, "I don't think we have made a mistake."

Matt Ferguson spoke to dispel the rumors of secret meetings and ethically wrong doings by board members. "Our integrity is too important to us. None of those things have happened and none of those rumors are true."

LeeRoy Zamora said that, as a board member, he respects the superintendent's decision but doesn't agree with it. Lisa Crenshaw said she doesn't want the community split and she values the community's opinion, but felt the issue could be better negotiated.

Responding to a question, Jim Grider explained the purpose and function of the school board and the board meetings. In closing he said, "I don't want to be someone considered to be ducking the issue and saying this is all the superintendent's idea. The superintendent is in charge of personnel. I voted for the superintendent's opinion. Nobody fired anybody. At will employees at the end of

their contract have no expectation of having their contract renewed."

Parent and school volunteer Joey McNatt addressed the board and the audience saying, "We elected this school board in, we need to support them. If we disagree with what they do, when it comes time, we can vote them out. But the hard feelings don't help our kids."

Most of the crowd left when the meeting moved into the main body of the agenda.

In superintendent Sergio Castañon's report:

- The foundation on the new building is complete and the walls are going up on schedule. A plaque in remembrance of Patrick Hightower will be placed on the new Ag building.

- An application has been made for the N.M. Laptop Incentive Grant that will supply all seventh graders

and their instructors with lap top computers for use at home and in the classroom for the duration of the school year. Internet connections for those that don't already have it will be financed by Wells Fargo and Tularosa Basin Phone Company.

- Castañon and business manager Gwen Huston attended a recent budget conference.

- A 2 percent teacher salary increase was signed into law by the governor, but not mandated. Schools will give it if they can. Mandated salary pay to instructional assistants will be \$11,000. Second-year teachers on a three-tier schedule will be bumped from \$30,000 to \$35,000.

In other business, the board voted its approval of Sean Wooten as graduation speaker. Wooten was a fifth grade teacher and coach in 1996-97.

The next regular school board meeting will be April 20 at 6 p.m.

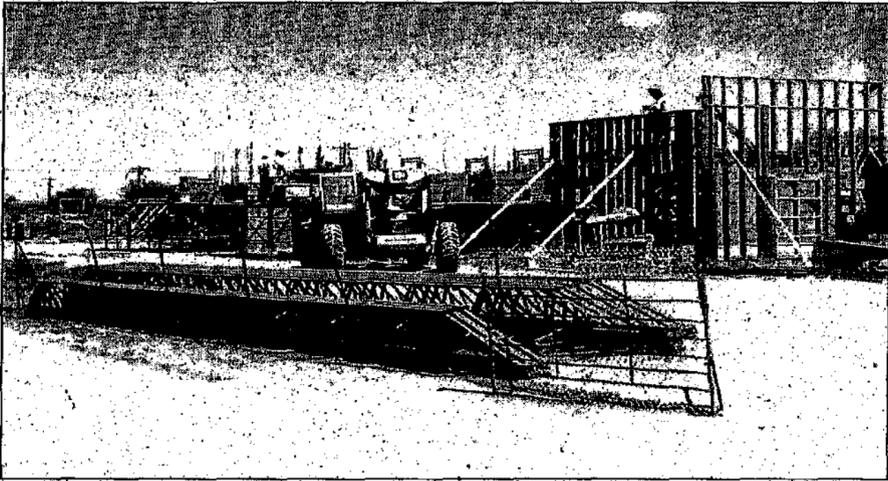


PHOTO BY JULIE CARTER
The foundation is set and walls are going up on the new Carrizozo Schools building. Work is on schedule, according to superintendent Sergio Castañon.

Capitan cleanup set for Saturday

BY MARTY RAGINE
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Capitan will conduct a clean-up drive on Saturday.

Residents are encouraged to haul their light and heavy trash to the Water Department building on Tiger Drive, located near the Senior Citizens Center.

Onsite will be six 40-yard roll-off containers, and a village employee and perhaps personnel from the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority will accept materials beginning at 8 a.m.

"And when (the roll-offs) are full that's it," says Netta Nolan, the water billing clerk. "So I would be there as soon as possible."

Accepted will be light goods, furniture and brush — but not the usual household polycart items such as kitchen scraps.

Citizens will not be checked for residency. "We don't have any way of identifying," Nolan said. "There's just not time to do all that."

She hopes the village itself will fill up the containers.

"It's going to be open, but we try to keep it within the village. Some of the county will probably hear about it and drop stuff off."

Saturday's drive contrasts with one held last year in which citizens were asked to volunteer cleaning up village roadways.

"We're not doing that anymore, as far as taking a trash truck around," Nolan said. "That didn't work out very well the last time we tried that. All the village people were working hard and nobody would come out and help. So it was, 'OK, that's it, no more.'"

Dates to remember

- April 7: Kindergarten/Headstart screening and registration
- April 9: Good Friday, no school
- April 17: Prom
- April 22: Early dismissal (teacher in-service)
- April 26: National Honor Society and National Jr. Honor Society Induction Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. at the Country Club
- April 29: Spring Music program 6:30 p.m. in the Old Gym
- May 1: District Track meet hosted by Carrizozo Schools

Capitan's Miller family returning home

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Capitan residents Lou and Sylvia Miller are returning home this weekend after two months in Lubbock, Texas, at a burn center while their daughter, Kim, recovered.

The Millers' mobile home and all their belongings were destroyed in February 2004 in a fire thought to be caused by something electrical. The elder Millers were able to escape unharmed, but their daughter was burned over 31 percent of her body.

Both Lou and Sylvia are retired and living on social security as their only income. Kim is a special-needs adult daughter requiring full-time care, which will now take even more time. Kim recently developed diabetes on top of her other health issues and will require continuing home health care services upon her return home.

After the fire, donations to the Millers' cause totaled enough for them to be able to put a down

payment on a used double-wide. The home is being set this week in the same location as the old home. They have been provided with beds and a kitchen dinette and dishes and pans but all other types of furniture are still needed. Chairs, dressers, lamps and those kinds of things are welcome as donations.

The Millers have received clothing for themselves, but Kim is still in need. She wears a size 12-14 in clothing and size 7 shoes. The family needs linens, towels — both kitchen and bathroom, and basics like a broom, mop and other cleaning items. Anything someone would need moving into a very empty home is what they need, including pantry items of all kinds.

Several benefactors have given gift cards to the cause, letting the Millers get what they need when they need it. There is a continuing effort by the community to help them get on their feet again. Anyone wanting to donate items or for information about the needs of the Millers can contact Patty Jones at 354-2067.

A few of the things I've learned so far

I have learned that you reach a point in life that visible party line is really no big deal.

It didn't happen all at once, that level of learning that lets me laugh at what used to agitate and worry me to tears. Somewhere in the chain of life I learned I can't do a blessed thing about most things.

I have learned the best things in life really are free. Among a long list of others are the love of a child, the smell of rain, and the sight of new baby calf — licked off slick and sucking his mama.

If you put your contact lenses on inside out, it's very much like not having them on at all.

I was told that at some point you should stop expecting people to make a big deal about your birthday. I'm not there yet.

I have also heard there is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness." I could validate that with some team roping stories.

I think the world is pretty messed up because people who should be in charge and directing the traffic of life are in meetings.

There are way too many meetings and way too many people in them.

I have learned that as hard as my grandparents had it, they were the good people they were because of it. My grandmother cried every time she told me the story of my dad playing in the dirt as a little boy, finding a dime. She then had to take it to buy bologna with so that they could eat that day. Those hard times bred people who worked hard and appreciated every dime they had.

It's not a good idea to be at the barn alone at night with one wild, suicidal heifer, one dying flashlight and no one around to call 911.

I have learned that no one can make me feel bad without my permission. But sometimes they forget to ask.

I believe ranchers, cowboys

and others that live their lives tied to the land wear an integrity that has genetic roots to the owners of those names on the Constitution. Drought, regulations and high expenses with low market prices come in waves. They herd those people up on smaller and smaller pieces of ground, but the people stand until they can stand no more.

I have learned to take one day at a time, but I've noticed some days bring friends with them and attack in twos and threes.

I have heard it said that "inside every older person is a younger person — wondering what the hell happened." That perhaps is true, but if you ask that person what happened, they can usually give you a chronological order of the decline. I think it started about the same time remote controls were invented.

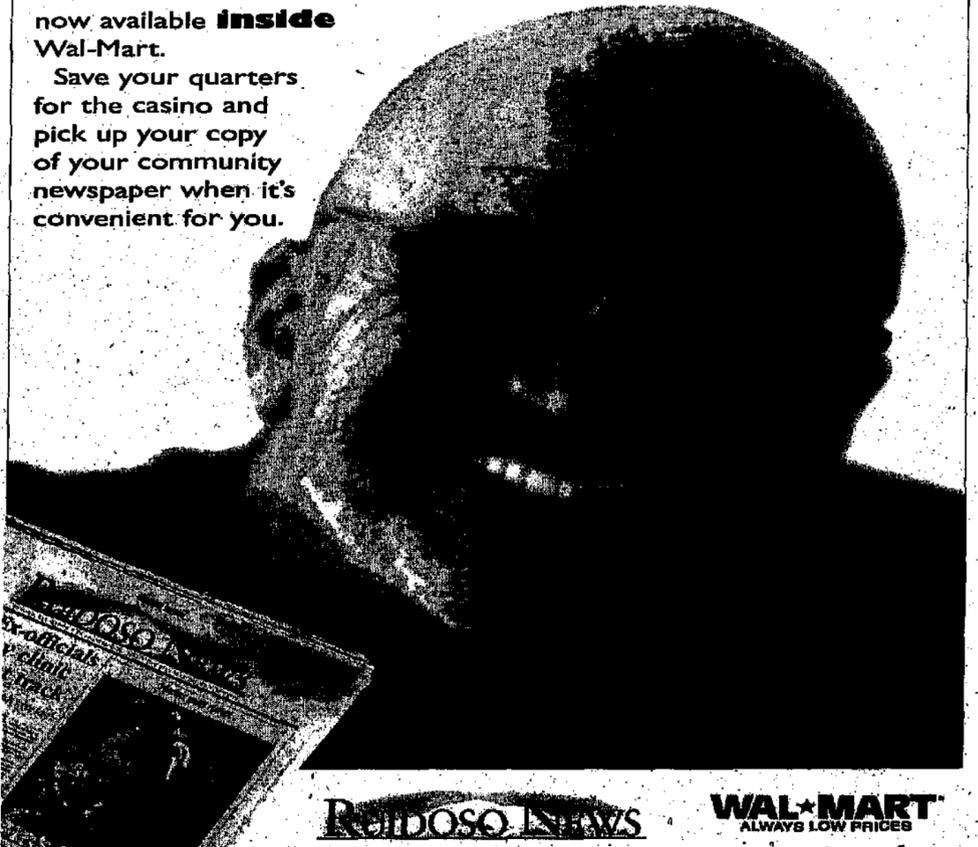
I saw a bumper sticker that said, "I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol." I think worry is a waste of good time — and besides, I'm planning on living forever. So far, so good.

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

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RUIDOSO NEWS

WAL-MART ALWAYS LOW PRICES

Helpful advice from an injured traveling friend

Recently an intrepid friend of ours, Geoffrey, was seriously injured while vacationing in South America. Fortunately, what could've been a major disaster wasn't.



On the go with Hank & Ellen
BY HANK AND ELLEN BARONE
TRAVEL WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

In this week's column we share his letter that explains why a medical emergency in the remote mountains of Peru wasn't the crisis it might have been due to a program that every traveler should know about.

Friends:

I have just been through every traveler's worst nightmare, and not only lived to tell the tale, but — by good fortune — experienced its outcome in the most pampered and spectacular fashion possible. And any traveler who doesn't take advantage of the program that takes such exquisite care of injured travelers should truly stay home.

While hiking an ancient Incan trail near Peru's Machu Picchu two weeks ago, I slid on some wet ground, my right foot lodged between two rocks, I turned to avoid falling on my face, and "crack." The pain was incredible, and my foot just hung there, at a 90-degree angle to my leg.

My hiking companion luckily had a cell-phone, he called the (only) local doctor, I was given a shot to relieve the pain, a stretcher and splint were fashioned, the wet path was sanded, and I was carried a half-mile down the mountain to the comfort of the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. I was re-splinted, and then transferred by train and ambulance to a private clinic in Cuzco. X-rays revealed a major break of the tibia and fibula (the two big bones in the lower leg) just above the ankle — and I was placed under a full anesthetic so the ankle could be straightened and the foot cast in plaster.

But then what to do? Risk reparative surgery in Cuzco? In Lima? Or whip out my Medjet Assistance membership card? I had joined Medjet Assistance two months before. It is a membership program that, quite simply, guarantees a member hospitalized more than 150 miles from home that they will be transported — under medical supervision — home to the hospital of their choice. Whether the accident or illness takes place in Bali or Baltimore, Peoria or Peru.

So yes, I chose to use my Medjet Assistance card. Literally within minutes, I was talking to officials at Medjet Assistance in Birmingham, Ala., and within the next hour, they and their medical team at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, had discussed my condition with the Cuzco surgeons, viewed my X-rays on the Internet and had discussed the options with my orthopedist in New York. It was clear I needed major surgery.

It was now 7 p.m. in the clinic in Cuzco, and I collapsed into a drug-induced sleep. At 11 p.m. the details were confirmed to my wife at her hotel in Cuzco. Medjet Assistance was sending a medically dedicated Learjet staffed with two nurses to pick my wife and me up. The aircraft could not operate in and out of Cuzco due to the elevation; so three seats were reserved for me on a commercial flight to Lima, where

we met the medical team the following morning.

The crew consisted of two pilots (one male, one female), two nurses (one male, one female). Medjet Assistance arranged for us to be wheeled straight out to the tarmac, I was hauled aboard — and made comfortable (very) on a hospital bed. The cabin, while configured for a medical patient, was very comfortable with a hospital stretcher-bed, passenger seats and sofa, and included all burled-wood cabinets (fully stocked). An IV was started for painkillers, and we took off. The nurses were knowledgeable and kind, even offering reading material, snacks and a choice of movies, including "Intolerable Cruelty," a fitting comment, I thought, on my condition.

About 150 minutes later we were in Panama. Lunch (delicious) was brought aboard (!),

and we refueled. Another 150 minutes later we landed in Fort Lauderdale for more fuel and for immigration. Snarly Homeland Security officials insisted we disembark and come into the building to be cleared. Our pilot would have none of it. He stormed into the building with our passports, and emerged with our clearance to proceed within 10 minutes.

During the flight to New York, Medjet Assistance headquarters confirmed my room number at Mount Sinai, and when we landed at La Guardia we taxied to a remote parking spot — right next to a New York City ambulance. I was placed on a stretcher on the tarmac, inserted in the ambulance and we sired our way into Manhattan — with our Learjet nurses traveling with us, as Medjet Assistance's promise is "medical supervi-

sion" bedside to bedside. At Mount Sinai, we were ushered through a private entrance and directly to my room on the eighth floor.

And what did all this cost? Annual membership in Medjet Assistance is \$195 (\$295 for the whole family). Under any other circumstance, this little adventure would have cost \$45,000. And many of us think our titanium and diamond credit cards cover all this. Read carefully: There are limitations and caveats to be aware of. For instance they likely only get you to the nearest hospital — in my case Cuzco or Lima. Yes, they may arrange the continued repatriation, but then they usually charge the entire cost of the flight to your card!

Medjet Assistance is easy. Learn more at www.medjetassistance.com or call 1-800-963-3538. Don't take any more risks. I urge you to

join.

All the best,
Geoffrey

P.S. It was a very bad break. The expected 45-minute surgery in New York lasted two-and-a-half hours. I have a plate and 10 steel bolts in my ankle. I will be in plaster for six weeks. Ouch!

The Barones are full-time travel writers and photographers whose column appears each Friday in the Ruidoso News. Although they call Alto home, the Barones are currently spending the winter in Ajijic, a quintessential Mexican village near Guadalajara. 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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Carrizozo children get spiritual at Awana meetings

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Carrizozo's Awana Club has been growing steadily since its inception in 1998. In the beginning, there were 11 kids to start the program and today the ministry is averaging more than 45 on a weekly basis.

The acronym Awana comes from the first letters of Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15).

Awana is a nondenominational ministry that assists churches in reaching children and teenagers with Christian gospel. They supply programs, materials and training for more than 13,000 churches in more than 110 countries. Their message is to serve with a ministry that is all about fun with a purpose — to win and grow kids for Christ.

In 1950, Awana began as a youth program in Chicago, Ill. By 1960, Awana had registered 900 clubs. Today there are more than 10,000 churches in all 50 states that have clubs, and another 3,000 churches in 110 other countries.

All children ages 3 to sixth grade are welcomed into the



PHOTO BY JULIE CARTER

Area children participate in the Awana program held at the Carrizozo Baptist Church. Meetings are held every Wednesday during the school year and had an average of 46 children during the month of March. Here they say the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the evening program.

program that is held at the Carrizozo Baptist Church. Capitan and Ruidoso also have Awana programs. The kids are divided by age groups of 3- to 4-year-olds, kindergarten-2nd grade, and 3rd-6th grade.

The two-hour program, held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. during the school year, is filled with structured events all geared at teaching children about God's love.

Thirty-five adults are on the volunteer roster for the Carrizozo program with 25 of those needed each week. The program is a one-on-one curriculum. Program director and Baptist pastor Hayden Smith says they try to keep it to a three-to-one kid to adult ratio.

The two hours are spent with some play time, a snack time and 40-45 minutes of memorizing scriptures. The

scripture classes are age- and ability-graded with the younger kids learning scripture phrases while the older kids learn complete scriptures.

Carol Wilson heard about the program in the 1990s from family members who attended in Clayton. She began searching and found an Awana program in Capitan, and began hauling her children and five others that would fit into a van

to the program there. Soon it occurred to several that a program should be started in Carrizozo.

Hayden Smith says the long-range goal is to touch enough children's lives that

eventually the entire school is touched and changed.

"It's fun. We try to make it a positive place. We want these children to know that they are loved. That God loves them and that these people love them," Smith said.

The program has outgrown its facility. "We had four leaders and 10-12 kids learning scriptures in the hall last night," said Smith. "We have drawn plans for an addition. All we need now is money and manpower."

Carol Wilson said it is the best thing she does all week. "It gives us a chance every week to explain God's love to kids. We want to make an eternal difference in their lives."

Both Wilson and Smith say the biggest reward over the years has been seeing so many children accept Christ as their savior.

For more information the Carrizozo Awana program, contact Hayden Smith at 648-2107.

ENGAGEMENTS



Brooke Hall and Adam Chavez

Hall-Chavez

John and Kelly Hall of Ruidoso have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Brooke Hall of Ruidoso, to Adam Chavez of Ruidoso, son of Rayner and Bonnie Chavez of Ruidoso.

The couple will exchange vows June 19, 2004.

Hall is a 2000 graduate of Ruidoso High School and owns Sevilla's Day Spa.

Chavez graduated from Ruidoso High School in 1994 and now owns White Dove Landscaping.

The couple will reside in Ruidoso.

CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK

by Dr. Jack V. Waters
Chiropractic Physician



REPETITIVE INJURIES FOUND IN ALL INDUSTRIES

Chiropractors care for many individuals with repetitive strain injuries. These occur when the shoulder, arm and hand are repeatedly completing the same task. This condition is often found with workers in a factory setting. However, it can occur at almost any place of employment.

Some Doctors of Chiropractic, for example, specialize in helping musicians who suffer from this syndrome. These individuals were excellent performing artists until developing a repetitive strain injury to the arm or hand. Then their career either temporarily or completely stopped because of this debilitating injury.

Many people who suffer from repetitive strain injuries believe the pain will go away. They continue to handle recurring tasks although their arms, elbows, shoulders, or neck are very sore. Pain is the body's warning signal. If you are having repetitive strain symptoms, visit your chiropractor immediately for a complete evaluation and treatment. The sooner the condition is treated and the doctor offers preventative suggestions for the future, the greater the chance for non-recurrence.

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N.M. officials say federal mercury rules not enough

BY WALTER RUBEL
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — New Mexico has the highest level of mercury emissions in the western part of the nation, and proposed federal guidelines will not correct the problem, state officials told their federal counterparts Wednesday.

Sandra Ely, bureau chief for the state Air Quality Bureau; Mike Fowler, an air permitting specialist for the bureau; and Dr. Ronald Voorhees, deputy state epidemiologist, testified at an Environmental Protection Agency hearing Wednesday in Denver. They told federal officials that neither of the plans being considered by the EPA to control mercury emissions is adequate.

"We want them to reject the current proposal," Ely said.

The regulations are aimed at coal-burning power plants, which Ely said are responsible for 37 percent of the 158 tons of mercury that are emitted each year in the United States. The rest comes from municipal waste combustors, industrial boilers and medical waste incinerators, which are already regulated, she said.

There are two proposals on the table. The first, which is favored by the Bush administration, would allow power plants not meeting federal standards to trade credits with other plants that are well below the standards. Ely said this has been done successfully with other emissions, but is not appropriate for mercury.

"Mercury is a neurotoxin, whereas the others are not," said Jon Goldstein, spokesman for the state Environment Department.

Trading has never before been allowed for those kinds of emissions, and could likely be ruled illegal, Ely added.

The second proposal — termed maximum achievable control technology — would require power plants to eventually meet the standards now set by the top performing 12 percent of existing plants. While this proposal would not allow for trading of credits, it would have little impact on New Mexico plants, Ely said.

"The MACT rule is so weak that it appears none of the power plants in our state will have to perform further controls than they already have," Ely said.

The greatest danger to humans posed by mercury is when it is absorbed by fish that are later eaten, Voorhees said. Of the 36 lakes in New

Mexico, 26 have had fish advisories, warning of the danger of eating contaminated fish, Ely said. Larger lake-dwelling fish like walleye and perch and bottom-feeders like channel catfish pose the greatest danger, Voorhees said.

He said those most at risk are pregnant women. An EPA study showed that almost 8 percent of women of child-bearing age have higher-than-acceptable levels of mercury in their system.

"They commissioned a panel of experts and they should listen to those experts. And they have not done that."

Mike Fowler
air permitting specialist

"In high doses it causes birth defects," Voorhees said. "In lower levels, it causes brain and nervous-system damage."

In New Mexico, 4,000 newborns a year may be effected by mercury exposure, Ely said.

The Four Corners area of the state has the highest concentration of mercury emissions. The state's two-largest coal-burning plants — Four Corners and San Juan — are located in the area, and it is also effected by being downwind from plants in Arizona, Ely said.

She said emissions can travel from as far away as Asia once they get into the atmosphere, but there are often "hot spots" found in areas where the power plants are located.

A study done in 1999 found 2,180 pounds of mercury emissions in New Mexico, the largest amount in the western United States and comparable to many of the levels found on the East Coast, Ely said.

Ely said a study commissioned by the EPA in 2001 brought together energy company executives, environmentalists and other stake holders, who spent more than a year looking for ways to regulate mercury emissions. That study has been shelved in favor of the two proposals now on the table, she said.

"They commissioned a panel of experts and they should listen to those experts. And they have not done that," Fowler said.

Ely said the industry has expressed concern about the costs of emission controls. She said she could not estimate what those additional costs might be, but Goldstein added that costs often come down quickly once the technology becomes more standard within the industry.

Wednesday's hearing was the fourth conducted by the EPA on the issue, and the first in the western part of the country. The agency will take comments through April 30, and is expected to make its final decision late this year or early next year, Ely said.

Two-Nation Vacation plan revealed

SANTA FE BUREAU

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico — Tourism officials in New Mexico and Chihuahua have combined forces to encourage visitors to either state to cross the border.

The Two-Nation Vacation program is designed not only to lure Mexican visitors to New Mexico and vice versa, but also to get those visiting from other parts of the nation or world to plan trips to both New Mexico and Chihuahua, explained New Mexico Tourism Secretary Fred Peralta.

Peralta said a travel writer from Germany has contacted tourism bureaus in both states for information on the program.

"Brochures will be used in

both Chihuahua and New Mexico and at trade shows throughout the United States, Europe and the Far East," Peralta said.

To promote the Two-Nation Vacation, a new map has been created of New Mexico and Chihuahua, giving information on tourist destinations for each region of both states.

There will also be a logo on the tourism site of each state

proving a link to the other state's site. And there will be eight new billboards erected, four in New Mexico lauding the tourism possibilities in Chihuahua and four in Chihuahua promoting New Mexico.

The two states will also have promotional booths at the other's state fair, and both states will share a booth at the Albuquerque Balloon Festival.



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THE LINCOLN COUNTY WAR

During the 1870's a group of civilian merchants gained control over the economy of Lincoln County, New Mexico, southwest United States, including a monopoly on filling lucrative contracts from the military at Fort Stanton. This group who monopolized trade and their allies was called The House.

But in 1877, their control was challenged by an English entrepreneur, John Tunstall. Tunstall's employees and supporters were known as The Regulators, and followers of "The House" violently resisted them.

The battle was fought both in courtrooms and also through gunfights, murders, and cattle rustlings. Even the Army became involved. Eventually members of "The House" killed Mr. Tunstall.

And, as might be expected, "The Regulators" fervently vowed to take vengeance upon the House group responsible for killing Tunstall. Among the group of "Regulators" loyal to Mr. Tunstall was a young man who was known as Billy the Kid.

SPRING RITES



ELLIS-NEEL/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

Troy Moore, left, buys an annual fishing license from Bric Mabesa, right, of Dave's Guns in Alamogordo, for the start of the new fishing season Wednesday. In addition to the \$17.50 fishing license, Moore also picked up a spring turkey license for \$15 and a general hunting license, which includes the small game and deer tag, for \$28.

LOUIS L'AMOUR

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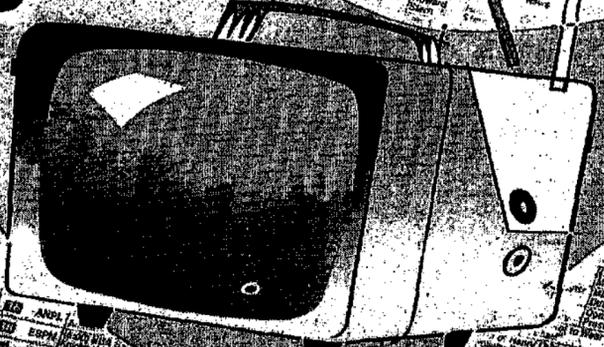


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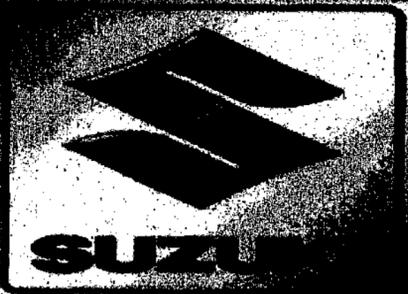


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EXPERIENCED WAITRESS with server's license needed for new restaurant that will be opening soon. Beautiful surroundings, excellent working conditions. Please call (505) 354-4225 for interview. Fax resume to (505) 354-3213

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EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
 Lincoln County is now accepting applications for the position of DEPUTY SHERIFF in the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, located in Carrizozo, New Mexico. Applicant must be 18 years or over; must possess a New Mexico Basic Police Officer's Certification or be certifiable by waiver; and willing to work anywhere in Lincoln County. Employment will be condition upon applicant's successful completion of a physical examination and substance abuse test. Obtain application at the Lincoln County Manager's Office in Carrizozo or by calling 505-648-2385. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 P.M. Friday, April 30, 2004. Lincoln County, Equal Opportunity Employer and in Compliance with ADA Requirements, Title II-A.

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Charter Communications is seeking a customer service and sales representative for the Ruidoso area. The successful applicant will be responsible for selling service, processing payments, collecting cash, handling delinquent accounts and other assignments as directed. Superior selling skills, verbal communications, handwriting, typing, ten-key and computer knowledge are a must. Saturday work is required. Competitive salary and benefit package will be offered. The successful candidate will be required to pass a pre-employment company drug screening test and post-employment background check. Apply in person at 117 Vision Drive. No phone calls please.
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INDEPENDENT LIVING Specialist-Lincoln County. Part-time position. (30 hrs/wk) provide independent living skills training, individual and community advocacy, disability specific resources and peer counseling or peer support to people with disabilities who live or work in Lincoln County. BA in counseling, health services, education, legal or paralegal, or combination of related experience and education required. Computer skills required. Community organizing experience around social justice and equal access issues desired. Written and verbal communication skills necessary. Self-monitoring of performance expected. Prefer person who has disability. Must be able to travel extensively throughout the region. Fluency in other languages a plus. Send resume to P.O. Box 2914, Alamogordo, NM, 88311 or Fax to 439-1113.

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HELP WANTED Apply in person at El Camino Nuevo from 2:00-4:00pm. Looking for waiters and cooks. No phone calls please.

HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED. Apply in person. Must have own transportation. Best Western across the street from racetrack & casino.

126 HELP WANTED
HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED. Apply in person. Must have own transportation. Best Western across the street from racetrack & casino.

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HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED. Apply in person. Must have own transportation. Best Western across the street from racetrack & casino.

128 HELP WANTED
HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED. Apply in person. Must have own transportation. Best Western across the street from racetrack & casino.

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LOWE'S IS looking for Licensed Insured installers for the Ruidoso, Alto, area. Please call James Tealer at Lowe's, 505-442-4000 Ext. 810.

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PART TIME Night Auditor needed at Best Western. Apply in person at 97 Camelot.

RESORT MANAGER, fax resume to 257-7313. appointments will be scheduled.

132 AUCTIONS
IMPORTANT ANTIQUE & ESTATE AUCTION
 1 DAY ONLY SAT. APRIL 3RD, 10AM
 EASTERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR GROUNDS
 COMMERCIAL BUILDING
 2500 SE MAIN, ROSWELL, NM
 The estate of T. Harris all this plus much more. Preview 2 hours prior to sell time.
 OVER 400 ITEMS TO BE SOLD

Fantastic selection Antique & Modern Bedroom & dining room sets, 100's decorator and accent pc, Antique oak buffet w/mir, 5 stack book case, 5 pc. Pine bedroom set, 2 Throne chairs w/carved lion's legs, 6 pc. Carved mahog. Bedroom set, wood water bucket, Mahog. Poster bed, Antique hanging wall Cabinet, Primitive Harvest table, Carved Mahog. 3 pc. parlor set, Wood water bucket, Matching office suite (Desk & Credenza, conference table & 8 chairs), Bronze statue & fountains from life size to small, 8 ft Marmal fountain, Pr. Life size horses, Life size kids in different poses, Geese in flight, Western bronze by Fredrick Remington, Doll and Children furniture. Lamps chandelier, Tiffany style lamps, Peacock lady floor lamp, Oil Lamp, Pr. Ruby Luster's, Rugs 300 line silk rug, tapestry, room size to small, 100's Colicétilles such as Galle, Roseville, Lladro, Carnival Glass, Cambridge, Bavaria, Limoges France, Depression, Dresden Germany, Capodimonte, Ironstone, Noritake, Cut Crystal in different colors, Spode dish set, Tea sets, Stain Glass, Clocks, mantle and wall, Porcelatna. Jewelry over 40 pc. 27ct's Ruby and Diamond necklace, 32 cts emeralds and dia necklace, Tanzanite and dia ring, Gold coins & silver dollars, Old Quilts, Victrola, Tin toys, Iron planers & bench, Arrowheads, Navajo & Casa Grande Pottery, Indian Jewelry, Sterling silver Kachina, Indian baskets, WF oil lamps, Oil paintings & prints.

Terms: 10% buyers premium. All announcement made at auction take precedence over any written material.
 CA, CK, VS, MC, DIS.
Robert Bollinger Auctioneer
 1-800-268-7621

133 AUCTIONS
THE MESCALERO Apache Tribe is looking for a CFO. Qualified candidates will possess several years of progressive responsibility in financial management with extensive training or experience in grants and fund accounting. Highly developed interpersonal skills are a must with demonstrated ability to motivate and train employees. Interested parties should submit resumes to: Mescalero Apache Tribe, attn: Mark R. Chino, P.O. Box 227, Mescalero, NM 88340.

134 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
MOTEL - 91 units, nice owner's living quarters with fireplace, attractive Western-style architecture, room furnishings created by renowned Honda and Alamo-gordo 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.

135 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
MOTEL & RESTAURANT MAY BE SOLD SEPARATELY.

136 HELP WANTED
POSITIONS AVAILABLE for Housekeeping Saturdays only. 10:00am-3:00pm. Call Sue @ 937-8880

READY TO get ahead? Ready to change careers? Prudential Lynch Realty is looking for that special getter. NM Real Estate License required. Training available. Call 267-4011, Gary Lynch

RODNEY'S KOPA Cabana in Capitan filling all positions. Apply in person, 10-2:00pm.

RUIDOSO READY LABOR
 Daily Work / Daily Pay
 Construction, framers, general labor, food service, housekeepers, clerical clerk.
 All Skill Levels!
 Apply Today! 257-7876
 449 Sudderth Drive in Gateway Center

TAKING APPLICATIONS Warehouse and delivery help. Clean driving record, & drug free required. Apply in person Dale's Furniture, Hwy 70 East, Ruidoso Downs.

136 PERSONALS
FREE PREGNANCY Test. Caring & Confidential Assistance. 257-1129

137 PETS
AKC SCOTTISH Terrier puppies. \$500. 505-585-2949 or 430-5311

138 HORSES
6 YEAR old registered Arabian Gelding. Bay, green broke, experienced rider. \$200. OBO. Call 336-1792.

139 LIVESTOCK
TWO 'BUFFALO'S under 2 years old; also two horses, one quarter horse and one paint. Call 378-4408

140 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
THE SOUTHEAST NM Community Action Corporation Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program is now accepting applications for Ruidoso Client Service Agent. 25 hours per week/12 month position \$750-\$8.50 per hour depending upon qualifications. See job description, complete, and submit application at the Dept. of Labor (DOL) located at 701 Mechem, Ruidoso NM. SNMCG is an EEOE.

141 WORK WANTED
Brillante Construction
 Thomas Brillante
 Redwood Deck Remodeling
 Painting - New Construction
 Lic. #5919-258-6198 Ruidoso, N.M.

142 WORK WANTED
GARDEN GREEN
 Super Clean Yard Work, Hauling, Tree Thinning, FIRE BREAKS, Pine Needles, Roofs and Gutters, Power Washing. 257-2172 or 908-1101. dangerus@zianet.com

143 WORK WANTED
Jacob's Residential
 Commercial Residential
 Jacob Tyler
 Licensed & Bonded
 Lic. # 660440 257-3675

In Next Week's American Profile...



The coloring and fun of Easter eggs

Hand coloring eggs for Easter with your children has long been a family tradition. It can not only be a way to celebrate new life and hopefulness, but also provide lasting memories long after the eggs are eaten. Plus, Solomons Island, Md., and two great cakes.

American Profile

801 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS COMPLEX
5000 sq. ft. store, 25 cabins, storage units, successful business, 1/2 acre with highway and river frontage, serious inquiries only. For appt. call Owner/Agent 808-1442

COTTAGE CENTRAL
STORE SPACE AVAILABLE
You stock, we sell!
Ideal for entrepreneur who doesn't want to work full-time and have tax advantages in small business. 616 Sudderth
Call Barbara 257-2376

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
START-UP MONEY needed to open new restaurant and store on the river. Beautiful landscaping with waterfalls and outdoor island dining. Ready to open, just start-up capital. Must see to appreciate! Will pay 10-12% on \$25,000 for one year. Please call 336-9116 or 354-4225

16FT. BOAT and trailer in board motor, needs seats, \$500. Call 808-1246

ALL TOOLS Triller, 3 cable rips, signs, selling info, business name, & more. For Roter Router Business, \$2000. 808-1246

DERMAGLOW DERMAB-RASION facial machine for sale, \$2000. Call Jo 505-317-1379

Rustic Southwest furniture. Call 336-4444

FIREWOOD FUEL
FREE WOOD in burn off area, pre-cut. Call after 5pm. 378-4800

2 SOFAS, 1 beige (has built in reclining seat on each end), \$200. Blue sofa bed, (queen), \$250. OBO. Both in good condition. Call 257-5341 After 5:00pm.

FURNITURE FOR SALE
Trundle bed, sleeper-sofa (Queen) and dinette set. 257-7119.

Mansfield Furniture
NEW & USED FURNITURE & MATTRESSES WE BUY SELL & TRADE
1000 Sudderth Drive 257-3109

CLARKE 20" Floor buffer/scrubber, 1 1/2hp motor w/driver, like new, \$600 Cash Firm. 354-2136

121 KIRKMAN Dr., Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-12. Household items, pressure washer, shredder chipper, military upright lockers, some furniture, ant. Austrian china cab. bronze deer.

2 FAMILY YARD SALE!
Saturday, April 3, 8:00am-7:00pm La Luz. (2 bks east of Hull Rd). Appliances, utensils, pots, bank, twin bed, clothes, house items, furniture & more.

3 FAMILY Garage Sale
Something for everyone! Kids clothes, & adult clothes, toys, furniture, appliances, tools, Thurs. & Fri., 424 Barcus Rd.

BABY ITEMS, clothing, household items, 8am Friday till 3:00pm Sunday. Mountain Shadows Apartments #3, 104 Ike Wingfield, behind Farley's.

CAPTAIN'S EVER-GROWING Flea Market! Friday, April 2nd 8AM-6PM, Saturday, April 3rd 8AM-4PM. Buying or Selling... Y'all Come! 505-354-2273 or 505-354-4321

GARAGE SALE - April 3 & 4, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rancho Ruidoso Estates, #3 Maverick Court.

GARAGE SALE AT 501 Gavilan Canyon Rd. Space A. Halls Hideaway. Saturday, & Sunday, 8-5pm. No Early Birds Please.

GARAGE SALE, 332 Country Club, Friday, Saturday, 9:00 to 5:00. No Early Birds. Bathroom sink and fixtures, VCR, stereo, odds and end tile, clothes, misc.

GARAGE SALE Chipper shredder, lawn mower, cement mixer, snow board, sled, toys, & more. April 3rd, & 4th, 9-2pm, 2024 Wood Lane, Ruidoso Downs, 378-5662.

INSIDE SALE April 3rd, 7:30-1:00pm, 315 Mustang, in Ruidoso.

LOTS OF craft supplies, materials, sewing items, too much to list! Look for a lowboy trailer at the Captain Flea Market!

MOVING - BUT don't want to take it all with you, and don't have the time or energy to sell it? Call me-I'll sell it for you! Call Annela at Appraisals & Sales, Inc. 378-5445.

HORSE BOARDING available! Include clean stalls and pasture areas, feeding or cleaning. Beautiful area near lots of trails. Call 336-2484.

All Complete Yard Care. Tree removal, thinning, pruning, hauling, raking, mowing, gutters. Also Cutting/splitting firewood. Referrals. Ruidoso since '83 257-5808

801 SERVICES

ALTO HOMEWATCH: A trusted person to care for your home when family isn't available. Retired law enforcement. Monitor elderly, shopping, etc. Routine yard cleanups, needles, trimming. Oversee your home while on vacation, out of town. Additional services available. Phone-336-2986.

APPRAISALS & SALES, INC. Want to be sure you have adequate insurance coverage with the fire-damage season approaching? Or need a certified appraisal of your personal property for property settlement or loan collateral? Need to sell the contents of your home but cannot physically or emotionally handle the job? Call Annela at 378-5445.

J.F. CONSTRUCTION INC.
LICENSED RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION
Low Construction Additions
Remodeling Deck Repairs, Roofing
Kitchen, Bathroom Work
No Job Too Small
No Job Too Large
Quality Work
At Work Guaranteed
257-7818

HOME & Deck repairs, also painting, power washing, sealing. References available. Call 258-3703

HOME & Deck repairs, also painting, power washing, sealing. References available. Call 258-3703

801 AUTOS FOR SALE

801 SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING & PAPERHANGING

Bledsoe Painting & Decorating
505/937-3948
505/364-3256

Licensed & Insured, 30 years in the Trade!
NM #87281
FREE ESTIMATES

CARPET INSTALLATION Service. We install your carpet, repairs on carpet, vinyl, wood and tile. 937-4487 or 336-1272

FIRE PREVENTION clearing, hazard tree removal, Pine needle removal. Free estimates. Celebrating 8 years! Call Bob Eason @ 378-4089

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

801 AUTOS FOR SALE

801 SERVICES

HANDYMAN SERVICE: maintenance and repair, carpentry, tile, power washing, sealing or painting. Free Estimates. References available. 257-0649 or 808-0414.

J & M Construction
Metal Roofs, Additions, Decks, Remodeling
20 years experience
Jeff Morgan
257-4272 or 638-2715

METAL ROOFS
Commercial & Residential
Free Estimates
JOHN LYNN ROOFING
1221 11th St
Ruidoso, NM 86302
336-1272

SPRING PAINTING! Home exteriors guaranteed, 7 years, power washing, decks resealed, Elastomeric stucco, repainting, carpentry repairs, licensed, 30+ years Ruidoso. 378-7112

TENNIS RACQUET Stringing Overnight when possible \$15.00, \$10.00 with own string. Call 336-8143 or 937-3598

801 AUTOS FOR SALE

801 AUTOS FOR SALE

1985 ACCORD For Parts: Solid Body, recent Valve Job, \$250 OBO. Call 354-9123 or 937-2738.

1992 CHEVY extended cab step side, green, shell, new battery & alternator 1 owner. 505-258-1828 or 937-3769.

1994 JEEP Grand Cherokee Laredo, automatic, all power, white/gray, 226K highway miles. Priced to sell \$3500. Firm 937-1547.

1995 BUICK Riviera Supercharged, TV & DVD player. Great Condition! Only asking \$8000. Call 505-937-3080.

1996 CHEVROLET Truck, 8 cyl., 350 Vortek. Extended cab, Tow brake, Bed liner. Loaded. Excellent condition. 505-373-1321 (Las Cruces)

1997 AUDI A6 Quattro, \$5,000. Call 336-4845.

1997 NISSAN extra cab pickup. New clutch, very good condition, good gas mileage. Towing package. \$5,000 firm. 505-257-5430 or 442-9188

1998 JEEP Wrangler 54,000 miles, great shape. Call 505-336-1736

801 AUTOS FOR SALE

801 SPORT UTILITY

2003 EXPLORER Limited, Loaded, Leather, Power everything, CD/MP3 player. Much too much to list. \$10,000+. Under Kelly BB. \$22,250. 258-4499 or 937-2894.

2003 JEEP Grand Cherokee Laredo, 4x4, quadra trac, V8, 32,088 miles. Ex.ellent condition, good as new. \$24,500 by owner. 258-4567

1997 FORD Explorer XLT, 1 owner, 120,000 miles, 4 door, 4 WD, V-6, great shape, red w/gray interior. 257-4588, 257-4586, 937-1428

1999 GMC, 1 ton, flat bed, 454, 4WD, goose neck, runs great. \$3850. Call 257-5388

LOOKING FOR a good work truck? 1972 Ford Pickup. New tires, 5th wheel attachment, runs great. \$1800. 258-4574.

1993 HONDA 300 Four-trax, 2WD. \$1,500. Call 257-7141

FOR SALE Very Nice & clean Holiday Rambler 28 foot travel trailer. \$5000. 336-4701

801 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

FOR SALE Very Nice & clean Holiday Rambler 28 foot travel trailer. \$5000. 336-4701

801 AUTOS FOR SALE

801 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

1999 LARSON 18' SEI Fish & Ski Boat Excellent condition only 100hrs. 130 H.P., Johnson live wells depth finder sid well fish finder, magnum trailer with new chrome wheels, new tires under boat. \$11,500. Ready to go! Call Steve 257-4800.

MUST SELL NOW!! 2000 Coachman RV, 30ft. w/slide out, 5 beds, shower & commode; extras! Excellent condition, \$10,500 OBO. Call 378-7020 or 378-4857

MUST SELL! 2003 Pilgrim Open Road 5th wheel, 35ft. Fully loaded w/3 slide outs. Call Tripp or Almee @ 258-8611

MUST SELL! 2003 Pilgrim Open Road 5th wheel, 35ft. Fully loaded w/3 slide outs. Call Tripp or Almee @ 258-8611

LEGAL NOTICE
#6023 4T (3)24,26,31(4)2

The following storage units are past due. If payment is not received within 30 days of first publish of this notice storage items will be sold at auction.

Units: C-23, B-31, C-7, A-19, F-N

TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL NOTICE, CALL VALERIE: 257-4001

801 LEGAL NOTICE

#6044 1T (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to 3-21-1' of sec NMSA 1978 Comp., NC TICE is hereby given the the Planning Commission of the Village of Ruidoso will hold a public hearing on April 20, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., Village Hall, 311 Cree Meadow Drive in the Village of Ruidoso. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider amendment of the zone map area for the following described property:
Lot 1, Block 1, School District & NW/4, SE/4, Section 25, T.11 S, R 13 E
Lot mentioned and exact maps are available for viewing at the Planning Department at Village Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Ruidoso, NM
Above referenced area is now zoned C-1, Neighborhood Commercial and R-1, Single Family Residential District and will be considered for C-1, Neighborhood Commercial District.
By order of the Planning & Zoning Commission Village of Ruidoso, N.M.
/s/Tim Vega
Planning Department
Case # ZA04-001

801 AUTOS FOR SALE

CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • HONDA PUBLIC NOTICE INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE!

Jack Key Motors of Alamogordo is overstocked with NEW VEHICLE INVENTORY. We must sell all overstocked vehicles at rock bottom prices to the public.

www.jackkey.com Toll Free 1-800-748-1123
We've Got 'Em! CONVENIENT LOCATION, LOW PRICES & HIGH SELECTION

JACK KEY DODGE

DODGE

04 Dodge Dakota
Sik #A579144
V6 ENGINE, POWER STEERING & BRAKES, AC, AIR BAGS



04 Dodge Dakota
Sik #A538145
SLT, 4X4, QUAD CAB, V8 ENGINE, INFINITY SOUND SYSTEM, TRAILER TOW



04 Jeep Grand Cherokee
Sik #A287971
LIMITED MODEL, WITH V8, TRAILER TOW, POWER PEDALS, LEATHER



JACK KEY HONDA

HONDA

'04 HONDA CIVIC
POWER WINDOWS, POWER LOCKS, AUTOMATIC
Only \$199/mo*
*Sale price \$14,785. Based on 60 mos @ 5.99% APR with 20% down plus TT&L. OAC Min 650 FICA Score



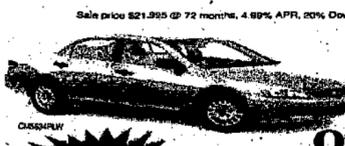
'04 HONDA CIVIC SI
RALLY STYLE BUMPERS, POWER WINDOWS, POWER LOCKS, ALLOY WHEELS
Only \$235/mo*
*Sale price of \$17,995. 72 months @ 4.99% APR, 20% Down plus TT&L. OAC Min 650 FICA Score



'04 HONDA CRV
EX POWER WINDOWS & LOCKS, AUTOMATIC
Only \$287/mo*
*Sale price \$21,925 @ 72 months, 4.99% APR, 20% Down plus TT&L. OAC Min 650 FICA Score



'04 HONDA ACCORD
POWER WINDOW, POWER LOCKS, AUTOMATIC
Only \$239/mo*
*Sale price \$21,250, 72 months @ 4.99% APR with 20% down plus TT&L. OAC Min 650 FICA Score



JACK KEY PRE-OWNED 434-3916

04 DODGE INTREPID

10 TO CHOOSE FROM
ONLY \$258 DOWN* AND \$258 PER MONTH*
V6 ENGINE, AUTOMATIC, POWER SEAT, MIRRORS, WINDOWS AND LOCKS.
ALLOY WHEELS, AM/FM CD, KEYLESS ENTRY
*SALE PRICE OF \$14,900 PLUS TT&L WITH \$258 DOWN, \$258 PER MONTH, 72 MONTHS @ 5.99% APR, OAC.

00 MERCURY SABLE sik# A998837A LS PACKAGE, V6, AUTOMATIC, AC, TILT, CRUISE, PWR WINDOWS & LOCKS *Sale price of \$9350 plus TT&L. \$189 down, \$199 per month. 60 months @ 6.99% APR OAC	99 HONDA CIVIC sik# A625822B KEYLESS ENTRY, POWER WINDOWS, MIRRORS AND LOCKS *Sale price of \$8826 plus TT&L. \$199 down, \$199 per month. 60 months @ 10.99% APR OAC
00 DODGE STRATUS sik# A649214B AUTOMATIC, POWER SEAT MIRRORS, WINDOWS AND LOCKS *Sale price of \$7995 plus TT&L. \$199 down, \$199 per month. 60 months @ 6.99% APR OAC	03 DODGE NEON sik# A3020 LOW MILES, AUTOMATIC, AM/FM CD *Sale price of \$10,495 plus TT&L. \$199 down, \$199 per month. 66 months @ 6.99% APR OAC
00 CHEVY ASTRO VAN sik# A567075A KEYLESS ENTRY, INFORMATION CENTER, REAR AIR, 3RD ROW SEAT *Sale price of \$10,495 plus TT&L. \$199 down, \$199 per month. 66 months @ 6.99% APR OAC	99 JEEP CHEROKEE sik# A1179B AUTOMATIC, AC, 4WD *Sale price of \$8,800 plus TT&L. \$199 down, \$199 per month. 60 months @ 10.79% APR OAC

SALE PRICES EXPIRE 04/06/04
OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 AM - 6 PM SATURDAY 8 AM - 6 PM

All prices plus tax, title, and license. Artwork for illustration purposes only. All vehicles subject to prior sale. WAC




LEGAL NOTICES

#8000 AT (3)12,19,26(4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF LINCOLN TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF BURL BRUCE CHAPMAN

SA-03-08 Division III

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF SUIT

TO: Michael Miller

GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in the District Court of Lincoln County, State of New Mexico, certain cause of action wherein Burl Bruce Chapman is the Petitioner and you are the Respondent, the same being Cause No. SA-03-08, Division III.

The object and purpose of the said suit is for the Petitioner to adopt your biological son, Jacob.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that the Petitioner will seek an order from the Court implying your consent to the adoption at the hearing set for May 11, 2004, @ 1:45pm; unless you enter your appearance or file pleading herein on or before that date.

The name of the Petitioner's attorney is RICHARD A. HAWTHORNE, P.A., Richard A. Hawthorne, and whose address is 1221 Mechem, Suite 2, Ruidoso, New Mexico, 88345.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico this 28th day of February, 2004.

DISTRICT COURT CLERK

By: Mickie L. Vega Deputy

#8041 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS Notice is hereby given that the Village of Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico, calls for sealed bids on Bid #03-016

The Village of Ruidoso is Accepting Bids For General Construction of Skylight Replacement At Senior Center.

Interested bidders may secure a copy of the specifications from the Purchasing Department at the Village of Ruidoso Centralized Purchasing Warehouse, 421 Wingfield St. in Ruidoso. 505-257-2721 (mailing address: 313 Cree Meadows Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345).

Sealed bids must be received by the Purchasing Office, if hand delivered, to the Ruidoso Purchasing Warehouse at 421 Wingfield St., Ruidoso, or if mailed, to Purchasing Department, 313 Cree Meadows Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345. Bids will be received until Thursday, April 15, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. local time, then publicly opened and read aloud at the Village of Ruidoso Annex Building, 421 Wingfield, Ruidoso, New Mexico. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

The Village of Ruidoso reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive all informality and technical irregularities as allowed by the State of New Mexico Procurement Code.

By the Order of the Governing Body

/s/Fermin Herrera, Purchasing Agent Village of Ruidoso

#8040 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners shall hold a Public Hearing beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 20, 2004, to be held at the Lincoln County Courthouse (Commission Chambers) in Carrizozo, New Mexico. The purpose of the public hearings is to consider proposed ordinances amending, repealing, and reenacting the following ordinances:

A. Lincoln County Indigent Health Care Ordinance No. 2003-11

B. Lincoln County Lodger's Tax Ordinance No. 2002-07.

All parties and interested citizens will have the opportunity to be heard. Copies of the proposed ordinances may be obtained from the County Manager's Office at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

/s/Martha Guevara Assistant County Manager

LEGAL NOTICES

#8043 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Ruidoso will hold a regular meeting on April 20, 2004 at Village Hall, 313 Cree Meadows Drive. The meeting will begin at 2:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider Case # PV04-010 a Variance request for the following described property:

Lot 19-A, Blqk 3, Pihescapes Sd. Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico.

By order of the PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION.

/s/Tim Vega Planning Department

#8001 AT (3)12,19,26(4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF LINCOLN TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No. CV-02-195

GRP LOAN, LLC, Plaintiff,

vs.

DAVID R. CHAVEZ aka DAVID CHAVEZ, NEW MEXICO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, DAVID A. CHAVEZ,

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 7, 2004, 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 MM 282-75 Highway 70, San Patricio, and is situate in Lincoln County, New Mexico, and is particularly described as follows:

A tract of land lying and being in a part of the SW/4 of Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 17 East, N.M.P.M., described by notes and bounds as follows:

For a tie begin at the Northeast corner of the NE/4 SW/4 of said Section 31; thence East 350 feet; thence South 370 feet to the point of beginning;

LEGAL NOTICES

VANDERBUKT MORTGAGE & FIN. THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN TAXATION and REVENUE DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, JOHN DOE and JANE DOE, (true names unknown), Tenants,

thence South 80 feet; thence Southwesterly 411.8 feet to the North right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 70; thence Northwesterly along said right-of-way line 285 feet; thence Northeasterly 380 feet; thence East 300 feet to the point of beginning.

THE FOREGOING SALE will be made to satisfy a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above-entitled and numbered cause on February 24, 2004, being an action to foreclose a mortgage on the above-described property. The Plaintiff's judgment, which includes interest and costs, is \$88,005.23 and the same bears interest at 9.750% per annum from March 1, 2004. The amount of such interest to the date of sale will be \$972.95. The Plaintiff has the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid verbally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of its judgment to the purchase price in lieu of cash. The sale may be postponed and rescheduled at the discretion of the Special Master.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the real property and interests concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements, all recorded and unrecorded liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded

LEGAL NOTICES

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

#8038 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF LINCOLN TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

No. CV-2004-63 Div. III

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NIKKI LYNN PALITTI

FOR CHANGE OF NAME

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME AND NOTICE OF HEARING

COMES NOW the Petitioner and hereby gives notice that a Petition for Change of Name was filed in Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico, on the 22nd day of March, 2004, requesting that the Petitioner's name be changed from NIKKI LYNN PALITTI to NIKKI LYNN MOEBUS.

Furthermore, Petitioner hereby gives notice of a hearing on the Petitioner's Petition for Change of Name, which shall be held before the Honorable Karen L. Parsons at 8:15 A.M. on the 22nd day of April, 2004 at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, New Mexico, whereby the Petitioner will request the Court to sign the final Order changing the his/her name from NIKKI LYNN PALITTI to NIKKI LYNN MOEBUS.

Nikki Palitti, B6 Blue Spruce, Ruidoso NM 88345 257-7953

#8042 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Ruidoso will hold a regular meeting on April 20,

LEGAL NOTICES

FOR CHANGE OF NAME

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME AND NOTICE OF HEARING

COMES NOW the Petitioner and hereby gives notice that a Petition for Change of Name was filed in Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico, on the 22nd day of March, 2004, requesting that the Petitioner's name be changed from NIKKI LYNN PALITTI to NIKKI LYNN MOEBUS.

Furthermore, Petitioner hereby gives notice of a hearing on the Petitioner's Petition for Change of Name, which shall be held before the Honorable Karen L. Parsons at 8:15 A.M. on the 22nd day of April, 2004 at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, New Mexico, whereby the Petitioner will request the Court to sign the final Order changing the his/her name from NIKKI LYNN PALITTI to NIKKI LYNN MOEBUS.

Nikki Palitti, B6 Blue Spruce, Ruidoso NM 88345 257-7953

#8042 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Ruidoso will hold a regular meeting on April 20,

LEGAL NOTICES

FOR CHANGE OF NAME

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#8042 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Ruidoso will hold a regular meeting on April 20,

LEGAL NOTICES

DISCUSSION and direction to subdivide 10 acres on Wood Lane into 20 to 25 lot subdivision requested by Dan Bojin, Broker.

DISCUSSION for Site Plan Review for Residential and Commercial Construction.

DISCUSSION for Site Plan Review for Commercial Landscape.

Meetings are open to the public. All citizens will have opportunity to make written and/or verbal comments at this time.

/s/Emma Herrera P/Z Secretary

#8045 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Ruidoso will hold a regular meeting on April 20, 2004 at Village Hall, 313 Cree Meadows Drive. The meeting will begin at 2:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider Case # PV04-013 a Variance request for the following described property:

Lot 17, Block 1, White Mountain Meadows, Unit 2 Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico.

By order of the PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION.

/s/Tim Vega Planning Department

#8039 TT (4)2 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning and Zoning Board for the City of Ruidoso Downs will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at 8:30 P.M. in the Hubbard Room at the City of Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico.

DISCUSSION and CONSIDER the land division and lot line adjustment for property located at Lot 56, Block 1, Tract C of Ruidoso Downs Heights Subdivision, requested by Ronnie and Betty Gustin, owners.

DISCUSSION of the proposed church at the 1901 Hwy.70 by John Wyatt, Pastor and Jerry Salas, Vice President of Cornerstone Church.

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Save **\$4,246**

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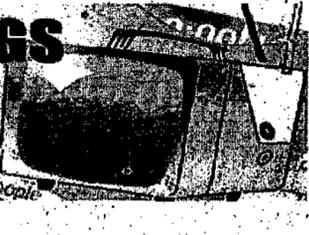
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Fact. Rebate	\$3,000
Dealer Discount	\$2,481
SALE PRICE	\$12,999*

\$12,999

6 AT THIS PRICE!
 *Price includes \$3,000 factory rebate & \$2,481 dealer discount from \$19,499 MSRP. TT&L extra.

■ Overdrive ■ Air Conditioning
 ■ V6 ■ CD Player
 ■ Pwr Steering ■ Pwr Mirrors

'04 Ford F150 HERITAGE XL
 SK. #FT17845

MSRP	\$20,885
Fact. Rebate	\$2,500
Dealer Discount	\$4,686
Ford Motor Cash	\$500
SALE PRICE	\$12,999*

\$12,999

*Price includes \$2,500 factory rebate, \$4,686 dealer discount & \$500 FMC bonus cash (requires financing through Ford Motor Credit) from \$20,885 MSRP. TT&L extra.

■ Air Conditioning ■ 4.2L V6
 ■ Pwr Steering ■ 4-wheel ABS

'04 Ford ESCAPE XLS
 SK. #FT17737

MSRP	\$19,625
Fact. Rebate	\$2,000
Dealer Discount	\$1,626
SALE PRICE	\$15,999*

\$15,999

6 AT THIS PRICE!
 *Price includes \$2,000 factory rebate & \$1,626 dealer discount from \$19,625 MSRP. TT&L extra.

■ Air Conditioning ■ 2.3L ■ Pwr Windows
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'04 Ford EXPLORER XLS 0% APR*
 SK. #FT17748

MSRP	\$27,080
Ford Motor Cash	\$500
Fact. Rebate	\$3,000
Dealer Discount	\$3,581
SALE PRICE	\$19,999*

\$19,999

10 AT THIS PRICE!
 *Price includes \$3,000 factory rebate & \$2,681 dealer discount & \$500 FMC bonus cash (requires financing through Ford Motor Credit) from \$27,080 MSRP. TT&L extra. †Factory financing in lieu of rebate, DAC.

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'04 Ford EXPLORER SPORT TRAC
 SK. #FT17970

MSRP	\$24,119
Fact. Rebate	\$2,500
Dealer Discount	\$1,620
SALE PRICE	\$19,999*

\$19,999

7 AT THIS PRICE!
 *Price includes \$2,500 factory rebate & \$1,620 dealer discount from \$24,119 MSRP. TT&L extra.

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 ■ 4.0L V6 ■ 4-wheel ABS

'04 Ford F150 STX SUPERCAB
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\$19,499
 AND
\$249 MONTH LEASE!

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'04 Ford EXPEDITION XLS
 SK. #FT17450

MSRP	\$32,735
Ford Motor Cash	\$1,000
Fact. Rebate	\$3,000
Dealer Discount	\$4,736
SALE PRICE	\$23,999*

\$23,999

10 AT THIS PRICE!
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■ Tr/Cruise ■ CD Player ■ Pwr Locks
 ■ Pwr Windows ■ Carpet

'04 Ford F150 XLT SUPERCREW
 SK. #FT17841

MSRP	\$29,815
Dealer Discount	\$4,366
SALE PRICE	\$25,499*

\$25,499

13 AT THIS PRICE! **1.9% APR***

*Price includes \$4,366 dealer discount from \$29,815 MSRP. TT&L extra. †Factory financing in lieu of rebate, DAC. *Shemalzy Ford, El Paso Times 2/07/04

■ Automatic ■ Air Conditioning ■ Cloth
 ■ Pwr Equipped ■ Sport Mirrors
 ■ AM/FM Cassette Stereo

'04 Ford F250 4X4 XLT CREWCAB SUPERDUTY
 SK. #FT17929

MSRP	\$35,585
Fact. Rebate	\$2,500
Dealer Discount	\$4,086
SALE PRICE	\$28,999*

\$28,999

*Price includes \$2,500 factory rebate & \$4,086 dealer discount from \$35,585 MSRP. TT&L extra.

■ Cruise ■ CD Player
 ■ Overdrive ■ Pwr Locks
 ■ Pwr Windows ■ Carpet

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HONDA

'04 HONDA CIVIC VP Automatic!
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SK. #H030781 Md. #E31848VW *LEASE: 36 payments of \$184 with \$2,000 down plus first payment, \$200 security deposit, \$250 destination fee and TT&L. One final refinancing payment of \$8,046 or pay \$250 and walk away. Lease price \$12,499 after \$2,401 dealer discount from \$14,900 MSRP. OAC.

■ Automatic ■ Air Conditioning ■ 4 Door ■ CD Player

\$12,499 OR \$184
 No Hidden Fees Month Lease

'03 HONDA CIVIC EX
 15 in stock!

Price includes \$3,361 dealer discount from \$18,360 MSRP. TT&L extra. SK. #H030730 Md. #E29074VW

Automatic!

\$14,999 No Hidden Fees

'04 HONDA ACCORD LX Overdrive!

SK. #H030881 Md. #CMB534PVW *LEASE: 36 payments of \$152 with \$3,000 down plus first payment, \$150 security deposit, \$350 destination fee and TT&L. One final refinancing payment of \$11,470 or pay \$250 and walk away. Lease price \$16,999 after \$2,791 dealer discount from \$19,790 MSRP. OAC.

■ Tilt/Cruise ■ Air Conditioning ■ CD Player
 ■ Pwr. Locks ■ Pwr. Windows ■ Tinted Windows

\$16,999 OR \$152
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'04 HONDA ODYSSEY EXL RES

Price includes \$2,381 dealer discount from \$30,380 MSRP. TT&L extra. SK. #H030907 Md. #RL188PVW

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SK. #MC4003

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■ Air Conditioning ■ Pwr Windows ■ Overdrive ■ Pwr Locks ■ CD Player
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AUTO! \$20,999

■ Automatic ■ 6 Cylinder ■ Base Audio Pkg. ■ Sport Pkg. with Spoiler
 ■ Leather ■ Sport Cui ■ Sunroof *Price plus TT&L after \$1,750 factory rebate, \$2,295 dealer discount from MSRP.

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SK. #MC00257

DUAL A/C! \$21,299

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 ■ Rear A/C ■ CD Player ■ 3rd Row Seat ■ Privacy Glass
 *Price plus TT&L after \$1,600 dealer discount from MSRP.

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'04 HYUNDAI ELANTRA

■ Tilt ■ A/C ■ Overdrive ■ Stereo ■ Dual Airbags ■ Pwr Locks
 ■ Pwr. Windows ■ Mats *MSRP \$14,791

A/C \$10,499
 15 TO CHOOSE FROM

\$9,999 After \$500 Dealer Loyalty

\$489 LESS THAN IN EL PASO!

*Plus TT&L. After \$2,000 factory rebate, \$1,419 dealer discount from \$13,917 MSRP. OAC. †El Paso Hyundai. El Paso Times ad 3/08/04. TT&L extra.

'04 HYUNDAI SONATA

■ A/C ■ Pwr. Windows ■ Pwr. Locks ■ Cruise ■ Tilt ■ Overdrive
 ■ Sunscreen Glass ■ Front 5 Side Airbags ■ Floor Mats *MSRP \$17,112

A/C \$12,791
 5 TO CHOOSE FROM

\$3,834 OFF MSRP

\$107 LESS THAN IN EL PASO!

*Plus TT&L. After \$2,000 factory rebate, \$1,051 dealer discount from \$16,825 MSRP. OAC. †El Paso Hyundai. El Paso Times ad 3/08/04. TT&L extra.

'04 HYUNDAI SANTA FE

■ AM/FM/CD ■ A/C ■ Overdrive ■ Pwr. Windows ■ Locks ■ Roof Rack
 ■ Alloy Wheels ■ Sunscreen Glass ■ Floor Mats *MSRP \$18,988

\$14,988
 10 TO CHOOSE FROM

\$3,861 OFF MSRP

\$1,000 LESS THAN IN EL PASO!

*Plus TT&L. After \$1,500 factory rebate, \$2,361 dealer discount from \$18,849 MSRP. OAC. †El Paso Hyundai. El Paso Times ad 3/08/04. TT&L extra.

'04 HYUNDAI TIBURON

■ Overdrive ■ Tilt/Cruise ■ AM/FM Stereo ■ CD Player ■ Alloy Wheels
 ■ Rear Spoiler ■ Dual Exhaust *MSRP \$17,120

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 5 TO CHOOSE FROM

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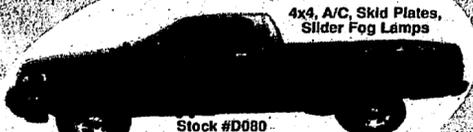
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'04 FORD FOCUS ZX3



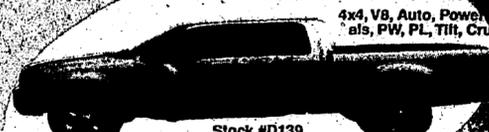
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Stock #D401
Was \$14,890
NOW \$10,749*

'04 FORD F150 4x4



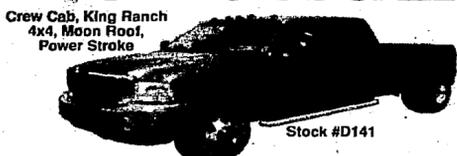
4x4, A/C, Skid Plates, Slider Fog Lamps
Stock #D080
Was \$24,105
NOW \$17,955^

'04 F-150 SUPERCREW



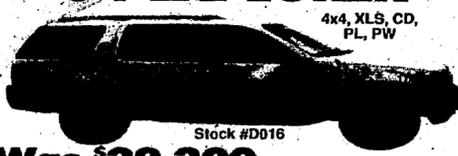
4x4, V8, Auto, Power Windows, PW, PL, Tilt, Cruise
Stock #D139
\$4,500 OFF!

'04 1-TON DUALY



Crew Cab, King Ranch 4x4, Moon Roof, Power Stroke
Stock #D141
\$8,000 OFF!^

'04 EXPLORER



4x4, XLS, CD, PL, PW
Stock #D016
Was \$29,200
NOW \$22,977**

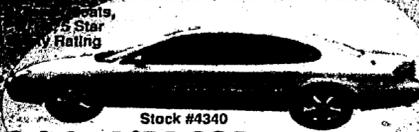
'04 1-TON CREW CAB



4x4, A/C, Skid Plates, Camper Package
Stock #D136
Was \$33,435
NOW \$26,533

PROGRAM

'03 TAURUS SES



Leather, Star Rating
Stock #4340
Original \$22,025
\$11,012

'03 LINCOLN TOWNCAR



Leather, dual climate control, full power equipment
Stock #4320
Original \$41,040
\$25,555

'03 FORD EXPLORER



3rd Row, Dual A/C, CD/Cassette
Stock #4348
Original \$33,055
\$22,747

'03 FORD WINDSTAR



4-Dr., 100 Miles
Stock #4358
Original \$28,995
\$15,988

'01 FORD EXPEDITION



4x4, 5.4, Eddie Bauer Leather, Rear Entertainment Center
Stock #4350
Original \$42,605
\$25,788

'03 FORD ESCAPE



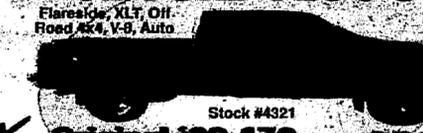
XLT, V-6, Auto, 4x4, 6 Disk In-Dash CD
Stock #4329
Original \$24,965
\$18,555

'01 FORD RANGER



SC, 4x4, XLT, 4 Dr, CD, CS, Bedliner
Stock #4349
Original \$21,805
\$14,395

'02 FORD F150 SUPERCREW



Flareside, XLT, Off Road 4x4, V-8, Auto
Stock #4321
Original \$30,470
\$23,375

USED

#4359	'04 FORD ESCAPE XLT, 4x4, V-6, Auto, 6 Disk	\$19,977
#200841	'01 NISSAN PATHFINDER 4x4, SE, Only 29,000 miles	\$17,878
#600971	'99 FORD F-150 R/C, Bedliner, Cruise, Tilt	\$6,995
#4346	'03 FORD RANGER R/C, XLT, CD, Bedliner	\$9,989
#42972	'97 PLYMOUTH NEON A/C, PL, CS, Cruise	\$2,995
#42482	'88 JAGUAR XJ6 Leather, Moon Roof	\$1,998
#41947	'00 FORD TAURUS SES, V-6, Auto, Remaining CPO Warranty	\$5,995
#4317	'01 LINCOLN LS V-8, Auto, Leather, CD	\$18,888
#8D1261	'03 FORD FOCUS ZX5, CD, Cruise, Tilt, Only 14,500 miles	\$10,488
#4307	'03 FORD CROWN VIC. LX, V-8, Auto, Leather, Traction Control	\$17,778
#43521	'93 FORD AEROSTAR Cargo Van, A/C	\$1,788
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¡VÁ MONOS!

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Story • page 16



¡VÁMONOS!

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On the cover



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

The style of artist R.C. Gorman provided the inspiration for Jordyn Greybull, a fourth grader at Mescalero Elementary School, for this acrylic paint creation. The painting is one of more than 700 pieces exhibited for the next two weeks at the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs.

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THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

Friday, April 2

Art exhibit opens

Art in Public Places receptions at Ruidoso Village Hall (313 Cree Meadows Drive) and Ruidoso Public Library (107 Kansas City Rd.), 5-7 p.m. (see story page 15), open to the public, no charge.

Capitan lecture series

The First Friday Adult Lecture Series at Capitan Public Library, 101 2nd St., will be at 7 p.m. The April program will feature Curtis Fort (see story page 4). The library volunteers will provide refreshments after the program. The First Friday lectures are free of charge.

Line dancing

Line Dancing at Ruidoso Downs Senior Center, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 3

Art studio tour

High Mesa Artists Studio Tour, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Highway 37, mile markers 4-7, Nogal, with lunch served by Ruidoso Noon Lions Club.

Sunday, April 4

Set those clocks

Daylight Savings Time begins: Spring forward one hour at midnight.

Art studio tour

High Mesa Artists Studio Tour, noon-5 p.m. (see above).

School art show opens

The eighth annual Henriette Wyeth Memorial School Art Festival opens the elementary grades show with a reception 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 4, at the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs. The show runs from 10 a.m. April 4 through April 18. See story, page 16.

Monday, April 5

Line dancing

Line Dancing at Ruidoso Downs Senior Center, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 7

Book review group meets

Ruidoso Book Review and Discussion Group, 10 a.m., Ruidoso Public Library, 107 Kansas City Rd. Author L.C. Hayden will review her book *Where Secrets Lie*, a story of the discovery of an illegal adoption that takes a woman to a world of power, wealth, deception and murder. No charge and everyone is invited to attend.

Thursday, April 8

Meditation group

Meditation group at High Mesa Healing Center, 2 p.m., by donation. Call Barbara

Mader 336-7777 for more information.

Smokey party committee meets

Planning committee for Smokey's Anniversary of Vigilance, 6:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce Building on Second Street in Capitan. For more information, call Sue Harkness at 630-0044 or visit www.villageofcapitan.com.

Coming soon

Business after hours

Business After Hours April 15 by Duncan's Upper Canyon Cabin Experience at Historic Noisy Water Lodge Dance Hall in Upper Canyon.

Hubbard to highlight Brown

Ceramicist Roy Brown will be the featured artist in the Artist's Corner at the Hubbard Museum of the American West from April 15-May 30.

Long day on the links

Golf-a-Thon at Cree Meadows Country Club Thursday, April 15, play 101 holes of golf in one day to support the ministry of Bonita Park Camp and Conference Center, \$10 registration fee for each player and secure \$1,000 in pledges. For information, call Bonita Park at 336-4404 or e-mail diane@bonitapark.com.

White Oaks Studio Tour

The 11th annual Artists of White Oaks Studio Tour will be from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 24 and 25. Six venues, historical homes and the school house will be open. Two lunch sites.

Alcohol server training

Alcohol Server Training will be offered through the Ruidoso Instruction Center of Eastern New Mexico University on Fridays April 30, May 21, June 25 and July 30, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce. Pre-registration at least one day prior to class is required at the university office, 709 Mechem Drive. The course covers facts about alcohol, its effect on the body and laws about responsible beverage service. Students must be 19 years of age with a valid photo ID and pass a test with a score of 80 percent or better to receive certification. For more information, call 257-2120.

Smokey Bear celebration

In commemoration of Smokey Bear's 60th birthday, the Capitan Chamber of Commerce will offer a concert by award-winning country and western group Highway 101 at Capitan's Tiger Stadium, 7 p.m. May 8, with an opening performance by Jim Raby and the Desert Stars. For ticket information, call the Capitan Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center at 354-2273 or visit at 433 W. Smokey Bear Blvd.

Miner's Day

White Oaks Miner's Day Celebration is Saturday, June 5.

The Passion of The Christ

2 hrs. 06 min.
Rated R for sequences of graphic violence.

This film tells the story of the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus (Caviezel), on the day of his crucifixion in Jerusalem. This film's script is based upon several sources, including the diaries of St. Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824) as collected in the book, "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ", "The Mystical City of God" by St. Mary of Agreda, and the New Testament books of John, Luke, Mark and Matthew.

Starring: James Caviezel, Monica Bellucci, Rosalinda Celentano, Sergio Rubini, Mattia Sbragia
Directed by: Mel Gibson
Produced by: Bruce Davey, Mel Gibson, Stephen McEveety
Showtimes: 12:45 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
*Saturday and Sunday only
**Friday through Sunday only



COURTESY

Maia Morganstern as Mary and James Caviezel as Jesus in Newmarket Film Group's *The Passion of the Christ*.

**Friday through Sunday only

3:15p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:45 p.m.
*Saturday and Sunday only
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Scooby-Do 2

Comedy, Kids/Family and Animation, 1 hr. 33 min.

Rated PG for some scary action, rude humor and language. The sequel to the 2002 hit that translated the lives of Fred, Daphne, Velma, Shaggy and Scooby to the big screen as a live-action comic adventure. Starring: Matthew Lillard, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Linda Cardellini, Freddie Prinze Jr., Alicia Silverstone
Directed by: Raja Gosnell
Produced by: Charles Roven, Richard Suckle
Showtimes: 12:25 p.m., 2:40 p.m., 4:55 p.m., 7:20 p.m.
*Saturday and Sunday only

Hellboy

Suspense/Horror and Action/Adventure, 1 hr. 52 min.

Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence and frightening images. When a Nazi mystical experiment goes awry in 1944, the target of a wizard's spell, the child of Satan, Hellboy, is wrenched from his home, and adopted by the U.S. agents who intercept his arrival. Raised as a force of good, Hellboy grows up to be a full-fledged demon in the form of a man, complete with fierce red skin, a tail, a giant armored glove, and two large circles where his horns should be (if they ever grow back, Hellboy is quick to break them off). Now, the adult Hellboy, an investigator of the paranormal, is sent on a mission that brings him back in touch

with the evil genius that started it all.

Starring: Ron Perlman, David Hyde Pierce, Doug Jones, Karel Roden, Victoria Smurfit
Directed by: Guillermo Del Toro

Produced by: Mike Richardson, Lloyd Levin, Lawrence Gordon
Showtimes: 12:25 p.m.,



COURTESY

Zombies in Universal's *Dawn of the Dead*.

Dawn of the Dead

Suspense/Horror, 1 hr. 40 min.
Rated R for pervasive strong horror violence and gore, language and sexuality.

As the United States is turned upside-down by a strange plague-like event in which millions of corpses walk the earth as blood-thirsty zombies (with the zombies kill usually returning as zombies themselves, multiplying their number), a small group of survivors of the onslaught, which include a nurse (Polley) and a police officer (Rhames), try to find shelter and protection within a massive shopping mall in the mid-sized city of Everett, WA. What they don't reckon on is that the zombies still have some sort of residual memory, and everyone loves going to the mall, right? Realizing that their time is running out, they decide to make another attempt at flight, to a presumably un-zombie-infested island, but to do so, they'll have to get past thousands of zombies in-between...

Starring: Sarah Polley, Ving Rhames, Mekhi Phifer, Michael Barry, Lindy Booth
Directed by: Zack Snyder
Produced by: Richard P. Rubinstein, Marc Abraham, Eric Newman
Showtimes: 9:30 p.m.

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Dance troupe, Spencer form happy bond

BY KATHLEEN McDONALD
FOR VAMOS

Now in its third year of operation, the Ruidoso Dance Ensemble has taken a significant leap from a private community business to that of an incorporated, non-profit dance company.

The local dance troupe now also has the Spencer Theater to officially identify as its "home base" for all performances. The two non-profit entities will collaborate in seeking grant funding to further community outreach, which is in tandem with the theater's overall mission: enhancing the cultural landscape of New Mexico with performing art that celebrates life "with impeccable style and excellence."

If you go

what: Ruidoso Dance Ensemble performs "Swan Lake"

when: 7 p.m. May 28 and 29

where: Spencer Theater on Airport Road in Alto

cost: \$15; call 336-4800

performances – five to date – have all contained a breadth and depth that far exceeds most expectations of a small community dance troupe.

"This action validates the quality of the ensemble's performances and of the company's professionalism in management practices," said Charles Centilli, the Spencer's executive director.

"I'm thrilled by the Spencer's recognition of the ensemble as a high-quality organization and for its confidence in our efforts to enrich the community," said Deborah Rogers, founder and artistic director of Ruidoso Dance Ensemble and the Ruidoso Dance Conservatory school.

Few community performance organizations have a professional theater as a home base, let alone a world-class stage on which troupes like Moscow Ballet and

Shanghai Ballet have also performed. Community dance troupes more typically are relegated to recitals at low-tech facilities such as gymnasiums or meeting halls, but the Ruidoso Dance Ensemble is many steps above average.

"The bonding of these two entities enriches the entire community," noted Bob Phaup, the Spencer's technical director, who also serves volunteers on the board of the Ruidoso Dance Ensemble. "This action focuses on community development and will heighten national recognition of these two quality organizations. The Spencer Theater is a unique hall – state of the art in every way – while the dance troupe is a unique company, producing top quality ballets and dance shows that are full-scale productions."

With its non-profit status, which was awarded in January, the Dance Ensemble has created a board of directors and a working committee called the Dancers Guild for community outreach.

Presently the ensemble, which is an outgrowth of the conservatory school, consists of eight talented dancers who must audition before a board of dancers and

adhere to certain criteria – ability, dance curriculum, academic standing, rehearsal attendance – in order to maintain their troupe status on an annual basis.

Past performances staged by the ensemble include "Sleeping Beauty," "Stars & Stripes" in 2002, "Leprechaun's Gift," "On Broadway" and "Twas The Night Before Christmas" in 2003. Its upcoming spring performance, a full production of "Swan Lake" at 7 p.m. May 28 and 29, is the company's first foray into the classical repertoire. More than 100 students (ages 3 to 50) with the Ruidoso Dance Conservatory have been invited to join the ensemble in this luminous production, which will be preceded by a 30-minute jazz pointe and tap show called "Juke Box."

Tickets for "Swan Lake" and "Juke Box" are \$15 and are on sale at the Spencer Theater. Proceeds support the ensemble's future performances.



COURTESY SPENCER THEATER

The Ruidoso Dance Ensemble, in its third year, is preparing for its first classical performance next month.

Call the Spencer at 336-4800 for more information.

Kathleen McDonald is a publicist for the Spencer Theater.



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Photographer honored

Local photographer Frederic Moras won an honorable mention with the picture "Carrot head" at the 14th Annual Mixed Media National Juried Art Exhibition in Las Vegas, New Mexico. The exhibit "Faces of Woman" received 450 entries nationwide and will end April 16. The list of exhibitors can be seen at www.lasvegasaretsCouncil.org.

Creative writing class

A creative writing class will be offered at the Ruidoso Senior Center, beginning Friday, April 2 at 2 p.m.

This six-week course will focus on projects suited to the participants' preferences.

Call the center at 257-4565 or send an e-mail to Ger Agrey-Thatcher at arthatcher@yahoo.com to sign up.

Parade needs entries

Entries for the 25th Annual Mescalero

Celebration Parade are currently being sought.

The Mescalero Apache Tribe will sponsor the event on July 3, with a theme of "25 Years of Fun for Families and Friends."

The deadline for entries is June 28 at 4:30 p.m. Any entries received after that will be placed at the end of the parade. For more information, call Velma Lee Kenseah at 464-0648 or Jonelle Geronimo at 464-4441, ext. 107.

Sculpture workshop

April 24, sculptor Pam Topper will give a workshop on figurative sculpture with oil-based clay for the Capitan Public Library adult art workshops. Students will make table-top size sculptures (8-12 inches in height) and learn about posture and body language to convey a message and how to build an armature to put the clay on. Times will be announced. (This workshop is full.)

Hispanic influence felt across the nation

Art, Craft and Such

Practical, creative ways to include fun in everyday living
by Polly E. Chavez



The Hispanic influence has changed the way the country and nation eats, dresses, dances, sings and votes. You have read about it in the news or heard about it on television or radio — the politicians seeking the popular Hispanic vote.

Carrizozo Schools' Junior Rotary conducted an assembly recently to acknowledge and honor Hispanic roots of some of their students, staff and community members. The high school students involved in the presentation researched the lives of internationally known Hispanics and their contributions to the world. They read some of their reports to an audience of kindergarten through 12th grade students.

The cafeteria that day served Hispanic foods for breakfast and lunch. The tables featured giant tissue paper flowers. Students and staff were encouraged to dress in Hispanic attire. During the assembly students learned about Hispanics' achievements in all walks of life. For example: operatic tenor Placido Domingo; golf champs Nancy Lopez and Lee Trevino; singer Gloria Estefan and actor Antonio Banderas.

The mini biographies of visual artists caught my attention. They included El Greco, Picasso and Frida.

Domenikos Theotokopoulos (*El Greco*),

born in 1541, was a Spanish painter whose greatest masterpiece, "The Burial of Count Orgaz" features his typical elongation of human figures. This work, still in place, portrays a 14th century Toledan nobleman laid in his grave by saints Stephen and Augustine.

Pablo Ruiz Picasso, born 1881, in Malaga, Spain, created works of art in a variety of mediums, including sculpture, ceramics, mosaics, stage design and graphic arts. He and artist Georges Braque invented the art form called cubism.

Frida Kahlo, Mexican painter, was born in 1907. As a result of an accident at age 15, Kahlo turned her attention from a medical career to painting. Fifty-five of her 143 paintings are self-portraits. Her paintings attracted the attention of artist Diego Rivera.

To conclude the event in the gym the high students, staff and guests performed a version of "La Marcha" around a centerpiece in the gym featuring a sombrero, balloons, tissue paper flowers and colorful streamers.

"La Marcha de los Novios" (The March of the Sweethearts) is a wedding custom of Mexican Hispanics. "La Marcha" is a dance once performed at weddings, but now also at any fiesta or celebration.

Couples march and sway to music around a room in intricate patterns, in single file, by two's and four's. The couples eventually form an arch with outstretched arms (like the children's game "London Bridge is Falling Down") through which the couples pass under. The dance concludes when all the couples join hands to form a giant circle. Traditionally the bride and groom then dance with each other in the middle of this circle.

School art show

The eighth annual Henriette Wyeth Memorial School Art Festival opens the elementary grades show April 4 at the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs. The show runs through April 18.

Chamber artist of the month

Deborah Wenzel is the featured artist for March and April at the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Photo display

A photographic display of the work of local photographer Herb Brunell, "Some Things I've Seen and Places I've Been," Brunell's, 2316 Sudderth Drive.

Art in Public Places

Art in Public Places exhibits for April and May: at Village Hall, the

Mountaintop Turners; at Ruidoso Public Library, Art Loop.

Dorn exhibit nearing end

Batik artist Denise Dorn's solo exhibition of pastel paintings continues in The Artist's Corner at the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs through April 11.

All paintings are for sale and 25 percent of the price goes to support the non-profit museum.

For more information, call the museum at (505) 378-4142 or visit www.HubbardMuseum.org.

Information about ongoing exhibits in Lincoln County should be e-mailed to ssuggitt@ruidosonews.com or faxed to Sandy Suggitt at the Ruidoso News at 257-7053.

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Coloradoans gone Wilde for Oscar

Past Tense

by Drew Comber
Historian, The Hubbard Museum of the American West



When I sit back and think of all the interesting and colorful characters who inhabited the Old West, about the last person who comes to mind is Oscar Wilde; effete, brilliant Irish writer and humorist of the Victorian era.

But Oscar was here. Make no mistake about that.

"Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes" – Oscar Wilde

Many people on both sides of the Atlantic suspected that Oscar Wilde had taken leave of his senses when he announced that he planned to tour the American frontier. And when they discovered just exactly what he planned to lecture about, they were convinced of it.

Oscar intended to lecture cowboys, miners, gunmen and prostitutes, among others, on the ever-so-refined topic of aestheticism, which is to say, art for art's sake.

Many were actually fearing for the whimsical Irishman's life. It's easy to understand their trepidation. Consider this: One night in Tombstone's Bird Cage Theater, there was a vaudevillian pretending to catch bullets (blanks, of course, fired by his assistant) with his teeth.

Difficult as it may be to believe, this particular idiot was performing this particular act in front of a large group of heavily armed drunks. As should have been expected, one of the inebriated audience members decided to get in on the act. Leaping to his feet and shouting "Catch this one, perfesser!" the would-be performer opened fire from the audience side of the footlights.

If not for the quick thinking of the bystander who knocked the fellow's arm down, this act may have had a different ending. As it is, tourists in the 21st Century now have the thrill of sticking their fingers into the bullet hole where the slug harmlessly embedded itself in the front of the stage.

After hearing stories like this, those close to Oscar began to fear for him.

"Over the piano was printed a notice: Please do not shoot the pianist. He is doing his best." – Oscar Wilde, Leadville, Colorado.

Now, Oscar Wilde may have smelled of lavender and minced his steps, but as my mother, whose maiden name was O'Neill, pointed out, "He was still an Irishman." Therefore, when Oscar was cautioned (by the Well-Meaning) about hard-drinking men, they were unwittingly inviting him to bend his elbow across the American frontier. And that was an invitation that Oscar was not about to ignore.

"The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it." – Oscar Wilde

Picture this: Oscar Wilde, sartorially resplendent in the finest laces, using expansively effeminate gestures in advising someone like, I don't know, how about Billy the Kid's compadre "Dirty Dave" Rudabaugh, on the finer points of interior decoration... just a thought.

Oscar Wilde's lecture tour was scheduled for the year of 1882. It was to begin less than one year after the death of Billy the Kid. Wyatt Earp's Tombstone Vendetta was going strong, with various evil-doers disappearing from the planet at what must have been an alarming rate to their friends. In other words, when Oscar arrived, the West was still very definitely wild.

There were many dates scheduled for Wilde's tour of the wilds, two of the most interesting being Leadville and Denver.

Bits and pieces of Oscar's reputation preceded him, and in Denver they overreacted to the hard-drinking Irishman before he even arrived. Of course, *no one* objected to Oscar's copious consumption of alcohol in most of its forms. After all *everyone* did that. The citizens' objection concerned, well, the way he *walked*.

Let me put it this way: If Oscar were to suddenly appear in the 21st Century, he wouldn't be mistaken for Clint Eastwood. The handbills distributed to publicize the event didn't help much, either. There was a picture of Oscar on these handbills. He wore a suit of velvet and his hair was in long, flowing, ringlets as he gazed wistfully at a flower... a lily, to be exact.

One can only imagine how this would have gone over with the saloon crowd.

"A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies." – Oscar Wilde

Actually, Denverites began slipping their

moorings well before Oscar's arrival.

Two local "soiled doves," as prostitutes were commonly known at the time, decided that if *anyone* were to be the judge of manliness, it was they. For some reason, probably alcohol-induced, they homed in on Oscar's choice of the lily at which to cast his admiring gaze.

The two hookers decided that if a man *had* to express himself with a flower, it should be a sunflower. They had somehow – and we probably don't want to know how – come to the conclusion that, in the world of flowers, the lily was feminine and the sunflower masculine.

How they reached that conclusion, I have no earthly idea, but they *did* reach it, nonetheless. Casting about for someone to appreciate their anti-Oscar statement, the two ladies found a policeman who seemed like he might be interested. After listening to them for awhile, the policeman, whose name was O'Connor, decided that they were being more anti-Irish than anti-Oscar. He arrested both of them. Being anti-Irish was no crime, so O'Connor charged them with "meretricious display."

Both the judge and the city attorney nodded sagely when they saw the charges. Almost immediately, the judge called a recess and both he and his colleague began frantically searching for a dictionary. After looking up "meretricious" and finding that all it meant was "a gaudy display," the judge dismissed the charges. It wasn't a crime to be meretricious, any more than it was to be anti-Irish.

At this point, Denver's chief of police got involved. Like Officer O'Connor, Chief Jim Lomery was an Irishman and he too, felt that the hookers, in objecting to the presence of Oscar Wilde, had somehow been slurring all those of Irish descent. He ordered all of his officers to arrest any woman "who appears on the street in a promenade costume which shall by its odd or brilliant display, attract public attention." In other words, it may not have been a crime to be meretricious before, but it sure was now.

The sunflower became the symbol of the anti-Oscar movement (didn't these people have *anything* to do?). Anti-Oscarites despised the lily, the flower that they felt Oscar favored. It had been the sunflower that bedecked the bosoms of the two anti-Oscar hookers.

It wasn't long before Oscar himself began to get wind of this hubbub. In Greeley, Colorado, a group of reporters were filling him in on the doings in Denver.

Oscar sat, mildly amazed, until something caught his attention. When he was informed that the chief of police in Denver considered the sunflower to be meretricious (Oscar *did* know what it meant), he was shocked. "He considered a sunflower meretricious? What manner of man is this chief of police?" Oscar wondered aloud.

Then, before anyone could stop him, Oscar launched into a lecture on the unmeretriciousness of both sunflowers and lilies. None of the reporters took notes. They just gaped.

Nevertheless, at least one of them wired the story ahead to Denver, adding more fuel to the fire.

Now, Chief Lomery felt insulted by the same fellow Irishman he had previously sought to defend. Lomery felt that Wilde was accusing him of ignorance. He not only felt insulted, *now*, he felt betrayed. Lomery swore to all who would listen that he did indeed know what meretricious meant.

"There is only one thing in the world that is worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about." – Oscar Wilde

The city of Denver yearned to be considered civilized, which is why they had invited Wilde to come and speak in the first place. But it seemed as though nothing could go right.

Buffalo Bill Cody was in town at the time of all this commotion, seeking investors for his Wild West Show. While making the rounds of the saloons, Cody had been flashing a rather large wad of bills, to say nothing of the jewelry with which he habitually festooned himself. As might be expected, someone with both a financial and moral deficit took note and shoved the famed frontiersman into a doorway on Larimer Street, where he relieved his victim of all his valuables. It should be noted that Cody, like the frontiersman he really was, had the good sense to keep his mouth shut at the point of a pistol. Between cash and jewelry, the perpetrator made off with about \$2,000.

The city fathers felt that this did little for Denver's public image, and the newspapers obligingly buried the story. They attempted to pacify Buffalo Bill with an invitation to the gala reception that was planned for Oscar. Cody agreed, figuring that he could probably raise some money at such an event.

Where was Oscar during all this? Leadville, where he was partaking of the

See GOMBER, page 7

DINING GUIDE

Alto Café • Hwy. 48 & Gavilan Canyon Rd. • 336-1980 • Open 7 days, 6:30am-3pm

Arby's • 633 Sudderth • 257-7775 • Open 365 days/year • 10am-10pm Sun-Thurs, 10am-10:30pm Fri-Sat

Billy the Kid Casino Buffet • 1461 Hwy. 70 • Ruidoso Downs • 378-4431 • 11am-8:30pm Daily

Books & Beans Espresso Deli • 2501 Sudderth • 630-2326

Bradley D's • 264 W. Hwy. 70 • 378-1595 • Catering avail. • 6am-2:30pm Tues-Fri, 6am-2pm Sat-Sun

Burger Trolley • 647 Sudderth • 257-3868 • Open 7 days/wk, 11am-7pm

Burrifto Express • Hondo • 653-4202

Café Rio • 2547 Sudderth Dr. • 257-7746 • 11:20 a.m. to 7:50 Daily

Carrizozo Joe's • 113 Central Ave., Carrizozo • 648-5367

Casa Blanca • 501 Mechem • 257-2495 • Open 7 Days, 11am-10pm

Casino Deck Buffet • 1400 Carrizo Canyon Rd., Mescalero • 630-4100

Cattle Baron • 657 Sudderth • 257-9355 • Summer Hrs: Mon-Thurs 11am-10pm, Fri-Sat 11am-10:30pm, Sun 11am-9:30pm

Chef Lupe's • 1101 Sudderth • 257-

4687

Chris & D's Four Winds Restaurant • 111 Central Ave., Carrizozo • 648-2964 • Mon-Sat, 6am-9pm, Sunday 7am to 9pm.

Chileo's • 135 W. Hwy. 70 • 378-4033

Circle J Barbecue • 1825 Sudderth • 257-4105 • Sun-Thurs 11am-8:30pm, Fri-Sat, 11am-9:30pm

Coyote Cantina • 2408 Sudderth • 257-7522

Cree Meadows Restaurant • 301 Country Club • 257-2733 • Mon-Sat, breakfast 7am-11am, lunch 11am-3pm, Thurs-Sat, dinner 5pm-9pm. Sunday brunch 10am-2pm

Daylight Donuts • 441 Sudderth • 257-7155 • Mon-Sat, 5am-12pm

Deck House • 200 Mechem • 257-3496

Denny's • 2219 W. Hwy. 70 • Ruidoso Downs • 378-1389 • Open 24 hours a day

Disco Taco • 141 W. Hwy. 70 • Ruidoso Downs • 378-4224 • Mon-Sun 7am-10pm

Domino's Pizza • 1717 Sudderth • 257-8888 • Mon-Thur, 11am-10pm, Fri-Sat, 11am-12am, Sun, 11am-10pm

Downtown Deli • 104 Lincoln Street • Capitan • 354-0407

El Camino Nueva • 1025 Mechem • 258-4312

El Paisano • 442 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan • 354-2206

El Pariso Mexican Restaurant • 721 Mechem • 257-0279 • Open 7 Days, 11am-9pm

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Great Wall of China • 2913 Sudderth • 257-2522

Green Chile Café • 2117 Sudderth, Gazebo Shopping Center • 257-4419

Greenhouse Café • 103 S. Lincoln Ave. • Capitan • 354-0373 • Wed-Sat, lunch; 11am-2pm Dinner, 5pm-9pm. Sunday brunch 9am-1pm

Hummingbird Tearoom • 2306 Sudderth • 257-5100 • Mon-Sat, 11am-2:30pm

K-Bob's Steakhouse • 157 W. Hwy. 70 • 378-4747

KFC of Ruidoso • 331 Sudderth • 257-2119 • Open 7 Days • Dining room & drive-thru Sun-Thurs, 10:30am-9pm. Fri-Sat, drive-thru 10:30am-10pm

La Lorraine • 2523 Sudderth • 257-2954 • Mon-Sat dinner 5:30pm-9pm, Wed-Sat, lunch 11:30am-2pm

Le Bistro • 2800 Sudderth Dr. • 257-0132

Lincoln County Grill • 2717 Sudderth • 257-7669 • Open 7 Days, 7am-9pm

Log Cabin • 1074 Mechem • 258-5029

Michelenia's • 2703 Sudderth • 257-5753 • Sun-Thurs 11am-9pm, Fri-Sat 11am-10pm

Midtown Grill • 2415 Sudderth Dr., Suite #5 • 937-0002

Mountain Annie's • 2710 Sudderth • 257-7982 • Open Thurs-Sun, 11 am to 8 p.m.

Mr. Burger • 1203 Mechem • 258-3616

Old Road Restaurant • 692 Old Road, Mescalero • 464-4674 • Open 9am-9pm Tues-Sun • Closed Mon.

Pappy's Diner • 890 E. Hwy. 70 • 378-4717

Pasta Café Italian Restaurant • 2331 Sudderth • 257-6666 • Sun-Thurs, 11am-9:30pm, Fri-Sat 11am-10:30pm, lounge open until 1:30

am

Penas Place • 2963 Sudderth • 257-4135 • Thurs-Tues 7am-2pm. Closed Wednesdays

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Pub 48/Weber's Grill • 441 Mechem • 257-9559 • Wed-Mon, 11am-9pm, Fri-Sat, 11am-10pm

Rainbow Lake Lodge Café • 806 Carrizo Canyon Road • 257-5291 • Thurs-Mon 8am-2:30pm

Restaurant Jezebel • 2117 Sudderth • 257-5883

River's Edge • 2404 Sudderth • 630-5394 • Thurs-Tues 10am-6pm

Rodney's Copa Cabana • 321 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan • 354-7637 • Tues-Sat, 11-2 pm & 5-9 pm

Ruidoso Roastery • 113 Rio St. • 257-3676

Santa Fe Grill • 416 Sudderth • 257-0845

Santino's Italian Restaurant • 2823 Sudderth • 257-7540

Schlitzky's Deli • 2812 Sudderth • 257-7811 • Open 10:30 am Sunday through Saturday

Smokey B's Grill • 2584 Hwy. 70 • Mescalero • Open 24 hours

Smokey Bear Restaurant • 310 Smokey Bear Blvd. • Capitan • 354-2557 • Open 7 Days, 6am-8pm

Sonic Drive-In • 102 Horton Circle • 257-4787 • 7 Days a week, 7am-11pm

Subway • 148 Sudderth • 257-7827 • Open 8am-10pm every day. Breakfast served til 11am

Subway @ Fun Trackers • 101 Carrizo Canyon Rd. • 257-5678 • Open 7 days a week. Breakfast served til 11am

Taco Bell • 654 Sudderth • 257-4246 • Mon-Wed, 10am-1am. Thurs-Sun, 10am-2am

T.C.B.Y. • 2812 Sudderth • 257-7822 • Open 10:30 am Sunday through Saturday

Texas Club Bar & Grill • 212 Meiz Drive • Ruidoso • 258-3325

The BBQ Place • 316 E. Smokey Bear Blvd. • Capitan • 354-0046

The Quarters • 2535 Sudderth • 257-9535

The Village Buttery • 2107 Sudderth • 257-9251

Missing something? If your favorite eats aren't listed herein, or if a certain restaurant's hours of operation aren't listed, be sure to tell the restaurant owner or manager. Basic listings are free. To add or update a listing, or to add bold lettering, additional information or a logo, call 257-4001 or fax Vamonos! at 257-7053.

GOMBER: Of whiskey, sunflowers and Oscar Wilde

From page 6

hospitality of the natives — with a vengeance.

When Oscar had first arrived in Leadville, the miners thought that they would have some fun at his expense. They intended to shock the Irishman by giving him a tour of the wilder parts of town.

Fat chance. Obviously, they did not realize with whom they were dealing. As the festive night wore on, the miners couldn't help but notice that while they were becoming rapidly petrified from ingesting vast amounts of tonsil paint, Oscar seemed to be merely refreshed.

After watching Wilde gamble, flirt with dancehall girls, and consume more whiskey than anyone thought possible, the miners began to re-think their approach. At this point, they were beginning to wonder if Oscar was from another planet, instead of just another country.

Finally, they suggested to Oscar that they have dinner — at the bottom of Mine Shaft No. 3. Wilde thought it was a wonderful idea and in no time he and his hosts were descending into the darkness in elevators that were really ore buckets.

At the bottom, Oscar found a reception committee of a dozen or more miners waiting for him. Each held a bottle of whiskey.

One by one, the bottles were passed around and drained by the miners and their odd guest. And one by one, the miners began to forget their names and fall down. Wilde seemed to find the experience exhilarating.

It was dawn when they finally arose from the depths. Many of the miners had decided that it would be better if they slept off the effects of the liquor in the pits. They decided this when they discovered that they were unable to get up and back into the ore buckets.

Eventually they all came up. But it was a

strange procession indeed that emerged from the bowels of the Earth that dawn. Oscar was in the lead, and while he was somewhat the worse for wear, he was able to walk without assistance. Many of the miners, while they were fully aware that walking was a valuable skill to have, were unable to remember exactly how it was done.

The citizens of Leadville had no problem with Wilde. In fact, they loved him. Before his departure, Oscar was made an honorary life-long miner. The local newspaper paid him high praise, perhaps the highest for the time and place: "There is no pioussness in him," they announced.

As one might expect, Oscar's ultimate arrival in Denver was anti-climactic. Despite the mighty sunflower-lily controversy that had raged before Oscar's arrival, city officials became confused and greeted the wrong train. When Oscar actually arrived, there was no one there to meet him.

Suffering from a hangover of monumental proportions, Wilde got off the train, found his way to the hotel and delivered the promised lecture at the Opera House that evening. By 10:30 he was on another train speeding away from Denver.

Many found his performance in Denver that night something of a let-down. Aside from being hung over, Wilde seemed distracted. His attention seemed to keep wandering to a woman in the front row. It wasn't so much the woman who distracted him as what she was wearing.

He couldn't seem to take his eyes off of the huge sunflower pinned to her blouse.

"I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read on the train." — Oscar Wilde

Sources: *The Wilde West* by R.B. Smith; *Denver Public Library; Files of True West Magazine.*

Dave and Jan Houser will display some of their renowned travel photography on the High Mesa Artists Studio Tour. Shown here is a colorful exterior in Mesilla. Tough zoning ordinances have helped Mesilla retain its centuries-old architectural character.



COURTESY JAN BUTC

Spectacular views on High Me

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR VAMONOS

If you go

what: High Mesa Artists Studio Tour

when: Saturday, April 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, April 4, noon to 5 p.m.

where: Nogal, off Highway 37 between mile markers 4 and 7

It's go time for the High Mesa Artists group, which is holding its second annual studio tour from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Fifteen artists are featured at eight different studio locations, including Jim Wall, Madeleine and Steve Sabo, Jan and Dave Houser, Mark Cherry, Pamela Topper, Lisa Maue, Ivy Heymann, Marvin and Karen Smith, Sandy Hartley, Marylyn Chewning, Nancie Ferguson, Richard Rumpf and Jeff and Teresa Hughes.

Lunch is available for \$4.50 a plate and gallery owners often have finger foods as well.

For a tour map, directions or other information, contact Richard Rumpf of ZW Gallery at 354-4263.

Here's the second half of our artist previews.

Dave and Jan Houser

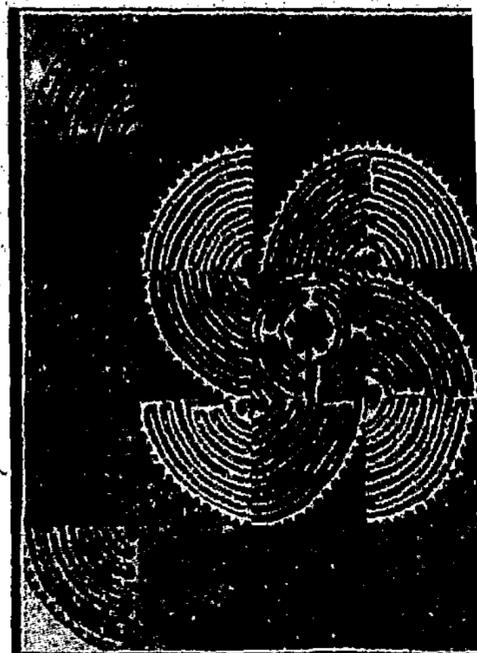
During an 18-year freelance career Dave G. Houser has established himself as one of America's most widely published travel journalists. His articles and photos appear regularly in leading magazines, newspapers, books,

brochures and advertorials. His wife, Jan Butchofsky-Houser, has enjoyed a 15-year career as a freelance photographer, seeing her photos placed in dozens of magazines, newspapers, books, advertisements and brochures.

As full-time freelancers, Dave and Jane have traveled to more than 140 countries and specialize in offbeat/adventure, cruise and luxury travel, personalities, health and history. They manage their own stock photo agency out of their home near Nogal. During the tour they will offer images from around the world, some framed and some in shrink wrap. All will be signed original prints.

Art Quilts by Karen Smith

Karen Smith says, "Art is what I make in order to see and understand how I fit into this world." In 1994 Karen "reclaimed" her grandmother's craft of sewing. With several years of mentoring, she discovered that fabric is her voice. Some of Karen's art quilts are currently on tour with the Blue Ribbon Quilts of New Mexico



COURTESY

"Labyrinth VI: Lost in the Depths," a quilt by Karen Smith.

through July. She has won a long list of awards for them as well as placed her quilts in

and corporate collections.

Marvin Smith

Bliss Art and Blue Wolf Studios in Nogal houses Marvin Smith, along with his wife, Karen. The long-nosed, grinning blue wolf figure personifies Marvin Smith's creative spirit. He chose it for his studio name and signs his sculptural ceramics with a stylized "W." With a long list of elite ceramic instructors guiding his craft, Smith creates hand-built sculpture that is often architectural, sometimes with human figurative connotations. He is very interested in forms, planes, and textures and choosing glazes, engobes and stains, or non-traditional finishes which are suitable for pieces as well as enhancing and complementing them. Smith puts life into his work in the form of emotions, a lively flamboyance or serious quiet whimsy.

Mark Cherry

Mark Cherry is a landscaper and does both the design and build. His watercolors reflect his love of the landscapes he sees wherever he goes. He works on paper called Arches paper which is made from a hundreds year old French process of recycling cotton rags into paper. Mark has been painting for 30 years. His works are not photographic results of what he sees, but more of a visual of what he feels. "I paint landscapes of really special magic places inspired by the earth and in a sense, God's creation."

Jim Wall

Jim has been drawing and sketching since he was a boy. After retirement from the corporate world, Jim began devoting more time and energy to producing works that could be called art. Along with oil landscape paintings, Jim produced wooden hat racks and scenic wall plaques. He draws designs of all kinds, but many western and southwestern, and then the artwork on the wood is colorfully painted and finished. Jim Wall is all about color and it is reflected on his walls full of finished products. The woods he uses are cedar, pine and other locally "grown" products keeping the economy and the recycling at home. But more than the art, Jim likes people. His art brings people to him that soon find a visit with Jim is as colorful as his art.

Maryln Chewing

Maryln Chewing creates usable and decorative quilt

art in the form of tote bags, skirts, jackets, wall hangings as well as the functional bed quilts, pillows and quillows. (A quillow is a quilt stuffed into a pillow.) Her quilts are machine pieced and hand quilted except for the very large quilts which for the sake of time she machine quilts. She also features double batted quilts that are tied to retain their fluffiness. Maryln says a queen size 9 patch design takes about 3 months to complete. A passion for fabrics and especially unusual fabrics gives Maryln's creations variety in color and texture. Maryln will also take custom orders for those that have a color and design in mind.

Richard Rumpf

Richard Rumpf has been a full-time blacksmith for the last four years. He combines his background in metal fabricating and woodworking to produce traditional forged iron and his metal art. Forged items include fireplace sets, light brackets, door hinges, and any item that someone can dream up. His metal art runs from silhouettes of small birds and animals to a full size horse and rider. One of his favorite fun items has been 4-8 foot tall Yuccas. Rumpf can be found at his ZW Gallery on Highway 37.

Jeff and Teresa Hughes

The Hughes, of Creative Creations in the Gazebo



COURTESY RICHARD

Metal art by Richard Rumpf.

Shopping Center in Ruidoso, provide a variety of custom ceramics. All hand made, no molds and hand painted each piece is unique and one of a kind. They do utilize pieces such as dishes as well as decorative. They have a variety of religious pieces and will do custom work upon request. The Hughes, joining the tour to El for the map, will be showing at Rumpf's ZW Gallerie stop No. 15 on the tour.



Nogal artist Jim Wall poses in his studio with several of his finished works. His oil paintings and artistic woodwork will be part of the El Mesa tour this week.

PHOTO BY JULIE CARTER

HOPSKY-HOUSE

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KAREN SMITH
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TASTE MAKERS DINING GUIDE



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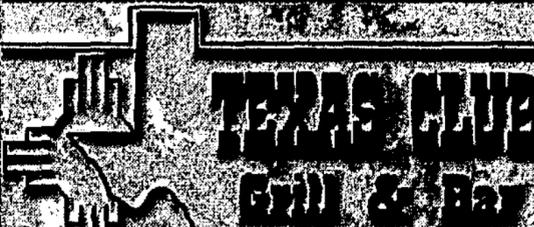
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TASTEMAKERS: CHEF LUPE'S

New location, same savory tradition

By NIKI PRICE
For the Ruidoso News

What happens when you take a hard-working couple, and give them a few breaks? In 10 years, what can they accomplish?

In the case of Lupe and Luz Gallegos, the answer is: plenty. Since they arrived in Ruidoso in 1993, they have opened four restaurants and one bar, and even expanded to Alamogordo.

Last month, the restaurant that started it all, Chef Lupe's Family Restaurant, expanded to a new location at 1101 Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso. Lupe has plans to add parking and patio tables to increase the capacity to 120, in hopes of attracting even more tourists and locals for Mexican and American food, fast service and good prices.

Lupe, who was born in Mexico, immigrated to Chicago in 1971. He worked in many kitchens and launched three short-lived restaurants before he came, at a cousin's urging, to Ruidoso. In the beginning, Chef Lupe's didn't have much money, and survived thanks in part to the kindness of strangers.

His eyes get misty when he talks about a kitchen equipment dealer in Alamogordo who sold him \$5,000 worth of equipment for nothing down and \$100 a month. And there were many others who helped get the business off the ground.

"We started small, taking in just \$1,500 or \$2,000 a week. It was just me and Luz, working all the time," he said.

"One day, we ran out of dishes and couldn't keep up. Another couple who had their own restaurant in town, came in and actually helped us wash our dishes. These are things that we will never forget."

Around 1996, Chef Lupe's began to serve 24 hours a day. From then on, according to Lupe, business has been steady, even though they no longer stay open around the clock. They do a brisk business from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., offering diner classics as well as Lupe's favorite Mexican dishes.

"My favorite, I think, is the Cadillac Fajitas. We use all fresh meat and season it on the grill," he said.

"We don't use marinade. Most people would buy a cheap cut and then marinate it to soften it up. But we use just good meat, skirt steak and quality shrimp and chicken."

Grilled up for two, the meal is served with peppers, onions, guacamole, sour cream, cheese and flour tortillas.

He also takes pride in the Steak a la Mexicana, top sirloin sauteed with garlic, onions, tomatoes and jalapenos, and his own

Lupe's Guacamole Salad

Save three of your avocado pits, then add them to the salad after it's been mixed. They prevent the guacamole from turning brown.

- 5 large avocados, peeled and halved
- 1/2 large tomato, diced
- 1/2 large onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Juice of one lemon

Combine all ingredients with a large whisk or potato masher. Serve on a bed of lettuce with tortillas chips and salsa.

version of his mother's menudo, the classic Sonoran tripe soup.

"We sell a lot of menudo here. My mother always made it in Mexico, but she used too much water. I use less, so the flavor is concentrated more," he said. "It's real popular."

Chef Lupe breakfasts include American favorites like nut pancakes, French toast and omelettes, as well as traditional Mexican dishes like chorizo con huevos (sausage and eggs) and caldo de res (beef soup) - specialties guaranteed to open eyes as well as sinuses.

Lupe has his own twist on huevos rancheros. He uses the same green sauce from his mother's kitchen, which is made from tomatillos, jalapenos and garlic, but adds a cheese that he first tasted in the Midwest: muenster. Together with two eggs, corn tortillas and beans, it's a mellow and tasty translation.

But of course, a menu is nothing without service, and Chef Lupe's concentrates on quickness.

"We're known for being very fast. I don't think anyone in town can serve a breakfast as fast as we can," he said.

The Gallegos clan has worked just as fast. Lupe dabbled briefly in the bar business ("It's not for me," he said) and opened a Chef Lupe's in Alamogordo, which he closed because he couldn't keep up with the business in both cities, he said. He also launched the All-American Diner on Sudderth, which is managed by his brother Ismael.

The success of these enterprises has allowed Luz spend more time at home with the couple's three children, ages 12, 11 and 8 months. But Lupe hasn't taken a break.

The next Gallegos enterprise will be the Crazy Shark Grill, set to open in April. The building, formerly a pawn shop, is undergoing



Kitchen managers Anna Wiggins and Victor Rodriguez collaborate on a Steak a la Mexicana in the kitchen of Chef Lupe's Family Restaurant. At right, owner Lupe Gallegos spends most of his time juggling business on his cell phone. NIKI PRICE PHOTOS.



a complete renovation to become a seafood restaurant, serving everything from swordfish to mahi mahi under the guidance of Juan Serna Aguilar (look in next week's Tastemakers for the full story).

It's been an exciting decade for Lupe and his family, one made possible through their hard work, luck and the good will of the community, he says, as his eyes get teary again: "If there is someone out there, helping you ..."

Chef Lupe's is located at 1101 Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso, and is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. For more information, call 257-4687.

Tastemakers is an advertiser-sponsored feature of the Ruidoso News. To participate or to learn more, call a retail advertising representative at (505) 257-4001.

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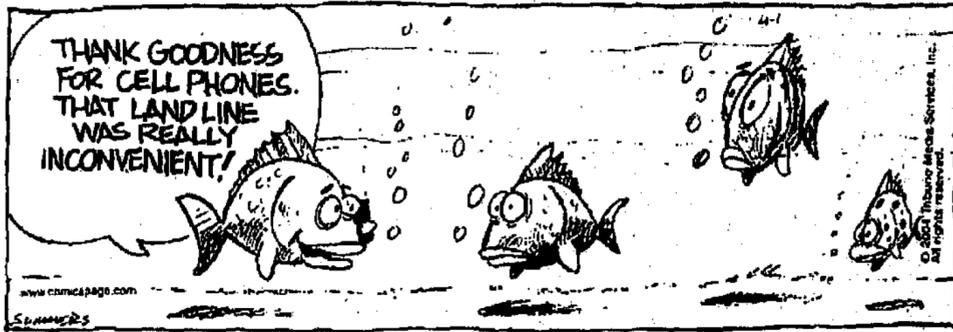
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Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

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By RAYMOND HAMEL

ACROSS

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- 6 Funnywoman Dunn
- 10 Metz Mrs.
- 13 Menial workers
- 18 Construe
- 19 Appliance on a board
- 20 Close up
- 21 Pharynx neighbor
- 22 "Loverboy" singer
- 24 Dessert offering
- 26 ___ macum; handbook
- 27 Ex-New York senator Alfonse
- 29 Threaten to tip
- 30 French lineman?
- 33 Cookout bars
- 34 Laughs nervously
- 35 Rural gathering place
- 37 1934 Camera defeater by TKO
- 38 Pitcher Maddux
- 39 Toon collectible
- 40 Lemon-lime drink brand
- 46 ___ Howdy Doody timer!
- 47 Heat-related
- 51 Diamond honor
- 52 Drama honor
- 53 No. between 0 and 90
- 54 Maker of the fragrance Treselle
- 55 Like some love songs
- 57 Everett of "Citizen Kane"
- 59 Cannes article
- 60 Largest known asteroid
- 62 What ewe said
- 63 Encouraged
- 64 Australian territory south of Java
- 67 Goya subject
- 70 ___ Time Warner
- 71 Sorry sorts
- 72 Labor party?
- 75 Plaza Hotel terror
- 76 Really beat
- 78 Scruff
- 79 Vigoda of "Fish"
- 80 Blue dye source
- 81 Pub potable
- 82 Toasted

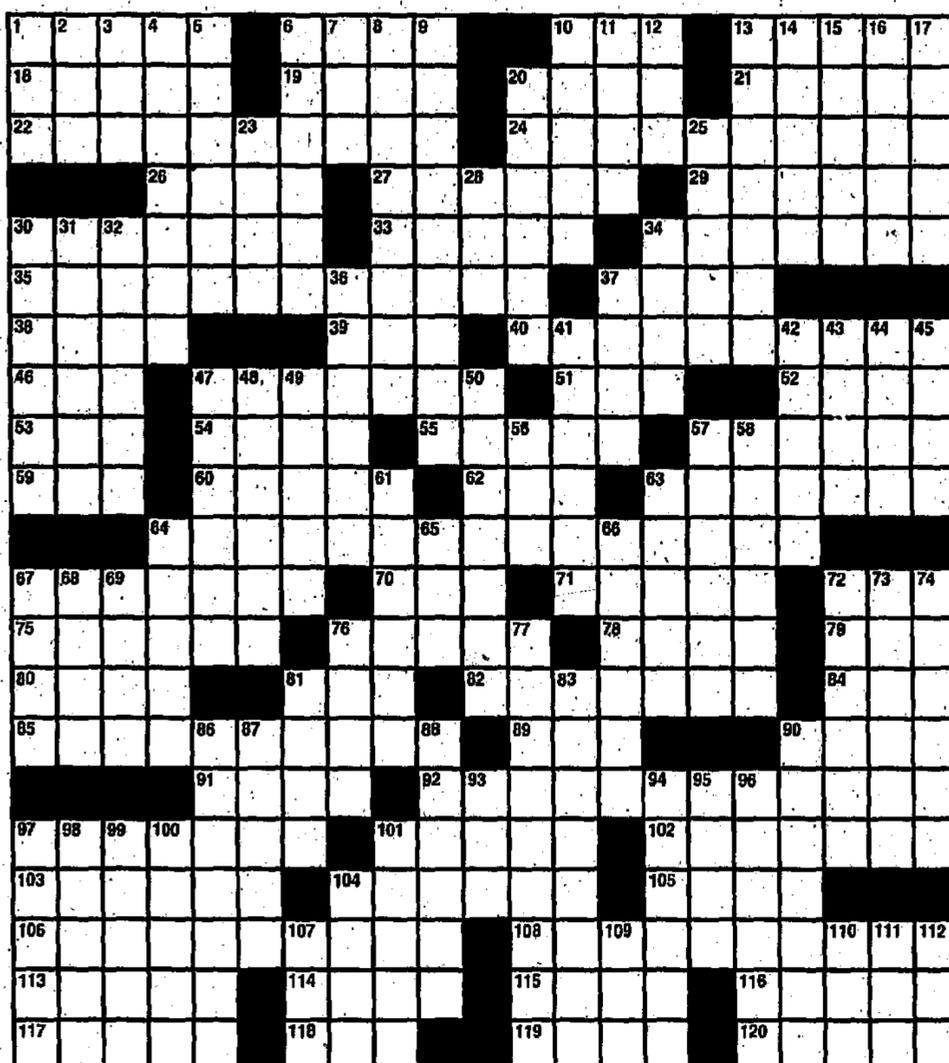
- 84 Electrical particle
- 85 Teasing entertainers
- 89 PC hookup
- 90 Quarreling
- 91 Actor/singer Garrett
- 92 When East meets West, e.g.
- 97 Annoyed
- 101 Private student
- 102 French Revolution motto word
- 103 Trimmed text
- 104 Donnie Iris hit song
- 105 Rep's spiel
- 106 Antique phone part
- 108 Author's concern
- 113 Long-limbed ape
- 114 Java vessels
- 115 Garage job
- 116 Pass on.

- 117 Not cool
 - 118 "A mouse!"
 - 119 Celtic land
 - 120 Flugged ridge
- DOWN**
- 1 Apron top
 - 2 Black cuckoo
 - 3 Org. with Vikings and Buccaneers
 - 4 Going deeply (into)
 - 5 Newsmen Gumbel
 - 6 Subtle point
 - 7 Blast furnace input
 - 8 Classic Triumph
 - 9 Chesapeake Bay city
 - 10 Holds a session
 - 11 It may be held at the deli
 - 12 Corner piece
 - 13 Island on the Equator

- 14 Six-time U.S. Open champ
- 15 Indian currency
- 16 Dogfight participant
- 17 Composer Saint-___
- 20 Sarah Hughes's shoes
- 23 Nose wrinkler
- 25 Less cordial
- 28 Former space docking site
- 30 Montreal university
- 31 Blood lines
- 32 Talk show invitees
- 34 Rainy day protector
- 36 Traditional tea go-with
- 37 Flock of quail
- 41 Hamper
- 42 Lowed
- 43 Construction beam
- 44 Trig ratio
- 45 Sore, with "off"

- 47 Secret supplies
- 48 Opposed
- 49 Sri Lankan primate
- 50 Occult matters
- 56 Dads
- 57 Three-time pro pass reception leader Sterling
- 58 Put on film
- 61 Rude observer
- 63 Turf grabber
- 64 Kid
- 65 Stooge with bangs
- 66 He joined CNN's "Crossfire" in 1992
- 67 Unheeding
- 68 Arm bone
- 69 Add to the language
- 72 Curaçao cocktail
- 73 Wind player
- 74 Crème de ___
- 76 Staff sign
- 77 Easily influenced
- 81 Niacin, for one

- 83 Wea time
- 86 Scratch test determination
- 87 Indigent
- 88 Rowing race
- 90 More than widespread, briefly
- 94 L'Oréal line
- 95 Hungarian city
- 96 Shot taker
- 97 Bittern, for one
- 98 Admire and then some
- 99 Gourdlake instrument
- 100 Music holder
- 101 It usually comes before you
- 104 Leeds's river
- 107 Attributable
- 109 Tokyo tie-on
- 110 ___ d'Orléans: historic La. district
- 111 Nosh
- 112 Three-way circuit



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E1 A1 Y4 M3 H4 P3 T1

E1 I1 K5 B3 S1 R1 R1

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Dave's World

by Dave Barry
Tribune Media Services



I probably shouldn't admit this to you younger readers, but when my generation was your age, we did some pretty stupid things. I'm talking about taking CRAZY risks. We drank water right from the tap. We used aspirin bottles

that you could actually open with your bare hands. We bought appliances that were not festooned with helpful safety warnings such as, "DO NOT BATHE WITH THIS TOASTER."

But for sheer insanity, the wildest thing we did was — prepare to be shocked — we deliberately ingested carbohydrates.

I know, I know. It was wrong. But we were young and foolish, and there was a lot of peer pressure. You'd be at a party, and there would be a lava lamp blooming away, and a Jimi Hendrix record playing (a "record" was a primitive compact disc that operated by static electricity). And then,

when the mood was right, somebody would say: "You wanna do some 'drates?" And the next thing you know, there'd be a bowl of pretzels going around, or crackers, or even potato chips, and we'd put these things into our mouths and just ... EAT them.

I'm not proud of this. My only excuse was that we were ignorant. It's not like now, when everybody knows how bad carbohydrates are, and virtually every product is advertised as being "low-carb," including beer, denture adhesives, floor wax, tires, life insurance and Viagra. Back then, we had no idea. Nobody did! Our own MOTHERS gave us bread!

Today, of course, nobody eats bread. People are terrified of all carbohydrates, as evidenced by the recent mass robbery at a midtown Manhattan restaurant, where 87 patrons turned their wallets over to a man armed only with a strand of No. 8 spaghetti. ("Do what he says! He has pasta!") The city of Beverly Hills has been evacuated twice this month because of reports — false, thank heavens — that terrorists had put a pagel in the water supply.

But as I say, in the old days we didn't recognize the danger of carbohydrates. We believed that the reason you got fat was from eating "calories," which are tiny units of measurement that cause food to taste good. When we wanted to lose weight, we went on low-calorie diets in which we ate

only inedible foods such as celery, which is actually a building material, and grapefruit, which is nutritious but offers the same level of culinary satisfaction as chewing on an Odor Eater.

The problem with the low-calorie diet was that a normal human could stick to it for, at most, four hours, at which point he or she would have no biological choice but to sneak out to the garage and snork down an entire bag of Snickers, sometimes without removing the wrappers. So nobody lost weight, and everybody felt guilty all the time. Many people, in desperation, turned to disco.

But then along came the bold food pioneer who invented the Atkins Diet: Dr. Something Atkins. After decades of research on nutrition and weight gain — including the now-famous Hostess Ding Dong Diet Experiment, which resulted in a laboratory rat the size of a Plymouth Voyager — Dr. Atkins discovered an amazing thing: Calories don't matter! What matter are carbohydrates, which result when a carbo molecule and a hydrate molecule collide at high speeds and form tiny invisible doughnuts.

Dr. Atkins' discovery meant that — incredible though it seemed — as long as you avoided carbohydrates, you could, without guilt, eat high-fat, high-calorie foods such as cheese, bacon, lard, pork rinds and whale. You could eat an entire pig, as long as the

pig had not recently been

At first, like other grogners such as Galileo and Atkins met with skepticism. The low-calorie foods in him big time. The Celery Association hired a detective. His car tires were replaced by what police determined to be Melba toast.

But Dr. Atkins persists in a dream — a dream that would help the human race million diet books. And his vindication for his diet began in an incident that listed as "totally unrelated 28-pound bacon cheeseburger stomach."

But the Atkins Diet lives! Millions of Americans to lose is, you can't tell this by looking at Americans, who have, as so heavy that North America underwater as far inland as a can only mean one thing: still sneaking Snickers. You are ashamed of yourselves! G

Dave Barry is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o 1 One Herald Plaza, Miami,

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Arts

Art Loop preview hits Ruidoso library

BY SANDY SUGGITT
VAMONOS EDITOR

A lot of artists will be concentrated in the Ruidoso Village Hall and Ruidoso Public Library for the Art in Public Places Reception from 5-7 p.m. today.

At Village Hall will be selected pieces by the Mountaintop Turners, with everything from bowls made of brilliantly covered wood to pen holders, pitchers and a loom made by spinner-turner Ralph Dunlap of Lincoln. Some of those pieces were featured in *Vamonos* last week, but a personal viewing of the work is in order.

Art Loop (self-guided tour July 9-11) artists will have their work on exhibit at the Ruidoso Public Library in April and May — as well as work by some of the "alumni" of past Art Loops. This year, 21 artists were selected for Art Loop, with a lot of new blood (or paint, clay and stone), said Judy Benson, who works with fiber art and jewelry, one of the "oldies" who is on the Art Loop Board. Ceramicist-sculptor Susan Weir-Ancker is president of Art Loop but is not on the tour this year, but as an "alumnus" may exhibit her work at the library, as will retablo-folk artist Polly Chavez and possibly other alumni.

New participants in the loop include Roy Brown (ceramics), Alice Warder Seely (painting, sculpture and jewelry), and John Kiker (plein aire and studio painting), all of Hondo; Ann Haile Johnson (weaving) of Lincoln; Jeannie Adams (sandstone painting), Lorene Caywood (painting), and Maria Hamilton (painting and drawing), all of Capitan; Miranda Howe (ceramics), Karen Smith (contemporary art quilts) and Marvin Smith (ceramic sculpture), all of

Nogal.

Returning Art Loop artists include Ann Templeton (painting) of Glencoe, Judy Benson (fiber art and jewelry) of San Patricio; Linda Fox (cut-paper collage), and Ronda, Randy and Craig Dougherty (glass), all of Lincoln; Jake Wolfhart (leather), Karen Pritchett and Todd Shelby (ceramics), all of Capitan; Zoe de Negri (jewelry), Pamela Topper (sculpture), Madeleine Sabo and Steve Sabo (hand-turned wood, painting and drawing), and Sandy Hartley (etched and stained glass and fiber art furniture), all of Nogal; and Bill Kerr (hand-painted china and porcelain) of Carrizozo.

If you go

what: Arts in Public Places reception

when: Friday, April 2, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

where: Ruidoso Village Hall and Public Library, on Kansas City Road.



PHOTOS COURTESY ART LOOP

Works by Maria Hamilton, above, and Alice Seely, top right, are just part of the exhibit of Art Loop artists starting today at Ruidoso Village Hall and Ruidoso Public Library as part of Arts in Public Places



ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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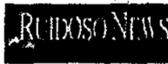
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PHOTOS BY DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Clockwise from above: Tempera was the medium chosen by Leroy Ramos, a sixth grader at Tularosa; Dillon Marshall from Nob Hill Early Childhood kindergarten class, painted this blue flower watercolor; Melissa Beltran created "Purple Pieces Everywhere" in her sixth grade art class at White Mountain Intermediate School

Youthful exuberance takes form at Hubba

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
VAMOS STAFF WRITER

Imaginative creatures, brilliant colors and unique interpretations of life line the walls and display panels at The Hubbard Museum of the American West.

Elementary school children from kindergarten through sixth grade entered 767 pieces of art for the 8th Annual Henriette Wyeth Memorial School Art festival this year. Because of the huge response, the show now is broken up into two age brackets, with older students being judged and displayed in a separate show.

The works in the elementary level exhi-

bition are not judged. They will be displayed from 10 a.m. Sunday through April 18, with a reception scheduled from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., on the opening day at the museum in Ruidoso Downs.

"Children show so much enthusiasm in their art," said Cheryl Bunch, head of tickets and sales for the museum. "Everybody loves to view their work. But this mainly is a chance for children to exhibit their work in a museum and to attend the reception."

Teachers think the event encourages the love and appreciation of art, said Sunny Hirschfeld, museum events coordinator. "It's also a nice time for a family to come togeth-

er to the museum each year," she said.

Bunch added that the classes probably contain some budding artists who someday may hang their work in museum across the country.

Students are participating from White Mountain Elementary and Intermediate in Ruidoso, Carrizozo Schools, Nob Hill Early Childhood Center in Ruidoso, Mescalero Elementary, Hondo Valley Schools, Tularosa Middle and Elementary Schools, Capitan Schools and Sierra Vista Primary in Ruidoso.

The show's inspiration, Henriette Wyeth, a resident of San Patricio, was considered by many scholars as one of the greatest

women painters of the 20th Century. Coda Omness of the museum said

"She started painting at the age of 10 with her father, artist N.C. Wyeth. She progressed to her own distinctive style with portraits of the late First Lady Paulette Goddard, actress Helen Hayes and author Horgan," she said.

Wyeth moved to the Southwest marrying artist Peter Hurd and lived many days in a rambling hacienda, Or

Admission to the museum is \$6 for adults, with reduced rates for children.



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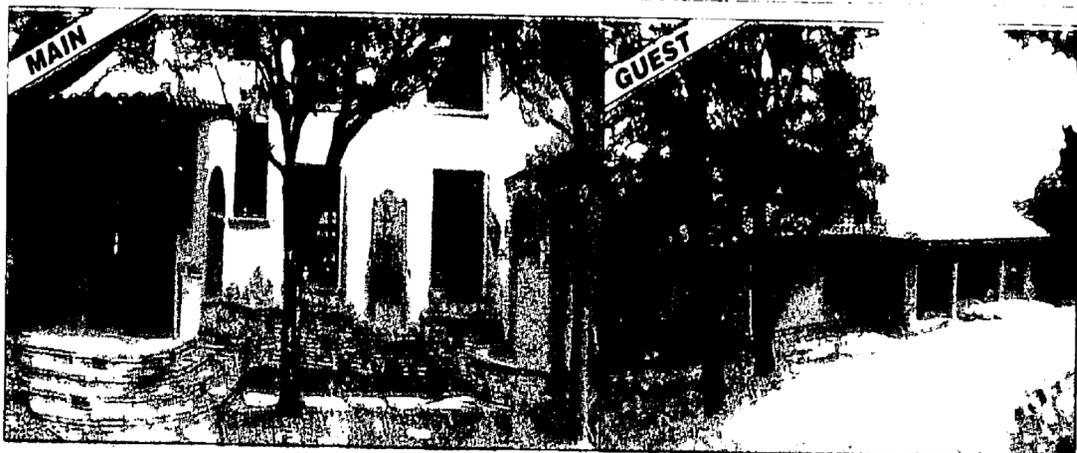
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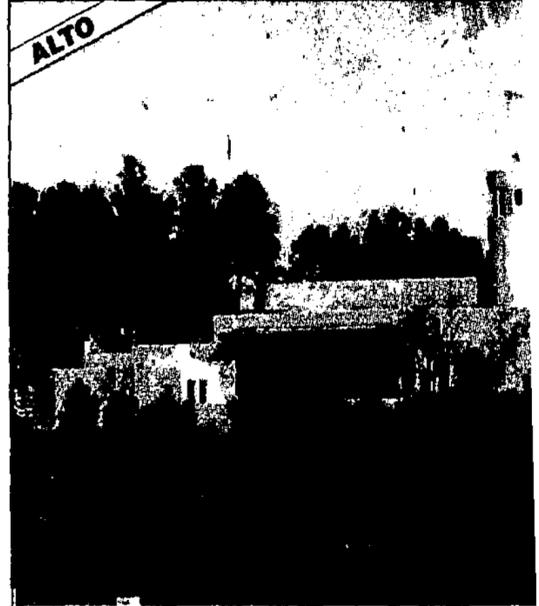
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This 4 br. home is in beautiful condition, and has a living area plus a den/library. 3 car garage & great Sierra Blanca view!! Master w/ adjacent hot tub area. Very nice setting. **\$359,000. #10049**



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**



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**



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! **\$269,900. #99615**



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**



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. **\$239,500 #10358**



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**



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**



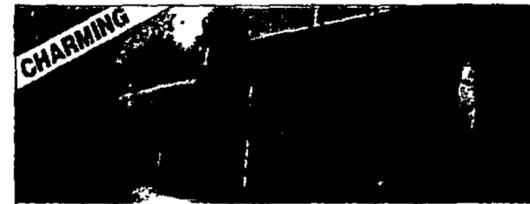
GREAT VIEW HOME ON .99 ACRES!
You'll love the location of this unique home in Indian Hills. Nicely remodeled. New windows too. Large decks, lofty ceilings, dog run, and workshop too. **\$216,500 #99430**



3SECLUSION 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**



A SIERRA BLANCA VIEW & 5 BEDROOMS!
You'll have a place for everyone and everything in this 5 br. 3 bath home in beautiful Indian Hills. Love that view! Nice lot... a generous 60 acre. **\$228,000. #10873**



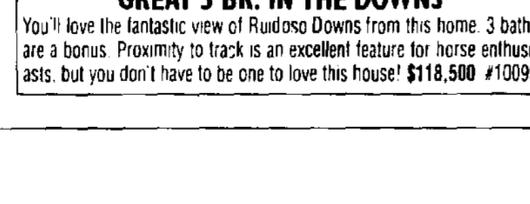
GREAT 3 BR. IN THE DOWNS
You'll love the fantastic view of Ruidoso Downs from this home. 3 baths are a bonus. Proximity to track is an excellent feature for horse enthusiasts, but you don't have to be one to love this house! **\$118,500 #10095**



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**



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**



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! **\$92,500 #10079**



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! **\$92,500 #10079**

condotel

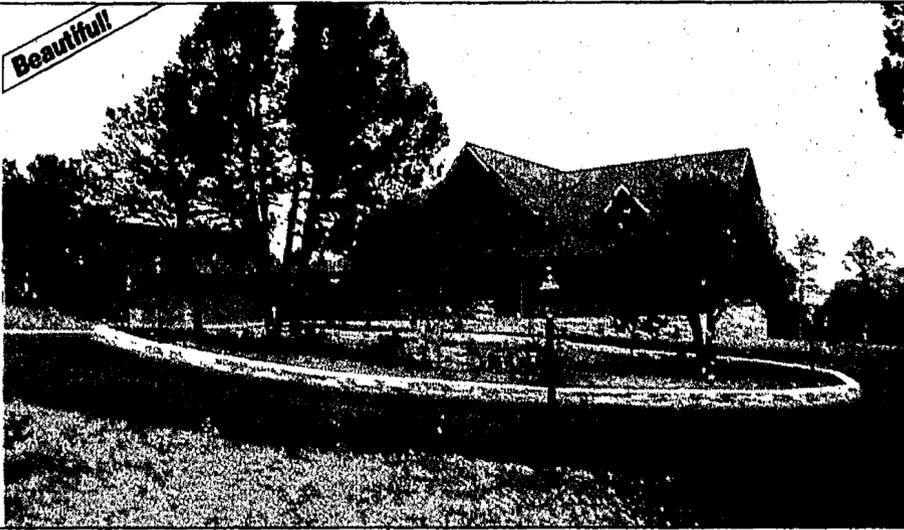
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ELEGANT MOUNTAIN HOME ON 61 ACRES

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



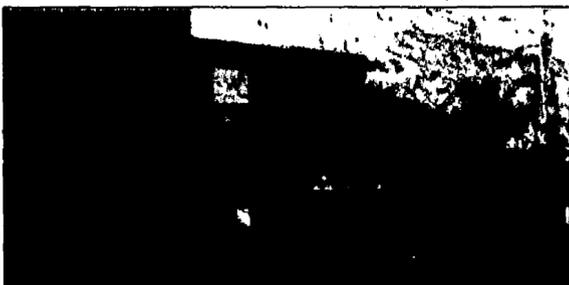
HORSE RANCH WITH SPACIOUS HOME ON 6.3 ACRES!
This sprawling Rancho Ruidoso home has beautiful mountain views, and is only 30 minutes to track! Has great facilities to breed, foal, and raise your winners! Apartment for guests or help. Adjacent acreage available too! \$675,000. #92024



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



GREAT GETAWAY OR EXCELLENT RENTAL!
These super units are versatile and conveniently located. This one has soft Sierra Blanca views and charming saltillo floors. Relax in the hot tub on the back deck under the tall pines! Furnished too. \$98,000. #10688

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

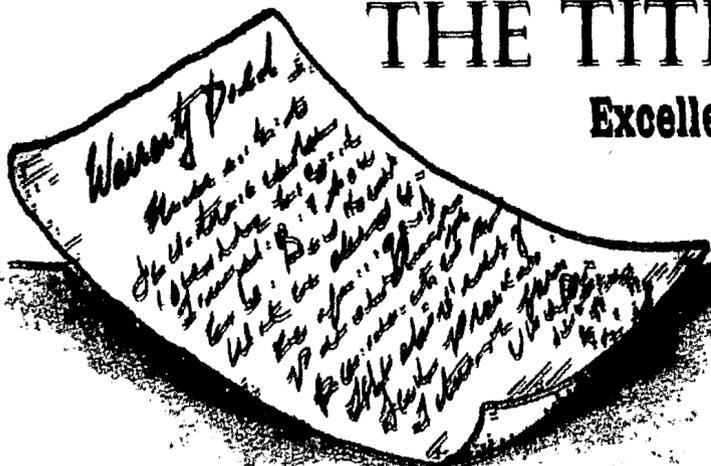


GREAT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY W/ HWY FRONTAGE
Real estate only! Approx. 2.24 acres w/ approx. 569 ft. Hwy frontage. Approx. 2,500 sq. ft. building w/ office, shop, grease pit, two 16 ft. overhead doors & storage. Excellent, multipurpose commercial location. \$225,000. #93288

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