

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9, 2005 • OUR 58TH YEAR, NO. 77 • 50 CENTS

INSIDE



SPORTS

Warriors win first Division I game
RHS beats NMMI

6A EDUCATION

Governor proposes money for struggling schools and home charter

4A OPINION

What to do about DWI

8B MARDI GRAS

New white event adds to the spirit

5, 6B LINCOLN COUNTY

Can't get it done
New restaurant opens

INDEX

- Classifieds 5-8C
- Comics 2C
- Community Page 2, 3A
- Crossword 2C
- Education 6A
- Letters 4A
- Lincoln County 5, 6B
- Opinion 4A
- Obituaries 4B
- Police 7B
- Real Estate 6C
- Sports 1-3B
- State News 3, 4C
- Valentine's Dining 1C
- Weather 2A

Foxworth fire is ruled arson

Fire Marshal says accelerants were used to ignite Sept. 22 blaze

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

A fire that destroyed a building material storage area Sept. 22 at Foxworth Galbraith on U.S. 70 was set intentionally, an investigator for the New Mexico Fire Marshal's Office said Monday.

Arson investigator Joe Chavez said laboratory results recently received by his office show that "a couple of accelerants" were used to ignite and spread the blaze that was detected about 4:30 a.m.

"This is an arson fire," he said. "We know it was intentionally set. We still are working on a few leads."

"The person who did it was pretty serious from the mixture that was used. That's one of our key pieces of evidence."

Chavez said he's interested in hearing from anyone who thinks they may have information about the fire or the perpetrator. They can offer the information anonymously by calling 1-800-244-6702.

Although surrounded by lumber and other building materials, the 300x40-foot structure behind locked gates, which contained a break room, cement

bags and special orders, was the only part of the complex to burn. The fire was brought under control within an hour by fire fighting units from Ruidoso and other nearby communities and volunteer departments.

A fork lift and two vehicles also burned, although the rest of the company's fleet was moved across the street to safety, the manager said at the time.

Occupants of two mobile home parks were evacuated in case the fire spread, but no structures in the parks were damaged by fire.

The company was open for business two days later.



A storage area at Foxworth Galbraith on U.S. 70 was destroyed by a fire Sept. 22. (Dave Price/Staff)

PARTY GRAS



In full Mardi Gras costume, a woman poses at a party at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track on Tuesday. (Dave Price/Staff)

State changes mind, won't take Hubbard

Museum of the American West was to be transferred

SANTA FE - Following six months of scrutiny by the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Governor's Legal Counsel, the State of New Mexico has decided not to bring the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs to its state-funded and operated museum system.

State Cultural Affairs Secretary Stuart Ashman said the state is declining a generous offer to transfer ownership of the Hubbard Museum because of differences over what pieces would be transferred to the state, as well as the ultimate ongoing cost.

R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard had offered to gift the 52,000 square-foot Hubbard Museum, 12 acres of grounds in Ruidoso Downs and six historic properties in the town of Lincoln to the state.

A letter of intent transferring the Hubbard properties to the Department of Cultural Affairs was signed in July 2004. Since that time, state museum officials and members of the Governor's legal team have been studying details of

the agreement to measure its impact on the state.

"While we recognize Mr. Hubbard's generosity and respect the importance of the museum to the Ruidoso area, we have decided that the responsibility for operating the museum would be too burdensome for the Department of Cultural Affairs," Secretary Ashman said.

"It was never our intention for the State of New Mexico or Governor Richardson to have any negative impact on the state's budget or museum programs," said R.D. Hubbard. "We appreciate Governor Richardson and Secretary Ashman for working closely with us and the Hubbard Museum of the American West. We will continue to serve the community in the Ruidoso Area."

Jean Stoddard, former administrative director of the Ruidoso Downs Race Track said Tuesday, "The governor and Mr. Hubbard met within

SEE MUSEUM PAGE 7A

Debate, no action on ETZ

Personalities again enter revision process

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After 2 1/2 hours mired in debates over legal shades of wording and lengthy explanations of personal, philosophical viewpoints, members of the governing board of a development transition zone around Ruidoso took no action on proposed changes to the district's rules.

On a motion by Ruidoso Village Councilor Ron Hardeman Monday, the Extra-territorial Zoning Authority voted to meet again Feb. 24 to continue the discussion of changes recommended by the Extra-territorial Zoning Commission. The three members, two Lincoln County commissioners and one village councilor, also asked for a legal opinion in writing from their attorney Zach Cook in consultation with county attorney Alvin Morel on whether they can modify the recommended changes and if they can bring up other changes they'd like to see in the ETZ ordinance, not first filtered through the ETZ Commission.

The ETZ Commission was charged by county commissioners with rewriting the ordinance covering the one-mile

zone, under the threat of dissolving the zone.

Searing that Commissioners Rick Stimpson and Earl Hobbs both spoke about physical violence against him, village planning director Charles Rennie took an active role in the hearing wouldn't be "conducive to a harmonious session and sat down in the audience."

Harvey Foster, a real estate broker and a member of the village planning and zoning commission, led off the discussion by stating that industry leaders consider the ETZ an important part of the growth of the area. "I've been here almost 30 years and I've seen the good having the ETZ has done," he told authority members. To keep the zone viable, it's important that the people working to improve it have a positive attitude about it, he contended.

"Having a negative attitude is unproductive," he said. Authority chairman Maury St. John said she started the ETZ journey "much more negative" to the zone, but now is "kind of on the fence."

Although Hobbs offered a motion that passed, 2-1 Hardeman voting against to eliminate an agenda item for comments from authority members, he embarked on an expla-

"I think (the current ordinance) is excessive, Draconian."

Earl Hobbs

nation of his position.

Many of the changes submitted by the ETZC "are simply wording, not in scope," he said. "There has been a tremendous amount of deliberate misrepresentation on the attitudes and positions that some of us on the county commission have taken regarding the ETZ. Mrs. St. John has taken it in the neck for holding positions she doesn't hold."

He insisted he favors the ETZ concept as set forth in state statutes, and would like to see countywide zoning.

"I think the ETZ is a useful item for a lot of municipalities and vital for development," Hobbs said. "I've stated that time after time after time and my position has been deliberately distorted."

He went on to say he doesn't like the current ordinance. "I think it is excessive, Draconian," the commissioner emphasized.

He voted for the 60-day notice of dissolution as a way to ensure the ordinance would be rewritten, he said, but he does-

SEE ETZ PAGE 7A

Snow snarls traffic

Road from ski area was 'a mess' Saturday

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More than 16 inches of snow over the weekend created spectacular skiing, but a long, slow drive home for many visitors to the resort.

Scott Goeller, who heads skiing operations at the Mescalero Apache tribal enterprise at the top of Ski Run Road, said, "It started snowing hard in the afternoon (Saturday). People got real excited and we had a solid crowd. It was exciting to see them up here."

State transportation department road crews worked hard to keep the two-lane route from the resort down to State Highway 48 open by clearing and salting, he said. At 4 p.m., the road only is open to one-way traffic down. "People were very careful and took their time," Goeller said.

A dispatcher for the Ruidoso Police Department said the problems started

between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday and "it took all night long to get them all off the mountain."

A dispatcher with the State Police said that a tour bus coming down from the resort "was running about two miles an hour and holding back 100 cars. It was pretty bad. Everyone was slipping and sliding. One of our 4-wheel vehicles led a tow truck to Windy Point where someone was stranded. It was just a mess."

On the up side, the result of the white bonus is "fantastic" skiing at the resort. Goeller said, pointing out that the road to Ski Apache seldom becomes a problem.

"We look forward to a great weekend coming up," he said. "This has been a good snow season. In the past seven days, we received 19 inches. Life is good. The settled snow is base. Midway ranges from 52 inches to 60 inches."

Snowfall in the Ruidoso area hit about three to four inches, but left roads icy and hazardous with several cars sliding into ditches.

FEB 9 2005



CLUBS MEETINGS

Ongoing

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lincoln County: 1096 Mechem, Suite 201, Lincoln Tower; 258-4185.

BSA Cub Pack 95: Meetings monthly, time and place TBA; 378-5623.

Ruidoso Care Center Family Council Sessions: Meetings as needed. Contact RCC at 257-9071 for information.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 7:30 a.m., noon, 5:15 p.m., 8 p.m. daily 613 Sudderth, Suite H; 257-9397.

Wednesday, Feb. 9

Children's TeamKids Dis-cipleship Program: 6 p.m.-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays (Sept.-May), First Baptist Church, 270 Country Club Drive. For children 4 years old to 6th grade; 257-2081, or on the Web at www.fberuidoso.com

Optimist Club (Friends of Youth): Noon every Wednesday at K-Bob's Steakhouse. New members always welcome; 257-5938 or 258-9218.

Pine Top Rod and Custom Car Club: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at various locations; Doug Babcock, 257-7365.

The Party Bridge Group: 1 p.m. Wednesday and Friday at the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center; 336-4808.

Thursday, Feb. 10

Alto Artists Studio Tour general meeting: 6 p.m. All interested Alto artists please plan to attend. At G. Henry's.

Alto Lakes District to meet today

The Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District Board will hold a Special Meeting at 8 p.m. today, Feb. 9, at the Alto Lakes Golf & Country Club, 1 Country Club Drive, Alto.

This is an informational meeting, open to the public, which will include the Boards of the ALWC and ALWSD.

Meeting Agenda

- Call to order and roll call
• Pledge of allegiance
• Approval of Agenda including additions and changes
• Approval of Minutes of January 26 meeting
• Consent Agenda (none)
• Reports (none)
• Regular Agenda
ALWSD is researching how it might undertake a transition in the provision of water and wastewater services to the Community. This joint meeting of the ALWC and ALWSD Boards will undertake a review of existing ALWC water and wastewater systems, the 40 Year Water Plan, and 20 year Capital Improvement Plan
• Board Comments (com-ments or requests, no action)
• Public Comment
• Closed Session (none)
• Announcement of next meeting
• Adjournment

New participants call for direc-tions: 336-1377.

Lincoln County Adult Singles Group: Meets every Thursday at various locations. For further information, please contact Sharon (585-8535) or Doris (258-3799) or e-mail us. The Lincoln County Adult Singles Group welcomes all adult singles.

Lincoln County Chess Club: 5 p.m., every Thursday at Cree Meadows Golf Course in banquet room. All experience welcome. Bring your own equipment. Food service avail-able. Info: Bob Moeller, 354-8036

Photographic Society of Lincoln County: Meets at 7 p.m. in the Public Service Room of Texas-New Mexico Power Company, 1190 Mechem Drive. Topic: Cowboy/Western Subjects; 258-4003.

Ruidoso Duplicate Bridge Club: 1 p.m. every Tuesday, Saturday and Thursday, plus a 299ers game 1 p.m. Mondays; all at the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center; 257-7411 or 257-6188.

Ruidoso Lodge's Tax Committee: Meets 1 p.m. in Administrative Officers at Village Hall, 313 Cree Meadows Drive; 258-4343.

Thursday Bridge: 11 a.m. Thursdays at Cree Meadows.

Friday, Feb. 11

The Party Bridge Group: 1 p.m. Wednesday and Friday at the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center; 336-4808.

Senior Line Dancing: 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays at the Ruidoso Downs Senior Center;

378-4659.

Weight Watchers: Meet-ings at 9:30 a.m. Fridays and 5:30 p.m. Mondays at Community United Methodist Church, 220 Junction Road; Marcia, 258-8879.

Saturday, Feb. 12

Al-Anon: Meets every Sat-urday, 10:30 a.m., at Gateway Center, 439 Sudderth, Ruidoso; 257-7124.

Narcotics Anonymous: Meets 7:15 p.m. Saturday in the Best Western Ruidoso Inn conference room; Dawn at 937-0844 or Josie at 378-5621. Or, write to HCR 46, Box 447, Ruidoso Downs, NM, 88346.

Ruidoso Duplicate Bridge Club: 1 p.m. every Tuesday, Saturday and Thursday, plus a 299ers game 1 p.m. Mondays, all at the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center; 257-7411 or 257-6188.

Sierra Blanca Amateur Radio Club: 9 a.m. Saturday. Usually meets at El Paraiso in Sierra Mall or check location on 146.920 MHz after 8 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 13

Rancho Ruidoso Valley Estates, Inc.: Annual Prop-erty Owners General Mem-bership meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at the Ruidoso Con-vention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive; Richard Phillips, 336-4368.

Monday, Feb. 14

Angus Wood Carvers: 5-8

p.m. every Monday, Nazarene Church Camp, Highway 48 and Highway 37; 336-9161.

Alcoholics Anonymous women's open meeting: 6:30 p.m. every Monday at Gateway Center, 439 Sudderth; 378-8391.

Ruidoso Downs City Council: Regular meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Hubbard Room of City Hall, 122 Downs Drive; 378-4422.

Ruidoso Duplicate Bridge Club: 299ers game 1 p.m. Mondays at the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center; 257-7411 or 257-6188.

Ruidoso Woman's Club game day: 11:45 a.m. Monday at the Ruidoso Woman's Clubhouse, 116 S. Evergreen, behind the Ruidoso Office Supply. Pot luck lunch followed by Bridge and other card games.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Al-Anon: Meets every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Gateway Center, 439 Sudderth, Ruidoso; 257-7124.

Alto Women's Assoc-iation: 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Alto Club House for lunch and cards. Business meeting, first Tuesday of every month.

Kiwanis: Tuesdays at noon at K-Bobs; Rutalee Waters, 257-2626.

Narcotics Anonymous: Meets 7 p.m. Tuesday at Best Western Ruidoso Inn conference room. Call Dawn at 937-0844 or Josie at 378-5621. Or, write to HCR 46, Box 447, Ruidoso Downs, NM, 88346.

Planning & Zoning: Reg-ular meeting, 2 p.m. in Council

Chambers of Village Hall, 313 Cree Meadows Drive; 258-4343.

Prepared Childbirth Cla-sses: Meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the Lincoln County Medical Center's conference room. Six classes per session with qual-ified, certified instructors; 257-7381 (ask for OB dept.).

Rotary International, Ruidoso-Hondo Valley Club: Arrive at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Cree Meadows Country Club; Barbara, 258-5445, Phillis, 257-5555 or Greg,

257-1255.

Ruidoso Duplicate Bridge Club: 1 p.m. every Tuesday at the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center; 257-7411 or 257-6188.

Ruidoso Evening Lions: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at 106 S. Overlook; Bill Speegle, 378-4151.

Ruidoso Valley Noon Lions Club: Meets 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday for lunch and a short meeting at Cree Meadows Country Club; 257-2776.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Table with 3 columns: Wed 2/9, Thu 2/10, Fri 2/11. Includes weather icons, temperatures (51/30, 46/30, 46/33), and sunrise/sunset times.

New Mexico At A Glance

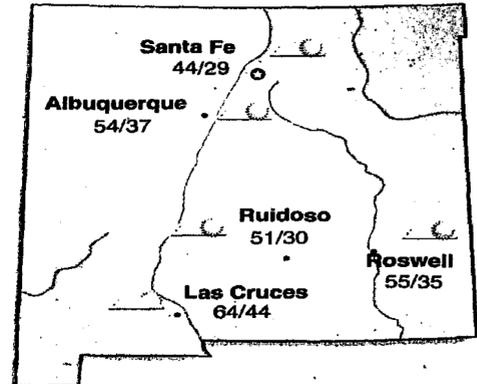
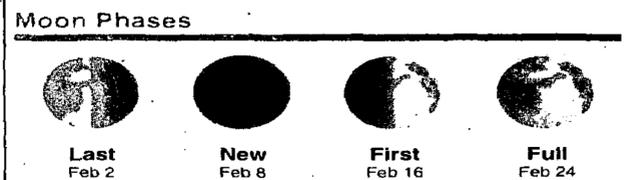


Table of weather forecasts for various cities including Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Carlsbad, etc., with high/low temperatures and conditions.

Table of National Cities weather forecasts including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Phoenix, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, Washington, DC.



UV Index table for Wed 2/9, Thu 2/10, and Fri 2/11, showing index values of 4, 3, and 3 respectively.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Leadership Lincoln class and board members met with Gov. Richardson on Feb. 2 in Santa Fe during Leadership Lincoln's annual state government session. This marked the second meeting with the governor during its brief three year history. Various issues of interest to Lincoln County and the area were discussed.

Leadership Lincoln welcomed in Santa Fe

The third Leadership Lincoln class toured Santa Fe Feb. 2 and 3 to study state government during the program's monthly in-depth review of countywide and leadership issues.

State Land Commissioner Patrick Lyons kicked off the session Wednesday afternoon.

"We generated about \$1,000 per student throughout New Mexico last year with mostly oil and gas royalties," he said.

The State Land Office manages approximately 13 million sub-surface acres with oil, natural gas and minerals and approximately 9 million surface acres for New Mexico. Revenues generated go into the Land Grant Permanent Fund, which funds public education in New Mexico. Lyons reported that the Land Grant Permanent Fund was valued at \$8.1 billion last year.

"The number one goal for 2005 is to try to raise \$400 million for education," Lyons added. "I want New Mexico to be a great place to do business," he said.

The highlight of the session was a 30-minute meeting with Gov. Richardson to discuss various issues.

"First and foremost, we are asking for your support on transitioning ENMU Ruidoso from an instructional center to a full branch campus," said Leadership Lincoln Board Chairman Brad Treptow.

"I met with Dr. Gamble from Eastern yesterday and that's going to happen," the governor replied.

Richardson also said that Camp Sierra Blanca "is going to continue and we're going to include some money for improvements."

Leadership Lincoln board member Scott Shafer requested capital outlay monies for Lincoln County fairground improvements. Richardson expressed interest in building rodeo programs throughout New Mexico when Richardson asked, "Maybe we need someone from your area on a committee to study this...how about you?" Shafer accepted.

"We are certainly very appreciative of your support for Fort Stanton and the Carrizozo Heritage Museum last year and we would like to count on your continued support towards those two entities," added Treptow.

The meeting concluded when two Camp Sierra Blanca young men presented a handmade Southwestern-style bench to Gov. Richardson.

Wednesday came to a close when the third Leadership Lincoln class joined the Leadership Hobbs class and the Lea County Economic Development Committee during an evening reception at the Gerald Peters Gallery. Gov. Richardson addressed the group at that reception, as well.

Thursday began with the class attending various committee meetings in the Roundhouse prior to meeting with First Lady Barbara Richardson and Domestic Violence Czar Sandra Gardner.

"We can no longer let domestic violence and its effects go unnoticed and untreated," said First Lady Richardson.

Statistics shared with the class during this meeting illustrate that victims of domestic violence leave their abusers an average of seven times before leaving permanently.

The Children, Youth and Families Department has a total of \$6 million to disperse to the 34 domestic violence shelters statewide.

A capital outlay request for \$500,000 to purchase a building and bring it up to code has been submitted to area representatives Dub Williams, Dan Foley and Avon Wilson as well as area senators Rod Adair and Tim Jennings.

Valor Telecom hosted Thursday's luncheon with the Leadership Lincoln class and board members, Lincoln County legislators and invited guests including Secretary of Transportation Rhonda Faught, Public Regulations Commissioner David King and Lincoln County attorney Angie Schnieder-Cook.

The state government session in Santa Fe concluded with a tour of the New Mexico Supreme Court by State Appellate Judge Rod Kennedy.

The role of the state appeals court is dispute resolution,"

said Kennedy. "We handle about 700 cases a year with a total of 10 appellate judges but only three hear a case at a time. Our cases are evenly split between criminal and civil cases," Kennedy added. "The state Supreme Court hears approximately 60 cases a year and all five judges sit in for each one, concluded Kennedy.

Leadership Lincoln is an organization operating under the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce's non profit status while their own non profit status is pending. Throughout the year, Leadership Lincoln discusses issues pertinent to Lincoln County including public and private education, quality of life, municipal and county government, economic development and Lincoln County History, New Mexico State Government, Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Environment and Natural Resources. The program selects class members who meet monthly from September through April with a graduation ceremony that concludes the annual program in mid-May.

Next month's meeting will be Thursday, March 10th and will highlight the Mescalero Apache Tribe.



COURTESY PHOTO

Two Camp Sierra Blanca boys, Chance and Carlos, present a handmade Southwestern bench to Gov. Richardson on Feb. 2 at a Leadership Lincoln meeting with the governor in Santa Fe.

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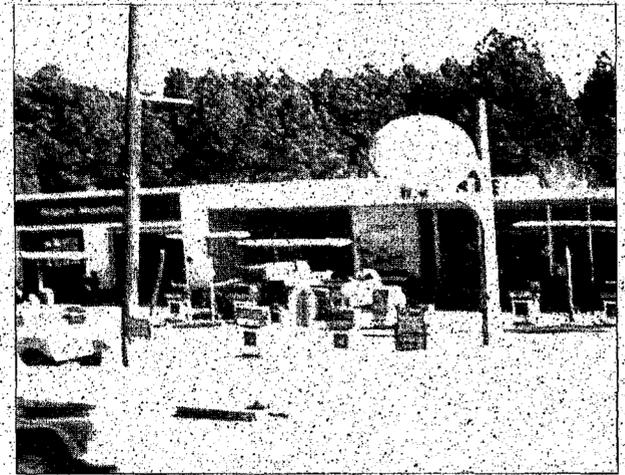
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RUIDOSO NEWS

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A Ruidoso moment....



This historical photograph came to us titled "Sonny's, Mechem and Sudderth." Anyone with stories or information is urged to call Marty at the paper, 257-4001. Of the "Cottage Eats" photo published Feb. 4, Dave Parks wrote, "It was built in the 1940s and prospered through the '90s. It was located where the Allsups is at Mechem and Sudderth. It was next door to the shopping center that then contained a bowling alley, Post Office and the original Thriftway. It was built by the Hulls but operated by Della Hale, the daughter of Ike Wingfield. Della Hale is Susan Lettermann's grandmother. Jenny Dryden informs that, "After Cottage Eats closed in the late 50s, the building was bought by Joe Dryden who made it a curio shop called Casa de Mexico. It was his shop for about 5 to 6 years."

Join the

RUIDOSO DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Teacher: Ruby Woods
American Contract Bridge League, National Instructor, 1st Life Master

What: Basic Beginning Bridge
The student will be able to play bridge by the 1st day of the lesson.

Where: Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center Card Room
The center is located at the corner of Sudderth Drive and Junction Road. It is next to the First National Bank.

When: March 7, 2005, Monday, 10:30 am
There will be a series of 8 lessons on that Sunday and each Monday thereafter. Students are invited to play in the honor game at 1:00 pm following the lesson. Brown bag is advised.

How Much: \$25.00 for the entire 8 lessons.
The proceeds will be donated to Ruidoso Valley Bridge Club in the Fourth Canyon Food Bank.

Contact: Pat Williams, 257-6188, pwill@zjanet.com
American Contract Bridge League

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FEB 9 2005

RUIDOSO NEWS OPINION

PAGE 4A

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9, 2005

RUIDOSO NEWS

Dave Price, general manager

Marty Racine, editor

A Gambett Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday
at 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso, New Mexico

OUR OPINION

Too much, too late

We have long had a culture of drinking and driving in New Mexico. Some of that might be due to our rural, Wild West heritage where it seems that anything goes. Some of it is due to other factors, such as a lack of educational initiatives and statutes that amount to little more than a wink and a nod.

It's time to recognize this as a serious crime, requiring stricter prevention and enforcement efforts.

Drinking and driving is the topic du jour in this session of the New Mexico Legislature. But unfortunately when a deeply rooted social problem is allowed to fester, by the time lawmakers confront it some of the corrective measures border on the Draconian.

See if you recognize Big Brother in last year's attempt to install ignition interlock devices on all New Mexico vehicles. This would have punished the innocent along with the guilty and would add untold costs and hassles for all motorists.

Another bill, introduced this session by State Senator Bill

Sharer, would prohibit the sale of alcohol to those convicted within the past five years of DWI. And how would bartenders and clerks know? By a magnetic code on the person's driver's license or ID card. What's next, no sugar for diabetic-coded drivers?

A measure that appears less intrusive is a bill that would install interlocks on cars of juveniles convicted of drug or alcohol charges at the risk of losing their driver's license for a year. The bill is idling in the Senate Public Affairs Committee and its sponsor, Rep. Kent Cravenis, R-Albuquerque, has agreed to tweak it before bringing it back to the committee this week.

And, if it is cost-effective, we applaud a legislative proposal to create new jail facilities for those convicted of repeat DWI that would separate them from the general prison population and emphasize treatment rather than security.

DWI is a longstanding problem. Let us be wary, however, of tough-sounding, perhaps even well-intentioned legislation that threatens civil liberties.

It's clear: He who drops the best names, wins

Don't get me wrong. If I had a name to drop, I'd drop it in a New York minute. That is a quicker measurement of time, apparently, than a New Mexico minute, but I've not figured out why.

So the following is not to be critical of Bill Richardson. Rather, it is to acknowledge that I had breakfast recently with Dave Price, publisher of the Ruidoso News, state reps John Heaton of Carlsbad and Joe Cervantes of Las Cruces, Shelley Ratner, director of the state press association, Rocky Hayes, head honcho at the Carlsbad Current-Argus, Julie Aicher, New Mexico's Associated Press bureau chief, and Bob Johnson, exec director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government.

Make no mistake, those are important folks, and I thank them for letting me join the table. But they are not going to get you invited to parties in Tinsel Town. Famous, they are not. Granted, Rep. Heaton insists he is a dead ringer for Tom Brokaw and says he is often stopped at airports. That is true, I'm sure, but I suspect those stopping John are wearing badges.

Here's the point, and you have to be wondering if there is one: My table mates and I sat there listening to remarks by Gov. Richardson, and I could not repress pangs of pure jealousy when The Bill mentioned in the space of three sentences that he had just come back from visiting with George Strait, that Don Imus almost made him late for his plane that morning, and that

he had recently chatted with Robert Redford.

Well, big danged old deal, you say. Nonetheless, when you sit there and listen to the governor tick off the names of his celebrity buddies and all you have to brag about is Dave Price... well, it's embarrassing, that's all.

Governor Bill was in pretty good form, but probably not all that comfortable with a question by Ray Sullivan, publisher of the Clovis News Journal. Ray wanted to know if Richardson is concerned about a film industry boycott should the state not outlaw cockfighting.

Big Bill said the boycott threat is immature and that Bob Redford told him not to worry about it. Truth is, the governor doesn't want to deal with cockfighting. He said it is a "distraction." Had I not been too shy, I would have pointed out to the governor that it is especially distracting to the chicken.

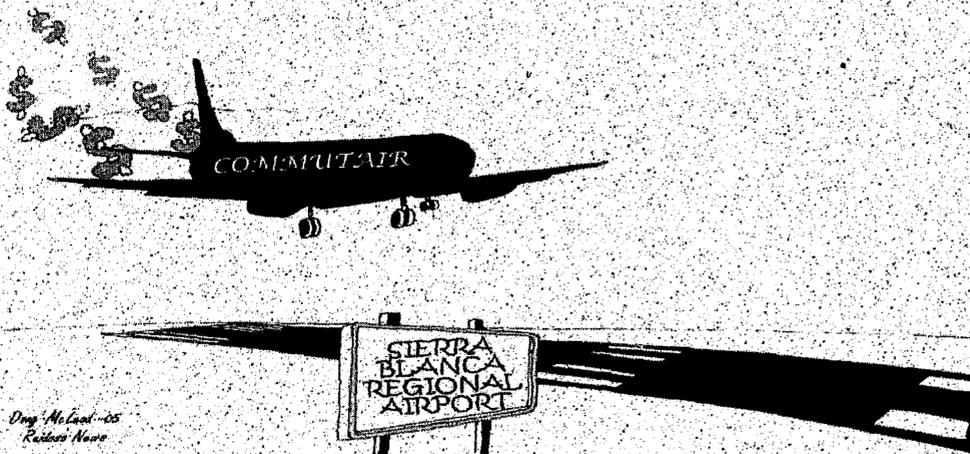
Just when it appeared the governor was going to rattle off the names of three or four more celebrities, the meeting adjourned and my big moment was about to take place.

Reader alert: I am about to gloat. Billy Sparks came over and shook my hand. I am speaking of Billy Sparks, the governor's press guy who once would not return my phone calls because he was too busy talking with Wolf Blitzer.

In previous columns I had been somewhat critical of Billy, and he wanted to talk about that. It was difficult to clearly make out what he was saying over the crowd noise, but it sounded like he called me a "real lasso."

I'm pretty sure that is a cowboy term of affection, but I'll have to check.

Ned Cantwell, ncantwell@charter.net, is a syndicated columnist living in Ruidoso. He collects autographs.



YOUR OPINION

News misrepresented governor's Democratic audience

To the editor:

Your lead article on Friday, Feb. 4, 2005, "A Democrat in the room" was partially correct but fundamentally flawed.

The opening paragraph/sentence indicated that Governor Bill Richardson came to Lincoln County and only talked with Republicans.

While this might have been true when he was addressing the Southwest Hay Conference it was certainly not true in regard to luncheon at the Alto Country Club. This luncheon was put together in mere days by a hard working committee of the Lincoln County Democratic Party after Governor Richardson suggested that lunch with a "few" Democrats would be very nice.

When the word got out to the revitalized Democratic Party members in Lincoln County they signed up in droves to come to the lunch.

Due to the size of the room we quit taking reservations at 80 Democrats, but more than 100 crowded the luncheon room to give tribute to this great Governor and American. That means about 96 percent of all at the luncheon were members/supporters of the Democratic Party.

If you include the staff of the Alto Country Club, who put the affair together quickly and efficiently, it would be

more than 98 percent Democrats who enjoyed the Governor's remarks.

We realize such a large Democratic turnout is a new experience to many in Ruidoso, and the Ruidoso News is still adjusting to reporting on a more "fair and balanced" basis because in fact we have at more than one political party (several more, if you report the activities of the Green and Libertarian Parties).

Get used to the idea that we are no longer a one party County, and that Democrats are not going to stand idly by while misinformation is being disseminated.

Doris Cherry
Chair, Democratic Party
of Lincoln County

Bad sports on display for Lady Tigers' game

To the editor:

I just returned home from watching my daughter's eighth grade basketball team play a game against the Tularosa Wildcats.

While I would like to be able to say that the Capitan Tigers scored a victory in this, their last home game of the season, I feel that they should be congratulated nonetheless.

Despite some reprehensible behavior from the opposing team and their fans, they played hard and performed with cool heads and dignity.

From the onset of the game, Tularosa had a parent in the stands being obnoxiously vocal, disrespecting the referees' calls and being generally annoying. In spite of being warned by the officials, he kept it up to the point that some of the Capitan faculty had to remove him from the gym and law enforcement had to be summoned.

Other Tularosa students were egged on by this behavior, and they screamed, yelled and pounded the bleachers while we took each of our many free throws.

I know that it is very unlikely that the people involved will be reading this editorial, but I just want it to serve as a reminder to all of us whose children play sports in Lincoln County: Whether you're playing at home or you're the visiting team, show some class along with your team spirit. Our kids are learning their social behaviors from us.

Thursday (Feb. 10) is our final game in Ruidoso. The Lady Tigers are looking forward to it, and I know that we can count on the Lady Braves to be gracious hosts and give us a good game.

Laura Morgan
Capitan

GUEST

A solution to the DWI problem in New Mexico

On Feb. 1, 2005, Ms. Jerry Shaw presented a very informative program to the Ruidoso Noon Lions Club on the current initiatives that are being undertaken to help prevent DWI in Lincoln County. The emphasis on indoctrinating youth early on will make a difference in the future. However, the issue we are faced with is what can we do now?

During the last year, there has been much discussion, press coverage, and even advertisements by the governor claiming that New Mexico is really getting tough on DWI. I haven't seen any recent statistics to determine if this approach is having any impact or not. My guess it will be about as successful as closing liquor store drive-up windows was several years ago! Bottom line is New Mexico politicians have yet to prove to me that they are really serious about solving this serious problem.

The DWI laws are continually being broken because the penalties are looked upon as something that can be easily dealt with if one is caught and convicted. First time DWI offenders may suffer up to \$1,000 in fines and legal fees, have to go to a DWI class, and have their license revoked for some time. Evidently, these penalties are not providing sufficient incentives to counter the urge to drink and drive.

Maybe the following penalties will

provide that incentive:

1. The vehicle the DWI offender was driving, when caught, would be confiscated by the state. If it was someone else's vehicle, tough.

2. The DWI offender would be required to spend eight hours every Saturday for one year, rain or shine, working on supervised road gangs to pick up trash and beautify New Mexico highways. An orange shirt with "I am a DWI offender" on the front and back would be worn during this time.

3. The DWI-offender would be required during that year to present a testimony at a special drug awareness rally at one of the local high schools as to why drinking and driving is a "no-brainer."

The proposed penalties would now put one's car and time off at stake. In addition, there would be the chance of working on a road gang in front of peers

resulting in the ultimate humiliation. The obvious advertising potential would remind all that New Mexico means business. The intent must be to hit the DWI offenders where it hurts (without jeopardizing the capability for that person to still work) while publicly displaying the harsh consequences to everyone that drinking and driving is not only stupid but that it can also be very, very costly!

For the record, the proposal presented here is not my idea. Several states (North Carolina, Maryland, etc.) have adopted this type of plan resulting in a dramatic reduction in DWIs, as well as deaths associated with DWI.

Maybe if New Mexico is really serious about solving the DWI problem, it might look into such a plan that has worked so successfully in other states.

Bryson McCool
Ruidoso

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. 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 88365; faxed to 257-7058; or sent by e-mail to letters@ruidosonews.com.

Breeder: 'Dangerous dog' bill shows ignorance

■ Measure crafted by Sen. Beffort 'horrible mistake,' says Ruidoso's Ellen Lucas

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Disgusted by proposed state legislation that would single out certain dog breeds for special restrictions and eventual banishment, instead of aiming the punishment at dog owners who create vicious animals by their handling, Ellen Lucas decided she couldn't just sit idle.

The local radio show host and former breeder decided to contact New Mexico legislators to oppose the bill submitted by State Sen. Sue Wilson Beffort, a Republican from Albuquerque. The bill followed a dog attack on an young Albuquerque boy.

The proposed legislation singles out as dangerous breeds Akita, Alaskan malamute, American or old country bulldog, boxer, Canary dog, Chow Chow, Doberman pinscher, German shepherd, Great Dane, Rottweiler, Siberian husky and wolf hybrid. The selection of "dangerous" dogs was based on the records of animal control, the bill states.

But the main thrust — pit bulls — are covered in the title of the bill, which reads "Banning, Breeding of Pit Bulls, Establishing Fines for Other Dangerous Dogs," and providing civil and criminal penalties.

In writing to legislators, Lucas listed her background as including being the owner of seven American Kennel Club champions, former president and board member of the AKC sanctioned Norwich/Norfolk Terrier Club of the United States for more than eight years, a member of the U.S. Humane Society and the Humane Society of Lincoln County. She is the voice of Critter Corner and Pet Page, which are adoption efforts on behalf of animals at the local shelter. She also is host of Pawsworthy-Pets News, a show that broadcasts each Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on radio station KEDU.

"It's a horrible mistake to isolate breeds as dangerous," she said Tuesday. "If someone is (a) mean (owner), even my little dog could be dangerous."

"I think they are placing the blame on the animals instead of irresponsible owners. I don't think breeds of dogs should suf-

fer because there are hostile owners. It's a shameful approach and the way it is worded, after 2005, you can't even own (a pit bull)."

In her letter, Lucas wrote, "As a Humane Society member, I strongly support, as the American Kennel Club does, reasonable, enforceable, non-discriminatory ways to govern dog ownership and require owners to be responsible. I do not believe banning breeds is the answer to animal control problems since any breed can be trained to be aggressive and attack and be dangerous. Eliminating certain breeds will only make irresponsible owners select a new breed to train. In the process, many owners will be forced to part with dogs that have become loving members of their families."

She proposed strong enforcement of leash laws, ownership education, and providing guidelines to communities about managing dogs as being more effective approaches.

The bills tells owners they can't acquire a pit bull after July 1, can't breed a pit bull privately or commercially, can't keep existing pit bulls unless they are spayed or neutered.

must purchase a \$250 annual license, and that the animals must be kept inside or outside in a 6-foot-tall iron or steel pen with a roof, she pointed out.

The dog would have to be chained and muzzled when off the owner's property and be covered by a \$100,000 liability insurance policy or surety bond.

Owners would face a \$1,000 fine if their dogs are found running at large.

But Lucas especially was offended by the "dangerous" breed designations.

Search & rescue breeds

"Do you realize that many of these breeds are the foremost search and rescue breeds, physical therapy breeds, are used in police departments and are among the most popular AKC breeds in the US?" she asked in her letter. "I do not understand how this legislation can even be contemplated."

She urged opposition to the bill.

Tuesday, Lucas said the bill misplaces blame. People train dogs to be malicious, she said.

"I have a friend in California with nine Great Danes and three sleep with her on the bed," she said. Although Do-

bermans initially were bred to be guard dogs, years of selective breeding out of those traits have produced wonderful, gentle and loving animals, she said.

"This bill reads as if it was written by someone with no concept of dog breed characteristics and training," Lucas said. "I just don't want to see it put in front of other people who don't know."

The bill submitted by Beffort specifies that the burden of proving that a pit bull is not an imminent threat to public safety "shall" be on the owner.

An exception to the bill are dogs used by public or private law enforcement agencies and officers.

Penalties and fines would include:

- \$250 if a dog bites a person in a public place or if a person is lawfully in a private place, including the property of the owner, regardless of the former viciousness of the dog.
- \$400 if the dog previously was fined for biting or \$500 if it was previously fined and is one of the breeds termed dangerous.
- \$500 if the dog bite without provocation any mail, utility, delivery or emergency per-

"It's a horrible mistake to isolate breeds as dangerous. If someone is a mean owner, even my little dog could be dangerous."

Ellen Lucas
Pawsworthy-Pets host

sonnel on premises owned by or under the control of the owner, unless it was defending a person not engaged in an illegal act.

- \$1,000 for mauling.
- \$7,500 if the owner of the dog is using the animal in dog fighting.
- \$500 for failing to spay or neuter a pit bull after Jan. 1, 2006.
- \$1,000 if a pit bull is found at large without being muzzled, securely leashed and continuously controlled.

The owners of a pit bull that bites a person is guilty of a 4th-degree felony. The owner of a pit bull that mauls is guilty of a 3rd-degree felony. If the bill is passed, the effective date of the legislation would be July 1.

Asked to comment, Beffort's office did not return calls.

MUSEUM: Plans change

FROM PAGE 1A

the past week and this was the outcome. We will continue to operate as we have been. I think the news release says it all."

Under terms of the Hubbard agreement, the Department of Cultural Affairs would have taken on 26 current museum workers as state employees, as well as ownership and care of the museum's collection, which includes some 10,000 objects. The department would have also been responsible for bringing the Hubbard and its collections up to national museum standards for eventual accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

"The Hubbard is a fine museum, protecting and showcasing many important elements of our culture and history," said Ashman. "However, our department has many pressing needs that may be compromised by taking on this additional responsibility."

Ashman also pointed out that while museum collections are sometimes updated and modified, changes made during negotiations have made the collection less attractive.

"Realizing the importance of the Hubbard Museum to

"Our department has many pressing needs that may be compromised by taking on this ... responsibility."

Stuart Ashman
Department of Cultural Affairs

Ruidoso, Mr. Hubbard is willing to continue his responsibilities for running the museum," Ashman said.

"The Department of Cultural Affairs will look for opportunities to assist the Hubbard, possibly through our Museum Services Division."

The Department of Cultural Affairs oversees a family of eight museums, including the Palace of the Governors, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of International Folk Art and Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, all in Santa Fe;

Museum of Natural History and Science; and National Hispanic Cultural Center, both in Albuquerque; Museum of Space History in Alamogordo; Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces; six New Mexico State Monuments; as well as the New Mexico State Library, Historic Preservation Division and New Mexico Arts.

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BY
MARK REMINGTON
(FRIDAY NIGHT)

AND
TERRY BULLARD
&
WAYNE UNHRU
(SATURDAY NIGHT)

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Blood drive scheduled

United Blood Services will hold a blood drive in Ruidoso this week.

Beginning tomorrow, Thursday, Feb. 10, the drive will be held at the Gateway Church of Christ on Sudderth.

Hours will be 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call (888) 676-5433.

Bart Young addressed the Ruidoso Village Council Tuesday evening, Feb. 8, and encouraged councilors and citizens to turn out and give blood.

"It's the one thing that everyone needs," and nearly everyone can give, Young said.

He reminded the audience that donating blood does not take much time — about one and one-half hours.

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FEB 9 2005

EDUCATION

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Capitan board meeting
Capitan Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Administration Building. Agenda items include:
• Reports from the student senate, CACT and PTA
• Election results
• School district report card
• NMSBA Excellence for Student Achievement award
• NMBSA nominations for Hispanic Male Graduate Student
• Reports on Legislative requests, SB-9 project, baseball field, master plan, enrollment, utilities comparison
• Executive session regarding employee performance, student information and pending litigation

Ruidoso special session
The Ruidoso Board of Education will hold a special session Thursday, Feb. 10, 10:30 a.m., at the Ruidoso Schools Administration Building. The board will hear public input and make a recommendation regarding the refunding of bonds for the school district.

School board training
Local school board members from the 89 New Mexico Boards of Education will attend the Board Member Institute sponsored by the New Mexico School Boards Association on Feb. 11-12 at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Santa Fe. The purpose of this Institute is for local board members to receive training to improve their skills as board members and to receive an update on legislative issues.

This year's presentation includes a keynote address from National School Board Assoc. president George McShan during the first Friday General Session and swearing-in of newly elected school board members during the second General Session. Later on Friday, board members will visit their state legislators at the Roundhouse to share their views on how the implementation of No Child Left Behind is going in their respective school districts.

The training workshops on

Saturday will include updates on the New Mexico Athletic Association, the New Mexico three-tiered licensure system and charter school legislation. Detailed conference information is available at the NMSBA website (nmsba@nm.net). From the home page, choose "Conferences."

ENMU enrollment is up
Dr. Mike Elrod, ENMU Ruidoso Campus Dean, reports today that student enrollment for the spring semester experienced a significant increase. Elrod states that as of Friday, Feb. 4, (the official census date) there were 720 students enrolled in college credit classes, representing a 9.2 percent increase compared to Spring 2004. The number of students enrolled taking an equivalent full time class schedule also increase by 9 percent with a total of 318 FTEs (Full Time Equivalents).

Elrod says the demand for college classes reflects the growing desires of Lincoln County residents for high-quality affordable education. With pending legislation to approve the creation of a new ENMU Ruidoso Branch Community College in Lincoln County, the enrollment numbers provide further evidence of the support of area residents for the college.

Elrod continues, "I am especially proud of the hard work of my staff during the past several weeks of registration. They did an outstanding job making sure everyone was taken care of in a professional manner."

'Tax holiday' proposed
Senate Republican leader Stuart Ingle has introduced SB-378, a bill that would give New Mexicans a break from paying gross receipts tax during back-to-school shopping each August. The bill does not apply to athletic clothing or footwear, accessories or rentals. Senator Ingle said, "Texas has been giving this tax break for years and New Mexico shoppers in border communities such as Portales and Las Cruces have been going into Texas to spend their money on back-to-school shopping."

Governor proposes \$2 million for struggling schools and home/charter

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced that he is dedicating \$2 million in education funding to pay for initiatives that benefit students at home schools, charter schools and public schools that are struggling to improve.

Extracurricular activities for home, charter schools

Working with the Legislature, Gov. Richardson wants to use \$1 million to start a program that would allow home school and charter school students in grades 7-12 to participate in school district extracurricular activities sanctioned by the NMAA. Eligible students would get the opportunity

to participate in activities, such as sports or academic clubs, at the public school in the zone in which the student lives.

"I want to create opportunities for New Mexico families who choose home schooling or charter schools for their kids," Richardson said. "Extracurricular activities are an important part of the learning process. We should have more access to these programs, not less."

In addition to the \$1 million that Richardson is recommending, the Governor is working with legislators to craft a bill that spells out how the program will work. The legislation will be introduced in the House and Senate next week.

Low-performing schools

Gov. Richardson is also dedicating \$1 million to support the Public Education Department's efforts to target 17 low-performing schools across the state. The money will be used to support a proven school-improvement process, known as the Baldrige Quality project, which relies on the strategic use of data to overcome a school's weaknesses.

"We've identified the schools that need help," Richardson said. "We must focus our energy and our resources where it will help the most - in the classroom. The Baldrige program will allow educators to find and fix the problems."

Council exceeds literacy goals

The Lincoln County Literacy Council reports that their enrollment and success rates are up from last year. According to the Council's newsletter, enrollment was up 32 percent between September and December of 2004, with 107 students.

With 79 of those students still active at the end of December, the program's retention rate rose to 74 percent from 54 percent the previous year.

In the fall, LCLC offered new classes in writing and conversation, which seven students attended. Nine students attended the program's new citizenship class. Also new and growing, the workplace literacy project has seen good results at Wal-Mart and is being picked up by other employers in the area.

Wal-Mart Superstore in Ruidoso Downs allowed 12 employees to attend classes during their regularly scheduled shifts.

According to LCLC, "Both participants and managers have reported a significant increase in employees' comfort level in terms of being able to understand and respond to customers."

This spring, the LCLC and ENMU-Adult Basic Education are working together to expand workplace literacy to the retail, hospitality, and construction industries.

In addition, the Council is offering bilingual basic computer skills workshops aimed at individuals who need com-

puter literacy to obtain, keep or advance in a job. Call ENMU at 257-2120 for details about these programs.

The Literacy Council has taken the first steps towards accreditation through ProLiteracy America. In

December, the Ruidoso Rotary Club donated \$300 toward the \$275 application fee and the \$350 site-review fee.

ProLiteracy America is the only national accreditation service in the adult education and literacy field. Once

accredited, LCLC will become one of nine accredited programs in New Mexico.

For more information about the Lincoln County Literacy Council, contact Mary Allen at 630-8181 or (800) 854-4712.

SCHOOL MENUS

Capitan Schools
Two choices of lunch for middle and high school students
Wed., Feb. 9 — Breakfast: Ham Bar w/ Cinnamon Toast, Applesauce Muffin; Lunch: Chicken Burger, Fixin's, Baked Beans, Fruit
Thurs., Feb. 10 — Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza; Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese, Chef's Salad w/ Crackers, Salad w/Dressing, Fruit
Fri., Feb. 11 — Breakfast: Quesadillas, Cinnamon Roll, Hot Cereal; Lunch: Cheeseburger, Fixin's, Curly Fries, Fruit
Mon. Feb. 14 — Breakfast: Pancake on a Stick w/syrup; Lunch: Nachos, Salad w/Dressing, Fruit, February Birthday Cake
Tues., Feb. 15 — Breakfast: Cheese Omelet w/Toast; Lunch: Green Chile Cheese Chicken Enchiladas, Pinto Beans, Salad w/Dressing, Fruit

Carrizozo Schools
Wed., Feb. 9 — Breakfast: Cheese Toast; Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Salad, Veggie Stick, Pineapple
Thurs., Feb. 10 — Breakfast: Egg Cornito; Lunch: Taco Salad, Pinto Beans, Chilled Fruit
Fri., Feb. 11 — Breakfast: English Muffin w/Jelly; Lunch: Deli Sub Sandwich, Salad, Pickle Spear, Pears
Mon. Feb. 14 — Breakfast: Quesadilla; Lunch: Beef Stew, Crackers, Veggie Stick, Jello
Tues., Feb. 15 — Breakfast: Oatmeal Muffins; Lunch: Nachos, Pinto Beans, Corn, Peaches

Ruidoso Nob Hill & Headstart
Wed., Feb. 9 — Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito; Lunch: Fish Sticks, Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans, Chilled Fruit
Thurs., Feb. 10 — Breakfast: Bagel & Cream Cheese; Lunch: Taco Salad, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Fresh Fruit
Fri., Feb. 11 — Breakfast: Cereal, Graham Crackers, Fruit; Lunch: Sloppy Joe's, Potato Salad, Fresh Fruit
Mon. Feb. 14 — Breakfast: Cereal, Graham Crackers, Fruit; Lunch: Bean & Cheese Burrito, Seasoned Corn, Celery Sticks, Chilled Fruit
Tues., Feb. 15 — Breakfast: Egg & Sausage Biscuit, Fruit; Lunch: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Roll, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit

Ruidoso Elementary Schools
Wed., Feb. 9 — Breakfast: Breakfast

Burrito; Lunch: Ski Day Grab-n-Go Sack Lunch or Chef Salad
Thurs., Feb. 10 — Breakfast: Bagel & Cream Cheese; Lunch: Taco Salad, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Fresh Fruit
Fri., Feb. 11 — Breakfast: Cereal, Graham Crackers, Fruit; Lunch: Warrior Burger, French Fries, Trimmings, Chilled Fruit
Mon. Feb. 14 — Breakfast: Cereal, Graham Crackers, Fruit; Lunch: Valentine's Day, Zesty Chili Wrap, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Chilled Fruit
Tues., Feb. 15 — Breakfast: Egg & Sausage Biscuit, Fruit; Lunch: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Roll, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit

Ruidoso Middle School
Wed., Feb. 9 — Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Biscuit & Gravy, Cereal; Lunch: 1/2 Day, Ski Day, Manager's Choice, Salad, Fruit
Thurs., Feb. 10 — Breakfast: Sausage & Cheese Biscuit, Waffle Stix, Cereal; Lunch: Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas, Pinto Beans, Fresh Fruit
Fri., Feb. 11 — Breakfast: Pancake on a Stick, Cinnamon Toast, Cereal; Lunch: Burrito w/Salsa, French Fries, Chilled Fruit
Mon. Feb. 14 — Breakfast: Egg & Bacon Biscuit, Muffin & Yogurt, Cereal; Lunch: Frito Pie, Tossed Salad, Crackers, Chilled Fruit
Tues., Feb. 15 — Breakfast: French Toast Sticks, Breakfast Burrito, Cereal; Lunch: Turkey Pot Pie, Steamed Broccoli, Roll, Chilled Fruit

Ruidoso High School
Wed., Feb. 9 — Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Biscuit & Gravy, Cereal; Lunch: 1/2 Day Ski Day, Manager's Choice, Salad, Fruit
Thurs., Feb. 10 — Breakfast: Sausage & Cheese Biscuit, Waffle Stix, Cereal; Lunch: Chicken Noodle Vegetable Soup, Grilled Cheese, Fresh Fruit
Fri., Feb. 11 — Breakfast: Pancake on a Stick, Cinnamon Toast, Cereal; Lunch: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Chilled Fruit
Mon. Feb. 14 — Breakfast: Egg & Bacon Biscuit, Muffin & Yogurt, Cereal; Lunch: Frito Pie, Tossed Salad, Crackers, Chilled Fruit
Tues., Feb. 15 — Breakfast: French Toast Sticks, Breakfast Burrito, Cereal; Lunch: Turkey Pot Pie, Steamed Broccoli, Roll, Chilled Fruit

FOURTH GRADE PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS



COURTESY PHOTO

Principal's Award Winners for Fourth Grade at White Mountain Elementary (front row, l-r): Brittany Bury, Julieta Herrera, Barbara Welch, Edgar Medina, Ivan Rodriguez, Tiffany Bartels, Ryan Francis; (middle row) Kaylen Chavez, Sawyer Miller, Heather Pollock, Destri Vincent, Martha Herrera, George Klinekole, Brandi Tillman, Mitchell Mungall; (back row) Dale Mathies, Alexis McClain, Marissa Lutse, Oriana Page, Alana Sanchez, Felicia Polaco, Jonathan Dunn, Stephanie Hoover.

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Rep. Pearce talks taxes and more in Town Hall meeting

■ Social Security also gets an airing in the session at Village Hall

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

At his fifth town hall meeting and 11th tax reform work session since Thursday afternoon, U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce still managed to muster enthusiasm when outlining the equation he contends is needed to keep the United States attractive to companies and their workers.

But the first questions from his audience in Ruidoso Saturday took aim at foreign aid and the United Nations.

Audean Stroud asked Pearce why foreign aid is paid to countries in dollars instead of American products and services.

"Why keep sending foreign aid to countries with oil?" she asked. "Why not tractors and food so that our farmers and manufacturers make the money?"

The Republican congressman from New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District responded that much of the aid is allocated with the requirement that purchases do come from American sources.

But what about the billions apparently siphoned illegally from the Oil for Food Program under the United Nations, she pressed.

Pearce said he called last year for Secretary General Kofi Annan's resignation because U.N. officials refused to provide information for some of the nine different investigations of the organization underway and company officials were threatened with the loss of U.N. contracts if they provided the information.

Oil for Food

He also agrees with critics who said former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker is too deeply involved with U.N. contracts to impartially head an investigation. Volcker last week delivered his preliminary report, highly critical of the man assigned to head the Oil for Food program. The final report may take six more months to complete, he said.

"The UN declared it to be an audit, but it was never intended as an audit," Pearce said. "The House has been pretty critical. Some are looking carefully at suggestions diplomatic immunity be taken away."

Others, including former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani "invited them to leave a few years ago," Pearce said. The congressman said that Giuliani told him recently he'd

do it again despite causing complaints from Democrats. "Because it's valuable real estate and not I'm sure we're getting our value out of it."

Pearce said he's also been asked why the United States is spending \$20 million to rebuild schools in Iraq instead of spending it at home.

"We can't continue to exist as a free country (while) other countries continue not to be free," he said. "We can't live as an isolated island of freedom in the world. We're either going to be more like them or they will be more like us. If no one else has food, you either share or they will take it."

Stroud said she doesn't mind helping when a country is in need. "But when they can support themselves, I wonder why."

Brad Treptow, executive director of the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, which scheduled the meeting on taxes, put the session back on track.

Pearce said the Congress faces some daunting tasks set by the President that include Social Security reform, income tax code reform, making tax cuts permanent, funding and expanding the No Child Left Behind program, conducting the war on terrorism and continuing to foster a growing economy.

Social Security

The boldness of President George W. Bush to bring up the mostly taboo subject of Social Security reform is "almost unknown in political terms," he said. Plans still are being fleshed out. He doesn't know which economists are right on their projections for the fiscal condition of the program, but at its inception, 42 workers were contributing for every one retiree, he said. Today, that number has shrunk to three to one as more baby boomer retire and live longer, Pearce said.

"The fastest growing age group in America is 100 and over," he said. Next comes the 85 to 100 year group.

"So again, I am going to have to lean toward the idea that there is a problem," although Democrats in Congress are standing fairly solidly against suggested reforms, he said.

Tax reform

Tax reform means balancing federal needs while not overburdening taxpayers. It also entails creating a favorable climate for business to thrive, quality of life to be maintained and for American goods to remain competitive in the world market, he said.

Three basic approaches have been considered for tax reform:

A flat tax, a national sales tax and simplification, Pearce said.

"Everybody loves the flat tax because it smacks of fairness," he said.

But what starts at 17 percent could end as high as 29 percent once exclusions for homeowners, medical costs and some other proposed categories are subtracted from the base.

"Suddenly, it's not so attractive," he said.

People like a sales tax because it would not involve the Internal Revenue Service and they might have more control by opting not to buy new cars and other items. They also would see more take-home out of their paychecks, he said.

Since manufacturers and retailers now build-in all taxes into the cost of their products, the cost of goods could go down with only a sales tax and could increase the nation's ability to compete.

But Pearce said if Americans stop buying, that also could be a problem for the economy. While he doesn't think they would hold back to any great extent, that's an unknown, he said.

Lincoln County Commissioner Tom Battin said more disposable income could stimulate investment, a big plus for the nation.

With 50,000 pages of instructions telling people how to pay their taxes, simplification is appealing, Pearce said. But people keep telling him they haven't heard enough details and he's conducting the town hall meeting to listen to suggestions.

He knows the White House staff listens because he took four suggestions back to Washington D.C. 18 months ago on the No Child Left Behind program and all four were incorporated in the final draft, he said.

Unexpectedly by some, tax lawyers and accountants are not opposed to simplification, Pearce said.

"They think the energy is better spent making a business better instead of trying to figure out how to skirt around the law," he said. "I think we have a compelling reason to try, because I don't want a lower standard of living," something the Europeans want to see occur in American as they claim a higher portion of the world's trading, he contended.

Local photographer John Soden came up with one idea Pearce seemed to like for Social Security. He proposed that people wealthy enough to provide for their own retirement instead of collecting from Social Security, could take what they would have received as a tax credit.



U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce gestures during Saturday's Town Hall meeting at Village Hall. The session ranged over a number of foreign and domestic issues.

DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Some of Pearce's observations

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During a town hall meeting Saturday in Ruidoso, U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce discussed an international view of economics, taxes and trade.

Some of the Republican's observations included:

- That the recession started under the administration of President Bill Clinton. Cutting taxes spurred an 8.5 percent economic growth rate and helped create 3.2 million jobs because of business reinvestment of capital.

- "Germany has not created a new job in 10 years because it is unwilling to cut taxes," he contended.

- That Europeans want to take some of the United States' share of trade, as seen in Africa, where starving populations will not accept genetically engineered grain because of European warnings.

- The Africans buy grain from Europe and those nations want to hold onto those sales "no matter what the cost" in human terms, he said.

- "We've been eating it for three generations," Pearce said. "The Europeans cannot compete in productivity."

- New Zealanders three years ago were so disgusted by the out-of-control growth of their government, that they voted to severely downsize several departments includ-

ing the Department of Forestry, which dropped from 50,000 employees to 50, Pearce said. The Department of Labor went from 15,000 to one director, he said.

"The cost of running the government went down 50 percent," he said.

- "China now is 50 percent free-market and for the first time allows inheritance and ownership. It's becoming a big, vibrant machine."

- "It's our hope that reforms will take root and people will demand more freedom before they whack us so hard, we can't recover," the congressman said.

- Changing the tax code to encourage companies to stay here will help, he said.

ETZ: Plenty of debate, little action taken in a lengthy meeting Monday

FROM PAGE 1A

n't think the submissions to date are adequate. The zone should benefit the village and the county, "but should do what it was designed to do without unduly burdening the people in the zone," he said.

Later in the meeting during an exchange with real estate broker Joe Zagone, Hobbs said, "You will not see me throw out the ETZ." Zagone jumped on the remark, saying he considers it a commitment.

At the end of the meeting, Hardeman said he would like to present his own point of view, but Hobbs' motion knocked out the comment period. That motion didn't seem to stop "some commissioners" from expressing their opinions, while others didn't have that opportunity, he said.

His fellow board members reconsidered the motion and allowed him to speak. Turning to Hobbs, he said his impres-

sion about what the commission would like to see is a "bare bones" ordinance, but that would be stepping backwards.

"What you fail to remember is that the ordinance didn't start like this. It's a living document," Hardeman said.

"For instance, they did a good job (in the recommended changes) defining a flea market. Over 20 years, additions were added because new issues arose."

The entire ordinance may not be needed, but authority members would air to go back 20 years and start over, he contended.

Rules and definitions are in the document for good reasons, yet some want to do away with items without knowing why they were put there initially, he said.

Earlier in the meeting, Foster reiterated the need for positive input and said, "It would be horribly inappropri-

ate" to appoint someone like Junior Behringer, who loudly complained about the handling of his flea market and RV overnight parking by the village planning department, which administers the ETZ zone.

"It would cause a lot of animosity instead of trying to solve issues," he said.

After a few more remarks, St. John interrupted, saying, "That's enough." The remarks were "getting into personalities. I thought that might end on its own, but it didn't."

Back to the ordinance rewording, Hobbs quickly bogged down the discussion by offering a change not submitted by the ETZ Commission, which started a debate on whether the authority could act on its own without the ETZC review, and to what extent the two ETZ boards must consider the village's comprehensive plan and the county's land use plan in rendering decisions.

Because the county's plan was adopted by resolution, it carries no force of law, Morel pointed out. Authority members also debated if the board "shall" be required to consider them or "may" or "should."

Hobbs said the issue of the two plans should be sent back to the ETZC for correction because the ETZC can only act on what is submitted.

Hardeman disagreed, saying the authority doesn't have to send back each item if it disagrees, something that would eat up a great deal of time. The board can change wording on its own initiative, he contended.

Morel agreed that the board can modify, if the changes are not substantial. Both issues were unresolved by the end of the meeting, awaiting more legal guidance.

Hobbs also said he opposes a planned unit development (PUD) designation because it devalues neighboring properties, allowing multiple types of

uses that may be undetermined at any given time.

But Rennick argued PUD actually conveys more control of a project to the governing boards, which must rule on plans and demand extra efforts and concessions.

"Throughout the United States this is the single most valuable planning tool," he said.

Rennick said he was struck by Hobbs' remarks in favor of countywide zoning to ensure people can rely on designated land use when they buy, but then he hears Hobbs proposing a sunset clause in a new ETZ ordinance, which means it would expire on a certain date unless specifically renewed.



St. John

"That's enough. (The remarks are) getting into personalities. I thought that might end on its own, but it didn't."

Maury St. John
County Commissioner

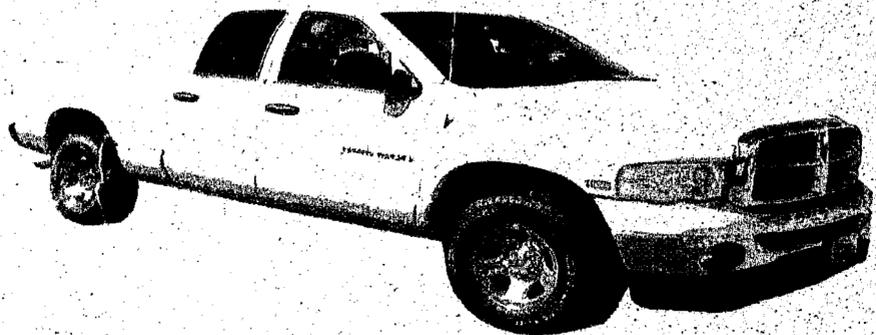
That's the opposite of giving people something to rely on, he said.

In authority votes: Although Hobbs contended that scheduling monthly meetings of the authority would be excessive, a schedule was adopted for the second Monday of each month.

Authority members voiced no objections to eliminating an automatic 60-day period before dissolution of the zone, leaving language that either the county commission or the village council could abolish by majority vote.

FEB 9 2005

Truck Month means SAVINGS



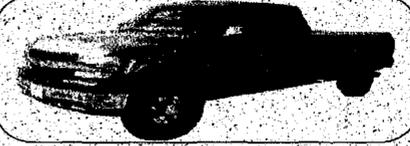
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and 0% financing for 18 Months



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2002 CHEVY
SILVERADO 2500 4x4
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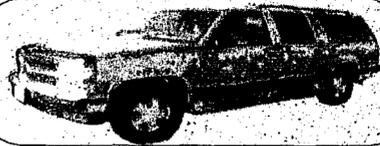
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SILVERADO 2500 DIESEL
\$26,990 #94567A



2002 CHEVY
SILVERADO CREW CAB
4x4, DUALY, DIESEL
\$28,990 #94353A



2004 CHEVY THOE
\$26,990 #8344



1999 CHEVY
SUBURBAN LT 4x4
\$10,990 #15170A



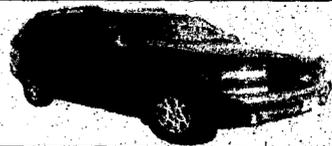
\$1000
Rebate

2005 DODGE RAM 2500
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and 0% financing for 36 Months



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2003 CHEVY
TAHOE 271
\$28,990 #8609



2003 GMC SIERRA
\$17,990 #14276B



2002 DODGE
RAM 1500 SLT 4x4
\$15,990 #95109A



\$2000
Rebate

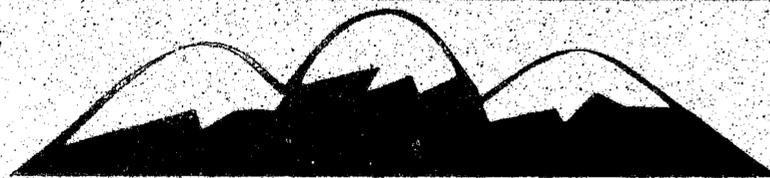
Crew Cab, 4x4



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\$8,990 #8557A



2002 FORD RANGER
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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9, 2005

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

PAGE 1B

Ruidoso girls can't weather Lovington comeback

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After starting their District 4-3A basketball contest against Lovington slowly, the Ruidoso Lady Warriors had turned things around in the third quarter and had taken a 34-29 lead at the end of that third period.

But then Lovington's Monique Perez caught fire, pouring in 12 of her game high 29 points in the fourth quarter to inch the Lady Wildcats ahead to a 48-44 victory.

"We should have beat them, we led them with two minutes left in the game," said Ruidoso coach Greg Marez.

Lovington jumped ahead after the first quarter with a 16-6 performance, and it looked as though it would be a long game for the Lady Warriors. But their steady pressure defense forced enough turnovers to eat away at the lead, and Ruidoso took the lead in the second quarter and led for most of the rest of the game.

Jessica Gibson was the top Lady Warrior in the game, scor-

ing 13 points, while Christine Brown had 11. As a testament to just how important Perez was to Lovington, she was the only Lady Wildcat in double figures.

"So what needs to happen for the Lady Warriors to get over the hump and win these basketball games?"

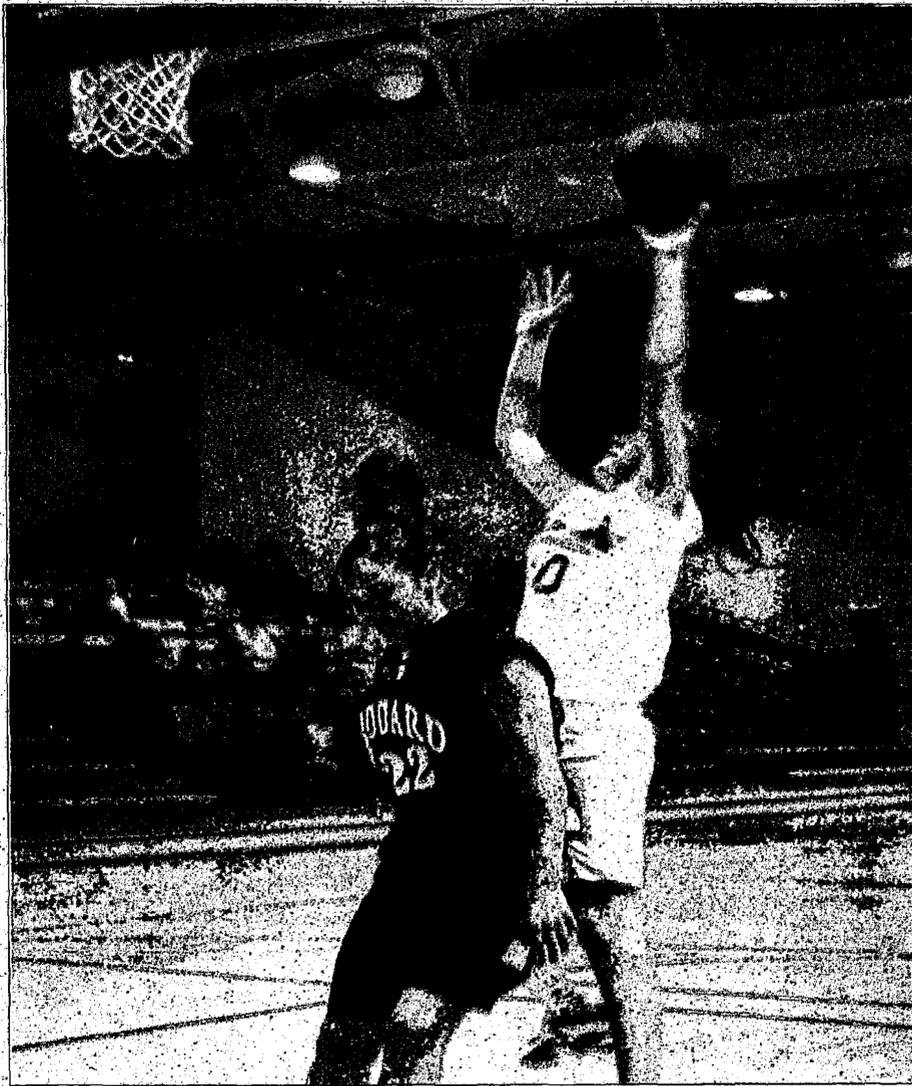
"Not have a Thursday game before a Friday game, for one," Marez quipped, referring to the Lady Warriors' game against Goddard the night before, a 44-40 victory for Ruidoso. "The girls had to stay up late finishing their homework after that, and then a long trip down to Lovington. It was a long week.

"But we don't want to make excuses," he added. "I need to work on mental preparation. We should have been more ready, and that was my fault."

Goddard makes it close.

The last time Goddard played Ruidoso, it was a blowout for the Lady Warriors.

See RUIDOSO, page 3B



Ruidoso guard Allison Rigby, right, makes a shot over Goddard's Amanda McCracken Thursday during the Lady Warriors' 44-40 victory at RHS. Ruidoso wasn't so lucky against Lovington on Friday, dropping a 48-44 District 4-3A game in Lovington.

TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Thursday, Feb. 3	
Lady Warriors 44, Lady Rockets 40	God 27, Rui 14. Total fouls — God 23, Rui 16. Technical fouls — God (Bowen).
Friday, Feb. 4	
Lady Wildcats 48, Lady Warriors 44	Ruidoso (44)
Rebekah Hedin 0-0-0, Allison Rigby 2-0-0, Lynette Woodward 2-0-0, Kara Coronado 2-0-0, Kristen Miller 1-0-0, Jessica Gibson 6-1-13, Kara Sparks 0-0-0, Lacie Garcia 0-0-0, Jeanette Zagone 0-0-0, Christine Brown 5-1-2, Elisa Vigil 0-2-2, Beth Robinson 1-1-3. Totals: 20-31-44.	Lovington (48)
C. Marquez 2-0-1, S. Garcia 0-0-0, M. Enriquez 2-2-6, M. Perez 10-9-12, A. Black 0-0-0, J. Nomer 0-0-0, D. Olivares 0-0-0, T. Alexander 0-0-0, B. Gonzalez 0-0-0, L. Barunda 2-3-6, J. Domzalski 1-0-2. Totals: 17-14-28.	Ruidoso 6-15-13-10-44
3-point goals — God 4 (McCracken 2, Lawrence 2), Rui 3 (Rigsby 3). Fouled out — God (J. Edgett), Rebonds — God 40 (Fry 12), Rui 26 (Brown 8). Steals — God 1 (Bowen), Rui 3 (Rigsby 2). Turnovers	Lovington 16-4-9-19-48
	3-point goals — Rui 1 (Rigsby 1). Fouled out — Rui (Robinson). Total fouls — Rui 23, Lov 14.

Warriors finally get that elusive district win

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It took a while for Ruidoso to take charge in its District 4-3A contest against New Mexico Military Institute Friday, but when the Warriors got going in the second half, the outcome wasn't in doubt.

Ruidoso used steady outside shooting and a relentless pressure defense to go on a 10-0 run in the final quarter to put the finishing touches on a 63-46 win — the first regular-season district win for the Warriors in three years.

"It's tough to win in this district, so this is a big win for us," said Ruidoso coach Billy Page. "We can't celebrate, though. We still have five games left."

Ruidoso (11-10, 1-1, district) got steady scoring from the big three of Jason Kampsky, Ted LaCoe and Maclen Enriquez on the night, but the score might have been even more lopsided if Kampsky had made more of his shots.

There were still plenty of shots which did fall, as Kampsky finished the night with a team-high 20 points. LaCoe had 11 points, while Enriquez caught fire in the third quarter and scored eight of his 12 points in the period to give Ruidoso a shot in the arm.

"After the half, we were feeling kind of down, so we decided to step it up," Enriquez said. "We can still do a lot better, though. We still had too many turnovers and mental mistakes."

"But this win is a huge monkey off our back."

The game wasn't a set thing throughout the first half, as the Colts (2-13, 0-2) were down by only five after the first quarter and played Ruidoso evenly in the second to go into the locker room still



Ruidoso's Maclen Enriquez, left, dribbles against NMMI guard Carlos Padres Friday during the Warriors' District 4-3A victory at RHS.

TODD FUQUA/STAFF

down by just five. NMMI relied heavily on sophomore Connor Williamson, who scored 22 points to lead the game, while Michael Sangster was a big presence inside with

13 points, nine rebounds and a couple of blocks. But the Colts fell prey to Ruidoso's defense, committing 26 turnovers in the game, and the Warriors stole the ball

Warriors 63, Colts 46	
NMMI (2-13, 0-2)	Andrew Cowen 3-2-4, Carlos Padres 1-1-2, Connor Williamson 7-4-22, Daniel Romero 0-0-0, Kelly Mann 0-0-0, Tayler Marley 0-0-0, Michael Sangster 6-1-5. Totals: 17-8-21, 46.
Ruidoso (11-10, 1-1)	
Jhovany Ruiz 0-0-0, David Barnett 0-0-0, David Dickenson 0-0-0, Ted LaCoe 5-0-11, Maclen Enriquez 5-0-12, Sergio Castañon 3-0-8, Jason Kampsky 7-5-6, Dustin Prelo 3-3-9, Kyle Snowden 0-0-0, Dillon Hoffman 0-0-0, P.J. Smith 1-1-3. Totals: 24-8-11, 63.	
NMMI 12 14 11 9 — 46	Ruidoso 17 14 14 18 — 63
3-point goals — NMMI 4 (Williamson 4), Rui 6 (Enriquez 2, Castañon 2, LaCoe, Kampsky). Fouled out — Rui (LaCoe, Snowden). Rebounds — NMMI 20 (Sangster 9), Rui 31 (Snowden 7, Prelo 7). Steals — Rui 8 (Enriquez 4). Blocks — NMMI 3 (Sangster 2), Rui 1 (LaCoe). Turnovers — NMMI 26, Rui 22. Total fouls — NMMI 12, Rui 21.	

eight times outright, including four takeaways by Enriquez.

"We have a hard time holding onto the ball," said NMMI coach Kevin Jones. "But they're trying hard. This team is about a year away. We just have a low basketball IQ and limited time to build it."

Something else that kept the game close was the foul calling. NMMI was called for just 12 infractions, while the Warriors were whistled 21 times and had LaCoe and Snowden fouled out.

"Well, we did get good minutes out of our bench because of all the foul trouble," Page said. "But our offense was really clicking tonight."

Ruidoso takes to the road this Friday for a critical game against Lovington, then takes a break from district play with a game at Roswell on Saturday. While Page was happy with the win, he

See WARRIORS, page 3B

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache
Report as of Tuesday, Feb. 8, 11:30 a.m.
New snow past 48 hours: 8 inches
New snow past week: 18 inches
Weather at report time: Cloudy
Road at report time: Open
Midway depth: 52-60 inches natural and man made base
Season snowfall total: 100 inches
Surface conditions: Machine groomed and packed powder
Skiing conditions: Excellent
Trails open: All trails are open
Lifts open: All lifts are open
Trails groomed: 28 trails
Snowmaking past 24 hours: No
Forecast: Partly cloudy
For the most recent conditions, call 257-9001.

Prep Results

Thursday, Feb. 3
Boys Basketball
Cloudcroft 86, Mescalero 55
Girls Basketball
Mescalero 76, Cloudcroft 56
Hondo 81, Corona 20
Ruidoso 44, Goddard 40

Friday, Feb. 4
Boys Basketball
Capitan 56, Loving 31
Ruidoso 63, NMMI 46
Girls Basketball
Mountainair 71, Hondo 64
Capitan 43, Loving 39
Lovington 48, Ruidoso 44

Saturday, Feb. 5
Boys Basketball
Capitan 62, Mescalero 60
Girls Basketball
Mescalero 55, Capitan 51

Preps on Tap

Thursday, Feb. 10
Boys Basketball
Corona at Cloudcroft C team, 4:30 p.m.
Dexter at Capitan, 6 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Dexter at Capitan, 4 p.m.
Carrizozo at Hondo, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11
Boys Basketball
Ruidoso at Lovington, 7:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Vaughn at Hondo, 5 p.m.
Ruidoso at Portales, 7:30 p.m.
Wrestling
Ruidoso in District 4-1A/3A district tournament at RHS, 5 p.m.
Skiing
Ruidoso J4 ski team in J4 Qualifier at Crested Butte, TBA

Saturday, Feb. 12
Boys Basketball
Capitan at Texico, 6 p.m.
Mescalero at Hatch, 6 p.m.
Ruidoso at Roswell, 7:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Capitan at Texico, 4 p.m.
Mescalero at Hatch, 4 p.m.
Roswell at Ruidoso, 7:30 p.m.
Skiing
Ruidoso J4 ski team in J4 Qualifier at Crested Butte, TBA

Sunday, Feb. 13
Skiing
Ruidoso J4 ski team in J4 Qualifier at Crested Butte, TBA

On Deck

NAYS Tournament
North American Youth Sports Association will host a spring youth basketball tournament in Albuquerque at Sandia High School April 8-10 for 10 different age groups
Teams for 5th-6th grade boys and girls, 7th grade boys and girls, 8th grade boys and girls, 9th-10th grade boys and girls are needed to fill out these brackets
The entry fee for the tournament is \$95, and teams are guaranteed at least two games. Entry deadline is March 18
For additional information or an entry form, call the NAYS hotline at 1-800-787-3285 or tournament director Susan Kabala at 505-898-0969.

FEB 9 2005

It's crunch time now for area teams in district play

Capitan, Mescalero split in brief respite from respective district schedules

TODD FUQUA
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CAPITAN — Mescalero and Capitan took a break from their punishing respective district schedules Saturday with a pair of equally punishing games against one another.

The Mescalero girls, currently on top of the District 5-2A standings and barreling toward a showdown with Tularosa on Tuesday, found the Lady Tigers to be a very difficult opponent indeed, escaping with a 55-51 victory.

The Capitan boys got a win in the nightcap, defeating the Chiefs for the third time in as many tries this season, but Mescalero made things interesting before bowing out, 62-60.

"It was closer than it should have been, but Mescalero worked hard and had a good game plan against us," said Capitan boys coach Royce Brown. "As long as you're contesting their shots, you can't complain. But we weren't contesting in the first half."

The Tigers (7-12) never had a big lead throughout the first half, and Mescalero (3-19) showed it has the ability to press and run, taking a two-point lead on two straight scores by Gifford Valdez, the last on a breakaway layup.

It took a layup with 28 seconds left in the half by Ronnie Eldridge to tie things up at the break.

The Tigers built what looked like a fairly comfortable lead in the third quarter, going ahead by as much as 11 points. But Mescalero refused to back down, and continued to chip away at the lead with breakaway layups and three-pointers from Valdez, Branson Smith and Justin Blake.

Blake led the Chiefs with 14 points, tying with teammate Darron Valdez. Smith followed with 13 points, while Gifford Valdez had 11.

Capitan answered that scoring quartet with Elliott Taylor, who has led the Tigers in scoring this year. Saturday was no exception, as the senior guard poured in 24 points, including five 3-pointers, some from NBA range.

Capitan tried to run the clock near the end to stop Mescalero's advance, and did entice the Chiefs into fouling — Gifford Valdez eventually fouled out of the game, while Darron Valdez and center Kyren Comanche each finished with four infractions — but the Tigers could not put the game away with their free-throw shooting.

As a result, Mescalero made things very close at the end. Following a particularly long trey by Taylor, the Chiefs went on a 7-2 run, ending with a layup with 13 seconds left by Comanche. Capitan still needed to in-bound the ball, and Taylor found himself trapped at half court with about six seconds left.

"We were trying to call time out at that point,"

Brown said. "He saw there was about two seconds left, and just threw up a prayer."

That "prayer" was a desperation pass out of the trap to the top of the key, where Eldridge was lucky enough to catch it and hold on for the win.

Eldridge and Emile Moten each contributed 10 points in the Tiger victory, one Brown was glad to have.

"We were fortunate to escape with a win," Brown said.

Lady Chiefs win again

The Mescalero girls hadn't lost a game since a 45-38 decision at Tularosa on Jan. 25, and they extended their win streak to four with a win over Capitan Saturday. But the Lady Tigers didn't make it easy.

"These girls are aggressive, and we're right where we want to be," said Capitan coach Sherry Gowen, commenting on her team's development to this point in the season. "We still had too many turnovers though. Without those, this is a completely different team."

As a team, Capitan (2-13) gave the ball away 27 times, playing right into the Lady Chiefs' hands. The Mescalero girls (16-7) have staked their success on how many turnovers they can force with their relentless pressure defense.

"I'm pretty happy with our overall performance," said Mescalero coach Roland Bradford. "Most of the mistakes we made are from being tired, because they'd been hustling all night."

The game was fairly close throughout the first half, with Mescalero taking a slight lead in the second quarter, but needing a three-point play by Latana Naiche to earn a slim one-point lead at the break. Capitan had taken a 19-18 lead thanks to two straight layups by Brittany Lamay.

While Lamay kept her team in it and had 10 points on the night, it was Kelsey Stierwall who led the Lady Tigers with 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Mescalero had its own scoring machine in Yvette Martinez. The senior poured in 23 points to lead the game, and also led her team in rebounds (10), steals (3) and even had a blocked shot on the night.

After Naiche's three-point play at the end of the first half, the Lady Chiefs never trailed, and built what looked like an insurmountable 51-38 lead with 4:23 left in the game.

But then the Lady Tigers made their move. Capitan went on an 13-4 run down the stretch, but the Lady Chiefs spread the floor with just over a minute left and held off the Capitan charge.



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Capitan center Kelsey Stierwall, right, looks to shoot the ball as Mescalero's Yvette Martinez defends Saturday at Capitan.

Capitan gets a pair of crucial district wins

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todd@ruidosonews.com

After a pair of very difficult pre-district schedules, the Capitan boys and girls basketball teams may have finally found the right track, and just in time.

With wins over district opponent Loving Friday night at home, the Tigers and Lady Tigers look to make a lot of noise in the upcoming District 5-2A tournament. The Capitan boys won 56-31, while the girls were triumphant with a 43-39 score.

"We were more prepared this time, but then we had all week to prepare," said boys coach Royce Brown. "We got the kids focused on the game, and now have a shot at district."

Capitan (2-1 in district) ran away with the game Friday, as compared to a somewhat narrower 48-36 decision the week before. With the victory, the Tigers' game against Dexter on Thursday takes on added importance, as the winner will likely secure the No. 1 seed in the district tournament.

It also rights a ship that was listing with a 4-11 record before district began.

"We may have a bad record, but not a bad team," Brown said. "The kids have always believed, and now we have a chance to be tied for the lead."

Elliott Taylor led the Tigers with 23 points, including six 3-pointers, while Emile Moten added 10.

The Capitan girls were also in need of a win — any win — before their victory on Friday, as their victory over the Lady Cardinals was only their second victory of the entire year.

But it also gave them a 1-2 record in district with three games left — more than enough

time to mount a serious challenge for the top seed in district.

"We were down by six with about three minutes left, and it had been tied all the way before that," said Capitan coach Sherry Gowen. "We could have easily folded at that point we got to the line, made our free throws and were able to hold the lead."

Kelsey Stierwall put in the most points of the game with 13, while Tereza Vochtova followed with nine points.

"This was a big win for morale and for district," Gowen said. "We're starting to peak, and I see we're doing little things we weren't before. I know we can beat these other teams like Eunice and Dexter now."

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Lady Chiefs slay Cloudercroft

Mescalero boys still winless in district play

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosodailynews.com

Mescalero's girls basketball team was running headlong into a confrontation with Tularosa Tuesday in a showdown for the District 5-2A lead, and it was thanks mostly to the Lady Chiefs' 75-56 win over Cloudercroft Thursday and the Lady Wildcats' 44-43 loss to Lordsburg on Friday.

When it came to Mescalero's execution on Thursday, coach Roland Bradford was ecstatic.

"We did a lot of good things we had done before, but had a better shooting percentage," Bradford said. "This was the most complete game we'd played all year."

The Lady Chief defense was the big reason for their win over Cloudercroft Thursday, forcing 31 Lady Bear turnovers on the night. By halftime, Mescalero (4-1 in district) had a 39-26 lead and never looked back.

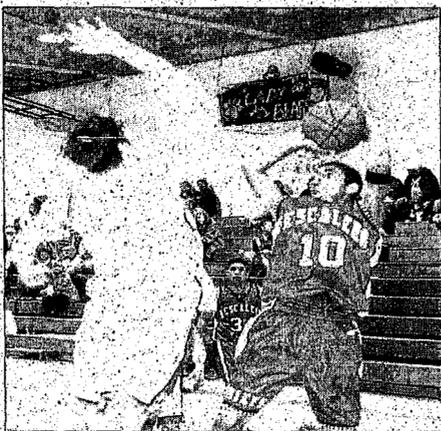
"Our press is our strength. With our size, that has to be our game," Bradford said. "We have to keep the pressure up."

"We just tried to keep working on them and wearing them down," he added. "We came out in the third quarter and for four minutes only held them to a basket."

That stifling defense was part of a 21-0 run in the second and third quarters that the Lady Chiefs would not relinquish. Cloudercroft finally got on the board with a score by Stephanie Crnkovic with 2:37 left in the third period, and the Lady Bears did go on a 10-1 run to end the period.

But Mescalero was just too far ahead by that point.

Yvette Martinez was the top Lady Chief in the game with 25 points, while Kayla Randall added 14 points and Sheriene Davis chipped in 12.



ELLIS NEEL/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

Mescalero Chief Justin Blake, right, pulls the trigger on a fadeaway jumper over the hands of Cloudercroft Bear Logan Capps, left, during their game Thursday in the Cloudercroft High School gym.

Boys drop another

The Mescalero boys continued to struggle with its offense on Thursday, falling 88-55 to a much stronger and more experienced Bear squad.

Everyone on Cloudercroft's roster got into the act Thursday, as every single Cloudercroft player scored.

Actually, the Chiefs (0-5 in district) had the early lead on a Gifford Valdez bucket, but Cloudercroft responded with a 14-2 run to end any speculation as to who would win this contest.

Mescalero did go on a 13-4 run in the second half, but wasn't able to get the lead to within 20 points.

"We're outclassed," said Mescalero coach Konny Blazer. "We can't compete with the 2A schools, but we try our best."

Valdez had 15 points for the Chiefs, while Branson Smith led the team with 17 points. Darron Valdez added 10.

Hondo gains confidence in 7-1A

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosodailynews.com

The Hondo girls basketball team has needed some consistency in its game of late, but it didn't get as much as it would have liked this past week.

The Lady Eagles did defeat Corona 61-20 on Thursday, but then dropped a 71-64 decision at Mountainair on Friday in a game they led pretty much throughout.

"We actually lost that one in the last two minutes," Hondo coach Julie Montoya said of the Mountainair contest. "We had a 10-point lead at one point, but then got some foul calls, and they shot six free throws in a row."

With those foul shots, the Lady Mustangs got to within four points, and eventually took the lead for good thanks to all those foul shots.

Actually, the game was a lot closer than it looked, as the Lady Eagles (10-9, 2-3 District 7-1A) had a chance to tie it when Angelica Chavez set up for a three-point shot. She was knocked to the ground, but no foul was called and the shot was errant.

After that, Hondo had little choice but to foul to stop the clock, and the Lady Mustangs put the game away.

Chavez had five 3-pointers

in the game and led the Lady Eagles with 23 points, while Mercedes Lopez put in 19.

Despite the loss, and the fact that Hondo is now locked into the third seed in the upcoming District 7-1A tournament, Montoya said she's encouraged by what she saw in Friday's game.

"We know we can beat this team when we face them again," Montoya said. "The girls believe it now, and know they are very capable of winning."

Three more regular-season games now remain against Vaughn, Carrizozo and Corona. The Carrizozo game this Saturday will be a big one, as the Lady Grizzlies will be fighting for the No. 1 seed in the tournament, and Hondo could play spoiler.

"We really want to beat them, and we won't lay down for them," Montoya said.

On Thursday, Hondo used its speed and quickness to overcome Corona's superior height, going ahead on transition baskets and never backing down.

Tonee Montoya led the game with 19 points for Hondo, while Chavez had 16 points and Jamie Garcia 15. Jordan Muncy and Janet Torres each scored six points for Corona (3-13, 0-4).

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The University of New Mexico's Institute of Meteoritics was the first of its kind in the world.

RUIDOSO: Lady Warriors survive Goddard

FROM PAGE 1B

It looked as though that would be the same scenario on Thursday when the Lady Rockets came to town, as the Lady Warriors built up a 24-17 lead at the half.

But Goddard didn't lay down this time, gaining three points in the third period thanks to some key 3-point field goals and making the Lady Warriors sweat it out to the very end, eventually pulling out a 44-40 win.

With about five minutes left to go, Marez decided to spread the floor out and take control of the game with a slow down offense. That strategy worked, as Goddard was only able to score two points in the final four minutes.

"At the end, we had a lot of turnovers, and they capitalized," Marez said. "We lost focus again, and they made some big three-point shots."

Samantha Lawrence and Amanda McCracken did the most damage for the Lady Rockets from beyond the arc, each contributing a pair of treys. They were two of four Goddard players with six points, while Laura Fry led the team with 10 points.

WARRIORS: 4-3A win at last

FROM PAGE 1B

knows the season is far from over.

"A win's a win, but there's still work to do," Page said. "There's still so many games left, and we can't take NMMI for granted. They're a different team at home than on the road."

Notes: While NMMI went to the foul line a lot more, they didn't have much to show for it, shooting just 8-of-21 at the charity stripe. Ruidoso senior P.J. Smith got the biggest ovation of the night, even though he only scored three points. Smith — popular with the students at RHS — was put in the game as the final minutes wound down, and was fouled going to the hoop with nine seconds left. The basket counted, and Smith finished off the three-point play with a free throw and enjoyed a standing ovation from the crowd.

But Ruidoso had its own outside threat in Allison Riggsby. The sophomore guard, who has been battling a wrist injury of late, had all three of the Lady Warriors' treys and led the game with 14 points.

"I wish I could have scored that much against Portales," Riggsby said, referring to Ruidoso's loss to the Rams last week. "My shots weren't falling then, and this game may be a turnaround. My wrist is feeling better, so now maybe we'll start winning some games."

Lawyer Advertisement ATTENTION: KNEE REPLACEMENT RECIPIENTS

Smith & Nephew has withdrawn its Oxinium Genesis II and Oxinium Profix II knee replacement systems manufactured between February 2002 and August 2003. There have been reports of premature failures of the DePuy-Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene knee prosthesis sterilized through a gamma irradiation process. This applies to knees manufactured prior to 1998, even though they could have been implanted after 1998.

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FUNERALS DEATHS

Emilio Beltran

A prayer service for Emilio Beltran, 64, of Carrizozo will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, in Santa Rita's Catholic Church, where the funeral mass will be scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12. Burial will follow at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Cemetery.

Beltran died Saturday, Feb. 5, in Ruidoso.

He was born Aug. 1, 1940, at Carrizozo and had lived there all of his life.

He served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, was a caregiver for Casa Allegra and attended Santa Rita's Catholic Church.

He married Ida Otero in 1963 at Carrizozo.

Survivors include his wife, Ida of Carrizozo; two sons, Clarence Beltran Sr. and wife December of Ruidoso, and Lenny Beltran and wife Renee of Las Cruces; a daughter, Liz Beltran of Ruidoso Downs; three brothers, Lorenzo Beltran of Carrizozo, Ernie Beltran of Albuquerque, and Orlando Beltran of Carrizozo; three sisters, Quirina Jaramillo, Mabel Zamora and Francis Zamora, all of Carrizozo; five grandchildren, Clarence Beltran Jr., Corina Beltran, Fiona Beltran, Grady Beltran, and Mark Anthony Davila Beltran.

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

Ben Leslie Jr.

Funeral services for Ben Leslie Jr., 82, are scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, in the Hamilton-O'Dell Chapel, 1334 North Scenic Drive in Alamogordo. The Rev. Tom Richardson will officiate.

Interment will follow in Monte Vista Cemetery.

Mr. Leslie died at his home in Capitan on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005.

He was born July 14, 1922, in Capitan. After graduating from Capitan High School he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and served during World War II. Following the war, he became a firefighter at Holloman Air Force Base and retired from civil service after 20 years.

Mr. Leslie then worked as facilities engineer with the New Mexico State Police, retiring again after 18 years. He returned to Capitan in 1997.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace Gordon Leslie, in 1991; and by two sisters and a brother.

Survivors include a daughter, Donna Williams of Colorado Springs, Colo.; five grandchildren, Debbie Densmore (and husband Dewey) of Castroville, Texas, Sherri Ward (and husband Jeffrey) of Greenville, Tenn.; David Sanders (and wife Gwen) of Alamogordo, Renee Garcia (and husband Michael) of Alamogordo, and Jeffrey Sanders (and wife Sandy) of Colorado Springs; eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Friends may call from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday at Hamilton-O'Dell Funeral Home, which is handling arrangements.

Linda Gregg

Memorial services for Linda Gregg, 83, of Ruidoso will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Gregg died Saturday, Feb. 5, at the Mescalero Care Center.

She is survived by her husband John Gregg.

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

Gary Simpson

A memorial service for Gary Simpson, 50, of Capitan will be held at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, in LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

Mr. Simpson died Wednesday, Feb. 2, at his home in Capitan.

He was born Dec. 30, 1954, in Roswell.

He had lived in Lincoln County for 25 years, moving from Oklahoma.

He was a general contractor and attended the Church of Christ. He married Rua Carrell on March 25, 1989, in Ruidoso.

Survivors include his wife, Rua; a son, Gavin Simpson of Capitan; two daughters, Amanda Garcia of Ruidoso Downs and Penny Lane Osburne of Savanna, Okla.; a granddaughter, Alisha Garcia of Ruidoso Downs; a brother, Leo Francis Hanley of McAlester, Okla.; sister, Kelley Hanley of Savanna, Okla.; and his grandmother, Dollie Mae Fairless of McAlester, Okla.

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

Memphis Juliya Soto

Graveside services for Memphis Juliya Soto, infant daughter of Raven Magill and Sandro Soto, will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Survivors include her parents; a brother, Isaiah Soto; grandparents, Ricardo and Antonia Soto and Kirk and Joann Bryant; and great-grandparents, Bill and Mary Magill and Mary Cobos.

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

WEDDINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Duncan, Phelan wed

Genevieve Phelan and Gary Duncan were united in marriage on Nov. 21, 2004.

The informal ceremony was performed at the home of friends Bill and Nora Midkiff by Darrell Winter, pastor of the Racetrack Chapel.

After a short honeymoon to Trinidad, Colo., and northern New Mexico, the couple returned to their home in Alto.

Both are "farm kids" from Kansas who journeyed far before their serendipitous meeting in Ruidoso.

Phelan, in addition to living on both coasts, lived in Venezuela and Germany as a young woman.

As a young soldier, Duncan was stationed in Italy, where he returned as a civilian for several years before returning to the Midwest.

She is retiring from a six-year position as a substance abuse preventionist with The

Counseling Center. The groom is semi-retired and self-employed.

An announcement from the couple states, "As each day unfolds with greater joy, Gary and Genevieve agree, 'The best is yet to be.'"



Duncan, Phelan

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POOP SCOOP

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
 RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Now and then something pops up on the Internet that I think readers might enjoy. This one was passed along by another animal lover in the office and was written as a letter to "Dear Dogs and Cats."

"The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything big-

ger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. Also, I have

been using the bathroom for years-canine or feline attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog or cat's butt. I cannot stress this enough!

To pacify you, my dear pets, I have posted the following message on our front door:

Rules for Non-Pet Owners Who Visit and Like to Complain About Our Pets:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture. (That's why they call it "fur"niture.)
3. I like my pets a lot better than most people.
4. To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly."

Pet Corner
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RUIDOSO NEWS

WILMA

Wilma is an adorable 8 week old blue heeler mix with a large spot on her head. She's a cool dog and would be a loyal companion.

GRUMPY

Grumpy, a young adult male cream and tan tabby, is really quite nice and was only showing his discomfort on the day he arrived.

These pets are currently up for adoption at Lincoln County Humane Society

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PAGE 5B

On Feb. 14, Corona is town of 1,000 roses

Eighty dozen roses will be arriving Friday, and then the frantic arranging will begin. To help, order a dozen or donate a vase:

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidoso.net

As Valentine's Day approaches, the Corona FFA and Student Council prepare to spend their weekend and all of Valentine's Day creating professional presentations of the 1,000 roses they will sell this year.

The Valentine's Day rose project is a major annual fundraiser for these two youth organizations at Corona Schools

as well as a community project to help the kids.

Every year, many adults volunteer to help sort vases and roses, build arrangements and organize sales. Edie Porter heads the design department guaranteeing a professional finish to the bouquets.

The groups are taking all donations of glass vases for arrangements, and the single bud vases. Each year enough are gathered that few if any

vases have to be purchased. If you have vases cluttering a shelf somewhere and would like to help the rose project, call the Corona school office at 849-1911.

Orders for roses are being taken anytime between now and when the last rose is sold on Feb. 14. The roses will come in a red, yellow, white, hot pink, peach, fire and ice, lavender, and "sundancer." They can be arranged in dozen(s), half-dozen, or a singles in a bud vase or wrapped in tissue.

The 80-plus dozen roses are ordered and will arrive by bus this Friday, Feb. 11. The students and volunteers will

work all day Saturday, Sunday and Monday taking orders and creating the arrangements.

The roses will be arranged in a glass vase with filler flowers and greenery, a large satin bow and the vase filler is a crushed Styrofoam that looks like ice. Other options are by the dozen or half dozen in a clear plastic box.

Roses will be available for pickup through the weekend and until the last rose is gone on Monday. Orders and pick-up arrangements can be made by calling 849-1911 during school hours or at 849-4949 through the weekend.

Price list

Surprise your sweetie with a rose from the Corona crew:

- 1 dozen, arranged: \$45
- 1 dozen, in box: \$40
- Half-dozen, arranged: \$30
- Half-dozen, in box: \$25
- Single in a vase: \$6
- Single, wrapped: \$4

For orders and information, call 849-1911 during school hours.

Fiber fest now booking spaces

The 2005 Natural Fiber Festival, celebrating everything woolen, is set for May 21 and 22 in Lincoln

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidoso.net

Once again, the Natural Fiber Festival will be held in historic Lincoln at the Billy the Kid pageant grounds. Dates for the 2005 festival are May 21 and 22, with hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The event will be sponsored by the New Mexico Wool Growers, New Mexico State Monuments, Lincoln County Lodgers' Tax, New Mexico Sheep and Goat Council, Lincoln County Rural Tourism Council and Richards Ranch Inc.

Highlights for the day are a petting zoo, shearing demonstrations, wool-dyeing demos, spinners, weavers, crafting artists, good food and music. The sources of the fiber — sheep, llamas, alpacas, rabbits and goats — will also be on display. A "spin-out" will be held at 10 a.m. each day with spinning wheel jockeys taking their fibers and creating art before your eyes.

Artists and crafters are invited to exhibit and sell their

personally handmade items that use or depict natural fibers such as cotton, wool, mohair, llama, alpaca and angora. Other mediums considered will be basketry, leather craft and wood craft.

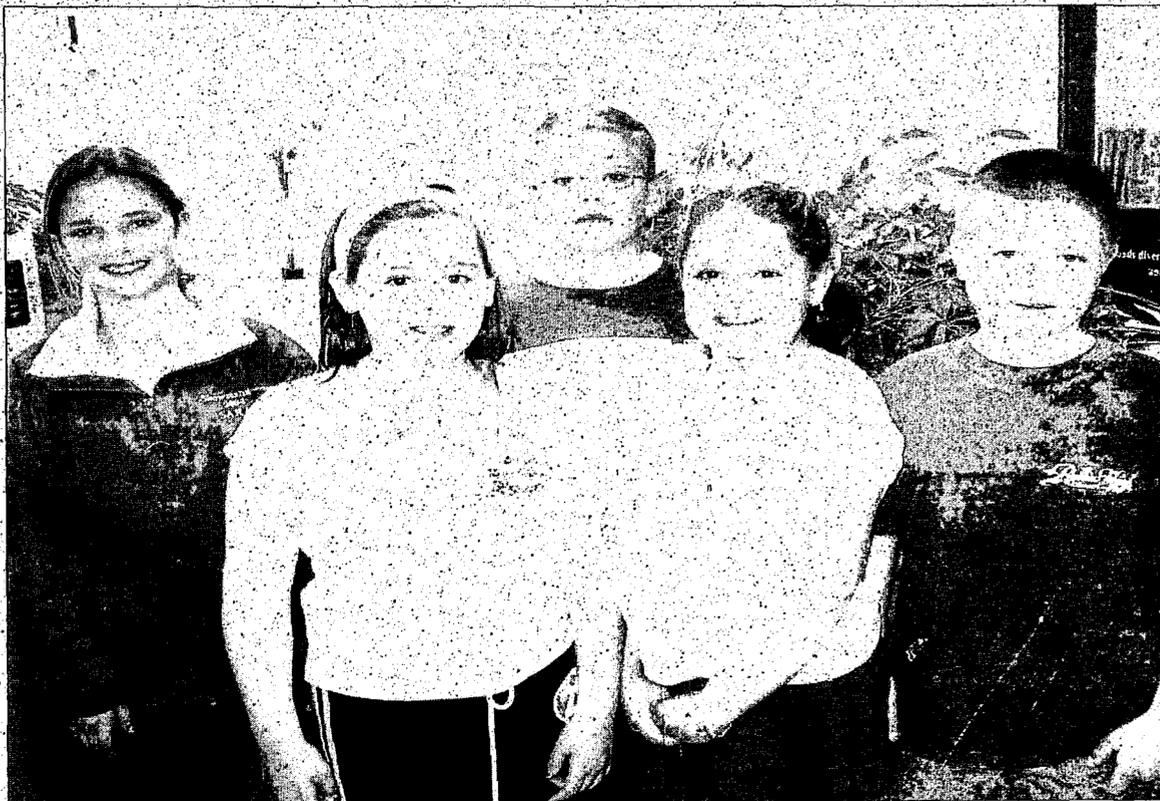
Each applicant is asked to submit two high quality photos of his or her work with entry information and fee. Exhibitors must provide their own canopies, display surfaces and chairs. Those returning from last year's festival will be given the same space they occupied in 2004.

Drugs and alcohol are prohibited. Dogs are not encouraged due to the live animal displays. If participants must bring their dogs, they must have them completely controlled.

Educational displays will not be charged for space and musical groups will only be charged a stipend. All other spaces are \$50 in advance.

For more information or to reserve a space at the 2005 Natural Fiber Festival, contact Sue Maness at 849-1115 or email at ewe2lamb@yahoo.com.

IN RUIDOSO FOR A SPELL



Carrizozo students who competed in the Lincoln County Spelling Bee at Ruidoso High School on Feb. 3 were, from left to right: Sara McNatt, Brittney Simmons, Levi Corley, Sierra Anaya and Patrick Ryan. Ryan and Corley finished in the top five.

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RUIDOSO NEWS



JULIE CARTER FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Four juniors participated in the National Ground Hog Job Shadow day on Feb. 2. Left to right, Carrizozo counselor Danny Watkins, Jr. Corley, Nykki Bernaldez and Justus Wilson. Not pictured, Britni Ward

Did you see a shadow Feb. 2?

Carrizozo High School juniors spent last Wednesday with lawyers, graphic artists and others

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidoso.net

National Groundhog Shadow Day, now in its eighth year, was held on Feb. 2.

The national kickoff came after a year-long initiative that gives students across America the chance to "shadow" a workplace mentor as he or she goes through the day on the job.

The idea behind Shadow Day

is to give students an up-close look at how skills learned in school are put to use in the workplace.

More than 1 million students and 100,000 businesses participated nationwide in Job Shadow 2005.

In Carrizozo, four high school juniors spent part of a day with selected career targets.

Jr. Corley spent the day with welder Frank Walker. Justus Wilson shadowed an employee

"I loved it. It made me want to be a lawyer more than ever."

Nykki Bernaldez
for shadowing a lawyer

at the Sierra Blanca airport. Britni Ward explored two careers by spending time with Stacy Wien at Print Write Now for graphic design and printing.

and with Rhonda New at Before and After for cosmetology.

Nykki Bernaldez, interested in a career as an attorney, shadowed Ruidoso attorney Mandy Waldrop. "I loved it," reported Bernaldez. "It made me want to be a lawyer more than ever."

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FEB 9 2005

Veterinarian notes dog poisonings on the rise

Eleven pets have died of strychnine poisoning, owners asked to report the incidents to police

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ularosa.net

In the past 18 months, Capitan veterinarian Dr. Becky Washburn has treated 13 area dogs for poisoning.

There is no pattern to the lethal crime.

The dogs were not all running loose and in fact, even if the dogs were tied in the yard, they fell victim to the poison, which was later identified as strychnine.

Of the 13 treated, Washburn said only two survived.

Of greater concern is the increased rate of poisonings since fall. From October to February, five dogs have died with confirmed strychnine poisoning.

Capitan police Chief Chuck George said he had not had any reports of the poisoning turned in to him but encouraged people to do so.

"I would very much like people to file a report if this happens to them. It will help make people aware of this and maybe we can get it stopped," said George. If you have any information concerning the poisonings, contact the Capitan Police Department at 354-2154.

NEWS BRIEFS

Carrizozo Woman's Club bake sale

The Carrizozo Woman's Club will hold its annual Valentine's Day Bake Sale on Friday, Feb. 11, in the Carrizozo Wells Fargo Bank lobby. The sale will run from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be pies, cakes, cookies and other assorted treats. Bake sale proceeds go to the scholarship fund and other club activities.

Ownership deadline reminders for 4-H, FFA

County FFA and 4-H members with horse projects must provide to the county extension office a certificate of ownership and brand inspection certificate on or before April 15.

Ownership deadlines for beef project is April 11, pigs, lambs, and dairy goats May 26, rabbits June 25 and poultry-broilers July 10.

County Fair board to meet first for 2005

The first 2005 meeting of the Lincoln County Fair Board will be Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fair Grounds. The meeting is open to the public.

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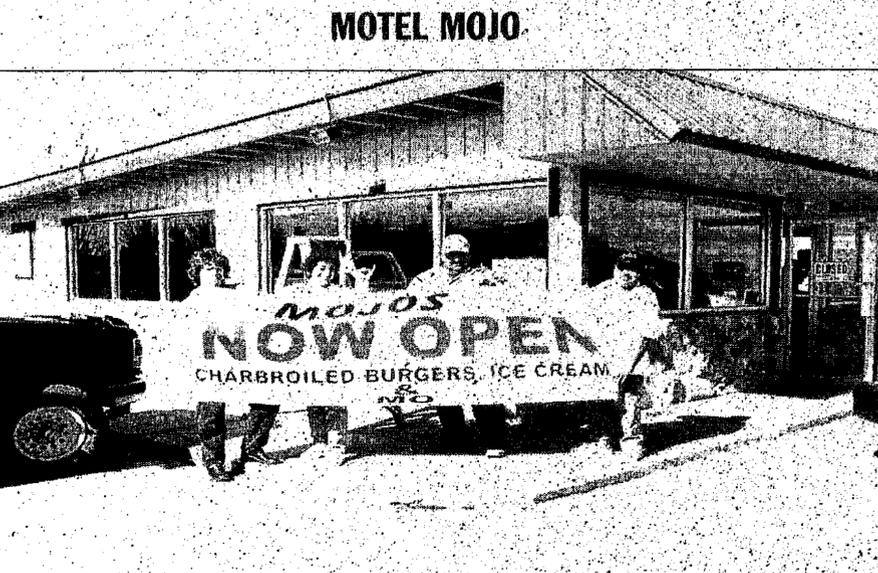


PHOTO BY JULIE CARTER

MoJo's opened yesterday in Carrizozo, offering lunch food and soft ice cream from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. seven days a week. Pictured from left is owner Maureen (Mo) Lopez, manager Barbara Peters, Cookie Najjar, and chief cook and "Manny of all trades", Manuel Rodriguez.

MoJo's rising

Actually, it's already open, offering lunch and dinner burgers, fries and dogs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day.

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ularosa.net

A week ahead of a target Feb. 14 opening, MoJo's is officially opened and serving food 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Carrizozo.

When Joe and Maureen Lopez bought the old Cross Roads motel and remodeled it to the current Chaparral Motel, they also bought the vacant restaurant building next door.

Since then it's been a plan in the making to open the restaurant not only to compliment the motel, but to bring another food service into town. Tuesday that plan became reality.

With all new kitchen equipment, new paint, scrubbed down walls and new carpet, MoJo's is open for business. Named for the combination of Joe and Maureen, always called Mo, the restaurant is starting with an abbreviated menu that will grow item by item as demand

and desire dictate.

MoJo manager Barbara Peters, who relocated from Hawaii to Carrizozo, has been friends with the Lopezes for many years. She brings with her a lifetime of restaurant management experience and her delight to be living in Lincoln County.

Manuel Rodriguez's reputation for quality cooking and good food was already established in town and now he will be overseeing the MoJo kitchen. Rodriguez was also instrumental in the re-construction of the building and making everything work, giving him the "Manny of all trades" moniker.

MoJo's will be open seven days a week offering charbroiled burgers, fries, a specialty foot-long corn dog, chili dogs, hot dogs, sodas, coffee and soft serve ice cream. A combo meal deal burger with fries is \$4.25 or cheeseburger for \$4.75.

Carry out orders are welcome, MoJo's phone number is 648-4200.

MoJo's is also looking for cooks and kitchen prep help. Interested persons may apply in person at the restaurant.

Lamb referendum set

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service announced last week the final procedures for a continuance referendum under the Lamb Promotion, Research and Information order, more commonly known as the Lamb Checkoff Program.

It also announced that the referendum will be conducted Jan. 31 through Feb. 28, 2005. The referendum will be conducted at USDA's County Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices.

To be eligible to participate, persons must certify and provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form, that show they have been engaged in the production, feeding or slaughtering of lambs during the period of Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2004.

Beginning Jan. 31, 2005 and continuing through Feb. 28, 2005, persons may obtain form

LS-86 to vote in the referendum from county FSA offices either in person, by mail, or facsimile. Forms may also be obtained via the internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/rp-lamb.htm>.

Persons will vote in the referendum at the county FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. For persons not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to vote will be provided at the county FSA office where the person owns or rents land.

Form LS-86 and supporting documentation may be returned in person, by mail, or facsimile to the appropriate county FSA office. Form LS-86, and accompanying documentation returned in person or by facsimile, must be received in the appropriate county office before the close of business on

Feb. 28. Form LS-86 and accompanying documentation returned by mail must be post-marked no later than midnight of Feb. 28 and received in the county FSA office by March 7.

For the program to continue, it must be approved by a majority of voters who also represent a majority of the volume represented in the referendum.

The Lamb Checkoff Program is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research and Information Act of 1996.

This program provides for assessments on the sale of lamb and lamb products and for an industry board to carry out promotion, research and information programs designed to increase the demand for lamb and lamb products.

For more information contact the Lincoln-Otero County FSA at 437-3100.

First Baptist hosts country gospel singer

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ularosa.net

Country gospel singer Myra Green presents free concerts and gives away compact discs and tapes. She will be performing at 10:55 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, at the First Baptist Church, 314 10th Street in Carrizozo.

Green presents a "country gospel" type of original music done in a style and tradition of the Grand Ole Opry. Often described as sounding like Patsy Cline, her music is warm, clear and solid gospel.

Green, a native New Mexican, accomplished portrait artist and home school mom, has completed her third album of all original songs. All of the songs were written and produced by "Mr. Country Gospel," Ray Calcote of Farmington Revival Ministries.

In January 2002, the statewide Baptist Convention of New Mexico Evangelism Conference had Green as a featured singer. In 2000, Green

was named the Southwest Region Female Vocalist of the Year by the Country Gospel Music Association. She has made numerous radio and TV appearances while singing throughout the Southwest.

"Jesus has done so much for me," says Green. "I am just an ordinary woman who loves to sing for Jesus. Yet, the work of the Lord in my ordinary life gives me a reason to sing, a reason to share. Ray Calcote's lyrics tell about Jesus in a manner that is clear, uncluttered, Biblically accurate and fun!"

Green lives in Glorieta with her husband and manager. Together they are Green Ridge Ministries, which operates completely on donations. They have a 16-year-old son, Allen.

Free, professionally-recorded CDs and tapes will be available at the concert. The concert is also free, but a love offering will be taken.

For more information contact the First Baptist Church at 648-2968.

Ranch-to-Rail event held in Clayton Feb. 24

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ularosa.net

New Mexico cattle producers will come together to see how their cattle performed in the feed yard Feb. 24 at a Ranch-to-Rail field day at Clayton Air Park.

"This information will allow producers to determine whether or not they're on target," said Clay Mathis, coordinator of the New Mexico Ranch-to-Rail Program and a livestock specialist with New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service. "If they aren't, they may need to consider altering the genetics of their herd or possibly modifying their management system."

NMSU and Texas A&M University are co-sponsoring the free, daylong workshop, which was developed to help producers track their cattle through the feedlot to the packing plant, he said. The field day is for producers who currently have cattle in the program and for ranchers who simply want to learn more about Ranch-to-Rail.

Sessions will include an overview of cattle management and performance by Mathis, followed by a review of previous management practices on feedlot performance by Justin Waggoner, a graduate student in NMSU's animal and range sciences department.

Manny Encinas, a livestock specialist at NMSU's Clayton Livestock Research Center, will present results from an ongoing study of Excéde, a broad-spectrum antibiotic designed to aid in controlling bovine respiratory disease. Ted McCollum, Extension beef specialist with Texas A&M University, will give an update on the national animal identification system.

Following McCollum's presentation, participants will travel to the Clayton Research Center for a hands-on demonstration of animal identification methods. A visit to view Ranch-to-Rail cattle at Double A Feeders, a nearby commercial feedlot, will conclude the program.

Field day registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at the air park, located at 1 Chestnut Street. Contact Mathis at (505) 646-8022 or cpmathis@nmsu.edu before the event for registration information.

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P&Z approves pre-fab

Real estate office will handle nightly rentals in addition to sales

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Village planners added one more parking space before approving commercial site plans for a prefabricated real estate office on Evergreen Street that will handle sales and rentals.

William O. Robinson, who submitted the proposal for the five lots containing 7,399 square feet, said the 24x60-foot construction will include a log home showroom.

He will remove a site reserved for a dumpster to provide space for additional parking. Seven people may be in the building at one time, he said.

"We will have a picnic area because we will be handling nightly rentals as well as sales under Sierra Vista Realty," he told members of the Ruidoso Planning and Zoning Commission last week.

Commission chairman Glen Barrow pointed out that drivers in three parking spaces would have to back out into Evergreen Street and wondered if a variance is needed on

a handicap access ramp because it is closer than the required 10 feet from the lot line.

No variance needed

Robinson said the ramp has to be 30 feet long to meet standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Planning board secretary Tim Vega said as long as the walk is uncovered, it "is not a deck" and no variance is needed.

But Commissioner Brad Treptow, executive director of the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Harvey Foster, a real estate broker, both cautioned that more parking than the five regular and one handicap may be needed if three or four families show up at the same time for the nightly rentals.

Robinson said, although check-in starts in the afternoon, many people don't arrive until 8 p.m.

"We make arrangements" for the keys, he said.

"There are old growth pines on the lots and elms along the right of way with evergreens," he said.

"The mailboxes are to be removed and relocated."

The only piñon pine to be cut otherwise would be in the center of the building, he said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Weatherization assistance

State Senator Richard C. Martinez (D-Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe) wants to help low-income New Mexicans get more money in their pocket. Senate Bill 87 will provide certain residents with assistance to weatherize their homes, resulting in lower utility bills.

"Many people in our state pay unusually high utility bills because their homes are not weatherized properly and need to keep the heat in during the winter and heat out in the summer," said Senator Martinez. "This legislation will provide low-income New Mexicans the chance to weatherize their homes."

Senate Bill 87 provides \$200,000 for the weatherization assistance program to increase the energy efficiency of homes occupied by low-income people. Once signed into law, the program will be administered by the Mortgage Finance Authority.

The funding contained in this bill complements the federal Weatherization Assistance Program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and federal Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program

(LIHEAP).

Warm Clothes for Kids Drive

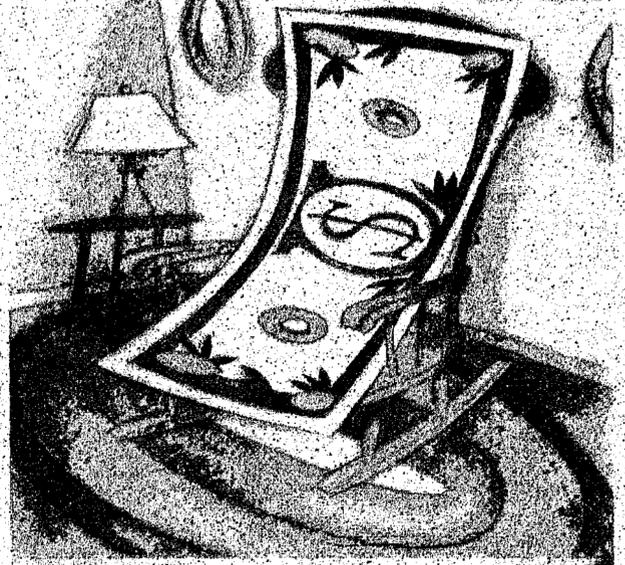
The annual Coats for Kids Drive collected over seven hundred coats for local children.

"On behalf of all those involved in this drive I want to thank everyone who participated this year," Optimist Club of Ruidoso member Vera Wood said. "We were surprised at the number of brand new coats we got this year. People cared enough about these kids to go out and buy new coats if they didn't have used coats to donate."

The Optimist Club of Ruidoso, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at the Ruidoso Senior Center, and Lincoln County Christian Services organized collection of coats, jackets and blankets for the Coats for Kids Drive which recently ended. The coats are being distributed through Lincoln County Christian Services.

"We especially thank all the businesses which provided collection boxes and the Ruidoso Middle School Student Council for its special effort in collecting and cleaning several children's coats," Wood said.

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POLICE BRIEFS

Ruidoso DWI

On Feb. 7, Ruidoso Police arrested a 17-year-old male for DWI. The arresting officer pulled the vehicle over for swerving, and the juvenile blew a .06 on the Intoxilyzer 5000.

Battery

Adam Delcampo was arrested on Feb. 7 for battery on a household member and battery after getting into a fight with his female roommate. The altercation involved the woman's two sons, ages 12 and 15, and resulted in injuries to both the suspect and the victims.

After midnight

Feb. 5, around midnight, police responded to a fight in progress at a residence on Country Club Drive where they found a 17-year-old male and

51-year-old Randal Fiveash beating up 58-year-old Ray Barela.

Once the fight was broken up, Barela was charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon for allegedly assaulting Fiveash with a golf club. The fight apparently followed an argument begun at a local bar.

Burglary

Feb. 5, a residence on Wingfield Drive was reported burglarized. The front door was forced open. Missing items included a \$50 Sony CD/cassette player, a \$20 black light, and a \$40 jewelry box.

Conehead

On Feb. 3, police responded to a witness report that the driver of a Dodge pickup was intentionally running down orange guide cones in front of White Mountain Intermediate

School. Police located the truck and its 16-year-old driver at Ruidoso High School and issued a citation for property damage in the amount of \$150. The driver told police he "just wasn't thinking."

Stop!

On Feb. 5, a village stop sign was run down at the corner of Country Club and Lookout Drive. A witness told police she saw a white Kings Tour bus at the scene.

The driver, she said, exited the bus, evaluated his damage, picked up a piece of his bus and headed north on Country Club. Police have not located the vehicle; damage to the sign is valued at \$200.

Ruidoso Downs

Stolen gas

Jan. 31, an employee of the Ruidoso Downs Diamond

Shamrock reported a gas skip in the amount of \$25.09. The vehicle was a silver and black Ford Bronco II. Officers had no contact with that vehicle.

Warrant arrest

Feb. 4, Ruidoso Downs police arrested Jessup Parsons, 28, on a probation and parole board warrant for violation of his probation/parole.

He is booked and held at Lincoln County Detention Center with no bond.

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Mardi Gras

Mid-winter revelry is deemed a success

PAMELA CROMWELL
pcromwell@ruidosonews.com

About 500 people braved the cold and slick streets to attend the first Mile-High Mardi Gras Celebration Saturday evening.

Festivities began on the mountain with a shrimp boil, live Dixieland jazz and whacko ski races at Ski Apache.

Special events manager for Inn of the Mountain Gods, Dari Stierwalt, reported "the event went wonderfully."

About 30 people entered the ski races, a few more than expected, and the staff gave away about 1,000 Mardi Gras masks, plus multiple stuffed moose and t-shirts.

"Everybody got into the spirit," Stierwalt said.

"They were wearing their masks on the slopes, either over their faces or on the back of their heads, so they looked like they were coming and going. Visitors to the mountain were very impressed and enjoyed it. We applaud our ski instructors for their help."

Ski Apache party staff referred revelers to the evening event at the Ruidoso Convention Center, where the Sunshine Dixieland Jazz Band continued its show. However, a traffic back-up caused by slick road conditions kept some people on the hill until 8 p.m., causing them to miss the party.

Nonetheless, organizers were pleased with the turnout.

"It was a success," said Michele Rebstock. "For a first-year event competing with weather and the Spencer (Festival of Four), I'd say it was outstanding."

Rebstock said people she met in Wal-Mart the next day told her they can't wait for next year's party. The event really

drew the community together, involving all generations, Rebstock said.

"I am so proud of the work this committee did," she said. "Gumbo chefs were all fabulous, how the community came together — high school students, the police, EMS, restaurants — everyone came together, and our sponsors were more than generous."

Judges awarded first place in the gumbo cook-off to Robert Pascuzzi, the chef at Pasta Café, and the People's Choice Award went to the Ruidoso Police Department and their chef, Doug Babcock.

Only one or two votes separated some of the People's Choice candidates, Rebstock confirmed. "The food was just great."

First place in the costume contest went to Mimi and Fred Killian. Betsy Hall's efforts with the decorations created a festive atmosphere, the room was perfect, the musicians outstanding, said Rebstock. The event also included local artists Vicki Conley (Piñon Pottery), Alan Miner (Earth & Stone), and Tim Wierwille (White Mountain Pottery), as well as honors art students from Ruidoso High School. These artists contributed about 100 gumbo-tasting bowls, which sold for \$3 to \$10.

"Every single bowl was sold," Rebstock said. "It's the first time the arts council made money on a first-year event."

Proceeds from the Mardi Gras party benefit the Ruidoso Regional Council for the Arts and the Mescalero community arts program.

Today, Feb. 9, is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, and the end of the Mardi Gras season.



Senior Kiana Cornelius (left) and senior Keenon Sherrell offer gumbo cooked by Ruidoso High School students in the TePee Lounge during Mardi Gras.



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Ruidoso's Sweetheart Dining Guide 2005



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Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome. Claudius was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and condemned to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honor of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of pagan ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The pastors of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavored to do away with the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of maidens. And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feast.

FORGET HER NOT THIS VALENTINES DAY!!

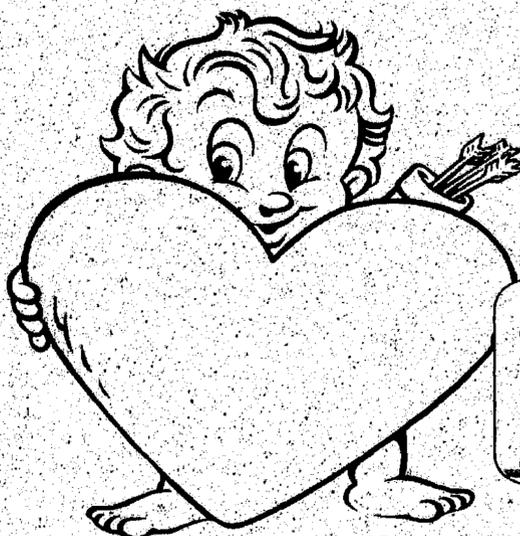
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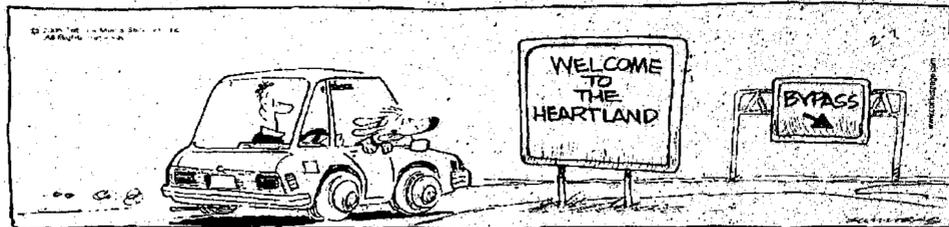
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PAR SCORE 110-120
BEST SCORE 163

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 4x7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points for each letter using the letter's point value. The 15 words get 50 points each. Points used as an extra letter have to point value. All the words are in the 2005 SCRABBLE Players Dictionary Edition.

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JUMBLE
Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SESMY
PRAAK
QUILOR
ANSAUE

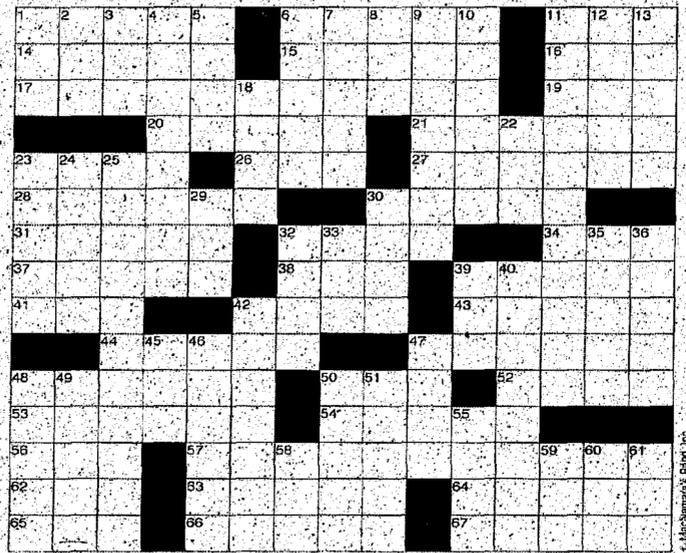
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: _____

ACROSS

- Crockett's last stand
- Thumb a ride
- Hippie's home
- Japanese noodle soup
- "Barbarella" actor Milo
- Slip up
- "Another Day in Paradise" singer
- ...wop ('50s music)
- Mesa National Park
- Prefix with dynamics or nuclear
- Pueblo Indian
- Chicago hrs.
- Put fresh film into
- Showy shrub
- No-frills
- Spiritual beings
- April 1 victim
- "...longa, vita brevis"
- Still for rent
- Did a marathon
- Monastery head
- Chest muscle, in gym lingo
- Stampede group
- Cause of shoulder trouble, often
- "Silas Marner" girl
- Stay behind
- Composer depicted in "Amadeus"
- HBO rival
- Downhill vehicle
- Sulking
- Fleshy-shouted beast
- Rock's Steely
- Codiscoverer of radium
- Tonic partner

Politically Correct Folks



- Discoverer of Brazil
- Coffee allure
- Dickens's mysterious Edwin
- Killer whale
- Whitney or Lilly
- Invites to one's apartment
- Layer with a "hole"
- French painter of "The Card Players"
- Repair shop fig.
- 007
- On the house
- Flower's need
- Pérez or O'Donnell
- Witness's place
- "Honest"
- Forcible ejection
- Ancient Syrian
- Mushy food
- Put cash up front
- Tug-of-war need
- Swarming insect
- Walking (elated)
- Guitar holder-upper
- Does' mates
- Hosp. areas
- Slippery fish
- Classic auto
- Factory second: Abbr.
- Language suffix

DOWN

- Dadaist Jean
- "Well, ...di-dah!"
- "What ... chopped liver?"
- "Moby Dick" author
- Give the ... over
- Wrestler's repertoire
- Dot in the sea
- Summer-weather stat
- New York's Park
- Corned beef dishes

LOLA



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Pass the potatoes and make gravy, please.

A ROUND BELLY CAN BE THE RESULT OF TOO MANY---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



Think Snow!!!

Jumbles: MESSY PARKA LIQUOR NAUSEA
Answer: A round belly can be the result of too many — SQUARE MEALS

Politically Correct Folks

ALAMO
HIT
CH
RAMEN
OSHA
ERR
PHIL
COLLINS
DOO
HOP
LIVE
THE
MOM
HORI
CST
RELO
AZAL
EAS
SIC
ARS
SOUT
FOOT
RAN
ABOT
FEC
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SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

PAR SCORE 110-120

TOTAL: 163

RACK 1 = 24
RACK 2 = 12
RACK 3 = 66
RACK 4 = 61

Senator's bill 'exposes' wider gambling plans

WALTER RUBEL
wrubel@csun-news.com

SANTA FE — At first blush, it would appear that Sen. John Arthur Smith, D-Deming, is advocating the expansion of casinos throughout New Mexico.

Smith has introduced a bill that says if Jemez Pueblo or any other tribe or pueblo is allowed to build a casino off tribal land, then gaming would be open to just about anybody. Any restaurant, bar or hotel in the state would be allowed to bring in slot machines.

The intent, Smith said, is not to expand gambling but to expose plans to increase gambling in ways that the Legislature never envisioned. "It's a shot over the bow," Smith said. "I don't even envi-

sion that this bill is going to be successful. I think it's sending a message of what's to come.

"I think the message goes out to the state and I think it goes out to the executive that you want to be very careful, governor. Even if the Department of the Interior wants to move on this."

Billy Sparks, a spokesman for Gov. Bill Richardson, said the governor wants to wait to see what impact a new racetrack in Hobbs will have before commenting on a proposal by Jemez Pueblo to build a new casino in Anthony. And, Sparks said, the Department of the Interior will have to rule on the proposal first.

"He feels that there is enough gaming in the state," Sparks said.

Sen. Leonard Tsosie, D-

Crownpoint, who argued successfully to have the bill heard in the Indian and Cultural Affairs Committee, said he thinks it's important that there be a full discussion of the proposal by Jemez Pueblo and any other tribe looking to expand gaming off Indian land.

"I don't mind what he's doing. I think it's an issue that has to be looked at," Tsosie said. "I appreciate him doing that, because it raises the level of discussion. This is the first time that we've had a tribe that wants to go off their own reservation to do gaming. And I think we should talk about it."

Tsosie said he has talked to the leaders of Jemez Pueblo about the bill.

"I think they are concerned about the bill, but they didn't express that to me one way or

another," he said.

Smith said that he and former Sen. Don Kidd, R-Carlsbad, chaired a gaming committee more than a decade ago before the current compacts were written.

After speaking with officials in both Nevada and New Jersey, Smith said that their advice was to go slowly and carefully.

"Nevada and New Jersey told us to make certain it's tough on the front end because gaming laws typically got weakened the longer they are there," Smith said. "And so my belief is we did all the wrong things on that. I believe that we invited expansion when that bill passed."

Smith said his fears that gambling would grow in ways the Legislature never envi-

sioned were confirmed when he read about plans to build a casino in Anthony, and another proposal to build one in his hometown of Gila.

"From day one, I said, 'Hey, this thing is going to do nothing but grow on us,'" Smith said. "And then you pick up the paper and you see where some of the tribes are saying, 'Hey, we're not in a metropolitan statistical area or we're in a remote area, we're going to see if we can find another way to skin this cat.' And that was never envisioned by the Legislature as far as the intent."

Smith described himself as "lukewarm" on gambling.

"I've always been of the school that if you don't attract out-of-state dollars, then you have a cancer on your econ-

omy," he said. And, he described the casino at Sunland Park as the "flagship" for importing out-of-state money. He noted that the state gets a 25 percent cut at the racetrack, but would only get 8 percent under the Indian compact.

Smith said he thinks the best way to regulate gaming is through competition.

"I guess the frustration that I have is with the federal Indian Gaming Act, that I thought was a wretched piece of legislation to begin with," he said.

"And I think it's a poor testimony when your only economic development to try to improve your people is to have to resort to gaming."

The bill is SB542, and can be found on the Internet at legis.state.nm.us.

Minority Whip contends Richardson raided funds

WALTER RUBEL
wrubel@csun-news.com

SANTA FE — Senate Minority Whip Lee Rawson, R-Las Cruces, said Wednesday that Gov. Bill Richardson has raided funds that were established to protect state workers.

Rawson said that all total, Richardson has siphoned off more than \$42 million from the Worker's Compensation Fund, Risk Management Fund and the General Liability Fund.

And, he said the State Department of Labor has not properly used money raised from a bill passed last year requiring all contractors bidding for state projects to post a \$200 annual fee.

"What's happening is the administration is raiding these funds to buy votes," Rawson said.

"And we are putting at risk all of these funds. But most importantly, we are putting at

"The administration is raiding the funds to buy votes."

Lee Rawson
R-Las Cruces

risk our employees."

Rawson said that all three funds were in solid financial shape at the end of the Johnson administration.

Finance Secretary James Jimenez termed Rawson's allegations as "outlandish," and said he did not have his figures right.

"We reject the senator's contention that the state is in the hole," Jimenez said. "This administration has run on fiscal accountability, and all of the funds are adequately funded and well managed."

Rawson said the General Liability Fund, which is used to

See RAID, page 4C

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FEB 09 2005

RAID: Budget shuffling and lack of oversight are alleged in Santa Fe

FROM PAGE 3C
pay court judgments or settlements against the state had \$2.6 million in reserves at the start of the Richardson administration and is now \$30.9 million in the hole.

Rawson said each agency in state government pays a premium each year to build the Risk Management Fund.

"They are undercharging agencies so that they can make the budget work," he said. "So this pot is getting smaller and smaller, and at some point we're going to have a drastic issue."

But Jimenez said the governor's proposed premiums were higher than those called for by the Legislative Finance Committee, on which Rawson serves.

Rawson also complained that the Legislature has not provided significant oversight as to how the fund is used. He said he has introduced a bill to prevent money from being shifted from one area of the fund to another and to begin to build back the reserves.

Workers Comp Fund

Rawson said the state Workers' Compensation Fund, which pays for injuries to state employees on the job, is now \$8.5 million in the hole after being \$1.6 million in the black at the beginning of the Richardson administration. He said the fund paid out \$24 million in claims last year.

"What I would like to know is what is the nature of those injuries, how significant are they, what is the state doing to minimize our losses," he said. "With this size of loss, \$24 million, I have to say 'What the heck is going on? Is anybody concerned about a safe workplace and our employees?'"

Jimenez, however, said the claims are more in the range of \$6 million to \$10 million, and that the governor has been aggressive in improving workplace safety.

The senator also questioned the use of money collected by the Workers' Compensation Administration. He said that board has collected a \$2 fee each quarter from both employers and employees, and now has \$10 million in "extra money."

Shift to Dept. of Labor

"Last year the governor took \$1.3 million out of here and he put it in the Department of Labor," Rawson said. "This year's proposal is right under \$700,000. So, he's taking money out of workers' comp and putting it in the Department of Labor and then taking money out of Department of Labor and sticking it in the General Fund."

It's kind of a hidden tax. And that, to me, is dishonest with what we're trying to do with workers' comp. to begin with."

Risk Management Fund

The third fund Rawson accused the administration of raiding is the Risk Management Fund, which covers unemployment compensation. That fund is \$2.9 million in the

hole, Rawson said.

Rawson also said that money collected from a new \$200 fee on state contractors passed last year is not being used as intended. The fund is supposed to be used to ensure that all companies doing business with the state are meeting minimum-wage laws and other labor laws.

The fund has raised

\$370,000, Rawson said. But instead of being used for compliance, it has been shifted to cover the day-to-day operations in the Department of Labor, he said.

"What they've done, they're taking last year's compliance budget and they cut that \$100,000 and that was before they included any money that they raised here," Rawson said.

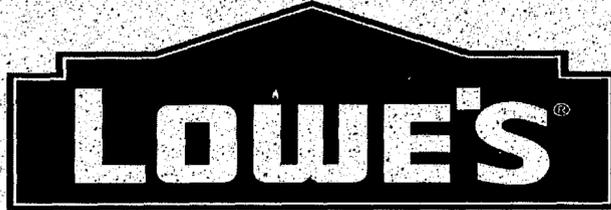
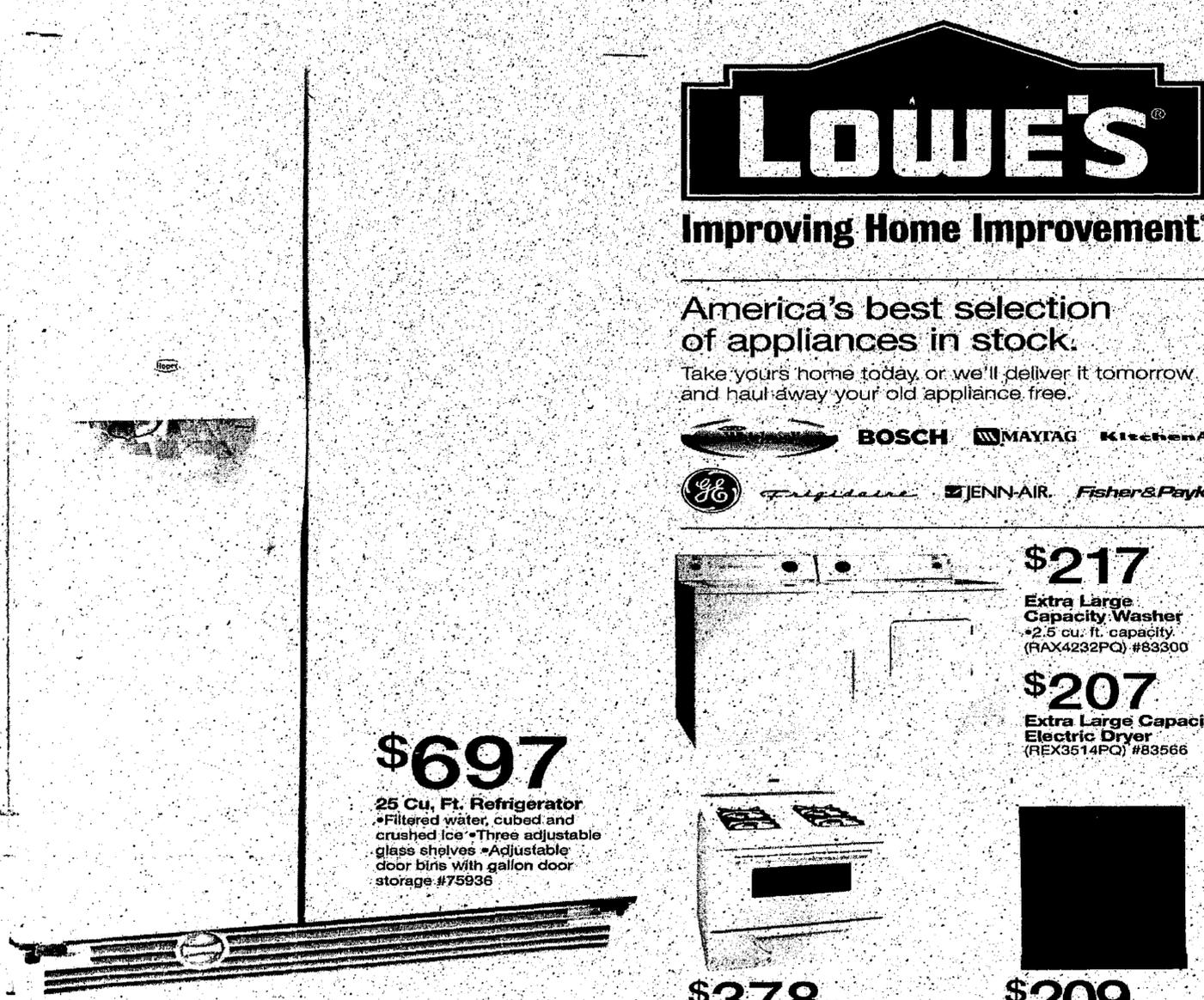
"Not only did they lower their compliance by \$100,000, but they took this additional \$370,000, so there's a \$470,000 difference. They stuck it in the agency's pocket and cut the services for which they raised the money."

"That, to me, is a breach of commitment to labor."

Carlos Casteneda, a spokesman for the Department

of Labor, said the fund has actually collected \$232,000 since taking effect in June. Casteneda conceded that the budget has been cut for compliance, but he said all of the money collected from the new fee will be used for its intended purposes.

"We're not going to tap into it and use it for purposes it wasn't intended for," Casteneda said.



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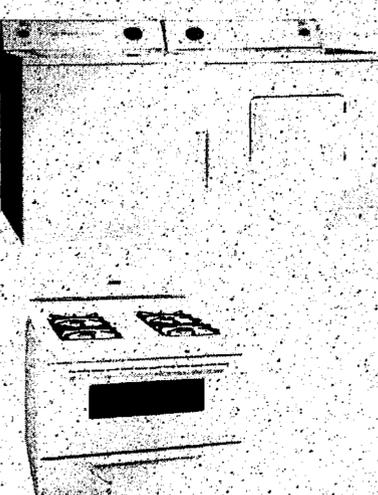
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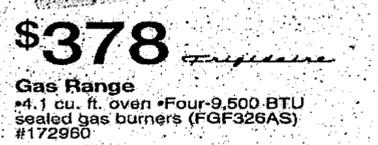
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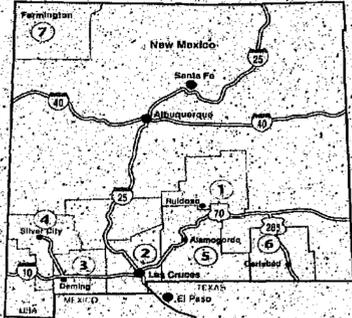
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LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS

Notice is hereby given that the Governing Body of the City of Ruidoso Downs shall conduct a public hearing in conjunction with the Regular City Council meeting on Monday, February 28th 2005 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

ORDINANCE No. 2005-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2004-06 ADOPTED OCTOBER 25, 2004, SECTION 4-8-10 UNDER CHAPTER 4 ARTICLE 8 SECTION 10 REBID PROCEDURES FOR THE SALE OF SYRINGE NEEDLES

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Legal Notices 152

2/ Carol Virdan CMC City Clerk/Treasurer

#6468 IT (2/9)

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Hearing

Pursuant to Article 7, 3-7, 17, and Article 21, 3-21, 1 of the NMSA 1978 compilation, NOTICE is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Ruidoso

LEGAL NOTICE

Lois 11A, 10A-1, 10A-2 and undivided 1/2 interest in Lot 10A-3, Block 6, White Mountain Estates, Unit 4

Copies of the property plat and Zoning Regulations are on file in the office of the Planning Administrator of the Village of Ruidoso

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Hearing will be held at the Ruidoso Administrative Center, 313 Cree Meadows Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico.

By order of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

s/Tim Vega

LEGAL NOTICE

#6469 IT (2/9)

Results for the Ruidoso Regular School Election held on February 1, 2005

Total Registered Voters: 8,130

Total Voters: 16

VOTES

Position 4 - 4 year term

Rafael R. Salas 4

Position 5 - 4 Year Term

Danny Eugenio Sisson

Publication made this 10th day of February, 2005, in accordance with Section 1-22-15, NMSA 1978.

AVISO LEGAL

Resulta para la eleccion del tablero de la escuela de Ruidoso celebrado de febrero 1 de 2005

Votos Totales Registrados: 8130

Votos Totales Recibidos: 16

Legal Notices 152

#6470 IT (2/9)

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www.nmenv.state.nm.us (public notices)

Legal Notices 152

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Hearing will be held at the Ruidoso Administrative Center, 313 Cree Meadows Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico.

By order of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

s/Tim Vega

LEGAL NOTICE

#6469 IT (2/9)

Results for the Ruidoso Regular School Election held on February 1, 2005

Total Registered Voters: 8,130

Total Voters: 16

VOTES

Position 4 - 4 year term

Rafael R. Salas 4

Position 5 - 4 Year Term

Danny Eugenio Sisson

Publication made this 10th day of February, 2005, in accordance with Section 1-22-15, NMSA 1978.

AVISO LEGAL

Resulta para la eleccion del tablero de la escuela de Ruidoso celebrado de febrero 1 de 2005

Votos Totales Registrados: 8130

Votos Totales Recibidos: 16

Legal Notices 152

#6470 IT (2/9)

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICIA PUBLICA

Discharge Permit Application / Aplicacion por Permiso de Descarga:

For: 25,290 gallons per day of domestic wastewater to a treatment and disposal system

Para: 25,290 galones por dia de aguas residuales domesticas a un sistema de tratamiento y disposicion

Applicant & Discharge Location / Solicitante & Sitio de Descarga:

Cook Canyon Ranch, 1 Hale Lake Rd, East of Ruidoso Downs

For More Information / Para Mas Informacion (DP-1514):

Ground Water Quality Bureau / Seccion de Agua Subterranea

NM Environment Department / Departamento del Medio Ambiente

(505) 827-2900

www.nmenv.state.nm.us (public notices)

Legal Notices 152

2/ Carol Virdan CMC City Clerk/Treasurer

#6468 IT (2/9)

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Hearing

Pursuant to Article 7, 3-7, 17, and Article 21, 3-21, 1 of the NMSA 1978 compilation, NOTICE is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Ruidoso

LEGAL NOTICE

Lois 11A, 10A-1, 10A-2 and undivided 1/2 interest in Lot 10A-3, Block 6, White Mountain Estates, Unit 4

Copies of the property plat and Zoning Regulations are on file in the office of the Planning Administrator of the Village of Ruidoso

LEGAL NOTICE

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NM Environment Department / Departamento del Medio Ambiente

(505) 827-2900

www.nmenv.state.nm.us (public notices)

Gen. Help Wanted 224

Experienced maintenance person needed for full-time work. Apply to Crown Point Condos, 220 Crown Drive, Ruidoso. No phone calls. See Jim Peters

Need to sell something? Phone 257-4001 Ruidoso News Classifieds

Help Wanted - Full time Cashier. Great Benefits. Apply in person at 418 Sudderth.

Help Wanted: Wait person, Host & Dishwasher. Apply in person between 8 & 2 WALL OF CHINA, 2913 Sudderth.

LOG CABIN RESTAURANT Needs Experienced cook. Apply in person between 8 & 2 1074 Mechem

Michleras now hiring servers & cooks Apply in person 2703 Sudderth Dr.

Now hiring servers, bartenders, and hosts. Meadows Country Club 301 Country Club Dr. Apply in person.

Office Position Available. Need to be Computer literate. Insurance experience helpful but not mandatory. Good benefits for the career minded person. Send resume to PO Box 3240, Ruidoso, NM 88355.

For more information about the State of New Mexico Environment Department go to the web site. For additional information contact Darla Aiken at 505-827-2931.

To place a classified ad phone 257-4001

Medical/Health Care 220

Part-Time Front Office Assistant needed for Ruidoso Medical Practice. Flexible hours & home Medical Office experience. Submit resumes to 1401 10th St., Suite 2, Alamogordo, NM.

Gen. Help Wanted 224

Accepting applications for full-time sales position. Must be flexible & energetic. Apply at Thursday and Friday 2527 Sudderth Dr.

Apply Now! Make a Positive Change! Servers needed at Webers Grill, 441 Mechem. Apply in person.

Contract Housekeepers wanted. Excellent pay for quality work. Flexible hours, but mornings & weekends a must. Midtown area. Call 257-4031

Crown Point Condos needs 1: full-time housekeeper and 2 part-time housekeepers. Competitive wages, friendly atmosphere. Apply in person 220 Crown Dr. 257-7043

Delivery/Warehouse position for Dependable, Careful, Mature person with good driving record and references. Apply in person at 706 Mechem. No phone calls, please. M Woodrup Furniture, 216 W. Hwy. 70, Ruidoso Downs

Healthcare Office Staff needed. Computer skills necessary. 40/hr week. Send resume to PO Box 736, Aljo, NM 88312

Legal Notices 152

#6470 IT (2/9)

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NM Environment Department / Departamento del Medio Ambiente

(505) 827-2900

www.nmenv.state.nm.us (public notices)

Gen. Help Wanted 224

STATE OF NEW MEXICO Admin/Ops Manager Environmental Justice Coordinator New Mexico Environment Dept.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is recruiting qualified candidates for its Environmental Justice Coordinator position. This position will provide strategic planning and policies for the Department and will work in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders and serve in an advisory capacity to NMED management in resolving environmental justice issues.

This job is located in Santa Fe, New Mexico and requires some travel to other areas within the state.

This job will be advertised on the New Mexico State Personnel Office web page at www.nmenv.state.nm.us for 5 days beginning February 9, 2005. If you are interested in this position, please go to the State Personnel Office web page and prepare all application materials (application, transcripts and job opportunity form) so they are ready to submit during the brief advertisement period.

For more information about the State of New Mexico Environment Department go to the web site. For additional information contact Darla Aiken at 505-827-2931.

To place a classified ad phone 257-4001

HOUSEKEEPING ROOM ATTENDANTS

Join our housekeeping staff at Ruidoso's Finest Hotel - The Hawthorn Suites.

We are looking for an energetic person who takes pride in their work. If you are this person, please apply in person.

107 Sierra Blanca Drive

HELP WANTED:

- Tree Thinners, Landscapers, Laborers, Yearly Maintenance Personnel

Call 336-2321

Professional Help 204

Mobile Home Rental 308
 Captain 114 E 2nd 1 bdy
 Bld 15ba modern kitchen
 257-5381

To place a classified ad
 phone 257-4001

3Bd 2Ba clean mobile
 home \$500/mo + utilities
 Call 257-4167

Cozy 3Bd 2Ba furnished
 on mountain near Spence
 Theater Monthly
 Weekly Weekend Vacat
 ion Call 915-833-6532
 or 257-7461

Unfurn. Apts. - General 328
 Soudner Apt on River Lg.
 remodeled 3Bd 2Ba con-
 venient location excellent
 access Carport patio
 outside storage carpeted
 major appliances, new
 dishwasher W/D FP nat'l
 gas central heat
 \$775/mo + utilities & de-
 posit 336-4659

Unfurn. Home - General 352
 213 Torropo Loop
 3Bd 2Ba, FP, double gar-
 age nice neighborhood
 W/D, major appliances
 \$1000/mo. \$750 deposit
 utilities and lease
 257-6605

REAL ESTATE
 400

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
 All real estate advertised
 here-in is subject to the
 Federal Fair Housing Act,
 which makes it illegal to
 advertise any preference,
 limitation, or discrimination
 on the basis of race, color,
 religion, sex, handicap, fami-
 lial status, or national ori-
 gin, or intention to make
 any such preference, limi-
 tation, or discrimination.
 We will not knowingly ac-
 cept any advertising for
 real estate which is in vio-
 lation of the law. All per-
 sons are hereby informed
 that all dwellings adver-
 ised are available on an
 equal opportunity basis.

Homes - General 412
 A LITTLE SPECIAL 3Bd/2Ba
 with hot tub sitting on 3
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 Large barn with stalls
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 racetrack. 257-3239 or
 937-4400.

Mobile Homes/Mtg. Housing 500
 FSBO 2Bd/2Ba mobile in
 park great condition.
 \$10,000. Owner must
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Home Furnishings 627
Mansfield Furniture
NEW & USED
FURNITURE
& MATTRESSES
WE BUY, SELL
& TRADE
 1000 Sudderth Dr. 257-3109

4x4'S 917
 1997 Ford Explorer XL
 sturdy good vehicle
 Clean \$22K. \$3,999.
 (905) 430-0182

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Brilliant Construction
 Thomas Brilante
 Remodeling
 Painting New Construction
 Lic #5219-258-5198-Ruidoso, NM

In 1950 the little
 cub that was
 to become the
 National Fire Safety
 symbol Smokey the
 Bear was found
 trapped in a tree
 when his home in
 Lincoln National Forest
 was destroyed by
 fire. In 1963, in
 Smokey's honor,
 the New Mexican
 legislature chose
 the black bear to be
 the official state
 animal.

Parks, Spaces, Sites-Rent 310
 Captain Estates, MHP
 large spaces w yards
 \$195/mo includes wa-
 ter, sewer & trash P/U
 no damage deposit. Call
 Gary of Pine Mountain
 Realty 257-4700 HM#
 354-2381

Townhouses/Condominiums 342
 2Bd 2 5Ba furnished con-
 do near Links Golf
 Course Easy access and
 a very convenient loca-
 tion \$700/mo plus utili-
 ties 257-9171

Unfurn. Home - General 352
CUTE ADOBE STUDIO
 for rent in Captain
 \$500 all bills paid
 No Pets Allowed.
 Call K-BELLA
 PROPERTIES
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HOUSE FOR RENT
200 PINE ROAD
 (Corner of
 Pine & Ridge)
 1Bd/1Ba,
 All Appliances
 \$575/Month
 257-9507

Residential Lots - 436
 View Lots
 Also Ruidoso
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GOODS & SERVICES
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Garage/Yard/Estate Sales - 628
 3 Family Garage Sale
 Sat, Feb. 12, 9am to 4pm,
 140 Rendia Road, Capitan.
 Furniture, appli-
 ances, Creek vacuum
 cleaner, kitchen wares,
 linens, X-Mas decora-
 tions, still flowers, ar-
 rangements, Far more
 info, call 256-648-2479

Business/Retail For Rent/Sale 951
 Looking for a Prime loca-
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 Space available at The
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 Very nice large one Bld
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 posit lease references
 required \$730/mo 257-
 2487

Comm. Condos. Hwy 70
 E offering effieciency
 apt Ask for Rosie 378-
 5280

Nice 3Bd unfurnished
 house in town, deposit,
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Land/Acreage 442
 New "Lozy Horse Ranch"
 Tinnie/Ruidoso, 10 acres
 for \$55,900. Great view
 of Capitan Mountains
 County road utilities.
 Call owners 800-883-
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Multi-Purpose 1600 sqft
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 All ages welcome
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One small furnished apt.
 Non-smoking only. Call
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Cozy & comfortable 2bd
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 ished. FP \$950/mo.
 \$500 deposit. 505-627-
 0146 or 505-317-9857

2Bd/1Ba, 202 Hart Ave
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 \$200 deposit 257-0424

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Private Investor wants to
 buy income property.
 Will look at all any con-
 dition. 257-7786 or
 check out our website at
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Misc. Items 625
 Spencer Theater tickets
 for Davis Cameron. Call
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Office Space For
 Rent/Sale 952

Self Storage 953
 Pack Rat Storage has units
 available from \$75/mo.
 Large sizes, easy
 access. 345 Cavillon Syn-
 258-3118

Unfurn. Apts. - General 328
 Now Leasing Large 1 2
 & 3 Bd apartments
 Starting at \$650/Month.
 all bills paid no pet
 257-4058 10am 5pm

Furnished Homes 350
LARGE 3BD/2BA ALTO
 CLEAN NEWER private
 sunny deck 2 acres 38
 view all you need! \$98
 Dep 336-1555

2Bd, unfurnished yard,
 carpet, W/D No pets.
 \$650/mo + elec & gas.
 Call 808-0213 or
 1856

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 1008 High-Mesa Drive

Misc. Items 625
 Acetylene torch w/bottles,
 mower, compressor, till-
 ary misc 257-5808

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RUIDOSO NEWS

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 Housing Provider

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 furnished like set-
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 decks. Must see
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2Bd house, fenced yard,
 no pets \$475/mo plus
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4 bedroom, 3 bath home
 with full galv. membership. Living room features vaulted beam ceiling with fans,
 tile fireplace and wet bar. Kitchen has garden window, Jenn-air range and oven, dishwasher and break-
 fast bar. Forced air heat and air conditioning. Jacuzzi tub in master bedroom. Nearly 2200 square feet.
By Owner: \$239,000 - Call 336-1313

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4x4'S 917
 89 Dodge Raider, sold for
 parts. Brand new tires,
 custom wheels, engine
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 APARTMENTS
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 ern electric & water paid,
 100 Larch Dr (corner
 Larch & Parr 806-894-
 498

3Bd/2Ba just off Mechem
 with fireplace, hot tub,
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 floors. May lease furn-
 ished or unfurnished.
 Available Feb-15 Pets
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 VENS RE 630-9900 or
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 3 AVAILABLE \$125ea
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 4 DL Hard-Top, 65,000 miles,
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 Hard-Top, Auto 4 DL Whipple Super-Charger, KC Lite Bar
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RUIDOSO NEWS

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These vehicles have undergone an extensive evaluation and reconditioning process completed by trained professionals at this authorized Honda dealership.

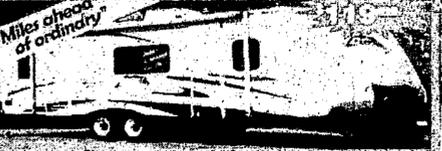
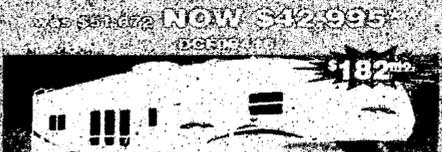
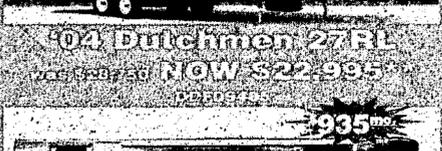
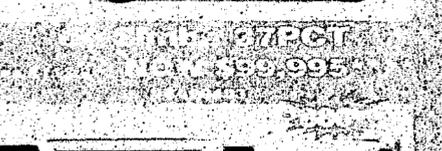
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02 Odyssey EX-L	Leather Many Extras	\$19,995
02 Odyssey EX-L	Leather Loaded	\$19,995
03 Accord EX-L	Sunroof Alloy Loaded	\$20,995
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04 Accord EX-L	Leather Showroom Fresh 7K Miles	\$22,995
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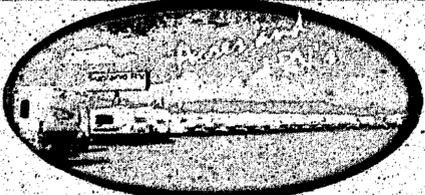
Auto For Sale 917 TXHEADLINE: No Found TXHEADLINE: No Found TXHEADLINE: No Found TXHEADLINE: No Found TXHEADLINE: No Found

Sunland Winter RV Classic RV Show & Sale

 <p>04 Dutchmen 18B was \$12,995 NOW \$10,995</p>	 <p>04 Colorado 35RL was \$39,995 NOW \$42,995</p>	 <p>05 Zeppelin 18B was \$12,995 NOW \$11,995</p>	 <p>02 Gateway 26 B was \$12,995 NOW \$11,995</p>
 <p>04 Colorado 33RL was \$39,995 NOW \$39,995</p>	 <p>04 Dutchmen 27RL was \$22,995 NOW \$22,995</p>	 <p>04 Journey 32 was \$16,995 NOW \$16,995</p>	 <p>04 Journey 32 was \$16,995 NOW \$16,995</p>
 <p>05 Simba 30 PBD was \$84,995 NOW \$74,995</p>	 <p>04 Journey 39K was \$169,995 NOW \$169,995</p>	 <p>04 Journey 36RS was \$159,995 NOW \$159,995</p>	 <p>04 Journey 36G was \$159,995 NOW \$159,995</p>

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\$89.95
While They Last

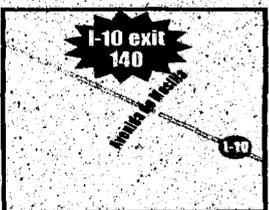
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FEBRUARY 9, 2005

Auto For Sale 917 Auto For Sale 917

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 • OVERDRIVE
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 • OVERDRIVE
 • DUAL AIRBAGS
 • PWR. EQUIPPED

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 • DUAL AIRBAGS
 • CD PLAYER
 • AIR CONDITIONING

'05 FORD F250 CREWCAB 4X4 XLT **6** YEARS
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 • OVERDRIVE
 • DUAL AIRBAGS

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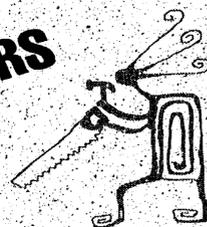
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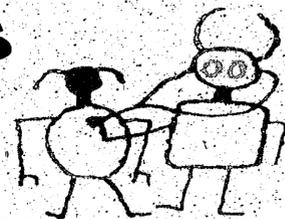
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