

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY JAN. 18, 2006 • OUR 59TH YEAR NO. 73 • 50 CENTS

FIRE DANGER
VERY HIGH

INSIDE

NEWS EXTRA

Technical problems prevent coverage of the first day of Cody Posey's trial. Up-to-date reports in Friday's paper.

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Warriors whip up on Hot Springs
Go to 9-7

6A EDUCATION

Talent on parade

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A necessary furor

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The queen of the plains

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PAMELA CROMWELL/STAFF

Shoppers enter the Red Raccoon on Sudderth Drive at about 3 p.m. Monday, when a snow squall passed over Midtown. See page 12A for day-after shots in the area.

Snow!

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The chart for a basin-by-basin summary of snow depth data across New Mexico was filed with zeros when it arrived Friday.

But by pre-dawn Tuesday, a light blanket of snow covered streets, yards and trees in Ruidoso. Capitan residents woke to a dusting and Alto areas probably saw the heaviest concentration with up to one inch.

Higher up the mountain, Ski Apache Resort officials reported three inches of natural snow as a boost to nightly snow-making operations.

• It wasn't much but it reminded us of winter • Ski Apache receives 3 inches

Early morning travel proved tricky for a few drivers, but once the sun's rays hit the pavement, the snow slushed and drained away.

Weather reports predict more snow may arrive Friday, but in about the same or less quantity.

Last year on Jan. 1, equipment in the Sacramento Mountains above Ruidoso recorded 6.9 inches of water content in the snow at the monitoring site, slightly

more than the 6.7 average from 1971.

No snow was detected this year at the 10,280-foot elevation station.

The same situation was true throughout the state at 15 of the 29 measuring sites. Only Taos Powderhorn at 11,250 feet elevation recorded a significant 15 inches of snow depth and Hopewell at 10,000 feet with 14 inches, followed by 8 inches at Gallegos Peak and 7 inches at Whitewater.

But then snow flakes began fluttering to the ground about 11:30 a.m. Monday in Ruidoso and Ski Apache officials reported snow at the resort. Capitan residents saw about 15 minutes of the white stuff before the clouds dissipated in the morning, and then returned for another sweep in the afternoon.

In the water supply outlook portion of the report, Richard Armijo of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, who puts together the monthly Basin Outlook Report January through May each year, forecast the streamflow from March through June in the Rio

See SNOW page 12A

Mayor: All councilors want audit

■ Eggleston, Councilor Hardeman resent some comments made in writ

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Ron Hardeman.

They responded Monday to remarks by Councilors Don Williams, Michele Rebstock and Deborah Marcum, and to contentions in the writ filed in district court to force action.

"I don't think there is a member of the governing board or the staff who doesn't want that audit released," Eggleston said. "We want to move on from it. The sooner the better for the whole community. There has been a lot of innuendo. I don't

think anyone has done anything wrong with intent, but if errors have occurred, we will correct them."

The mayor said he is troubled by the three councilors not bringing the issue to the full council.

"We have an attorney and the whole council wants the audit released," he insisted. Instead, they moved ahead and didn't inform the other coun-

See RESPONSE page 9A

County mulling ENMU-Ruidoso expansion

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■ Letters, 4A: How about Ruidoso Downs site?

Lincoln County commissioners say they want to see a formal request from representatives of the local branch community college about the need for more property before they consider buying an adjoining building space in Ruidoso.

"The problem is where they are located, if the adjoining

building is not purchased by Eastern New Mexico University, and someone else buys it, there is no place for expansion," Commissioner Maury St. John told other board members Thursday. "They are going to the state Legislature this year for money to build out in the

current building.

"The community of Ruidoso stepped up to the plate with tax support for the college. I believe it's time the county steps up and does more."

Two options are to swap county-owned land for the building space or sell some land and use the money to buy that portion of the building at the

See EXPAND page 9A

VILLAGE OF CAPITAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Angie Provine presented the Smokey Bear Gift Shop with a silver bowl that was originally donated to the Capitan Woman's Club in 1964 as a "Forest Conservation Award." The Capitan Woman's Club was responsible for starting the Smokey Bear Gift Shop in its current location. Provine made the presentation at the Capitan Village Council meeting Tuesday night.

Capitan studies potential water sale

JULIE CARTER
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Capitan trustees are proceeding with an investigation into the feasibility of selling water to the extra-territorial areas of the Village of Capitan. A community meeting has been scheduled for Feb. 7 at the Capitan School lunchroom to discuss the project.

At the Jan. 10 village council meeting, area rancher and proposed developer Ed Tinsley spoke to the council and audience about the project.

Tinsley said the project is entering what he called the "due diligence phase" of analyzing the feasibility as it pertains to cost and logistics. He relates some of the ideas discussed during a Jan. 9 meeting with representatives of the village and Smith Engineering.

"What we are looking for is something that would work for our project and for the homes west of town," Tinsley said.

Tentatively, the proposed waterline would be routed through the baseball fields and north on Dawson Road (formerly School House Road) to the Tinsley ranch. It would then be

pushed to a point with an elevation sufficient enough to provide adequate water pressure back to a nearby neighborhood, as well as to the Tinsley project, which includes 40 home sites and an equestrian center.

The initial analysis stage is estimated to cost \$3,500 and Tinsley committed to pay for half of the study. Tinsley said the project would benefit 94 homes on the edge of the village limits as well as the 160 acres he is hoping to develop.

Mayor Steve Sederwall said negotiations with the state highway department have resulted in permission to trench the waterline across Highway 380 to the ballfields instead of boring under it. The cost for that procedure will be about \$2,500 instead of the original estimate of \$30,000.

In other business, the village approved the hiring of Rusty Leslie to the water department. Leslie came highly recommended for his skills as well as his working knowledge of the systems in Capitan learned during his tenure with Capitan Carrizozo Gas Company.

- Accepted the resignation of Peter Renich from the planning commission.

- Heard proposal from the Capitan Library representatives stating their continued interest in the CCNG building for a thrift shop.

- Discussed on going plans for the old fire station use by Lions Club for a youth and community center and using legislative monies already received for a roof project.

- Report from David Cox that the Wetlands Project went online Dec. 20 with only a few minor problems.

- Report from Ed Davis on progress of the CCNG sale to Zia and the final audit on Feb. 8, after which time the company office will be closed.

- Village Clerk Anna Gail Grassie reported that 39 audit findings reported during the first audit two years ago had been reduced to eight findings and at meeting time only three of those remained. The final audit is available for public viewing at the Village Hall.

The next regular meeting of the Capitan Village Council will be at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 14.

CARRIZOZO TOWN COUNCIL

First meeting of the year tends to business

JULIE CARTER
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The year's first meeting for the Carrizozo town council on Jan. 10 tended to routine business for the Town of Carrizozo, including the acceptance of a resignation letter by a police officer and approval of his replacement.

By letter, Mark Dauster tendered his resignation to the Carrizozo Police Department effective Jan. 3.

Dauster thanked the department for its support and guidance and said he hoped the friendships he made while there would endure.

Don Lyles, a certified officer who last worked in Mountainair, was approved by the council as the new department officer.

The December police depart-

ment activity report given by Chief Mike Howard noted 19 citations issued during the month, 17 of those for speeding. Penalty assessments totaled \$1,907.

The municipal court report summarized 20 cases docketed and a net amount of \$4,965 in collections, fines and fees was disbursed to the town.

Business registrations were approved for GSV Title Service, American Oxygen Inc., American Linen Supply of New Mexico, Rainbow Inn, Lincoln County News Office, Superior Title Company, Ortiz Auto Sales, Olson's Trees, Steve Gore Transportation, Walker's Auction Service, Antique Liquidators, Tierra Verde Property, White Oaks Lock and Key, and Chaparral Motel.

- Approved the Dec. 22 resignation of Annette Vega, MVD clerk.

- Tabled sale of a backhoe to Palvadera Water Company.

- Tabled discussion and action of the sale of CCNG building.

- Approved a 12-day 2006 Holiday Schedule to include Jan. 16, Feb. 20, April 14, May 29, July 4, Sept. 4, Oct. 9, Nov. 10, Nov. 23-24, and Dec. 25-26.

- Tabled approval of 90-day extension of agreement to cable franchise company Interlink Communications Partners, locally known as Charter Communications.

- Heard discussion of possible uses of recreation center.

The council will meet again in a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 14.

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Beau Jarvis, senior fire fighter with the Smokey Bear Hot Shots, gathers branches he trimmed from a tree next to the access road to Ruidoso's fire spotting tower at the end of Lookout Drive. More than 9 acres of land was targeted for thinning to reduce fire danger.

A thin line: Firefighters begin clearing area around tower

9.6 acres to be treated

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Extra firefighters brought on staff in the Smokey Bear Ranger District were immediately pressed into cutting and stacking duties around the village fire spotting tower as they wait for the first wild fire of the season.

"We brought on extra forces (two weeks ago)," said District Fire Management Officer Jay Esperance with the U.S. Forest Service in the Lincoln National Forest. "We will have seven day

coverage now. We have seven more people besides the regular permanent folks, with the understanding that when they are not fighting fires, they'll be helping on this project."

"What better place to be than be in middle of town and ready to respond."

Beau Jarvis, senior fire fighter with the Smokey Bear Hot Shots, hustled his crew last week to the end of Lookout Drive just below the fire spotting tower owned by the village of Ruidoso. On different days, from three to seven of the crew brought on with "severity" money because of the lack of

precipitation, will be working on reducing the number of trees and stacking them for removal. Helping him on the first day of cutting were Jeremy Cowie and Jeremy Cawn.

Jarvis said 9.6 acres will be treated and the job could wrap up in two weeks, "if we aren't interrupted with other work like a fire," Jarvis said. Smaller trees are targeted unless no large trees are around and then they select for removal based on spacing of about 20 feet to 30 feet apart, he said.

Trees that are not healthy also may be added to the list, he said. Even Ponderosa pine, usu-

ally the number one tree to save, will be cut if not healthy. Next on the list of preference to retain come Piñon, then Juniper and on the bottom, One-seed Juniper, commonly referred to as Southwestern cedar.

The project is aimed at reducing the amount of fuel in the urban interface, prevent wild fires and promote forest health," Jarvis said.

In cooperation with the village, four municipal acres will be part of the project in exchange for Ruidoso's grapple truck picking up the debris.

Funds land at Sierra Blanca regional airport

■ Weather reporting equipment to be upgraded

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Sierra Blanca Regional Airport, owned by the village of Ruidoso, will receive \$150,000 to replace and update an automated weather observing system with state-of-the-art weather reporting equipment.

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, a Democrat from New Mexico Monday announced that eight New Mexico airports will receive funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to improve their facilities and runways.

"Transportation infrastructure is a crucial element in helping to attract business development and new jobs to every corner of our state," the senator said. "I am pleased that the federal government is making this important investment in New Mexico's airports."

In addition to Sierra Blanca, other airports slated to receive money are:

- Jicarilla Apache Nation Airport, \$444,207, to construct a fuel farm at the airport to allow aircraft to refuel; to install an automated weather observing system to allow pilots to receive weather information and for the reconstruction of the airport access road.

- Lea County Regional Airport in Hobbs, \$398,507, to begin construction to replace the existing terminal building.

- Carlsbad City Air Terminal, \$377,983, to rehabilitate runway 8/26 and to install vertical guidance lights on the runway.

- Clayton Municipal Airpark, \$300,000, to repair and rehabilitate runway 12/30, extending the life of the runway.

- Deming Municipal Airport, \$150,000, to begin work on the reconstruction 1,400 feet of the east end of runway 8/26.

- Los Alamos Airport, \$140,000, to repair lights and wiring for runway 9/27.

- Fort Sumner Municipal Airport, \$118,959, to rehabilitate runway 3/21.

Rachel Kirkwood Memorial Celebration

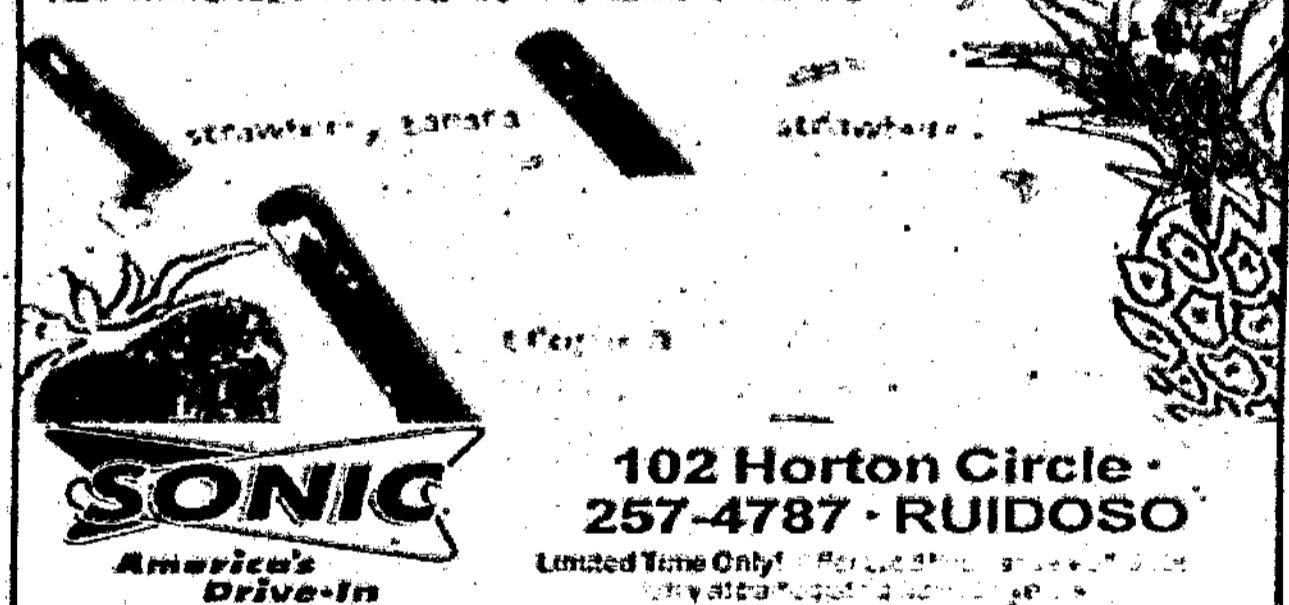
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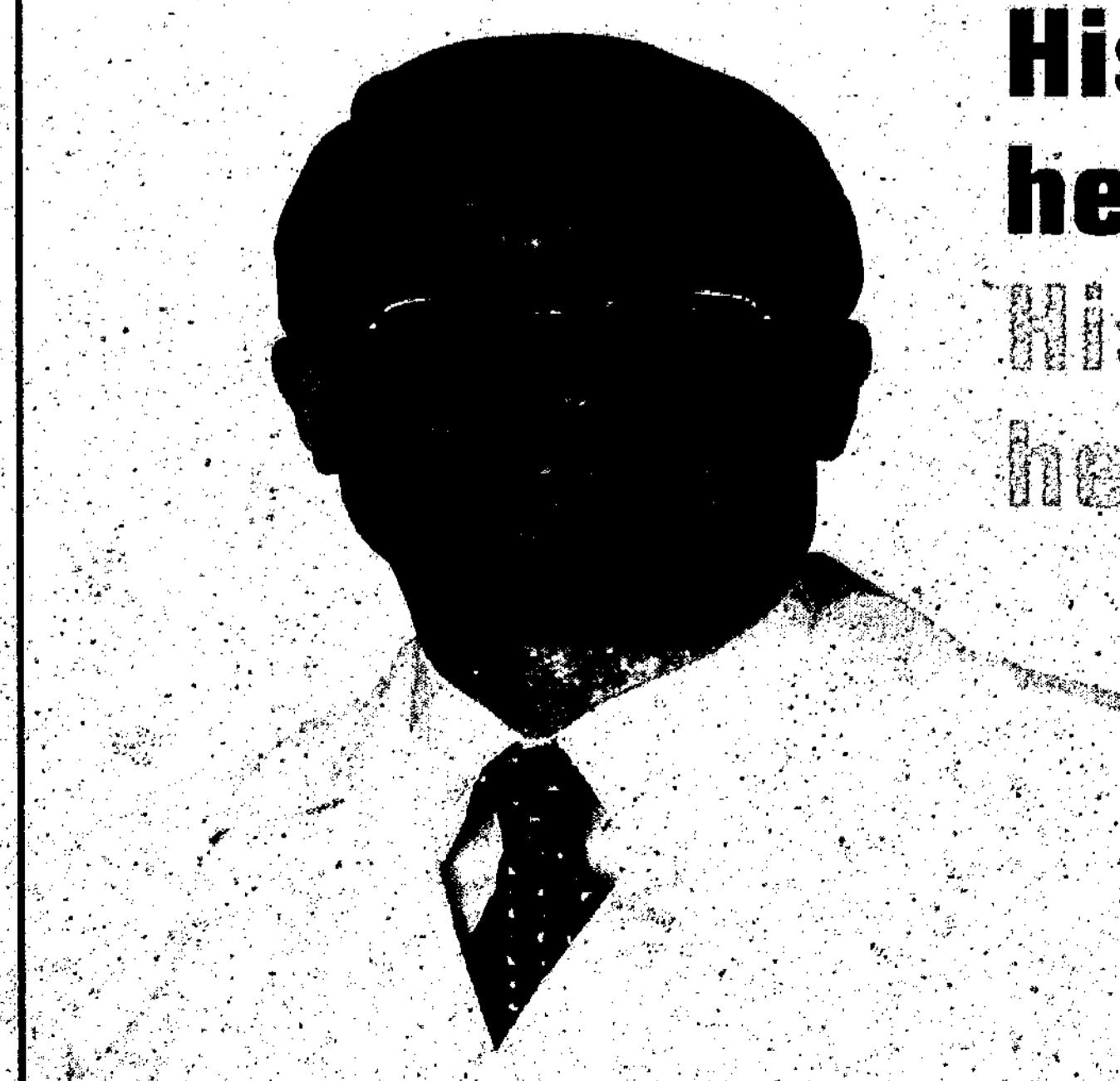
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JUB MEETING

Lack of pollution source points defeats water quality trading program

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Plenty of phosphorus is bleeding into the Ruidoso River, but if sources aren't pinpointed, eliminating those contaminants can't be used in a water quality trading program to benefit Ruidoso's regional wastewater treatment plant.

That was the conclusion reached in a report prepared by the staff of Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting Ltd. The document was reviewed last week by members of the Joint Use Board composed of representatives from the county, the village and the city of Ruidoso Downs, which co-owns the plant with Ruidoso.

"They were looking at controllable human-caused sources and point sources," explained Board Member John Waters, Ruidoso Downs' city manager. "There are tons and tons of non-point sources up and down the river. Current ability to control or even evaluate which source does how much is very difficult."

A disappointed Ruidoso Mayor Leon Eggleston, JUB chairman, said the village authorized the study in the hope that a water trading program could be arranged with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and state Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau to offset a portion of the strict discharge standards. Total

Maximum Daily Load, imposed through the plant's operating permit.

"There's not much we can do except accept (the report)," he said.

In the executive summary, the consultants wrote that the treatment plant is the primary phosphorus discharge in the watershed, that the village plans

to replace it with a modern plant using biological treatments and to increase capacity.

"The wastewater treatment plant is interested in trading to meet its phosphorus limit of 0.1 milligrams per liter in lieu of installing an additional \$5 million chemical treatment module," they wrote. The potential cost of the required plant upgrades is estimated at about \$35 million.

"After installing the Phase I plant, to meet the TMDL target, Ruidoso will need to reduce its load by 19 pounds a day. The total currently estimated potential supply in the watershed from other known, controllable anthropogenic (human-caused) sources is less than 1 pound per day. Because there is not sufficient supply to meet the waste-

water treatment plant demand, trading opportunities for the plant appear to be significantly constrained."

In a related issue, JUB members considered reducing from 18 the number of sites monitored for water quality along the Ruidoso River.

Deputy Village Manager

Cleatus Richards said that retaining five to seven sites would drop the \$90,000 cost by two-thirds. Eddie Livingston began monitoring about 2 1/2 years ago. Readings would have to continue above and below the plant and further downstream. "We continue to be accused of contaminating downstream and I think readings at the plant and downstream will show what contributions are taking place in that stretch," he said.

Eggleston said maybe enough monitoring already has occurred, but Waters said most studies require five to 10 years of data to be taken seriously. He suggested Ruidoso apply for a water-related environmental grant and find other sources to help pay for the monitoring, but

not to drop it. He offered to bring Village Manager Lorri McKnight the grant application papers.

An application could be submitted within one month and the granting agency would take another 45 days to decide if money would be awarded, he said, adding, "You can apply any time throughout the year."

Attorney Dan Bryant, who represents Ruidoso Downs and

the JUB, said the board must retain some way of ensuring that entities comply with limits on phosphorus discharge if ordinances are approved by each community. He specifically cited golf courses, agricultural businesses and the race track.

But an even bigger impact may be phosphorus in ash from forest fires that seeps down to the river, Bryant said.

With no moisture for 100 days, if a fire occurs, it seems the thing we really want to know is the effect on the stream system, he said.

The two municipalities must preserve the ability to put in sites to monitor access from a fire area to the stream. I know we want to put every nickel into the plant design and construction, but we don't want to bloody our nose on that, he said.

Livingston's new round of testing will run from Jan. 22-24, Richards said.

MOON MOUNTAIN

Land swap opponents in Santa Fe

■ Over 1,000 signatures collected on petition

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Opponents of a proposed swap of state trust land on Moon Mountain are scheduled to meet today in Santa Fe with members of the Land Trust Advisory Board.

They will bring with them petitions bearing the signatures of 1,035 local residents, plus some visitors who also wanted their opposition heard, said Mari Kay Nanz.

Attending the Santa Fe session of the board that advises Public Land Commissioner Patrick Lyons will be Ruidoso Village Councilor Ron Hardeman, who shepherded a resolution through the village council opposing development on the mountain, engineer and technical director of the Ruidoso River

Association Ben Mason, and Rev. Jim Smith, minister of First Christian Church.

The petition states that serious concerns surrounding the swap of 523 acres of state trust land in Lincoln County for 5,000 acres in McKinley County were tied to the potential for endangering the village's limited water supply, the loss of Moon Mountain's value as green space, a wildlife area and as part of the watershed, and the significant increase in traffic on and around the mountain top.

"Preserve the natural beauty of Moon Mountain that vitally contributes to the unique character of our resort community," the petition states.

Opponents of the swap, including Pat Swindler, also will submit a letter to the advisory board, pointing out that any private development that results from the exchange will

be on the shoulders of the community it will impact. Early coordination with local representatives of any project on the land is essential, they wrote. They reminded board members their decision now will have a major effect for years to come.

Lyons has pointed out that he is charged with generating money for the state's permanent fund, which in turn helps finance education in the state. According to his office, public schools received 83 percent of the distributions, or \$392 million, from that fund in Fiscal Year 2005. The total paid to all beneficiaries hit \$473 million, or \$92 million more than the previous year.

Swindler and Sandy Kipp said only three speakers, each limited to five minutes, were allowed to present the case against the swap for land owned by businessman Lionel Burns.

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Ruidoso Downs City Councilor Susan Garrett addresses County Commissioners on the future of the Downs ETZ.

ETZ

FROM PAGE 1A

any ETZs, so they wouldn't go through or even look at the document," she said.

County Attorney Alan Morel said the lack of a village attorney in Ruidoso slowed up the rewrite of the ordinance there, but with the selection Tuesday of Marc Prelo, that obstacle should be removed and things should start rolling.

Simpson told Garrett, "It looks like things are resolved with Ruidoso, so I assume we can continue on the path with Ruidoso Downs."

"So the authority needs to meet and come up with direction for you."

Garrett said by now county commissioners probably have

lost their copies of the draft ordinance and she will send duplicates for them to study.

"It's in the authority's hands to take care of it before it comes to you," Garrett said. "At this point it has been so long, I'll have to sit down and read it again myself."

Larry Mulligan, who served as vice chair of the ETZ working group, said the boundaries must be redrawn to reflect property annexed into the city in the interim and to extend the zone out one mile.

Morel said some could be shifted to city positions on the board, which is composed of equal representation from the county and the city, and one member appointed by the other members.

Garrison said Ruidoso Downs city councilors are drafting a zoning ordinance, which should fit well with the ETZ transition area.

"We have to start somewhere and we need an agreement to continue," she said.

"I guess it's up to us to start the ball rolling," Simpson agreed, adding that the meetings could begin in March, but not February because he will be out of the county.

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Agencies emphasize meth problem

Ruidoso Police Department. An inventory of items found in the car Stringfellow was driving, stopped at Gavilan Canyon Road near Lower Eagle Creek, included also a glass pipe, scales and a small supply of crack cocaine," Biggs said.

Citing a growing problem with the use and distribution of methamphetamines in Lincoln County, as in southeastern New Mexico, local law enforcement agencies are working together with greater frequency and focus.

On Jan. 11, agents with the Lincoln County Narcotics Enforcement Unit, deputies with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and a canine handler with the Ruidoso Downs Police Department were involved in a drug bust involving more than 10 ounces of methamphetamines and some \$10,000 in U.S. currency.

Arrested in the incident, on charges of possession of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute, and possession of drug paraphernalia, was Heidi Stringfellow, 30, of Ruidoso Downs, reported Jim Biggs, a detective with the

Ruidoso Police Department.

An inventory of items found in the car Stringfellow was driving, stopped at Gavilan Canyon Road near Lower Eagle Creek, included also a glass pipe, scales and a small supply of crack cocaine," Biggs said.

"Incidents such as these are growing less unusual over time. We probably take in as much or more methamphetamines as marijuana. As a result, there are always ongoing investigations."

Biggs said the problem of methamphetamines is particularly bad in the Western states as it has become easier to make and sell methamphetamines here than to get them across the border.

"The problem is destroying the fabric of morality in the U.S.," he said.

Stringfellow is currently being held at the Lincoln County Detention Center on a \$20,000 cash only bond.

Area scene

In a similar bust taking place last Wednesday, officers with the Pecos Valley Drug

"The problem is destroying the fabric of morality in the U.S."

Jim Biggs
Detective, RPD

Task Force, Chaves County Metro Narcotics Task Force, Lea County Drug Task Force, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI confiscated \$4,464 in U.S. currency, a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun, 7 mm bolt action rifle, and various drug paraphernalia. Three suspects were arrested in the incident with additional arrests pending.

Pablo S. Ramirez, 37, of Artesia, was charged Jan. 11, with conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamines. Also arrested in the bust were Eleuterio Lopez, 45, of Dexter, and Patricia Stroud, 22, of Artesia.

All three suspects were charged in federal court and will be appearing before Federal Magistrate Judge Kea Riggs in Roswell.

Discuss the Issues with Mayoral Candidate **L. RAY NUNLEY**

Join L. Ray Nunley Thursday, January 19th from 7:00 - 9:00 AM at The Roastery, 113 Rio Street, for a cup of coffee and some informal discussion about the future of Ruidoso.

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POOP SCOOP

BY DIANNE STALLINGS,
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

She was different, my Arizona Moonshine.

A white cat with deep green eyes, she actually would walk on a leash and wasn't a bad traveler when I had to take trips where I could not leave her at home with a pet sitter.

But that type of adaptability in a cat isn't the norm. In "The Complete Guide to Cat Care," assembled by the Humane Society of the United States, the authors take a look at options.

They ask owners to decide if a trip really is necessary for the cat, especially if it involves air travel. Cats, they observe, "find change, disruption and alteration of their accustomed schedules stressful and disorienting."

Years ago, finding hotels and motels that would accept cats also was a problem. Today, many places designate some rooms for guests traveling with pets. However, they still are not allowed on public buses and on trains.

HSUS officials recommend leaving your cat home and hiring

a pet sitter, neighbor or family member to check on it twice a day, feed, water and clean litter. For short absences, the system usually works well, they write.

If the person is not personally known by you, be careful and check credentials. You need someone qualified, bonded, with references and trustworthy. The person also must be willing to care for the cat if your return is delayed.

HSUS officials said a good sitter not only feeds and waters a cat, the person should spend some quality time with the animal, petting and playing. If veterinary attention is needed, the person should have all the information needed to contact your veterinarian and be willing to take the animal to an appointment.

A backup person also should be arranged in case of illness, car problems or bad weather.

Some pet sitters also offer to pick up mail, bring in newspapers and water plants as additional services.

The next choice of HSUS officials is to board the cat, especially

for extended times away from home. In Lincoln County, cat owners are lucky because several pet boarding business operate here.

Bonita Pet Care and Kara's Kritters both are located on Carrizozo Canyon Road in Ruidoso and are listed in the Yellow Pages. Other are situated in Capitan and on U.S. 70 east of Ruidoso Downs.

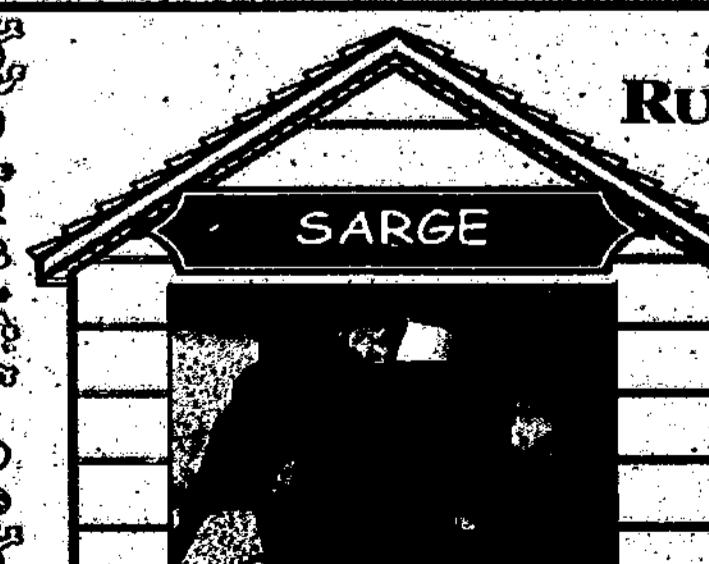
Bonito offers a separate room for cats with large kitty condos to ensure they never interact with the dogs. Proof of current vaccination is required.

At Kara's, all cats are provided with cubby holes for privacy and cat trees to sun themselves and play.

Thundering Paws Pet Resort on Lone Mesa Court off Airport Road is listed in the white pages. It offers eight cat condos, all two-story with a window where the felines can look at the Spencer Theater.

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

Mescalero Apache Tribe enacts fire restrictions

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

High fire danger conditions prompted the Mescalero Apache Tribe to enact fire restrictions on the Reservation next to Ruidoso, including requiring spark arrestors on all motorized equipment operated there.

Other rules include:

- No outside fires or open flames of any kind will be allowed for cooking, warming or any other purpose at any time unless specifically permitted by Mescalero Apache Fire Rescue. Permits must be in possession of the permittee at all times during burning activities. They

may be obtained from 8 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. Monday through Friday at the Mescalero Apache Fire Rescue business district office.

- Fires in wood burning stoves or chimneys are not permitted on Red Flag days when winds exceed 20 mph. All chimneys and flues must be equipped with approved spark arrestors.

- Travel throughout the reservation will be restricted for all non-tribal members. They must stay on U.S. 70, State Road 244 and Route 4. No stopping or parking along roadways is permitted.

- Smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building is prohibited.

- Forest related contract work, which includes the use of chainsaws, feller bunchers, skidding activities (rubber tired), road building equipment, delimiters and loaders, will be restricted to the hours of 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. The work will be shut down during red flag conditions.

- The use of firearms, fireworks or other pyrotechnic device is banned at all times.

- Gas burning or electrical cooking and lighting devices that can be turned off with a switch or valve are permitted within residential areas or developed campgrounds, such as Silver Lake, Ruidoso Cabins and Eagle Creek.

- Campfires within these

campgrounds will be permitted from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m. the following morning and must occur within designated fire pits.

- Cooking fires or bonfires for ceremonial purposes are pre-authorized, if they are formally recognized by the Mescalero Apache Cultural Committee.

- Forest related contract work may exceed times listed if authorized by the officer in charge (the forest manager) and superintendent.

- Personnel exempt from the restrictions include federal and tribal employees, such as tribal resource managers and Bureau of Indian Affairs employees, while in the performance of their official duties.

Federal, state and county agencies react to fire danger

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Federal, state and county agencies enacted restrictions this week because of the lack of precipitation and outlook for dry weather ahead.

Lincoln County is under a "Fire Danger Emergency" for at least the next 30 days and U.S. Forest Service officials have asked for more money to bring seasonal firefighters normally hired in April back to work early.

County passes rules

County commissioners approved a resolution last week declaring an extreme fire danger emergency and banning "all burning of open flames, fires, campfires (except in designated areas), trash (except in appropriately approved incinerators), rubbish, shrubbery or other material of any kind, except by permit, and hereby bans the sale or use of display fireworks and the sale and use of missile-type rockets, helicopters, aerial spinners, stick-type rockets and ground audible devices within the affected unincorporated drought areas."

In addition, all fireworks not listed in this paragraph shall be limited to areas that are paved or barren or that have a readily accessible source of water for use by the homeowner or the general public." They noted that Fireplaces and "unquenched" ashes may present a significant hazard and use should be discouraged during this period of drought.

The resolution will remain in effect for 30 days or until rescinded by the commission.

State approves ban

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and officials with the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department said Monday went into effect on fireworks, smoking, campfire and open fires.

The ban covers non-municipal, non-federal and non-tribal lands in Chaves, Colfax, Curry, DeBaca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Harding, Lea, Lincoln, Mora, Quay, Roosevelt, San Miguel and Union Counties. This encompasses state and private lands outside municipal and tribal jurisdictions.

"Winter fire restrictions, even in New Mexico, are rare and show just how dangerous the situation is, especially in eastern New Mexico," Richardson said. "The extreme dry conditions have placed a large part of the state at risk, and we must take every precaution to prevent wildfires."

ENMRD Secretary Joanna Prukop and State Forester Arthur "Butch" Blazer signed an order for the restrictions due to prolonged low levels of precipitation, high winds and low humidity. Fuel moistures are at levels hazardous for burning and fire danger is high. The restrictions include:

- That smoking is allowed

only in designated areas, within structures and in vehicles equipped with ashtrays on paved or surfaced roads.

- That fireworks are prohibited in all state and private wildlands outside city or tribal jurisdictions. Wildland areas include lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, grass, grain or other flammable vegetation. Exceptions are allowed for fire department approved public exhibits.

- That are allowed only in developed campgrounds and areas designated in writing by the New Mexico State Parks Division or the landowner. For more information, contact park managers or visit www.nmparks.com.

- Open Burning is restricted, except for open burning on croplands that are irrigated. Persons conducting burns must notify the local fire department, monitor the burn at all times, secure the burn at the end of the day, and follow state air quality rules and local ordinances.

Abundant moisture over the past two years has lead to the rapid growth of grasses and other fine fuels that are now tinder dry and pose a high fire danger even during the winter," State Forester Blazer said. "These restrictions should alert people to be especially careful with fire. They are necessary to protect grassland, forests and watersheds from wildland fires."

Forest Service restricts

Stage I of fire restrictions will begin in the Lincoln National Forest Friday, according to officials with the U.S. Forest Service.

The restrictions prohibit the use of fires, campfires, charcoal grills, and other open flames outside of developed campgrounds. Gas stoves are permitted.

The restrictions also prohibit smoking except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that

is barren or cleared of all flammable material. As always, the use of fireworks is prohibited on National Forest System lands.

"This unusual weather is moving fire danger into the High/Very High range," said Forest Fire Management Officer Paul Schmidtke.

"We have not had any measurable precipitation in southeastern New Mexico in several months. In the past two years, we've had good monsoonal moisture which helped increase grass on the forest floor. That grass is now tinder dry, and the recent warm temperatures and dry winds can cause that fuel to burn very rapidly."

The long-term outlook is for continued above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation through March. Forest Service officials are urging people to use caution this winter. Smoking, dumping ash from woodstoves, and burning debris are all prime candidates for starting fires, especially on the windy days that occur this time of year.

State of the State stresses wages

WALTER RUBEL
wruble@clayton-news.com

SANTA FE — Gov. Bill Richardson called for an increase in the minimum wage to \$7.50 an hour, to be phased in during the next three years, in his State of the State Address on Tuesday.

In the annual address to legislators, Richardson laid out an aggressive agenda for the 30-day session that began Tuesday, calling on lawmakers to also improve schools, toughen laws for methamphetamine and sexual abuse of children and provide greater health insurance coverage for children age 5 and younger.

"Here today is an agenda of relentless action," Richardson said.

The governor also reversed his earlier position and said he would support a repeal of the bed tax passed in 2003.

Richardson's proposed hike in the minimum wage differs from a plan by advocates to increase the state's minimum wage to \$7.50 immediately.

Under the governor's plan, the minimum wage would increase to \$6.50 an hour in 2007, \$7 in 2008 and \$7.50 in 2009. The current minimum wage mirrors the national minimum of \$5.15 an hour.

Richardson said the phase-in would allow businesses time to prepare for the increases.

Speaker of the House Ben Lujan, D-Santa Fe, said he disagreed with the phase-in and will proceed with a bill to raise the wage to \$7.50 immediately.

"If we are serious about providing a meaningful increase in the per-capita income, we need to do it as soon as possible," Lujan said.

Carter Bundy, a member of the group New Mexicans for a Fair Wage, which is advocating for the increase, said that phasing in the minimum wage will cost workers as inflation continues to increase.

Richardson's plan includes a

pre-emption clause that would prohibit cities from setting their own minimum wages. Santa Fe, which has passed a living wage law, would be grandfathered in and not impacted.

Both bills would keep the wage steady and not include indexing that would allow the wage to increase along with inflation.

Rep. Thomas Taylor, R-Farmington, said increasing the minimum wage would ratchet up wages for other workers, and force the state to increase eligibility requirements for social programs.

"I think if we're going to turn this into a high-wage state it's a redundant thing, because economies determine wages, not governments," Taylor said.

Richardson caught many lawmakers by surprise when he said he favored repeal of the bed tax. Just last week, he said he was including the tax in his proposed budget.

"It was a decision I made some time ago — today," Richardson said.

The tax, of nearly \$9 a night on nursing home and long-term beds, was passed in 2003 when the state was facing a shortfall in its Medicaid budget. A corresponding increase in the Medicaid reimbursement compensated nursing homes for the tax.

A tax credit was also passed for private payers not on Medicaid, but that credit was repealed last year when the federal government ruled that the credit was a violation. About 1,000 people not on Medicaid have been paying the tax without compensation since the credit was repealed.

"I believe that the bed tax is no longer needed. We needed it when Medicaid cuts were tough on us," Richardson said.

The announcement was greeted enthusiastically by Republican lawmakers who have opposed the tax since its inception.

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Meeting Times and Location

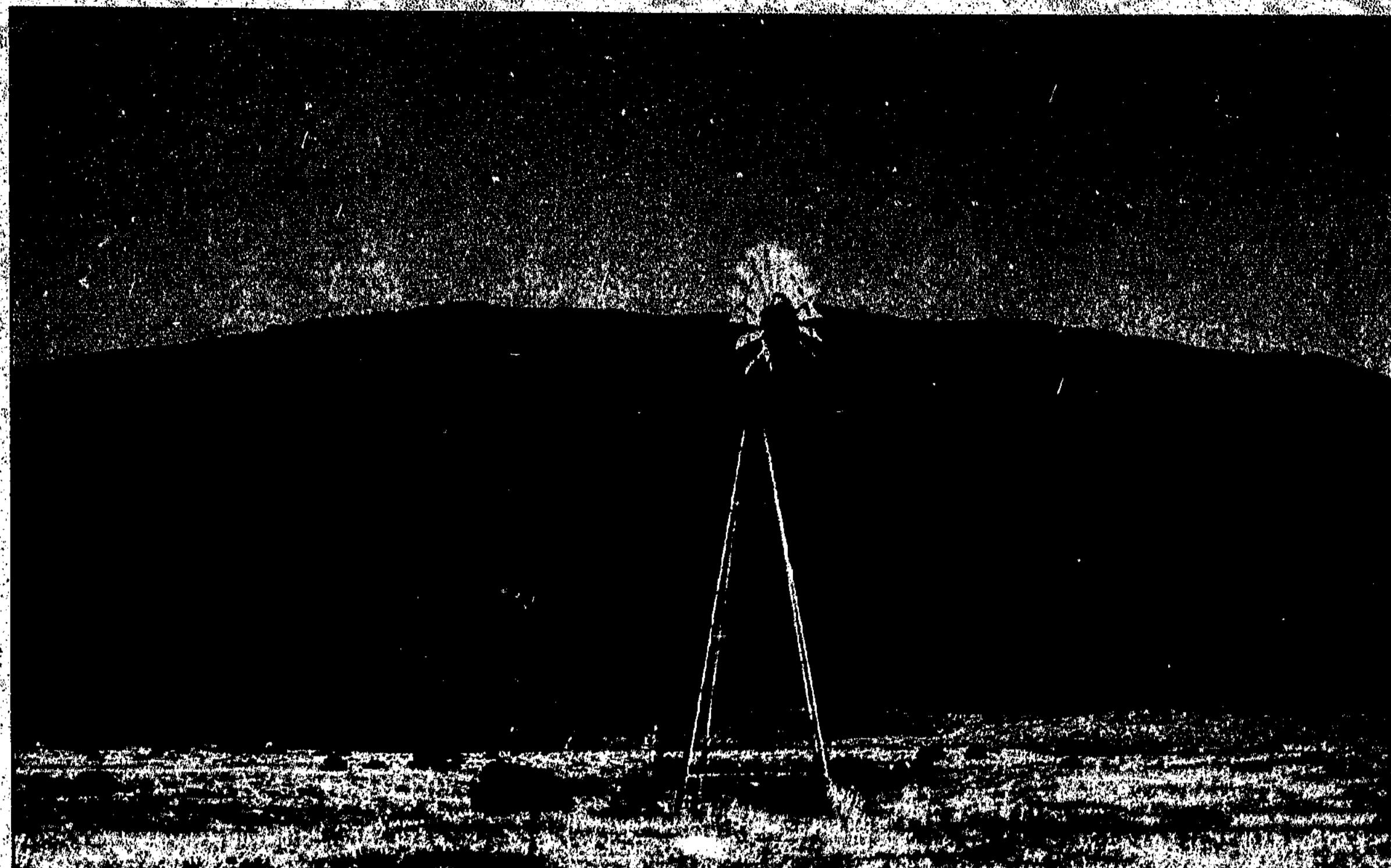
2nd and 4th Friday of every month, 10am
K-BOB'S Steakhouse
157 Highway 70
Ruidoso
Lunch will be served

A sales representative will be present with information and applications before and following each meeting. For accommodations of persons with special needs, please call 1-800-671-0070 or TDD for the Hearing Impaired 1-888-625-6429 Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. Presbyterian Insurance Company is a Medicare Advantage Organization which contracts with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Members must continue to pay Medicare premiums.

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• PHOTOS BY JULIE CARTER •

The sight of a lonely windmill, patiently turning to pump water for range animals, is a trademark of the West.

Sometimes called the "great lady of the plains," windmills played an important role in the lives of early settlers from the late 1800s to the time when electricity reached out to remote communities.

Comparatively, only a few windmills still dot the landscape today. Some are still working mills, pumping water for livestock. Many stand abandoned and in various stages of ruin; their skeletal remains presenting ghostly silhouettes against the horizon.

Collectors and windmill enthusiasts think there will be a comeback for the windmill. Giant turbo versions are spinning electricity in many parts of the state while the old versions, like those seen in these photos, stand as reminder of days long gone by.

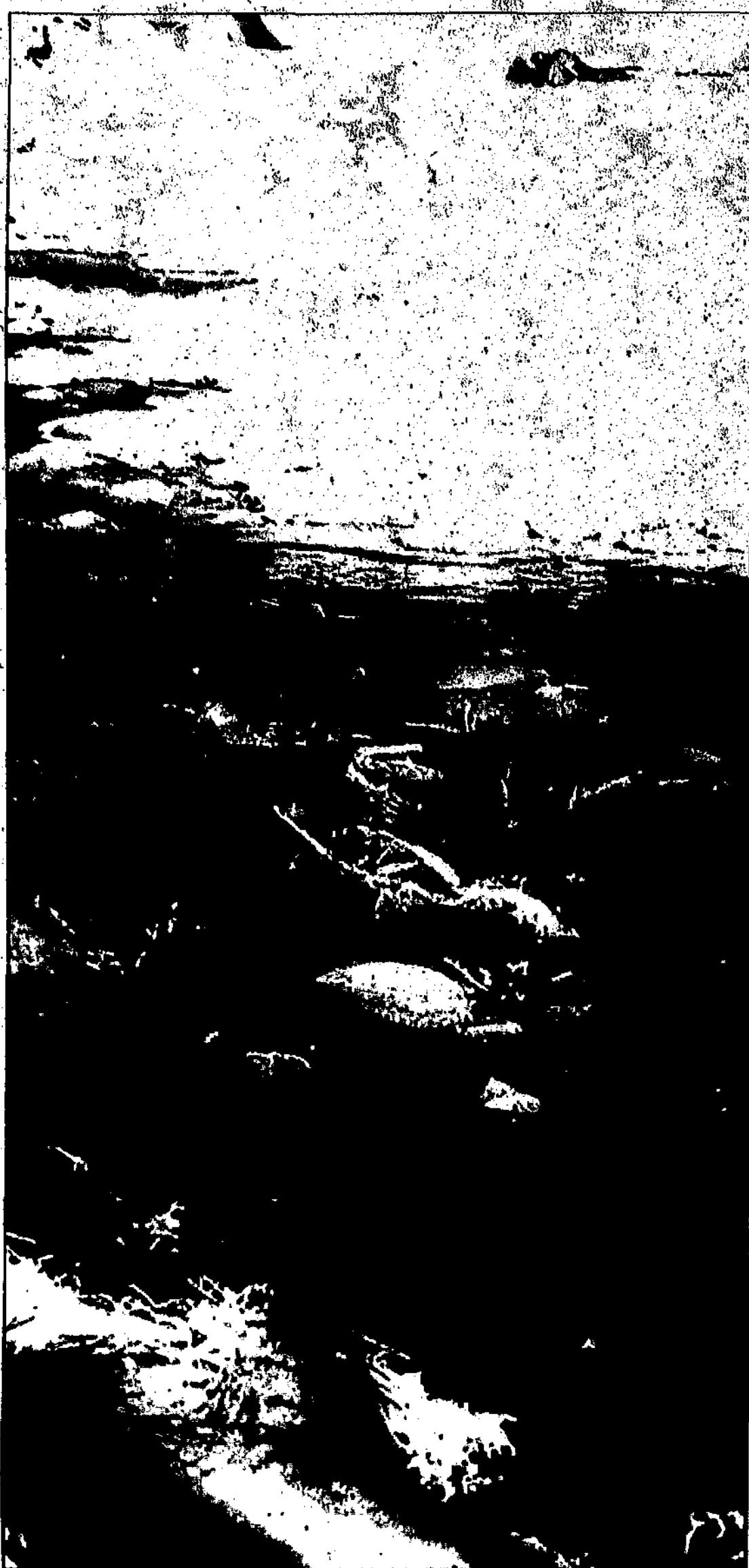
The wind is always out there, waiting to be used.

Note: All these mills are in Lincoln County can be seen from a paved State or U.S. Highway.

The Lady of the Plains



THE WEATHER IS JUST DUCKY



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

On the day after the first snowfall of the season Tuesday, ducks cavorted in the snow-banked Rio Ruidoso, left, while Old Baldy, towering over Midtown, sported a familiar winter cap.

SNOW

FROM PAGE 1A

Hondo Basin at 2,500 acre feet, or 34 percent of average.

The measurement occurs at the Hollywood station between the village and the city of Ruidoso Downs.

While October precipitation was 150 percent of average, about the same as 2004's 136 percent, November's figure dropped to 14 percent of average, down considerably from 2004's 164 percent.

December precipitation for the Hondo Basin came in at 3 percent of average, the lowest in the state.

Year-to-date precipitation is 52 percent of average, significantly lower than last year's 149 percent.

"There is no snowpack in the Rio Hondo Basin," Armijo wrote in the report released last week.

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M WALDROP FURNITURE TO SLASH PRICES DURING SPECIAL FACTORY AUTHORIZED EVENT

For two days only, Friday and Saturday, January 20th and 21st, M Waldrop Furniture is planning a Special Factory Authorized Sale. All Sealy / Stearns and Foster: 20% OFF! Selected Flexsteel and La-Z-Boy 15% to 50% OFF! Plus, "Yard Sale Prices" on a large selection of "one of a kinds", discontinued items!

Ruidoso / Alamogordo

M Waldrop Furniture, long recognized as one of the top dealers for La-Z-Boy because of their outstanding growth and customer service since 1997, will conduct a very special Public Sale featuring La-Z-Boy Furniture. Very special pricing incentives will be passed on to their loyal customers in Lincoln and Otero counties, as well as the entire surrounding area.

M Waldrop Furniture has accepted promotional discounts from La-Z-Boy and will pass on the extraordinary savings to their customers. Melissa and Rick Tafoya, owners, said. "We want the best La-Z-Boy values out there at the best prices for our customers." The people of southeastern New Mexico will see La-Z-Boy recliners from just \$274 and La-Z-Boy sofas from just \$477 while they last.

Kristine Hernandez, General Manager for M Waldrop Furniture, says "We intend to set a sales record for La-Z-Boy and Sealy this weekend. They have given us some terrific discounts... our customers will be the real winners! We just hope we can wait on everyone."

All customers may register (one entry per person) for a free recliner to be given away at the end of February. This Special Factory Authorized event positively ends on Saturday, January 21st, 2006.

Michelle Collins and Virginia Munoz, store designers, said "We have been in retail for quite a while now and have put on many sales events, but none like this one where the factory offers bona fide discounts that we can pass on to our customers."

This is a first come - first served event. For best selection, get here early because the best deals will go fast. Please no dealers!

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The sale dates are Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21 from 9:30 AM until 6 PM. This special sale event will take place at: M Waldrop Furniture 2167 W. Hwy 70, Ruidoso Downs.

* See store for details.

Grizzlies off to fast start, 'Zozo girls still have game-end jitters

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonews.com

The Carrizozo boys may be on a high after their first two wins in the young District 7-1A season, but coach Brad Holland knows he can't take anything for granted.

"District is still up for grabs this year," Holland said. "Anyone can still beat anyone else."

Carrizozo defeated Vaughn 63-46 Friday at home, then hit the road for a 55-45 victory over Mountainair.

The game against the Mustangs was particularly interesting, as the Grizzlies (7-6 overall) were down by six points at halftime before finally taking over in the second half.

"It was a tight game most of the way, and we were lucky to get out of there with the win," Holland said. "It was a real physical game, and that was their game plan because they were so much bigger than us."

Greg Vigil led his team with 17 points on the night, followed by Jeremy Zamora with 15 and Rory Zamora with 10. Adam Chavez was the top Mountainair player with 17 points.

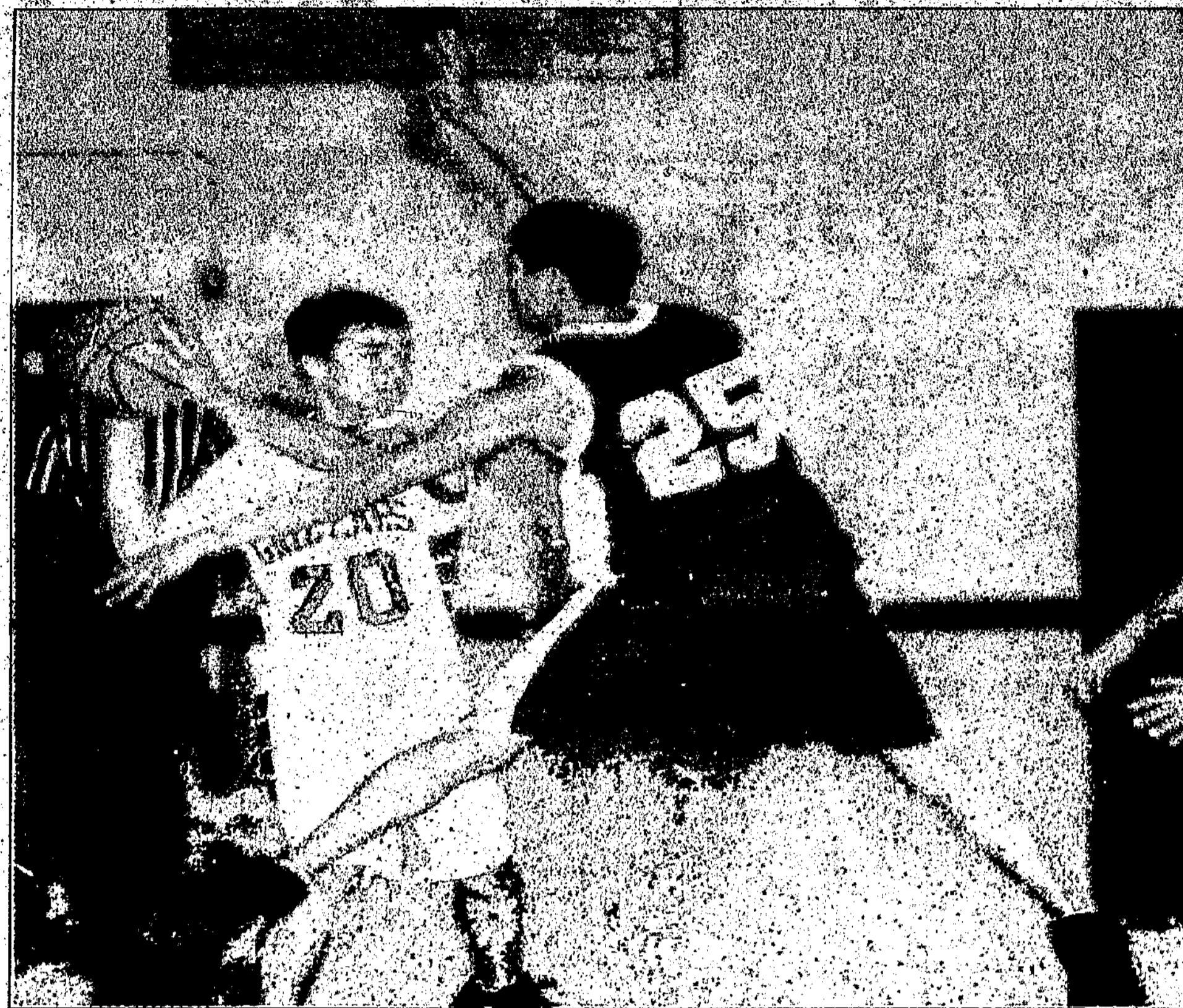
The Grizzlies did most of the damage at the free throw line, going to the charity stripe a whopping 53 times and putting in 34 shots.

Friday's game wasn't as much of a foul-fest. Carrizozo was just a better shooting team on the night.

Johnny Beltran was the top Grizzly in this one with 26 points, while Jeremy Zamora had 15 points and Greg Vigil 18.

Vaughn's Chris Matson led the way for his team with 17 points, while Richie Guerrero had 15.

Both games were somewhat of a challenge for Carrizozo, as the Grizzlies were without Robert Dutchover for the week-



JULIE CARTER/STAFF

Carrizozo Grizzly Rory Zamora, left, looks to pass the ball as Vaughn's Eddie Guerrero leaps to defend Friday during "Zozo's" District 7-1A victory at CHS.

end. But Holland said his absence opened things up for other players.

"We made some adjustments that were good for us," Holland said. "We got more playing time for everyone and everyone contributed and played hard."

Another last-minute loss

For the Carrizozo girls, there was no game on Friday, as Vaughn had to forfeit the game due to a lack of players. The Lady Eagles, already hampered

by small numbers, found it couldn't put a full team on the court due to three players laid low with the flu.

That meant the Lady Grizzlies were 1-0 in district heading into their game Saturday against Mountainair, and it looked like they could have used the playing time the day before.

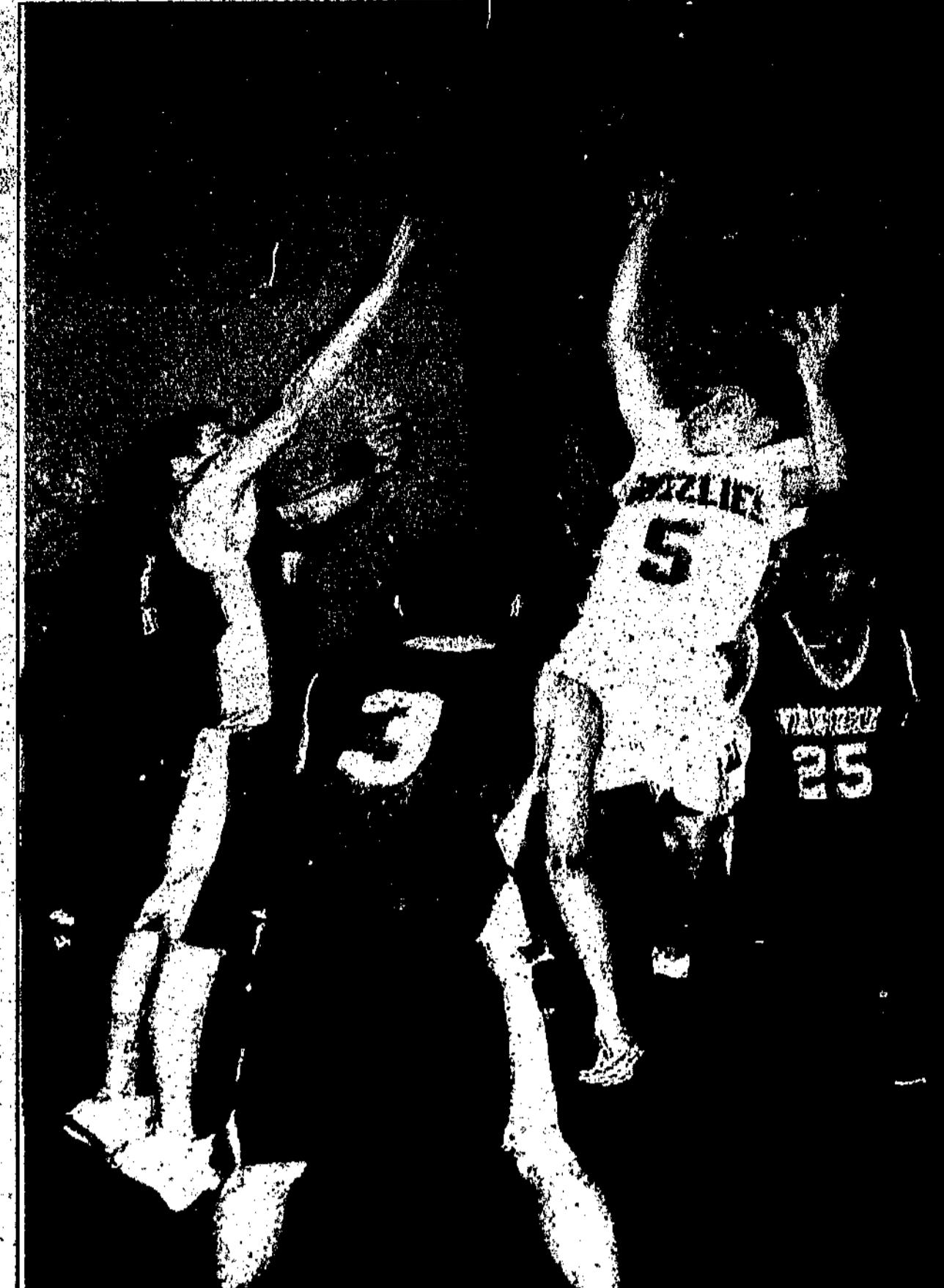
"It didn't go well for us at all," said Carrizozo coach Mandy Baca. "We were down 9-0 in the first three minutes. We were not

ready to play."

Carrizozo rebounded and had tied it up by the end of the first quarter, but a last minute collapse at the end of the game cost the Lady Grizzlies the victory, and Carrizozo went down in defeat, 47-44.

"We had a lead with two minutes left in the game, but then had some costly turnovers that really hurt us," Baca said. "We should have beat them, we just didn't get ourselves ready to go."

This was the second game



JULIE CARTER/STAFF

Carrizozo's Greg Vigil, center, puts up a shot between Vaughn defenders Chris Matson, far left, Richie Guerrero (3) and Eddie Guerrero Friday at Carrizozo.

Carrizozo (9-7, 1-1) had lost in the final minutes. The Lady Grizzlies also dropped a 48-43 decision to Mescalero the week before in similar fashion.

Both teams hosted Capitan on Tuesday, then return to district play Thursday and Friday with games against Corona and Hondo.

Both realize the district is still wide open, and Baca is hoping her team can pick things up.

"We should be able to beat everyone, but everyone could beat us, too," Baca said. "We could beat ourselves. That's what happened in these last two games. We got nervous at the end."

SPORTS



SEMI-WEEKLY
IN THE
RUIDOSO NEWS

BY TODD FUQUA

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GIRLS: Lady Warriors show much improvement against Socorro, win big against Cobre over the weekend



Ruidoso guard Tonee Montoya, far left, puts up a shot as Socorro's Tori Zamora defends Friday during Ruidoso's loss at RHS.

SOLID: Warriors use set offense to fly past Tigers

FROM PAGE 1B

fouls,

Four Tigers — Lambert, Chris Filosa, Alex Lassiter and R.J. St. Germain — eventually fouled out, and Hot Springs was left with no alternative than to play with only four men on the floor.

Of course, that didn't happen until the final minute of the game, and Page said it was important his team win this game.

"We'd better win the games we should," Page said. "Even if this wasn't a district game, it was an important one."

The Warriors had another important game on Tuesday at West Las Vegas and will be at Socorro this Saturday.

ing, keeping the Tigers from concentrating too much on defending inside. The pair scored 15 points each and combined with four three-pointers.

As this game was against a Class 3A opponent, with State tournament seeding implications, Page said it was important his team win this game.

"We'd better win the games we should," Page said. "Even if this wasn't a district game, it was an important one."

The Warriors had another important game on Tuesday at West Las Vegas and will be at Socorro this Saturday.

FROM PAGE 1B

enough.

"Audra's good, and you can't take that from them," said Ruidoso coach Becky Austin. "But last time we weren't competitive, and this time we were. Both teams were aggressive; we were just a little better to begin with."

"Switching our offense in the second half was a mistake," she admitted. "But I was proud of the girls. You won't hear any complaint from me."

Slow start

The Ruidoso girls played a rare Thursday night game against Cobre, a team that wasn't nearly as strong, but was still tied with the Lady Warriors at 14-all after the first quarter.

But an 8-0 run started innocently enough by a free throw from Amanda Gardner gave Ruidoso a lead it would not relinquish en route to a 53-38

LADY WARRIOR STATS

Thursday, Jan. 12
Ruidoso 53, Cobre 38

Cobre (38)
Sabrina Duran 0-0-0, Sara Villegas 2-0-4, Samantha Fletcher 2-0-4, Michelle Cisneros 0-2-6, Diane Ortega 0-1-0, Cecilia North 5-5-7, Robyn North 4-0-8, Kavilynn Aragon 1-2-4, Jade Luna 0-0-0, Antoinette Diaz 0-0-0
D. Totals: 14-9-18 38

Ruidoso (53)

Allison Rigsby 6-6-8 20, Lynette Woodward 2-3-5 7, Tonee Montoya 0-0-0, Kristen Miller 1-0-2 2, Amanda Gardner 0-1-2 1, Samantha Secatero 3-0-7, Angela Gardner 0-0-0, Amber Gardner 2-0-4, Haley Williams 3-0-6, Charli Largo 2-1-2 6, Rocío Badachó 0-0-0, Totals: 19-11-19 53.

Cobre 14 5 14 39
Ruidoso 14 13 10 16 53

3-point goals — Cob 1 (C.North), Rui 4 (Rigsby 2, Secatero, Largo). Fouled out — Cob (Fletcher). Rebounds — Cob 3 (Villegas 7). Rui 28 (Rigsby 8). Steals — Cob 2 (Durán, Fletcher), Rui 1 (Rigsby 2). Blocks — Cob 1 (C.North), Rui 1 (Rigsby). Turnovers — Cob 17 (Rui 17). Total fouls — Cob 17, Rui 19. Technical fouls — Rui (Coach Becky Austin).

Friday, Jan. 13
Socorro 66, Ruidoso 50

Socorro (66)
Stephanie Abeyta 5-2-5 14, Destri López 0-0-0, Tori Zamora 5-0-3 10, Audra Major 6-11-16 23, Ashley Pound 0-0-0, Stephanie Grego 0-0-0, Gabrielle Peralta 4-0-0 9, Carrie Reasnor 0-0-0, Marissa Vega 2-0-0 4, Ashley Mitchesson 0-0-0, Jelise Vega 2-2-2 6, Totals: 24-15-27 66.

Ruidoso (50)

Allison Rigsby 3-1-2 7, Lynette Woodward 0-1-4 1, Tonie Montoya 6-3-5, Kristen Miller 0-0-0, Amanda Gardner 1-1-2 3, Samantha Secatero 3-0-7, Angela Gardner 0-0-0, Amber Gardner 1-0-0 2, Haley Williams 1-3-4 5, Charli Largo 3-2-2 10, Rocío Badachó 0-0-0, Totals: 10-3-11 19 50.

Socorro 12 20 12 22 — 66

Ruidoso 11 18 10 16 — 50

3-point goals — Soc 3 (Abeyta 2, Peralta), Rui 3 (Largo 2, Secatero).

Fouled out — None Rebounds — Soc 35 (Major 13), Rui 18 (Rigsby 4). Steals — Soc 4 (Zamora, Peralta, Zamora, Abeyta), Rui 4 (Rigsby 2). Blocks — Soc 1 (M.Vega), Rui 1 (Ama.Gardner). Turnovers — Soc 18, Rui 17. Total fouls — Soc 17, Rui 19. Technical fouls — Rui (Coach Becky Austin).

pair of three-point goals. Cecilia North had 16 of the Lady Indians' 38 points.

WRESTLING: Re-conquering the Hondo

FROM PAGE 1B

lots of matches.

"The kids enjoyed it, too," he added. "Without any pressure, they were able to wrestle a lot better."

The Warriors will host a tournament of their own this Saturday when the Sierra Blanca Invitational hosts

many of the same teams seen at the Rio Hondo. The tournament is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. in the main gym at RHS.

"We got a lot of wrestling in at weights that haven't seen much competition this year," Brown said. "Godines, Brian Crow, Cipi, and other all got

NEW MEXICO

has provided striking scenery and a pleasant climate for many major films. Some of them are: The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez, Bait the Bullet, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Casey's Shadow, The Cheyenne Social Club, Chishum, City Slicker, The Cowboys, Four Faces West, Gas Food Lodging, Hang 'Em High, The Left-Handed Gun, Lonely are the Brave, Lonesome Dove, The Man from Laramie, Man Who Fell to Earth, Milagro Beanfield War, My Name Is Nobody, Outrageous Fortune, Pow-Pow Highway, Silverado, Twins, White Sands, Wyatt Earp, Young Guns, and Young Guns II.



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Mescalero girls defeat Dulce to prepare for district

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonews.com

With their first District 5-2A game against Lordsburg coming up, the Mescalero Lady Chiefs needed a solid win to build some momentum heading into that important first meeting.

Mescalero got it with a 64-50 decision over Dulce on Saturday. It was a win the Lady Chiefs got despite missing Kayla Randall due to illness and seeing post Shanelle Mariano sitting on the bench early with foul trouble.

"They were right with us until the third quarter," said Mescalero coach Roland Bradford. "That was when Kelly King-Morgan had three straight buckets that got

us going."

King-Morgan's quick output — she and Mariano ended up with seven points each — turned what had been a 24-17 Mescalero lead at the break into a 10-point lead at the end of the third frame.

While the Lady Chiefs (15-2) may not have been cruising, they were far enough ahead that they could breathe a bit easier.

Lataza Naiche was the top scorer for Mescalero with 17 points, while Yvette Martinez added 16 points and Rachelle John had nine.

This Saturday's game against Lordsburg will be a full week after the Dulce game, giving Bradford and the Lady Chiefs plenty of time to prepare. The only thing is, they're preparing for a team which

they know very little about.

"We haven't been able to see any of the other teams except maybe Tularosa," Bradford said. "We just have to play the games as they come up."

The Lady Chiefs may be the team to beat, something of an awkward position for Mescalero, which wasn't favored to do anything last year in its first year of Class 2A basketball.

But Mescalero surprised everyone with a second-place finish behind Tularosa, each time falling to the Lady Wildcats by very close margins.

"We haven't really thought that we're the team to beat," Bradford said. "We just have to play the games, then we'll see where we are in district."

Start of district play a mixed bag for Corona, Hondo

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonews.com

Depending on which coach you ask, the start of District 7-1A play was either long in coming, or could have waited just a few more weeks to begin.

The Hondo boys started the district season with a 69-49 win over Corona on Thursday, making Eagle coach Henry Lopez pretty happy.

"It was a real good game for us," Lopez said. "We did a lot of good things in that game."

As might be expected, Corona coach Travis Lightfoot wasn't as thrilled.

"I don't know where this came from, but in that particular game we had a tendency to stand around and watch them rebound and shoot," Lightfoot said. "It seemed like we were in slow motion."

Raymond Montano was the top Eagle, pouring in 37 points, while Rico Lopez had 12 points and Jesus Medina had 10.

For Corona, it was Frankie Sanchez putting in 13 points, while J.R. Shafer had 11 and Wayne Finley 10.

Each team had a non-district game on Friday, the Eagles (7-8) dropped their second game to the Ruidoso junior varsity, 70-

53, while Corona lost to Evangel Christian 50-44.

Despite the losses, both coaches felt their teams did well.

"We didn't win, but all the things we were doing incorrectly against Hondo we were doing right here," Lightfoot said of the Cardinals (1-9). "We actually had a lead with about two minutes left, then they called a time out to break our rhythm."

The time out worked, and Evangel was able to take the lead with some timely three-pointers.

Omar Martinez had 14 points for Corona, while Shafer

had 10 and Sanchez seven.

For Hondo, the Eagles were a bit more competitive than in their loss to the Warriors in Ruidoso.

Still, Hondo found it couldn't hold onto the ball in the end.

"We got careless there and had some defensive breakdowns we can't have," Lopez said. "Everybody scored for them."

Montano had 19 points to lead the Eagles, while Patrick Gonzales had 13 and Lawrence Gonzales 11.

Brand Franklin put in 19 points for the Warriors, while Ben Sanchez had 15 points and Cutter Pack 14.

Chiefs lose three at Dexter tourney

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonews.com

Even with a paucity of players to choose from, Mescalero boys basketball coach Ron Burton has done his best to get the most out of his players.

Case in point is the Chiefs' recent showing at the Dexter Invite over the weekend. Mescalero lost its first and last games of the tourney by big margins, but had a close game against Valley Christian in the middle.

Each time, Burton said his players never gave up.

"The only thing I can say about the kids is that they gave 100 percent and never quit," Burton said. "That's all I can ask of them."

Mescalero fell to tourney host Dexter on Thursday, 70-38, dropped a close one to Valley 46-43, then lost another big one to Hatch Valley in the seventh place game, 73-26.

The first and last games were similar simply because Dexter and Hatch each had similar advantages over the Chiefs.

"They both have a lot of height and horses inside," Burton said. "They would just bring the ball down and play alley-oop inside. There wasn't much we could do about that."

But on Friday, Mescalero looked as though it would have a win against Valley Christian, a team much closer to the Chiefs in height and ability.

"We played them a heck of a game," Burton said. "We had a chance to win the game in the last two minutes, but then had a couple of mental mistakes."

Mescalero (2-15) opens District 5-2A play at Lordsburg this Saturday, and Burton is facing the possibility of playing that game with only six players on the roster.

"They're not quitting. And bless their hearts, they're working as hard as they can," Burton said.

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PAGE 5B

Filming ghosts in Lincoln

This weekend was full of activities but we were unable to attend any of them. The Lincoln County 4-H Clubs held their award program at the Carrizozo School cafeteria, the Mountaintop Woodturners met and the Episcopal Church held their annual meeting. They all met Sunday afternoon.

The BBC Film Company of London, England and Scotland is filming sites of ghosts in Lincoln. They are being assisted by Southwest Ghost Hunters, Bob Carter, Albuquerque, and Cody Polston, Socorro. They spent some time at the Ellis Store and filmed at the Lincoln Courthouse on Monday.

The program is titled *Dead Famous*. It will be shown as a biography on the A&E channel in two or three months. The Ghosthunters have a website: www.sgha.net.

Carter and Polston have done research in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Texas and elsewhere. They are a busy group.

They were filming Saturday night at the Ellis Store when a camera, on its own, left the hand of the photographer and hit another team member. And, yes, I do believe in ghosts. In the house that burned, when I put the bed on the east wall, I could hear the Indians playing their drums.

And, I definitely believe in angels. I imagine a gentleman in Carrizozo will believe in them too after his experience. He was making sopapillas when he got the

grease too hot. When he put the sopapillas in the pan the grease caught fire. He threw out the pan, called the fire department and went outside to wait for the firemen to show up. When the fireman went into the house, the fire was out. It had been put out with dirt by an "angel". The only injury was a slight burn to the man's hand when he threw the pan outside.

Tom Rocheck of Delaware, who has done archeology studies in the Lincoln area, was through Lincoln one day last week. We were in Roswell and missed him. Jim Pendergrass and his son, David, Tulsa, Okla. visited their aunt, Rosina Locke last week.

The ball field/sports complex West of Capitan is really looking like it is going to be finished soon.

The new owners of the former LaRue property west of Lincoln have made additions. They have put in a new entrance and some corrals - all wood and poles.

It was trying to snow a little while ago. Maybe we will get some moisture soon. The country really needs it.

Eddie Davis is a talented craftsman/artist. He made a La Placita sign for Ralph of 2006 pennies. It is very unique.

He is in the process of making miniatures of the old buildings in Lincoln with lights, tiny figures, fences - the whole scene. He has one displayed in the Anderson-Freeman Museum. His present project is the McSween House.



LINCOLN
RAILS
ROSALIE DUNLAP

TOP SELLER



JULIE CARTER/STAFF

Lane Carter was the Carrizozo PFK top seller for the Readers Digest gift fund raiser. Pictured here with PFK President JLane Zamora, Carter received prizes and recognition for his accomplishments.

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JUST A TRIM



JULIE CARTER/STAFF

Shear Creations is officially open and taking appointments and walk-ins for a full menu of services offered. The new Carrizozo business was opened by Jessica Roper, owner and operator, on Jan. 10. It is located at 315 Birch St., and is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues.-Fri. and Saturday's upon request. Shear Creations is a full service salon for men and women offering hair styling and coloring, haircuts, perms. Waxing, manicures, pedicures and sculpted nails also are offered. For more information contact Roper at 648-2208. Roper is seen here trimming Gary Lovelace's hair.



JULIE CARTER/STAFF

Jennifer Shafer and Joel Ferguson won honors at the District 3 FFA Creed and Quiz Contest Jan. 11 in Estancia.

FFA competes in district contests

JULIE CARTER
jcarte@tularosa.net

Carrizozo FFA Greenhand and junior high members hit a high mark at the District 3 contest in Estancia on Jan. 11.

The contest kicked off a round of 2006 competitions that will qualify teams for state contests.

Ninth-grader Jennifer Shafer won first place in the Greenhand Creed Contest competing against 27 other Greenhand contestants.

Shafer will compete at the FFA State Convention in Las Cruces June 5-8.

Joel Ferguson, Carrizozo seventh-grader, won fourth place in the junior high Creed Contest division competing against 24 other contestants.

Ferguson will compete at the state junior high Creed Contest on Feb. 18 in Albuquerque.

Other competitors in the junior high creed contest were Marshal Wilson, Alexa Borowski, Tessa Hendricks, and Tanner Huston.

Quiz contest competitors from Carrizozo were Kylie Gaines, Stephen Najar, Troy Niederstadt, Katina Maldonado and Jenna Schartz.

The Carrizozo FFA advisor is Christopher Scott.

Cpitain FFA

Cpitain's FFA Quiz team placed second with Haley Montes, Sarah Rush, Jessie Price and Jared Black.

Others competing were Kallen Wilkerson, Ashley Pruett, Travis Berryhill, Bethany Sweat, JT Eldridge and Mathew Omness.

Junior high Creed Contest competitors from Capitan were Omness, Montes, Wilkerson, Pruett, and Sweat.

Also competing in the Creed Contest were Black, Rush, Eldridge, and Berryhill. Capitan High School FFA advisor is Todd Proctor.

Corona FFA

Corona's FFA Green-hands did not compete. Corona FFA advisor Tony Johnson said his three freshmen were not prepared well enough to compete at the time of the district contest.

District 3 FFA Schools

The eleven FFA District 3 schools are Los Lunas, Moriarty, Estancia, Belen, Socorro, Carrizozo, Capitan, Tularosa, Alamogordo, Corona and Mountairiar.

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POLICE BRIEFS

Unattended death

Kristina Swanner, 46, of Alto was pronounced dead at 3:15 p.m. Jan. 14, following a call placed to police concerning a "possible deceased female."

Upon arrival to the home on Marble Court Road, police found Swanner deceased, slumped behind the wheel of her car with the ignition key in "on" position. The woman's husband, who was called to the scene, said Swanner was being treated for depression and had been missing since the night before.

Swanner had a key to the vacation home as she worked for a local real estate company inspecting the work of cleaning crews. She was first found by the homeowners' five-year-old son, a police report shows.

Vehicle recovered

Ruidoso police recovered a vehicle reported stolen by police in Denver, Colo., in Ruidoso Jan. 14.

The vehicle was spotted parked and abandoned at 100 Lower Terrace Road with the keys in the ignition. The vehicle was impounded at the Ruidoso police station.

Man arrested

Michael Forte, 39, of Mescalero was arrested in Ruidoso Jan. 13 on charges of possession of marijuana, driving while under the influence of alcohol, driving with a revoked or suspended license, and for battery against a household member.

Forte was apprehended by police following a report of a domestic dispute taking place at the 400 block of Sudderth St. Forte, who left the scene, was picked up in a parking lot off of Sudderth Drive shortly after he pushed his girlfriend out of his moving car. An open can of beer was spotted in the console of Forte's car while Forte appeared intoxicated, a police report indicates.

During the booking process, police found a supply of marijuana in Forte's wallet folded into a \$1 bill.

Forte was transported to the Lincoln County Detention Center.

DWI affects three

Rosina M. Reynolds, 42, of Alto was arrested in Ruidoso Jan. 14 on charges of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Reynolds was arrested following an accident that occurred on Highway 48 near Gavilan Canyon Road where Reynolds is said to have crossed from her lane into the lane of oncoming traffic. A second vehicle, swerving to miss the car Reynolds was driving, stuck a third car in the same lane.



Crime Stoppers

The Ruidoso/Lincoln County Crime Stoppers initiative pays cash rewards for information that leads to the Magistrate Court bind over or grand jury indictment of individuals responsible for criminal activity.

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Phone lines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Governor unveils statewide 24-hour, toll-free suicide help line

ALBUQUERQUE — Governor Bill Richardson recently announced the creation of New Mexico's first toll-free, 24-hour suicide help line. This line is designed to support New Mexicans who need immediate help, especially teenagers, and is part of the Governor's "Year of the Child" agenda aimed at keeping children safe, healthy and well educated.

"I am committed to investing in resources that will enable New Mexico

teens to find help fast when they are in crisis," Richardson said when establishing the line. "Providing instant, easy access to mental health care is an essential component of making New Mexico a healthier place for our children."

Agora Crisis Center has operated an Albuquerque help line for 35 years with support from the University of New Mexico's student government and Psychology Department. With the more than \$200,000 of additional funding

from the New Mexico Department of Health, the Crisis Center has made this number toll-free and expanded it to 24 hours a day.

"By supporting the help line with Department of Health funding, we'll be able to reach more people who might not know such an incredible resource exists," said Health Secretary Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Gov. Richardson created a Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force that

developed recommendations for reducing the devastation caused by suicide in our communities. Expanding the help line was one of the task force's recommendations. Governor Richardson also supported almost \$500,000 in suicide prevention funding for the Department of Health during last legislative session, and he will do the same this year.

The Department of Health received a \$1.2 million federal grant in 2005 to establish a suicide prevention project.

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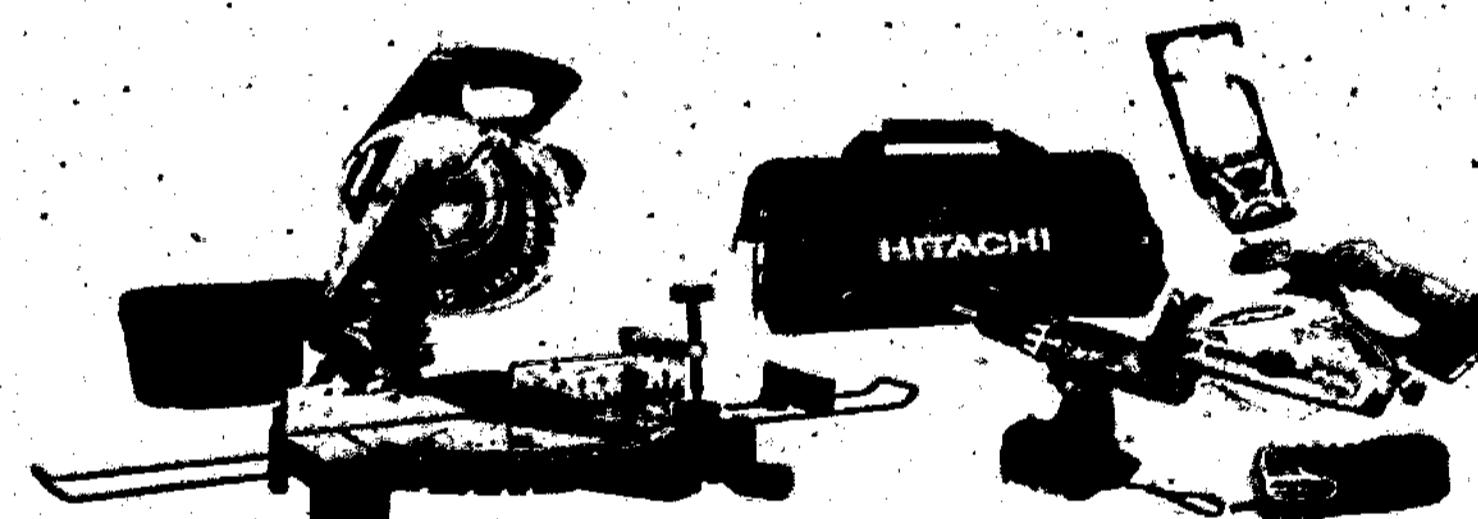
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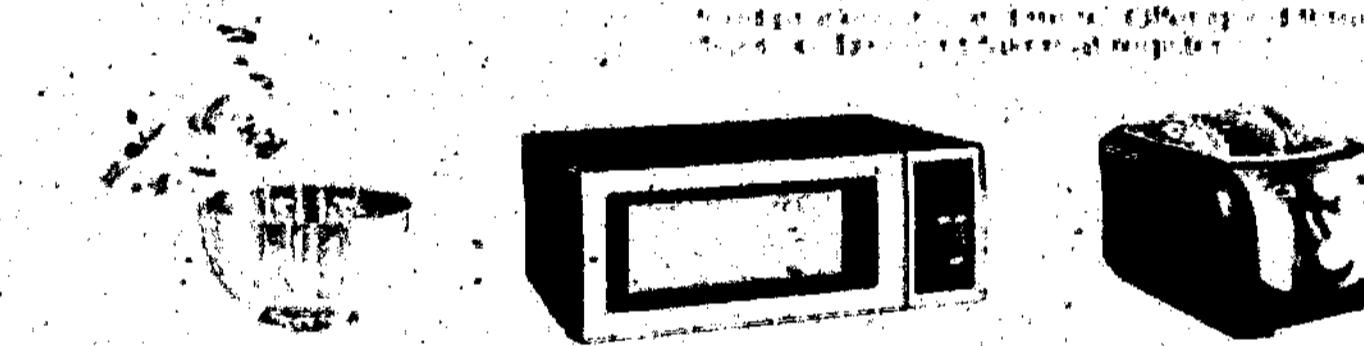
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FUNERALS DEATHS**Robert Dutchover Sr.**

Funeral services for Robert Dutchover Sr., 57, of Hondo were held Saturday, Jan. 14, at St. Jude's Catholic Church with burial at the Hondo Cemetery. Dutchover died Monday, Jan. 9, in Albuquerque.

He was born April 23, 1948, in Roswell and had lived in Lincoln County most of his life. He attended St. Jude's Catholic Church. He married Della Torrez on April 4, 2001, in Roswell.

Surviving family members include his wife, Della, of Hondo; a son, Robert Dutchover Jr., of Ruidoso; four daughters, Darla Baca of Tularosa, Sandra Samora of Carrizozo, Melissa Zamora of Carrizozo and Destiny Dutchover of Carrizozo; two brothers, Joey Dutchover of Roswell and Daryl Dutchover of Albuquerque; six sisters, Joanna Dutchover of Roswell, Inez Oliver of California, Geneva Dutchover of Saudi Arabia, Ruby Humo of Texas, Annie Salas of Albuquerque, and Nancy Dutchover of Roswell; two stepsons, Kevin Torrez of Dexter and Ervin Gutierrez of Roswell and a step-daughter, Erika Gutierrez of Roswell; and seven grandchildren.

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

Gerald Miller

Gerald Nelson Miller died on Nov. 30, 2005, at the age of 56. A graveside service will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Ruidoso with a no-host luncheon following at K-Bob's restaurant.

He was born in Carlsbad, N.M., on Nov. 11, 1949, the third son of V.A. and Edna Miller, longtime residents of Ruidoso. He graduated from Alamogordo High School in 1967 and attended Arizona State University and NMNM on truck scholarships.

He was preceded in death by his parents, V.A. and Edna Miller, and his son, Mike and Blaire.

Surviving family members include his daughter, Dorley Hart, and her husband, Walt; three grandsons, Ty, Draden and Wyatt all of San Angelo, Texas; his brother, Shelby F. Miller and his wife, Clare, of Alamogordo, and numerous nieces and nephews.

John C. Schuller

A memorial service for John Christopher Schuller, 91, will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at LaGrone Funeral Chapel, 341 Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso. Schuller died Jan. 13, 2006.

He had been a resident of Ruidoso since 1973. He and his family had been pioneer visitors to Ruidoso for more than 100 years. His parents were Dr. and Mrs. John C. Schuller, Sr., his brothers LeRoy Schuller and Dr. Brice Schuller.

In Ruidoso he was active in civic affairs, especially with water issues. In El Paso he was an executive with Lincoln National Life and served on the board of El Paso National Bank. He was a pilot for 30 years, a civic leader, and a 32nd Degree Mason.

Surviving family members include his wife of 67 years, Roberta Schuller, of the Mescalero Care Center. Of their four children, he is survived by a daughter, Chris Schuller Turner of Ruidoso.

Surviving family also includes grandchildren Amanda Burke of Atlanta, Ga., John Lewis of New York, N.Y., Roberta Beireis of Stephenville, Texas, and Kent Christopher Turner of Houston, Texas, as well as four great-grandchildren, five nieces, including Sandra Schuller Davidson of Ruidoso, two nephews, and son-in-law Dr. Frank Lewis of Ruidoso.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Humane Society of Ruidoso and the El Maida Shrine Burn Center.

Matt Wheeler

Memorial services for Matt "Mattdog" Wheeler, 21, of Ruidoso, were held Wednesday, Jan. 11, at LaGrone Funeral Chapel in Ruidoso. Wheeler died Jan. 6, 2006, in Ruidoso.

He was born July 29, 1984, in

Rapid City, S.D., and had lived in Ruidoso for five and a half years, moving here from Farmington. He was a Hot Shot for the U.S. Forest Service.

Surviving family members include his mother, Jean Wright of Ruidoso; father, David Wheeler of Rapid City; sister, Sarah "Sissy" Wheeler of Ruidoso; his brother, "Joshy" "J-Man" Wheeler of Ruidoso; and grandparents, Lucille Yates of Roswell and Marleen and Lowell Wheeler of Sioux Falls, S.D.



Wheeler

**Kamath-Neeley Wedding**

Dr. Maya Kamath and Dr. Roy Neeley of Cleveland, Ohio, were married Nov. 26 in Jacksonville, Fla. The ceremony was conducted

by Priest Pandit Kadambi Shrimathji.

The bride is the daughter of Vasant and Aruna Kamath of Jacksonville, Fla. The groom is the son of Melvin and Josephine Neely of Ruidoso.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Jamaica. They are making their home in Cleveland where Maya is in her third year of pediatrics residency at the University Hospital of Cleveland/Case Western Reserve University (UHC/CWRU). Roy is doing his residency in anesthesiology also at UHC/CWRU. Maya received her M.D. degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine in Miami, and Roy received his M.D. degree from the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa.

Aunts attending the wedding from New Mexico were: Pauline Nunez of Gallup, Patsy Salcido of Alamogordo, Lucia Vega of Carrizozo, Dannie Salcido of Roswell and Erina Garcia of La Luz.

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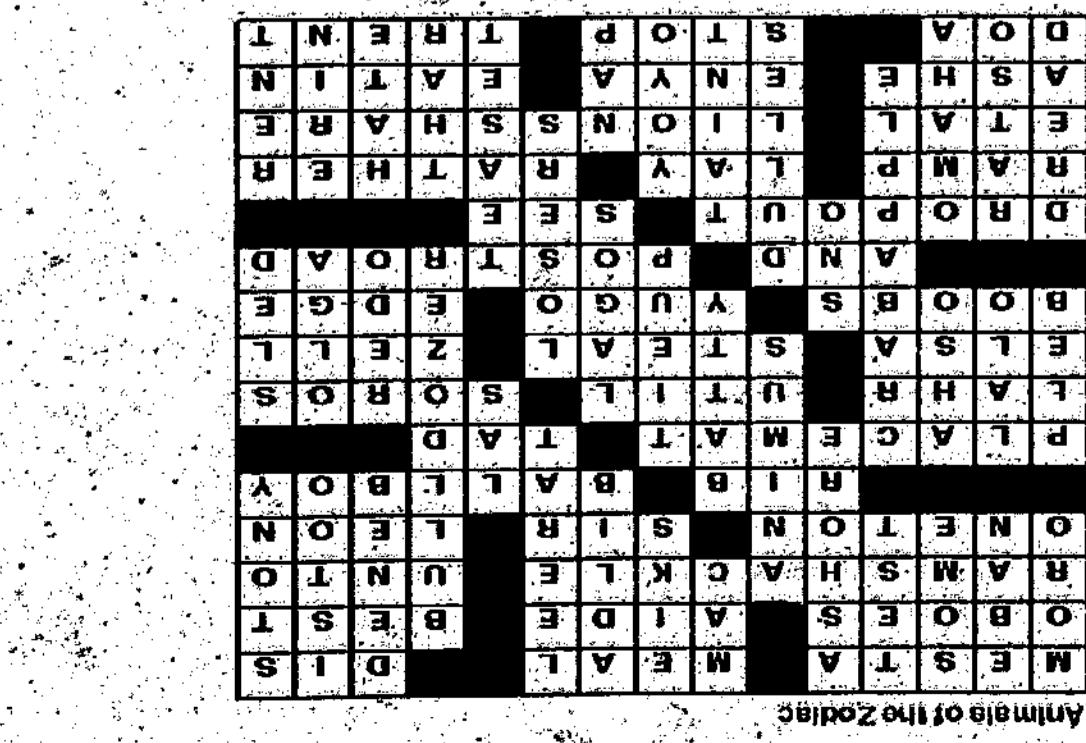
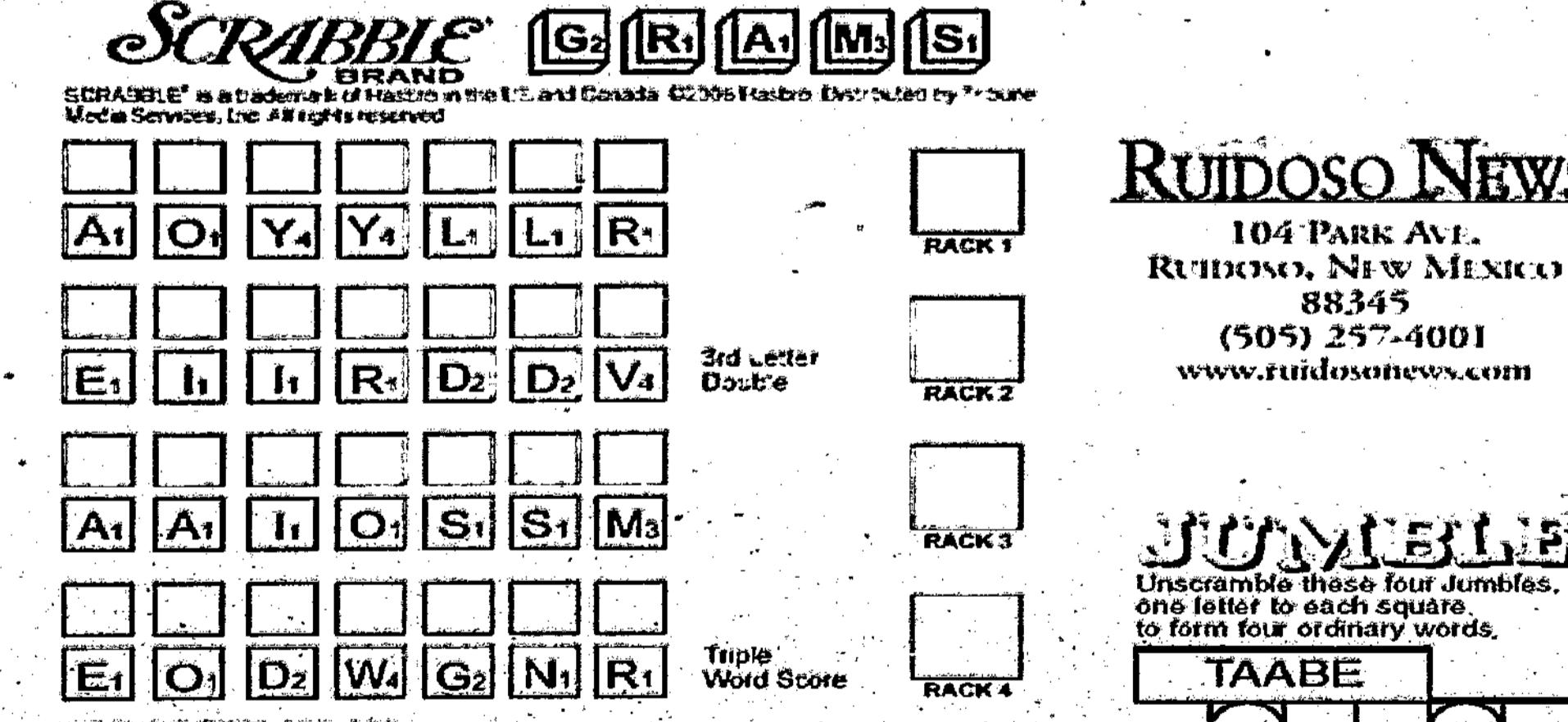
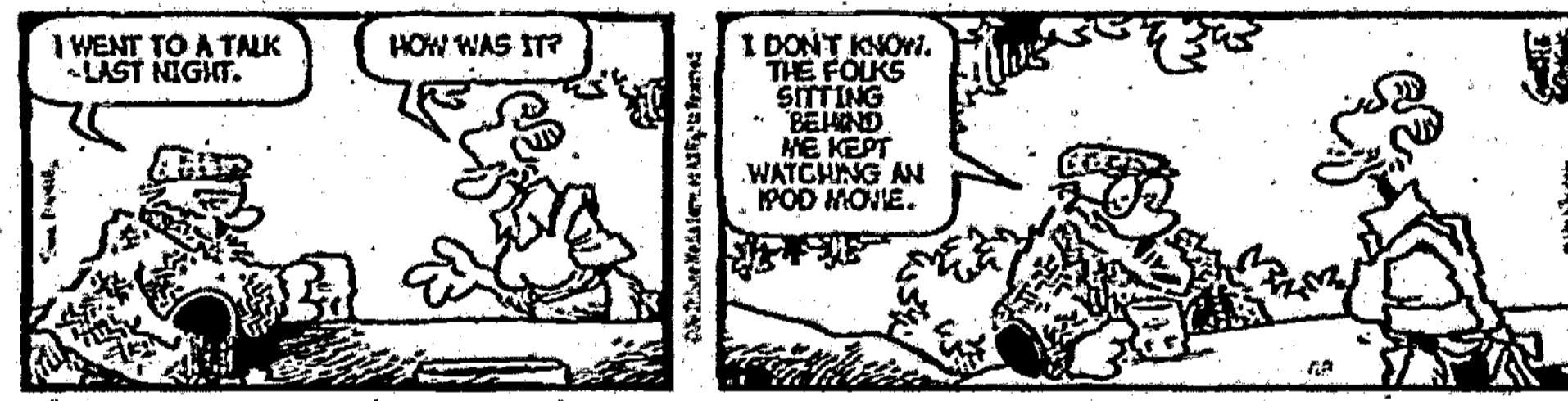
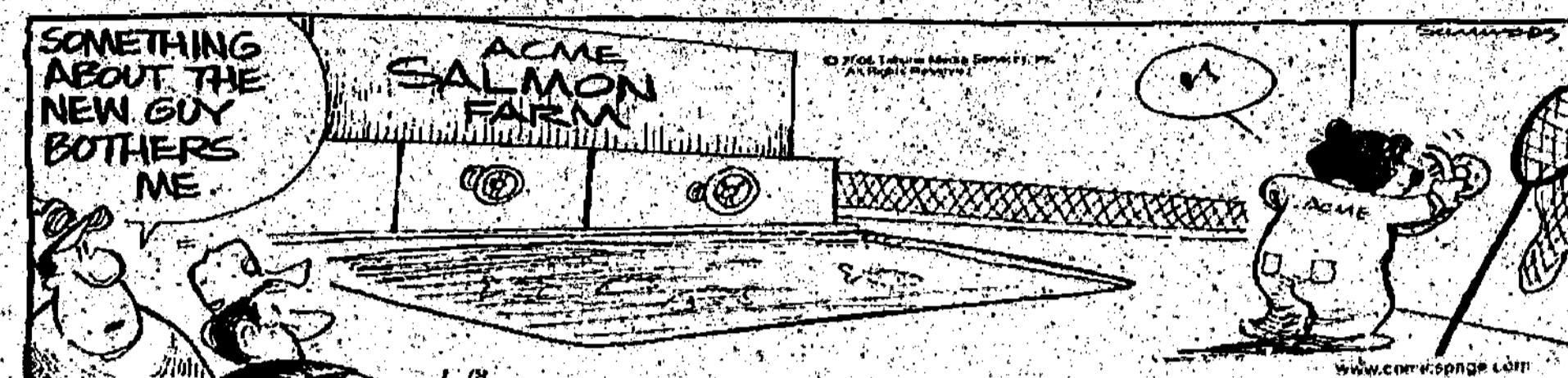
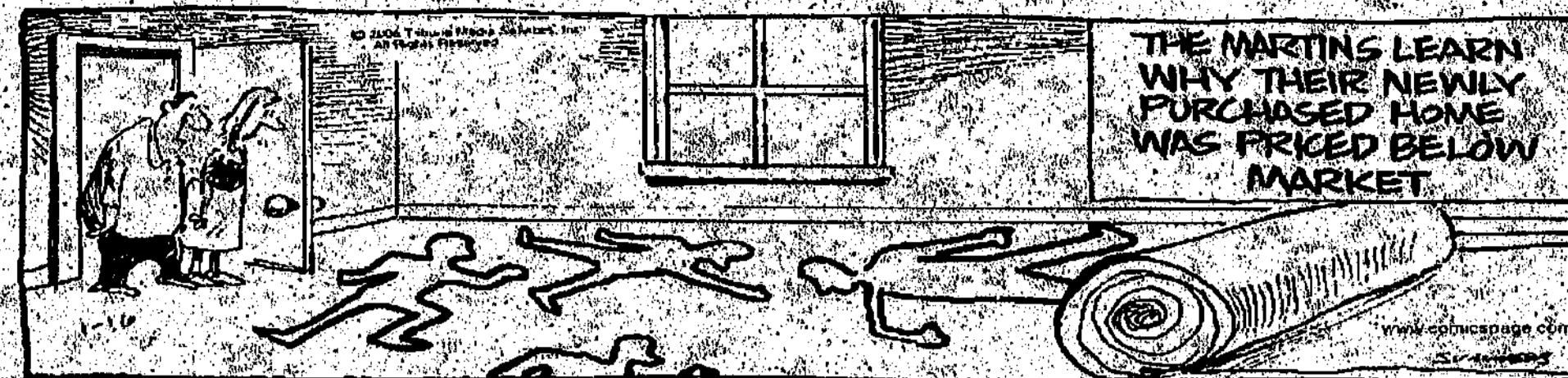
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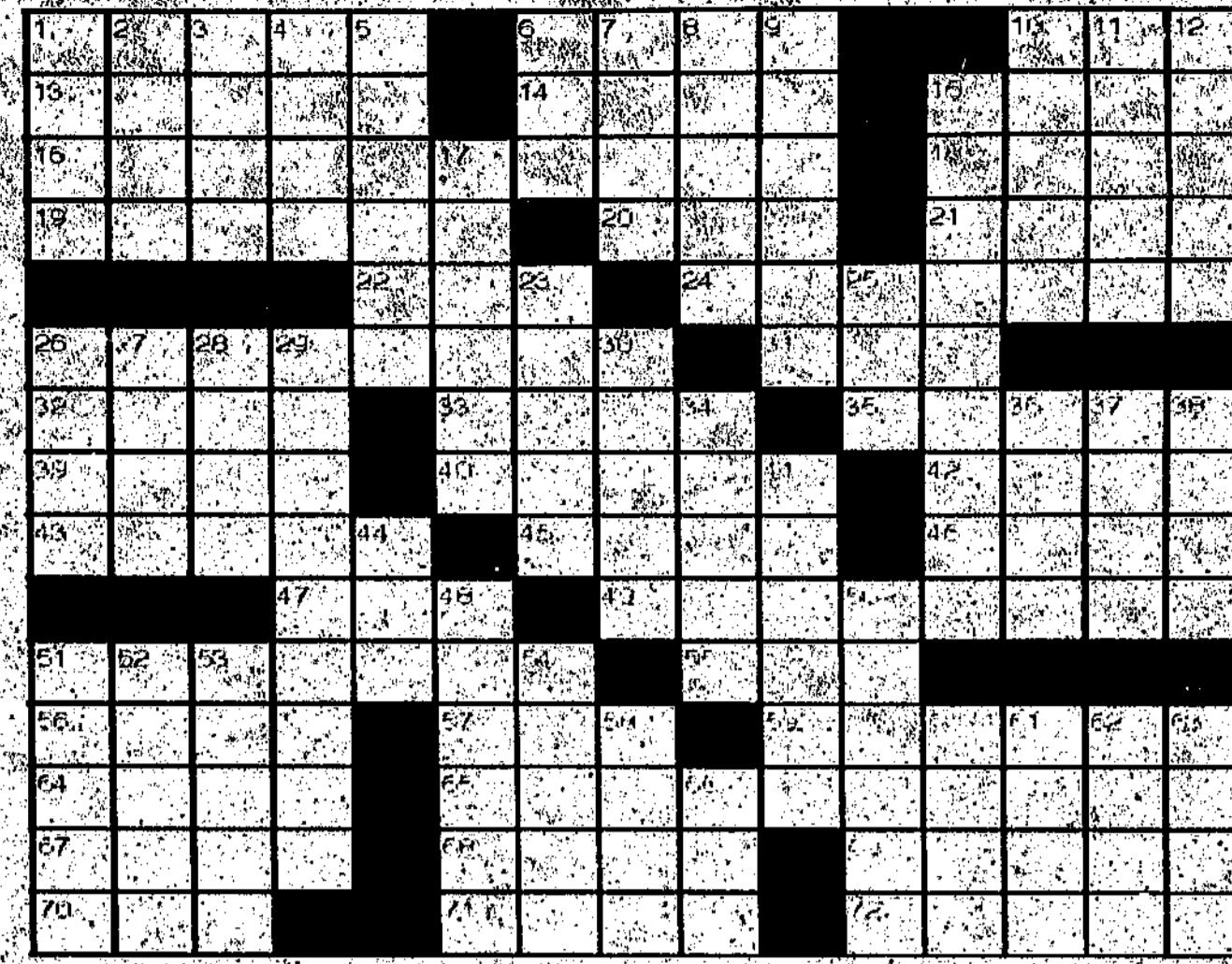
ACROSS

- Socialite Perle
- Brunch or lunch
- Put down, in slang
- Double reeds
- Right-hand man
- Oscar superlative
- Dilapidated
- Golden rule preposition
- About 907 kilos
- Title for Mick Jagger
- Singer Redbone
- Barbecue morsel
- Yankee Stadium gofer
- Dinner table protector
- Tiny amount
- Cowardly Lion player Bert
- Gas or electricity Abbr.
- Hungarian-born financier George "Born Free" Ilness
- Flip off
- Georgia politico Miller
- Nincompoops
- 1980s economy car flop
- Barely beat
- "What's more ..."
- Mail carrier's route once
- Quilt school
- Meet, as a bet
- Stadium walkway
- Produce hen fruit
- Newscaster Dan
- And others: Abbr.
- Biggest portion
- Arthur of the court
- Irish New Ager
- Dine at home
- stretch (serve time)
- Heed a red light
- Politico Lott

DOWN

- Philipine tribesman

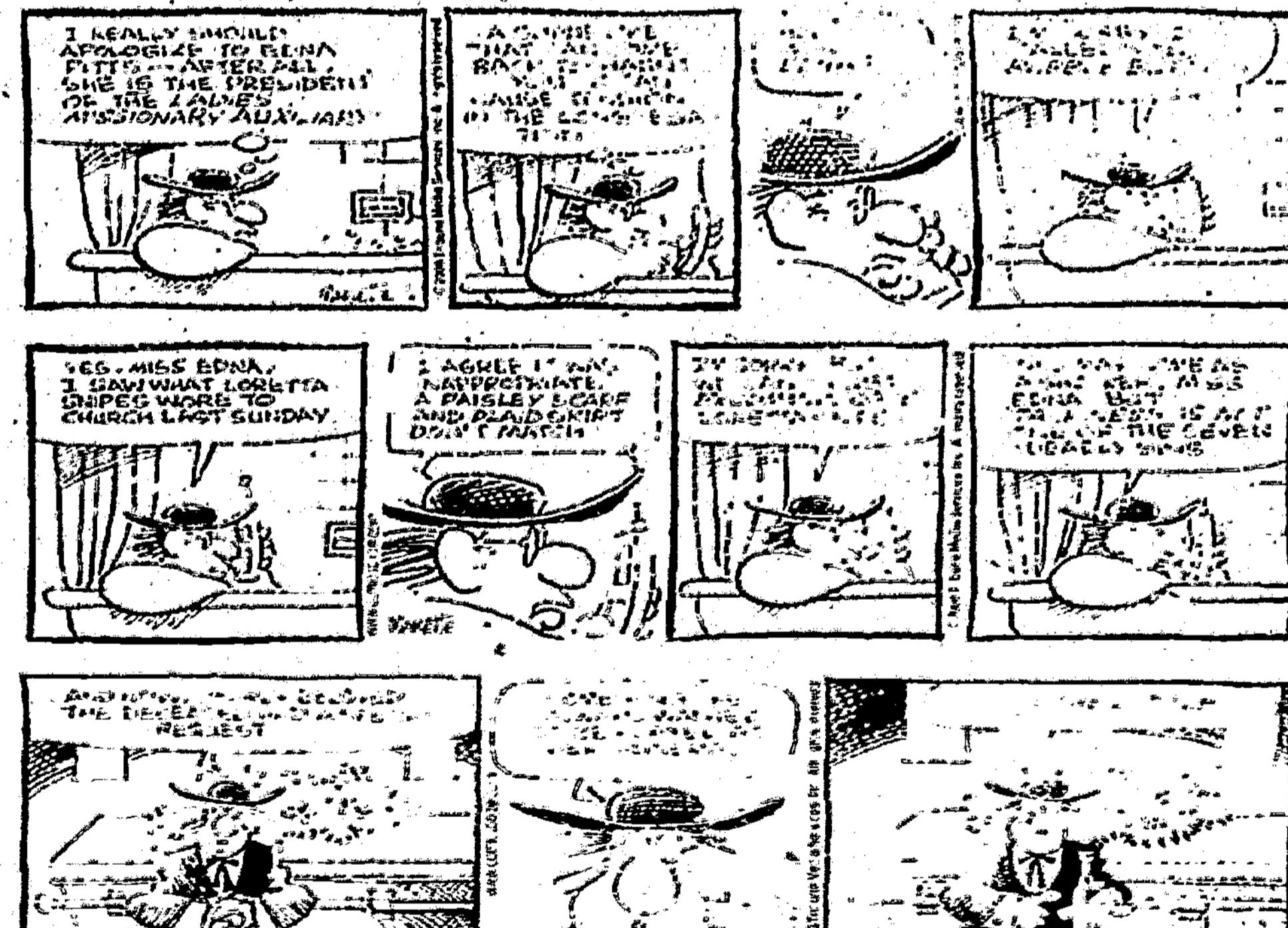
Animals of the Zodiac



American Profile Homeopath Creative

- Israel's Abba
- "You've got nerved!"
- Trial run
- Like a sailor on leave
- Rock's Fleetwood
- Apt. features, in ads
- Speak off the cuff
- Give the eye to
- Star in Cygnus
- "Life" short ..."
- Cold and unfeeling
- Earth-moving machine
- III will
- Bonkers
- Cruces, N. M.
- First-year cadet
- Composer Schirin
- "I see," facetiously
- Tart fruit
- Traffic problem
- Nigeria's largest city
- Change the decor of
- Gymnast Korbut
- Downhill conveyance
- Consolation prize recipients
- Cat (winter vehicle)
- D.C. airport
- Saucers, cups, creamer, etc
- Be fearful of
- Rizzo (1969 Hoffman role)
- Nebraska metropolis
- Make impure
- Toy with a string
- "she blows!"
- Can't stomach
- "go bragh"
- Monopoly payment
- Quick snooze

KUDZU



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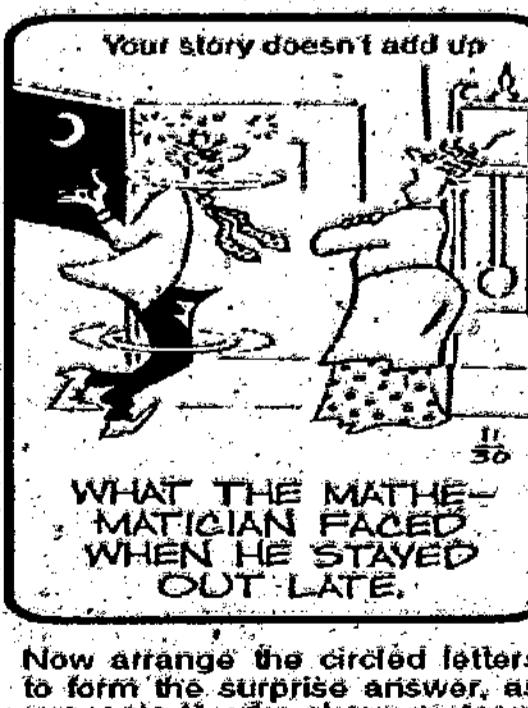
JUMBLE

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

TAABE			
ANBOT			
BEHREY			
FLEMSY			

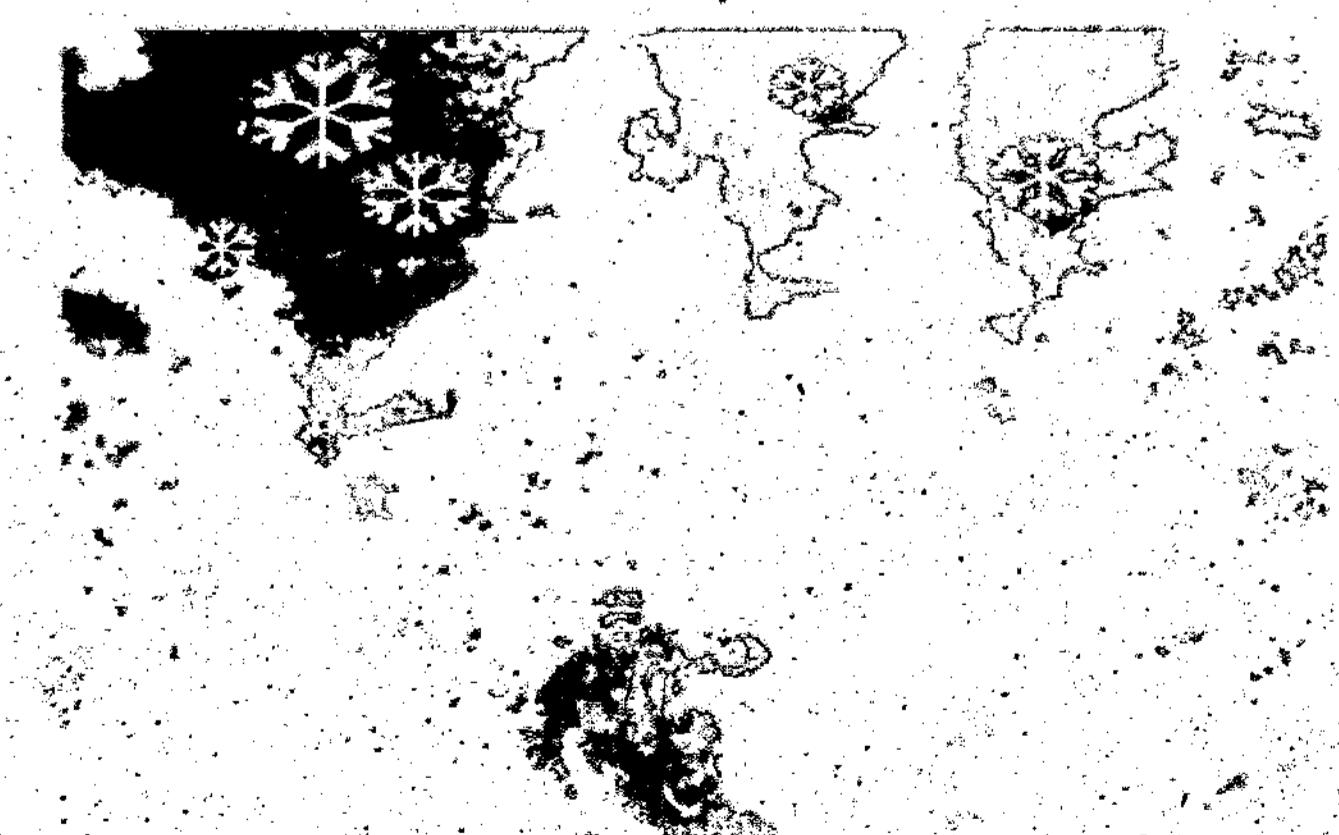
Answers: THE - - -

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion.



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

Answers: THE - - -



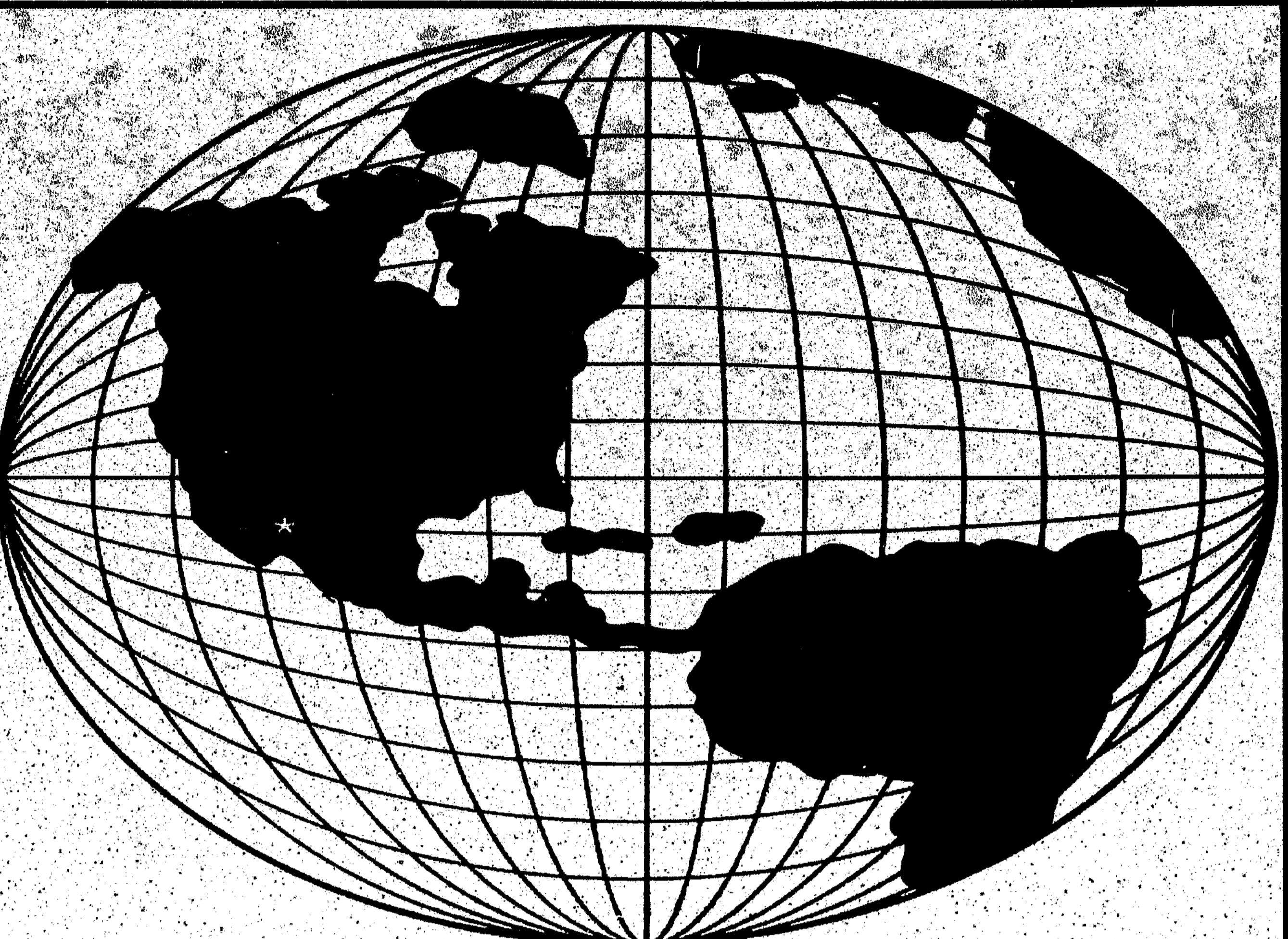
Think Snow!!!

Answers: ABATE BATON HERREBY MYSELF. Stayed out late → THE AFTER-MATH

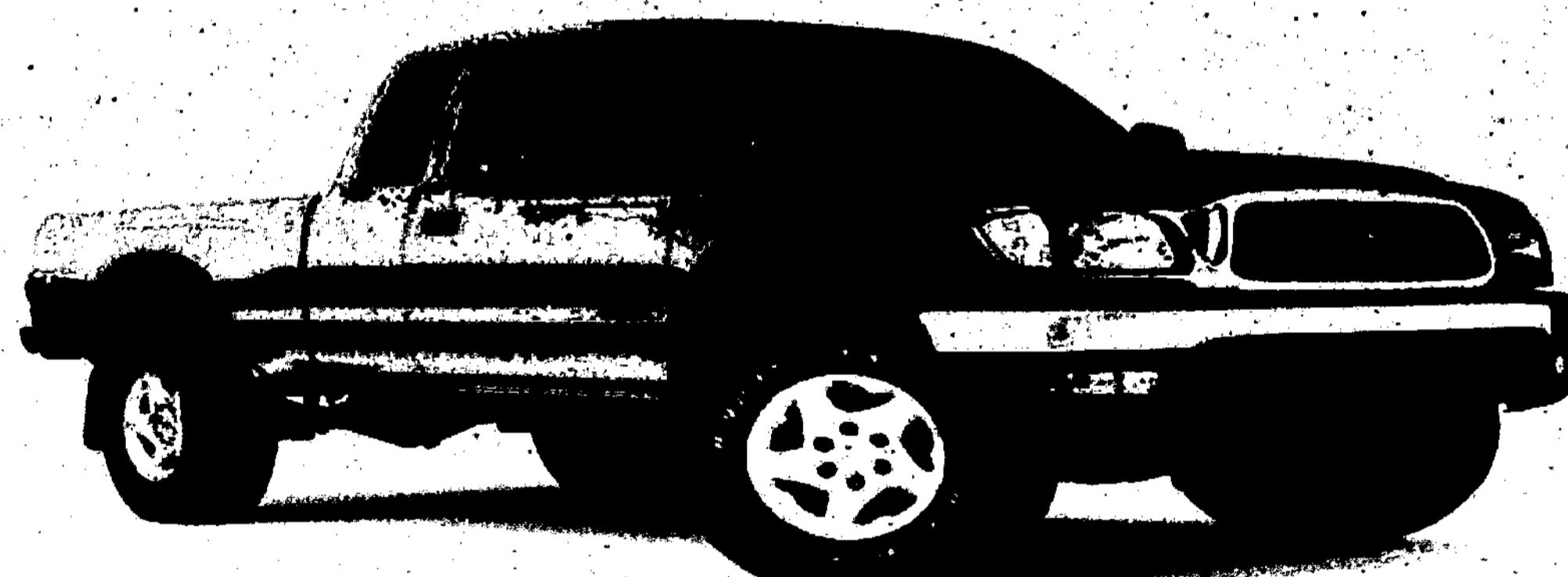
11

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2003 Pontiac Grand Am SE \$10,998 Las Cruces Toyota 505-523-5566	
1999 Pontiac Grand Am SE \$5,998 Las Cruces Toyota 505-523-5566	
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