

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 2006 • OUR 60TH YEAR, No. 65 • 50 CENTS

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LOW

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Roswell thumps
RHS

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Bond issues pass both tests

VILLAGE, DOWNS APPROVE TREATMENT PLANT FUNDING MEASURES

DIANNE STALLINGS
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By a more than two-to-one margin, Ruidoso voters approved a \$12.6 million general obligation bond issue to pay for expansion and improvements at the regional wastewater treatment plant the Village owns with the City of Ruidoso Downs.

A smaller bond issue of \$1.4 million, needed to cover the city's proportional obligation toward the work, also passed in Ruidoso Downs by 74 to 32 votes with a 10 percent turnout of eligible voters.

Magistrate Judge Martha Proctor is scheduled to certify the results today.

When only 42 absentee ballots were cast in Ruidoso, Village Clerk Irma Nava expected the number of voters Tuesday would be low. She was right, as 382 out of 5,191 registered voters in the village cast ballots for a 7 percent turnout. The result was 259 voting in favor and 123 against, according to an

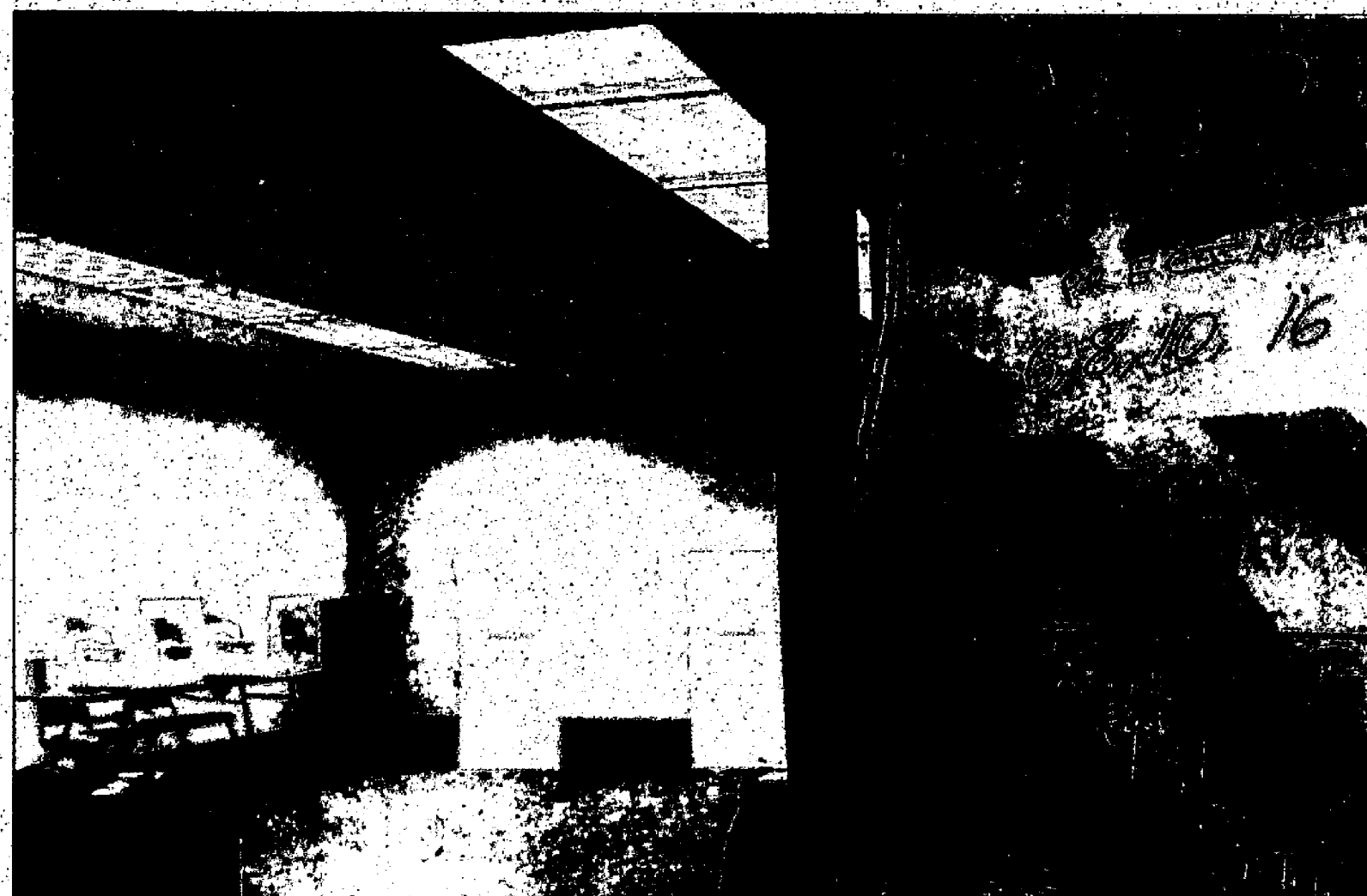
unofficial tally from the clerk's office.

The changes at the plant were mandated because of strict limitations placed by federal and state environmental agencies on phosphorus and nitrogen discharges from the plant into the Ruidoso River, and a court order in connection with the settlement of a lawsuit over river water quality with Forest Guardians.

The bonds are to be paid off by an increase in property taxes in Ruidoso Downs. Ruidoso village councilors opted for a surcharge on sewer rates to cover the obligation for that municipality.

The combined \$14 million is about half of the estimated total cost of a phased expansion of plant capacity and changes in treatment. Bonding consultants said passage of the bond issues will show local commitment to the project and help raise money from state and federal sources to offset some of the cost.

— Deanna Cheney contributed to this report



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Poll workers look upon empty voting booths during a light turnout for Tuesday's bond election.

Downs questions plant bills

■ Council says it hasn't received the proper information from Ruidoso concerning its costs to operate the wastewater treatment plant

MIGHT WITHHOLD PAYMENT

DEANNA CHENEY
For the Ruidoso News

RUIDOSO DOWNS — Semantics may be "the problem" but Ruidoso Downs City Councilors are determined to withhold payment for operational costs at the joint use Wastewater Treatment Plant until they know exactly what they are paying for.

The billings in question are for the months of September and October and represent an 11 percent increase over costs billed for the same months the previous year.

Councilors called for a detailed accounting of expenditures related to the plant last month from the Village of Ruidoso, owners of the plant, in the form of an accounts payable report.

Although a set of financials was dispatched by Village Hall to City Hall in recent weeks, they were not what Downs officials were looking for in their Dec. 10 meeting.

"City Clerk Carol Virden twice has asked the Village for this report but hasn't received it," John Waters, city manager, told a concerned council.

"Maybe it's a matter of them just not understanding what we are asking for. Maybe we will have to go over there and show them what an accounts receivable report looks like to get what we are needing."

Percentage disparity

Monday, Waters said wastewater plant expenditures were at 51 percent of the budget when it should be at 40 percent.

"There could be a good reason for it like a large capital expenditure but we can't be certain until we get the infor-

See BILLS, page 8A

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Santa Claus rides atop a vintage Village of Ruidoso fire truck Saturday during the annual Festival of Lights Parade down Sudderth Drive. He might as well have been bearing gifts for the following winners in the float contest:

MOST CREATIVE (trophy award): City Bank of New Mexico; 2nd Place (hospitality award): Lincoln County EMS

MOST TRADITIONAL Angus Church of the Nazarene; 2nd Place: Clark Family, Ruidoso Downs

PEOPLES CHOICE Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino; 2nd Place: Ruidoso Ridge Runners

CHRISTMAS IN THE PINES THEME AWARD ENMU-Ruidoso; 2nd Place: U.S. Forest Service

JUDGES CHOICE Eagle Land Surveying

SPECIAL RECOGNITION 1. Ruidoso High School (Band, SADD, and Indian Club); 2. Ruidoso Downs Fire Department

RPD mourns one of their own

■ Animal Control officer Robert Lu Jane eulogized for his integrity

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Robert Lu Jane, 70, known for his ability to handle a job in the Ruidoso Police Department that required tact, compassion and tenacity, died Friday after a brief illness.

At his bedside was his wife, Peggy Williams Lu Jane, his daughter Shelly Lyons, and his son, Robert Lu Jane, both from Southern California.

"They were with me at his bedside when he passed," Peggy Lu Jane said Tuesday after services for her husband. "We were all holding him and telling him how much we loved him when took his last breath."

Services were conducted at St. Eleanor's Catholic Church. Lu Jane was eulogized by Ruidoso Police Chief Wolfgang Born, by members of the

Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and by his best friend of 40 years, Ralph Pontrelli.

Lu Jane was hired Dec. 10, 2001, to take over animal control for the village, a job that led to meeting his wife-to-be as they shared professional and personal experiences.

"He didn't have any animal control experience when he started, but I knew with his life experience and his demeanor, with training, he would be a good one," Born said. "It didn't take long and I saw real progress."

Occasionally, Lu Jane would call Peggy Williams, who previously worked for the Village and now is in animal control for the City of Ruidoso Downs, for advice or assistance. As he became more familiar with the job, she would reciprocate and call him, the chief said he noticed. He thought what a great working relationship existed between the two departments.

Then he saw the two eating lunch

together at School House Park and realized the relationship went beyond professional. Peggy and Robert were married on March 3, 2003.

Born said the couple acted like teenagers in love. Robert seemed to smile a lot, and to walk a little taller.

Three weeks ago, the devastating diagnosis was delivered of pancreatic cancer, the disease that claimed the life of another RPD officer within the past year.

A man at peace

Four days before Robert's death, Born said he was sitting next to his bed with Peggy on the other side holding his hand, telling stories about her husband's accomplishments, which included acting in films. Their love was obvious in how they treated and spoke to each other, the chief said. At one point, Born said he noticed Robert wanted to say something.

Born asked, "What are you thinking

See LU JANE, page 9A

Celebrate Christmas With First Baptist Church Ruidoso

Please join us for a Christmas Celebration throughout December!

Dec 10th @ 5:30 PM Children's Happy Birthday Jesus Party
Dec 13th @ 6:00 PM Children's Musical "The King is Coming to Town"
Dec 16th @ 6:00 PM A Christmas Musical Celebration
Dec 17th @ 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM A Christmas Musical Celebration
Dec 24th @ 10:30 AM Combined Worship Service
Dec 24th @ 4:00 & 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

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Inn of the Mountain Gods donates food to shelter

One ton of food. That's how much food Inn of the Mountain Gods and Casino donated and delivered to the Nest, Lincoln County's only domestic violence shelter in Ruidoso Downs.

The boxes of nonperishable food were wheeled into the shelter on large furniture dollies by the staff of IMG. Assisting the IMG staff were HEAL board members Debbie Haines and Waynette Walker-Jones, Executive Director Coleen Widell and Walker's husband Robert.

Boxes contained enough staples to fill the shelter kitchens many times over. Cans of vegetables and beans, boxes of pasta, condiments, spices, Jello,



dry milk, and baby wipes and diapers filled the 74 boxes.

After unloading the two pallets of food, IMG staff was

The staff of IMG, with HEAL Board Member Debbie Haines (right), load food into the shelter.

treated to a tour of the shelter, which remains under renovation for the next month.

The donated food was gathered during the IMG "Ten Tons of Caring" food drive. Their goal was to gather ten tons of food but they surpassed their goal by collecting twelve tons, which was distributed to local charities and food banks.

For more information on how to help victims of domestic violence this holiday season, call HEAL at 378-6378.

Rotary Club lends a hand, plays Santa for workshop

Ruidoso Rotary Club members worked at the Santa's Helpers workshop on Dec. 6. Members assisted the non-profit organization prepare boxes and wrap gifts for delivery on Dec. 20.

"The club has been very supportive on this project. We were able to accomplish in one day what has taken as many as ten days in previous years," said Freda Howard McSwane.



Rotarians prepare boxes for Santa's Helpers.

COURTESY PHOTO

McSwane is a Board Member for Santa's Helpers this year as well as a member and Community Service Director of the Ruidoso Rotary Club.

Thirty-two members signed up to work at least one hour shifts beginning from 8 a.m. through 6 p.m., which represents 50 percent of the club membership.

Members helped box food and wrap gifts for delivery which will take place on Dec. 19. McSwane said she anticipates that there will be approximately 325 deliveries this

year. Santa's Helpers began on Nov. 27 by taking applications and preparing boxes of food, gifts and clothing. An average year can require approximately 6,000 total volunteer hours with up to 100 volunteers.

Those interested in volunteering to Santa's Helpers can contact McSwane at 258-4321 or stop by the Santa's Helpers Workshop inside the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Dr. Donations can be mailed to Santa's Helpers, C/O Freda Howard McSwane, P.A.,

1096 Mechem Dr., Suite 302, Ruidoso, NM 88345. Santa's Helpers is a 501-C (3) non-profit organization.

"We're glad we could help out Santa's Helpers," said Brad Treptow, 2006-07 Rotary Club President. "This is a great chance for the club's members to do something fun while helping those in need during this holiday season."

Treptow stated that one of the club's goals this year is to increase community involvement while supporting worthy causes in the area.

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Today's Weather

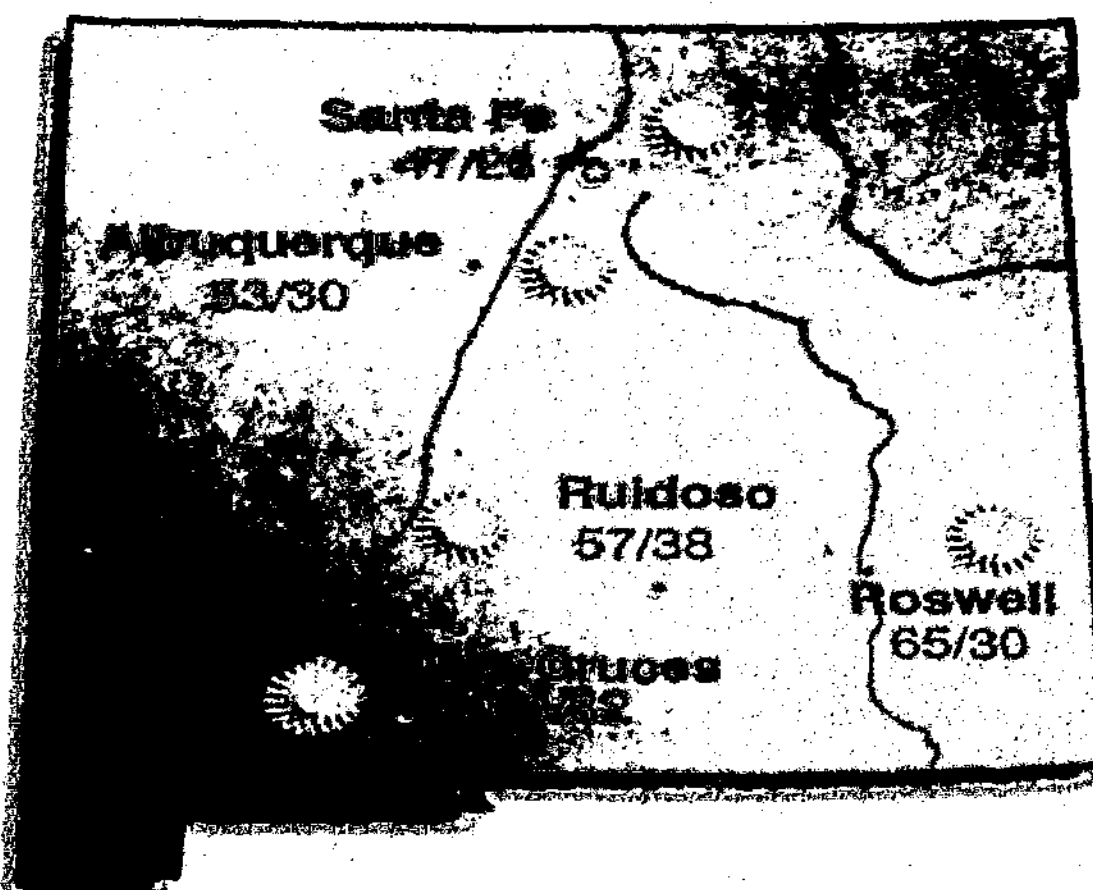
Local 3-Day Forecast

12/13	12/14	12/15
57/38	59/39	60/40
Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Sunrise 6:57 AM Sunset 4:55 PM	Sunrise 6:58 AM Sunset 4:55 PM	Sunrise 6:59 AM Sunset 4:56 PM

American Profile

We Celebrate Home

New Mexico At A Glance



Moon Phases

Last Dec 12	New Dec 20
First Dec 27	Full Jan 3

UV Index

Wed 12/13	Moderate
Thu 12/14	Moderate
Fri 12/15	Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 = 11

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Alamogordo	63	42	sunny	Grants	50	19	sunny
Albuquerque	53	30	sunny	Guymon, OK	63	31	pt sunny
Carlsbad	66	30	sunny	Hobbs	67	32	sunny
Chama	46	23	mst sunny	Las Cruces	63	32	sunny
Clovis	60	28	mst sunny	Las Vegas	54	29	sunny
Deming	61	26	sunny	Lordsburg	64	27	sunny
El Paso, TX	61	33	sunny	Lubbock, TX	61	29	sunny
Espanola	58	27	sunny	Odessa, TX	65	31	sunny
Farmington	50	22	sunny	Raton	55	25	mst sunny
Gallup	50	15	sunny	Roswell	65	30	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	62	43	pt sunny	Houston	73	47	sunny	Phoenix	74	47	sunny
Boston	47	42	rain	Los Angeles	76	51	sunny	San Francisco	62	49	cloudy
Chicago	42	32	cloudy	Miami	80	67	t-storm	Seattle	50	44	rain
Dallas	69	41	sunny	Minneapolis	40	25	mixed	St. Louis	57	37	pt sunny
Denver	52	34	mst sunny	New York	52	43	rain	Washington, DC	53	38	rain

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Whose Birthday is it anyway?

We believe the important news at Christmas is not who comes down the chimney, but Who came down from Heaven. We invite you to come join with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses
La Santa Misa por La Noche de Navidad y La dia de Navidad

Church of the Holy Mount, Ruidoso
7:00 PM & 9:00 PM Christmas Eve
10:00 AM Christmas Day

San Juan, Lincoln
6:00 PM Christmas Eve

St. Anne's, Glencoe
10:00 AM Christmas Day

St. Matthias, Carrizozo
6:00 PM Christmas Eve

257-2356

www.lincolnepiscopalians.org

Firefighters take the fifth, respond to another blaze

■ In latest call, two pets perish in gutted mobile

DIANNE STALLINGS
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For the fifth time in the past two weeks, local fire fighters battled flames Sunday that gutted a family home.

But Chief Virgil Reynolds with the Ruidoso Fire Department said the causes of each of the fires in the village and in neighboring Ruidoso Downs vary and arson is not suspected in the series of incidents.

About noon Sunday, family members renting a double wide manufactured home on Venado Street off George White Drive, west of Fire Station 2, noticed their dryer smoking and a fire quickly ignited, Reynolds said.

Although the parents and children were able to escape, two pets perished in the fire.

"The house was gutted inside," the chief said.

As they did in the other four fires, members of the Gateway Disaster Relief Team responded, providing drinks and snacks to personnel on scene, emergency assistance to the family, and ensuring they had a place to stay. The contents of the house were destroyed.

"Not since the Camelot Place Apartments fire (November



MARTY RACINE/STAFF

This isn't a house fire, though it appears as one, but rather a controlled burn conducted in the Alto Crest-Eagle Creek area Tuesday morning that was visible for miles. The shot was taken below High Mesa Drive in Alto. The U.S. Forest Service also plans a two-day burn beginning today on 65 acres of hand-piled slash in Turkey Springs Canyon, southwest of the Zia Natural Gas building. The project aims to reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat. Smoke may be visible for several days after ignition during which staff will monitor the burn.

2005) has the Team had so many emergency family assistance case files open at the

same time," said Arthur Hoopes, team coordinator. "If anyone wants to help the fami-

lies affected by these recent fires, contact Gateway at 257-4381."

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William R Hill

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Must we know what everything means?
The smell of a rose, the murmur of streams?
Or the light of stars, or the hush of the night?
Or the song of the Thrush, or the ocean's might?

Must we try to explain the song that lingers?
Or the thrill that leaps to the tips of our fingers
When our hand is clasped in the hand of someone you love,
And life is changed from that hour to it's end.....

For me it is enough to say....
That something beautiful passed my way.

Thank You for the beautiful ways you graced my life.

Your wife,
Darlene

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*"May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show
us the way of Salvation."*

- December 17th: **Contata**, 10:00 am,
followed by Potluck Luncheon
Caroling and Santa Visit, 4:00 pm
- December 24th: **Regular Worship**, 8:30 and 10:55 am
**Christmas Candlelight Service of
Communion**, 5 pm – 7 pm – 9 pm
- December 31st: **Regular Worship**, 8:30 and 10:55 am
New Year's Eve Worship, 5 pm – Hot
cocoa and cookies, 6 pm – Worship service

Merry Christmas!



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OUR OPINION

Planners' role may need to be tweaked...

...but perhaps only regarding 'major' projects

Planning and zoning board represents a critical layer of oversight in the growth - aesthetically and numerically - of a municipality.

It is and should be an essential body. But because members are not elected officials - in Ruidoso they are appointed by recommendation of the mayor and ratified by Village Council - it could be argued that at times they wield power beyond the reach of representative government.

That's what business owner Jennie Dorgan argued at last week's P&Z meeting during an agenda item dealing with the language governing appeals of commission decisions to the council. Dorgan would prefer that all P&Z actions taken on major developments be sent to the council with a recommen-

dation instead of residents having to file appeals in order to send issues up the chain.

There is a fine line here. P&Z routinely tackles a host of mundane if important nuts and bolts items regarding site plans, variances and easements that saves the council headaches and allow the latter to focus on the larger picture regarding development.

But because an approved site plan, for example, can only be overturned by Council on appeal by two-thirds majority, P&Z and its simple majority can carry outsized weight on certain projects - especially the big, controversial ones.

Maybe such P&Z decisions should be automatically forwarded to Council. How we define a "major development" is of course still open to debate, but the discussion is worth it.

Senate pajama party wakes up Domenici critics

Here's the deal. You go to the Vatican and expect to find Pete Domenici holding forth in St. Peter's Square and Pope Benedict taking notes.

When Pete Domenici walks into a building, doors open before him, rooms grow quiet in his presence. You wonder when is the last time Pete Domenici had to drive a car without someone whisking him to where he wants to go. When you buy a computer in New Mexico, you almost expect a little Pete Domenici icon to pop up on the screen.

Okay, so I exaggerate. Point is, though, the senior Senator from New Mexico commands a ton of respect, both at home and around the nation. When his fellow Republicans are in power Pete is a Very Big Voice in Washington. When the Democrats take over, he fumes a lot.

Senator Pete went to Washington in 1972, the year George McGovern mounted an anti-war campaign to oust Dick Nixon, but got a sound thumping at the hands of the Republican incumbent.

The New Mexico columnist learns fairly quickly that Senator Pete is a pretty funny guy away from the office, but when it comes to his work he is as dead serious as a Soprano who just had his wallet lifted. After once poking fun at Pete I got a call from the Senator. His opening line was "I always thought you were one of the good guys."

Meaning, of course, I wasn't one of the good guys any longer. So I tread lightly. But, still. Sorry. The idea of Senator Pete walking around the Senate hallways in his pajamas isn't one easily dismissed. Would Queen Elizabeth wear her nightgown to a coronation?

What happened was that Pete was spotted wearing his PJs one recent Friday when Congress was in recess and there wasn't much going on. It was the talk of

the town, and the Web. Has the 74-year-old leader, once described by *The New York Times* as enjoying "a universal reputation as one of the Senate's hardest working, most intelligent and most intense members," lost it? "Capitol Threatened by Confused Old Man in Pajamas," read one idiot blogger headline.

Hold on, the Senator says. They were not PJs. They were hunting pants. Senator Pete told the *Albuquerque Journal* the pants are for hunting, but you can wear them for anything. He said they are "warm, fun, comfortable and Christmasy."

Sounds like my teddy bear with its cute nifty Santa hat.

While Pete was refreshingly lighthearted about the incident, keep in mind this was workplace stuff. Serious stuff. When the *Journal* called him about the pajamas incident, he chided them with the reminder that unlike many members of Congress who were relaxing at home, he was at the office working.

"I work on recess all the time," Domenici told the reporter. "I call you on recess all the time."

Fine, we've got that straight, but let's talk about the trousers themselves. You fashionistas will be interested to know they are red and white, buffalo plaid pants. Cute, no doubt, but they don't hold a candle to my Spongy Bob jammies.

Garish hunting pants, of course, are designed to alert other hunters to your presence. One of Domenici's favorite hunting partners is Dick Cheney, in which case our beloved Senator might be advised to wear pants that include strobe lights and sirens if the Vice President gets within 100 yards.

NEO CANTWELL - ncantwell@charter.net - sometimes wears his Spongy Bobs in the drive-through lane at Taco Bell.



Doug McLeod 06

YOUR OPINION

"The best parade we've ever had"

To the editor:

THE 2006 FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS electric light parade is over, and, once again, I find myself wanting to remind the residents Ruidoso, Lincoln County, and the beautiful State of Enchantment, how very fortunate we are to have this coveted and much anticipated parade right here in our own community.

I received a phone call just minutes ago from Police Chief Wolfgang Born who wanted to express his appreciation of the parade. His comment was "This was the best parade we've ever had here in Ruidoso."

Now, I am not totally sure but what he might have said was "This was the best parade I've ever seen." I like that one best. He mentioned the Ruidoso High School Band specifically and the placement, which, in his opinion was important to the overall effect of the parade. Thank you, Chief Born, for taking the time to share your assessment of the parade. Your opinion is very important to us at FOL.

Back to the parade, weren't you impressed with the quality of the floats and all the creative and colorful decorations, the music and the animated characters, and the many thousands of beautiful lights being run off their generators? The floats were awesomely beautiful this year. They were also very beautiful last year.

But, think with me for a minute, did you notice how beautifully decorated were our emergency vehicles? When those big red monster fire trucks, gaily decorated and brightly lit from front to back, some with scenes in lights, others with giant decorations, came rolling down Sudderth Street, blowing those deep horns that we all recognize and immediately respond to in traffic by giving way - be honest now, did that not give you a flush of pride and possibly even a small lump in your throat? Several fire departments were represented, and I was impressed by every one.

The Ruidoso Police Department was right there for us, patrol cars and motorcycle police, making certain that all went well. These are the men and women who put their lives on the line for us every day, those to whom we commit the safety of our homes and our very lives.

And here they are, their sirens and, in the case of the fire trucks, their big and beautifully decorated entries.

Now, let's talk about the Lincoln County EMS ambulance. Have you ever seen such a cleverly decorated ambulance? Clear bright mini-lights all over the top of the unit and out to the tips of the angel wings on either side of the vehicle to the brightly lit halo that nestled over the cab. Their theme was "Angels Over Lincoln County" - now how appropriate is that?

And not far behind the Lincoln County EMS was Ruidoso High School's SADD group with their theme "Arrive Alive." It seemed to be more than coinci-

dence and struck a cord with me. Our community is all about the safety and well being of Lincoln County residents, and they know how to keep us aware and make us proud in the process.

Speaking of Ruidoso High School, how about that 24-Karat Gold Band? Was that not the most electrical, the most lively, the most exciting band you've seen in a long time? Those in the judge's booth and the visitors down below were very impressed with the Ruidoso High School Band, under the direction of Rick Weatherly and Ed Spurr.

The most moving single event of the parade for me, however, was the performance of the two honor guards. Showing our nation's colors is a very solemn and responsible part of any parade.

Four men in uniform from the Holloman Air Force Base Honor Guard called Steel Talons are marching in the parade, presenting our Nation's colors. They stop directly in front of the Judge's Stand at Gazabo Center. A soft cadence command, and they negotiate a maneuver that turned the group directly facing the judges, and we were honored with a United States Air Force salute. Then with absolute precision, they did a maneuver that put them back in line, facing the street again and continued on. Tears of pride ran down my frozen cheeks.

A bit farther down in the parade comes Camp Sierra Blanca Color Guard, also carrying flags, showing our Nation's colors: two young men in the center carrying the flags, a man with a rifle on either side of the flag bearers, and two men behind who are carrying the Camp Sierra Blanca banner. These young men were all dressed in urban dress uniforms, right down to the berets, and, having been trained by Victor Montez, Training Coordinator, with 10 years service in the U.S. Marines, presented our Nation's colors in such a way that every American should be proud.

Here, again, I get that warm fuzzy feeling, blessed by God; I get the lump in the throat and the tears that quickly become icicles on my face. Very moving!

We are so blessed to have resources of this quality. We are so blessed to have the compassion and support of the Ruidoso Valley businesses whose financial contributions make it possible for

Festival of Lights to decorate and to light the Village of Ruidoso and to present the electric light parade and the other events, such as The Village Faire, Snacks with Santa, the Community Sing-along and the various other events that we support during the Christmas holiday season.

Advertising and promoting these events is a large part of our organization's function.

The *Ruidoso News* has done an outstanding job of covering our events in print. Ruidoso.net conducted a survey of forty different groups who attended the parade.

It was learned that that tourists came

specifically to see the parade from Indiana, Florida and Texas (Midland, Lubbock, Wharton, El Paso and Belton) - as well as parade spectators from Old Mexico, Las Cruces, Lovington, Alamogordo and Capitlan. This information will be useful in advertising events in the future.

My own guests, who came in specifically for the parade from Houston and Birmingham, Ala., shopped until parade time Saturday and left Sunday with bulging luggage and borrowed bags to get their many purchases back home, not to mention those items that were too big to get on the plane that I am to purchase and bring to Houston next week by car. They found the prices to be extremely competitive and the selections to be much more varied than those at home.

So, do we have anything to brag about as residents of Lincoln County? You bet we do!

We have Spencer Theater, the events at Inn of the Mountain Gods, those at The Lodge at Sierra Blanca, and Comfort Inn. We have Mountain Annie's Dinner Theater, Flying J Wranglers most of the year, D Lazy 2 horse-drawn carriage rides, Tub and Tow, Ski Apache, Hubbard Museum, Billy the Kid Casino and Race Track, Cowboy Symposium, Ruidoso Valley Greeters, the Home Show, Aspenfest, the annual motorcycle rallies, golfing, River Crossing and Raimakers, not to mention those special events that were offered earlier: Christmas Jubilee, Treasures of Sierra Blanca, The Village Faire, Christmas in the Park, etc. etc. etc. and, as already established, the best shopping going.

Yes, we have bragging rights. We are, indeed, blessed to live in a community that offers so much quality entertainment, and to be surrounded by the unequalled beauty of this mountain resort which becomes an enchanting and festive winter wonderland this time of year, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Lincoln County Lodgers Tax Association and the New Mexico Department of Tourism.

A very special thank-you goes out to the Strathmanns, owners of Mountain Annie's, for hosting the 368-seat FOL Sponsors Appreciation Dinner Dance Dec. 14.

Merry Christmas and God bless from each of us at Ruidoso Valley Festival of Lights.

Millie Woods
FOL, Chief Operating Officer
Alto

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

Downs pledges improvements to Hubbard

■ Repairs will be made to museum's sprinklers

DEANNA CHENEY
For the Ruidoso News

RUIDOSO DOWNS - Some 10,000 pieces either stored or exhibited in the Hubbard Museum of the American West's collection will sit in a more secure environment with improvements planned to the museum's internal fire sprinkler system.

Monday, city councilors approved an expenditure of \$18,831 for repairs to the sprinkler system installed when the 50,000 square-foot museum was built in 1992 through the efforts of R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard.

Protecting city property

Museum Director Jay Smith said the fire protection upgrades were needed to "protect valuable city property," estimated at \$1.2 million, including collections and facilities, and recommend the bid award go to Lone Star Automatic Fire Protection, Inc.

The museum was transferred to the City of Ruidoso

Downs in the fall of 2006 and is the only museum in operation in the Ruidoso Downs/Ruidoso area.

It includes an extensive amount of western, cowboy and Native American art and artifacts, and is host to traveling and special exhibits year around.

Attendance increase

In other museum news, Smith reported attendance is up at the museum over previous years.

"Like many museums in the country, the Hubbard had been on a decline in attendance going back to 2000," he said, "with the exception of 2004 when we hosted Sue the Traveling exhibit."

Smith, who was appointed director of the museum in the winter of 2005, said he considered the reversal of a negative trend in museum attendance as a good indicator that "improvements are being made at the museum."

"We have a higher set of standards and are meeting them," he said, adding, "We have a lot of projects in process and are working hard."



DEANNA CHENEY FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Hubbard Museum Director Jay Smith, pictured at Monday's council meeting, looks forward to improvements in the facility's sprinkler system.

Lewis named interim public works supervisor in the Downs

DEANNA CHENEY
For the Ruidoso News

RUIDOSO DOWNS - Mark Lewis has been named Interim Public Works Supervisor for the City of Ruidoso Downs. His appointment comes less than one week after the previous director, Tom Stewart, was discharged from his duties.

Discussion of Stewart's dismissal was held Monday during the executive session of the Ruidoso Downs City Council, at which time the council unanimously affirmed the Mayor's decision to terminate Stewart.

"The council appointed Mark Lewis as an interim supervisor and decided that the director duties will be covered here at city hall until a new director is found," John Waters, city manager, said following the meeting.

The City has begun a search for a new director, Waters said, and expects to name a replacement to Stewart in six to eight weeks.

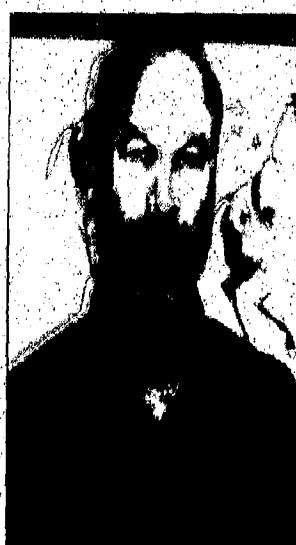
"We already have eight candidates due to a posting for the position on our Web site," he added.

Although no reason was given for Stewart's dismissal, Waters said Mayor Bob Miller's decision to terminate Stewart was "in keeping with the public's trust."

"There is an active investigation going on," he said.

Lewis, 43, a 12-year resident of Lincoln County, has been with the city since June 2005 serving as an electrical specialist. He is a master level certified electrician in New Mexico and holds a level two certificate from the state in water/waste water system management.

Prior to moving to the area where he first became general manager of Fastway Electrical Supply, Lewis worked for the City of Mineral Wells in north-



east Texas.

He and his wife Jana have three children, two enrolled in Ruidoso Schools - Jerrod, 14, and Brandon, 12 - and one, Jonathan, who currently serves as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army.

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RUIDOSO NEWS EDUCATION

PAGE 6A

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 2006

Ramirez ready to represent Ruidoso at Liberty Bowl

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonews.com

While many will be sitting around their television sets between Christmas and New Year's day, soaking up as much of the college bowl season as possible, one Ruidoso High School senior will be front and center at one of those bowl games.

Alex Ramirez, who was named Homecoming Queen for this year's football season at RHS, has been invited to attend the Autozone Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn. Dec. 29 as part of a weeklong series of events.

Ramirez was chosen among homecoming queens from across the country to attend, after she had sent in a list of the many different activities in which she takes part.

"It's a pageant, but it's not a beauty pageant," Ramirez said. "It's about volunteerism and what we do for the community."

Ramirez has plenty to talk about when it comes to what she's involved in. She's the captain of the Ruidoso High School cheerleading team, serves as a lector at St. Eleanor's Catholic Church, is a member of the local SADD chapter, is vice president of the senior class and has served an internship with a local doctor's office.

To top it all off, she's also the defending state champion in Class 3A for the javelin throw and will be trying for another state title in the spring.

At press time, Ramirez was still the only student from New Mexico to be invited.

"I had never really done anything

like this before, and it was a neat opportunity," said Ramirez when asked why she applied.

Ramirez and her family leave for Memphis the day after Christmas and will be in Memphis for the week with a hectic schedule to keep, including the Liberty Bowl Parade, a luncheon, and — of course — the bowl game itself, in which Ramirez and every other queen attending will be part of the half-time show.

Perhaps the most exciting thing for Ramirez will be a trip to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

"I want to help kids in my career, so it will be good to see kids that need that kind of help," Ramirez said.



Ramirez

ACTING OUT



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Sierra Vista Primary smile bright with the cast of "A Christmas Carol" performed by American Family Theatre for school children at the Spencer Theater Dec. 4. The program is part of the Spencer's Class Acts Series of shows which is supported in part by the Hubbard Foundation.

Spring semester schedule available online Candidates sought for ENMU-Ruidoso board

The Spring 2007 semester at ENMU-Ruidoso Begins Jan. 15, 2007. Registration and the schedule are now available online at Ruidoso.enmu.edu and in person at 709 Mechem Dr. in Ruidoso. The Spring

2007 schedule will be available in the *Ruidoso News* and the *Lincoln County News* the last week of December. Schedules will also be mailed to current students and located throughout Lincoln County starting

Dec. 18.

Registration will be available to students through Jan. 19, 2007, but students are encouraged to register early because classes are filling up quickly. ENMU-Ruidoso cam-

pus is open Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment to meet with an advisor call 257-2120 or 1-800-934-3668.

Candidates sought for ENMU-Ruidoso board

Declarations of candidacy for the ENMU-Ruidoso Community College Board are to be filed with the Lincoln County Clerk, at 300 Central Ave., Carrizozo, New Mexico on Dec. 19 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

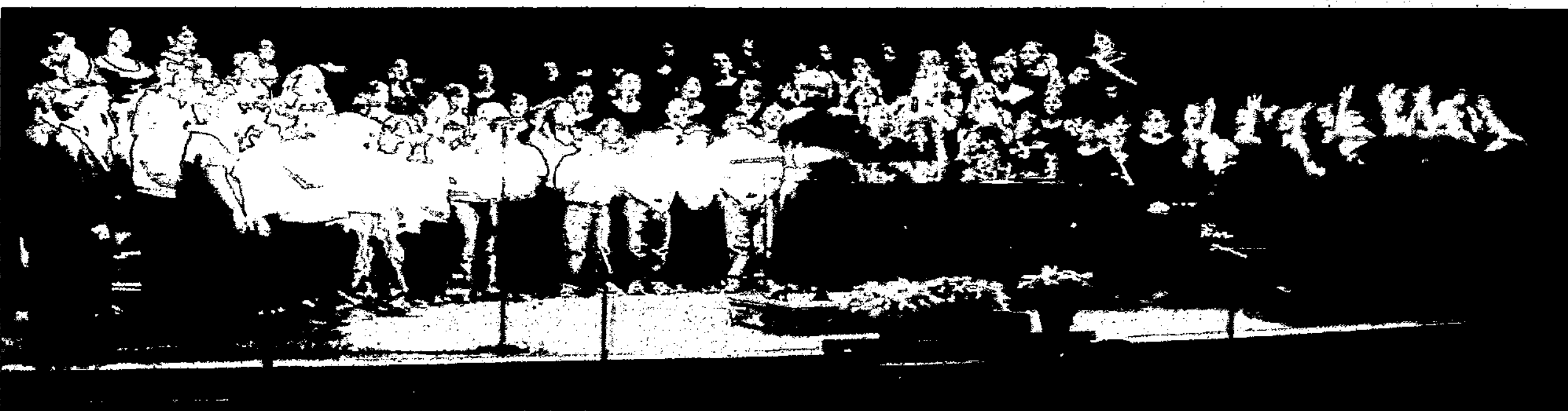
Residents of the Village of Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs are eligible to serve on the newly created Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso Community College Board. An election will be held Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007 to elect the new five-member board. Eligible board candidates must be 21 years of age or older, qualified electors, and residents of the Community College District, which is currently the Ruidoso Municipal School District boundary. Candidates will file for and be elected to a particular position number, 1-5. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes in each posi-

tion number will be elected.

ENMU-Ruidoso is governed by both the ENMU Board of Regents and the Community College Board. The Community College Board has total authority over taxing, bonding, and other fiscal issues relating to the campus, and also serves as an advisory board to the ENMU Board of Regents. The Board of Regents has the authority over curriculum and administrative issues. The governance arrangement is accomplished through an operating agreement that is reviewed, revised if necessary and approved every two years.

"We are looking forward to having our first locally elected board working to expand higher education opportunities throughout Lincoln County," said Elrod. For more information, contact Michael Elrod or Beth DeFoor at 257-2120.

SONGS OF THE SEASON



DEANNA CHENEY/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Choirs from White Mountain Intermediate, Ruidoso Middle and Ruidoso High School combine for a big finale Monday during the Christmas concert for all three schools at the Ruidoso Performing Arts Center. More than 50 voices were joined in singing "Cover the World with Love."

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State engineer explains new rules to water rights holders

■ John D'Antonio visits Ruidoso to shed light on revamped system

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

The short list of what proposed regulations for the Lower Pecos River Water Master District that includes Lincoln County will not cover includes domestic well permits, subdivision approvals and critical management areas where well diversions can be limited to conserve a water source.

State Engineer John D'Antonio Thursday attempted to explain to a room full of water rights holders and others interested in a future supply for the county how he initiated Active Water Resource Management and what areas the rules may impact.

Active management was created in 2004, early in his term, as a possible alternative to calling in junior water rights to provide court-required delivery of real water to Texas under a compact with New Mexico, he said.

"The rules and regulations spell out what happened under the settlement," he said. "The Lower Pecos is ahead of other areas of the state. There is no alternate administration in place in other areas."

Alternate Administration is one of seven key points covered in the rules, D'Antonio said. As an alternative to priority administration that would call in and retire water rights, beginning with the youngest, alternate administration creates a management framework to purchase land and associated water rights from willing owners and retire the water rights, to establish water masters to watch over the use of rights and diversions, and to implement metering and monitoring.

The rules allow the state to satisfy the settlement agreement requirements such as providing a minimum annual supply of 50,000 acre feet of water to the Carlsbad Irrigation District, and to augment the Pecos River for delivery to Texas by pumping water from wells into the river.

The settlement was struck between the state and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Carlsbad Irrigation District and the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District. An acre foot equates to 325,800 gallons of water.

Other key points covered in the regulations are:

- To limit water diversions and uses to the legal entitlements of the water right, an issue that district water masters will oversee.

- Direct Flow Administration, which means priority enforcement of direct flow diversions on tributaries on a daily basis relative to that day's available supply.

- Storage Water Administration means that storage water released from diversion is protected from stream depletions resulting from ground water use to meet the minimum annual water supply for CID in the event of a priority call.

- Replacement Plans, which would allow junior water rights owners to lease the use of a senior water rights to replace their depletions in the event of priority administration.

- Establish the duties of the water masters to administer water uses within the legal limits of the water rights, and to assure that water is fairly distributed in accordance with available water supply and priority dates.

- Establish provisions for enforcement of the regulations and prompt appeal of water master action or failure to act.

D'Antonio explained that in a 1948 compact, New Mexico was prohibited from allowing man's activity to deplete the water supply, "But a lot of holes were dug after that and the river was over-appropriated."

That means more rights were issued than the actual flow produced in real water.

In 1974, Texas sued New Mexico because it was not receiving the water guaranteed. Litigation dragged on for 14 years. Texas wanted \$1 billion from New Mexico in back water debt, D'Antonio said. In 1988,

the Supreme Court awarded Texas \$14 million and ordered New Mexico to deliver the water owed annually to Texas or a federal water master would take over.

New Mexico had under-delivered by 10,000 acre feet per year.

In an effort to provide a permanent solution, state officials began removing agricultural land from production, to retire the water rights and bring the water back into balance, the state engineer said.

A credit balance of 41,200 acre feet was created and another 15,000 acre feet was added this year, he said.

If at any point New Mexico fails to deliver the annual allotment to Texas, it will have six months, from October through March to make up the deficit, D'Antonio said. Money won't work. New Mexico must avoid a shortfall, he said.

The State Legislature allocated \$100 million to lease and buy water rights to avoid a priority enforcement, whereby the state would call in and retire water rights beginning with the youngest, and to use well fields to augment the river flow into Texas.

The settlement was upheld by the court Nov. 16, 2006.

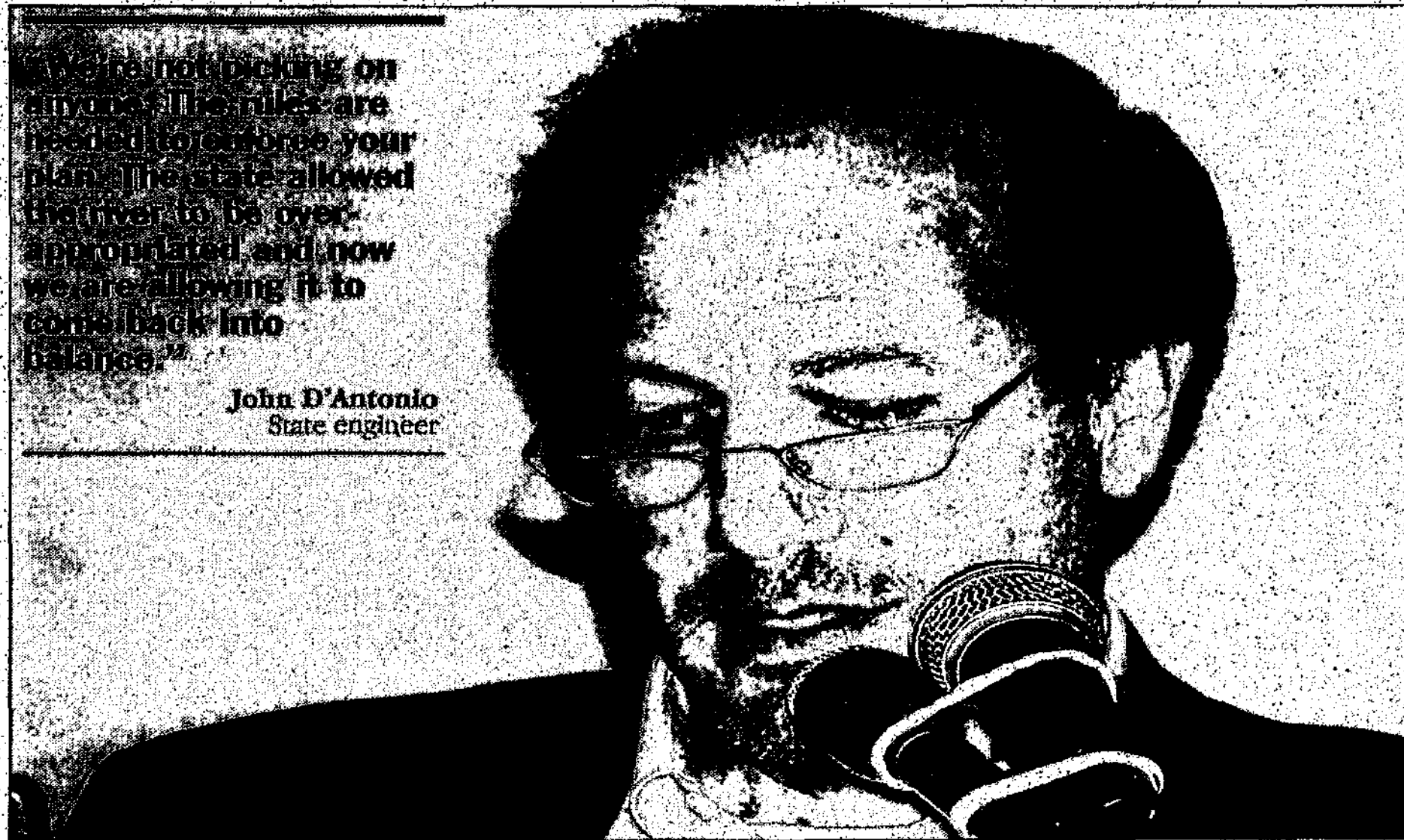
No more depletions can be allowed, D'Antonio said, which means metering and monitoring. But what the settlement doesn't solve is controlling new depletions from existing diversions and from domestic wells, he said.

To that end, new state rules adopted in August dropped the allowed amount of water pumped from a domestic well each year from 3 acre feet to 1 acre foot. The number could go lower in domestic well management areas declared by the state engineer.

"Some contend the entire

We're not picking on anyone. The rules are needed to enforce your plan. The state allowed the river to be over-appropriated and now we're allowing it to come back into balance."

John D'Antonio
State engineer



state should be a domestic well management area," he said. "I don't think that's right or necessary now."

"We're not picking on anyone," D'Antonio said. "The rules are needed to enforce your plan. The state allowed the river to be over-appropriated and now we are allowing it to come back into balance."

Comments from the audience included a call for a state blanket moratorium on new development until balance is achieved and that any new development should bring new water rights with it.

D'Antonio agreed that municipal officials should ensure adequate water rights for any new development. "Without that, they could be considered over-diverting," he said.

D'Antonio and his staff are in Phase IV of adopting the regulations, which ends Dec. 31. The staff previously sought public input, met with stake

holders, released two prior drafts and conducted public hearings.

Rules are available for review on the SWQB Web site: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards/20.6.4.8NMAC.08-21-06.pdf>. A copy may be requested by mail by contacting Tim Michael at 505-476-3799.

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County to be billed for water master

■ It's the first payment required for a new system supervising water rights in the Lower Pecos District

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Lincoln County is about to receive its first bill for a water master to supervise water rights and use in the Lower Pecos District.

John T. Romero, director of the Water Resource Allocation program under the State Engineer's Office, wrote County Manager Tom Stewart Nov. 30, telling him the county's share will be \$7,300.

State sets compensation

He reminded Stewart that State Engineer John D'Antonio declared the water master district that covers the counties of Chaves, DeBaca, Eddy, Lincoln and Otero. He appointed a water master earlier this year.

State statutes provide that the state engineer will set the compensation and the water master shall be paid for his actual expenses.

The counties will begin to be assessed effective July 1, 2007 for that fiscal year and beyond,

Romero wrote.

D'Antonio must certify the budget to county commissioners for activities within each county. The expenses must be paid monthly out of a special fund to be established by each

county commission, supported by property tax dollars.

In his monthly report to commissioners, Stewart said he will research the issue and set up the required arrangements over the next few months.

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Downs directs repairs to treatment plant manholes

■ Viewed as a method to better understand city's role in operational costs

DEANNA CHENEY
For the Ruidoso News

RUIDOSO DOWNS — If it comes down to a lawsuit over who pays what for operational costs and repairs to the regional Waste Water Treatment Plant, Ruidoso Downs city officials said they want to know exactly where they stand.

Monday, city councilors directed staff to proceed on repairs to manholes found damaged at the plant, which they believe are responsible for a "significant inflow" of storm water leaching into the system. The city pays the Village of Ruidoso, owners of the plant, for 15 percent of operational costs based on the number of users hooked up to the joint use system and based on meter readings at intercept lines.

City Manager John Waters, who sits on the plant's Joint Use Board, said he wants a

study done on infiltration from the Rio Ruidoso into the manholes and along sewer lines, which causes the plant, outdated by all federal and state standards, to work harder.

If the infiltration is occurring in the intercept line where the city's waste joins that of the village the extra water could skew the percentage of waste thought to be contributed to and paid for by the city.

"We can't accurately assess what we are obliged to pay until we get this figured out," Waters said this week.

"But it can't be a coincidence that every time a heavy rain hits the amount of wastewater treated at the plant jumps dramatically."

Waters said that two of the manholes found damaged at the plant by a city employee are situated close to the bank of the Rio Ruidoso and are in need of repair.

Councilors and City Attorney Dan Bryant told Waters that the city should assume the cost to fix at least

one manhole at an estimated expense of \$20,000-\$30,000 to show what a difference properly working equipment can make.

"It is a critical unknown that stymies discussion anytime our municipalities and the Joint Use Board talk about inflow into the system," Bryant said at a meeting of the council Monday. "We should fix a manhole and see what the cost benefit or difference is, then bill the JUB for our expenses."

"If we end up in litigation over this the court will come to us and say 'Ruidoso Downs prove what your percentages are,'" he said.

Waters said federal law prohibits storm water from being allowed into the wastewater system.

"Storm water is not to come into the plant as part of the Clean Water Act," he said.

In addition to performing a "test" by fixing one manhole, the "lesser of the problem," Waters said he wants a study done during dry and wet peri-

ods to find out where and when excess water is entering the plant system.

He said he suspects that a portion of the intercept line is damaged or that breaks along the sewer exist but said, "The line itself will take a lot more to fix than manholes."

Waters, along with Councilor Jeffrey Dean Holman, also said real consideration will have to be given in the near future to Mesquero's impact on the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Councilor Sue Garrett agreed saying it is unfair "to continue to ask our residents to pay 15 percent of the cost to run the plant if the percentage isn't an accurate reflection of what we are using."

Council said repairs to one manhole and the cost benefits should be realized within 60-90 days.

The next meeting of the Joint Use Board is scheduled for 10 a.m., Dec. 18, at Ruidoso Downs City Council chambers, 122 Downs Dr.

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BILLS

FROM PAGE 1A

mation we've been asking for," he said, noting that the Village was "zinged last year for exceeding its budget" for the plant without meeting proper procedures for meeting adjustments to expenditures.

"It's part of any governing body to get those pieces of information," said Waters. "I've sat on the plant's Joint Use Board since 2001 and Mayor [Bob] Miller since March of 2000 and we have never seen an accounts payable report on the wastewater treatment plant."

On motion, Councilor Jeffrey Dean Holman said he refused to approve payment until the village is more forthcoming.

"I think the City has been more than generous about paying its fair share, and perhaps more, but we need a more accurate report," he said. "Just last month we heard a report from our public works department that storm water was leaching into the plant due to damaged manholes. We just don't know where we are with all of this," Holman said.

Councilor Sue Garrett concurred. "If we don't do that and we keep paying 15 percent we will never get any resolution," she said.

"I think the City has been more than generous about paying its fair share, and perhaps more, but we need a more accurate report."

Jeffrey Dean Holman
Ruidoso Downs councilor



Councilor Judy Miller said she too would like to know why some months "we're paying \$12,000 and sometimes \$30,000."

Dan Bryant, city attorney, advised councilors they were within their right to demand a full accounting of expenditures

and operations before authorizing payment to the village on plant operations.

"In September when we agreed to continue paying 15 percent we said then that we wanted to be supplied with more information, so you are within your authority," he said.

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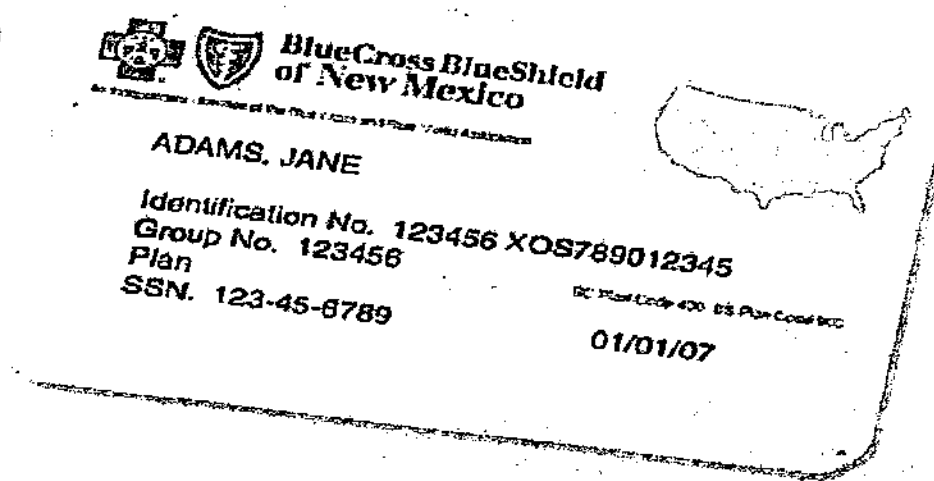
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DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Local law enforcement personnel pay their last respects to Robert La June Tuesday morning in a procession following a funeral service in Ruidoso.

LU JANE

FROM PAGE 1A

about?"

"Right now?" Robert replied. "Right now," Born repeated. "I am happy. I am happy with my wife next to me. I am at peace," Robert said.

"It was so profound to hear someone who knew he was dying say that," Born said. "I thought, 'Wow, what a man.'"

During his eulogy, Born told mourners that, "Death touches us all" but a person's worth is not measured by what he left behind, but by the lives he touched and his good deeds.

Speaking after the service marked by a procession of patrol cars from Ruidoso Downs, the sheriff's department, Ruidoso and the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the Mescalero Apache Reservation, Peggy Lu Jane said, "We just loved each other very, very much. I don't know another team like we had in the nation. We took care of our jurisdictions and helped each other. He was just a wonderful man."

Although Robert loved living in California, when he moved to Ruidoso, he told friends he moved to God's country, she said.

"He was in the movies for a while. He had a very varied life," she said. "He was in a spaghetti Western and in *Naked Gun*. He was a member of SAG (Screen Actors Guild). But the number one thing he was proudest of was his four years in the Army's 101st Airborne, the Band of Brothers. He was very proud of serving our country. He was so humble about his whole life, but he carried himself with pride. Of all the men I've met in life, he was

the most moral and proper — old fashioned and traditional."

One of the most personally tugging reminders of her loss came during Mass Sunday when she put on her own coat, Peggy Lu Jane said. "I haven't

done that for myself for the last three years. He said (proper behavior and respect for women) was the mark of a gentleman."

"A lot of people aren't aware that he was a strong Catholic

and believed in living his faith. He believed in doing the right thing always. If someone looked up the definition of integrity, they would see a reference to Robert Lu Jane. He was a good man."

"He believed in doing the right thing always. If someone looked up the definition of integrity, they would see a reference to Robert Lu Jane. He was a good man."

Peggy Lu Jane
Robert's widow

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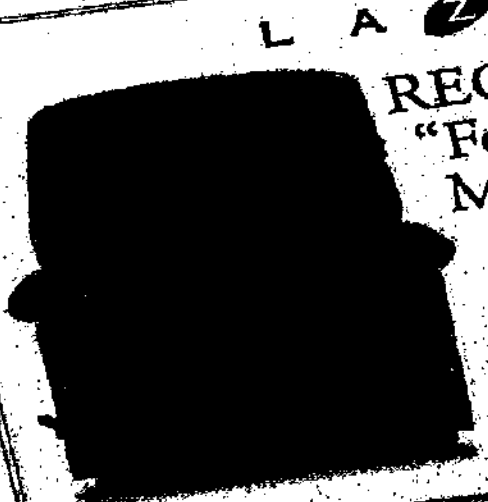
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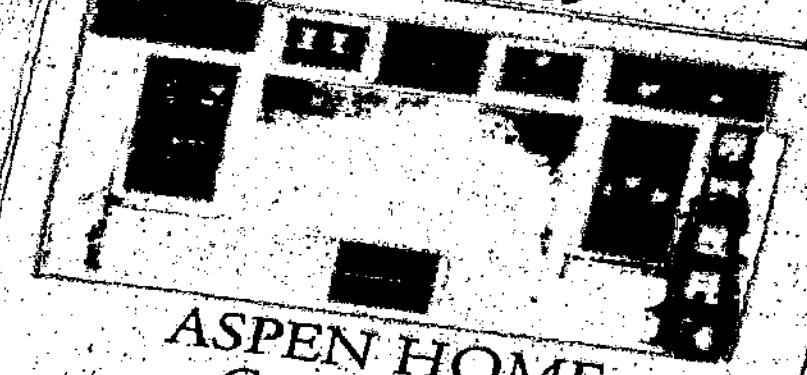
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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 2006

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PAGE 1B

Warriors run to ground by Coyotes

KAREN BOEHLER
For the Ruidoso News

The Warriors (2-3) had a tough time Friday at home against 4A Roswell (4-2), but despite falling 85-44 to the visiting Coyotes, Ruidoso coach Billy Page was pleased with his team's effort.

"Our kids worked hard," Page said. "I tell you what, our kids, they busted their tails out there for me and for each other. That wasn't an issue at all. It was just about making mental mistakes. Getting in a little bit of a panic. We played more into Roswell's game than we did ours."

And what Roswell's game is fast and furious up and down the floor, which Page said his team just isn't suited for. Nevertheless, the Warriors did all they could to keep up with the run-and-gun Coyotes.

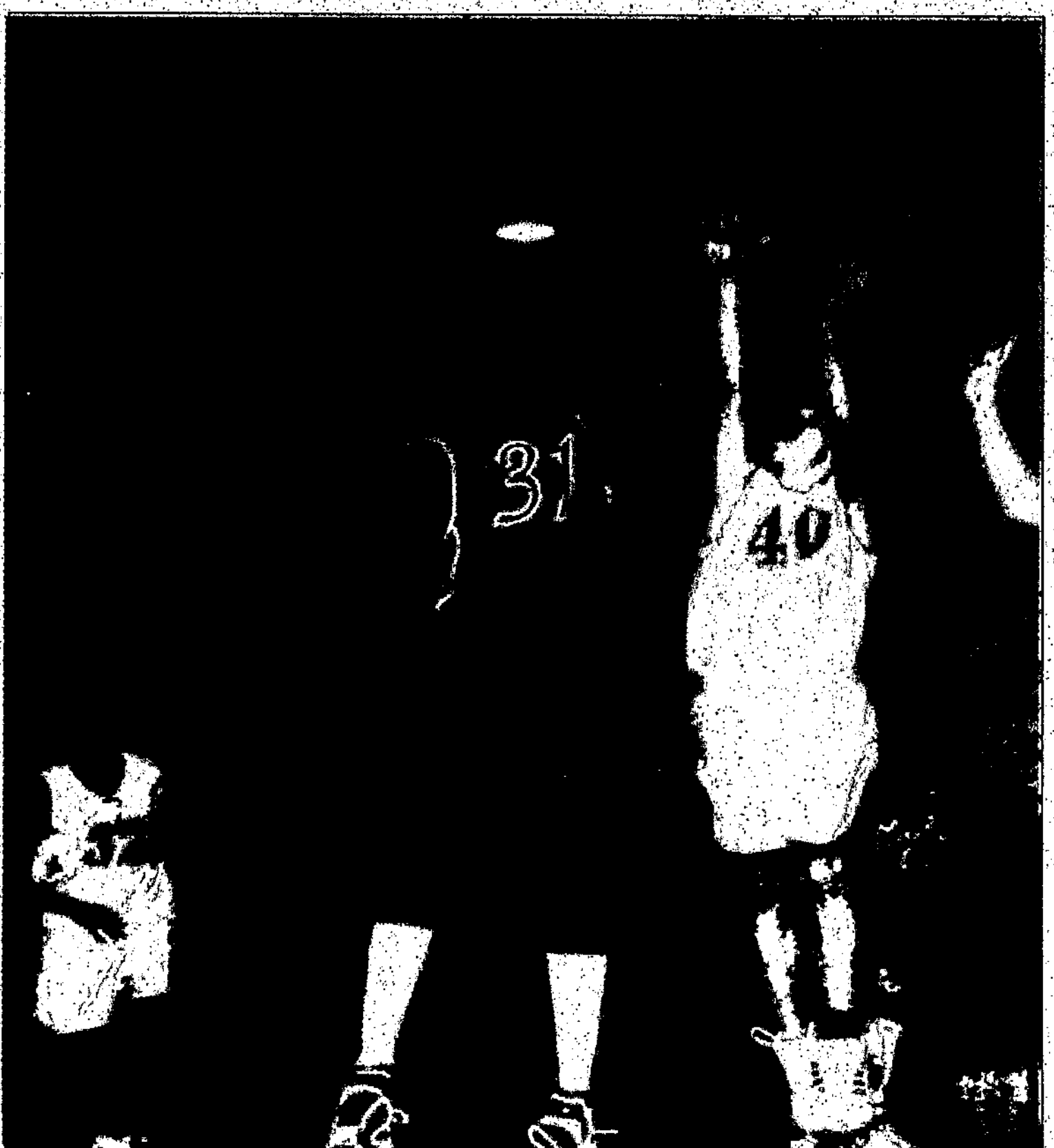
Ruidoso never led, but tried to keep it close, at least early. Six-foot-one Coyote Justin Kelt — one of four six-foot-plus players on the Coyote roster — opened the scoring with a shot from the outside, then, two free throws later, Roswell was up 5-0.

The Warriors got their own trey midway through the quarter by Brand Franklin, but after one quarter, the Coyotes led 24-14.

Roswell opened the second quarter with 10 unanswered points within the first two minutes, but after a time out by Page, Ruidoso played match-the-shot, at least for a while.

"When we were patient, we were able to get opportunities," Page said. "We didn't exactly finish those opportunities, but I liked the fact we were able to get those opportunities, and that carries over into the next game, hopefully and carries over into district."

At the half, Ruidoso trailed 48-27, but took advantage of some of those opportunities to close the gap a bit at the start of the third, tallying five points before the Coyotes came back with yet another 3,



Warrior Lance Dettmer (40) tries to send the ball past Roswell big man Bryant Thomas (31) during Friday's game in Ruidoso.

this one by Michael Nelson.

Nelson, a 5-6 point guard, was one of three guards Roswell coach Britt Cooper singled out as "playing very well." The other two were Trong Nguyen and Stefan

Doram. Those three used their speed on the floor, and, Cooper said, that "quickness inside" stymied the Warriors.

"I think that was a big thing; we put a lot of pressure on them in that press and

run and jump defense."

And he saw improvement from his guards.

"We didn't turn it over as much as we have been," Cooper said.

When the Coyotes weren't running, they were going to big men Bryant Thomas, Andrew Aho and Kelt for the score and rebounding.

Ruidoso played even during the third quarter, keeping the margin at 21 points, 69-40. But Roswell opened the final stanza with 12 unanswered points, and that was pretty much all she wrote for the Warriors.

Even with a running clock and Coyote subs on the floor, Roswell added to the point margin, but Page said that's typical of a Roswell game.

"I respect the Roswell group and we know what they're going to do," he said. "I heard some people say, 'Well, why don't they call off the dogs?' Well, that's what Roswell does. I don't expect them to. I expect us to get better. That's what I expect."

And he's hoping lessons learned will help as the season progresses.

"They're very good. They're very talented, they're very well coached, very well disciplined and that's what we've got to be," he said. "We've got to get to that point in our program, with a rebuilding year, basically. But there's no question. Our kids worked hard. We just made some mental mistakes that cost us some points."

Ruidoso got points from eight players, led by Franklin with 10, Ben Sanchez with nine and Pack with eight. Roswell got scoring from every player, with five in double figures: Nelson, 17; Marquis Cheadle-Sosa 14; Doram 13; Thomas 12; and Nguyen 10.

The junior varsity and C-team had a better time against the Coyotes.

The JV won a back-and-forth, penalty-filled game 56-45, while the C-team topped the Roswell sophomores 58-50.

Ruidoso girls not satisfied with second at Artesia

TODD FUQUA AND
KAREN BOEHLER
For the Ruidoso News

The Ruidoso girls may have had the best showing in school history at the City of Champions Tournament in Artesia over the weekend, but that doesn't mean the Lady Warriors are satisfied.

Ruidoso dropped a 59-44 decision to the Lady Bulldogs in the championship game Saturday night to take second in a tournament in which the Lady Warriors were usually fighting for fifth or seventh.

They were also the fourth team from the area to finish second in a tournament over the weekend, as both the Mescalero boys and girls and the Capitán girls were runners up at tournaments in To'hajilee, Laguna-Acoma and Truth or Consequences.

Ruidoso (5-3) held a 13-9 lead after the first quarter and were down by just one point heading into the final frame, but that's when the Lady Warriors let it slip away.

"They just ran out of energy," said Ruidoso coach Julie Montoya. "Artesia went on a run and we didn't respond."

The scoring was fairly even among the Lady Warriors, as Haley Williams and Angela Gardner led their team with 10 points each, while Allison Rigby chipped in nine.

Ruidoso 51, El Paso Austin 37

The Lady Warriors got to the title game with a 51-37 semifinal win over El Paso Austin on Friday.

Austin held a lead after one quarter, but Ruidoso had turned that around to a 24-20 Lady Warrior lead at the break and



Ruidoso's Amber Gardner, center, goes up for a shot in a crowd of Dexter defenders Thursday during her team's win over the Lady Demons in the first round of the City of Champions Tournament at Artesia.

cruised to a victory from there.

Tonee Montoya was the top scorer on the night with 16 points, while Hailee Bob and Williams had 11 points each.

Ruidoso 56, Dexter 26

The Warriors started off the tourney Thursday with a blowout against district foe Dexter, pounding the Demons 56-26.

Although the first points didn't go on the board until 6:30, Ruidoso jumped out to a 20-2 lead after one quarter, as Dexter had chances, but couldn't get anything in the net while

the Warriors kept pumping it in.

It wasn't any better for the Demons in the second quarter, as bad passes and turnovers kept Ruidoso scoring while Dexter couldn't even connect from the free throw line. At the half, the Warriors had a 37-6 lead.

With most of the Warrior starters on the bench, Dexter doubled its point total early in the third quarter, but Ruidoso kept adding to its total, and by the time the quarter wound down under a running clock, the Warriors had a command-

ing 55-14 lead.

Finally, with the Ruidoso reserves getting plenty of time on the floor in the fourth, Dexter outscored the Warriors 14-1 to make the final score somewhat more respectable.

While Dexter coach Kim Hamill only had a "no comment" regarding her team's performance, Julie Montoya said she used the game as a chance to practice.

"We were able to work on our transition offense a little bit more and we started off in the press, so we were able to work on that," she said. "Then, of

course, we dropped off that and just worked on half-court defense, so, I told the girls, we just need to work on things that will help us down the road."

And she was pleased that the team played hard from start to finish.

"I told them to come out and play with intensity and they did that, both at the beginning of the game, which we haven't been doing, then at the start of the second half as well. We just worked on things that are going to help us down the road, not necessarily for this game."

Every Warrior saw playing time, and nine of the 12 scored, led by Amber Gardner with 10 and Tonee Montoya with eight.

Despite the second-place finish — or maybe because of it — coach Montoya said her team isn't satisfied.

"They were upset they didn't win, and that's a good thing," Montoya said. "This will give them a reason to learn from it and get better."

Preps on Tap

Thursday, Dec. 14

Boys Basketball
Capitan vs. Quemado in Mountaintop Tournament at Cloudcroft, 3:30 p.m.

Mescalero Apache Invitational

Carrizozo vs. Immanuel Christian, 3 p.m., Gym 2

Mescalero JV or Alamogordo sophomores vs. Valley Christian, 4:45 p.m., Main Gym

Hondo vs. To'hajilee, 6:30 p.m., Gym 2

Alamo Navajo vs. Mescalero, 8:15 p.m., Main Gym

Girls Basketball

Capitan vs. Animas in Mountaintop Tournament at Cloudcroft, 2 p.m.

Mescalero Apache Invitational

Alamo Navajo vs. Carrizozo, 3 p.m., Main Gym

Immanuel Christian vs. Mescalero JV, 4:45 p.m., Gym 2

To'hajilee vs. Mescalero, 6:30 p.m., Main Gym

Valley Christian vs. Hondo, 8:15 p.m.,

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache

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Ski report culled from

www.skiapachesnowreport.com

New snow past week: 10 inches

Weather at report time: Clear

Road at report time: Clear

Midway depth: 10 inches

Season total snowfall: 22 inches

Surface conditions: Packed powder

Skiing conditions: Excellent

Trails open: Bunny, Easy Street, Lower Deep Freeze, Capitan, Top

Notch

Lifts open: 3, 4, 5, Gondola open for

sightseeing

Trails groomed: All open trails

Snowmaking past 24 hours: Yes

Forecast: Mostly sunny, high of 50

Prep Results

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Boys Basketball

To'hajilee Tournament

Mescalero 74, To'hajilee 64

Thursday, Dec. 7

Boys Basketball

Valley Christian 64, Hondo 56

Bruce King Invitational

Tohatchi 51, Carrizozo 41

Tularosa Basin Tournament

Tularosa 77, Capitan 36

To'hajilee Tournament

Mescalero d. Monte de Sol

Girls Basketball

Valley Christian 43, Hondo 40

City of Champions Tournament

Ruidoso 59, Dexter 44

Laguna-Acoma Classic

Mescalero 57, Zuni 48

Alice King Invitational

Tohatchi 54, Carrizozo 28

Rio Grande Shootout

Capitan 36, Cobre 32

Friday, Dec. 8

Boys Basketball

Evangel Christian 43, Corona 41

Roswell 85, Ruidoso 44

Tularosa Basin Tournament

Cloudcroft 73, Capitan 60

Bruce King Invitational

Carrizozo 74, Española Academy 19

Girls Basketball

City of Champions Tournament

Ruidoso 51, El Paso Austin 37

Rio Grande Shootout

Capitan 46, Hot Springs 33

Laguna-Acoma Classic

Mescalero 48, Estancia 39

Alice King Invitational

Belen 49, Carrizozo 30

Saturday, Dec. 9

Boys Basketball

Tularosa Basin Tournament

Seventh Place

Navajo Pine 83, Capitan 49

To'hajilee Tournament

Championship

East Mountain 63, Mescalero 23

Bruce King Invitational

Fifth Place

Taos 68, Carrizozo 47

Girls Basketball

City of Champions Tournament

Championship

Artesia 59, Ruidoso 44

Laguna-Acoma Classic

Championship

Laguna Acoma 65, Mescalero 43

Rio Grande Shootout

Championship

Cliff 47, Capitan 20

Alice King Invitational

Seventh Place

Santa Rosa 49, Carrizozo 46

Monday, Dec. 11

Boys Basketball

Estancia C 37, Corona 36

Girls Basketball

Corona 36, Estancia C 11

Hondo teams can't quite hold on to leads against Valley Christian

KAREN BOEHLER
For the Ruidoso News

ROSSELL — Hondo Valley's basketball teams continued their long week on the road Thursday with a pair of games against Valley Christian Academy at the Yucca Recreation Center in Roswell, and again, both teams had similar outcomes — this time falling to the Lions after leading until almost the very end.

Girls

The Lady Eagles (0-5) seemed to have the game well in hand, leading by 13 points midway through the third quarter. But 12 unanswered points by the Lions put Valley Christian (1-2) within one at the end of the third, and a Hal-Mary 3-pointer tied the game at the buzzer, sending it into overtime, where the Lions took control and a 49-40 win.

Hondo coach Christa Acosta said while her team definitely

showed more heart than their last game, they had problems once the Valley Christian defense picked up.

"The girls played a lot better than the last game," Acosta said. "It's just that once their opponents pick up their defense, we get a little bit nervous and intimidated."

Early on, it looked like Hondo was going to get an easy win. While it took a while for either team to get anything in the basket — the first points didn't go on the board until 3:41 in the first quarter — Hondo, at least, was shooting. The Lions did a lot of passing, but took few shots.

Valley Christian coach Jamie Pack said his girls just took his words of advice a little too far.

"I told them when we started, 'Don't rush it.' In the two games previous we were trying to rush on the zone, trying to rush it, so I told them to slow down," he said. "Let's get our shots. So they took

it to the extreme."

That lack of shooting led to an 8-4 Hondo lead after one, and 14-8 at the half. The Eagles then stretched their lead to 23-10 on a 3-pointer Angelie Garcia, but that's when the wheels began to fall off.

Five different Lions combined for 12 straight points, and two more at the buzzer by Samantha Castle cut the Hondo lead to 25-24 with eight minutes left to play.

Still, the Eagles never lost the lead, and, with 20 seconds left on the clock, were up by three. But Kiersten Pack then hit the only outside shot for the Lions all game, tying the match at 33-33 and sending it into overtime.

In that extra period, the lead went back and forth, with Valley Christian getting its first lead of the game with 3:24 left, then each team getting and losing the lead.

With both teams in the bonus, the Lions took advantage of a free throw to tie the game at 40-40,

then added a layup on a steal by Castle and an insurance free throw to get the win.

Acosta said her team just needs to stay in the whole game, and said part of the problem may be that the Eagles, who graduated their point guard last year, don't have a leader on the floor.

"We need somebody to step up and direct the team on the court," she said. "On the bench I can only do so much."

Pack led all scorers in the game with 16 while Castle had 13. Garcia led the Hondo scoring with 12, Mercedes Lopez had 10 and Esther Gonzales eight.

Boys

Hondo's boys also lost to the Lions after leading most of the way, but not in quite as dramatic a fashion. When it was all over in regulation — Valley Christian (2-1) had a 64-56 victory.

The Eagles (3-2) put the first points on the board, but the Lions kept it close, tying it twice in the

first quarter and only trailing 14-12 after one.

Freshman Jesus Miranda had a solid first quarter for Hondo, scoring the first eight points of the game.

The Lions tied it again on the first bucket of the second quarter, but the Eagles again led throughout, holding Valley Christian to seven points in the quarter while adding nine of their own for a 23-19 halftime lead.

The third quarter was as close as anyone could ask. Hondo got its biggest lead — 30-21 — on a trey by Rio Lopez, but the Lions matched that on a 3 by Casey Gibson.

Then Valley Christian got seven unanswered points, cutting the Eagle lead to one. When the quarter ended, Hondo led by a slim 44-42.

The fourth looked to be more of the same, as the Lions tied the game on the first bucket and Hondo came back. But with four minutes left in the game, Valley

Christian again went on a run, scoring eight unanswered points to take a lead they'd hang on to for the rest of the game.

The Lions had height and experience on the young Hondo squad, but Eagle coach Henry Lopez had three reasons for the loss.

"We threw the ball away and we still didn't play good defense and we were in penalty trouble too early," he said. "We kept sending them to the line and you just can't do that. Disappointing."

Valley Christian also seemed to win the rebounding war, led by Eric Angelos, who pulled down 17 boards on the night.

"He's a sophomore this year, so he might be somebody to watch," said Valley Christian coach Cory Coghill.

Eagle Medina and Lion James Perez led all scorers with 20 points each. Raymond Montano added 15 for Hondo, while Gibson and Angelos had 13 each for Valley Christian.

Capitan boys struggle to hold on to the ball at Tularosa Tournament

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonews.com

The scores at this year's Tularosa Basin Tournament may not show it, but coach Steven Foust believes the Tigers are making progress.

"There were a lot of good things that did happen," Foust said. "We just had way too many turnovers and kept giving away the ball."

Capitan opened the weekend with a 77-36 loss to tournament host Tularosa on Thursday, then dropped a 73-60 decision to Cloudcroft before finishing things up with an 83-49 loss to Navajo Pine in the seventh-place game.

"We were facing more experienced teams at this tournament, and we're a young team," Foust said. "I was pleased with our offense, and when we ran it, we were getting good scoring opportunities."

Against Tularosa, Capitan's offense had great difficulty with the Wildcats full-court defense, as the Tigers (2-7) committed numerous turnovers and Tularosa converted for points at the other end of the court.

Steven Williams came alive to lead the Wildcats with 32 points — including six 3-pointers — while James Vigil had 10. Brian Taylor had eight points to lead Capitan.

"They were shooting the lights out from the beginning," Foust said. "We were a little better in the second quarter, but we had already dug such a big hole at that point."

Against Cloudcroft, the story was much the same as it had been when the two teams met two weeks earlier, a game the Bears won 70-54. Capitan trailed by just five points at halftime, but then let things slip away in the third quarter.

"We just had passes going off

the hands for turnovers," Foust said. "We also didn't take advantage of the low post enough. In close games, you have to take it inside and get the easy baskets."

Travis Berryhill had 20 points for Capitan, while Craig Barton added 11. Dalton Ellis had 17 points for Cloudcroft, followed by Matt Hoyt and Aaron Capps with 12 points each and Shane Shelton with 11.

The Navajo Pine score was a result of the Tigers getting

caught up in a running game and losing control.

"It's one thing to push it, but it's another to have discipline," Foust said.

J.T. Eldridge was the tip Tiger in that game, scoring 14 points, while Teke Eldridge had 13.

Capitan will start another tournament Thursday when it takes on Quemado in the first round of the Mountaintop Tournament in Cloudcroft at 3:30 p.m.

Lady Tigers second at T or C

TODD FUQUA
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To open a basketball tournament with wins over a pair of 3A schools — including the tournament host — is a pretty good way to start off a weekend.

That's just what the Capitan Lady Tigers did at the Rio Grande Shootout in Truth or Consequences to get to the championship game, defeating Coble 36-32 and Hot Springs 46-33.

But then Capitan ran into the Cliff Cowgirls.

Cliff is a 1A school, but showed it's a team to be reckoned with in any class, handing the Lady Tigers a 47-20 trouncing in the final game.

"This is one of the real good girls basketball teams," Capitan coach Mary Sander said of the Cowgirls. "They beat Socorro in the semifinals of this tournament last year by 40-something points."

Sanders said he saw only two girls for Cliff doing the scoring in its first two games of the tournament, so he decided to try a triangle-and-two defense to try and stifle them. The remaining three Cowgirls merely started firing off three-point shots from the outside and scored a bunch of points anyway.

Katrina Turner, who, if she wasn't named to the all-tournament team certainly should have been, led her team with just seven points, but it was the third time in three games she had been the high scorer. Kelsey Campbell added 6 in the loss.

To get to the title game, Capitan needed to get past Coble and Hot Springs, both of which the Lady Tigers beat thanks to good team defense.

Capitan led the Lady Indians by as much as 14 points in the first game, but the Lady Tigers' poor shooting and turnovers eventually caught up to them and put the lead in jeopardy.

"We shot badly and had a lot of turnovers, but still won," Sanders said. "That pretty well describes the tournament for us."

Turner had 15 points to lead Capitan in that win, and led the team with 11 points in the victory over Hot Springs. Brittney LaMay had 9 points in the game, a game that Capitan had led by as much as 24 points.

Capitan opens the Mountaintop Tournament at Cloudcroft at 2 p.m. Thursday with a game against Animas.

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POOP SCOOP

BY KIM DONER
SPECIAL TO THE RUIDOSO NEWS

It is safer and healthier for our cats to be indoors only. Studies have shown that cats that live inside the home live up to three times longer than cats that are allowed to wander in and out or live outside exclusively.

If you have a cat that has been allowed to go outdoors and you would like to keep him safer by having him remain inside, the cold weather that we are presently enjoying is the perfect time to start this transition. Depending on the age of your cat it may take a while to have him adjust to the indoor life. The key is for you to have a plan in place and to be patient and consistent.

First you want to have your pet spayed or neutered if you haven't already done so. This will help a great deal with hormones that influence marking of territory and mating urges. Then begin the move from outdoors to indoors, gradually. If your cat has not been used to using a litter box or scratching post, introduce them now. It is a cat's natural instinct to want to dig in sand or soft earth to eliminate, and he will be attracted to the litter box.

If you have been feeding the cat outside, begin to feed him inside and keep him in the home for longer periods of time. You may want to feed him at night and then leave the cat inside overnight. As the temperature drops he will be thankful for a warm place to snuggle and be comfortable, and night is a dangerous time for outdoor cats as he will be much safer. Domesticated cats do not do well unprotected from the winter elements. Their ears and paws can be easily frostbitten and they can contract upper respiratory infections and pneumonia.

When the cat is indoors with you engage him in active play time which keeps him from being bored and also helps relieve stress and helps with the bonding process. He may also appreciate some special "kitty greens" for him to munch on

instead of grass. alfalfa, clump, wheat, or oat grass (sold in pet supply stores) in indoor pots for this purpose.

Behavior problems such as scratching furniture can be addressed through modification with patient and consistent positive reinforcement and being sure that you have offered an alternative behavior such as a scratching post or board.

All my cats have always lived inside and they are not allowed to go out ever. They are still microchipped in case of an accident or emergency so that they may escape from the house. They enjoy sitting in the windows and watching the birds and the deer that come by. So I have positioned Cat Trees and a Cat Shelf by the windows. This helps with their entertainment and also gives them exercise when climbing.

There are also outdoor pens available on the Internet. They are easy to put together and allow your cat safe access to the outside world. Some of these pens are designed to be near the house and the cat can come and go as he pleases through an access window. The advantages of keeping your pet inside are many: he is safe from predators, fights with other cats, being injured by cars, the victim of traps or those people who enjoy harming pets. He will not be exposed to poisons or disease, and you will be more at ease knowing where he is and not having to worry if a storm comes up or if you haven't seen him for a few days. Also, by keeping your companion inside with you and part of the family, you are being the best owner possible.

When the cat is indoors with you engage him in active play time which keeps him from being bored and also helps relieve stress and helps with the bonding process. He may also appreciate some special "kitty greens" for him to munch on

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Lady Chiefs drop first loss at Laguna

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonews.com

Mescalero's girls may have lost big to Laguna-Acoma in the championship game of the Laguna-Acoma Classic Saturday, but Lady Chief coach Herb McDaniel was still proud of his team's performance.

"Laguna-Acoma is a very good 3A team, that's all there is to it," McDaniel said of the 65-43 loss to the Lady Hawks in the final. "We made progress though. We lost by only 22 this year after losing by 35 last year."

All joking aside, McDaniel said the entire tournament was a very good learning experience for his squad. The Lady Chiefs defeated 3A Zuni and 2A Estancia to get to the final game, both teams that McDaniel said were strong foes.

"Right now, we're pulling out the close games," McDaniel said. "As long as we continue to do that, we should be good."

Mescalero (5-1) trailed by only six points after the first quarter, but then Lady Hawk Treva Riley — a player McDaniel predicts will be playing Division I ball somewhere — came untracked, scoring 19 points to lead the game.

Melanie Bell led Mescalero with 14 points, while Kelly King-Morgan added 13.

In the tournament's opener, the Lady Chiefs defeated Zuni 37-48, thanks to better shooting.

"They were bigger than us, but quick, and so we had to drop the press after the first quarter," McDaniel said. "But we were able to pull away in that third quarter."

Zuni held a 15-14 lead at the break, and were within one point near the end, but three straight 3-pointers by the Lady Chiefs — two by Kayla

Randall and one by Kelsey Duffy — put Mescalero up by 10 and gave it the lead for good.

Randall had 18 points in the win, while King-Morgan scored 13, Jessica Yellowcloud 12 and Duffy 10.

"We felt real fortunate that we were able to dig deep in the second half and pull out a win against a pretty good 3A team," McDaniel said.

Against Estancia Friday, Mescalero found itself in a 14-7 hole after the first quarter and were down by 10 at the break before pulling out a 49-39 victory in the semifinal.

"We were out of it to start," McDaniel said. "They set the man defense so well, but I wouldn't go to a zone. They were just shooting well to start and we weren't."

The Lady Chiefs were able to stop the bleeding in the third quarter and finally turned it around in the final period, holding the Lady Bears to just two points on a single field goal by Kaye Colburn.

"We were lucky they didn't make any of their free throws," McDaniel said of Estancia's 0-for-5 performance at the foul line. "The urgency finally got to us in that last quarter."

Duffy again came alive in that final quarter, hitting a pair of straight threes to key an 18-2 quarter that gave her team the victory. Duffy led the team with 14 points, while Randall added 11. The pair were named to the all-tournament team.

The Lady Chiefs were at Gateway Christian in Roswell Tuesday and will play host to Tohajiilee in the first round of the Mescalero Apache Invitational Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

'Zozo teams struggle, but improve at Moriarty

TODD FUQUA
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Neither Mandy Baca nor Brad Holland had any illusions as to how their basketball teams would do at this year's Bruce and Alice King Tournament at Moriarty over the weekend.

As coaches of the Carrizozo boys and girls teams, they were leading a pair of 1A teams into a tournament featuring mostly 3A and 4A schools.

The Lady Grizzlies went winless, but ended up with a 49-46 loss to Santa Rosa in the seventh place game, proving how far they had come in three games.

Carrizozo's boys lost to 3A Tohatchi in the first round by 10, then turned around for a 74-19 whopping of Española Military Academy in the second round to earn the right to play for fifth.

Carrizozo dropped a 68-47 decision to Taos in that game, but came out of the tournament having proved it can win some games.

The Grizzlies (4-3) got to within four points of Tohatchi by the third quarter on

Thursday, but the Cougars almost doubled up Carrizozo in the final period to hold onto the win. Jeremy Zamora had 13 points to lead the Grizzlies, while Robert Dutchover had 11.

'Zozo had little trouble with Española Academy on Friday, exploding for 38 points in the first quarter while holding the Academy scoreless in the first quarter and cruising from there.

Dutchover had 19 points in this one, while Zamora put in 14.

The Carrizozo girls (2-5) struggled to open the tournament against Tohatchi on Thursday, finding themselves down 16-8 after the first period. They played the Cougars evenly in the second and fourth quarters, but it wasn't enough to turn the game around.

"We were nervous and came out jittery," Baca said. "We were playing all crazy in the first quarter, but when we started playing with them, we were even the rest of the way."

Jennifer Shafer had 13 points to lead the Lady Grizzlies, while Kaitlyn Vega had 12.

On Friday against Belen it was much the same story. The Eagles leapt out to a 21-4 lead in the first quarter, but Carrizozo stopped the onslaught in the last three quarters. Still, playing Belen evenly didn't get the Lady Grizzlies the victory, falling 49-30.

Vega had a game-high 20 points to lead Carrizozo.

"Our control of the offense was the difference," Baca said of her team's turnaround in the second quarter. "On defense we were OK, but our offense wasn't working at all."

Both teams hosted Estancia Tuesday and will be in action this weekend at the Mescalero Apache Invitational starting Thursday. Baca was a little worried her team might be down after a poor showing at Moriarty, but her fears proved unfounded.

"The girls knew what they were getting into in this tournament, and their last game (against Santa Rosa) was the best," Baca said. "We mamed up and did some full court stuff I didn't think we'd be able to do at this point in the season. There was progress."

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Corona needs Christmas break to re-tune

TODD FUQUA
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The Christmas break has come at just the right time for the Corona boys and girls basketball teams.

The Corona boys may be doing just a little bit worse than the girls right now, but both needed the rest and proper practice needed before they hit the court again Jan. 4 at the Bean Valley Conference Tournament.

Corona is 1-5, having dropped three of its last four games in December. The Cardinals lost to House 65-29 Dec. 4, and also dropped close decisions to Evangel Christian (43-41) and the Estancia C team (37-36). In the midst of all that, Corona was able to beat Estancia 47-39 in a second game.

Turn the Evangel Christian and

Estancia losses around, and the Cardinals are 3-3.

Cardinal coach Leon Porter said the biggest problem plaguing his team in those close losses was an inability to shoot free throws. Corona was 9-for-30 at the charity stripe against Evangel Christian, and went just 6-for-25 against Evangel Christian.

"When you shoot that kind of percentage, you won't win ball games," Porter said. "That makes a lot of difference."

J.R. Shafer led his team in both losses with a total of 29 points between the two games. Patrick Palomarez had 11 points against Evangel Christian and eight points against Estancia.

Palomarez was the leading scorer in his team's victory over Estancia Dec. 4, putting in 14, followed by

Shafer with 8. Dylan Johnson and Charlie Encinas had seven points each in that one.

While the boys have been struggling, the Corona girls have been finding their stride. The Lady Cardinals dropped a six-point loss to House to start the month, but then rebounded with a pair of big victories over Estancia's C team.

Stacy Merritt led her team in both wins with 15 and 22 points, while Janet Torres contributed 17 points in the two games. Jordan Muncy had 15 points total.

The same three showed up on the leader board in the 30-24 loss to House.

"Those are the three leading producers, and they all trade off," Porter said. "We also have a couple of girls right behind them. There's a lot of depth on this team."

Mescalero boys open eyes with second place finish at To'hajilee

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Mescalero's boys may have lost by 40 points to East Mountain Saturday at the To'hajilee Tournament, but the real important point, as far as Chief coach Ron Burton is concerned, is where his team was when it lost.

Mescalero finished second as a result of the loss, having beaten Monte de Sol and tournament host To'hajilee in the first two rounds to get to the championship game.

Even better, the Chiefs (3-5) had to come from behind in both their victories Wednesday and Thursday.

"We played so well, I was tickled to death and got involved in the game," Burton said. "That's why I lost my voice over the weekend."

While the Chiefs surprised tournament host To'hajilee with a 10-point victory on Wednesday and needed points near the very end to pull out a 3-point victory over Monte de Sol, Mescalero was outclassed by East Mountain, as the Timberwolves leapt to a 19-4 lead after the first quarter and never looked back in a 63-23 win.

"We played flat, but had never been in a championship game before," Burton said. "But we surprised some people there, and even got some invitations to other tournaments."

"We were getting up and down, the floor well in that final game, and it could have been a lot closer, but I'm still happy with how we did," he added. "I think we'll be a contender."

The Chiefs will host Alamogordo at 8:15 p.m. Thursday in the first round of the Mescalero Apache Invitational.



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LINCOLN COUNTY

The sheriff will escort Santa Claus to Capitan Saturday

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Santa Claus will arrive in Capitan Saturday, Dec. 16, riding in a horse-drawn sleigh chauffeured by Lincoln County Sheriff Rick Virden.

The annual Cowboy Santa Parade sponsored by the Capitan Public Library will start at 12:30 p.m. at the west of Smokey Bear Blvd. in front of Buffalo Gal Coffee, proceeding east down the boulevard to Lincoln Avenue and around the corner to the library. Parade entries are asked to be there at 11:30 a.m.

This year's parade, as before, is a

"non-motorized vehicle" parade. All entries will be horse or mule drawn, people riding horses or walking. Capturing the spirit of an old-fashioned Christmas, there will be numerous and assorted horse drawn buggies, wagons and carts.

According to organizers, anyone who wants "to ride a horse, drive a wagon, walk their dog, pull their goat or chase their mule" is welcome to join in. No prior entry is required. "Just show up," said Kay Finkelstein.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Posse will be on deck with their horses, as will Camp Sierra Blanca's color guard and their new addition this year, a

float. The Sheriff will drop Santa, majestically played by Richard Rumpf, at the library at the end of the parade. Santa will present each child with a book and candy. Candy has been donated by Wal-Mart.

The Capitan Smokey Bear Lions Club will be taking pictures of the children with Santa. Marcia Guynes and Jenny Mattox are the photographers. Photos can be picked up at the library Dec. 19.

For more information, call Castille Martell at 354-5802, Kay Finkelstein at 354-2270 or the Capitan Public Library at 354-3035.



The Cowboy Parade in Capitan Saturday will offer some old-fashioned family fun with horses, wagons and, of course Santa Claus. The completely non-motorized procession will end at the Capitan Public Library with snacks and treats for the children including a photo session offered by the Capitan Smokey Bear Lions Club.

FILE PHOTOS BY JULIE CARTER



The passing of old friends

Orlando Gallegos, son of Francis and Joe Gallegos passed away in Las Vegas, Nev. last week. The services will be held at the San Juan Church in Saturday. Joe and Francis had been in Las Vegas to be with him. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family.

Duff May passed away in Farmington. He and his wife Joyce had recently moved to Farmington to be near their daughter, Donda and her husband. Joyce passed away recently. Duff ran the Texaco Station on the outskirts of town west of Carrizozo for many years.

The La Junta and Roadrunner Extension Clubs held their joint Christmas party at the Fellowship Hall in Timne last Friday. The 26 members and guests enjoyed the bountiful dinner and then held their gift exchange.

Following the gift exchange several members worked on the upcoming year's program. There will be several very interesting programs for the

council and clubs.

We attended the walk thru at the Hubbard Museum. David Mandel, the judge of the show, explained how and why photos were accepted. There were over 300 entries and 150 were on display.

The entries came from 25 states and Canada. The theme was the American West and there were many great photographs.

The Mountaintop Turners held their Christmas party at the lovely home of Steve and Madeleine Sabo. The club members made Christmas tree ornaments which were then exchanged. They were very creative.

The members and guests also enjoyed a wonderful ham dinner.

It appears that our cold weather has come to stay. It had been predicted that we would have a cold winter.

Are we going to get any snow or just the cold?

Carrizozo Heritage Museum ready for the holidays

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Thanks to a generous donation of luminarias from Isabel Hernandez, the Carrizozo Heritage Museum is decked out in traditional southwest holiday cheer.

Santa and his favorite elf, Perrywinkle, are loaded up in the sleigh ready to greet visitors throughout the month.

Museum volunteers remind the community that the museum is a great place for holiday shopping with a fine collection of books to offer for that special someone.

Joe Hobbs is the newest member of the museum board of director. Born and raised in Carrizozo, Hobbs' barware collection has been on loan to the museum and is a major attraction to visitors.

The museum will celebrate the 2007 National Day of the Cowboy July 28. A committee of local business people, ranchers, horse people, cowboys and museum staff are working to develop activities to create a big event.

The museum will be closed in January and February while work is done on the building next door to the museum, making it ready for museum use. Windows will be installed, doorways constructed as well as general



FILE PHOTO BY JULIE CARTER

Santa and Perrywinkle await holiday visitors aboard a genuine sleigh at the Carrizozo Heritage Museum.

cleanup and painting. The newest addition to the museum exhibits is an old 22-foot fire engine from Carrizozo donated by Lerry Bond. The truck will be ready for viewing

when the museum reopens in March. The Carrizozo Heritage Museum is open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. For more information call 648-1105.

\$1 million trail program funding available

Officials with New Mexico State Parks announced that more than \$1 million in federal funds is available for distribution in 2007 for eligible entities to develop and improve recreational trails in the state.

The Recreational Trails application deadline is 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2007.

Funding is available for both motorized and non-motorized trail projects. The program can provide up to 80 percent of funding for each project.

Because the State Parks agency is responsible for administering the Recreational Trails Program, the Division provides information and technical assistance for those applying

in the form of annual workshops, to ensure accuracy and efficiency in the application process for eligible entities. Workshops will be held in February 2007 to assist with applications.

Eligible applicants include: Federal and state agencies, local governmental entities, Indian tribes, non-profit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code.

All applications must be received on April 1, 2007. Application guidelines and workshop details may be obtained at the workshops or by visiting the State Parks Web site at www.enmr.state.nm.us/nmparks/PAGE/grant_programs/tp_grants.htm.

Bingaman aide will hold Lincoln County office hours

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman announced that a representative from his Roswell office will be in Lincoln County Thursday, Dec. 14, to help residents in the area with problems or concerns with federal government agencies.

"The office hours in Hondo and Ruidoso will give area residents a chance to meet with a representative from my office to discuss problems they may face, from collecting their Social

Security benefits to difficulties with the VA," Bingaman said.

A representative from Bingaman's office will be available on Thursday at the following locations:

Hondo
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Senior Citizen Center
Highway 380

Ruidoso Downs
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
City Hall (Hubbard Room)

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Wed-Sat • 5 - 9pm
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10am - 2pm
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New Year's Eve

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grown hydroponically in our own controlled
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(Smokey Bear Blvd.) Capitan, NM

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Chemical Free.
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www.casketstorewholesale.com

FUNERALS DEATHS

Orlando Gallegos

Orlando A. Gallegos, 44, of Las Vegas, Nev., passed away Dec. 4 after a short illness. He was born to Joe and Frances Gallegos March 30, 1962 and was raised in Las Cruces. He is survived by his daughter Cristina and step-son Nicholas of Las Vegas, Nev.; parents Joe

and Frances of Lincoln; sister Nancy DeVeny; brothers Bernie (Gloria) and Gabriel (Joselyn) Gallegos. He is also survived by his nephews whom he loved very much, Lucas (Anita) Serna, Andres Serna, Bernardo Gallegos, Adrian Gallegos and David Gallegos. He also leaves behind many loving aunts, uncles and

cousins too numerous to name. Services will be held at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006 at the San Juan Church in Lincoln. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lincoln Community Church, Lincoln, NM 88338.

Mary McCulley

Services for Mary McCulley,

72, of Ruidoso will be held at a later date. Mary passed away Dec. 8, 2006 in Ruidoso. She was born Dec. 6, 1934 in Amsterdam, Holland.

She moved to Ruidoso in 1977 from Ft. Riley, Kan. and was a housewife. She married George McCulley on Dec. 6, 1956 in Amsterdam.

She is survived by her husband George of Ruidoso; children, John McCulley and his wife Jeanie of Denver, Colo. and a daughter, Tammyh Woods and her husband Mark of Ruidoso; her twin sister, Jany Pritchett of Ruidoso; three grandchildren, Sabrina McCulley, Shaun McCulley and his wife Kristi, and Julie Hirschfeld.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.lagroneruidoso.com.

Joseph Schivone

Joseph Schivone, 74, of Ruidoso, passed away Friday, Dec. 8, 2006. He was born Oct. 16, 1932 in



Holley, N.Y. to the late Frank and Jane (DeTroya) Schivone. Joseph married Elsie Perhach Nov. 27, 1954 in Medina, N.Y. In 1991 they moved to Lubbock where they opened As Time Goes By Antique Mall. In 1999 they moved to Ruidoso, N. Mex. but continued to serve as antique buyers.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 52 years, Elsie; son, Pete Schivone of Ruidoso; daughter, Pam DeBellis of Lubbock; grandchildren, Nicole and Natalie DeBellis of Lubbock, Summer Saranova of Ruidoso, Erich Schivone of Telluride, Colo., Jhett and Luciana Schivone of Ruidoso.

Arrangements are under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home.

Bob Richardson

Services are pending for Bob Richardson of Ruidoso Downs, former distributor for Price's Creameries and owner of Ruidoso Wholesale Foods, Inc. Richardson passed away Sunday, Dec. 10. Details will be available Friday in the Ruidoso News.

Obituary Policy for the Ruidoso News

We publish obituaries free of charge as a community service. Obituaries must be submitted by a funeral home or family member.

In addition to hand delivery at our office, submissions may be made by email to mracine@ruidosonews.com or by fax to (505) 257-7053; or by post to P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88345.

Submissions are subject to editing for length, wording, grammar and spelling according to the newspaper's established styles. Long lists of family members may be reduced.

The newspaper makes every effort to publish obituaries and funeral notices in a timely manner, but we do not guarantee publication of an obituary on a specified date.

We accept one photo per obituary; publication of a photo is subject to space availability and is not guaranteed. We are not responsible for errors or omissions.

To guarantee that an obituary runs exactly as submitted and/or on a specified date, please contact our advertising department to place a paid notice.



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Offer valid on all remaining poinsettias.
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While supplies last. Offer valid 12/14/06 through 12/17/06. See store for details.

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Offer applies to rugs 30" x 50" or smaller only. While supplies last. Offer valid 12/14/06 through 12/17/06. See store for details.

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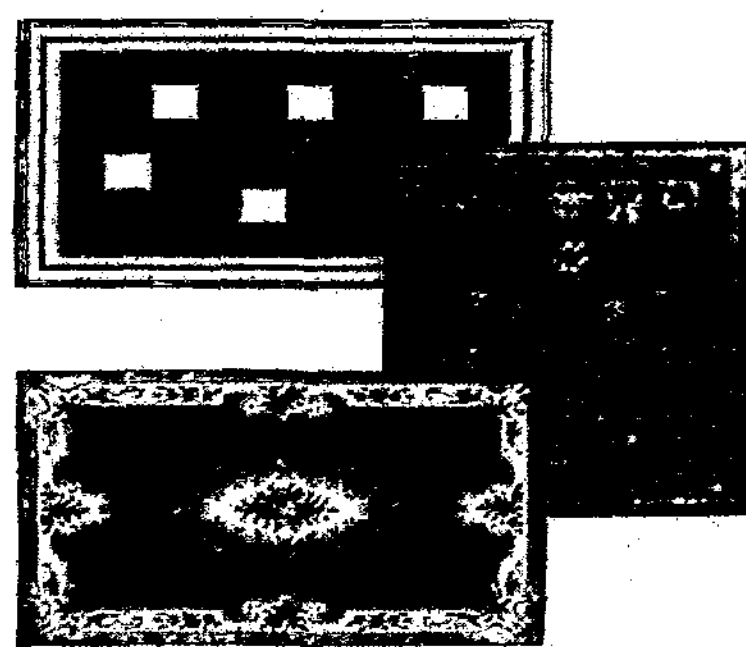


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\$25-\$150
gift card

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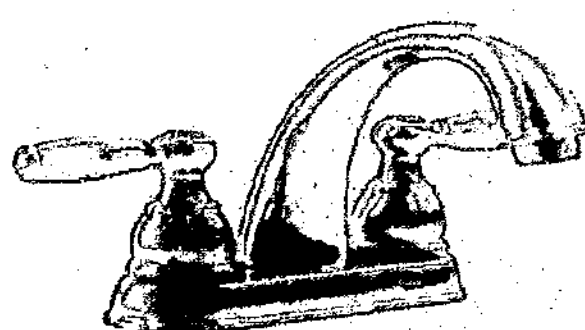
- \$25 gift card on purchases of \$297-\$496
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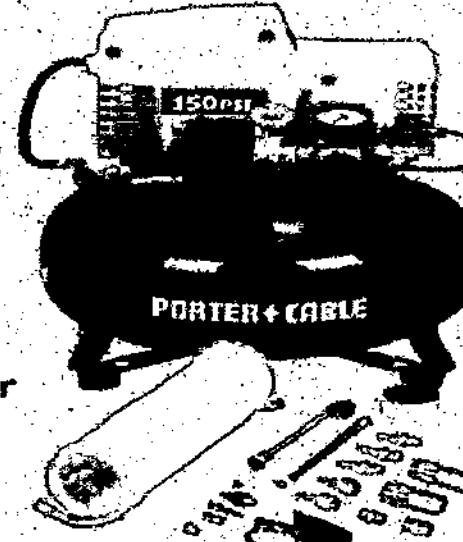


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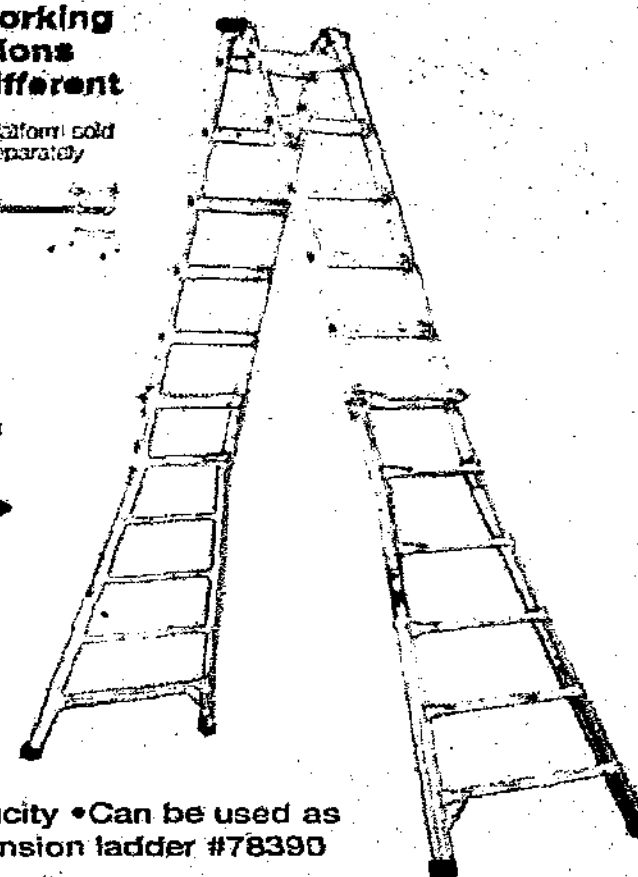
13 adjustable working heights or positions
Converts to 4 different ladders



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Trusted by pros
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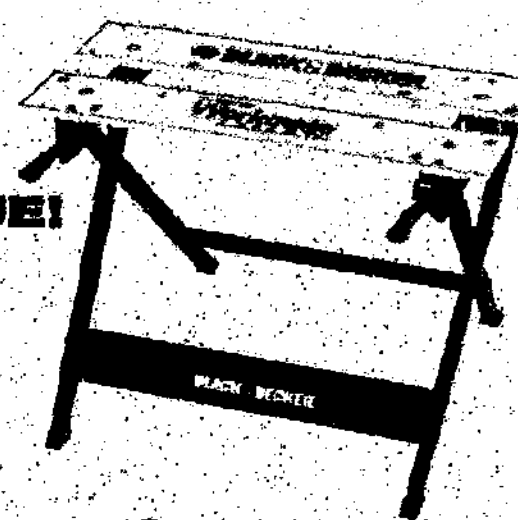
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13' Telescoping Multi-Ladder
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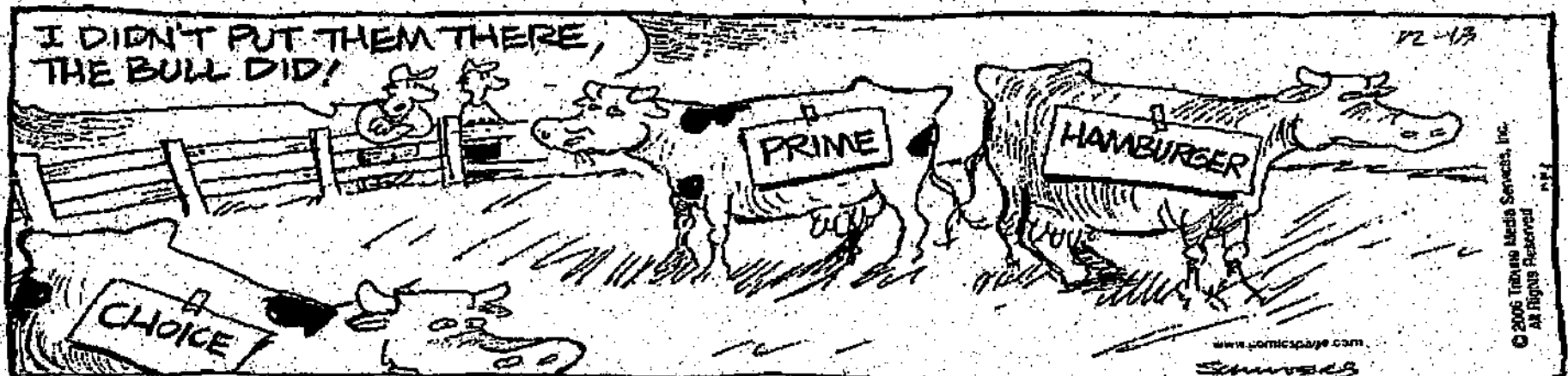
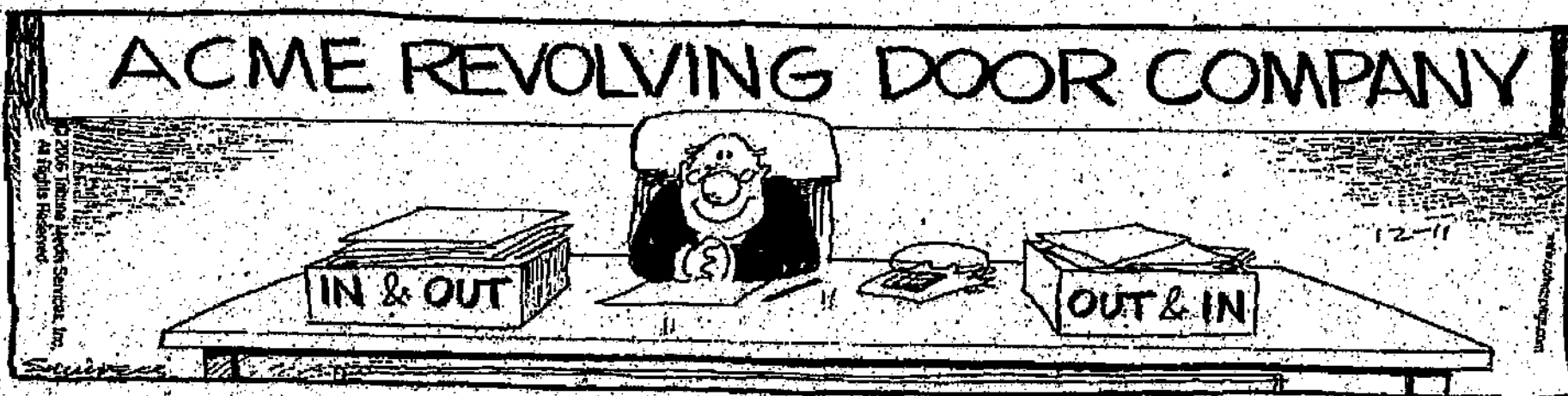
Buy in store or at Lowe's.com/giftcard

For the Lowe's nearest you, call 1-800-993-4416 or visit us online at Lowe's.com

Prices may vary after December 17, 2006 if there are market variations. *Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on December 7, 2006, and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. ©2006 Hendrick Motorsports. All rights reserved. The likeness of Jimmie Johnson, the #48 race car, and other trademarks or copyrights used with the permission of Hendrick Motorsports and NASCAR. ©2006 by Lowe's. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. 061291

061/61291/041 061 079 117 136

BOUND & GAGGED



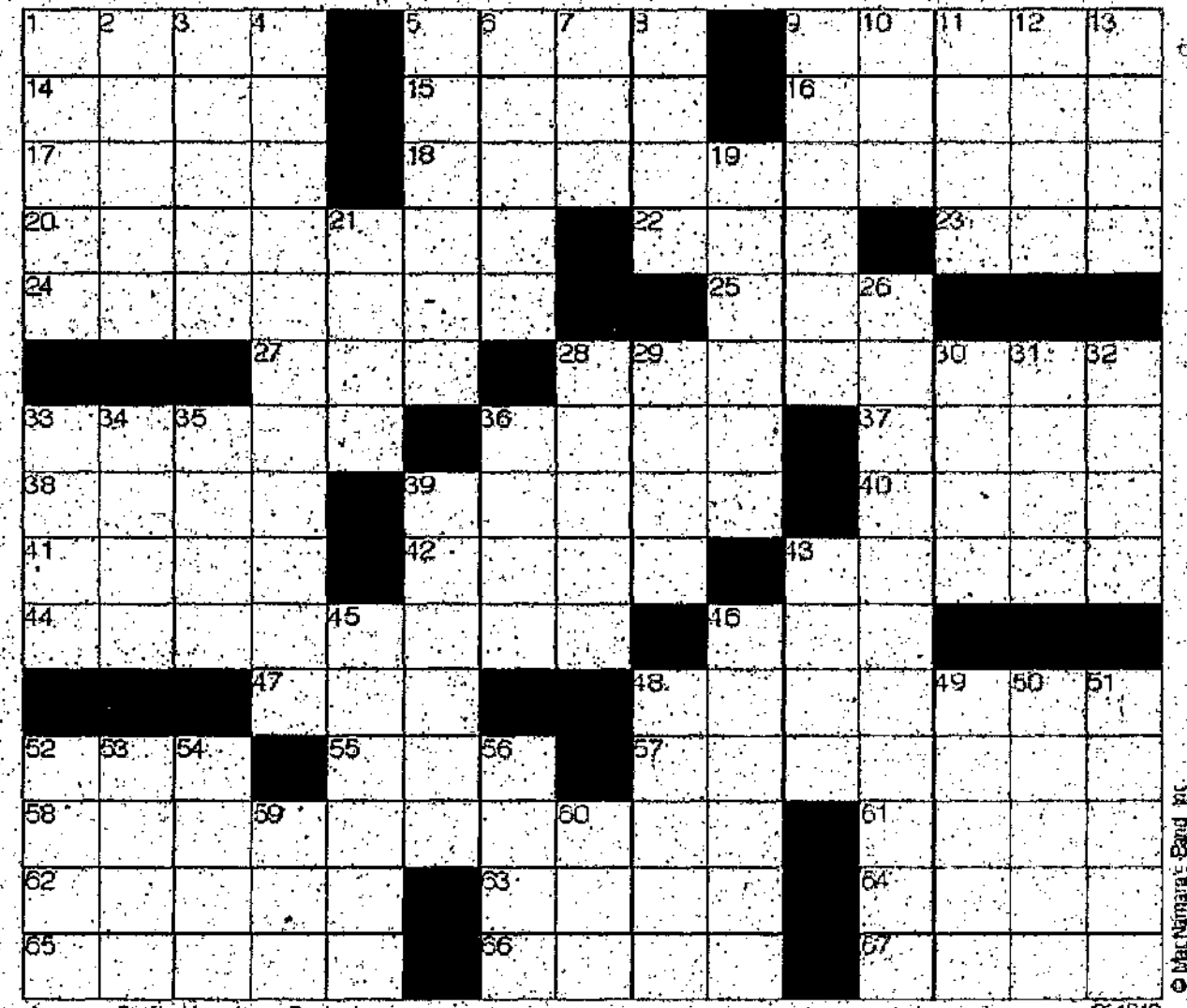
SHOE



ACROSS

1. Talk like Daffy
5. Crimson Tide, informally
9. Tricky pool shot
14. Utah ski resort
15. Wilson of "Wedding Crashers"
16. Fiber-optic cable
17. Stadium section
18. City near Norfolk, Va.
20. Pop-up gadget
22. "Cheers" bartender
23. Prefix with natal
24. Provided funds for
25. Place for gloss
27. Catch a few Z's
28. Football team gofer
33. Out of kilter
38. Benedict, e.g.
37. Cookbook writer Rombauer
38. In a bit
39. Stored on a floppy
40. #2 exec
41. Explorer Hernando de ...
42. Pundit's piece
43. Rural dance sites
44. Place for waste
46. Go bad
47. "A mouse!"
48. Dark red apple variety
52. Thurman of film
55. Director Craven
57. Former Mouseketeer Funicello
58. Old-style TV antenna
61. Where the Clintons met
62. Castaway's home
63. Art Deco master
64. Politico Bayh

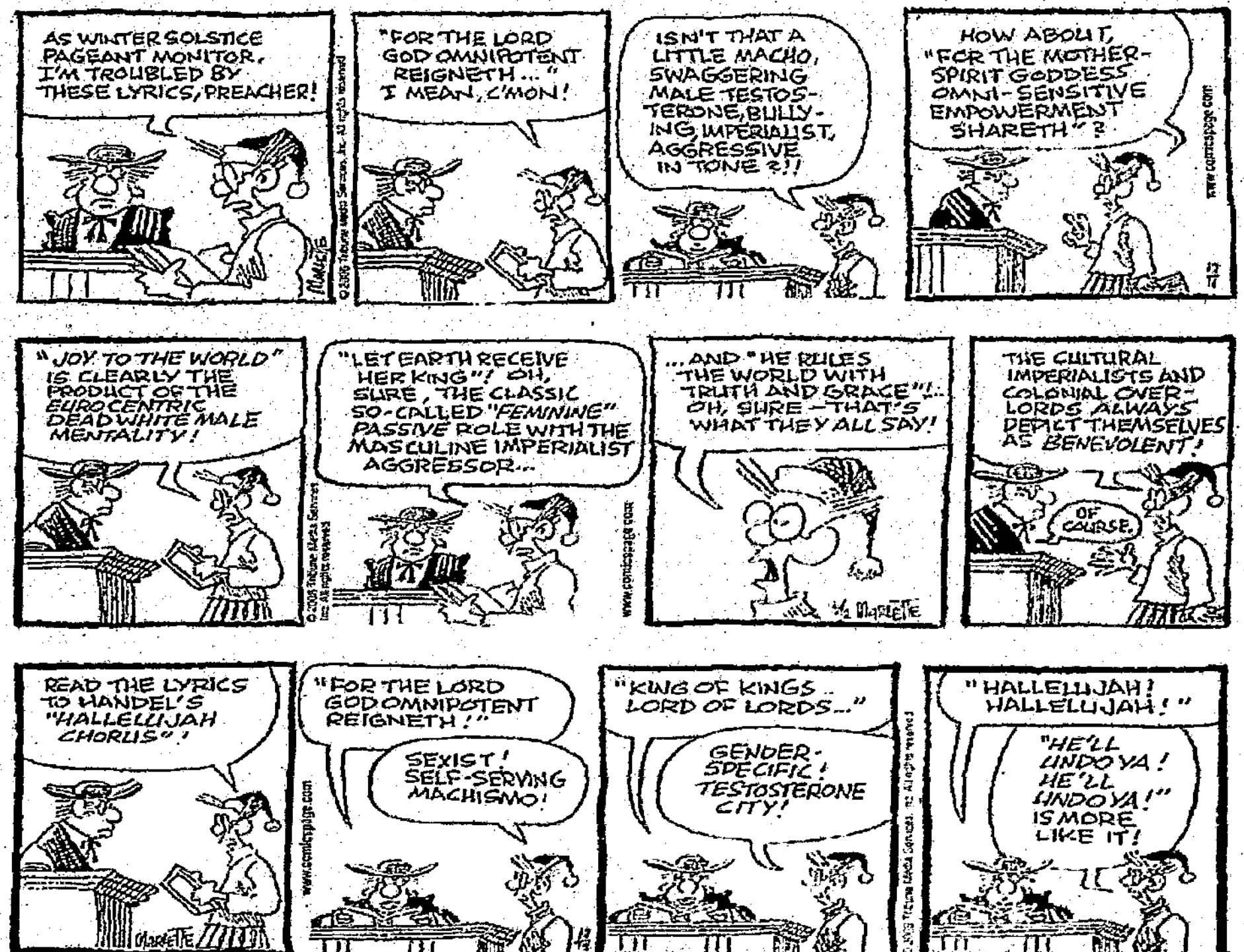
Face It!



65. Surgeon's blockage reliever
 66. Ring items
 67. Patches up
- DOWN
1. Coffeehouse order
 2. Troy, as it's also known
 3. Stand-in good
 4. The tail of a cooked chicken
 5. Shepherd of rhyme
 6. "...to the wise..."
 7. Debussy's "La..."
 8. They make pantry raids
 9. "...Dearest" (Christina Crawford memoir)
 10. Mil. address

11. Hit with a Taser
12. Place to build
13. Cavern sound
19. Like some peanuts
21. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" opener
26. Holmes and Spade, for two
28. Crafted on a loom
29. Did a takeoff on
30. Joel Chandler Harris's ... Rabbit
31. Black cat, to some
32. Talks, talks, talks
33. Helper: Abbr.
34. Drop anchor
35. Frat house I
36. Bearded Smurf
39. Bulb holder

KUDZU



SCRABBLE

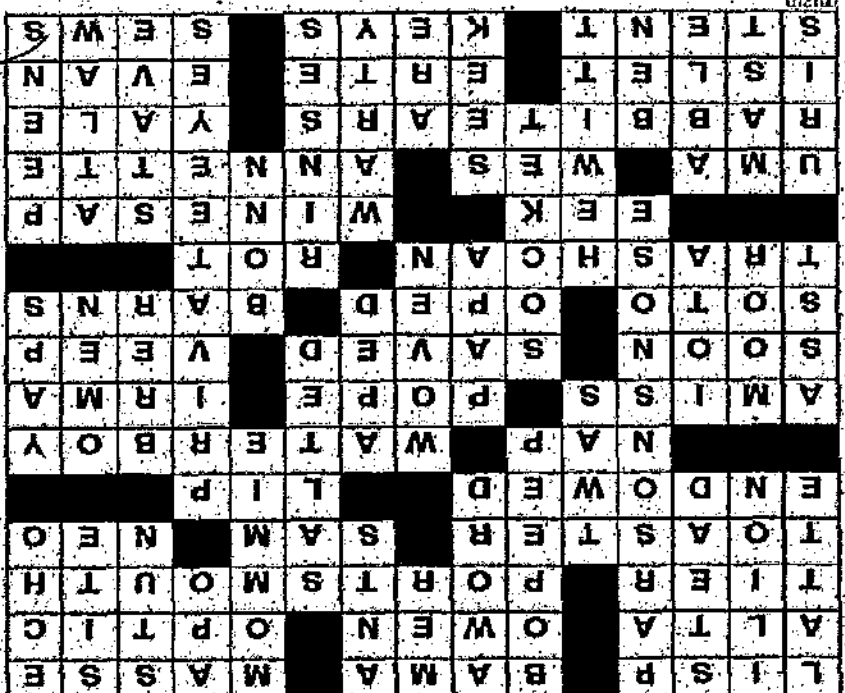
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A ₁	I ₁	S ₁	L ₁	B ₃	H ₄	C ₃	Double Word Score	RACK 1
A ₁	A ₁	U ₁	G ₂	M ₃	D ₂	R ₁		RACK 2
E ₁	E ₁	O ₁	F ₄	L ₁	N ₁	S ₁	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 3
E ₁	E ₁	E ₁	P ₃	R ₁	J ₈	S ₁		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 215
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 3rd Edition.

For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to www.scrabble-assoc.com or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (631) 477-0037.

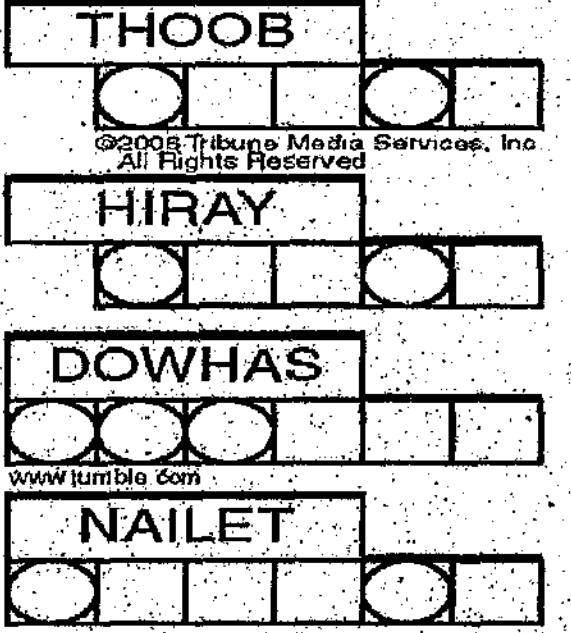


RUIDOSO NEWS

104 PARK AVE.
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(505) 257-4001
www.ruidosonews.com

JUMBLE

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



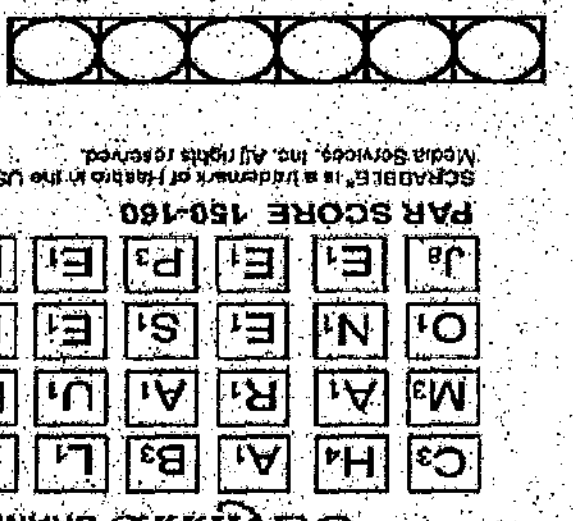
Answer here: _____

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiloin

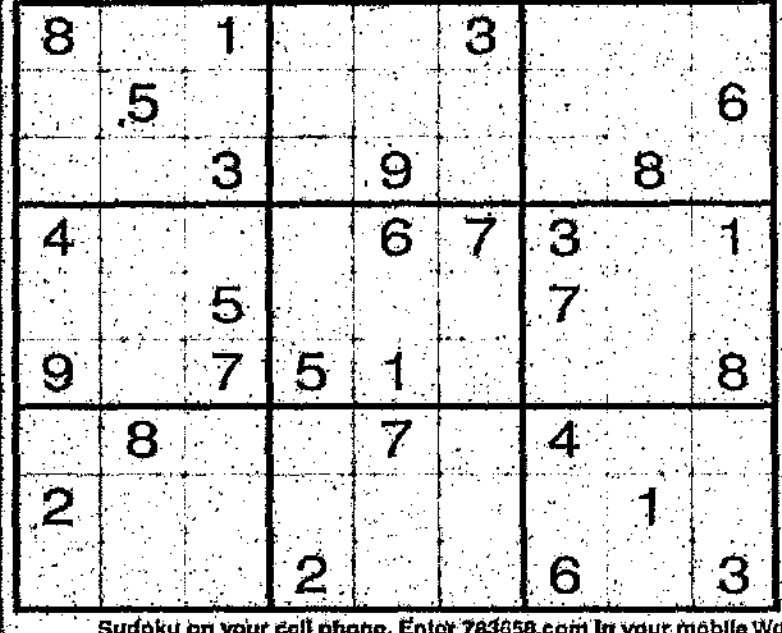


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By Michael Mepham



Level: 1 2 3 4
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Sudoku on your cell phone. Enter 743058 on your mobile Web browser. Got a free game!

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Answer: What the artist wanted to draw when he reached the summit — HIS BREATH

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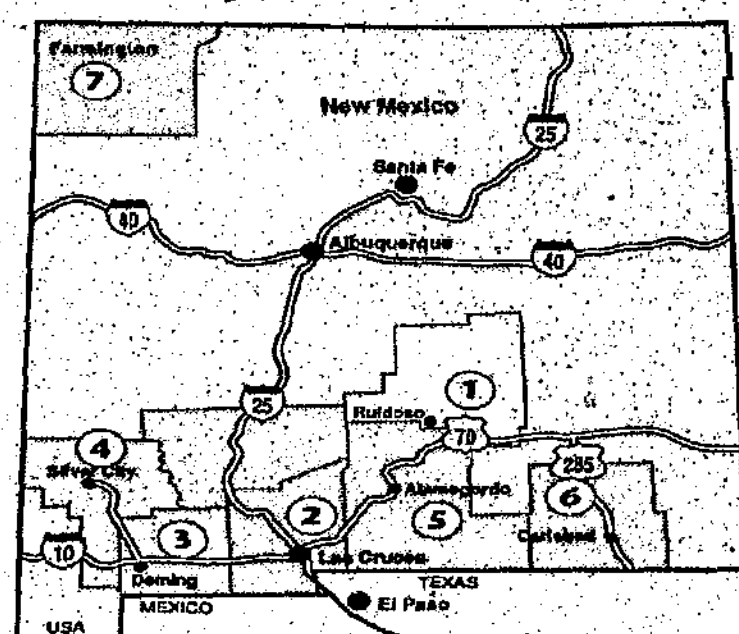
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Line Ads:
3 PM Monday for Wednesday
3 PM Wednesday for Friday
Legal Ads:
3 PM Friday for Wednesday
3 PM Tuesday for Friday

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Check your ad promptly for accuracy. Claims for errors must be received by The Ruidoso News within 24 hours of the first publication date. Cancellation Policy: No cash refunds or charge card credit. The Ruidoso News reserves the right to edit, categorize or refuse classified ads due to inappropriate content.

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100

Attorneys 118

Patricia S. Ortiz
Attorney at Law

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General Civil
and
Criminal Litigation

714 Mechem
Ruidoso

505-630-9046
Fax: 630-1222

Legal Notices 152

#7471 4T (12)6,8,13,15

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

SAFE DEPOSIT SELF
STORAGE #31

Household Goods
Last Known Owner
Jalon Harrison
130 Marfield Drive
Alamo, TX 76008

Date of Sale December
30, 2006
Time 1pm
Location Safe Deposit Self
Storage, 108 Alpine
Village Road, Ruidoso,
NM 88345

All Sales Final Written
Lumpsum bids and
Unholder reserves right
to bid items must be
received some day
immediately following
sale

#7488 1T (12)13

INVITATION TO BID

Legal Advertisement
No. 2006-0757 #5

The Ruidoso Municipal
School District Board of
Education invites you to
submit a bid package
PRICING FOR THE
FACILITIES EQUIPMENT
DATA COLLECTION FOR
THE RUIDOSO MUNICI-
PAL SCHOOLS MAINTE-
NANCE AND OPERA-
TIONS DIVISION
Qualified vendors who
are interested can
request a bid package
from Ruidoso Municipal
Schools Administration
office, 200 Horton Circle,
Ruidoso, NM 88345,
505-257-4031. Bids will
be publicly opened
January 22, 2007 at
10:00 PM (MST) at the
District Administration
Office located at 200
Horton Circle, Ruidoso,
NM

Ruidoso Municipal School
District Board of
Education

Paul Wirth, Ed D
Superintendent

#7490 1T (12)13

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
PLANNING & ZONING
COMMISSION
WORKSHOP &
SPECIAL MEETING
CITY OF
RUIDOSO DOWNS
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 19, 2006
5:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the Planning &
Zoning Commission of
the City of Ruidoso
Downs will hold a
Workshop & Special
Meeting on Tuesday,
December 19, 2006,
City Hall Hub Room
to review and update
Planning and Zoning
Articles. The meeting
is open to the public.

If you are an individual
with a disability who is
in need of a reader, am-
plifier, qualified sign-
language interpreter, or
any other form of auxil-
iary aid or service to
attend or participate in
the hearing or meeting,
please contact the City
of Ruidoso Downs Hall at
least one week prior to
meeting or as soon as
possible.

Patricia DeSoto
Planning & Zoning

Legal Notices 152

#7491 2T (12)13,20

ALTO LAKES SPECIAL
ZONING DISTRICT
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF
AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING THE
COMPREHENSIVE
ZONING AND LAND USE
ORDINANCE OF THE
ALTO LAKES SPECIAL
ZONING DISTRICT TO
ADD SECTION 29 -
VARIANCES AND
CONDITIONAL USE
PERMITS AND REWRITE
SECTION 30 -
ADMINISTRATION

The Alto Lakes Special
Zoning District adopted
Ordinance 2006-02
amending the Alto Lakes
Comprehensive Zoning
and Land Use Ordinance
of a regular meeting
after a public hearing on
December 1, 2006. The
amendments affect all
properties located within
the Alto Lakes Special
Zoning District bound-
aries and includes regula-
tions restricting and
defining the use and
zoning of properties
within the District. The
original copy of Ord-
inance 2006-02 has been
filed with the Lincoln
County Clerk. Copies of
the ordinance are avail-
able from the County
Clerk during normal
business hours. The
effective date of the
amendments is January
7, 2007.

Ron Duncan, Secretary
Alto Lakes Special
Zoning District

EMPLOYMENT

An Immediate Front Desk
position is available.
Please apply at the
Holiday Inn Express, 400
W. Hwy 70.

Carpenter Helper needed
willing to learn. Good
pay. 354-0134 or
808-0659

Gen. Help Wanted 224

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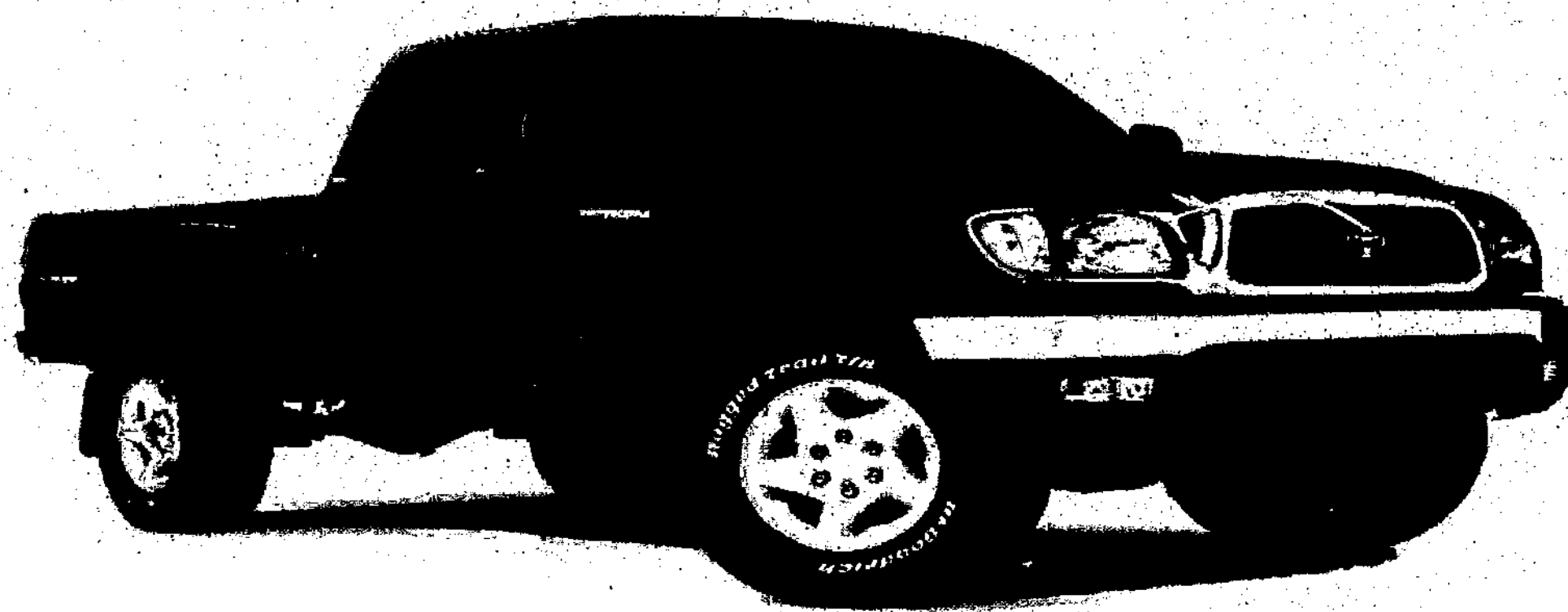
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RESCHEDULED FORECLOSURE SALE 100 Comanche Court Alto, NM 3 BR, 2 Bath 1467 SF Sale Location: Main entrance of the Ruidoso Village Hall on Cree Meadows, Ruidoso, New Mexico. DATE: JANUARY 4, 2007 TIME: 9:00 AM GOVERNMENT BID: \$55,218.50 AS-IS APPRAISAL VALUE: \$85,000. LEGAL: Lot 14, Block 1, Rancho Ruidoso Valley Estates, Alto area, New Mexico. Property is not available for normal inspection as they are still owned by private individuals. However, if the property is abandoned, interested parties can contact the local Rural Development office to see if an inspection of the property can be made. Foreclosure is still pending in the NM District Court. Under some circumstances the sale may be canceled. Rural Development will not pay brokers or finders commission for successful bidders. Terms of Sale: Bid amount to be paid by the end of the day of sale payable to the Public Trustee. Payment must be made in U.S. currency by cashiers or certified check. All taxes plus interest due are the responsibility of the Buyer. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Call USDA Rural Development 505-835-1710 EXT. 4 or visit www.resales.usda.gov 550717						1997 Dodge Ram \$5,900 505-525-1930 Car Connection	1998 Ford F-150 \$4,995 505-527-8697 Levi Auto Sales	1994 Ford F-150 \$2,995 505-527-8697 Levi Auto Sales	2003 Ford Explorer \$15,999 505-521-1900 Saturn Las Cruces	Ford Expedition '00, E.B. 4x4, leather, \$9,950. 1-866-506-7619 Rico	2005 Chevrolet Venture \$13,999 505-521-1900 Saturn Las Cruces	2002 Kia Sedona EX \$7,900 505-525-1930 Car Connection	2005 Chevrolet Classic \$1,300 Down 505-527-5359 Creditman.com	1990 Ford Escort ZX2 \$4,250 505-527-8697 Levi Auto Sales	1990 Ford Escort ZX2 \$4,250 505-527-8697 Levi Auto Sales	2005 Ford Focus ZX4 ST \$11,998 505-523-5566 Las Cruces Toyota	2003 Ford Focus WGN \$4,250 505-527-8697 Levi Auto Sales	2003 Ford Focus WGN \$4,250 505-527-8697 Levi Auto Sales	2003 Ford Focus WGN \$4,250 505-527-8697 Levi Auto Sales	2003 Ford Focus WGN \$4,250 505-527-8697 Levi Auto Sales
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