

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 2006 • OUR 60TH YEAR, NO. 67 • 50 CENTS

FIRE DANGER
LOW

INSIDE



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Chiefs lose title game, Grizzlies take fifth in tourney

6A EDUCATION

Guitars, all types of guitars, sound off at ENMU-Ruidoso

4A OPINION

An attitude in Carrizozo

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Spencer retires from NRCS
Had been with service for 32 years

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JUB agrees to repairs

DISCUSSION OF WASTEWATER LINES TIED TO RUIDOSO DOWNS' CONTENTION ABOUT 'SKEWED' USAGE FIGURES

DEANNA CHENEY
For the Ruidoso News

Discussion on immediate repair work needed to wastewater lines and manholes at the regional Wastewater Treatment Plant took a giant leap forward Monday with members of the Joint Use Board (JUB) agreeing to a plan of action.

The board has, since the fall of 2004, suspected that rehabilitation was needed to transfer and access equipment but was "distracted" and "mired down" by legal issues when it was learned that plant facilities did not meet state and federal envi-

ronmental standards, Maury St. John, a member of the Lincoln County Commission and Joint Use Board, said.

"We've discussed repairs in the past but have gotten nothing accomplished," she said. "And that seems to be a part of the problem - part of why this board couldn't move forward until now and part of the controversy with Ruidoso Downs."

At the top of discussions, John Waters, Ruidoso Downs city manager, said his city's mayor, Bob Miller, sent a letter to the Village of Ruidoso in July 2005 inquiring about repairs but said "an answer has never materialized."

City officials had long challenged that

infiltration into the plant's interceptor line had "skewed" usage figures and, in November, reported that several manholes had been found damaged, further allowing infiltration.

As owners and fiscal managers of the joint use facility, Waters said that the Village is responsible for coming up with a recommendation regarding repairs, or to delegate a remedy or solution that meets all interests.

"Frankly, our council feels a disconnect with Ruidoso because of that," he said unsparingly.

See REPAIR, page 8A

Downs pledges to pay bills

■ Unbudgeted items in WWTP costs cited for spike in billings

DEANNA CHENEY
For the Ruidoso News

RUIDOSO DOWNS - Officials with the City of Ruidoso Downs eased up on a hard line stance they took recently refusing to pay invoices billed by the Village of Ruidoso for costs incurred in the operation of the joint use Wastewater Treatment Plant.

John Waters, city manager, told members of the plant's Joint Use Board Monday that just last week his office was able to obtain information that helped explain why costs associated with the plant were at 51 percent of the budget when expenditures should be at 40 percent.

He said refusal to pay the invoices came when members of his council last month asked about the overage and were not provided an answer due to lack of an accounts receivable report requested from the village.

"We understood that there could be quarterly capital expenditures that can make a monthly report look like more but we didn't have any information in hand that explained that," he said. "So last week Carol Virden and Elaine Beltran got together to pull what we needed so we will be bringing payment up for discussion in our next council meeting."

Waters said "Ruidoso

See PLEDGE, page 9A

ABOUT MY PRESENTS...



Elianna Bertrand, 5, of Capitan, has a chat with Santa (aka Richard Rump) at the Capitan Public Library Saturday following the Cowboy Christmas Parade in Capitan. Santa was taking orders at the Capitan Public Library.

JULIE CARTER/STAFF

County Commission doesn't catch the SPIRIT, snubs Highway 54 group

■ Motion to join an organization dedicated to a four-lane highway dies with deadlocked vote

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Apparently unimpressed with the accomplishments of a group trying to promote the four-lane of U.S. 54 from Mexico through New Mexico to Kansas, Lincoln County com-

missioners deadlocked on whether to cough up annual dues and join the SPIRIT organization.

Last month, commissioners were told the dues would be 5-cents per resident or \$970.55, but at their meeting last week, they learned the amount doubled to 10-cents per head, \$1,941.10 to join the Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation.

County Manager Tom

Stewart wrote that in reviewing the 2006 annual \$77,000 budget of the group, 66 percent or \$51,000 was paid to a consultant.

"The accomplishments listed I don't think involved too much of SPIRIT's activities and appear minimal for New Mexico," he advised his board.

A motion by Commissioner Maury St. John not to join died in a 2-2 split with Commissioner Eileen Lovelace absent. St.

"So it goes nowhere. With new commissioners coming in, Ken Nosker can try again and possibly convince them."

Maury St. John
Lincoln County Commissioner

John and Commissioner Earl Hobbs voted for the motion. Commissioner Tom Battin and

Chairman Rick Simpson voted

See SPIRIT, page 9A

Downs police seek witnesses to high speed chase through city

■ Driver identified, and arrest warrant issued, but public asked to help police build case

DEANNA CHENEY
For the Ruidoso News

RUIDOSO DOWNS - Officers with the Ruidoso Downs Department of Public Safety are asking persons who may have witnessed a high speed chase on Highway 70 Saturday to come forward.

The chase took place at

about 2 p.m. beginning at the corner of North Central Street and Highway 70 and ended about 20 minutes later near Nevada Street, Officer Lawrence Chavez said.

It began when patrolman Joseph Bailey attempted pull the driver over on Highway 70 for failure to wear a seatbelt.

Pursuit called off

"As the senior officer on duty that day I made the decision to call the pursuit off for public safety reasons and after the dri-

ver attempted to run into another officer involved in the chase," Chavez explained.

"We were able to make a positive I.D. on the driver and have an arrest warrant out but we need members of the public who witnessed the chase to come forward to help us build our case."

As the warrant, which includes reckless driving, aggravated fleeing from an officer, and aggravated assault on a police officer, has not yet been served, Chavez said the name

of the driver is being withheld at this time.

Persons who may know the whereabouts of the driver, based on a description of the vehicle he was driving and the incident itself, are also asked to call the Downs DPS at 378-4001.

The automobile involved is described as a white, older model Chevy Suburban with New Mexico license plates. Fleeing officers, the driver traveled East on 70, then North on Parnell Drive, then back-

tracked south on North Central. As he passed the highway again his vehicle forced an oncoming driver off the road. The assailant then crossed a parking lot to West Drive where he "swerved to try and hit officer James Urban who was in his police unit at the time," Officer Chavez said.

"He then went West to Mountain View and proceeded through the intersection to Reservoir then Nevada Street. At this point we called the chase off."



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Santa in Mescalero**

Santa Claus will visit Mescalero today and Thursday. The tentative schedule released through the Mescalero Apache Tribal administration has Santa being escorted through the community by Mescalero Fire Rescue from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today from the U.S. 70 corridor to Blank Canyon to Mudd Canyon, through Windmill, to Apache Summit and then Bear Canyon.

Thursday, Santa and his entourage will take off at 3 p.m. at the White Mountain subdivision, and following a route that will end at 7 p.m. The route includes stops at Peña housing area, Carrizo Trails, Palmer Lop and outlying areas, then to a community Christmas Party.

Santa's first appearance occurred Tuesday when he stopped at 11 other sites.

Mescalero Christmas

On Friday the St. Joseph Apache Mission presents *A Christmas Story* at 6 p.m., followed by refreshments at Parish Hall.

On Saturday Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission presents

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***CHARLOTTE'S WEB**
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April Mendez, left, is Archangel Gabriel in *A Christmas Story*, to be performed Friday at St. Joseph Apache Mission in Mescalero. SummerRain Frizzell, center, is Mary, and Christopher Simms is Joseph.

Posadas with Mass at 5 p.m. followed by refreshments at the Bent Fire Station. Everyone is invited.

Rotary food drive

The Ruidoso Rotary Club in conjunction with Sierra Cinema/Allen Theaters conducted a holiday food drive Saturday at the movie theater to benefit the Lincoln County Food Bank.

A total of 155 moviegoers had the opportunity to see one of three current movies on Saturday morning by bringing non-perishable food items. Admission for children was at



Two children, center, hand their canned goods to Rotarians Stan Browne, back left, and Sue Harmon, back right, while Georgia Underwood, far left, finds out which movie they'll be seeing at Rotary's Holiday Food Drive last Saturday. Rotarian Frank Sayner is prepared to carry a full box of food to a truck for delivery later that day.

least one item and adult admission was at least two items.

Ruidoso Optimist Club President Tom McElligott, right, back row, presents Ruidoso Village Councilor Jim Stoddard and Judge Martha Proctor plaques for their participation in the Optimist-sponsored Carson & Barnes Circus in April. The Ruidoso Optimists have agreed to sponsor another circus in May 2007.

COURTESY PHOTO



"We feel that this was a highly successful event for its first year as we had 155 participants take part," said Club President Brad Treptow.

"Club members who volunteered routinely heard praise about this concept as they enjoyed a family oriented event while helping those in need. Phil Matthies, a father of a Sierra Vista Primary student, generously donated eight boxes of food since his son was not able to attend the movie on Saturday. We have already started planning next year's holiday food drive so we can donate as much food as possible."

Treptow stated that club members were very supportive. One of the club's goals this year is to increase our community involvement and visibility.

An estimated 200 to 250 pounds of food were donated in for the inaugural holiday food drive event.

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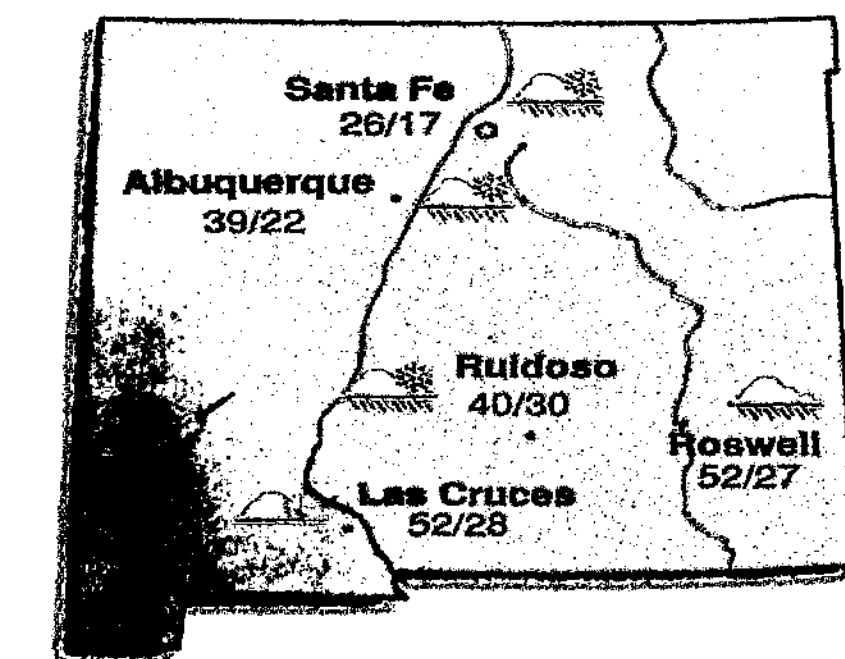
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Today's Weather**Local 3-Day Forecast**

Wed 12/20	Thu 12/21	Fri 12/22
40/30	46/31	50/32
Chance of a few snow showers. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s.	Sunshine. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the low 30s.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.
Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 4:58 PM	Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 4:58 PM	Sunrise 7:03 AM Sunset 4:59 PM

American Profile *We Celebrate Hometown*

New Mexico At A Glance**Moon Phases**

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

UV Index

Wed 12/20		Moderate
Thu 12/21		Moderate
Fri 12/22		Moderate

The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0-2 Low, 3-5 Moderate, 6-7 High, 8-10 Very High, 11 Extreme.

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Alamogordo	51	28	pt sunny	Grants	34	9	sn shower	Santa Fe	28	17	sn shower
Albuquerque	39	22	sn shower	Guymon, OK	42	22	sn shower	Santa Rosa	44	26	sn shower
Carlsbad	52	28	pt sunny	Hobbs	58	33	pt sunny	Silver City	41	15	sn shower
Chama	29	14	snow	Las Cruces	52	28	pt sunny	Socorro	43	22	sn shower
Clovis	45	24	mixed	Las Vegas	37	19	sn shower	St. Johns, AZ	44	16	cloudy
Deming	51	21	pt sunny	Lordsburg	51	22	pt sunny	Taos	31	8	snow
El Paso, TX	53	28	pt sunny	Lubbock, TX	51	29	windy	Trinidad, CO	34	20	snow
Espanola	44	22	sn shower	Odessa, TX	58	34	pt sunny	Truth or Consq.	46	26	cloudy
Farmington	36	14	sn shower	Raton	36	14	snow	Tucson, AZ	57	31	mst sunny
Gallup	37	8	sn shower	Roswell	52	27	rain	Tucumcari	42	22	sn shower

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	57	39	cloudy	Houston	72	60	t-storm	Phoenix	59	38	mst sunny
Boston	39	31	pt sunny	Los Angeles	63	41	sunny	San Francisco	58	40	pt sunny
Chicago	44	34	cloudy	Miami	79	68	rain	Seattle	48	44	rain
Dallas	63	48	rain	Minneapolis	38	29	sn shower	St. Louis	48	42	rain
Denver	30	26	snow	New York	44	34	mst sunny	Washington, DC	46	34	mst sunny

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LITTLE ANGELS



Little angels wait for their curtain call at the Spencer Theater where they'll be dancing with scores of other area youth in the Ruidoso Dance Ensemble's "Nutcracker." Pictured clockwise from the blonde smiling bright are: Savannah Hair, Tori Vega, Sarah Cordova, Waki Little Spotted Horse and Shelby Southard. Show times are at 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 20th and Thursday, December 21st. Excellent seats are available for \$25; all proceeds benefit the Ensemble. Call the Spencer at 336-4800 for tickets.

COURTESY KATHLEEN McDONALD

Report: Indigent claims can be filed by non-U.S. citizens

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Under current rules to qualify for reimbursement to their health care providers from Lincoln County's indigent health care fund, a person must be a resident of Lincoln County, but not necessarily a citizen of the United States.

During a report to county commissioners last week on the status of claims against the county fund, Commissioner Tom Battin said he has been asked by people if citizenship is a consideration.

County Medical Indigent Care Administrator Rhonda Burrows said under the exist-

ing rules, citizenship is not required, neither is a social security number.

"But you commissioners have a right to change that policy," she said. "About half of the affiliates (in the state medical indigent managerial organization) do approve undocumented residents and half don't," she said. "Those counties along the borders more frequently do. If they didn't, providers might suffer. That's something we considered too. We may want to revisit the policy as the immigration issue is revisited."

Battin replied, "From a humanitarian standpoint, we want to ensure that care is provided. I would think this is

more appropriate than the provider (absorbing the expense)."

Burrows said when she is dealing with undocumented individuals, it also is difficult for her to verify proof of annual income, another eligibility requirement under the medical indigent fund program. "They have no income tax returns," she said, "I've been thinking about it a lot and I'm looking to see how it plays out across the state."

Under her report, Burrows said in the past month, 46 claims were submitted for reimbursement and 43 were recommended for approval for \$19,360.09. That brings the

total for the year to \$218,055.93. Forecasting to the end of the fiscal year, the total would hit \$436,111.86 at this pace, well within the \$600,000 budget money, but significantly more than last year's \$352,012.91.

Under the Sole Community Provider program that reimburses the county hospital in Ruidoso managed by Presbyterian Healthcare Services, 54 claims were submitted and 47 were recommended for approval for a combined \$40,532.29. Dispersals year to date sit at \$420,974.42.

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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.
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La Santa Misa por La Noche de Navidad y La dia de Navidad
Church of the Holy Mount, Ruidoso
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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
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RUIDOSO NEWS

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RUIDOSO NEWS OPINION

PAGE 4A

CALL US: MARTY RACINE, EDITOR • 257-4001 • LETTERS@RUIDOSONNEWS.COM

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 2006

RUIDOSO NEWS

Glenas Orcutt, publisher
Marty Racine, editor

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OUR OPINION

Outgoing commissioners did bring an attitude

Whether we agreed, we appreciated their outspokenness

The Lincoln County Commission, as it is now constituted, has met for the final time.

We say goodbye to commissioners Maury St. John, Earl Hobbs and Rick Simpson. In their stead, come 2007, will be Dave Parks, Jackie Powell and Don Williams.

The mean old newspaper, which has probably not spared any elected official at least one negative comment in its Opinion pages, can get a little sentimental over these routine and periodic overhauls on boards and commissions.

In the broadest possible terms, the Lincoln County Commission over the past several terms — perhaps throughout its history — has had a rural slant. That is simply because ours is (still) a rural county reflecting small-town and agricultural mores. Call it a culture of stationary values.

Yet some members (and this newspaper) represent the county's population center, which is increasingly filled with urban expatriates and dependent on a tourist-based economy. Call it the culture of mobility and change.

It is to everyone's benefit — "rural" and "urban" alike — that

we move to understand each other. For our heritage, and the beauty of the land, and the small-town values that we all cherish are what makes us so dang attractive up the hill and down the hill — attractive enough to require momentous decision-making about our shared and fragile future.

It is a future that must preserve our heritage.

Thus, while we might have taken issue at times with the three departing commissioners, we admire their outspokenness and a cantankerous individualism that mirrors the personality of their county and which was steeped in a political philosophy. They could be eloquent and obstinate and stubborn, often sending shivers down the spine of the county manager and attorney.

A parting shot was the commission's recent refusal to approve four resolutions tied to a state CDBG grant for drafting the county's Comprehensive Plan. Another unwanted government mandate with strings attached, they said.

So they directed their attorney to draft amended resolutions, or the county might just fund the plan itself.

Now that's attitude.

WALTER RUBEL

PRC debates utility rates for poorer customers

SANTA FE — Should poor people pay less for their utilities than other customers?

Outgoing Public Regulation Commissioner E. Shirley Baca of Las Cruces thinks they should, and is pushing for legislation that would give the PRC authority to include price discounts for those living below the federal poverty level when setting rates for electricity and heating oil.

The utility companies would be allowed to make up for the lost revenue by increasing rates for other customers.

Baca said the state already provides assistance to low-income residents in their telephone rates. But, she said a 1983 court ruling in what was known as the Mountain State's case prohibits regulatory commissions from imposing "social ratemaking" without the specific authority of the Legislature.

She said the bill being drafted would be permissive in language, meaning that the PRC would have the authority to include low-income discounts in the ratemaking process, but would not be obligated to do so.

But clearly, her hope and intention is that they would. "Whatever we're doing has to include the least financially capable of our population," Baca said last week during a PRC meeting.

Not all members were as enthusiastic about the proposal.

Chairman Ben. R. Lujan said that lowering rates would potentially encourage consumers to use more energy. He said the state would be better served

helping low-income residents pay for conservation measures that will save energy.

Lujan noted that when gas prices at the pump edged up toward \$3 a gallon, people started driving less. When those prices came down, they fell back into old habits.

Baca said a comprehensive plan would include both conservation and rate decreases.

Commissioner Jason Marks asked what the impact would be to other consumers.

"If it's 6 or 8 cents to allow low-income people to have affordable energy, who's against that?" Marks said. If, however, the increase was more like 50 cents, that would be different, he added.

Lujan did what government agencies typically do whenever a new proposal raises controversy — he formed a task force. The chairman asked that leaders of advocacy groups representing the poor meet with utility company officials to see if they can find areas of agreement for proposed legislation.

Baca, who was defeated by Sandy R. Jones in the Democratic primary election, said she plans to continue working for passage of the bill even after she leaves the PRC.

"As a commissioner and as an advocate for the poor, I have never been afraid of challenges," she said.

WALTER RUBEL has been a newsman for 25 years and the Santa Fe bureau chief since 2003. He can be reached at wrubel@lcsun-news.com.



YOUR OPINION

Wastewater plant: The process is the problem

To the editor:

THE DEC. 2 LETTER to the editor from Mr. Kendrick, Mr. Underwood, and Mr. Bryant is very interesting. It is interesting in several respects.

First, this is a letter from three lawyers explaining that they (the lawyers and their hired consultants) alone are the best hope of solving Ruidoso's long standing water and wastewater treatment problem. Hmmm!

Second, it describes a decision process that appears to have been in place in Ruidoso for decades and that led to poor decisions and neglect of the village's water and wastewater infrastructure. Somehow, the same process that led to the crisis is now supposed to solve it. Hmmm!

Third, the letter writers make no mention of a role for Ruidoso's citizens in the process. Indeed, the letter doesn't even mention the village's elected officials. Isn't this how we got a 40-Year

water plan that had no public input, no village council approval, was rejected by the NM State Engineer, and is the basis for the wastewater treatment plant design? Hmmm!

Fourth, the letter restates an assertion from Mr. Underwood's original threatening statements. That is — "The one thing we know for sure is that we are better off defining our own future than letting a judge do it for us." That statement may be true. It depends, however, on what the writers mean by "we." The statement is undoubtedly true if the "we" means lawyers and their hired consultants. It may not be true if "we" means the citizens of Ruidoso. It will undoubtedly not be true if the citizens of Ruidoso continue to be left out of the process, and the village council does not exert its legitimate oversight of the JUB staff.

In the latter case, Ruidoso's citizens may well be treated better by a judge. History is full of cases where a distant judge has been needed to right local

wrongs. Hmmm!

I intentionally waited to respond to the letter of Dec. 2 until after the GO Bond election. I did so because I thought, and continue to think, that the citizens of Ruidoso need to steer their own future without being threatened. Since I believe in the sanctity of the ballot box, I will not say how I voted on the GO Bonds. I can say that if I voted against the GO Bonds, it was because I thought that the village council will continue to allow the process that the letter writers describe.

This process is the problem, not the solution. It is the past, it is not the future. If I voted for the GO Bonds, it was because I thought the village council will take control away from the lawyers and hired consultants and put it back with its citizens and elected officials where it belongs. Now I wonder which path the council will take. Hmmm!

Kirk Downey
Ruidoso

BRAD COOPER

Making a list, checking it twice

If you don't have a list working at this time of year, you've already forgotten something.

Being the holiday season, it's time to pass along lists that have been checked twice to find legitimate sources, but fall to the broad lack of authorship of the Internet. Thus, when it's emailed to someone else, it seems to become yours. These aren't mine (okay, I enhanced a few), I'm merely passing them along.

First, ways to maintain a healthy level of insanity in December, and possibly even get more days off in order to get yourself together for the new year.

At lunchtime, sit in your parked car with sunglasses on and point your hairdryer out the window at passing cars. See if they slow down.

Page yourself over the intercom. Don't disguise your voice.

Every time someone asks you to do something, ask if they "want fries with that?"

Put decaf in the coffee maker for three weeks. Once everyone has gotten over their caffeine addictions, switch to espresso.

Finish all your sentences with "in accordance with the prophecy."

As often as possible, skip rather than walk.

Go to an opera. Sing along. Put mosquito netting around your work area and play tropical sounds all day.

Five days in advance, tell your friends you can't attend their party because you're not in the mood.

When the money comes out of the ATM, scream "I won! I won!"

Tell your children over dinner, "due to the economy, we are going to have to let one of you go."

AGAIN, FROM THE EMAIL BAG, you know you're from New Mexico if... You are still using the paper license

tag that came with your car a year and a half ago.

Your favorite restaurant has a chile list instead of a wine list.

Your Christmas decorations include a yard full of 200 paper bags filled with sand and candles, or you think that the plug-in kind are just as good.

Most restaurants you go to begin with "El" "Los" or "Mi."

You remember when Santa Fe was not like San Francisco.

You hated Texans until the Californians came.

You have an extra freezer just for green chile.

You think a red light is merely a suggestion.

You believe that using a turn signal is a sign of weakness.

You don't make eye contact with other drivers because you can't tell how well armed they are just by looking.

You think six tons of crushed rock makes a beautiful front lawn.

You pass on the right because that's the fast lane.

You can't control your car on wet pavement.

You wish you had invested in the "orange barrel" business.

You just got your fifth DWI and got elected to the state legislature in the same week.

You know Las Vegas is a town in the northeastern part of the state of New Mexico.

You are afraid to drive through Gallup and Española.

You iron your jeans to "dress up."

You don't see anything wrong with drive-up window liquor sales and hate that they made them illegal.

You're relieved when the pavement ends because the dirt road has fewer potholes.

You see nothing odd when the con-

versations of the people in line around you at the grocery store, alternate between Spanish and English in the same sentence. You understand them.

At any gathering, regardless of size, salsa, beans, tortillas, and huge mounds of shredded cheese are mandatory.

THERE'S ALSO SOME COUNTRY wisdom one picks up living in rural New Mexico.

Don't name a pig you plan to eat.

Life is *no*, about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stumps.

A yellowjacket is faster than a D.R. All-Terrain Mower.

Trouble with a milk cow is she won't stay milked.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.

Meanness don't happen overnight.

Never lay an angry hand on a kid or an animal, it just ain't helpful.

Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.

Don't sell your mule to buy a plow.

Two can live as cheap as one if one don't eat.

Don't corner something meaner than you.

You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar, assuming you want to catch flies.

Man is the only critter who feels the need to label things as flowers or weeds.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You can't unsay a cruel thing.

Every path has some puddles.

Don't wrestle with pigs: You'll get all muddy and the pigs will love it.

Most of the stuff people worry about never happens.

BRAD COOPER writes out of White Oaks.

County sees prescription plan as bad medicine

■ National Association of Counties program seen as limiting down the road

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

For the second time, Lincoln County commissioners nixed the idea of signing up for a prescription card program that would allow residents to purchase some drugs at a discount.

They decided to wait to see if officials with the state move ahead with a similar program, because once signed up with the National Association of Counties, they could not direct people to other options.

The vote not to participate passed with Commissioner Maury St. John voting against it and Commissioner Eileen Lovelace absent. Lovelace is in Germany visiting her son, who is stationed there in the military.

St. John, a registered nurse who specialized for years in oncology, asked the board to reconsider a previous rejection and Commission Chairman Rick Simpson offered a motion to that effect, because he was on the prevailing side on the last vote. St. John said as she steps down from the commission and loses her county

health care coverage, she will be in the same boat with many other people in the county and could use a drug discount card.

Literature distributed showed that 150 counties across the nation enrolled in the program in a three-month period for a total of 510 to date. The savings to residents was estimated at \$14.8 million.

"We (the county) don't pay," St. John said. "We send our logo to NACO and the cards come back to us and we give them to residents." The residents then present them to participating pharmacists, who give a discount based on the medicine ordered.

But County Attorney Alan Morel cautioned that in reviewing the 29-page contract, he found a few issues of concern.

At one time, the entire contract was proprietary and could not be released to the public, he said. "That was one of our main concerns and now the contract is included in the exhibit with redacted areas and by request can be revealed, but not what (the discounts are)."

"You sign an agreement saying you are bound by all terms and conditions (between NACO and the insurance firm handling the discounts) and a lot of the terms are considered proprietary and can not be

revealed to the public."

He questioned if county employees would have to choose between using a drug card provided through their insurance companies and the NACO card, because the county would be bound to the agreement for a period of two years and four months.

No pricing or formulary information is provided, he said.

However, participation is voluntary and no one would have to use the cards, if they preferred another option, he added.

"But once we sign up, we are bound until the contract expires," Morel said.

Commissioner Earl Hobbs said he opposed the plan, adding that he views insurance "as a scam, anyway."

"(Terms) constantly are undergoing changes," he said. "Policies are changing all the time and if the chance for something better came along, I wouldn't want an individual encumbered."

Morel said the county would be responsible for briefing each participant about the obligation of using only that card. And if the state started a program, it appears the county would not be able to sign up for that, if it already was contractually

"Terms constantly are undergoing changes. Policies are changing all the time. And if the chance for something better came along, I wouldn't want an individual encumbered."

Earl Hobbs
Lincoln County commissioner

bound to the NACO program, he said.

Rhonda Burrows, director of the county's indigent health care fund, said the wording related more to the county not promoting the use of a state card or other programs.

"It would prohibit me from recommending use of other larger discounts from companies such as Pfizer," she said. "The pharmacist would not honor two cards. A person must declare they are uninsured to sign up."

Commissioner Tom Battin said while the drug discount insurer has a quarter century of experience, he was bothered by a section in the contract that requires the county to indemnify the company against a third party lawsuit or liability claim.

County: Bad connection with companies over 911 system

■ One company is cooperating, but others haven't in the attempt to improve emergency response in rural areas

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Complaining sometimes pays off.

Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart groused last month about the seeming lack of cooperation from several telephone companies in coordinating with the rural addressing system to improve the local 911 emergency response.

Emergency vehicles depend on accurate numerical addresses and lack of duplicate street and road names in finding remote or isolated home sites.

County staff for more than a decade have worked on assigning valid addresses to each lot outside of municipalities.

During the county commission meeting last week, Stewart said he heard from representatives of Peñasco Valley Communications and they are establishing a task force to solve the problem in reference to their customers in Lincoln County.

"I have yet to hear from Windstream," Stewart told commissioners. "Eastern New Mexico Rural Telephone, with a 69 percent inaccuracy rate in their telephones (related to the rural addresses) in Lincoln County appears to be reluctant to help us. I have written a letter to start the process of filing a formal complaint with the

(New Mexico) Public Regulatory Commission.

"It's unconscionable that the firm's representative is at all reluctant to help us solve the problem. I intend to pursue the issue in whatever manner I need to with the three lagging phone companies until it gets resolved."

Carl L. Wilson, manager of regulatory and industry affairs with PVT, said last week, "We have been working with the county for years and will continue."

"It's a very large and rural county and we realize the county (government) does not have the staff to get it done. We are trying to work with them to get this completed. It's good for us to have rural addresses for all customers."

He said rural addressing coordinator Connie Stone was set to meet this week with his company's engineering group to work on some addressing issues.

"Our service technicians have been trying to find addresses as they go out," he added. "We hope we can get the percentage down to an acceptable level."

Roswell publisher Cory Beck dies after sudden illness

Longtime New Mexico newspaperman Cory Beck died Sunday, Dec. 17, after a sudden illness.

He was the publisher of the Roswell Daily Record, a paper

held by his family for decades. Details about funeral services are still pending.

For the most complete information about Beck's life and death go to www.roswell-record.com.

The New Mexico Press Association said Beck's death will be felt throughout the newspaper business in New Mexico and beyond.

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EDUCATION

Guitar class shows off its licks at concert

SANDY KASHMAR
skashmar@ruidosonews.com

An exciting new addition to the music curriculum at ENMU-Ruidoso during the Fall 2006 semester was Music 239, "Topics in Music: Intermediate Guitar" taught by Ruidoso educator / musician, Mark Kashmar. "Several students had been asking for a guitar class," Kashmar said, and the branch community college agreed to add it to their offerings, thanks to the efforts of Kashmar and fellow educator/musician, Ed Spurr.

"We believed these students, all of whom had some background in guitar, could further develop their skills by working with other musicians toward a performance," Kashmar explained. "Each student came in with strengths, as well as areas of their playing that they wanted to develop." To this end, the group collaborated to pre-



SANDY KASHMAR/STAFF

Sheilah Hughes (far right) performed two original pieces, and is shown [here] accompanied by (l to r) Tyler Jones on guitar, Sean Furphy on bass and Cody Jones on hand drums.

sent a showcase as their final project.

Each student was required to front at least one song and then back others, and many of the

students performed on more than one instrument as a result. The students, who ranged in age from 16 to "the old guys", spent the semester trying out

material, rehearsing with various combinations of performers and sharing their licks and experience with each other. "They stayed with it all semes-

ter, bringing a lot of energy to class every week," Kashmar said. The class was both process - and product-oriented - "experiential education", according to Kashmar.

The students reported that they appreciated the latitude to

be creative, and one student said the class should have been subtitled "Guitar Socialization" as several of the students had not previously had the opportunity to collaborate with others. The showcase, which was presented on Dec. 13 at the Ruidoso Schools Performing Arts Center, featured a wide range of styles, including some original songs, revealing the varied interests of the students. "This group of students is musically versatile, with several class members playing more than one instrument. What made the class work was how willing they were to back each other - Tyler and Cody Jones, Avery Belin, John Pijawka, Sheilah Hughes and Clay Allen each doubled and backed others," Kashmar said. "It's this attitude, a willingness to collaborate, shown by each of these students throughout the semester, which was the biggest contributor to the success of the class."

Council seeking volunteers

The Lincoln County Literacy Council is seeking community volunteers to serve on the Advisory Council. The Literacy Council is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of area residents through improved literacy. Advisory members serve as advocates promoting literacy, participate in literacy program activities and special projects, and provide leadership in promotion and support of the educational programs.

To learn more about the Literacy Council and how you can help, please contact Susie Morris at 630-8181.

ENMU-R schedules now available

Class Schedules for the ENMU-Ruidoso Spring 2007 semester are now available at the college and the following Lincoln and Otero County locations: Ruidoso Area - ENMU-Ruidoso, Zia Natural Gas, City Bank (Lincoln Towers), Brewer's Shell (Sudderth), Ruidoso Downs Diamond Shamrock, Village of Ruidoso, Wal-Mart, Lawrence Brothers, Ruidoso Municipal Schools Administrative Building, and the Ruidoso Public Library. In the Capitan Area; schedules are available at Smokey Bear Restaurant and the Capitan Public Library. You can pick up schedules at any post office in Lincoln County and Mescalero and the Hondo Valley Senior Citizens Center. Schedules are also available at the Four Winds in Carrizozo and the Mescalero Empowerment Center in Mescalero.

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 campus is open Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Classes start Jan. 15. For more information or to make an appointment to meet with an advisor call (505)-257-2120 or (800)-934-3668.

Pay increase, tuition decrease top priorities

WALTER RUBEL
Santa Fe Bureau Chief

SANTA FE - University professors and staff would see an increase in pay, while students could potentially see a decrease in tuition costs if the top two priorities of university presidents are adopted by the Legislature.

The New Mexico Council of University Presidents listed salary compensation as its top priority, followed by the elimination of tuition credit, Thursday in a presentation to the Legislative Finance Committee.

The presidents are seeking a 5 percent salary increase, along with a .75 percent increase to the retirement fund. The budget submitted by the Department of Higher Education would hike salaries by 4.25 percent.

Salaries at New Mexico colleges and universities are 6 1/2 to 20 percent below those of their peers in other states, Highlands University President Manuel Pacheco told legislators.

"This inadequate compensation leads to a myriad of problems," Pacheco said. He said top staff members are lured away by out-of-state colleges, and the salaries offered are inadequate to hire replacements with the same level of qualifications.

Sen. Joseph Carraro D-Albuquerque, said he thinks part of the problem with salaries is that universities have their priorities skewed.

"I'd be willing to bet somebody who could win a Nobel Prize at one of our schools is not making as much as the football coach," Carraro said. "If you want salary increases, let's look at where the salaries are going."

Budget priorities of the New Mexico Council of University Presidents:

- Salary increases of 5 percent, plus an additional .75 percent contribution to the educational retirement fund
- Zero tuition credit
- Building renewal and replacement
- Inflationary costs for insurance and utilities
- Endowed chairs and professorships

Michael Martin, president of New Mexico State University, said the highest-paid coach on their staff is men's basketball coach Reggie Theus, who makes a base salary of \$300,000, with the chance to up that to \$450,000 with incentives that are based more on academics and community service than victories.

"He's one of the lowest paid Division I coaches in America," Martin said.

The other big push this year will be an elimination of the tuition credit - a percentage of all tuition fees collected each year that universities are required to return to the general fund.

Steve Gamble, president of Eastern New Mexico University, said universities typically compensate for the revenue they have to return to the state by raising tuition.

"The impact to the university is very little," Gamble said. "We add it in our budget and pass it along to the students. We don't feel like we have a choice. If we are able to do away with the tuition tax credit, that will, very simply, help the students."

Gov. Bill Richardson pro-

posed in October that the state eliminate the tuition credit for three years if colleges agree to limit tuition hikes to no more than 5 percent a year.

Other priorities for the university presidents include beefing up funding for building maintenance and replacement, including inflationary costs for utilities and insurance in the funding formula and increasing endowed chairs and professorships.

University of New Mexico President David Harris said a study several years ago identified an \$800 million maintenance backlog at the state's universities.

Richardson vetoed \$60 million in building maintenance and \$20 million in endowed chairs earlier this year.

He has proposed \$10 million for endowments next year. Sen. Sue Wilson Belfort, R-Albuquerque, notes that while Richardson vetoed money for endowments passed in the last session, he is now proposing that the new ones be named in his honor.

Walter Rubel can be reached at wrubel@lcsun-news.com.

www.ruidosonews.com

Educator raise in proposed budget

WALTER RUBEL
Santa Fe Bureau Chief

SANTA FE - Teachers, instructional staff, educational assistants and all public school certified and non-certified employees would receive a 7-percent raise under a proposed budget endorsed Friday by the Legislative Education Study Committee.

The total recurring appropriation called for under the LESC budget is \$2.497 billion, an increase of \$216 million, or 9.5 percent, above the fiscal year 2007 appropriation.

The LESC budget proposal is \$96.5 million higher than the proposed budget submitted earlier in the week by the Department of Education, which did not include salary increases. Secretary of Education Veronica Garcia said that issue had yet to be decided.

Walter Rubel can be reached at wrubel@lcsun-news.com.

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County interested in water mapping – if the price is right

■ Commissioners say they need to know how much water is available when considering projects

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Although they didn't commit to move ahead with a third phase of developing a water model model with the U.S. Geological Survey, Lincoln County commissioners indicated they are interested, if the county can afford the price tag. At a meeting last week, commissioners listened as Paul Blanchard from the USGS presented a report on Phase 2 of the study that was authorized in February, and he outlined where he would like to head with the third phase, estimated to cost \$275,000. That figure includes operational expenses of a monitoring system.

Commissioners say they need to know where and how much water is available in the county when considering new development. Relying on engineers hired by developers isn't wise, said Commissioner Tom Battin.

County Manager Tom Stewart reminded commissioners that under a joint funding agreement with the USGS contributing \$110,000 and the county \$180,000, a team from the agency began creating in 2002 a hydrological atlas with identified gaps of the Rio Hondo declared ground water basin that covers the Rio Bonito and Rio Hondo basins.

The first segment of the project ended June 30, 2004. It involved compiling existing data, identifying wells of record, inventorying wells, measuring ground water levels and identifying gaps.

Stewart said funding for the next phase could be sought from the state Legislature when it meets in January, although commissioners decided to go for a new \$3 million courtroom complex next to the county detention center in Carrizozo as the number one priority.

Blanchard said many unknowns continue to exist even after three years of collecting data. He would like to see precipitation gauges installed at 9,000 feet elevation and 10,000 feet, as well as other elevations. He would recommend gauges on the Rio Bonito and Rio Ruidoso before they converge into the Rio Hondo to measure surface water flow.

Blanchard said a network of wells should be established to be measured monthly and at three critical times of the year to assess how they are affected by the climate from year to year.

The fourth element would be to look at water quality in the rivers, especially the Rio Ruidoso, which is designated as a cold water fishery. Battin and

other commissioners suggested Blanchard coordinate with the Village of Ruidoso, which is in its third year of monitoring water quality on the river in connection with an environmental lawsuit settlement and with new standards for discharge into the river from a regional wastewater treatment plant.

All of the data is required to really characterize the basin, Blanchard said. The cost of the four items he estimated at \$138,000 and another \$135,000 to operate the network for a total of \$275,000 for the first year and about half a million over a three-year period.

Seepage study

The second year, he would like to add a study of seepage to determine where water is leaving or entering the ground water system, Blanchard said. That element would run concurrently with 12 wells being measured by Sandia Laboratories as backup and to be inserted into the study, he said.

He offered a few cost-cutting suggestions, such as coordinating with Ruidoso's quality studies, going with one gauge on the Rio Hondo at Picacho instead of two on the Rio Bonito and Rio Ruidoso, and the possibility of eliminating the seepage study because the State Engineer's office plans a similar effort next spring.

However, he said he would prefer running the surface water flow monitors indefinitely and at the two sites. San Patricio resident Ken Nosker backed that position, saying the water quality in the rivers "must be fixed."

"I understand the governor designated 2007 as the Year of Water, and this may be an opportune time to petition and ask the Legislature to respond to a critical need for the county," Blanchard said.

Stewart said he feels confi-

dent he could defend the need for the money to state legislators.

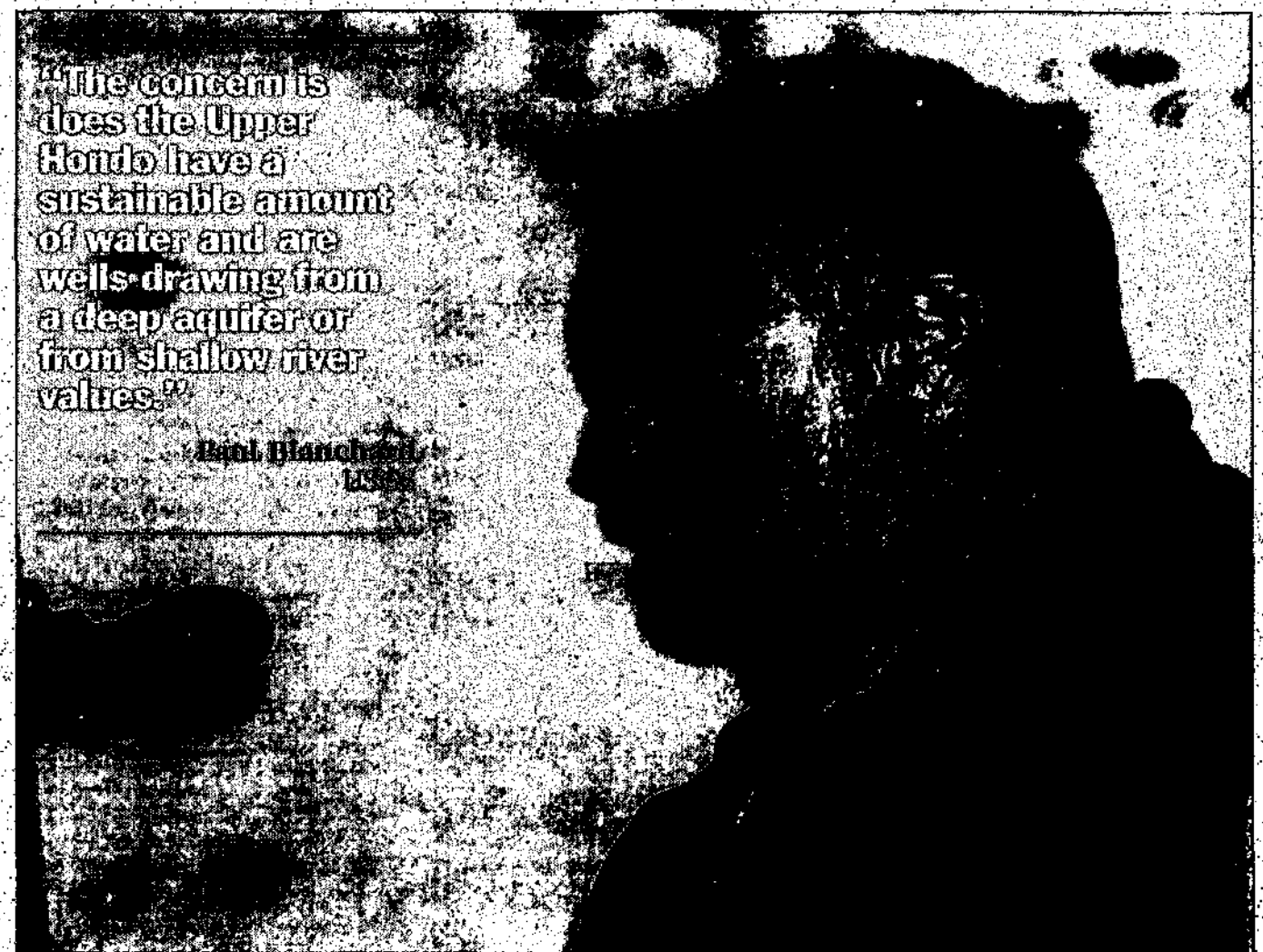
"It's complex and preliminary but would be an advantage to the citizens of the Upper Hondo," he said.

Blanchard said wells used for monitoring should be selected all over the basin, close to and distant from the river to measure all type of impacts.

"The concern is does the Upper Hondo have a sustainable amount of water and are wells drawing from a deep aquifer or from shallow river values," he said.

"We want to test throughout the basin to see what happens as water infiltrates and moves to the valley," he said. "We want to see how geological units interact, are they connected or not, do they operate as a single body or in isolation, and are you using more than is recharging to larger aquifers? How fast is the aquifer replenishing is another factor."

After the third phase is completed, the fourth phase will be to draft a final document with conclusions and recommendations, he said.



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REPAIR

FROM PAGE 1A

James Stoddard, a member of the Ruidoso Village Council who conducted the JUB meeting in the absence of Village Mayor L. Ray Nunley, said he understood the city's frustration and asked local contractor Carl Kelley, present at the meeting, what his opinion was on wastewater line refurbishing.

"It's like John Waters said, pretty much," Kelley responded. "We get infiltration when we get close to water," which he said comes from the Rio Ruidoso and rogue springs that erupt in the village from time to time.

Kelley said the plant has 30 manholes and some 400,000 lineal feet of interceptor lines that need to be looked at and said that all lines are at "full capacity."

"It's going to cost an unbelievable amount of money to repair these for both cities if the municipalities want to continue to grow," he said.

Temporary fix

As a "temporary fix" Kelley said damaged manholes could be repaired and, as suggested by Waters, existing wastewater lines that have sustained damage or breaks "fixed and filled."

Waters recommended that the municipalities rent equipment as soon as possible to go into the lines and clean them "with a glorified snake then go in with the village's camera someday around 2 a.m. and see what we can find."

In earlier reports, Waters said that "stormwater is not to co-mingle at the plant as part of the Clean Water Act."

"Federal law prohibits that," he said.

JUB members agreed that while neither the Village nor the city have extra money with

"It's going to cost an unbelievable amount of money to repair these for both cities if the municipalities want to continue to grow."

Carl Kelley
Engineer



which to conduct the survey of repairs, let alone conduct repairs, project costs "will be money well spent" and should be considered a priority.

Discussions concluded with Morris and Waters agreeing to meet over the next month to come up with an action plan and to bring that plan and rough cost estimates back to the JUB in its January 11 meeting.

Cost estimates are to include the price for "assessing repairs" as well as a cost to "make the repairs."

IN OTHER ITEMS BEFORE THE JUB, MEMBERS:

- approved an amendment to an agreement with Livingston and Associates, P.C. for costs associated with repairs to sampling stations. A budget recommendation of \$100,000 for station management had been cut previously by the JUB to \$82,000, on recommendation of the Village of Ruidoso, but was in need of being "added to" in view of stations damaged in recent floods. Amendments include billings at \$6,500 and \$2,500 plus applicable gross receipts tax.
- approved a first renewal agreement with Montgomery and Andrews, P.A. for professional legal services entered into by the Village of Ruidoso and the City of Ruidoso Downs acting in the capacity as directors of the regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Joint

Use Board.

Montgomery and Andrews represents the municipalities in their lawsuit with the Forest Guardians.

- tabled action regarding its contracts with Montgomery and Andrews, P.A. as well as budget amendments until the Village of Ruidoso and City of Ruidoso Downs assign mid-year budget adjustments to sewer rates.

- discussed the pros and cons of hiring a project manager or inspector to represent the City of Ruidoso Downs and Village of Ruidoso's interests during the design and construction of the regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. City Manager John Waters and Interim Village Manager Bill Morris will meet in coming weeks to determine a recommendation to the JUB.

- refused payment on non-budgeted billings from Livingston Associates, P.C. for work they say they have performed but for which they can present no written documentation authorizing them to conduct that work.

- thanked member Maury St. John for her service on the JUB. St. John's eligibility expires Dec. 31, 2006, with the end of her tenure on the Lincoln County Commission.

- thanked the public for supporting the Dec. 12 general obligation bond issue supporting \$14 million for repairs and upgrades to the WWTP.

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JUB considers project manager for plant expansion

■ Discussion of the pros and cons precedes any action to be taken

DEANNA CHENEY
For the Ruidoso News

The pros and cons of retaining a project manager to oversee upgrades and expansion construction to the regional Wastewater Treatment Plant were discussed Monday in a special meeting of the plant's Joint Use Board.

Members debated whether a manager was needed as phase one of the \$35 million project,

scheduled for completion in 2010, took place.

"I placed this item on the agenda not for action but to start the discussion process," Bill Morris, interim manager for the Village of Ruidoso, said. "With a manager we would have one company to do the construction and one agency to do the reviewing. This will be one of our largest projects we've ever done."

John Waters said he has hired a construction manager in a past work experience but said he likes to think of the role of that person as "construction

inspector."

"An independent person would act as our 'eyes and ears' bringing things to our attention," he said.

Waters said he could provide the board with a "job description" for a project manager or construction inspector if needed and would work with Morris to outline the exact role of the overseer should the board act to retain services.

Carl Kelley, a local contractor who attended the meeting, noted too that the role of a project manager would change depending on how plans for the

"With a manager we would have one company to do the construction and one agency to do the reviewing."

Bill Morris
Deputy village manager

plant's renovation proceed. The role would be different if the JUB goes with a design-build concept as opposed to a design-bid-build concept.

"Hiring now could be an asset as we go into parallel paths," he said.

Residents of the City of Ruidoso Downs and Village of Ruidoso, joint use partners of the WWTP, approved a \$14 million general obligation bond for renovations to the plant Dec. 12. Plans for upgrades currently are on the design table.

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PLEDGE

FROM PAGE 1A

Downs wants to pay its fair share" of costs at the plant but said it is imperative that his city be able to "quantify" its share. He said refusal to pay the September and October billings were in keeping with the same argument posed when the city withheld payment in June and July.

He said his city is growing and cannot in the public's trust pay for operational costs at the WWTP when an expense detail is not provided and when there continues to be a question about infiltration of water into wastewater lines and manholes that "bump up" or "skew," usage numbers, with no end in sight.

He noted that concern about lack of financial information and repairs to wastewater lines had been reported since the fall

of 2004 but had not been satisfactorily dealt with.

Beltran, who was present at Monday's special meeting of the JUB at the request of Interim Village Manager and JUB member Bill Morris, said she will provide a monthly detail in members' packets that includes a budget balance and full treasurer's report. Although the reports will be handy, board members countered that they would like a member of the village's finance department to be

in attendance at JUB meetings in the future to help answer questions as they arise.

Beltran attributed unbudgeted items billed by Livingston and Associates in services provided at water monitoring test sites and services rendered by Montgomery and Andrews for legal services as reasons for the unexpected hike in the budget balance.

"These were two items where they used up all the money," she said. "The vendors

needed to be paid but had used up all of the money."

SPIRIT

FROM PAGE 1A

against the motion. In the same split, a motion by Battin to table the issue until a future meeting to give commissioners time to review the group's 2007 budget also failed.

"So it goes nowhere," St. John said. "With (three new commissioners) coming in, (Ken) Nosker can try again and possibly convince them."

Simpson said although he

appreciates the state Transportation Department's commitment to create a "super two-lane" U.S. 54 through New Mexico, SPIRIT's goal of a four-lane highway for major truck traffic would be better, if it can be accomplished.

Nosker, a San Patricio resident who supports the SPIRIT effort, reminded commissioners that the highway goes through the county seat of Carrizozo and is expected to tie into a major Mexican port through El Paso in the future.

"For the price of a cattle

guard, we can have our input," he said, urging the county join the group. "The road runs through Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. It took nearly 20 years to get U.S. 70 four-laned. Don't just wipe out the effort until you get more information."

Nosker said in a one-hour drive from Corona to Carrizozo recently on U.S. 54, he met 54 trucks going north and on another day between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., he counted 61, and that's with only two lanes and lower speed limits.



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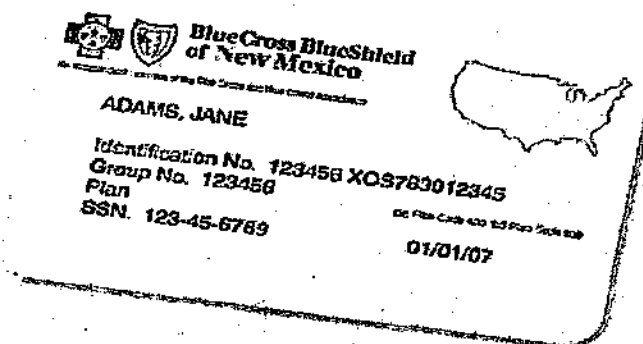
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ICE TREE

This tree turned to ice, along with much of the surrounding countryside Tuesday morning throughout Lincoln County. An unusual phenomenon, ice fog, gripped the area ahead of an expected snowstorm Tuesday night. This photo was taken near the top of Nogal Hill on Highway 37 at about 9:30 a.m. See Friday's *Ruidoso News* for a wrap-up of the week's weather, which was still playing tricks with forecasters as the paper went to press Tuesday.

JULIE CARTER/STAFF



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PAGE 1B

Chiefs on a roll

Title game loss to Immanuel Christian can't dampen Mescalero's excitement at own tournament

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonnews.com

MESCALERO — The sentiment could be heard all over Mescalero's gym Friday evening after the finish of the game between Mescalero's boys and the Alamogordo Sophomores in the semifinals of the Mescalero Apache Invitational.

Everyone was calling it a barn-burner, but that's not giving this game justice enough. This one burned the whole farm.

It was such a game that it made the championship game against Immanuel Christian on Saturday — a close 3-point affair which the Chiefs lost — seem almost anti-climactic.

That the game even got exciting at the end is what made the contest so memorable. Mescalero (5-6) trailed by 18 points at halftime and 23 after three quarters, but then started making inroads into the Tiger lead.

The Chiefs did it with pressure defense, and Alamogordo did everything in its power to give away the game. The Chiefs got numerous steals and the Tigers kept throwing the ball away.

But every time Mescalero had what looked to be an easy layup, the ball would go off the rim.

Mescalero coach Ron Burton counted at least 12 of those kinds of missed shots — shots that should have given his team the lead long before the fourth quarter.

"It's the little things that hurt us," Burton said. "As soon as we start learning that, people will have to contend with us."

People have to contend with the Chiefs now, and Alamogordo found that out the hard way. While Mescalero kept missing shots, the Tigers kept losing the ball, and it was a question of which team's mistakes would finally lose out.

Mescalero finally tied the game at 58-all with 5:12 left in the game on a shot by Branson



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Above The Mescalero Chiefs celebrate their semifinal victory over the Alamogordo Sophomores Friday during the Mescalero Apache Invitational.

Right Carrizozo's Jeremy Zamora (24) puts up a jumper over Eagles' Lawrence Gonzales (32) and Jesus Medina during the fifth-place game Saturday at the Mescalero Apache Invitational.

Smith, and took the lead on a free throw by Bryan Shendo.

The game see-sawed back and forth, with Smith eventually fouling out with 15 points to his credit, until Henry Rios pulled down a rebound and was fouled with three seconds left.

Rios missed the first of two double-bonus shots, but then hit the second to tie the game at 68-all. Alamogordo went for a long pass, and eventually threw it away again. Sheridan Lester was then fouled with just over a second left and canned the second for the narrow one-point lead.



The game still wasn't over, as Alamogordo had to in-bound the ball, but the Tigers' long pass went out of bounds and no

get the ball inbounds for the win.

Justin Blake added 15 points for the Chiefs, while Shendo ended up with 11.

As stated before, the championship final on Saturday against Immanuel Christian was something of a letdown. The game was closer throughout, with the Chiefs taking the lead in the second quarter thanks to the 3-point shot.

Long bombs by Smith and Blake propelled Mescalero to a 40-33 lead at the break, but the Chiefs' inability to hit the layups eventually caught up with them.

The Warriors slowly chipped away at the lead with better defense and better shooting, eventually re-taking the lead on a layup by Alberto Navarro with 12 seconds left. It was a lead that finally stuck.

Smith poured in 28 points to lead the game for Mescalero, while Blake had 24.

The Chiefs opened the tournament with a big 88-11 win over Alamo Navajo on Thursday. Blake had 21 points to lead five Chiefs in double figures. Glen Yellowcloud had 16 points, Smith and Shendo had 15 each and Delvon Chee added 12.

Carrizozo takes fifth

Carrizozo's boys finished fifth in the tournament with a 69-36 victory over District 7-1A opponent Hondo.

The game wasn't much in doubt after the second quarter, as the Grizzlies led 47-21 at the break. Robert Dutchover had 25 points to lead Zozo, while Johnny Beltran had 16 points, while Jeremy Zamora had 15.

Jesus Miranda and Rico Lopez were the only two Eagles closest to double figures with eight points each.

Each team reached the fifth-place game with big wins on Friday. Carrizozo defeated a fast but less-than-sure-handed To'hajilee team 75-42, while Hondo completely overpowered

See BOYS, page 3B

Carrizozo girls get revenge over Mescalero in title game

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonnews.com

MESCALERO — The last time Mescalero's girls met up with Carrizozo, the Lady Chiefs took a 63-56 victory over a Lady Grizzly team that was still recovering from the volleyball season.

The two teams met up again in the championship of the Mescalero Apache Invitational Saturday, and the game's outcome was much different.

Carrizozo took an early 8-1 lead in the first quarter, saw the Lady Chiefs take a three-point lead at halftime, and eventually re-took the lead with solid defense and held on for the 54-50 victory.

"This was a rough game, the roughest we've had to play since the last time we saw them," said Carrizozo coach Mandy Baca. "We were still out of control at times, but defense made up for that."

"We hadn't started out that fast all year," Baca said, referring to the early lead. "Now we have to work on keeping that composure."

"Our shooting wasn't that great, and we were living and dying by the three," said Mescalero coach Her McDaniel. "We usually get a lot of them, but not in this game."

"What really hurt us was dropping the press in the third quarter," he added. "That was the biggest difference."

Once the Lady Chiefs (8-2) dropped that press, Carrizozo (6-5) started opening up a big lead again, thanks mostly to the play inside by Kaitlyn Vega, who finished with a game-high 27 points.

Jennifer Shafer added 13 points for the Lady Grizzlies, while Kayla Randall had 13 points to lead the Lady Chiefs, and Melanie Bell had 10.

To get to the title game, Mescalero blew past To'hajilee and Hondo by scores of 71-48 and 59-15, while Carrizozo defeated Alamo Navajo 63-25 on Thursday and won a 64-41 game against Immanuel Christian on Saturday.

Hondo

The Hondo Lady Eagles entered the tournament in need of a victory, and got one in the first round with a 35-28 win over Valley Christian in the first round Thursday to avenge their loss to the Lady Lions a week before.

Mercedes Lopez led the Lady Eagles (2-8) with 12 points.

After dropping their semifinal game to Mescalero on Friday, the Lady Eagles looked to rebound with a victory over Immanuel Christian in the third place game.

Hondo led 39-26 at halftime, but then

See GIRLS, page 3B



Carrizozo center Stacia Calvert, left, grabs a rebound in front of Mescalero's Kelsay Duffy Saturday during the girls championship game of the Mescalero Apache Invitational.

TODD FUQUA/STAFF

side line

Ski Report

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Ski report culled from
www.skiapachesnowreport.com.
New snow past week: 0 inches
Weather at report time: Cloudy, chance of snow
Road at report time: Clear
Midway depth: 10 inches
Season total snowfall: 22 inches
Surface conditions: Hard packed
Skiing conditions: Good
Trails open: Bunny, Easy Street, Lower Deep Freeze, Smokey Bear, Capitan, Top Notch
Lifts open: Chair 2 to midway, 3, 4, 5, Gondola open for sightseeing
Trails groomed: Bunny, Easy Street
Snowmaking past 24 hours: Yes
Forecast: Chance of snow, high of 35

Prep Results

Thursday, Dec. 14
Boys Basketball
Mountain Top Tournament
Quemado 75, Capitan 49
Mescalero Apache Invitational
Immanuel Christian 51, Carrizozo 38
Valley Christian 48, To'hajilee 42
Alamogordo sophomores 71, Hondo 65
Mescalero 86, Alamo Navajo 11
Girls Basketball
Mountain Top Tournament
Animas 49, Capitan 42
Mescalero Apache Invitational
Carrizozo 63, Alamo Navajo 25
Immanuel Christian 42, Mescalero JV 25
Mescalero 71, To'hajilee 48
Hondo 35, Valley Christian 28

Friday, Dec. 15
Boys Basketball
Mountain Top Tournament
Reserve 60, Capitan 39
Mescalero Apache Invitational
Immanuel Christian 65, Valley Christian 40
Mescalero 69, Alamogordo sophomores 68
Carrizozo 75, To'hajilee 42
Hondo 85, Alamo Navajo 2 (called at halftime)
Girls Basketball
Mountain Top Tournament
Capitan 49, Chaparral 14
Mescalero Apache Invitational
Carrizozo 64, Immanuel Christian 41
Mescalero 59, Hondo 16
Alamo Navajo 63, Mescalero JV 25
To'hajilee 29, Valley Christian 21

Saturday, Dec. 16
Boys Basketball
Mountain Top Tournament
Seventh Place
Chaparral JV 57, Capitan 54
Mescalero Apache Invitational
Championship
Immanuel Christian 76, Mescalero 73
Third Place
Alamogordo sophomores 50, Valley Christian 48
Fifth Place
Carrizozo 69, Hondo 36
Seventh Place
To'hajilee 57, Alamo Navajo 21
Girls Basketball
Mountain Top Tournament
Fifth Place
Capitan 50, Quemado 46
Mescalero Apache Invitational
Championship
Carrizozo 54, Mescalero 50
Third Place
Immanuel Christian 65, Hondo 64
Fifth Place
To'hajilee 60, Alamo Navajo 39
Seventh Place
Valley Christian 51, Mescalero JV 15

Preps on Tap

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thursday, Dec. 21
Girls Basketball
Cobres at Ruidoso, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 22
Girls Basketball
Ruidoso at Artesia, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 23
Boys Basketball
Robertson at Ruidoso, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 26
Girls Basketball
Goddard Holiday Tournament
Ruidoso vs. Robertson, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 27
Girls Basketball
Ruidoso in Goddard Holiday Tournament at Roswell, TBA

Thursday, Dec. 28
Boys Basketball
Tularosa at Capitan, 4 p.m.
VFW Tournament
Ruidoso vs. Alamogordo, 7:30 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Capitan at Tularosa, 4 p.m.
Ruidoso in Goddard Holiday Tournament at Roswell, TBA

Friday, Dec. 29
Boys Basketball
Ruidoso in VFW Tournament at Alamogordo, TBA

Saturday, Dec. 30
Boys Basketball
Magdalena at Mescalero, 5:30 p.m.
Ruidoso in VFW Tournament at Alamogordo, TBA
Girls Basketball
Magdalena at Mescalero, 3:30 p.m.

Ruidoso ski team tackles first race of season

LAURA DOTH
For the Ruidoso News

The Ruidoso ski team hit the road early this season as they headed north for the first of seven events in the Smartwool Alpine Race Series. This first Smartwool race was held at Loveland Valley Ski Area in Colorado, and featured a giant slalom and slalom race.

Slalom racing is a timed event requiring the racer to

execute many short, quick turns through two different courses. At the ability level, both the Slalom and GS races are staged in two runs with times added together to determine the final finish order. The course is made up of a variety of gate combinations designed to test a skier's skill and strategy.

Giant slalom is usually considered the racing discipline that requires the most technical skill. Skiers race down the

mountain through a faster and more open course than in the slalom. The vertical drop of the course determines the number of gates in a GS course. At the Loveland race, the vertical drop for the GS race was 571 feet.

Ruidoso racers Lexie Doth and Casey Cultreri represented southern New Mexico in the two-day event. Sponsored by Smartwool, the race series is for J3 racers and above, meaning only racers age 13 and older can compete in the series. More than 250 racers from Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Minnesota and even the East Coast arrived at Loveland to compete throughout the week-end.

The Giant Slalom race was scheduled for the first day of competition on Saturday, Dec. 9. The day was sunny, but cold with the snow temperature measured at 16 degrees. Course officials set a very technically challenging course with 26 gates and 25 direction changes. Race organizers added to the natural terrain of the course, creating blind knolls that the skiers had to negotiate at high speeds. This proved problematic for many of the racers with 32 racers either not finishing the first race or disqualifying in the morning run.

Casey Cultreri was first out of the gates for Ruidoso. He put together a clean run, posting a respectable 46.96. Although well behind the leaders, he gamely ran the afternoon race, ending the day with a combined time of 1:34.36. This put him in 79th place for the day and 25th in the J2 division.

On the girls' course, Lexie Doth had a nice morning run going when she flew over a blind knoll, misjudged the course and crashed into a gate. Despite falling, she made it through the gate, got back up and finished the race with a time of 1:08.16. By finishing the race, she was allowed a second run in the afternoon. She put together a clean run in the afternoon and posted a time of 55.77 for a combined time of 2:03.93. Her disappointing first run put her in 99th overall but 39th in the J3 division.

Day two of the competition brought clear, but even colder, weather. With snow temperatures registering a brisk nine degrees, racers prepared for the slalom race. Officials set some very tough gates, especially at the top of the course. The gates at the bottom half of the race course were more rhythmic,



MARK DOTH/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Casey Cultreri hits the slalom course at Loveland Valley in the Smartwool race.

allowing the racers to pick up speed.

Cultreri started the day attacking the course. Midway through the run he slipped, but managed to make the gate and had a strong finish. The afternoon race posed more of a problem for Casey. Nearing the finish, Cultreri was carrying a lot of speed when he blew by a gate and skied out of the course. Recognized as a DNF (did not finish), Cultreri posted no time for the day.

Frustrated with Saturday's performance, Doth was well prepared for Sunday's slalom race. Getting into the rhythm of the gates, Doth posted a solid

first run with a time of 52.05.

Race officials re-set the course for the second run of the day increasing the number of gates from 44 to 48. Doth's second run looked really good with quick turns and clean carving. The run timed out at 56.56 giving her a combined time of 1:48.61. Doth improved her standing by 27 positions finishing 72nd overall and 29th in the J3 division.

Former Ruidoso racer Rett Smith competed in Sunday's races, finishing 2nd overall behind his Ski Club Vail teammate, J. Ross Herr. Smith's combined time of 1:26.63 was good enough to bring home a

silver medal for the day.

Assistant coach Mark Doth was very pleased with the performance of the Ruidoso racers.

"This was a great training experience. While the staff at Ski Apache has been great work with, we've had limited training opportunities," Doth said. "This was the first time we've been able to run gates, and we were able to get a lot out of this race."

Cultreri and Peter Zagone will be heading to the next Smartwool race in Steamboat Springs, Colo. at the end of the month. Doth's next race start will be in January at Taos Ski Valley.



MARK DOTH/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Lexie Doth, far left, inspects the course prior to racing.

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11:30 - 12:00 Focus on the Family - Dr. James Dobson

12:00 - 2:00 Today's Christian Music

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5:00 - 6:00 Today's Christian Music + Focus News at 5:19pm

7:00 - 7:30 Focus on the Family - Dr. James Dobson

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Capitan girls salvage fifth place at Mountaintop

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

But for a few missed free throws, the Capitan girls basketball team might have been in the championship game of the Mountain Top Tournament in Cloudcroft over the weekend.

The Lady Tigers never got that chance, having fallen to Animas 49-42 in the first round, but the close score shows just how difficult a game Capitan could give to any team.

The Lady Tigers rebounded from that opening-round loss with a 49-14 shellacking of Chaparral in the consolation bracket, then defeated Quemado in another close one, winning 50-46 to claim fifth place.

"We missed layups and free throws in that first game, and that's been our Achilles heel this year," said Capitan coach Mary Sanders.

Capitan (6-5) got a slow start Thursday against Animas, finding itself down 15-8

after the first quarter thanks to all those missed easy shots, but turned the offense on in the second quarter to go into halftime down by only three points.

"We had a good shot at winning it in the end, but just weren't ready in that first quarter," Sander said. "The big thing that pleased me is how hard we played to still have a shot at the end."

Katrina Turner had 12 points to lead the Lady Tigers, while Brittney LaMay had 11.

In Friday's game, Capitan had a different challenge, to stay intense and focused in a game it was clearly dominating.

The Lady Tigers had a 17-4 lead over Chaparral in the first quarter and allowed just one more point in the next two quarters before Sanders emptied the bench in the final frame.

"We let some of the backups work with the starting group and saw some people in positions we hadn't seen them in before," Sanders said. "We also shot 53 percent from the free throw line, which was signifi-

cant with everybody on the team shooting." Turner again led her team with 14 points, while Kelsey Campbell had 13.

Saturday's final against Quemado was another close game, with Capitan opening up with a 15-8 lead after the first quarter and leading the whole way.

"It still tightened up in the third and fourth quarters," Sanders said. "But this win was significant. We had lost two games by two points and another by seven. Winning a close one like this has added some confidence to our team."

The Lady Tigers also made a significant advance at the foul line, shooting 72 percent on the day. Turner had 19 points for the Lady Tigers and Campbell had 12.

"For us to shoot the free throws like that was a big improvement," Sanders said. "With that kind of shooting, we'd have won our close games."

Capitan is off through Christmas and returns to action next Thursday with a 4 p.m. game at Tularosa.

Tigers struggling, but showing signs of improvement

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Capitan's boys seem to be in the midst of a dismal basketball season, what with a 2-10 record and a winless appearance at the Cloudcroft Mountain Top Tournament over the weekend, but coach Steven Foust there are just a few things here and there the Tigers have to do to turn things around.

"We've been giving up turnovers and lots of second-shot opportunities," Foust said. "We're still not doing a good job of boxing out yet."

Capitan lost to Quemado 75-49 the first day, fell to Reserve 60-39 Friday and lost a close

one to Chaparral's JV 57-54 in the seventh place game. In all three losses, the Tigers were out-rebounded on the defensive end of the floor.

Capitan's shooting was also pretty poor, but Foust said that was a result of a very busy schedule and very little rest.

"We ran out of gas at the end of the month," Foust said. "They were tired, but still giving everything they could."

The Tigers had plenty of foul shots Thursday against Quemado, 39 in all, but shot only 51 percent. Quemado, by contrast, went to the line only nine times.

"We were getting the ball where we wanted and getting

into position, we just couldn't score," Foust said.

Brian Taylor had 18 points to lead Capitan in that game, while Travis Berryhill had 10.

Taylor again led his team in Friday's loss with 13 points, while Eldridge had 10. On Saturday, Teke Eldridge had 19 points, while Brett McInnes and J.T. Eldridge had eight each.

Capitan had the ball at the end of Saturday's game and was able to put up two 3-pointers before the buzzer, but both rimmed out.

"We're getting better, really," Foust said. "We had trouble beating the press at first, but now we're doing that and getting good opportunities out of it."

GIRLS

FROM PAGE 1B

found scoring in the second half a bit difficult.

Immanuel outscored Hondo 19-10 in the third quarter and had just enough scoring power to outlast the Lady Eagles 66-64.



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Mescalero's Kayla Randall, right, puts up a shot over Hondo's Angelita Garcia Friday during the girls semifinal game at the Mescalero Apache Invitational.

BOYS

FROM PAGE 1B

Alamo Navajo in a game that was called at halftime with the

Eagles leading 65-2.

Hondo lost a 71-55 decision to Alamogordo in the first round, while Carrizozo dropped a 51-38 game to Immanuel Christian.

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POOP SCOOP

BY KIM DONER
SPECIAL TO THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Just a reminder that 55 pets and their photographs are displayed on the society's Web site at www.ruidoso.petfinder.com.

People may visit our pets online and please, pass it along to friends who would make good pet owners.

Everyone seems to have made their Christmas lists and Santa is busy right now getting the sleigh ready to make his delivery. I know that the pets at the shelter really have only one wish, and that's to have a real home, with people to love them and share their life with them. I know this is true because I see it in their eyes, it's the same wish everyday of the year, but somehow it seems a bit more urgent at this time of the year. Maybe because everyone seems a bit happier, there is more celebrating so the yearning in their eyes seems a bit deeper to me.

There is a quote that I've been thinking about lately, "We give pets time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, pets give us their all. It's the best deal man ever made." My Christmas wish is that everyone who had a pet would realize the importance and respect the life "at is so dependent on their whims."

This month I have seen a puppy brought in, found frozen to the ice in a culvert, and kittens abandoned in a field too young to care for themselves and too friendly to have been born wild, puppies found in a dumpster thrown away as if they were trash. And then there were the people bringing in a cat that was "getting old" (it was only five years old) and besides the kids were asking for a puppy... Did we have any puppies? (And, just so you know, they were not shown any puppies).

This time of year we are also getting a lot of animals relinquished. Company is coming and the dog/cat is a problem or litters that "didn't sell" and now are too old to qualify as a Christmas puppy/kitten, or litters that are too young to sell but the owners are busy with other things and are tired of the mess and the expense. Our resources are stretched to the breaking point caring for all the pets that come in. But this is what we do; we care for the unwanted and the forgotten, the abandoned and unloved. We give them comfort and love and care for their hurts and try to find them loving homes, better homes than they have known in the past.

Working at a Humane Society, any Humane Society, is not easy work. Physically and emotionally there are days, sometimes many days that are difficult. Yet the staff at the shelter does it everyday, falling in love over a hundred times a day and giving the pets their best efforts. I'm very proud of them, and as a community you should be too, because they are making a difference in this world.

I have a few Christmas Wishes, that we could find homes for all the pets of course; that we could make the repairs to shelter that would make the pets more comfortable, that we could have a spray/neuter clinic at the shelter with a part time veterinarian. That we could build onto the shelter and have a cat room that would ease the stress of the cats in our care, and have space for a nursery for young puppies and nursing moms... or someday to have puppies and kittens be such a rare thing that we had waiting lists for them. My wishes may not come true this Christmas... but a new year is around the corner.

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REMEMBERING THE REASON



JULIE CARTER/STAFF

Camp Sierra Blanca youth hosted a float in the Capitán Library's Cowboy Christmas Parade Saturday that gave recall to the 'reason for the season.' The float was complete with the stable scene of Jesus' birth as well as the angel, wisemen and three kings.

Carrizozo will join Great American Race

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.net

Carrizozo trustees have approved sponsoring the Great American Race Day in Carrizozo, July 10.

At their meeting last Tuesday, councilors gave the nod to plans for Carrizozo to be an official lunch host city for the summer event that will bring a variety of commerce to the town.

The annual cross-country race for classic cars will celebrate its 25th Anniversary next summer beginning June 30 in Concord, N.C., and finishing two weeks and 4,000 miles later, July 14, in Orange County, Calif.

The event will bring up to 120 race teams to Carrizozo for the day, creating opportunity for businesses and vendors to participate in sponsorship as well as marketing to the hundreds of people that will come with the race procession.

For more information about participation in the event as an advertiser or vendor, call Carrizozo Town Hall at 648-2371.

With Trustee David LaFave the only dissenting vote, the Carrizozo trustees voted to close the recreation center. The center had been open briefly to league bowling but with fewer bowlers than anticipated and other libelous situations arising, the council shut the doors of the center.

A public meeting will preface the next council meeting, Jan. 9, for three pending ordinances. The ordinances are for the dangerous building or debris guidelines as well as amendments to the current water and sewer ordinances.

All three ordinances will be on the table for public discussion prior to a vote by the council. The amended water and sewer ordinances

include raising tap fees and adding a street cut permit fee.

The new airport runway has been completed and according to town officials, the airport lighting is about 10 weeks from completion.

Municipal Judge Chuck Rominger's request for a recorded phone system for municipal court was approved subject to funding by court automation. Since the time of the discussion at the council meeting, court automation has determined it is not in their realm of financial responsibility.

Rominger requested the system for validation of the call records.

According to town clerk Leann Weibrecht, the system will cost approximately \$2,000 and councilors will now have to decide if they want to fund it from the town coffers.

The Carrizozo Police Department's November activity report showed eight citations issued during the month. Six of those were for speeding.

A total of \$656 was taken in penalty assessments. Nine cases were logged, five closed and four pending with one arrest. Eleven code enforcement notices were sent with two involving a court summons.

In other business the council approved:

- low bid for rehabilitation of the animal shelter to Gibson Construction
- a dog run for the animal shelter to be funded by Miracles Paws for Pets
- Dusty Voss as the alternate municipal judge
- quotes for remodel of second museum building

The next regular council meeting will held at 6 p.m., Jan. 9.

Holidays with friends and family in Lincoln

Wishing all of my readers a very Merry Christmas. We just might have a white one.

The Christmas Eve services will be 6 p.m. Notice the change of time.

Father Laren Winters will officiate at the services. The reception following the services will be held at the Casa de Patron Bed and Breakfast.

There will be no Catholic service this year.

Many friends and family attended the services for Orlando Gallegos at San Juan's Church.

Following the interment at the Lincoln Cemetery, everyone gathered at the Old Lincoln Community Church for a bountiful meal.

More than 200 persons enjoyed all the food. We all had never seen so much food

at one time.

The family thanks everyone for their support and love during this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sanchez are the proud parents of their son, Gary. He was the Albuquerque Metro Coach of the Year. Gary has been with the Highland High School for 27 years.

He was the track coach for 27 years, the varsity coach for 11 years and with the varsity team for one year. Congratulations.

We were in Sam's Club one day last week in Roswell when I heard someone ask "Rosalee?" It was Yvonne Zumwalt of Artesia.

It was so nice to catch up on her family. There were also folks from the Carrizozo

area there.

The McArthur family keeps busy. Pam and Mac McArthur were in Portales for ENMU's commencement ceremony and a cousin's reunion.

Tim Clayton McArthur, son of Gary and Marsha McArthur, received his BEA in music and will be recording a CD in Denver next month.

Grandson Aaron Hooper, 17, was in Albuquerque last weekend for his first professional movie part.

He met Susan Sarandon and had lunch with Tommy Lee Jones — quite a thrill for a dramophile. And it makes the rest of us envious.

The luminarias will be on the street of Lincoln Christmas Eve. Everyone gathers at the pageant ground to fill the sacks that morning. There will be a potluck dinner at the Lincoln Community Church following the filling of the sacks.

Spencer retires from NRCS after 32 years

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.net

Richard Spencer is leaving big footprints behind him as he heads out the door to retirement from the of the southeast area office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Carrizozo early next month.

"He can't be replaced," said area conservationist Hollis Fuchs. "Someone will do the job, but Richard set the bar way up there and we will miss him."

Spencer started his tour with the government as summer help with the forest service in the mid-'60s near his ancestral home at Mountainair. After a tour with the Army in Vietnam and Germany and a college degree in Range Management from NMSU, he went to work for the BLM. With some time out to build a feed milling business in Valencia County, Spencer returned to "government work" in 1987 with the Soil Conservation Service, now the NRCS.

In the meantime, Spencer and his wife Bonnie, a retired teacher, raised three children and continued the family tradition in ranching.

After three decades of suggesting, directing and utilizing conservation practices, Spencer said that driving down the road and seeing the results on the area ranches is the greatest satisfaction of his career.

Fuchs said Spencer's retirement is a loss to the agency but as a beloved member of a "family" of the NRCS, they are all happy that he will be free to follow some of his other dreams. "He defined the position he is in," said Fuchs. "And he has left a clear path for the man that will follow him."

Fuchs said Spencer was a master at developing training strategies for career development. According to Fuchs, Spencer's hands-on background in agriculture gave him credibility and his dedication to his job made him a mentor to those that followed him. "We got a lot of mileage out of that man," he said.

Spencer took the position as the southeast



Spencer

area resource conservationist to blaze the trail for the newly-created position after the state's NRCS districting was shuffled three years ago. He helped to coordinate programs in seven field offices — Carlsbad, Roswell, Fort Sumner, Estancia, Mountainair, Carrizozo and Alamogordo.

A deeply devout Christian, Spencer says the Lord has other work for him to do and he is anxious to devote more time to that and making his family a priority. He plans to do some traveling, continue his ranching in the Mountainair area, and spend time passing on some of his knowledge and wisdom to a new generation, his grandchildren.

Spencer's official retirement date is Jan. 3.

COUNTY BRIEFS

Christmas program

Carrizozo elementary students will present "Americans All" at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 21 in the old gym.

The musical is a combination of song and dance from many different cultures including German, Native American, African, Jewish, Latin American, Korean, Irish and American.

Directed by Dena Odell, the program celebrates America's unique multi-cultural heritage.

The program is free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be available

at the program's conclusion.

'Zozo lighting contest

The Carrizozo Christmas lighting contest will be judged Saturday night, Dec. 23.

Contest entrants will include participants within a 2-mile limit around the town.

The contest is sponsored by the Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce with certificate prizes of \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place certificates.

The certificates may be used at any participating chamber

member business.

A plaque will be awarded to the best decorated business.

To ensure a property will be included in the judging, call the Carrizozo Police Department at 648-2351.

Luminaria schedule

Volunteers for luminaria placement in Carrizozo are to meet at the Carrizozo Fire Station on 8th Street at 1 p.m., Dec. 24. Luminarias will be lit at dusk. Pick up the luminarias will take place at 9 a.m., Dec. 25. All volunteers are appreciated and welcome.

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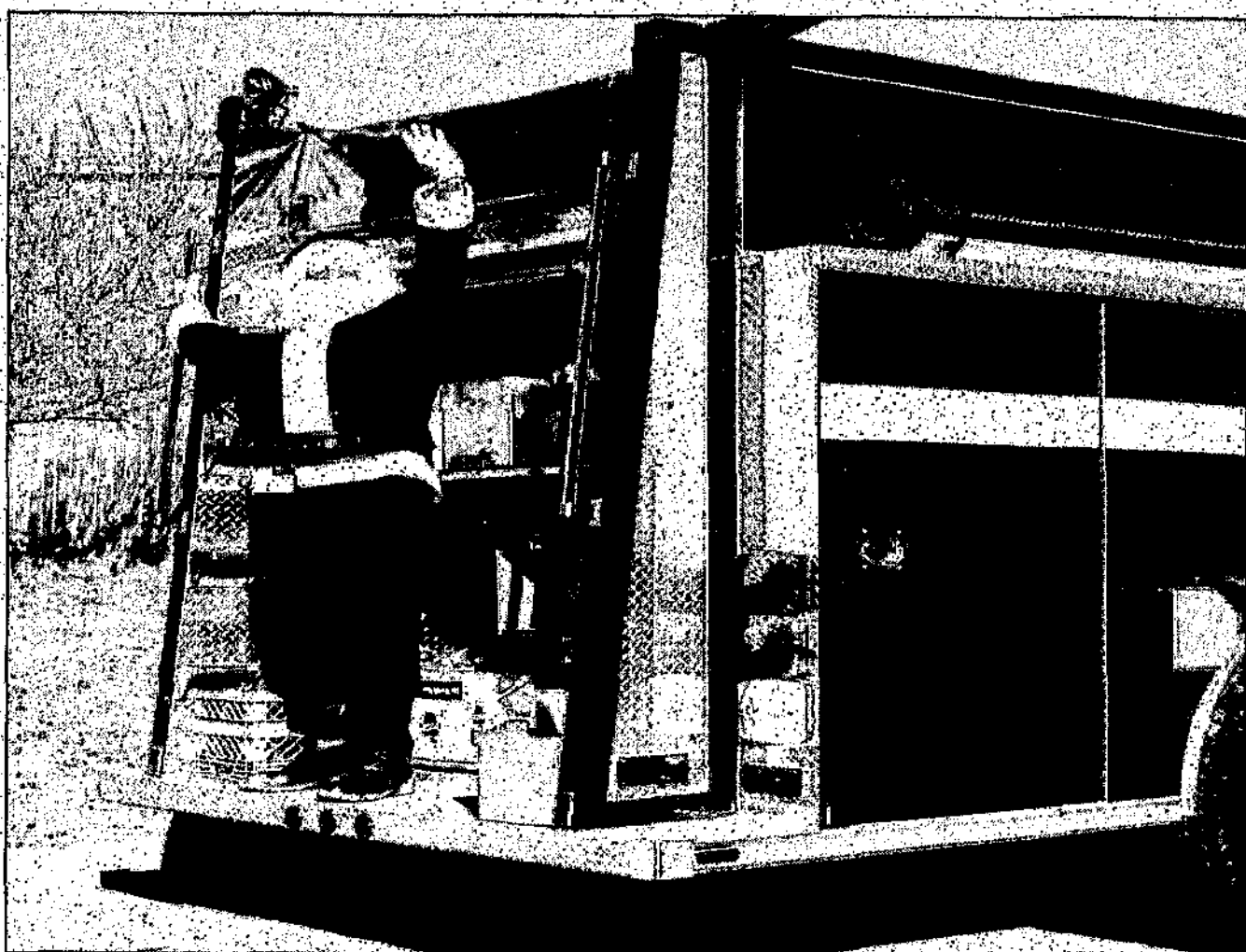
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FILE PHOTO BY JULIE GARTER/STAFF
Santa Claus on the firetruck will be in Carrizozo at Spencer Park Saturday at 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Carrizozo Fire Department, Santa will hand out sacks of nuts, fruit and candy to the youngsters that show up to see him. According to Fire Chief Walter Hill, if the weather is inclement, the fire trucks will be taken out of the 8th Street station house to make room for the crowds of kids, and Santa will greet them inside the protection of the firehouse.

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FUNERALS DEATHS

Michael R. Sendecky

Michael R. Sendecky, 84, of Ruidoso passed away Dec. 15, 2006 in Alamogordo. He was born Sept. 22, 1922 in Minneapolis, Minn. to Mike and Annie (Loch) Sendecky. He married Viola Smith Oct. 31, 1942 in Hudspeth County, Texas and they had 64 loving years together.

He was a veteran of WWII and served in the 1st Cavalry South Pacific region for 30 months. He was vice president of Contractors Equipment Company of El Paso and Odessa. He retired from that company 32 years ago and moved to Lincoln County and lived a short time in Elbow Lake, Minn. Visitation will be

from 2-5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006 at LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso. A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday Dec. 22 at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso with military honors. Sendecky is survived by his wife Viola of the home; his brother, Thomas J. Sendecky and wife Lorraine and a sister, Lorraine Renz. Also surviving are numerous nephews and nieces. Preceding him in death was an infant son, Michael Richard Sendecky Jr., his parents Mike and Anna Sendecky. Donations in Michael's honor may be made to: N.M. Commission for the Blind, Attn: Edith Baker, 400 N. Pennsylvania, Suite 900, Roswell, New Mexico 88201. Arrangements entrusted to

LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso and condolences may be made at www.lagrone-ruidoso.com.

Louise Marie Joyce

Louise Marie Kirby Joyce, 79, of Ruidoso Downs, passed away Dec. 18, 2006 in Las Cruces. She was born on April 10, 1927 in Burkburnett, Texas to K.S. Kirby and Nola Burk Kirby. She lived in Devol, Okla. until 1932 when the family then moved near Roswell. She attended grade school at Hagerman then moved to Palo Verde in Ruidoso Downs. She attended Stetson Grade School and Hondo High School until transferring to Capitan High School. She graduated Valedictorian in 1944. She studied commercial art and received a diploma from The Art Instruction in Minneapolis, Minn. in 1948.

In 1948 she married Coleman Wayne Joyce in Ruidoso, Okla. and they lived in Green Tree (Ruidoso Downs) for about a year before moving

back to the farm in Oklahoma. In 1958 they returned to Ruidoso Downs and in 1959 started the Ruidoso Baptist Church. Louise taught Sunday school classes for 40 years in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. She was church secretary and treasurer for more than 23 years.

Louise is survived by her husband Wayne of the home, son, Dearl Wayne Joyce of McKinney, Texas. A brother Tommy Joe Kirby and wife Dorothy of Azle, Texas also survive her. Louise is preceded in death by her daughter Darlene Marie Joyce in 1988. Visitation will be at LaGrone Funeral Chapel in Ruidoso, 1-5 p.m., Dec. 20, and funeral services will be at 1 p.m., Thursday Dec. 21, at the Ruidoso Baptist Church. Officiating will be her husband Rev. Wayne Joyce. Burial will follow at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Ruidoso. Arrangements entrusted to LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso and condolences may be expressed to the family at www.lagroneruidoso.com.



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"Design Your Life" is a new business opened by Ruth Kirkpatrick in Sept. 2006, as a result of her work with Liberty League International and a desire to help others. LLI is a home-based business opportunity that brings tremendous change to your life through personal development products. Whatever the reason for seeking financial freedom, LLI shows you the way to achieve it.

LLI is one of the fastest growing personal development companies in the world, and has 3 products. The first is called "Beyond Freedom", which is a 90-day, multi-media personal development home-study program that helps people accomplish more than they thought possible in all aspects of their lives. The second product is called the "Liberty Conference", which is a 3-day personal development seminar that takes the principles taught in the first program to new levels for personal and financial growth. The third product is the "Summit Conference." This 5-day event challenges your perceived limitations and core values, and compels you to overcome your fears. It is a life-changing event like no other - a breakthrough in personal and financial growth.

Through "Design Your Life," Kirkpatrick would love to help you find your way to a level of personal development you never dreamed possible. Ready for a change? Give her a call today!

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CORRECTION POLICY: 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.

PERSONALS & ANNOUNCEMENT



Public/Special Notices

The following units at A.A. Storage Inc. 2247 W. Hwy 70 Ruidoso Downs N.M. are past due. If payment is not received within 15 days of the 2nd publication of this notice, storage items will be sold by auction Jan. 14th at 1:00 pm.

D/Dock Arturo Ruiz: P.O. Box 2173, Ruidoso N.M. 88355
97 Mercedes 300, good parts car
Unit# B-8 Alva Chavez: P.O. Box 1634, Ruidoso Downs N.M. 88346
Misc. furniture & household items
Unit# B-21 Loretta Kirk: 320 E. Evergreen, Ruidoso N.M. 88345
Misc. household items

Attorneys

Patricia S. Ortiz

Attorney at Law

Family Law
General Civil
and
Criminal Litigation

714 Mechem

Ruidoso

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(1)3

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

COUNTY OF LINCOLN

TWELFTH JUDICIAL

DISTRICT COURT

BENEFICIAL NEW MEXICO,

MORTGAGE COMPANY

Plaintiff,

vs.

TERYL G. KILE AND

THERESA KILE

Defendants.

NO. CV 05-278

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Special Master will on January 19, 2007, at 11:30 am be at the most entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse in Ruidoso, New Mexico to sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all right, title and interest in and to the following real estate located in said County and state which is more particularly described as follows:

LOT 1, BLOCK 24 OF RANCHO RUIDOSO VALLEY ESTATES, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN BY THE PLAT THEREOF FILED IN OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF LINCOLN COUNTY, NOVEMBER 30, 1982, IN CABINET 15, SLIDES 29 THROUGH 103.

Said sale shall be made pursuant to the Judgment entered on June 3, 2006, in the above entitled and numbered cause, which was a suit to foreclose a real estate mortgage lien in and to the above Plaintiff and wherein the Plaintiff was adjudged to have a first and paramount lien against the above-described real estate in and to the date of sale, publication costs, and a Special Master's fee for the total amount due and owing as of the date of sale being \$104,973.68.

Notice is further given that the real property and improvements thereon will be sold subject to any and all patent reservation, easements, all recorded and unrecorded liens not foreclosed herein and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due.

Notice is further given that should the Plaintiff and/or Defendants herein bid and/or become the purchasers of said real estate and improvements, they may use any part of their judgment herein to credit against the purchase price should they be the highest bidder. From all other parties, the Special Master will accept only cash in payment of a bid or a bank cashier's check, or satisfactory letter of credit, and that the Special Master receives cash or certified funds by 5:00 p.m. of the day of the foreclosure sale.

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Notice is finally given that the Special Master may continue the Special

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Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (C), a Council member may participate in any open meeting by means of a conference telephone or other similar communication equipment. Participation by telephone or other similar communication equipment is permitted when requested by a Council member and the Council provides that the Council member participating by conference telephone can be identified and that all participants are able to hear each other at the same time and the Council member attending is able to hear any Council member who speaks during the meeting.

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(2) If called for when the City Council is not in an open meeting, such closed meeting shall not be held until public notice, appropriate under the circumstances, stating the specific provision of law authorizing the closed meeting and stating with reasonable specificity the subject to be discussed, is given to members of the general public. Only those persons specifically announced or voted upon prior to closure by the City Council shall be discussed in a closed meeting.

Following completion of any closed meeting, the minutes of the open meeting that was closed, shall be made available at the next open meeting. If the closed meeting was held on a date other than the date of the next open meeting, the minutes of the closed meeting shall be made available at the next open meeting.

Except as provided in Section 10-15-1 (H) of the Open Meetings Act, any discussion or action taken in a closed meeting shall be made by vote of the City Council in an open meeting.

(III) Open Meetings to take Formal Action

Meetings at which a quorum of the Council are present and at which a majority of the Council are present, shall be considered open meetings unless the Council, by a majority vote, determines that the meeting is a closed meeting. The Council shall state the reasons for such determination in the minutes of the meeting.

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (C), a Council member may participate in any open meeting by means of a conference telephone or other similar communication equipment. Participation by telephone or other similar communication equipment is permitted when requested by a Council member and the Council provides that the Council member participating by conference telephone can be identified and that all participants are able to hear each other at the same time and the Council member attending is able to hear any Council member who speaks during the meeting.

A Regularly Scheduled Open Meeting

Unless the business before the City Council dictates otherwise, the City Council shall conduct open meetings to take formal action on Mondays and on the second and fourth Mondays of each month of 5:30 p.m. However, when that date falls on a holiday, the meeting shall be held on the next business day.

The City Manager and staff are hereby authorized and directed to publish this resolution and a schedule of regular meetings one time as legal advertisement in the Ruidoso News, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Ruidoso Downs.

Except in the case of an emergency as defined in NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (I), the City Council shall conspicuously post on agenda of the meeting of least 24 hours prior to the meeting, in accordance with this resolution the agenda shall be issued and circulated for the press, radio and other public information media who have provided a written request for such notice and posted on bulletin boards of the City of Ruidoso Downs.

The agenda shall indicate the date, time and place of the meeting, a title of the action to be taken, and a list of any other specified items of business to be discussed. Except for emergency matters as defined by NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (I), the City Council shall take action only on agenda appearing on agenda.

B. Hearings Before the Council

At any hearing at which a quorum of the City

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Except as provided in Section 10-15-1 (H) of the Open Meetings Act, any discussion or action taken in a closed meeting shall be made by vote of the City Council in an open meeting.

(III) Open Meetings to take Formal Action

