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RUIDOSO NEWS

SDAY, JULY 12, 2006 • OUR 60TH YEAR, NO. 21 • 50 CENTS

**FIRE DANGER
MODERATE**

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says hello
Messy track
not a problem

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studies the
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4A STREET TALK
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now for the
follow-through

**4B LINCOLN
COUNTY**
The enduring
pioneers of
the Smokey Bear
Stampede

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New documents dispute Links findings

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Financial figures presented by two auditors may be "as good as gold," but the people preparing those reports on lease money possibly owed to the Village of Ruidoso didn't have all of the needed information, said a representative of Allhub Investments, Inc. Bruce Rimbo said he visited Village Hall, reviewed officials minutes and went to a warehouse with a Village official in tow to dig through boxes of documents. When he was finished, he found official records of annual revenue pro-

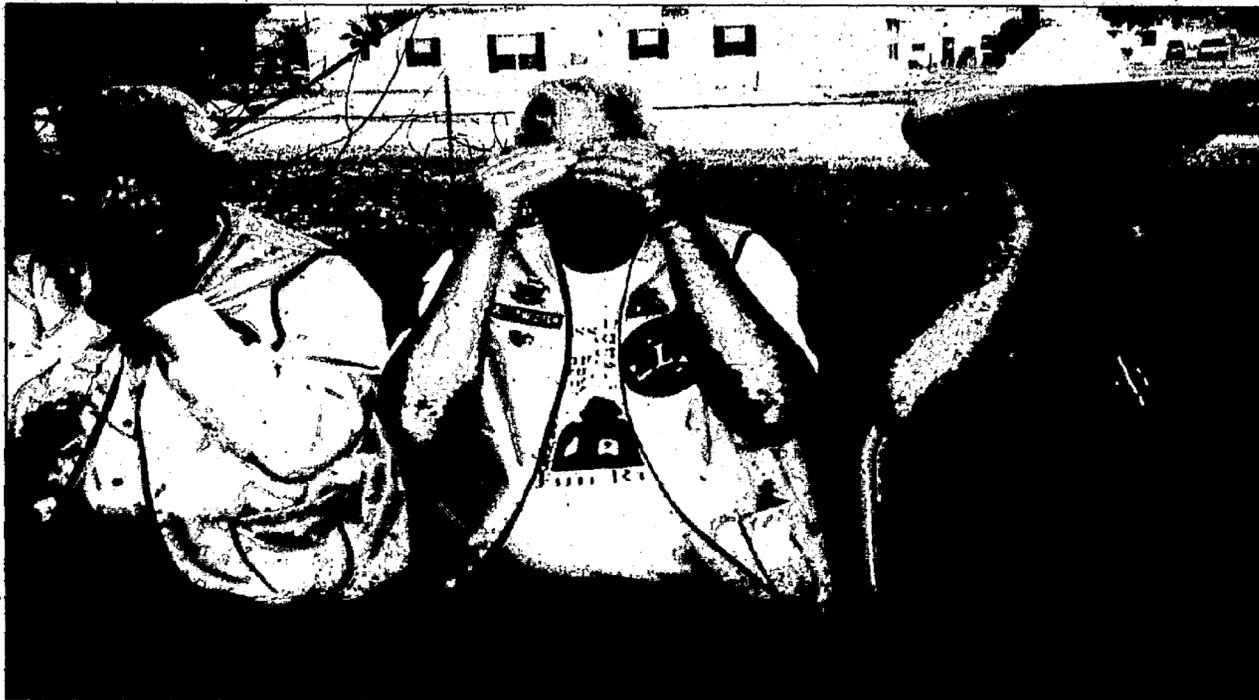
jections by Jim Colbert of Colbert Golf Inc. the original firm to lease village land near the convention center. The records show that Colbert walked Village councilors in 1989 through 15 years of revenue projections that excluded pro shop revenues in arriving at a \$1.5 million threshold, and applied a 20 percent lease charge only on gross revenues in excess of the \$1.5 million mark. Councilors did not object

and later voted unanimously to accept the lease, which was signed Oct. 16, 1989. Colbert, who attended a special session Monday on the lease for The Links at Sierra Blanca Golf Course, revisited the presentation and Rimbo submitted Colbert's sworn affidavit about the presentation. Based on his projections, Colbert told councilors in 1989 they could expect to

receive \$6,325 in the eighth year, \$24,691 in the ninth and \$44,908 in the 10th year. "I testified before the council that these projections were based upon lease payments of 20 percent of only those revenues which exceeded \$1.5 million, excluding golf pro shop receipts, as prescribed by the proposed lease agreement," Colbert stated in his affidavit and reiterated to the council. The Links is one of 28 golf courses and five other municipal leases he handled in his 25 years of business, Colbert

See LINKS, page 8A

HEAR NO EVIL...



Capitan Lions, l-r, Chuck Maltox, Bob Callendar and Jim Davis entertain themselves prior to the July 4th Fun Run in Capitan. JULE CARTER/STAFF

Report: Barn fire not arson

No criminal intent in Hondo blaze that killed 6 horses, fire marshal says.

TODD FUQUA
toddff@ruidosonews.com

For those wondering if the fatal barn fire at the JEH Stallion Station in Hondo June 6 had some sort of sinister background, rest assured that foul play was not involved, according to the New Mexico State Fire Marshal's office. "We have eliminated any criminal intent," said fire marshal Joe Chavez. "We now have engineers in there to see what they can tell us about the actual cause of the fire." The barn, which is now in an advanced stage of demolition as investigators try to

See BARN, page 7A

New school superintendent stresses safety

In wake of the purported sexual assault last school year Dr. Paul Wirth implements new policies

DEANNA CHENEY
dchene@ruidosonews.com

Back to school means back to basics with a focus on caring for self and others this year with the appointment of Dr. Paul Wirth as Superintendent of Ruidoso Schools. Tuesday, Wirth said he wants to restore safety, respect and a pursuit of academic excellence in the district with the help of parents, teachers and fellow

administrators. "We must have safe schools and a right environment before we can educate our kids," said Wirth, who in August will hold an orientation with faculty and staff to discuss district changes and goals. Wirth was named superintendent following a determination by members of the Ruidoso Board of Education not to renew Dr. Charles Harrison's contract. The change in chief administrator followed a sexual assault that purportedly took place at Sierra Vista Primary School March 1 revealing an inefficient safety/response plan in the district. "We've had a lot of issues to address

over the summer to make our schools a safer place, but we believe we've implemented a lot of good, new policies," Wirth said. Among those changes, students and adults who volunteer to help in the classroom and with school functions will now have to undergo a background check and receive training on school policies and procedures. "We also have a new badge system and we've changed our parking situation," said Wirth. "We also have placed mirrors in the cor-

See SAFETY, page 7A

Personnel changes will mark the coming school year

When school resumes August 16 in the Ruidoso Municipal School District parents and students will find that little has changed with regard to budgets and programming, while much has changed personnel-wise. Frank Sayner, president of the RMSD Board of Education, said of key administrative positions, five have been reassigned since the 2005-06 school year ended. "The biggest announcement is Dr. Paul Wirth, as of July 1, has agreed to serve as our Superintendent of Schools," Sayner said. "He has stepped in as interim super-

intendent twice now and is a lifesaver to this school system. With Dr. Wirth we know we are going to get consistent, long-term leadership." Sayner said Wirth's appointment received the unanimous approval of the school board in its June 13 meeting while school principal and assistant principal positions were approved in Tuesday's meeting of the board. In all, the district will employ or re-employ 146 teachers and 96 administrators and support staff in 2006-07. Sayner noted that Dave Bishop, former principal at White Mountain Intermediate School, will replace Phil Parks at Sierra Vista. Filling Bishop's former spot at WMI will be Stanley Lyons, a California relocee,

"With Dr. Wirth we know we are going to get consistent, long-term leadership."

Frank Sayner
School Board president



while Dr. Bea Etta Harris, formerly with Albuquerque Public Schools, has been tapped to replace Brenda Hawthorne at

See CHANGES, page 6A

Council retreat - Councilors draw up the future

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

CLOUDCROFT - Walking around the tables where Ruidoso village councilors sat with their eyes closed in a darkened room, facilitator Carl Neu asked them to visualize the village in 2020. "Take a deep breath and explore in your mind the future community," he asked the silent elected officials, "Give me a tour as it exists then based on your leadership decisions." The councilors were participating in a two-day retreat at The Lodge in Cloudcroft designed to help them function better as a unit for the village in rendering decisions, while not sacrificing individual viewpoints. Sitting around a table in a meeting room away from the bustle of the hotel operation, councilors were asked by Neu to draw their visions without using words and to indicate the

See RETREAT, page 9A

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Tularosa High School student is named Miss Mescalero 2006

DEANNA CHENEY
dchene@ruidosonews.com

MESCALERO - A Tularosa High School student aiming for a stint in the U.S. Air Force and a career in criminal justice recently was named Miss Mescalero.

Ernestina Garcia, 17, was chosen from a field of four on June 3 in the Miss Mescalero 2006 Princess Pageant held at the Mescalero Ceremonial Grounds.

She competed successfully against Erica Kim Bigmouth, Kristen Kaydahzine, and Katharine Sophia Morgan in a five-hour program that included dance, speech and an interview session before a panel of judges and a live audience.

This week she will head for Dulce where she will represent the Mescalero Apache Tribe during the Little Beaver Celebration of the Jicarilla Apache Tribe.

"The elders tell me to be strong for my tribe and to represent my people with respect, so that is what I am going to do," the spirited teen says of her first sojourn as a tribal representative.

"I know that younger kids are looking up to me, too, so I am taking my title seriously. I want people, Indian and non-Indian, to think good things about my people when they meet me."

Garcia said she was persuaded to enter the pageant, now in its 27th year, by members of the Miss Mescalero Pageant Committee, friends and family, and made the decision to register just two weeks prior to the event.

"My grandmas, aunts and mom all worked fast to make my dresses and to help get me ready," Garcia said of the once-in-a-lifetime occasion. "Now, they are making me more dresses for all of the things I will be going to over the next year."

For the pageant Garcia wore a brown camp dress made by her aunt, Lorraine Evans, and a bone and bead necklace borrowed from her mother.

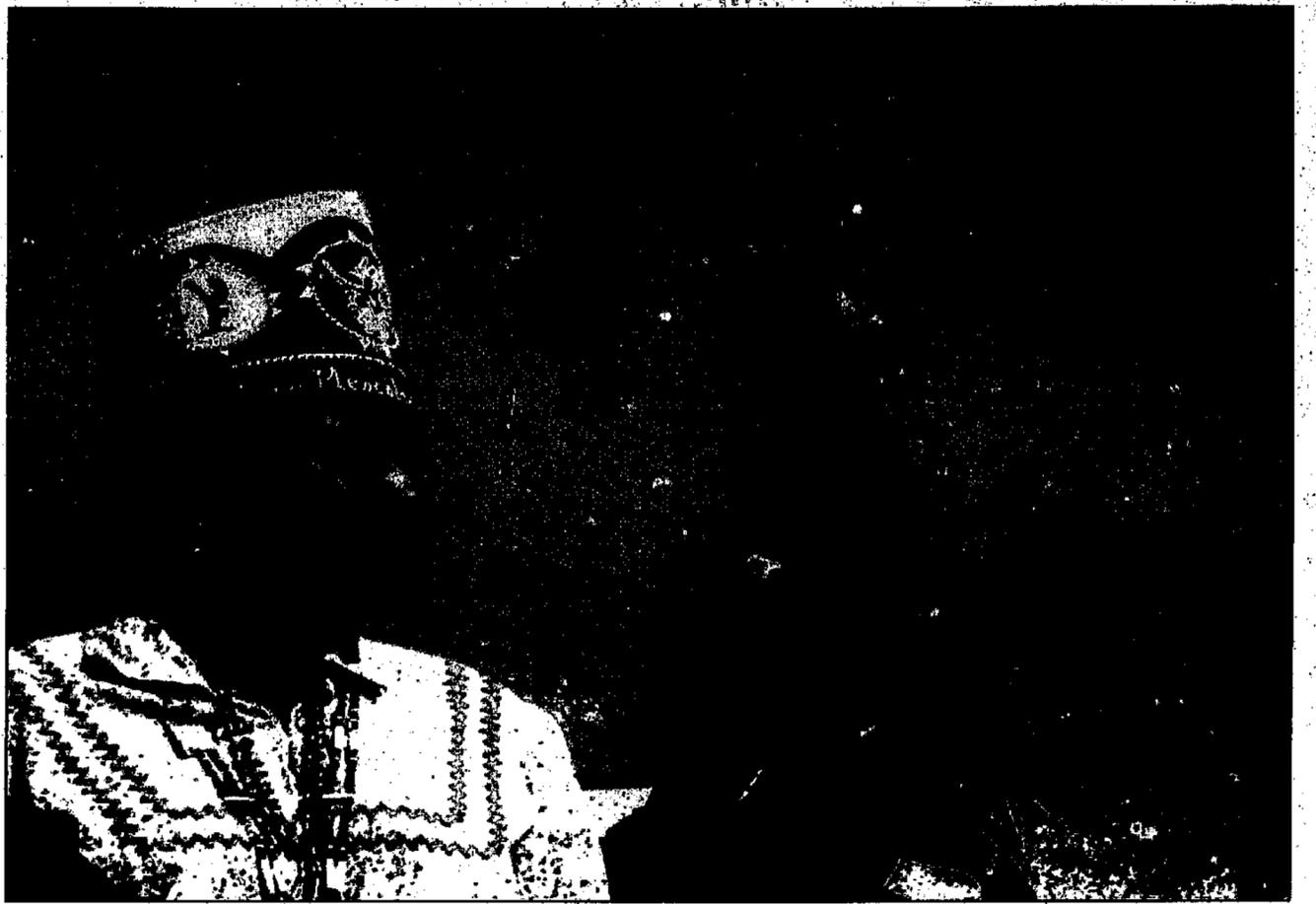
"It was a necklace that was handed down to my mother and is very special to me," she said.

Garcia introduced herself in Apache and in English at the opening of the pageant. Talent included performances in both traditional song and dance and in modern song and dance.

"For the traditional category I sang two songs that my grandfather Byron Treas, Sr. did when he was a singer with the Crown Dancers, and I did two social dances," she said.

For the modern dance category Garcia performed once with a color guard and then performed a hip-hop solo.

Since the crowning, Garcia has represented her tribe at two coming of age feasts in Mescalero and rode in the Mescalero 4th of July Parade where her float placed third.



Ernestina Garcia, whose grandfather Byron Treas was a singer with the Crown Dancers, stands near the Crown Dancers sculpture at the Inn of the Mountain Gods.

Garcia's reign follows that of Valerie Mendez who was named Miss Mescalero in June 2005.

She is the daughter of Troy and Trudy Blaylock and Bartolo Garcia Jr. Her grand-

parents are the late Byron and Lucinda Treas and the late Collette Evans and Bartolo Garcia Sr.

She is of Mescalero Apache, Lipan, Chiricahua and Hispanic descent.

The 2006 Miss Mescalero Pageant was sponsored by the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino, Ruidoso Ford and Jensen Logging.

Members of the Pageant Committee are: Michaelena,

Ahidley, Miralene Blaylock, Rylee Chino-Montoya, Erica Enjady, Keriana LaPaz, Robyn Simmons, and Tribal Cultural Affairs Committee members Oliver Enjady, Larry Shay, and Dorylunn Simmons.

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Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

 81/54 Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm. Sunrise 6:02 AM Sunset 8:14 PM	 81/53 Slight chance of a thunderstorm. Sunrise 6:03 AM Sunset 8:14 PM	 80/54 Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s. Sunrise 6:03 AM Sunset 8:13 PM
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TRENT WILLMON
A Little More by Trent

New Mexico At A Glance



Moon Phases

 Full Jul 11	 Last Jul 17
 New Jul 25	 First Aug 2

UV Index

Wed 7/12	Extreme
Thu 7/13	Extreme
Fri 7/14	Extreme

The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection. 0 means no protection is needed.

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Alamogordo	97	71	pt sunny
Albuquerque	94	70	pt sunny
Carlsbad	100	70	pt sunny
Chama	78	47	t-storm
Clovis	96	69	pt sunny
Deming	99	69	pt sunny
El Paso, TX	93	74	pt sunny
Espanola	89	63	t-storm
Farmington	93	57	pt sunny
Galup	90	55	t-storm

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Grants	90	56	t-storm
Guymon, OK	99	69	t-storm
Hobbs	99	70	mat sunny
Las Cruces	94	73	pt sunny
Las Vegas	88	56	t-storm
Lordsburg	99	70	t-storm
Lubbock, TX	99	71	mat sunny
Odessa, TX	100	72	sunny
Raton	90	56	t-storm
Roswell	99	71	pt sunny

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Santa Fe	86	57	t-storm
Santa Rosa	97	67	t-storm
Silver City	89	63	t-storm
Socorro	94	65	pt sunny
St. Johns, AZ	97	66	pt sunny
Taos	88	53	t-storm
Trinidad, CO	90	61	t-storm
Truth or Conseq.	87	69	pt sunny
Tucson, AZ	101	78	pt sunny
Tucumanari	96	66	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	90	70	t-storm
Boston	83	71	t-storm
Chicago	82	69	t-storm
Dallas	97	79	sunny
Denver	90	61	pt sunny

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Houston	90	74	t-storm
Los Angeles	81	68	sunny
Miami	88	80	t-storm
Minneapolis	89	70	pt sunny
New York	85	76	t-storm

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Phoenix	108	89	mat sunny
San Francisco	66	55	windy
Seattle	88	55	rain
St. Louis	92	76	t-storm
Washington, DC	90	75	t-storm

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Special account

Friends of Mike and Beth Steiner, owners of Heart's Delight, have set up an account in the family's name at Pioneer Bank, 1095 Mechem Dr.

All donations collected in the account will help pay medical expenses incurred by the family following a heart attack suffered recently by Mike Steiner.

Downs fire restrictions

Effective July 11 some fire restrictions have been lifted in

the City of Ruidoso Downs. Residents and visitors may now use charcoal grills and smoke outdoors.

However, the city continues its ban on open flames, as part of its Phase 1 fire watch, firefighter Kenny Ellard said. "This means no open flames, no outdoor burning, no campfires, no bonfires and no controlled burns." Fireworks also are strictly prohibited.

For more information or for clarification on city fire restrictions, interested persons can call the Department of Public

Safety at 378-4001.

Alto meeting

The Alto Lakes Special Zoning District Commission will hold a special meeting at 8 a.m. Thursday, July 13, at the Bonito Fire Station.

The meeting agenda for the special meeting as of July 10:

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda, including additions and changes
4. Working session to discuss and finalize water conservation and other amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.
5. Discussion and possible action to approve ordinance amendments and schedule for public hearings
6. Discussion and possible action to request NM Attorney General Opinion Letter on election costs.
7. Announcement of next meeting - a regular meeting on July 20, 2008.

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Downs residents ask: Where were the sandbags?

Concern prompted by 3-inch rainfall Friday

DEANNA CHERNEY
dcheney@ruidosonews.com

Sandbags or the perceived lack thereof during monsoon season was a subject of discussion Monday during the regular meeting of the Ruidoso Downs City Council.

Three residents, including one former councilman, took the podium during the public input segment asking why the city was so ill-prepared to offer homeowners protection in the event of a flood.

Homeowners complained that with three inches of rain falling in three hours Friday their homes were left susceptible to floodwaters, and with nowhere to turn.

Resident Lorraine Pielat of 621 Utah Lane said she lives "at the dip" at the end of her street and "every time there is a torrential downpour I am swamped."

"When I made calls last week I was told there were no sandbags in the Downs and was given a telephone number to call. When I called that number I got the Ruidoso Police Department and they didn't have any bags either," she said.

Renee Olivo, who until this past March served as a member of the council he was addressing, said the city at one time had sandbags and urged that they be located and made available to the public. Similarly, Jim Burrow, who resides on Colorado Street, said the city needs to "speed things up and try to help our people out," especially given the rains of late.

Burrow recognized newly-

hired Public Works Director Tom Stewart and his staff for responding quickly to flood and drainage problems in the city over the weekend at Spaghetti Flats and at various other locations.

"I asked our new director a while back if he'd gotten his feet wet yet — I guess he has now," Burrow joked.

Stewart said he did not know if the City of Ruidoso Downs possessed sandbags but had been told by various sources it did.

"I'd like to try and figure out where these are and discuss with our city manager the possibility of keeping sandbags over at the public works office for emergencies," Stewart told the *Ruidoso News* Tuesday. "At other places I've worked sandbags were a part of public works."

When contacted by the *News* Ruidoso police spokesman Jim Biggs said any calls received by village dispatch regarding sandbags is referred to the village streets department headed up by J.R. Baumann.

Fill your own

Baumann, who said his department assisted the Lincoln County Medical Center and a local flower shop on Sudderdth with sandbags Friday, indicated that village sandbags are for village residents.

"It's not that we don't want to be good neighbors and help anybody in the Downs out, it's just that these bags and sand are paid for by village taxpayers and are for them," he said.

Village residents facing a drainage problem during heavy

rains can bring their own shovel and fill bags supplied by the Ruidoso Streets Department as the need arises, Baumann explained. "It's a fill your own and carry off type of thing."

To gauge rainfall in the area, the City of Ruidoso Downs utilizes two strategically-placed gauges, one of which is located at the Public Works office located off Mystery Lane. The city also tracks rainfall recorded at the Ruidoso Downs Racetrack.

On Friday, the track reported to the city that it registered 2.33 inches of rainfall while in Ruidoso, the fire department said only 1 inch of rain fell in the village between Friday and Saturday, combined.

Other water news

Stewart said he would be attending a meeting in Albuquerque Tuesday on construction of a new federally-funded water well for the city.

Last week, Ruidoso Downs officials learned the city is to receive \$780,000 from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for construction of a new well near the racetrack, a \$1.1 million project. Funding was made available through the Bureau's Drought Emergency Assistance Program with help from U.S. Senator Pete Domenici R-NM.

"We were the first city to have all of our paperwork on Domenici's desk for this special funding, so we were the first city in the U.S. to be awarded under the program," Stewart and Mayor Bob Miller told councilors.

Construction of the new well, which began last week, was awarded to Stewart



DEANNA CHERNEY/STAFF

Ruidoso Downs officials consult with one another as homeowner Lorraine Pielat departs the podium after questioning emergency preparedness in response to floods, particularly with the regard to the distribution of sandbags.

Bothers of Milan, N.M. It will be dug at a depth of 600-1,200 feet and when completed will be able to store one million gallons

of water.

In related news, Stewart reported that the city spring, the municipality's primary

water source, is flowing at 220 gallons per minute.

"This is a good, consistent flow," he said.

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Area code hearing set for Roswell

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

With the prospect of New Mexico being broken into two area codes, a public hearing is scheduled by the State Public Regulation Commission in Roswell July 19.

Lincoln County commissioners are already on record with a resolution favoring the alternative that existing phone numbers remain in the 505 area code and new numbers be assigned the proposed 575 area code.

If that plan doesn't float, they pushed for the southern part of the state to remain in the 505 area code. The northern areas of the state are more prosperous and able to bear the added expense of changing stationery and business cards, they said.

Based on concentrations of numbers, Area A would include southern and eastern New Mexico and Area B would include Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Belen, Gallup and Shiprock.

At the request of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to oversee allocation of area codes for New Mexico, two alternatives are being considered to avoid running out of numbers under the single "505" area code designation for the entire state.

The numbers are projected to be exhausted by the first

quarter of 2009.

The alternatives

Under the Alternative 5, a new "575" area code would be imposed on all new customers throughout the state. Those with existing "505" numbers would retain them. The projected life of the alternative is 26 years. Customers would be required to dial a 10-digit number even for local calls.

Under Alternative 9, the state would be split geographically, with one section using the "575" area code and the other "505," but NANPA officials didn't recommend where each area code should be applied.

The NMPRC public meeting is set for 1:30-4 p.m., and again from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Chaves County Commission chambers in the Chaves County Administration Center, 1 St. Mary's Place in Roswell.

During the hearing, people will be allowed to comment about the alternatives.

In 1947, the 505 area code was established for all of New

Mexico's telephone numbers. As the state's population approaches 2 million, and with more cellular telephones and other telecommunication devices, New Mexico is expected to require an additional area code by early 2009.

The NMPRC was petitioned by NeuStar, Inc, the FCC designated area code relief plan administrator, to approve a plan by Oct. 3, 2006, to implement another area code for New Mexico. Once the PRC approves a plan, NeuStar officials estimate implementation could take up to 27 months. The FCC reserved "575" for the new area code.

The counties of Lincoln and Chaves fall within Commission District 2, represented by David W. King.

Additional information, including maps, frequently asked questions, and a place to submit an e-mail comment to the NMPRC about the area code relief plans are available on the special NMPRC Web site at www.nm575.info.

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GLENAS ORCUTT GENERAL MANAGER, EXT. 3
gorcutt@ruidosonews.com

MARTY RACINE EDITOR, EXT. 18
mracine@ruidosonews.com

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e-mail: editorial@ruidosonews.com • website: www.ruidosonews.com
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NEWSROOM

- Dianne Stallings General Assignment reporter, Ext. 22
dstallings@ruidosonews.com
- Pamela Cromwell Entertainment, Vampiros reporter, Ext. 15
pcromwell@ruidosonews.com
- Deanna Cheney Education, Business reporter, Ext. 19
dcheney@ruidosonews.com
- Todd Piquas Sports editor, Ext. 5
toddp@ruidosonews.com
- Julie Carter County reporter, Ext. 23
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Member New Mexico Press Association, NMA, Inland Press Association

Stann Birdsong, Circulation Coordinator
sbirdsong@ruidosonews.com

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OUR OPINION

Council retreat must translate into action

Getaway hopefully laid a foundation for governance

We applaud Ruidoso Village Council, specifically Mayor Nunley, for orchestrating a mediated retreat over the weekend.

Nunley and his fellow elected officials pulled off a neutral-site get-together, close enough for citizens and the media to attend, where the previous mayor and council, besieged by divisiveness, could not.

Some rancor lingers, but this retreat was mandated because Ruidoso is at a critical juncture. Serious soul-searching and crystal ball-gazing are called for to project where this village is going.

We are not naive to believe that a simple two-day getaway will solve problems and create instant teamwork in Council chambers. But it's a blueprint. Retreats, conducted by an able facilitator, are useful in setting goals, defining visions and

realigning some misconceptions that tend to take on a life of their own during the daily grind of routine governance.

For example, in their respective visions of a future Ruidoso, Councilors Rebstock and Hardeman drew remarkably similar versions. These two have often been adversaries on major issues since 2004.

The retreat apparently also focused on accountability for staff, clarifying the process by which Village Manager Lorri McKnight can be adequately and fairly reviewed.

By pursuing this retreat, Ruidoso sets an example for other Lincoln County municipalities, beset by their own (if less acute) problems and dysfunctional personal and political relationships. After all, municipal government prospers by a frank exchange of ideas without fear of retribution.

State enters the peace business at war with taxpayers

Mark your calendar for September. New Mexico will stage her first World Peace Conference. Ever. And who better to host the event than Santa Fe, the epicenter of intellectual snobbery?

Exciting. I can see it now. The Dixie Chicks will set the stage with the conference theme song, "Not Ready to Make Nice." Therein, they will warble their George Bush taunt, "How in the world can the words that I said send somebody so over the edge...I made my bed and I sleep like a baby."

Okay, it doesn't rank up there with the classic anti-war ballads like "Where Have All The Flowers Gone?" but these girls are no Peter, Paul and Mary, either.

Cindy Sheehan will host, giving her further opportunity to embarrass herself. Howard Dean can be counted on to say something stupid. Michael Moore will stand there looking goofy to the wild applause of prancing, marching peace activists, painted blue, but not red, white and blue. They will be bare-chested, many of them female, the slogan "No More War" scrawled on their upper torsos.

But, wait. That's not the case at all. This is an entirely different kind of peace movement. We're not talking here about activists crowding the plaza. No, think instead of guys in suits and ties, maybe some scarves and pipes. We're talking about people who think grass is something you mow.

Were it necessary for New Mexico to stage a peace conference — a debatable proposition — you would think the government would step aside and let the Santa Fe private sector take care of that business. I mean, those folks know how to do peace.

Instead, New Mexico leaders allocated \$420,000 of your taxpayer money to pamper speakers at some posh hotel. All they

needed to do was spend \$834 on "Bush Sucks" t-shirts and spend the rest of the money on something we need. Fixing a road would be nice.

The state justifies the nearly half million-dollar expenditure with the idea this conference, and ones to follow in subsequent years, will promote "peace tourism." Isn't that a crock? By all that is holy, what is "peace tourism?"

When it is all over we will have no more peace, we will have no more tourism, but our wallets will be \$420,000 lighter.

Before it can be all over, it has to get started, and with just 10 weeks left before the conference, getting started was just getting started. Last week the state had yet to select a planner for the conference, although it did shell out \$27,000 to Frank O'Mahony for preliminary work. O'Mahony is a former state official. O'Boy.

The anticipated peace conference has already sparked a war of sorts. Real peace activists are getting out the blue paint and planning to protest. This guy named Bob Anderson, head of something called the Stop the War Machine, sent out emails to 1,300 supporters.

Anderson is livid about the state expenditure of \$420,000. "Imagine what work we in the grass roots could do with the \$420,000!" Anderson's email claims. We can imagine. Scary.

But Anderson and his folks won't get the \$420,000. Make love not war is now state business. The New Mexico state government already has invested her taxpayers in the space business, the airline business, the movie business, and the rail commuter business. Now we are in the peace business.

Sorry about those potholes.

The columnist welcomes response at ncantwell@charter.net



LOOKING ASKANCE
NED CANTWELL



YOUR OPINION

Retreat provided Village Council with useful tools

To the editor:

AN OPEN LETTER to the Citizens of the Village of Ruidoso from Your Council:

This past weekend your Village Council attended a Council Leadership Workshop in Clouderoff.

This Workshop had been a long awaited and important exercise. There were several pieces of information distributed for our use to bring forth a united vision.

We have made valuable and workable solutions to better serve our community and adequately prepare for the future needs of our Village.

Recently, two citizens of our village compiled information for presentation to the Council for just such purpose. We incorporated their findings and the findings of others to come to positive solutions and goals that can be utilized for both this and future councils.

There was honest dialogue and healthy communication to provide us with our forward path.

We were once again reminded how a true Mayor-Manager-Council form of government functions and the value that organization holds for our community.

Your council worked very hard and came away with useful tools to provide the leadership the village deserves.

We look forward to implementation of the long term and short term goals we worked hard to gain and look forward to seeing them come into fruition for the benefit of us all.

Mayor Nunley
Manager McKnight
Councilor Williams
Councilor Hardeman
Councilor Stoddard
Councilor Rebstock
Councilor Shaw
Councilor Cory

Aspartame: Board bowed to corporate pressure

To the editor:

BY DENYING A PETITION to ban aspartame in New Mexico by a vote of 6-1 July 6, the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board has essentially given *carte blanche* to the multinational corporate powers involved that knowingly add aspartame to 6,000 manufactured food products in the USA.

The Navajo member of the EIB, Harold Tso, was the only one to vote to have hearings.

New Mexico Statute 25-2-13 clearly gives complete regulatory powers to the EIB and to no other state entity for food protection. The EIB voted twice before to

convene hearings, and only under pressure from the Ajinomoto Corporation of Japan, Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola, and the Calorie Control Council, did the EIB capitulate.

This is a very sad day for consumer protection efforts in New Mexico, and the only hope in this context is the reintroduction of a bill to ban aspartame in the 2007 New Mexico Legislature, when no doubt the same corporate forces will be out in even fuller force to manipulate the legislative committees into acquiescence.

What it clarifies to me is that corporate power has run amok in the USA and there is almost no chance than anyone,

through state or federal government, can prevent the continued neurodegenerative and carcinogenic effects of Aspartame having been forced through the FDA in 1981 by political rather than medical or scientific means.

EIB Chairman Gay Dillingham, after having received hundreds of emails from victims, physicians, and many other New Mexicans in support of a complete ban on Aspartame, used the phrase "I do this with a heavy heart" when she made the motion to deny the petition.

The motion was seconded by Dolores

LETTERS CONTINUED PAGE 5A

WALTER RUBEL

Aspartame decision best left to Legislature

SANTA FE — Few political crusaders in New Mexico have been as devoted to their cause as Stephen Fox.

That was made clear to me a couple of years ago when Fox, a Santa Fe gallery owner, called my home on the afternoon of Easter Sunday to ask if I had sent his guest column to the eight newspapers in the partnership.

Now, his crusade has hit a roadblock. The state Environmental Improvement Board voted unanimously Thursday against Fox's petition to have the artificial sweetener aspartame banned from all food and medicines in New Mexico.

After more than a year of considering the issue, chairwoman Gay Dillingham said the seven-member citizens' board was not the "appropriate venue" to deal with aspartame.

Aspartame, approved by the FDA in 1981 and sold under the brand names of NutraSweet and Equal, is now found in thousands of products, including diet sodas. Critics say the product is dangerous. Industry advocates say it has been tested repeatedly and found safe.

Fox first came to the board in June of last year, when he told members that a

seldom-used statute on the books since 1921 gave it the authority to ban aspartame. He said if the board found that aspartame was "poisonous or deleterious," the attorney general could move to have it banned.

Dr. Grant LaFarge, former secretary for the New Mexico Medical Board, accompanied Fox. He warned that 1.4 million people in New Mexico are "ingesting formaldehyde" by consuming products with aspartame.

Then-chairman Clifford Stroud encouraged Fox to come back with a petition, and a five-day hearing was held. It wasn't until January that the board decided to seek an Attorney General's opinion as to whether it actually did have the power to either ban the sweetener or require special labeling.

The board has not been shy about flexing its muscle in the past. Sen. John Arthur Smith, D-Deming, charged that the board overstepped its authority last year when it passed a new set of safety regulations covering convenience stores. It is the Legislature, and not an appointed board, which should be making such sweeping changes, Smith argued.

The seven current members of the board have various levels of expertise in environmental issues, but absolutely none in the fields of medicine or pharmacology.

The fact that they held hearings and even considered moving to usurp the authority of both the state Legislature, which last year defeated a bill to ban the sweetener, and the federal Food and Drug Administration is frightening.

The board is tied to the Environment Department, which means it is ultimately an arm of the executive. Its members were not elected by the people, but appointed by the governor. There is no equal representation throughout the state. All seven current members of the board live in either Albuquerque, Santa Fe or Hobbs.

Appointed boards play an important role in state government. But for the big decisions — such as one that would make New Mexico the only state in the nation to outlaw diet soda — it's best they defer to the Legislature.

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

Campaign for a sustainable environment

To the editor:
AFTER READING THE OPINION PAGE of the 7 July *Ruidoso News*, it should be clear that the time has come to shut down any further downtown development.

Any responsible person who lives here should be more opposed to these multi-storied projects spanning the fragile Ruidoso River.

Would you developers just do us a favor; take your money and pack your bags and just leave Ruidoso. These people can only see dollar deals in their minds, so please take your big shot money deals some place else.

I built a two-story house in Capitan 25 years ago, and I thought I was going to get away from the sprawl I encountered during my 30-year stay in El Paso, but no, these big shot developers do not have an appreciation of nature, because they never knew the beauty of Ruidoso that I saw when I first came here in 1955.

And then we have a bunch of politicians who are like Gray Davis from California, who had his hand in every developer's billfold before he was impeached. (Sorry, there are exceptions on the new council.)

Ruidoso is lacking an electrical building inspector because of poor management, period.

Please, Ruidoso, stand with Roslyne Kastner, Lyn Kidder and Andrea Reed, and learn how to fight for a sustainable environment in Ruidoso.

Our three young children learned how to snow ski at White Mountain, and we taught them to fight for what is right, and I wish they were here to join the fight to preserve this beautiful community.

And while we are on the subject of "Caring," thank God for the "Weed Warriors," who actually live here. Go look at all those pretty purple flowers that are growing on Highway 70. They are Russian thistles, and they are invading this pretty place.

Wake up Ruidoso, and preserve



what little water is here, and let's get rid of all these noxious infiltrators that have invaded this town, now.

Gabriel Mayr
Tularosa

Don't lift moratorium

To the editor:

FIRST, I AM ONLY speaking for myself in this letter and not for anyone in my family or any group. These are my own personal feelings I feel I must express.

I totally agree with the Letters to the Editor lately that speak about the

"quality of life" issues for Ruidoso residents. The moratorium should not be lifted until all water restrictions are lifted and until Mr. [Bill] Morris of the Planning & Zoning Department finishes his report on the services the Village is able to provide right now for the residents before we allow any more growth.

Lastly, I oppose any new multi-storied construction projects along the river in the downtown area. We don't want our village to look like Houston or New York, or even El Paso.

We live here and the tourists come here for the quiet beauty and ambi-

ence in this wonderful mountain paradise. I encourage anyone else that agrees to protest now, before it is too late ... like River Crossing.

Sheree Wisner
Ruidoso

Just say no

To the editor:

WHAT PART ABOUT "NO" don't the developers and our elected officials understand?

The people of Ruidoso and the rest of Lincoln county are saying no to more golf courses, no to cutting down

our beautiful trees to build motels, no to three-story condo towers that block the views of the river and the hillsides, no to shopping malls and huge churches that pave over the landscape for gigantic parking lots, no to demolishing the Panorama Miniature Golf Course to build yet more condos, no to faceless chain stores replacing unique local small businesses.

The biggest no of all goes to wealthy developers coming in and ruining the beauty and serenity of Lincoln County. What many people seem to forget is that the reason tourists and residents alike love Ruidoso is because it is a unique rural community. Ruidoso's main attraction is the natural environment, the trees, the Rio Ruidoso and the forests and open spaces that surround it.

No tourist comes here to see condos, or strip malls or big chain motels and restaurants. In fact, they are probably so sick of seeing that stuff in their own communities that they come here for a bucolic change of scene.

Years from now people will sadly shake their heads and remember what a special and unspoiled vacation spot Ruidoso used to be and the residents will regret not banding together to fight the plague that destroyed their town in the name of development and profit. It's not too late.

If the majority of the residents of Ruidoso and Lincoln County take a stand against the destruction of our community we can make a difference. We just have to remember that the majority rules.

T.D. Machen
Nogal

AWAY FROM HOME?
READ LETTERS ONLINE:
WWW.RUIDOSONNEWS.COM/LETTERS

LETTERS FROM PAGE 4A

Herrera of Albuquerque, who also said she was doing so with a "heavy heart."

One has to wonder whether there is any consumer protection authority remaining [when] no one seems to be willing to protect the people of New Mexico. When Dr. Gary King, with his Ph.D. in Chemistry and extensive legal experience, is sworn in as the next Attorney General we will have someone who can truly protect the people of New Mexico and establish a long overdue national precedent to rid our state and our nation of an artificial sweetener which is metabolized as methanol and formaldehyde.

Plaintiff lawyers might achieve this more rapidly than anyone else by implementing punitive and exemplary damage suits against aspartame manufacturers and corporate endusers, comparable to the Tobacco suits in the 1990s.

Stephen Fox
Santa Fe

The right to write

To the editor:

I NEVER CEASE TO BE AMAZED at people's opinions. Ms. Naslund, the solution to your problem [Your Opinion, June 28], with Charles Clary is very simple. If you are so offended by his column, just don't read it.

I really look forward to his article each week. He has the right to write on world affairs or whatever he feels [compelled] to write about. And you, Ms. Naslund (as do we all) have the right to either read or not.

Connie Behringer
Ruidoso

Church answers need

To the editor:

REGARDING NED CANTWELL'S quote from the Annie L. Casey Foundation: "New Mexico continues to rank toward the bottom of the 50 states when it comes to the health and well-being of our kids..."

How pathetic!
Except for Ruidoso's local

churches that have youth programs, we are overlooking the most important aspect of our society - our young people, who have a lifetime ahead of them.

We now apparently have the Community Methodist Church with Barbara Albrecht as project coordinator, making a commitment to build and support The Warehouse, a community youth center.

Wow, what great news. Let's all support the Community Methodist Church, Mayor [L. Ray] Nunley and Cree Meadows, which is sponsoring a golf raffle to benefit The Warehouse.

Thank God we're finally filling this much-needed void in our village. And, with Cree Meadows' raffle tickets just \$5, about every resident in Lincoln County can participate.

Congratulations from the heart to Community Methodist Church for finally making it to the drawing board with our dreams.

Peggy Jordan French
Ruidoso

PAID ADVERTISEMENT MOLZEN-CORBIN DESIGN CONCEPT IS INCOMPLETE

Current Time Line: July 2006	Evaluate RFP and award engineering contract.
January 2007	Continue engineering, bonding and submit to EPA for review. Estimated cost, 2.7 million.
January 2008	Advertise for bids and commence the construction process. Advertise at 30 million. Estimated total capital and engineering cost for phase 1 and chemical addition 35 million.
December 2010	Realize that the original concept was in error and commence corrections. Estimated cost is 30 million to correct.
January 2011	Phase 1 on line and in compliance with discharge permit. We are now in the same position we were in during 2001 when the original RFP was issued. The glaring difference is that we have 65 million involved. And are no closer to meeting future needs than we were then.
January 2012	New Council realizes that they have three years till capacity is again inadequate. Based on past experience they commence the RFP for engineering process again.
January 2013	Advertise for phase 2 bids and commence process all over again. Estimated cost in current funds is 20 million.
January 2015	At design capacity for the 25-year planing period.

In January of 2015 we will have spent an estimated 85 million in engineering and construction costs in addition to the estimated 4 million in additional operating costs. So we are 89 million into a project that could have been built in half the time and at a total guaranteed cost of the original 35 million.

The Rural Water Association was instrumental in forwarding the request for funding to The Corp of Engineers that we had located and researched. Neither of us was consulted as to the basis of the 595 program or it's limitations prior to the trip to Washington. As a result the request for funding was not well received.

During our conversations with a loan specialist from the USDA at our monthly meetings to collect monies due on other wastewater projects we have located other sources of funding. However we do not feel that we can give our endorsement to a project we do not feel will work.

At the current rate the Village is asking every resident, age not withstanding, to sign on for a debt of \$10,000.00 per head to fund a project of questionable viability and future worth. Perhaps this will arouse the taxpayers to contact their elected representatives and let their opinion be known.

Paid for by Carl Kelley Construction

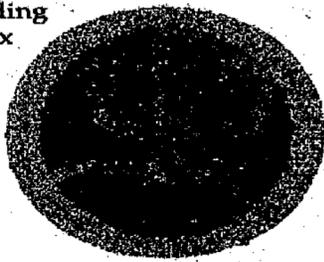


On behalf of the employees and leadership of the Lincoln National Forest, we would like to thank our federal and state agencies, county and community leaders and partners, the fine citizens of Chaves, Eddy, Lincoln, and Otero counties, and visitors to our area for their understanding, cooperation, and support to help us prevent human-caused fires on the Lincoln National Forest. We know that the forest closure since May 23rd, has had an enormous impact on a variety of community and individual businesses as well as the lost opportunities

for each of us that enjoy this magnificent national forest.

As a result of your diligence and outstanding efforts and the outstanding efforts of six Southeastern New Mexico Fire Prevention Teams, we were successful in reducing the number of human caused fires to eight, resulting in a minimal loss of only 15.5 acres of this 1.1 million acre national forest. Our thanks for a job very well done!!!

Lou Woltering, Forest Supervisor &
Jacque Buchanan, Deputy Forest Supervisor.



EDUCATION

Changes

FROM PAGE 1A

Nob Hill. In addition, Jerrett Perry, a former coach with Ruidoso High School, will be replacing Jane Thompson as assistant principal at RHS while Shirley Crawford, formerly with the Cloudercroft school district, has been named principal.

Fiscal realities

Yvonne Perez, finance manager for the district, said that although the district will be dealing with fewer students in the upcoming school year and a slightly tighter budget, it has not conducted layoffs.

"With student enrollment down, and considering the corresponding funding that goes with that, we didn't fill some teaching positions as they came open," she explained. "Also, we looked hard at ways to streamline classes this year."

Perez said that a decline in enrollment last year equates to a \$206,000 decrease in the district's operating budget this school year.

"We are given a unit value per student with the student count determined in April," she said. "That's about \$3,444 per student enrolled."

Perez noted that salaries account for the majority of budget expense, followed by general maintenance and school operations, but said that transportation costs this year will have an impact.

"We did get a small increase from the state to help us with the increase in fuel costs as the state recognizes that every district is struggling. Still, we are going to have to continue to monitor our transportation costs," she said.

Boosting the budget this year, currently at \$38,936,817, is a Reading First flow through grant from the federal government.

"This grant is for \$450,000 and is targeted for grades K-3," Perez said.

At first glance it may seem as though the district has \$16 million more in funds than last year to work with but Perez said "that is money from our bond sale to be used for the construction of a new middle school, not anything else."

Superintendent Wirth said that with a restrictive budget and with a renewed commitment to core subjects and values in schools, the district will not be implementing new programs that can "waste time and money."

"We're going to focus on the basics and make our district

"With student enrollment down, and considering the corresponding funding that goes with that, we didn't fill some teaching positions as they came open."

Yvonne Perez
RMSD finance manager

one of the best in the state," he said.

Wirth added that he is excited about the new composition of administrators at Ruidoso schools and feels fortunate that the district was able to identify such highly-qualified individuals.

"Around mid-April we felt overwhelmed by the number of openings and were not sure we were going to be able to fill them," he said. "But, we remained focused on what we wanted for the district and didn't hire the first people we interviewed."

Biographies

• Shirley Crawford, newly hired-principal at Ruidoso High School, most recently served as principal of Cloudercroft High School. Prior to that she was an assistant principal at Hobbs High School for five years. Crawford holds a Masters of Education in Administration from ENMU-Portales.

• Stanley Lyons, former high school principal from Calabasas, Calif., named recently as principal of White Mountain Intermediate School, holds a Masters of Education from Fresno Pacific University. His teaching career began in Quemado, N.M.

• Dr. Bea Etta Harris, the new principal at Nob Hill Early Childhood Center, has worked as a school administrator for the past 15 years. She holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of New Mexico and most recently was principal of Corrales Elementary School for 12 years.

• Jerrett Perry, a 10-year employee of the Ruidoso Municipal School District, and new assistant principal at Ruidoso High School, received his Masters in Education Administration from New Mexico State University in 2005.

Over the years Perry has worked as a special education teacher, assistant football coach, wrestling coach, head baseball coach, athletic trainer and as a boys physical education teacher and sports medicine teacher.

An education in the culinary arts

ATLANTA - Mary Dunbar, a teacher at Mescalero Apache High School, was one of 38 teachers from around the country to participate in a week-long training institute June 26 - July 1, hosted by the culinary arts program of The Art Institute of Atlanta.

Teachers from 15 states participated in classes on creating and teaching soups, sauces, baking, purchasing, and numerous other topics. They also toured the food and beverage operations of the Georgia Aquarium and had dinner at one of Atlanta's fine restaurants.

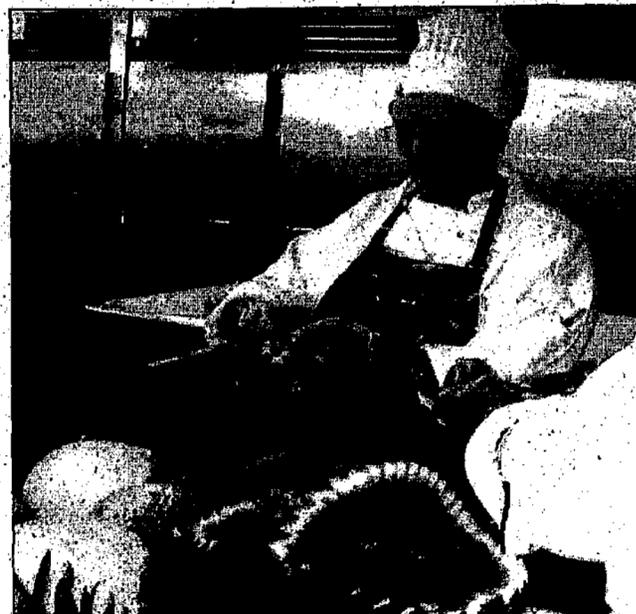
The educators, through a series of training sessions, can earn their restaurant/foodservice instructor certification as part of the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation's program.

The classes, taught by industry professionals and Art Institute chef faculty, also provided an opportunity for net-

working with other educators and people in the industry and learning about the latest trends in culinary and foodservice technology.

The Summer Institute was sponsored by the National Restaurant Association, The Art Institute of Atlanta-Culinary Arts, and the Hospitality Education Foundation of Georgia (HEFG). The NRAEF and HEFG support ProStart, a career-building program, supported by the NRAEF and the HEFG, designed to encourage high school students interested in a career in the hospitality industry.

The program blends both classroom learning and work experience to produce the future leaders of tomorrow. Students anywhere in the U.S. who complete their ProStart certificate in high school can earn up to 12 credits towards a degree at The Art Institute of Atlanta, saving up to \$4,700 in tuition costs.



COURTESY

In the thick of things at The Art Institute, Mescalero teacher Mary Dunbar

WASHINGTON SMARTS



U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Ruidoso resident Glen Cheng bid a fond farewell.

Glen "Kal" Cheng of Ruidoso has completed a six-week summer internship with U.S. Senator Pete Domenici in Washington, D.C. The internship, which began May 17, concluded June 28. Cheng a 2003 Ruidoso High School graduate, now working toward a degree in government at New Mexico State University, joined 11 other college students to work in Domenici's Washington office this summer. During the internship, Cheng worked closely with Domenici's staff. Assignments included media related tasks, legislative research, constituent services, and work for Domenici's Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Cheng completed a research project that focused on S-602 concerning the National Drought Preparedness Act. Cheng also enjoyed many opportunities to experience the D.C. area and its many attractions.

Music camp opens

DEANNA CHENEY
dchene@ruidosonews.com

Area youth can hone their skills in the performing arts with the opportunity to enroll in Summer Music Camp 2006. The camp, put on by the award-winning Sunshine Generation, a non-profit international organization, is designed to help children develop self-confidence, vocal and dance skills and showmanship technique.

In Ruidoso, the camp takes place July 17-21 at a cost of \$50 per participant with discount prices available for siblings.

All classes meet at the Ruidoso High School Choir Room; 9 - 10 a.m. for grades three and four, and 10:30-11:30 a.m. for grades five through 12.

An end of camp performance for family and friends of participants also is planned.

Children who enroll in Summer Music Camp will receive a free T-shirt and learning CD.

For more information or to receive a registration form for Summer Music Camp 2006, contact Sue Vinsant at 937-0740.

EDUCATION NEWS

Hoffman scholarship

Dillon D. Hoffman, a 2006 graduate of Ruidoso High School, is one of 44 New Mexico high school seniors this year selected as a Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholar. As an award designee, Hoffman will receive a \$1,500 annual scholarship each year for up to four years to be used toward college or university expenses anywhere in the U.S.

Veronica C. Garcia, New Mexico secretary of education, said, "Being named a Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholar is a tremendous achievement and reflects each student's devotion to academic excellence."

Students named this year were selected from among 174 applicants in the state based on

their academic achievement and American College Test (ACT) and Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) scores. Minimum eligibility requirements were a 3.5 grade point average and either a score of 27 on the ACT or 1220 on the SAT. Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships were first awarded in 1987 and are federally-funded.

Internship

Adrian Salas, 21, of Ruidoso recently was accepted into the Getty Multicultural Summer Internship Program at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in Pasadena, Calif.

Salas has been appointed to work in the conservation

department which is under the library division of The Huntington. There he works alongside the head paper conservator cleaning, mending and storing a photo collection provided to the library from the Edison Electric Company in California.

Salas

Salas, an American studies student attending the Occidental College in Los Angeles, said he is uncertain if he will pursue a degree in conservation but said the internship is proving to be "good exposure to the very specialized

field of book and paper conservation."

"I normally would never see these materials unless I was working on a PhD dissertation," he said.

Salas is the son of Jerry and Maria Salas of Ruidoso and is a 2003 graduate of Ruidoso High School.

School registration

Registration currently is open for students grades K-6 interested in attending Sierra Blanca Christian Academy during the 2006-07 school year.

The academy is located inside the lower level of First Baptist Church at 270 Country Club Rd., Ruidoso. Summer hours are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mon-Fri.

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SAFETY

FROM PAGE 1A

ridors to be able to keep a better watch down hallways and around corners and to make sure that only those people authorized to be in the schools are in our schools."

Wirth said that changes in the Ruidoso Municipal School District reflect changes in society following the 9/11 tragedy.

"We all have to get to the airport a little bit earlier if we are going to the airport and submit to more safety checks. Likewise, parents and visitors will be asked to check in and out at the school office. If we follow the rules, getting in and out of the schools will take a little longer but I believe everyone will see that it is important to our children," he said.

Wirth said that safety audits were performed at all schools in the district during the spring, along with parent meetings.

"So many of the changes we've made in the schools and are making are a result of what we learned in those safety checks and meetings," he noted.

Wirth, who three times in his professional past, has been asked to serve as superinten-

dent of schools, said this occasion was the right occasion to say 'yes.'

"In the past, what was most important to me was to have direct contact with students and staff," he explained. "To be honest, being a high school principal is a fun job, although not without its challenges. I really enjoyed what I was doing but felt that with all the challenges in the district right now the best thing I could do was help define the superintendent position and to see through those changes that I and others knew needed to take place."

Wirth said he values the contributions of the entire school staff and members of the board of education and said he is looking forward to creating positive change with the help of Patty White, associate superintendent of schools; Yvonne Perez, finance manager; and Danny Sanchez, facilities manager.

Wirth said that in the 2006-07 school year teachers will focus on the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic and will carry into the classroom a consistent message of respect and caring for self and others.

"I believe these core things will be the glue that holds us together and will help make us the best school district in the

state," he said.

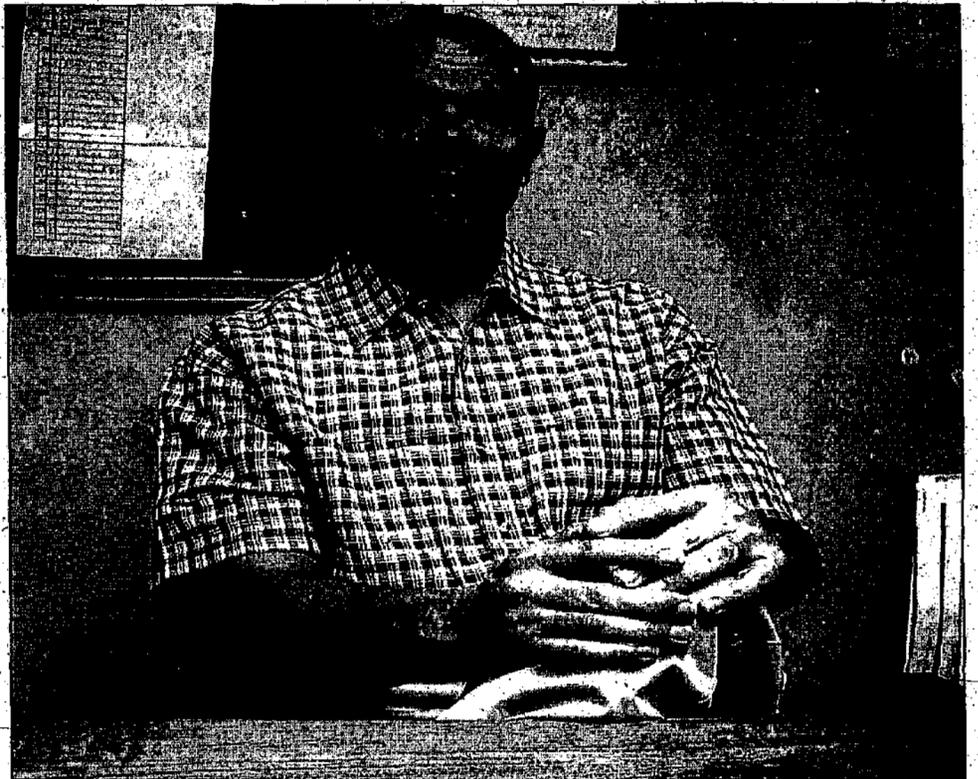
Wirth said that with a focus on basics in the district his administration will not attempt to introduce new projects this year.

"We may modify some of our programs but we will not reinvent how we educate," he said. "I want us to be accountable."

Wirth, 56, has served the Ruidoso Municipal School District for the past 14 years, most recently as principal of Ruidoso High School. From 1992 to 1996 he served as Director of Instruction for Ruidoso Schools and from 1977 to 1985 Director of Special Education for the Roswell Independent School District. In 2004 he was named Interim Director of Ruidoso Schools when Gail Wickstrom resigned as superintendent.

Wirth has 29 years experience as an educator and administrator and holds a doctorate degree in Education from New Mexico State University and a Masters of Arts Degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

He resides in Ruidoso with his wife Waynta Wirth, a music instructor. The couple have two children, Jamie and Sarah, who graduated from Ruidoso High in 2006 and 2008, respectively.



New superintendent Paul Wirth hopes to restore confidence of safety in the district's schools.

DEANNA CHENEY/STAFF

District 59 Rep. Avon Wilson dies after a lengthy battle with cancer

DEANNA CHENEY
dcheney@ruidosonews.com

Avon Wilson, a State Representative for District 59, died Tuesday at her home in Roswell following a long battle with cancer.

Wilson served as a representative in Santa Fe from 2000-06 but was excused from much of the last two legislative sessions due to her illness. Fellow Roswellite Nora Espinoza June 6 won the legislative nomina-

tion during Republic primary elections.

In September 2005, Wilson retired as the Director of Adult Basic Education at the Roswell campus of Eastern New Mexico University. In recognition of her retirement and 19 years of service in education, the ENMU Board of Regents granted Wilson Emeritus Director status. She also was recognized



Wilson

recently by the Leadership Roswell Alumni Association with a Lifetime Achievement award.

Rod Adair, state senator, said he will remember Wilson as "An excellent legislator and a very strong woman."

"She had a strong philosophy and was very principled and served the people of Lincoln, Chaves, and Otero

counties very well. As an educator in the public schools, Avon also made a positive impact on the lives of children and later, when she became a college instructor, impacted the lives of many adults seeking to advance their educations," Adair said.

Wilson was born in Wichita Falls, Texas and held a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Education from North Texas State College and a Master of Education Admin-

istration from Eastern New Mexico University. She worked as a public school teacher for 31

years. Wilson was a member of several professional organizations.

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BARN

FROM PAGE 1A

piece together the fire's cause, had housed stallions Fredricksburg, The Down Side, Southern Cartel, Gene Hollywood, Favorite Trick and Saratoga Six, all of which were continuing their breeding careers at the station, owned by James and Marilyn Helzer and Ruidoso Downs owner R.D. Hubbard.

The station, which comprises more than 500 acres and several other barns, was built as the Hondo ranch in the 1960s.

Sterling careers

Three of the horses were Thoroughbreds, including Favorite Trick, who was a finalist to the Kentucky Derby in 1998 and was the champion 2-year-old in 1997.

As a racehorse Favorite Trick, 11, had earned \$1.7 million for his connections, but his offspring have won enough to

place him third on the state sire list thus far this year.

All told, his progeny have earned a total of \$8.4 million and won 16 stakes races.

Saratoga Six was the most experienced of all the stallions at 24 years of age, having sired 40 stakes winners which have earned more than \$25 million.

The most successful sire for Gene Hollywood, 12, is Hollywood Gene, who has earned a total of \$238,974.

The three quarter horse stallions - The Down Side, Fredricksburg and Southern Cartel - had just begun their stud careers.

Fredricksburg, age 5, was standing his first season this year, and was named the champion aged stallion in 2005.

Southern Cartel, 6, was a winner in the 2003 Ruidoso Derby and second in the Rainbow Derby that same year. He was also a finalist in the All American Derby and won \$361,792 in his career.

Jones trained The Down Side, 6, leading the stallion to

six wins in eight starts through two years. Among his wins was the Champion of Champions in 2003.

He was also a finalist to the 2002 All American Futurity while being trained by Dwayne Gilbreath.

Because of the value of these horses, rumors had flown about regarding the circumstances of the fire, most notably the fact that the front door - which had been left open for the night - was closed by the time the Hondo Fire Department arrived to a fully involved fire.

Door hinges cited

Chavez said what likely happened was that the springs on the hinges of the garage-type door failed, and gravity took over from there to close it.

In short, the report indicates, it was a tragic mishap, nothing more.

The engineer's investigation is expected to last quite a bit longer, due to the intense destruction caused to the barn by the heat.

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Bruce Rimbo, standing, and R.D. Hubbard take in Rimbo's presentation during Monday's meeting.



MAIRNE STALLINGS/STAFF

LINKS

FROM PAGE 1A

said. The terms were, similar and aimed at recouping investment and offsetting debt in the initial years. Pro shop profit margins are too narrow to be considered in the gross revenue calculations, he contended.

Councilor Greg Cory said, "In anticipation of future discussion, I would like to find out

what documents were provided to the State Auditor and Fierro & Fierro."

Village Attorney Marc Prelo said everything was public record and available to anyone.

"But it sounds like Mr. Rimbo had to do some digging," Cory said. He added that if the paperwork Rimbo found was available previously, "You would think it still would have been at Village Hall. There were some fairly inflammatory remarks in the State Auditor's

report and in the Fierro presentation last month."

While reviewing village contracts and finances during a special state audit last year, the golf course lease was singled out by the State Auditor, who concluded the village was owed more than \$1.2 million. He also criticized village officials for not enforcing the terms of the lease. He interpreted the terms as once the \$1.5 million threshold is crossed, 20 percent is owed on all of the gross revenues, not

just that amount in excess of the threshold.

Fierro & Fierro representatives were hired earlier this year by the council for a special audit of the golf course lease, which was changed into only a financial review by the village manager. They reached the same conclusion, but with a higher owed figure of more than \$2 million, including interest. However, they noted that if all documentation had been a complete audit, other conclusions may have been reached.

Rimbo told councilors he wished a complete audit was performed by Fierro accountants. While their calculations were good, they apparently did not see the documents he found, and their interpretation differed from that of Colbert, Allhub and two former mayors, who signed affidavits.

Rimbo also pointed to a May 1998 letter of understanding on the lease interpretation put together by then village attorney H. John Underwood. He acknowledged that the interpretation apparently never was formalized by an official motion in open session, although it was discussed in closed session.

In an affidavit, former mayor Robert Donaldson stated that his council in 1998 concluded no change in the interpretation of the lease occurred and the council believed no action was required.

"We hear that (the letter of understanding) is meaningless because it (was discussed) in executive session but no public vote occurred," Rimbo said. "We believe it is good as gold. It is not our responsibility to say when a public vote is needed."

Illustrating that Colbert clearly was calculating on a different approach than Fierro, Rimbo contrasted that in the ninth year of the audit, Colbert projected a payment of \$24,691, while Fierro came up with a figure of \$325,091.

Councilors did not schedule a closed executive session Monday and said the issue would stay in the hands of their attorney.

Asked by the *Ruidoso News* if, based on Fierro's gross revenue figures, the Village was owed money using Colbert's approach, Rimbo said Tuesday he has not reviewed Fierro's work in detail.

"I wanted to look at the big picture," he said. "I know that there is one year we need to look at in the second phase (of the lease)."

Allhub exercised its option to enter into a second 15-year lease on the golf course land, in which the \$1.5 million threshold no longer is considered and different percentage fees are applied to revenues and other sales.

A reporter who covered the village council during the years of negotiation on the lease said he recalled that councilors at the time acknowledged while the village would not collect much in the way of direct revenue from the course and a planned hotel (Hawthorn Suites), they contended business owners and village coffers would benefit from the visitors those two enterprises would draw to Ruidoso.



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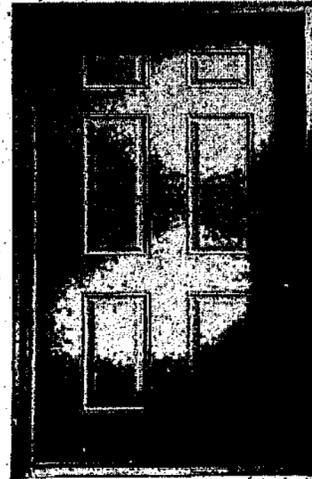
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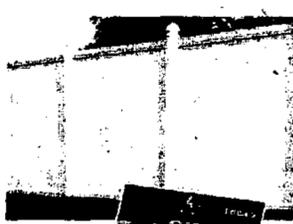
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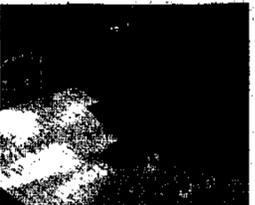
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Artists at work: From left, Councilors Angel Shaw, Greg Cory, Jim Stoddard and Michele Rebstock sketch their Ruidosos of the future.

WIMME STALLINGS/STAFF

RETREAT

FROM PAGE 1A

population in 2020. They scattered to different parts of the lodge and when they returned, Neu helped them look at the similarities and differences in their visions of the village.

The populations ranged from a low of 10,000 by Councilor Michele Rebstock to a high of 25,000 by Councilor Jim Stoddard. The current population is about 8,700, Village Manager Lorri McKnight said.

In their drawings, Rebstock and Hardeman with a 12,000 population were similar in their visions for the village.

Rebstock emphasized hike and bike trails, outdoor cafes in parks, keeping old trees and creating quiet retreats for residential areas, green spaces and parks, and possibly moving Village Hall closer to Midtown. She also saw a Harvard-like college community.

Hardeman included an airport, affordable housing, a railroad for historical significance as well as to bring tourists, more schools, an expanded hospital, bike lanes along streets, two-story buildings in midtown



Councillor Shaw's sketch shows significant population growth.

with apartments on the second floor, tree thinning throughout, a community recreation center, many parks including one in midtown and churches.

McKnight and Councilor

Greg Cory with 15,000 populations were in close step. McKnight envisioned a river walk, bike and hike trails, a new fire station, housing mixes, green space, parking and tennis courts.

Cory drew a full-blown college campus and a tram to the top of the mountain, as well as daily airplane flights, hiking and biking, traffic routed on either side of the main shopping area to encourage pedestrian traffic through midtown and no over-development.

Councilor Don Williams, noting a population of 17,700, saw a resort community marked by visible entrances, such as archways, to delineate it from other communities. He saw value placed on historical structures such as The Old Mill, more development along Mechem and by the municipal airport, a ski area with a tram, an international airport with heavy visitation from all over the world and a healthy forest.

Mayor L. Ray Nunley, quoting a population of 16,900, saw several water-filled lakes, a downtown hotel, expanded airport, condominiums and other types of temporary residences

keeping the year-around figure lower, bike and hike trails, skateboard parks, a functioning hospital, more shopping, golf courses and a successful business community with light industry.

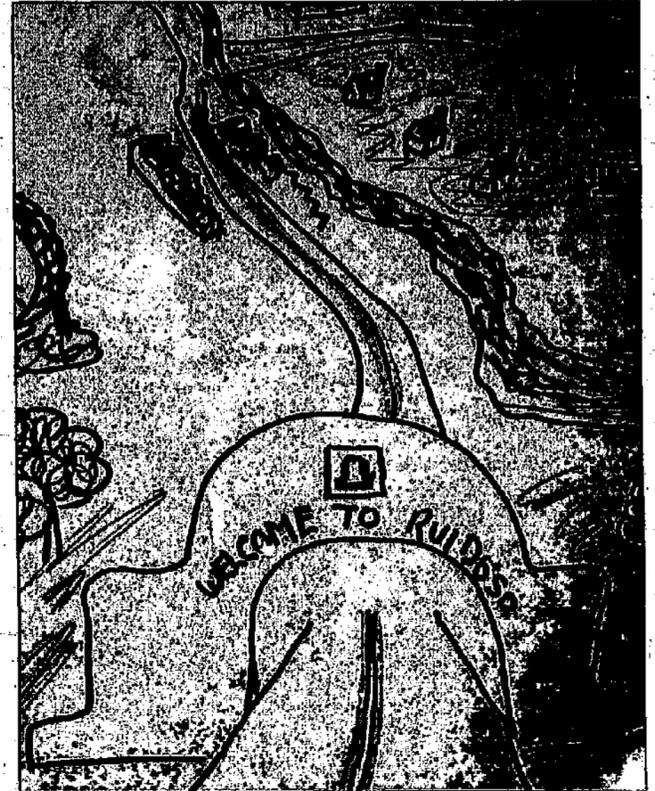
He also drew the Inn of the Mountain Gods and Casino and lakes on the adjoining Mescalero Apache Reservation.

Stoddard drew a busy town with happy people in their businesses and homes, baseball fields, golf courses and an airline.

Shaw, at 22,000 population, saw a blend of the best of industry with residents, a cohesive environment, walking trails, use of xeriscaping techniques while preserving the backdrop of the mountain and trees, "which is why (tourists and new residents) come and we must be careful to protect them."

Neu separated the group into two teams, asking one to list similarities in their visions and the other, the differences.

The similar themes includes a healthy river and ample water in lakes, a hospital, biking and hiking trails, green space, an airport, a university, recreation, tourism, healthy



Councilor Williams' Ruidoso has an arched entry over Highway 70.

businesses, a feeling of optimism, a sense that the council must balance population growth and needs by controlling when, where and how the community will grow, economic diversity, cohesion and collaboration with other communities, transportation and quality of life.

The differences included the population estimates. Cory said water will be the overriding issue in determining growth while a vibrant tax base is needed to pay for the community of the future.

Although nearly all saw a college, options differed on the size, location and type. A few depicted significant development in the village, but some did not. Active enforcement of codes and quantifying water are key to managing growth, councilors agreed.

Transportation options dif-

fered from a railroad to a tramway to mass transit. A community center was listed on a few visions, but money is the problem, councilors told Neu. The same is true for preserving The Old Mill as a museum, they said.

Determining forest density, where and when to preserve trees and how to create a healthy forest is another issue, they agreed.

Convincing residents

But the biggest question mark remained how to convince the public that change is not necessarily bad. Neu told the councilors that first they must establish trust with residents.

When residents have confidence in the good judgment, good intentions and trustworthiness of councilors, they can keep an open mind if new options are presented, he said.



Manager McKnight's drawing shows in-fill and hiking trails.

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Councilors, staff play 'Survivor' to list priorities

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Exercise designed to show the value of teamwork and define real consensus

CLOUDCROFT — If you are ever stranded in a desert with a group of village officials and want to survive, better avoid Forester Rick Delaco and head straight for Ruidoso Mayor L. Ray Nunley.

Friday at a retreat in Cloudcroft to help councilors establish goals and to focus on accomplishing them as a team, facilitator Carl Neu explained that "Desert Survival II," was an exercise to illustrate the benefits from cooperative team-thinking in tackling problems versus an individual directing all of the decisions.

Nunley showed that his instincts were solid.

The scenario centered on a chartered air flight from Mexico into Tucson that experienced problems and crashed in the Sonoran Desert, where the temperature can reach 120 degrees. The plane was slightly off course, about 30 miles west or northwest, but the pilot recently was in touch with an air traffic controller and the passengers noticed the plane crossed over a road about 10 minutes before going down.

The pilot and co-pilot died, but all of the passengers, which in this case were Nunley, the six village councilors, Fire Chief Virgil Reynolds, Village Manager Lorri McKnight, Parks Director Rafael Salas, Delaco and resident Jack McGrann, all survived without injury.

The exercise, developed at the University of Michigan, asked participants to answer questions as individuals and then as teams.

"The basic strategy is the big picture approach," Neu said. Participants ranked survival strategy choices and the usefulness of 16 items salvage from the wreckage and how they might help chances of survival. At the end, a survival specialist from Maxwell Air Force Base on video went over the options and explained why some choices were essential or preferable to survive.

In working as a team, Neu explained that "consensus" does not equate to "lock-step unanimity," but rather is a conclusion that everyone agrees to support after discussion.

"It doesn't mean that someone didn't disagree," he emphasized. "Silence is not necessarily consent. You need to draw out members who are quiet. Don't vote. That's ineffective and separates a team into win-

ners and losers, with no consensus, just a battle. You really need to talk it through."

Under strategies, some of the options were to stay at the crash site, to walk to the road, to wait until night and start walking, to send one or two members to try to find help, or to wait two to four days and then walk.

Participants were asked to rank in importance water, food, going for help, building a signal for rescuers, staying warm at night, minimizing body water loss and staying calm.

Among the 16 items they had to prioritize were a white silk scarf for each person, 3 pounds of cheese, one quart of water each, 20 back plastic bags, a 20-gauge shotgun with shells, an air compass, some tequila, a cosmetic case, 2 quarts of aircraft motor oil, a machete, a large beach umbrella, an FM radio, a lighter, 4 pounds of sea salt, a map case

with maps and a First Aid kit.

On the team with Nunley were Delaco, McKnight, Councilors Ron Hardeman and Angel Shaw. On the second team were Councilors Greg Cory and James Stoddard, McGrann, Salas and Reynolds. Councilors Don Williams and Michele Rebstock graded the interactions of the two teams because they previously participated in a similar exercise with Neu.

Delaco jumped out front declaring that without water, the team is dead. Everyone agreed, as they did that the desert would not become cold enough at night to be a problem.

Nunley said food wasn't an important item, no one should leave the crash site and the plane oil could be burned to create a "dirty" smoke signal for rescuers. He urged that the group not split up.

"I'd stay at the site, construct

a tent and stay out of the sun," the mayor said. He recommended using the white scarfs to help maintain body hydration. "The first thing that is going to happen is your head will bake," he said.

Hardeman and Delaco favored walking, with the forester pushing right away and the councilor opting for after the first two days.

On the second team, McGrann, a former Boy Scout, pushed staying at the crash site and Stoddard said the mirror in the cosmetic case was important as a signal. The machete and barrel cacti would be good for extra liquid and sagebrush produces oil, he said.

Back on the Nunley team, Shaw adamantly held onto the maps and when they finished discussion, the highest priority items were the machete, water, maps and cheese.

When the specialist portion of the video was shown, he said

the number one issue was to find protection from the sun, slow dehydration and to calm down. A flight plan was filed and searchers would know the approximate area, probably starting within three hours. Walking could be fatal and a road 10 minutes away by air might be 35 miles on foot.

Staying at the site, the airplane tail section and the mirror from the cosmetic case could be used to signal. Chewing on barrel cactus pulp cut by the machete would add some water, but he said don't try to ration the water in bottles over several days. Stay hydrated that first day, because dehydration fogs the mind and clear thinking is needed.

The beach umbrella ranked tops for sun protection, reducing the temperature by 30 degrees, and cooling the ground beneath, the expert said. Food shouldn't be eaten because it requires water to process in the

body and a person can live 10 days without food.

A lighter would be needed for a night-time signal and the maps could be burned, because that's about the only purpose they could serve, he said.

The coats, First Aid kit and shotgun were low on priority. Black plastic bags might be used to spell out SOS on the ground. Salt and tequila should be thrown out as they would speed up dehydration.

When the scores were tallied, McGrann was lowest (best score) as an individual with 38 and Nunley next with 59, Salas and McKnight were highest with more than 400. Nunley's team died with a score of 405 and the Cory/Stoddard team survived well with a score of 37.

Group effort

Neu summed up that a team is individuals who come together to form a new unit designed to perform a function and when the system works well, the relationship will be harmonious and the combined whole is greater than the sum of individual parts. Group genius outperforms even the brightest individual member, as in the Cory-Stoddard team.

In the decision-making process, teams need to watch the power of myths, such as it's cold in the desert at night, Neu said. "It's colder, but not cold in the summer," he said. In village government, some of the myths are taxes and growth are bad.

"Taxes are not bad," he said. "They pay for services. Growth isn't bad, although unmanaged growth may be."

Teams also should avoid conveying power to one leader. On all teams, one person emerges as the "hot dog," who is too dominant, too fast, Neu said. "If you assign the collective capacity to do something to one person, you reduce the ability to deal with a situation."

Expertise also is relative and the team must judge where it comes from and if the person's background is irrelevant to the situation, he said.

Cultural bias also can become a factor. People unfamiliar with machetes may not realize their value and lean toward the shotgun, Neu said.

He also spoke of the benefits from interpersonal skills such as really listening and not interrupting, being supportive and participating in brainstorming session to produce better ideas.

"Conflict is not good or bad," Neu said. "What becomes good or bad is how you deal with it."



With facilitator Carl Neu presiding, Village councilors and staff engage in an exercise designed to foster an appreciation of teamwork.

Village manager, councilors favor in-filling as development tool

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

CLOUDCROFT — Ruidoso "is ripe for redevelopment," Village Manager Lorri McKnight declared during a two-day retreat last weekend in Cloudcroft.

Councilors, McKnight and a few department heads were reviewing some of the major issues that surfaced during a session where councilors drew their vision of the village in 2020.

Councilor Ron Hardeman noted that the village nearly is out of good buildable lots. "Do we build on slopes and disturb views?" he asked retreat facilitator Carl Neu and his fellow

councilors.

Mayor L. Ray Nunley said most of the future residential development will occur outside of the village. However, he added that because of Ruidoso's lure for tourists, on any given day during "seasons," the village must be able to accommodate 20,000 more people than its population base.

McKnight said future growth could be concentrated in redeveloping sections of the village through "in-fill." Small lots could be combined to create more acceptable sizes for homes or businesses. Older structures could be replaced by more efficient buildings, creating a better quality.

Hardeman asked what will

happen to the concept of affordable housing for those in the service industry.

Councilor James Stoddard answered, "There won't be."

Neu said if councilors believe the village is facing a big population burst, the question becomes how it can be managed for quality of life and preservation of treasured buildings or sections.

"They can be maintained though good planning and architectural rules," he said. "I'm hearing that you want to manage the quality of the growth."

He said the population could be higher with annexation.

Nunley said annexation is costly because it carries an

obligation to extend village services. But he sees the possibility of developing a university in the area of Sierra Blanca Regional Airport.

"The council needs to petition the federal government to let us have more land for a university out there," he said.

"Or on Moon Mountain," said Stoddard, referring to about 600 acres of state trust land between Gavilan and Paradise canyons.

Councilor Michele Rebstock asked what methods are available if the council decided to restrict growth. Councilor Greg Cory said changes to the building ordinance would be one.

"If you're growing too fast, the ordinance could limit the

ability to build. If it's too slow, the ordinance can permit faster growth," he said.

Rebstock asked if growth could be tied to water capacity and Hardeman asked if developers could be required to "bring water" with any new project.

Nunley said the ordinance can't be changed back and forth.

"We should come up with a reasonable ordinance we can live with for a long time," he said. The ordinance in place doesn't restrict growth, but laws can determine the type of growth, he said.

Councilor Angel Shaw said the council should rewrite ordinance to encourage in-fill if that

is the future direction.

Village Forestry Director Rick Delaco said he agreed with redevelopment inside the village, but with any university, an outer ring of rentals and dorms would be needed. A college campus goes hand-in-hand with a "walkable" community and higher density midtown, he said. If it was located on Airport Road, some type of mass transit would be required, he added.

Nunley said he planned at the regular council meeting Tuesday to appoint Cory to head a committee on growth and planning.

Neu said "some real thought-out planning" will be needed or the village will face significant growth problems.

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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2006

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

PAGE 1B

Rainbow Futurity Trials

Rain a blessing for some, curse for others

side line

Sports Results

Saturday, July 8

Baseball

Little League District 2 Major

Tournament

Valley 10, Ruidoso 2

Softball

USSSA Youth State Championship

U19 Division

Diamond Pride 7, Hobbs Thunder 3

Diamond Pride 11, Too Kool 5

U14 Division

Diablos 11, Hobbs Vipers 8

Hobbs Lady Spax 4, Diablos 3

Diablos 7, Hot Shots 6

U12 Division

Too Kool 19, Diamond Pride 0

Get Dirty 3, Hobbs Twistz 2

Diamond Pride 10, Intimidators 1

Get Dirty 15, Intimidators 10

Stars 7, Diamond Pride 5

Sunday, July 9

Baseball

Little League District 2 Major

Tournament

Ruidoso 16, Tularosa 0

Little League District 2 Minor

Tournament

Artesia 11, Ruidoso 1

Softball

USSSA Youth State Championship

U19 Division

Diamond Pride 15, Fear This 10

Championship

Fear This 19, Diamond Pride 12

Diamond Pride 10, Fear This 9

U14 Division

Diablos 14, Hobbs Challengerz 4

Diablos 19, Hobbs Lady Spax 9

Championship

Hobbs Heat 17, Diablos 15

U12 Division

Hot Shots 7, Get Dirty 6

Get Dirty 6, Stars 5

Championship

Hot Shots 10, Get Dirty 0

Monday, July 10

Baseball

Little League District 2 Major

Tournament

Artesia 9, Ruidoso 0

Little League District 2 Minor

Tournament

Rotary 8, Ruidoso 4

Friday, July 14

Basketball

Class 3A North-South game at Las Vegas, N.M., 6 p.m.

Horse Racing

Zia Derby trials at Ruidoso Downs, 1 p.m.

Rodeo

NJHSRA Finals in Gallup, TBA

Saturday, July 15

Football

Class 3A North-South game at Las Vegas, N.M., 7 p.m.

Horse Racing

Rio Grande Senior, Senorita trials at Ruidoso Downs, 1 p.m.

Rodeo

NJHSRA Finals in Gallup, TBA

Sunday, July 16

Horse Racing

Thoroughbred and quarter horse claiming, maiden and allowance racing at Ruidoso Downs, 1 p.m.

On Deck

Warrior Baseball Camp

The second annual Warrior Baseball Camp will be held at Gavilan Canyon field July 14-15 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., hosted by the Ruidoso High School baseball players and coaches. The camp is open to all players ages 9-12, and costs \$30 per player.

The fee includes a commemorative T-shirt, lunch on both days, 1-on-1 instruction from the Ruidoso Warriors and individual training and evaluation. All players will participate in five games and mini-games.

Registration will be at Gavilan Canyon field at 8 a.m. July 14. For more information, contact coach Friberg at 837-6581.

Summer Football Workouts

Ruidoso High School summer football workouts have begun and will continue through Aug. 4.

Workout times are 7-8:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for weights and conditioning at RHS, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8:30 p.m. at Horton Stadium.



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Jockey Chris Zamora sits astride Screamin Bye after winning the first trial of the Rainbow Futurity Friday at Ruidoso Downs. Screamin Bye not only qualified, but was the fastest horse on a wet, sloppy day at the track.

the Ruidoso, too."

Of the 16 trials, only five trials produced qualifiers, and the only one to qualify after the

fourth trial was Remember Me Rose, a \$25,000 supplemental nominee trained by Ben Torres and ridden by Esgar Ramirez to

a time of 19.825.

Maes and Co. had another reason to be happy, as Adrianna's First Down was rid-

den to a second-place finish in the third trial with a time of 19.899, also good enough to qualify for the final.

"We're a small barn, and you usually want to be spread out in the trials more than that," Zamora said of her two charges being bunched up into the first three trials. "Even after I saw the times getting slower because of the rain, I was worried. Even if it's by the grace of God that we got in, we'll take it and like it."

Two horses that weren't as lucky with the rain were Saint Shackleton and Okey Dokey Fantasy, both winners in a dead heat of the Ruidoso Futurity and both eligible for the Quarter Horse Triple Crown.

Okey Dokey Fantasy was also riding a six-race win streak, and pushed that streak to seven wins with a victory in the 11th trial. But his time of 19.963 in the slop and muck just wasn't fast enough to qualify for the final.

"It's tough because this horse is so good," said jockey Juan Vasquez of Okey Dokey Fantasy. "We'll be back. He ran one of his best races today, but because of the rain it was very tough."

Saint Shackleton, running in the fourth trial, was also done in by the weather, unable to even win his trial, placing second behind Eyesa Candy Horse with a time of 19.945. Eyesa Candy Horse's time of 19.900 was the slowest qualifying time of the day.

So, with neither Saint Shackleton or Okey Dokey Fantasy making it to the Rainbow Futurity final, the dream of a Triple Crown winner this year comes to an end.

Trainer Todd Fincher, who led Saint Shackleton to a win in the Ruidoso Futurity, did gain a measure of satisfaction on Friday, leading Buckshot Delight to a second-place finish

See TRIALS, page 3B



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Not fast enough was Saint Shackleton, far left, who finished second in a very wet fourth trial to the Rainbow Futurity Friday at Ruidoso Downs. Eyesa Candy Horse, in red at right, won the trial with a time of 19.900, the slowest qualifying time on the day.

Jones has golden touch in derby trials

TODD FUQUA
toddf@ruidosonews.com

If you had a horse trained by Paul Jones in the trials for the Rainbow Derby Saturday at Ruidoso Downs, chances were you were going to have a very good day.

Jones had fully half of the 10 qualifiers to come out of the four trials, including Separate Tac, who breezed to a victory in the first trial with a time of 21.211.

"Three-year-olds seem to be our strength this year, there's no doubt," Jones said.

As for the fastest horse of the day, Jones has been high on this filly since last year, and felt she had what it took to defeat Leading Spirit, last year's winner of the Ruidoso and Rainbow futurities.

"I had her last year, and I thought she could beat Leading Spirit, but she had some gate problems," Jones said. "I think we've got that fixed, and she's doing very well now."

The victory, a three-length win, was Separate Tac's first in 13 months, the last win being a victory in last year's 2005 Ruidoso Futurity trials.

Jones also had Strawkins as the second-fastest qualifier, winning the fourth and final trial in convincing fashion. The gelding was supplemented for \$30,000 after winning the New Mexico Bayer Legend Derby.



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

It's all smiles as Separate Tac, with jockey Freddie Martinez up, is led to the winner's circle after his win in the first trial for the Rainbow Derby Saturday at Ruidoso Downs.

Challenge, and has now won three of his four starts this year.

Ketel Won, Rousing Encore and Checkher A Firstdown also qualified out of the Jones barn, continuing his dominance as a quarterhorse trainer.

One long shot to win and get in the finals was Papa Larry, a colt owned by George Temple and John McCall and trained by Duane Hartsell. Jerry Yoakum rode him to a win with

a time of 21.533, besting such strong horses as FYC Paint Your Wagon and Brindis Por Cayenne. Those who were game enough to bet on him earned \$24.60 for a \$2 win bet.

The complete list of Rainbow Derby qualifiers and their times are Separate Tac (21.211), Strawkins (21.416), Papa Larry (21.533), Ketel Won (21.593), Real Good Man

See DERBY, page 3B.



J.R. OPPENHEIM/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

Diamond Pride's Michelle Raven makes contact with the ball during the USSSA New Mexico Slow-pitch Softball Tournament 19-and-under championship game against Clovis' Fear This Sunday at the Hooser Complex in Alamogordo.

Diamond Pride wins state

TODD FUQUA
toddf@ruidosonews.com

Imagine playing in a state softball tournament, facing the same team three times in the space of four hours, all in the glorious heat and humidity of an Alamogordo afternoon.

That's what Diamond Pride had to do in the 19-and-under division of the USSSA Youth State Championship over the weekend, and it was able to beat Clovis' Fear This two times out of the three games to come out as the state

See STATE, page 2B

All-Star competition comes to a close for Ruidoso teams

TODD FUQUA
todd@ruidosonews.com

ROSWELL — After recovering from a first round loss to Valley on Saturday in the District 2 tournament, the Ruidoso Major All-Stars were able to shellac Tularosa 16-0 in the loser's bracket Sunday.

It seemed as though the locals were going to take that win and do something with it against Artesia, but with both teams facing elimination, the Artesia players appeared to want it just a hair more, sending Ruidoso home with a 9-0 loss.

"It was just basic baseball mistakes that got us, that's all," said Ruidoso manager Jessie Yaksich. "But this was a good group of kids to coach, and it's something to build on."

Ruidoso was behind almost immediately on Monday, as Artesia's Ernesto Lopez opened the game with a double to left center field that turned into a score following Ruidoso throwing errors.

The Bulldogs added another run when Aaron Chavez hit a single later in the inning to score Jordan Nelson from second base.

That's pretty much how the game went, with Artesia taking advantage of just about every scoring opportunity it had, while Ruidoso was unable to get the big hit when needed.

That's not to say Ruidoso fans had nothing to cheer for all night. In the



Ruidoso All-Star Ryan Yaksich swings for the fence Monday during his team's game against Artesia in the District 2 Major Tournament at Noon Optimist Field in Roswell. Yaksich had a home run against Valley in the first round on Saturday, but Ruidoso was eliminated with losses to both Valley and Artesia.

TODD FUQUA/STAFF

top of the fourth, with one out and Artesia's Jordan Fuentes on third, Bulldog Trevor Whitmore sent a line shot scorching to shortstop, a ball that Denver Coronado was able to spear

and send to third base to double off Fuentes and bring the inning to a close.

Coronado also flashed some leather in the sixth inning with a pifty run-

ning grab of a grounder to retire Kaz Foster, while pitcher Straff Sedillo had a good play of a grounder by Ruben Carrasco.

But the fielding came a bit too late, as Artesia had already scored nine runs at that point, while Ruidoso was unable to put anybody across the plate, bringing the Warriors' All-Star experience to an end.

Showing some spark

Ruidoso showed it does know how to hit the ball in its win over Tularosa on Sunday.

"We came out in the first inning and jumped on them right away," Yaksich said. "Our hitting was on and so was the defense."

The defense was epitomized by pitcher Ryan Yaksich, who threw a no-hitter along with the shutout. Offensively, Ruidoso was led by Sam Freed, who hit a two-run home run which was the icing on the cake.

"We had kids backing (Ryan) up with the defense, and you could see the team get more confident as the game progressed," said coach Yaksich. "Our kids had a great time and the win was well deserved."

The win was needed after the team's opening-round loss to Valley, a game which saw Valley's Justin Salas lead the way with two home runs in the game. It was a game that was pretty much over in the bottom of the sixth, but that's when, with Coronado

standing on second, Ryan Yaksich took the first pitch he saw and deposited it over the center field fence for two runs.

"It was too little, too late, but the home run was big," said coach Yaksich. "We found a lot of positives tonight. They never gave up, and I'm so proud of the guys."

No luck at all

Talk about bad timing, Ruidoso was supposed to host the 9- and 10-year-old district tournament at Gavilan Canyon field, but constant rains kept any games at all from being played, and the whole thing was moved to Noon Optimist and Eastside fields in Roswell just to get it going.

The tournament returned to Ruidoso on Tuesday, but it was without the host team, as the Warriors dropped an 11-1 decision to Artesia to start, then fell 8-4 to Alamogordo Rotary on Monday.

Ruidoso's only score against Artesia came when Jacob Wilcox was able to score in the second inning off a hit by Parker Johnson. Artesia pitcher Trystan Milligan had eight strikeouts on the night.

Against Alamogordo, the Ruidoso nine was only down two runs in the top of the fifth after Wilcox and Johnson each scored on a single by Caleb Dunn, but two more runs by Alamogordo in the bottom of that inning gave Rotary the cushion it needed to move on.

STATE

FROM PAGE 1B

champion.

"It was pretty difficult, after playing 6 1/2 hours," said Diamond Pride coach Ray Montes. "We went seven innings and they beat us, then we had to come back after a 10 minute break and beat them to win it. All in the wonderful hot and humid weather."

Diamond Pride advanced to the championship game through the winner's bracket, having defeated Hobbs Thunder and Too Kool before meeting up with Fear This

the tournament semifinal Saturday morning.

Diamond Pride won that game 16-10, then watched as Fear This defeated Too Kool 13-1 to get to the title match.

Fear This kept its winning ways going with a 19-12 win over Diamond Pride to force a push game in the double-elimination tournament. It was then that Diamond Pride got its act together and pulled out a 10-9 victory in seven innings.

With the win, Diamond Pride automatically qualifies for the Midwest National Youth tournament in Hobbs July 21-28.

Another team to qualify for the tournament in Hobbs was 12-and-under team Get Dirty, which took second to Hot Shots after battling back to the title game from the loser's bracket.

Get Dirty cruised through its first two games, defeating Hobbs Twistaz and the Stars before meeting up with Hot Shots in the tournament semifinals, losing 7-6. Get Dirty responded with a 6-5 win over the Stars to get into a rematch with Hot Shots, only to drop a 10-0 decision.

Also playing in the 12-and-under bracket was a younger version of Diamond Pride,

which was able to bounce back from a first round loss to the Too Kool to defeat the Intimidators and Hobbs Twistaz, falling to the Stars in the loser's bracket quarterfinals.

In the 14-and-under division, the Diablos also got to the championship game, but fell to HobbsHeat in the final, 17-16. The Diablos opened with a win over the Hobbs Vipers, but then fell to the Hobbs Lady Spax, 4-3, to put them in the loser's bracket.

From there, the Diablos defeated Hot Shots, Hobbs Challengerz and Hobbs Lady Spax to get to the title game.



J.R. OPPENHEIM/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

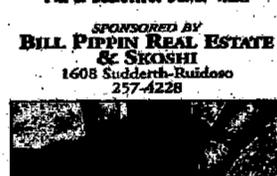
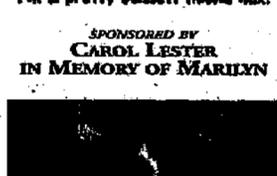
Members of the 12-under Ruidoso Get Dirty team receive their second-place trophy at the USSSA New Mexico State Slow-pitch Softball Tournament Sunday at the Hooser Complex in Alamogordo. Get Dirty took second after its 12-0 loss to the Hot Shots.

A-D-O-P-T

FROM THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF LINCOLN COUNTY
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This Week's Featured Pots

Sponsored by the Ruidoso News

 <p>BUTCH Butch, a German shepherd mix, is a favorite all around great dog. He's friendly, playful, well behaved and good on a leash.</p>	 <p>PASHA Pasha is a red-colored American pit bull, about 18 months old, who is great on leash, good with people and likes other dogs.</p>
 <p>EXCALIBUR I'm a beautiful Border collie.</p> <p>SPONSORED BY BILL PIPPIN REAL ESTATE & SKOSHI 1608 Sudderth-Ruidoso 257-4228</p>	 <p>SHELBY I'm a handsome Chow-Australian shepherd mix.</p> <p>SPONSORED BY BRAD, ANDREA & CAMERON TREPTOW</p>
 <p>PENNY I'm a beautiful Kottweiler mix.</p> <p>SPONSORED BY KAI BROWN & DON JUGENHEIMER</p>	 <p>BUDDY I'm a handsome German Shepherd/Doberman mix.</p> <p>SPONSORED BY BILL HIRSHFIELD & BESS, THE OFFICE DOG</p>
 <p>SWEETIE I'm a pretty Fassett Hound mix.</p> <p>SPONSORED BY CAROL LESTER IN MEMORY OF MARILYN</p>	 <p>WARWICK I'm a gorgeous Pomestie Shorthair.</p> <p>SPONSORED BY RUIDOSO NEWS</p>

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POOP SCOOP

BY KIM DONER
SPECIAL TO THE RUIDOSO NEWS

The question that is the dividing line between cats and people all over the world - to declaw or not to declaw. Intelligent cats and people realize that spaying and neutering are necessary procedures that have many health benefits and, under normal circumstances, are safe and minor surgeries.

Declawing, however, is an altering surgery that addresses a natural behavior of the animal and alters it to suit people. It is a surgery performed for the convenience of people.

Declawing is an amputation of the first toe digit, five amputations per each front paw. Does it cause pain? Definitely yes. There is post surgical pain and a recovery period.

Some cats have sensitive paws the rest of their lives with phantom pain. This can lead to avoiding litter box use, because of the pain of pawing the litter, and to biting more frequently, because of pain or for defense. Some are never able to find their true balance on their stumps, and this can lead to back and joint problems.

There is a higher risk for complications for any cat over a year of age. It is also interesting to note that many of the cats surrendered to shelters are surrendered because of behavioral problems, which developed after the cats were declawed.

Cats have a great deal of control over just how much of their claws they use for a specific purpose. From the barely extended to catch at a toy or to get your attention, leaving no mark at all, to a full attacking defensive swipe. However, it is not this behavior that most people object to, it is rather the normal marking of territory on surfaces that concerns the homeowner.

The damage to furniture especially is the number one reason people have their cats declawed. That, and the fact that a lot of owners never really stopped to think about what declawing entails. I think people decide to get a cat, take it to the vet, get shots, and the neutering/declaw surgery package. Done deal, everybody happy - but no one asked the cat. In many European coun-

tries, it is against the law to have your cat declawed, it is seen as abusive and causing unnecessary pain and suffering with no benefit to the cat.

And there are viable alternatives to declawing. A cat's nails can be trimmed every two weeks. Yes, this does take some effort on the human's part. But hey, that's what you're there for! There are also some wonderful items on the market to help protect furniture from clawing, and to help you TRAIN your cat.

Yes, it is possible to train cats. You do need to think a bit differently but there are some excellent resources to assist you. I recommend the book, "Twisted Whiskers," by Pam Johnson Bennett.

I do not personally see the need to declaw. However, I do realize that there are cats out there in good homes, and they would not be there if they were not declawed. That is the reality of the American human society. And with the thousands upon thousands of cats that are at humane society shelters across the country hoping to find a home, declawing is better than life in a cage or worse, death. There is no excuse though, in my mind, for a cat to be all four paws declawed. That is selfish, unthinking, cruelty.

Think about this quote from Robert A. Heinlein, "How we behave toward cats here below determines our status in heaven."

I think that just about sums it up.

RUIDOSO NEWS
To sponsor the Pet Page please call
257-4001

CORRECTION



BILL FITZMAURICE/BUENOS AIRES RACE TRACK

The photo accompanying the story featuring the Higheasterjet Handicap in the July 5 issue of the Ruidoso News pictured the wrong race. Above is the correct photo, showing Planet Holland (right) outpacing Fast Talkin Val and setting a new world record for 350 yards in the race.

TRIALS

FROM PAGE 1B

in the second trial and a qualifying time of 19.791.

The complete list of qualifiers and their times are Screamin Bye (:19.518), Voghts Gold (:19.539), Run Perry Run (:19.589), Separatist Too (:19.650), Quick Katie Streak (:19.664), Buckshot Delight (:19.791), Remember Me Rose (:19.825), Big Time Hero (:19.857), Adrianna's First Down (:19.899) and Eysa Candy Horse (:19.900).

DERBY

FROM PAGE 1B

(21.636), Eye Catcher 123 (21.646), Jessa Meganette (21.653), Rousing Encore (21.663), Checkher A Firstdown (21.692) and Cartel Caliente (21.727).



TODD FIDUASTAFF

Ruidoso Downs security guard Bill Bridge takes refuge in about the only place you could stay dry Friday at the race track. In the tunnel leading from the grandstand to the infield, Bridge is a regular fixture at that post, serving as a tollman to allow only approved horsemen and guests into the paddock area.

RUIDOSO DOWNS RESULTS

Results for racing at Ruidoso Downs for July 7-9:

Friday, July 7

First — 400 yards. Screamin Bye 18.60 5.40 3.40, Voghts Gold 3.00 2.40, Run Perry Run 2.40, Quinella — 35.80, Exacta — 91.60, Trifecta — 92.80, T — 19.518.

Second — 400 yards. Separatist Too 8.80 4.40 4.00, Buckshot Delight 6.00 3.60, Big Time Hero 4.80, Quinella — 71.40, Exacta — 83.00, Trifecta — 104.20, Daily Double — 143.00, T — 19.850.

Third — 400 yards. Quick Katie Streak 31.20 13.80 7.00, Adrianna's First Down 16.00 5.80, Separate Bet 2.80, Quinella — 41.40, Exacta — 635.00, Trifecta — 479.10, T — 19.664.

Fourth — 400 yards. Eysa Candy Horse 71.40 14.80 8.60, Saint Shackleton 3.00 2.60, Bull Scotch 4.40, Quinella — 54.60, Exacta — 203.00, Tri Super — 99.10, T — 19.900.

Fifth — 400 yards. Jess Romance 8.80 4.80 2.80, Okay Dokey Jess 9.60 3.80, Jess Destined 2.40, Quinella — 37.60, Exacta — 65.60, Trifecta — 82.60, Superfecta — 185.70, T — 20.120.

Sixth — 400 yards. Call It Anywhere 5.80 3.80 2.80, Royal Laison 8.20 5.80, Rustys Corona 2.80, Quinella — 58.80, Exacta — 70.60, Trifecta — 154.30, T — 19.979.

Seventh — 400 yards. A Special Illusion 4.80 3.20 2.40, Twoforthedough 6.60 3.00, La Lalque 2.20, Quinella — 34.00, Exacta — 43.40, Trifecta — 59.60, T — 19.937.

Scratched — Eysa Precious. Eighth — 400 yards. Shazoom Rascal 6.60 3.20 2.60, One Famous Rock Star 3.60 2.40, Feature Jessie Cash 4.60, Quinella — 7.80, Exacta — 13.60, Trifecta — 77.80, Quinella — 7.80, Exacta — 13.60, Trifecta — 77.80, T — 20.194.

Ninth — 400 yards. Jess Charming 2.80 2.80 2.20, Down N Different 5.60 3.00, Streakin Write Back 4.60, Quinella — 12.60, Exacta — 16.00, Trifecta — 52.60, Pick 3 — 13.60, T — 19.917.

Scratched — Eysa Runner, What a Strawfly. Tenth — 400 yards. Down N Dash 3.40 2.20 2.10, The Wranglers Image 2.40 2.10, Chilled Corona 2.20, Quinella — 5.80, Exacta — 6.00, Trifecta — 19.30, Superfecta — 101.20, T — 20.387.

Scratched — Sports Legend, Jessleyourseligo. Eleventh — 400 yards. Okay Dokey Fantasy 2.80 2.20 2.20, Sels Grande 2.40 2.40, Lil Annie Eye Over 3.40, Quinella — 4.00, Exacta — 6.20, Trifecta — 22.50, T — 19.933.

Scratched — Dunking the Cash. Twelfth — 400 yards. Valiant Hero 5.40 3.20 2.60, Delightful Evan 2.60 3.20, Iba Special

10.80 8.40, Quinella — 20.40, Quinella — 5.80, Exacta — 41.20, Exacta — 11.00, Trifecta — 46.20, Trifecta — 33.10, T — 20.173.

Thirteenth — 400 yards. Champagne Loaded 46.40 8.40 4.60, Royal Sisters Hot 4.80 2.80, Thewayitalwentdown 3.00, Quinella — 86.40, Exacta — 264.00, Trifecta — 315.60, Pick 3 — 203.40, T — 20.284.

Scratched — Lady Zarah, Stolle Stratosphere. Fourteenth — 400 yards. Separatist Buys 31.80 9.80 6.00, Jess Strawfryn 3.40 2.60, Sheza Dastin Victory 10.40, Quinella — 23.20, Exacta — 101.00, Trifecta — 435.00, T — 20.250.

Fifteenth — 400 yards. Our Miss Perry 4.80 3.00 2.80, Royal Baby Brat 10.40 6.60, Eysa Candy Man 7.40, Quinella — 35.60, Exacta — 58.40, Trifecta — 199.40, T — 19.993.

Scratched — Feature Mr Liquidity, Mr Gordon Schultz. Sixteenth — 400 yards. Remember Me Rose 4.80 3.60 2.60, Stylish Zoom 16.80 5.00, First Prize Perry 3.60, Quinella — 111.80, Exacta — 161.20, Trifecta — 204.90, Superfecta — 1,193.90, Pick 3 — 127.80, T — 19.825.

Scratched — Megamoon Dash. Saturday, July 8 First — 7 1/2 furlongs. Capitanmorganbay 8.20 3.60 3.80, Backtrack Bear 3.20 2.80, Jess

Dis Command 8.20 3.60 3.80, Quinella — 8.80, Exacta — 17.20, T — 1:37.20.

Scratched — Foreign Spike, Bluffen Go, Bulls Okay, The Big Fumble. Second — 6 furlongs. Jilled Heart 6.00 3.60 2.40, Joe Two Lips 5.80 2.80, Cancan Cakewalk 2.60, Quinella — 32.40, Exacta — 71.60, Trifecta — 79.20, Daily Double — 40.80, T — 1:12.40.

Scratched — Gone Extra. Third — 5 1/2 furlongs. Step Outside 5.20 3.40 3.00, Lit de Danseur 4.00 3.00, Shootfoot 4.80, Quinella — 14.60, Exacta — 20.40, Trifecta — 87.70, T — 1:06.00.

Fourth — 5 furlongs. Ojos de Oro 6.80 4.40 3.80, Last Whisper 7.00 5.00, Ally's House 3.80, Quinella — 37.00, Exacta — 57.00, Tri Super — 23.20, T — 1:00.80.

Fifth — 550 yards. Shalensik 12.40 5.40 4.00, Classy Aces 4.20 3.00, My Bridlewood 4.00, Quinella — 20.80, Exacta — 46.80, Trifecta — 164.80, Superfecta — 277.50, T — 27.726.

Sixth — 350 yards. Separate Splash 6.40 3.00 2.40, Rarely Fishin 2.80 2.40, Abba Zappa 2.40, Quinella — 7.80, Exacta — 15.20, Trifecta — 18.20, Tri Super — 36.614.20, T — 17.373.

Scratched — Keeper of the Key, Budding Desire. Seventh — 440 yards. Separate Tac 11.00 5.60 5.00, Eye Catcher 123 22.20 8.20, Jess

Meganette 7.80, Quinella — 108.60, Exacta — 603.20, Trifecta — 3,286.50, T — 21.211.

Eighth — 440 yards. Papa Larry 24.60 6.80 4.00, Kotel Won 4.80 5.20, Checkher a Firstdown 4.80 5.20, Quinella — 49.80, Exacta — 80.80, Trifecta — 190.40, T — 21.533.

Scratched — Sm Summer Love. Ninth — 440 yards. Real Good Man 8.60 4.20 3.20, Jaskarita 18.00 5.80, Coco Corona 3.40, Quinella — 108.80, Exacta — 138.20, Trifecta — 418.50, T — 21.635.

Tenth — 440 yards. Strawwine 3.20 2.40 2.60, Cartel Caliente 4.40 4.00, Makin It Stormy 7.80, Quinella — 12.40, Exacta — 11.80, Trifecta — 113.00, Superfecta — 460.80, Pick 3 — 249.60, T — 21.416.

Sunday, July 9 First — 350 yards. Victory Winner 6.60 3.40 3.40, Li Stormin 3.80 3.60, Famous Expression 7.80, Quinella — 15.80, Exacta — 49.20, Trifecta — 2,044.50, T — 17.757.

Second — 6 furlongs. Icy Special 4.80 3.20 2.40, Set Status 6.40 3.40, Bold Stuff 2.40, Quinella — 13.00, Exacta — 27.20, Trifecta — 23.70, Daily Double — 19.20, T — 59.60.

Third — 5 furlongs. Vaquira 12.60 6.40 4.40, Stop That Jive 6.20 4.40, Sizzle 5.40, Quinella — 35.60, Exacta — 122.20, Trifecta — 345.50, T — 1:02.80.

Fourth — 300 yards. Shy Surfer 18.20 6.40 3.80, Far Flyin Buds 4.40 3.20, Classic Laveaux 3.40, Quinella — 18.00, Exacta — 39.60, Tri Super 16.00, T — 15.662.

Fifth — 5 furlongs. Chacho 4.40 2.60 2.60, Tough River 3.40 3.00, Cool One 4.40, Quinella — 10.00, Exacta — 14.80, Trifecta — 325.70, Superfecta — 325.70, T — 59.40.

Scratched — Precise Copy, Marcotomatohato. Sixth — 350 yards. Kylee Chick 11.40 5.20 4.00, Cashadoido 5.80 3.20, Hot for Feel 2.80, Quinella — 40.60, Exacta — 92.00, Trifecta — 288.70, T — 17.920.

Scratched — Uncommonly Pretty, Saguario Ridge. Seventh — 350 yards. Ferrari Carano 6.00 5.20 4.20, A Royal Felt 9.60 7.60, Eye On the Jury 5.00, Quinella — 93.60, Exacta — 94.60, Trifecta — 231.40, T — 17.616.

Scratched — Chicks Magnet. Eighth — 7 1/2 furlongs. Pesto 19.00 8.00 4.20, Bubba Hyde 7.20 3.80, Fair Tango 3.20, Quinella — 36.40, Exacta — 104.80, Trifecta — 130.00, T — 1:36.20.

Ninth — 5 1/2 furlongs. Babes Wont Tell 5.00 3.00 2.60, A Silent Greek 5.00 3.60, No Toro 2.80, Quinella — 13.20, Exacta — 21.00, Trifecta — 39.60, Superfecta — 105.30, Pick 3 — 277.00, T — 1:03.60.

Scratched — Iron Tiger.

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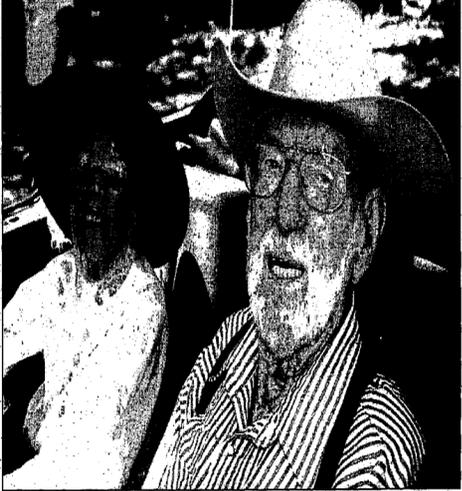
At 83, Fred "Peg" Pfingsten is one of the few "originals" in Lincoln County left to tell the stories of how it was in the beginning.

A ranching and cowboy icon in the county, Pfingsten was honored July 4th when the Lincoln County Fair Board dedicated the 51st Smokey Bear Stampede to him and he was presented with a commemorative belt buckle before the rodeo.

Pfingsten was born at Angus in 1913. He attended New Mexico State University where he met his future bride, Leota. He married the Otero County native in 1940.

His father homesteaded a Lincoln County ranch where the current Mesa Ranch is located near Nogal. The original homestead house serves as a studio for western bronze artist Wes Smith.

Pfingsten has run cattle on both ends of the county from



Leota and Peg Pfingsten were in the Smokey Bear 4th of July parade that honored Lincoln County pioneers. Peg was also surprised with the dedication of the 4th of July rodeo in his honor.

Nogal and Bonita to Lincoln and several places in between. Since 1963 his address has been a post office box in Capitan, making that home base.

Currently, he and Leota live in Lincoln but he has a few head of cattle - his hobby herd he calls it - pastured near Cora Dutton Road.

Good-riding ranch horses have always been part of Pfingsten's life and at one time he had as many as 70 head of mares to raise the colts he would break and train. He said he still has three brood mares but no colts.

During what he calls "Bob Crosby's hay-day," Pfingsten rodeoed. "We went to all the rodeos within 100 miles," he said. "Crosby was happy to help all of us greenhands learn to rope and get a start in rodeo."

Pfingsten said his main events were calf roping and the wild cow milking.

When the Lincoln County rodeo grounds were built east of Capitan, Pfingsten was one of

the founding members of the roping club and helped with the rodeo there for 10 years. "I was in charge of the bucking chutes," he said.

Pfingsten's "running buddies" of those days were Grady Eldridge, John Thomas and lifelong friend Fletcher Hall. "Fletcher said I started school at the same time," he recalled.

Leota, 88, taught school for 26 years and although they had no children of their own, the Pfingstens raised a niece and three nephews as their own. Pfingsten admits to Leota being his "emergency help" for most of their life on the ranch, saying she was able to do about anything he needed her to do.

Giving up driving and riding horses three years ago, Peg and Leota are helped with the driving and cattle chores by Sarah Walley.

Walley said she has learned more than she ever thought possible the last two years spending each day in the pasture with Peg Pfingsten. He knows every little detail about the job and the cows.

His given name is Fred but all his life Pfingsten has been known as and called Peg. When asked how he came by the name "Peg," he chuckled and said, "They gave me that name before I was big enough to protest and it just stuck."

That same sense of humor showed up when asked how long he had been married to Leota. "As long as I can remember," he replied.

Journey of Hope bike tour stops in Carrizozo

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@landmark.net

In 1987, one man's dream of riding his bike across the country came true. What he did not know was the inspiration and motivation his trek across America would give to Push America.

The very next year his ride inspired Push America to create the Journey of Hope - the largest fraternal fund-raising and awareness event of its kind.

Today the Journey of Hope spreads its message of acceptance and understanding for people with disabilities throughout 32 different states and is solely comprised of members of Pi Kappa Phi cycling over 12,000 miles combined.

Friday the crew and team members of the southern route cyclists were in Carrizozo for lunch at New Horizons Developmental Center and dinner at Trinity United Methodist Church.

The staff at New Horizons gave the

team a warm welcome and the visit over lunch with the clients was a memorable event for Journey members.

"I had a great experience with one particular guy who was deaf and blind," wrote Eric Anderson, a team member. "It amazed me how he could still communicate effectively and knew who he was talking to each time. He would start by feeling a person's hands to check for rings, then go up the wrist to check for watches or bracelets, and finally end up on the top of your head feeling for hair. He knew each of his caregivers by their own unique features."

The Journey team spent the night at Carrizozo High School where they could shower and set up "camp" for their stay in town. Saturday they continued their journey with Roswell as their destination for the weekend. This week's stops included Portales, Muleshoe and Lubbock, Texas.

The Journey of Hope reaches out to

people through newspapers, radio and television, civic groups and community leaders, reaching millions of people annually and bringing to the forefront the abilities of people with disabilities.

From the inaugural team of 21 team members raising \$20,000, the team has since been expanded into three different routes of 35 Pi Kappa Phi and annually raises more than \$500,000. To date, over 900 undergraduates have participated in the Journey of Hope.

Journey of Hope is a cross-country bicycle trek beginning in San Francisco, Calif. and Florence, Ore. and ending together with all teams in Washington, D.C.

After riding an average of 75 miles a day, team members are not found napping and preparing for the next day's ride. They can be seen dancing at a friendship visit with a local group that supports people with disabilities, participating in a game of wheelchair basketball, performing puppet shows to educate children on the abilities of people with disabilities, and learning life lessons that will impact them for the rest of their lives.



Journey of Hope bicyclists were fed dinner Friday at Trinity Methodist in Carrizozo.

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FUNERALS DEATHS

Doris Darden
 Doris Darden born September 6, 1947, in La Jolla Ca. passed away June 15, 2006, at her home in Las Cruces, after a brief battle with cancer.

Doris is survived by her family: husband Perry (left) of 38 years, daughter Cheryl and husband Paul Keith of Capitan; son Tim and wife Brandy of Las Cruces; son Robert (R.J.) of Las Cruces; Ralph Ramos and wife Yolanda of Las Cruces.

Doris has six grandchildren: Kasie Rene, Cliff Keith, Kaelyn Darden, Hallie Darden, Kacey Ramos, Erin Ramos. Doris is survived by her mother Catherine Burgess, brother

Doug Burgess and wife Mary Jane, sisters Carla Swanner and husband Dwight, Cathy McIntosh and husband Mac and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Her father Doug Burgess predeceases Doris in death. Doris lived in Ruidoso for several years and graduated from Ruidoso High School. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend who will be missed dearly.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Cowboys for Cancer at <http://cowboysforcancerresearch.org/contact.htm> or Pancreatic Cancer Research at www.pancan.org.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home, corner of Solano and Bowman Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88624-1919. For private condolences log on to: www.GetzFuneralHome.com

Julia Warner Romero
 A rosary will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 14, 2006, at St. Jude's Catholic Church in San Patricio, New Mexico for Julia Warner Romero, who passed away on July 7, 2006, in Covington, LA.

She was 87 years old. A funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 15, at St. Jude's. Rev. Al Galvan of Ruidoso will officiate. Interment will follow the service at Hondo Cemetery.

Julia was born on August 1, 1918 in Lincoln, N.M. to Juan and Emilia Torres Warner. She was married to George Romero and together they raised a family of 19 children.

She was an active member of St. Jude's Catholic Church, and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Her survivors include her sons, Basil, Willie, Richard, Jimmy, Roger, Fred, Clifford, daughters, Cecilia, Andrea, Rebecca, Ethel, Martha, Carmen, and Bernice; sisters, Estela, Mary Viola, and Lucila Alice. She is also survived by her 33 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her sons, John, Sammy, Daniel, Eddie, and Samuel; her brothers, Manuel, David, Julian, and Eloi, and her sisters, Predicanda, Apolonia, Carmelita, and Francisca.

There will be a viewing on Friday, July 14, 2006, from 6-8 p.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Ballard Funeral Home and Crematory.

Obituary Policy for the 'Ruidoso News'
 We publish obituaries free of charge as a community service. Obituaries must be submitted by a funeral home or family member. In addition to being delivered at our office, obituaries may be made by email to paper@ruidosonews.com, by fax to 505-257-7063, or by post to P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88345. Submissions are subject to editing for length, wording, grammar and spelling according to the newspaper's established style. Long lists of family members may be reduced.

The newspaper makes every effort to publish obituaries and funeral notices in a timely manner, but we do not guarantee publication of an obituary on a specific date. We accept one photo per obituary; publication of a photo is subject to space availability and is not guaranteed. We are not responsible for errors or omissions.

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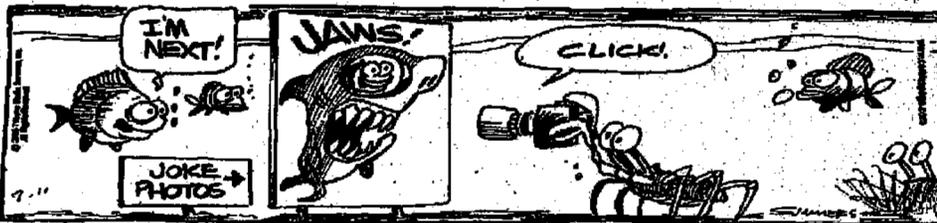
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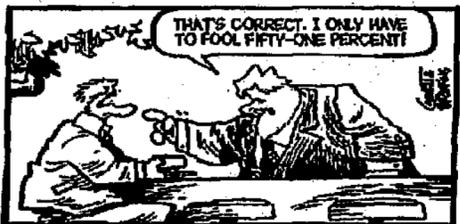
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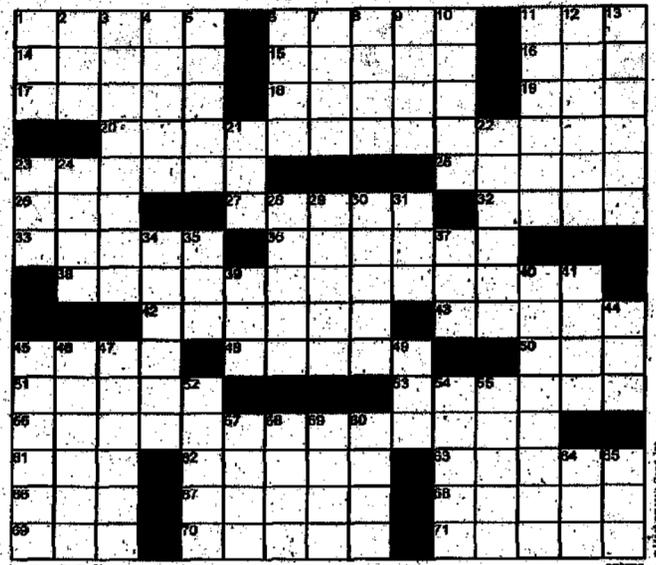
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- 1. Drive off
- 6. Treat with tea
- 14. Lobster-eater's wear
- 14. Hold dear
- 15. Truman veep Bartley
- 16. Rhode's TV mom
- 17. Get underway
- 18. Clue board areas
- 19. Get firm
- 20. Minute Mouse's toon partner
- 23. Black Sea port
- 25. Thrill no end
- 26. ___ Pérignon
- 27. ___ I'm Adam"
- 32. Took a gender at
- 33. It was dodged in the '60s and '70s
- 36. Retailer's giveback
- 38. Andrew Jones's team
- 42. Los Angeles suburb
- 43. Commuter's annoyance
- 45. Burger side
- 48. Takes a break
- 50. Pull the plug on
- 51. Shire of Rocky movies
- 53. Big Apple hoopsters
- 56. Hal Foster comics hero
- 61. Slangy approval
- 62. Martini garnish
- 63. Nile capital
- 66. Play for a sâp
- 67. Pine exudation
- 68. Aplay structures
- 69. ___ Palmas, Canary Islands
- 70. Has to have
- 71. Nabisco treats

- 1. Winnebago, for short
- 2. Chow down
- 3. Dinner table item
- 4. They replaced fire
- 5. ___ pray" (pulpit petition)
- 6. ___ Delano Roosevelt
- 7. Job for Drano
- 8. Double-read instrument
- 9. Disney clown fish
- 10. Come next
- 11. Bay of ___ (arm of the Atlantic)
- 12. Form a thought
- 13. Stood at the plate
- 21. Smash into
- 22. Place to hide an ace
- 23. Lacking a male
- 24. "David Copperfield" wife
- 28. "The Sopranos" restaurateur ___ Buccò
- 29. Baseball's Dizzy and Daffy
- 30. Monastery head
- 31. Scratch up
- 34. Arrived by plane
- 35. Beach shade
- 37. Smidgen
- 39. ATM-making co.
- 40. Non-required course
- 41. Went to the bottom
- 44. Gridiron pickups: Abbr.
- 45. One of the Twin Cities
- 46. Godfrey regular Julie
- 47. Look-___ (twins)
- 49. Visit Vall
- 52. Nut with a cupule
- 54. Salsa go-with
- 55. How some popcorn is popped
- 57. "Waiting For the Robert ___"
- 58. Workbench attachment
- 59. Gung-ho
- 60. Periscope part
- 64. Model T contemporary
- 65. CIA forerunner

DOWN

KUDZU



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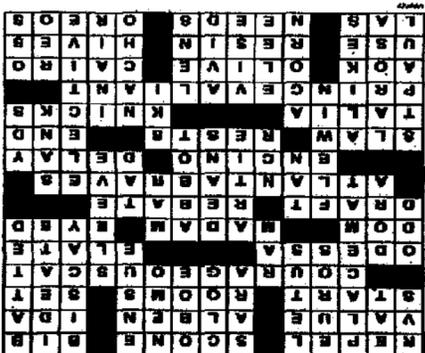
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[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[H]	[O]	[O]	[R]	[C]	[P]	[T]	[]	RAK 1
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[E]	[O]	[Y]	[L]	[S]	[P]	[R]	[]	Double Word Score
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[E]	[H]	[U]	[N]	[F]	[M]	[F]	[]	2nd Letter Triple
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[E]	[E]	[I]	[Z]	[N]	[N]	[D]	[]	RAK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 218
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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

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S	T	E	F	I	A
M	O	Y	L	O	G

Answer: IT [] [] [] [] [] [] []

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

PAR SCORE 155-165
BEST SCORE 218
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[D]	[E]	[N]	[I]	[Z]	[O]	[Y]	[]
[M]	[U]	[F]	[P]	[A]	[H]	[N]	[]
[L]	[E]	[P]	[R]	[O]	[S]	[Y]	[]
[P]	[O]	[R]	[T]	[I]	[C]	[O]	[]

"I found my new home with the help of the Ruidoso News Adopt-A-Pet Ad."

"I found my new best friend in the Ruidoso News Adopt-A-Pet Ad."

Published every Wednesday in the

RUIDOSO NEWS

Jumble: HUMAN TWINE FIESTA GLOOMY
Answer: Why the procrastinator gave his wife a watch on her birthday — IT WAS 'TIMELY'.

The Carrizozo Branch of the 12th Judicial District Attorney's office is seeking two (2) secretaries to provide computer services and management of case files for the office which handles a high volume of cases. These secretaries will submit their resumes to the District Attorney's Office, P.O. Box 819, Carrizozo, New Mexico.

WANTED: Waitresses \$5.50 & Bartenders \$6.50 + tips to work at The New Remodeled Old West Casino & Restaurant. Bilingual preferred. For interview, come in person or call 937-5177.

ESCAPES: Now hiring landscape laborers based on skills and experience. Apply at 1812 Sudderth Highway, 4/10 mile north of Airport Rd. or Call Rick @ 888-3061.

Can. Help Wanted 224
All positions available. Please apply in person at Michalek's 2705 Sudderth Dr. 257-7338

Can. Help Wanted 224
\$27,600 SALARY GUARANTEE. PLUS monthly and yearly bonuses AND health insurance. All our sales people start at \$27,600 and all soon make more than that. No experience necessary. We provide training. Work week is 6 days. Must have driver's license. Voted Best Place to Work in Lincoln County! Contact JACK, 376-4400. Ruidoso Ford Lincoln Mercury.

Can. Help Wanted 224
SCOUTS BOYS OF AMERICA

TGBY
Permanent Position with well-established locally owned business. All shifts available. Benefits available. APPLY IN PERSON. Come Grow with us! 2812 Sudderth Drive

Can. Help Wanted 224
STAGS LANDSCAPE

HELP WANTED:
Tree Thinners
Landscapers
Laborers
Yearly Maintenance Personnel
Call 336-2321

Can. Help Wanted 224
NOW HIRING
Full/part-time Servers, Cooks, Dishwashers & Bartenders
Cree Meadows Country Club
301 Country Club Dr.
Apply in person.

Can. Help Wanted 224
RUIDOSO READY LABOR
Daily Work Daily Pay
Construction, framers, general labor, food service, housekeepers, clerical clerk. All Skill Levels!
Apply Today!
257-7876
108 Service Rd.

Can. Help Wanted 224
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Make up to \$6,000 per month!
1. Auto Sales
2. Internet Sales
3. Finance MGR
Training Available - Hurry!
THE NEW WESTERN MOTORS
109 Hwy 78. Apply in person.

Can. Help Wanted 224
TEXAS CLUB GRILL & BAR
Is now hiring for the following full-time position:
Line Cook.
Apply in person @ 212 Metz Drive. Wed. - Sunday 3-5pm. 505-258-3325

Can. Help Wanted 224
VACANCY NOTICE
Captain Municipal Schools Employment Vacancy:
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER
Requires a New Mexico License
Language Arts Endorsement or Highly Qualified
Ability to be a successful mentor
Excellent interpersonal skills
Application Deadline: Until Filled
For detailed information and application please call 505-354-2239 or download from web page at www.capitain.k12.nm.us.

FINANCIALS
240

For Sale By Owner. Two Cozy Shopping Center 2117 Sudderth Dr. Ruidoso New Mexico Call 257-5103 or 258-3577

Gazette Shopping Center. Retail space available. Call 257-5103 or 258-3577

Exclusive Opportunity
The world's foremost and largest manufacturer of horse and livestock trailers has leadership opportunities available in the Ruidoso area. For the opportunity of a Lifetime, please call (800) 654-3879, ext. 2277 or email: oleda@moderntrailers.net

Restaurants
Retail Furniture store in a GREAT LOCATION. Owner financing available with down payment. 1909 Sudderth 826-9003

Business For Sale
Popular Ruidoso bakery cafe for sale. Profitable and growing; owner retiring. Requires 40K down. Broker owned. MLS# 18172

Premier Properties Of Ruidoso
204 Lincoln Tower • 258-1928

RENTALS
300

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
All real estate advertised here-in is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Can. Help Wanted 224
NEW HOMES
3Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, 2-car garage located in nice neighborhood. Call Donna, Toll Free Realty 257-7786

Can. Help Wanted 224
UPPER CANYON
Apartments available. Call 258-4762 For Details.

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Historic Lincoln
3-Bedroom house, brick and stucco, hardwood floors, W/D Hook-ups, fruit trees, landscaped yard, Commercial Frontage, Private Well, 1/3 acre in town. 505-350-4999

FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED 1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS
BILLS PAID. NO PETS. 258-3111

Leaders Now Accepting Applications
1 Bedrm, 2 & 3 Bedrm with 2 baths each unit has washer/dryer hookups, locked carport, dishwasher, and garbage disposal. For more info call 378-2462 or stop by 319 Delaple Hill Rd in Ruidoso Downs.

CAMELOT PLACE APARTMENTS
Now taking applications; 1, 2, 3 Bedroom apartments. Rent assistance available. Certain income restrictions apply. Call 257-5897 TTD 1-800-659-8331 Equal Housing Opportunity & Equal Housing Provider.

For Sale 3 Bedroom 2 Bath
Remodeled, New Appliances, Carpet, Fireplace, Great Location. Close to Mid-Town. 505-973-1734 or 505-317-3435

By Owner 8000 Sq. Ft. Shopping Center
\$7000 Monthly Revenue. Perfect Location. 505-937-0282

Very Nice Mobile with Large Add-on
2 Blocks from Cree Meadows. 3-Cor. Carpet. All New Appliances. Consider RV in Trade \$89,500.00. 937-0122 or 257-4551

HOME FOR SALE BY OWNER

3 bd / 2 ba, 2 car garage, Large deck. \$180K
For an appointment call 257-8584

Turn your Clutter into CASH!

Classifieds Sell!
To place your ad call 257-4001

Can. Help Wanted 224
2Bdrm/1bth rental fully furnished
A/C and hot tub. A+ Ready 258-4574

Can. Help Wanted 224
UPPER CANYON
Apartments available. Call 258-4762 For Details.

Can. Help Wanted 224
TEXAS CLUB GRILL & BAR
Is now hiring for the following full-time position:
Line Cook.
Apply in person @ 212 Metz Drive. Wed. - Sunday 3-5pm. 505-258-3325

RUIDOSO MONTHLY/BI-MONTHLY RENTAL
In the heart of town, 2.5 acres, 2.5 acre and Bar-B-Que on the west ground. Call and watch the wildlife in this completely furnished 2 1/2, 1.5Bth home/club & 1/2 acre. W/D, Satellite, telephone. ALL WE NEED IS YOU! Close to shopping, dining, fine dining, track, casino & nightlife, just bring your toothbrush! Call for more info 505-356-8287

REAL ESTATE
400

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Home for Sale
3 bd / 2 ba, 2 car garage, Large deck. \$180K. For an appointment call 257-8584

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MOVING SALE
ANTIQUE LIQUIDATORS
415 12th St. Carrizozo, N.M.
We will be moving to a new location soon
All items 20% to 50% off!

Full or Part Time Help
For Marketing and Research Company. Requirements are Basic Computer Knowledge and Good verbal skills. Call Betty To place a classified ad phone 257-4001

1998 Rockwood Ultra Lite
\$7,900
Car Connection (505) 525-1930

1998 Chevy 2500
\$10,800
Nichols Sales, Inc. (505) 382-1940

1998 Chevy 1500
\$7,995
Mack Bakers Auto (505) 647-1600

2003 Chevy 2500 HD
\$15,800
Nichols Sales, Inc. (505) 382-1940

1996 Chevy Pick Up
\$3,995
All Star Motors (505) 523-5996

2003 Chevy 1500 Pick Up
\$5,995
All Star Motors (505) 523-5996

2005 Dodge Ram 1500
Hemi \$21,995
Mack Bakers Auto (505) 647-1600

2004 Dodge Ram 1500
\$16,500
Lent Auto Sales (505) 527-8697

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2004 Dodge Ram 1500
\$16,500
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2001 Dodge Ram
\$6,500
Lent Auto Sales (505) 527-8697

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Lent Auto Sales (505) 527-8697

2000 Dodge Ram
\$6,500
Mack Bakers Auto (505) 647-1600

02 Chevrolet Tracker
\$9,998
Los Cruces Toyota (505) 523-5566

2006 Chevrolet Trailblazer
\$20,999
Mack Bakers Auto (505) 647-1600

03 Chevrolet Trailblazer
\$17,998
Los Cruces Toyota (505) 523-5566

Chevy Avalanche '02
271,000 on star, low mi. 1-866-201-4409 INDY

Chevy Blazer '96
V6, auto, \$9,299 cash. 915-775-9941 dlr

Chevy Equinox '02
Auto, \$17,995. 877-446-1139 RiseV

Chevy 2002 Suburban LT
Auto, \$25,500, down. 778-7744 Chapparal Mtrs.

Chevy Suburban '02
4x4, auto, \$21,995. 877-446-1139 RiseV

Chevy 2000 Tahoe LS
\$5,500 down. 778-7744 Chapparal Mtrs.

Chevy Tracker '02
LS, auto, \$11,995. 877-446-1139 RiseV

02 Chevrolet Tracker
\$9,998
Los Cruces Toyota (505) 523-5566

2006 Chevrolet Trailblazer
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Mack Bakers Auto (505) 647-1600

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Chevy Tracker '02
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AUCTION
500 Central - Big Blue Auction House
CARRIZOZO, N.M.
SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2006
Sale Starts: 10:09 A.M.
Preview: Fri. June 23 from 1 - 5 PM & 8:30 AM to sale time June 24th
AUCTIONEER'S STATEMENT: 450 Pieces of Antique Glassware, China, Furniture and Modern Misc. From Estates and Collections to be sold by box lots, choice form tables and by the Piece.
NO BUYER'S PREMIUM
WALKER'S AUCTION SERVICE
Frank Walker, Auct. #TK6783
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E Mail antique@tulerosa.net www.theantiqueliquidators.com

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1000 lbs. 123 lbs. 2 months. Metabolic Breakthrough. 1-888-973-7336

Huge Parking Lot Rummage Sale
Sat. July 15.
121 Mesquero Trail, at the Episcopal Church. 8:00 am. Also in Parish Hall will be arts, crafts & baked goods, and much more!!
RAIN OR SHINE

WHEELS
900

ANIMALS
700

RECREATION
800

GOODS & SERVICES
600

Are you in the market for a NEW HOME? See the Real Estate section in today's classifieds.

**"GREAT PRESENTATION.
I HAVEN'T SLEPT THAT WELL IN WEEKS."**



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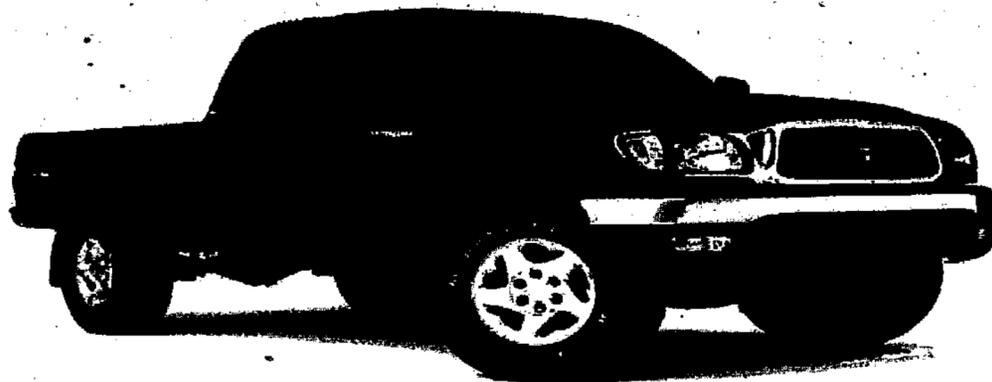
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