

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007 • OUR 60TH YEAR, NO. 101 • 50 CENTS

FIRE DANGER  
MODERATE

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# River agreement explored

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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A proposed settlement with the state Environment Department over the failure of the wastewater treatment plant owned by Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs to meet required standards for effluent discharge into the Ruidoso River would challenge village staff and finances.

But not complying could result in whopping fines by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and end up costing customers of the system even more money than the estimated \$35 million price tag for treatment changes at the plant.

After a closed session on the issue last week, members of the Ruidoso

**VILLAGE, RUIDOSO DOWNS OFFICIALS TO CONSIDER  
A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WITH THE STATE'S  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT OVER FAILURE  
TO MEET STANDARDS FOR EFFLUENT DISCHARGE  
INTO THE RIO RUIDOSO**

Downs and Ruidoso municipal councils and the Joint Use Board that governs the plant's operation directed attorneys to set up a meeting on the settlement of the councilors, other municipal officials, consultants and the attorneys with NMED representatives on the settle-

ment. Ned Kendrick, the attorney most deeply involved in trying to reach an

agreement with the state ED and the EPA, as well as the Forest Guardians environmental group, who sued the two municipalities over degradation of the river, sent a memorandum to village councilors with a copy of the proposed settlement.

He explained that the agreement is necessary because the EPA issued a draft permit for the plant on May 26,

2006, continuing a total nitrogen limit for the first time. The required 1.0 milligram per liter standard would be impossible to meet if the effluent is to be returned to the Ruidoso River, he wrote.

If it is not met, the two municipalities would violate the new permit at the end of the three-year schedule of compliance and would be subject to high penalties under the federal Clean Water Act imposed by EPA and through the potential citizen lawsuit.

"The agreement provides an avenue for Ruidoso to avoid liability under the Clean Water Act for failure to meet total nitrogen limits," he stated.

Before the EPA issued its draft permit in May 2006, with the nitrogen

See RIVER, page 5A

**RIVER LIFE**

SANDY KASHMAN/STAFF

Ruidoso High School Science instructor Joe Avalos worked with Biology I students last Thursday during a field trip conducted in conjunction with River Source, which fosters outdoor education opportunities for tracking watershed health and trends throughout New Mexico. Students practiced sampling techniques to analyze water quality at Two Rivers Park. Identifying insects and other river life with Avalos are Rosa Perez and Miguel Aguirre.

## They're back!

■ Hummers return, and we don't mean SUVs

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They're back.

Migrating hummingbirds winging their way from winter haunts in Mexico and South America to summer breeding grounds are lapping up sugar water from feeders all over Lincoln County.

New Mexico is temporary home to 14 varieties including the Rufous, Ruby-throated, Blue-throated, Broad-tailed and Calliope. More than 300 types are found worldwide.

Feeders featuring plenty of bright red plastic will attract the helicopters of the bird world, but never use red food coloring in the sugar water mixture, experts advise. All of the species drink while hovering, although they may alight on a stand occasionally, and are able to maneuver in flight patterns straight up, sideways and back. Hummingbirds fly with their bodies upright, not flat like most birds.

A mixture ratio of three-to-one or four-to-one of water to white sugar commonly is offered as a high-energy drink to help the hardy little creatures survive cold mountain nights and to fuel their intense wing beats that produce the humming sound so familiar to those who wait for their arrival.

See HUMMER, page 8A

## County residents face mill levy vote on hospital, clinics

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**ARCHITECT REVEALS  
EXPANSION PLANS  
FOR LCMC,  
PAGE 8A**

Lincoln County voters may be asked this year to approve a higher special property tax levy to supplement the county hospital and rural health clinics.

To keep election costs down and turnout up, voting may be handled primarily by mail, with no early visits to the ballot box in Ruidoso.

The 3 mill levy currently in place and approved by voters in 2000, expires at the end of the year. James Gibson, administrator of the Lincoln County Medical Center in Ruidoso, said Tuesday more money is needed for the hospital and for the clinics. One mill equates to \$1 for each \$1,000 of taxable property

value.

County Manager Tom Stewart estimated that 1 mill will generate about \$682,000, but Gibson said he thinks the figure is closer to \$800,000. County Assessor Rick Silva said later the amount could be even higher because of a massive countywide property value reassessment this year.

A person whose home has a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay \$425 for the hospital and clinics on his annual tax bill compared to \$300 now.

"I think Jim's request for 4.25 mills is reasonable," Stewart said. How that is broken down between the hospital and health clinics can be debated, he said.

By the time the debate was over, commissioners seemed to favor not specifying in the ballot language how the mill levy would be divided. That decision could be left up to commissioners each year when they also decide whether to levy the full amount authorized or less.

Gibson argued that at least 3.25 mills should go to the hospital.

Commissioners also seemed to lean toward not specifying the clinics eligible to receive

See LEVY, page 8A



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

## Economic Summit

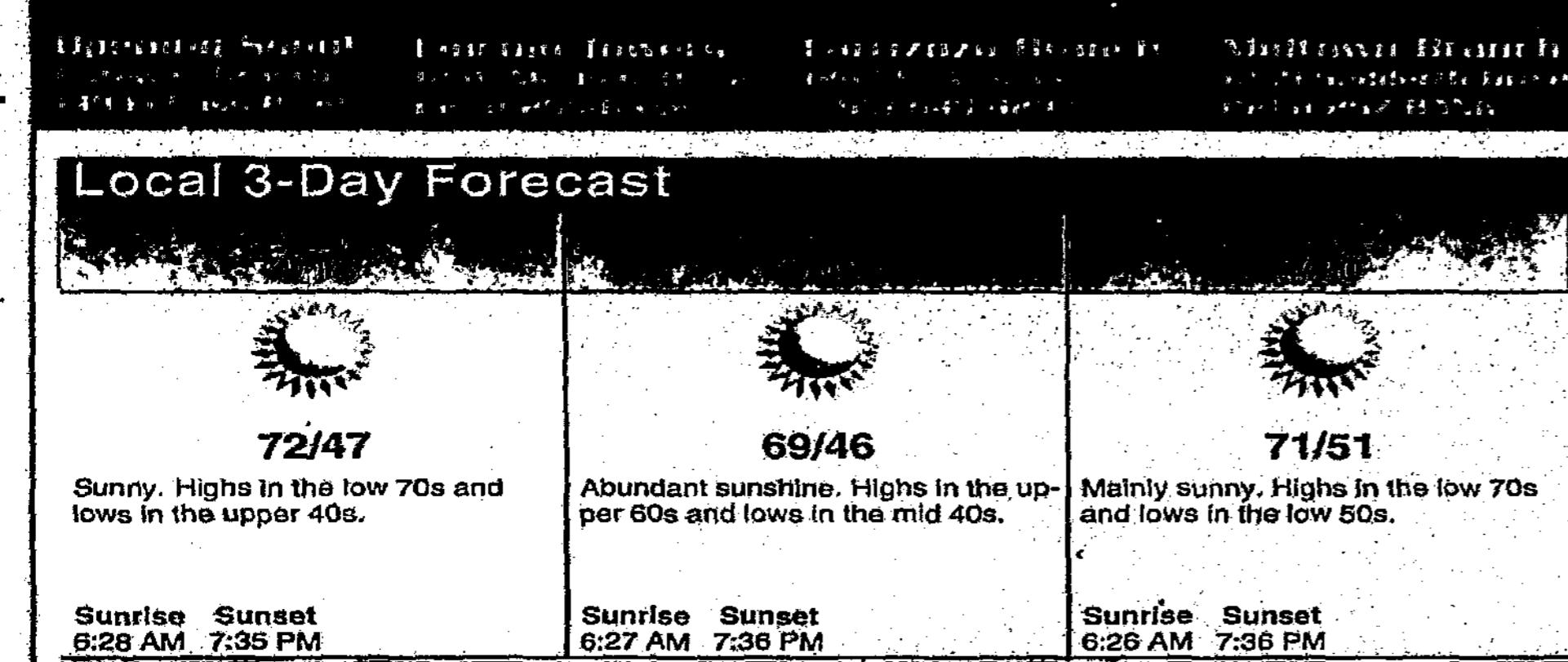
With the rapid growth of our local economy and growing demands for planned, sustainable economic development, the first annual Ruidoso Valley Economic Development Summit will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. May 4.

Issues, challenges and strategies addressing economic development and the impact on the future growth and prosperity of our community will be the focal point of this event. Governor Bill Richardson and state governmental leaders have been invited to address the audience. Participants will learn from state and local economic development experts engaged in economic development initiatives.

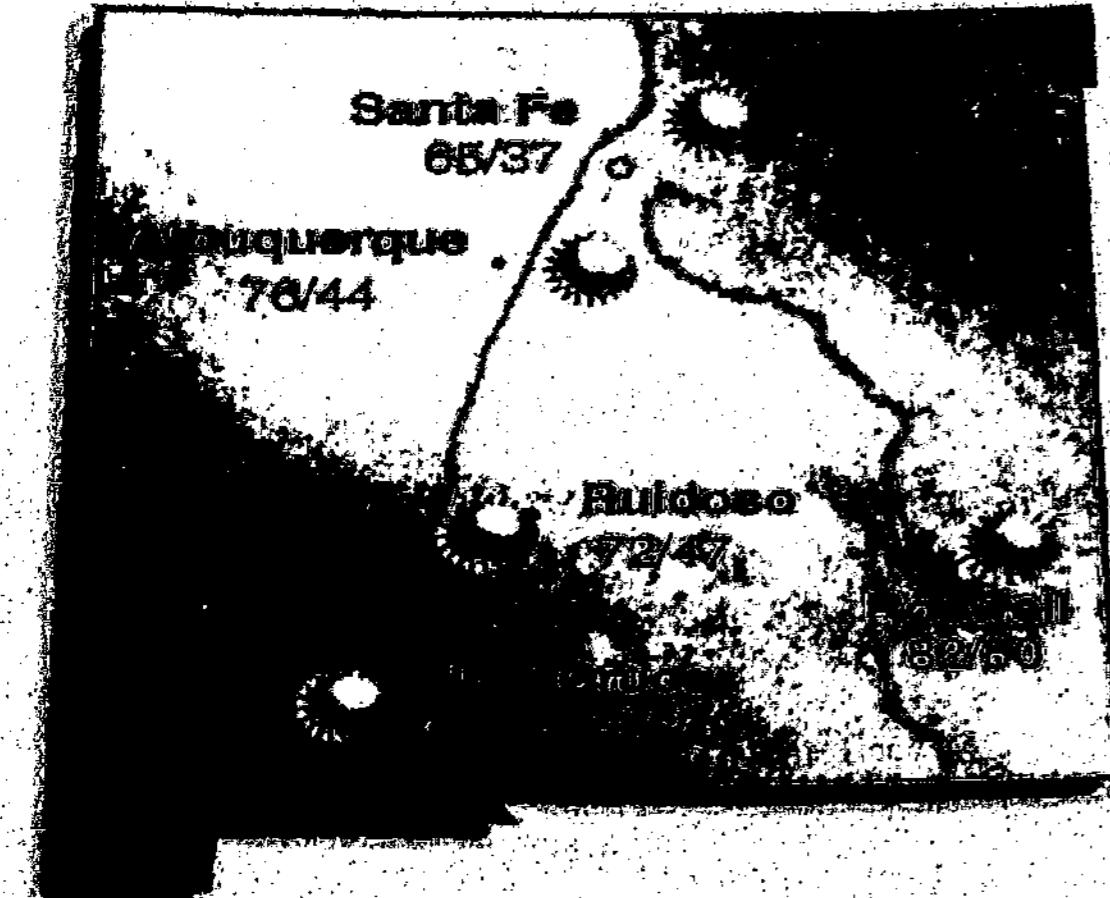
Summit participants will be called upon to discuss issues,



## Today's Weather Brought To You By...



## New Mexico At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Alamogordo	84	60	sunny
Albuquerque	76	44	sunny
Carlsbad	84	51	sunny
Chama	56	29	sunny
Clovis	74	45	sunny
Deming	82	46	partly sunny
El Paso, TX	84	58	sunny
Espanola	75	43	partly sunny
Farmington	71	33	sunny
Gallup	70	30	windy

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	68	48	rain
Boston	43	38	cloudy
Chicago	45	36	rain
Dallas	74	52	partly sunny
Denver	65	41	sunny

## THE COMMUNITY PAGE

opportunities and solutions for future economic development of our region.

Hosts for the summit include ENMU-Ruidoso, Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, the *Ruidoso News*, the Small Business Development Center, Rural Economic Development Through Tourism council and RuidosoWeb Corp.

ENMU Provost and summit organizer Dr. Mike Elrod encourages everyone who has an interest in the future of Ruidoso to participate. "The Ruidoso valley will continue to grow with or without community input. An overriding issue to be addressed during the summit is whether this growth will occur in a planned or unbridled manner."

Admission is free but pre-registration is required. Register online at [www.ruidoso.net/education](http://www.ruidoso.net/education) or by calling the ENMU-Ruidoso Community Education Office at 630-8181. Registration includes refreshments, lunch, and summit materials. Limited corporate tables and vendor booths are available. To reserve your seat pre-register no later than April 25.

For more information contact Mike Elrod, 257-2120, or Coda Omness at 630-8181.

### Roundhouse review

The Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Commerce and Industry will host a

Roundhouse review today at 11:30 a.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

Lincoln County's four legislators – Senator Rod Adair and representatives Dan Foley, Dub Williams and Nora Espinoza – have been invited to speak. Cost for the review is \$10 for Chamber members and \$12.50 for non-chamber attendees.

### Tree seedling sale

Landowners wishing to purchase tree seedlings through the State Forestry seeding program have until April 20 to make this year's purchases. Several species are available for distribution, including Arizona Cypress, Apache plum, aspen, rocky mountain juniper, ponderosa pine, blue spruce and southwestern white pine.

Seedlings are available to landowners who own at least one acre of land in New Mexico and who agree to use the trees for conservation purposes such as erosion control, wildlife habitat, reforestation and wind-break establishment.

For a complete list of available stock and purchasing requirements, check on line at [www.nmforestry.com](http://www.nmforestry.com) or call 1-888-686-2556.

### Optimist scramble

The Ruidoso Optimist Club will sponsor its 14th annual Sierra Blanca benefit golf scramble starting at 10 a.m. May 4 at the Kokopelli Country

Club. Entry fee is \$75 per golfer and includes lunch. Mulligans will be sold at the time of registration.

Register early and receive \$10 off the entry fee. Prizes are offered for the top three teams, and individual players are also welcome. The club professional will pair players.

All proceeds will benefit Optimist Club children and youth projects throughout the region. For more information or to register early, contact Tom McElligott at 915-588-2487, Robin at 937-0731 or Ray at 808-1357.

### Fort board meets

Members of the Fort Stanton Inc. Fort Stanton Foundation Board of Directors will meet at 5:30 p.m. today at the Region IX Education Cooperative Building, 1400 Sudderth Dr. in Ruidoso.

Everyone is invited to the meeting, but a special invitation is extended to people interested in serving as guides or docents at the fort's museum or working at the Fort Stanton Live event Aug. 11.

Fort Stanton, Inc. is a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation and historic renovation of the 1855 fort. Anyone interested in historic preservation or the fort should contact Dr. Earl Pittman at 505-491-4235.

### Rabies clinics

The veterinarians of Lincoln County will offer annual rabies vaccinations at a reduced price of \$6 per animal in several locations Saturday.

State law requires rabies shots for all dogs and cats more than three months old.

The schedule for the rabies clinics is:

- 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Capitan Fire Station;
- 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at the Lincoln Fire Station;
- 9 to 9:45 a.m., in Nogal on

### CHILD FIND DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING INFANTS THROUGH FIVE YEARS OLD KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION HEAD START REGISTRATION 2007

Children who are birth through five years of age are invited to a screening for the developmental areas of speech, language, hearing, motor, dental, nutrition and classroom readiness for kindergarten.

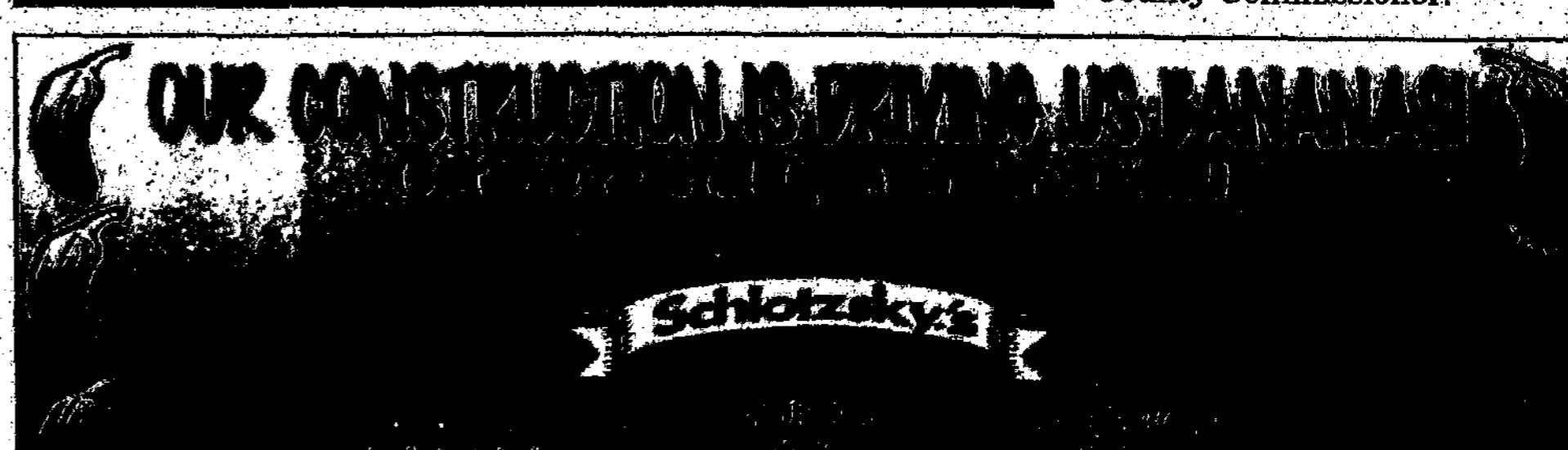
THIS IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN WHO WILL BE FIVE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2007



CAPITAN	Thursday, April 12	Cummins Gymnasium	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
TULAROSA	Friday, April 13	Tularosa Elementary	9:30 am - 1:00 pm
CORONA	Tuesday, April 17	Corona Schools Auditorium	9:30 am - 12:00 pm
CLOUDCROFT	Wednesday, April 18	Elementary/CMS Gym	3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
RUIDOSO	Friday, April 20	Ruidoso Convention Center	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
CARRIZOZO	Thursday, April 26	Carrizozo High Gymnasium	10:00 am - 12:30 pm
HONDO	Friday, April 27	Hondo Multi-Purpose Room	9:00 am - 11:00 am

\*These districts DO NOT have a Head Start Program

For more information contact Child Find Services at Region IX Education Cooperative (257-2368) or the elementary school in your area.



## Annual Earth Day observation Sunday offers suggestions for living 'green'

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With Earth Day being celebrated Sunday, EcoMall co-founders Tom Kay and Marianne Schnall suggested 10 easy things a person, group or family can do to make a difference and affect change in the environment to help the Earth.

The founders promote the idea that through small shifts in individual awareness, as well as simple, easy actions, everyone can contribute to a powerful, collective transformation of the world.

The easy-to-do list proposes:

- Planting a tree in a yard or starting a garden. Plants and trees help clean the air, are visual expressions of nature's beauty, and are uplifting to see. Even something as simple as growing herbs in a garden can provide nourishment and healthy meals for the family.

- Stopping pesticide use on lawns. Pesticides contribute to the pollution of the Earth and poison in water supply, endanger human health, and sicken wildlife, the point out. Many

effective, natural alternatives available, or even allowing nature to take over the growing of a lawn, creating food for bees, birds and animals.

- Supporting a local, organic farmer. Some farmers require active participation, some deliver to urban areas. The food is nutritious and delicious, and uses fewer non-renewable resources.

- Buying organic. Look for and ask for organic produce wherever groceries are purchased, or even better, shop at a local health food store that carries only organic produce. Buying organic reduces pesticide exposure to the land, farmers, harvesters and families.

- Spending time in nature. Taking a walk, having a picnic or simply sitting outdoors and watching the sky, deepens the connection to the natural world, thereby motivating people to be better stewards of the Earth.

- Buying energy-saving, compact-fluorescent light bulbs and other energy efficient products. When the next bulb goes out, replace it with a compact fluorescent light bulb. They last

10 times as long, and over their lifetime use one-fourth the energy of an incandescent bulb, saving \$30 to \$40 on an electric bill. When replacing major appliances, purchase energy-efficient ones and look for the government's EnergyStar label.

- Recycling. The old adage "reduce, reuse, recycle" still works very well today. The Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority operates an active recycling program for many materials. Check disposal sites and accepted materials by calling (505) 378-4697 or stopping at the LCSWA headquarters on Second Street in Ruidoso Downs.

- Shopping Green. Be a consumer who uses dollars to support companies and products that are better for the Earth. A directory that features hundreds of companies offering everything from organic and hemp clothing to non-toxic cleaners and solar energy products can be found at EcoMall.com (<http://www.ecomall.com>).

- Joining or donating to any organization that supports the environment. If time and muscle are not personal options, write a check to those who can be validated as making a meaningful contribution to the Earth's health.

environment. If time and muscle are not personal options, write a check to those who can be validated as making a meaningful contribution to the Earth's health.

- Creating good thoughts. As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "All we have to fear is fear itself." Awareness that people can heal the Earth and it is not too late combats the paralysis that fear often produces.

Visit [www.ecomall.com](http://www.ecomall.com) for more ideas, articles, information and resources.

Since its launch in November 1994, EcoMall has provided educational articles, a comprehensive selection of environmental companies, products and services. The founders said EcoMall offers a voice to America's sustainable business industry, featuring more than 300 retailers and wholesalers in about 70 shopping categories, links to government education, non-profit groups, environmental news, activism alerts, as well as the EcoMall's *Green Living Magazine*.

order the village to complete the work and bill the owner. Nonpayment could result in a lien against the property.

### Upper Canyon

Upper Canyon, the second area to receive compliance letters, stands at 83 percent complete with 274 out of 370 acres treated, equating to 796 of 956 lots. Forty-seven of the properties were sold and notices were mailed to new owners.

The most recent area where lot owners received notices covers the old Ponderosa and Pine Lodge subdivisions where compliance sits at 75 percent.

Out of 418 acres, 268 acres are treated, representing 1,291 of the 1,720 small lots. Referred to court after missing the compliance deadline in February were 139 properties.

Sold properties in Upper Canyon and Ponderosa Heights were given extensions for compliance until July 31.

In related news, Delaco reported that Linda Wallace resigned and Eddie Saenz was hired to replace her as a forestry lot inspector.

## National Volunteer Week recognizes 'unsung heroes' in animal welfare movement

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Ten thousand "points of light" represents the number of animal welfare organizations that post their homeless pets on Petfinder.com, the online database of homeless pets.

National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, is the right time to recognize the organizations and the tens of thousands of volunteers who work within them, said Betsy Saul, cofounder of Petfinder.com, the online database of homeless pets.

In the 1830s, the Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville noticed Americans' willingness to get involved in a cause greater than themselves. It defined the American character, and it's still true today, she said. According to a government survey, more than 61 million Americans donated their time to charity in 2006.

Nowhere is it more evident than in animal welfare, Saul said.

"I can't say enough about the altruism of these volunteers. They go way beyond what anyone would expect in terms of giving of themselves. For most of them it's not a once a week

job, it's a 24/7 commitment. They are a largely unsung group of heroes."

According to social activist John Gardner, most major social breakthroughs in America originated in the volunteer sector, and Saul thinks that the impact of volunteers on animal welfare is changing its face today.

"We have seen an explosion of rescue groups since we began Petfinder.com in 1996. We believe the work of these volunteers has had a positive impact on decreasing the euthanasia rate in this country."

To encourage volunteerism, Petfinder.com maintains a volunteer database, where visitors to the Web site may register to help their local animal welfare organizations.

"A person can specify what

kind of tasks they would like to do, be it cleaning cages, walking pets or helping add homeless pets to the Petfinder database," Saul said. "Most organizations could really use the help. Not only are animal welfare groups unsung, they are often underfunded."

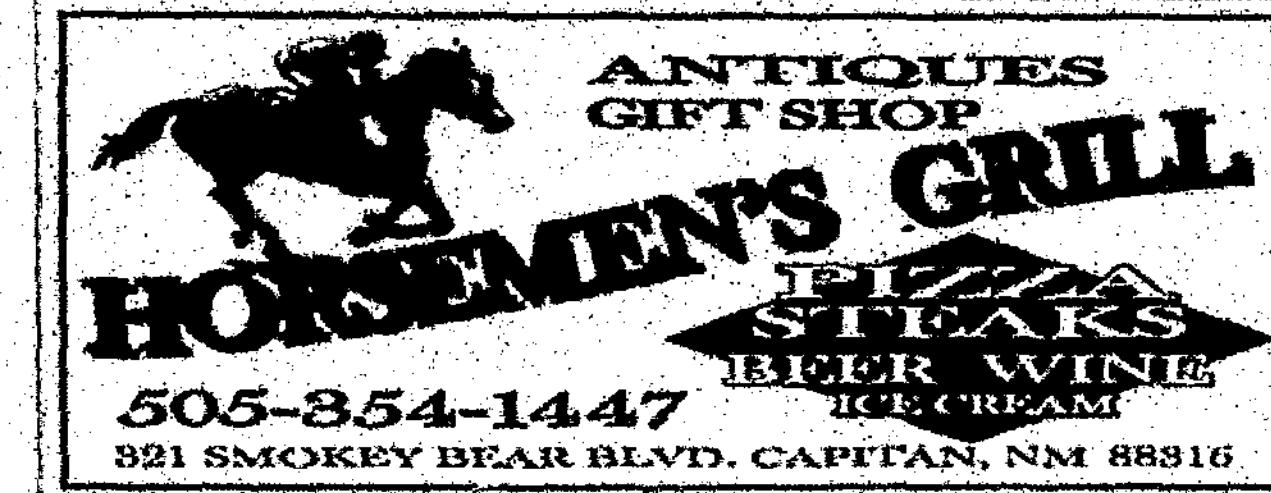
Anyone interested in volunteering can visit <http://www.petfinder.com> to sign up.

For a local contact, call the animal shelter operated by the Humane Society of Lincoln County on Gavilan Canyon Road at 257-9841, or representatives of the Partnership for Animal Welfare at 336-9675, a group working to provide reduced-cost spay and neuter certificates to pet owners in the county. In the Carrizozo area, contact Miracle's Paws for Pets at 505-648-2037, whose mem-

bers "foster" dogs and cats picked up by animal control while new homes are sought or until the animals are reunited with owners.

+ members "foster" dogs and cats

picked up by animal control while new homes are sought or until the animals are reunited with owners.



**RELAY FOR LIFE**

American Cancer Society

**FIELD OF DREAMS**

**DATE:** June 29, 6 PM through June 30, 9 AM

**PLACE:** Baseball field behind White Mountain Schools Complex

**CONTACT:** Sashay Mills-Cardone, 937-2775 or Cindy Parkinson, 808-1205

**Now recruiting teams:**

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- Schools

**Sign up your team online:**  
[www.ocsevents.org/relay/nm/lincin](http://www.ocsevents.org/relay/nm/lincin)  
[www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org)

**T-SHIRT DEADLINE:** May 24, 2007

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## RUIDOSO NEWS

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# OPINION

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007

PAGE 4A

## RUIDOSO NEWS

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Marty Racine, editor

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### GUEST EDITORIAL NM WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

## Otero Mesa too valuable for oil, gas development

Salt Basin Aquifer potentially a major groundwater resource

Otero Mesa has been in the news for many years now. For many it has been a fight about protecting a wild and beautiful Chihuahuan Desert grassland. Yet more specifically, it is about protecting the largest and wildest Chihuahuan desert grassland remaining on our federal public lands from the ravages of modern-day oil and gas development.

It may not be as widely known that the state's largest, untapped fresh water aquifer lies just beneath this vast wilderness, and that drilling would likely contaminate this vital resource. Recently a study titled "Knowledge and Understanding of the Hydrogeology of the Salt Basin in South-central New Mexico and Future Study Needs" was made available to the public. This preliminary report was authored by Sandia National Labs and the U.S. Geological Survey.

This study focused on the water resources in the New Mexico portion of the Salt Basin and made some important preliminary findings, as well as recommending important next steps to quantify and locate the amount of recoverable water. The main findings of the report are:

- The volume of groundwater in storage and potentially potable and recoverable may be substantially greater than the original estimates of 57 million acre-feet of ground water, which was first estimated by the State's Regional Water Plan. In laymen's terms, 57 million acre-feet equals more than 18 trillion gallons of water.

- The study indicates that there may be additional aquifers in the New Mexico portions of the Salt Basin.

- Recharge for the Basin comes in large part from surface water runoff, including in the Otero Mesa area. Recharge areas of the Salt Basin are generally vulnerable to the introduction of contaminants.

- The Basin also contains areas of rapid groundwater movement, which can make the entire system vulnerable to the rapid spread of contaminants.

- Further study is imperative to define the location and characteristics of the groundwater, so that risks to water quality can be limited and the value of this resource can be protected.

In 2004, John Shomaker & Associates Inc. presented the findings of another study showing that the Bureau of Land Management's drilling plan for Otero Mesa would jeopardize the Salt Basin aquifer. That conclusion reflected the fact that the agencies plan "makes no special provisions for protection of ground-water resources" including existing and proposed public water wells.

The report explained why the agencies' plans for permitting oil and gas development lack sufficient protective measures. The Salt Basin aquifer is highly fractured limestone,

which is susceptible to contamination resulting from the injection of oil- and gas-related waste into underlying rocks or from spills and leaks from pits and materials on the land surface.

Last year, the Oil Conservation Division, a state agency within the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department issued a report that found approximately 1,800 cases of groundwater contamination due specifically to oil and gas operations.

All of this evidence lends credibility to the argument that allowing oil and gas drilling to move forward in Otero Mesa would be a blunder of insurmountable proportions, with negative impacts reaching far into the future.

The New Mexico legislative session just ended, and the state has authorized that \$1 million be spent to study the aquifer beneath Otero Mesa. This is the beginning of a proposed three-year study of the Salt Basin that many in the waterfield feel will clearly show the massive extent of this groundwater resource.

Recently, a coalition of sportsman and conservation groups called on our congressional delegation to put in place a three-year moratorium on all oil and gas development in Otero Mesa. The reasoning is clear: Modern day oil and gas development is not benign; in fact, it remains a process, which, no matter the regulations, can and often does contaminate our precious groundwater.

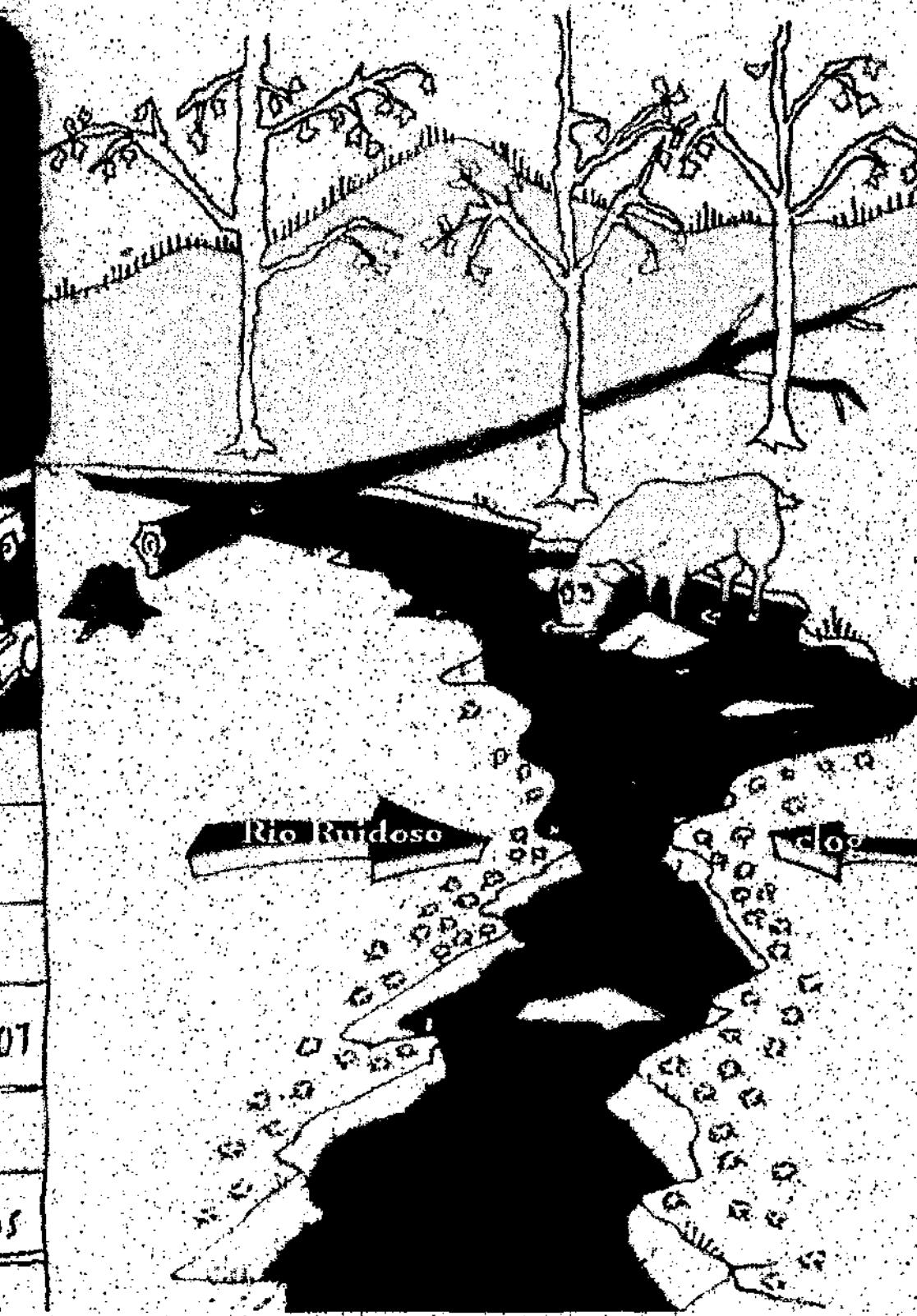
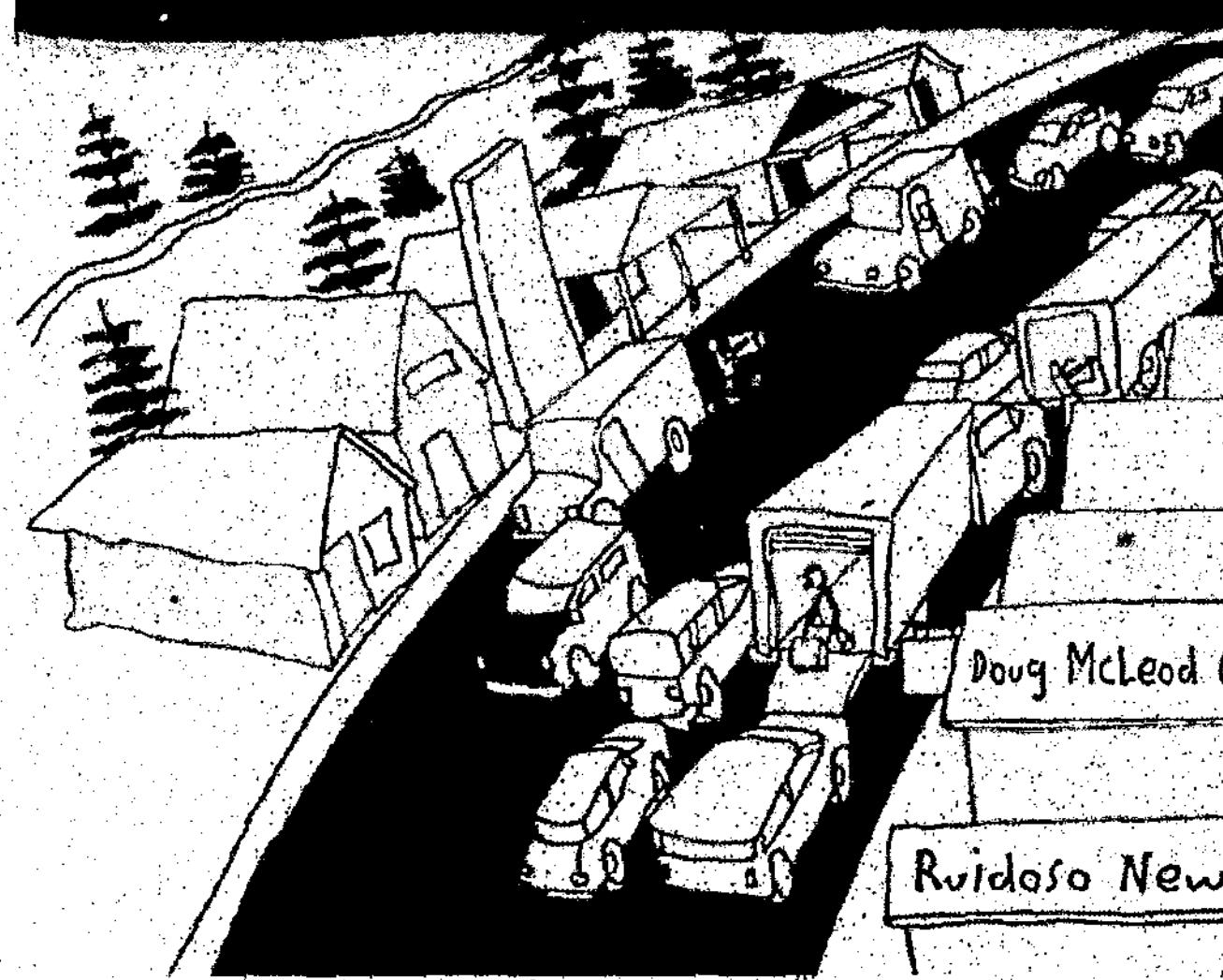
New Mexicans have continued to support oil and gas development on close to 6 million acres of land in our state. In contrast, only 1.8 million acres have been given wilderness protection. To date the oil and gas industry has held only one position when it comes to Otero Mesa — they want the right to drill all of it. Almost anyone who has studied the geology of the area can tell you the odds of economically recoverable amounts of oil and gas are slim.

So why allow this destructive process to move forward? Why risk the contamination of this precious fresh-water resource?

It comes down to power and money, and what's lost is common sense. Let's find out how much water there is and how it might benefit southern New Mexico. More than anything, let's be realistic. Oil and gas drilling will continue on millions of acres of land in New Mexico without debate, but some places hold far more value in beauty, wildlife and water than they do in oil. Such a place is Otero Mesa.

*Editor's Note: An Otero Mesa Public Forum will be held in Alamogordo from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Elks Lodge. The event is free to the public and will host expert speakers in wildlife, ranching, energy policy and water studies. For more information, call 505-250-4225.*

**While we worry about delivery trucks clogging our main street, we pay little attention to the phosphorous, clogging our main stream.**



### GUEST COMMENTARY

## Taxes: The Big Boys avoid paying their fair share

GERRY BRADLEY  
New Mexico Voices for Children

**M**id-April is the time of year when most of us think about the income taxes we pay. Whether our tax bill is large or small, and whether we grumble about paying it or not, chances are all of us benefit just about every day from the infrastructure and services our taxes buy. Taxes pay for the roads we drive on to work each day, as well as the pipes beneath them that bring water into our homes and take away our waste. They pay for police and fire protection, the criminal justice system, and our schools and universities, to say nothing of our libraries, museums, swimming pools and parks.

But while we're thinking about what we get for our tax investment, we ought to give some thought to those of our neighbors who are not paying their fair share.

These moneyed, powerful neighbors are engaged in multi-million-dollar shell games where they hide their New Mexico profits from the state's corporate income tax. These corporate neighbors enjoy the same infrastructure and services we all do, but without having to invest their fair share. And we've let them get away with it for years.

New Mexico's corporate income tax laws have a loophole through which some \$80 million disappears every year, according to our own Taxation and Revenue Department. That's because multi-state corporations doing business here can elect to report their profits on a 'separate entity' basis — meaning separate from any out-of-state subsidiaries. So if a 'separate entity' corporation shifts its New Mexico profits to an out-of-state subsidiary, it doesn't have to

pay New Mexico the income tax on those profits.

Here's how some multi-state corporations like to play the shell game: the parent corporation sets up a passive investment company, or PIC, in a state without a corporate income tax (such as Nevada).

The parent corporation then transfers its licenses, patents, trademarks and know-how to the PIC. The PIC graciously allows the parent to use the licenses, trademarks, etc., in exchange for royalty payments — which the parent can then deduct from its New Mexico profits as a 'business expense,' even though the money never actually left the business. It just left the state.

To further the game, the PIC can then loan its profit back to the parent corporation in exchange for an interest payment — which the parent again deducts from its state profits.

So essentially, the corporation pays itself for the right to use its own trademarks, etc., and then loans its money back to itself so that it may pay itself interest on its own money. Watching these corporations bounce their money from place to place is rather like watching a tennis match: After a while it gets painful.

Over the last few years, the state's Taxation and Revenue Department has slapped both Wal-Mart and Kmart with assessments for unpaid corporate income taxes (\$11.6 million and \$1.2 million, respectively). Both Wal-Mart and Kmart were paying an out-of-state PIC for the use of their trademarks. Kmart appealed its case to the state Supreme Court and lost. Wal-Mart also lost, but then conveniently opened a real estate investment trust, or REIT. Now Wal-Mart pays itself rent for the use of its New Mexico property. It can

now deduct the rent from its New Mexico profits as a business expense.

The use of PICs and REITs are only two of the ways multi-state corporations can shelter their profits. There are more. Fortunately, there is one easy way to stop them all. New Mexico's Legislature could enact a mandatory combined reporting law. Such laws require multi-state corporations to "combine" the income from all their subsidiaries.

A formula is then used to determine how much income tax is owed each state. Combined reporting is now required in 20 of the 46 states that collect a corporate tax for which combined reporting is relevant. And the governors of five more states are recommending that it be adopted.

New Mexico's Legislature has seen combined reporting bills in each of the last three sessions. These bills, all sponsored by Rep. Peter Wirth (D-Santa Fe), have died in the House Business and Industry Committee every year.

Next year, when our lawmakers convene again, hopefully they will decide that multi-state corporations like Wal-Mart and Kmart should be required to invest in the very communities in which they make their money. Since they expect the same sort of police and fire protection that we all get, they should pay for it, too. This sort of tax fairness makes writing out that check in mid-April a little less painful for the rest of us.

**GERRY BRADLEY** is the Research Director for New Mexico Voices for Children. His report, "Corporate Shell Games: How Wal-Mart and Others Shield Their Profits from New Mexico Taxes" is at <http://www.nmfiscalpoli.org>.

### LETTERS POLICY

The *Ruidoso News* encourages letters to the editor, especially about local topics and issues. Each letter must be signed and must include the writer's daytime telephone number and mailing address. The phone number and mailing address will not be printed; the hometown will be. The telephone number will be used to verify authorship. No letter will be printed without the writer's name.

Letters should be no more than 300 words in length, of public interest, and free of libel; editing will be for length, grammar or spelling. Shorter letters are preferred. The *Ruidoso News* reserves the right to reject any letter. Longer by-lined "Guest Commentary" articles will be considered; call the editor at 505-257-4001.

Letters may be delivered to the *Ruidoso News* office at 104 Park Avenue, mailed to P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88356; or e-mailed to [letters@ruidosonews.com](mailto:letters@ruidosonews.com).

# JUB overhaul proposal presented to village, Downs councils

■ Officials can accept or amend draft presented by attorneys

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Although proposed changes for the reorganization of a board that oversees the operation of a regional wastewater treatment plant were drafted, officials from Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs aren't bound by any of those provisions.

H. John Underwood, who represents the Joint Use Board, told members of the Ruidoso Village Council and Ruidoso Downs City Council that they can scrap all of the suggestions and start from scratch.

"It simply is one draft that Dan Bryant (formerly Ruidoso Downs city attorney and now Ruidoso village attorney) and I concurred on after hearing from both groups," Underwood said. "It's just where we left it three months ago."

Ruidoso councilors are pushing for a change in JUB membership to reflect the proportional use of the plant and financial responsibility for its operation and capital improvements. Under the formula accepted for years by both municipalities, Ruidoso bears 85 percent of the responsibility

and Ruidoso Downs, 15 percent.

On one hand, city officials want those percentages refigured based on verified use, because they think the result could be a lower financial percentage hit for the city. But on the other hand, they are not enthusiastic about Ruidoso commanding a majority vote on the JUB.

Under the existing joint powers agreement, each municipality has two votes on the five-person JUB, the major and manager. One vote is allocated to a Lincoln County Commissioner, although the county doesn't participate in the plant.

In a special session late last week between the two councils and the JUB, Underwood said he wanted to bring the joint powers agreement, which lays out JUB membership, back up for discussion because it has languished for the past three months while the New Mexico State Legislature's session and possible grants and monetary awards for the plant took center stage.

"I think it is best done with each council meeting independently," Underwood said. "They can express their points to their attorneys and have negotiations."

The JUB reorganization

and EPA officials told NMED staff "and (have) assured me directly that it will issue a final NPDES Permit incorporating the effluent limits and schedule included in the agreement," Kendricks wrote.

The agreement requires:

- a new wastewater treatment plant to be built in 39 months.
- the plant to meet interim total nitrogen limits of 9.0 mg/L during cold weather and 6.0 mg/L during warm weather.

- the plant to meet the final total nitrogen limit of 1.0 mg/L on the last day of the five-year term of the NPDES permit, which Kendricks contends is impossible, or meet a revised limit based on a revised water load allocation approved by the state and EPA, which Kendricks is optimistic can be achieved.
- the collection and analysis of river data and preparation of a report to NMED within 54



Officials from Ruidoso (seated at far wall), the Joint Use Board (right) and Ruidoso Downs (left, off camera), listen to JUB attorney John Underwood (at podium) as Underwood explains a draft of proposed organizational changes.

project and then build it, or a shortened process whereby design and build move simultaneously.

The treatment plant rehaul is mandated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department, because of concerns over negative impact on the river from the plant discharge.

City Manager John Waters said he doesn't want to see any procrastination on the project.

"I don't want to see it slowed down," he said. "I have been contacted by state and federal officials (worried about) us not spending the money they allocated. I'm concerned we will stop the design process to consider design-build."

The project must move forward to ensure state and federal money designated for the project is not lost, he said.

Morris said village officials have talked to and written to state and federal people requesting time extensions on the grants. He sent copies of the correspondence to Waters, he said.

"Everything looks secure," Morris said.

Underwood said he also doesn't want to see anything slow the momentum. "I think we're both in sync," he said.

## RIVER

FROM PAGE 1A

requirement, village officials and consultants focused on negotiating the citizens suit and with EPA representatives on solving the total phosphorous problem in the discharge, he wrote.

"From June 2006 until now, virtually all of Ruidoso's efforts have been focused on solving the (total nitrogen load limit) problem," Kendricks wrote. "By constantly working with the plaintiffs, Ruidoso has been able to postpone a final agreement concerning (phosphorous) in the citizens suit until a solution to the (nitrogen) issue has been developed."

The first step by village officials was to appeal the state's "certification" of the draft plant discharge permit. Technically, the agreement is a statement of Ruidoso's appeal of the state's certification, Kendricks wrote.

They also filed comments with the EPA opposing the new total nitrogen standard. The comments were developed with the help of Dr. David Stenson and Dr. Michael Brett, professors of civil engineering, specializing in wastewater treatment and stream biology at the University of Washington.

The comments explained why the nitrogen limit is impossible to meet without diverting plant effluent from the river and why the science underlying the limit is flawed, Kendricks wrote.

NMED Secretary Ron Curry will sign the agreement upon final acceptance by Ruidoso, he wrote. Apparently, the principals in the lawsuit also concur.

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should reflect how they want to operate in the future, he said.

The other issue Underwood brought back up for discussion was the status of a design-build request for proposals, which he said is under review by village and city staffs.

Deputy Village Manager Bill Morris said he's been waiting for the final standards that will be required for discharge from

the plant into the Ruidoso River to incorporate them into the RFP for a design.

Underwood said each council should review the RFP for compliance with their procurement codes, but agreed a final form can't be written until the exact standards for nitrogen and phosphorous discharge are known.

"July 1 will be the earliest

we can move forward," he said.

"I recommend we have a design-build RFP ready to go at the same time Del Archuleta (of Molzen-Corbin Engineering) comes back with a design-build process of what should be built."

Debate continues over which course to follow for the estimated \$35 million project, the traditional design a project, bid a

final limit for total nitrogen and \$1,000 per day for any other violation.

Approval of the agreement would settle Ruidoso's appeal of the state certification of EPA's draft NPDES permit and would allow EPA to issue a permit containing total nitrogen limits that Ruidoso has a high probability of achieving, Kendricks wrote.

"It will clear the way for reaching a final settlement of the citizens suit litigation," he wrote. "An area of continuing

exposure will be Ruidoso's non-compliance with the total phosphorus limits in the permit until the new plant is built."

Showing the village's vigorous actions on several fronts to address the water quality problems in the Rio Ruidoso may prompt a favorable decision from EPA officials not to file an enforcement action or to see only minimal penalties, he wrote.

"The benefit of these settlements will be that the cost and uncertainties of substantial litiga-

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Summit participants will learn from economic development experts and state leaders engaged in economic and community development initiatives. Governor Bill Richardson, Senator Pete Domenici and Representative Steven Pearce have been invited to address the audience.

Summit attendees will work in small focus groups to envision what our future will look like, how to get us there and what issues will affect the future prosperity and quality of life in Lincoln County.

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# EDUCATION

PAGE 6A

CALL US: TODD FUQUA, EDUCATION EDITOR • 257-4001 • [TODDF@RUIDOSONEWS.COM](mailto:TODDF@RUIDOSONEWS.COM)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007

## New school master plan approved by education board

TODD FUQUA  
[todd@ruidosonews.com](mailto:todd@ruidosonews.com)

Hill Early Childhood Center and the Ruidoso Middle School, both of which are old and out of date.

An updated master plan outlining the future of school facilities in Ruidoso was presented and approved by the Ruidoso Board of Education at its regular meeting April 10. The new five-year plan, which was originally adopted in 2005, now addresses the need for new facilities to replace Nob

students, currently attending White Mountain Intermediate, to be included in expanded plans for the middle school, consisting of an additional wing, auxiliary gymnasium and play field.

Total capital cost for all this renovation and construction was shown to be more than \$25 million, with a \$26 million bond passed by voters in February 2006 to fund it. The district also plans to generate more income with the sale of the land on which

Nob Hill currently stands, and will move the Gavilan Canyon alternative school to the Ruidoso Middle School site.

The board passed the plan unanimously. The construction management request for proposals bidding opened Thursday.

Board members also passed a new code regarding health education in the school district, as well as budget adjustments of \$5,060 for a final allocation of

instructional materials as mandated by the Public Education Department, and budget transfers for technology and direct instruction.

A final budget for the 2007-08 school year is due in Santa Fe May 10, with a public budget meeting scheduled during the next regularly scheduled board meeting at 7 p.m. on May 8 to approve the district's financial plan for the year.

## Mapping out a course

RMS students assist Forest Service by mapping out hiking trails

Students from Ruidoso Middle School got first-hand experience last Thursday in what it takes to accurately map out the hundreds of trails that criss-cross the Sacramento Mountains and are such a draw for tourists to the area.

The students are part of the MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) program at RMS, where they participate in all sorts of projects involving science and technology. This particular mapping class was made possible with the help of Stephan Carter, executive director of EcoServants and the New Mexico Community Foundation Youth Initiative.

Stephen Carter, Ryan Kluthe, Brad Thompson and Tyler Brunetta provided instruction for the students, including briefings about safety and trail management.

Once underway, the students used GPS units to create a track file for a specific trail, which will be input into a computer and layered onto a map of the area. The raw tracking data will be shared with the forest service to update the current



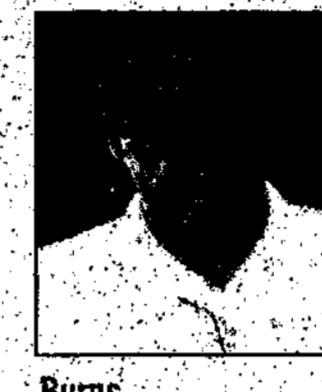
COURTESY

Stephen Carter, second from left, briefs Ruidoso Middle School students prior to trail mapping in the Cedar Creek recreation Area April 12. Students on hand for the day are (l-r): Jered Taylor, Brian Purnell, Gage Whipple and Saul Rojas.

condition of trails partially destroyed by recent rains and clearing efforts. The information will also be used to create a brochure for tourists illustrating the Cedar Creek trail maps.

## ENMU-Ruidoso staff awarded at Spirit of Eastern awards ceremony

Eastern New Mexico University presented its Spirit of Eastern Awards during a campus-wide ceremony April 11 in Portales. Dr. Steven Gamble, ENMU president presented ENMU-Ruidoso's physical plant manager John Burns and award for his outstanding service. The Spirit of Eastern Award is awarded to eight individuals annually chosen by their colleagues for a variety of reasons including sup-



Burns

porting ENMU's teaching-learning mission, campus community involvement, hard work and caring about the institution. Burns received a plaque and a \$500 cash award for his recognition. Michael Elrod, ENMU-Ruidoso Provost, stated that he is "extremely fortunate to have someone as dedicated as Mr. Burns working for the college. He keeps the campus running smoothly and does it with a warm friendly smile."

Mary Lee Lane, staff member in the Ruidoso campus distance education program; and Barbara Edwards, campus librarian, were also recognized for five years of continuous service to ENMU.

## HONORING HONOR STUDENTS



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Students take the oath of the National Honor Society upon being inducted into the Ruidoso High chapter of the NHS Monday at the Ruidoso Performing Arts Center. The 27 students were chosen after showing outstanding achievement in academics, community service and character. Those inducted were: Romy Gerlach, Jake Ordorica, Haley Williams, Tabitha Sportsman, Altera Seale-Barnett, Trevor Ketner, Britney Marshall, Victoria Ramirez, Raymond Rossiter, Jordan Frierson, Hannah Kashmar, Amber Gardner, Jane Allen, Jordan Farus, Samantha Bennett, Sarah Koehler, Schuyler Talsma, Cassandra Thompson, Brenda Piñon, Brittany Porter, Aerial Vance, Kristen Parsons, Douglas Thigpen, Trevor Eugene Dawson, Tomee Montoya, Jessica Ortiz and Miguel Aguirre.

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### Open house

The Sierra Blanca Christian Academy, located at 270 Country Club Dr., will be hosting an open house 1:20 p.m. Friday. The public is invited to tour the school and visit classrooms. Registration is now open for new students entering kindergarten through 6th grade for the 2007-08 school year. Classroom space is limited. For more information, call 630-0144.

### Optimist scholarships

The Ruidoso Optimist Club is taking scholarship applications from students throughout Lincoln County and Mescalero for four \$500 Optimist Club college scholarships until April 24. Applications are available at each high school counseling office.

Completed applications must be mailed to the Ruidoso Optimist Club, P.O. Box 4497, Ruidoso, NM 88345. Successful awardees are honored at lunch with the club between high school graduation in May and entry into college in early August.

The club also awards a fifth scholarship to a Lincoln County student of any age planning to attend or already attending ENMU-Ruidoso. Call Tracy Waters at 257-2120 for more information on this scholarship.

### Teacher of the Year

Nominations are being sought for the New Mexico History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The award is designed to promote and celebrate the teaching of American history in class-

rooms across the United States.

This year, only K-6 teachers are eligible for nomination, and selection of the state winner is based upon several criteria, including: experience in teaching American history for at least three years; a deep career commitment to teaching American history; evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom; and close attention to documents, artifacts, historic sites, and the other primary materials of history.

The state winner will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and will be in the running for the National History Teacher of the Year award to be selected this fall. His or her school library will receive a core archive of history books and materials.

The deadline is May 15. For more information, contact Denise Johnston, New Mexico Coordinator, at (505) 467-

2551 or [djohnston@sfps.info](mailto:djohnston@sfps.info).

### Summer registration

Summer and Fall semester registration at Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso begins Monday. Summer classes commence June 4, while the Fall semester starts Aug. 20. Summer schedules are available at the campus or online at [www.ruidoso.enmu.edu](http://www.ruidoso.enmu.edu). Students can also register at 709 Mechem Dr. or by phone at 1-800-934-3668.

### ENMU-Ruidoso classes

Several special short-term classes begin this month at ENMU-Ruidoso Community College, with several more on the horizon for those seeking some self-enrichment and learning

opportunities. Early registration is encouraged. Classes offered are:

- Jujitsu, May 1-28, Tuesdays and Fridays
- Alcohol Server Education, May 14
- Photography for seniors, May 24 and 31
- AARP drivers safety, May 4 and 5
- Basic fly casting, May 21, 23 and 25
- Beginning dog obedience, May 12-June 16, Saturdays
- Introduction to MS Office 2007, May 2

Registration for these and other classes can take place by telephone, mail, FAX, or in person at the ENMU Customized Training office located in the Lincoln County Works Center, 707 Mechem Dr. For more information, call Coda Omness or Fred Reed at 630-8181 or 1-800-854-4712.

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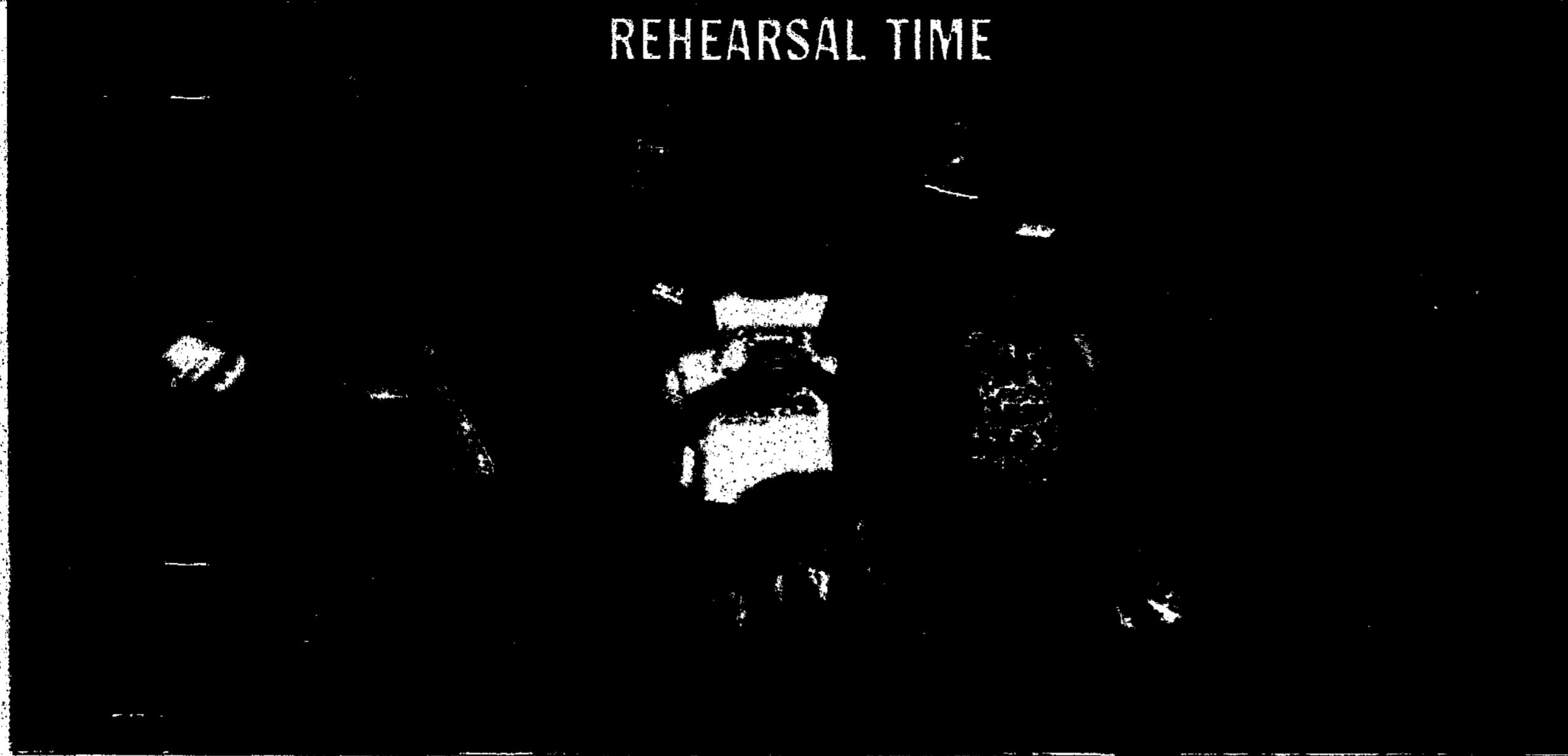
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## REHEARSAL TIME



SANDY KASHMAR/STAFF

**Preparing** for their upcoming murder mystery production, *The Murderous Mansion of Mr. Uno*, Ruidoso High School Advanced Drama students listen as director Cathi McIntosh gives notes. Pictured are (l-r): Cody Jones, JJ Wood, Josie Parsons, Connor Reveley, Curtis Hobby and Ericka Olivera. The play features audience participation in choosing one of several possible endings, with showtime at 7 p.m. on April 27 and 28 at the Ruidoso Schools Performing Arts Center.

## Lodgers Tax Committee erases red ink from budget proposal

■ Village's advertising firm would get far less under recommendation

TODD FUQUA  
todd@ruidosonews.com

Things got brutal Friday in the final meeting of the Lodgers Tax Committee, as it gathered in Village Hall to hammer out its final recommended budget to go before the full Village Council.

According to figures provided by Steve Tally, Director of Tourism for the village, the total revenue expected for the 2007-08 fiscal year stood at \$950,000, a figure he stated was "very conservative."

Even with that money, and funds expected to carry over from this year's budget, the committee came into the meeting with an expected \$115,580 shortfall.

### Shortfall grows

That shortfall got even larger once Tally realized he hadn't figured in locked-in expenditures such as village costs and police overtime for security at special events. With that figured in, the budget shortfall was more than \$350,000.

It was a realization shocking enough to prompt committee chairwoman Cindi Clayton-Davis to joke that maybe they should hold a bake sale.

But the only way to make up that shortfall was to start cutting back on proposals within the budget, and that's when things started getting difficult.

The biggest cut was in fund-

ing for TKO Advertising, the village's official promoter. The firm had won the contract with a \$350,000 yearly bid, and had requested \$448,868 for this year.

Committee member Brad Cooper suggested that figure be dropped all the way down to \$300,000, and Clayton-Davis was concerned that a budget pared down that much would prompt TKO to reduce the amount of advertising, rather than the fees they charge.

"If we cut it that far, most lodgers will see that in a million-dollar budget, only about \$240,000 is going to hard media," Clayton-Davis said.

In the end, the figure was bumped up to \$335,000 – a bit more than before, but still less than the \$350,000 TKO had originally bid for when it won the advertising contract a year ago.

Even dropping that contract by so much, the budget was still \$147,000 in the red, prompting the committee to start saving nickels and dimes anywhere it could.

Tally, working with Village Financial Director Elaine Beltran, was able to re-calculate the carryover figure from this year's budget, showing \$77,954 and further dropping the difference.

In the end, the budget was finally approved with a zero difference between revenues and expenditures, all totaling \$1.15 million, but that figure is subject to adjustment by Village Council, which has final approval.

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STORY SO FAR: After an unpleasant encounter in the fog, Ben meets his foster father's niece, Rachel Brennan. But before he can enjoy the thought of making friends with her, she adds a warning of her own.

### CHAPTER FIVE A Horse Race Isn't a Horse Race . . . *a breakfast serials story*

It was a good thing the kitchen was huge, because besides the usual appliances and counters and so on, it contained an enormous table that could easily seat twelve people. In fact, many of the seats were already occupied when Ben entered, by the same bunch of people who had so noisily arrived at dinner, and newspapers were opened over much of the surface. One guy had his laptop open and plugged into a phone jack, and he was scrolling through pages of numbers. The quiet was intense, broken only by the rustling of paper, the clicking keyboard, and the sounds of coffee slurps and bacon hissing and popping in a skillet.

The scent of bacon brought back a swift, sharp memory: Ben's father making Sunday breakfast, saying Let's you and me go down to Chinatown this afternoon, Ben. Ben cleared the lump that formed in his throat.

"Good morning, Ben. Sit here," Mrs. Brennan said, making room for him by folding her newspaper back on itself to reveal a placemat, napkin, and place setting. She had a slight Southern accent; he'd heard her mention relatives in Kentucky the night before. "Do you want coffee? Juice? What'll you eat? Sit, sit. Bacon?"

"No! No, thanks. Just cereal's okay," Ben said quickly, sliding into the chair and unfolding the napkin. He noticed sunlight was streaming in through the kitchen windows: apparently that chilling fog was just at the front of the house.

Gathering a bowl, cereal, and milk, Mrs. Brennan hustled around, asking Ben if he'd slept well and if he'd been comfortable, and filled him in on the weather report. Ben answered her questions as he filled his bowl. She began fussing with the bacon on the stove, and Ben took a dripping spoonful of cereal. Beside him, Mrs. Brennan's newspaper displayed mysterious headlines: Whatchamacallit Rallies at Belmont, Imsohappy Upsets Rialto, Penny's Promise Mows Them Down on the Turf.

"The racing form, sweetie," Mrs. Brennan said, noticing his puzzled look. She nodded toward her houseguests, who, frowning in concentration, were studying columns of figures and taking notes. "Saturday's a big day at the track."

"Is one of your horses in a race?" Ben asked, wiping milk off his chin with the back of his hand.

"Not today. But there's still money to be made."

Ben grinned. "I get it. They're picking

### A Breakfast Serials Story



who to bet on, right?"

"Sweetie, a horse race isn't a horse race without a little wager," Mrs. Brennan replied, sitting down with a fresh cup of coffee. She made a sheepish face. "Lawd, I hope you don't disapprove of us. You don't think you've been thrown into a nest of depraved gamblers, do you?"

Ben felt a surge of affection for her. "No way! Well, I think pumping quarters into a slot machine is pretty dumb, but I watched a horse race on TV once and it was really exciting. I guess it's even more exciting if you figured out which horse was going to win ahead of time."

"Amen to that, kid," said Leo, walking in the back door. "How's the Pick Six coming along?" he asked the gang at the other end of the table.

"Coming along, coming along," one of the men mumbled, chewing hard on the end of his pen.

Mrs. Brennan took a big slug of her coffee and sighed. "Anyway, some people say the biggest gamble of all in horse racing is buying the horse to begin with. We don't have to bet on the races to lose money."

The wistfulness in her voice made Ben look away, and he scraped the soggy flakes out of the bottom of his bowl. He liked Mrs. Brennan, but he had a feeling she had just revealed more than she should have about their financial state.

"Umm, I met your niece," he said, just

for something to say. Then, to his horror, he began to blush.

Fortunately, Mrs. Brennan had turned her attention back to the racing news, and wasn't looking at him. She merely said, "Hmm," and took another sip of coffee.

"Rachel, yes."

"I guess she's in college . . . ?"

"Cornell. She wants to be a big-animal vet."

Ben silently formed the word wow to his cereal bowl. Cornell. Vet. Not only was she pretty and confident, she must be incredibly smart.

"I'm sorry," Mrs. Brennan said. She put her newspaper aside and turned toward him, smiling warmly. "Where are my manners? I should pay less attention to other trainers' horses and more attention to you. What would you like to do today?"

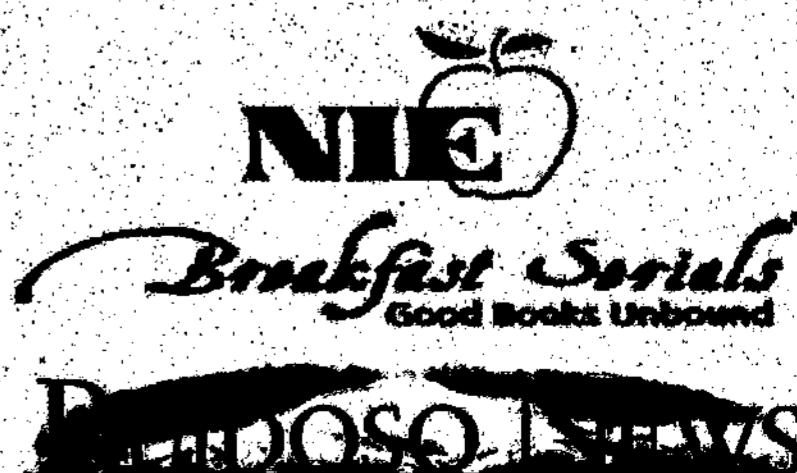
Mrs. Langton's face came to Ben's mind, and all her words of caution and warning and advice. He shrugged. "I'm not a guest. I can work. I mean, I don't really have anything to do. It's not like school has started yet."

"And you don't have any friends here yet, either, you don't have to say it," Mrs. Brennan added. "We can always use an extra pair of hands around here, but we're not going to put you to work on your first day, that's for darn sure. Tell you what, you give me an hour to get through breakfast and chores and then we'll find Rachel and we'll go do something fun for the morning. Deal?"

"Deal." Ben poured himself another bowl of corn flakes and sloshed on the milk. A morning with Rachel. Starting in an hour. Deal!

(To be continued.)

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# Hospital expansion plans quadruple space for physical therapy

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

The architect designing a third-phase concept of expansion at the Lincoln County Medical Center in Ruidoso showed off plans Tuesday that would more than quadruple space for physical therapy.

Gregory Holman of ASA Architects Studio, which has offices in three New Mexico cities and El Paso, Texas, told county commissioners that the department would grow from 1,500 square feet to 7,000 square feet, and the 9,829-square-foot building also would accommodate The Heritage counseling program for senior citizens.

James Gibson, administrator of the county-owned hospital, said every foot that could be squeezed out of the lot was used, while still meeting setbacks and providing parking.

The project cost is estimated at about \$3.2 million, which already was set aside by reserving each year a portion of the revenue generated from a spe-

cial property tax levy designated for the hospital, County Manager Tom Stewart said.

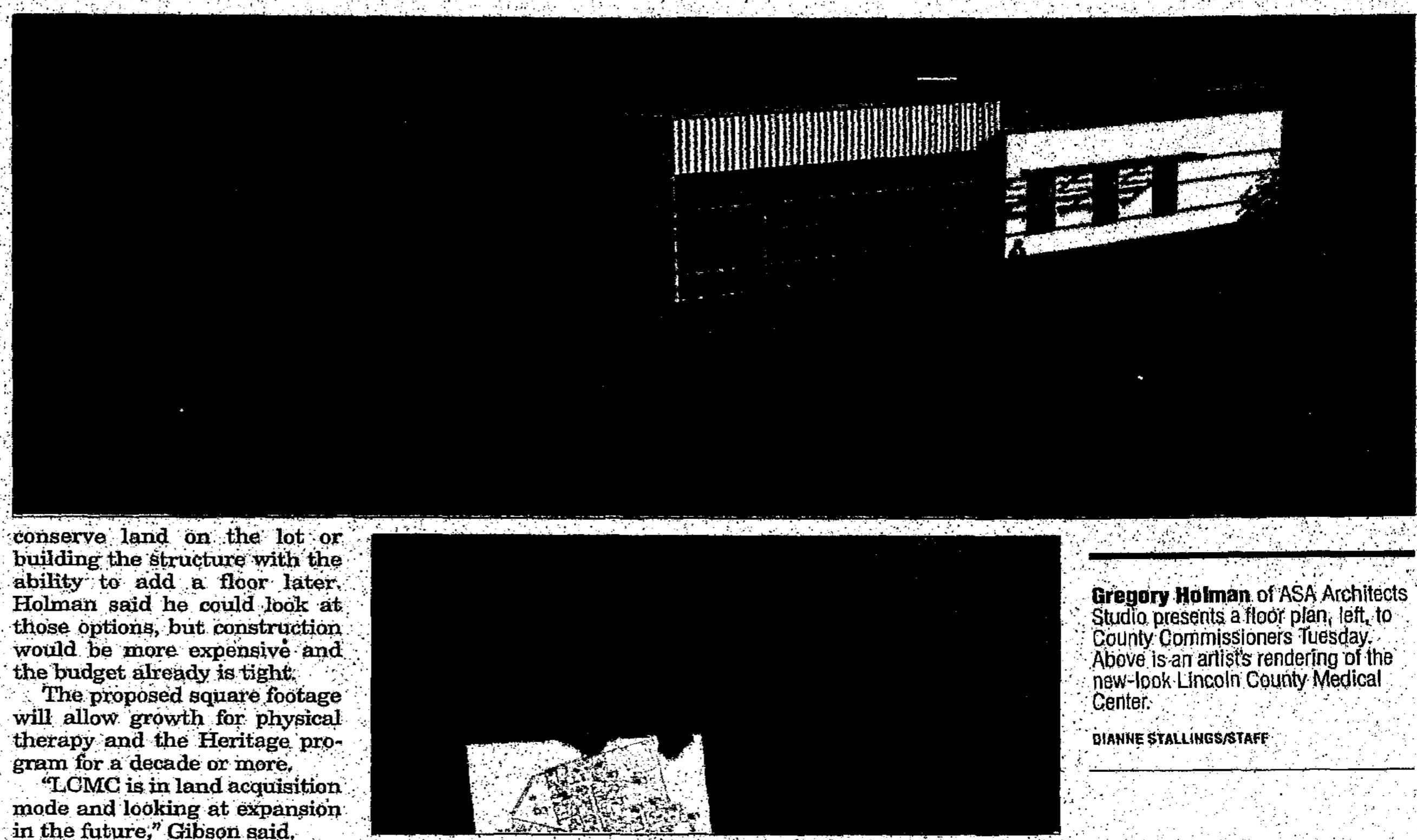
The building will face north with its entrance on the east, Gibson said. It will sit next to the emergency room parking lot and will include a swimming pool for therapy. Presbyterian Healthcare Services, which leases and manages the hospital, county health clinics and ambulances for the county and city, owns property out to the corner of the intended site.

"They are committed to donating it to the county and I initiated that," Gibson said. "We hope to start construction in the fall, if we move forward now and develop the specifications."

Commissioners indicated their concurrence with the concept. Holman will return with specifications to go out for bid.

Gibson said an existing professional building on the land will be moved and an old rock structure will be demolished.

County resident Duane Williams asked about either building a second floor now to



conserve land on the lot or building the structure with the ability to add a floor later. Holman said he could look at those options, but construction would be more expensive and the budget already is tight.

The proposed square footage will allow growth for physical therapy and the Heritage program for a decade or more.

"LCMC is in land acquisition mode and looking at expansion in the future," Gibson said.

**Gregory Holman** of ASA Architects Studio presents a floor plan, left, to County Commissioners Tuesday. Above is an artist's rendering of the new-look Lincoln County Medical Center.

DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

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## LEVY

FROM PAGE 1A

help from the mill levy, which would allow The Rose Clinic in Capitan and the clinic at the Hondo School District complex to be added, if the county acquired them.

Commissioner Dave Parks and Commission Chairman Tom Battin voiced their opinion that if people countywide pay the special property tax levy for the hospital and clinics, they should benefit from that contribution, such as access to a clinic.

Gibson told commissioners that unless something catastrophic interferes, such as running out of water, growth in the area will continue to be explosive, and that population will be older, on Medicare and in more need of the hospital.

"We were doing \$20 million gross when I arrived and it's \$50 million today," he said. "It's all from volume, very little in price increases. We're going to

need a massive injection of capital in the next 15 years."

Battin, who formerly served on the hospital board, said that although 4.25 mills was authorized by voters in a previous election about 14 years ago, the full amount never was levied.

Parks said Ruidoso officials are accused of failure to plan ahead with a wastewater treatment plant and the school district always is scrambling.

"I want to look ahead," he said.

Gibson said while he urged hospital board members to put aside money from the mill levy each year and spend \$20 million or more all at one time for a complete hospital reconstruction, they preferred the politically more palatable approach of smaller projects every few years.

County Clerk Tammie Maddox said if the commission concurs, she may try an election by mail, which is allowed under state statutes on a one-issue item with no individuals being elected to office.

Other county clerks report

great success with the approach, she said. Every registered county voter automatically would be mailed a ballot under the address listed on their registration forms, she said.

The ballots are mailed back and counted on the election day. Early voting would be conducted at her office in the courthouse in Carrizozo, but she would not plan on early voting in Ruidoso unless the commission wanted to see the cost of the election increase by about \$15,000, she said.

"It costs about \$10,000 just to man one site for regular early voting," Maddox said.

Gibson said the turnout for the mill question in 2000 wasn't bad despite a snowstorm, but was connected to the Presidential election.

"This would stand alone," he said, adding that the LCMC board would support a mail election, because of the county-wide significance of the issue.

"When it comes to paying more taxes, I would think everyone would be interested," Lovelace said.

Commissioner Eileen Lovelace said.

Maddox said some counties report an 80 percent ballot return participation, but Commissioner Jackie Powell was worried with home delivery being dropped in areas in favor of people renting post office boxes, some ballots wouldn't arrive at the right place.

Maddox said with 2,200 "inactive" voters out of more than 13,000 registered, the approach could clear up some out-of-date addresses, people who have moved out of the county and other issues with the list.

People might be motivated to come to her office and update information, she said.

Lovelace said she includes a post office box and physical address on everything to cover herself.

Decisions on the mill levy, the election and, possibly, the future inclusion of clinics at Hondo and Capitan will be considered by commissioners next month.

and unfeathered nestlings would perish.

A hummingbird's brain is 4.2 percent of its total body weight and they proportionally have the largest hearts of any living animal. Its eyes are large, immobile and typically outweigh the brain. The resting heartbeat is 480 beats per minute, but it can increase to 1,260 per second when a bird is excited.

Besides flower nectar, tree sap and human-provided sugar water for energy, hummingbirds eat flies, ants, small beetles, tiny wasps and other small insects for protein.

According to Web sites on the species, they have more feathers per square inch than any other bird, but no down feathers.

The life expectancy of a hummingbird is five to 10 years in the wild. Predation accounts for most of the nest mortality, although the mothers will fiercely attack much larger creatures to defend their young. Predators include hawks, crows, jays, chipmunks, snakes and yellowjackets. Accidents, high winds, cold, heavy rains, and heat account for the remainder of fledgling deaths.

Adults can fall prey to a longer list of predators and conditions, including kestrels, large frogs, large fishes, tropical spiders, cats, praying mantis, spider webs, windows, a bad sugar mix and storms that injure or affect growth.

## HUMMER

FROM PAGE 1A

Small hummingbirds beat their wings 38 to 78 times a second, larger types 18 to 28 times a second, according to information from several Web sites devoted to the tiny bird. They often are detected before seeing them, because of their rapid chirping or clicking sound.

Experts warn not to put out juice or honey, because those foods can cause problems with fungus. Feeding anything low in calories also could interfere with the bird's ability to maintain its energy. They eat every

15 to 20 minutes, but become more frantic for food at dawn and dusk, after a night of fasting or preparing for the night. Hummingbirds roost with their necks pulled down, heads out and bills pointed up in the air.

To keep ants out of the feeder, smear some Vaseline on the path to the hanger.

The smallest of North American birds, hummers are designed with long slender bills to reach deep into tubular flowers.

Both genders are fearless, but a male shows off during mating with a courting flight in which he heads straight up toward the clouds, then dives earthward swerving inches away from his intended mate's head as he pulls up again. Mating lasts three to five seconds. Females usually lay two small white eggs and tend them alone. Baby hummers hatch in

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# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007

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PAGE 1B

## Capitan loses tough twinbill to Lordsburg

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurred@ruidosonews.com

The Tigers had opportunities to beat the Lordsburg Mavericks in both ends of a doubleheader Saturday, but just couldn't score the runs they needed when they had to. The first contest was a nice pitcher's duel ending with the Tigers on the losing end, 5-2, and the second game was a slugfest with Lordsburg again coming out on top, 18-14.

The Mavericks came out of the gate in the first inning, scoring two runs on a single and a home run off tiger's hurler, Paedon Herrera, that barely cleared the right field wall.

The score remained 2-0, until the Capitan third when the Tigers put a run up on a flyball error in leftfield, a right-field double by Nick McCullough and a fielder's choice on Mitchell Harper.

The Mavericks made it 3-1 in the fifth inning on a single, a balk, a walk and a fielder's choice and added another run in the sixth on a home run over the centerfield wall.

Capitan came back in the bottom of that inning on a walk to McCullough and a crushing double to right-center delivered by Harper.

Lordsburg had the bases loaded in the seventh with no outs, but the Tigers stepped it up a notch and got three



Nick McCullough singles to right in second game.



Paedon Herrera hurls good game for the Tigers.

straight outs to end the inning.

The last inning was do-or-die for the Tigers and for a while it looked as if they were going to pull off a win when Capitan loaded the bases on three walks.

Lordsburg narrowly escaped disaster though, getting two strike-outs and an easy ground-out, third to first.

Even though the Mavericks won the opener by three runs, Paedon Herrera and the Capitan nine kept the game close enough to win but just couldn't put the runs across when they had the chance.

"We have a young team with a lot of talent, more than able to

get men on base, but as a young squad the boys need to learn to pounce on the opportunities when they are presented,"

Tigers coach James Weems stated. "That will come as they gain experience — it will have to. Also, the two-week layoff we had didn't help matters either."

Will Kern, the stalwart Tigers' righthander took the rubber for Capitan in the second game and was immediately hit on his left thigh by a sharp ground ball.

He was eventually able to continue but the Mavericks put up two runs on three hits and took 2-0 lead in their first.

The Tigers came back in the bottom of the first with a run of

their own on a double to right center by Harper, followed with another two-bagger to centerfield by Kern.

Lordsburg had a good fourth inning when they able to come up with seven more runs but the Tigers didn't quit and made the score 10-9 on a home run to centerfield, with two on by Jeff Miles and then Kern helped his own cause out with a bases-loaded blast, also over the centerfield wall.

The two teams dueled back and forth and by the end of the fifth inning it was 13-11, Lordsburg, with the Tigers still in the hunt for a win.

The Mavericks kept the heat on and scored five big runs in

the top of the seventh on a three-run blast off Kern. McCullough was brought in to relieve and got out of the inning on three pitches.

With the score 18-11, the Tigers still had a chance to win in the last inning but could only manage three runs and left two men on the bases-paths.

On the positive side, however, Capitan had 14 hits to Lordsburg's 16, and although the Tigers only stranded five total runners, those runs could have made the difference in the contest. McCullough and Kern went 3-5 in the game and Kern had five RBIs.

"Lordsburg is always tough, and in fact they were last year's district winner," Weems said. "But the kids were excited because they now know they can play with the best. For a first-year team, I feel we've made great strides and I know better things are yet to come."

### Tigers JV

The Capitan JV ended their season Thursday, with a nice doubleheader win over Socorro, giving them a very repeatable 6-3 season record. The Tigers blasted their way to a 15-8 win in the opener and took the second contest, 10-6.

Young eighth-grader, Rudy Chavez smacked a three-run

See CAPITAN page 2B

## side line

### Prep Results

**Friday, April 13**  
Track and Field  
Ruidoso Invitational cancelled due to snow.

**Saturday, April 14**  
Baseball  
Lordsburg 5, Capitan 2  
Lordsburg 18, Capitan 14

**Monday, April 16**  
Track and Field  
Carrizozo wins Grizzly Relays

### Preps on Tap

**SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Thursday, April 19**  
Tennis  
Ruidoso at Artesia, 3 p.m.  
Girls Softball  
Ruidoso at Lovington

**Friday, April 20**  
Track and Field  
Capitan at Tularosa  
RHS at Artesia  
Girls Softball  
Capitan at Lordsburg

**Saturday, April 21**  
Baseball  
Dexter at Ruidoso  
Capitan at Eunice

### On Deck

**Golf**  
The Ruidoso Junior Golf Association in partner with the Ruidoso Golf Teams will be hosting a final scramble at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Golf course, April 22. The event will begin at 1 p.m. For more information call Cree Meadows at 257-5815 or Inn of the Mountain Gods golf shop at 464-7941.

### Senior Olympics

Minimum age is 50 as of Aug. 1. All doubles, mixed doubles and teams will play down to age of youngest partner. \$5 registration fee entitles you to participate in all events offered. Must compete locally to qualify for state & national games. Competition by gender in 5-year age groups. State registration: \$45. Deadline: May 25. Extra fee for bowling, golf, swimming and triathlon. Table tennis, April 19, 10:30 a.m. — White Mountain Complex. For info call Sandee Jourden: 257-4565.

### Town Hall Meeting

The Booster/Activity Club committee will report their findings to the Ruidoso School Board, April 19, 6 p.m., at the Central Office of the Ruidoso Municipal School District.

### Optimist Golf Scramble

The Ruidoso Optimist Club will sponsor the 14th annual Sierra Blanca Benefit Golf Scramble Friday May 4, 10:00 a.m. at the Kokopelli Country Club. The entry fee will be \$75 per golfer and includes lunch. Mulligans will be sold at the time of registration. Hole-in-one prizes including a car are also available. Register early and receive \$10 off the entry fee. Prizes will be offered for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Individuals are also welcome. The Kokopelli Club Pro will pair players. All proceeds will benefit Optimist Club children and youth projects throughout the region.

This year's scramble will have a larger-than-usual field with the Ruidoso Optimist Club hosting the New Mexico Optimist District Convention May 4-6. It is expected that many convention attendees will be arriving early to participate in the Sierra Blanca Scramble.

For more information or to register early, contact Tom McElroy at (915) 588-2487, Robin at 937-0731 or Ray at 808-1357.

## A track meet that almost happened

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurred@ruidosonews.com

The Ruidoso Invitational Track Meet started mostly on schedule and continued for about three hours until continuous snow showers forced a disappointing cancellation at 4:15 p.m.

Five of the mens events and four of the women's were completed out of 19 scheduled but it was judged unsafe to continue any longer and so the entire meet was called off. Because of conflicting schedules with most of the teams involved, it will not be rescheduled.

"This was only the second time since 1985 that Ruidoso has had to cancel this meet, and needless to say, we were all very disappointed," Warrior track coach Ronnie Maskew said. "Our teams had prepared very well and we were optimistic about our chances here. In addition, all of the volunteers who showed up to make this thing work were also disappointed."

In the events that had been completed, Lauren Sportsman placed first in the pole vault, Alex Ramirez was on top in the girls javelin throw and Lance Dettmer had top spot in the triple jump and shot put. This together with Brendon Bush battles the elements.

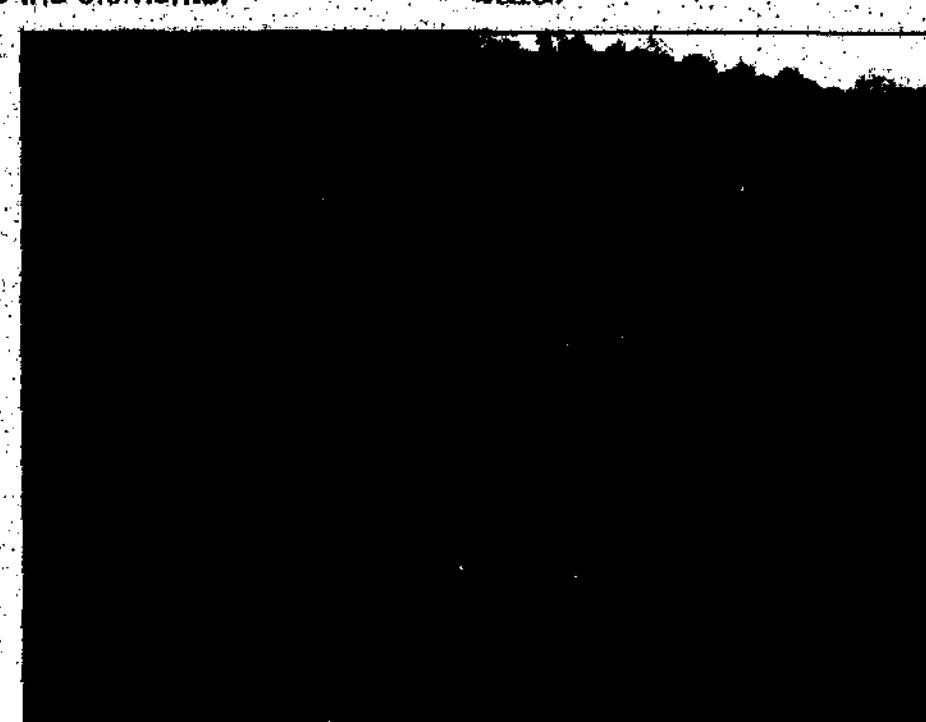


MIKE CURRAN/STAFF

The loneliness for distance runners in the snow.



MIKE CURRAN/STAFF



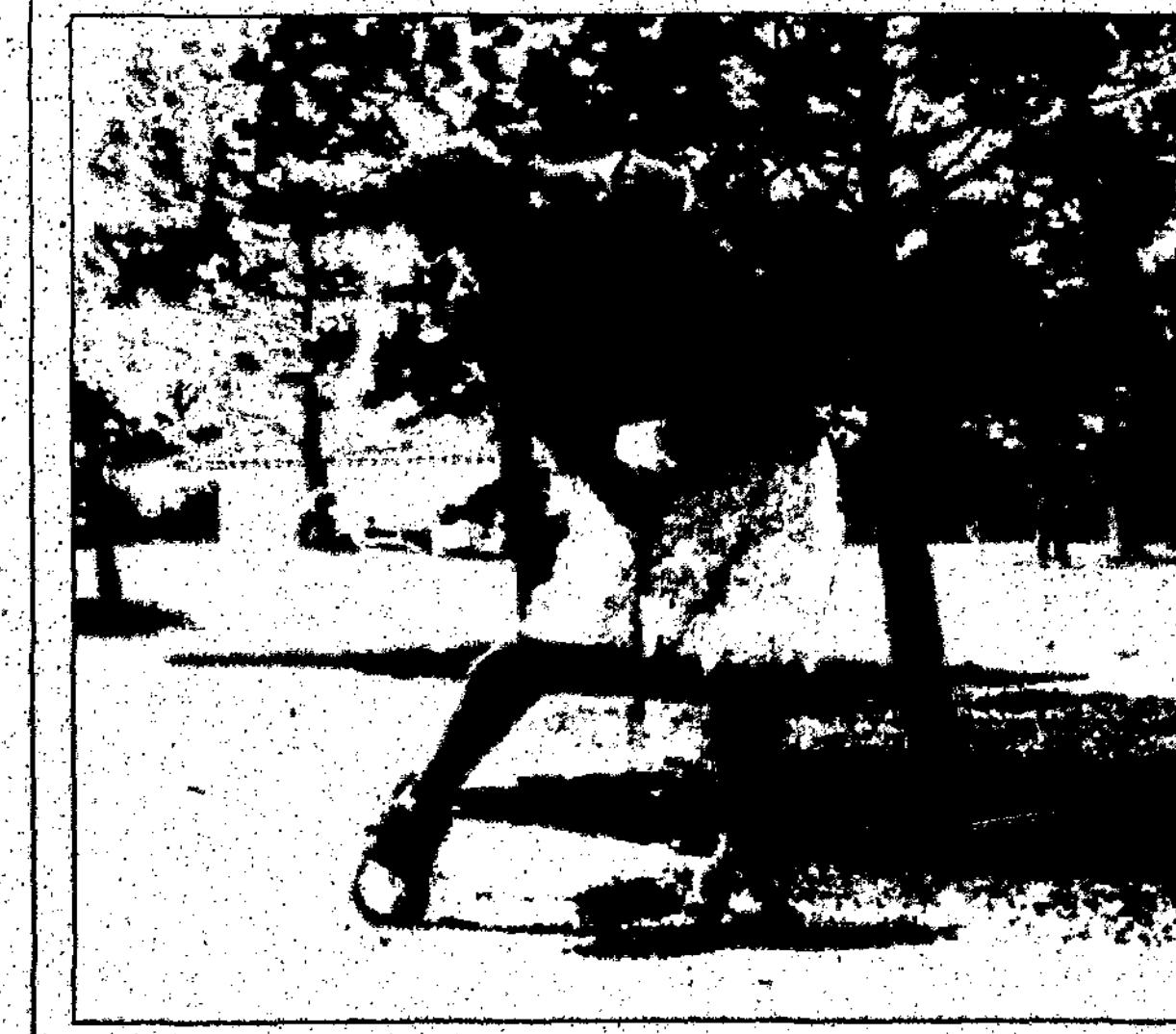
MIKE CURRAN/STAFF



MIKE CURRAN/STAFF

RHS nurse Suzanne Dennehey and Warrior track coach Ronnie Maskew.

### RUIDOSO GOLF TEAM LOOKS GOOD



MIKE CURRAN/STAFF

Daniel Lucero lets loose with a tremendous drive from No. 1 tee at Alto Tuesday. This was opening day for the Leroy Gooch Invitational. See full results in Friday's Ruidoso News.

## Carrizozo wins Grizzly Relays

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Inclement weather postponed the original start of the Grizzly Invitational Relays from Friday to Monday, and the event finally saw a successful conclusion with host Carrizozo taking first place.

Capitan and Cloudcroft tied for second place.

The Grizzlies won going away with a total of 135 points and outdistanced the other eight teams in attendance.

As the Ruidoso Invitational track meet was cancelled and not rescheduled because of conflicting commitments, the Carrizozo meet was able to run theirs three days later.

"The weather here Friday was really nasty, complete with snow, ice and just plain cold," Grizzlies track coach Brad Holland said. "For the safety of all involved, and since we were able to reschedule it, we thought the delay was in the

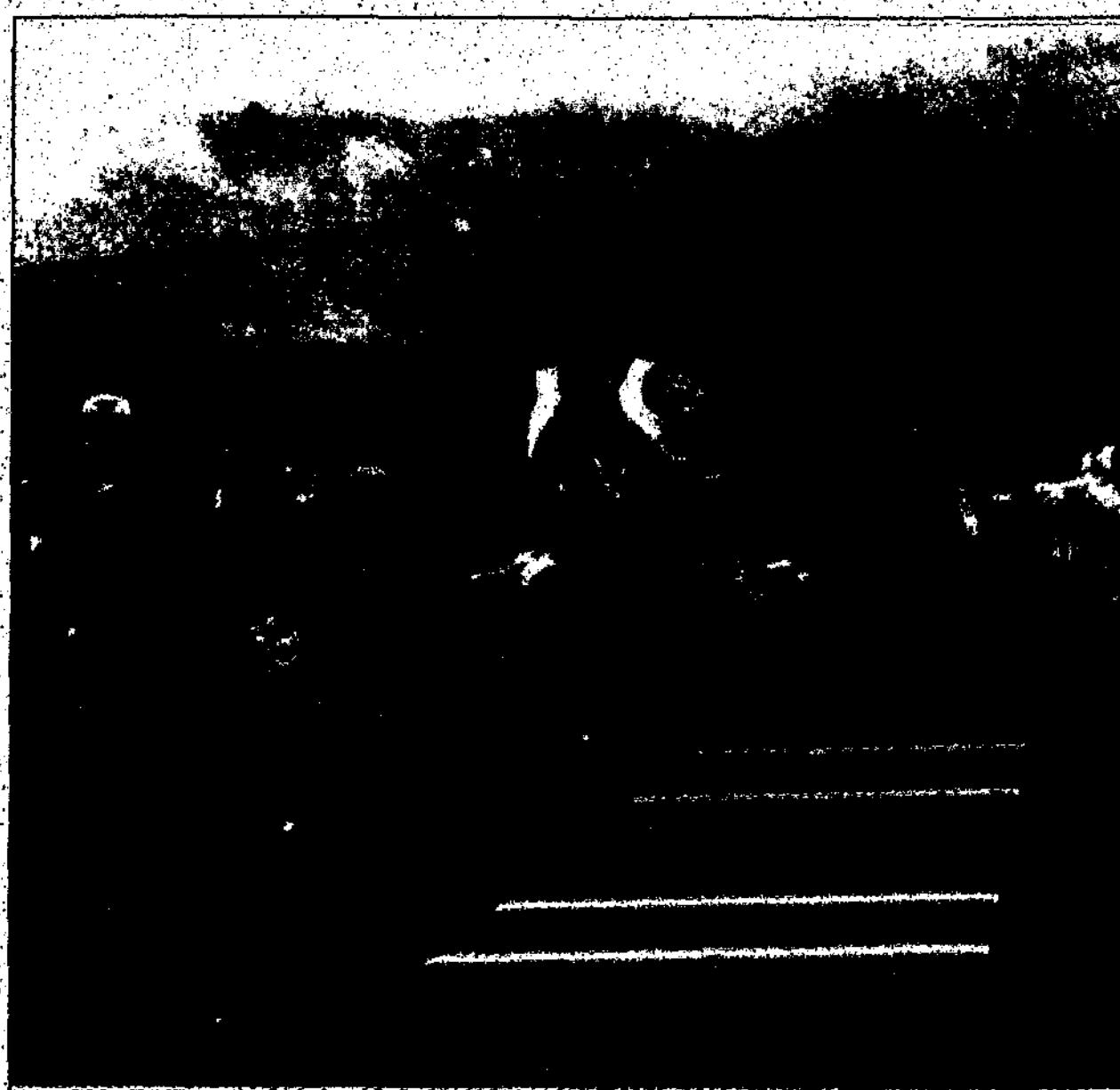
best interest of everybody concerned."

A few of the 'Zozo winners were sophomore Carl Lueras, who won the shot put with a throw of 49 feet 7 and a half inches, and Kaitly Vega, who took top spot in discus with a toss of 106 feet eleven inches. Vega also had a personal best in the shot put with a mark of 33 feet 3 inches.

The Carrizozo mile relay team of sophomores Troy Koroscil, Jeremy Zamora, Mark LeBlanc and senior Eric Koroscil won handily.

"Really, everybody on the teams did their part to put us up in first place," Holland maintained. "All the kids ran hard and typify the hearty nature of the 'Zozo community. We have a young team as things go and expect to do well from here on out."

Next up for the Grizzlies is the William Slade Relays in Tularosa, April 20.



Alexa Borowski gives great effort for Carrizozo in the long jump.

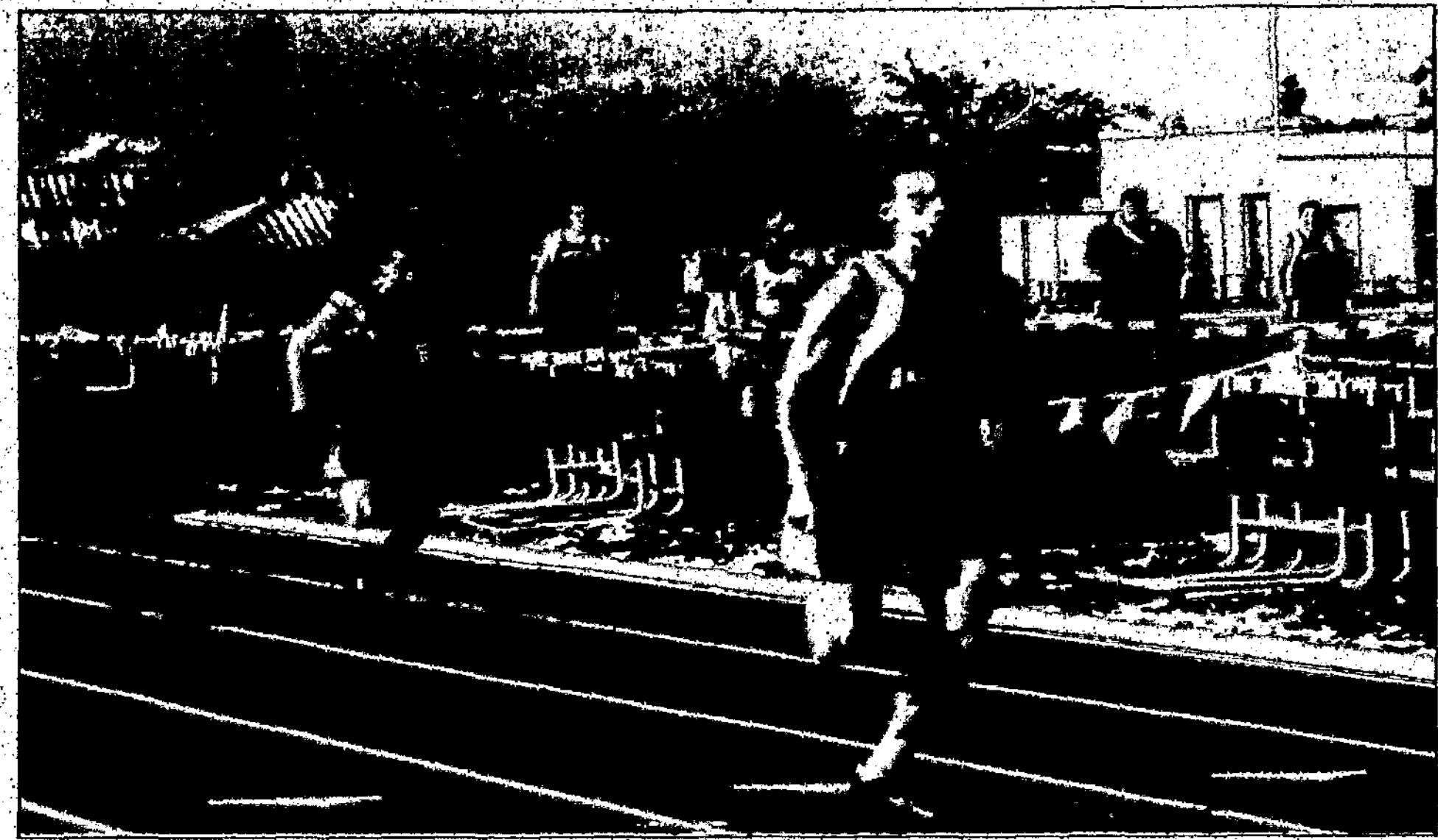


D. Hicks of Mescalero gives a mighty spin in the discus throw.



Brittany Caughron of Capitan goes up and over in the pole vault.

JULIE CARTER/STAFF



Eric Koroscil out in front in the 400 relay.

JULIE CARTER/STAFF

## CAPITAN

FROM PAGE 1B

homer over the left field wall and helped his squad to a four-run victory in their last game of the year.

On this year's team were four eighth-graders and five freshmen — and four of the ninth-graders had never played baseball before.

"Even though some of our players had never participated in this sport their athleticism really helped them immensely,"

JV coach Jason Hightower offered. "Judging from the quality of their play this season, the future looks bright for the varsity baseball team."

The Tigers split twice with Gateway and Ruidoso once, but beat Dexter and Socorro two times each.

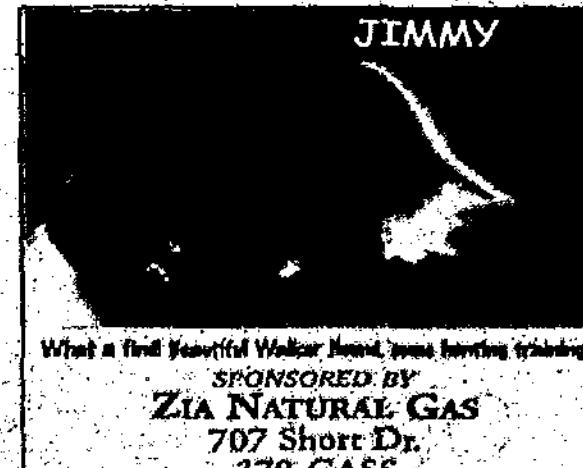
"Some of the kids, like Jonathon Scott, struggled in the beginning but soon found their way," Hightower maintained. "Scott went 2-3 at Socorro and played a superb left field."

This could portend great things for the future Tigers.

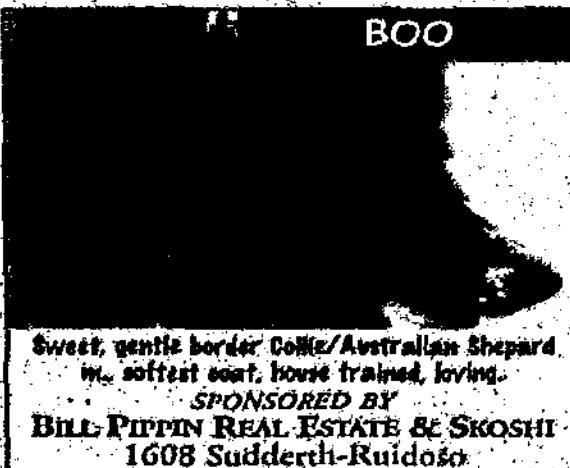


MIKE CURRAN/STAFF

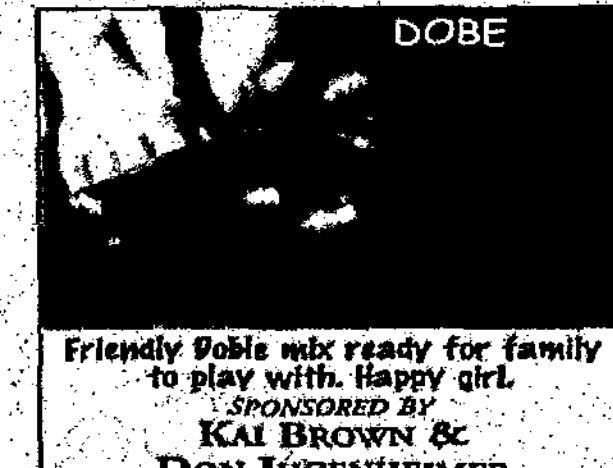
## ADOPT-A-PET



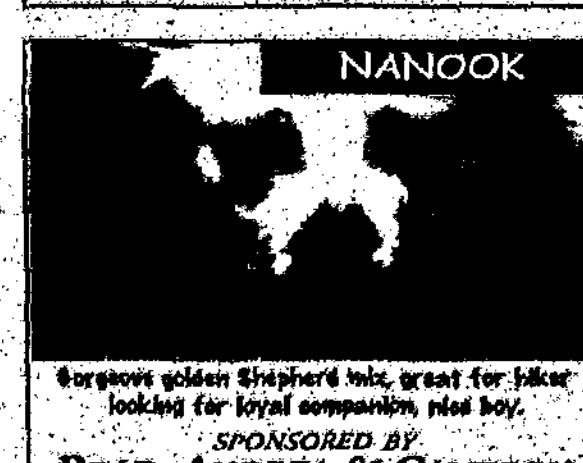
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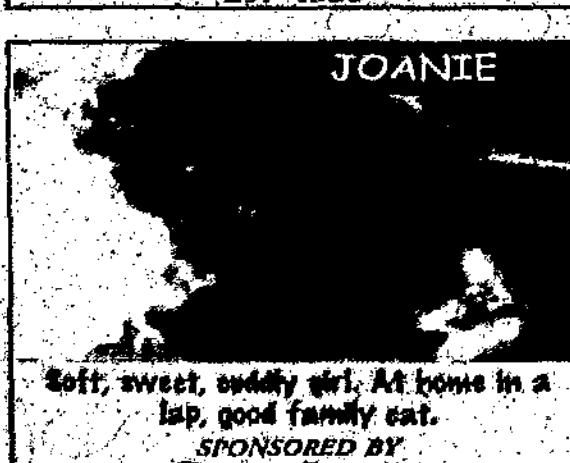
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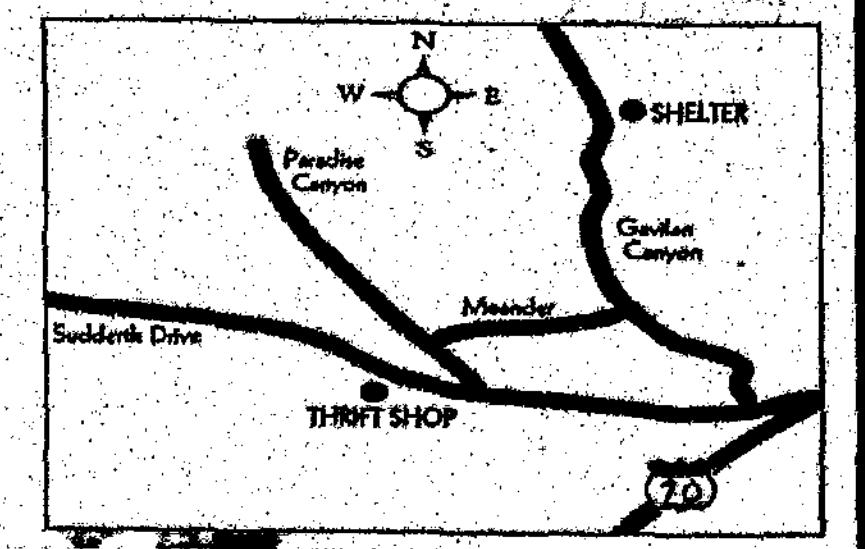
**My little dog –  
a heartbeat  
at my feet.**  
—EDITH WHARTON



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Thanks to you, the following pets were adopted last week: Puddles, Noel, Bunkie, Won, Mystery, Cookie, Hemingway, Chick, Chiquita.

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# LINCOLN COUNTY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007

CALL US: JULIE CARTER, COUNTY REPORTER • 257-4001 • JCARTER@RUIDOSONEWS.COM

PAGE 3B

## Nellie was a good old gal

**O**n every ranch, you will find at least one cow that isn't for sale.

There is always a story behind the reason that old sister isn't for sale and usually the story has the wife or a kid "reason" behind it. But, there are crusty old men who also have their favorites. These cows don't make "dollars and sense"—they stay because we want them to.

Today Nellie died. She was not a pet. She was not the milky cow. She did however have her own story why she was never sold.

I bought Nellie and Sally in 1991. I was starting out on my own in the cattle business as a single woman rancher. I was raised on a ranch so I knew all about the "cow buying rule." When you contract to buy a bunch of cattle—you know and the seller knows that there is always going to be at least one "cull" thrown in for good measure.

I was a little insulted to arrive and find at least half of the contracted numbers were "culls." I am not even going to suggest this fellow thought a single woman rancher on her first purchase was too dumb to realize that some of these sisters were wide in the nose and short in



Welda McKinley Grider



Nellie and Sally

the teeth department.

I did (much to the ire of the seller) do my own culling process but these two old girls with the awesome set of horns caught my interest. I gave them the gate on the first pass; however, I kept looking at them and then gave them a second look. They were so wide across the nose that a normal school ruler wouldn't have measured it, but they had good teeth, were of good flesh, had a calf next to them and bred back.

The going price in late 1991 for young pairs or young bred cows was \$750. Young didn't even come into question here.

The seller never weakened. I wanted the horns. Sorry but that is the story. I wasn't being entirely ignorant here; they did have one by their side and one in the belly.

They did have a couple of good years on them. I decided I would pay the \$750 and hope they "dollarized out" but knew within reason they probably wouldn't.

Nellie and Sally normally looked rough year in and year out. I think we only had one year that wasn't a drought but they looked the same. Pretty cows they are not.

They are rangy, ugly in face and skinny of body. They had bags about the size of a glove. But their calves were always fat and saucy.

None of them inherited their mothers' set of horns. For three winters in a row we kept them in the horse pasture because they probably would not last the winter. Every winter, they not only lived

but we sold great looking calves off them.

They always ran together, could always be found at the back of the pasture or on the top of the furthest hill, but they were the first to make it to the feed truck.

We used them for years with our weaned calves. They were not the "mothering" types, but they were the best at settling down the nerves of freshly weaned calves.

Two years ago, during a cattle work, I noticed Nellie "down." I taunted her up. She seemed to be fine. Next time I turned around, she was down again. This process continued until I noticed every time a bull came around—she just laid down.

We laughed ourselves silly. She had apparently figured out what caused babies and decided at more than 20 years old—she was too old to have another calf.

Again this winter, we brought Nellie and Sally to the trap. Again they both looked like heck but Sally gave birth to another fine looking calf and again we thought the two sisters had made another year.

Two days ago, Nellie didn't get up. I took her hay and water. She shook her horns at me and didn't eat or drink. Her time was up and she knew it. I rubbed her old head and thanked her for the years and calves. She shook her horns at me. I've had Nellie for 15 years. She gave me 13 fine calves. I'd say the old gal more than paid her way. We'll either have her skull mounted or maybe just the set of horns, I don't know.

I am not sure the proper way to pay tribute to anything you've had that long. But Sally will look pretty lonesome out there by herself.

Welda McKinley Grider is a Lincoln County native, ranch wife, business owner and mother. She can be reached for comment at grider-ranch@hughes.net

## 'Zozo council schedules budget workshop

JULIE CARTER  
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Central Mountain RC&D Area was incorporated in 1967 and received non-profit status in 1992. The Council is made up of more than 25 local sponsors.

According to Taylor, Capitan was one of the original sponsors of the RC&D when it was incorporated in 1967. Major natural resource issues and concerns of the council are regional water planning, watershed restoration and forest health and conservation education.

Water quantity and quality issues are the council's highest priority. Community and economic development are additional issues addressed by the council.

Michelle Mladek's property was approved for re-plat, making two lots from five on Fifth Street.

Jo Townley was appointed to the Cemetery Board.

A previous special meeting April 4 included the appointment of a new Lodgers Tax Committee. New appointees are Zach Malott, Kathy Soliday and Debbie Roberts.

An executive session addressed the one-year evaluation for Village Clerk Kay Strickland and the six-month review for police officer Steven Dobbs. Dobbs was approved for full-time status with the completion of his six-month probationary period.

South Central Mountain RC&D serves Lincoln and Otero Counties and covers 7.3 million acres. The South

## Ruidoso radio DJ earns place in Western Swing Hall of Fame

MTD Radio's Joe Baker will be inducted into the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City in July.

Ruidoso's Backforty Bunkhouse radio show host on KNMB, 96.7 FM and KWMW, 105.1 FM, Baker will receive the honor in the category of Western Swing Music Promoter.

Baker will receive the honor along with Gloria Miers who produces the Texas Swing Weekend in Wichita Falls and Barbara Martin from Georgetown, Texas who produces a

western swing publication. Also inducted will be the late Donna Fowler who produced the Snyder, Texas western swing gathering.

Baker is quick to acknowledge the many people who have helped him support western swing music in the area. "I want to say thanks to the many supporters," said Baker, "including The Strathmann Family, Sunny Hirschfield, Tim Keithley, Will Rooney, Jean Stoddard, The Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium, Lynn Carter and the Ruidoso News."

Speeding, open container, failure to stop and following too close were also among the charges.

Penalty assessments totaled \$524.

Marilyn Quinnell at 354-6026.

## Capitan clean-up

The Capitan Lions Club is sponsoring a clean up of the highways and byways in Capitan, 8 a.m. – noon, April 21. Meet at the Old Fire Station. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Help the Lions Club spruce up Capitan for Smokey Days. For more information, call 258-1345.

## Capitan Lions rose sale

The Capitan Lions Club announces its second annual Mother's Day Rose Sale.

Sales will begin at the Capitan Clean-up April 21. Cost is \$20 for a dozen long-stem roses. Red is not guaranteed. See a Capitan Lion or call

Jenny at 937-2402 or Marcia at 354-2047.

## New Alpha Delta Kappa

Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary sorority for women in education, initiated two new Lincoln County members in March. At the Capitan home of Angie Provine, Donna Sisneros, of Tinnie, and Martha Sanchez, of Ruidoso, were welcomed into the sorority.

Sisneros has been a teacher for 14 years. She teaches special education, K-12, in Hondo. Sanchez, a teacher for 22 years, teaches first grade at Sierra Vista Primary School.

## Miracle's Paws meeting

Miracle's Paws for Pets will meet at

1 p.m. April 24 at the home of Suzi Wolfe, 402 Central Ave., next to the Carrizozo Police Station. The group is looking for people to join the group or become foster "parents." For more information call 648-2037.

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## FUNERALS DEATHS

## Court Franklin

Visitation for Court Franklin, 23, was Monday, April 16, at LaGrone Funeral Chapel in Ruidoso.

The funeral service was Tuesday, April 17, at the First Baptist Church in Ruidoso with burial following at the Ruidoso-Hondo Valley Cemetery.

Court passed away Friday, April 13, in Waco, Texas. He was born April 4, 1984 in Ft. Collins, Colo., and moved from there to Lincoln County in 1987.

During the summers and breaks in school, he would serve as a veterinary assistant for his dad at Franklin Veterinary Clinic.

He completed an internship with TAC Engineering Solutions of Dallas in the Summer of 2006 and had accepted a permanent position

with the firm's Austin offices to commence in July 2007.

Court received his high school diploma from Ruidoso High School May 2002. He will graduate posthumously from the Baylor College of Engineering on May 12, 2007 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

While attending Ruidoso High School, Court played varsity football, was on the wrestling and track teams.

He was an active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, First Baptist Church Youth Ministries, National Honor Society and FFA. He

participated in 4-H, showing steers and sheep at Junior Livestock Shows and Fairs, New Mexico. Junior Rodeo Association and Hi-Plains Rodeo.

He was an ACT Scholar, Who's Who among American High School Students, National Science Merit Award, Outstanding English Student Award, Outstanding Science Student Award, NMSU Alumni Association Honor Scholar, National Honor Society, football State Runner-up team member, first team All-District football team, North-South All Stars football nominee, All State Football Defensive End and Warrior Most Valuable Defensive Player.

He had received the Warrior Hardest Hitter Award, Rotary Scholarship, Hubbard Scholarship, Baylor University Presidents Scholarship, Baylor

University Engineering Scholarship.

At Baylor University he was a member of National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Chaplain and member of Beta Theta Pi Social Fraternity, and the Dean's List.

He received the Baylor University Presidential Scholarship, R.D. Hubbard Academic Scholarship, William J. and Adeline Grey Scholarship, Engineering and Computer Science Incentive Scholarship and Rotary Club Scholarship.

He played Rugby for Baylor one years and played on multiple intramural athletic teams and he loved to rodeo.

He is survived by his father, Warren Franklin; his mother, Celeste Bonds; his sister, Dusti Franklin; two brothers, Brand Franklin and Sky Franklin.

He is also survived by his grandparents, Wilma Neal, Charles and Linda Franklin and Clifford Franklin; great grandparents, Norman Williams and Virginia Anderson and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family has requested memorials to Cowboys for Christ, Cowboys for Cancer

Research or Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.lagroneruidoso.com](http://www.lagroneruidoso.com).

## Asusena Niederstadt

A memorial service for Asusena Niederstadt, 77, of Carrizozo will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Foursquare Church of Capitan. Mrs. Niederstadt passed away April 11, in Carrizozo. She was born October 15, 1928 at Peteca, N.M. She moved to Carrizozo 41 years ago from LaMedera, N.M. and was a retired bartender.

She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and attended Foursquare Church in Capitan.

She is survived by her children, Larry Niederstadt, Kathy Pitt, Gary Niederstadt, Henry Niederstadt, Charles Niederstadt, Faye Garcia, Richard Niederstadt, Thelma Niederstadt, and James Niederstadt;

She is also survived by a brother, Sam Giron; 35 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and many adopted children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Niederstadt, June 12, 1993.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.lagroneruidoso.com](http://www.lagroneruidoso.com).

## Lee Covington

A memorial service for Lee Covington, 67, of Alto will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 19, at First Christian Church in Ruidoso. Mr. Covington passed away Monday, April 9, in Ruidoso. He was born October 29, 1939 at Oklahoma City, Okla. and moved to Ruidoso in 1996 from Dallas, Texas.

He owned and operated Covington Barber shop since 1996 and loved to fish. He married Sharon Freeman on February 7, 1958 at El Reno, Okla.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; a son, William Anthony Covington; eight grandchildren, one great-grandson; three sisters, Patsy Miller, Delores Keller, and Cuba Odom and was preceded in death by two daughters, Kelly Ammon and Tobi Covington. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.lagroneruidoso.com](http://www.lagroneruidoso.com).



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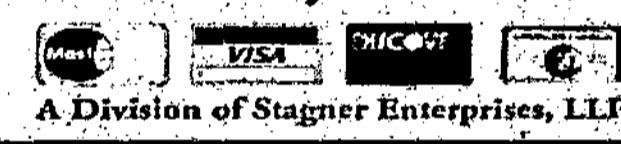


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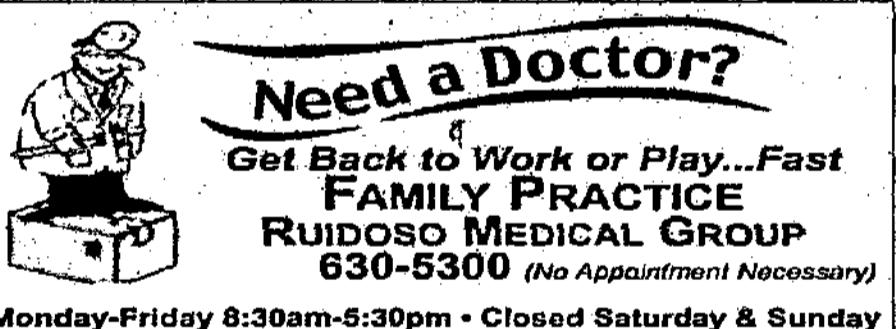
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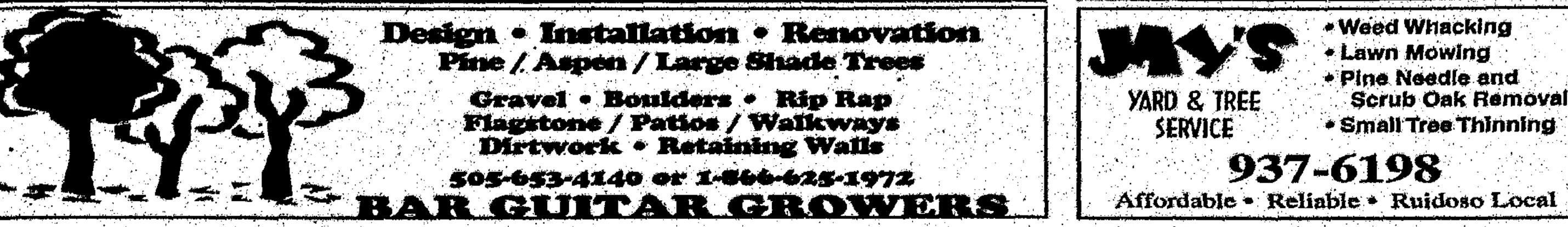
## CONSTRUCTION



## HOME DESIGNS

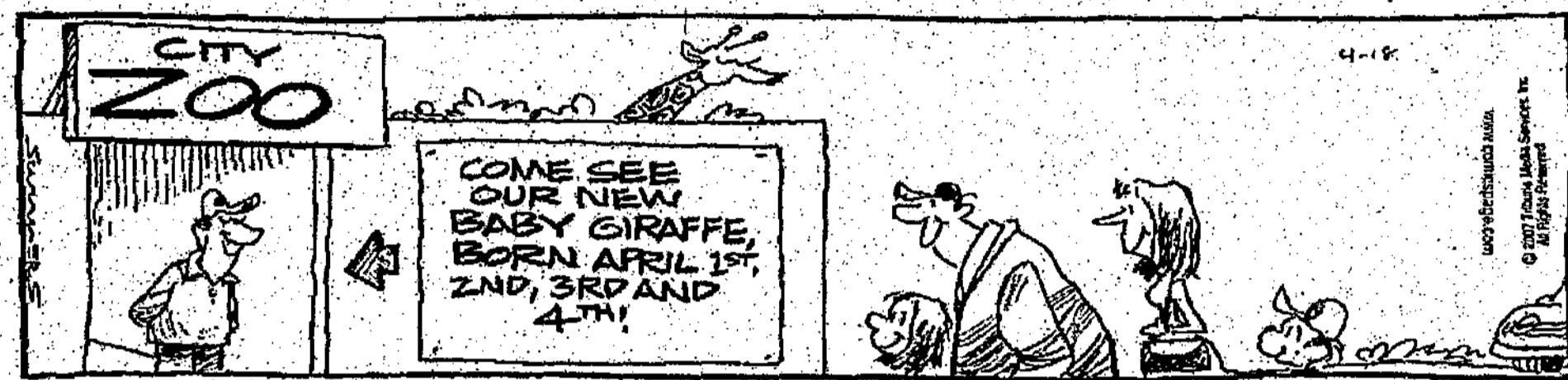
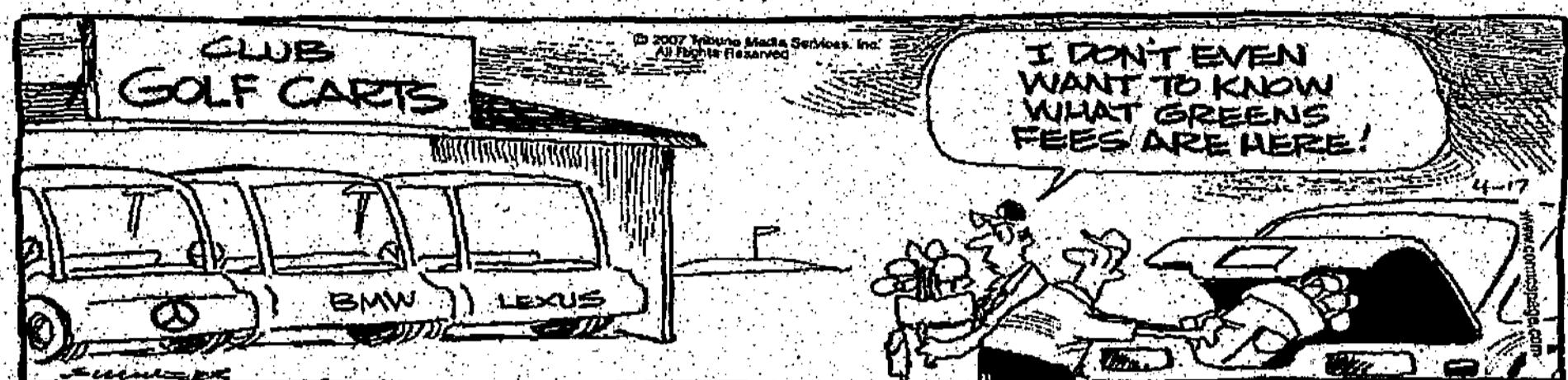
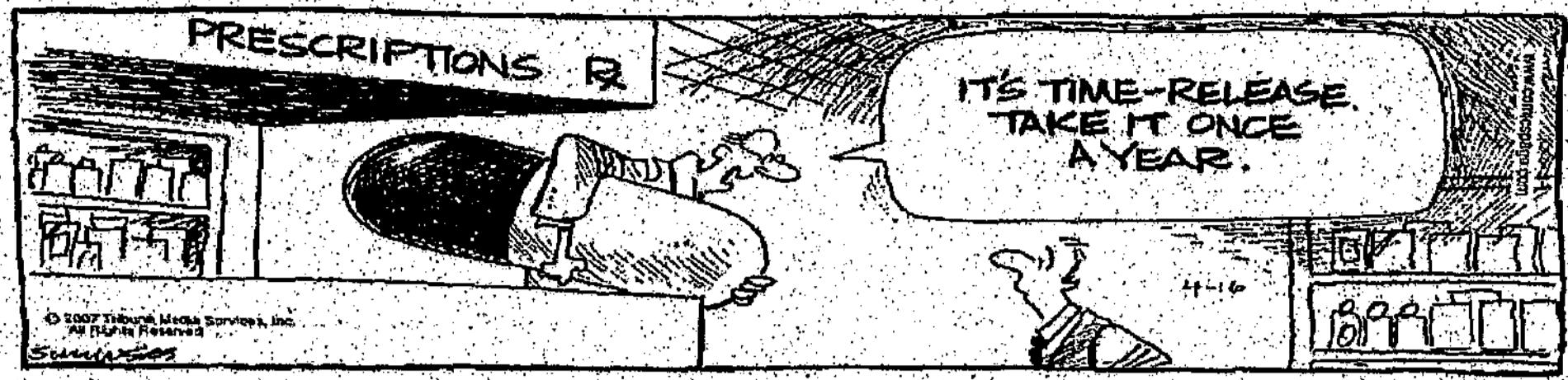


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E1	U1	R1	R1	H4	T1	F4
A1	O1	E1	V4	T1	N1	C3
A1	I1	I1	H4	T1	B3	D2

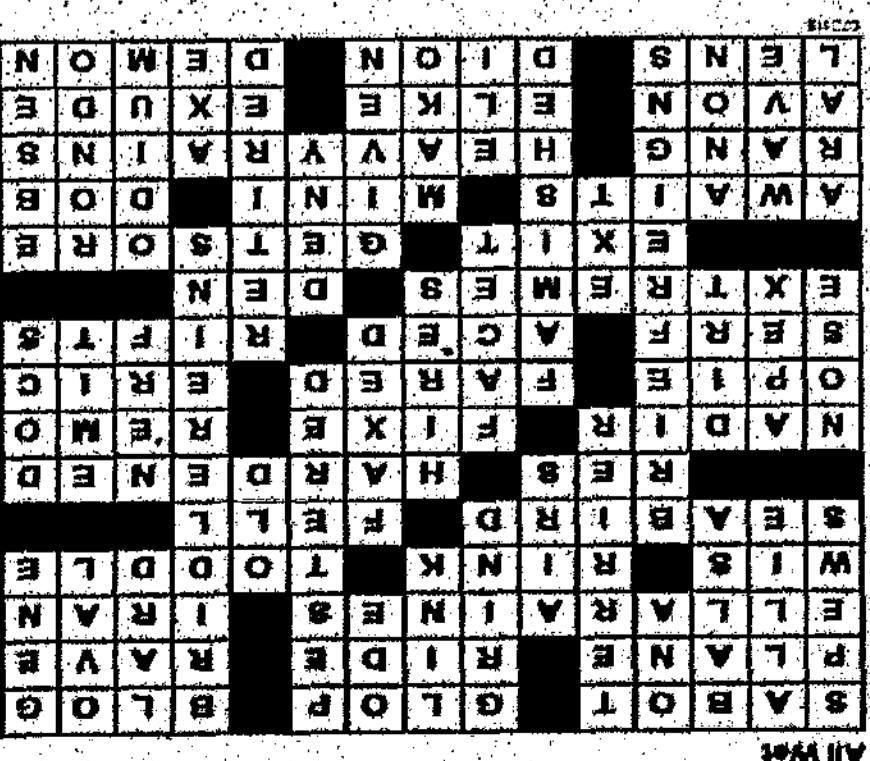
PAR SCORE 205-216  
BEST SCORE 270

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

Answer: **DEBATE**

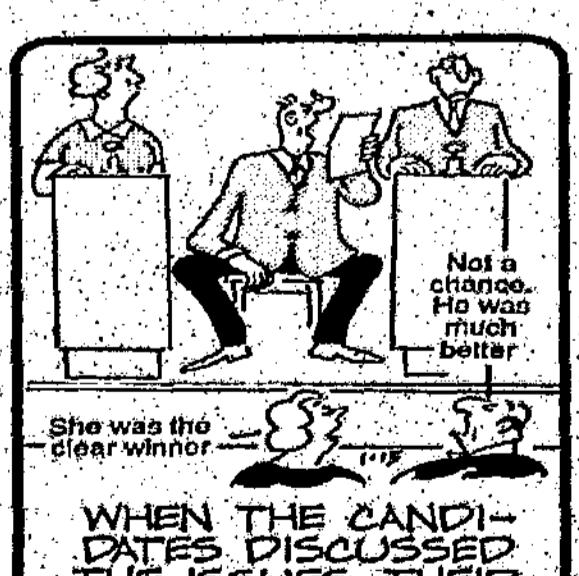
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**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**

by Héri Arnold and Mike Argirion



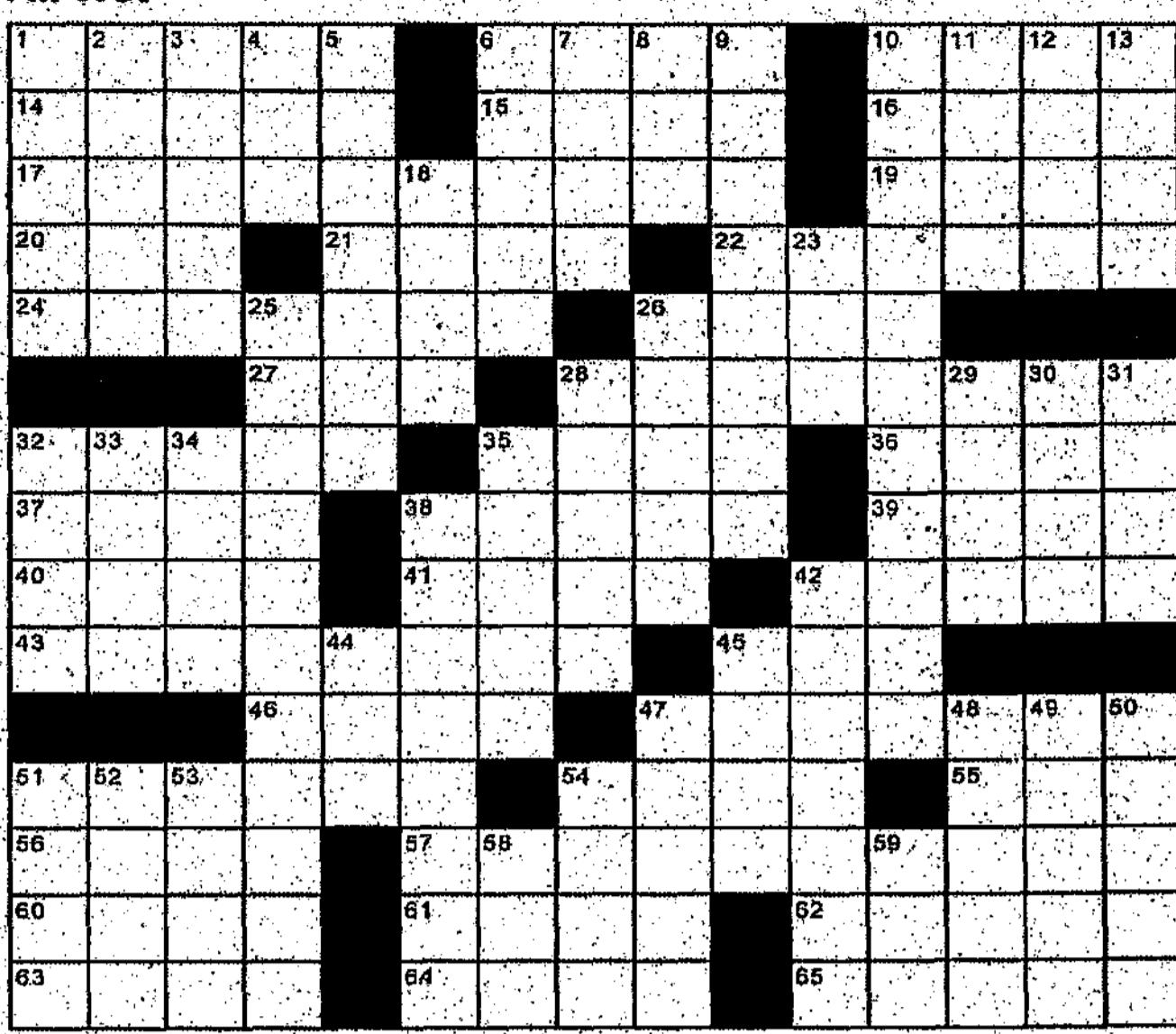
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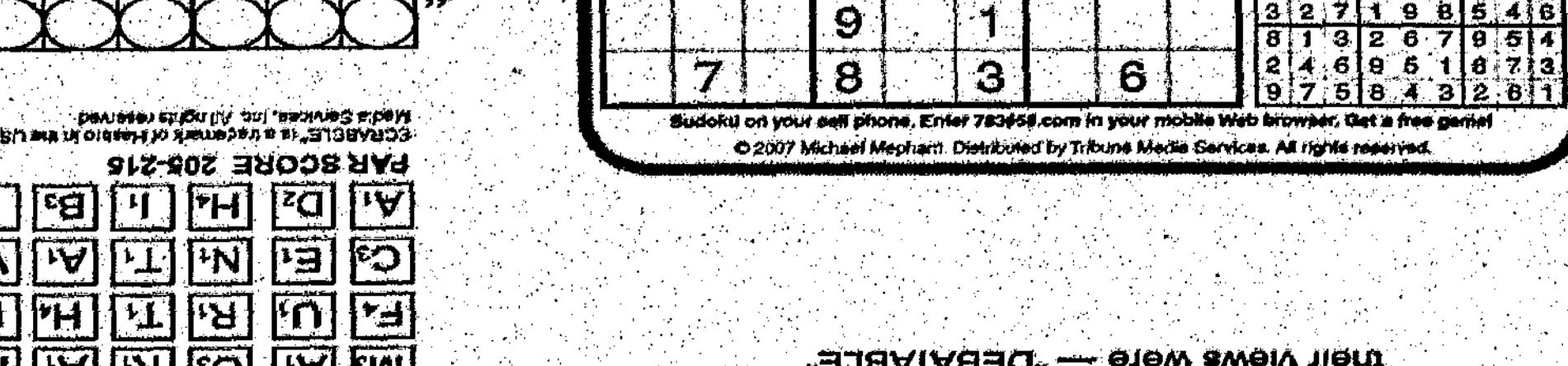
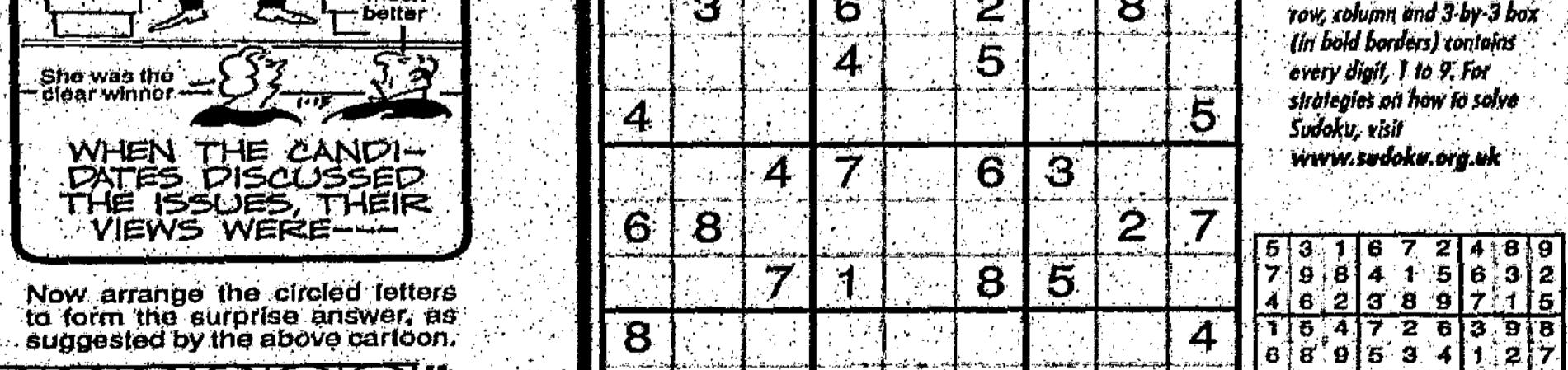
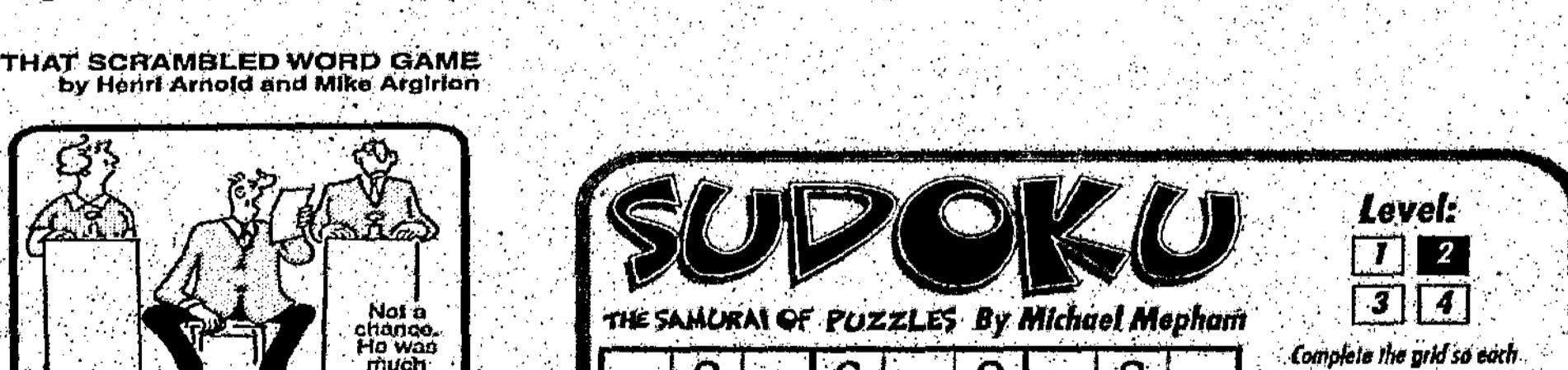
**All Wet**

American Profile Homeword Content

070415

- ROSS**  
 1. Wooden shoe  
 6. Icky stuff  
 10. Online journal, informally  
 14. Smooth out  
 15. Tilt-A-Whirl, e.g.  
 16. Bofo review  
 17. "Tall in the Saddle" actress  
 19. Where Farsi is spoken  
 20. Madison's state: Abbr.  
 21. Zamboni's milieu  
 22. Take baby steps  
 24. Erne or tern  
 26. Took a tumble  
 27. Hi—graphics  
 28. Like dried cement  
 32. Low point  
 35. Prix— menu  
 36. San— (Italian Riviera city)  
 37. Mayberry tyke  
 38. Got along  
 39. Actor Stoltz  
 40. Feudal drudge  
 41. Did really well on  
 42. Breaks in relations  
 43. Opposite ends  
 45. Room to relax in  
 46. Beat it  
 47. Become ticked off  
 51. Hangs out for  
 54. Cooper (British compact)  
 55. Driver's lic. datum  
 56. "You —?" (butler's line)  
 57. Causes of flooding  
 60. Mary Kay rival  
 61. Actress Sommer  
 62. Radiate, as charm  
 63. Fisheye, for one
- DOWN**  
 1. Elects forcefully  
 2. Kate's TV friend  
 3. Model material  
 4. Out limb  
 5. Wirehaired pooch  
 6. 9-to-5 drudgery  
 7. Sausage unit  
 8. "To a ..." work  
 9. Annoyed no end  
 10. Saddle shop purchases  
 11. Fat in a can  
 12. Cameo shape  
 13. Heredita unit  
 18. Snobs put them on
- KUDZU**  
 23. GOP part  
 25. Fleeting moments in power  
 26. Transmitted, in a way  
 28. Brings on board  
 29. Indoor ball type  
 30. Send off  
 31. Sawboneses  
 32. Be a yenta  
 33. Top spot  
 34. Hot gossip  
 35. Gem feature  
 38. Ready to eat a horse?  
 42. Hung up one's cleats  
 44. Bus. card no.  
 45. Declare untrue  
 47. Assumed as fact

- 48. Dislike, plus**  
**49. Sonata ender, often**  
**50. Clampett player Buddy**  
**51. Asia's shrinking Sea**  
**52. Welcoming gesture**  
**53. In a bit, to bards**  
**54. Powerful shark**  
**58. Peyton's quarterback brother**  
**59. Give a pink slip to**

**KUDZU****SUDOKU**

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3	6	2	8	
4	5			
				5
6	8	7	3	2
8	7	1	8	5

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Level:

1	2
3	4

ANSWER:  
Drama Blige Gibile  
Leaven

Answer:  
1. Wooden shoe  
6. Icky stuff  
10. Online journal, informally  
14. Smooth out  
15. Tilt-A-Whirl, e.g.  
16. Bofo review  
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**Gen. Help Wanted** 224 **Gen. Help Wanted** 224

**Civigenics, Inc.**

**Camp Sierra Blanca**

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**Ruidoso**

Physical Therapist - Part-Time/PRN  
Certified Home Health Aide - Part-Time/PRN  
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WellCare, 313 West 2nd Street, Ruidoso, NM 88321.  
Ph (505) 622-3535; Fax (505) 622-9370.

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Rate - Full-Time  
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Certified Home Health Aide - Part-Time/PRN  
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WellCare, 304 W. Gage Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005.  
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1980, or fax resume to  
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