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RUIDOSO NEWS
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SANTA CLAUS will be at Spencer Park, Carrizozo at 2 p.m. Sat. Dec. 20th!

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The Nutcracker

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Mario's market

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Revenue holds firm

Village tax collections remarkably strong

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Lodgers tax collections in Ruidoso remain strong for the fiscal year, even with a massive flood on the Rio Ruidoso in July and economic gloom nationally.

Cynthia Davis of the Ruidoso Lodgers Tax Committee said those in the business keep asking each other when they meet each month about a fall-off in business, but lodging owners are turning in steady tax payments and no one reports being significantly down.

Davis said a recent summary in *New Mexico Travel Trends*, compiled by the State Tourism Association, that showed the village down by about $1 million apparently was a result of the

See **VILLAGE**, page 8A

County GRT, lodgers tax receipts steady

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Lincoln County gross receipt and lodger tax collections appear to be holding steady despite the economic downturn nationally.

Reporting Tuesday to county commissioners, County Treasurer Beverly Calaway said 43 percent of county property taxes were paid in November and 57 percent of the that revenue for the county's general fund was collected by Nov. 30.

She was scheduled this month to distribute $3,657,569 in tax money to entities that impose levies.

Calaway said she is closely monitoring collections on the one-eighth of a cent gross receipts tax that funds repayment of the bonds

See **COUNTY**, page 8A

Drop in demand puzzles LCMC

■ Medical Center has decrease in patient care compared to 2006

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Lincoln County Medical Center saw a 2 percent decline of in-patient care and a 15 percent drop in out-patients from two years ago.

The break in what had been a decade of growth has Jim Gibson, administrator of the county-owned hospital managed by Presbyterian HealthCare Services, scratching his head.

After several years of holding at the same level for the county contribution under the Sole Community Provider program that covers some of the hospital's uncompensated care, Gibson told county commissioners Tuesday he would not seek an increase from the $2,046,956 received from a federal match.

Changes mind

"I anticipated by 2009-2010, it will be very difficult for the healthcare delivery system in the state," he said. "Because of that, at first I thought I would ask for an increase, but I decided against it and talked to my board. I told them I was not going to do that, because we should not depend on this money (from a special property tax levy) for our existence. I will contain costs as the volume goes down."

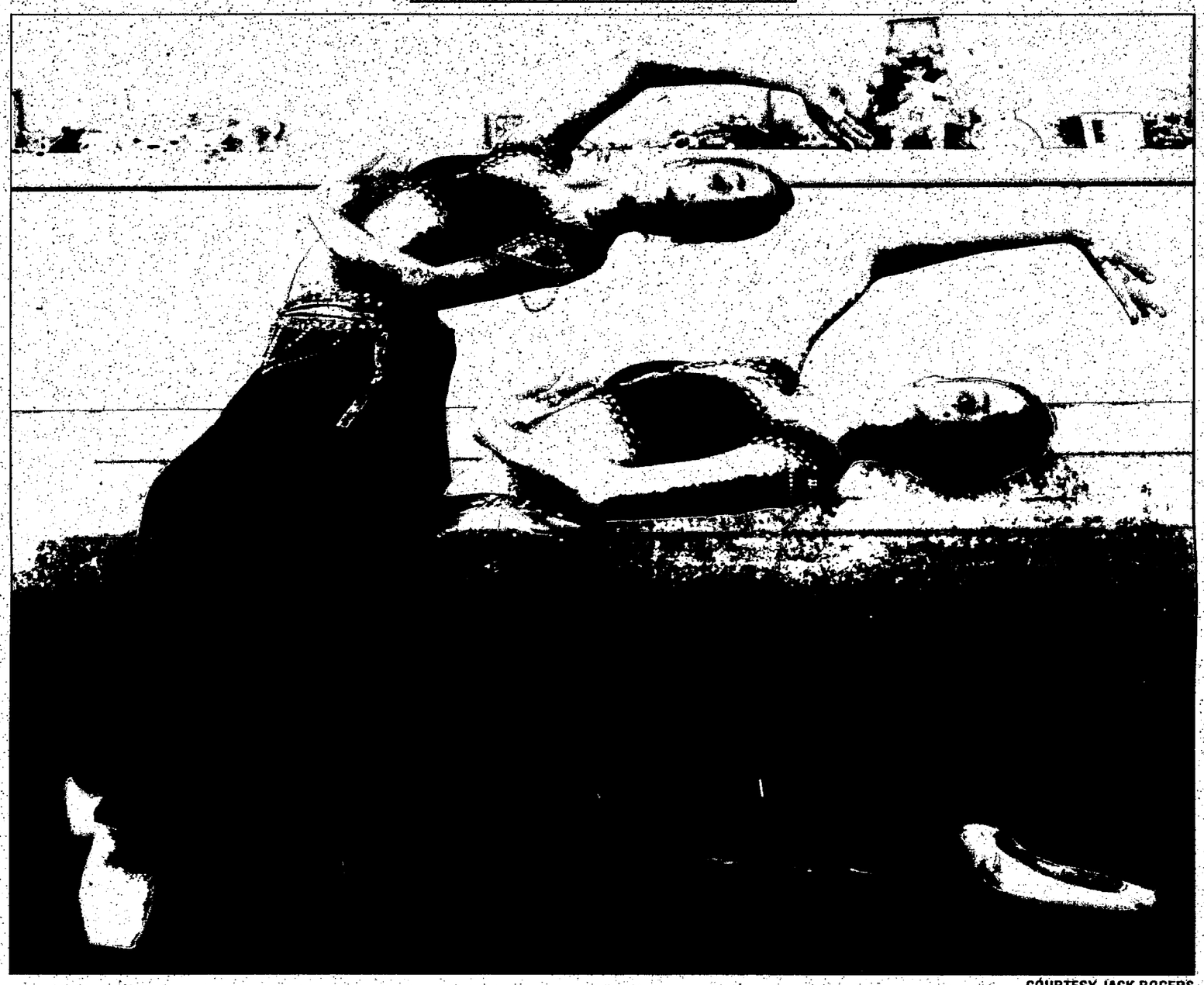
A hospital in a resort community often gets hit first, but the rest of the state will catch up, he said.

Voters earlier this year approved a property tax levy dedicated to the hospital, the ambulance service and rural health clinics. The SCP payment usually comes from that levy fund.

"We have kept our base at $2,046,956 and we request you budget that same

See **DROP**, page 12A

ARABIAN NIGHTS



COURTESY JACK ROGERS

A holiday tradition for many families is Ruidoso Dance Ensemble's yearly production of *The Nutcracker* at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts. Starring more than 50 Ruidoso-area dancers ages 4 and up, the two-act ballet classic is under the artistic direction of Deborah Rogers, and is presented in two performances on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2 and 7 p.m. Featured here are Gigi Wiggins and Rachel Diehl, who star in the Arabian Dance, as Clara and the Nutcracker Prince visit The Kingdom of Sweets. See *¡Vámonos!* for more on this lavish production.

Domestic well policy could affect subdivisions

■ Office of the State Engineer considering changes in permits

DIANNE STALLINGS
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If the system of mandatory approval of domestic wells is abandoned in New Mexico, many subdivisions will stall that rely on individual wells to grow.

That was the warning from Lincoln County Commissioner Jackie Powell on Tuesday during a presentation on the extensive water conservation approach employed at Rain-makers subdivision and golf course.

Powell said State Engineer John D'Antonio told her during a meeting two weeks ago that in the short-term, water transfer leases were "the best fix" to meet the needs created by a redistribution of the population in New Mexico.

Long-term view

But he serves in an appointed position, Powell said, "And we need to look long-term. We have a finite resource. There are lots of wells here and I want us to be more careful in the future and focus on a long-term fix. Those who want to stay here don't want to see transfers to 20 miles upstream."

Commission Chairman Tom Battin said when the county receives a final report from the U.S. Geological Survey study of water amounts, locations and underground flows, it can be used as a tool in reviewing proposed development.

"The more information, the better off we will be," County Manager Tom Stewart agreed. "There will be ongoing monitoring and (the USGS official) plans to come every six months to tell us where he is," although a final report may be more than a year away.

Powell warned that the Office of the State Engineer already is attaching a caveat to issued domestic well permits that in the future no such permits may be allowed. If that

See **WELLS**, page 12A

See our insert inside for full-color info on area properties.
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COURTESY JAN KENNEDY

P.E.O. local Chapter AR in Ruidoso recently packed 24 boxes for U.S. troops in Iraq. Fourteen members met at the home of Jennie Powell and prepared boxes for overseas filled with snacks, crossword puzzle books, pens and pencils, and many other miscellaneous goodies. Pictured (left to right) packing a box are members Suzy Komara, Chapter President Eyvonne Chapin, Jan Pettibone, whose son is serving in Iraq, Jennie Powell and Sally Hilzer.

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Fri 12/19	Sat 12/20	Sun 12/21
49/35	47/26	45/29
Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 30s	Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the upper 40s and lows in the mid 20s	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 20s.
Sunrise 7:01 AM Sunset 4:58 PM	Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 4:58 PM	Sunrise 7:02 AM Sunset 4:59 PM

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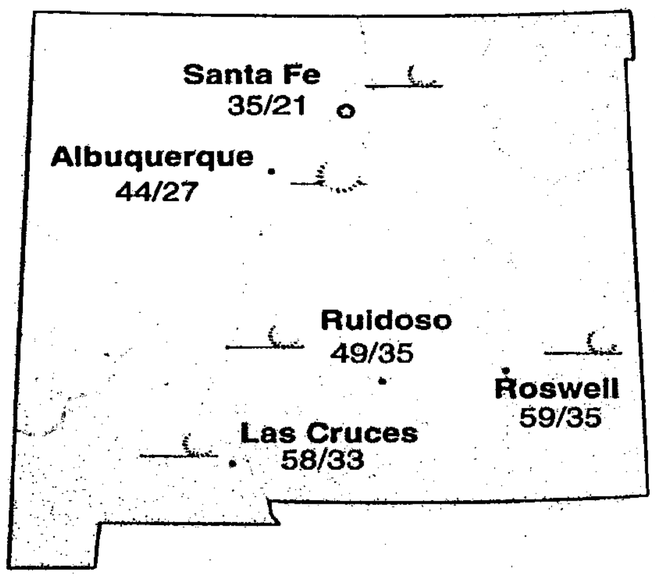
New Mexico At A Glance



Moon Phases

Full	Last
Dec 12	Dec 19
New	First
Dec 27	Jan 4

UV Index

Fri	12/19	3	Moderate
Sat	12/20	3	Moderate
Sun	12/21	3	Moderate

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

Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Alamogordo	57	33	pt sunny	Grants	42	16	sn shower	Santa Fe	35	21	pt sunny
Albuquerque	44	27	mst sunny	Guymon, OK	56	34	pt sunny	Santa Rosa	52	33	pt sunny
Carlsbad	62	38	cloudy	Hobbs	65	40	cloudy	Silver City	47	21	pt sunny
Chama	27	12	sn shower	Las Cruces	58	33	pt sunny	Socorro	49	28	pt sunny
Clovis	58	35	pt sunny	Las Vegas	42	23	pt sunny	St. Johns, AZ	43	23	sn shower
Deming	58	30	pt sunny	Lordsburg	57	29	pt sunny	Taos	32	15	cloudy
El Paso, TX	60	36	pt sunny	Lubbock, TX	63	38	pt sunny	Trinidad, CO	43	24	pt sunny
Espanola	51	27	pt sunny	Odessa, TX	65	42	cloudy	Truth or Consq.	55	32	pt sunny
Farmington	35	18	sn shower	Raton	42	19	pt sunny	Tucson, AZ	60	41	pt sunny
Gallup	39	16	sn shower	Roswell	59	35	pt sunny	Tucumcari	55	33	pt sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	70	53	rain	Houston	76	60	rain	Phoenix	57	42	pt sunny
Boston	31	19	snow	Los Angeles	59	43	pt sunny	San Francisco	48	35	rain
Chicago	34	23	mixed	Miami	78	66	pt sunny	Seattle	26	16	pt sunny
Dallas	67	53	pt sunny	Minneapolis	25	14	sn shower	St. Louis	50	30	cloudy
Denver	39	19	pt sunny	New York	40	25	mixed	Washington, DC	58	37	rain

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Christmas music

Members of Mountain Top String Musicians will perform traditional Christmas music at the Mescalero Care Center at 2 p.m., Monday.

Violins, violas, guitars, cellos, and even the rare "Chin-Cello" will be used for the performance at the center on U.S. 70 on the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

Cindy Foglesong's students come from all over Lincoln County. Admission is free to the public. Family and friends are welcome to share festive cheer.

Early swearing-in

Newly elected Lincoln County officials will take their oaths of office at 9 a.m., Dec. 31, in the chambers of 12th Judicial District Judge Karen Parsons in the county courthouse in Carrizozo.

A special county commission meeting will follow at 9:30 a.m. in commission chambers with several agenda items, including an appeal of a county Planning Commission decision and a request for help with a water crossing by Las Chozas subdivision representatives.

Swearing-in of elected officials usually occurs after the first of the year following an election, but Parsons researched state statutes to ensure moving up the date didn't create a legal problem, a spokesman said.

County Manager Tom Stewart explained that because district judges were given Jan. 2 as a holiday by the State Supreme Court, the ceremony otherwise would be delayed until Jan. 5. The judge was uncomfortable with the lag time, especially concerning law enforcement, from the end of previous terms to the beginning of the new terms.

Tree recycling

Keep Ruidoso Beautiful, the Village of Ruidoso Parks and Recreation and Solid Waste Departments, and Sierra Contracting will host the annual Christmas tree recycling program at School House Park in Ruidoso between Dec. 26 and Jan. 17.

The Schoolhouse Park drop-off location is in the temporary orange-fenced area between the swimming pool and the recycling dumpsters. Both green and flocked trees (fake snow) are accepted.

All tree stands, lights, ornaments and other tree decorations must be removed for the safety of the crews and machinery.

Please do not illegally dump trees at other trash disposal dumpsters or compactor locations.

County residents with trees cut into pieces four feet or less may also place them in their normal location. Carrizozo residents can drop discarded trees by Town Hall for proper disposal. Capitan residents should drop off discarded trees at the town equipment yard.

Any county resident can also take trees to the School House Park recycling area in Ruidoso.

There are many uses for discarded Christmas trees instead of burying them in the landfill. Other uses for Christmas trees discarded on private property include:

- Erosion control and soil stabilization in ravines and arroyos;
- Compost and mulch;
- Habitat for birds and other small animals;
- Firewood.

Trees discarded at the School House Park site will be converted into mulch and made available to County residents at the White Mountain School at a later date.

Christmas tree permits continue to be available from the Smokey Bear Ranger District office in Ruidoso through Dec. 24. The fee is $5 per permit.

For more information on Christmas tree recycling, contact Ruidoso Parks and Recreation at 257-5030 or the Solid Waste Authority office at 378-4697, toll free at 1-877-548-8772 or via email at lcswa@valornet.com. Christmas tree recycling information is available on the Authority Web site at www.lcswa.org.

Flood assistance

The July 27 flood caused severe damage in the Hondo Valley area of the county. Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Otero/Lincoln Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office if the damage:

- will be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use.
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area.
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland.
- will impair or endan-

CONTINUED PAGE 3A

FROM PAGE 2A

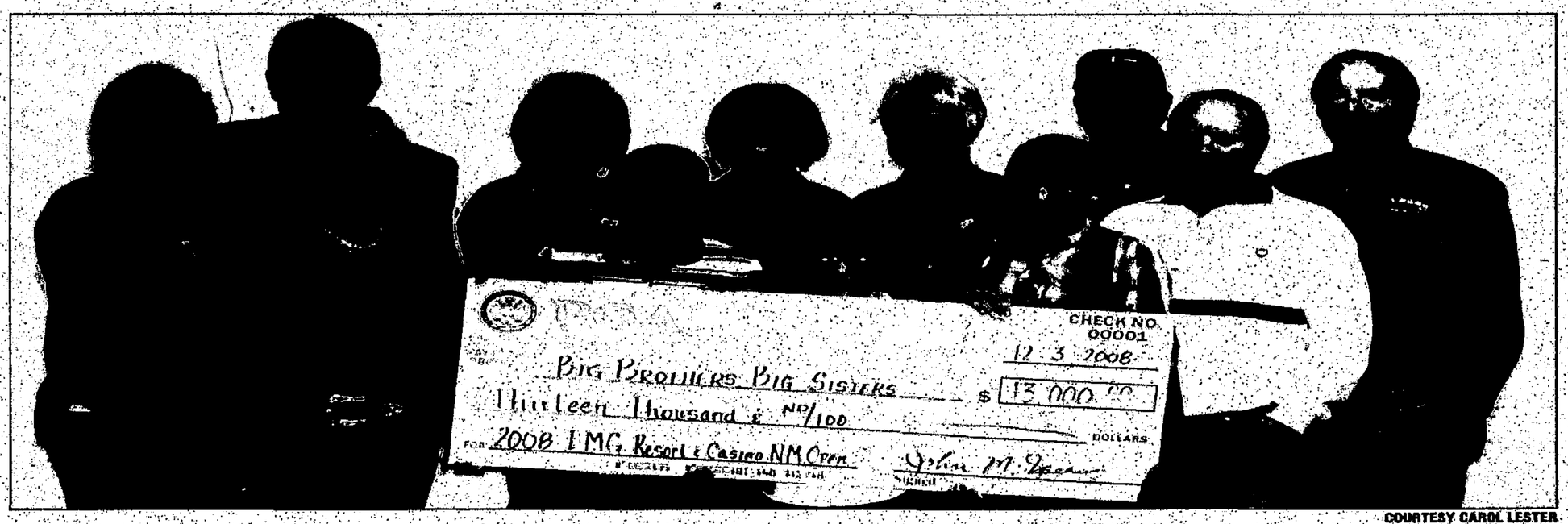
ger the land.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. No producer is eligible for more than $200,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence.

The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland;
- grading, shaping or releveling severely damaged farmland;
- restoring permanent fences;
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations.

Producers who have suffered a loss from a natural disaster may contact the local FSA County Office at 575-437-3100 ext. 2 and request assistance until Feb. 9, 2009.



COURTESY CAROL LESTER

Teaming up with the Sun Country PGA and the Inn of the Mountain Gods, the Ruidoso Board of REALTORS co-sponsored the New Mexico Pro-Am Golf charity event during the New Mexico Open PGA Golf Tournament. Golf teams for the charity event were paired with professional golfers attending the New Mexico Open, which included a dinner and charity auction. John Speary, Executive Director of the Sun Country PGA, presented a check in the amount of $13,000 to Jan Holloman, President and Heather Evans local office coordinator, of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lincoln County. Three of the "littles", Annalisa Martinez, age 12; Sherina Martinez, age 10; Kylee Martinez, age 11; and their Big Sisters, Becky Brooks and Shari Rodgers, also attended the presentation. Daniel Nunez, Golf Pro of the Inn of the Mountain Gods and Reeves McGuire, who organized and coordinated the tournament events, wish to express their appreciation to all the sponsors, the golf teams and the donors of auction items. Both are committed to making this a premier charity event for Lincoln County. Ruidoso Board of REALTORS President, Lisa Smith, and President-Elect Harvey Foster recognized this as the 13th year that the Ruidoso Board of REALTORS has been a partner in providing golf tournament proceeds to benefit area youth. "With the help of the Inn of the Mountain Gods and Sun Country PGA we were able to ramp up our efforts and provide an increase in tournament proceeds" said President Lisa Smith. "We look forward to an even more successful event in 2009."

Winterizing tips

Although New Mexico has enjoyed mild weather during the late fall, Tim Manning, director of the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, says we should be ready for winter's coldest stretch and the possibility of severe storms.

Winterizing a home, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for family, neighbors, livestock, pets and equipment should be done now, he said. "Most people wait until there is weather on the way, rather than anticipating seasonal changes," he said. "You should act now."

He suggested ways to reduce fuel costs as:

- Insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic will extend the life of a fuel supply.
- Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks, and cut away tree branches that could fall on a home or other structure during a storm.
- Protect pipes with wrap-around insulation or newspapers and plastic and, in extremely cold temperatures, allow faucets to drip a little to avoid freezing.

If a person is snowed in, Manning recommended:

- Prepare for possible isolation by having sufficient heating fuel in case regular fuel supplies are cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for a fireplace or wood-burning stove. Be sure to store it far enough away from the house to avoid fires.
- If using fireplaces or wood stoves, have fire extinguishers on hand and make sure all in the household know how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk in cold winter weather as people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Learn how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- Have roofs inspected to check their ability to bear unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow or water, especially if flat roof drains do not work.

Manning said following a few simple rules and using common sense can enhance the safety of anyone caught outdoors in extreme winter weather. The rules are:

- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack, a major cause of death in the winter. If a person must shovel snow, stretch before going outside. Protect lungs from extremely cold air by covering mouths and try not to speak unless absolutely necessary.
- Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly. Be sure to watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance of the skin in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes and the tip of the nose.
- Always cover heads in extreme cold. Fifty percent of body heat disperses from the head. Wearing a cap or hat can help protect from hypothermia. Hypothermia can be deadly. Signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion.

"Taking a few precautions in extreme weather can save your life," Manning said.

For more information, visit www.whatstheplan.org.

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RUIDOSO NEWS

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OUR

Holloman officials deserve credit

As Wednesday's article surmised, perhaps it is just the Christmas spirit – but we'd like to think that concerned residents and Holloman Air Force Base officials are simply going about a difficult issue in the right manner.

The issue, of course, is the annoying, sometimes destructive supersonic impact of Raptor training missions on the citizenry. Reversed, it's also about the nation's defense and the military's critical role in commanding our skies.

The impasse has filtered through the Lincoln County Commission, where, once again Tuesday, both sides discussed it in tones of respect and restraint.

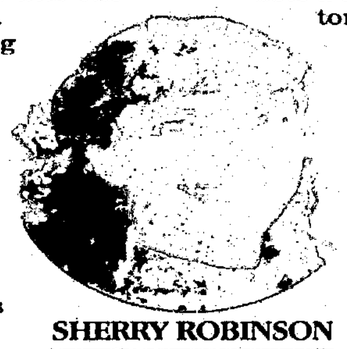
Nothing has been settled, yet, but acoustics specialists will visit Holloman in January to study ways of mitigating the sonic booms regarding topography, climate and other factors.

We hope for a win-win situation, and we salute the Air Force for taking it seriously.

No textbook answers to school funding formula

New Mexico's school funding formula is a big item on the education shopping list this year. Once highly regarded for its fairness, the 34-year-old formula no longer keeps pace with the today's demands.

Other states rely on local property taxes to support schools, so affluent districts have good schools and low-income districts have hard-luck schools. In New Mexico, property taxes mostly flow into one pot for distribution.



SHERRY ROBINSON

The long-running lawsuit from the Zuni and Gallup-McKinley County school districts was not just a wake-up call – it was a slap upside the head. In 2006 lawmakers began studying the state's funding formula and how it supports the neediest districts and the poorest students. They subsequently offered a new formula recalculated to cover programs added over the years.

The price tag: $350 million in new money every year.

Initially a task force proposed 13 ways to pay for the new formula before taking the easy road – increasing the gross receipts tax by 1 percent.

That's the trouble with this proposal. To people who haven't done the math, who haven't seriously weighed the impact, it's just too easy to ratchet up the gross receipts tax.

This is a bad idea.

First, a higher gross receipts tax won't burden the wealthy too much, but it falls heavily on the middle class and heavier still on the poor. How can any legislator reading the news lately even think about doing this?

Second, the higher tax would make existing businesses less competitive and send a terrible message to any company thinking of moving here. The state's ability to weather the economic storm rests on job creation and preservation.

Third, the state has spent large sums on new education initiatives. Are they all working? Are they good investments?

Recently the New Mexico Business Roundtable for Education Excellence (NMBREE), which has championed education reform in the state – including the controversial dip into permanent funds to improve teacher pay – sounded the first alarm.

The group's leadership pointed out that proponents of the tax increase didn't do their homework. Nobody talked to the business community. If education reformers have learned anything here, they know employers have to be involved in these discussions.

The study that conjured up the new funding requirements was apparently based on wish lists from school administrators, not documented needs. The moving target of total dollars shifted in proportion to public protest from $850 million to $550 million to $350 million. That doesn't exactly inspire confidence.

NMBREE supports a new funding formula but wants to see better analysis and a more practical (that is, business-like) approach. New funding, the group argues, is an issue separate from the new formula. If it's a real improvement, it should be made to work within the existing budget.

"That's how the rest of us do it," argue chairman Mike DeWitte and executive director Larry Langley.

Us? NMBREE members all toil in places like the labs, where the furnace works and their co-workers aren't eligible for food stamps. Their existing budgets are plenty comfy.

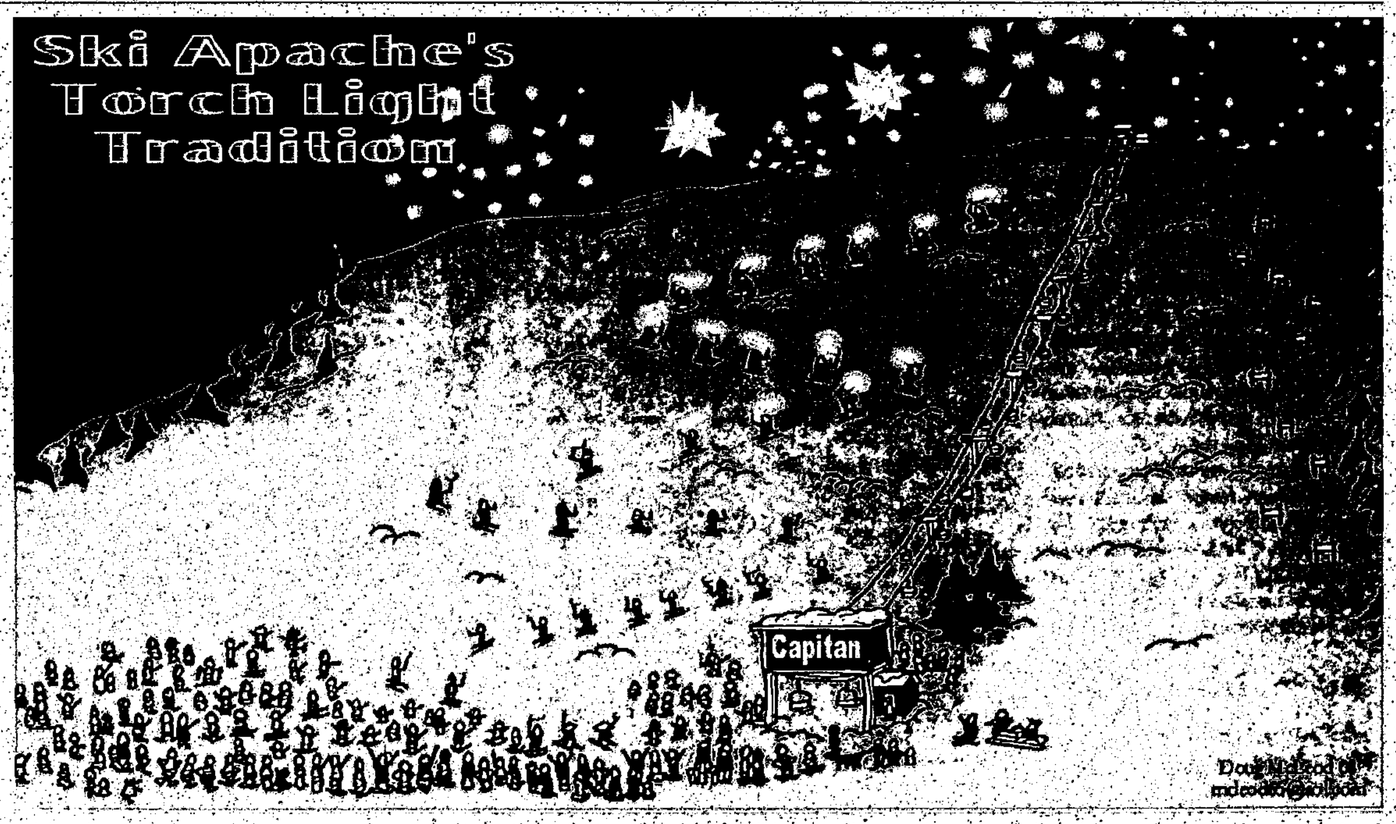
For educators, working within the existing budget may mean robbing Peter to pay Paul and eliminating worthy programs.

In New Mexico, about one child in four lives in poverty, one in two is from a low-income working family, and one in six lacks medical insurance even though most of their parents are working. Poor children, sick children don't learn as well as other kids. Educating these kids means making up for what's not going on at home.

Education Secretary Veronica Garcia says somewhat defensively, "I'm not for throwing money at a problem without a sound plan." She's all for high expectations and accountability.

There are no easy answers here. The funding formula task force needs to go back to the drawing board.

– New Mexico News Services



GUEST COMMENTARY

Keeping 'Christ' in Christmas

JULIAN WELLS
Ruidoso

Christmas isn't just a starry night, or snowflakes on the ground. It isn't just parties with good friends, or a Christmas tree and gifts. Christmas is love and peace that the season brings to touch the seeking heart.

Christmas is a time of spreading joy by sharing our love and our gifts with friends and relatives.

Though the wealthiest nation in the world, our recent economic shortfall has brought forth far more than usual those who are in need. Let's all open our hearts and resources to our less fortunate ones.

One of my greatest wishes is that we find a means to bring peace and understanding to all the nations of the world.

Not all may understand or agree with our spiritual doctrines that are the principal part of Christmas celebration, but they can recognize the love that is expressed during this great season.

And let's not forget that the greatest event of Christmas is honoring the birth of the Christ Child. Jesus Christ has had a greater impact on humanity than any event in the history of humankind. Jesus gave us the gift of love, the gift of giving and forgiving, and a way of life worth living.

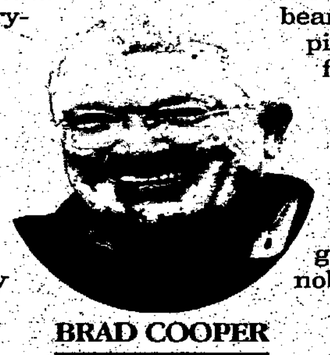
On this Christmas, I wish you goodness and mercy forever and that all your worries will be left behind. I wish you the magic of the season, God's precious caring and love, mistletoe and holly, a tree standing tall and children that you hold so dear a closer love.

Also, your own Christmas angel to lend you peace and joy this holy time of year.

Merry Christmas to all. And let's keep the "Christ" in Christmas.

JULIAN WELLS of Ruidoso often writes commentaries about major holidays.

More useless predictions for 2009



BRAD COOPER
UNCONNICS

I predict that the Detroit Lions will sign Muntadar al-Zaidi to a three-year $7 million deal to play quarterback.

"We're excited to have Muntadar," an anonymous source with the Lions said (when you're 0-14 everybody in management prefers to be anonymous). "He seems to have a great arm as well as being an accomplished trash-talker."

The Lions went after the right-hander after seeing him throw his shoes at President Bush last Sunday.

"He'll have to train pretty hard to overcome some cultural issues," the Lions spokesperson continued. "We understand it's in his nature to run like hell in the opposite direction when he sees eleven guys coming at him."

Sources in Iraq noted that Muntadar was initially excited about the deal, but backed off when he was told the game involved throwing a "pigskin" around, something he would find religiously repulsive to touch.

Lions officials were quick to point out that footballs are actually constructed of cow leather, just like shoes.

* * *

I predict that there are certain countries in this world that my pig won't be going to.

My wife and I went to heifer.org and donated a pig to a poor family. It costs $120, but it just seemed like a good idea. If I were a poor person whose unemployment benefits had run out, crumpling up my old brokerage reports and burning them to keep warm, I'd appreciate someone in a foreign country giving me a pig.

The way this works is Heifer gives a girl pig to a poor family. When it gets old enough to bear piglets, Heifer pimps the pig, a new family is born, and the poor people pass along a few piglets to another family where the process starts over again.

We think it's a great idea, and nobody's brother-in-law at the UN gets rich poaching porkers.

Now we could have sent a goat, or sheep, but there's one thing very sure about the pig decision. We know where in the world that this pig *will not* be going. Yes, it's charitable bigotry. It's our money.

Get the pig a passport on me. Have her send me a postcard wherever she wallows.

* * *

I predict that air warfare is about to change forever.

Bob Woodward in his most recent book intimated that there are developing technologies of warfare that no one is talking about.

Warfare is one of our best exports. It should be a market segment with available NYSE mutual funds.

I believe that the Predator unmanned plane will be developed to the 10th power to create an unmanned fighter plane that's small, fast and expendable.

Calling it a plane is really unfair. It's more of a missile that has a pilot somewhere at a Playstation control panel a half a world away (and you thought your video-gamer kids had no future to speak of).

It doesn't need to so much as "take off" as it could be fired, or launched. It doesn't need an airstrip or an aircraft carrier.

It's smaller because it doesn't need a human pilot onboard, so the oxygen system, that bulky ejection seat, all those dials and even the cup holder can be stripped out. It's stealth.

It will have all the bells and whistles, including thermal and video imaging because war is better when you have good digital images for CNN.

It's made possible because we'll have moved towards perfecting a 360-degree weapons system, one that can shoot at a 90-degree angle from the direction it's going without recoil. It will make dogfights and "locking in" a target from behind obsolete. It will be a combination of *Star Wars* and Asteroids.

"Oh, sure," you say, "we've been trying to develop a 'death ray' for decades ... and it can be done, but it's too big to ever fly."

You don't have to blow something up to take it out of the game. An intense light beam could blind the other pilot, game over.

There's got to be a way to fry computer chips, or make something NOT work, from a distance. Companies that make computer printers have figured it out, ask them.

As a last resort, maybe it could throw a shoe.

BRAD COOPER is a columnist writing out of White Oaks.

Guest Commentaries

The perfect imperfect Christmas tree

Chris Dorsi
Writers on the Range

I love going into the woods to cut my own Christmas tree. It's not that I want to snub the Boy Scouts, who host a tree lot in town. I've spent a lot of time in those urbanized groves, searching for the perfect conical tree, and sampling hot chocolate.

But a backcountry tree hunt is an entirely different adventure. Give me a sled and a folding saw, and I can disappear into the woods for an entire afternoon. My goal may be to get a tree in the truck, but I can make the process of finding the right one as circuitous as I like.

I usually go alone so I can wander at will. This year, I walked to a grove of seedlings on public land near the ski trails above Helena, Mont. I'd been eyeing the spot for 20 years, but once there I wandered in the snow like a man lost, and I must have crossed my tracks a hundred times as I viewed the stands from every angle.

A live creek tumbles off the mountainside there, working its way downhill among granite boulders and nurturing a diverse forest of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. It's a surprisingly wild ecosystem up there despite its proximity to town – a very uncivilized tree lot.

In the past, I sought out the classic pyramidal tree with even tiers of branches, the kind that's sold in town for $6 a foot. But over the years, my wanderings have evolved toward a different quest: I want to find trees that truly represent the forest at-large.

Take the double tree, for instance, pairs that have grown up intertwined. They may have a lovely form in the forest, but if you cut just one and haul it to town, it will look bereft at the loss of its partner, flat-sided and with bark rubbed raw where limbs had crossed.

But take them home as a pair, as you would candle holders or bookends, and you suddenly have a graceful couple that should never be parted.

When I first came to this realization, alone there in the forest, I laughed until tears ran into my balaclava. Everywhere I looked I saw matched pairs of trees where I'd earlier seen only decay.

What about firs with missing limbs, stunted bonsai pines or spruces chewed by porcupines? I've lugged them all home as long as they sported green needles, sometimes rehearsing flimsy excuses for my family.

"Don't blame me," my apology would go. "I'm just the messenger, and this is what the forest looks like."

But this year I noticed a disturbing change in the forest up on the Continental Divide. Alone in a grove of lodgepole pines, I saw evidence of an infestation of bark beetles that stopped me in my tracks. One pine looked as if it had been used for machine-gun practice, with hundreds of holes peppering its trunk. From each boring the tree wept pitch. I checked the next tree, and then another, finally turning in a circle to take in all the dying pines.

A shroud of sawdust dusted the needles beneath each tree. I realized that one of the first harbingers of climate change in Montana will be the browning of our forests.

I wandered the mountainside for hours that day until an old idea germinated: I thought about the spirit of Christmas and realized that the tree is just a symbol of nature in all its imperfection, and that any tree can bring good cheer once it's taken home.

I finally settled on a Douglas fir that split into two trunks a foot above the ground. Both trunks were three feet too tall for our living room, so I cut the tops off right at the ceiling. I hauled the two tops – bare sprigs really – upstairs to where the trees would penetrate through the floor if they could. That puts them in the bedroom of our oldest son.

He can't come home this year, but I think he'd appreciate the sentiment.

Chris Dorsi is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (hcn.org). He is a freelance writer, and the publisher of books about green building construction. He resides in Helena, Mont.

The only thing we have to fear ...

Rich Wandschneider
Writers on the Range

Maybe because Christmas and the New Year are traditional times for celebrating a sense of community, it's also a good time to acknowledge some of the rough patches in the rural Shangri-La where I live: the growing demands at the local food bank, dissension in the town of Joseph, Ore., over our governance, the 23 jobs lost when D&R Motors went gunnysack this fall, the closing of the OK Theatre, sudden illnesses, premature deaths and a recent suicide that left many victims.

These things are hard, and they make small irritants more irritable. It would be nice to have a Will Rogers around to help us laugh our way past some of them.

My old boss, Chuck, a county extension agent and a cowboy, loved to tease a couple of ranchers who could not stand some of the editorials in the local paper, the *Chieftain*: "Cancel your subscription, did you – again?" he'd ask innocently. "Heard you're the first to buy a paper when it comes out Thursday morning."

Then there was the school board member who sent his kids to school in another town over differences with school administrators and fellow board members.

Another big story back in the day was about the county commission chair – then called the "county judge" – who had the county crew pave his driveway. He later explained that he had meant to reimburse the county all along. That followed a fight over where the road department's tires should be bought.

Perhaps oddest was the story of the county health nurse who claimed that she'd never seen a case of child abuse in all her years on the job. One of the local doctors scoffed and said, "We take care of things without involving her."

So division, controversy and hard times are not new in my part of northeast Oregon. But to bring us to the present, the most troubling local issue is certainly the loss of jobs and the empty buildings on Main Street. I'd add that there's also an undertow of fear, both the fear of change and the fear of not changing.

These fears extend from current issues on the city council agenda, such as the "idea" of a city manager, to the unsettled future of the Wallowa Lake Dam. There also are nagging underground stories about the Nez Perce Tribe's attempts to "take back" local land.

And there continue to be fears of a black man in the White House, and persistent rumors that good Christians are turning the country over to "Moslem terrorists." I know that these fears exist locally because they pop up in the schoolyard, and they're repeated in restaurants and in local email traffic.

So how do we enter a new year in hard times with a new president who is preaching hope? We hope, too! We hope that local people will talk to neighbors openly about their fears and dreams. That they will, when necessary, put shoulders to the wheel to make local schools, the hospital, towns, dams, irrigation districts, food banks, churches, arts groups, sports programs, granges and the economy work.

On a recent "Meet the Press" TV show, Tom Brokaw began his interview with President-elect Barack Obama by suggesting that things were getting worse by the day as he waits to take office. But in maybe the best political news that I've heard in decades, the new man did not suggest that we shop our way out of the current mess.

He acknowledged hard times and said that we wouldn't be able to dig our way out in a day. He said that the states and governors have public infrastructure projects that are languishing on the shelf and ready to go, and that he would find a way to fund them.

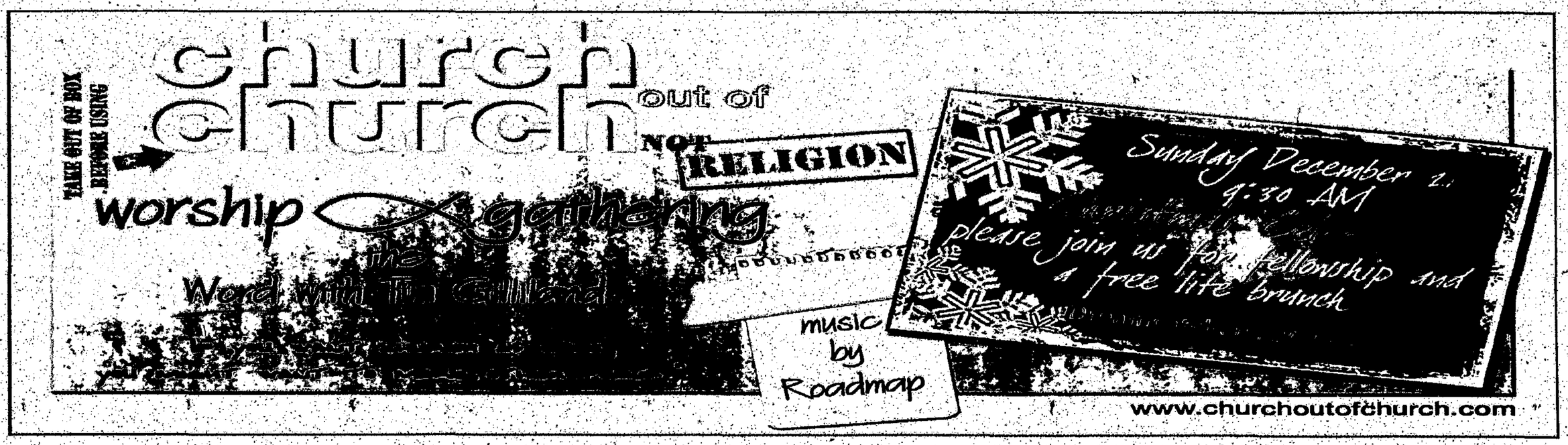
Obama said that the energy crisis, environmental problems and failed medical insurance programs – though fearsome in the short run – represent opportunities for economic healing.

Life isn't fair. Bad guys win and good guys lose. All of us make bad choices, and most of us get caught up in others' wrong choices and in events that are just too big and remote for us to have much of a say in them. But now, with a new president, a pile of wood stacked against the winter, and two lively grandkids living with me who are excited about snow and Christmas, I can and will hope to high heaven.

Rich Wandschneider is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (hcn.org). He helps keep the Fishtrap gathering of writers going in Joseph, Ore.

Thanks RUIDOSO NEWS!!

This past year, we at Backdoor decided it was time to carry a 'real' bedding line... which resulted in an introduction and promotion of this new organic Italian bedding. As we are known for furnishings, we knew that it was going to be a task to get the word out about these awesome Italian fabrics. It was resounded by all of the staff at Backdoor that the best way would be by staging a repetitive ad campaign. WE DID THIS and THE RUIDOSO NEWS did their part on our behalf. Yes, the bedding "was and is" a huge hit. Backdoor experienced the best summer in our history! Thanks again to the Ruidoso News and their staff!



Creating a market

Mario Salas has turned his love of food into an enterprise

TODD FUQUA
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It's OK with Mario Salas if you call him something of a "food freak," as that's the entire reason he opened his business.

"I love to cook, but I found you could go everywhere in this town looking for one ingredient, and just can't come up with it," Salas said. "That's why I wanted to start this business."

The business is Mario's Market, located on Sudderth, directly across the street from the Lincoln County Medical Center's new annex building.

For locals that *really* know their history, the market is in what was the Holiday miniature golf center. As such, the building itself is set back a bit from the road, and a little hard to find if you don't know what you're looking for.

"We've been open for about three months now, and it's been a little slow lately," Salas said. "A lot of people drive right by it and don't know we're here. But as people start to become aware that we're here, at least we'll have plenty of parking."

Salas sells fresh produce and restaurant-quality meats out of his small building. It's not all necessarily organic – or locally grown, for that matter. But at the very least, Salas hopes to bring quality ingredients home to local residents who might otherwise have to travel long distances to get the same items.

Web exclusive

Check out www.ruidosonews.com for video on this story

Mario Salas, owner of Mario's Market, displays some of the seafood he proudly sells to appreciative customers. Salas also sells steaks, produce and even fresh vanilla beans.

TODD FUQUA/RUIDOSO NEWS

While the produce may be the core of his business, Salas said seafood – of the quality usually found in top restaurants – has become the big seller.

Big tiger shrimp, baseball-sized scallops and entire crab legs are among his wares.

"The sales of that have gone through the roof," Salas said. "Probably because it's not as available here."

A market as small as Mario's is dependent on regulars, and Salas already has a pretty steady crowd of them coming in. He's not looking to outsell any of the other markets in town, he just wants to stay in business and offer local residents good, quality ingredients.

"As long as I can keep my head above water, I'm happy," Salas said. Having something like this in town enriches the culture.

"In these tough times, the best restaurant is in your house," he added. "I'm hoping to provide those restaurants with good ingredients."

Regents sign operating agreement

Document strengthens ENMU-Ruidoso/Spencer agreement

PORTALES – The Eastern New Mexico University Board of Regents, at its regular meeting last Friday in Portales, signed an operating agreement which further illustrates the worth of a three-way partnership forged in August among ENMU-Ruidoso, the Spencer Thea-ter for the Performing Arts and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

The partnership calls for the theater and property north of the facility to go to the state. The theater will continue to present top-quality entertainment and will be run by the theater's board of directors, while the "Cedars" property, directly north of the Spencer, will become the future campus of ENMU-Ruidoso. Almost 140 acres and a partially constructed home have been set aside for this purpose.

ENMU-Ruidoso President Mike Elrod explained that the property "will allow us to construct a model performing arts center, to be named the Cedars Campus, in memory of Mrs. Spencer." Jackie Spencer, founder of the Spencer Theater and local philanthropist, died in 1999 before she was able to complete the construction on her dream home.

"The acquisition of Mrs. Spencer's 17,000-square-foot home and land is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, that holds promise to attract students from throughout the region and the entire U.S.," Elrod added.

COURTESY

The Eastern New Mexico University Board of Regents signed an operating agreement Friday, Dec. 12 at its meeting at ENMU-Portales between ENMU-Ruidoso and the Spencer Theater near Ruidoso. The agreement allows for possible future expansion of ENMU-Ruidoso on property owned by the Spencer Theater. Pictured are (L-R): Stewart Ashman, secretary of Cultural Affairs for New Mexico; Michael Elrod, president of ENMU-Ruidoso; Charles Centilli, executive director of the Spencer Theater; Tom Battin, development officer for the Spencer Theater; and Steven Gamble, ENMU president.

The Gas Gauge

Average prices in the area and state for the week

Cost shown is for regular unleaded gasoline

- Prices at the pump in the Ruidoso area range from $1.84 to $1.86 a gallon.
- The state's average is $1.67, down from last month's $2.24 and down from last year's $2.90.
- Other state prices include $1.52 in Alamogordo, $1.55 in Albuquerque, $1.53 in Las Cruces and $1.66 in Santa Fe.
- In Texas, gas was listed at $1.61 in El Paso, $1.53 in Fort Worth-Arlington, $1.54 in Dallas and $1.50 in Houston. Statewide, Texas averages $1.55 per gallon.
- The nationwide average sits at $1.67 per gallon.

Prices culled from www.fuelgaugereport.com, as monitored by AAA

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Rainmakers hailed for conservation

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Water conservation design features in the Rainmakers golf course and residential development off Airport Road north of Ruidoso attract visitors from other areas facing similar limitations and looking for solutions.

Mike O'Brien and attorney H. John Underwood on Tuesday updated Lincoln County commissioners on the status of the latest stage of the development.

O'Brien said the design features result in 50 percent less water being used compared to a subdivision and golf course of similar size. "Everything that goes into Rainmakers will have recapture," he said.

Three speculation houses are being built and four more may follow quickly, he said. The development near the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts consists of a cluster of patio homes and single-family lots.

Some of those lots were purchased by builders, who are constructing the homes for sale.

"We feel pretty lucky in these times," O'Brien said.

The root system on the 18-hole golf course's grass is four times as large as traditional courses, he said. The use of polymers mixed with the soil, which hold water and reduce the temperature of the soil, adds to the effectiveness of the overall system that includes rain catchment from homes, cisterns and a salt removal arrangement with lagoons, he said.

The polymers expand by 300 to 400 times in size as they absorb water and the roots come down to drink, encouraging the more desirable depth, he said. The polymers also discourage some destructive bacteria.

The golf course system cost about $150,000, but should result in more than a 25 percent savings in water use, he said.

"As the grass started to mature at the end of the year, we saw the savings," he said. Some areas are hand watered, which also conserves water.

Commissioner Jackie Powell said while she commends Rainmakers for the extra work, "My concern always will be long-term transferring of water rights from communities downstream."

She asked if Rainmakers monitored water quality. She would like data to judge the age of the water, the direction of flow and the time needed for recharge of the particular aquifer from which water is being pumped, Powell said.

"Everything that goes into Rainmakers will have recapture," says Rainmakers' spokesman Mike O'Brien.

O'Brien said some of that data is collected, but he did not bring any of the information.

Commission Chairman Tom Battin said he appreciated O'Brien coming back to the commission after approval and construction to tell commissioners what has occurred, "and you've done what you said you would," he told O'Brien.

Underwood said he read an article about Powell's concern over water rights transfers to Rainmakers and wanted her to know the developer is required to monitor surrounding domestic wells for any effects from the subdivision or golf course.

"I think Rainmakers have been leaders in the area of conservation," he said.

"The water rights (mentioned last month in a transfer application) are the same ones in place for the past 10 years on lease, but the State Engineer required we make them permanent."

Other applications for transfers will be used by the utility that serves the subdivision and the surrounding settlements of Enchanted Estates and Rancho Ruidoso Valley Estates.

"They are not for use on the course per se. I wanted to clean that up," he said.

Two extraterritorial disputes settled quickly

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Two disputes were resolved quickly during a recent 20-minute meeting of the Ruidoso-Lincoln County Extraterritorial Zoning Authority.

Brady Baxter and Dennis McMillan worked out an agreement on Baxter's complaint before the meeting. Members of the authority, composed of two county commissioners and one village councilor, applauded their initiative, which negated Baxter's appeal of a previous approval of a commercial site development plan for a roadside market.

In a memorandum to the board last week, Baxter detailed the basic tenets of the agreement:

- The proposed farmer's market on New Mexico Highway 48 near the Gavilan Canyon intersection will be treated as a conditional use under the ETZ zoning ordinance, subject to annual renewals at an ETZ Commission meeting each February.
- Conditions placed on the use and site plan specified by the ETZC will apply, including hours of operation, nonamplified music and placement of portable restrooms out of sight from highway NM48 and within a shed on the western portion of the site with screening from landowners to the south, west and north.

The site is part of the Alto Crest Subdivision and McMillan will limit operation to one or two weekend days.

"It's possible, if he gets real busy, that parking will becomes an issue along the main road," said Village Planning Director Bob Decker.

No hearing input

Councilor Ron Hardeman said because the issue was advertised for a public hearing, it should be opened for any public testimony. When no one stepped to the podium, he offered a motion to accept the agreement with the additional conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

The extraterritorial zone extends around the village for one mile and the ETZC and ETZA govern development within that transitional zone.

Gavilan Canyon lot

In a second issue, Decker said some questions remained about the exact action taken by the ETZA in reference to an appeal by David Robinson of a denial of a conditional use for Lot 53A, Barney Luck Subdivision on Gavilan Canyon Road.

Hardeman said the intention of his motion last month was to deny Robinson's appeal based on facts related to two items listed on the appeal. It was up to Robinson if he wanted to go back to the ETZC. He offered a new motion clarifying his motion, which passed.

Decker later explained that Robinson wanted to put multiple buildings on his land near the Alto Cafe when his permit is for one structure on each lot.

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Rated PG-13

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1 can for Children

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LINCOLN COUNTY FY 2007/2008 1/8TH GROSS RECEIPT TAX COLLECTIONS

	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08
GROSS AMOUNT	$60,633	$59,862	$62,760	$58,588	$55,514	$55,997	$50,038	$59,147	$49,743	$48,920	$53,791	$44,866

The chart at left shows Lincoln County Gross Receipts Tax Collections for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. On facing page, the current fiscal year through November can be used for year-to-year comparison.

Below, on page 9A, are the past three fiscal years for Lincoln County Lodgers Tax Collections, including the current year in progress.

COURTESY LINCOLN COUNTY

COUNTY

FROM PAGE 1A

issued to build a new detention center several years ago in Carrizozo and supplies the revenue for the county's Indigent Health Care Fund.

Over a four-year period, data showed the fund continued to grow and this fiscal year that began July 1, also looks good.

A slight downturn occurred in September, reflecting revenues collected from July, the month of a massive flood along the Ruidoso and Hondo rivers. But the checks for August and October, reflecting business in June and August, were higher than in the corresponding months in 2007-2008, at $65,876 and $62,734, respectively. Cala-way's charts show Septem-ber and November totals also surpassed last year.

"If we have a decline, at what point do we sound the alarm?" Commission Chairman Tom Battin asked about the GRT for the indigent care fund.

"We look at it month to month," County Manager Tom Stewart replied. "Right now we have $527,000. If we see a significant decline (in GRT revenue collection), Scott (Annala, county IHC fund coordinator) and I will cut down."

The IHC fund is flexible, but the bond payment is mandatory and can't be reduced, he said. However, Stewart said he would look into possibly refinancing the bonds at a lower interest rate to see if the savings would offset fees and reverting to the majority of the payment going to interest.

CONTINUED PAGE 9A

VILLAGE

FROM PAGE 1A

transition in the finance department and because one major lodger now pays on a quarterly basis.

'Huge payback'

"The figures were reported before a huge payment that put us right back up there," she said Thursday. Checks from the state reflect collection activity of 5 percent on revenue generated from lodging two months prior.

Figures supplied to the committee show Ruidoso for its 5 percent lodgers tax collection at $647,336.70 at the five-month mark in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. That's about half the amount of a six-month total collected in 2007-2008, which ended at $1.223 million. About $1.19 million was collected in 2006-2007 and $948,561 in 2005-2006.

"To see a true picture of how the summer went, you really need to look from the May motorcycle rally to the September motorcycle rally, not from Memorial Day to Labor Day," Davis said.

To date in 2008-2009, a check for $90,559 was received from the state in July for lodgers tax compared to $142,666 last fiscal year for the same month; $167,235 in August compared to $171,349; $209,007 in September compared to $141,776; $111,405 in October compared to $129,864; and $69,130 was estimated for November compared to $71,984.

SE region up

In the *Travel Trends* publication, year to date lodging revenue for cities in New Mexico was up by 2.93 percent and for counties, was down 22.55 percent. However, all six regions in the state reported increases ranging from a high of 32.63 percent in the Central Region to a low of 7.89 percent in the Northwest Region. The Southeast Region, into which Lincoln County falls, reported lodging revenue up 17.44 percent.

Traffic at state visitor information centers was up 94.9 percent for the quarter, tied in part to the reopening of the Gallup and Glen Rio visitor centers. Web site inquiries were down 84 percent for the quarter, but print inquiries were up 70.8 percent.

Even with the $1.3 million decline that Davis disputed, *Travel Trends* showed Ruidoso third in the state after Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and ahead of Las Cruces in lodgers tax for the third quarter of the calendar year.

The village was fourth in year-to-date lodgers revenue totals, after the other three municipalities with $23.39 million in 2007 compared to $19.58 million in 2008.

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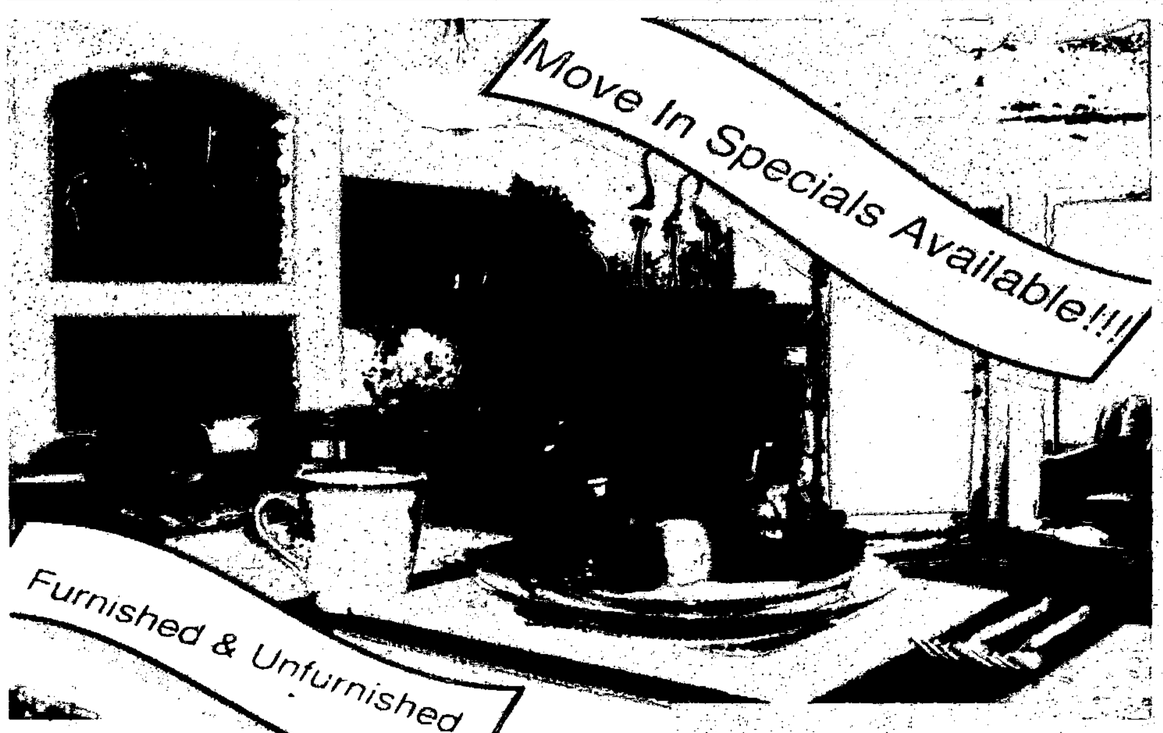

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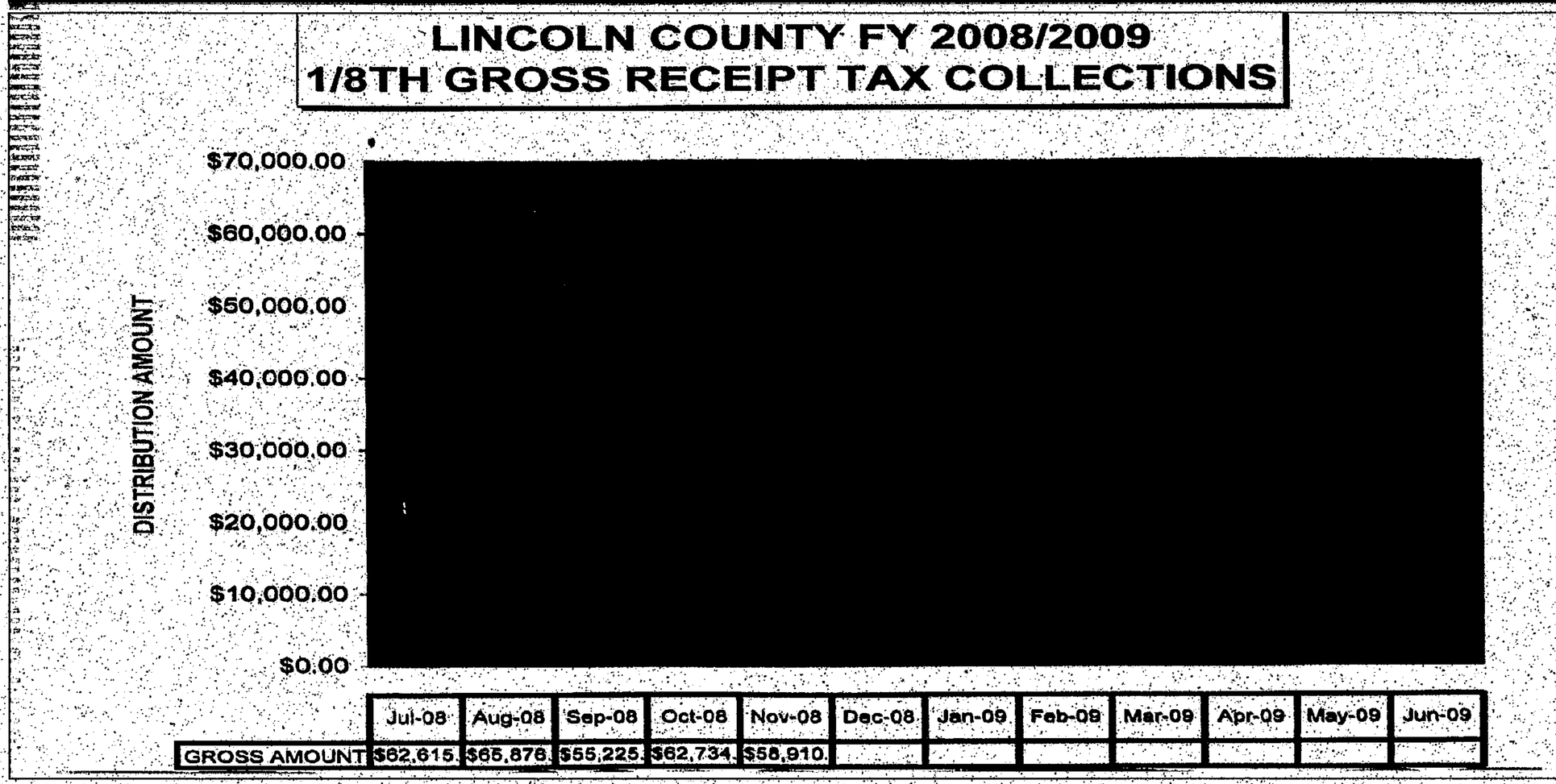

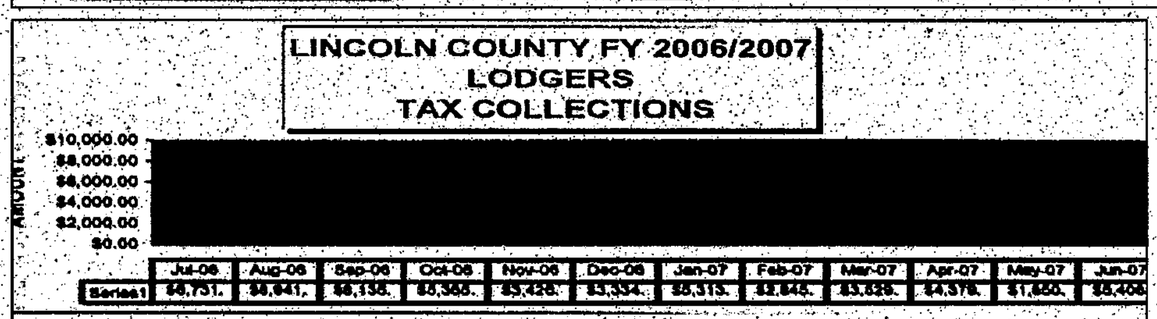

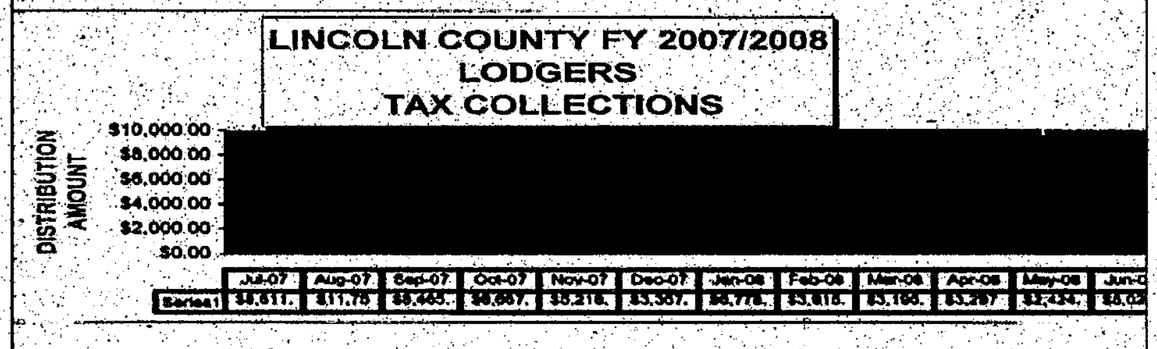

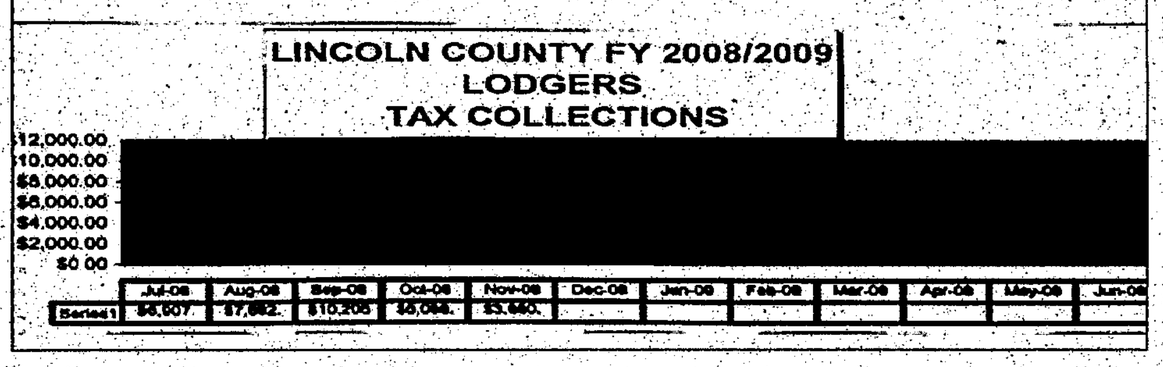

FROM PAGE 8A

Commissioner Dave Parks said the county pays 4.5 percent interest, but the rate might be reduced to as low as half a percentage point. "We have a good credit rating," Battin agreed. "Take a look to see if it's worth it."

Possible construction of a new court complex could be rolled into a refinancing, Stewart said, He did not see an appropriate category for infrastructure projects to be funded by the federal government under President-elect Barack Obama's administration.

"Our community is a relatively inexpensive tourist destination. I don't think people will give up taking some kind of break from the Texas heat," he said.

"That's traditionally the case," Parks agreed. When the economy goes sour, instead of flying to Hawaii, many Texans come to Lincoln County. Unless the oil patch bottoms, the county should survive all right, he said.

Comparing Lodgers Tax collections from Fiscal Year 2007-2008 to the current 2008-2009 year, the picture wasn't quite as optimistic. While not far off the mark from 2006-2007, monthly checks for the first five months of the 2008-2009 fiscal year were lower in 2007-2008 for all but September, which at $10,205 reflects lodging in July and exceeded the previous year by $1,741.

"We're holding our own," Calaway said. "It will be interesting to see the totals in December. That will say a whole lot about the financial position of the county and of the country.

"I think the decrease in July and August were from the severe flood damage. I also believe we need to be very conservative in allocating lodgers tax money (for the promotion of events to draw tourists) this year. We've collected 48 percent of the projected lodgers tax revenue, down from 67 percent at this point in 2007."

Commissioner Jackie Powell said one major advantage with the drop in gasoline prices is that the county is a vacation destination that can be reached easily by car from most of its market area.

Calaway reported the total cash on hand in the county Nov. 30, was $15.7 million and some of the average interest rates were 1.58 percent for the state's investment pool and 3.03 percent for a money market account. For the first time, she is seeing a negative return on U.S. Treasury bills.

Battin, a retired banker, said he too never had seen a zero return on treasury bills. "That's an expensive flight to safety," he said, of the move to reduce interest rates and passage of the $700 billion bail out bill.

Stewart said throughout New Mexico investment pools and funds are down up to 36 percent. He read that the state retirement fund is taking in $24 million this year and paying out $25 million.

"We have to operate on a balanced budget and so New Mexico and the counties are in better shape compared to the $24.8 billion deficit in California," Stewart said.

"I think we're very lucky we had commissioners who took a conservative approach over the years and that's why the county is where it is today," Calaway added.

Her staff did an excellent job, she said. The property tax payment mail was especially heavy in the first few weeks and they also saw more people paying their property taxes using the Web site, she said.

"They have an excellent leader," Commissioner Eileen Lovelace Sedillo complimented Calaway, who responded, "It takes a good staff to make a good leader."

"We have to operate on a balanced budget, and so New Mexico and the counties are in better shape compared to the $24.8 billion deficit in California," said Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart.

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Stanbrough awarded scholarships

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Staci Stanbrough, Capitan, was awarded two Corriente CowBelle scholarships to help further her education at NMSU.

The Corriente CowBelles recently named the recipient of two scholarships and announced the winners of the 2008 Corriente CowBelle of the Year and Corriente CowBelle "Man of the Year."

Staci Stanbrough, a junior at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces qualified for both the Janice Herd and the Judy Arrowsmith Scholarships.

Stanbrough received the awards at the Corriente annual Christmas party at the Dolan House in Lincoln earlier this month.

"I've never had so much fun at a party before in my life," she recalled with laughter. "Those women had more fun than I ever imagined a group of women would have. I laughed and laughed the whole time."

Stanbrough, the daughter of Tiger and Karen Stanbrough, has maintained a straight A average during her college career along with being an active member of the NMSU Rodeo Team.

Shoulder surgery last summer slowed down the cowgirl for a little while, but with therapy and strong will to rodeo, Stanbrough came back strong, most recently winning the All-Around title at the NMSU college rodeo.

Stanbrough injured her shoulder playing high school basketball and after repeated dislocations, she relented to the surgical repairs.

She has qualified for the National College Finals the last two years. Stanbrough has been focusing her studies on an Ag Business major, but recently switched to Animal Science with the study and practice of veterinary medicine as her goal.

Each year the Corriente CowBelles award scholarships to deserving Lincoln County students who are graduating seniors, college or graduate students who are studying agriculture or a related field. This year a $500 scholarship was awarded in memory of Janice Eldridge Herd and a $300 scholarship in memory of Judy Arrowsmith, both deceased Corriente members.

The 2008 Corriente CowBelle of the year is Sherry Huddleston. This year, sharing honors, the Corriente Man of the Year selected was Sherry's husband, Hugh Bob.

The couple received a plaque of appreciation for the many hours they spent assuring that the local CowBelle ropings were a success.

POST-APOCALYPTIC CONSTRUCTION

JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSONEWS

Construction crews started work this week on the sets on 12th Street in Carrizozo. Work began with the setting of tall poles to anchor the framework for the false-front buildings that will stand between existing structures in the filming of the post-apocolyptic movie, *The Book of Eli*. Actual filming will take place for six days in March.

The Christmas letter *not* to write

The weenie dog in the tutu leisurely leaning back on a sofa pillow did it for me.

Over-the-top Christmas greetings have gone, literally, to the dogs, cats, horses and even a parakeet.

I know it is the season and all that, but geeez Louise, have people gotten that desperate for a life to share? In reading some of them, I wonder why they haven't died of boredom.

Cowgirl Sass & Savvy
BY JULIE CARTER

It is my belief that a Christmas letter is intended to catch the reader up on the year's highlights, provided there are some, in the life of the sender.

Somehow that has gotten to be such a chore that there are now tutorials on how to write a proper Christmas letter.

These lessons come with tips, suggestions and the inference that bragging isn't really acceptable.

We've all gotten at least one like this:

Sara, 8, has the lead in our community play, Aaron, 10, was recently voted the most gifted and talented child in school and now that Emily is 3, she's started reading. Between ferrying the kids around to school, church and extracurricular activities, Beth gave birth to our fourth child in September. He's already beginning to crawl! Howard has been promoted to CEO of the World. We took three vacations last year to tropical paradises (see attached photos).

There is no doubt in my mind that the budding Rhodes Scholars and Julliard graduates are in all honesty, just average kids leaving their underwear on the bathroom floor every time they shower, never flushing the toilet and whining when they have to unload the dishwasher.

Mentioning births, deaths, marriages and relocations are quite important, but not if that involves only the pets and not the people.

My favorites are the ones that provide a laugh while the writer laughs at himself:

Tom here! Wow, 2008 has shaped up to be one of those years for the Shoemaker family. So much has happened that it's hard to know where to begin. First, there was that business with the IRS; then the trial, wherein a co-worker's husband accused me of adultery, followed by my third arrest for DUI. And all that happened before June!!

Finding a way to bring interest to a "quiet" life isn't easy, but sharing the lackluster does nothing to quicken the holiday heart of the receiver.

If your story leaves you flat, it won't look any better to the reader on the other end. Make no apologies, just don't write it. Perhaps a Hallmark card is your best bet to "send your very best."

Know when to quit. If someone hasn't sent you a Christmas greeting for three years, take them off your list.

You can tell yourself they are too busy to write, but who are you fooling? They are wondering how long before you take the hint.

Now don't get me wrong, and you will, but here it is. I love my pets. You love your pets. However, you aren't required to love mine any more than I will love yours, most of whom I have never met.

Honestly folks, and I say this at the risk of not hearing from many of you ever again, that Chihuahua has no idea why you dressed him up in that stupid Santa suit for a photo.

Keeping that in mind, if I ever start writing Christmas letters that are signed with the name of my pets, paw prints included, and in the body of the letter, I discuss their annual veterinary needs and issues, just shoot me.

If I talk about the highlight of my years' work as being the installation of new ceiling fans and how good the new tin looks on the old trailer house, just shoot me.

There is a reason my Christmas letters are mostly family photos. Those, indeed, are worth a thousand words and none of them a lie. We really are hillbillies!

Julie hasn't yet created her 2008 Christmas letter that will contain shameless self-promotion of her new book, Cowboys —You Gotta Love 'em, *found through her Web site at www.julie-carter.com or by emailing jcarter@ruidosonews.com.*

LINCOLN WINNERS

COURTESY SUE HARKNESS

The ChristmasTree decorating contest in Lincoln over the weekend was won by Judy Morris of Ruidoso. Her tree decorations, top photo, included little homemade gingerbread men. Morris won a large chile ristra donated by Seasons Nursery. Second place went to Sue Maness who decored an ocotillo branch with pink flower buds on the end. Manness won a candle and wooden picture frame donated by Arrowsmiths in Lincoln.

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Lincoln Hills variances draw county's attention

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Reluctant to expose Lincoln County to any added liability, county commissioners debated the idea of granting a variance after-the-fact for road grades leading into two intersections in the Lincoln Hills subdivision.

At their meeting in November, commissioners reviewed information from County Planner Curt Temple, Lincoln Hills developer Mark Clark and his surveyor Eric Collins. They eventually approved the difference in percentage of road grades after County Attorney Alan Morel elicited formal opinions from Collins on each requested variance that driving safety would not be an issue.

Temple recommended denying the variance request, not based on the percentage of change in grade, but because the issue was one of noncompliance with approved plans. He noted that Lincoln Hills already was granted a grade variance before the subdivision was approved.

"There is some issue of liability approving a road as-built and not in compliance with approved plans," he told commissioners.

In a memorandum to commissioners and repeated at the meeting, Temple said, "I believe this is not the correct use of a variance request (which is requested and ruled on before a subdivision is approved). I believe this is a compliance issue with the subdivision ordinance or should be a civil issue between the developer and the road contractor. The contractor had the original road plans that met grades and did not construct the road to the plans."

Temple pointed out that when private roads are built in subdivisions, the county doesn't have an inspector on site during construction, as happens with public roads.

Private roads are to be built to plans the developer had engineered and designed by a professional, he said.

"The county does not find out about these issues until final as-built (drawings) are submitted to the county," Temple said.

Commissioner Eileen Lovelace Sedillo asked Collins if grade elevation stakes were installed and if they were, how the contractor could build out of compliance.

Collins said grade stakes were in place and he didn't know how, except the contractor may have followed the terrain. To correct the grades would cause more problems on the roads and be costly, he contended.

The roads affected were the three-way intersection of Lincoln Hills Drive with Butch Baird Road and a four-way intersection involving the same two roads.

"We feel the small amount of difference in grade from plans is not a safety issue," Collins said. "The sight distance is good on all. The first is an intersection coming into Lincoln Hills Drive and has plenty of stopping room. You are not going to be slowing down on that road, so grade will not be an issue. The other is a cul-de-sac intersection.

"Most of the grades coming into the intersection are out of conformance coming up and will be used by drivers to slow down. I don't think they are a huge liability issue to the county."

The smallest variation is a 5.6 percent grade, which would have to be brought down to the county's 5 percent requirement, he said. But he contended when an ordinance says a 5 percent grade, "there is a little play there," which might not be the case if the ordinance stated a 5.0 percent grade.

"They all were designed at 5 percent. I'm not arguing that," Collins said. "But the cost to go back in and fix them I feel outweighs the safety issue."

To comply, the road would have to be lowered 1.8 feet over a 100-foot length, Collins said.

Collins detailed each out of compliance grade, the biggest at 7.6 percent.

A representative of Ruidoso Paving said to correct the grades would cost about $50,000.

Clark, with Alto Land Developers partnership, said that was the cost of the previous repair, but an additional $26,000 was paid by the developer to lower utilities on both sides.

"That is not a reason not to do it, if there is a safety issue," he said. "But it is nearly impossible to tell there is a problem if you're driving. You're traveling uphill to a stop sign. Initially, it was a two-way stop, but we changed it to a four-way for safety sake, because people might run through it, not because of the slope issue."

If the others are corrected, the correction will exacerbate the problem on the other side of the intersection, he contended. "To repair one increases the other two."

Responding to questions from Commissioner Dave Parks, Temple said he doubts that all of the road grade variances would have been approved if requested in advance through the county planning commission.

Morel agreed that variances usually come in advance and amount to requests to "violate your law."

"But our ordinance doesn't really address when it has to be requested. I think technically this is a variance. We don't have any waiver. Safety is the issue and any liability the county might incur in approving the differences. It also could be considered economic waste in cost versus benefit. But I don't want a situation where a developer says just build it and get it approved later."

Temple: "There is some issue of liability approving a road as-built and not in compliance with approved plans."

Battin, who offered the motion to approve, said commissioners will evaluate each circumstance in determining whether to approve such variances.

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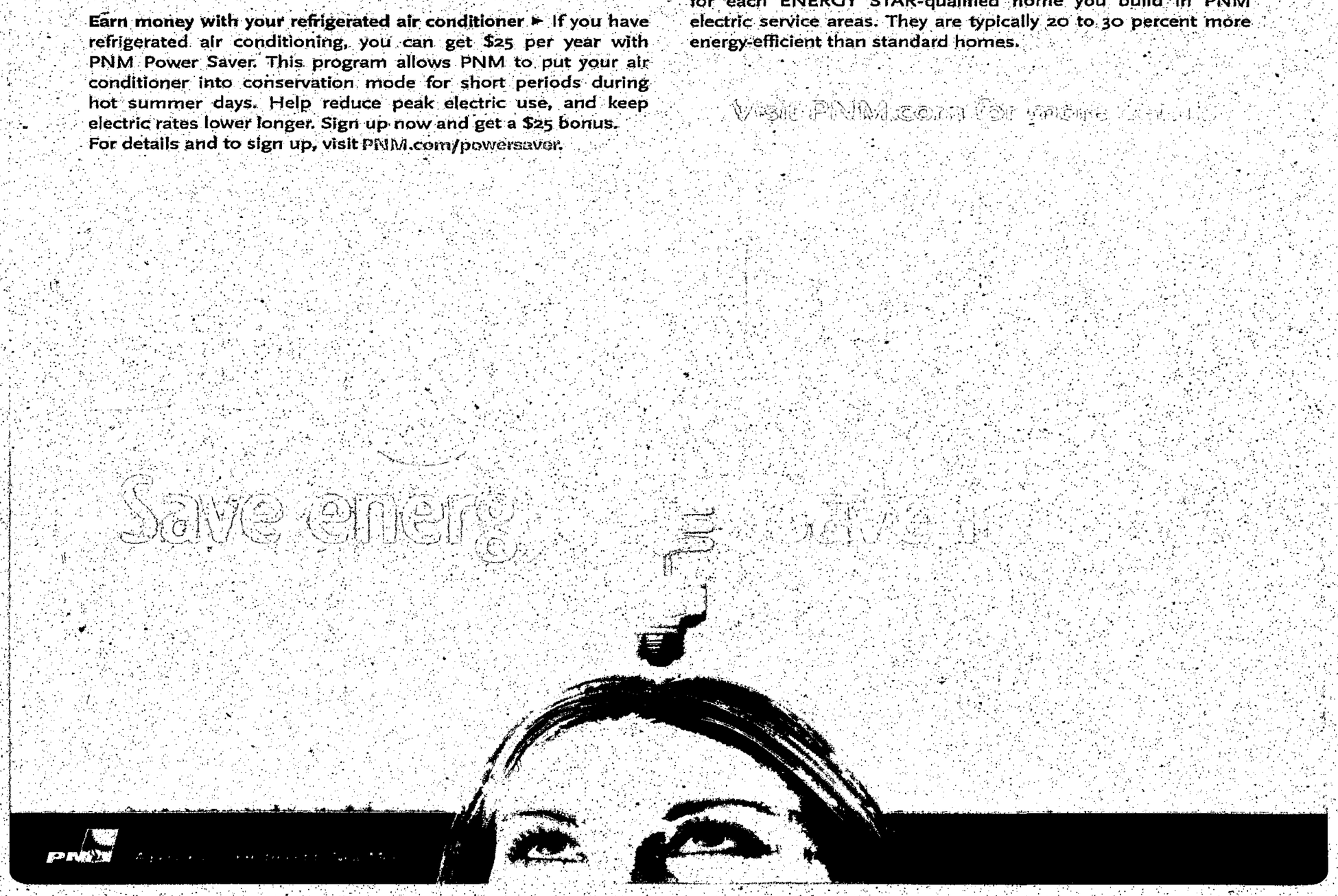

DROP

FROM PAGE 1A

amount for Fiscal Year 2009-2010," Gibson wrote in a memorandum to commissioners. "Using this amount, the approximate quarterly payment from the mill levy funds would be $128,000. The money is then matched with the federal portion of Medicaid and returned to the hospital in quarterly payments."

The match is three federal dollars for each local dollar, resulting in about $503,000 returning to the hospital each quarter, he said. The money is used for patients who cannot pay for their care and that figure is increasing, Gibson said.

"A big drop occurred in small businesses in the state that provide insurance for employees," Gibson said. "*The Wall Street Journal* reports a big increase in storefront closures.

"Worldwide, I think we need to be prepared for a rough time. I've hoarded my cash for the last six months. I'm not buying capital equipment. I'm using (hospital) auxiliary money to buy capital things and I'm gong to the (hospital) foundation. We're pulling in tightly. We've been in a hiring freeze for months and I need to contract even more."

If growth is triggered again, the course can be reversed quickly, he said.

Gibson plans to retire next year. He said he anticipates his replacement to be on board before July 1.

After commissioners approved the SCP payment, they turned to a draft of a request for proposals to prepare a hospital master plan. County Manager Tom Stewart said besides advertising the RFP, he found three companies interested in the project.

Commission Chairman Tom Battin asked if the hospital previously prepared a master plan. Gibson replied in the 1990s a comprehensive plan was put together detailing three phases of construction to expand the hospital.

"But it was done with local assets and resources, I think," the administrator said. "I recommended finding an outside expert, because if we get back to growth, the needs far exceed the money and we must be very careful how every dollar is spent.

"I also think the public will accept a plan from experts more than from Presbyterian. (Such a) plan is not my area of expertise, but I can get us there with a plan."

Battin said some people may ask why the county is paying for the master plan and not LCMC. "I think it is the responsibility of the commission to meet its responsibility for health care in the county, no matter who is operating the hospital," he said. "I'm pleased to see that an independent third party will perform the study."

He suggested one or two commissioners sit on the committee that evaluates qualifications and ranks responding companies for contract negotiation.

In a related item, commissioners approved claims against the sole community provider program at the hospital and from the county's Indigent Health Care Fund, which is used to pay previously qualified non-LCMC healthcare providers such as independent physicians, therapists and out-of-county hospitals.

Of 40 claims submitted under SCP, 39 totaling $48,788.27 were approved, bringing the total for the year to $420,060.54.

Of 65 claims under the IHC program, 61 were approved for $19,949.96, bringing the year to date to $198,464.03.

Stewart said that last year the average IHC monthly claims payment was $44,272. "If we were to continue this pace of $33,077.34 per month, we would need $396,928.06 for the year and the budget for claims for the year is $571,663.

COURTESY JACK ROGERS

White visiting The Kingdom of Sweels, Clara and her Nutcracker Prince enjoy several dances courtesy of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Featured in the Spanish Dance are (standing, l-r) Gigi Wiggins and Victoria Haney, along with Emily North and Kelley Stewart (front). *The Nutcracker*, a Christmas family tradition, is presented by The Ruidoso Dance Ensemble at the Spencer Theater on Saturday, Dec. 20, with performances at 2 and 7 p.m. Check out *¡Vámonos!* for more on this exciting production.

Restitution ordered in condo shoot-up

TODD FUQUA
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A quintet of visitors that were arrested during a wild night at the Piñon Park Condominiums a year ago have been sentenced in court to pay restitution for damages.

Josh Read, Perry Stovall, Daniel Quiroz, Charles Struwe and Andrew Balcom were in District Judge Karen Parsons' courtroom Friday, one day before the anniversary of their arrests involving the Ruidoso Police Special Response team, shots fired and deployment of tear gas.

The five men — all in their early 20s — had been drinking and began firing random shots using a 12-gauge shotgun and a .22 caliber handgun throughout the condominium in which they were staying.

Police fired chemical agents into the building to finally clear out the building, and all were arrested on a variety of charges.

According to lead prosecutor Linda Burson of the District Attorney's office, all five men were in court Friday, with their fathers present, as Parsons read the sentencing.

Stovall was sentenced to pay $4,717.47 within four-and-a-half years. Read was sentenced to pay the same amount in two years.

Quiroz, Struwe and Balcom were each ordered to pay $2,000 — Struwe in two years, while Balcom and Quiroz each must pay in one-and-a-half years.

Total amount of the compensation is $15,434.94, $12,139.65 of which will go to the owner of Piñon Park for damages and $3,295.29 will go to the Village Police Department to offset overtime incurred by officers during the incident.

Burson said she was pleased with the case's outcome.

"We avoided a week-long trial that would have tied up most of the police department in testimony," Burson said. "Each one of these young men was there and took responsibility for their actions. They also apologized to the police department.

"I don't doubt we'll get a majority of this money back."

WELLS

FROM PAGE 1A

occurs, many subdivisions approved or seeking approval on the basis of individual wells as the water source for each lot, will be affected, she said.

The issue was brought to a head after a lawsuit was filed in Grant County connected to the Mimbres Water Basin, when the court ruled a 1972 law that required the state engineer to approve all requests for new home wells regardless of impact to senior water rights holders is unconstitutional.

The conflict between the state Constitution and state statute especially creates a problem in basins called closed, such as the Hondo Basin in Lincoln County and the Lower Rio Grande Basin that includes Doña Ana County, where no new water rights can be appropriated.

The suit contended allowing new domestic wells to be drilled in those areas, without accompanying water rights, undermined senior water rights.

"I'm here to fight for those who fought to establish and stay here," said Powell, who lives east of Ruidoso Downs and shares water-related issues with other valley dwellers.

Attorney H. John Underwood, lobbyist and representative of Rainmakers subdivision, said he expects legislation growing out of the Mimbres lawsuit to be "hotly debated" in the January session of the state Legislature.

The proposed bill will begin its review in the House Agriculture Committee. Legislators must recognize that a redistribution of population is occurring in New Mexico, which requires some mechanism to transfer water rights to where the population is clustered, the attorney said.

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RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

Shoplifting

After being caught taking a bottle of alcohol from a local grocery store, LaVonne McCarthy, 45, of Ruidoso, was arrested for larceny, Dec. 17 and booked at the Ruidoso Police Department. She was later bonded out.

Apartment heist

A local resident learned the front door to his apartment was open, and came home to find several DVD movies and video games had been taken, Dec. 17. There are no suspects at this time.

Ditching evidence

Police were able to locate a suspect in a shoplifting case, Dec. 13, but the suspect, 19-year-old Isiah Salas, stated he got rid of the bottle of vodka after he left the scene of the crime. Salas was cited for shoplifting.

Porch theft

A pair of toolboxes on and under a front porch on the 100 block of Apache Hills was reported stolen, Dec. 13. The total cost of the tools and toolboxes is estimated at about $500. There are no suspects at this time.

Parking lot battery

Nicole Warner, 18, of Ruidoso, reportedly attacked another young woman, Dec. 7, in the parking lot of a restaurant in Midtown. Police eventually cited Warner for battery.

Jewelry heist

A home on the 300 block of Swallow Drive was broken into, Dec. 15, and several pieces of faux jewelry were stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

What a ham

HAM radio equipment was stolen from a home, Dec. 16, on the 100 block of Hideaway Lane. Cost of the equipment is estimated at $3,000, and there are no suspects at this time.

Piped out

A business on the 1400 block of Sudderth Drive was broken into, Dec. 16, and an undetermined amount of smoking pipes was taken. There are no suspects at this time.

More burglary

A home was found broken into, Dec. 15, by a PNM meter reader. Several items, including a firearm and television, were reported stolen. The burglars also apparently left behind prybars used to gain entry to the home. There are no suspects at this time.

Another home was broken into, Dec. 12, on the 400 block of Paradise Canyon Road. Nothing appeared to be missing, but drawers to every cabinet in the house were open.

DWI offenders not getting mandated treatment

ALBUQUERQUE – According to a study presented by the UNM Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions (CASAA), the court records of 52 percent of convicted second or third DWI offenders lacked orders for substance abuse treatment as mandated by New Mexico law. Recording treatment orders on court Judgment and Sentencing records is critical to the delivery and tracking of substance abuse treatment.

The study, "Sentencing to Treatment Records Investigation," also found that records of only 46 percent of second and third DWI offenders showed some type of treatment accessed. Of these cases, the most frequently noted kind of treatment was on an outpatient basis followed by residential treatment and treatment associated with drug courts. This records investigation study was funded by the New Mexico Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Bureau as part of its efforts to deter and prevent drunk driving.

"Substance abuse treatment is critical to helping many offenders stop the deadly crime of drinking and driving," said DWI Czar Rachel O'Connor. "These results serve as a wake up call that we all need to work together to make sure that convicted DWI offenders are ordered to receive required substance abuse treatment and then actually complete the treatment."

Researchers analyzed about 25 percent of data records from DWI offenders with second and third convictions. The random sample was drawn from Bernalillo, Chaves, Dona Ana, McKinley, Santa Fe, San Juan and Rio Arriba Counties. The records then were matched against online Judgment and Sentencing records and a final match against the State's treatment database.

New Mexico is one of 36 states that requires treatment for DWI offenders and is considered to have a progressive policy by mandating treatment on a second conviction. Research shows that a comprehensive program of education, treatment, and some form of follow-up monitoring helps decrease repeat DWI offenses.

"The findings from this study provide valuable information that can be used to ultimately make New Mexico roadway safer for all motorists," said DOT Secretary Rhonda Faught.

State hopes new law increases revocations

SANTA FE – Beginning Jan. 1, the State of New Mexico will allow police officers the option of filing a detailed and signed affidavit instead of appearing in person at DWI license revocation hearings.

The initiative is intended to decrease the number of license revocations that are dismissed because the police officer was unable to attend the license revocation hearing, conducted by the Taxation and Revenue Department's hearing office. The Motor Vehicle Division will also propose legislation in January that would allow a hearing to be conducted by telephone or by video conference. The option to file a signed affidavit for the hearing is allowed under current law.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for police officers to attend these license revocation hearings and to provide the facts that must be introduced and considered," said Rachel O'Connor, Governor Bill Richardson's DWI Czar. "Paper affidavits and electronic hearings have worked well in other states, and we believe these steps will improve our process here in New Mexico." The MVD plans to initiate the paper affidavit option in January with State Police in Bernalillo and San Juan counties and then to expand the initiative statewide.

For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2008, there were 18,847 arrests for drunk driving. Out of these, 12,791 licenses were automatically revoked since the driver didn't request a hearing. Of the 6,056 drivers who requested a hearing, 2,341 were dismissed when the police officer had a scheduling conflict. O'Connor said that New Mexico modeled its initiative after a successful program in the state of Washington. In that state, after allowing officer affidavits, the dismissal rate because of police non-attendance dropped significantly.

A Carrizozo Christmas Tradition

LUMINARIAS

We thank the citizens of Carrizozo for your donations and labor to keep the tradition going.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24 Meet at the Fire House
9:30 - Set out Luminarias on Local Streets
3:30 - Candle Lighting Begins

Christmas Day
8:00 am - Pick up luminaria Sacks from Streets

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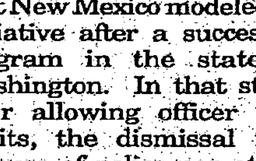

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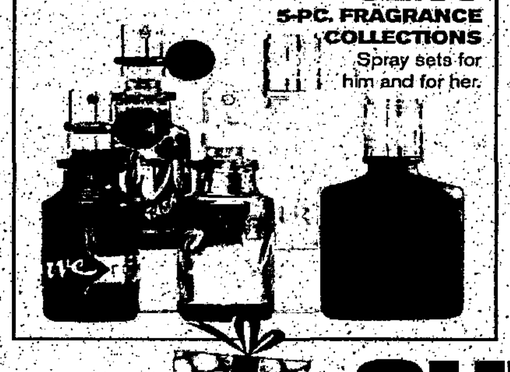

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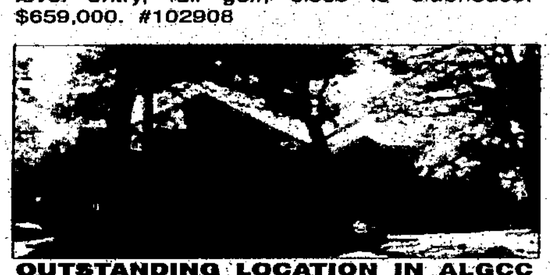
OUTSTANDING PREMIER HOME IN ALTO 3667 sq ft, 4 Br, 4 1/2 Ba, 2 living areas, dining room, FP, 20' cathedral ceilings, 3 covered decks w/privacy. Stucco w/Gerard roof, level entry, full golf, close to clubhouse. $659,000. #102908

BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM DEER PARK WOODS HOME Large master suite, living rm & 3 lounge-study areas, formal dining, breakfast area & lots of counter seating in huge kitchen. Porte cochere & 2 car garage, landscaping. $627,000. #101054

BEAUTIFUL STUCCO, RED TILE ROOF In Deer Park Woods. Sierra Blanca view. Non-golf membership. Lot on Stable Rd w/golf membership can be purchased for $29,000. Furn can be purchased from seller. $599,000.#101964

CLASSIC NEW MEXICO SETTING IS THE BACK DROP! Energy efficient, contemporary chalet. Very private location on the Bonito River w/views & sun in all directions. Passive solar heating & common sense cooling. $569,000. #104350



OUTSTANDING LOCATION IN ALGCC Close to clubhouse, on corner w/good views, big trees. 3 Br, 3 Ba, 2 living areas, office, FP & nice decks. Fenced courtyard, oversized 3 car garage. $499,000. #104273

BEAUTIFUL SPECIAL NEEDS HOME on 2.15 acres in Wh Mt Estates surrounded by tall pines. Vaulted beamed ceilings, granite counter tops, tile floors. Lifts in Br & Ba. Level access, remote control doors & lifts. $495,000. #104359

150 FEET OF SUDDERTH FRONTAGE Just east of Cattle Baron. 2 Buildings, 1967 sq ft office/apt. Separate 590 sq ft bldg leased to Burger Trolley. Great commercial location. All city utilities. $445,000. #14864

SOUTHWESTERN DELIGHT! Gorgeous 4 yr old, 4 Br + office, 3 Ba, custom home. Sunny warm location w/year round access, new sub. Custom cabinets, granite counters, Saltillo tile patios. $399,000. #102427

RELAX & HAVE FUN W/FAMILY & FRIENDS Wonderful decks to the very nice well kept Alto full golf home. A cozy bonus room w/wet bar & wood burning stove. Non-golf lot next door also available. $339,000. #102769

NICE 3 BR, 2 BA + OFFICE Full golf membership in Alto, within walking distance to club house. Double attached garage, nice deck & views. $335,000. #104136

GREAT HOME FOR ENTERTAINING or family get-togethers. Huge kit-liv-den area w/FP, opens out onto large covered deck. Large laundry-sewing-craft room, 3 Br, 2 1/2 Ba & sitting room. 2 Car garage. $322,500. #102343

COUNTRY LIVING @ ITS FINEST Beautiful landscape. Enjoy 2 back patios. Remodeled last 2 yrs. Greenhouse for growing your favorites. Perfect getaway on 1.18 ac. Self sustaining property. $319,500. #103747

GREAT TIME TO INVEST! In this newer 2,000 SF, 3/2 w/beautiful sun room overlooking the fenced back yard. Double garage, level entry, single level, stucco ext. NICE BUY at $312,500. #103470

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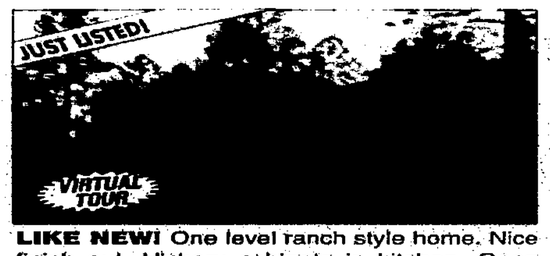
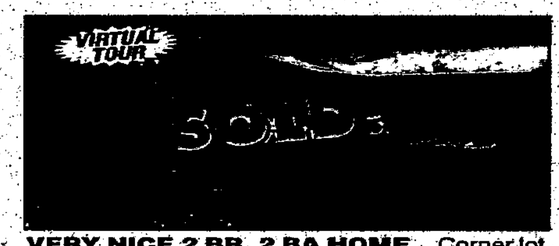
COUNTRY HOME ON 5 ACRES 3 bdrm 2 bath w/wonderful country flair. Great views & land 20 min from town. 38'x41' building houses the barn, dbl garage & workshop. $250,000. #101654



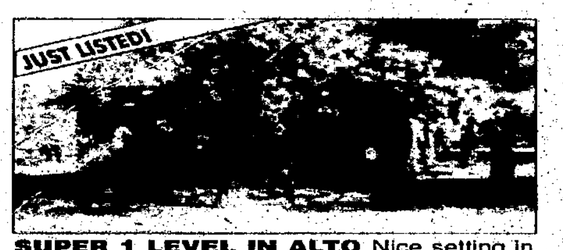
LIKE NEW! One level ranch style home. Nice finish out. Hickory cabinets in kitchen. Open living/kitchen/dining. Split floor plan. A couple steps up from garage. $249,500. #104369

RUIDOSO RUSTIC CABIN Complete w/knotty pine interior, near Cree Meadows Golf Course. 0.765 Acre, nestled away in the tall pines, fenced. Private & beautifully landscaped. Guest house. $239,900. #101757



VERY NICE 2 BR, 2 BA HOME Corner lot w/view of Sierra Blanca & has a full golf membership. $225,000. #102960

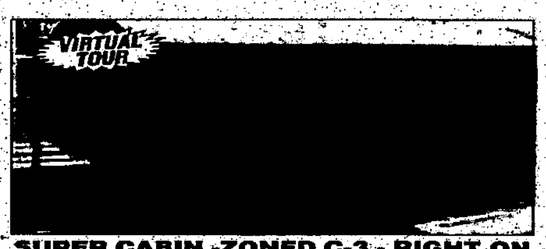
REMODELED, LIKE NEW UNIT 3 Br, 1 3/4 Ba, FP w/view of Sierra Blanca. Wood/tile flooring & level access. Would make excellent retreat or rental. Purchase both units for $438,000. or $219,000. ea. #102254



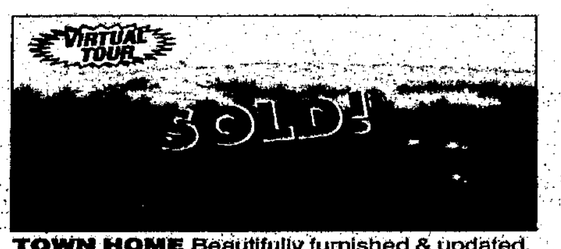
SUPER 1 LEVEL IN ALTO Nice setting in the trees w/level, ez access. Almost everything redone in last yr: new carpet, paint, furnace, fridge, wtr htr, internet & cable, swamp cooler. $199,500. #104346

3 CONDOS W/VIEW OF SIERRA BLANCA Great rental property or full time residence. Range from 3 Br/3 full Ba to 5 Br/ 3 full Ba. Plenty of storage, great balconies & decks. Fully furnished. $179,900. to $198,900. #16226

PRIME REAL ESTATE 4 Small cabins, newly painted & remodeled, renting $400. per mo each, in Mid-Town, great location, Sierra Blanca views, all city utilities. L/A related to owner. $159,000. #100033



SUPER CABIN -ZONED C-3 - RIGHT ON THE RIVER Great for rental or commercial use, 1 Br, 1 Ba. Additional 192 ft downstairs not heated. Parking in front of house or public parking next door. Seller is related to L/A . $147,500. #101632



TOWN HOME Beautifully furnished & updated. Warm tone interior paint & updated kitchen tile. Custom fans, great views off expanded deck. Sunny entrance for warm winters. $129,000. #102286

ENJOY THE COUNTRY SETTING Very efficient 3/2 with all utilities. Mostly level lot w/easy access. $104,900 #103150

GOOD COMMERCIAL PROPERTY-PRICE REDUCED! Great visibility on Hwy 70, 3 RV spaces plumbed along w/office & storage space. $100,000. #100188

BEST "CONDO/CABIN" DEAL IN TOWN! Free standing 2/1 cabin/condo w/access to indoor heated pool & spa. Nightly rental history! Owner/Broker. $99,500. #104362

Ready ... Set ... Ski

LAURA DOTH
For the Ruidoso News

It was a tough beginning for the Ruidoso Ski Team this past weekend. Casey Cultreri and Lexie Doth headed north for the first race of the season.

Set at Loveland Ski Valley just outside of Silverthorne, Colo., the Colorado Junior Ski Cup was slated for Saturday, Dec. 13, and Sunday, Dec. 14. The team arrived in Colorado on Friday, Dec. 12, and the snow began to fall.

As temperatures dropped, the snow continued to come down. Loveland Ski Valley reported four inches of fresh powder before the races started on Saturday - ideal for the recreational skier, but a challenge for ski race organizers.

They have to quickly pack the powder to provide a fast racecourse for the competitors. Ski racers prefer a hard packed surface so the edges of their skis can carve a turn and the resulting speed carries them down the hill. A "soft" course with fresh powder provides its own set of challenges.

If a racer doesn't follow his line, he can get caught in the soft powder and stumble or fall.

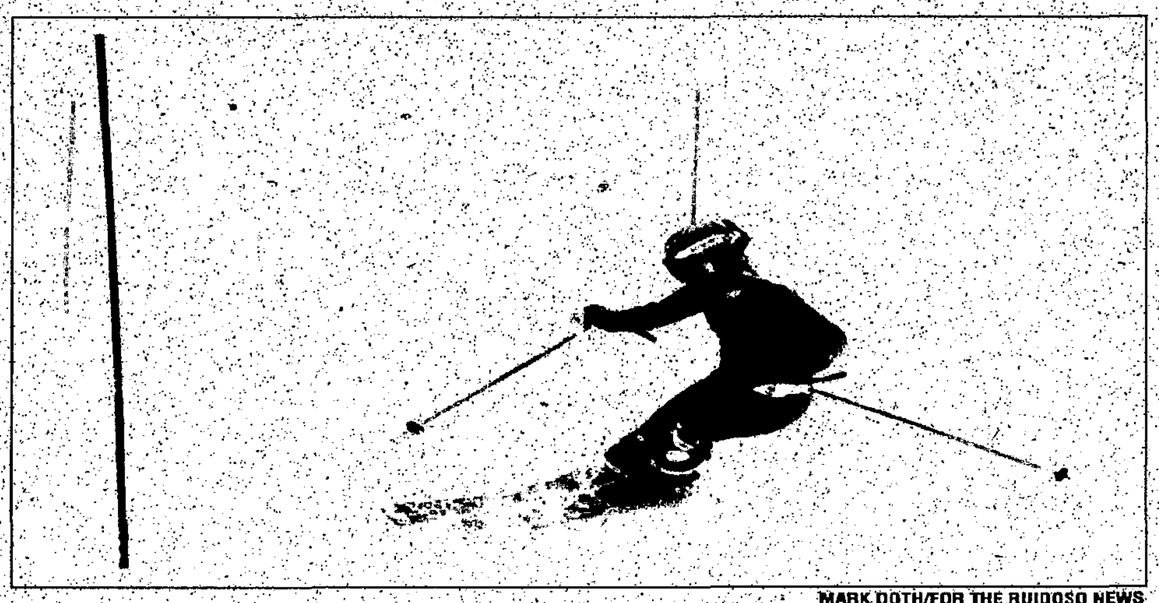
In addition to dealing with Mother Nature, the Ruidoso racers have had limited time on snow to prepare for the racing season. "Casey attended a fall race camp in Colorado, and Lexie attended a similar camp in California in November", said coach Mark Doth. "Neither has had any recent gate training this season because of the limited terrain open at Ski Apache. So this was really a great opportunity to both train and compete."

Competing on "Twist," Casey Cultreri was the first racer out of the gate for the Ruidoso team. Midway down the course, Cultreri straddled a gate and was disqualified. Because Ability Class racers combine the times of their two runs, his disqualification meant that he did not get to post a second run, and he was done for the day. "It's tough starting the first race of the season with a disqualification, but that meant Casey was skiing aggressively, and that's always a good thing," said Coach Doth.

Lexie Doth, wearing bib number 55, was next on the racecourse. The girl's course was very challenging, and 22 out of the 50 competitors either did not finish both runs, or were disqualified. Despite the fact that she hadn't raced in a slalom event since April, Lexie negotiated the 47 gates in a time of 1:00.55. It was a very conservative performance, but it did guarantee her a second run. Doth posted a time of 1:05.04 in the afternoon, placing her 33rd for the day. "Lexie had some difficulty dialing into the race on Saturday," said Coach Doth, "but it was a great training opportunity. Her afternoon run was definitely her best effort. The first part of the race was on a steep pitch, and Lexie didn't push it there. Midway down the run, things started to click, and she got her rhythm back. We were really pleased with how she picked up the pace during her second run."

As the racers headed home for the evening, the snow continued to fall. By race time on Sunday, more than 11 inches was on the ground and it was still snowing. Temperatures had dropped to near zero, and the wind chill was brutal. Race organizers and coaches met to decide what to do. The consensus was to cancel the race due to the weather conditions. "We were disappointed that we didn't get to race," said Doth, "but we were able to take a couple of powder runs before we hit the road."

The Ruidoso Ski Team will be heading back to Colorado this weekend for a Smartwool race in Vail.



MARK DOTH/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Lexie Doth eyes a slalom gate as she heads down the mountain.

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache

Officially opened Nov. 27 – For the latest snow totals, call 257-9001. The Ski report is culled from www.skiapachesnowreport.com

Tickets: Season passes are available by phone at 464-3600.

New snow past 48 hrs.: 1 inche

Season total: 19 inches

Weather for Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. West wind around 15 mph. Friday evening, mostly clear, with a low around 25. West wind around 15 mph.

Weather for Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. Windy, with a west wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Saturday evening, partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Snow surface: Packed powder, machine groomed

Skiing conditions: Variable

Groomed runs: Easy Street, Bunny, Easy of Easy Street, Lower Deep Freeze and Capitan Heavy.

Groomers Pick: Capitan Heavy

Lifts open: No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5. Gondola is temporarily closed.

Snowmaking: Yes, nightly, weather permitting

Sports On Tap

Boys Basketball

Friday, Dec. 19

Mescalero Invite, TBA, with Hondo, Mescalero and Carrizozo, et. al.

Ruidoso at Artesia, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Ruidoso at Robertson, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Friday, Dec. 19

Mescalero Invite, TBA, with Hondo, Mescalero and Carrizozo, et. al.

Goddard at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Chaparral at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.

Guilty until proven innocent

CURRAN EVENTS

BY MIKE CURRAN
SPORTS EDITOR

OK, so Plaxico Burress isn't the brightest bulb in the pack. The N.Y. Giants' receiver was last year's Super Bowl hero when he pulled in the game-winning catch in the last 35 seconds of play.

A few weeks ago, he decided to take his .40-caliber Glock to the Latin Quarter for a few hours of fun and frivolity in the Big Apple. When he made that ill-fated decision he laid himself open for every negative thing that happened to him afterwards. First of all, he didn't have a New York permit to carry. It has been reported he possessed a Florida concealed weapon permit which had expired in May, but it didn't matter as out-of-state permits are not transferable to N.Y. No, his second mistake was getting caught in Manhattan. New York City is comprised of five boroughs, and of those, Manhattan has the highest conviction rate. About 22 percent of the defendants in that borough get convicted of second-degree gun possession whereas it's 10 percent or less in the other boroughs. So, unless they knock his offense down to a third-degree criminal possession, Burress is looking at a mandatory 3 1/2 year sentence.

Look, I know what you're thinking – so what. We live in Lincoln County. What's this have to do with us? And besides, those high-paid athletes are always getting away with crimes that if it were you or I, we would be thrown so far back in the joint they would have to pump air into our cells.

I've been writing to you for almost two years now and I feel I can trust you. It is with that conviction, and maybe against my better judgment, that I now tell you I wasn't always the sterling character you know me to be.

In my formative years (before my brain's frontal lobes were fully formed) I traveled in some questionable circles that took me into some seedy locales. I liked the action and excitement that gambling and boxing spawned. For many, it was a way of life and it wasn't boring. And if you decided to go over to Camel (Youngstown), Ohio, for a night of Barboot (Greek dice) you did not go undressed (if you know what I mean).

That's just the way it is in those circles back in those parts. Fortunately, I was given the chance to grow up before I got "rung up." Burress, apparently, didn't learn that lesson before he took the fall.

He shoots himself in the leg (supposedly) amid a bevy of beauties, in an alcohol-laden atmosphere, while enjoying a night on the town. The situation is further compounded when a teammate, middle linebacker Antonio Pierce, surreptitiously takes him to a hospital and swears the attending doctor to secrecy (that's New York City for you).

The crime, as it so often does, came apart. Burress and the good doctor take the fall. So there you have it.

One aspect bothers me about the whole thing and I'll tell you what it is. Shortly afterward, the mayor of the Big Apple, the saint-like Michael Bloomberg, appeared on a radio program and called for the maximum sentence for Burress.

Excuse me. Whatever happened to due process, his day in court, presumed innocent until proven guilty?

See **GUILTY**, page 2B

NMSU wins third straight

JASON GROVES
Las Cruces Sun-News

Don't look now. It's a win streak.

New Mexico State won a season-best third game in a row with an 88-74 victory over Prairie View A&M on Wednesday at the Pan American Center.

With the win, the Aggies went over .500 for the first time since a 90-66 victory over Pepperdine on Nov. 21 heading into Saturday's rivalry game against UTEP in El Paso at 5-4.

"It feels great; now we can go on the road," said Aggies point guard Hernst Laroche, who had nine points, seven assists and one turnover.

"It's good to be going in the right direction going into UTEP."

Laroche and the Aggies had 21 assists, tying a season high for a game while turning the ball over a season-low seven times.

After a blistering 55.9 percent shooting effort in the first half, the Aggies were 48.5 percent in the second half, but the Panthers were never able to get closer than 7 points.

"We got off to a good start but Prairie View kept picking away; but we played through it," Aggies freshman forward Troy Gillenwater said.

"It got a little sloppy at the end and we let down our guard a little bit."

Wendell McKines notched his fourth-straight double-double, tying a career-high with 19 points and 12 rebounds as one of four Aggies in double figures.

"I told him before the game that I wasn't sure if our guys were looking at Prairie View and taking them lightly and he said, 'I got you coach,' " Aggies head coach Marvin Menzies said.

"Whenever he tells me that, he comes through and he did tonight big time."

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TIP OF THE WEEK

Have a Blessed CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY HOLYDAY SEASON from the Staff and Brokers of CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate serving Alto, Ruidoso, and all of Lincoln County!

See some of CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate's listings on the back page of section A TODAY

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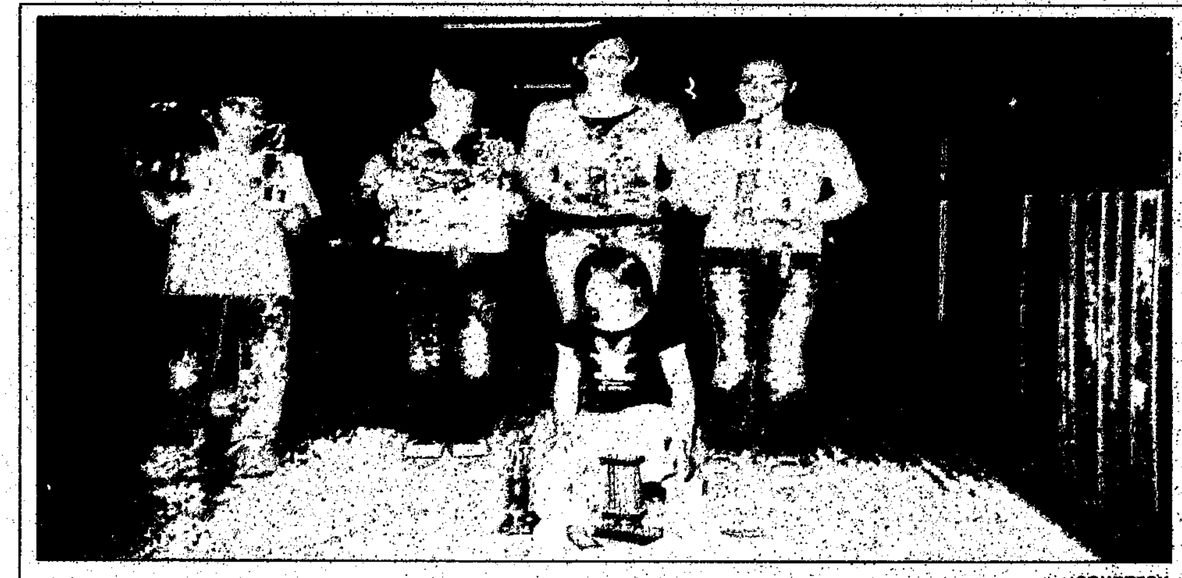

COURTESY

The All Event winners from the Youth HDCP bowling tournament are, l-r, Tee Bernard, Sky Hart, Taylor Fjelland, Aurora Hart and Chloe Elliott (kneeling) who took first place with a score of 1,968.

Lincoln County USBC Association
Youth HDCP Tournament

The youth HDCP finishers who played at The Ruidoso Bowling Center, Dec. 7, are as follows:

1st place team handicap winners: Balls of Fury (Taylor Fjelland, Sky Hart and Aurora Hart), with a score of 1,905.
2nd: We've Got Balls (Tee Bernard and Chloe Elliott) . . . 1,815

1st place doubles handicap winner: Chloe Elliott and Aurora Hart with an HDCP score of 1,307.
2nd: Sky Hart and Taylor Fjelland 1,254
3rd: Tee Bernard and absent partner 1,159

1st place singles handicap winner: Chloe Elliott with a score of 656.
2nd: Aurora Hart 651
3rd: Sky Hart 637
4th: Taylor Fjelland 617
5th: Tee Bernard 597

1st place all events handicap winner: Chloe Elliott with a score of 1,968.

The Lincoln County USBC Association wishes to thank everyone who entered.

COURTESY

The second place HDCP team of We've Got Balls, Tee Bernard and Chloe Elliot, scored with 1,815.

COURTESY

The first place team, Balls of Fury, with Taylor Fjelland, Sky Hart and Aurora Hart won with a 1,905.

GUILTY

FROM PAGE 1B

Some talking media heads and holier-than-thou politicians stand atop their ivory towers and shout for the blood of transgressors such as Burress before they've been judged by 12 good men and women, tried and true.

I've known people such as this and I'm here to tell you none of them could spend one day behind bars, let alone 3 1/2 years. They would all turn into a blubbering hunk of jello as the bailiff came to haul them away for some hard time and a few dances to a tune they've never heard.

Maybe you've never broken a law, moral or otherwise. I admit to you now, with head hung low, I can't make that claim. And so, I'll just tell you I think Burress did a stupid thing (yes, Dennis Miller – Burress is a pinhead) and let it go at that. After all, *The Ox-Bow Incident* is one of my favorite movies and there's a valuable lesson in that American classic.

OK, so you say *The Ox-Bow Incident* was only fiction. Then let me refresh your memory on a piece of reality. Remember the July 1996, bombing in Atlanta Olympic Park? Tom Brokaw went on one of his nightly newscasts and all but claimed Richard Jewel was the culprit. A few months later (October), the FBI cleared Jewel of any wrongdoing. In December of that year, NBC settled with Mr. Jewell for $500,000.

Sometimes, innocent people randomly get caught-up in severe situations through no fault of their own. Other times, well-meaning friends (like Pierce) try to help their friends in the heat of the moment before reason can prevail. Still others go on to commit crimes (Burress) they never in a million years planned to do. As typical humans, we all think it couldn't possibly happen to us. I'm not so sure.

As for Burress, I believe I'll let a dozen of his peers make the final call.

HOROSCOPES by Linda C. Black

With years of professional expertise and accurate astrological information, Black helps readers make the best choices possible. Her daily rating system guides readers to get the most out of their horoscopes. 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging. Her horoscopes are brief and concentrate on career and personal goals. Also available in Spanish.

Today's Birthday (12/19/08). You'll have plenty of chances this year to practice holding your temper. Learn to manage these conditions and you'll succeed at whatever you do. Take on the challenge.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Do what you have to do because you care about your friends, your community, and people in other countries you don't even know. You always do better with that kind of motivation. It's your Hero Complex.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — The stories that have been passed down in your family are worth much more than gold. They teach about values and courage and faith. Make sure to keep them going.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — Keep track of the details on paper if you can't remember them all. Don't overload your busy brain. Having a good filing system is key to your success.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — Give yourself time to go through your notes. See if there's anything you've forgotten. There's still time to put in corrections and fix whatever's broken.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — The more you work, the more you earn. This hasn't always been the case, as you well know. So don't waste a minute and don't sneak off early to go to the party.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Money's coming in again, and not a moment too soon. You're anxious to get out there and buy everything your loved ones want. Not a good idea. Proceed with caution.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Complications arise, but don't dismay. You can overcome them. This will take some homework. You'll have to postpone some of your other chores and do the extra reading.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — You don't say much, but when you do it's always to the point. Don't be talked into a bad idea. The group is looking to you for sensible leadership.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — Don't argue with the boss, even if you know you're right. Keep your wisecracks to yourself, too. They won't be appreciated. Save them for a friendlier audience.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — It's not quite time to let down your guard. Stay on the alert for a while. You have done well under difficult conditions, and you will again. You're good under pressure.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — You may be tempted to travel now, but if you do, take care. There will be even more complications than usual. It's a jungle out there.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — Review your household finances again, to find out how much you have left. You and your partner still have long lists of things you'd like to buy. You may have to review those, too.

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Three F-22A jets set down at Holloman; a fourth on the way

FROM REPORTS

Three F-22A Raptors arrived at Holloman Air Force Base on Monday from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

A fourth aircraft is scheduled to arrive later this week from Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

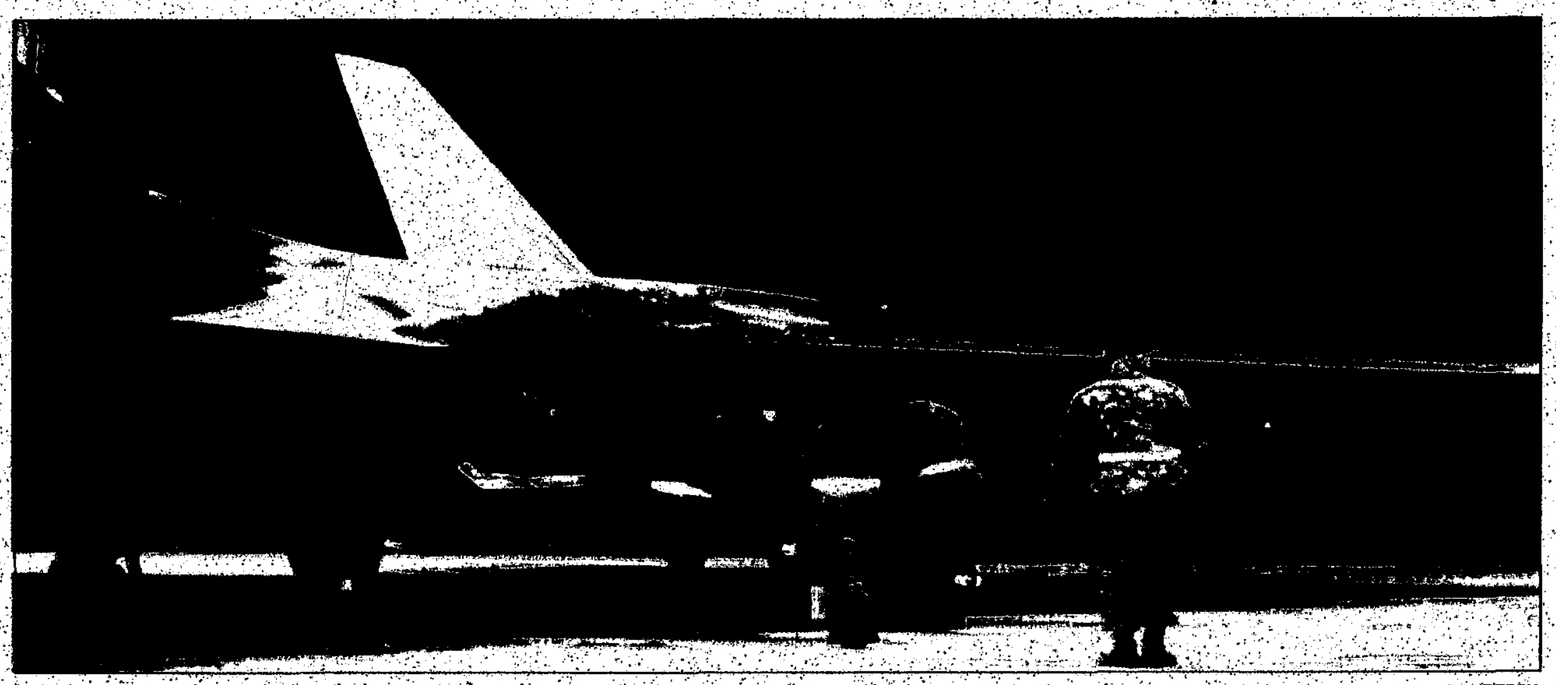
The arrival of the four Raptors is the first since the F-22 made its official arrival in the Tularosa Basin during a ceremony last June.

At the time, two aircraft with the Holloman "HO" markings ushered in a new mission for the base following the retirement of the F-117A, which had been stationed at Holloman since 1992.

"The arrival of these aircraft is another important step toward our operational readiness," Col. Jeff Harrigian, 49th Fighter Wing commander, said. "As we edge closer to the day we have two 20-aircraft squadrons of F-22A Raptors, these aircraft underscore the important role Holloman plays in keeping the nation safe. From today well into the future, no matter where and when our nation calls, the 'Fightin' 49ers' will be prepared to respond as we always have, ready to 'Protect and Avenge.'"

The aircraft arrived during the late afternoon after an early morning takeoff from the largest Air Force installation in Alaska. The three aircraft will feature the tail markings "AK" until they can be painted with the traditional "HO" markings of Holloman.

The base is projected to have a combat-ready squadron by Nov. 1, 2009.



COURTESY

Crew from the 99th Fighter Wing disembark after arrival Monday at Holloman Air Force Base from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. According to 49th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Jeff Harrigian, the arrival of the three new planes is another important step toward the operational readiness of the wing.

Anjora Corp. buys land for third horse racing facility in Tularosa

JOAN PRICE
For the Alamogordo Daily News

The sale of a long-held Tularosa property to Carlos Sosa of the Anjora Corp. will bring a third large-scale horse racing enterprise to the village.

Village of Tularosa trustees approved the sale of 35 acres the village owns at the intersection of Riata and Radio roads southwest of Tularosa.

Anjora has already obtained alfalfa farm properties and water rights immediately to the south. With this addition, it is now across the street from Mia Estates subdevelopment with 11 five-acre "horse properties" with city utilities handled by United Country and Coldwell Banker real estate companies.

The deal with Anjora, a race horse company with offices in El Paso and Orange County, Calif., includes construction of the final phase of a 6-inch water line loop that will serve a new recreation center with a swimming pool and senior program facility along Radio Road.

While the village property was appraised at $148,500, Anjora is paying $160,000 to include costs for water line construction and $5,000 in case a public referendum comes up.

"We got a really good deal," Mayor Ray Cordova said after the motion passed.

Cordova expressed optimism about future possibilities, such as jobs and services that will be available for local residents.

"Our services to the residents of Hi Fi Road and other roads intersecting with Radio Road across from the proposed recreation center have had trouble because horses step on and break water lines that run from our existing line," he said.

"Now they will be connected directly to the new line along Radio Road. That was an additional incentive for us."

Anjora Corp. also has purchased property at the southwest corner of Radio Road and U.S. Highway 54/70 where the Tularosa Travel Center, owned by Glover Pecans, has begun operation, according to Cordova.

Trustees also listened to a new business proposal from Richard Freeman, owner of the Dusty Peddler Collectibles Store, for a "nicely designed" flea market.

They advised him to talk to neighbors, as well as to Planning and Zoning.

In old business, trustees talked with attorney Jefferson Rhodes about the legal and physical intricacies of taking over garbage collection in Tularosa from Alamo Collection.

Rhodes presented a long review of solid waste management regulations and options for equipment purchase to fulfill requirements of "not creating debt" and "not trying to make a profit."

Rhodes advised trustees on procurement codes, ordinance processes and special project considerations, as well as due diligence in their research on steps in the process.

The village also is working with Ernie Byers, a solid waste consultant who is providing a list of options for a smooth transition to a village-managed service.

Cordova suggested the village extend the takeover date from Jan. 28 to April 28 since the holidays will slow all the work yet to do.

In new business, Rhodes recommended a different pay rate and structure for himself as an hourly employee at $80 per hour with a minimum of 10 hours per month, which is about what he has been working.

His previous rate was $140 per hour. Rhodes and his partner are going out of private practice by March 2009. "That is very fair," Cordova said to Rhodes. "You can't get that rate anymore. Personally, I would hate to get a new attorney. You are familiar with the village and everything we have been through."

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Happy Holidays!
... Wishing you a Safe & Joyous Holiday Season ~

NM settles with toymakers on lead-paint recall

ALBUQUERQUE – New Mexico Attorney General Gary King's office said that a settlement agreement has been reached with Mattel Inc. and its subsidiary, Fisher Price Inc., granting just over $205,000 of the 12-million-dollar settlement, to New Mexico. Thirty-six other states are involved in the settlement.

Approximately 2 million toys were recalled by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) from August – October of 2007 due to the possibility of excessive lead in accessible surface coatings. The toys in question were manufactured in China. At the time of the recall, the CPSC standard permitted for lead in accessible surface coatings was 600 parts per million (ppm). Lead levels taken in the recalled toys exceeded the federal standard, testing over 10,000 ppm and 50,000 ppm.

Mattel agreed to notify the attorneys general if it confirms excessive lead in any of its products in violation of state or federal law, or the Consent Judgment. Mattel agrees to work with the attorneys general to remedy any violations.

www.ruidosonews.com

Thank you

Thank you for the prayers, the memories you have of Jim Butler, the smiles, the shared laughs, the calls, the visits, the food, and most of all, for your friendship. We have been so grateful for you during this time of our sorrow we specially want to thank the Lincoln County Medical Center, the EMS and the First Response Fire Department for the care that was given to Jim and myself. Thanks also to LaGrone Funeral Chapel and First Christian Church for the wonderful Celebration of Jim's life. We pray you remember the blessings of the Lord during this Holiday Season. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ann Butler and Family

Helen Hays

Martha Helen Merrit Hays was born in Tokio, Texas, on May 19, 1914 to James and Ella James Merrit. She died on December 14, 2008, in Brownfield, Texas, at the age of 94. Helen married Clyde Clement Hays on December 23, 1933. Clyde and Helen raised their children on a sheep ranch 75 miles north of Roswell, New Mexico. Helen cooked, sewed, helped "work" sheep and helped send their children to college by moving to Roswell and working in a fabric store. Helen was an active member of South Main Church of Christ and Country Club Church of Christ in Roswell. Clyde preceded Helen in death in 1972. Her siblings, Louise Merrit, Don Merrit and Gladys Fisher, a great-grandson, Cooper Tugman also preceded her in death. She survived by her brother, Jack, and two sisters, Mary Cloe Jackson and Eloise Drake.

Helen's children include Maxine and Earl Hammer of Edmond, Oklahoma, Bill and Judy Hays of Capitan, New Mexico, Robert and Sandi Hays of Pueblo, Colorado, Joe and Glo Hays of Tahoka, TX and Weedon Hays of Brownfield, TX. Helen is also survived by her grandchildren; Cindi Brayan, Lindi Stangeland, Roxi Shrewberry, Suzi Siorek, Billy Hays, Katie Hays, Kelley Hays, Shani Heitmann, Jackie Womack, Mitzi Tugman and Joe Clyde Hays. Additionally, Helen is survived by seventeen great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home & Crematory, 2609 South Main, Roswell, New Mexico on Wednesday, December 17, at 10:30 a.m. If you choose to do so, please remember Helen's life by donating to the New Mexico Christian Children's Home, 1356 New Mexico 236, Portales, New Mexico 88130.

Please share your thoughts and memories with the family in the online register book at andersonbethany.com

Services are under the direction of Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home & Crematory.

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A Special Gift

At last, it's Christmas morning! The lights and ornaments sparkle brightly on the Christmas tree. Underneath are packages wrapped in colorful paper, festive with ribbons and bows. The waiting and wondering is finally over, the presents can finally be opened!

There is a special gift, one that's not under the tree and tied with a bow. The gift that is the reason for the season! The reason we give each other presents is to remind us of God's most special gift to us, His Son, Jesus Christ.

As we worship this Christmas, as we exchange presents with one another, let us remember and honor the best present of all. Wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger, God gave us His Son.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Luke 1.39-56	Luke 1.57-66	Luke 1.67-80	Luke 2.1-20	John 1.1-18	Luke 2.21-40	Luke 2.41-52

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society

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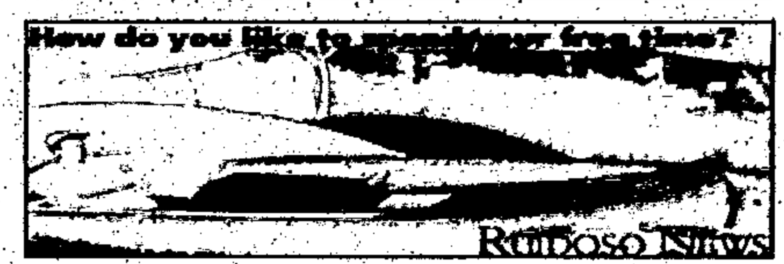

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RUIDOSO CHURCHES

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Apache Indian Assembly of God Mescalero 671-4747 Donald Pettey, pastor Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday worship 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday services 7 p.m.
First Assembly of God El Paso Road Ruidoso 257-2324 Rev. E. Thomas Kearns, Pastor Sunday morning worship 10:45 a.m. Children's Church during a.m. service. Sunday evening worship 6 p.m. Rock Youth Group Monday evening @ 6:30p.m., ages 12-18, Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.
BAPTIST
Canaan Trail Baptist Located just past mile post 14 on Hwy. 48, between Angus & Capitan Roland Burnett, Pastor Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Bible Study Wed. at 7 p.m. 336-1979
First Baptist Church 270 Country Club Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345 (505) 257-2081 Tim Gilliland, Pastor Prayer Time, Saturdays 6:00 p.m. Sunday Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Meal 5:30 p.m. Activities 6:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church Ruidoso Downs Randy Widener, Pastor Sunday. Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Worship hour 8 & 11 a.m. Eve. worship 6:00 p.m., Wed. Prayer meeting 6:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church Tinnie Bill Jones, Pastor Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 11 a.m.
Mescalero Baptist Mission Mescalero Sunday Sunday school 10 a.m., Worship 11 a.m., 7:15 p.m., Training union 6:30 p.m. Wednesday services 6:30 p.m.
Ruidoso Baptist Church 126 Church Drive, Palmer Gateway Wayne Joyce, Pastor Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m.
BAHA'I FAITH
Baha'i Faith Meeting in members' homes 257-2987 or 258-5595
CATHOLIC
St. Eleanor Catholic Church Ruidoso, 257-2330 Reverend Al Galvan Sacrament of Penance Sat. 5:00 p.m. or by appointment. Daily Mass 9 a.m. Sat. Mass 6 p.m. (Bilingual) Sun. Mass 9:30 a.m. (English), 11:00 a.m. (English) Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sat. 5 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass, St. Jude Thaddeus San Patricio 8 a.m.
St. Theresa Catholic Church Corona Sunday Mass 6 p.m.
St. Joseph's Apache Mission Mescalero Father Paul Botenhagen OFM Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Bent Father Larry Gosselin Saturday Mass 6 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m.
CHRISTIAN
Christian Community Church 127 Rio Corner W Eagle, Mid town 9 11 Sunday Services Praise & Worship. For more information call 378-7076
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Hull and Gavilan Canyon Road Rev. Milo Steffen, Pastor Sunday School, K-12/Adult: 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

102.3 The Dove

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gateway Church of Christ 415 Sudderth, Ruidoso, 257-4381. Jimmy Sportsman, Minister Sunday Morning worship: 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Bible Class: 11:00 a.m.; Mid-Week Service: Wed. 6:30 p.m.
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LDS
Church of Jesus Christ LDS Ruidoso Branch, 1091 Mechem Dr. President W. Leslie Nielsen, (505) 258-1253 or (505) 258-1254. Sunday schedule Sacrament starts at 10 a.m., Sunday School; Priesthood and Relief Society.
Church of Jesus Christ LDS Mescalero Branch, 671-4630 Wayne King, President, 505-434-0622 Sunday Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood Relief Soc. & Young Women, 12:10 a.m.
EPISCOPAL
Episcopal Church of the Holy Mount 121 Mescalero Trail, Ruidoso. Rev. Canon Peter Sanderson, Team Leader. Sunday Eucharist Rite I: 8:00 a.m.; Rite II - 10:30 a.m., nursery available for the 10:30 service; Sunday School & Godly Play: 9:15-10:15. Wednesday: Eucharist 5:30 p.m. Phone: 257-2356 Spanish Service, Saturday 6:00 p.m.
St. Anne's Episcopal Chapel in Glencoe. Sunday: Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
EVANGELICAL
THE LIGHTHOUSE Christian Fellowship church, 1035 Mechem Dr. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., 7 PM, Wed. 7 PM 258-2539
FULL GOSPEL
Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship Int'l. K-Bob's Hwy. 70 in Ruidoso, Dinner at six Mondays. Special Priced Menu. Women Welcome! Ron Rice, 354-0255. e-mail fgbmfi@ruidoso-online.com
Mission Fountain of Living Water San Patricio. Sunday School: 10 a.m.; Evening services: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday and Friday.
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Ruidoso - Kingdom Hall 1102 Gavilan Canyon Rd., 336-4147, 257-7714. Sunday: Public Talk-10:00 am., Watchtower Study-10:30 am. Monday: Book Study-7:30 p.m. Thursday: Theoc. Ministry School-7:30 p.m.; Service Meeting-8:20 p.m.
Congregacion Hispana de los Testigos de Jehova 1102 Gavilan Canyon Rd., 336-4147, 378-7095. Dom.: Reunion Publica-10:00 am.; Estudio de la Atalya-10:50 am. Mart.: Escuela del Ministerio Teocratico-7:00 p.m.; Reunion de Servicio-7:50 p.m. Juev.: Estudio de Libro-7:00 p.m.
JEWISH / HEBREW
Kehilla Bat-Tzion & Hebrew Learning Center, Inc.-2204 Sudderth Dr. Ruidoso, NM 88345 505-257-0122. Services 1st, 3rd & 5th Fridays at 7:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat Services followed with an oneg. Kabbalat means "to receive the Sabbath."
LUTHERAN
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 1120 Hull Road, 258-4191, 257-5296. Kevin L. Krohn, Pastor. Sunday: Worship 8:30 a.m. (May-Labor Day), 10:30 a.m.; Sun. School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Thurs. Eve. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., call for location.
METHODIST
Community United Methodist Church Junction Road, behind Wells Fargo Bank. Todd Salzwedel, Pastor. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m., 10:55 a.m. 257-4170
PENTECOSTAL
Apostolic Pentecostal Assembly, Eternal Life Ministries, Minister Harry A. Peyton, call for your personal Home Bible study 430-9640, (Web page) http://www//DoctrinesOfChrist.com
Abundant Life United Pentecostal Church of Ruidoso 613 Sudderth Dr. Unit D. Pastor, Art Dunn, Youth Pastor, Nathaniel Dunn. Sunday morning, 10:00 AM. Free home Bible studies.
PRESBYTERIAN
First Presbyterian Church 101 Sutton Drive (Nob Hill), Ruidoso, 257-2220. Tony Chambless - Pastor. Sunday school 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. Potluck fellowship after worship the third Sunday of every month.
Ancho Community Presbyterian Church, Pastor Terry Aiello, CLP. Sunday worship: 9 a.m.; Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Corona United Presbyterian Church, Pastor Terry Aiello, CLP. Sunday worship: Church School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Nogal Presbyterian Church Reverend Bill Sebring. Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.
REFORMED CHURCH
Mescalero Reformed Mescalero. Bob Schut, Pastor. Sunday: Church school 9:30 a.m.; worship 10:30 a.m. Mon.: junior high youth 6:30 p.m. Wed.: high school meeting 7 p.m. Thur.: Kids Club (grades 1-5) 3:30.
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Ruidoso Seventh Day Adventist 207 Parkway, Agua Fria, Ruidoso Downs, 378-4161. Pastor Bill Kasper 575-437-0237; 1st Elder Manuel Moya 575-937-4487. Saturday: Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.; Church service: 11 a.m. Wednesday: Prayer meeting 7 p.m.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Sacramento Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church, meets 2nd & 4th Sundays; 9:30 a.m. Call 336-2170 or 354-0602 for location.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
American Missionary Fellowship Rick Smith, 682-2999. Monday: Women's Bible study 6:30 p.m. at Schlotzsky's Deli. Tuesday: Ruidoso men's Bible study noon at Pizza Hut, Mechem Drive. Wednesday: (Sept. through May) Capitan Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Groups 6:30 p.m. at Christ Community Fellowship. E-mail: RickS@americanmissionary.org
Calvary Chapel 127 Vision, next to Cable Co., 257-5915. Pastor John Marshall. Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday: Mid-week bible study 7:00 p.m.
Casa de Oracion Comunidad Cristiana, Ruidoso 304 Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso, NM 88345 (505) 257-6075. Pastor: Carlos & Gabby Carreon. Martes - Oracion 6:00 pm; Jueves - Servicio General 6:00 pm; Sabado - Kid-in-Revival 11:00 am; Domingo Servicio General 11:00 am. *All Services are Bilingual* ~ Translators Available ~
Christ Church in the Downs Ruidoso Downs, 378-8464. Al and Marty Lane, Pastors. Sunday: 8:00 Sun a.m., 10:45 am, Children's ministries concurrent with late Sunday Services. Sat. outreach at 1 p.m., at church. Thursday: 7 p.m.
Cornerstone Church Cornerstone Square, 613 Sudderth Drive, 257-9265. John & Joy Wyatt, Pastors. Sunday School, 9:45, Church, 10:30 a.m.; 6:30 p.m. with Children's Church Sun. Eve. Handicap Services 11 a.m. Wed. Leadership Class 6 p.m. & Prayer 7 pm. Wed. Bible Study Adult 7 p.m. Thurs. and Youth, Thurs. 7 p.m.
Cowboy Church Noon Sundays at the Glencoe Rural Events Center. Everyone welcome. Preacher Buster Reed of Amarillo. Call 378-4840 for more info.
Foot of the Cross Christian Ministries 2812 Sudderth (Pine Tree Shopping Center) Pastor, Phil Appel. Services: Sunday 10:30 AM Contemporary Praise & Worship, Children's Praise & Sunday School for ages 2-11. Wednesdays 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study. For more info please call 937-8677 or visit our website at www.thefootofthecross.org
Grace Harvest Church 1108 Gavilan Canyon Rd, 336-4213. Sun. Sunday school 9 a.m.; Fellowship at 10-10:30 am; Service 10:30 a.m.
Iglesia Bautista "Vida Eterna" Pastor Rev. Ramon Robledo. 207 East Circle, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346, 361 E. Hwy. 70, (505) 378-8108. Email: revrobledo@lycos.com
J Bar J Church 40 Hwy 70W, 575-257-6899 Pastor Charles W. Clary, Sunday 8:15 am (Summer) & 10:00 am (year round), Tuesday 6:30 pm Worship Times. E-mail: jbarjcountrychurch@ruidoso.net
Miracle Life Ministry Center Ron Rice & Catherine Callahan, Ministers Available 24 hours for healing prayer. 354-0255 e-mail miraclelife@ruidoso-online.com
Peace Chapel Interdenominational (ULC) Alto North, 336-7075. Jeamsie Price, Pastor. Morning chapel: 6:50 a.m. (Sept. - June); Sun. Service: 11 a.m.
Racetrack Chapel Horseman's Entrance, Hwy 70, 505-378-7264. Chaplain Darrell Winter. Services 10:30 am to 11:15 am. Enjoy the music & old hymns with friendly people.
NON-SECTARIAN
Spiritual Awareness Study Group Minister George N. Brown, Ph.D. U.L.C. Sundays 1 p.m. - 257-1569
Men's Bible Study, Band Of Brothers Meets Four Times Each Week, Call 937-0071 For Times And Location

CAPITAN & LINCOLN CHURCHES

BAPTIST
Trinity Southern Baptist Church (south on Highway 48) Mt. Capitan Rd. 354-2044 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., Sunday Service, 11 a.m., Celebrate Recovery (Faith based 12 step program for all types of addictions) Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Meal @ 6:00 p.m. CrossFire Youth Group meets Thursday 6:30 p.m. Meal @ 6:00 p.m. Mel Gnatkowski, pastor 808-0607
Mountain Baptist Church Independent-Fundamental KJV Sunday School- 10 AM, Sunday Service - 11am, Sunday Evening- 6pm Wednesday Bible Study 7PM 145 E. Grandview - Capitan (505) 937-4019
CATHOLIC
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Capitan, 354-9102. Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.; Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m., Monday Adult Bible Study 6 p.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Capitan Highway 48 Les Earwood, Minister Sunday Bible study: 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m., Wednesday Bible study 6 p.m.
EPISCOPAL
Episcopal Chapel of San Juan in Lincoln Sunday Holy Eucharist - 10:30 a.m.
FOURSQUARE
Capitan Foursquare Church Highway 48, Capitan Harold W. Perry, Pastor. Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday worship: 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study: 7 p.m.
METHODIST
Capitan United Methodist Church Pastor Johanna Anderson and the congregation of Capitan United Methodist Church welcome Lincoln County residents and visitors alike to attend Bible study Sunday morning at 8:30, followed by worship service at 9:10. Communion is offered during worship on the first Sunday of every month, and a potluck luncheon is served the third Sunday at 12:30. White Oaks and Third in Capitan. 505-648-2846.
NAZARENE
Angus Church of the Nazarene Angus, 12 miles north of Ruidoso on Hwy. 48, 336-8032. Rick Hutchison, Pastor. "OVERWHELMED" contemporary worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m.; Wednesday: Community dinner, 6:00 p.m.; Adult classes, Youth games and study, Kid's Klub, 6:30 p.m.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Christ Community Fellowship Capitan, Highway 380 West, 354-2458. Ed Vinson, Pastor, Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.
QUAKER WORSHIP GROUP - Quaker Unprogrammed meeting: The Bonito Valley Worhip Group meets at 5 pm on First day, at the Anderson-Freeman Visitor's Center in Lincoln. For details of this and other Quaker activities contact Sandra Smith at 505-653-4951.

CARRIZOZO CHURCHES

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Carrizozo Community Church (A/G) Barbara Bradley, pastor. Corner of C Ave. & Thirteenth. Children's Church 10:30 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Wednesday Night Kids Club 5:30-7:00 pm; Thursday Bible Study 6:30 pm.
BAPTIST
First Baptist Church Hayden Smith, Pastor, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship: 11 a.m., 7:15 p.m.; Church training: 6:30 p.m. Sunday
CATHOLIC
Santa Rita Catholic Church 648-2853. Father Dave Bergs, Pastor. Saturday Mass: 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday Adult Bible Study: 6 p.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Perry Zumwalt, minister. Ave. C at 12th, Carrizozo, NM. Sunday School 10:00 am; Worship Service 11:00 am; Evening Worship 1:15 pm; Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm.
EPISCOPAL
St. Matthias Episcopal Chapel Carrizozo, 6th & E Street. Sunday: Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
METHODIST
United Methodist Church Parish Trinity - 1000 D. Ave. 648-2893/648-2846, Carrizozo. Johanna Anderson, pastor. Sunday school 10:00 a.m.; Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. Choir Practice (Tues.) 6:30 pm; United Methodist Women Every 3rd Wed. 1:00 pm; Fellowship Dinner 4th Sun. of month 12:30 pm.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
The Word of Life Church Rev. Chuck Fulton, pastor/648-2339. 711 'E' Ave., Carrizozo, NM. Affiliated w/the Evangelistic Assembly Church. Sunday 7:00 pm.

MESCALERO

Carrizo Christian Fellowship Leonard Kanesewah III, Pastor. 56 White Mt. Dr., 3 mi. W. of Inn of the Mountain Gods Mescalero. Sundays 10:30 & 6:30, Wed. 6:30 464-4656

Jew and Christian intermarriage worries reader

Q: You answered a question recently concerning a Jewish man with a Christian wife who was angry that the daughter was converting and all of his grandkids would be Catholic.

This is a case of the "chickens coming home to roost." If he hadn't married a Gentile in the first place, the Jewish man wouldn't be in this pickle. This whole situation is his fault. "Do as I say, not as I do" won't work here.

What is it about Jewish mothers (and to a lesser extent, Jewish fathers) that so many Jewish sons want to run in the other direction to marry Gentiles? This has led to the worst intermarriage rate in history, and it's only getting worse. Jewish men, and to a lesser extent, Jewish women (who can't find Jewish men), are marrying Gentiles, and the vast majority of their children are either being raised Christian or so wishy-washy religionwise (with Christmas trees, etc.) that they will also marry Gentiles.

The Jewish male intermarriage rate is unfortunately becoming another "final solution" which Jews don't seem to realize until it's too late. Your thoughts?

– *Anonymous*

The God Squad
MARC GELLMAN

A. I truly understand your sadness but not your anger. I too am saddened that after the Holocaust took one third of the Jewish people worldwide, we're now compounding that loss with the loss of many children of interfaith marriages and most of their grandchildren. The statistics are not precise, but at the last measure, 52 percent of all Jews who marry will marry a person who is an unconverted Christian.

However, the cause of the catastrophic decline in the population of Jewish people worldwide has not been due to the Nazis, the Cossacks, or marauding tribes of anti-Semites. The cause of all this freedom and acceptance is historically low levels of anti-Semitism.

In 1960, the overwhelming majority of Christians surveyed said they wouldn't consider marrying a Jewish person. Today, those numbers are reversed. Most people marry whom they love and this, in a cosmic sense, is a very good thing.

I would never trade our freedom and acceptance for a ghetto in which both intermarriage and freedom didn't exist, and anti-Semitism was rampant.

We must try to make Jewish people proud of their heritage and faith so they want to transmit it in a proud and loving way that also acknowledges the greatness of other religions, to a new generation.

There was another bit of blowback from my recent column urging people to avoid psychics. Atheists don't like me because they think I'm not rational enough. Spiritualists don't like me because they think I'm too rational. I think I'm in just the right place.

Q: If we're not supposed to talk to the dead, why do people pray to saints and ask them for help? Clearly, these saints are the souls of people who once were alive. I've had more than one personal communication from the other side, and so have millions of other people. This happened to me without any help from psychics, by the way.

My mother never went to visit a psychic, yet she clearly saw the ghost of someone she knew who'd passed away. Why do people like you continue to ignore the truth?

– *P., via Web site*

A. It's one thing to talk to a dead person, and quite another to have a dead person talk back to you. Praying to saints is totally different from visiting a psychic.

Proper prayers to saints are not laundry lists of requests for material things. Rather, they call to mind the courage and faith exemplified by the saints and express the hope that such qualities might also be present in the penitent person.

Praying to dead people is an attempt at an actual conversation. The easiest refutation of this is to say that contacting the dead is impossible and therefore, trying to talk to them directly or through a medium is spiritually misguided.

It's also explicitly prohibited by Scripture. In my earlier column, I referred to Psalm 115, but did not include the specific prohibition in Deuteronomy 18: 9-14:

"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

"For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners, but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do."

In this passage, a necromancer is a person who talks to dead people. The Bible, interestingly, doesn't base its condemnation on the basis that these acts are not real. They may be real but are prohibited because they are abominations, violating the boundaries God has set for life and death. They are a part of pagan idolatry and are sinful.

I know the need, and I appreciate the grief that drives people into the arms (and bank accounts) of psychics, but there is a call to each of us from life that is more spiritually healthy for us than a call from beyond the grave.

The gift of love is perfect in this season

The Christmas season is truly "a wonderful time of the year."

For those of us in the Sacramentos, we have a good chance to enjoy a "White Christmas," not just have a dream about one.

Elvis sang about a "Blue Christmas," without someone, so I hope that none of us will go through Christmas alone.

Clary-fications
BY CHARLES CLARY
RUIDOSO PASTOR

Our youngest daughter, her husband and children are coming in to spend the holidays with us. And on Christmas Day, we have another couple coming over for dinner.

I hope that everyone has the opportunity to share the day with others.

I hope that you will have some one over on Christmas Eve or Day, someone who might be alone without your invitation.

Let's see, it might be someone who has lost their mate. It might be someone who has a family member in Iraq or Afghanistan. It might be someone who has gone through a divorce.

The holidays could be a lonely time without your reaching out to them.

On Christmas Eve, with our daughter and her family, we will go out caroling to friends and shut-ins.

All that will cost is a little time, but the gift of love will bless the ones being caroled.

Another inexpensive gift is the giving of a Christmas meal through the Lincoln County Food Bank. You can call the Alborns at 378-8939, and make arrangements to give someone a Christmas blessing.

Remember, Christmas is the season of giving. God gave his best when he gave Jesus to us and for us.

So, get in the spirit of the season and give, without expecting anything in return. Give cheerfully, anonymously and without expectations.

Many churches will have Christmas Eve services, so find out the time and place and go. It may not be your church, but of all of the seasons, Christmas should be a time of eliminating walls of separation.

This is my last column before Christmas. So, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Don't forget! Angel Food pick-up at the J Bar J, Saturday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m.

With Christmas, I pray you will have help for today and hope for tomorrow.

Don't take God's forgiveness for granted

Q: Why should I believe in Jesus and give up my lifestyle right now, if God will forgive me anyway whenever I ask Him?

Why not wait until I'm about ready to die? I like the way I'm living and I don't want to give it up, although I admit I'd like to go to heaven when I die.

– *P.F.*

Billy Graham
MY ANSWER
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

A. Don't be deceived; God's forgiveness is not something you can take for granted. God's forgiveness comes only when we repent of our sins – and repentance means to be sorry for our sins and want to turn from them, because we realize God hates them.

And how do you know if you'll even have the opportunity to repent and turn to Jesus?

Death could come to you in an instant – even while you're still young. The Bible warns, "Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow" (Psalm 144:4). Jesus once told about a man who had been very successful, and decided he'd live the rest of his days in luxury and idleness. But that night his life came to an end – and he was unprepared to meet God (see Luke 12:16-21). Don't let this happen to you.

But there is another danger that you need to take seriously. It is this: The more you ignore God, the harder your heart becomes toward Him. Tragically, many people think like you do – but by the time death comes, they can no longer hear God's voice calling them to Himself.

Don't believe Satan's lie, that life is better without God. It isn't – now or in eternity. Instead, open your heart to Christ, and discover the joy of walking with Him every day.

Send your queries to "My Answer," c/o Billy Graham, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, N.C., 28201.

It is coming upon another Holiday Season.
Ruidoso Adopt A Soldier is ready to
Mail out more packages to Our Troops

ADOPT A SOLDIER

PLEASE HELP OUR SOLDIERS OVERSEAS TO MAKE THEIR SERVING A LITTLE MORE COMFORTABLE. ASKING FOR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND MONEY. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO "ADOPT A SOLDIER"

SUGGESTED ITEMS:

- BIBLES
- BEEF JERKY
- CHIPS
- COOKIES
- HARD CANDY
- PENS, PENCILS
- PENCIL SHARPENERS
- NOTEBOOKS
- WRITING TABLETS
- FEMININE NAPKIS
- VISINE
- FOOT POWDER
- BABY WIPES
- DEODORANT
- BARS OF SOAP
- SOCKS
- PLAYING CARDS
- ENVELOPES
- COLD MEDS - NON DROWSY
- SUN BLOCK
- NEOSPORIN
- BANDAIDS
- CROSSWORD PUZZLES
- MINI BOARD GAMES
- LOTION
- SMALL TOYS
- SOCCER BALLS
- YELLOW TEMPERED SHOOTING GLASSES
- HAND CLEANER
- FEBREZE

This is no complete list. You can send other items as long as they are non-perishable. Boxes sent overseas monthly.

Drop off points for donations are: Chamber of Commerce, Zia Natural Gas, Mountain View Animal Clinic, Movie Gallery, Ruidoso News, Ruidoso Senior Center, Cortez Gas Company, Ruidoso Downs City Hall, K-WES Radio Station

Contact Blue @ cell:937-4397, home: 354-0975 if you have any questions.

You are invited to join us in Celebrating

Christmas 2008
at First Baptist Church
207 Country Club Rd.
Ruidoso, New Mexico

Miracle of Main Street Children's Musical
Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 PM

A Christmas Offering Adult Choir Christmas Musical
Saturday, December 20th at 6:00 PM
Sunday, December 21st
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve Services
4:00 PM and 6:00 PM

Knowing God and Making Him Known

GREETINGS ADVERTISERS!
Holiday Deadlines

So that our employees may enjoy the holidays with their families, the Ruidoso News will honor the following deadlines for the Friday, Dec. 26th edition and Friday, Jan. 2nd edition:

Vamonos 12/26 deadline	Vamonos 1/2/09 deadline
12/18 3:00pm	12/24 Noon
ROP 12/26 deadline	ROP 1/2/09 deadline
12/23 3:00pm	12/30 3:00pm
Classified 12/26 deadline	Classified 1/2/09 deadline
12/22 Noon	12/29 Noon

To reserve your advertising space, please contact the advertising department at 257-4001.

The Ruidoso News will be closed on Thurs., Dec. 25 for Christmas and on Thurs., Jan. 1st for New Year's Day.

RUIDOSO NEWS
104 PARK AVE • RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO 88345
www.ruidosonews.com

Homemade gifts for the holidays are simple

Homemade gifts don't have to take much time, and are a wonderful expression of your creativity.

MARSHA PALMER

For the "down home" cook, fill a basket with Southern flour or cornbread mixes, stone-ground grits, preserves or syrup and decorate a few wooden spoons tied with a bright Christmas bow.

For the gourmet cook, a basket with jars of ripe olives, capers, olive oil, anchovies and a pound of spaghetti along with an Italian cookbook.

Cookies, candies and homemade breads are always welcome gifts, or prepare and give festive preserves, relishes or sauces. Baking mixes or assorted beans and seasonings for soup in pint or quart canning jars make great gifts for family or coworkers, or you could bake breads or cakes in the jars.

Blueberry Muffin Mix

Pack this muffin mix in a canning jar and give with instructions for mixing and baking the muffins.

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 to 1 cup dried blueberries

Preparation:

Pour sugar into a 1-quart wide-mouth canning jar.

Sift together the flour, baking powder, soda and salt; pour half into the jar.

Put the dried blueberries into a small lightweight plastic bag; tie or seal and cut off excess bag end, if necessary.

Add remaining flour mixture. Screw lid on and add a tag with instructions, or tuck instructions into the jar.

Dried Blueberry Muffins

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 4 ounces melted butter
- 1 cup milk or buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 jar blueberry muffin mix with dried blueberries

Whisk together the eggs, butter, milk or buttermilk, and vanilla.

With a wooden spoon, stir in blueberry muffin mix just until dry ingredients are moistened.

Spoon batter into greased muffin pans, filling each muffin cup about 3/4 full.

If desired, sprinkle tops with sugar or cinnamon sugar.

Bake at 375 degrees for about 25 minutes.

Makes 18 to 24 muffins, depending on size of muffin cups.

Cornmeal Pancakes

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- 1 1/4 cups buttermilk
- 2 cups sifted all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons soft butter

Preparation:

Put cornmeal and cold water in a saucepan; bring to a boil, reduce heat, and continue to boil gently for 5 minutes.

Turn into bowl; stir buttermilk into cornmeal mixture. Sift together flour, sugar, salt, baking powder and baking soda; add to cornmeal mixture.

Stir in beaten egg and butter.

Cook pancakes on lightly greased griddle.

Makes about 24 pancakes.

The Lincoln County Extension Service is a field office of NMSU and is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and USDA cooperating. Direct questions to 648-2311 or email palmer@nmsu.edu.

State to consider adding conditions to Medical Cannabis Program

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Department of Health's Medical Advisory Board will hold a public hearing at 9 a.m., Jan. 15, at Los Griegos Community Center, 1231 Candelaria NW, in Albuquerque.

The board will meet to review petitions to add new health conditions eligible for the department's Medical Cannabis Program.

The board's eight board-certified physicians will consider petitions that have been previously submitted to the Department of Health.

The Medical Advisory Board will make recommendations to the Department's Health Secretary, who will make the final decision on all petitions.

If a condition is approved, anyone with that medical condition can apply to the Medical Cannabis Program.

So far, the department has received petitions to add such medical conditions as Crohn's Disease, chronic pain, post traumatic stress disorder, hepatitis C, bipolar disorder, arthritis and sciatica, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, peripheral neuropathy and anorexia.

The Medical Advisory Board will meet again in March to review additional petitions.

To apply for the Medical Cannabis program or to petition for a new condition, look up http://www.nmhealth.org/marijuana.html or call the Medical Cannabis Program Coordinator at 505-827-2321.

Since the medical marijuana program began July 1, 2007, the Department of Health has approved 206 patient applications.

To qualify for medical marijuana, a patient's medical provider must certify that the patient has one of the eligible medical conditions, the condition is debilitating and that the benefit of medical marijuana would outweigh the potential risks.

Current qualifying conditions are: cancer, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with intractable spasticity, epilepsy and HIV/AIDS.

Hospice patients may also be eligible.

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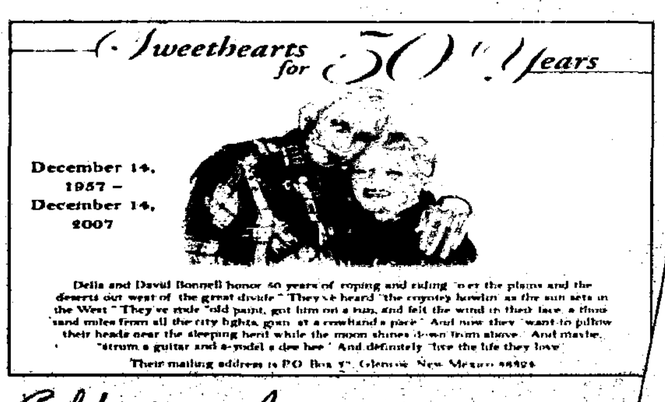

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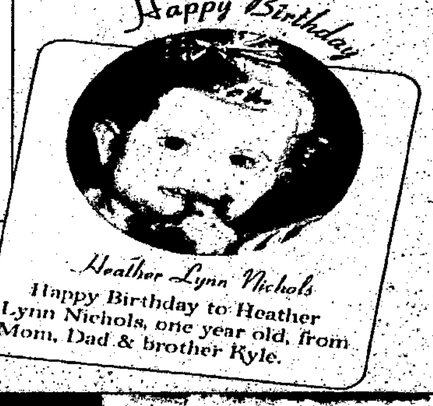

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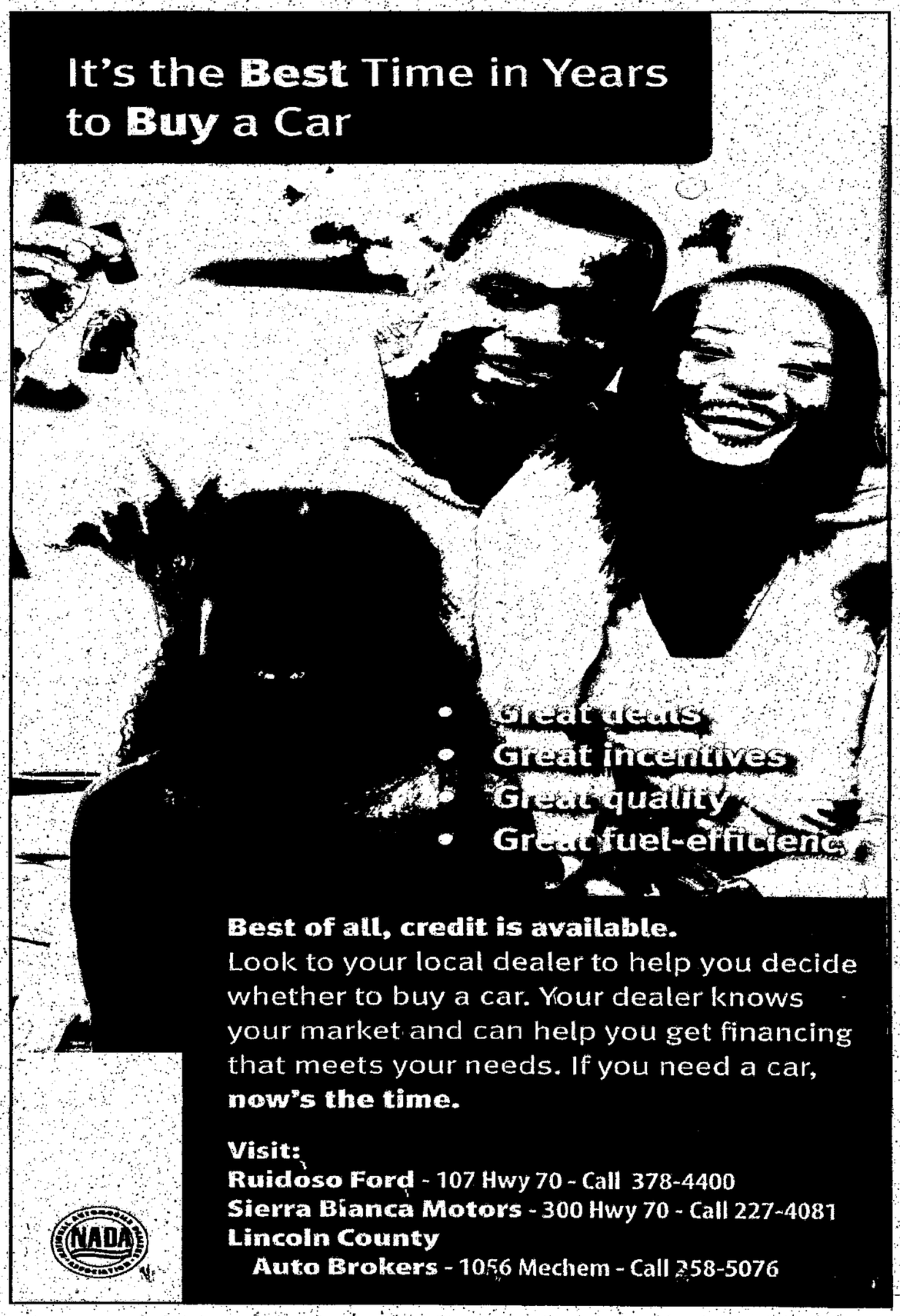
4 col x 5": $86.00
3 col x 10.5": $135.45
1/2 Page: $270.90
Full Page: $541.80

Jace and Jan Enser invite you to celebrate the marriage of their daughter
Kristi
to
Ken Pruiksma
at a reception to be held August 16 at the Lodge at Sierra Blanca (formerly Hawthorne Suites) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Enjoy their website at www.KRISTIKEN.com

Rates include 1 run in the Friday newspaper and 10 extra copies of the newspaper. For an extra $2, put your ad online!

Deadline is Monday by 4 pm for Wed. edition and Wednesday by 4 pm for Fri. edition. You can mail or bring in your ad to 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso, NM 88345. Or, email your ad to jgoodwin@ruidosonews.com. When emailing photos please DO NOT send in a Word Document, only send text in a Word Document. For more information, call James Goodwin, (575) 257-4001. All ads must be prepaid.

RUIDOSO NEWS



Non-adversarial elder mediation can resolve family conflicts

JENNIFER CHADWICK
For the Ruidoso News

"My daughter is insisting I move in with her," complains Martha. "She just wants to control my life and take away my freedom," she continues.

"I'll take my sister to court before I will let her get control of mom and my inheritance," exclaims Jim about Jenny's desire to move her mother in with her.

It is amazing how quickly formerly cordial relationships between family members will sour when the family has to deal with care of elderly parents or inheritance at their death. Sometimes the consequence of dealing with the final years of elderly parents can break families apart and create long-lasting animosity.

A lot of times it is a "she said," "he said" situation with neither party really understanding what the elder person needs or wants.

Children all have a common bond to their parents and as a result a common obligation or responsibility to each other. When disagreements arise, suspicions begin to grow. Suspicions or distrust often lead to anger and the anger often leads to severing the channels of communication between family members. This can occur between parent and child or between siblings or between all of them.

It is often at this point that a neutral third party can come in and repair the damage that has been done and help correct the problems that have come about because of the disagreement.

A practitioner experienced in elder care and family mediation is a perfect choice for solving disagreements due to issues with the elderly.

Mediation is a non-adversarial approach to solving disputes. Mediation is a process of bringing two or more disputing parties together and having them mutually negotiate a solution to their disagreement. The mediator is not a judge and does not render a decision but is there to make sure that communication flows freely between the disputing parties.

• A trained expert on communication gives the family a perspective it could not gain by meeting together on its own;

• All family members involved meet and prevent problems from arising by anticipating situations that may cause disputes;

• Allows for the mediator to invite experts such as care managers or other care providers into the meeting to educate the family and give them a new perspective;

• Allows parents to focus on their abilities rather than their limitations;

• Allows children to come up with and consider options not thought of previously;

• Encourages uninvolved family members to become involved;

• Allows parents to express wishes and desires that had previously gone unuttered;

• Allows for a neutral third party to challenge family members and make them take responsibility for their actions;

• Promotes consensus of all involved, which in turn, creates a much higher rate of compliance with the plan than with any other process; (the success rate for compliance with elder mediation is estimated to be about 80-85 percent);

• Requires a written plan with specific responsibilities which makes compliance feasible.

There are many organizations and companies throughout the country providing expertise in "Elder Mediation" to help seniors and their families.

You will also find that mediators often have many coincident professional accreditations such as Professional or Geriatric Care Manager, Elder Attorney, Clinical Social Worker or Certified Mediator.

In choosing a mediator, consider your needs. Is there a need for a medical assessment to determine the type of care? Are legal concerns with inheritance or family business or power of attorney, the main need? Perhaps, just bringing the family together to communicate on what needs to be done and who will do it is the agenda for now.

In one case, after months of dispute with her parents over their health and safety issues, Connie enlisted the service of a professional care manager mediator.

"Bringing a neutral person with a professional and compassionate attitude into our disputes was the best thing for all involved," Connie recalled. "My parents shared their concerns and listened with acceptance to mine. All of a sudden we could communicate and work out a plan that they could live with and I could relax knowing they were safe."

The National Care Planning Council's book, "The 4 Steps of Long Term Care Planning," the process of creating your own "Care Plan" before you need it is introduced. This book can be found at http://www.longtermcarelink.net/a16four_steps_book.htm.

Ruidoso Home Care & Hospice can provide Geriatric Case Management as well as a Medical Social Worker able to provide these services. For more information, please call 575-258-0028.

Holidays and substance use: What message are you sending your kids?

NANCY LAPOINT
For the Ruidoso News

What messages are you sending your children about your values in regard to holiday traditions?

It's a well-known fact that substance abuse is an increasingly serious problem during the holidays, for adults as well as for youth.

The holidays can be a tempting time to overuse alcohol and other substances in order to relax.

For someone with a substance use problem, this can be a particularly difficult season with all of the socializing that occurs and because our society promotes the use of substances at these times.

Perhaps you could begin your new year's resolutions in December by taking a long look at your own need to partake, as well as how your children regard your priorities.

Here are a few tips to assist you in helping your children understand the dangers of substance use, whether at holiday times or anytime:

Holiday celebration tips:

• Let your child know what you expect. Tell your child that adults may be drinking during the holidays but under no circumstances is he/she allowed to drink alcohol.

• At your holiday gatherings, offer plenty of nonalcoholic foods, drinks, and activities.

• To lower the risk of alcohol poisoning, be sure to throw out partly empty alcoholic drinks. Children love to imitate adults, and if they have access to leftover drinks, they may taste the contents.

• Have a plan in place about what you and your family will do if you are at a party where there are people who have had too much to drink.

• Model responsible behaviors by making sure that guests who have been drinking do not drive.

Why not create some substance-free holiday traditions for your family? It's a great way to show your child that you can have fun during the holidays without alcohol or drugs.

Alcohol-Free holiday tips:

• Plan a nonalcoholic holiday party with your child so children learn that they can have fun without alcohol. Send out invitations with alcohol- and drug-free messages on them, and make sure the guests know that yours will be a substance-free event.

• For your holiday meal, let your child help you prepare and serve traditional drinks without alcohol.

• Make sure your holiday festivities involve lots of delicious and nonalcoholic food, which your child can help you make.

• If your older child is going to a holiday event, call ahead to make sure that the event will be alcohol and drug free. Check in with the party planners to see what measures are in place to keep alcohol out.

If you have trouble controlling your own substance use during the holidays, you should seek help. In the Ruidoso area, you may call The Counseling Center, 257-5038. If you need assistance in locating the appropriate resource, call the Lincoln County Community Health Council at 973-1829. The LCCHC wishes you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season.

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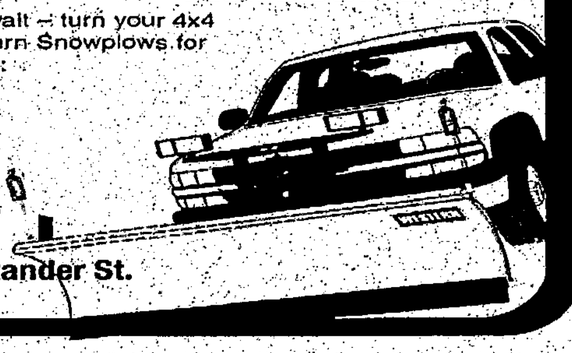

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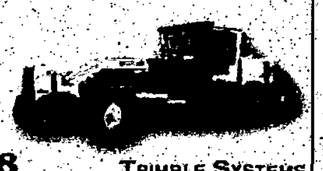

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Old fashioned Christmas in Lincoln

JOHN SODEN PHOTO

Patricia Kiddney, a re-enactor from the El Paso Six Guns and Shady Ladies, places a decoration on the Christmas tree inside the Community Church in Lincoln during last weekend's Old Fashioned Christmas in Lincoln event.

In The Next American Profile...

Songs that changed America

The period from right after WWII through the mid-1960's was a time of transformation for America socially and culturally. There was no better way to witness these changes than through the popular songs of the day. Plus, nutty about nutcrackers and buttermilk coleslaw.

American Profile

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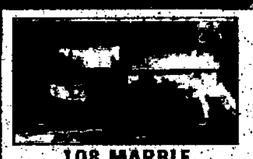
Real Estate Press **Home finder**



108 MARBLE
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201 RIO ARRIBA
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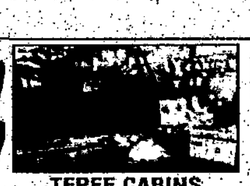

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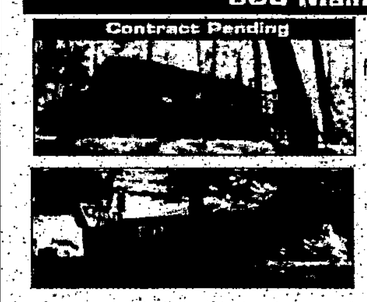

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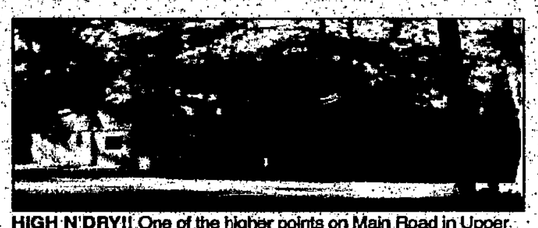

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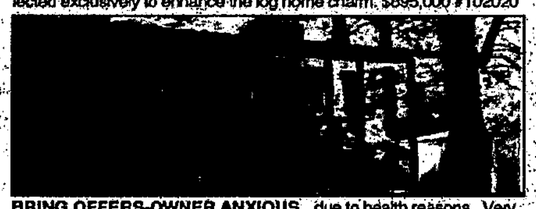
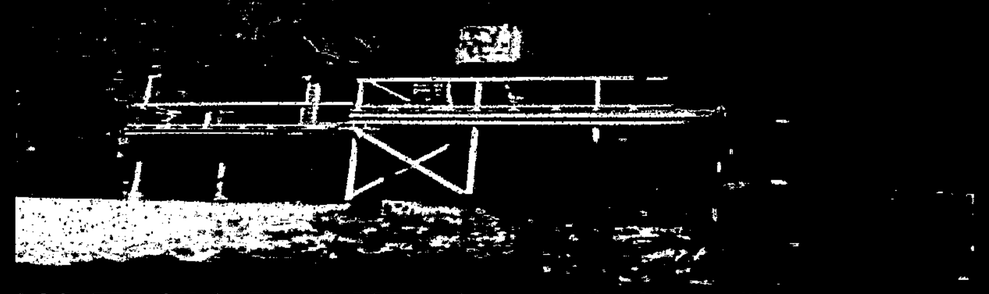
LINCOLN'S HISTORIC INN - The Ellis Store is situated on 4.32 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds. The Main House has a wonderful kitchen, excellent for the chef in the family, a beautiful dining room and sitting room, bedrooms that make you feel as if you have stepped back in time. Currently operated as a Country Inn, there are numerous commercial uses or simply a historic grand home. $750,000 #102488 & #103714

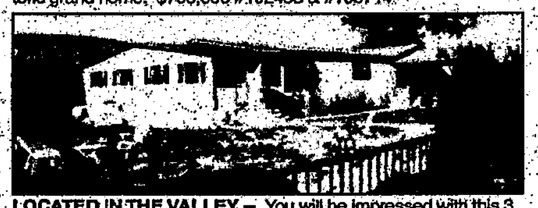


BRING OFFERS-OWNER ANXIOUS due to health reasons. Very well kept, sparkling clean condo in the heart of Ruidoso. 2 bdrms, 2 baths. New thermal windows, great covered deck in front. Low condo fees!! Newer vinyl siding, refrigerator, hot water heater. Huge rock fireplace in living room. Gas forces air heat. Some furnishings negotiable. No dogs allowed. $135,000 #104229

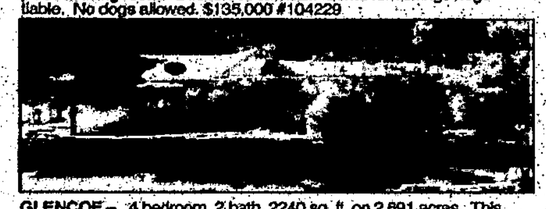
FEATURE OF THE WEEK:



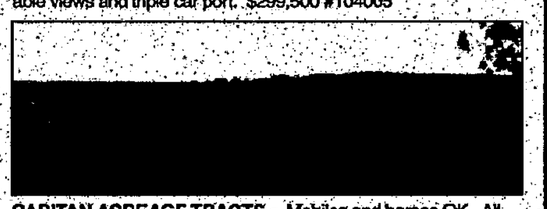
LOCATED ON OVER AN ACRE – in the middle of town with awesome views, great year-round access this 3 bedroom house a new roof, log siding, dual pane windows, new flooring, hot water heater, appliances, silestone cabinet tops, Jacuzzi tub and and extended deck for fun entertaining. There is also a shop, hugh carport with RV hookups & solar heat. Call for an appointment today. $545,000 #104293 Owner/Agent



LOCATED IN THE VALLEY – You will be impressed with this 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1960 sq. ft. manufactured home on 5.4694 acres in San Patricio. Well groomed with fruit trees, irrigated pasture, river frontage, shop building, tractor and equipment, picnic area, 1.7 acres of water rights with 1880 priority date, fenced, comfortable views and triple car port. $299,500 #104065



GLENCOE – 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2240 sq. ft. on 2.891 acres. This older home has lots of charm including hardwood floors and updated kitchen. Large fireplace in living room. This would be the perfect home for your horse, chickens, milk cow and victory garden. Barn w/slab floor, out buildings, 1.3 acres of water rights, private but good neighbors and ready for occupancy. Even a new hot tub. $299,500 #103831



CAPITAN ACREAGE TRACTS - Mobiles and horses OK. All Utilities available except sewer. Beautiful views, residential or commercial use. Will have well sharing agreement. Listing agent part owner. Starting at $28,000. #13469-13478

LARGE REDUCTION ON CHARMING COTTAGE! - 2 bedroom, 1 bath is modular home, not mobile home. New exterior paint! This one won't last long so check it out. Beautiful flat lot with trees, great for kids or pets. Large covered wraparound deck with screened in porch area in back for comfortable outdoor living. Newer furnace, washer and refrigerator. Skylight in living room and beautiful large rock fireplace. Bedrooms are good size too. $118,500 #102956

THE COE RANCH - Established in 1882 following the Lincoln County War. The hacienda contains 6000 +/- square feet of living space, five bedrooms, 4 ½ baths and is surrounded by beautiful gardens. The ranch consists of 258 acres more or less including 88 acres of water rights. The Rio Ruidoso River runs through the ranch and the ranch adjoins the Lincoln National Forest. Over 10 irrigated pastures containing more than 85 acres will provide plenty of feed for livestock. Included with the sale are many outbuildings, a double-wide manufactured home, a game room and all farming equipment. Offered at $5,395,000. #102137

NICELY DONE INTERIOR - This 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1344 Sq. Ft. home has been Remodeled! All new kitchen and bathrooms, new water lines, wood floors in living, dining and hall. Huge wrap around deck with mountain views. Large under house storage area. Hot tub under house works and will stay but needs to be installed. $169,900 #103735

GREAT LOCATION! - 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1,452 sq. ft. home on large lot in town. Nicely remodeled with attention to detail. New paint throughout the house, kitchen with beautiful cabinets and new countertops, opens to a great patio with beautiful flowers. Large fenced backyard with fruit trees and a cute little greenhouse. Detached two car garage has extra room for a work area. Domestic Well. Lots of storage w/easy access. $299,900 #102888

THE GUY WITH THE BUY

LARGE COVERED DECK with this 2 bedroom 2 bath, older manufactured home. Completely furnished, storage shed and fenced yard on three sides. Owner anxious and will consider offers. $48,500 #104080

GREAT POTENTIAL! 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home on over 8.5 acres in Capitan with barn and rental property, main house has been remodeled & master bath has a jetted tub. Great views from front deck of house. The proprty is fully fenced with dog run and horse walker $150,000 #103553.

WALKING DISTANCE TO MIDTOWN. A great vacation cabin with beautiful new wood floors, a wood-burning fireplace and a nice yard. This remodel has new gas-forced air heating and new ¾ bath in Master. Double garage with workspace and electricity. $149,900 #R101574

WIDE OPEN VIEWS! - 30 acre tract of land on Hwy 380 just east of Carrizozo. House is roomy 3 bedroom 1 bath with hardwood floors. Will have new metal roof and exterior paint soon. Large barn and several out buildings. Lots of pens for animals, garden areas and beautiful wide open views. Several wells on property and comes with 1 water right, more negotiable. New water heater. $299,000 #103632

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS!!! This 3 bdrm, 2 bath home has the perfect view of Sierra Blanca from the front and the Capitan Mountains from the back. Just recently connected to city water, but still has well. New plumbing fixtures. Room for horses and space to ride. $175,000 #102479

COZY HOME This home is placed on a solid concrete slab. All the extras are in place on this wonderful home. The deer and elk enjoy the waterfall in the back yard. There is plenty of metal roofing available for a carport so it matches the roof on the home. Come see this home and all it has to offer. $160,000 #104271

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BEAUTIFUL 4701 SQ. FT. CUSTOM BUILT HOME! New const. not quite finished. 6 bdrms., 6 baths w/ 2 half baths, handicap access, level entry, master on main floor. Located in White Mtn. Estates. Lots of personal touches once it is completed. John Bourne - builder from Clovis, NM. **$1,200,000. #104370.**

DROP DEAD GORGEOUS SIERRA BLANCA VIEW
Very private 10 acres. Lots of windows, high ceiling w/nice wood accents throughout. Wood & tile floors, radiant heat, lots of decks w/outdoor kit. area. 24'x36' barn. New 50 gal/min(+) well. Paved drive, nicely landscaped. Owner/agent. **$679,900. #101661.**

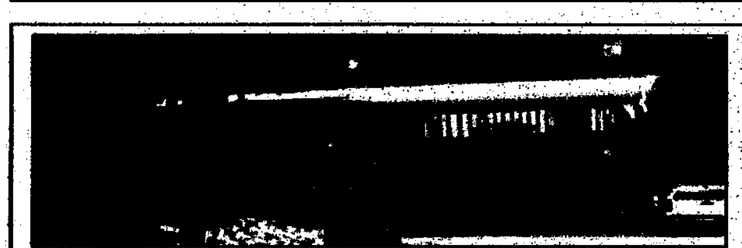
YOU NAME IT... THIS HOME HAS IT!
Formal living to workshop with Christmas tree! 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, sprinkler system, 3 levels of Sierra Blanca views. Appliances only. **$550,000. #103546.**

BREATHTAKING SIERRA BLANCA VIEWS!
3 bdrm., 2 bath, open living area, fabulous furnishings, ready to move into. Great rental or full time residence! Approx. 2068 sq. ft. per county records. Must See! **$379,900. #18047.**

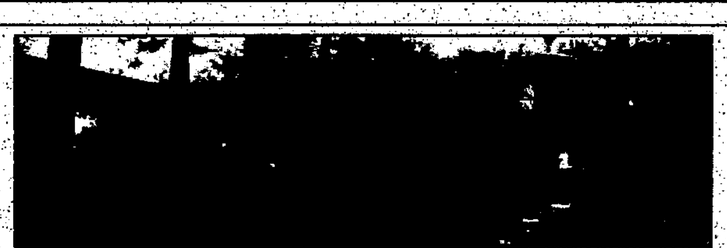
UNIQUE 1800 SQ. FT. PASSIVE SOLAR, OWNER BUILT STRAW BALE HOME
On 16.8 ac. in secluded Villa Madonna. Spring fed stream, borders Nat'l Forest. 1 bdrm., 1 bath w/rooms that could be converted to addt'l. bdrms. Great getaway for the environmentally conscious. **$354,000. #102792.**

HORSE LOVERS
Give your horses the best on this enchanting 14-1/2 acre property just 15 min. from town. A corral and 3-stall barn w/tack rm... they'll love it! You'll be living in a sprawling 3 bdrm., 3 bath 2332 sq. ft. home w/stunning mtn. views. All for **$314,900.** #102789.

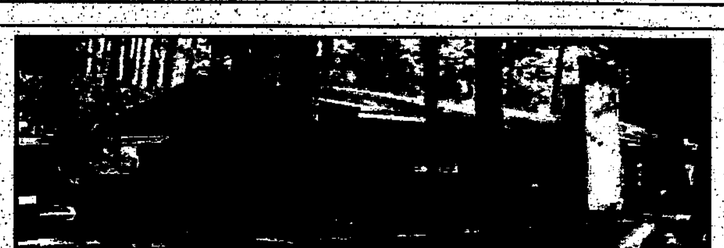
CLASSY TOWNHOME ON THE #9 FAIRWAY.
Walking distance to the club, nicely furnished 3 bdrm., 2-1/2 bath, turn key unit, freshly stuccoed w/new metal roof, nice views in front & back. **$299,900. #103023.**



RELAX IN THE QUIET, PINE COVERED CANYON NEXT TO NAT'L FOREST
Fully furn. New bath added in big game rm. w/wet bar, pool table & pinball. Metal roof in 2001. Screen porch front & back. Huge open deck w/rubberized granular coating. Lrg. carport & plenty of parking. All city utilities. **$269,333. #103556.**



VERY QUIET, COZY & PEACEFUL.
3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath cabin, among tall pines & singing birds. Lots of wood accents in floors, walls & ceilings. Mostly furnished. Nice rustic white oak wood beds included. Must see! **$224,888. #102012.**



LARGE FAMILY ROOM
with great fireplace makes this 3 bedroom, 1-3/4 bath home a super weekend get-away. Approx. 1815 sq. ft. per county records. Dbl. lot. Walk to downtown area. **$189,000. #104309.**

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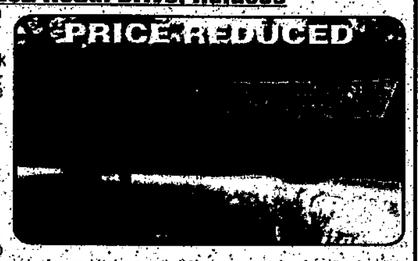
Rose Reynolds, 973-1260
Andrea Collura, 937-4609

$135,000 202 Heath Drive, Ruidoso
3BD/ 2 BA What a great location for your Ruidoso home. Half a block to The Links walking path and close to Midtown. This home sits on a nice wooded lot, has a great covered back deck; huge built-in FP, remodeled bath, fenced backyard, circular drive with carport, workshop and large storage room. Large kitchen and dining area are perfect for family gatherings. New roof being put on and back deck being repaired. MLS 103882



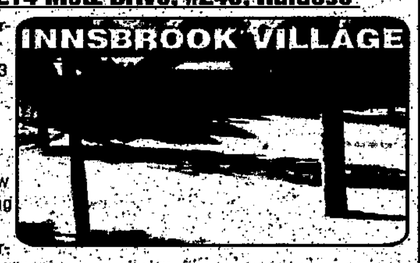
$549,000 136 Deer Park Dr., Alto
3BD/2 &3/4BA 2642SF Fully furnished executive home on one level. Grand flr plan w/ vaulted ceilings, open & bright living area, sep. Office and great deck. Gorgeous master BD and BA w/ see-thru FP, bidet, Jacuzzi tub enclosed in cedar w/ piped in music; lg vanity and double walk-in closet. This prestigious home has a new metal roof, new paint, new water heater, heated golf cart storage and two car garage with work bench. A perfect turnkey opportunity with full Alto Lakes golf m'ship or for $575,000 you can have both Alto CC and a m'ship to The Outlaw; NM's newest premier course (a $10,000 savings)!MLS # 104263

$399,900 909 High Mesa Dr. Alto Lakes
3BD/2-3/4BA 1792 SF Beautifully remodeled w/new wood floors, new heating/AC, new insulation, new driveway/walkways. Handicapped accessible & one level. Vaulted ceilings, central vac, low maint stucco and big oversized garage w/tons of storage. On the 4th Green of Alto Lakes &CC w/ majestic views of Sierra Blanca that can never be obstructed. Close to the Club House w/ full golf m'ship.

$369,900 303 White Mtn. Meadows
Beautiful new construction in prestigious White Mountain Meadows. 3BD/2BA Master bath has Jacuzzi tub and walk-in closet. Large open kitchen has grand island, s/s appliances and Rustic Hickory cabinets. Double attached garage, covered deck and cozy fireplace complete this home. MLS 103883

$125,000 408 Spring Road, Ruidoso Downs
3BD/2BA Manufactured home with two living areas, fully fenced front yard and metal roof. Tons of kitchen cabinets, separate dining area. Master bath w/ garden tub + his and her sinks. Well maintained. Perfect set up for a large family. MLS 101822

$218,000 214 Metz Drive, #248, Ruidoso
Rare find at desirable Innsbrook! Extra large 3BD/3 1/2BA spacious, fully furnished condo, each BD has private bath, lg Rock FP, 2 new decks overlooking golf course and pond. Newer carpet, level entry. Terrific investment with great rental history and on site management. PRICED TO SELL! MLS #100424

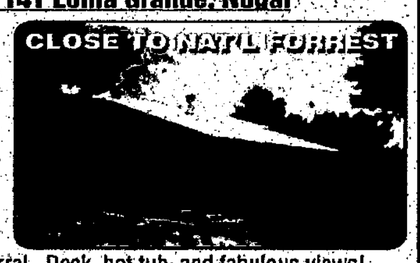


$339,900 104 Musket Ct., Cedar Creek
3BD/2-1/2BA 1508 SF Rustic luxury w/flawless attn to detail. Total knotty pine interior, fully furn w/gorgeous lodge pole furniture. Huge windows for expansive wooded views, towering river rock FP and impossibly high vaulted ceilings in great room. Spacious hot tub on private, open deck for views of beautiful NM sky. Truly a MUST SEE property!

$186,800 213 Maverick Court, Alto
4BD/2BA This extremely spacious TRIPLE wide, located on a quiet Cul de Sac, has oversized 2-car garage with great split floor plan, large bedrooms and an additional office. Huge walk-in closet in Master. Kitchen has center island and bright open breakfast nook. Cathedral ceilings in living area which leads into formal dining room. Extra room being added for exercise or reading. Fully fenced yard is nicely landscaped and will be great for children or pets. MLS 102689

$677,000 124 Saddle Back Rd. Alto
4 BD/5 & 1/2 BA Grand home on 6 acres with studio. Beautiful living area with wood beam vaulted ceilings, built in fireplace and convenient office area. Large open kitchen has granite and butcher block counters, pull out drawers and bright dining area with views. Master bedroom has his & her's bath, see through f/p, Jacuzzi tub and walk-in closet. A screened-in sun room and separate hot tub area. Too many features to describe. MLS 103959

$259,000 141 Loma Grande, Nogal
3BD/2BA cabin. A horse lover's paradise w/easy Nat'l Forest access. True log home on 2 secluded acres. Tack room and corral. Deck, hot tub, and fabulous views! $7,500 well allowance if necessary. MLS 100962

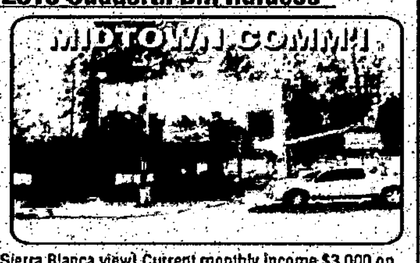


$205,000 121 Hillcrest Loop, Capitan
Beautiful horse property off of Laughing Horse Road. Home is well kept and in like new condition. Five fenced acres with dramatic views of Sierra Blanca. Newer well (only 2 years old) at a depth of 285 feet. Priced near a 2006 appraised value. MLS 104319

$94,900 1166 Little Big Horn, Alto
3BD/2BA This is a perfect starter home! Stop paying rent and start building equity. Very nice home in Rancho Ruidoso Valley located on a large lot in a quiet area. An excellent price just at $75 per SF. Currently rented but will be ready for occupancy on January 9th. Renter works odd hours so please call L/A to arrange a showing. MLS 104275

$268,870 142 Mountain Sun Trail, Alto
4BD/4BA extra large condo in Alto Mountain Village. Perfect for large family or as an investment rental property. Two master suites, both w/gas log fireplace beautiful dining area, Jacuzzi, dry sauna, weight system and oversized covered and uncovered decks w/ views of the Capitans. Lower level includes efficiency kitchen. Homeowners' dues include water, sewer, trash, basic cable, exterior maintenance, snow removal, pool, tennis, basketball and clubhouse. Close to Ski Apache and all Ruidoso has to offer. MLS# 103539

$379,900 2315 Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso
Prime midtown comm'l bldg. In the heart of Ruidoso's walking district. Newer bldg. W/retail on ground level and upstairs 4 rooms, kitchen and ½ bath. Upstairs could be easily converted into spacious living quarters w/a Sierra Blanca view! Current monthly income $3,000 on M to M leases. Asking price near appraised value. MLS 103946



$175,000 117 W. Grandview, Capitan
3BD/2 & 3/4BA mfg'd home beautifully maintained on 2 Ac. Of great horse prop. Fully landscaped, fruit trees, pipe fencing, corral w/water, pasture, hay storage and tack room 2 masters and 3rd BD w/BA. Open floor plan w/2 living areas, bright inviting sun room, plus separate building for guest quarters, studio or workshop. Owner financing available. MLS #103675

$220,000 200 Sun Mountain Loop, Alto
3BD/3BA Cute,cute,cute! Modified A-Frame in Alto, has built in fireplace with gas starter, tile counters in kitchen, lots of cabinets, utility room, large loft and great deck. Nestled in the pines, this home is the perfect get-away with a new metal roof, new deck and driveway. Home sits on a beautifully wooded lot in a great, secluded neighborhood. Furniture & W/D are negotiable. MLS# 104064

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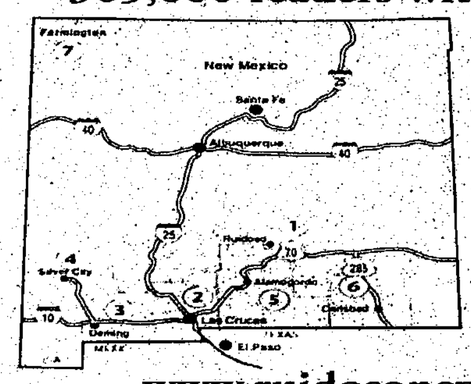

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#8438 4T (12)12,19,26 (1)2

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

INDYMAC BANK, F.S.B.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SANDRA KELLY, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., JOHN DOE and JANE DOE (true names unknown), Tenants,

Defendant(s).

No. CV-08-28

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 7, 2009 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. the undersigned Special Master will at the northeast entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo New Mexico sell all the right title and interest of the above-named Defendants in and to the hereinafter described real estate to the highest bidder for cash. The property to be sold is located at 1209 Mac Street, Ruidoso, and is situate in Lincoln County, New Mexico, and is particularly described as follows:

Lot 32 Block 7 of WHITE MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION Ruidoso Lincoln County New Mexico as shown by the subdivision plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Lincoln County New Mexico on September 1 1941

THE FOREGOING SALE will be made to satisfy a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above entitled and numbered cause on November 28 2008 being an action to foreclose a mortgage on the above described property. The total of its judgment which includes interest and costs is $110 975 43 and the same bears interest at 7 25% per annum from November 1 2008. The amount of such interest to the date of sale will be $1 498 93. The Plaintiff has the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid verbally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of its judgment to the purchase price in lieu of cash. The sale may be postponed and rescheduled at the discretion of the Special Master.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the real property and improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements all recorded and unrecorded liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due. Plaintiff and its attorneys disclaim all responsibility for and the purchaser at the sale takes the property subject to, the valuation of the property by the County Assessor as real or personal property, affixture of any mobile or manufactured home to the land deactivation of title to a mobile or manufactured home on the property, if any, environmental contamination on the property, if any, and zoning violations concerning the property, if any.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser of such sale shall take title to the above described real property subject to a one (1) month right of redemption.

Nick Vega,
Special Master
P O Box 383
Carrizozo, NM 88301
575-648-2463

#8455 1T (12)19

Legal Notice of Decisions Lincoln National Forest Eagle Creek Grazing Allotment Management

On September 30, 2008 Responsible Official Buck Sanchez, Smokey Bear District Ranger signed a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for Eagle Creek Grazing Allotment Management. The selected alternative authorizes the continuation of livestock grazing management under term permits, maintenance of improvements, monitoring, and adaptive management. The Eagle Creek Grazing Allotment is located east of Ruidoso and south of Fort Stanton historic site. The Environmental Assessments and DN/FONSIs are available at the District Office, 901 Mechem, Ruidoso, NM 88345.

Interested members of the public were informed of the analysis processes in the Forest Service Schedule of Proposed Actions and a scoping letter provided to interested and affected parties. Legal notice of the proposed action and the official 30-day comment period was published in the Ruidoso News on 11/09/2007. One comment expressing concerns was received during the comment period; therefore, this decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(e)(1). Implementation may begin upon the completion of the 45 day appeal period.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#8456 1T (12)19

CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-02

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Ruidoso Downs Parks and Recreation Committee will hold its regularly scheduled meetings at the City of Ruidoso Downs City Council Chambers in Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Thursday, January 8, 2009
Thursday, February 12, 2009
Thursday, March 12, 2009
Thursday, April 9, 2009
Thursday, May 14, 2009
Thursday, June 11, 2009
Thursday, July 9, 2009
Thursday, August 13, 2009
Thursday, September 10, 2009
Thursday, October 8, 2009
Thursday, November 12, 2009

A proposed agenda will be available at least twenty-four hours (24) before the meeting from the Office of the City Clerk located in the City Hall, Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico.

Changes affecting the date and/or location of a regular scheduled meeting will be faxed to newspapers of general circulation in Lincoln County and notices will be posted on the official bulletin board in the City Hall Administration Building, 122 Downs Drive, Ruidoso Downs.

The Chairperson or a majority of the members upon three (3) days notice may call special Meetings of the Parks and Recreation Committee. For the purpose of special meetings, notice requirements will be met by posting notices on the official bulletin board in the City Hall Administration Building and notifying the news media.

Auxiliary aides are available upon request; please contact the City Clerk at 378-4422 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

#8458 1T (12)19

CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWN

NOTICE TO INTENTION TO ADOPT

Notice is hereby given that the Governing Body of the City of Ruidoso Downs shall conduct a public hearing in conjunction with the regular meeting scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Hubbard Room, 122 Downs Drive, Ruidoso Downs for the purpose of adopting the following ordinance.

ORDINANCE 2009-01

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW SECTION TO CHAPTER 4 DEPARTMENTS ARTICLE 7 HEALTH AND SANITATION

Legal Notices 152

DEPARTMENT SECTION 16.C TITLED "FUEL SURCHARGE" OF THE CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS CODE OF ORDINANCES

4.7.16 (C)FUEL SURCHARGE

The monthly rate for fuel surcharge for residential accounts shall not exceed $2.00.

Ordinance No. 2009-01 shall take effect for the January 1, 2009 billing after publication as prescribed by law.

Copies of Ordinance 2009-01 are on file in the office of the City Clerk and are available for public review Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

/s/
Carol Virdon, MMC
City Clerk

#8459 2T (12)17,19

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

SAFE DEPOSIT SELF STORAGE UNIT #18

Miscellaneous Items, Pool Table, Kitchen Table & Chairs.

Last Known Owner:

Joseph Simon
P.O. Box 1606
Alto, NM 88312

Sale to be held at Safe Deposit Self Storage located at 108 Alpine Village Road in Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345. The sale will be held on December 20, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

All Sales Final. Written lump sum bids only. Lienholder reserves right to bid. Items must be removed same day immediately following sale.

#8460 2T (12)17,19

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

SAFE DEPOSIT SELF STORAGE UNIT #39

Miscellaneous Items, Dryer, Microwave, Toy Collectibles, Stainless Steel Table.

Last Known Owner:

Chuck Hamblin
P.O. Box 494
Melrose, NM 88125

Sale to be held at Safe Deposit Self Storage located at 108 Alpine Village Road in Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345. The sale will be held on December 20, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

All Sales Final. Written lump sum bids only. Lienholder reserves right to bid. Items must be removed same day immediately following sale.

#8461 2T (12)17,19

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

SAFE DEPOSIT SELF STORAGE UNIT #39

Miscellaneous Items, Power Tools, Power Washer, Compressor, Bed

Last Known Owner:

Juanita Roden
107 Birch
Ruidoso, NM 88345

Sale to be held at Safe Deposit Self Storage located at 108 Alpine Village Road in Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345. The sale will be held on December 20, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

All Sales Final. Written lump sum bids only. Lienholder reserves right to bid. Items must be removed same day immediately following sale.

#8463 2T (12)19, 24

The following units at AA STORAGE INC. 2247 W. Hwy 70 Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346 are past due. If payment is not rec. within 15 days of the 2nd publication of this notice storage contents will be sold by auction on Tuesday January 20th, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DRY ROCK SP. #2
Tom Ambers, P.O. Box 2972, Santa Fe, NM 87505. 6' 1/2 El:Coml no. Runs, needs work.

UNIT #F-T
Dennis Ray, Whole sale Carpets, 110 Star light 114 Ruidoso, NM 88345. Misc house hold & clothing.

UNIT #G-14
Johnnie McDaniel, 315 South St. Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346. Misc household.

UNIT #D-11.
Brandon Keith, 710 G & C Dr. Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346. Misc. household items.

#8465 1T (12)19

INVITATION FOR BID

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico calls for sealed bids on IFB #08-017.

Legal Notices 152

The Village of Ruidoso is requesting sealed competitive bids for construction of a temporary bridge replacement at Sleepy Hollow Road. The project consists of removing the existing debris from the stream channel as required to facilitate the installation of four Village furnished six foot by six foot pre-cast concrete box culverts and the construction of riprap gabion headwalls, wire enclosed riprapped banks and other items as shown on the plans.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Monday, December 29, 2008 at 1:30 pm at the Village of Ruidoso Administrative Center at 313 Cree Meadows Dr., Ruidoso, NM.

Prospective bidders should have an appropriate contractors license (GF-98 or other satisfactory classification), and Registration with New Mexico Department of Labor. See Information for Bidders for more details.

Decisions of the State Labor Commissioner setting wage rates will be a part of the Contract.

Each proposal shall be submitted in accordance with the information for Bidders and shall be accompanied by an acceptable form of Proposal Guaranty in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, made payable to the Village of Ruidoso as a guaranty that, if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the Contract and file acceptable Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds within seven (7) days after award of the Contract.

Bids will be received at Village of Ruidoso Purchasing Department located at 311 Center St., Ruidoso, NM 88345 until 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 2009 at which time the bids will be transported to the Village of Ruidoso Administrative Center at 313 Cree Meadows Dr., Ruidoso, NM where they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after closing time will be rejected and returned unopened. The fact that a bid was dispatched will not be considered.

Interested bidders may secure a copy of the Plans and Specifications for a deposit of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) per each set at the Village of Ruidoso Purchasing Department at 311 Center Street, Ruidoso, New Mexico, 88345, phone (505) 257-2721 (mailing address: 313 Cree Meadows Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345). The deposit is refundable, providing sets are returned in good condition within ten (10) days after bid opening.

Technical questions concerning the project and bid may be addressed to Lark In Group NM, Inc. c/o Joseph J. Casares, P.E., at 505/275-7500.

The Village of Ruidoso reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive all informalities as allowed by the State of New Mexico Procurement Code.

Vicki Elchelberger
Village of Ruidoso
Purchasing Agent

#8466 1T (12)19

INVITATION FOR BID

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico calls for sealed bids on IFB #08-018.

The Village of Ruidoso is requesting sealed competitive bids for construction of a temporary bridge replacement at McDaniels Road. The project consists of removing the existing debris from the stream channel as required to facilitate the installation of four Village furnished six foot by six foot pre-cast concrete box culverts and the construction of riprap gabion headwalls, wire enclosed riprapped banks and other items as shown on the plans.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Monday, December 29, 2008 at 1:30 pm at the Village of Ruidoso Administrative Center at 313 Cree Meadows Dr., Ruidoso, NM.

Prospective bidders should have an appropriate contractors license (GF-98 or other satisfactory classification), and Registration with New Mexico Department of Labor. See Information for Bidders for more details.

Decisions of the State Labor Commissioner setting wage rates will be a part of the Contract.

Each proposal shall be submitted in accordance with the information for Bidders and shall be accompanied by an acceptable form of Proposal Guaranty in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, made payable to the Village of Ruidoso as a guaranty that, if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the Contract and file acceptable Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds within seven (7) days after award of the Contract.

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Technical questions concerning the project and bid may be addressed to Lark In Group NM, Inc. c/o Joseph J. Casares, P.E., at 505/275-7500.

The Village of Ruidoso reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive all informalities as allowed by the State of New Mexico Procurement Code.

Vicki Elchelberger
Village of Ruidoso
Purchasing Agent

jobs 200-232

Employment 204

Casa Arena Blanca - Nursing Center

a 117-bed long term care facility, is currently searching for caring and dedicated individuals to join its clinical team.

CNAs
OFFERING CNA CLASSES
LPNs

SIGN-ON BONUS:
$500 CNA
$1,500 LPN
$2,500 RN

For your commitment to excellence, we offer excellent salary and comprehensive benefits package.

Please contact
Michelle Lane,
Recruiting Coordinator
Email: michelle.lane@fundltc.com
Fax: 410-773-5605
Toll-free: 877-447-9000 Ext. 3
www.fundltc.com
EOE/DFW

Thrift Smart

Gen. Help Wanted 224

Mescalero Care Center

Full-time night nurse RN / LPN required.

Excellent benefit package.
Call Anita @ 464-4802
or apply within: 454
Lipan Ave. Mescalero.

Gen. Help Wanted 224

HEAL is seeking a full-time Outreach Coordinator.

Must understand the issue of violence against Native American women and have excellent interpersonal skills and previous supervisory experience.
Requires HS diploma.
Pay is $10/hr.
Must past criminal background check.
Bring cover letter and resume to the Nest domestic violence shelter at
512 East Highway 70
in Ruidoso Downs

Gen. Help Wanted 224

WANTED

Smiling faces and skaters!

Sonic Drive-In is now accepting applications for dependable, mature, enthusiastic, friendly crewmembers for all shifts, all positions.

Apply in person at 102 Horton Circle. EOE

Gen. Help Wanted 224

Newporte Condominiums

Unique opportunity for experienced cleaners.
We need Friday only cleaners. Earn at least $100 every Fri. Paid every Friday. Tips and bonuses Apply in person 257-7641

Gen. Help Wanted 224

BIG O TIRES

Experienced Mechanic Wanted

Apply in person.
2259 W. Hwy. 70

MICHELENA'S is now hiring for Hostess, Cook & Busser. Please apply in person at 2703 Sudderth or call 505-257-5753.

Parttime Car Wash Attendent Needed
Ruidoso Laser Wash
705 Mechem

Part time Front Desk & Housekeeping. Call Best Western Ruidoso Inn 257-3600

Employment Wanted 230

Carpenter/Painter looking for work 25+ exp. Able to do all phases of construction & painting 937-4397

financials 239-250

The leaves of the Yucca, New Mexico's state flower, can be used to make rope, baskets and sandals.

Rental Service 300

Prudential Lynch Realty
www.PrudentialLynchRealty.com

RENTALS

HOUSES:

309 SUN VALLEY RD - Furnished, 3BDR, 2 BA, single car garage, $1400 per month includes all utilities. Washer /Dryer. Available thru May 2009

106 OLD LINCOLN RD - Unfurnished 3 BDR, 2BA. Granite counter tops. Heated garage/workshop. Corner lot with Sierra Blanca view. REDUCED to $1400 per month + utilities

114 TONTO DRIVE - Completely furnished, 2BDR, 2BA, + garage with peaceful views and hot tub. $1500 per month + utilities

722 COLORADO LANE - RUIDOSO DOWNS - Unfurnished 3 BDR 2BA 1 Safes offers an office, sunroom, fenced yard, gazebo, Sierra Blanca view and backs up to the national forest. $1200 per month + utilities.

556 GAVILAN CYN - Unfurnished 3BDR, 2BA. Granite floors and countertops. Huge rock fireplace and great views add to the ambiance! This great house is very "Ruidoso" with the large deck and tall trees. Accessible on 2.5 +/- acres + fenced small back yard. $1400. + utilities or $1200 with a year lease.

107 RIVER LANE - Unfurnished, 2 BDR/2BA with river frontage. Fenced yard. $750 + utilities. 1 Month to Month. On the market for sale.

124 COURSE VIEW DRIVE - Unfurnished: 3 BDR/2 1/2BA. Home on Cree Meadows fairway. Recently remodeled baths, new kitchen appliances and new tile/carpet throughout. Two levels. $1200. per month + utilities.

MOBILE HOME:

500 BRADY CANYON - Unfurnished 3BDR, 2BA manufactured home located on approximately 11 1/2 acres. Seclusion with that real feeling of mountain fever. $950 + utilities. *On the market for sale*

APARTMENTS:

115 EVERGREEN #4 - Unfurnished; 1 BDR, 1BA. - $475 includes water only.

115 EVERGREEN #1 - Unfurnished, 1 BDR, 1BA. - $475 includes water only

CABINS:

103 MUSKET COURT - Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, beautiful cabin in the Cedar Creek area. $1000 per month + utilities - Washer/Dryer

CONDOS:

THE SPRINGS #31 - Furnished 2BDR, 2 BA stand alone Condo. $1650 includes utilities.

101 RACQUET COURT - Vista Townhome #3. Delightful completely furnished 2BDR, 1BA Condo. $1200 per month, includes utilities

416 CHAMPIONS RUN - Furnished, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo's carport. $1100 + utilities.

COMMERCIAL:

415 MECHEM - Office building on Mechem Drive. $675 + utilities. Owner /Agent.

2900 SUDDERTH - Office space, in high traffic location. 500 + utilities.

257-4011 • 800-530-4597
View these rentals at: www.ruidosorealo.com/long-term_leases.htm

Furn. Apts. - General 314

RENT NOW $395/mo. + 200/dep. Utilities paid. Furn. 1 room effic. No dogs. 258-5877

Unfurn. Apts. - General 328

2 B D / 2 B A Fully furnished condo, bills paid 1000. mo

2 B D / 1 B A Fully furnished condo, bills paid 800. mo

2 B D / 1 B A newly remodeled home 685.00 mo

No pets Deposit required.

Call 257-8444 ask for Frank

Furn. Apts. - General 314

Executive Apartment, 1 large bd, jacuzzi tub, furn, Upper Canyon area, $850/mo in. Includes util, Marsha Guynes, Exit Realty Group, 937-2731

RENT NOW $395/mo. + 200/dep. Utilities paid. Furn. 1 room effic. No dogs. 258-5877

Furn. Apts. - General 314

AFFORDABLE RENTALS
Convenient locations.
Efficiencies -
1 or 2 bedrooms, furnished or unfurnished units.
Weekly, monthly or long-term. Bills paid. No Pets.
575-937-8905
575-257-4058

Townhouses/ Condominiums 342

1& 2 BR Furnished & Unfurnished Condos. Utilities Included. 257-2511

Rental Service 300

2 BR/2 BA, condo @ Cree Meadows, fp, w/d HOOK UP. Newly remodeled $800/mo., $500 dep.& references. 928-322-2015 or 928-322-7864

Unfurn. 2 bd, 2.5 ba, f/p, w/d. No pets. Farley's area. $600 + Dep. Ref req. 973-0085

2 bd/2 ba, GARAGE, appls., FP, decks, SB views, N of Links $895 owner/agent 937-0513

2 bd/1.5 ba, FP, appl s.In-town, INCLS. water & gas $795 owner/agent 937-0513

For RENT - Eagle Creek West CONDO on Ski Run Road. 2 bedroom/2 bath, unfurnished, $650 mo, plus utilities, 6 mo lease. Owner/Broker James Paxton - CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate, 257-9057 or John Cornelius - 937-0918

3BD 2 full BA, Rustic Cabin on the river $950 per mo. Dep.$200 still not included Partially Furn. 118 Meander 630-0583 For appt.

New, Lg 1 BD, Living / Dining RM, pantery, Near Town, $550.mo 257-0011

Apts in Carrizozo 1, 2 & 3 Bd, 3 bdr house yard, pets allowed 575-937-5364.

El Capitan Apartments.
Large 1 & 2 Bedroom apartments, long or short term lease. $450 - $550/month. Convenient Village location. School System - Walking distance. 354-0967

2 bd, 1 ba, easy access, gas heat $495/mo. Includes water, Dep req. 258-3210 or 808-0493.

Townhouses/ Condominiums 342

2 bd, 2 ba, furn., Townhome, 1 yr lease, No Smokers. $2,400/mo 575-336-4656

Townhouses/ Condominiums 342

CONDO FOR RENT
2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath.
New Paint/Carpet, quiet neighborhood.
$650/mo. U-pay gas/electric. 1st/last & dep. req.
(575) 258-3283

Unfurn. 2-4 Plex 348

★ LOCATION ★
★ LOCATION ★
★ LOCATION ★
1 BEDROOM HOUSE, REFRIDGE/STOVE WATER PD. 1 YEAR LEASE, $400 - CLEAN & DAMAGE DEPOSIT
- - NO PETS - -
$400 MO
258-5717

Furnished Houses 350

Fully furn., 3 bd, 2 ba. Remodeled. Lower Camelot, $900/mo + Util. No Smokers or pets. Marcia Guynes of Exit Realty of Ruidoso 937-2731 or 354-2047

Ruidoso News 257-4001

Townhouses/ Condominiums 342

Townhouses/ Condominiums 342

Furnished Houses 350

VERY NICE Lg. 1 BD Adobe House Decorated w/ Southwestern Furniture, Covered Deck, 1 Year lease $550.00 water paid 937-0130

Darling Furnished 3 bed 3 ba Alto Lakes Cabin on 1/2 acre. Min. 6 mo lease. No pets. $1150 mo + utilities. Lease/Purchase also avail. Owner/Agent 575-937-1936.

Wanted long term, qualified for furn3bd/2ba home I- 113 Brady Canyon. Wood floors, Fireplace, W/D, Ref. $600.dep. no pets $865.00+util. Jennie Dorgan RE 575-630-9900

Unfurn. Home - General 352

406 High Loop Drive in Ruidoso 3 bd, 2.5 ba, study, 2500 sq. ft., 2 car garage, FP, formal dining, breakfast area, fenced yard. $1200/mo 937-5918

House for rent. $1100 per month. Call Joe Zagone Century 21 Aspen 808-0282 or 257-9057

Mid-Town 1bd w/fpl. recently remodeled $500/mo + util. 937-1289

ask about our special. RV lots and storage units aval. 1BD trailers starting at $300 ref required centrally locted 257-0872

For Lease w/option to buy. 3 bd/2.5 ba Condo. Approx. 1800 sq ft. Excel Cond. Best View of Inn of the Mtn Gods. 915-867-5683

2 br/2 ba home, work shop, carport. $750 AMoR Real Estate, Owner/Agent Dan Bolin. 937-0600

3 br/2 ba, garage, $935. LEASE PURCHASE OPTION. AMoR Real Estate, Owner/Agent, Dan Bolin. 937-0600.

307 Marble. 3/2/2 w/fenced yd, SB views, long term only. $925/mo. $800/dep. Owner/Agent Scott 808-1297

SB view 5/4 w/swimming Pool $1700. mo. Lease option, or sale $325k. Call agent 575-258-0003

homes 400-502

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

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

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Townhouses/Condominiums 408

BRING OFFERS. OWNER ANXIOUS due to health reasons. Very well kept, sparkling clean condo in the heart of Ruidoso. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. New thermal windows, great covered deck in front. Low condo fees!! Newer vinyl siding, refrigerator, hot water heater. Huge rock fireplace in living room. Gas forces air heat. Some furnishings negotiable. No dogs allowed. $135,000 #104229 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

CONDO EXTRA NEAT, CLEAN END UNIT lower level, near midtown on Cree Meadows Golf Cours, on-site management for rental, furniture negotiable. $140,000 #T101488 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

CHAMPION'S RUN CONDO - Cute, roomy, 2/2 1,362 sq. ft. condo. Nicely furnished. Close to track, Hubbard Museum and Wal-Mart. Pellet stove to keep you warm. And don't forget the pool for your daily exercise routine. $120,000 #104090 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

For Sale! 2 bdrm 2 ba condo Fully furnished with Southwest decor on Cree Meadows Golf Course. Call for info. 432-687-4387

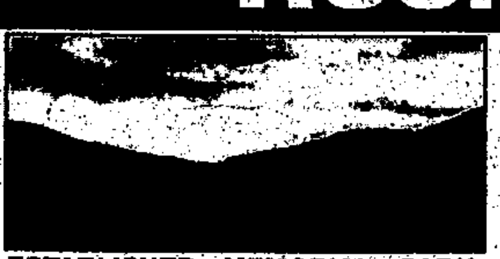
LARGE COVERED DECK with this 2 bedroom, 2 bath older manufactured home. Completely furnished, storage shed and fenced yard on three sides. Owner anxious and will consider offers. $48,500 #104060 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228.

Homes - General 412

WONDERFUL 2-STORY cabin off of Paradise Canyon. Great weekend cabin or full-time residence. Never in the rental pool but has great rental potential. Bring your buyer and see the potential in this little cabin. $175,000 #R102399 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

Real Estate Service 400

Rock Solid in Real Estate



ESTABLISHED MEMORIAL PARK, GOOD INCOME
Beautiful setting for this high potential income venture for that entrepreneur. Good location and well established. Overlooks Ruidoso River. Good cash flow. Over 3 million dollars of plots left to sell as per seller. Possible owner financing or trade. $249,500 #17659

AMBIENCE AND CHARM IS ALL AROUND
Carport leads to open courtyard that is surrounded by this wonderful Home that was once owned by the old owner of the race track (as per owner). There is even the old bell to start the races from yesteryear! Approx. 4140+/- sq. feet, this 4 bedroom, three full & two 3/4 bath home is a must see! A seasonal spring sometimes runs by. Check out this sq ft price: $259,000 #102896

MOUNTAIN DREAM HOME
Custom home with rock exterior, metal roof, fabulous 360 views, 3 large fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, large master suite with 3 separated guest suites with baths. Beautifully restored late 1800's, early 1900's bar. Living room, game room, professional barn and stalls. Private, seasonal pond, so much more. 11.2 +/- acres, additional acreage available. #103752

FANTASTIC COMMERCIAL PROPERTY- HIGH TRAFFIC AREA
This is a fantastic commercial property, all useable, not steep. Lots of parking for the building, corner location situated on Mechem Drive, a high traffic street. Suitable for many different uses! Three tracts available for purchase. Tract with building is priced at $599,500. Would consider lease of all or part as well. Call for information and pricing on other 2 tracts. #16427

"Highest in Satisfaction for Home Sellers Among National Full Service Real Estate Firms"

For additional listings & other valuable information:
www.PrudentialLynchRealty.com

Prudential Lynch Realty

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Cindy K. Lynch, CRS, GRI Associate Broker; Res. 336-4252
Darlene Hart, Associate Broker; Res. 258-5545
Linda Long, Associate Broker; Res. 257-7748
Paul Park, Associate Broker; Cell 937-0250
Mary Weaver, Associate Broker; Cell 937-5229
Gladene LaGrone, Associate Broker; Res. 257-7988
Judy Wilkie, Associate Broker; Res. 257-0282
Pam Schuetz, Associate Broker; Cell 937-2847
P.K. Johns, Associate Broker; Cell 937-4078
Lori La May, Associate Broker; Cell 937-7335
Cindy Pfluger, Associate Broker; Cell 973-2017
Gary Pfluger, Associate Broker; Cell 973-2018

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Real Estate Service 400

JOSEPH A. ZAGONE

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'94 - '07

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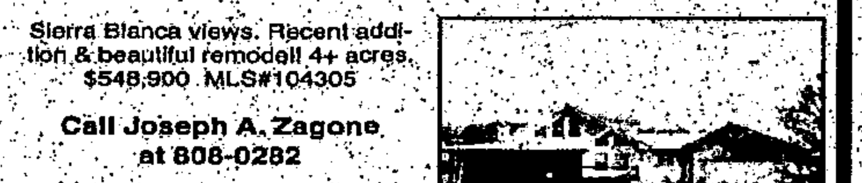
(575) 257-9057 • 1-800-658-2773
(HM) 336-1095

808-0282

See All MLS Inventory at: www.joezagonerealestate.com
30 Years in RUIDOSO - ALTO - LINCOLN COUNTY Real Estate
Each office independently owned and operated.

VIEWS, WINDOWS & OPEN FLOOR PLAN
Sierra Blanca views. Recent addition & beautiful remodel! 4+ acres. $548,900 MLS#104305
Call Joseph A. Zagone at 808-0282



BIG SIERRA BLANCA & MT SIDE VIEWS

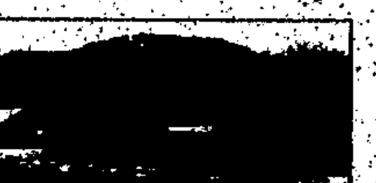
Hot tub on private deck w/ideal mountain setting. Recently expanded/remodeled super cabin in the woods. Includes all furniture (cedar custom beds, etc), 1 level. $247,000. MLS#104167
Call Joseph A. Zagone at 808-0282

Super Buy$

SOUTHWESTERN DELIGHT!

Gorgeous 4 yr old, 4 Br + office, 3 Ba, custom home. Sunny warm location w/year round access, new sub. Custom cabinets, granite counters, Saltillo tile patios. $399,000. MLS#102427
Call Joseph A. Zagone at 808-0282

ENCHANTMENT AT LINCOLN
2 N.M. adobe casitas in Historic Old Lincoln. Picturesque, private setting on 1.6 ac next to state land w/BLM hiking trails nearby. $222,000. MLS#103363
Call Joseph A. Zagone at 808-0282



Real Estate Service 400

Innsbrook Village
Country Club & Resort

Homes For Sale

Full Club Membership
Golf, Tennis, Fishing, Pool.

Beautiful Town Home
4 BR / 4 BA
2 Car Garage
Great Furniture
$378,000

Great Ski Retreat
4 BR / 5 BA
Large Game Room
Lots of Updates
$349,500

Great Ski Retreat
3 BR / 3.5 BA Condo
$204,500

Western Elegance
2 BR / 2 1/2 BA
$299,900

See @ innsbrookcondos.com

Ann Hearn-Butler,
Qualifying Broker
146 Geneva • 575-258-3589

Homes - General 412

CARRIZOZO-LIKE NEW! 3 bd, 2 ba, lg. shop, carport, nice trees w/private fenced yard, FP & pellet, new appliances, W/D. In town. $145,000 336-1555

BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPING and the location is accessible all year. This is a well maintained house with upgraded kitchen and appliances. A 10 x 24 shop. $119,500 #R103761 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

Homes - General 412

For sale by owner. Sq ft 3,760. New construction in Alto Lakes Golf & Country Club. For $399,900. 3 bdrm. 2.5 ba. Awesome views from the 2,200 sq ft of deck. 1,880 sq ft upstairs & 1,880 sq ft downstairs 600 sq ft heated cooled storage room. 900 sq ft game room. 400 sq ft office. Call 336-2798 or 937-0024

BEAUTIFUL NEWER CUSTOM SITE BUILT HOME
3 Bedroom/2 Bath in quaint Village of Capitan Center location with easy access, safe and quite neighborhood. Very energy efficient. Huge guest room. Unique master suite w/oversized whirlpool tub. Fully fenced yard, large covered porch, carport, storage building w/power/ Below appraisal. 4% commission paid to selling agent. Contact us at 575-430-9936 or email @ oleymsgirls@hotmail.com
$129,900

Homes - General 412

Custom 3 bedroom, 2 bath with many upgrades. Can hear the river from deck. Fully furnished and move in ready. $238,500. MLS #104190. Dan Bolin, AMoR Real Estate, 937-0600.

To place a classified ad phone 257-4001

CABIN CLOSE TO MIDTOWN - 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Fully furnished in the middle of town. 3 lots with level entry into home. Forest thinning is going to be completed. What a great opportunity for the perfect rental property or vacation home. $128,500 #103145 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

OPEN HOUSE
Alto Golf [illegible]

HOUSE FOR SALE - Carrizozo, NM. 3 bd, 2 ba on 1.5 acres. Fresh remodel. Great views. Well & city util. Horses Ok. Owner Fin. Avail. 575-937-6321

Land/Acreage 442

VACANT LAND - Wooded .56 acre lot in Rancho Ruidoso Valley Estates. New doublewides allowed. Will have great views. All underground utilities available. On end of cul-de-sac. $24,000 #102140 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

Land/Acreage 442

TEXAS LAND SALE!!
20-acres Ranches, Near BOOMING EL PASO. Road Access. Surveyed. $15,900. $200/Down, $159/mo. Money Back Guarantee. No Credit Checks. 1-800-843-7537 Ext. 13
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Land/Acreage 442

LOCATED NEAR GLENCOE this 40' x80' metal barn w/16' sidewalls located on almost 3 acres has large septic tank already installed. Good well w/200+ GPM. Horses and new doublewides OK. Level and fenced on 3 sides. Easy access. $198,500 #102873 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

Flat lot with all utilities available. $12,000. MLS #104098. Dan Bolin, AMoR Real Estate, 937-0600. Owner Financing.

Over an acre next to Nat'l Forest with well and Sierra Blanca views. $35,000. Level access. Owner Financing. AMoR Real Estate, Owner/Agent, Dan Bolin. 937-0600.

5 plus acres next to Nat'l Forest with well and Sierra Blanca views. Easy access. 3 lots, horses allowed. $165,000. AMoR Real Estate, Owner/Agent, Dan Bolin, 937-0600.

$45,000, 1.9 acres in the middle of town. Great views. Privacy with convenience. Closing cost down. MLS #101168. AMoR Real Estate, Dan Bolin. 937-0600.

Mobile Homes/Mfg. Housing 500

308 Raymond Buckner 3/2 Good Cond. Part Furnished. Covered Deck 10x10 Storage Bldg. $79,500 575 630 8400

10x50 Mobile Home for sale. Livable. $500 Cash. Must be moved. 257-0872

2 bedroom, 2 bath singlewide on large lot in town. $74,500. Owner Finacing. Dan Bolin. AMoR Real Estate 937-0600.

GREAT POTENTIAL in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home on over 8.5 acres in Capitan with barn and rental property. Main house has been remodeled. Master bath has a jetted tub. Great views from the front deck of the house. The property is fully fenced with dog run and horse walker. $150,000 #103553 BILL PIPPIN REAL Estate 257-4228

308 Raymond Buckner 3/2 Good Cond. Part Furnished. Covered Deck 10x10 Storage Bldg. $79,500 575 630 8400

2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living rooms, 1500 sq ft. DW, fenced yard, carport, workshop. $79,000. Lease Purchase, Owner/Agent. Dan Bolin, AMoR Real Estate. 937-0600.

3 bedroom, 2 bath with sunroom and office, 3 car garage. $155,000. Owner Financing. AMoR Realty, 937-0600. MLS 104321

Mobile Home Parks/Spaces for Sale 502

Private lot for rent for mobile home. Partially fenced. $185/mo 378-4661

Want To Buy 600

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Split Pine $128 a cord. Piñon-Juniper mix Also Avail. El Molino Saw Mill 243 Airport Rd. 1.4 miles on the left. 575-336-1237

goods & services
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Juniper- By the cord - 1/2 cord or Bundles 505-937-4993

Used 1 month heats 2200 sq ft now $ 1799 will take $1099 443-24464

Misc. Items 625

Lopi Fireplace Insert **$500**

New 42" heatilator gas fireplace, lots of pipe **$1000**

1985 Jeep Grand Wagoneer, 84,000 mi. nice - **$3000**

Small hand push forklift **$500**

2 desks **$50/ea.**

Call Don 937-2220
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Dining table w/6 chairs, $300. Full bed "Renaissance" Air Sleep System, $400. Treadmill, $75. 808-0285

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Pellet Stove, Quadra-Fire. Mt. Vernon. Like New. $2,200. Call Gerard at 257-0132

Appliances 626

2006 Kenmore Gas Dryer barley used super capacity paid 400. will take 300. O.B.O. 575-973-0237

Home Furnishings 627

Garage sale SATERDAY til 1PM Sofa, light fixtures, Rugs, China, Antique Mirrors &Misc. Looking for a 314 Barcus Rd. local #'s 601-590-1043/601-590-4580

Garage/Yard/Estate Sales 628

Moving Everything Must go.BIG SALE Fri & Sat, 10 - 4. Great Stuff. furn.linens & more, 1115 Hull Rd.

Garage/Yard/Estate Sales 628

GIANT MOVING SALE!
Excellent Quality & Prices. Decorator items, clothing, holiday decorations, furniture, pet items, vacuum, lawn & garden tools, collectables, fabrics & much more.
Saturday, December 20, 8 am-2 pm. 320 Hull Road at old Lincoln.

MOVING
Oak Queen bedroom set with mattress, armoire, bench, rocker, night stand, head & foot board. Must See! 2 leather recliners. Super Comfortable. $225. Large overstuffed fabric chair with ottoman. All excellent condition. 1/2 cord wood w/rack, $100. Workout bench w/weights, $25. 258-2353

Fri, Sat, Sun. 3 Family Sale. Gift Ideas, Toys, Treadmill, Horse Glass, Coffee Table, Movies, High Def DVD, Clothes, Jackets & Much More! Capitan. 808-3027

Building Materials 650

Maple, Oak, Hickory & Mesquite Flooring. Various Widths. WE ARE THE MILL! Fredericksburg Texas 830-997-6503.

pets 700-725

Horses/Stables/Misc. 702

101 River ln. Ruidoso Downs3BD 2Ba. fully Furn on river.$600 mo. work for deposit 378-8217

Dogs/Services/Supplies 722

Christmas puppies full blooded Pit Bulls 973-0178

Miniature Schnauzers, AKC Registered. Need good homes. $400. 575-921-4880

Must Move and need to Find home for 31/2 year old Harlequin Great Dane Great companion wonderful with children completely house broke $1500 dollar dog Giving away to good home Fiona is her name Must find home before Jan. 1st Spayed, Microw chip, current shots and registered Call Bill 937-4409

recreation 799-816

auto 900-921

Sport Utility 912

99 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA. White, 6 cy, 5 spd, hard & soft tops, hitch, etc. Only 72K miles. MINT COND. Asking $9,100. 257-9705

4x4'S 916

1965 Ford Mustang needs work Great project car Inc: es $1500.00 in after market parts. Car and Parts $2500.00 575-937-2789

Auto For Sale 917

2004 Buick Century $5,500 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2000 Buick Century $4,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2008 Buick Lucerne $415/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

2007 Chevy Cobalt $197/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

2007 Chevy Impala $256/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

2005 Chevy Malibu $6,995 Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

02 EXCURSION Limited, $17,500. 7.3 lt, all power, 4 cap. chairs, 3 row bench, first row heated, heated side mirrors, running boards, all leather, 95,000 miles. csu5@elp.rr.com. Pick up or delivery avail. 915-494-0308

1989 FORD Crown Victoria. Great Family/Work Car. Runs Great! $850. 808-3027

2005 Ford Escape $266/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

Auto For Sale 917

1998 Ford Explorer XLT $3,650 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2002 Ford F-150 single cab $5,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2005 Ford Focus $6,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2005 Ford Focus $5,500 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2003 Ford Focus $4,500 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2003 Ford Focus ZTS $4,495 Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

2003 Ford Windstar $5,500 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

1996 GEO TRACKER LSI, 4 dr, 5 speed, A/C, power steering, brakes, radio (am/fm/cassette), new tires, 129K, rigged for towing (dinghy). $3,450. 258-4404

GMC Jimmy $2,850 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2003 Hyundai Elantra $4,500 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2007 Nissan Sentra $268/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

1996 Olds Cutlass Sierra $2,250 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2007 Pontiac G6 $258/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

2007 PT Cruiser $202/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

2006 PT Cruiser $7,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2007 Saturn Aura XE $278/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

2007 Saturn Ion $211/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

2006 Saturn Ion $192/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

Special of the week! '00 Chevy Camaro SS $8,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

Special of the Week! 2003 Ford Windstar $4,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697

2007 Toyota Corolla S $287/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

Business/Retail For Rent/Sale 951

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708 Mechem Drive, Suite B
Across from IGA-Lawrence Brothers
1600+ sq.ft. Available
Perfect for any office setting. Call LINDA FLACK at 575.257.5900 for viewing and further information.

Auto For Sale 917

2006 Toyota Corolla $280/mo. Saturn of Las Cruces (575)521-1900

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Office Space for rent. 350 sq. ft. & bigger. Call 575-808-1414

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Climate controlled storage. Up to 800 sq. ft. Call 575-808-1414

Self Storage 953

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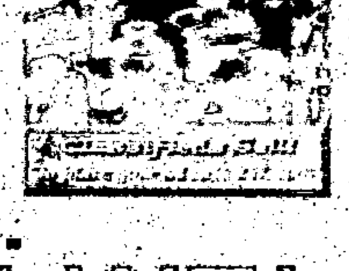

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RED TAG PRICE	$23,261
GM REBATE	$2,250
YOUR PRICE	**$21,011**

2009 CHEVY MALIBU LS*

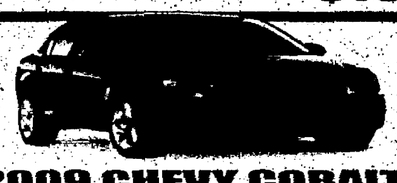
MSRP	$21,475
RED TAG PRICE	$20,731
GM REBATE	$1,000
DEALER DOUBLE REBATE*	$1,000
YOUR PRICE	**$18,731**

2009 CHEVY TRAVERSE LS*

MSRP	$29,197
RED TAG PRICE	$27,834
GM REBATE	$750
DEALER DOUBLE REBATE	$750
YOUR PRICE	**$26,334**

2009 CHEVY TAHOE LS*

MSRP	$37,415
RED TAG PRICE	$34,866
GM REBATE	$1,000
DEALER DOUBLE REBATE*	$1,000
YOUR PRICE	**$32,866**



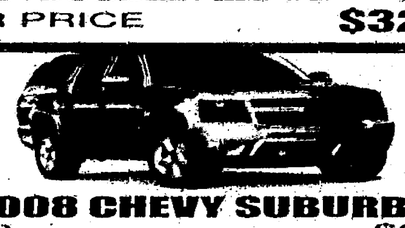
2009 CHEVY COBALT

MSRP	$16,775
RED TAG PRICE	$16,173
GM REBATE	$1,500
BRAVO DOUBLE REBATE	$1,500
YOUR PRICE	**$13,173**

10 to choose from

2008 CHEVY EQUINOX LS

MSRP	$23,395
RED TAG PRICE	$22,331
BONUS CASH	$2,750
GM REBATE	$2,250
YOUR PRICE	**$17,331**



2008 CHEVY SUBURBAN

MSRP	$39,167
RED TAG PRICE	$36,387
GM REBATE	$6,000
BONUS CASH	$3,000
YOUR PRICE	**$27,387**

4x4

2008 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB

MSRP	$33,060
RED TAG PRICE	$31,205
GM REBATE	$5,500
BONUS CASH	$2,500
YOUR PRICE	**$23,205**

2008 CHEVY AVALANCHE LTZ

MSRP	$43,775
RED TAG PRICE	$39,915
GM REBATE	$5,000
BONUS CASH	$3,000
YOUR PRICE	**$31,915**

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2008 CADILLAC SRX V6

MSRP	$46,945
RED TAG PRICE	$43,606
GM REBATE	$4,000
CADILLAC CASH	$2,024
BONUS CASH	$2,000
YOUR PRICE	**$35,582**

2008 CADILLAC XLR

MSRP	$82,490
RED TAG PRICE	$78,136
GM REBATE	$4,750
BRAVO DISCOUNT	$5,436
YOUR PRICE	**$67,950**

2009 CADILLAC CTS

MSRP	$37,584
RED TAG PRICE	$34,999
GM REBATE	$2,000
YOUR PRICE	**$32,999**

2008 CADILLAC STS

MSRP	$51,180
RED TAG PRICE	$47,840
GM REBATE	$6,500
BRAVO DISCOUNT	$1,341
YOUR PRICE	**$39,999**

2008 CADILLAC ESCALADE

MSRP	$67,125
RED TAG PRICE	$62,261
GM REBATE	$6,750
GM BONUS CASH	$3,250
YOUR PRICE	**$52,261**

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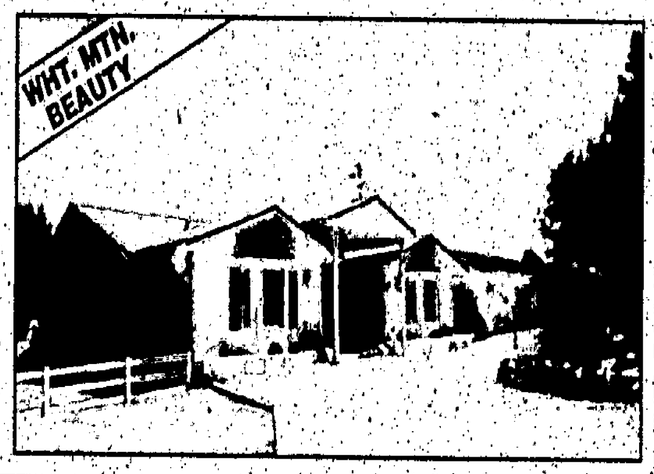
Ruidoso, NM

Vol. 8, #12

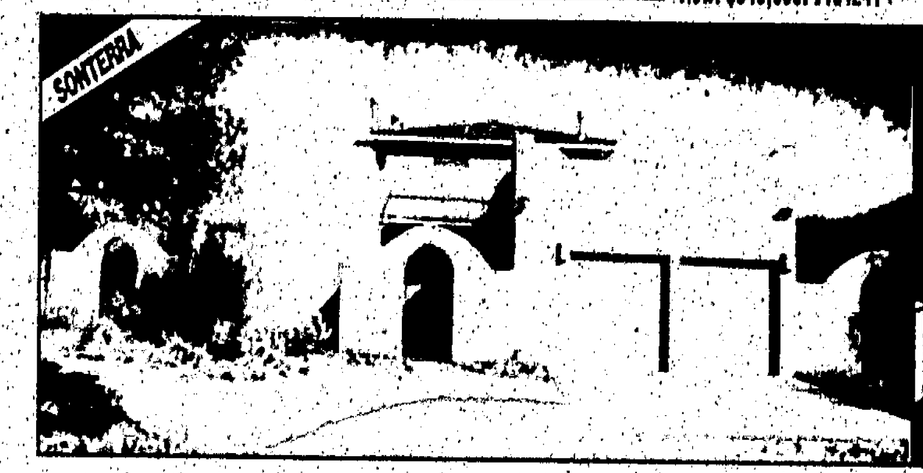
CHARMING 3 BR., 2 BA. ALTO STUCCO!

This one level beauty has a super open concept plan with vaulted ceilings. Easy access and paved drive are features you'll appreciate. Great covered deck for entertaining or just "kicking back." Double garage, 2 fireplaces and a metal roof make this Alto home very desirable. Beautiful wooded view! $345,000. #104241



FABULOUS ONE-LEVEL WHITE MTN. MEADOWS HOME!

This impressive 3 br. home is situated on 2 lots replatted into one, creating a generous green space for this special home w/ 2 living areas, 3 fireplaces & a 4 car garage. Granite countertops in the kitchen. 2 baths plus 2 more 1/2 baths. Your spacious dream home for convenience, beauty & luxury! $429,500. #102714

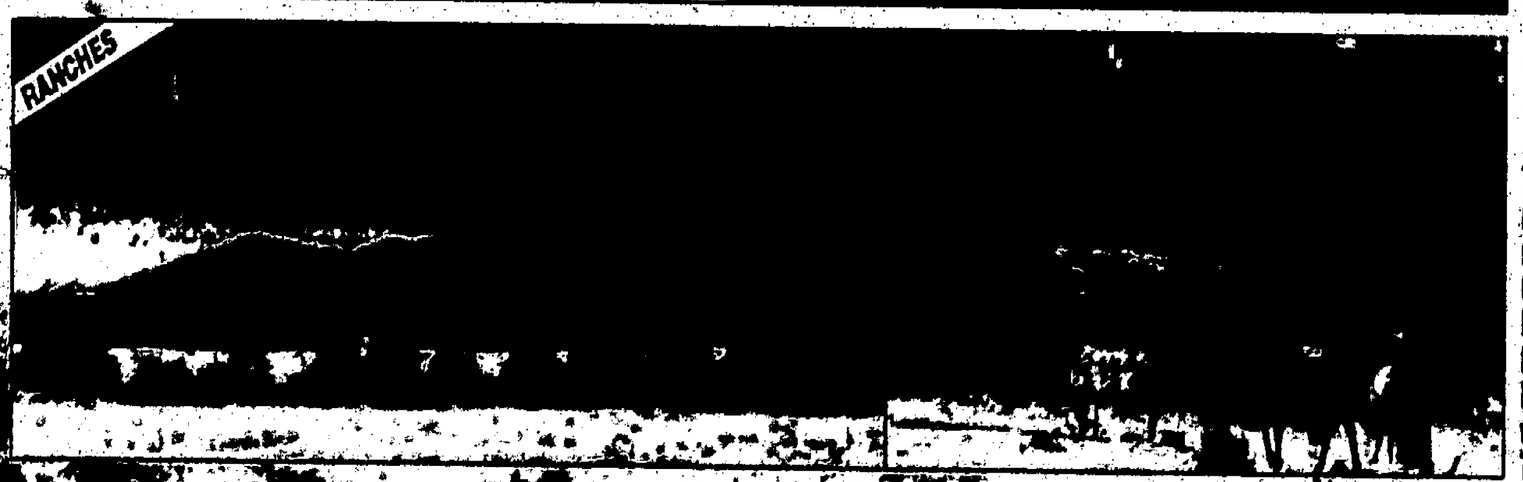


CUSTOM SANTA FE STYLE STUCCO ON 8.65 ACRES!

Gated 4 br. property with amazing Capitan views in a private setting you'll love. This one-level beauty features 3 fireplaces, plantation shutters & observation deck. Walk to the Rio Bonita & waterfalls or relax on the fabulous back patio with outdoor fireplace. This enchanting home with beautiful upscale features throughout and sun-splashed interior awaits a discriminating buyer who longs for our pristine mountain environment. $585,000. #102381

PRESTIGIOUS ALTO HOME ON EXPANSIVE 1.5 ACRE LOT!

This beautifully designed 5 br., 5 1/2 ba. Alto home has a grand feeling! An impressive and spacious floor plan features exceptional quality throughout. The lofty ceilings, gourmet kitchen & bar, lovely wood accents, and 3 car garage will please even the most discriminating buyer. Professionally decorated. Alto full golf & Kokopelli membership. Pkg. includes jockey club seats too! Luxurious Alto living at it's best! $1,695,900. #103940



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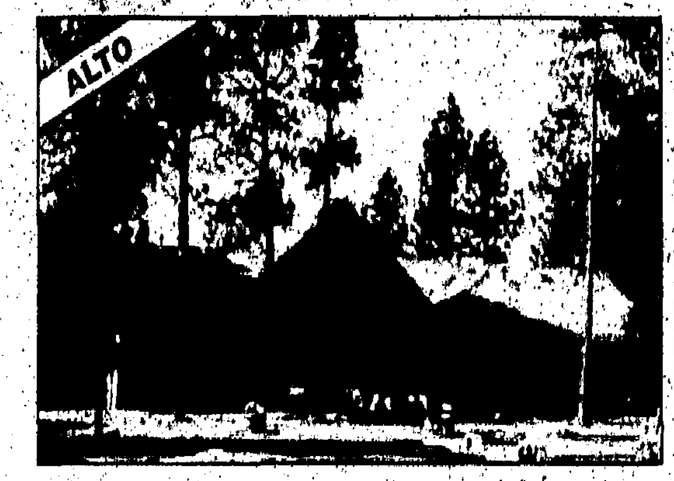


CLASSY ALTO HOME IN A GREAT LOCATION!

This impressive 3 br., 3 1/2 ba. home is close to the ALGCC & has a convenient, level access. An impressively large living area is accented by vaulted ceilings & a beautiful moss rock fireplace. This prestigious home is very spacious & has a wonderful back deck w/ amazing valley views. Split bedroom plan is ideal for peace & privacy. $399,500. #102717

SUPER ALTO HOME ON LEVEL LOT W/ VIEW!

You'll enjoy a fabulous Sierra Blanca view from this special home w/ great room floor plan. Master bedroom has access to deck and a really nice master bath with double vanities. Great room has vaulted ceilings. Wonderful kitchen accents this bright, cheery, open-concept plan. Very nice home w/ great cabinetry. $342,000. #102323

CLASSY ALTO HOME LOCATED ON THE 11TH FAIRWAY!

This one owner 3 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath home has over 3000 sq. ft., a 2 car garage, vaulted ceilings and the master bedroom is on the main level. Entertain or relax in the large living room and game room area. Located on Pinehurst. This home includes a full golf membership. There is a studio/family room over the garage that is a real bonus. Don't miss this one! $435,000. #103984

CLASSY ALTO TOWNHOME ON THE 9TH FAIRWAY!

This great location is just walking distance to the Alto clubhouse. Freshly stuccoed with new metal roof. Nice views front and back. This 3 br., 2 ½ bath unit is what everyone wants...convenience, low maintenance, and wonderful interior! Great patio too & full golf membership. Super offering at $299,900. #103023

TUCKED AWAY IN A WONDERFULLY PRIVATE CUL-DE-SAC ON DEER PARK!

This spacious 4 br. home takes perfect advantage of a highly desirable view lot with its expansive windows and multiple decks. Master on main level. TV room on every level and large dorm/bedroom on bottom level. Perfect set up for owners and guests! Exceptional! $695,000. #103151

FABULOUS ALTO STUCCO WITH STYLE & CHARM!

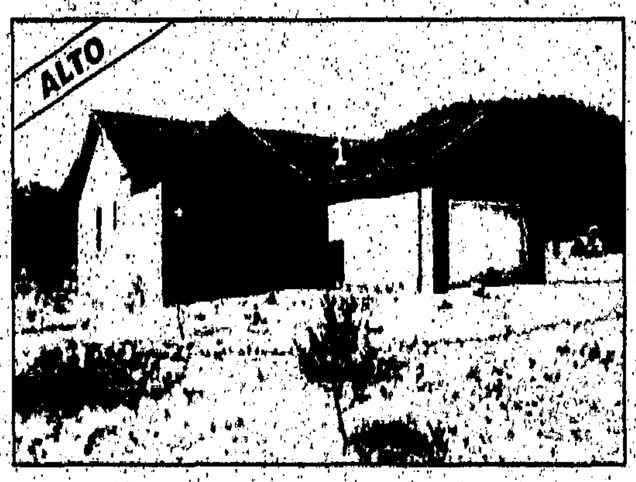
This 4 br., 4 ba. home exudes Santa Fe chic. The open concept living and dining area has lofty ceilings accented by authentic vegas and latillas.... a beautiful, sun-splashed interior for luxurious living! Exquisite master suite. Wonderful kitchen. Amazing courtyard gardens and patios. New Mexico living at its best! For your private showing call us today. $695,000. #102970

ALTO STUCCO ON FAIRWAY W/ BEAUTIFUL ARCHITECTURAL LINES!

You'll enjoy the uniquely, clean design lines of this full-golf 3 br. home with a wonderful open concept plan. 2 real pluses... a gorgeous fairway view and it's really close proximity to the clubhouse. Master has fireplace and "his and her baths." A prestigious Alto home. $439,500. #103484

www.ruidosorealestate.com

***"As long-time members of Alto Lakes Golf & Country Club** we can certainly attest to the many enjoyable times that our family has enjoyed at this fine facility. Richard has served on the numerous Alto committees for many years, and we have enjoyed watching the club grow. It's reasonable dues structure and the beautiful amenities make Alto a place you'll want to be. **We look forward to helping you in your Alto search."** — Richard and Janis*



CUSTOM BUILT 3 BR. ALTO STUCCO WITH ROCK ACCENTED EXTERIOR!
A large .5 acre corner lot in Alto is the perfect setting for this custom home with vaulted and wood accented ceilings. The open concept, floor plan is very pleasing and you'll love the kitchen w/ granite countertops. The covered back porch is complete w/wood ceiling & fans. Relax and enjoy! $328,500. #103371

CLASSY 4 BR., 3 BA. ALTO BEAUTY WITH LEVEL ACCESS!
Snuggled in the tall pines of Alto is this great home with an appealing open-concept living, dining, and kitchen area. You'll love the cozy atmosphere provided by 3 fireplaces, and the fact that it is beautifully decorated. Wonderful den downstairs completes the package. $325,000. #103848

LUXURIOUSLY, LIVABLE STUCCO ON FAWN COURT
This stellar 4 br., 3 1/2 ba. is a well orchestrated living space with an office/ study and play area too. This open concept beauty has sun-splashed interiors & vaulted wood ceilings. Charming outdoor Bar-B-Q patio w/ kiva for your enjoyment on cool min. evenings. An exceptional home in everyway. Full golf too! $694,500. #103287

YOUR DESTINATION FOR STYLE AND LUXURY IN ALTO!
This 3 br., 3 ½ ba. Deer Park home is unrivaled in its setting and construction. This contemporary mountain beauty is for the discriminating buyer who wants to surround themselves with the very best. The kitchen & dining area are a virtual dream! Amazing decks & fabulous furniture package too. $635,000. #101403

WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO!
This impeccably tasteful Kokopelli Villa home is perfectly placed in an exclusive gated community. This spectacularly furnished 3/3 home has a beautiful view of distant mountains, the course, and an enchanting water feature. Full club membership. What a delightful place to live! Looking for your heart's desire? Here it is! $735,000. #101441

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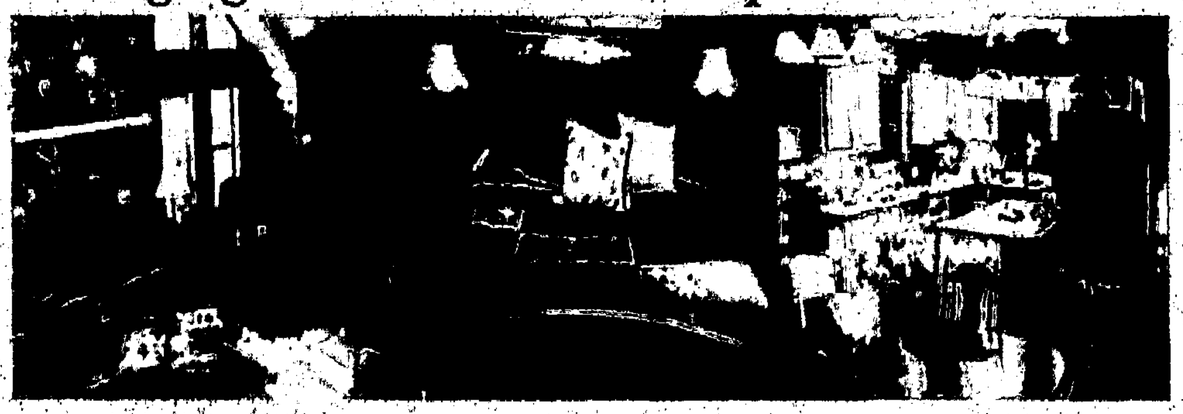

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CHARMING ALTO HOME ON A GREAT CORNER LOT!

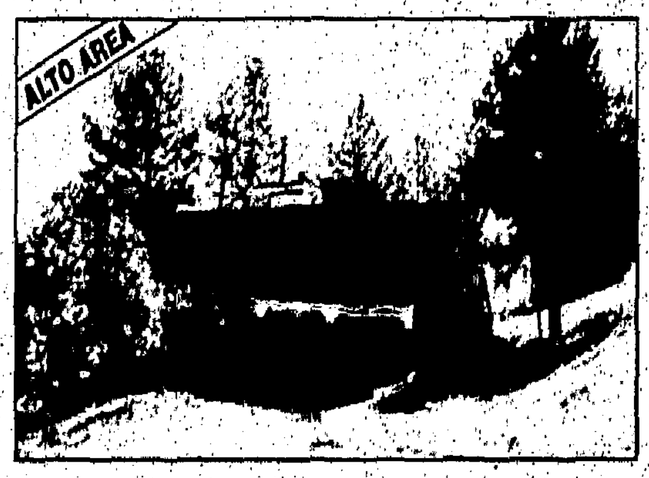
This 3 br., 3 ba. golf membership home has a split bedroom floor plan for yours and your guest's privacy. You'll be happy that this home has a living room and a fabulous sunroom...great for multiple family activities. So livable and in a stellar location. $299,500. #103503

COMPLETELY REMODELED ALTO MOUNTAIN VILLAGE 3 BR. CONDO!

New...down to the windows, carpet, and tile! Some counters will be updated and new cabinets installed. Remodel in progress. Great east facing deck for all day enjoyment. A fresh look and a great price! $159,000. #103499

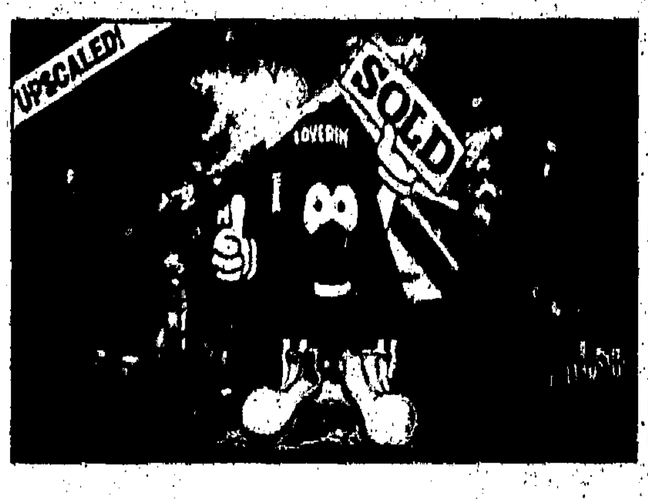
HIGHLY DESIRABLE ALTO TOWNHOME!

This nicely furnished 2 br., 2 ba. Alto town home is located close to the clubhouse and has level access for carefree Alto living. Enjoy the benefits of a full golf membership & nice views from the wonderful back deck! Won't last long. $230,000 #104208



LOTS OF ROOM FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

Six bedrooms and six and 1/2 baths amidst the tall pines of Alto Mountain Village is the perfect vacation getaway or home. Lots of room to spread out here! Spacious game room downstairs. Large covered & uncovered decks. 2 car carport & outside elevator for wood or groceries. $330,000. #103603



THIS CLASSY 3 BR. FEATURES LOW MAINTENANCE EXTERIOR & DECKS!

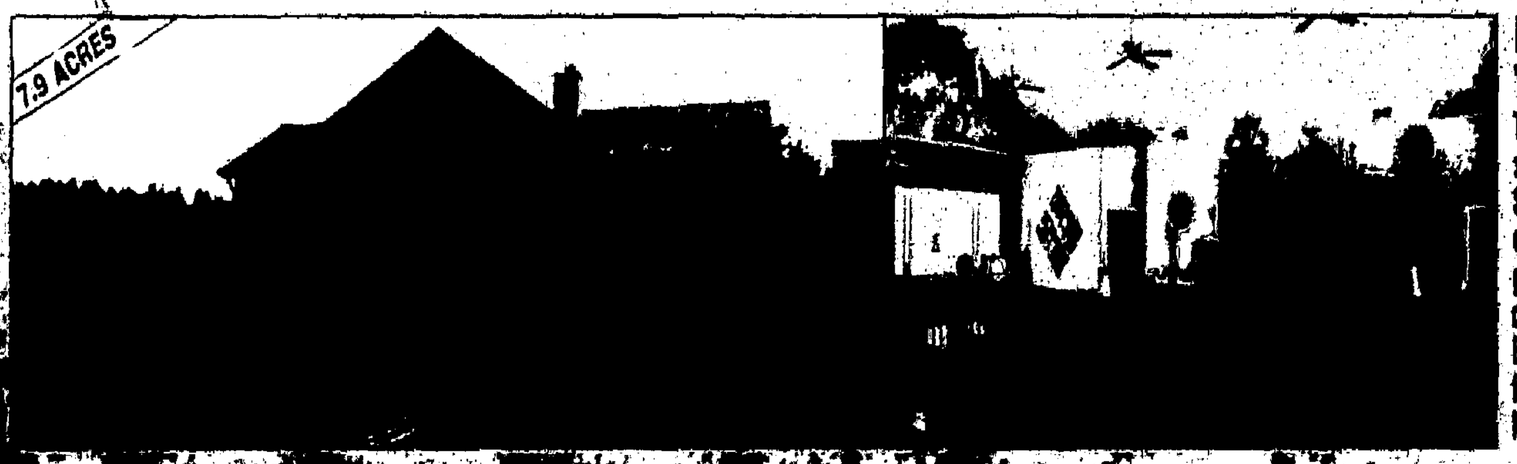
Beautiful & functional is the perfect description of this home with upscaled interior, amazing courtyard, and a wonderful deck for enjoying our pristine mtn. environment. Living area is on main level w/ family room on lower level. Paved parking & metal roof. A thoughtfully built and charming home! $349,500. #103264

GREAT 3 BEDROOM CREE MEADOWS TOWNHOME!

This end unit has level access, a one car garage and 2 1/2 baths. You will enjoy the great room floor plan and fireplace. Relax in the hot tub on the back patio. This unit is also nicely furnished. Great location...walking distance to Cree Meadows Country Club, downtown and the river. All of this under 230K! $225,000. #103000

SECLUDED MOUNTAIN ESTATE ON 5.3 ACRES!

This impressive, 4 br., 3 1/2 ba., one owner home will wow you! Breathtaking Sierra Blanca and valley views, and adjacent to National Forest! Cozy 2 br. guest house with wonderful porch. Barn w/ 2 stalls & corral. Everything your heart desires is right here...surrounded by the pristine mountain wilderness! Saddle up and experience your dream come true! $1,350,000. #103715



FABULOUS CUSTOM HOME WITH NICE VIEWS!

This fully furnished 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home sits on an amazing 7.94 acres in Ranchero Sierra. Some of the custom features throughout this home include a gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, great room with vaulted ceiling, 3 car garage, and a mini catch system. Enjoy the valley views from a great deck. Also features guest quarters with [illegible] living area, and utility room. [illegible]

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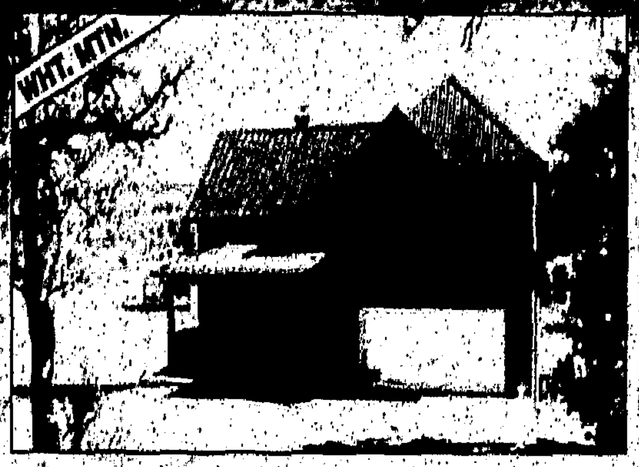

WHT. MTN. STUCCO W/ VALLEY VIEWS!

Vaulted ceilings in the living area create a sun-splashed interior that's divine! The master bedroom is on the main floor of this charming 3 br., 2 ½ ba. Upscale cabinets, open concept, solid surface countertops, and wet bar w/ wine cooler entance this luxurious living environment. $330,000. #100027

TO WONDE[illegible]

The [illegible] on the main level for convenient [illegible] living. Lovely wood floors and solid surface countertops are attractive features you'll love in this classic [illegible] style home. Upstairs offers you a really nice view of Ruidoso, N.M. a beautiful price of $225,000 #101[illegible]

FABULOUS VIEW ON McBRIDE DRIVE!

A wonderful Sierra Blanca view awaits the new owner of the 3 br., 2 ½ bath home with level access. Centrally located home in beautiful area. Having the master bedroom on the main level is a real plus. More great features...2 fireplaces & lots of storage downstairs. Comfort, luxury, and a super location...it's all here! $349,000. #103036

MOUNTAIN RIDGE-TOP HOME ON McBRIDE!

A Premier location provides the perfect setting for this 5 br. home with amazing Sierra Blanca & Gavilan Canyon views. Features you'll love!... open concept, water fall, hot tub and large .778 acre lot. $30,000 remodel allowance w/ acceptable offer to enable new owner to create a luxurious style to fit their personality & their needs. $399,900. #102756

THIS ONE-LEVEL HOME HAS 4 BR. AND 4 BA.!

You'll love the level access, the large lot, double garage, and an additional 1 car detached garage. This extra garage could be a perfect shop or studio! Nice open floor plan. Wonderful setting in the tall pines! $297,000. #18269

LOTS OF POTENTIAL AND UNDER 150K!

This Capitan property is on 3 lots and has a great location across the street from Smokey Bear Museum. Downstairs has two large rooms and a bathroom. Upstairs is a nice loft area. Great parking and level access. Residential or commercial...your choice!!! $149,000. #104317

PRESTIGIOUS STUCCO HOME IN BEAUTIFUL WHITE MTN ESTATES!

This amazing 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath mountain home has everything you could possibly want! Wonderful kitchen, spacious great room, 2 car garage, and master on main level. Nicely landscaped. Enjoy the pristine mountain air and the views from one of the two decks surrounded by the tall, cool pines. $449,500. #102862

SPACIOUS VIEW HOME ON McBRIDE!

This wonderful home has a living room and a family room/den. And did we mention the view? ... Breathtaking!!! Nice wood accents & built-ins throughout. You'll love the hot tub area. Storage. Level access and partially furnished too! Beautiful area. $499,000. #100980

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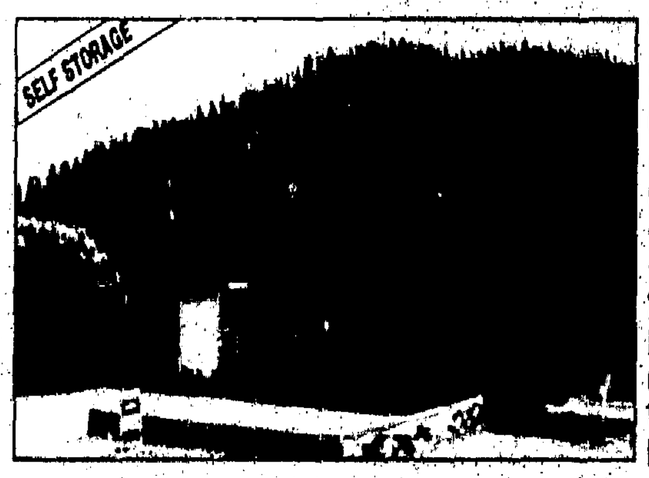
The beauty and seclusion of the Ruidoso area enhance the fun of hiking, fishing, camping, horseback riding and the ever popular golfing! You can also enjoy the excitement of Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred Racing at Ruidoso Downs Race Track or a quiet evening of fabulous entertainment at The Spencer Theater. Ruidoso's array of art galleries, boutiques and fine restaurants also enhance Alto Village's appeal... making it one of the most enchanting parts of the Land of Enchantment.

ONE OWNER CUSTOM-DESIGNED MOUNTAIN HOME!

Big, Big, Big Sierra Blanca views are yours from this prestigious 4 bt. home with wood accents throughout. Recent updates include new countertops & flooring in kitchen. Situated on a lavish .74 acre lot. Highly desirable open kitchen - living concept. Excellent buy per sq. ft. Also has super family/game room. $349,500. #102785

THIS ATTRACTIVE 3 BR. STUCCO HAS LEVEL ACCESS & A RAIN CATCH SYSTEM!

How's that for beautiful and functional! Lots of desirable features here... an open concept plan, level access, 2 separate covered patios, and a sunroom. Granite countertops and rain catch system are dynamite! Split bedrooms for privacy too! A must see! $335,000 #103350



THIS MULTI-USE OFFICE/ SHOP & SELF-STORAGE IS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED ON A CORNER LOT!

What an appealing set up! An approx. 1855 sq. ft. heated shop/warehouse with 14' ceilings, a 12 x 12 overhead door, & a 7 x 7 overhead door at the loading dock. Highly desirable 450 sq. ft., 2 story heated office, and 25 storage units complete this well designed and stocked multi-use property. $275,000. #103262

SPACIOUS BEAUTY W/ FABULOUS OUTDOOR LIVING AREAS!

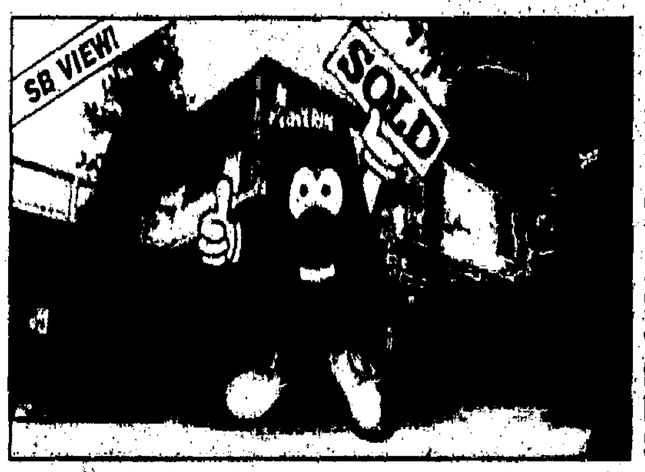
This great house has 5 bedrooms and 2 living areas! Large upstairs living area has lofted ceilings and a great rock fireplace accenting the open concept floor plan. Convenient location, close to track for horse enthusiasts. Master on main level. Lots of storage space. Charming patio. $325,000. #102675

FULLY REMODELED 3 BR. SPRINGS CONDO!

You'll find beautiful tile floors, sun-splashed interiors, and a wonderful park-like setting right here at The Springs! This end unit has a fabulous open concept living, dining, & kitchen area. The back patio is serene & perfect for your morning coffee amidst the tall pines. A must see. $179,900. #103606

ONE-LEVEL 2 BR., 2 BA... A REAL CHARMER!

This great home is in a secluded area, but is not out of town! Perfectly placed! It shares a well and is on sewer, has super porches and delightful interior! Must see at $99,500. #101801



NICELY REMODELED 3 BR., 2 BA. WITH VIEWS!!!

You'll love everything about this open concept beauty w/ its fabulous decks. Updated throughout... a show place! How better to enjoy Ruidoso's beauty than relaxing on this home's marvelous deck & taking in the breathtaking Sierra Blanca view! Charming kitchen. Great utility room w/sink. $185,000. #102599

CHARMING 2 BR. CABIN ON APPROX. .66 ACRE!

Enjoy all Ruidoso has to offer in this remodeled, fully furnished cabin. Relax and listen to the singing pines from the deck. This home has a new metal roof (2006), new septic tank (2005), and is situated on an amazing lot, which has been recently cleared. Great location! Close to national forest and wonderful cedar creek hiking trails. All this under 100K! $179,500. #103541

1977 TWO BEDROOM TOWN & COUNTRY!

You'll be delighted with the level access and the fact that this home sits on 2 lots! This 2 bedroom; 1 3/4 bath home has a domestic well and nice views. An evaporative unit will keep you cool & collected, and seller financing is available!!! $64,500. #103782

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SUPER END-UNIT TOWNHOUSE ON CREE GOLF COURSE

This is a perfect, central location for vacationers or permanent residents. This 2 br. unit has a wonderful back deck overlooking Cree Meadows golf course & the #5 green. Nicely furnished, wet bar, and easy access. More windows on this end unit provide a bright & cheerful interior. $179,500 #103137

A HOME THAT IS CENTRALLY LOCATED WITH A VIEW!

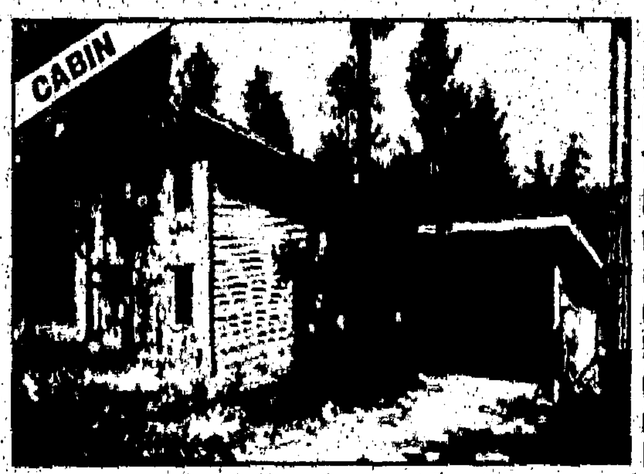
This 3 br., 2 ba. home has a nice living area with large windows that frame a gorgeous Sierra Blanca view. A super porch for enjoying your early morning coffee or a great evening Bar-B-Que, and did we say all for under $150K! Nestled in the tall pines. $145,500. #102686

CAPITAN STORAGE UNITS WITH LEVEL ACCESS!

These storage units have a super location on 2nd street in Capitan. There are 64 units in 5 buildings. The level access with asphalt parking and drives is a real plus. More details available. Please call listing agent at (575) 258-5008. $285,000. #103392

BEAUTIFULLY SECLUDED CABIN IN THE WOODS!

This 3 br. rustic cabin is perfectly placed close to hiking trails and the national forest. Situated on 2 lots! Storage building and domestic well. Get close to nature in this secluded cabin with great potential! Retreat to a slower pace and enjoy the mountains. $169,500. #102767



CHARMING CABIN LOCATED IN THE HEART OF RUIDOSO!

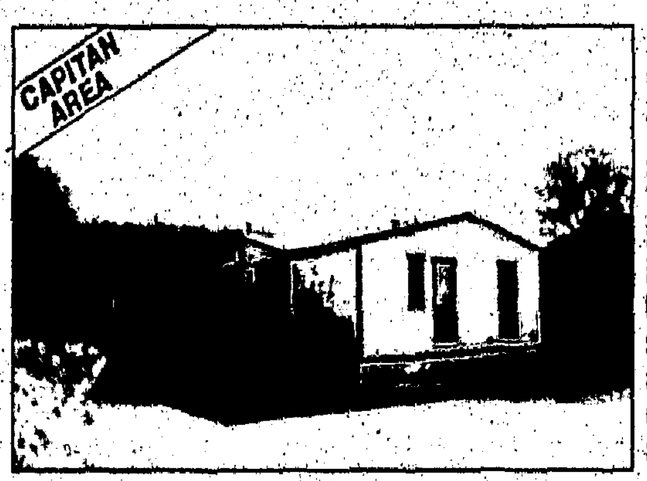
This 2 bedroom rustic mountain cabin is located close to midtown on a corner lot with easy access. Some of the features of this cozy cabin include high vaulted ceilings in the living area, master on the main level, upstairs loft area, and a carport. Great weekender or permanent residence! All of this under 150K! Won't last long! $149,000 #103836

CABIN IN THE WOODS UNDER $100,000!

Great stand alone cabin at Carrizo Lodge Condos with view of creek! What a great place to kick back and relax in this quaint 2 br. cabin. Nice front porch. Minutes to downtown Ruidoso or Inn of the Mountain Gods. This one won't last long. Maybe just what you are looking for! $99,990. #102013

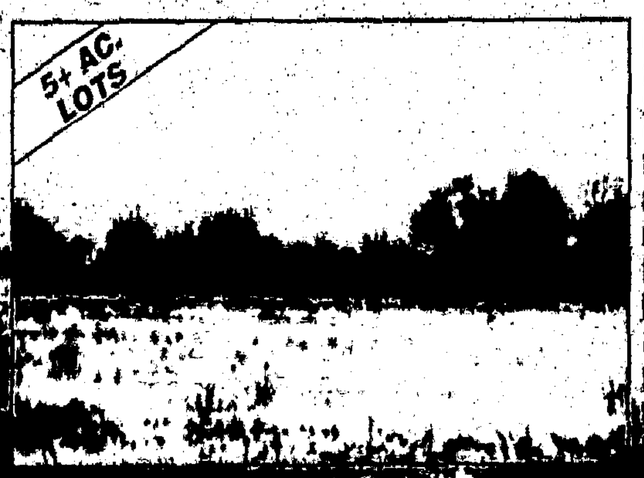
FULLY FENCED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME!

Trees, a yard, and elbow room are what you'll enjoy in this great home with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, and Pergo floors. No worry metal roof is a super low maintenance feature. Lots of storage and a wonderful, private hot tub area too! Very nice. $229,500. #102859



SECLUDED W/ BEAUTIFUL VALLEY VIEW!

This great 4br., 3ba home, is situated on a generous 3 lots! You'll appreciate the 2 living areas and open kitchen featuring a propane range. Cozy up to the rock fireplace and enjoy the seclusion of this great home far away from the hustle and bustle of city living. Appealing home and setting. $169,000. #102033



HIGHLY DESIRABLE 5+ ACRE LOTS!

These lots are excellent for small ranch-type living. Horses allowed. Size of lots will accommodate residence and horse facilities. Residential/ Agricultural Zoning. Paved roads. Water & sewer available. Lots have gas, electric [illegible]

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME ON EITHER ONE OF THESE TWO LOTS!

Amazing lots with great Sierra Blanca and valley views. These lots are secluded but are still close to Ruidoso. Each lot is over two acres and [illegible] building sites. Call The Loverin Team today for more [illegible]. $145,000 #[illegible]

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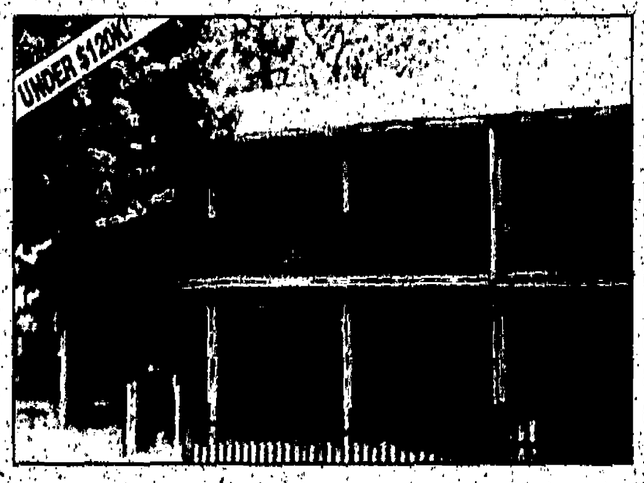
NEWLY REMODELED BIG PINES CONDOS!

These 3 br. units are freshly remodeled and conveniently located. What a great price for these condos with fresh paint, new carpet, new appliances, and a fireplace! The kitchens are nicely done with new kitchen countertops and cabinets. Good parking. 2 bedroom condos are also available. A great offering at a desirable price. Attractive financing available. $139,500. #102258



NEWLY REMODELED BIG PINES CONDOS!

These 2 br. units are freshly remodeled and conveniently located. What a great price for these condos with fresh paint, new carpet, new appliances, and a fireplace! The kitchens are nicely done with new kitchen countertops and cabinets. Good parking. 3 bedroom condos are also available. A great offering at a desirable price. Attractive financing available. $ 119,500. #102089

IDYLLIC, RUSTIC CABIN IN UPPER CANYON AREA!

Impeccable detail and wonderful mountain style is yours in this wonderful 3 br., 3 ba. cabin with warmth and great New Mexico style. Two great decks. 21 x 24/ 2 car garage, flagstone fireplace & wood floors will capture your heart. Fabulous central location. Your place in our mountain paradise awaits! $395,000. #103957

THIS CHARMING MOUNTAIN HOME HAS CHARACTER & STYLE!

Vaulted knotty pine ceilings and saltillo tile floors create a beautiful interior ambiance. You'll love the location, close to Ruidoso midtown and the Cree Meadows golf course. The master is on the main level. Great decks surrounded by tall pines. So very nice! $425,000. #103493

PRESTIGIOUS HOME ON LARGE ONE-OF-A-KIND, 1.12 ACRE LOT ON PRIVATE CUL-DE-SAC!

This 4 br., mountain top home in White Mtn. has views of Sierra Blanca, The Links Golf Course, & valley views too! This spacious home has 2 living areas, 2 master suites, large kitchen, and sunroom. The private gated entrance & drive are indicative of a home w/ integrity. Hot tub & sauna are great too! $789,000. #103365

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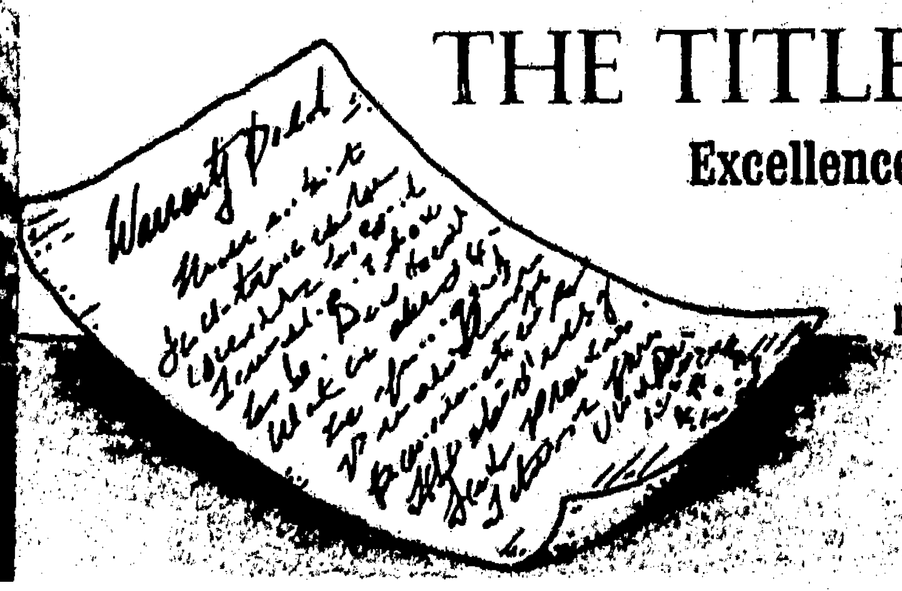

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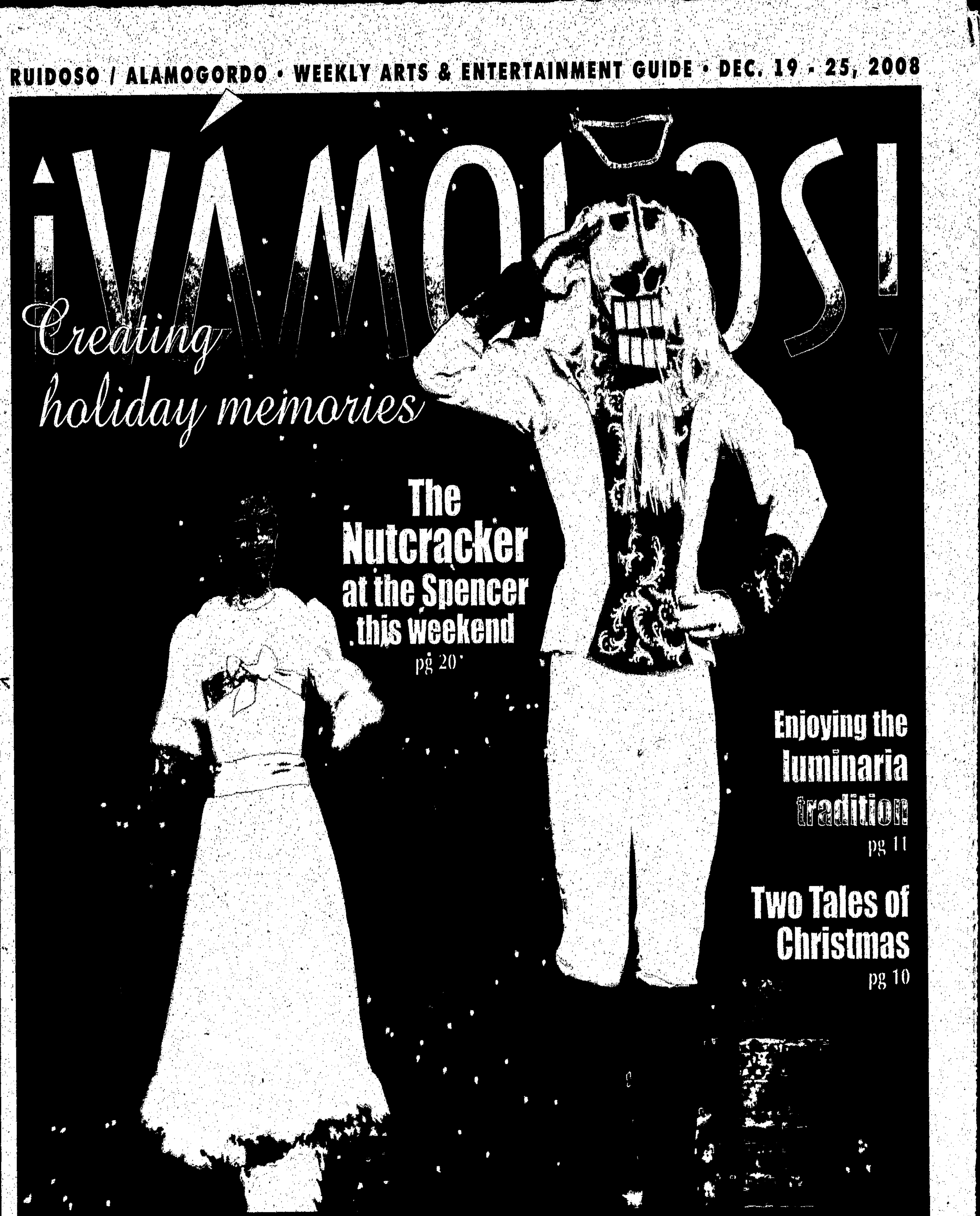
¡VÁMONOS!

Creating holiday memories



The Nutcracker at the Spencer this weekend

pg 20

Enjoying the luminaria tradition

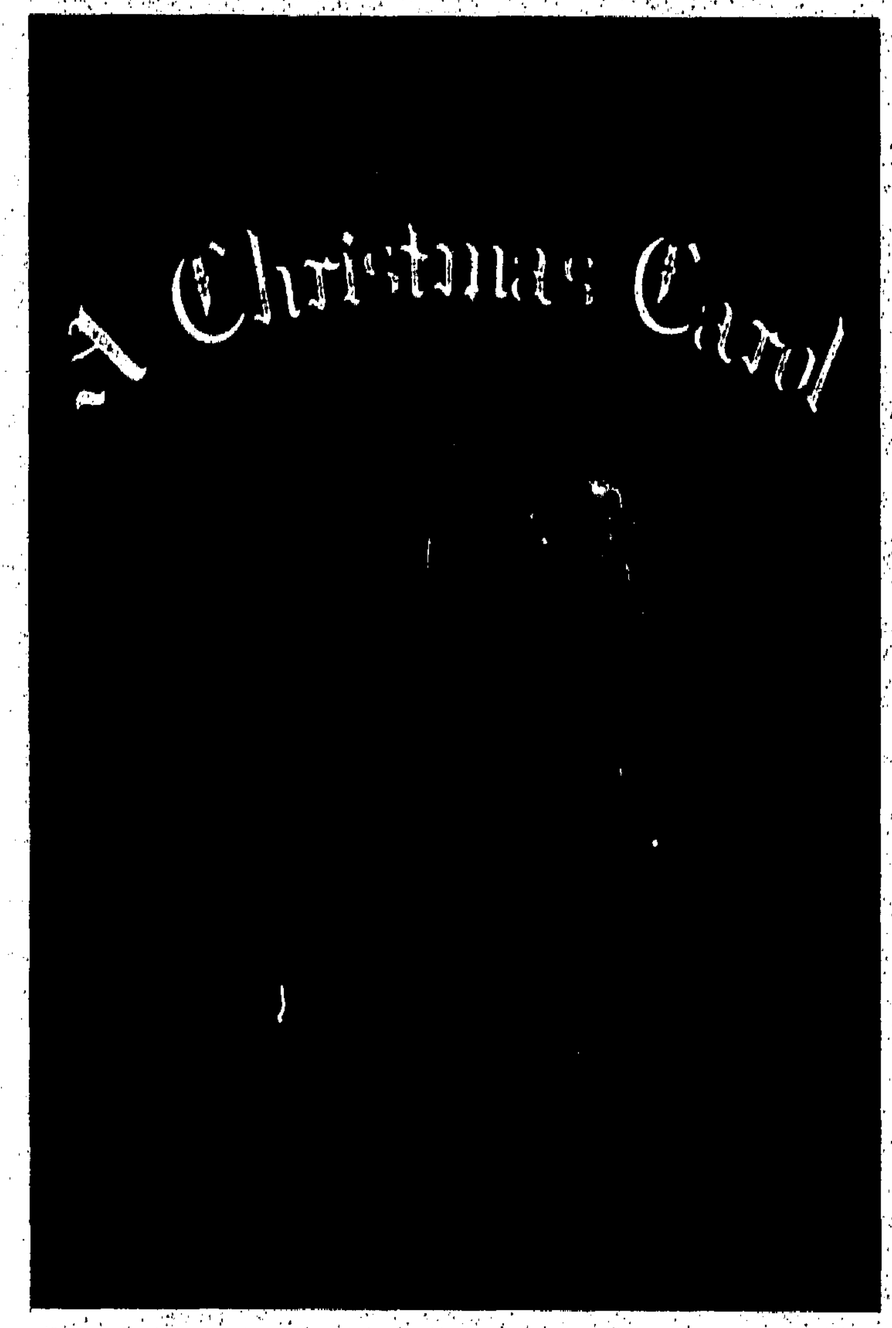
pg 11

Two Tales of Christmas

pg 10

INSIDE▸ MUSIC • UPCOMING EVENTS • FINE ARTS • THEATRE

THIS WEEKEND



Celebrate the season with a classic tale that never grows old. See Flickinger story on page 10.

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On the cover

The Nutcracker, on Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Spencer Theater. See page 20.

¡VÁMONOS!

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¡Vámonos! = Let's Go!

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CONVERSATION

From the editor

Vital Signs

by Sandy Kashmar

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Friends and family gather together, we recognize the folks who make a difference in our lives and we celebrate with gifts.

As anyone who watches TV or listens to radio knows, the big push this season has been on helping others – whether through making charitable donations in lieu of giving physical gifts to friends and family (a very viable option, in my opinion), or through active involvement in local charitable ventures.

The outpouring of kindness to strangers was never more evident here than after the July flooding. But beyond that, many generous souls in Lincoln and Otero Counties give freely of their time and energy to volunteer in worthwhile causes.

However, a refrain I have heard voiced all to often concerns the lack of "new blood" for many of the volunteer efforts in the area. Seems there are the few who wind up doing most everything that needs doing to produce fundraising and awareness events, resulting in the inevitable burnout. My question is: Why do more people not jump in to help? Many hands make the work lighter, the expression goes, and as someone who has produced many events and productions through the years, I can attest to that adage, adding that more hands make it more fun, as well.

As we approach the new year, with its inevitable resolutions, let's start a conversation through the *¡Vámonos!* blog Vital Signs, accessed through www.ruidosonews.com. What are the issues? Who needs to be reached and how?

For most local organizations, staying all-volunteer is an intrinsic part of their mission and heart. Some of today's all-volunteer organizations will be tomorrow's multi-million dollar, influential and powerful organizations that change laws, change public opinion, and shape society. Others will continue to be the invisible glue that connects people's connections that form the framework for strong communities. In a thousand ways, board members in all-volunteer organizations are the grassroots leaders and "keepers of the spirit" upon which so much of community cohesiveness and social change depend.

Join me at Vital Signs, also accessed by visiting http://vitalsigns-ruidoso.blogspot.com, to see what symptoms and solutions can be defined in the area of volunteerism in our neighborhood.

See you there, and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

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EVENT CALENDARS

Visit www.ruidosnews.com for more information.

Calendar Highlights

Doug Gabriel & Family Christmas Show

Dec. 17-20 and 23-27: (Ruidoso) Doug Gabriel & Family Christmas Show at Mountain Annie's Dinner Theater in Midtown Ruidoso. Do you desire great entertainment? Want to be touched in your heart? Experience the Doug Gabriel Show. Doug shares not only his talent, but also shares his tremendously talented family. Whatever your taste in music, you will hear it all. Branson's Best Family Show. For more information, call 575-257-7982.

Two Tales of Christmas

Dec. 19-20 and 26-27: (Ruidoso) The Atticus Venue presents *Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry and *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas. Directed by Brian Sarinova, the pieces are performed by Kevin McDonald with music by Steve Gaskell. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. and tickets are $10. Expect tickets to go quickly as seating is limited. Atticus Books & Teahouse, 413 Mechem. Phone 257-BOOK for reservations.

Torch Light Parade

Dec. 20: (Ski Apache) A native drum will begin playing at 5 p.m., and the parade is at 6. Veteran skiers and their lighted torches will ski down the mountain. Assorted snacks and refreshments will be available. Free admission.

Spectators are encouraged to be there by 5:45. For more information, call 1-888-71-LIGHTS or visit www.ruidosonow.com

The Nutcracker

Dec. 20: (Alto) *The Nutcracker* at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts at 7 p.m. Ruidoso Dance Ensemble's *The Nutcracker* is an enchanting trip into a fantasy world filled with some of the finest young talents around. Starring more than 50 Ruidoso-area dancers ages 4 and up, the two-act ballet classic is under the artistic direction of Deborah Rogers, and features delightful choreography, lavish costumes and sweet scenery that never fails to impress.

Set to the gorgeous score by Tchaikovsky, it is a Christmas tale packed with darling children, dueling rats, dancing fairies, a life-sized Nutcracker and a dashing cavalier. There's even a magical Christmas tree that grows before your eyes, a cannon that shoots perfect smoke rings across the hall and a massive grandfather clock that comes to life and twirls about. For tickets, phone the Spencer Theater Box Office at 336-4800.

Celestial Cycles

Dec. 20: (Alamogordo) Celestial Cycles: Winter Solstice at Oliver Lee Memorial State Park near Alamogordo from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Enjoy the beauty of Dog Canyon at sundown, learn about celestial cycles and how early cultures used the night sky to time their daily lives. View the stars and constellations in the dark skies over the park. For more information, call 575-437-8284.

Arts and Crafts Show

Dec. 20: (Mescalero) Mescalero Apache Christmas Arts & Crafts Show at The Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino. The Inn is filled with artwork that covers multiple generations of Mescalero Apache artists. During the weekend , you can enjoy viewing and shopping for the latest art from local artists. Don't miss this great opportunity as the artwork and crafts on display make ideal holiday gifts for serious and casual collectors alike. The arts and crafts show will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

Christmas Program

Dec. 20-21: (Ruidoso) Christmas Program at First Baptist Church on Country Club Drive. Saturday at 6 p.m., and Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. For more information, call 575-257-2081.

Solstice Events

Dec. 21: (Tularosa) Nature's Wisdom Healing Image Studio at the Hidden Artist Gallery in Tularosa invites all to attend two events – Sunday afternoon, Winter Solstice Day. Artists' Reception 1-3 p.m featuring Dee Boman, Visionary Art of Nature, and Helen Harding, Nature Photography, offering holiday discounts on cards/prints.

"Return to the Light" Winter Solstice Gathering 3-5 p.m. Local artists, musicians, performers and writers contributing. SKY and John of "Cycling Minstrels" will be there, with others. Nature's Wisdom Studio at Hidden Artist Gallery, 501 Granado St. (one block west of Hwy. 70) in Historic Tularosa, 575-551-1978, or visit www.natureswisdomhealingimages.com/events.html.

Luminaria Lighting

Dec. 24: (Lincoln) Luminaria lighting in Historic Lincoln. Everyone is welcome to come light the luminarias along the highway starting at about 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve Celebration

Dec. 24: (Carrizozo) Starting at dusk, luminarias, hay rides and open-house at several businesses For more information, call the Carrizozo Chamber at 575-648-2732.

Christmas Eve Services

Dec. 24: (Ruidoso) Christmas Eve Services at First Baptist Church on Country Club Drive at 4 and 6 p.m. For more information, call 575-257-2081.

Christmas Eve Mass

Dec. 24: (Ruidoso) St. Eleanor Catholic Church Christmas Eve Mass at the Ruidoso Convention Center at 6 p.m. For more information, call 575-257-2330.

Christmas Eve Mass

Dec. 24: (Alamogordo) St. Jude Mission Christmas Eve Mass at 4 p.m. at 1404 College Blvd., in Alamogordo. For more information, call 575-437-0238

Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 25: (Ruidoso) St. Eleanor Catholic Church Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m. at 120 Junction Rd. For more information, call 575-257-2330

New Year's Blast

Dec. 24: (Ruidoso) Celebrate the New Year at Billy's Sports Bar and Grill. $59.95 per person includes evening entertainment with country swing artist Ginny Mac; $5 Casino cash voucher; champagne toast at midnight; party favors, balloon drop at midnight and more. Everyone can enter to win a share of $2,009 cash at Billy the Kid Casino. Menu includes prime rib, seafood, and a bottle of red or white wine at your table. For reservations, call 575-378-4431.

Awesome New Year's Eve Party

Dec. 31: (Ruidoso) The Fabulous Fireballs: Awesome New Year's Eve Party at Mountain Annie's Dinner Theater in Midtown Ruidoso. Party favors, noisemakers and champagne at midnight. Times Square broadcast synched with New Mexico time. Come and "party till you drop" with the Fabulous Fireballs '60s Rock 'N' Roll Show. More Info: 257-7982.

(Continued on next page)

LET'S GO!

(Calendar Highlights continued from previous page)

New Year's Eve Bash

Dec. 31: (Ruidoso) New Year's Eve Bash at Cree Meadows Golf & Country Club featuring performances by Randy Jones, Roy Black, Frank Potter, Jim Helm & Bart Trotter. Details coming soon.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Dec. 31: (Mescalero) New Year's Eve Celebration at the Casino Apache Travel Center. A band will be performing from 8:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. Hot-seat drawings will be held every 5 minutes from 11 to 11:55 p.m. Party favors will be passed out starting at 11:30 p.m. Balloon drop in the casino at midnight.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Dec. 31: (Mescalero) New Year's Eve Celebration at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Casino. A band will be performing from 8:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. Hot seat drawings will be held every 5 minutes from 11 to 11:55 p.m. Party favors will be passed out starting at 11:30 p.m. Balloon drop in the casino at midnight.

New Year's Eve Celebration

Dec. 31: (Mescalero) New Years Eve Celebration at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Convention Center. Dance the night away with Tapestry. The party starts at 9 p.m. Light appetizers, full cash bars and the biggest dance in New Mexico. Party favors and a champagne toast at midnight. Cost is $40 per person.

The Carrizozo Volunteer Fire Department annually delivers bags of candy and fruit to senior citizen shut-ins, and then meets with the kids at Spencer Park this Saturday, Dec. 20, at approximately 2 p.m. Photo by Julie Carter.

Nunsense

Jan. 12 (Alto) *Nunsense* starring Sally Struthers at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. ($69 & $66). This hit musical comedy with two-time Emmy star in the lead role helps one get in the habit of laughing. *Nunsense*, the hit musical comedy, celebrates its 25th Anniversary with this special national tour starring Sally Struthers, the two-time Emmy Award winning actress. Brimming with mirth and side-splitting comedy, the production is under the direction of its original writer and director, Dan Goggin, a recipient of the Outer Critics' Circle Awards for Best Musical, Best Book and Best Music for *Nunsense*.

This zany evening of music and comedy begins as the Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 fellow sisters. Money must be raised immediately for burials! The sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show. Here we meet Reverend Mother Regina, a former circus performer; Sister Mary Hubert, the Mistress of Novices; a streetwise nun named Sister Robert Anne; Sister Mary Leo, a novice who is a wannabe ballerina; and, the delightfully wacky Sister Mary Amnesia, the nun who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head. Featuring star turns, tap and ballet dancing, an audience quiz, and comic surprises, this show has become an international phenomenon boasting more than 5,000 productions worldwide in more than 21 different languages.

Cheech & Chong

Jan. 15: (Mescalero) Cheech & Chong Light Up America Tour at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort and Casino at 8 p.m. Cheech and Chong's Light Up America Tour is the duo's first tour together in more than 25 years, and this is their only stop in the state of New Mexico. Successful beyond their wildest dreams, the iconic comedy duo defined an era with their hilariously irreverent, satirical, counter-culture, no-holds-barred comedy routines. Cheech and Chong are sure to make you laugh out loud with their irresistible blend of irreverent humor. Tickets start at $25. Doors open at 7:30. You must be 21 or older to attend. Tickets on sale now at Ticketmaster or you may call 1-888-324-0348.

Wonders of the Weavers

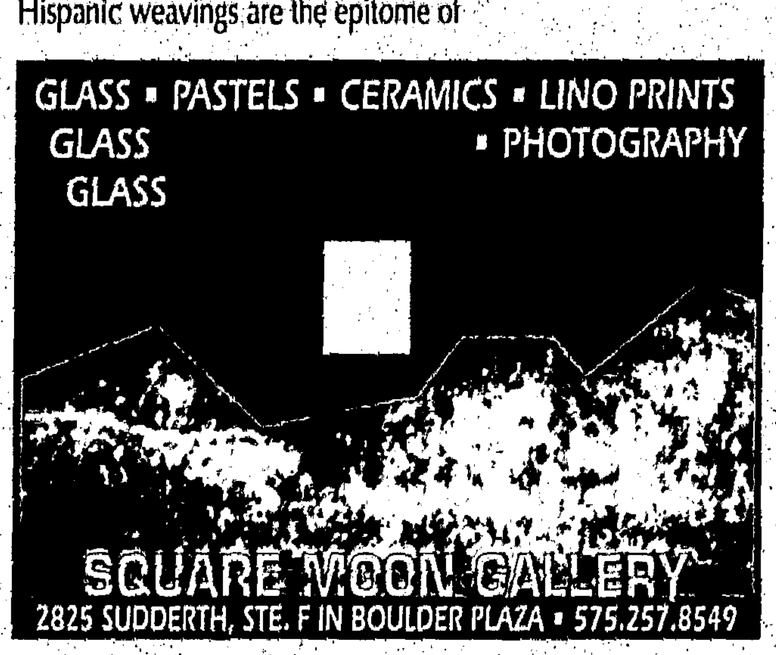
Jan 23 through May 3: (Ruidoso Downs) The Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs presents "Wonders of the Weavers." Nineteenth century Rio Grande weavings from the collection of the Albuquerque Museum will be exhibited in the Hubbard Museum's Mezzanine Gallery. Hispanic weavings are the epitome of Southwestern art and culture.

This collection of 37 Hispanic Rio Grande textiles (blankets, frazada, jergas and colchas) brings together a variety of Rio Grande styles developed between 1820 and 1900 and emphasizes weavings from the Chimayo and Albuquerque areas, the historic center of the Rio Grande weaving industry. Weaving tools including a spinning wheel bobbin, wool cards and sheep shears illustrate the tools of the early industry. A Hispanic treadle loom upon which two of the featured early blankets were woven is also featured.

After 1598, Spanish entradas into the Rio Grande Valley brought the first sheep into the region. They also brought professional weavers from Spain who introduced the horizontal treadle loom. Through trade, raiding and other aspects of cultural contact between and among Spanish colonists and native people, traditional Spanish weaving tools and methods spread throughout the Southwest.

The Pajama Game

Jan. 26: (Alto) *The Pajama Game* at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. ($69 & $66). Bright and riotously funny, the all-new production of the Tony Award-winning Broadway smash hit, *The Pajama Game*, is contemporary musical theater comedy at its very best. Phone 336-4800.



THEATRE

Hysterical hit coming soon

Everyone has a hidden passion that's seemingly contrary, or even complimentary, to their vocational life – even a Roman Catholic nun!

In *Nunsense*, the hit musical comedy starring Sally Struthers, the stage and screen star and two-time Emmy Award-winning actress, it's actually an order of surviving nuns who decide to showcase their closeted talents in a desperate attempt to raise money for secret burials.

This zany, side-splitting comedy – a winner of the Outer Critics' Circle Awards for Best Musical, Best Book and Best Music – takes center stage at the Spencer Theater for a one-night-only performance on Monday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m. Tickets are $69 and $66; call the Spencer Box Office at 575-336-4800 or visit www.spencertheater.com for tickets. (Gift certificates are also available).

Called "a hail of fun and frolic" by *The New York Times*, *Nunsense* is on its celebratory 25th anniversary tour under the direction of its original writer and director, Dan Goggin. The venerable Struthers (best known for her role as "Gloria" in the ground-breaking sitcom "All In The Family") has been performing the lead role since the anniversary tour began this past fall.

Award-winning comic actor Sally Strothers stars as the Reverend Mother in Dan Goggins' hit, Nunsense. *This is laugh-a-minute show which is coming to the Spencer Theater for a one-night-only tour stop on Monday, Jan. 12. (Tickets would make a great Christmas gift for the musical lover on your list.)*

The wacky happenings in *Nunsense* begin when the Little Sisters of Hoboken, N.J., discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 fellow sisters with a tainted batch of vichyssoise. The toxic soup wipes out nearly the entire convent. The surviving sisters (who happened to be away at a bingo tournament the night of the unfortunate feeding) bury the nuns, but must place four of the deceased sisters in the freezer after the burial funds run out.

A kooky idea unfolds: why not put on a variety show that features each of their moth-balled, pre-sisterhood, wannabe stage talents?

Here we meet Reverend Mother Regina, a former circus performer; Sister Mary Hubert, the Mistress of Novices; a streetwise nun named Sister Robert Anne; Sister Mary Leo, a novice who is a wannabe ballerina; and the delightfully wacky Sister Mary Amnesia, the nun who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head.

Featuring star turns, tap and ballet dancing, an audience quiz and comic surprises, this show has become an international phenomenon boasting more than 5,000 productions worldwide in more than 21 different languages.

Struthers has been hailed as a seasoned pro with "hints of brilliance" in her role as the Reverend Mother. The actress, who has also starred in *Grease* and *The Odd Couple – The Female Version* as well as the 20th anniversary revival of *Annie*, is also known for her dramatic roles in the films *Five Easy Pieces* and *The Getaway*.

But, having made her debut on "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," it is the comedic roles for which she's won acclaim, most notably her Emmy Award-winning performances as the character Gloria in "All In The Family," which co-starred Carroll O'Connor, Jean Stapleton and Rob Reiner. (The series ranked No. 4 in *TV Guide*'s "50 Greatest TV Shows of All Time").

Check out this performance icon (and all the talented sisters) in *Nunsense* at the Spencer. You'll be grateful for the belly laughs.

ATTICUS BOOKS AND TEAHOUSE
TWO TALES OF CHRISTMAS
Adaptations of
GIFT OF THE MAGI
AND
A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES
Dec. 19-20 & 26-27
at 7:30 pm
Tickets: $12.00 per person
For information, call:
257-BOOK
Seating is Limited!

Children's Dental Clinic
Allen McGinness, D.D.S.
A Family Dentist
Sierra Mall #5, Ruidoso
575-257-8246
M: 8:00 - 2pm Tue-Thur: 7:30 - 4:30
Si Habla Español

Ruidoso
RENT-A-CAR
Local Pick-Up & Drop-Off
Daily and Weekly Rates
575-630-0446

Can't find what you're looking for?
WE SPECIAL ORDER BOOKS
at no extra charge!
Books Etcetera
2340 Sudderth Dr. • Ruidoso, NM
575-257-1594

Dining Guide

To add or correct a listing, email vamonos@ruidosonews.com or fax (575) 257-7053

Key Code:

- Y Alcoholic beverages served
- ☎ Reservations required or suggested
- V Vegetarian friendly

Alamogordo / Otero County

Bar-B-Que

Phat Phil's • 213 12th St., Alamogordo • 430-8090.

Spring Mountain ChuckWagon BBQ • 1187 Hwy. 82, High Rolls • 682-4550 • Open Fri-Sun; Lunch and dinner.

Sunset Run Restaurant • 54 McDonald Rd. (west end of 10th St.), Alamogordo • Ribs, brisket, pork, sausage, smoked chicken and fish • Tue-Sat, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. • sunsetrunrestaurant.com or 434-9000. V Y

Texas Pit Barbeque • 211 James Canyon, Cloudcroft • 682-1101.

Cafés

Airport Grille • 3500 Airport Rd., Alamogordo • 439-1093 • Open Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m • Specialty sandwiches, and daily specials.

Amigos Bakery • 1107 10th St., Alamogordo • 437-0592. • 9 a.m.-9 p.m; Sun, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. • Deli, daily special. V

Brown Bag Deli • 900 Washington, Alamogordo • 437-9751 • Open Mon-Sat, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m.-9 p.m • Deli, daily special. V

Café 675 • 675 Tenth St. at Lowes, Alamogordo • 437-5150.

Cloudcroft Deli • 505 Burro St., Cloudcroft • 682-5588 • Open 7 days, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • Soups, sandwiches, pastries. • Carry-out only.

Coffee & More • 308 Granado • Deli • Tularosa • 585-4575.

Dave's Café • 300 Burro St., Cloudcroft • 682-2127 • Open Mon-Thu, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. • Hamburgers/Coney Islands.

Front Porch Eatery Café • 94 James Canyon, Cloudcroft • 682-7492 • Open Mon-Thu, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri-Sun, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

High Country Lounge & Grill • 90 Pleasant Valley Dr., Timberon • 987-2580.

High Rolls General Store Deli • 845 Hwy. 82 • 682-2855.

Jamocha Bean Coffee House Café • 505 Burro St., Cloudcroft • 682-2332 • Open Mon-Fri, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Coffees, salads & sandwiches.

Java The Hut • 506 St. Francis • Tularosa • 585-2003.

Josey's Sweets • 603 St. Francis Dr • Tularosa • 585-3120 • Open Mon-Sat, 12:30-9 p.m.; Sun, 2-8 p.m.

Mayhill Café • Mayhill • 687-3066

Mayhill Mercantile • Mayhill • 687-3425.

Mountain Top Mercantile Deli • 105 James Canyon, Cloudcroft • 682-2777 Open 7 days, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. • Soups, deli, BBQ, pasta & pies. Carry-out only.

Mountain View Café & The Bistro (GCRMC), 2669 Scenic Dr., Alamogordo • 443-7456 (Mountainview)./ 443-7457 (Bistro).

Nature's Pantry • 2909 White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-3037 • Open Mon-Thu, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Fri-Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m. • Organic foods. V

Nut House • 32 Ivy Ln • La Luz • 437-6889.

Olive Branch Coffee & Deli • 123 N. White Sands • Alamogordo • 443-8151 • Open Mon-Sat, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. • Specialty coffees & teas, breakfast fare, sandwiches.

Plateau Espresso • 2724 N. Scenic, Alamogordo • 434-4466 • Open Sun-Thu, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 6 a.m.-11 p.m. • Specialty coffees, sandwiches/soups. Wireless Internet.

Sweet Shop • 300 Burro Street • Cloudcroft • 682-2127 • Open Mon-Thu,10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 10 a.m.-8 a.m. • Smoothies, ice cream, fudge & truffles.

Tulie Oasis • 512 St. Francis • Tularosa • 585-2102.

Weed Café • Weed • 687-3611.

Western Bar & Café • 304 Burro Street • 682-2445 • Cloudcroft • Open 7 days 6 a.m.-9 p.m. (café), 7 days 9 a.m.-12 a.m.

Casual Dining

Al-O-Mar • 7400 U.S. 54/70, Tularosa • 585-2129.

Aspen Restaurant • 1315 James Canyon, Cloudcroft • 682-1031 • Open Mon-Sat, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Big Daddy's Diner • 1705 James Canyon, Cloudcroft • 682-1224 • Open Tue-Thu, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Chili's Grill & Bar • 202 Panorama, Alamogordo • 437-5903.

Denny's • 930 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-6106.

Gallo's Red Rooster Café • 306 Burro St., Cloudcroft • 682-2448 • Open Sun-Thu, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat-Sun, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

La Rosa Steakhouse • 21 St. Francis Dr., Tularosa (inside the Tularosa Travel Center) • 585-3339 • Open 7 days a week, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. • Steaks, seafood, pasta, burgers, sandwiches and soups.

Lazy D Restaurant • 1202 St. Francis Dr., Tularosa • 585-2532.

Maria's Hired Hand • 905 Central, Tularosa • 585-5574.

Mom's Home Cooking • 604 First St., Alamogordo • 439-0288.

Mustard's Last Stand • 1920 James Canyon, Cloudcroft • 682-2333 • Open Fri -Sat, 5 p.m.-9 p.m. • Dining and dancing.

Palm Side • 905 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-8644.

Chinese / Asian

Bamboo Garden Restaurant • 2617F N. White Sands, Alamogordo • 437-5552 • Korean and Chinese. V

Chinese Express • 3199 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 434-8880.

Golden Palace • 700 E. 1st St., Alamogordo • 434-2136.

Jimmy's Quality Food • 1115 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-7423.

Rocket National Buffet • 607 White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • Authentic styles of Chinese and American cuisine. • 437-5905.

Taiwan Kitchen • 110 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 434-4337.

The Spicy Thai • 915 Texas, Alamogordo • 434-0650.

The Wok Inn • 1010 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 434-4388 • Buffet, carry-out or dine in • 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. Y

Fast Food

Arby's Restaurant • 421 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-3534.

Blake's Lota Burger • 1320 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 434-0466.

Burger King • 117 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-9297.

Hi-D-Ho Drive In • 414 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-6400.

Long John Silver's • 19 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 434-0330.

McDonald's • 222 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo, 437-2414 • Wal-Mart, 437-4339.

Sonic Drive In • 504 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-6505 • 101 Glacier Dr, 434-5263.

Subway Sandwiches & Salads • 100 Central, Tularosa • 585-8410.

Subway Sandwiches & Salads • 630 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-7461 • 1101 E Tenth St, 437-0200.

Taco Bell • 201 Panorama, Alamogordo • 437-3873.

Tulie Freez • 419 St. Francis, Tularosa • 585-4409.

Waffle & Pancake Shoppe • 950 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-0433.

Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers • 301 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-0865.

Fine Dining

Memories Restaurant • 1223 N. New York Ave., Alamogordo • Mon-Sat, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. • 437-0077. Y

Pepper's Grill • 3200 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-9717.

Rebecca's at The Lodge • 1 Corona Place, Cloudcroft • Breakfast, 7-10:30 a.m.; lunch 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., with soups, salads, sandwiches, pasta; dinner, 5:30-10 p.m., with appetizers, steak, seafood, lamb, chicken, duck and pasta dishes • Dressy casual • Full bar • 800-395-6343 or 575-682-2566.

Mexican

Alfredo's • 801 Delaware, Alamogordo • 437-1745.

Casa de Sueños New Mexican Restaurant • 35 St. Francis Dr., Tularosa • 585-3494 • Fax 585-3496. Y V

Eddie's Burrito Express • 750 E. First St., Alamogordo • 437-0266.

El Camino Restaurant • 1022 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-8809.

Juan's Cactus Café • 3199 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 434-2368.

La Hacienda • 800 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo.

Margo's Mexican Food • 504 E. First St., Alamogordo • 434-0689.

Maria's Mexican Food • 604 E. Tenth St., Alamogordo • 434-4549.

Maximino's • 2300 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 443-6102.

Si Señor Restaurant • 1480 N. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-7879.

Pizza/Italian

Gigi's Pizza • 600 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 434-5811.

Pizza Hut • 120 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo • 437-9785.

Pizza Mill & Sub Factory • 1315 E. Tenth St., Alamogordo • 434-1313.

Pizza Patio • 2203 1st St., Alamogordo • 434-9633.

Ruidoso / Lincoln County

Bar-B-Que

Apache Summit • 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd. at Inn of the Mountain Gods next to pro shop • 464-7695. Y

Can't Stop Smokin' • 418 Mechem Dr. • 630-0000 • Bar-B-Que to go. Beef, poultry & pork.

Circle J Barbecue • 1825 Sudderth • 257-4105 • Sun-Thu, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

Tom's Barbecue • 435 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan • 937-1515 • Spare ribs, brisket, pork, sausage, green chile burger and all the trimmin's • Dine in or carry out • Catering available.

Cafés

Alto Café • Hwy. 48 & Gavilan Canyon Rd. • 336-1980 • 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Mon-Fri, closed weekends. Daily and nightly specials, home-style meals and ice cream in a relaxed atmosphere.

Atticus Books & Teahouse • 413 Mechem • 257-2665 • 32 varieties of tea, plus European pressure and pressed coffee, homemade scones, fresh lemon curd and clotted cream • 10:30-7 p.m., closed Tue

(Continued on next page)

Dining Guide

(Continued from previous page)

• Entertainment on Saturdays.

Books & Beans Espresso Deli • 2501 Sudderth • 630-2326 • Full espresso bar, deli, soups, salads. V

Calamity Jane's • 500 W Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan • 354-8309 •

Cornerstone Bakery Café • 359 Sudderth • 257-1842 • 8-11 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily • Gourmet sandwiches, desserts, fresh breads, coffee. V

Daylight Donuts • 441 Sudderth • 257-7155 • 5 a.m.-noon, Mon-Sat. • Fresh donuts, coffee, pastries • Dine in or carry out.

Dreamcatcher Café • 2629 Sudderth, in the Courtyard in Midtown by Kawliga's • 802-2222 • Sun-Thu, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m. • Breakfast, lunch, dinner, smoothies, coffee • live music.

Hummingbird Tearoom • 2306 Sudderth in The Plaza • 257-5100 • Mon-Sat, Breakfast 7:30-10:30; Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. • Soup & sandwiches. V

River's Edge • 2404 Sudderth • 630-5394 • Mon-Sat, 10:30-5; Sun, 11:30-5; • Custom-made sandwich wraps, freshly made desserts. V

Roy's Ice Cream Parlour • 1200 Avenue E, Carrizozo • 648-2921 • Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat, 12-6 • Old-fashioned ice cream sodas, milkshakes, malts, banana splits & other fountain treats.

Sacred Grounds Coffee and Tea House • 2825 Sudderth • 257-2273 • Mon-Sat, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. • Sandwiches, quiches, organic coffee, espresso bar. V

Sunflower Café • 806 Carrizo Canyon Rd. • 630-0173 • Thu-Sun, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. • Homestyle meals, fresh baked goods, customized catering. V

The Village Buttery • 2107 Sudderth • 257-9251 • Soups, sandwiches, salads, great pies and cookies; patio. • Mon-Sat, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. V

Zocca Coffee & Tea • 1129 Mechem Dr., Suite E • 258-1445 • Sun, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mon-Thu, 6 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri-Sat, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.; Authentic Italian espresso, coffee, teas, ice cream, variety of fresh-baked pastries and paninis; complimentary Wi-Fi V

Casual Dining

All American Diner • 390 Sudderth Dr. • Mexican and American specialties • Daily, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. • 257-8625.

All Star Diner • 340 Sudderth Dr. • Charbroiled steaks, chops, burgers and chicken, plus Mexican specialties • 7 a.m.-9 p.m., daily.

Big Game Bar & Grill • 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd. inside Casino Apache at Inn of the Mountain Gods, Mescalero • 464-7880. Y

Billy's Sports Bar & Grill • at Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino • 378-4431.

Cattle Baron • 657 Sudderth • 257-9355 • Mon-Thu, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.; Sun, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. • Steak, seafood, salad bar, lounge. Y

Cree Meadows Restaurant • 301 Country Club • 257-2733 • Mon-Sat, breakfast 7 a.m.-11 a.m.; lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; closed Sunday • Steak, seafood, lounge, banquet room. Y

Denny's • 2219 W. Hwy. 70, Ruidoso Downs • 378-1389 • Open 24/7.

Elsie's Charbroiled Burgers • Hwy. 54 at Hwy. 380 (old Tastee Freeze) • Carrizozo • 648-4200 • Burgers, enchiladas, chicken & steak fingers, salads, soft serve ice cream. Patio seating. V

Emily's Southern Accent' • 320 E. Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan • 354-5459 • Mon-Sat, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.; also Fri, 5-8 p.m.

Farley's Food Fun & Pub • 1200 Mechem • 258-5676 • Mon-Fri, 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m.; Sat, 11 a.m.-1 a.m.; Sun, 11 a.m.-12 a.m. • Burgers, pizza, pub fare, lounge, pool tables, patio. Y

Four Winds Restaurant • 111 Central Ave., Carrizozo • 648-2964 • Mon-Sun, 6 a.m.-9 p.m. • American variety, Mexican, freshly baked goods, lounge. Y

Gathering of Nations Buffet • 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd. at IMG • 464-7872 • American, Italian, Asian and Mexican cuisine.

Horsemen's Grill • 321 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan • 354-1447.

K-BOB's • 157 W. Hwy. 70 • 378-4747. V Y

Landlocked • 441 Mechem • 257-9559 • Mon-Sat, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun, 12-8 p.m. V Y

Lincoln County Grill • 2717 Sudderth • 257-7669 • Open 7 Days, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Y

Log Cabin • 1074 Mechem • 258-5029.

Lucy & Ethel's • 1009 Mechem • 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • 630-1221.

Outpost Bar & Grill • Family Dining • Closed Monday and Tuesday • 415 Central, Carrizozo • 648-9994. Y

Picnics Deli • Deli, dine-in restaurant, take-out and delivery • 127 Rio Street • 257-2200 • Mon-Thu, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Y

Schlotzsky's Deli • 2812 Sudderth • 257-7811 • Open 10:30 a.m. daily. V

The Seasons • Casual and fine dining • 307 Hwy. 70 at the Quality Inn • 378-4051, ext. 314 • Open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Shrimpy's Shrimp & Wing Shack • 2501 Sudderth in Time Square at the Eagle Drive light • Shrimp, English-style fish & chips, hot wings • Open Thurs-Mon, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., except Sun, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. • Dine in or carry out • 575-257-8881.

Smokey B's Grill • 2584 Hwy. 70 inside the Casino Apache Travel Center, Mescalero • Sun-Thu, 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri-Sat, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. • Recent menu changes and additions • 464-7928. Y

Smokey Bear Restaurant • 310 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan • 354-2557 • Open 7 Days, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Y

The Quarters • 2535 Sudderth • Complete restaurant featuring steaks, burgers, barbecue, drink specialties and more • Live music Sundays for "Blues & BBQ • 257-9535. Y

Fast Food

Burger Trolley • 647 Sudderth • 257-3868 • 11-7 daily • Take-out only.

Hall of Flame Burgers • 2500 Sudderth, in Four Seasons Mall • 257-9987 • Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat-Sun, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. • Burgers, steak tacos, salads. V

KFC of Ruidoso • 331 Sudderth • 257-2119 • Open 7 Days • Dining room & drive-thru Sun-Thu, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri-Sat, drive-thru 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

(Continued on next page)

CUISINE

Gift goodies

Dining out

with Ivana B. Diningwell

If you're anything like Ivana, you've been dashing madly from one holiday party to another with nary a thought for the items on that gift list that must be checked off before too much longer.

In these thrifty times, it's hip to be sensible and provide the basic necessities in lieu of frivolities, but Ivana has searched about for things that fulfill both requirements.

Heart's Delight, 2603 Sudderth, is a sort of Home Depot for the kitchen, with tools for jobs you didn't know you wanted to do. Of course there are loads of practical kitchen things, too, so you needn't feel guilty. Very hot this year, according to owner Beth Steiner, are the ceramic knives that never need sharpening. Now isn't that practical? On the fun side are the Savers – Tomato, Onion and Garlic – a cute plastic snap-together container for the thing that is shaped like the thing itself.

The End of the Vine has its customary cornucopia of scrumptious goodies (is there a more scrumptious word than *scrumptious*? If there is, Ivana can't think of it.) Where to start? From Italy, there are the traditional Christmas cakes and hand-made pastas in improbable shapes and with colors provided by beets, spinach, paprika and squid ink. Ivana was fond of the long, twisted black and white ribbons with serrated edges – a pasta party but with just enough formality.

The End of the Vine has its own labels on a variety of products, like spicy pickled garlic ($6.95), candied jalapeños ($6.95) and marinated artichokes ($7.95). There are chutneys and dipping sauces and oils by the score.

The B.R. Cohn vinegars come is pastel frosted glass bottles that made Ivana want to dab a bit behind each ear ($12.95). From Denmark come Scandinavian Delights, a line of jams and preserves including lingonberry and fruits of the forest ($6.95). For the person with everything, there's Sicilian sea salt ($8.95).

Ivana was attracted to the snack corner, where she found Yin & Yang peanuts, transformed with the two competing flavors of hot wasabi and sweet honey. The package declares, "Put them in your mouth and let 'em fight it out." ($3.95)

Ivana also liked the Reindeer Droppings (chocolate-covered almonds) and Polar Bear Poop (yogurt-covered almonds) from Canada ($5.95).

Of course, there are fine wines from the Willmon Vineyard and plenty of cheeses to go with, including the Spanish manchego, a hard, dry cheese made from sheep's milk, and Sticky Toffee cheese, an English cheese blended with toffee, dates and raisins.

While you're in the neighborhood, stop next door at House of Kelham. They offer kitchen mainstays and gadgets. Ivana liked the tiny non-stick omelette pan, perfect for one and no dangerous flipping ($16.50), and the Garlic Zoom, a little wheeled device that you load up and roll across the counter (or anywhere else for that matter – see what you can come up with) for perfectly chopped garlic.

If you enjoy putting together gift baskets, bags and bundles, The Wild Herb has plenty to help you, all of it organic. Ivana imagined the ultimate peanut butter sandwich as she roamed the aisles – made with St. Dalfour jams and marmalades from France and a choice of hazelnut, cashew or almond butter.

On the next two Tuesdays prior to Christmas and New Year's, pick up a loaf of bread from Capitan's excellent Adobe Bakehouse.

And to all Ivana's fellow foodies, the best wishes of the season. Be sure to sample all the good things that come your way. As the extraordinary chef James Beard once remarked, "A gourmet who thinks of calories is like a tart who looks at her watch."

Dining Guide

(Continued from previous page)

McDonald's • 144 Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso • 257-7547.

Mr. Burger • 1203 Mechem • 258-3616 • 7 a.m.-8 p.m. daily; Sun, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sonic Drive-In • 102 Horton Circle • 257-4787 • 7 Days a week, 7a.m.-11 p.m.

Subway • 148 Sudderth • 257-7827 • 8 a.m.-10 p.m. daily • Breakfast served until 11 a.m.

Taco Bell • 654 Sudderth • 257-4246 • Mon-Wed, 10 a.m.-1 a.m.; Thu-Sun, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fine Dining

Ellis Store Country Inn • Hwy. 380 MM 98, Lincoln • 800-653-6460 • Gourmet dinners • Mon-Sat • Reservations only. Y ☎

Hennington's Grille & Tavern • at the Swiss Chalet on Mechem/Hwy 48 • 258-3152 • Steaks, seafood, pizza and more • Open for breakfast and dinner, Wed-Sun.

Le Bistro • 2800 Sudderth Dr. • Steak and seafood with French flair • Lounge downstairs • 257-0132. V Y ☎

Morsels • 2919 Sudderth Dr. • 630-0113.

Texas Club Bar & Grill • 212 Metz Dr. • Ruidoso • 258-3325. Y ☎

Tinnie Silver Dollar • 28 miles east of Ruidoso on Hwy. 70 in Tinnie • Steakhouse and saloon, lunch & dinner daily, champagne brunch Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • 653-4425. Y ☎

Wendell's • 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd. at IMG • 464-7842 • Featuring steaks, seafood and hand-crafted desserts • Open daily, 6:30 a.m. - 11 p.m. V Y ☎

Willmon's Prime Grille • 2523 Sudderth Dr. • 257-2954 • Featuring prime steaks, seafood and an extensive wine list • Reservations accepted Mon-Sat, 5:30-9 p.m. V Y ☎

Mexican Food

Casa Blanca • 501 Mechem • 257-2495 • 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily • New Mexican cuisine, lounge. Y ☎

Chef Lupe's • 1101 Sudderth • 257-4687 • Sun-Thu, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 6 a.m.-midnight • Traditional Mexican food, American & seafood specialties, menudo. Y V

Chileo's • 135 W. Hwy. 70 • 378-4033 • 7 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Y

Disco Taco • 141 W. Hwy. 70, Ruidoso Downs • 378-4224 • 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. • A "disco" is a steel disc used for Mexican "barbecue" • Authentic Mexican food. V

El Camino Nuevo • 1025 Mechem • 258-4312 • 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Y

El Localito • 2415 Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso • 257-8448.

El Paisano • 442 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan • 354-2206. V

El Paraiso Mexican Restaurant • 721 Mechem • 257-0279 • Open Mon-Sat, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

El Rincon De Las Salsas • 2117 Sudderth Dr., Gazebo Center, Ruidoso • 630-8050 • Mexican and seafood specialties • Open 7 days, 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. V

Jorge's Café • 2064 W. Hwy. 70, Ruidoso Downs • 378-9804.

La Sierra • 100 Lake Shore • Aythentic Mexican and seafood specialties • 575-336-4673.

Lucy's Mexicali Restaurant & Entertainment Club • Corner of Eagle and Sudderth Drives in Midtown • 257-8754 • Mon-Sat, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sun, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Y

Paradise Café • 310 Sudderth Dr. • 257-0280.

Peña's Place • 2963 Sudderth • 257-4135 • Thu-Tue, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Old Road Restaurant • 692 Old Road, Mescalero • 464-4674 • Tue-Sun, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Olé Tacos • 319 Sudderth • 257-5040

Rio Taco • 2117 Sudderth • 257-6222 • Mon-Sat, 11a.m.-7p.m. • Real Mexican flavor.

Pizza / Italian Food

Café Rio • 2547 Sudderth Dr. • 257-7746 • 11:20 a.m. to 7:50 p.m. daily. V Y

Domino's Pizza • 1717 Sudderth • 257-8888 • Mon-Thu, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 11 a.m.-midnight; Sun, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Michelena's • 2703 Sudderth • 257-5753 • Sun-Thu, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri-Sat, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. V Y

Pasta Café • 2331 Sudderth • 257-6666 • Sun-Thu, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.; lounge open until 1:30 a.m. V Y

Pizza Hut • 725 Sudderth Dr. • 257-5161 • 1201 Mechem Dr., Ruidoso • 258-3033. V Y

Santino's Italian Restaurant • 2823 Sudderth • 257-7540. V Y

Chinese / Asian

Great Wall of China • 2913 Sudderth Dr. • 257-2522. V Y

Yee's • 633 Sudderth • 257-5888 • Chinese, eat in or take out • Daily, 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Dinner Theater

Mountain Annie's • 2710 Sudderth in Midtown Ruidoso • Fabulous live performances with a scrumptious double entree barbecue and chicken dinner every Thu-Sat • Ticket office opens 2 p.m. • Dinner served at 7 p.m. and show at 8 p.m. • 257-7982. ☎ Y

FREDERICK FRENCH, MD

Ruidoso's Only

BOARD CERTIFIED GASTROENTEROLOGIST

Fred French, MD continues to see patients at 208 Port in Ruidoso, New Mexico. You can call our office at 888-353-4175 or (505) 623-1442 for an appointment in Ruidoso.

Dr. French specializes in diseases of the stomach, liver, gallbladder, along with colon cancer screening services. Dr. French also specializes in diseases of the small/large bowel and can perform endoscopic procedures including colonoscopies, upper endoscopies and pill camera exams in Ruidoso for patient convenience.

208 Porr Drive • Ruidoso, New Mexico • 1-888-353-4175

CUISINE

Biscochitos

Polly's Potpourri

by Polly E. Chavez

The New Mexico Legislature adopted the biscochito (biz-cochito) as the official state cookie in 1989. This act made New Mexico the first state to have an official state cookie. The small anise-flavored culinary delights were horno-baked by the early Spaniards for special celebrations: weddings, baptisms and the Christmas season.

Traditional ingredients and the variety of shapes are up to each individual baker. I use shortening instead of pure lard and anise extract in place of anise seed. The early New Mexico biscocitos were shaped into the fleur-de-lis. In the past I have rolled/cut, shaped into balls or used a cookie gun. Now I just slice away.

The 1/4 liquid in the recipe can be wine, brandy, bourbon, sherry, juice or water. Approximately seven (6 1/2) cups of flour are needed. The biscochitos are gently tossed, immediately after removal from the oven, in 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar and 1 tablespoon cinnamon.

Polly's Biscochitos

1. With an electric mixer, cream half a can of Crisco shortening (big can) and 2 cups sugar. Use a large bowl.

2. Beat in 3 eggs and 3 teaspoons pure anise extract and 1/4 cup of the liquid of your choice.

3. Add and beat in 1 teaspoon salt, 1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 1 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and 1 cup flour.

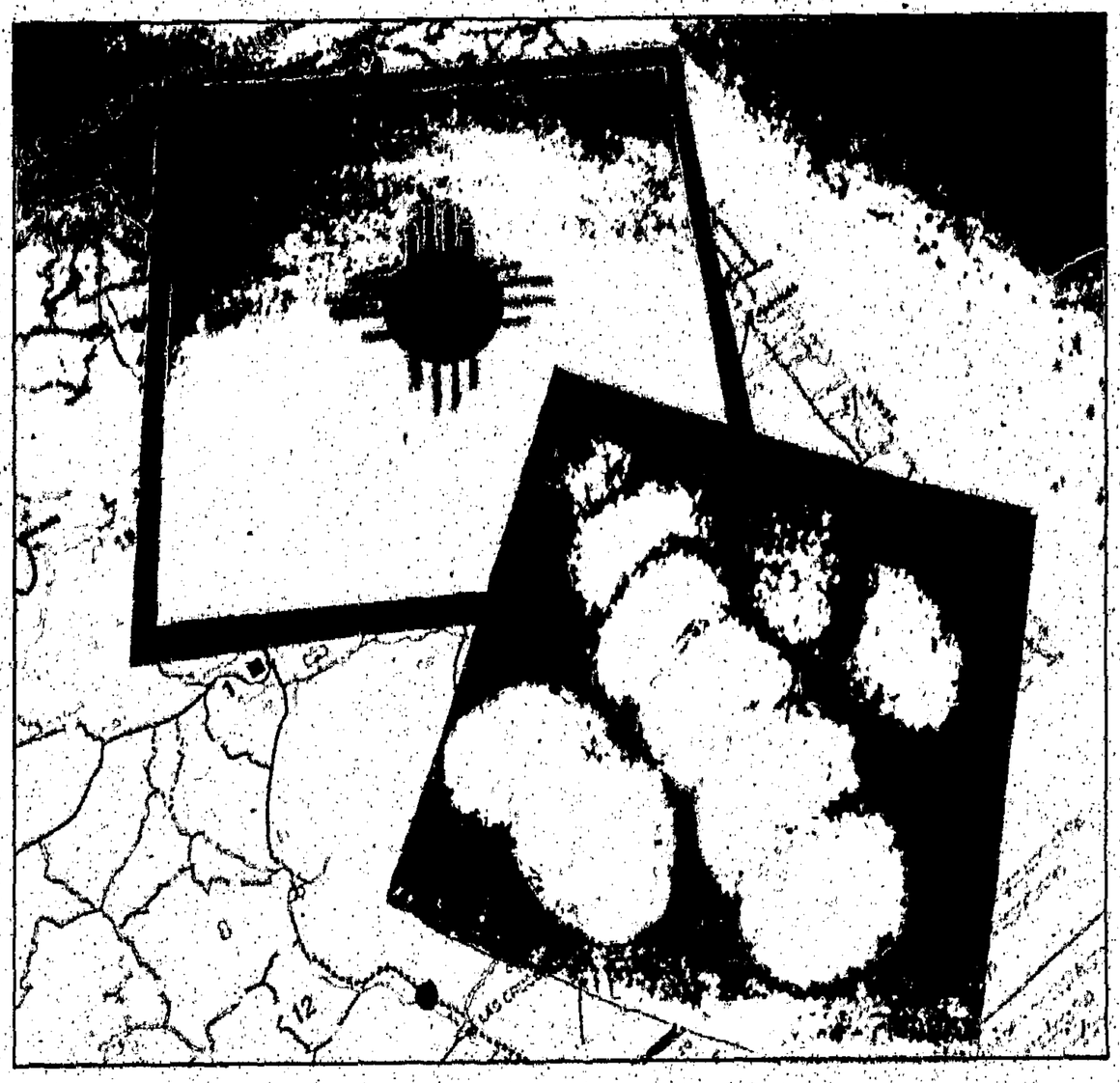
4. Using a large spoon, stir in an additional 3 cups of flour.

5. Using your hands work in 2 1/2 more cups of flour.

6. Separate the dough into 6 portions. Roll into 13" long rolls, encase in plastic wrap and chill.

7. Slice a roll into 1/4 slices and place on an un-greased baking sheet. Bake in a preheated oven (400 degrees) for 14 minutes or until lightly browned.

8. Immediately after baking, gently place and turn the hot biscochitos in the cinnamon/sugar mixture. Remove and set aside to cool.



THEATRE & DANCE

Scrooge in Alamogordo

During this wonderful time of year, let us all remember the fun and excitement of the stage as the Academy of Ballet presents "A Christmas Carol" Dec.19-20. This show is a benefit for the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts.

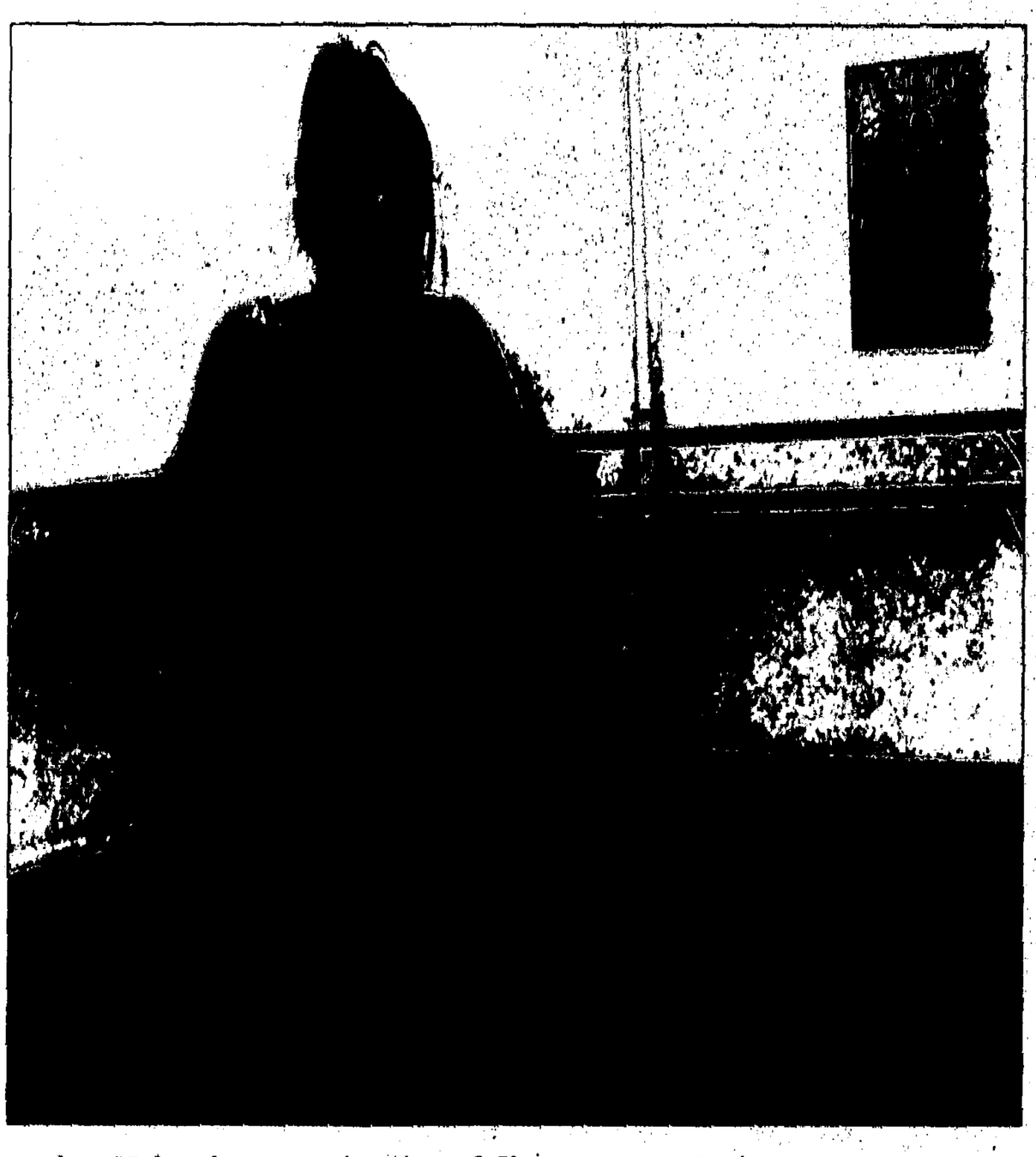
Featured will be some of our local favorites from the Alamogordo Music Theatre – Loren Jackson, Michael Julian, Ronnie Arn and Jeremy Patton. Loren Jackson will star as Scrooge, the old miser that must learn the true meaning of Christmas as he meets the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

Lots of work and effort have gone into the creation of a sense of joy and happiness. The Academy of Ballet is a wonderful place to grow the enthusiasm of the season as we witness, on stage, children of many ages performing with music and dance.

Ken Weir, the New Flickinger Center executive director, commented, "The excitement builds as we immerse ourselves in the feeling of the season. Our children bring all the honesty of the true meaning of the holidays."

Admission for the show is $10 with reserved seating. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m. The box office opens at 6:30 and the doors will open at 7 p.m.

This will be the last show of 2008 at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts. The Flickinger staff is pleased to continue offering quality entertainment with the hopes that the arts will always be a strong and important part of all of our lives. They wish all a happy holiday and a joyous New Year.



Andrea Hake rehearses as the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Be for an upcoming Flickinger Center for Performing Arts fund-raiser production put on by the Academy of Ballet. The dance presentation of "A Christmas Carol" takes place Dec. 19 and 20 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 and can be picked up at the academy or at the door. Call 437-3810 for more information. Elva K. Österreich/ – Alamogordo Daily News.

Two Tales at Atticus

The venue at Atticus Books & Teahouse is offering another intimate theatrical experience for the holiday season. After a successful presentation of local playwright Paul Adamian's work "The 99th Monkey" in October, energy has continued to build for the small venue.

"Two Tales of Christmas" is the upcoming production to take place on the cozy stage at Atticus, featuring adaptations of the holiday classics "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas and "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. It's sure to be a heartfelt and captivating performance by professional actor Kevin McDonald, with music by Steve Gaskell, and directed by Brian Sarinova.

The players

McDonald was born in El Paso and raised in Albuquerque, where he graduated from Sandia High School. He was awarded Best Actor by the Thespian Troup, so he followed his interest in theater at NMSU in Las Cruces, where he received a BA in theater, several Medoff Scholarships, an Irene Ryan Nomination, the Corbett Fellowship Award, and appeared in numerous ASTC productions.

After a short time at LSU, he transferred to the University of Pittsburgh, where he received his MFA in Acting. While in Pittsburgh, he performed regularly with the Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival until he moved to Chicago , Ill., in 1995. In Chicago, he continued to pursue acting and worked with a number of theater companies, including Footsteps, The Ivanhoe, Greasy Joan & Co., Shakespeare's Motley Crew and Shaw Chicago.

However, his principal credits were earned at the Tony Award-winning Chicago Shakespeare Theater and it was there that he became a member of the Actor's Equity Association. It was also in Chicago that Kevin met and married the love of his life, Kerry, and in 2006, they came to repair an old family property in Ruidoso.

The rest is a common story of Lincoln County residents – they found themselves enchanted and moved here a few short months later.

McDonald continues to work intermittently in Chicago and last year was there for a month involved with an independent film of *Macbeth*. In addition, he is enthusiastic about joining the growing film industry in New Mexico, as well as the burgeoning theatre community of Ruidoso.

Gaskell began playing trombone at the age of 11. He attended High School for the Performing & Visual Arts in Houston. While there, he studied privately under Allen Barnhill, principal trombone player of the Houston Symphony.

Since then, he has played at numerous jazz festivals, including the Kool Jazz Festival, The Houston Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival and the International Jazz Festival. He toured overseas with his musical talent, performing in Scotland, England, Holland, Germany and France in the 1980s.

He later became musical director of the Bilingual Theater of Houston and was Assistant Principle trombonist of the Galveston Symphony, and Principle trombonist of the Baytown Symphony.

Steve's musical adventures have given him the opportunity to play with such jazz greats as Kirk Whalun, Tony Campise, Bill Watrous and Randy Brecker.

He is currently seeking to form a 10-12 piece Big Band in the Ruidoso Area.

At Atticus

While "Two Tales of Christmas" at Atticus takes place, enjoy a hot tea and scones, mulled cider, their signature frozen hot chocolate or any of their delectable offerings.

This will be a family friendly event for all ages; tickets are $12 for everyone. Show dates are Dec. 19-20 and 26-27 at 7:30 p.m.

Seating is limited, but some tickets are still available. Call 575-257-BOOK to make your reservations.

LET'S GO!

The gift of luminarias

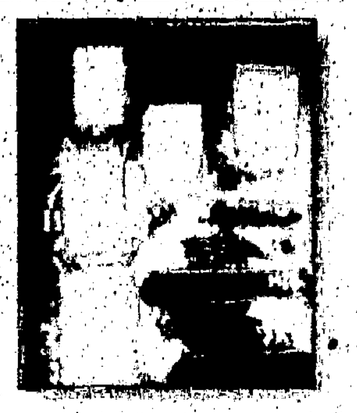
In Carrizozo, starting at dusk, luminarias, hay rides and open-house events at several businesses celebrate Christmas Eve. For more information, call the Carrizozo Chamber at 575-648-2732. The luminaria tradition is also celebrated at many other area locations, including Lincoln and Tularosa. Check out the calendar listings on page 4 for more Christmas Eve events. Photos by Julie Carter.

A Christmas Eve

Tradition in Carrizozo

LUMINARIAS

These humble lights have become known as a Southwestern symbol of "Welcome"



Luminarias have not always been made out of paper bags and candles. The early versions were actually small bonfires made of crisscrossed pinon branches which were built in three-foot high squares.

Tune to Radio FM 101.9 Holiday Music while on the Luminaria Tour!

Sponsored by Carrizozo CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ad paid in part by Carrizozo Lodgers Tax and Lincoln County Lodgers Tax

ADVENTURE

A shark for Christmas?

Affordable winter escape to the South Seas, part 1

Not a Christmas tree or snowflake in sight, but thresher sharks, mating mandarinfish and other delights await you at the bottom of the Visayan Sea.

Merry Christmas from Malapascua!

Follow Me!

by Yvonne Lanelli

Adventure Writer & Photographer

FOLLOW ME TO PHILIPPINES!

You wouldn't know it was Christmas on this tiny island in northern Philippines – at least not by North American standards. Holiday decorations are simply colored lights and shiny stars with lights or foil streamers – no decorated trees, fake Santas or snowmen. Even on Christmas Day, children don't play with new toys.

No stores advertise holiday specials. Actually, there are no stores, only little kiosks with three walls of packaged dry goods and bottled water. And it's business as usual on Christmas Day – stores and restaurants here don't close as they do back home, so we tourists don't feel abandoned.

So why did I fly for two days wedged in an airplane seat designed for munchkins, schlep heavy dive equipment in bags that weigh as much as I do, then wake up at 4 a.m. to go scuba diving at 5 a.m. on Christmas Day?

Because I want a shark for Christmas.

BUT NOT JUST ANY OLD SHARK

The thresher shark (Alopias vulpinus) is known for its extra-long tail, half the length of its 12-foot-long body. Hunting in packs, threshers corral their prey then "thrash" the prey with their immense tails. Divers from around the world come to see and photograph them.

BUT FIRST, CHRISTMAS EVE

Like threshers, tiny mandarinfish are exotic creatures that entice divers from around the world. But they can only be observed during the full moon at sunset.

"Mandarins are very shy, but very, um, romantic," said divemaster Danny, slightly blushing. "They hide in the corals during the day, but at sunset, emerge from their coral hiding places to look for romance."

So at sunset on Christmas Eve, I dived into shallow warm waters to a cluster of small coral outcroppings full of seahorses, rock lobsters, an octopus, pink frogfish and, hopefully, the elusive mandarinfish.

In minutes, a quintet of tiny fish appeared. Colored iridescent turquoise and orange, the fish looked as if they wore Oriental silk robes.

The male, four-and-a-half inches long, and his harem of four females, each less than half his size and identically colored, swam less than a foot from my mask. I saw clearly their triangular faces and smile-like mouths. They darted in and out of their coral boudoir ignoring me, other divers, our bubbles and partially covered dive lights.

MANDARINFISH DOING ... WHAT ?

One female snuggled up to the male. As if holding hands, they swam side by side straight up then separated like Blue Angel pilots performing a fleur-de-lis, leaving the evidence of their mating floating above.

The male darted back into the coral then emerged to court another female. He repeated the fleur-de-lis maneuver with each of the remaining females.

A romantic way to spend Christmas Eve ...

A SHARK FOR CHRISTMAS?

"Thresher sharks are shy and don't like divers or their bubbles," advised Danny as our boat moored in the ocean just after sunrise Christmas morning. "We swim to 70 feet and wait on the edge of the depth zone for the sharks to come into the cleaning stations."

We dropped into the warm sea and, avoiding long-spined sea urchins, grabby crinoids and fire coral, assumed a prone position on the edge of a cliff that disappeared more than 100 feet down into impenetrable blue.

Would the sharks come in for a Christmas cleaning?

Just as you and I comb our hair and brush our teeth, sharks and other fish like their dead scales scraped off and their conveyor-belt teeth cleaned. Small fish such as cleaner wrasses perform this task. These cleaner fish set up stations like underwater barber shops or dental offices along the shallow sea bottom. Fish and shark "clients" simply hover over a particular station, open their mouths and get tidied up. (Yes, occasionally, the shark forgets where he is and inadvertently swallows his "dental assistant.")

Poised on the edge of the reef, I enjoyed the antics of Pacific reef fish: gobies, wrasse, unicorn fish, lionfish, nudibranchs, raccoon butterfly fish, parrotfish, Moorish idols, a school of mackerel, trunkfish, sea fans, whips, cushion sea stars, plumose anemones, cleaner shrimp and anemone fish (clownfish cousins) cavorting in host anemones.

But no thresher sharks.

Danny rotated his converted butter knife, yet no shark responded to the reflections. Our dive computers told us to ascend now.

Had I flown half-way around the world for nothing?

MERRY CHRISTMAS – OOPS!

Watching a long-nosed butterfly fish root on a brain coral, I heard a grunt and looked up.

Danny pointed excitedly into the blue.

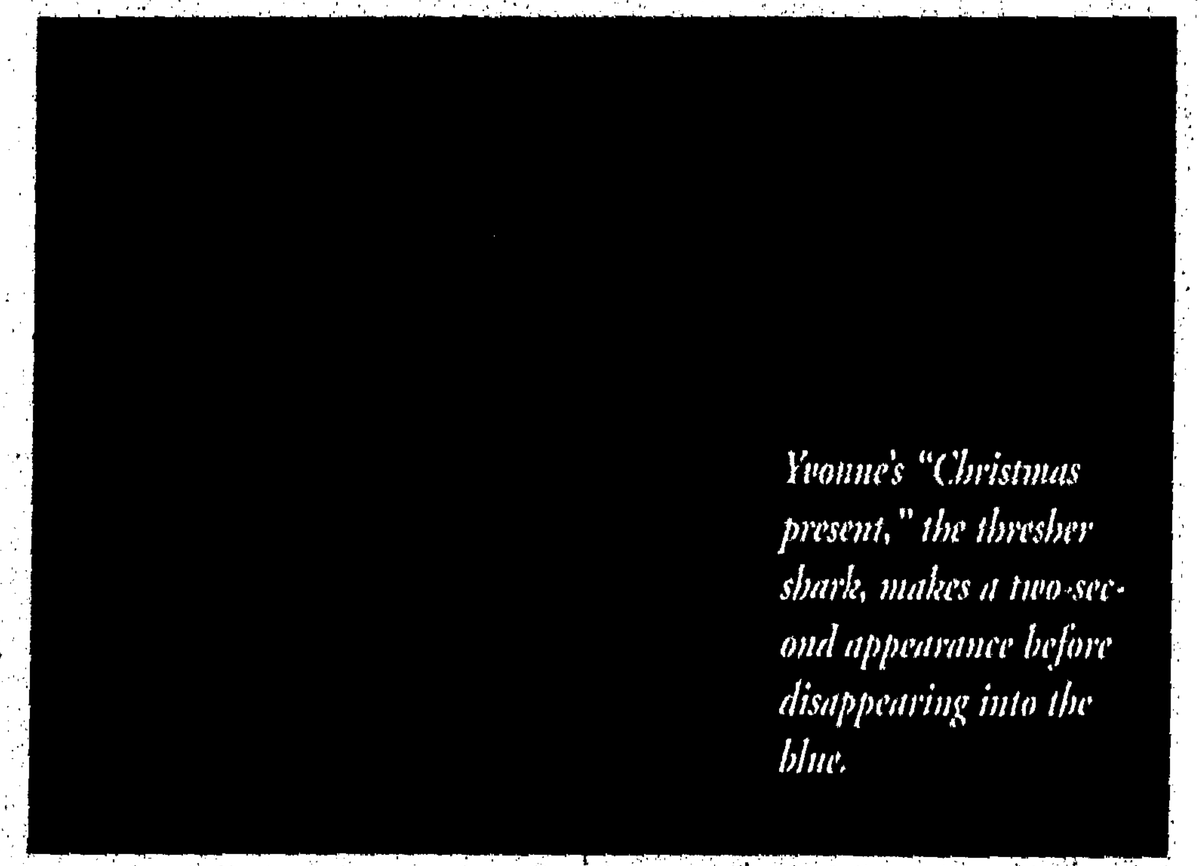
A bulbous 12-foot-long silver bullet swam 50 feet away. The bullet turned, revealing a dark tail half the length of its body.

The thresher shark flicked its immense tail and disappeared.

My Christmas present lasted two seconds – thanks, Santa!

Next time: Exploring WWII history – underwater! Continuing our four-part series, Affordable Winter Escape to the South Seas – in Truk Lagoon!

Join award-winning Yvonne Lanelli (EVLanelli@zianet.com) in the air, on the ground even under the ocean every two weeks exclusively in ¡Vámonos!



Yvonne's "Christmas present," the thresher shark, makes a two-second appearance before disappearing into the blue.

ASTRONOMY

Exploring 'The Outer Limits'

"There is nothing wrong with your television set . . . "

In Our Skies

by Alan Hale
ahale@nmsu.edu
Astronomer

Back during his younger days, one of this author's favorite television programs was a rather campy one called "The Outer Limits."

Each week's episode would bring a new story, often set in some alien environment, usually including some kind of bug-eyed monster, that would generally attempt to teach some moral lesson. Despite the series' age and its "campiness," it can be argued that some of the lessons it tried to teach are still valid in our day and age.

Where are our solar system's "outer limits?" One might possibly argue that this is just beyond the outermost planet, but new and more distant objects are being discovered all the time. The distant "Oort Cloud" of comets that accompanies our sun during its travels through the galaxy could probably be considered as being the "outer limits" in some respects.

The definition that is most used by astronomers is where our sun's influence on local matter and objects becomes weaker than that of interstellar space. The "solar wind" is an energetic stream of charged particles that is constantly "blowing" off the "surface" of the sun, and this is felt well beyond the farthest planets.

There comes a point, however, when the solar wind encounters the general (and slower) "wind" of interstellar space, and this is usually considered as being the "boundary" of the solar system.

The region within this boundary is called the "heliosphere" and the boundary itself the "heliopause."

The heliopause is not a simple boundary, but instead is a complex region with quite a bit of interaction between the solar wind and the interstellar "wind." The place where these interactions begin is called the "termination shock," and the location of this can vary depending upon the strength of the solar wind and other factors.

The Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched back in the mid-1970s and on its way into interstellar space, crossed the termination shock four years ago, and its twin Voyager 2 should be arriving there before too much longer.

A new spacecraft has recently been launched to explore this region of the solar system. The Inter-stellar Boundary EXplorer (IBEX) mission was launched this past Oct. 19 from underneath an L-1011 aircraft deployed from the Kwajalein atoll in the South Pacific.

Through the use of its own on-board rocket engine IBEX is being lifted up into an orbit that will carry it some 200,000 miles from Earth.

From this vantage point IBEX will be utilizing two on-board instruments to detect and measure the interactions between the solar wind and interstellar space. While Voyager 1 has been able to provide measurements of these interactions from one specific point (with Voyager 2 eventually being able to provide measurements from a second point), the instruments aboard IBEX will be able to survey the entire heliosphere and provide data that can complement that obtained by the Voyagers.

IBEX's mission is expected to last two years, during which time it should be able to give us some information on how the heliosphere is evolving over time.

We've known, for example, that the solar wind itself varies over the course of a solar cycle as well as undergoing other changes, and in fact it is currently at about the weakest it has been since the first measurements were obtained 50 years ago.

As the sun's sunspot activity (presumably) begins to increase over the next solar cycle, IBEX should be able to tell us what effects, if any, this has upon the size and structure of the heliosphere.

These studies are of more than just pure academic interest. The galaxy is filled with very high-energy (and harmful) cosmic rays and other radiation, and the activity at the heliopause and the termination shock blocks a lot of these from progressing into the inner solar system.

The cosmic rays that might not get blocked could have harmful effects upon not only life here on Earth but upon the electronics aboard orbiting satellites and the various spacecraft missions. While there is probably no danger that the heliosphere could shrink (or disappear) to the point that a flood of the harmful cosmic rays might reach us, understanding the relationship between solar wind activity and the goings-on at the heliopause will help us gauge just what kind of a threat, if any, is posed should the solar wind continue decreasing.

IBEX, then, should play an important role in not only our understanding of the overall solar system but also in determining the types of environments we will encounter as we head out into space.

While perhaps not a moral lesson in the sense of the old TV program, IBEX's studies of the solar system's outer limits should still tell us a lot about our place in the universe.

"We now return control of your television set to you ... "

.....

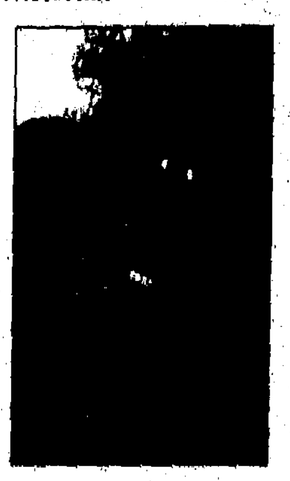
Alan Hale is a professional astronomer who resides in Cloudcroft. He is presently raising funds for the Earthrise Project, an educational and humanitarian program described at http://www.earthriseinstitute.org

HISTORY

Horror at Centralia, part 1

Past Tense

by Drew Gomber
Historian



As anyone who regularly reads this column knows, it is about Western lawmen and outlaws – the gunfighters. They were a breed of men who occupied this Earth for only a short time – specifically, the latter half of the 19th century. All of them, John Wesley Hardin, Billy the Kid, Doc Holliday, the Earps, were spawned by one cataclysmic event: the Civil War.

If one really studies such things, it becomes apparent that the very first gunfighters were the Missouri guerrillas, or "Bushwhackers," as they were commonly known. They were peerless pistol fighters, known to attack an enemy with the reins of their horses in their teeth, freeing both hands for pistols. Their tactics were to gallop in close, to hit hard and fast and then escape before the enemy actually knew what hit him. With the exception of an occasional shotgun or rifle, they carried pistols almost exclusively.

Historian Tom Goodrich found one guerrilla who carried 12 revolvers on his saddle *alone*.

Because it is invariably the winners of wars who write the history, the Missouri guerrillas have been routinely painted as monsters, horrific characters almost Biblical in their diabolical purpose.

In reality, there was a lot more to it. The fact is that Kansas abolitionists had begun raiding down into Missouri (a contested state with many slave owners occupying it) in the late 1850s. Ostensibly their purpose was to free slaves, but this disintegrated rather rapidly into looting and pillaging. In fact, an area of Missouri comprised of three entire counties was known simply as the "Burnt District." Finally, Missourians began fighting back. They had been attacked by Kansas guerrillas calling themselves "Jayhawkers" or "Redlegs" and they felt it was the Kansans who set the tone for what was to follow.

In truth, this guerrilla war was the most horrific ever fought on American soil, in the midst of the bloodiest conflict in history: the Civil War. There were undeniable atrocities on both sides, but much of what the Redlegs and Jayhawkers did was whitewashed at war's end. Not so the Bushwhackers. They were hunted as outlaws for years after the war had ended.

Most of the guerrillas had returned to peaceful pursuits after the war, but a few, such as the James and Younger boys, fought on, putting the skills they had learned during the war to deadly effect, robbing banks and trains. They claimed that they were "forced into" their lives of crime, a claim that, when examined closely, does not hold up. Nevertheless, in their own eyes, they were still fighting the war and they were still heroes to many. But this is not a tale of Jesse James. This story is about a Union man named Tom Goodman who was taken captive by one of the most ferocious of the guerrillas on either side and still lived to tell his tale. Goodman's captor was none other than "Bloody" Bill Anderson, considered by many to have been the most demonic of any and all guerrillas.

Tom Goodman

Tom Goodman was a big man, a blacksmith, who rose to the rank of sergeant in that capacity. He had been lucky. While he enlisted in 1862, he had seen no combat and in September 1864 was on his way home to his wife and children on furlough. His enlistment was not due to end until 1865, but no one was sure if the war would last that long. Goodman had started his journey home to Hawleyville, Iowa, from Atlanta on Sept. 22, but the trip was to take a while longer than he had anticipated. In the end, he would have a tale to tell that few indeed would be able to match for sheer terror.

As Goodman's train chugged north, he would recall later that a feeling of dread slowly came over him. It was nothing he could put his finger on, but as the trip progressed, it became more and more palpable. Still, he said nothing to his fellow soldiers because he knew they would only laugh at him.

Anderson

At dawn on Sept. 27, Bloody Bill Anderson's guerrillas began to awaken from their slumber – in some cases, drunken stupors– at a place called Young's Creek, about three miles southeast of the small village of Centralia. Most of these noted Missouri guerrillas – Anderson, John Thrailkill, George Todd and others had participated in the Lawrence, Kan., massacre in August 1863.

Lawrence was the seat of abolitionism in Kansas and the place where much of Missouri's woes had originated. Despite many attempts by post-war northern writers to portray Lawrence as being a peaceful town, struck at random by the Bushwhackers, that was simply not the case. When the Bushwhackers, led by William Clarke Quantrill, had thundered into Lawrence that bloody dawn, they found many items from their own homes adorning the houses in Lawrence, taken there by various Redlegs and Jayhawkers over the previous several years. To the Missourians, this was payback, pure and simple. About two weeks previous, one Kansas newspaper, after reporting the lynching of two Bushwhackers, wished that "Missouri should send us some more men." The old adage of being careful what you wish for comes into play, because one dark night, Missouri did just that.

Two weeks prior to the Lawrence massacre, a "jail" had collapsed in Kansas City. This particular "jail" was really just an old rickety house used to imprison the female members of the Bushwhackers' families.

In a maneuver that was entirely illegal in warfare, then and now, the Union had arrested and imprisoned the wives, mothers and sisters of every known guerrilla. When the place collapsed, it killed a number of them. Two of the victims were from the family of Anderson himself, one of whom was maimed and the other killed. After that, Anderson became known, quite accurately, as "Bloody Bill." He carried a silken cord that he tied a knot in for every Yankee he killed. When Bill Anderson finally met his own demise, there were 53 knots in it.

When the Bushwhackers rode out of Lawrence that day, they left behind some 150 dead men, most of whom were on the "dead lists" distributed by Quantrill. While this was definitely payback for the Bushwhackers, it is an undeniable fact that they murdered 150 unarmed men who made absolutely no attempt to defend themselves.

On the other side of the coin, it is interesting to note that not one woman or child was harmed that day. The Civil War, even among the guerrillas, had its own peculiar brand of chivalry that would carry over to the Western frontier in the following years.

Despite all of the violence that happened here in the West, rape was a crime that was almost nonexistent.

Of course, facts such as these were unknown at the time. The following year, as Tom Goodman returned to his wife and children, most men in the Union army knew was that they did not want to be taken prisoner by the Bushwhackers. To most, death was preferable, and for good reason.

Next: Goodman's luck worsens

SOURCES: *Bloody Bill Anderson*, by Albert Castel and Thomas Goodrich; *Bloody Dawn* and *Black Flag*, both by Thomas Goodrich.

Drew Gomber is available for history tours of Old Lincoln Town and Lincoln County, as well as speaking engagements. For more information about booking a tour or presentation, or to order Drew's books or CDs, call 575-653-4056 or email Drew at drew@pvtnetworks.net.

LITERA

The Christ in Christmas

BY JULIE CARTER
RUIDOSO NEWS

At daylight on an icy, snowy Christmas morning, my dad went to the barn to do the usual daily chores. He was also keeping a secret there and the secret needed to be watered and fed.

Hidden in our barn was a coal black Shetland pony that he'd ended up with in one of his horse trades.

He had sold a perfectly good 2-year-old bay gelding for some Christmas cash and somehow ended up with this "prize" pony as part of the deal.

My dad hated ponies, believing that if you wanted to ride, you should ride a real horse and there were plenty of those around.

That point was driven home, literally, when the pony unloaded him on Christmas morning when he rode him bareback to the creek for water.

Landing hard on his jean pockets on the frozen ground left my dad with a broken tailbone that offered a painful reminder of his horse-trading abilities for months to follow.

While my dad provided many opportunities for memories during my formative years, there isn't a Christmas day I don't think about that incident and the many years that followed with the black pony adventures.

That simple, almost accidental, gift to us children became a memorable bookmark in our childhoods through many seasons.

I look at my children and wonder what parts of a tradition-filled holiday do they remember?

I'm sure there are individual stories for them, too, but generally, they remember the traditional things passed through the generations of our family.

My teenage son tops his list with family get-togethers and big dinners. Food to fuel a growing boy's stomach is still a big part of his priority list.

However, with that is the delight in having the relatives gathered in one place.

My daughters recall the traditions they now carry on with their children – a cookie-decorating event, a family tree-trimming night, making grandma's recipe for homemade caramels and peanut brittle, the hanging of the stockings designed and sewn by grandma and the arranging of the traditional Christmas village.

A family favorite for generations has been the nativity display, complete with real straw to litter the barn floor and a light to represent the star in the East.

Bringing forth the solemn wonder of Christ's birth was, and is, as much part of our tradition as any one thing. Unlike the Christmas pony, it was not an accidental gift.

It is the one true gift that has kept on giving.

Political correctness makes every effort to sterilize the season by making it improper and, in places, even illegal to use the term "Merry Christmas." It is only a matter of time before they realize their "Happy Holidays" is only a version of "Happy Holy Days."

Somewhere in all the red and green everything, the masses of lights and never-ending glitter, it is important for us, as individuals, as a family and as a nation, to hold on to the true meaning of the season. The Christ in Christmas.

I never was very politically correct. Merry Christmas!

Julie Carter is the successful author of two books, Cowgirl Sass & Savvy *and* Cowboys – You Gotta Love 'em. *Visit www.julie-carter.com for reviews and ordering information.*

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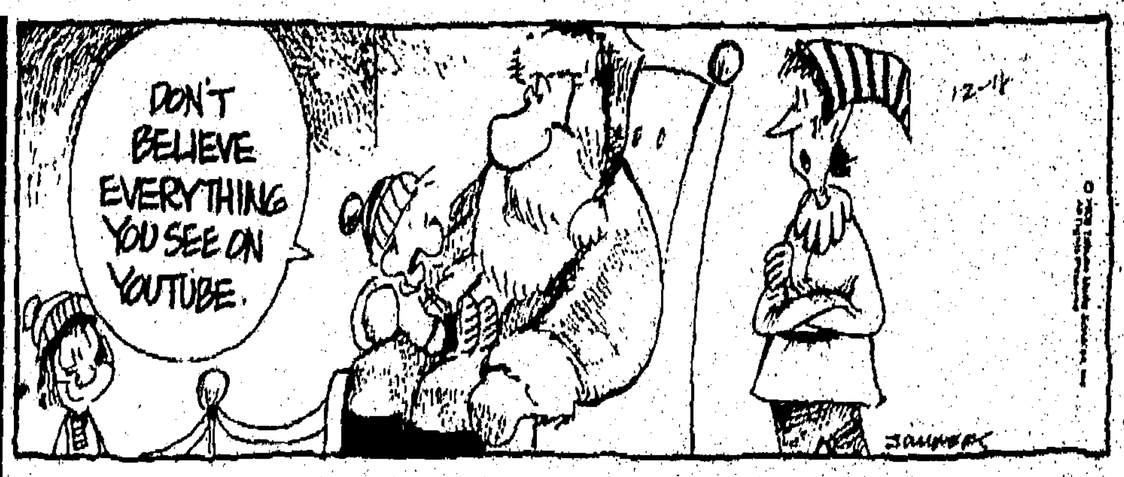
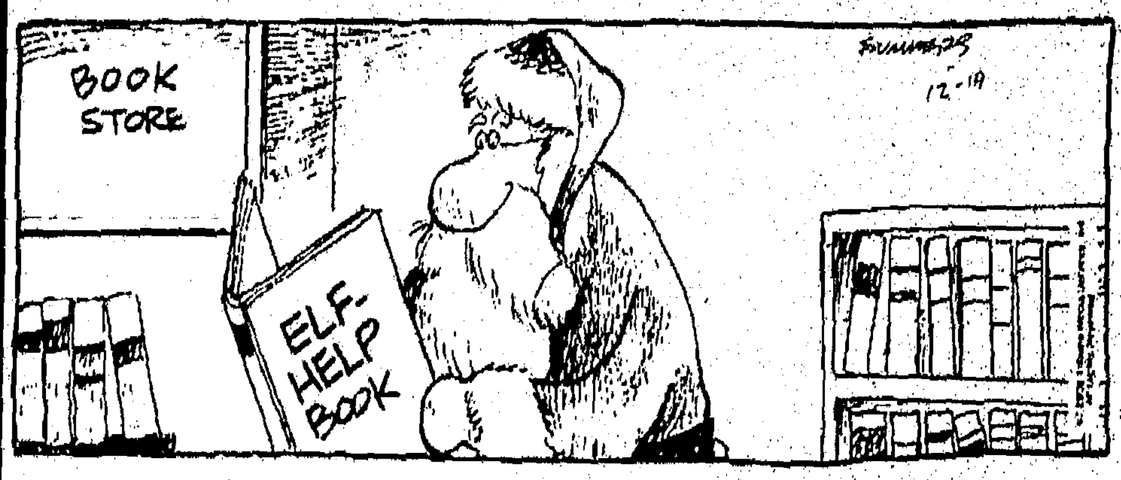
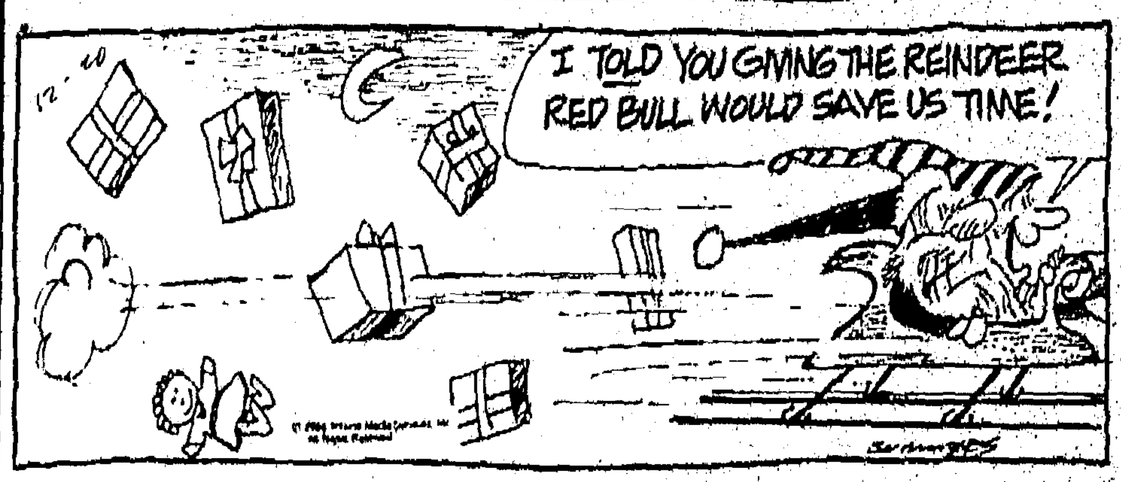
COMICS & PUZZLES

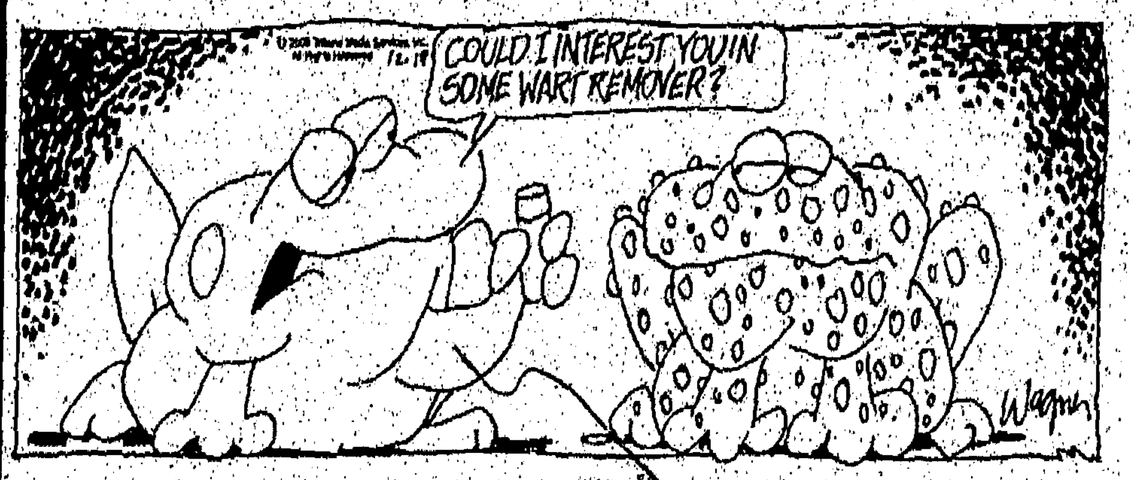


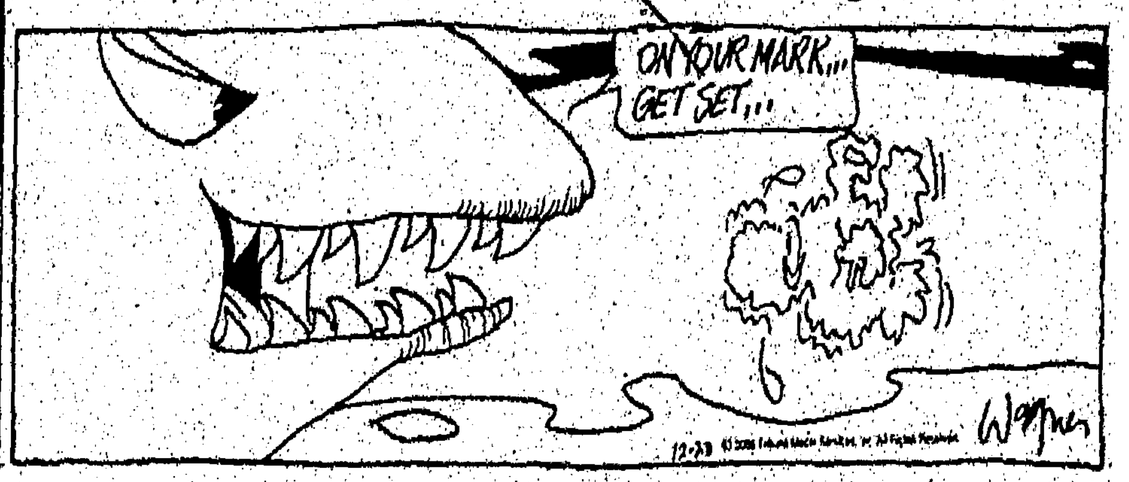
BOUND & GAGGED



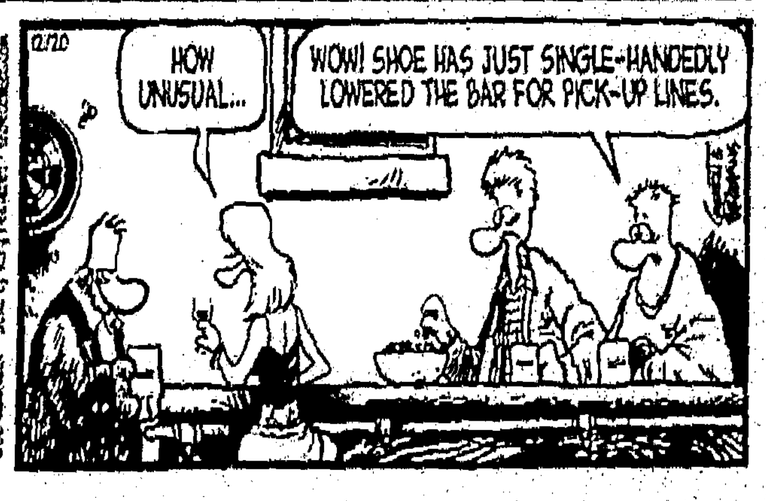


ANIMAL CRACKERS





SHOE



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								RACK 1
O1	E1	R1	L1	T1	S1	D2		
								RACK 2
A1	E1	I1	D2	D2	N1	C3	Double Word Score	
								RACK 3
A1	A1	E1	N1	R1	T1	C3	2nd Letter Triple	
								RACK 4
A1	E1	E1	D2	R1	T1	T1		

PAR SCORE 190-200
BEST SCORE 249

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, 4th Edition.

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12-19

COMICS & PUZZLES

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

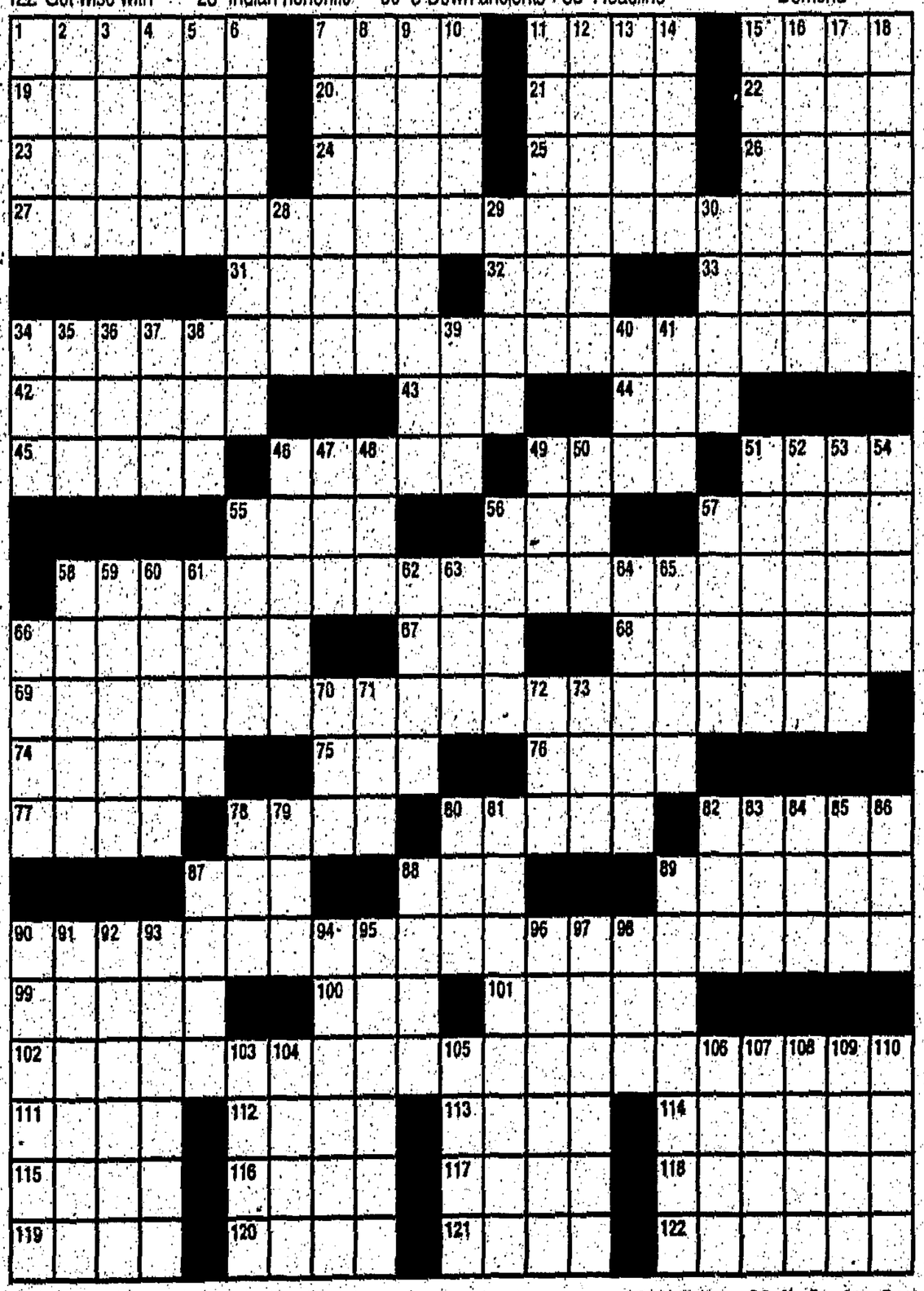
"CAREER PATHS"
By VERGE

ACROSS

1 Hebrew letters
7 Trail
11 New England attraction, with "the"
15 __-Tass
19 Surroundings
20 Induction-ready
21 Jazz singer Anita
22 Fat-reducing procedure, briefly
23 11th century theologian
24 Dietary data: Abbr.
25 Either of two former Tennessee senators
26 Princess from Alderaan
27 Cattle rancher, __, __, locksmith
31 C-E-G, e.g.
32 MapQuest request: Abbr.
33 Court deadlock
34 Pastor, __, __, disc jockey
42 Atatürk Museum city
43 Some ESPN highlights
44 Capture
45 Short-legged lizard
46 Bogeys, to radar operators
49 Stepped off
51 1994 Costner role
55 Biscay and Biscayne
56 Ham's place
57 Navel observation
58 Oil rig worker, __, __, auto body repairman
66 Destructive
67 Balderdash
68 Many couples have two
69 Circuit judge, __, __, lion tamer
74 Razzle-dazzle
75 Hope unit
76 Global: Abbr.
77 Diminishing returns
78 Zero-spin particle
80 Squishy
82 125-year-old wine company
87 Brit. reference
88 Equinox mo.
89 French sweet
90 Child care worker, __, __, cashier
99 Like some cereals
100 Baseball class just below the majors
101 Achille __: hijacked liner
102 Busboy, __, __, pollster
111 Old West defense
112 Two-part
113 Son of Seth
114 Tow truck dispatcher
115 Former VOA overseer
116 Award that's a pronunciation of its initials
117 Skin condition
118 Brought out
119 Girl
120 Cataracts make it cloudy
121 Make a home
122 Got wise with

DOWN

1 Asian domestic
2 Insulate
3 "Born Free" lioness
4 Multicolored
5 Leader's position
6 Island on the Strait of Malacca
7 "The Merchant of Venice" heroine
8 Like Aconcagua
9 Earring shape
10 Corned beef dish
11 Descartes opening
12 Smitten one
13 Bud on the range
14 One checking out?
15 Noncommittal words
16 Evens
17 Sharing word
18 Male elephant seal, in mating season
28 Indian honorific
29 Tire tracks, often
30 Ideal plot
34 Is composed of
35 Sign
36 Brew follower?
37 Catch some rays
38 Sitcom planet
39 38-Down residents, for short
40 MADD concern
41 Little fox
46 Lowest parts
47 Caustic cleaner
48 Medit. country
49 Author Rand
50 Betray, with "down"
51 Sci. of insects
52 Jung's inner self
53 Gone up
54 Kennel visitors
55 Cloud
56 "Peanuts" cry
57 Barely move
58 Sweet, to Ramón
59 Cambodian cash
60 8-Down ancients
61 Frequent All-Pro defensive back Ronnie
62 Age, perhaps
63 Ages and ages
64 Simple song
65 Letter-bottom abbr.
66 Casting need
70 __-Magnon
71 Golfer Woosnam
72 Barrister's wear
73 __ Direct: online bank
78 According to
79 Forest's "The Last King of Scotland" role
80 Film with a "II," e.g.: Abbr.
81 Wealth
82 Sour server
83 Simulcast site, briefly
84 Grazing field
85 Varnish ingredient
86 Diving seabird
87 Possesses
88 Headline
89 __ Bank: fishing area off 11-Across
90 Gold amount
91 Pop singer Julius
92 Some arcade games
93 Gossips
94 Nephew of Arthur
95 Hawaiian non-natives
96 Burr and Copland
97 Reddish brown
98 Play about Capote
103 Superstar
104 Analog audio component
105 Shakespearean actor Edmund
106 "__-voom!"
107 Libido symbol
108 Goes on and on
109 S-shaped molding
110 '70s sitcom costar with Demond



12/14/08

xwordeditor@aol.com

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JUMBLE

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

TUINY

SOSBA

RECLEY

LEMITY

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www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

A: ___ OF "_____"

PAR SCORE 190-200

T	R	E	A	T	E	D			
C	A	T	E	R	A	N			
C	A	N	D	L	E	D			
O	L	D	S	T	E	R			

RACK 1 = 58
RACK 2 = 72
RACK 3 = 61
RACK 4 = 58
TOTAL 249

SKIPPIE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

12/14/08

L	A	S	S		L	E	N	S		N	E	S	T		S	A	S	S	E	D
U	S	I	A		O	B	I	E		A	C	N	E		E	V	O	K	E	D
F	O	R	T		D	U	A	L		E	N	O	S		G	A	R	A	G	E
T	R	A	N	S	I	T	W	O	R	K	E	R	S	U	R	V	E	Y	O	R
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M	I	L	L	E	U		O	N	E	A		O	D	A	Y		L	I	P	O
A	L	E	P	H	S		P	A	T	H		C	A	P	E		I	T	A	R

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

Jumbles: UNITY BASSO CELERY TIMELY
Answer: The mailman received an advanced degree because he was a — MAN OF "LETTERS"

Art Galleries & Studios

Lincoln County

Art and Artifact • 107 S. Lincoln • Capitan • 354-2316.

Audrey Paton's Antiques & Interiors at Gallery 401 • 401 Twelfth St. • Carrizozo • 648-2762.

Earthly Greens & Ran La Roca Glass • Lincoln, NM • Open 10-6 daily • 800-386-7258 • Fine art fused glass "paintings.

Fruit of the Trees Gallery • Highway 380 in Lincoln • 653-4699.

Gallery 408 • 408 12th Street • Carrizozo • 505-648-2598 • Oils, photography, ceramics, collage, jewelry, pottery and new Gift Gallery. Special artist showings and workshops, and musical events in their sculpture garden.

Georgia Stacy, Artist • Studio located on Nogal Canyon Road, in Nogal • 354-4206 • Wood sculpture, doors, and home interior furnishings.

Grizzly's Bears • 2804 Sudderth • 257-3542 • Bears carved from tree trunks by chainsaw and other power tools.

Hondo Iris Farm and Gallery • Highway 70, MM 284 in Old Hondo • Tuesday - Sunday, 10-5 • 653-4723.

Hondo Iris Farm Annex • Highway 70, MM 286 • Tuesday - Sunday, 8-5. Free Jewelry Factory tours. 653-4062.

Hurd-La Rinconada Gallery • Off Highway 70 at mile marker 281 • San Patricio • Home of five artists spanning three generations. Featuring works by N.C. Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth, Henriette Wyeth Hurd, Peter Hurd and Michael Hurd. • 800-658-6912, or 653-4331.

James Mack Studio • 1002 B Ave. • Carrizozo • 648-5203.

J. Kiker Gallery • Highway 70 MM 284 in Old Hondo • Featuring John Kiker's oil landscapes of New Mexico, the Hondo Valley and beyond. • Open by appointment only. Phone 653-4510, or contact jkikergallery@yahoo.com.

Moondance Gallery • Central White Oaks • 648-2319 • Hand-crafted furniture, jewelry, traditional tinwork, Southwest artifacts.

Oso Art • 100 Lincoln Ave., Capitan • 354-2327 • Art at its best from more than 100 Lincoln County artists • Eclectic blend of wall art, sculpture, jewelry, wood furniture and more • Tuesday-Saturday 10-6; Sunday 10-5.

Unique Creations • 354-1041 • Custom furniture, etched and stained glass • By appointment only.

White Oaks Pottery • 4 mi. NE of White Oak Township • Ivy Heymann • 648-2985 • Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed on Thursday.

ZW's Gallery • Highway 37 W, MM 4.7 (the road to Nogal) • 354-4263.

Ruidoso Area

Accessoreez • 2306 Sudderth • 257-0740 • www.accessoreez.com • Handmade, uniquely "hot fired" jewelry made from cane glass.

The Adobe • 2905 Sudderth • 257-5795 • www.theadobefineart.com • Fine art, jewelry, decoratives.

Ann Buell's Fine Art • 2825 Sudderth • 257-9102 • www.annbuellfineart.com • Original fine art paintings and sculpture. Artists include Martha Kellar, Charles N. Pruitt, Ann Templeton and many more.

The Art Gallery • 1712 Sudderth • 257-7272 • Featuring original works by regional independent artists. Home of the Ruidoso Regional Council for the Arts office.

Backdoor – the knight-mark collection • 2808 Sudderth Dr. • Hand-picked furnishings, Italian textiles, artwork and more luxuries for the home • 257-2270

California Colors Art Gallery • 201 Country Club Dr. • 257-1964.

The Camel House • 1690 Highway 70 East • Ruidoso Downs • 378-7065 • Prints, framing..

DJ's Jewelry • 618 Carrizo Canyon • 630-1514 • Hand-crafted silver and semi-precious stones, Southwest style.

Earth & Stone • 2117 Sudderth • 257-2768 • Pottery by Alan Miner. Thrown vessels, tableware, vessel sinks, platters, sculpted pieces. Watch the artist at work.

Galleria West • 2538 Sudderth • 257-4560 • Fine art, gifts, artisan jewelry, knives, fetishes.

GD Garrett Fine Art • 2306 Sudderth • 257-7695 • Studio and gallery of wildlife painter Gary Garrett.

J. Mauritsen Studio • 624 Carrizo Canyon Rd. • 257-6348 • Wood carver transforms tree trunks into fine art, furniture.

Josie's Framery • 2917 Sudderth • 257-4156 • High quality, affordable & custom framing and local art.

Kindred Spirit • 2306 Sudderth • 257-3846.

Leroy Anderson Studio • 1125 Highway 37 (downtown Nogal) • 354-4242 • Handcrafted silver jewelry, beadwork, rattles and copper sculpture.

Many Moons Jewelry • 2501 Sudderth • 630-9201 • Hand-crafted silver.

McGary's Studio / Expressions in Bronze Gallery • 2002 Sudderth • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Saturday • 257-1000 • Gallery and finishing studio for world-renowned bronze artist famous for Native-American figures.

Mountain Arts Gallery • 2530 Sudderth • 257-9748 • Southwest art, prints & originals, pottery, custom framing. Resident artist: Teri Sodd.

Picture This Gallery • 2621 Sudderth • 630-0003 • Prints and framing.

Piñon Pottery • 3 miles east of Wal-Mart on Highway 70 • Ruidoso Downs • 378-4270 • (800) 378-4275 • Studio & gallery of Vicki Conley, also shows work by other locals. Thrown pottery and sculpted ceramic for architectural accents.

Rainwaters • 2313 Sudderth • 257-8727 • Gifts, jewelry, candles & collectibles.

Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts • Highway 220, 12 miles north of Ruidoso off U.S. 48 • 336-4800 • Dale Chihuly glass art installation • Tours 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday include behind-the-scenes look at theater.

Square Moon Gallery • 2825 Sudderth Dr., Ste. E, Boulder Plaza • Beautiful hand-blown and fused art glass, original chalk pastels, and more. • 257-8549.

Studio-W • 1311 Mechem • 258-1117 • www.Studio-W.com • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wed. - Sat.; 12 - 6 p.m., Sun; Closed Mon. & Tues. • Representing more than 100 artists showing more than 500 pieces.

Talk of the Town Gallery & Studio • 1017 Mechem Dr. • Artist cooperative showcase, workshops and studio space • 937-5934 or 937-6591.

White Dove Gallery • 2825 Sudderth, Ste. A • 257-6609 or 866-257-6609 • Specializing in Native-American jewelry, art, pottery and kachinas. Open daily since 1988.

White Mountain Pottery • 2328 Sudderth • 257-3644 • Tableware, lamps & accessories. Representing the works of Tim Wierwille and other local potters.

The Zuni • 2621 Sudderth • (800) 275-4908 • 257-2440.

Alamogordo Area

About Frames • 1602 10th St. • 434-4494 • Fine art prints and custom framing. Dave Beach and Susie Hopkins, proprietors. Open Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday by appointment.

Accents in Glass • 434-4182 • Jo Austin's original art glass designs using fused glass, stained glass, mosaics, 3-D, leaded panels, and jewelry. Jo Austin, proprietor. Web: www.accentsinglassbyjo.-com.

Pat Beatty Gallery and Framing, 908 New York Ave., Alamogordo • 439-0188 • Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Fine art, work by local artists, gifts, hand-painted cards. Pat Beatty, proprietor.

Copeland's Frame Shop and Gallery, DBA Sketchbook Tours • 622 9th St. (corner of 9th and Texas Ave.) • 575-551-4632 (shop) • 575-442-9594 (victoria) • 575-430-7921 (Michael) • www.michaelcopeland.com • www.sketchbook-tours.com

Creative Designs • 917 New York Ave., Alamogordo • Monday - Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. • 434-4420 • Ongoing selection of carefully chosen works in all media by local artists.

David H. Townsend Library Gallery • New Mexico State University-Alamogordo campus, 2400 Scenic Dr. • 439-3650 • Sunday - Friday • Monthly exhibit.

Eagle Ranch Art Gallery • 7288 U.S. Highway 54/70, between Alamogordo and Tularosa • 434-0035 • 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily • Monthly exhibits by a variety of local and regional artists. Marianne and George Schweers, proprietors.

W. Kohler Lamp and Shade Company Gallery • 173 US Hwy 82, Alamogordo • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Saturday • 437-8441 • Distinctive mesquite lamps and copper lampshades made on location. Studio tours available.

Tularosa

Adobe Daubers Arts & Crafts Gallery • 275-B Central Ave. • 585-2084.

(Continued on next page)

Art Galleries & Studios

(Continued from previous page)

Coffee & More at Tularosa Dry Goods • 308 Granado St. • 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon., Wed., Thurs.-Sat.; 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday • 585-4575 • Rotating art exhibit.

Del Sol • 200 St. Francis Dr. • 585-4581.

Horse Feathers • 316 Granado • 585-4407 • Pottery, jewelry, Native American arts & crafts, gifts.

Cloudcroft

Bear Track • 502 Burro Ave. • 682-3046 • Native American arts & crafts, gifts.

Cloudcroft Art Society • Community Center/Library (Red Brick Schoolhouse), corner of Swallow Place and Burro Ave. • 687-3176 • Members' artwork, programs, meetings, workshops.

Cloudcroft Pottery • 502A Burro Ave. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 682-3321 • Functional stoneware and raku. Don and Donna Ellis, proprietors.

Copper Butterfly • 206 Burro Ave. • 682-2765 • Fine arts, quality crafts. Gloria and Gary Wood, proprietors.

Hummingbird Nest • 306 Burro Ave. • 682-2728 • Ceramics, paintings. Kathy Powell, proprietor.

Off the Beaten Path • 100 Glorietta Ave. • 682-7284 • Eclectic gifts and original artwork, wacky wire art, jewelry, yard art, artistic lamps, and more. Berle Van Zanat and Donna Rand, proprietors. Open daily.

Thy, Smiling Dog Art Gallery • 311 James Canyon Hwy. • 682-2122 • Original oils, prints, jewelry, photography, metalwork and home décor.

Mescalero

Jordan T. Gallery • 464-2338 • Carrizo Canyon Rd. at the Mescalero Inn • Featuring Mescalero Apache fine art (paintings, sculpture and crafts) and other work by Mescalero artists.

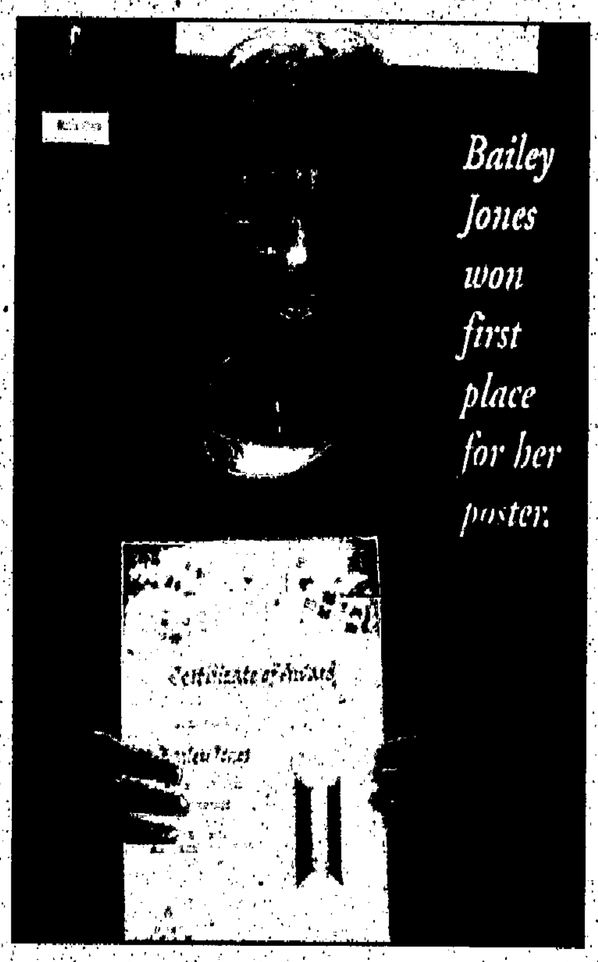
N'de Fine Arts Gallery • U.S. Highway 70 • 464-2114 • Featuring: Apache fine arts including paintings in oil and acrylics.

Stronghold Gallery • 464-7777 • Gift shop and art gallery inside the Inn of the Mountain Gods, featuring paintings, sculpture and other work by Mescalero artists.

Young artists recognized

Forty-five young artists were honored at a reception held Dec. 9 at the Ruidoso Regional Council for the Arts. The artists were recognized for their unique posters created as part of a program conducted by the Lincoln County DWI Prevention Program during the semester. The 45 exhibited posters were chosen from more than 180 created in fourth grade classes at White Mountain Elementary. Seventeen of the posters were selected for publication in the DWI Prevention calendar for 2009. The calendars were presented to more than 90 artists, families and attendees at the reception.

The first-place poster is featured on the cover of the calendar and was drawn by Bailey Jones. The second-place prize went to Ashton Nuñez, and Randall Poorthunder placed third. Additional calendars are available free of charge at the RRCA on Sudderth next door to Compass Bank. The show will hang at the Art Center through the end of December. The Lincoln County DWI Prevention Program sponsored the event and the Ruidoso Regional Council for the Arts and Region IX Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Prevention provided refreshments.



Bailey Jones won first place for her poster.

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Now Carrying 100% All Natural

"Tired Old Ass Products"

We also feature a variety of Art Books, Kids Books, Paperblanks and Gift Cards

New Mexico was named by 16th century Spanish explorers who hoped to find gold and wealth equal to Mexico's Aztec treasures.

NFL NETWORK ON DIRECTV

DON'T MISS THIS WEEK'S GAME ON NFL NETWORK

Baltimore at Dallas
Saturday, Dec 20

NFL NETWORK

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Save up to $23 a month for an entire year	YES	no	no
The most sports in stunning high-definition	YES	no	no
Exclusive sports packages	YES	no	no
	YES	no	no
	YES	no	no
Higher customer satisfaction ratings than cable 8 years running*	YES	no	no

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CBS College Sports HD
CBS HD
Cinemax East HD
Cinemax West HD
CMT HD
CNBC HD
CNN HD
Crime & Investigation HD
CSN Bay Area HD
CSN Chicago HD
CSN Mid-Atlantic HD
CSN New England HD
Discovery Channel HD
Disney Channel HD
ESPN HD
ESPN2 HD
ESPNews HD
Food Network HD
Fox Business HD
FOX HD
FSN Arizona HD
FSN Cincinnati HD
FSN Detroit HD
FSN Florida HD
FSN Midwest HD
FSN North HD
FSN Northwest HD
FSN Ohio HD
FSN Pittsburgh HD
FSN Prime Ticket HD
FSN Rocky Mountain HD
FSN South HD
FSN Southwest HD
FSN West HD
Fuel TV HD
FX HD
Golf Channel HD
HBO East HD
HBO West HD
HD Theater
HDNet
HDNet Movies
HGTV HD
History Channel HD
MASN HD
MGM HD
MSG HD
MSG Plus HD
MTV HD
National Geographic HD
NBA TV HD
NBC HD
NESN HD
NFL Network HD
NHL Network HD
Nickelodeon HD
Palladia HD
Pay Per View Channels
Planet Green HD
Sci-Fi Channel HD
Science Channel HD
SHOWTIME HD
SHOWTIME West HD
SHOWTIME 2 HD
SHOWTIME Extreme HD
SHOWTIME Showcase HD
Smithsonian Channel HD
Speed Channel HD
Spike HD
SportsNet New York HD
SportSouth HD
SportsTime Ohio HD
Starz Comedy HD
Starz Edge HD
Starz Kids & Family HD
Starz East HD
Starz West HD
Sun Sports HD
TBS HD
Tennis Channel HD
The 101 HD
The Learning Channel HD
THE MOVIE CHANNEL HD
The Weather Channel HD
TNT HD
Toon Disney HD
Universal HD
USA Network HD
Versus HD
VH1 HD
YES Network HD

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DIRECTV has always been 100% digital! Order DIRECTV now and you'll be prepared on February 17, 2009, when all full-power television stations will broadcast only in digital. If you use rabbit ears or a rooftop antenna with your analog TV, you're going to need to take action to continue watching TV. Sign up with DIRECTV and you won't miss your favorite shows.

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> FREE 28 Premium Movie Channels for 3 months with CHOICE XTRA™ package or higher

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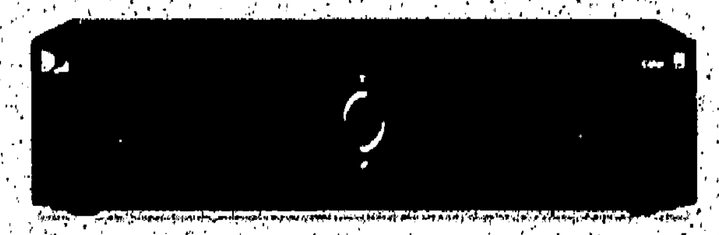
No equipment to buy. No start-up costs
[illegible]

> FREE HD Channels for 3 months
When you order by 12/29/08

> HD DVR Receiver Upgrade
$199 value! [illegible]



Offers end 3/3/09 and are based on approved credit. Credit card required. New customers only. [illegible] Taxes, fees $4.99/mo. [illegible] Restrictions apply. Prices may vary.

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Don't miss Capitol One Bowl Week as college football's top teams take the field for one last shot at victory. December 20–January 3 on ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC.

Capital One BOWL WEEK ESPN

FREE 28 PREMIUM MOVIE CHANNELS

That's a $105 value for a limited time! Get HBO®, Starz, and SHOWTIME® FREE for 3 months when you sign up for the CHOICE XTRA™ package or above. Enjoy 28 premium movie channels featuring Hollywood blockbusters and award-winning original series.

HBO® 7 channels · starz 12 channels · SHOWTIME® 9 channels

1-888-804-1212 or directv.com

[illegible] redemption. Rebate begins 6-8 weeks after receipt of rebate form online or by telephone. Timing of promotional price depends on redemption date. [illegible] INSTANT REBATE [illegible] SYSTEM LEASE [illegible] FAILURE TO ACTIVATE ALL DIRECTV SYSTEM EQUIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQUIPMENT LEASE ADDENDUM MAY RESULT IN A CHARGE OF $150 PER RECEIVER NOT ACTIVATED. IF YOU FAIL TO MAINTAIN YOUR PROGRAMMING, DIRECTV MAY CHARGE A PRORATED FEE OF UP TO $480. RECEIVERS ARE AT ALL TIMES PROPERTY OF DIRECTV AND MUST BE RETURNED UPON CANCELLATION OF SERVICE OR ADDITIONAL FEES [illegible] PHOTO [illegible]

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"MY SIGNAL WILL GO OUT IN BAD WEATHER."
Wrong. DIRECTV delivers 99.9% signal reliability—worry-free. So don't believe the cable hype.

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No. Our professional installer will set up all the equipment for you and then show you how to use it.

"CABLE AND DISH NETWORK HAVE JUST AS MANY HD CHANNELS AS DIRECTV."
Not even close. On average, DIRECTV has way more HD channels than cable; now over 130*—and about 30 more than DISH Network.

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Yes, you can. In fact, local channels are included in our package prices and are available in 94% of U.S. markets.* DISH Network charges an additional $5 every month for local channels.*

*With qualifying packages

Switch today!
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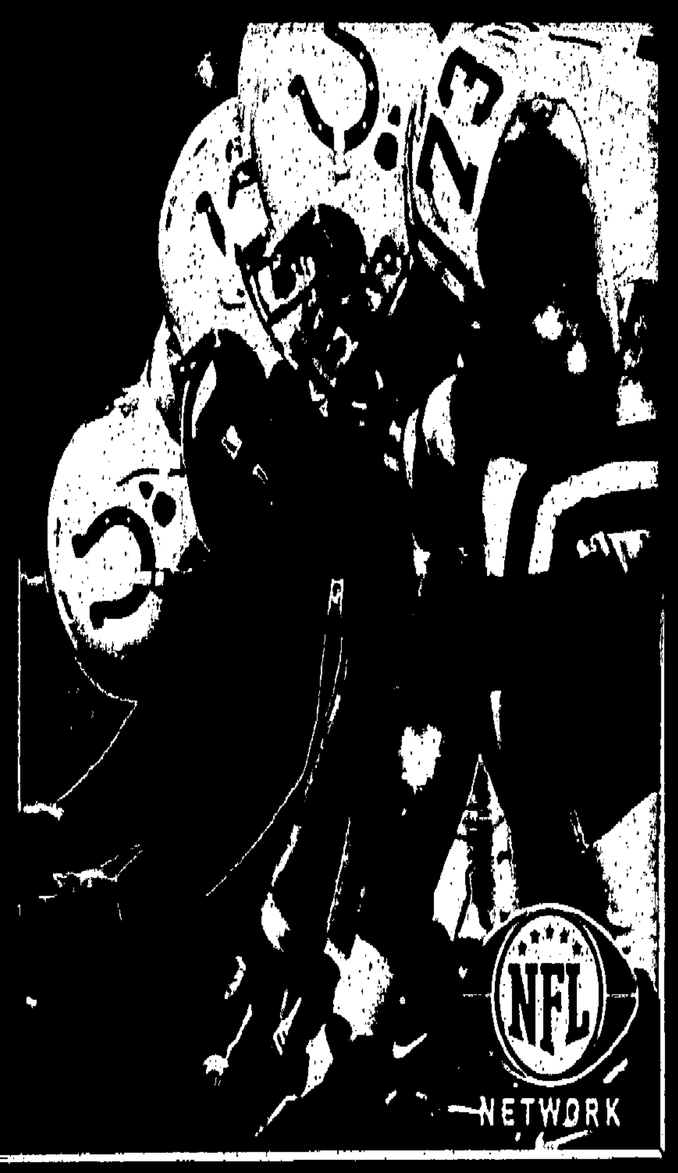
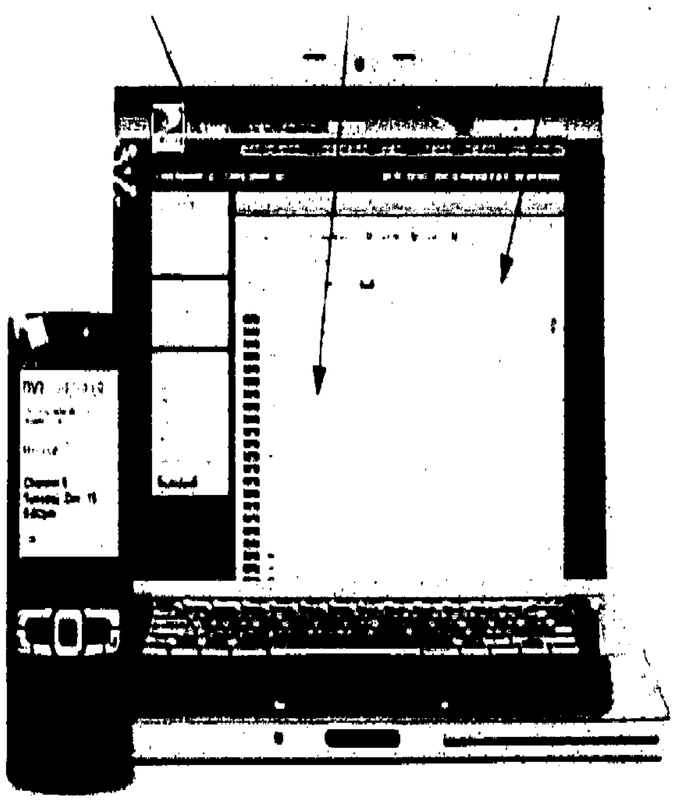
When it comes to the most HD channels, Cable and DISH Network don't give you the full picture



DIRECTV is the only place you'll find a free DVR scheduler.
CABLE AND DISH NETWORK DON'T HAVE IT!



Away from home? Only DIRECTV's DVR lets you use a mobile phone or computer to record your favorite shows at home.*

COMPARE FOR YOURSELF	DIRECTV	DISH Network	Cable
Save up to $23 a month for an entire year	YES	no	no
The most sports in stunning high-definition	YES	no	no
Exclusive sports packages			
• [illegible]	YES	no	no
• [illegible]	YES	no	no
• [illegible]	YES	no	no
Higher customer satisfaction ratings than cable 8 years running*	YES	no	no

130+ in High-

Watch more of you
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Altitude Sports HD
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Cartoon Network H
CBS College Sports
CBS HD*
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Cinemax West HD
CMT HD
CNBC HD
CNN HD
Crime & Investigatio
CSN Bay Area HD
CSN Chicago HD
CSN Mid-Atlantic HD
CSN New England H
Discovery Channel H
Disney Channel HD
ESPN HD
ESPN2 HD
ESPNews HD
Food Network HD
Fox Business HD
FOX HD*
FSN Arizona HD
FSN Cincinnati HD
FSN Detroit HD
FSN Florida HD
FSN Midwest HD
FSN North HD
FSN Northwest HD
FSN Ohio HD
FSN Pittsburgh HD
FSN Prime Ticket H
FSN Rocky Mountai
FSN South HD
FSN Southwest HD
FSN West HD
Fuel TV HD
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HBO East HD
HBO West HD
HD Theater
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- MASN HD
- MGM HD
- MSG HD
- MSG Plus HD
- MTV HD
- National Geographic HD
- NBA TV HD
- NBC HD
- NESN HD
- NFL Network HD
- NHL Network HD
- Nickelodeon HD
- Palladia HD
- Pay Per View Channels
- Planet Green HD
- Sci-Fi Channel HD
- Science Channel HD
- SHOWTIME HD
- SHOWTIME West HD
- SHOWTIME 2 HD
- SHOWTIME Extreme HD
- SHOWTIME Showcase HD
- Smithsonian Channel HD
- Speed Channel HD
- Spike HD
- SportsNet New York HD
- SportSouth HD
- SportsTime Ohio HD
- Starz Comedy HD
- Starz Edge HD
- Starz Kids & Family HD
- Starz East HD
- Starz West HD
- Sun Sports HD
- TBS HD
- Tennis Channel HD
- The 101 HD
- The Learning Channel HD
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- Universal HD
- USA Network HD
- Versus HD
- VH1 HD
- YES Network HD

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Capital One BOWL WEEK ESPN

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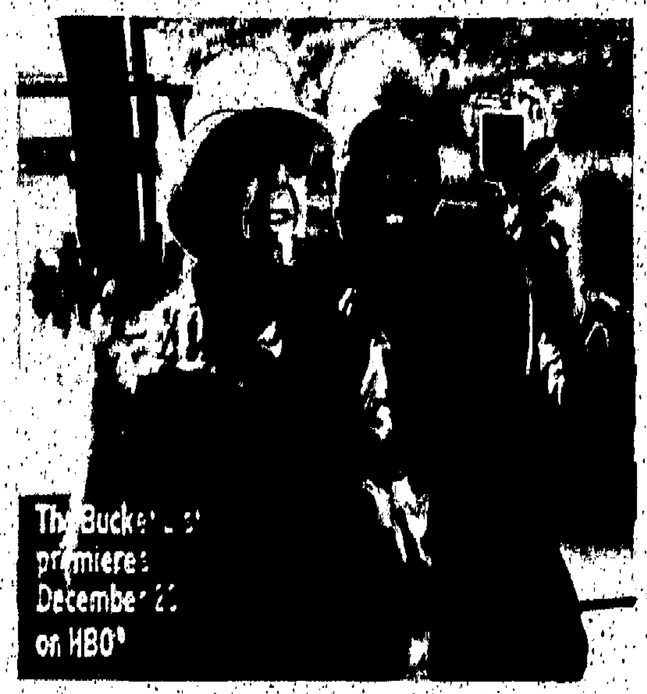

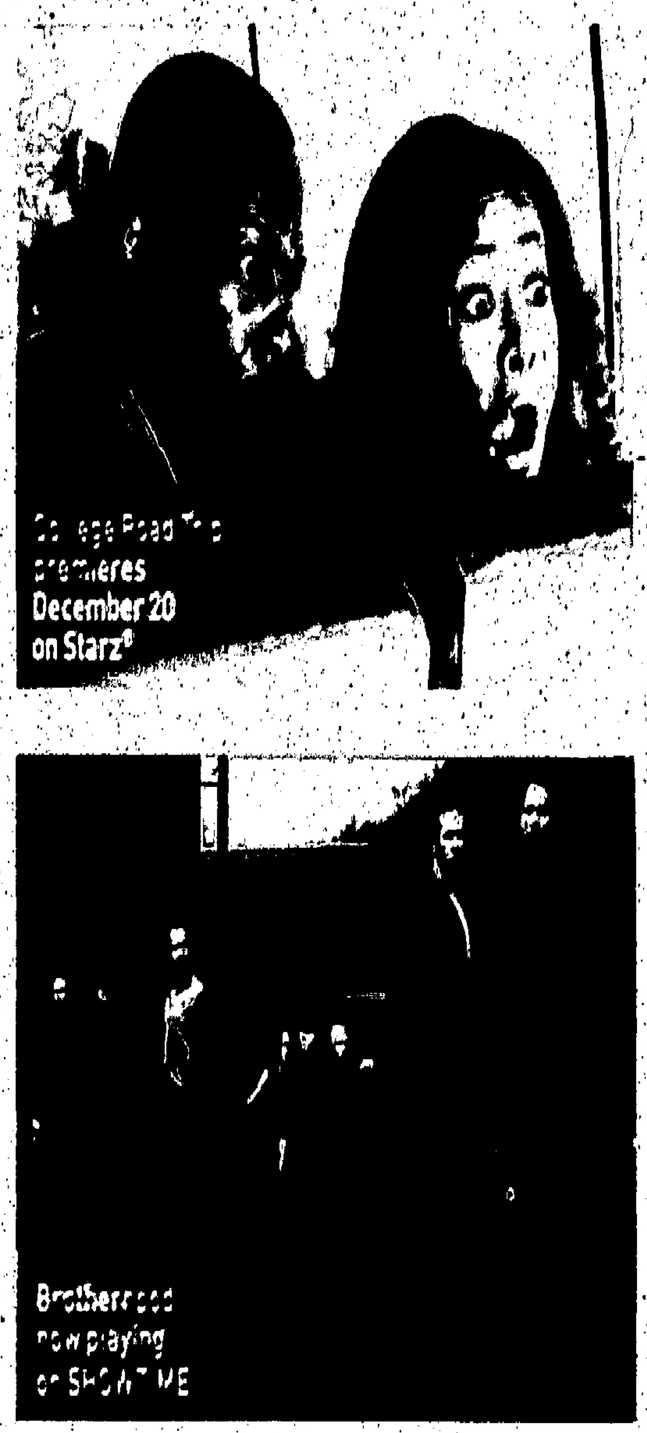

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