

# RUIDOSO NEWS

**FIRE DANGER  
LOW**

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 2009 • OUR 63RD YEAR, NO. 67 • 75 CENTS

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COURTESY JOHN T. SODEN

The annual Ski Apache Torch Light Parade, part of the Festival of Lights celebration, snaked down the slopes at the ski resort Saturday. Approximately 30 Apache skiers lined up on top of the Capitan ski run with their torches lit, then proceeded to ski down the slope zig zag style. A few moments after they began, the fireworks display lit up the night sky. The Apache Drummers and Singers, named "1492" and led by Horace Comanche, performed before, during and after the parade.

## Construction revenue up

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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### Permit valuations seen as hopeful sign of activity

The addition of more inspectors to the Ruidoso building division helped pump up construction fee revenues and values in November.

Planning and Zoning Commissioner Don Dutton pointed out last week that the valuation passed the \$1 million mark for permits.

"That may be an indicator things are coming around," he said, adding, "Why so much plumbing? There are three pages of nothing but plumbing. Did a lot of pipes freeze this winter?"

#### Inspection process changed

Village Planning Director Bob Decker said the increase was tied to the village council's decision to take over plumbing/mechanical inspections and electrical inspections previously handled through the New Mexico Construction Industries Division.

Plumbing inspector Brigham

Tuttle was on-board in June and electrical inspector Dave Nolta was hired in November. "But the number of permits grew slowly, because the ones already issued by the state had to work their way through the system," Decker said Tuesday.

He told Dutton, "We have a plumbing inspector and he did a tremendous amount of gas-related inspections. We will see the same thing with the new electrical inspector. You can expect the number to grow. The contractors are saying we charge more (per inspection), but he shows up."

Tuttle also is certified as a residential building inspector and can back up inspector Shawn Fort. Nolta has several national certifications, including building inspec-

tions, Decker said.

"The idea was that we would have a full service department, which is a benefit to the contractor and we can turn around inspections in one day. All three are trained in multiple disciplines," he said.

On Nolta's second day on the job, the fire chief called and asked the new electrical inspector to check out a blaze that gutted a real estate office during a snowstorm.

"He went out and verified where the fire started," Decker said. "That was very useful for the fire chief."

The building division permit report showed that 97 permits were issued in November, a big contrast to the slowest months this year. Total fees paid hit \$15,809

and valuation was \$1,005,598.58. The biggest single permit issued cost \$2,333.85 for a new commercial structure at 404 Gavilan Canyon Road valued at \$396,135.

While they were pleased with the information supplied, commissioners asked for a more fleshed-out monthly report in the future to include the names of those applying for permits, the business licenses issued by the village clerk and red tags on improper, illegal or non-permitted construction work.

Commissioner Ray Alborn commended village councilors for their decision to break up their review of vendors into special events and itinerant weekend types. Decker said the issue of vendors is set for a study session before proposed ordinances go back on the regular council agenda.

Dutton said personally he loves hot dogs and would like to see cart vendors on every other corner, "but that's just where I came from," he said.

## Condon enters not guilty plea

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A not guilty plea was entered Monday for a former Ruidoso cop that the district attorney said had defrauded the village of \$8,177.97.

Christopher "Corky" Condon was charged on Dec. 14 with four felony counts of fraud and two counts of forgery.

Condon was accused of impersonating a brigadier general in the Army Reserves and receiving village pay for training time off.

The not guilty plea to the charges was entered in Magistrate Court at Ruidoso by attorney Gary Mitchell.

The court filing also waived a first appearance by Condon that had been

scheduled for Monday.

In a notice of discovery demand, Mitchell has requested a number documents and possible materials gathered during the investigation. Those include requests for statements made by witnesses, including tape recordings. Condon had been interviewed on Nov. 17 by an FBI special agent, according to the district attorney's office.

The discovery notice seeks all police reports, notes from police officers, supplemental reports and a complete disclosure of all evidence obtained by investigators and the district attorney's office.

A written list of the names and addresses of all witnesses that the prosecutor intends to call at trial, including any

records of prior convictions of witnesses, has been requested. A list of all the physical evidence in the case is also being sought.

After his arrest on Dec. 14, Condon was released on an unsecured appearance bond of \$100,000 with a requirement of electronic monitoring. He was also ordered to not leave Lincoln County, though a medical furlough could be granted through his attorney and the district attorney.

Condon had been with the Ruidoso Police Department for nearly 10 years and had reached the rank of corporal. Since 2005 he had been assigned to the Ruidoso Municipal School District as a school resource officer.

## County wants more assurance on towers

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Lincoln County commissioners are considering asking cellular tower owners for proof of periodic inspections of the structures.

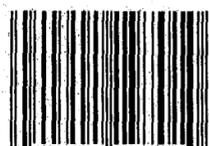
During a discussion of a special use permit to add more dishes to an existing tower on U.S. 70, Commissioner Don Williams asked if any authority existed for the commission to require periodic inspections of all towers. He noted that during a recent storm that brought strong winds, a local tower blew down on Buck Mountain and other instances were reported in the state.

Mel Patterson from the Center for Municipal

Solutions, a county consultant on cellular towers, said it would be difficult and the best approach might be to simply ask for copies of a company's periodic inspections every three to five years to comply with industry standards. The major burden would be on the county to track when those reports are due, he said.

New towers or towers that are physically altered would fall under the county's tower ordinance and final inspections are required to ensure they are built to specifications, he said. Company technicians also usually go up to towers on a regular basis to check for frayed wires and other

See CELL, page 8A



**Sonic booms**

Sonic booms from Holloman Air Force training flights could occur over the Ruidoso area today between 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. No flights are scheduled from Dec. 24-27.

Schedules are subject to change.

**Food drive**

The Annual Food Drive of First Savings Bank-Ruidoso to benefit The Nest is underway for the third year. Donate any non-perishable food items at the bank, 2713 Sudderth Drive, until Christmas Eve.

For more information, contact First Savings Bank staff at 257-7170.

**Holiday closures**

**• Hubbard Museum**

The Hubbard Museum of the American West will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24th and 25th, for the holiday season.

"We apologize for any inconvenience to our patrons," said Jay Smith, Director of the Museum, "We will be open on New Year's Eve through the afternoon, and all day on New Year's Day. We look

forward to serving our patrons over the next few weeks, and we wish everyone a joyous holiday season."

The Hubbard Museum of the American West is located at 841 Highway 70 West, and is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission to the Museum is \$6 for adults, and reduced admission is available for senior citizens, military personnel, and youth. The Web site is [www.hubbardmuseum.org](http://www.hubbardmuseum.org).

**• Ruidoso library**

The Ruidoso Public Library will be closed for the holidays, from Dec. 24-27. Next week, the library will be closed on Jan. 1, 2010.

The Ruidoso Public Library normally has hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Friday hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday the library is open between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For information call 258-3704.

**• Gamblers Anon**

Because of the holidays, the Gamblers Anonymous meetings for Thursday and for Dec. 31 are canceled. Anyone in a crisis may call Mike at 575-682-6200 or 575-430-4596.

**• ENMU-Ruidoso**

ENMU-Ruidoso campus will be closed for the Winter Holiday beginning Dec. 23 and will reopen Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.

Spring semester registration is now open through Jan. 25. Classes begin Tuesday, January 19.

**• Alto Lakes district**

The Alto Lakes Water and Sanitation District Waste Convenience Center will be closed on Friday

Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday to enable Greentree employees to spend Christmas with their families.

The Convenience Center will be open on a special occasion basis on Thursday, Dec. 24, for normal operating hours to serve Alto customers. Following closure on the 25th, the Collection Center will reopen on Saturday, Dec. 26, for regular operating hours.

The Greentree Solid Waste Authority wishes all Alto resident customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year!

For more information on the Alto collection site operation, contact the Solid Waste Authority office at 378-4697, or via email at [lcswa@valornet.com](mailto:lcswa@valornet.com).

**• Ruidoso council**

The regular meeting of the Ruidoso Village Council Dec. 29, is canceled. Monthly meetings occur at 4:30 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesdays and are open to the public at the Village Administration Center, 313 Cree Meadows Dr.

The next regular meet is set for Jan. 12, 2010.

**• Forest offices**

The Lincoln National Forest Supervisor's Office in Alamogordo, the Smokey Bear Ranger District in Ruidoso, the Sacramento Ranger District Office in Cloudcroft and the Guadalupe Ranger District Office in Carlsbad will close early Christmas Eve.

All Lincoln National Forest Offices will close at 11:30 a.m., Dec. 24, and reopen on Monday, Dec. 28.

Christmas Tree permits will be available for purchase at all Lincoln National Forest Offices through



11:30 a.m., Dec. 24.

For more information on the Lincoln National Forest and its District Offices, visit [www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln).

**• Government**

City Hall in Ruidoso Downs will be closed both Dec. 24 and 25. The doors will also be locked on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

At Ruidoso, village offices will be vacant on Dec. 24 and 25, as well as Jan. 1.

Post offices in the area will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. Regular hours are scheduled for both eves and the Saturdays after each holiday.

The Lincoln County courthouse in Carrizozo will take Dec. 25 and 26 off, along with New Year's Day.

State offices, like the Environment Department and public health offices in Ruidoso, will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25, as well as on Jan. 1. Dec. 24 is the first required furlough day for state employees to reduce state government spending.

EMS services are unaffected by the holidays.

**• Banks**

Financial institutions will be closed on Christmas and New Year's days.

**• Trash pickup**

Garbage collection by



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

A worker with Jack Wayne Construction cuts into the curb at the entrance to the Ruidoso Convention Center to begin changes to accommodate visitors with disabilities. Other crews (top photo) worked on the hallways and meeting rooms one through three as part of a renovation slated to cost \$1.4 million when finished and to feature a large fireplace in the center lobby. Village councilors hope the spruced up and more modern center will draw more conventions and other events.

the Ruidoso Solid Waste Department will take place on Christmas and New Year's Day. But the solid waste office will be closed.

Around the rest of Lincoln County, the Greentree Solid Waste Authority yard will be closed Dec. 24

and 25. All routes will be picked up on Dec. 24, with dumpster routes resuming on Monday, Dec. 28.

The yard will also be closed on Jan. 1 All trash pick-up routes will be on their normal schedule next week.

257-9444  
257-2038

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1:35 4:25 7:05 9:40

AVATAR (PG-13)  
1:30 5:00 8:30

PRINCESS AND THE FROG (PG)  
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

THESE TIMES ARE GOOD FOR WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

# City Bank NEW MEXICO

MEMBER FDIC

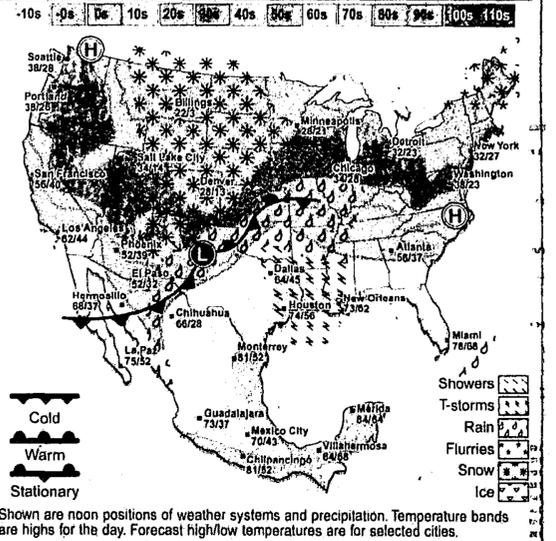
4 Locations to Serve You - Call 575 258-BANK

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso AccuWeather.com

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>RealFeel</b> 25°	<b>RealFeel</b> 24°	<b>RealFeel</b> 30°	<b>RealFeel</b> 36°	<b>RealFeel</b> 42°	<b>RealFeel</b> 42°	<b>RealFeel</b> 50°
<b>Humidity</b> 59%	<b>Humidity</b> 56%	<b>Humidity</b> 38%	<b>Humidity</b> 35%	<b>Humidity</b> 36%	<b>Humidity</b> 53%	<b>Humidity</b> 56%
Mostly cloudy, showers around, colder	Mostly sunny and breezy	Mostly sunny and very cold	Cold with a full day of sunshine	Sunshine and patchy clouds	Some sun	Cold with partial sunshine
Wind: W 12-25 mph	Wind: WNW 10-20 mph	Wind: NW 8-16 mph	Wind: NW 6-12 mph	Wind: SSE 6-12 mph	Wind: SW 7-14 mph	Wind: SW 3-6 mph

RealFeel Temperature™ is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highs for the day.

National Forecast for Dec. 23, 2009



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are for selected cities.

Regional Cities Almanac

Forecast and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2009

**Almanac**

**Ruidoso**  
Statistics through Monday

**Temperature:**  
High/low ..... 48°/30°  
Normal high ..... 50°  
Normal low ..... 19°  
Record high ..... 67° (1973)  
Record low ..... -5° (1977)

**Precipitation:**  
Monday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 0.41"  
Normal month to date ..... 1.13"  
Year to date ..... 16.63"  
Normal year to date ..... 22.16"

**Pollen:**  
Grass ..... Absent  
Trees ..... Absent  
Weeds ..... Absent  
Mold ..... Low  
Predominant ..... Ascospores

Source: Eddie L. Garries, MD of the Allergy & Asthma Clinic

**Alamogordo**  
Statistics through Monday

**Temperature:**  
High/low yesterday ..... 58°/25°  
Normal high ..... 55°  
Normal low ..... 28°  
Record high ..... 70° (1981)  
Record low ..... 10° (1973)

**Precipitation:**  
Monday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 0.84"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.69"  
Year to date ..... 11.16"  
Normal year to date ..... 12.90"

**Weather Trivia™:**  
Q: Thunderstorms are least likely to occur in which month in the U.S.?

**Sun and Moon** Moon Phases

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 7:03 a.m./5:01 p.m. Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset 11:12 a.m./11:43 p.m.

**Extremes**

Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)  
High: 76° in Harlingen, TX  
Low: -14° in Roosevelt, UT

Monday's World High/Low:  
High: 110° in Upington, South Africa  
Low: -56° in Shologonys, Russia

Dec 24 Dec 31 Jan 7 Jan 15

National Cities			Regional Cities		
City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W	City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W
Abilene	66/39/sn	54/27/pc	Albuquerque	40/26/sh	41/19/pc
Anchorage	29/23/sn	31/21/sn	Artesia	52/35/sh	52/26/pc
Allahta	56/37/pc	53/45/r	Chama	34/12/sn	29/8/pc
Austin	70/47/pc	70/35/s	Clayton	32/19/sn	29/11/pc
Baltimore	34/18/s	34/27/pc	Cloudcroft	29/17/sf	34/10/pc
Boston	30/27/sf	37/30/c	Farmington	38/21/sn	33/11/s
Chicago	34/28/sn	40/35/r	Hobbs	51/31/sh	51/23/s
Dallas	64/45/t	52/31/c	Los Alamos	34/16/sf	31/9/c
Denver	28/13/sn	20/5/s	Portales	44/26/sh	46/20/pc
Des Moines	34/31/sn	40/27/r	Raton	34/18/sn	29/5/c
Detroit	32/23/pc	35/29/c	Red River	32/7/sn	23/5/c
El Paso	52/32/sh	54/29/s	Ruidoso	38/25/sh	34/20/s
Las Vegas	54/33/s	53/31/s	Santa Fe	38/21/sn	32/10/c
Los Angeles	62/44/s	66/44/s	Silver City	45/27/sh	48/23/s
Minneapolis	28/21/sn	32/24/sn	Taos	32/19/sn	30/7/c
New Orleans	73/62/c	71/49/t			
New York City	32/27/s	38/30/pc			
Philadelphia	29/20/s	34/29/pc			
Phoenix	52/39/s	61/38/s			
Reno	34/13/s	36/15/s			
San Francisco	56/40/s	57/43/s			
San Diego	61/45/s	63/45/s			
Seattle	38/28/s	40/29/pc			
Tucson	53/31/pc	56/32/s			
Tulsa, OK	57/42/r	43/28/c			
Wash., DC	38/23/r	34/25/pc			
Wichita	46/32/r	35/17/s			
Yuma	62/43/s	63/41/s			

**Mexican Cities**

City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W
Acapulco	88/70/s	88/69/s
Cancun	81/64/s	84/66/pc
Chihuahua	66/28/pc	61/30/s
Ciudad Juárez	52/32/sh	54/28/s
Leon	72/37/s	75/40/pc
México, DF	70/43/pc	73/41/pc
Monterrey	81/52/pc	74/45/s
Morelia	75/43/s	75/45/pc
Oaxaca	81/50/s	85/52/s
Pto. Penasco	61/43/s	63/37/pc
Tijuana	61/37/s	66/39/s

W-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, h-ice.



## THE 'PAINTED TORNADO'

*Editor's note: Ruidoso photographer David Tremblay was invited to photograph the "Painted Tornado" used for training by the German Air Force at Holloman Air Force Base.*

*In his words:*

At the invitation of Captain Alex Hohloch for the German Air Force, Deedee and I had a wonderful time at Holloman AFB today, invited to photograph their "Painted Tornado."

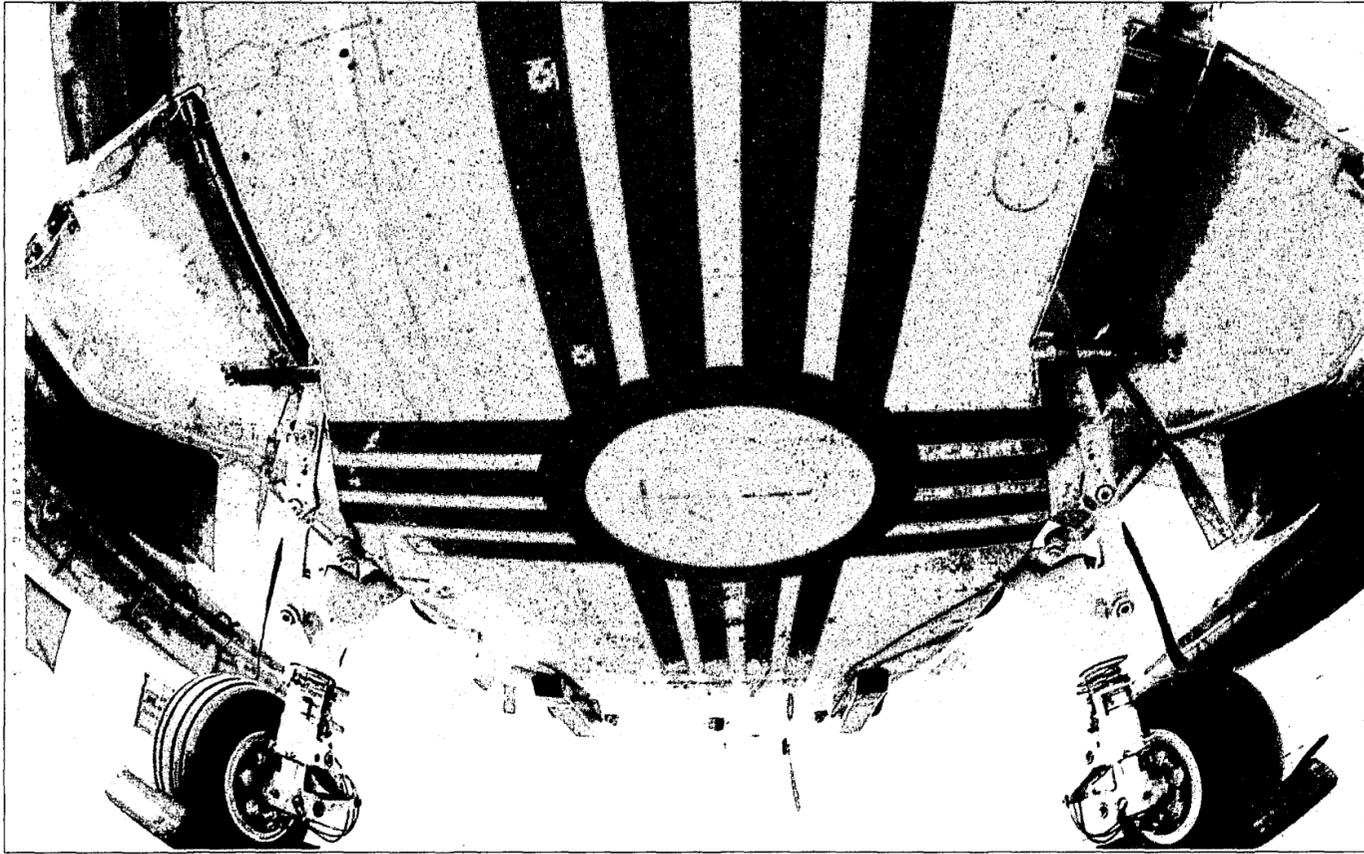
A one-on-one guided tour through the facilities and flight line for the German Air Force.

The Tornado aircraft is painted to reflect 55,555 hours of flight training conducted at Holloman since 1996.

The top of the aircraft is also painted but I was unable to get up high enough to photograph that part so arrangements have been made for next year to shoot that, oh boy!

Check out these captures, defiantly a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing for us, but then maybe not!

Still Smiling,  
Dave



*It's nice to know that someone is close by.*

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Top: Alex Hohloch and the "Painted Tornado."

Inset decal: 55,555 hours of training.

Middle: Captain Alexander Hohloch, a training pilot for the German Air Force, inspects flight equipment.

Bottom: The Tornado from underneath, with the New Mexico "Zia," photographed with a "fish-eye" lens.

COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

**GroundsKeeping & Caretaking**  
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Professional Service      References Available

575-937-6658

**Rose Clinic -Capitan**

*The Rose Clinic is leased and managed by Lincoln County Medical Center*

A familiar face is providing Family Medicine services at our Rose Clinic in Capitan.

Lincoln County Medical Center welcomes Marilyn Nishitani, DNP-BC, to our growing family of providers. Prior to joining the Rose Clinic in Capitan, Ms. Nishitani worked in Lincoln County for more than 10 years as a family nurse practitioner for the Immediate Care Clinic, Family Practice Associates and Ruidoso Family Medical Group. She has also been the medical director for Camp Sierra Blanca and the Lincoln County Detention Center. She is now accepting new and existing patients at the Rose Clinic in Capitan.

Ms. Nishitani has worked in health care since 1965 and brings a wealth of experience as a family nurse practitioner. She received her Bachelor of Science nursing degree from the University of Washington in Tacoma and her Master's of Science nursing degree and a nurse practitioner certificate from West Texas A & M University at Canyon, Texas. Ms. Nishitani received her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professionals in Provo, Utah.

To schedule an appointment at the Rose Clinic, please call (575) 354-0057. The Rose Clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Friday hours are from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday

## RUIDOSO NEWS

Lisa Morales, publisher

Marty Racine, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper Published every Wednesday and Friday

### OUR OPINION

## Irish Pub sounds like a plan

Midtown needs more entertainment options

There is a move afoot, in discussions about the Ruidoso Comprehensive Plan, to establish an "entertainment district" through much of Midtown.

Naturally, we support such a district, especially if it allows later hours for live music and encourages more nightlife and pedestrian traffic in the area.

An entertainment district, however, is only as good as the establishments of which it is comprised - bars, clubs, cafes, restaurants and the like.

Toward that end, count us in for supporting an Irish pub on Sudderth that would occupy the site of the former Pasta Cafe. Such a pub would offer

an atmosphere unique to Ruidoso and would probably strike a balance between family-friendly fun and a good bar to appreciate the brewer's art.

Just when the applicants and a neighboring business seemed to be forging a consensus on a site plan, things began to unravel. The height of the building, said to be attractive, remains a sticking point.

We encourage those parties, along with the Planning & Zoning Commission and Village Council, to press for an agreement that would preserve the charm of Midtown while expanding entertainment options for our emerging economy.

## Claustrophobic?

### You must be a New Mexican

This week we take a break from politics, pay-to-play and pocketbook issues to celebrate all things New Mexican.

With a tip of the hat to comedian Jeff Foxworthy...

If your good jeans are the ones you wear to church, funerals or the Santa Fe Opera, you must be a New Mexican.

If linguists, anthropologists and historians appear at the door to visit with grandpa or grandma, you must be a New Mexican.

If you've ever voted for a politician named Jack Daniels, Johnnie Walker or Jose Cuervo, you're definitely a New Mexican.

If your mama said you'd never find a husband if you didn't learn to make tortillas, you could be a New Mexican.

If you live near any alien landing sites, you might be a New Mexican. But then again, maybe you're just passing as a New Mexican.

If you wear shorts all year long, even when it's cold, you could be a New Mexican.

If your yard art is a bathtub shrine, a wagon wheel, a mine car, farm implements or a pump, you might be a New Mexican. If it's a chainsaw bear, you must live in Ruidoso.

If you don't own a tie, or the one tie you own is parked on a door knob in the office - in case of surprise visits by the boss - you might be a New Mexican. If you think the only proper neckwear is a bolo tie, you're a New Mexican.

If you're female and you can back up a truck with a horse trailer hitched up, if you can drive a tractor or a backhoe, you must be a New Mexican. If you can do all that with perfect hair and makeup, you live on the East Side.

If you've had to take out a second mortgage to finance your daughter's quinceañera, you might be a New Mexican.

If you think duct tape is for dummies because you actually know how to fix things, you might be a New Mexican.

If you've ever competed in a lizard race, a duck race or a cow chip throwing contest, you might be a New Mexican.

If your bank account is hanging around your neck in turquoise jewelry, if the only jewelry you own is turquoise, you could be a New Mexican.

If you've ever spent \$40 to send \$10 worth of chile and pinto beans to a loved one overseas, you must be a New Mexican.

If you don't know anybody named Bubba but lots of guys named Chuy, you might be a New Mexican.

If you like to see horizons and find thick stands of trees claustrophobic, you might be a New Mexican.

If your landscaping includes a toilet planter or two, you must live in Socorro.

If you've ever incorporated bed springs, pallets, lumber yard slash or corrugated steel into a fence, you must be a New Mexican.

If you have four cars in the driveway, and at least one is driveable, you must be a New Mexican.

If you use a drill bit for a door stop, you must live in Hobbs. Or Farmington.

If your ancestors have been here for 200 years and your neighbors still think you're a newcomer, you must be a New Mexican.

If you can stand in the checkout line at the grocery store and hear at least three languages, you might be a New Mexican. If you can hear four languages, you must live in Gallup.

If you throw a casual family gathering and 45 people show up, and most of them live within a few miles, you must be a New Mexican.

If your lawn furniture includes a cable spool or car seats, you could be a New Mexican.

If you've made a tumbleweed snowman or decorated the cholla and cactus in your yard, you could be a New Mexican.

Happy Holidays, readers!  
© New Mexico News Services



SHERRY ROBINSON

ALL SHE WROTE



When we were kids, a fog, a rain or a snowstorm was just weather. We took it all in stride. There were no hysterical weather men to scare us silly. We now have political pundits who behave the same way.

### YOUR OPINION

## Nature's dose of reality

To the editor:

**WE WERE REMINDED** just a few days ago that we are all at the mercy of the wind. At 1:30 last night I was reminded again.

Lacking the gale force of a few days ago, it was a male wind all the same, not the gentle pervasive female wind that my friend Colin speaks of but rather the brutal, penetrating masculine wind, coming and going as it will. I woke to the smell of smoke in spite of closing my bedroom door against the heat of the wood stove, rose to see what the problem was and was greeted by a cloud of smoke.

It came from that rare north wind that in spite of the directional cap plunged down the stove pipe and reversed its flow. With only one thing to do, I opened the door, windows and stove and threw out the fat pine log I had chosen for the night, doused it with a bucket of water and then stood out in the wind looking at the night sky - all that, mind you, in my bathrobe.

In spite of the inconvenience, I was rewarded for my efforts; the moonless night sky was filled with the brilliant bright sparkle of stars, and I watched as one fell, and then another. I was quickly reminded of earlier in the evening when my friend had

seen one as I dropped him off, and I had spied another. It had been a special moment for me as I nearly declined the wish, thinking I needed nothing more at this moment than perhaps just a little more love in my life, and thought about just how fortunate I am.

I again stood there in the cold late night wind and watched as a barrage of stars fell from the sky, a meteor storm I am sure; I reflected on that moment and watched all the other potential wishes as they flew through the sky and affirmed all of the blessings in my life.

Wishes for my sons and daughter yes, but requiring none of my own!

Finally I gave in to the cold, closed the windows and door, banked the coals in the stove and returned to bed.

We are all captives of nature; when circumstances such as mine push you outside it is easy to be reminded of that. It is much a part of the reason that I live as I do, much as our ancestors once did, always at her mercy, and so close to the earth, for it continually humbles me and keeps me in place.

The wind and the cold remind me of that, as does the bringing of the water - my windmill pro-

viding for that source - and I am always grateful.

With just a strong gust, the wind can fill my house with smoke, or worse, and the lack of it controls my water. Our ancestors respected this, as they did all of our resources, and lived their lives accordingly. In these modern times most of us are far removed from that and take these things for granted.

The recent winds may well be a reminder for us all, that we are still at the mercy of nature, subject to her wrath and should appreciate it; just as the economy has caused us to tighten our belts and brings us all a little closer to reality, maybe it is time for all of us to consider that.

On that same note, our county commissioners are once more revisiting the County Subdivision Ordinance that will guide all new development. The economy has done what they could not and momentarily slowed the rapid growth in our area.

I will participate in every way I can; I would ask all of you to do the same. This isn't just about Lincoln County friends, it's about respecting our natural resources and all that this land provides for us; this is all about our future!

Cathie Eisen  
Nogal

## The arts are where we set aside differences

To the editor:

**I AM SO PLEASED** and proud of our community for creating and supporting the Arts this holiday season.

In the performing arts, The Lincoln County Community Theatre did an excellent job entertaining old and young with the fascinating favorite, *A Christmas Story*.

*A Christmas Memory*, a touching story directed by Paul Adamian (which can still be seen at Ruidoso High School and Atticus), showcases the local talent of Lyn Kidder and Kevin McDonald.

Thanks to the Ruidoso Dance

Ensemble for another wonderful performance of *The Nutcracker*. Debra and her company give the families of this area a great opportunity by producing such a magnificent, vibrant and professional show.

I'd also like to thank area businesses such as Mountain Annie's, Landlocked, Casa Blanca, Billy's Sports Bar, Win Place & Show, Atticus, Dreamcatcher and those I forgot to mention for hosting opportunities that employ local musicians and bring the joy of entertainment to the area.

And finally, thanks to community members and visitors who

support the arts by attending activities, supporting businesses that employ local musicians and artists, and donate time and money to keep the arts alive.

A specific thank you to the Village of Ruidoso for supporting the arts council for another year. The arts are not always well funded, but life wouldn't be much fun without them.

The arts are often the place where humanity sets aside its differences and shares a common ground. Thanks, everyone, for keeping culture alive!

Andrea Reed  
Dance/Gallery  
Ruidoso

## OUR RIGHT TO KNOW

### The First Amendment

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

### Open Meetings

In recognition of the fact that a representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be public policy of this state that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employees who represent them. The formation of public policy or the conduct of business by vote shall not be conducted in closed meetings.

All meetings of any public body except the legislature and the courts shall be public meetings, and all persons so desiring shall be permitted to attend and listen to the deliberations and proceedings ...

NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1

# Code enforcement help needed – still

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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The song sounded familiar. Ruidoso's code enforcement officer Kalama Davis needs help. Planning and Zoning commissioners began singing that tune 12 months ago.

During a discussion after regular business last week, Commissioner Bill Hirschfeld asked about a car parked in a private driveway off Mechem Drive that "finally was tagged."

"I thought there might be a dead body in it," he told Village Planning Director Bob Decker.

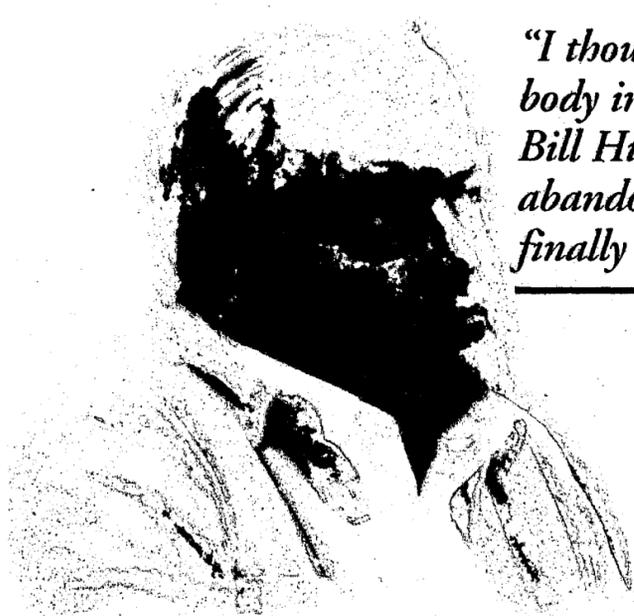
Davis' job entails checking the village for code violations of all types and he also helps animal control when needed, Decker said.

"Doesn't he have enough to do?" Hirschfeld asked. "Should he be doing that?"

Decker reminded commissioners that Davis works under the police department and no longer is supervised by the planning and building divisions. He comes to Decker for interpretations of ordinance language, but his work assignments originate with the police.

Commissioners said they are seeing sign code violations spread throughout the village. One restaurant started with a sign on a pole, then added a banner and finally, an electric sign.

Decker said electric or movable letter signs are



*"I thought there might be a dead body in it," P&Z Commissioner Bill Hirschfeld said about an abandoned vehicle that was finally tagged.*

allowed in the code, but Hirschfeld said he recalled the village banned them specifically. Decker was asked to check the code and report back.

Code allows 30 percent of the signage for a business to be temporary, but there is a two-week time limit for banners, which also require a permit, Decker said.

"Some banners have been up for two years," said Commissioner Phillis Barnett.

Commissioner Ray Alborn said another violation also popped up on Sudderth Drive near the Gazebo shopping center.

"What about the guy parking with a sign advertising (a business across

the street)? We went through that with the taco guy and now I see this. We need consistency."

Decker said code enforcement is an area of frustration, because Davis works alone. "We can't run him 24 hours and on weekends," he said. "We do need additional help and we are looking for others in the village to tap into, who could do this."

Hirschfeld said at the first of the year, commissioners were told Davis might receive some help. Chairman Glen Barrow jumped in to remind Hirschfeld that Decker has no power to hire or assign help. "He can't do anything," Barrow said.

"Do we need to talk to

the (village) council or the police chief?" Hirschfeld asked. "Does he need to be brought back under your wing?"

Decker said police officers can back up Davis, but they don't know the codes he enforces.

Alborn, who rode with Davis one day, said much of the official's time is swallowed in paperwork, writing up citations and reports. Some office help would relieve him of that time-consuming chore, he said.

Commissioner Don Dutton said computer software also is available that converts the spoken work into a written document that can be printed.

"What I see is someone

puts up a sign that is not legal and then someone else follows and the town gets full of that," Barnett said. She pointed to a former motel now being used to store life-size bronze statues of bear, horses, elk and other animals. "It's growing," she said. "There's more and more stuff."

## The Juárez look

"It looks like Juárez," two commissioners offered, referring to the open bazaars of the Mexican border town.

Commissioners agreed to review the village sign ordinance at their January meeting, although Barrow said he doesn't want the commission to waste time if the council has no intention of adopting any proposed changes. Several proposed amendments were sent to the council three years ago to implement the village Comprehensive Plan, but none were approved. Some problems, such as building height and proximity to Sudderth Drive in Midtown continue to present problems that the amendments

would have covered, commissioners said.

Mayor L. Ray Nunley told commissioners not to submit any more proposed ordinance changes until after revisions to the Comprehensive Plan are approved, which may occur in January. Then they need to draft ordinances that will implement the goals in the plan.

Commissioners tentatively agreed to continue with applications on the first Tuesday of the month and to use the third Tuesday for workshops or study sessions on relevant topics on a more routine basis. Hirschfeld suggested a return to two meetings a month, because he said having only one a month seemed to allow things to get lost or pushed aside, such as code issues in the Midtown Commercial 3 zoning district and designing a specific zoning district for the historic Upper Canyon area with its small riverside cabins mixed in with luxury homes.

Decker said village officials targeted action dates for certain topics for a two-year period.

"Let me get back to you to see the topics for early 2010 and to see if there are others you want to tackle," he told commissioners. One major issue will be finishing an update of village zoning maps to correctly reflect the existing zoning on all property, he said.

# Miller: Point person not needed for clean energy strategy

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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In trying to more clearly define the role of the Lincoln County Commission in creating a local clean energy economy, Jim Miller said the county doesn't need to hire a point person.

"In meeting with Chairman (Tom) Battin, I think we fairly nailed it down that the county doesn't need to hire an employee," the former university campus president from Ruidoso said during a commission meeting last week. "A number of individuals and groups are willing to lend some time. But each county department needs to get up to speed with this on how it affects them and the item should be on the agenda (of commission meetings) each month for updates."

He learned that morn-

ing funding for three solar energy projects proposed by schools in Carrizozo, Corona and at Ruidoso Middle School will be allocated by the New Mexico Public Education Department, not Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, Miller said.

"So we need to redirect our efforts to that department, because they will decide if the three schools get (the) projects," he said.

Battin asked if a letter would help and Miller said a letter from the commission directed to Education Secretary Veronica Garcia would be appropriate, as well as to the representative from District 8 of the state Education Commission, Vince Bergman from Roswell.

"We're south of Interstate-40 and most of the money goes north and to urban areas," Miller said.

"These three projects have technical merits and we certainly would like projects reviewed on the basis of merit and not if they are in Albuquerque or Santa Fe."

The review probably will occur in the next 60 days, he said. The projects must be running by December 2010.

"As I worked with them on the proposals, I encouraged them not to automatically choose (contractors) on the state contract for equipment, but to bid so local companies have a shot at the work and more of that money stays in the county," Miller said.

He said he thinks there are strong arguments for all three projects, because they illustrate three different approaches. Corona's solar system would produce more than 100 percent of the electricity the school

uses in a full year to handle 94 students and would have a huge impact, he said.

The criteria was very specific and schools were to have roofs less than five years old to match up with the warranty, Miller said. Because the roof was older in Carrizozo, the project would be ground-mounted. However, an existing solar system also was repaired and is being used again, which is good because state officials want to know what school districts already have done to advance clean energy, he said.

Workforce training also is important, he said. Ideally, one facility offering wind and solar energy vocational training for the five school districts in the county could be utilized. With no money for buildings, existing structures must be used, but fortu-

nately, public education will transport school-age children to a training spot at the state's expense, Miller said.

"So if we identified 15 to 20 kids to do wind farm welding in Carrizozo, the state would pay the cost," he said. "We have to be creative or go to the industry and say would you help with the equipment to train the workforce for wind industry?"

He's meeting with public and adult educators and will report back on that effort in March.

"Someone with a college group or Region IX has got to make it happen by August," he said. "They have got to start training now" to be ready for the wind farms as they are being erected and then operated.

In other issues, commis-

sioners: • awarded a bid to JRP Master Builders LLC of Ruidoso for \$197,238 to complete the Copper Ridge substation and emergency operations center. Three other companies bid in the \$300,000 range.

Commissioners questioned the significant difference and Stewart said when bidders find out what the county has budgeted, the bids often seem to mirror the available money. JRP has helped out a with some smaller projects at no cost and just completed the Arabela Fire Station at a considerably lower price.

• heard that the fire danger in the county is ranked as low by the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, and no new water rights transfer application have been filed with the State Engineer's Office.

# Hospital's budget request for indigent care to remain the same

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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The 2010 budget request for the Lincoln County Medical Center in Ruidoso to participate in a state program that reimburses for indigent and uncompensated care will remain at the current \$2,046,956 level.

Al Santos, administrator of the county hospital managed by Presbyterian Healthcare Services, told county commissioners Tuesday that the amount from the county will be paid in quarterly allotments of \$138,000 from revenue collected by a special property tax levy approved by voters.

Under the Sole Community Provider program, the hospital receives about three federal Medicaid dollars for every one local dol-

lar contributed. The program aims to help hospitals that are the only medical providers of that type of service in a community or county.

"The budget we are proposing is based on what we experienced the last fiscal year for the Sole Community Provider and supplemental payments through June 30, 2011," he said. "We are recommending keeping (the supplemental) budget at the 2009-2010 programmed level of \$632,877," which would represent a one-time levy funding match of \$170,877, he said.

"There could be as much as a 5 percent increase (in the supplemental), but we won't know that until May or June of next year. This is to ensure we at least request what we received

previously."

Commissioner Jackie Powell moved to approve, and the motion passed unanimously.

Earlier in the meeting, commissioners approved monthly claims to be filed under the program for the hospital. Out of 57 claims processed, 48 were recommended for approval for \$61,548.

"We heard this morning there was some decline in indigent care" claims on the county's medical indigent fund and from the hospital, Commission Chairman Tom Battin told Santos.

The administrator said he attributed some of the decline to the hospital being more aggressive in collecting bills and trying to partner patients with the programs to which they are entitled.

"I think it will be incumbent on us in the next few years to attempt to collect and to reduce bad debt in indigent care," Santos said. Some of the decline also may be in line with annual trends, he added. November traditionally is a slower month.

"We're seeing things pick up in December and expect that to be true through March, because of (Swine flu-H1N1) cases," he said.

Working with staff, he tried a fast track in the emergency room to give better access for non-emergency cases by directing them to a nurse practitioner and sending the true emergencies to the ER physician. He intends to implement that system again after Christmas and through New Year's and for

the remainder of the next fiscal year, Santos said. The nurse practitioner who worked over the Thanksgiving holiday is from Las Vegas and liked it so well here she asked for a permanent position, he said.

He anticipates reductions in reimbursements for some services and is working to improve access for all patients and the means of reimbursement, he said.

Battin asked about staffing at the hospital.

Santos said he recently added a second internist Dr. Alfred Varela. Marilyn Nishitani, a nurse practitioner, is handling the rural health clinic in Capitan. He is actively recruiting for the Carrizozo Rural Health Clinic and has a good candidate after rejecting four other possi-

bilities who didn't seem like a good fit for the job. It's harder to find clinic workers than for the hospital and emergency room, he said.

Two doctors were recruited for the emergency room and he hopes to have a formal announcement in January, he said.

"Then we will have four permanent staff with a floater."

"We hope to have two additional physical therapists in a February-to-March time frame to accommodate the growing demand," Santos said. "Two other young providers expressed interest in relocating, (obstetrics/gynecology and in anesthesiology)." The couple has family ties in Ruidoso and are building a home. They could possibly begin in September.

# EDUCATION

## RHS initiative aimed at teaching methods

JIM KALVELAGE  
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Teachers at Ruidoso High School are looking at a collaborative way to help students learn.

What is called a Professional Learning Community (PLC) is being assembled at the high school.

The initiative follows a September visit to a Boston area school by high school principal Stan Lyons and activities director David Lackey.

Brockton High School, with a staff of 300, is considered a model PLC school.

And a team from the high school attended a PLC conference in Albuquerque in September.

Lyons told the Ruidoso Education Board earlier this month that teachers need time to meet and talk.

"I cannot go over to my colleague and say, 'Look, I'm really having trouble

teaching this algebra lesson and you seem to be swimming through it. What are you doing? How come the kids like it in your class and they hate coming to mine?' Just those little conversations. There really is a tremendous need to de-isolate our staff to share our experiences," said Lyons.

"But what about before school? What about after school?" asked board president Susan Lutterman. "What about walking across the hall and saying 'I'm having trouble with this.'"

Lyons said it's not an issue of being unable to meet before or after classes, but a situation of teachers not being "jazzed enough."

"Why aren't we jazzed about it?" said Lyons. "My guess is we're not jazzed because nobody actually wanted my opinion. How am I an important part of this organization? The Professional Learning

Community has to start somewhere. And it's a little bit of time that we're carving out on our Wednesdays."

Lyons called it "touch and go" trying to make PLC work. He notes some students have discovered that classes on Wednesdays start 35 minutes later.

He said teachers have been asked to come to school a little earlier as well.

"And it's that team time that is something to build on," said Lyons.

The principal noted ninth grade students are asked to take seven classes per day, five of the classes intense, each with a half an hour of homework.

"Do the math," Lyons told the education board. "There's no family time," for teachers.

"You have to build that up," said board member Kerry Gladden Eastep. "And then all of the sudden one day you're sitting there

and you like 'wow' everybody is going."

Lyons said it is gradual and about consistency. He said there are two different types of teams that meet. One section is made up of interdisciplinary groups and the other department teams.

"We're committed to this," said Lyons. "I think we'll have more and more enthusiastic buy-in. And we have quite a bit of enthusiastic buy-in right now."

"We haven't lost our focus. It's really about helping students learn and grow."

Working in small groups, such as just the math department, was suggested by board Vice President Frank Sayer. Lyons said that is the process.

"Having that valued voice the staff is, I think, overall pretty excited," said Lyons.

"On the other side of the



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso School Board president Susan Lutterman listens to plans aimed at improving learning at Ruidoso High School.

coin some are a little skeptical that it's not really valued. You say you're going to listen to me, but are you really? So it's going to take some time."

## Profiles of senior citizens— John Lindblom

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Students in the freshman English class at ENMU-Ruidoso have written profiles on seniors in the community. The students generated their own questions and contacted a person for an interview from the Mescalero Care Center, the Senior Center in Ruidoso, and from the Sacramento Mountain group.

LUCKY SHAW  
For the Ruidoso News

In December 1942, a shipbuilder and his wife gave birth to their first child in the town of Weymouth, Mass.

They gave him the first name John. The last name he inherited was Lindblom, which is derived from Swedish decent.

Mr. Lindblom was born into a typical northeastern family. His father was a hard working, middle class man who was married to a very talented homemaker.

His parents raised him and his brother with both love and discipline.

Mr. Lindblom still speaks of his parents with loving memories showing in his eyes. "They're my mom and dad," he said.

The first thing I was asked to do upon our greeting was to refer to Mr. Lindblom herein after as simply "John."

This order was delivered with a welcoming smile and a firm handshake.

"Are you sure you want to interview me?" he asked with a modest yet sheepish grin.

My response was "Yes, sir, Mr. Lindblom."

He replied "OK, but call me John."

John grew up with a true love of sports. As a youth he excelled as an athlete. He competed in basketball, football, hockey, and baseball.

"Sports played an important role in a young man's life back then," he said proudly.

Being within such close proximity to the Boston Red Sox Fenway Park, baseball was an easy pick as his favorite form of competition.

He spoke fondly of the ability to witness "the greats" play ball. Ted Williams, Warren Spahn, Joe Dimaggio, Mickey Mantle and many others were highlighted with splendid remembrance.

"Ted had a truly sweet swing. You should have seen him."

John still enjoys viewing

sports, and is always willing to chat about last night's game.

John joined the U.S. Navy after a brief stint at the University of Massachusetts. I asked him what led him to leave school.

"Simple," he smirked again. "Puberty."

With a bashful chuckle, I continued to ask him questions.

While in the Navy, he was able to utilize both his mental ability and his physical prowess to reach the highly respected position of a U.D.T., under water demolition specialist.

John served three consecutive tours in Vietnam. Thirty-nine months in total were spent in combat. The only Vietnam story shared with me was that he discovered golf over there.

In 1968, he swung his first club at a naval air station in the Philippines. He was hooked.

In 1988, John Lindblom

was working in the oil-field outside of Refugio, Texas.

On Labor Day there was a horrible and near fatal accident. While John and several other co-workers were taking a break in a specially designed 'secure room,' there was an explosion.

"That natural gas has no smell ya' know," he commented with a subtle whisper. Somehow natural gas leaked into the confines of their lounge.

John and his fellow employees all escaped death. John, however, suffered severe burns. As a result of his burns, John's skin has been graphed from waist to neck in multiple reconstruction surgeries.

Due to the degree of the burns, he has lost 100 percent of his sweat glands in the areas affected. The lack of sweat glands leaves him at an extremely high risk of heat stroke. The doctors

also found fit to explain to him that he would never golf again.

I am happy to report that Mr. John Lindblom currently holds a respectable 16 handicap. This is up from seven before the accident. I am also excited to say that he plays 18 holes or more anywhere between four and five days a week. He says that the only true inconvenience is the fact that he has been forced to wear two golf gloves on each hand.

Ruidoso's climate is best suited for John and his heat stroke concerns. John and Shelly, his wife of 17 years, moved to Ruidoso in 1993. John loves our small village.

"It's not just the beautiful weather, but also the people. The more people I meet the happier I am. We just have fun here. There is no real stress in Ruidoso," said Mr. John Lindblom with a hole-in-one glow.

## Ruidoso Ford to sponsor FFA scholarship

Ruidoso Ford-Lincoln Mercury has joined with Ford Motor Company in its ongoing commitment to the National FFA.

Ruidoso Ford-Lincoln Mercury is sponsoring the Built Ford Tough collegiate scholarship program for

Ruidoso High School, Capitán High School, Carrizozo High School, Corona High School, Hondo Valley High School and Mescalero Apache High School.

For the 2009-10 school year, one local student will get the assistance to attend

the college of their choice.

"We are pleased to be able to support the local chapter and Ford Motor Company in its strong commitment to the National FFA," said Kent King, business manager at Ruidoso Ford-Lincoln Mercury. "All our previous scholarship recipients tell us how grateful they are for the finance support and how the FFA experience has changed their lives."

Ford has committed to a 13th year of the Built Ford Tough - FFA collegiate scholarship program, which will award \$1,000 scholarships to hundreds of

FFA members, each co-sponsored by Ford dealers like Ruidoso Ford-Lincoln Mercury. The program has awarded almost \$5.6 million in scholarships to FFA members.

To be eligible, FFA members must submit an online 2010 scholarship application at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) and take the required signature page to Ruidoso Ford-Lincoln Mercury for the dealer endorsement and official dealer code. That provides FFA members the opportunity to meet and thank the dealer for their support of continuing education.

**Sonic will be open Christmas Day 12PM-10PM!**

**\$7.99 Brown Bag Special**

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Dec 24th 5PM

Dress Casual

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Keepin' it Simple, Keepin' it Real!

PCS - Professional Crematory & Direct Disposition Services, LLC

Happy Holidays!

... Wishing you a Safe & Joyous Holiday Season ~

- Ruidoso village manager's report -

# Water 'triggers' verge upon stricter conservation efforts

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Water storage in Grindstone Lake Reservoir sits just above the trigger point of meeting one of the conditions required to send Ruidoso into a higher phase of conservation restrictions.

The water level is 16 feet below the spillway, a drop of 2.4 feet since Oct. 5. The trigger point is below 16 feet.

The second condition already met is the flow on Eagle Creek and its wells below 1,500 gallons per minute. The creek is not running and the wells are flowing at 650 gpm compared to 40 gpm in October.

The village's 5 million-gallon storage tanks also are down from 52 feet in October to 51 feet as of Dec. 1, and the 3 million-gallon tank is down to 47 feet from 50 feet.

But until a third condition is met, the village will remain in Phase 2, implemented Sept. 21. The other triggers are Alto Lake below the spillway. It sits at two feet from the spillway; 5 million-gallon tanks below 83 percent capacity at 46 feet for more than 24 hours. They now are at 92 percent.

Rules for Phase 2, Moderate Conditions, are:

- no outdoor watering is allowed between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

- customers are allowed to wash their vehicles and to water lawns, landscaping, etc. two days per week with sprinklers. Those with even addresses may do so on Tuesday and Saturday, those with odd number addresses on Wednesday and Sunday.

- customers are encouraged to limit their watering to two hours daily, per area to be watered.

- both even and odd addresses may hand water or drip irrigate plants, flowers and tree wells any day of the week. Customers using this provision are encouraged to water not more than one hour, per day, per area to be watered.

- plants, flowers and tree wells may be watered by the use of hand held buckets or sprinkler cans that have been filled from hose bibs or interior faucets every day of the week.

- watering the soccer fields pursuant to the lease between the Village of Ruidoso and the Ruidoso Municipal School District is permitted in this phase. Watering Eagle Creek, North Park, Gavilan Canyon, and White Mountain Fields is permitted in this phase.

Year-to-date water production for the village is 597,353 million gallons compared to 611,982 million gallons in 2008, or 97.61 percent of last year's consumption.

## Leaks repaired

For the month of November, 12 leaks were repaired for a total water loss of 60,600 gallons. The leaks were on Oak Grove Place, Juniper Road, U.S. 70, Crown Drive, Robin Road, Fifth Street, Oxford Road, Torreon Loop, Monjeau Drive, Wimbledon Road, Mechem Drive and Apache Hills Drive:

That total looks significantly better than the report from October, which estimated the loss at

698,900 gallons from 26 leaks repaired in September. Four large leaks of from 140,000 gallons to 160,000 gallons each were fixed on Gavilan Canyon, D Street and Guenevere Avenue.

Water Department crews took care of 234 meter work orders in November.

Other information from the village manager's report earlier this month concluded:

- that Fire Chief Tom Gavin completed the Fire Officer IV training in Alabama, the highest level of fire officer training recognized by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. Gavin was one of the top scorers on the examination.

- Two of the other senior officers in the department completed all prerequisites for admission into Fire Officer I and attended the training in Socorro this month. Gavin also assumed the duties of fire marshal for the village.

- that structural fires are on the increase. Dirty chimneys, improper ash disposal and improper furnace usage are to blame.

- that 73 new business

registration were processed during November.

By cross-referencing with the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, Village Clerk Irma Devine and Deputy Clerk Bertha Randolph added 304 businesses in the village.

The purpose of the review was to ensure all entities doing business in Ruidoso are registered with the clerk and are paying village gross receipts taxes.

- that GRT for the village in 2009 is down 14 percent and is being monitored closely by the village manager, who said she has "put things in motion to offset the anticipated loss." Midyear budget adjustments will be presented to the council in January by the new finance director.

- that the Billy the Kid Visitors Center saw 1,366 visits in October compared to 1,183 in October 2008, with the total year-to-date at 16,365 in 2009 compared to 17,352 in 2008.

- that the Dog Park created by the Humane Society of Lincoln County on village property in the White Mountain Sports Complex received a \$2,080 donation to buy four park benches.

## Sharing the Holiday Spirit with Our Community!



There is snow on our Ruidoso mountains, lots of welcome skiers and other tourists gracing our village, tinsel on the tree, and the spirit and joy of the holiday season warming our hearts.

The hometown crowd at First National Bank takes this opportunity to thank all of our customers for their loyalty during the past year, and to wish each and every resident in Lincoln County a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

It is our sincere hope that our community continues to recover from what has been a tough year for everyone, and that is why First National is recognizing the true spirit of Christmas by donating to the Lincoln County Food Bank.

As 2009 slides into 2010, we look forward to next year when we proudly mark our 25th anniversary serving the Ruidoso market. We have many exciting events planned, but, most importantly, we will endeavor to provide the same excellent banking products and services that have earned us your trust over the last 24 years.

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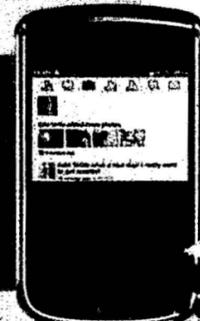
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- Ruidoso Downs report -

# Solid waste billing deductions prompt meeting with GSWA

JIM KALVELAGE

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A meeting to review billing deductions made by Ruidoso Downs will be requested by officials with the Greentree Solid Waste Authority.

Solid waste authority Operational Supervisor Debra Ingle told the authority board last Thursday that every month there is a balance adjustment made by Ruidoso Downs.

A spreadsheet contends the city has made \$4,541.52 in adjustments from July 2002 through October 2009. If what is described as owed late fees are included the amount added up to \$11,414.29.

The late fee charge is 1.5 percent a month. Ingle said the authority's auditor said the late fees should be included.

"I believe that this board needs confirmation as to where that \$4,541.52 that we're being told to adjust off, where it comes from," said Ingle.

"We pay them exactly

what we collect," said Ruidoso Downs Finance/Procurement/Asset Control Director Terri Mosley. "That's what the contract says."

The city bills its residents for the garbage service provided by the Greentree Solid Waste Authority on the monthly municipal water and sewer statement.

"We can't pay money we didn't collect," said Mosley. "And we never collect 100 percent of what we send out each month."

"We have our information," said Ingle. "I'd like to meet with Carol (Virden, Ruidoso Downs Clerk/Treasurer) and let the Downs see this and see what the Downs wants to do."

Ingle said the meeting should include the authority's legal counsel Angie Schneider-Cook.

Since July 2002 the solid waste authority has billed Ruidoso Downs almost \$1 million for garbage collection.

While Ingle said Ruidoso Downs officials

don't believe the authority has a right to charge late fees, she contended the city is charging late fees.

## CDBG grant would target drainage

More street and drainage improvements could be in store for Ruidoso Downs. North Central Drive and River Lane are the focus of hoped for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

"We are going to be applying for \$500,000," said City Clerk Carol Virden. "The city will put in a match which is five percent. It is going to be a competitive process and we're hoping that we'll at least get some money to start the engineering process."

The street and drainage work topped a list following public hearings held by the city this past summer.

The federal CDBG pro-

gram provides communities with funding to address a wide range of development and infrastructure needs.

## City endorses beer license for Disco Taco

A restaurant beer and wine license for a Ruidoso Downs eatery received an endorsement from city councilors.

In September, Disco Taco asked the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department's Alcohol and Gaming Division to issue a new license. Before the division makes a decision the local government must hold a public hearing to allow residents to provide input. That took place on Dec. 14.

"I'm opposed to it because I think it's too close to the park," said resident Sebrina Lundquist, referring to All American Park. "And I also don't think there's enough parking

there." But two other people supported beer and wine on the restaurant's menu. One said Disco Taco was a very good place to eat and "Mexican food is better washed down with a beer." He felt customers would not stick around and get drunk.

Juan Arreola, who identified himself as the accountant for Disco Taco, said a license for the on-premise consumption of beer and wine would help to boost sales.

"And also it will boost, a little bit, income for the City of Ruidoso Downs at the same time," said Arreola.

"I know there's distances needed between schools and churches," said City Councilor Gary Williams. "Is there anything between that and parks or senior centers?" he asked legal counsel Zach Cook.

Cook responded only churches and schools.

The attorney said the request could be denied on a concern for the health, safety and welfare of the

community. He added the concern must be based on testimony during the public hearing.

## Mixed emotions

City Councilor Dean Holman said he had mixed emotions.

"It may be the number of licenses that we're getting," said Holman. "And I don't know exactly how many we have, but the issue of the park, we have Circle K, and they area not any further away, I don't think."

Questioned if there have been any issues with beer and wine licenses and drunk driving in Ruidoso Downs, Police Chief Alfred Ortiz said there have been no incidents at Disco Taco.

"And I want to stretch it down to Jorge's, since they've had their beer and wine license," said Williams.

"Not to my recollection," said Ortiz.

The council was unanimous in supporting the new license. The decision will be forwarded to the Alcohol and Gaming Division.

## CELL

FROM PAGE 1A

problems, he said.

Williams said for safety, proof of inspections by the various companies should be requested.

Commission Chairman Tom Battin said the county could require in its ordinance that new or modified towers be inspected every three to five years and charge a fee.

"Are you set up so that

you could monitor reports?" Battin asked Patterson.

"I am not, but it is only a matter of setting it up," he replied. "I'll check to see if any other jurisdictions do that, but (under the existing ordinance) modifications will be happening and each time, we have an opportunity for new inspections."

## To report back

Battin asked Patterson to confer with County Attorney Alan Morel on the appropriateness of an ordi-

nance amendment and report back to the commission in January or February.

"It may be overkill, but I would hate for a tower to fall and land on anybody," he said.

"And if a tower goes down, that would seriously interrupt communications," Williams added.

Relating to the agenda item, commissioners approved the special use permit for Alltel to install six cellular dishes at 156 feet on the existing 180 foot

tower and a microwave dish at 110 feet to give communications with another site down the road. The tower is situated on Border Hill in Tinnie on the north side of U.S. 70 in eastern Lincoln County.

## Conditions suggested

Patterson recommended several conditions be attached to the approval, including that the company install emergency notification signage, that it notify the county within 10 days after the project is complet-

ed to allow time for a final inspection before a certificate of compliance is issued and that all county fees are paid before completion.

"It's good they are using an existing tower," Commissioner Dave Parks said.

"That's exactly the reason for the ordinance," Patterson said. "The letter from Alltel says they will meet the conditions."

The only new structure will be a building within the existing compound, he said. Nothing is being done to the tower structure, except improving conditions by correcting guy wires and reperforming some tests in the inspection report.

The tower predates the ordinance's effective date, but because of the modifications, the new inspections will bring the tower into compliance.

"We know what our winds can do," Commissioner Eileen Sedillo said.

"Yes, I saw the pictures," Patterson said. "They are designed to withstand certain wind speeds and don't always do it."

Battin asked if the ordinance ensures towers are set back sufficiently from roadways.

"All the tower heights in our ordinance are plus 10 percent to the closest outside structure," Patterson said. "The tower companies always argue they are built to collapse on themselves, but I think the photos show that's not always the case."

Williams asked if the additional dishes will improve communications in that area of the county.

"That's the intent to improve coverage along US 70," Patterson said. "Alltel was purchased by Verizon last year and the majority of towers by Alltel were converted to Verizon, but some Alltel towers exists in some areas of New Mexico and Texas that are not part of Verizon, although I understand some negotiation is underway for the remaining to be purchased by AT&T."

"What is our coverage through the valley with this?" Battin asked.

"This is at the head of the valley, so there still are some dead spots," Patterson said.

"Coverage from my

house to Hondo disappeared a while ago," Commissioner Jackie Powell said. "There were certain spots where we could talk, but now the whole thing is gone."

"It's rare they take a site down," Patterson said.

"I called and they said we don't exist," Powell responded.

Patterson said some upgrades are planned for towers in the county by Verizon to, "make the television ads a reality."

Quite a few towers were built before the ordinance passed two years ago and won't come up for any county inspections unless they are physically modified, he said.

"The towers are allowed to remain in place as they exist until they are modified. Any modification brings them under the ordinance. Any physical changes, antenna, cables, anything like that would trigger special use application process."

In a related matter, Patterson said the Federal Communications Commission recently passed "shock clock," because of delays companies experience in securing approval of towers. Effective Nov. 18, any application has to be reviewed within 30 days and a decision rendered within 90 days for co-location on an existing tower. The deadline is 150 days for a new tower.

"If (a county or city doesn't) meet requirements, they have a right to take you to court for automatic approval," Patterson said. "Our ordinance is no problem. The timing falls within the those guidelines. And the deadlines are only for applications that are complete. If they are incomplete, the clock doesn't start until they submit complete information."

"That doesn't sound unreasonable," Sedillo said.

"Absolutely," Patterson agreed. "But you would be amazed how long it takes to get approval in some jurisdictions like Santa Fe and Albuquerque."

Battin recalled that when the ordinance was passed, several people warned no more applications for cell towers would be submitted in the county, but that didn't happen.

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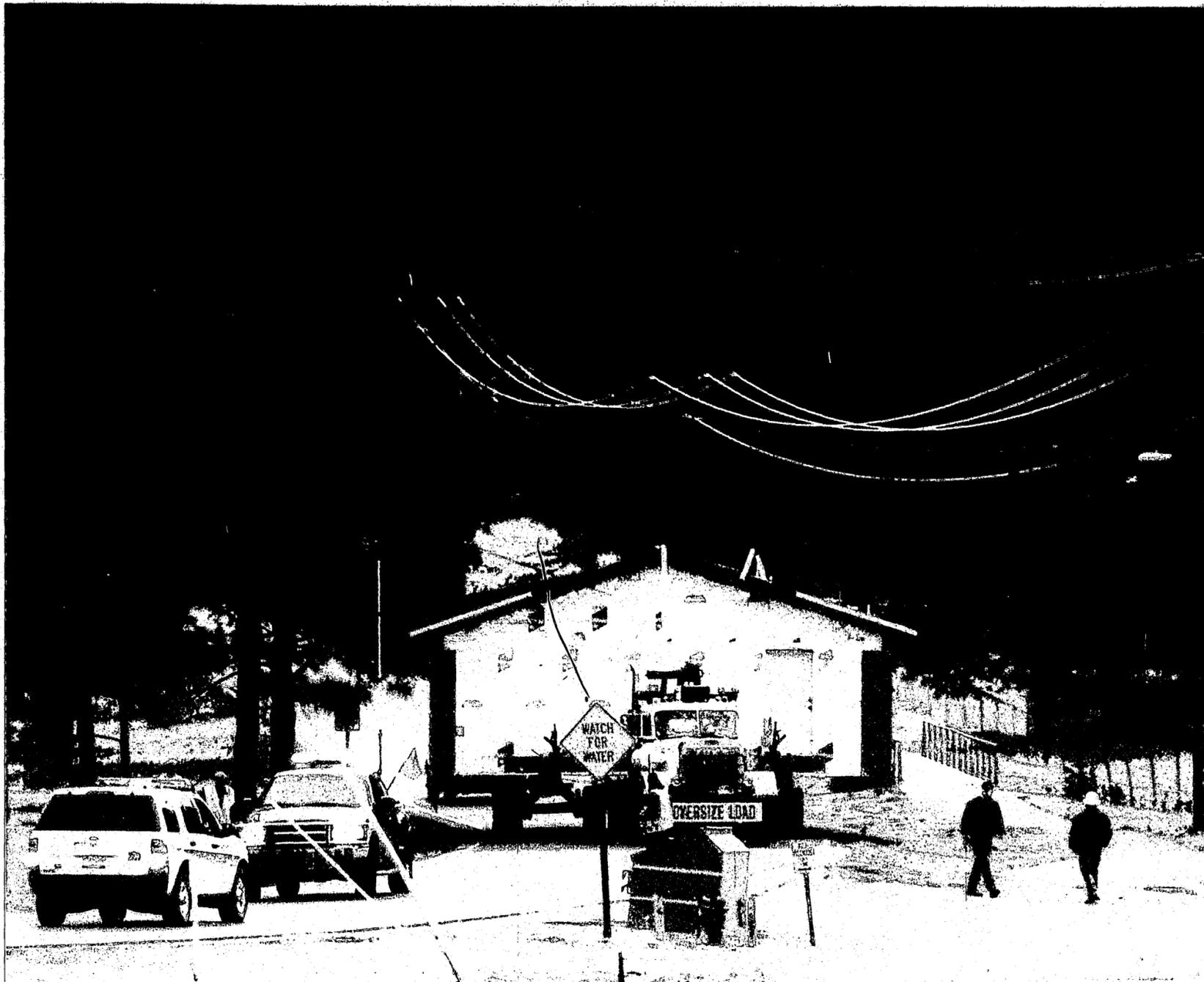
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# 'BIG PRODUCTION'



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

A 30-foot-wide prefabricated cabin-style modular home from David's Firewood and Rebuilt Homes was hauled from Clovis to 300 Cree Meadows Dr. Monday, where a prepared foundation waited. Ruidoso Planning and Zoning Director Bob Decker said the movers backed the huge load into a parking area by a former fire station and turned it around for the final placement. "All the way through town, they had to lift wires and trim tree branches," Decker said. "It was a big production."

## Alto Lakes board election scheduled

Write-in candidates can still file by Dec. 28

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Election of two members of the board of directors for the Alto Lakes Water and Sanitation District is set for 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Jan. 12.

Although the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy in person at the sanitation office has passed, the last day for write-in candidates to declare their intentions to run for election is the close of business on December 28. Three district members already declared their candidacy for the two positions.

They are Earl Hobbs, Robert Decker and Earl Adamy.

A consolidated election polling place for Lincoln County precincts 5.3, 5.4, and for qualified electors of the district residing elsewhere in New Mexico will be located at the Alto Lakes Water and Sanitation District, 213 Lake Shore Dr., Alto.

The candidate receiving the most votes will fill the number three director position and the next-highest will take the number four seat. Both are six-year terms.

Mail requests for absentee ballots must be received before the close of business, Dec. 28. Absentee ballots will be accepted through 7

p.m., election day, Jan. 12. To vote, a person must be a resident of the district, a water service customer responsible for paying the district's water rates or a landowner or land purchaser, who is liable to pay property taxes on real property in the district. Non-residents of the district must provide proof that they are qualified voters of the district. The voter registration book for the election closed Dec. 11.

Additional information regarding the voter's responsibility for providing documentation as a qualified elector can be found on the District's web site at [wsd.altolakes.net](http://wsd.altolakes.net).

Election officials selected by the Lincoln County Clerk will be Presiding Judge Joyce L Hansen, Elections Clerk Ronald D Duncan and Election Clerk Robin Echols.

The School of Instruction for all appointed election officials is scheduled for 10 a.m., Jan. 11, at the Lincoln County Commissioners Chambers, 300 Central Ave. in Carrizozo.

Election officials are required to attend the school of instruction, and all interested persons are invited and encouraged to attend.

The district's mailing address for write-in candidate or to request absentee ballots is 214 Lake Shore Drive, Alto, NM 88312.

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# Weather service dreaming of a white Christmas

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 jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A White Christmas was expected around the Sacramento Mountains, especially the southern part of the mountain chain.

A "quick hitting" winter storm was forecast to rapidly move in by early this morning, giving much of the mountain region snow. Occasional heavy snow this morning was predicted by the National Weather Service's forecast office at Santa Teresa.

A winter weather advisory had been issued Tuesday afternoon for all of the Sacramento Mountains. Three to six inches of snowfall was forecast for locations such as Mescalero and Cloudcroft. Ruidoso was expected to see two to four inches, according to forecasters.

"All you need is an inch to have a white Christ-



The season's first big snowfall on Dec. 1 dumped mounds of snow in Ruidoso

COURTESY STACEY HAMILTON

much of today. Winds will increase today, especially around the Sacramento Mountains. Blowing snow is likely to be a concern in the region.

The weather service reported late Tuesday that across the Sacramentos the snow accumulation would probably be very close to, but just below, warning criteria.

The chances for snow were put at 70 percent for early Wednesday morning at Ruidoso and 40 percent during the daylight hours.

The last real dose of snowy weather was at the beginning of December, when some locations around the mountains recorded more than a foot of snow.

mas," said meteorologist Brian Guyer, with the National Weather Service office at Albuquerque. "And temperatures in Ruidoso

will be quite cold so the snow will stick around."

Guyer said after readings in the mid- to upper-40s on Tuesday, it would be

a struggle for temperatures in the village to rise above the mid-30s at any time from Wednesday through Saturday.

Forecasters were watching the winter storm moving in from the west, noting it could slow down and potentially deliver snow for

# State budget shortfall threatens some local road projects

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Not just legislative projects are being cut by the state in a belt-tightening effort to offset a projected \$650 million deficit in 2010.

Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart said at the county commission meeting last week that he received a letter that morning warning dollars are being sliced by the state Department of Transportation for local road fund projects.

"It says we all know there is a shortfall and it's going to affect the 2010 local government program," Stewart said. "I'm working with Gary Shubert and Bob Kurtz (from the DOT District 2 office in Roswell) about what reductions we'll be seeing. It's a sign of things to come."

"Albert (Hernandez, county road manager) and I probably have to sit down and huddle about our road projects. Their coffers are looking pretty bad. I was anticipating this road fund (cut)."

Stewart had not figured any specific amount for the reduction, but, "Off the top of my head, I'd say \$100,000 out of \$380,000."

"It could be worse," said Commissioner Dave Parks.

"We'll have to reprioritized (projects), I guess," Commission Chairman Tom Battin said.

"And see if we can continue to go the way we're going," Stewart added.

In other items, commissioners:

- heard Baja Broadband notified the county that rate increases will take effect Jan. 1, for cable television and high speed computer line customers. They include a \$1.75 per month hike for basic cable, a \$1.80 increase for Internet services and \$1.80 for telephone services. The commission has no authority over rates.

- heard that "no one could give us any odds," about the chances county projects financed with state money from the governor or state legislature that were closed out in the budget panic will be reauthorized.

"They went around the state and closed all open projects, all of them," Stewart said.

Of the five open projects for the county, only three had no third party contract, he said. Those with contracts should be honored,

according to state officials.

During a recent session to review capital outlay projects, two legislators out of five representing the county showed up in Carrizozo. State Rep. Dennis Kintigh (R-Roswell) and State Rep. Zach Cook (R-Ruidoso).

Stewart said he provided

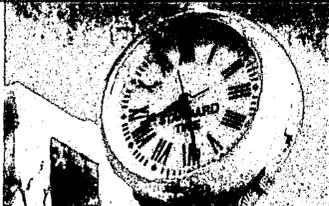
documentation to justify all five projects being reauthorized. The projects include improvements at the county fairgrounds in Capitan, the Glencoe-Palo Verde Fire Station and a Lincoln County fire tanker, were briefed by Stewart on a policy for employee pay on inclement weather

days. "The safety of our employees traveling the highways during inclement weather is of key concern to the county, and the capabilities and conditions encountered proceeding to and from work vary with each employee," Stewart wrote. To encourage

employees and supervisors to make individual determinations on travel, two pay procedures will be followed for inclement weather. They are that administrative leave with pay will be granted if the county manager closes or delays opening of the courthouse or other facility of the coun-

ty, essentially denying the opportunity to come to work; and if the facilities are not closed, any delayed travel to and early departure from work to accommodate weather conditions will be chargeable as vacation time, or an employee can make up the time during the pay period.

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 \*Per Cross-Access analysis conducted in May 2009, of 59,700 pharmacies nationwide, there are 293 network pharmacies in New Mexico.  
 S5715\_MRK\_TMP\_NMEVNT10

# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 2009

CALL US: MIKE CURRAN, SPORTS EDITOR • 257-4001 • MCCRAN@RUIDOSONEWS.COM

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## side line

### Ski Report

**Ski Apache**  
The snow resort is open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may call 464-1234 for the latest ski report and information. For the latest snow totals call 257-9001. The ski report is culled from [www.ski-apachesnowreport.com](http://www.ski-apachesnowreport.com)  
Tickets: Season passes are normally available by phone at 464-3600.  
New snow past 48 hrs.: 0 inches  
Season total: 43 inches  
Weather for Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. West wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. Wednesday evening, a 10 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. West wind between 10 and 20 mph.  
Weather for Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. Thursday evening, mostly clear, with a low around 16.  
Current conditions: Good  
Mid-mountain snow depth: 24 inches  
Snow surface: Packed powder, machine groomed  
Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, East Easy Street, Moonshine Gulch, Lower Moonshine, Lower Deep Freeze, Ramp, Capitan Heavy, Capitan Lite, Chino, Meadows, East of East, Wild Onion, Roy's Run and Upper Snow Park  
Groomers Pick: Capitan Lite  
Lifts open: No. 1, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 7. Gondola is closed.  
Snowmaking: Yes, nightly, weather permitting.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Mescalero's Norman Chee hits a bucket.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Jordan Hill takes it in for a Carrizozo score.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Hondo's Alicia Nieto jumps for two against a Carrizozo defender.

# White Mountain Tournament

MIKE CURRAN

[mcurran@ruidosonews.com](mailto:mcurran@ruidosonews.com)

For the past few years the annual three-day White Mountain Basketball Tournament at Mescalero High School has been a pre-Christmas highlight for the many fans, parents and players who participate.

Last weekend's competitions were no different as 16 girls and boys teams went at it on the hardwood.

By Saturday afternoon, the boys squad from Immanuel Christian had claimed the tournament championship when they defeated Valley Christian,

34-27.

This marks the fifth year in a row Immanuel Christian has won the boys title.

Before the conclusion of the boys game, the Tularosa girls team shelled the To'Hajiilee Lady Warriors, 62-28, to take the Mescalero tournament crown.

This was the first year newcomer Tularosa was invited and the Lady Wildcats returned the favor by taking home the first-place trophy.

The Mescalero Lady Chiefs recovered from a tough 55-54 Friday loss to To'Hajiilee and stormed back Saturday for a third place finish by sacking Alamo Navajo, 53-28.

The Mescalero girls squad is consistently competitive and will acquit themselves well on the hardwood this season.

Hondo's Lady Eagles battled to a 6th-place finish Saturday when they narrowly lost to the Alamogordo 9th-grade, 35-34.

Billy Page and company grabbed a 5th place finish for the boys when the Grizzlies downed Alamogordo 9th-grade, 52-37.

The Mescalero Chiefs secured 4th-place in a tough 49-46 loss to Alamo Navajo.

Things looked good for the Chiefs Thursday when they edged the Alamogordo 9th-grade, 55-53.

The Hondo Eagles acquired a

7th-place finish by defeating To'Hajiilee, 66-48.

Athletic Director/Interim Principal Pat Garcia was pleased with this year's outcome of the popular tournament.

"It was a wonderful event," he said. "You can't do something like this by yourself and I want to sincerely thank my staff."

"In three days, no one ever complained. The gyms were filled, the fans were tremendous and the sportsmanship by the players and coaches was exemplary.

"The concession stand did very well and we hope next year's tournament proves just as notable."

### Results

- Boys Basketball**  
Friday, Dec. 18  
Ruidoso 69, Artesia 58
- Girls Basketball**  
Friday, Dec. 18  
Ruidoso 50, Goddard 35
- White Mountain Tournament**  
Boys, Thursday, Dec. 17  
Alamo Navajo 65, Hondo 45  
Immanuel Christian 54, Carrizozo 40  
Valley Christian 54, To'Hajiilee 42  
Mescalero 55, Alamogordo 9th 53
- Girls, Thursday, Dec. 17  
Tularosa 53, Carrizozo 16  
Alamo Navajo 53, Hondo 46  
Mescalero 53, Alamogordo 9th 41  
To'Hajiilee 44, Valley Christian 38
- Boys, Friday, Dec. 18  
Immanuel Christian 60, Alamo Navajo 49  
Valley Christian 65, Mescalero 43  
Carrizozo 57, Hondo 47  
Alamogordo 9th 66, To'Hajiilee 63
- Girls, Friday, Dec. 18  
Tularosa 66, Alamo Navajo 17  
To'Hajiilee 55, Mescalero 54  
Hondo 29, Carrizozo 24  
Alamogordo 9th 43, Valley Christian 36
- Boys, Saturday, Dec. 19  
Immanuel Christian 34 (First Place), Valley Christian 27 (Second)  
Alamo Navajo 49 (Third Place), Mescalero 46 (Fourth)  
Carrizozo 52 (Fifth Place), Alamogordo 9th 37 (Sixth)  
Hondo 66 (Seventh Place), To'Hajiilee 48 (Eighth)
- Girls, Saturday, Dec. 19  
Tularosa 62 (First Place), To'Hajiilee 28 (Second)  
Mescalero 53 (Third Place), Alamo Navajo 28 (Fourth)  
Alamogordo 9th 35 (Fifth Place), Hondo 34 (Sixth)  
Carrizozo 37 (Seventh Place), Valley Christian 34 (Eighth)



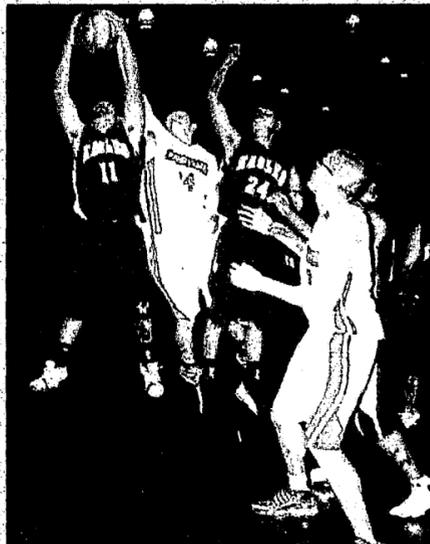
MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Diona Chavez tries an outside shot for Mescalero.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Marshall Ventura (No. 24) and Mark Vigil get the rebound for Carrizozo.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Raymond Montañio recovers a Hondo rebound.

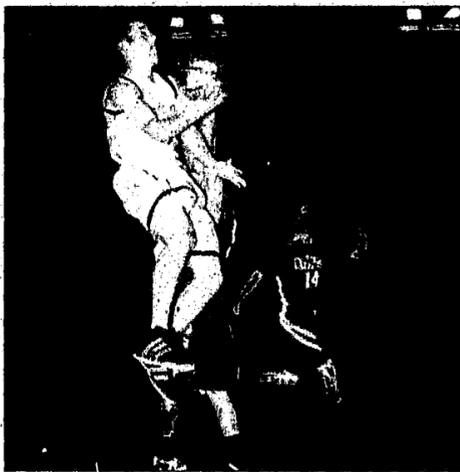
# Ruidoso Warriors beat Artesia, then lose one

MIKE CURRAN

[mcurran@ruidosonews.com](mailto:mcurran@ruidosonews.com)

Friday, the Artesia Bulldogs came to town looking for a treat, but the Warriors would have none of it and sent them packing after spanking them, 69-58. It was a good defensive effort with few missed opportunities and RHS capitalized on its stellar play.

Fast forward to the next evening when Robertson dropped by for some hardwood action. Confidence was high on the Ruidoso bench but after 32 minutes of action the Cardinals went home with a 70-55 win. The Robertson contest was a tough, physical affair with no quarter given by either side and at the end of the first eight minutes of play the score was knotted at 14.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Andrew Gilliland delivers an airborne express ball.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Fred Botella tries one up and over.

### Sports On Tap

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

### On Deck

**Parks & Recreation Dept.**  
The Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Dept. will continue its open gym for co-ed volleyball at the old Middle School upper gym on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. through January. Come by and leap or teach what you know. Eely, Rodney and Chris are expert at the game and patient instructors for all levels of play. You are invited to come burn those holiday calories away and keep fit. Call 257-5030 for times through the holidays.

See RHS, page 2B

# McKines returns to Aggies

JASON GROVES  
For the Ruidoso News

LAS CRUCES - Wendell McKines returned to the New Mexico State lineup for the first time this season Monday.

"It felt good but it wasn't like I was happy," he said. "Now we have to get to work to accomplish our goals."

The NMSU junior forward missed the first 10 games due to academics. After the university declared him eligible earlier in the afternoon, McKines started for the Aggies in a 97-72 victory over Alcorn State.

"(Aggies head coach Marvin Menzies) called me and said, 'You are playing tonight, man,'" said McKines, who finished with eight points, eight rebounds, six assists and two steals in 26 minutes.

"It was time to get the chemistry right with Hamidu (Rahman), JY (Jahmar Young) and Gib

(Jonathan Gibson)."

Not only did McKines start, but he also he made an immediate impact, feeding Rahman from the high post on the first possession of the game as NMSU opened on a 12-0 run.

Menzies said it was a credit to McKines, to get back on the floor after taking 18 credit hours in the fall semester.

"It's a compliment to him for working so hard and to come out with the grades he did with the load that he took on is a testament to how hard he worked," Menzies said.

McKines didn't score until he knocked down a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 5:16 left until half-time, as the Aggies outscored the 0-12 Braves 22-13 in the last 7:28 of the first half for a 52-35 lead at the break.

He was also whistled for a technical foul with 9:41 left in the first half.

The Aggies were 48.7 per-

cent from the floor in the first half, knocking down 8-of-19 from 3-point land in the first 20 minutes.

NMSU finished 11-of-29 from beyond the arc.

"I didn't realize we hit that many but when my guys shoot open shots, I expect them to go in," Menzies said.

Aggies senior guard Jonathan Gibson scored 14 of his 23 points in the first half and guard Jahmar Young finished with 23 points on 7-of-12 of shooting. Young also dished out four assists, including transition lobes to Bandja Sy and Tyrone Watson in the first half as the Aggies scored 14 points off 13 Alcorn State turnovers.

Somewhat lost in McKines' return, Young became the 26th player in program history to reach 1,000 career points, after Gibson achieved the same feat against Oklahoma Panhandle State on Nov. 21.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Santa, Sergio Lopez (seated) and George Rivera send Holiday greetings from Saturday's RHS boys home game.

# RHS

FROM PAGE 1B

At halftime, the visitors took a 35-24 lead into the locker rooms. By the end of the third period of action, the Cardinals were up 53-44 and went on to win by 15.

The unyielding attitude of the Warriors was impressive for all 32-minutes of play and excuses could be made about having to play two near-solid teams on successive nights. But the truth of the matter is, Robertson has a good team. Their 8-1 record attests to that. Three of their players, Fabien Varela, Justin Bustos and Robert McNellis had 19, 18 and 16 points respectively.

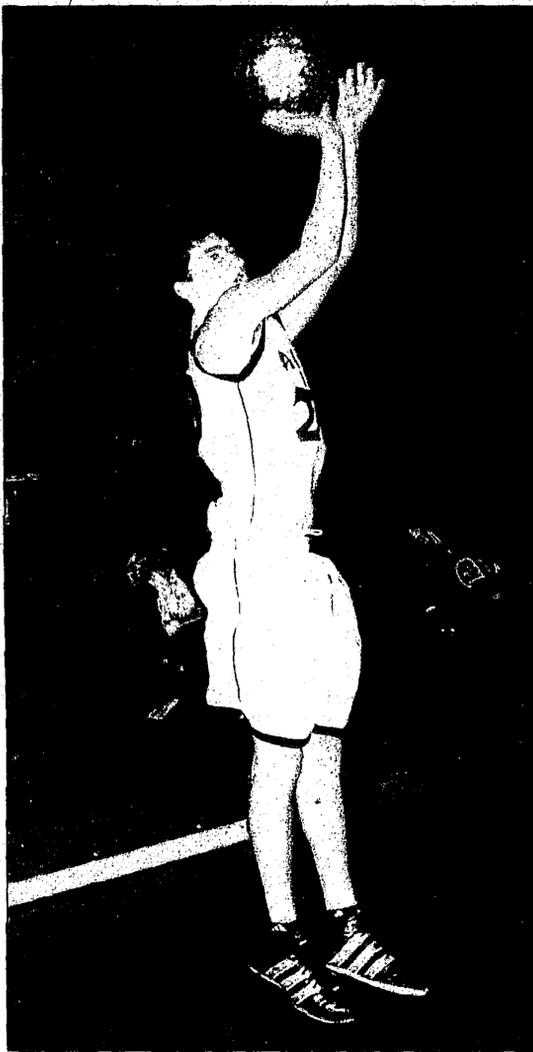
The Warriors didn't back off at any point in the game ... but neither did the Cardinals. And they took advantage of the opportuni-

ties.

In Saturday's contest, for the Warriors, Ralph Miranda and Mario Varela reached double-digits with 15 each.

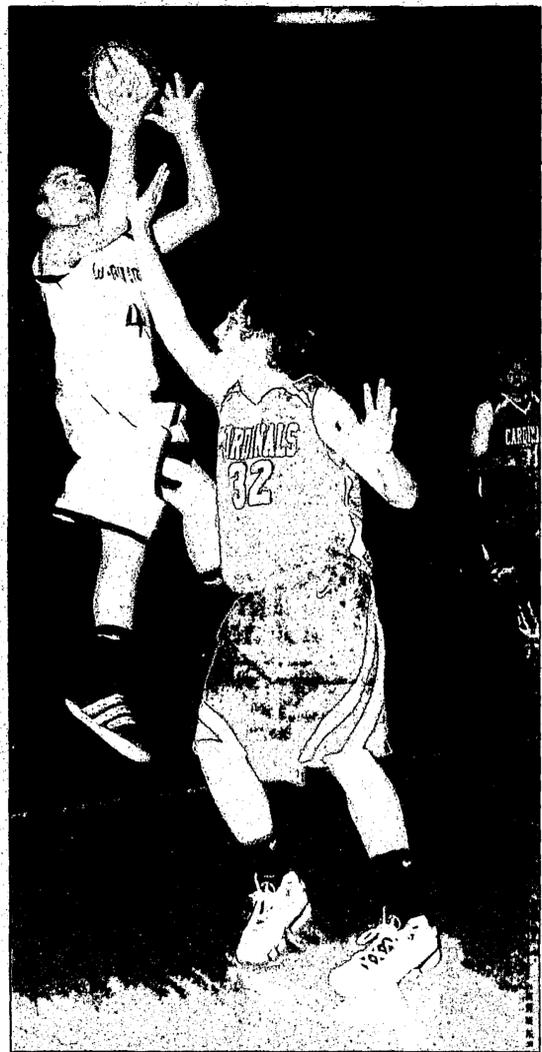
"In Friday's game against Artesia the boys played better defense and didn't have many missed opportunities," RHS head coach Dennis Davis said. "In the Robertson contest we missed eight lay-ups and didn't capitalize on some other chances. But we kept them closer than we did on Dec. 12 and overall I was happy with our play. Hopefully, when we play someone of that caliber again, we will have improved even more and maybe make it a toss-up until the end."

The 3-6 Warriors lost at West Las Vegas Monday, 70-65. Next up, they will travel to Pojoaque on Jan. 2, for a 6 p.m. tilt.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Jacob Rigsby sinks a jumper from the outside.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ralph Miranda adds some height to the ball.

## FACT

In 1807

Zeblon Pike leads first Anglo American expedition into New Mexico.

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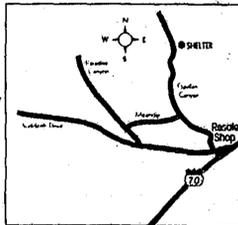
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DORADO

Dorado is a handsome yellow lab mix and is almost one and a half years old. He is extremely affectionate and would love nothing more than to be a lap dog, despite the fact that he weighs 45 pounds! Dorado has a beautiful golden yellow coat and a very sweet expression. He does great with other dogs and loves children. Dorado will make an excellent family pet.

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LOIS

Lois is a very smart kitty with looks and personality to boot! She is young, about 1-2 years old. Lois is a short haired cat with tortoiseshell coloring. She is quite friendly and affectionate. Lois has discovered how to open her kennel and every morning is waiting to greet us when we enter the cat room! She is a wonderful cat and will make a great companion.

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SARAH

Sarah is a sweet, loving dog that will make an excellent pet. She is probably between 1 and 2 years old. Sarah is a beautiful solid red colored girl and she weighs about 50 pounds. She is friendly with everyone she meets.

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SKIPPER

Skipper is a wonderful PMP mix. He is 6 years old and does great with kids. Skipper seems to be housebroken, is neutered and current on all vaccinations.

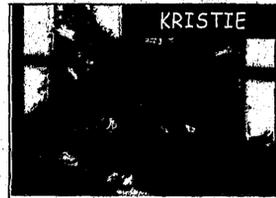
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MEG

Meg is about 6 months old and very friendly. She is very well socialized and outgoing. Meg is a beautiful dilute tortoiseshell coloring with white.

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KRISTIE

Kristie is a sweet medium haired kitten. She is about 4 months old (as of 11/23/09). Kristie is quite playful and outgoing.

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SKYE

Skye is a very friendly girl who is about a year old and weighs 7 pounds. She is very calm and loves to take it easy. She very much enjoys her afternoon nap time.

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# BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

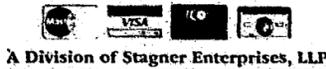
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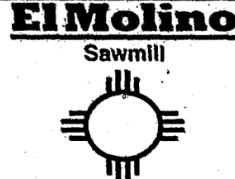
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# LINCOLN COUNTY

## Santa Claus comes to town



The Carrizozo Volunteer Fire Department delivered Carrizozo's favorite December visitor to town Saturday. Santa arrived riding on a fire truck loaded with more than 400 bags filled with candy, fruit and peanuts. The firemen spent several hours delivering the bags to senior citizens and shut-ins, the Lincoln County Detention Center, New Horizons and Casa Manafia. At 2 p.m., Santa met the children at the park and each one had the opportunity to tell Santa their wishes for Christmas and take home a goody bag. After the last of the children received their candy, Fire Chief Walter Hill Jr., and Johnny Beltran took their opportunity to talk to Santa. (photo at right) Chief Hill asked for a red corvette and Beltran asked for something for his dog. Hill said the 24 volunteers sacked up the \$1,200 worth of gift bags the night before. The firemen work all year at fundraisers to earn the money to fund this annual event.



PHOTOS BY JULIE CARTER AND POLLY CHAVEZ

## The 'how to' when encountering angry honeybees

**Editor's note:** Tim Thompson, a veteran beekeeper, will offer a monthly column about bees and the business of beekeeping and its byproducts. Thompson is the owner of Carrizozo Honey.



WHAT'S THE BUZZ? TIM THOMPSON

The buzz heard around the world today is the growing interest in the honeybee.

We should all be alarmed over the myths and fear mongering being displayed in Hollywood and by corporate lobbyists who skew the data in favor of their own selfish agenda.

Honeybees are not one of your natural enemies. They are however vital to human existence.

"What's the Buzz" will

appear monthly in the Ruidoso News as I attempt to answer your most frequently asked questions about modern beekeeping (Apiculture). Proven science will be presented without prejudice and in terms everyone will understand. This month's column concerns your safety

should you accidentally encounter angry honeybees.

Rule one is never approach a beehive without bringing a buddy and make sure you can outrun him. Joking aside, increasing the distance between you and the hive is still the best defense.

Unlike mosquitoes, honeybees do not spend their

day seeking out humans to sting.

They will, however, defend their brood nest until the threat is over. Part of their body is torn away when the sting is delivered and always leads to their death.

If you want to get stung by a bee out away from the hive, you will have to work a little harder.

This is a time when they are foraging and are not in sting mode.

They may even want to land on you and attempt to lap up your perspiration as it contains water, salt, and trace minerals they need to be healthy.

Mashing or slapping them is a sure way to get stung. Simply knock them away with a flick of your finger or some soft object.

Suddenly out of nowhere your backyard is filled with thousands of bees, or maybe they have

clustered on a tree limb. Don't panic. What you see is a swarm and swarming honeybees will not defend the swarm or attack.

They have split from an overcrowded hive and are searching for a new home.

Once the swarm enters a hollow tree, or hopefully not an opening in one of your walls, they will rapidly regain a defensive stand and return to sting mode.

Should they hive up on your property, contact a beekeeper or a local agriculture extension agent for advice or a referral.

Exterminating a colony of honey bees using poison should be reserved for a true emergency and can cost \$150 by some licensed pest controllers.

Because we now share our space with Africanized honey bees (AHB), we need to get educated and not sensationalize the added danger they bring.

Beekeepers do not like the "k" word. We prefer to call them AHB. Every behavior mentioned so far holds true for all honey bees including AHB.

Beware; they are absolutely more aggressive and can number three times as many guards as a domestic bee hive.

The venom they inject is no more poisonous than any other honeybee.

If you are attacked by AHB, they will follow and sting you twice as far from the hive than domestic honey bees.

After about 100 yards, they should drop off and return home to the colony.

Reports of animal and human deaths by AHB have one thing in common that usually goes unreported. The animals are chained or penned up and humans die because they are handicapped at running or allergic to bee

stings. Under these circumstances, people and pets can be killed by a strong hive of domestic bees as well.

AHB are also far more productive than our Northern Hemisphere bees and highly resistant to most causes of colony failure.

If not for Africanized bees, the Southern Hemisphere would be without a honey crop and the best pollinator for fruits and nuts.

Look for my column, "Liquid Gold," next month, where I will cover the health benefits of honey products and clear up some hippy folklore about pollen and allergies.

TIM THOMPSON can be reached for comment at [twt0128@tularosa.net](mailto:twt0128@tularosa.net) or at Carrizozo Honey, 575-973-0670.

### COUNTY BRIEFS

#### Medicare Part D

On Monday, Dec. 28, at 10:30 a.m., the Capitan Public Library will host a program for Medicare beneficiaries. If you are looking for a new or better Medicare Part D drug plan, take this opportunity to receive an unbiased list of

options for the 2010 Medicare Part D Plan List.

Participants will need a driver's license or I.D., Medicare Card and prescriptions bottles.

The program is presented by Lucas Zertuche, SHIP/SMP Regional Coordinator.

For more information,

call 354-3035.

#### Lighting Contest

The Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring their annual contest to see whose home and business has the best holiday decorations.

For the three best deco-

rated homes, gift certificates (redeemable from any Chamber of Commerce member) are awarded in the amounts of \$100, \$75 and \$50.

For the best decorated business, an Honorary Plaque is awarded.

Judging is done on Dec. 23, starting at 5:30 p.m., by folks staying at the local motels and chosen at random.

They are driven around town by the Chief of Police to see the entries.

If interested in having your home (or business) be in the contest, contact the Carrizozo Police Department at 648-2351.

Entrants must live within two miles of city limits. For more information, call the Chamber at 648-2732.

#### Thanks from 'Zozo

The Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce extends a heartfelt thank you to all the sponsors who donated time and/or goods, to the Volunteer Fire Department, Allsups and Ann Tomczak with her boot, the various organizations in town, the school and the Carrizozo community at large whose little elves all worked so very hard to make the luminaria sacking a wonderful success.

Hopefully, the same level of community support will help set out and light the bags on Christmas Eve morning and evening.

That task begins at the Fire Station on Airport Road behind the Caboose at 9 a.m., when the bags

will be placed around town. Volunteers will enjoy lunch afterward at the Fire Station.

The task is completed when candles in the bags are lighted, which starts at the Fire Station around 3:30 p.m., as crews go out to various locations where the bags have been placed.

The job is finished when the community folks help put the bags in central locations on their streets on Christmas morning, so the cleanup crew can make fewer stops to collect them.

The luminaria event is shared by the community as well as those who drive through town on this special day.

Merry Christmas to the community and visitors who come to see the lights.

**Sacramento Mountain Village**  
 Over 50? A Lincoln County resident?  
 Join a group of diverse individuals dedicated to helping others - and themselves.  
 Sacramento Mountain Village is helping its members live fuller, safer, and more satisfying lives.  
 Visit us at [sacmntvillage.org](http://sacmntvillage.org)  
 Or join us for breakfast at 9 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month at Cree Meadows County Club. Transportation available.  
 You'll be pleasantly surprised.  
 For details: 575-258-2120

**George Tippin**  
 MAYOR  
 Village of Capitan  
  
 Phone: 354-7021  
 Email: [george.tippin@myspace.com](mailto:george.tippin@myspace.com)  
Ad Paid For By George Tippin

# Denson too young to be judge

DUANE BARRATI  
Alamogordo Daily News

The 12th Judicial District Nominating Commission convened Friday to recommend candidates to Gov. Bill Richardson for appointment to fill the 12th Judicial District Court Judge position being vacated by retiring Judge Sandra A. Grisham.

The 15-member commission interviewed three of the four applicants to be considered for the one vacant judge's seat in an open meeting at the Otero County District Court-house.

The commission originally scheduled interviews with four applicants, but Mandy K. Denson withdrew her name after it was discovered she didn't meet

the New Mexico Constitution's age requirement of 35 to serve on the bench.

Denson, 33, said she was a little bit premature in her ambition. "I have looked at the constitutional provision," Denson told the commission. "I will withdraw my name."

The commission did recommend attorneys William H. Brogan, 65, Dominic E. Dutton, 65, and David I. Rupp, 62, to be considered for the one vacant judge's seat.

Richardson will only appoint one of the three to fill the vacancy. Grisham's retirement will take effect Dec. 31. The new judge will take over Jan. 1.

Richardson has 30 days from receiving the recommendations to make his decision or ask for more

recommendations from the commission.

The attorney appointed by Richardson will serve on the bench until the general election in November 2010 that includes voters Otero and Lincoln counties.

The newly appointed judge must win the June 2010 primary election before being put on the November ballot.

The winner of the general election serves on the bench until the retention vote is conducted in 2014.

A judge serves on the bench for a term of six years unless he or she resigns, retires or is voted out of the seat.

Brogan, Rupp and Dutton are collecting signatures to be placed on the June 2010 primary ballot, whether or not they're

appointed to the bench.

Brogan and Rupp are Republicans and Dutton is a Democrat.

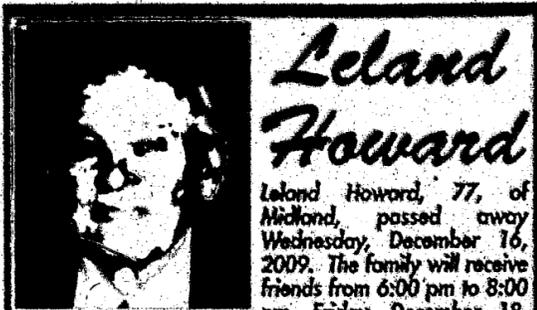
Brogan graduated from the University of New Mexico Law School in 1972. Rupp graduated from California Western School of Law in 1977.

Dutton is a 1973 graduate of Bates College of Law in Texas.

Brogan is the former city of Alamogordo attorney. He has been in private practice as a wills, trust and probate attorney since 2008.

Rupp retired from his Alamogordo general civil and criminal law practice in March 2009.

Dutton retired from the New Mexico Gaming Control Board in June 2009, but has an active civil practice in Ruidoso.



**Leland Howard**

Leland Howard, 77, of Midland, passed away Wednesday, December 16, 2009. The family will receive friends from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Friday, December 18, 2009 at the funeral home. Graveside services will be held at 3:00 pm Saturday, December 19, 2009 at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland.

Leland was born January 12, 1932, in Stanton to Adella and Ira Howard. He married Janie Curd on January 20, 1952 in Midland. She preceded Leland in death on July 4, 2008. He was a member of Golf Course Road Church of Christ.

Leland was a land man for Marathon Oil for 25 years. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, son and brother. He loved to travel, spend time with his family and eat out. He had a dry sense of humor.

Survivors include daughter Susan Morgan and husband Tim of Midland; son David Howard II and wife Nickie of Gardendale; three brothers, Royce Howard and wife Mildred, Bobby Howard and wife Peggy, and Gaylon Howard and wife Pat, all of Midland; two sisters, Lanelle Howard of Alamogordo, New Mexico and Donna Moore of Phoenix, Arizona; three grandsons, Michael Morgan and Scott Morgan of Midland and Tres Howard of Gardendale; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife and grandson, Jake Savage-Frady.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, PO Box 4072 Pittsfield, MA 01202 or at [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org). Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

## RUIDOSO DOWNS POLICE BRIEFS

**Dec. 8**  
Unreported time - An officer went to Magistrate Court to pick up a prisoner. The man's bond had been revoked by the court.

**Dec. 9**  
Unreported time - A report of check fraud resulted in an officer taking a report at the Sears store.

Unreported time - During a traffic stop on U.S. Highway 70 the driver of the stopped vehicle allegedly obstructed and resisted an officer.

The woman, Maryellen Maldonado, no age provided, was placed under arrest.

Unreported time - Police went to the parking lot of Walmart after a call of one person threatening another.

A report of the incident was taken.

Unreported time - A request for an officer in the 800 block of Utah Lane for six to eight shots fired was reportedly an intoxicated man who lit a Roman candle.

The subject, Robert Coleman, no age provided, was taken into custody because of an arrest warrant from Texas.

**Dec. 10**  
Time unclear - A woman who came to the police station to be fingerprinted, ended up being arrested.

A drivers license check showed Chelsey Lyn Breedy, 23, was wanted on an outstanding warrant.

She was later released after a bond of \$173 was posted.

Time unclear - An officer responded to an unattended vehicle in the middle of Downs Drive.

The owner had been in Municipal Court and came out to find the vehicle missing from the parking lot.

A crash report was taken by the officer.

**Dec. 11**  
10:19 a.m. - An officer responded to a residence in the 300 block of Harris Lane following a 9-1-1 call. A woman said her husband was very intoxicated

and an argument ensued. The woman told the officer that she was leaving the home to run errands and "hopefully he will sleep it off."

**Dec. 15**  
8:45 p.m. - A woman told police that her vehicle was hit in the parking lot at Walmart sometime between noon and 4:37 p.m.

A report of the hit-and-run incident was assembled.

8:48 p.m. - A resident on the 100 block of East Drive reported that two Stihl chainsaws had been taken from his laundry room.

The theft was believed to have occurred the night before.

**Dec. 17**  
2:43 a.m. - A man who called 9-1-1 to say he was going into hypoglycemic shock was determined by EMS personnel to be in no need of medical attention.

But police determined the man, Jonah W. Washington, no age provided, was wanted by Otero County authorities for

alleged indecent exposure. Washington was arrested and booked at the police department where he was held until transport the next day to the Lincoln County Detention Center.

**Dec. 18**  
5:55 a.m. - Police were informed that a woman had left Roswell and was driving to Ruidoso Downs while intoxicated.

The woman was supposedly driving at a high rate of speed, according to the woman's boyfriend.

**Dec. 19**  
10:55 p.m. - A woman reported her cell phone had been stolen from her purse and the possible thief called her seeking a reward to return the phone and to set up a meeting.

Two officers apprehended the man in the 200 block of East U.S. Highway 70.

The unidentified man was arrested for driving without a license and concealing his identity.

Compiled from blotter reports from RDPD.

# Major reform of predatory lending underway

ALBUQUERQUE - With the holiday season in full swing and many New Mexicans looking for extra dollars to buy last minute gifts, Lt. Gov. Diane Denish and Attorney General Gary King called for tough legislation to hold the predatory lending industry accountable for taking advantage of our most vulnerable families.

Lt. Gov. Denish and Attorney General King warned New Mexicans to avoid predatory lending schemes during the holiday

season, which can often lead to a never-ending cycle of debt.

In 2007, Lt. Gov. Denish led the charge to pass strong payday loan reforms to protect New Mexico consumers. However, certain bad actors in the industry developed a loophole that allows them to avoid New Mexico's consumer protection laws.

The result is today New Mexican families are frequently being placed in title and installment loans where they are charged as

much as 1000 percent APR. Lt. Gov. Denish is calling on legislators to support Senate Bill 33 that will:

- Cap interest rates for all payday loans. For loans of \$2,500 or smaller, the APR must not exceed 45 percent. For loans larger than \$2,500, the APR must not exceed 36 percent.
- Establish a statewide database to track the number of loans issued, rates of loans issues, interest rates and specifics of the loan. This will put additional

oversight on the predatory loan industry and so the state can protect vulnerable citizens from unfair and illegal loan agreements.

Sen. Peter Wirth (D-Santa Fe) has pre-filed legislation for this upcoming session to accomplish those objectives. The bill to be introduced is Senate Bill 33.

Merry Christmas from Ruidoso Laser Car Wash come by and meet our new crew Glen, Fred & Tracy Laser Car Wash 705 Meehem Dr • Ruidoso NM

## Ruidoso Adopt a Soldier

We need your help collecting items!

Beef Jerky	Deodorant	Mini-board games
Chips	Bars of soap	Lotion
Cookies	Socks	Small toys
Hard Candy	Playing cards	Soccer balls
Pens, and pencils	Pre-stamped envelopes	Crossword puzzles
Pencil sharpeners	Cold meds-non drowsy	Hand cleaner
Notebooks	Sun block	AAA & AA batteries
Writing tablets	Neosporin	Raman or Cup of Soup
Feminine napkins	Band-aids	Febreze
Visine	Yellow tempered shooting glasses	
Foot powder		
Baby wipes		

Cash donations are accepted. Checks should be made payable to "Adopt a Soldier."

This is not the complete list. You can send other items as long as they are non-perishable. Boxes are sent overseas monthly.

Drop off points for donations are: Chamber of Commerce, Zia Natural Gas, Mountain View Animal Clinic, Movie Gallery, Ruidoso Senior Center, Cortez Gas Company, Ruidoso News. Pick-up of items is available. Please call Blue Dutchover at 575-937-4397 or Donna Miller at 575-257-5083.

Blue Dutchover, Director of Ruidoso Adopt a Soldier, 575-937-4397

Thank you for your help and support!

# Packages of suspected drug money seized

SANTA FE — Three separate vehicles carrying three stashes of money were found and seized by Motor Transportation Police on Thursday.

In Raton, an officer pulled over a red Dodge pickup for speeding. After an interview with the driver and search of the truck, seven bundles of cash were discovered hidden in a compartment between the engine and the cab.

The driver claimed the money did not belong to him. The truck, money and case have been turned over to the DEA for further investigation. The total amount is estimated to be around \$100,000.

An RV was stopped for not having a license plate



on US 54 in Otero County.

When the driver gave permission to the officer to search the vehicle several bundles of tightly wrapped cash were discovered.

Nearly \$168,000 was turned over to the DEA.

Near Lordsburg on I-10 a MTPD officer stopped a semi-truck for speeding and other equipment viola-

tions. After an inspection and issuing citations for the traffic violations, the officer asked for and received permission to search the commercial

motor vehicle.

A Christmas package was found and the driver gave permission to open the box. Inside he found bundles of cash estimated

to be \$80,000 to \$100,000.

The money and case has also been turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further investigation.

## RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

### Dec. 13

4:44 p.m. — An officer was dispatched to Lawrence Brothers IGA on a shoplifting call.

A man reportedly walked out of the store without paying for a \$7.45 bottle of wine.

He was said to have looked at a cashier and smiled at her as he exited.

Police later found Jonathan Bremer, 29, of Ruidoso and issued a citation for larceny less than \$250.

He was also provided with a form requiring him to stay out of Lawrence Brothers.

### Dec. 14

10:54 a.m. — Police were

called to the Lincoln County Medical Center for a man that hospital staff said was in military fatigue and acting combative.

When officers approached Roger Romero, 52, of San Patricio he allegedly used profanity.

He was charged with resisting police and disorderly conduct.

### Dec. 15

11:42 p.m. — A report of a fight at a residence in the 300 block of Country Club Drive resulted in a citation being issued for battery to Troy Yazza, 25, of Mescalero.

Two men got into an argument after Yazza reportedly called a woman

a derogatory name. Yazza was accused of punching the other man.

### Dec. 16

12:38 p.m. — A 1979 Volkswagen Beetle, reported stolen in Denver, was recovered at a location in the 300 block of Gavilan Canyon Road.

The man who had been driving the car was accused of failing to make payments on the vehicle.

No charges were filed at the time. The Volkswagen was impounded for a return to Denver.

### Dec. 17

10:58 p.m. — Police charged a Ruidoso woman with possession of cocaine.

An officer had arrested

another person in a car at the Allsups at 2820 Sudderth Dr. for outstanding warrants.

A small amount of cocaine was found inside a baggie in the vehicle. Autumn Judd, 22, was charged with the drug possession.

### Dec. 19

4:26 a.m. — A woman called police to report her residence in the 200 block of Camelot Drive had been broken into.

Access was made through an open bedroom window.

No items were reported missing, but someone had gone through the dresser drawers.

## Toolbox taken in theft

A theft from a home under construction in the White Mountain Meadows subdivision has Ruidoso Police looking for a large toolbox.

A contractor reporting the theft on Dec. 16, told police that the toolbox was 5-feet long and 3-feet high, and contained about \$4,000 worth of tools.

Nail guns, an air compressor, and other items were reported missing.

Carpenters had left the construction site at 149 Topside Dr. at 6 p.m. the evening before, and the crew discovered the tools were gone when they returned at 7 a.m.

The items had been left in an open garage.

Talking to a painter at an under-construction home next door, a police officer was told that it looked like two people in a pick-up truck had been casing the two construction sites a couple of days earlier.

The subdivision has surveillance cameras at its entrance gates.

Police were going to review the video footage to look for a large toolbox leaving the subdivision in a pick-up truck.

The case was categorized as second-degree felony larceny.

— Jim Kalvelage

[www.ruidosonews.com](http://www.ruidosonews.com)



## Christmas Eve

*Candlelight and Communion Services*

6:00 pm

8:00 pm

11:00 pm

*Community United Methodist Church*

*220 Junction Road  
"the log cabin church"*

*575-257-4170*

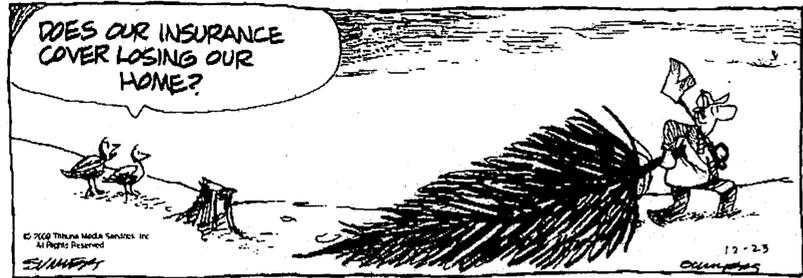


## RUIDOSO NEWS

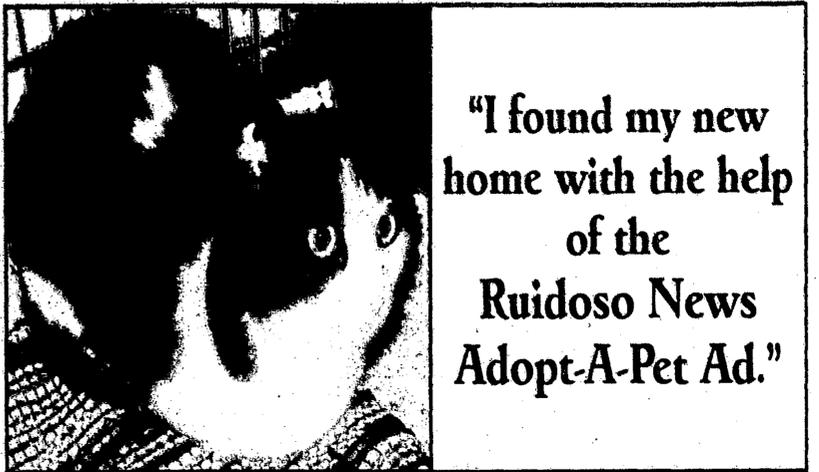
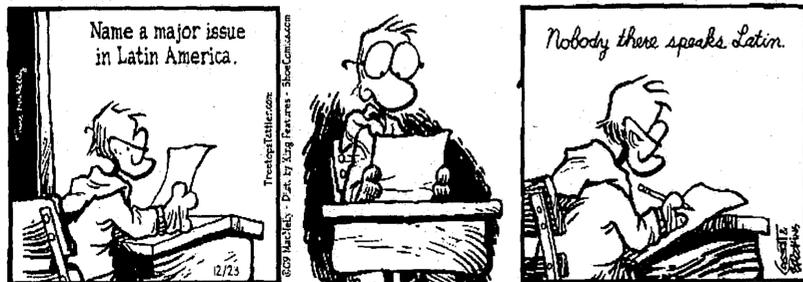
**has the following  
Holiday deadlines  
for**

**Christmas  
& New Years.  
Ads for these days  
are due the  
Tuesday before  
at 12 noon.**

**BOUND & GAGGED**



**SHOE**



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

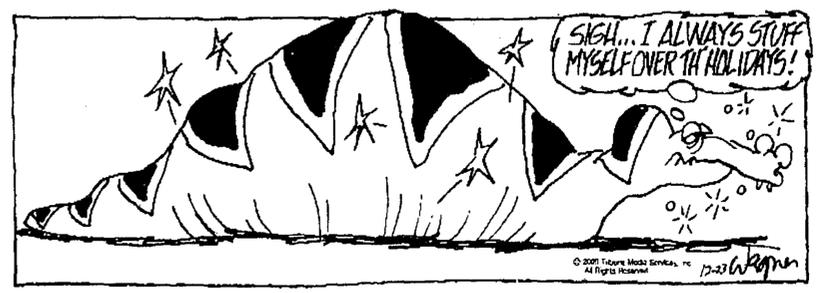


"I found my new best friend in the Ruidoso News Adopt-A-Pet Ad."

Published every Wednesday in the

**RUIDOSO NEWS**

**ANIMAL CRACKERS**



**SCRABBLE BRAND** G2 R1 A1 M3 S1

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E	O	Y	K	N	D	R	RACK 1
A	E	E	H	D	G	G	3rd Letter Triple RACK 2
A	E	O	S	G	T	H	RACK 3
A	Y	N	R	C	W	S	Double Word Score RACK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165  
BEST SCORE 222  
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.

For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to [www.scrabble-assoc.com](http://www.scrabble-assoc.com) or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (631) 477-0033. 12-23

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**JUMBLE**

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

JOANB  
PAKKO  
MEEDER  
SUTTOM

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.

Print answer here: TO "O O O O O O O O"

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

TOTAL 222  
PAR SCORE 155-165

RACK 4 = 80  
RACK 3 = 61  
RACK 2 = 67  
RACK 1 = 14

S1 C3 R1 A1 W1 N1 Y1  
H1 O1 S1 T1 A1 G2 E1  
E1 G2 H1 A1 D2  
D2 O1 N1 K5 E1 Y4

**SUDOKU**

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

3	2		1		6
8	6	5			
9	3		8		
2	4			8	7
		2			4
6	8	3	2		
1				7	5

SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE 12/23/09

5 3 2 9 8 4 1 7 6  
9 8 1 6 7 5 2 3 4  
6 7 4 1 3 2 8 9 5  
7 9 3 5 4 8 6 1 2  
2 4 6 3 1 9 5 8 7  
8 1 5 2 6 7 3 4 9  
3 5 9 7 2 1 4 6 8  
4 6 7 8 5 3 9 2 1  
1 2 8 4 9 6 7 5 3

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



Think Snow!!!

Jumbles: BANJO KAPOK REDEM UTMOST  
Answer: Why the computer whiz went to the shoe store — TO "HEBOOT"

CLASSIFIEDS

BY MAIL: Ruidoso News Classifieds P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88355-0128

BY PHONE: (with Visa or MasterCard) 575-257-4001

BY FAX: (with Visa or MasterCard) 575-257-7053

BY EMAIL: (with Visa or MasterCard) classifieds@ruidosonews.com OR legals@ruidosonews.com

WALK IN: (8 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.) 104 Park Ave., Ruidoso

257-4001

Email your ad to: classifieds@ruidosonews.com OR legals@ruidosonews.com

DEADLINES

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

CORRECTION POLICY

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

You can reach over 365,000 readers with one call.



We Can Place Your Ad In Any Of Our New Mexico Newspapers

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notices 100-152

Personals 134

Laborer wants any kind of work. Lot cleaning etc. Reasonable. Call Steve, 257-2774. 7 pm-8 pm

Legal Notices 152

#8908 2T (12)23,30

The Capitan Municipal Schools is requesting proposals for E-Rate eligible internal connections and maintenance. Please download the full RFP at www.capitan.k12.nm.us under Legal Notices.

#897 4T (12)16,23,30 (11)

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF LINCOLN COUNTY STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ALTO LAKES GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC., a New Mexico corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SERGIO MARTINEZ and LAURA MARTINEZ, husband and wife,

Defendants,

CV 2009-00253 Div. III

AMENDED NOTICE OF PENDING SUIT

SERGIO MARTINEZ and LAURA MARTINEZ, husband and wife,

GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, a certain cause of action wherein Alto Lakes Golf & Country Club, Inc. is the Plaintiff and you are the Defendants, the same being Cause No. CV 2009-00253, Division III.

The object and purpose of the said suit is to foreclose a claim of lien against the following described real property:

Lot 42, Block 3, S1 EBLANCA SUBDIVISION, Unit 2, New Mexico, as shown by the plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk and Ex-officio Recorder of Lincoln County on October 10, 1967.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that unless you enter your appearance in the said cause of action or before February 15, 2009 the Plaintiff will make application to the Court for a Decree by Default which will be rendered against you as provided for in the complaint.

The name of the Plaintiff's attorney is Richard A. Hawthorne, P.A., whose address is 1221 Mechem, Suite 2, Ruidoso, New Mexico, 88345.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Base Flood Elevation Determination for the Mesalero Apache Reservation of Otero County, New Mexico; The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Comments on the proposed Base Flood Elevation Determination (BFE) should be submitted to the Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (PFIS) on the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community. These proposed BFEs are the basis for the floodplain management measures that will be adopted or shown evidence of having in effect in order to qualify for or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For a detailed listing of the proposed BFEs and information on the NFIP, please visit the website at www.fema.gov/plans-rev/newmexico or call the FEMA Map Assistance Center toll free at 1-877-FEMA-4343.

AMENDMENTS include: provides enforcement provisions

Ordinance 2010-01 amends previously adopted Ordinance (s) and will affect all properties located within the Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District boundaries as well as external water customers.

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Legal Notices 152

Plaintiff.

Defendants.

CV 2009-00363 Division III

AMENDED NOTICE OF PENDING SUIT

Jerry Green and Terry D. Green, if living, or if deceased, their heirs, if any, or their surviving spouse, if deceased, the known and unknown heirs of the respective spouse of any such party, deceased; and all unknown claimants of interest in the premises adverse to the Plaintiff

GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in the District Court of Lincoln County, State of New Mexico, a certain cause of action wherein Jocks Wiggins is the Plaintiff and you are the Defendants, the same being Cause No. CV 2009-00363, Div. III.

The object and purpose of the said suit is to quiet title of the following described real property in the name of the Plaintiff:

Lot 12, Block 10, S1 EBLANCA SUBDIVISION, UNIT 2, New Mexico, as shown by the plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Lincoln County, New Mexico, on April 29, 1971.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that unless you enter your appearance in the said cause of action or before February 15, 2009 the Plaintiff will make application to the Court for a Decree by Default which will be rendered against you as provided for in the complaint.

The name of the Plaintiff's attorney is HAWTHORNE, P.A., Richard A. Hawthorne and whose address is 1221 Mechem, Suite 2, Ruidoso, New Mexico, 88345.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, this 9th day of December, 2009.

DISTRICT COURT CLERK

/s/ Elizabeth Ysosi Deputy

#899 2T (12)23,30

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Base Flood Elevation Determination for the Mesalero Apache Reservation of Otero County, New Mexico; The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Comments on the proposed Base Flood Elevation Determination (BFE) should be submitted to the Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (PFIS) on the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community. These proposed BFEs are the basis for the floodplain management measures that will be adopted or shown evidence of having in effect in order to qualify for or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For a detailed listing of the proposed BFEs and information on the NFIP, please visit the website at www.fema.gov/plans-rev/newmexico or call the FEMA Map Assistance Center toll free at 1-877-FEMA-4343.

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Employment Wanted 261

Laborer wants any kind of work. Lot cleaning, etc. Reasonable. Call Steve 257-2774. 7pm-8pm

Child Care Provided 263

GRANDMA'S DAYCARE has openings for 3 children ages 2 yr & up. Home environment w/home cooked lunch & lots of learning activities & love. 378-5284, full time Mon-Fri. 7:30-5:30

financial 280-290

Business Opportunity 282

Calling all artists show your work e-mail ciaoartist@yahoo.com for info

Need to sell something? Call Ruidoso News Classifieds at 257-4001

To place a classified ad call 257-4001

Restaurants & Clubs 247

Restaurants/Clubs MICHELLE'S Cooks, Dishwasher, Hostess & Servers Needed. Apply within of 2703 Sudderth. No phone calls please

To place a classified ad call 257-4001

Education 222

Mescalero Apache School is looking for qualified applicants for the following positions:

High School English Teacher

POSITIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

All Certified positions and Coaching positions require a valid license from the NM Public Education Department.

All positions require background checks and clearance from any criminal checks prior to employment.

Selection for employment will be based on the Mescalero Apache Tribal Ordinance 06-02.

For additional information and application:

Mescalero Apache School Personnel Office P.O. Box 230; 249 White Mountain Drive Mescalero, NM 88340 Phone: (575) 464-4431 Fax: (575) 464-4822

NEED TO SELL SOMETHING? CALL 257-4001 RUIDOSO NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

El Paso Times CARRIER/ROUTE DRIVER for Ruidoso Area for Mechem/Alto Area Contact Rex Goodin 437-7120 Contact Chris Gonzales 257-4001

Giving the Gift of a New Career 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 1st and 2nd shifts \$500 Sign-on bonus! Limited time offer good thru 12/31/09 for full-time employment Social Worker Requires a Bachelor's or Master's degree. LIC experience preferred.

Now Hiring for our New Rehab Unit Rehab Nurse Manager Qualified candidates must be a New Mexico licensed RN RN Therapy Nurse Michelle Lane, Recruiter E-mail: michelle.lane@funditc.com Fax: 575-257-4001 Toll-free: 877-900-0000 EOE/DFW

Busy Community Mental Health Center seeking: MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST - to provide assessment and treatment of outpatient clients in our Ruidoso office. Minimum requirements include: Masters Degree, and NM Counseling or Social Work license. Drop off letter of interest and resume at The Counseling Center, 208 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso, and pick up complete employment application at same address. Position open until filled. Excellent benefits package. EOE

rentals 300-383

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.

Furn. Apts. - General 314

Lo Effic. APT. Murphy pull down bed large kitchen walking closet furnished \$450 utilities included \$250 deposit in Ruidoso Downs (Behind Suds & Duds) 975-0165

RENT NOW \$395/mo + 200 dep. Utilities paid. Furn. 1 room apt. No dogs. 575-258-5877

Unfurn. Apts. - General 328

128 High St. 2 bd, 1 ba, \$675/mo. All util. pd. \$500 dep. Close to midtown. 937-2494

1 bd apt. w/great view \$500/mo. All util. pd. Call Steve mes 915-253-7144

2bd/2ba with carport and workshop. Rent to own \$750/mo. Dan Bolin, AMOR Real Estate, 937-0600.

2 bd/2 ba with garage. Awesome SB views from decks, \$850 + bills. 2bd/2ba with storage, \$550 + bills. Dan Bolin, AMOR Real Estate, 937-0600

ASK FOR THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL! 1 to 3 BD. All util. pd. incl. cable. Pets welcome. 575-973-0833

Efficiency all util. pd. includes cable. Furn. private entrance. Furn. Unfurn. 575-973-0833

Unfurnished & 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. bills paid. No pets. 258-3111.

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 \*\*\*\*\*

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Townhouses/Condominiums 342

3br 2 1/2ba, furnished Look Out Estates All views, \$700/mo. util. inc. 925-479783

3 Units, 2 bd, 2 ba, unfurn. Condos. \$600/mo. Call THE WOODLANDS at 258-1161

Unfurn. Home - General 352

2 Bd. Gas/Water pd. Appliances, central location, W/D hook-up, no pets, FP, \$600/mo. Rent. Dep. 6 Lease req 505-477-4815

2 bd house for rent at 107 South Hickory. 575-978-4315 or 937-6945

Rent w/option to Buy or Rent-To-Own in Capitan

3/2 Bedrooms with fireplace on a great corner lot in Downtown Capitan. \$850. Over 2,000 sq ft. Zoned residential or commercial. Low or no down payment. Newly remodeled. 218 Lincoln Avenue. 575-354-0600

Mobile Home Rental: 308

FOR RENT

2 BED

2 BATH

14x78

TRAILER

Washer-Dryer Area

Large Master Bedroom

\$595 Plus Utilities or \$795 All Bills Paid.

Call:

1-575-644-7434

Unfurn. Home - General 352

3 bd, 2 ba. Garage, \$890/mo. 3 bd, 2 ba, \$850/mo. 4 bd, 2 ba, \$1,200 mo. 257-7911

711 Main Rd. U12. 2 bd, 1 ba. Water, cable, pool, \$625/mo., \$500/dep. Long Term Only. Furn. or unfurn. Owner/Agent Scott Roser. 808-1297

711 Main Rd. U7. 4 bd, 3 ba, 2200 sq. ft. w/locuzzi. Water, cable, pool, \$1,150/mo., \$900 dep. Long Term Only. Furn. or unfurn. Owner/Agent Scott Roser. 808-1297

1 bd apt. w/great view \$500/mo. All util. pd. Call Steve mes 915-253-7144

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Furn. Apts. - General 314

\*\*\*\*\* AFFORDABLE \*\*\*\*\*

RENTALS

# WORKPLACE SLOTH



**How to identify:** Moving with glacial slowness, The Workplace Sloth can be found resting among mounds of unfinished work, chewing on deadlines. However, when the clock strikes five o'clock, The Workplace Sloth moves with blinding speed toward the exit.

**How to escape:** Ask The Workplace Sloth how it's feeling. You can usually escape between the words "I'm" and "fine." Get to CareerBuilder.com and find a better job.

RUIDOSO NEWS

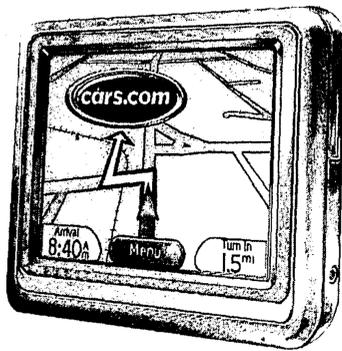
Do more than just survive the workweek. Find a new job at the place with the most.

**careerbuilder.com**

Over 1,900,000 jobs | Over 250,000 employers

A better job awaits.

# Navigate your way to the right car for you.



Go to Cars.com and become a more confident car shopper. Find your way to the certified pre-owned vehicle for you. Use our research tools to compare vehicle safety ratings and resale values. Cars.com points you in the right direction.



Confidence Comes Standard.®

<p>Ruidoso News Classifieds 257-4001</p>	<p><b>Fuel/Wood 620</b> ★ ★ ★ ★ A-1 season split pinon-juniper FULL cord, Half Cord, free delivery in area. Call 575-257-1950</p>	<p><b>Misc. Items 625</b> New gas or propane 36" fireplace insert, new \$1080. \$640. 808-3454</p>	<p><b>Garage/Yard/Estate Sales 628</b> MOVING SALE! Entertainment center, misc furn., small appliances &amp; other household items. 107 Jack Little Dr., La Tierra Apt. G-1 on Wed., Dec. 30th. 8-5 pm</p>	<p><b>Ruidoso News Classifieds 257-4001</b></p>	<p><b>pets 700-725</b> HAY RANCH Roswell, NM. Alfalfa, all qualities. 5m &amp; 1g square Bales &amp; Round Bales. 575-973-2200</p>	<p><b>Dogs/Services/Supplies 722</b> Mostly Puppies for sale \$500. Get your Christmas puppies now 336-1857</p>	<p><b>Auto For Sale 917</b> 2002 Lincoln LS \$5,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p>	<p><b>commercial real estate 950-996</b> Business/Retail For Rent/Sale 951</p>	<p><b>General Services 3304</b> All Yard, Mowing, Trees, Removal, prune, raking, gutters, hauling. Ruidoso since 85 257-5808 or 937-8095</p>
<p><b>Want To Buy 600</b> \$CASH\$ REWARD FOR: PRE 1940 LURES • REELS • RODS &amp; TACKLE BOXES Paying Retail Prices: RICK @ 575-354-0365</p>	<p><b>Firewood for Sale! Juniper/Pinon mix. Call 575-808-1797</b></p> <p><b>Misc. Items 625</b> Cash for Scrap Metal Iron, aluminum, copper &amp; brass. Will pick up. 257-5808 or 937-8095</p> <p><b>Gas Motorized Mountain Bike, \$200. 3 sp. Bike, \$45. Kimbell, Spinet Piano, \$300. Craftsman Lawn Mower, \$100. 257-1090</b></p> <p><b>Multi-game table, \$75. Sears table saw, \$50. Small gas grill, \$25. 937-4579</b></p>	<p><b>New shipment Video Games, Video Gaming Accessories, Controllers, Drum Sets &amp; other cool Christmas Gifts at High Score, 1129 Mechem, 258-0000. Come see us!</b></p> <p><b>To place a classified ad call 257-4001</b></p> <p><b>Home Furnishings 627</b> All oak Brooklyn dining room table &amp; 10 chairs, all like new. \$950 To see 257-9857</p> <p><b>FOR SALE. Wood twin bed frame with mattress \$50. 575-808-1133</b></p>	<p><b>Musical Merchandise 644</b> New Shipment Guitars, drum sets &amp; strings at High Score 1129 Mechem &amp; REAR Bldg. Lotza Stuff Flea Mkt.</p> <p><b>Building Materials 650</b> Antique Oak Barnwood, Reclaimed Pine and Oak Flooring and Beams 830-997-6503</p> <p><b>To place a classified ad call 257-4001</b></p>	<p><b>Sporting Goods 630</b> <b>GUNSMITH WORKS</b> Guns Ammo Reloading Gunsmithing 320 Lincoln Ave. Capitlan <b>CALL BILL 354-0491</b></p>	<p><b>HAY RANCH Roswell or Lincoln locations Alfalfa, 5m &amp; 1g Square Bales &amp; Round Bales. 575-973-2200</b></p> <p><b>Dogs/Services/Supplies 722</b> 4 mo. old black Lab. Spvda female. \$275. 575-937-1714</p> <p><b>FREE Mound puppies to good homes! 575-808-1246</b></p>	<p><b>Cats/Other Pets/Supplies 724</b> Must go to a absolutely positive - ly good home! Free kittens 575-257-8037</p> <p><b>auto 900-921</b> Auto For Sale 917 2001 Chevy Cavalier \$3,300 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p> <p>2002 Dodge Ram \$7,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p>	<p>2003 Ford F-150 \$4,444 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p> <p>2004 Ford Mustang Convertible \$6,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p> <p>2005 Chevy Malibu Classic \$5,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p> <p>2005 Chevy Cavalier \$4,995 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p> <p>2005 Pontiac Grand Am \$4,299 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p> <p>2006 Chrysler PT Cruiser \$7,500 Levi Auto Sales (575)527-8697</p>	<p><b>PERMANENT COSMETICS! Est. 1992. Equip., furn., supplies &amp; client list. \$5,000. Call Norma, 575-378-9944</b></p> <p><b>Business/Retail For Rent/Sale 951</b> <b>APPROX. 1500 SQ. FT. COMMERCIAL LOCATION 1216 MEECHEM AVAILABLE OCT. 1<sup>st</sup> 575-354-0365 \$1500 PER MONTH</b></p>	<p><b>Need to sell something? Call 257-4001 Ruidoso News Classifieds</b></p> <p><b>General Services 3304</b> <b>Jewelry Repair</b> Ring sizing, Remounts, Custom Design, Appraisals, Batteries, Cleaning, Rolex Repair, Engraving <b>Indulgence @ Stettheimer's 2601 Sudderth Drive (575) 630-0067</b></p>

# FREEDOM

# OF

# SINCE 1776

*We the People*  
 insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence,  
 and our Posterity, We ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America

*Article I*

Since the founding of our nation, the role of newspapers in our democracy has been crystal clear. We have been, and will continue to be, the eyes and ears of the American people. After all, the right of free speech is meaningless if no one knows what's really going on. That's why more than 100 million Americans depend on their hometown newspapers daily and why today's newsrooms are staffed with dedicated, highly trained reporters and experienced editors who bring you the very best journalism found anywhere, in print and online.

*People Depend On*  
**Newspapers**

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**RUIDOSO NEWS**