

# RUIDOSO NEWS

**FIRE DANGER  
LOW**

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6, 2010 • OUR 63RD YEAR, NO. 71 • 75 CENTS

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## Parity bill offered

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**L**egislation that would reduce New Mexico's gaming tax on certain horse racing tracks has been introduced again this year at Santa Fe.

The measure would graduate the current 26 percent tax on the net take of tracks and their casinos in the state.

"It is specific to Ruidoso (Downs)," said Senator Carlos Cisneros (D-Questa), who introduced the bill. "It doesn't say

### Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino says measure key to remaining in area

Ruidoso, but that's the intent. This bill would reduce the tax burden for the Ruidoso Downs Race Track."

If the legislation is approved, the gaming tax would be 20 percent on the first \$10 million of net take for fiscal year 2011, which will begin July 1, 2010.

Net take is defined as the amount wagered minus what is paid out in winnings.

Net take over \$10 million would be subject to the 26 percent rate.

For fiscal year 2012, the rate on net take under \$10 million would drop to 15 percent. And in 2013 and subsequent years it would be reduced to 10 percent.

Track officials have said for several years that nearby tribal casinos pay a smaller percentage in revenue sharing to the state and that tax parity is needed.

"There is validity to the value of the track to the community," said Cisneros. "The argument is valid, to help a facility that is losing money and may not stay afloat. The argument this time will be the offset of new revenues with another venue."

Earlier Cisneros had also introduced legislation that would allow horse tracks to offer simulcasting and wagering on dog racing from greyhound parks around the country. He said that would provide additional revenues to the state to

See **PARITY**, page 5A

### FROM SNOWMAN TO SNOW-WOMAN



When warmer weather temporarily decapitated the happy snowman created by Deedee and David Tremblay at their home northeast of Ruidoso (above photo), some quick manipulation of the displaced head transformed the figure into his female counterpart (top photo). Deedee Tremblay checks out the new snow woman's modified smile, apron and necklace.

COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

## Williams makes 4 mayoral hopefuls

■ Candidates officially file for municipal elections, p. 5A

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He first won a position as a Ruidoso village councilor in 2004, and then ran successfully for the District 2 seat on the Lincoln County Commission in 2006. Serving in dual capacities, he won re-election to his municipal at-large seat on the council in 2008.

Now Don Williams wants to take it one step further and announced his candidacy for the job of mayor of Ruidoso in the March nonpartisan municipal election. Incumbent L. Ray Nunley said months ago he did not intend to seek a second four-year term.

"Having served on the Village of Ruidoso Council for the past six years, I am well qualified to become Mayor," Williams said. "I have a passion for Ruidoso, and for all the things that affect our lifestyle and economy. I stand for honest and open government and rigorous management of the policies, rules and mandates under which we live. I am not anybody's rubber stamp, but rather a strong minded individual who has experienced, and understands that there are many sides to the issues that confront your elected officials."

"I bring to the table an exemplary record of service with the VOR Council and the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. I have extensive executive experience in standardizing organizations and assuring compliance to regulations. I enjoy a sterling reputation with the U.S. Air Force for honorable service to my country. I offer my continued support of the VOR government and renew my pledge to dedicate myself to doing what is best for the residents of Ruidoso."

Williams listed his background as including a

## Streetlight cited in Eagle Drive Bridge crashes

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Two accidents, one involving a vehicle overturned in the Rio Ruidoso, occurred on Eagle Drive Bridge on consecutive nights last week.

A local resident claims he complained three weeks ago about the need for a light to be repaired at the

bridge. Although lighting was not cited in the police report as a contributing factor, he said low visibility may have enhanced the danger of the snow and ice already complicating the one-lane crossing. When he returned from his holiday out of town, the light still wasn't working and he called the power company PNM again, the resident

said. At 10:39 p.m., Dec. 30, Michael Walstad, 26, of Ruidoso Downs was crossing the bridge in a 2010 Toyota Prius registered in California when he apparently lost control on the snow and ice.

According to the Ruidoso Police Department report, conditions were dark and snowing with snow and ice

on the pavement. Contributing factors were, "speed too fast for conditions, driver inattention, improper driving."

No alcohol was involved. The accident damaged the north guardrail, separating it from the foundation. No injuries were reported.

At 4:51 p.m., Thursday,

See **BRIDGE**, page 7A

See **MAYOR**, page 5A

First Born



Lincoln County's first baby of 2010 was born Friday, Jan. 1, 2010, at the Lincoln County Medical Center in Ruidoso.

Liam Jones McCausland arrived at 1:23 p.m., weighing seven pounds 1.2 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. He is the son of Gwen and Casey McCausland of Ruidoso Downs.

While the first baby for LCMC in 2010, the Lincoln County owned hospital has seen deliveries increase over the past decade. There were 355 deliveries in 2009, down from 368 babies in 2008.

The 2009 figure is still an increase of six percent

from 2007 when there were 334 deliveries.

The 2009 births were 26 percent more than ten years earlier, when 263 babies were delivered in 1999.

The 2009 number of births included two sets of twins.

"We strive to provide the best birthing and delivery experience possible for every patient and family we serve," said Patsy Parker, LCMC director of patient care services.

"The birth of a child is such a momentous occasion and it's a real honor for 364 families to share those special memories with us."

Chance Drawing.

The drawings were part of the festivities at Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino over the weekend.

Democrats meet

Members of the Democratic Party of Lincoln County will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, for their first monthly session of 2010, at K-Bob's Restaurant on U.S. 70.

Come at 5:30 p.m. to order from the menu. The business meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

Alto Lakes

The Alto Lakes Special Zoning District Commission will meet at 9 a.m., Thursday, at the Bonito Fire Department located at the corner of Sun Valley Rd. and Fire Road in Alto.

The final agenda for the meeting will be published at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and will be posted on the bulletin board of the Alto Lakes Golf and Country Club.

Economic board

The Ruidoso Downs Economic Development Board meets Thursday for their first session of the new year. Meetings in 2010 will be held the first Thursday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The Economic Development Board was established to promote progressive development and diversification in Ruidoso Downs. Among the panel's visions are the development of a professional park and a light industrial park.

Cookware recycling

Did Santa Claus bring new pots and pans for Christmas? Old cookware,



Harry in your hometown

New Mexico Rep. Harry Teague (D-2nd District), visits Capitan (above and right), Carrizozo and Alamogordo Sunday to meet with constituents. In Capitan, he told the crowd he voted against healthcare reform because, in his view, the House bill doesn't lower costs.

MARTY RACINE/RUIDOSO NEWS



Casino winners

Two Southeastern New Mexico residents won big prizes this New Year's Eve weekend at Billy the Kid Casino. Jim Ray Almanza of Roswell, New Mexico won Billy the Kid Casino's final drawing in the "2010 Cash Giveaway" at midnight on New Year's Eve. Almanza took the top prize of \$1,560.

On Friday, Jacobo Sanchez of San Patricio took home \$1,000 in Billy's "Easy Money Second

pots and pans - scratched, chipped and encrusted with burned food? Recycle your old anodized aluminum, stainless steel or cast iron pots and pans at the new Pots and Pans Recycling Event, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 15, and 8 a.m. - noon Saturday, Jan. 16, at Schoolhouse Park in Ruidoso. Any unwanted and/or discarded pots and pans in any condition will be accepted for recycling or reuse from any part of Lincoln County and from Mescalero.

Reusing old cookware to prevent them from becoming garbage is also one of the most sustainable approaches to dealing with old cookware. Reusing items is more sustainable than recycling them or otherwise disposing of them, since the items do not require energy or other resources to collect, transport, sort, and either process into their individual recyclable components, incinerate, or bury in a landfill. Reusing items has the added indirect environ-

mental benefit of conserving the energy and other resources necessary to manufacture a new product. Calphalon and other cookware manufacturers are beginning to have mail-in recycling programs that begin at the point of initial purchase. For more information on the pots and pans recycling event, contact the Greentree Solid Waste Authority office at 378-4697; toll free at 1-877-548-8772 or email at lcswa@valornet.com.

257-3444  
257-2038  
ALLEN THEATRES  
SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13)  
AVATAR (PG-13)  
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)

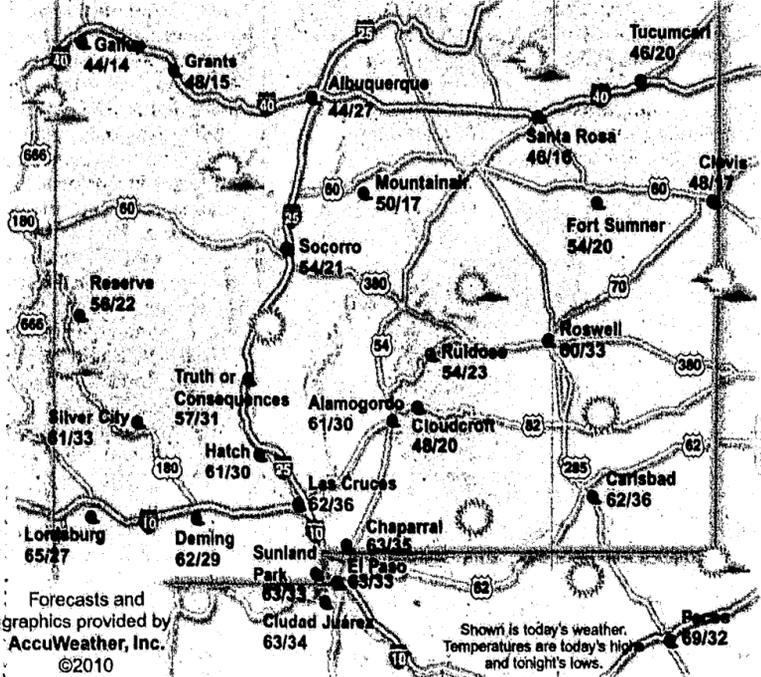
City Bank NEW MEXICO  
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4 Locations to Serve You - Call 575 258-BANK

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel 47° Humidity 29% 54° 23° Mostly sunny and breezy Wind: WNW 10-20 mph	RealFeel 36° Humidity 71% 34° 20° Partly sunny and colder Wind: ESE 6-12 mph	RealFeel 36° Humidity 52% 37° 22° Mostly sunny Wind: SSE 6-12 mph	RealFeel 43° Humidity 35% 44° 30° Plenty of sunshine Wind: W 6-12 mph	RealFeel 54° Humidity 22% 56° 32° Partial sunshine Wind: WSW 7-14 mph	RealFeel 51° Humidity 32% 50° 27° Partly sunny Wind: NE 6-12 mph	RealFeel 53° Humidity 51% 45° 29° Mostly sunny Wind: S 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.

Regional Cities



Almanac

Ruidoso Statistics through Monday

Temperature:  
High/Low 45°/23°  
Normal high 49°  
Normal low 19°  
Record high 62° (1956)  
Record low -17° (1949)

Precipitation:  
Monday 0.00"  
Month to date 0.00"  
Normal month to date 0.20"  
Year to date 0.00"  
Normal year to date 0.20"

Pollen:  
Grass Absent  
Trees Low  
Weeds Absent  
Mold Low  
Predominant Alternaria

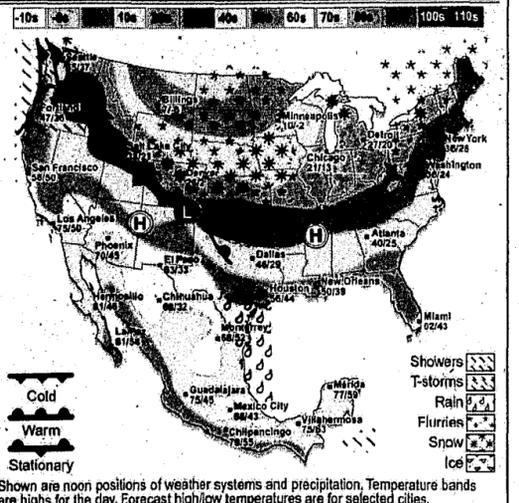
Alamogordo Statistics through Monday

Temperature:  
High/Low 50°/22°  
Normal high 54°  
Normal low 28°  
Record high 67° (1987)  
Record low 9° (1949)

Precipitation:  
Monday 0.00"  
Month to date 0.00"  
Normal month to date 0.12"  
Year to date 0.00"  
Normal year to date 0.12"

Weather Trivia™:  
Q: What is the U.S. record for one day temperature variation?  
A: 100 degrees F. from 56° to -44° at Browning, Mont., January 1916.

National Forecast for Jan. 6, 2010



National Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Albany	48/24/c	40/17/pc
Anchorage	28/22/sf	28/23/sf
Atlanta	40/25/s	44/19/s
Austin	54/36/r	46/26/pc
Baltimore	38/23/s	38/24/pc
Boston	33/25/pc	34/23/s
Chicago	21/13/c	22/11/sn
Dallas	46/29/c	42/17/pc
Denver	26/2/sn	18/1/pc
Des Moines	14/-4/sn	-3/-10/sn
Detroit	27/20/c	27/15/sn
El Paso	63/33/s	50/26/pc
Las Vegas	63/42/s	65/43/pc
Los Angeles	75/50/s	70/50/s
Minneapolis	10/-2/sn	-1/-9/pc
New Orleans	50/39/pc	58/28/r
New York City	36/28/s	35/27/pc
Philadelphia	38/24/s	36/24/pc
Phoenix	70/45/s	70/46/pc
Reno	47/28/pc	49/28/pc
San Francisco	58/50/pc	58/48/pc
San Diego	66/50/s	66/50/s
Seattle	45/37/sh	47/38/pc
Tucson	72/38/s	68/41/pc
Tulsa, OK	34/17/c	24/1/pc
Wash., DC	36/24/s	35/26/pc
Wichita	30/10/sn	11/-1/pc
Yuma	71/48/s	72/49/s

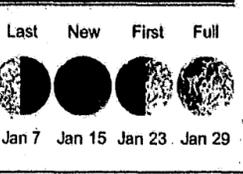
Regional Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Albuquerque	44/27/c	44/26/pc
Artesia	60/33/s	39/23/c
Chama	38/10/pc	35/4/pc
Clayton	34/12/sn	21/8/sf
Cloudcroft	48/20/s	41/7/pc
Farmington	40/17/s	40/16/pc
Hobbs	59/24/s	42/19/c
Los Alamos	42/17/pc	37/17/pc
Portales	47/17/pc	36/16/sf
Raton	34/12/sn	28/7/sf
Red River	36/6/sn	30/-1/sf
Ruidoso	54/23/s	34/20/pc
Santa Fe	42/20/pc	38/17/pc
Silver City	61/33/s	56/30/pc
Taos	41/17/sn	33/12/sf

Sun and Moon

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 7:07 a.m./5:11 p.m.  
Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset none/10:57 a.m.

Moon Phases



Extremes

Monday's National High/Low: High 79° in San Marcos, CA; Low -40° in Orr, MN  
Monday's World High/Low: High: 113° in Marble Bar, Australia; Low: -61° in Sholongotsky, Russia



MOUNTAIN ANNIE'S, DANCING TO THE RIVERSONG RAMBLERS



LOS MUSTANGS ROCK CASA BLANCA, L-R, BLAKE MARTIN, RANDY JONES, RICH CHORNE', SAM SHACKLEFORD, JAY CASTLEBERRY

New Year's Eve, Ruidoso, 2009-2010 • Photos by Marty Racine/Ruidoso News



DANCING TO THE FUN BROTHERS AT WIN, PLACE & SHOW



MICKY LAMONICA POURING DRINKS AT THE TEXAS CLUB

# REWARD

## \$1000



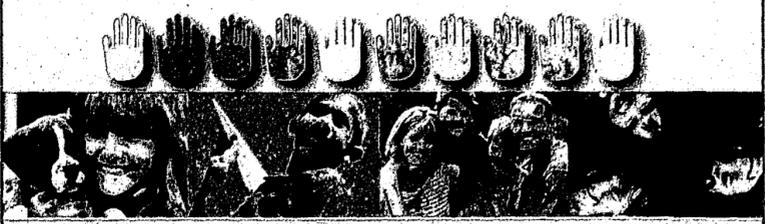
**Lost Dog**  
**Sheltie (mini Collie)**  
 Last seen Friday,  
 Jan. 1st in Resort  
 and Grindstone  
 area. Lost  
 Dec. 30, 2009

Name is ZOE  
 Very frightened  
 Not wearing  
 collar. Likes small  
 dogs & is afraid  
 of children.

**Call Sylvia 210-414-0524 or Frank 210-413-9205**  
**Thank You Ruidoso!**

### THE BENEVOLENT AND PATRIOTIC ORDER OF DOES RUIDOSO DROVE #152 WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING MERCHANTS FOR MAKING OUR 2009 ANNUAL DINNER AND CHARITY AUCTION A SUCCESS:

<b>Ace Village Hardware</b>	<b>Diane Gremillion,</b>	<b>The Relano Bros.</b>
<b>Action Sky Shop</b>	<b>Homes &amp; Land</b>	<b>Wine &amp; Cheese Co.</b>
<b>The Adobe</b>	<b>Magazine</b>	<b>Ruidoso Ford Motor Co.</b>
<b>Apache Trading Co.</b>	<b>Good To Go</b>	<b>Ruidoso Psychical</b>
<b>Art And Flower Nook</b>	<b>The Herb Stop</b>	<b>Therapy Clinic</b>
<b>Big O Tires</b>	<b>High Country Agency</b>	<b>Rustic Expressions</b>
<b>Billy's Sports Bar &amp; Grill</b>	<b>The Hummingbird</b>	<b>Seasons Nursery</b>
<b>Brunnels</b>	<b>Tea Room</b>	<b>Jessica Sherman -</b>
<b>The Buttery</b>	<b>Hurd-La Rinconada</b>	<b>Therapeutic</b>
<b>Casa Blanca</b>	<b>Gallery</b>	<b>Massage &amp; Body</b>
<b>Restaurant</b>	<b>K-Bob's Restaurant</b>	<b>Works</b>
<b>Roshan Chamaan</b>	<b>Lawrence Bros. Iga</b>	<b>Sierra Blanc Motors</b>
<b>City Bank Of Nm</b>	<b>Leathers With Style</b>	<b>Sierra Cinema</b>
<b>Bob Daniels</b>	<b>Lincoln County</b>	<b>Smokey's Country</b>
<b>Domino's Pizza</b>	<b>Mercantile</b>	<b>Market</b>
<b>Dream Catchers Cafe</b>	<b>Mitchell's Silver</b>	<b>Tanner Tradition</b>
<b>Evergreen Cleaners</b>	<b>Sherri Miller, Ruidoso</b>	<b>The Texas Club</b>
<b>El Mercado Azteca</b>	<b>Board Of Realtors</b>	<b>Thriftway Market</b>
<b>First Federal Bank</b>	<b>Zoe De Negri, Jewelry</b>	<b>Walmart</b>
<b>First National Bank</b>	<b>Picture This Gallery</b>	<b>Western Auto Of</b>
<b>The Florist Shoppe &amp;</b>	<b>And Framing</b>	<b>Alamogordo</b>
<b>Gifts Of Alamogordo</b>	<b>Postal Annex</b>	<b>The Zuni</b>
<b>Gdry D. Garrett,</b>	<b>Psalm 91 Art, Deralyn</b>	<b>Phil Jones And Elton</b>
<b>Wild-Life Art</b>	<b>Mcmasters</b>	



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# OPINION

## RUIDOSO NEWS

Lisa Morales, publisher  
Marty Racine, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday

### OUR OPINION

## Food tax is especially cruel

Pending legislation hurts the most vulnerable

Of all the ideas being kicked around to generate more revenue for the state, we can think of none that would be more shortsighted or cause greater damage to the state's most vulnerable residents than the proposal to reinstate gross receipts taxes on food.

The food tax, originally passed in 1933 as a temporary emergency measure, was repealed in 2005, along with taxes on some medical services.

At the time the food tax was lifted, the state increased GRT on other non-food items by .5 percent, with the intent being that the two changes would offset each other and the bill would be revenue neutral.

New Mexico was one of seven states that fully taxed the sale of groceries at the time the bill was passed. Now, there are only two, Alabama and Mississippi. States throughout the nation have come to understand that a tax on food is the most regressive of all taxes, placing the greatest burden on those who can least afford it.

The task force formed by Gov. Bill Richardson to examine possible tax increases has looked at almost 30 options, covering everything from out-of-state corporations to everyday purchases by state residents.

And, those options don't include repealing the 2003 personal income tax reduction, something Richardson strongly opposes but will likely be introduced this session.

We understand that any of these proposals will have vocal opposition. And, we also

know that corporations tend to have better-funded lobbying efforts than those living in poverty.

But, we trust lawmakers will recognize the harm done by bringing back the food tax.

A survey by the state Taxation and Revenue Department prior to the 2005 bill found that those earning less than \$10,000 spent up to almost 37 percent of total income on groceries, as compared to those earning \$75,000 or more, who spent less than 4 percent.

A report by the public policy group Think New Mexico in support of the 2005 bill noted that low-income families and those with a large number of children are disproportionately affected.

"The food tax is an especially cruel tax because it's difficult to escape paying, and one, of course, needs food in order to survive," the report pointed out.

"By contrast, the rest of New Mexico's gross receipts tax is avoidable by purchasing goods and services from the Internet."

The same report points out that New Mexico has a higher food insecurity and hunger rate than any other state in the nation. Re-instating taxes on food will only worsen an already bad situation.

We recognize that the state has a pressing need to increase revenue. But, doing so on the backs of the poor and the hungry is not the right solution.

*This editorial was originally published in the Las Cruces Sun-News on Jan. 3, 2010.*

FACT: Ski Apache instructs more first timers than any ski area in the country.



Doug McLeod 10  
mcleod65@aol.com

### YOUR OPINION

## Misinformation abounds on track

To the editor:

THERE HAS BEEN much information, partial information and even misinformation about the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino in the media and many of the residents of Ruidoso do not believe it is possible that the race track/casino may move.

It is the opinion of the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce that this is not accurate and that we are, in reality, in peril of losing the race track/casino. It is important for all the residents of Lincoln County to know that if the track cannot be profitable, it may leave or close and if this happens it will impact all residents of the county.

The Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce is aggressive in our efforts to keep the track where it belongs: in Lincoln County. We encourage all citizens to learn the facts and participate in our Ruidoso Backs Our Track initiative. More information, as well as an opinion survey can be found on the chamber Web site at [www.RuidosoNow.com/backthetrack](http://www.RuidosoNow.com/backthetrack).

Cynthia West  
President  
Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce

### Law doesn't apply

To the editor:

RUIDOSO DOWNS Race Track & Casino is extremely thankful to the City of Ruidoso Downs and the Village of Ruidoso for their support. We also appreciate the efforts made by many of the business leaders and residents of both communities. Unfortunately, inaccurate information has been recently presented that I feel compelled to address.

First, there is no law that prohibits a second race track from being located within an 80-mile radius of an existing racetrack. There is a law that requires a written agreement between a race track located within an 80-mile radius of another race track, in order for that track to conduct simulcast wagering.

In addition, we have not discussed the distance from Sunland Park to any of the potential locations we are considering - they may or may not be within an 80-mile radius. We have no intention of harming

Sunland Park and plan on working on an agreement with their ownership regarding the 80 mile radius law, if it becomes applicable.

Secondly, it's true that Las Cruces is our preferred location should we be forced to move the Race Track and Casino, but it is not our only option. Other communities have contacted us and offered their cities as alternatives to Las Cruces. These communities are eager to bring new business to their areas. They are looking for ways to diversify their economies, expand their tax base and provide jobs for their residents. They are willing to provide incentives to do so.

As residents of this community, we would like to stay in Ruidoso. As business operators it is difficult to ignore pro-business communities that are willing to offer generous enticements that encourage business relocation.

Finally, some have said that Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino is looking for a hand-out. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are looking for parity.

The truth is:

- Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino business model was based on being one of two casinos in the area.

- Things changed in 2003 when a third casino was allowed to open in the area.

- Tribal Casinos tax rates range from 3 percent - 9.75 percent. The Race Track Casino tax rate is 26 percent.

- The tiered tax bill would allow small race track casinos to pay tiered rates, like the Tribal Casinos and would apply to any race track with \$14 million in net winnings or less.

- Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino has tried to operate within the current tax structure and has not been successful.

- The Legislature was asked to address the tax inequity three years ago, prior to the budget issues faced today.

- With the exception of a few very powerful legislators, many legislators have supported tax parity for smaller race tracks.

- Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino cannot continue to lose money each year.

It is disheartening that an issue that is so important to the

well being of so many people has often been presented in a misleading manner.

The bottom line is Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino is a critical economic driver for the area. Studies have shown that the annual economic impact from the Race Track & Casino to the area is up to \$40 million. The Race Track & Casino brings more than 400 jobs to the area and contributes more than \$3.3 million per year in local and state taxes.

More than 23 communities and organizations have sent resolutions and letters of support for the tiered tax. Track ownership has invested in many other businesses in the area while contributing over \$13 million in donations to Southeastern New Mexico philanthropic organizations. What other business ownership has done that? Why would any anyone want to risk losing all that?

Now, having a more complete picture, the *Ruidoso News* should withdraw their suggestion to the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Ruidoso Lodgers Tax Committee and local government officials to rethink their strategy to keep Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino here. Now is the time for the *Ruidoso News* to embrace and support those groups' efforts to keep the Race Track & Casino in Ruidoso.

Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino will find a way to make our business viable if a tiered tax or some other similar vehicle is not provided. If that means moving - we will unfortunately be forced to move. This is not a threat, a bluff or an attempt to use anyone as a pawn as some have suggested. It is the truth.

Ann McGovern  
President & General Manager  
Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino

*Editor's note: In its editorial of Jan. 1, the Ruidoso News did not mean to suggest that efforts on behalf of tax parity legislation should be called off; rather, that in light of a tough state economic climate, alternative strategies, or inducements, might be explored in order to convince the track and casino operation from relocating.*

### LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words in length, of public interest, and free of libel; editing will be for length, grammar or spelling. Shorter letters are preferred and generally receive greater readership. The *Ruidoso News* reserves the right to reject any letter. Longer by-lined "Guest Commentary" articles will be considered; call the editor at 575-257-4001.

Letters may be delivered to the *Ruidoso News* office at 104 Park Avenue, mailed to P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88355; faxed to 257-7053; or sent by e-mail to [letters@ruidosonews.com](mailto:letters@ruidosonews.com).

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# PARITY

FROM PAGE 1A

potentially cover the reduced gaming tax.

Reduced gaming tax legislation for racetracks and their casinos was unsuccessful the previous two years.

"They say the third time is the charm," said Cisneros, vice-chair of the Senate Finance Committee. "It's got some potential. But the finance committee will be the biggest hurdle."

The chair of the committee, Senator John Arthur Smith, said the bill would have to be reviewed by the finance panel.

"I'm not real enthused," Smith said of the legislation. "The governor said he is pursuing this help for Mr. Hubbard. This is the worst time."

The state has seen a sharp decline in revenues the past year because of the downturn in the national economy.

"If this makes it to the floor people have to realize we're not funding educa-

tion, we're not funding health care. But we're funding gambling," said Smith. "The irony of the whole thing is 10 years ago Mr. Hubbard had lobbyists who said they would have no problem paying these taxes."

In 1997 legislation passed, allowing slot machines at New Mexico racetracks to help prop up the horse racing industry.

"The reality of getting this bill passed this year is difficult," Ruidoso Downs city attorney and lobbyist H. John Underwood told

the Ruidoso Rotary Club Tuesday. Calling the track and its casino the key economic engine for Lincoln County, Underwood urged club members to contact lawmakers.

"Without the engine that drives the train the box cars will sit still," said Underwood. "It's our track. We need to support the tax parity legislation. The Ruidoso Downs race track is our Cannon Air Force Base."

In 2005 the Clovis area assembled a major lobbying effort that helped sway

the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to reverse a recommendation to close the nearby air base.

A report that state law prohibits horse racetracks and their casinos within 80 miles of each was called incorrect by Underwood. He said the law forbids simulcasting while a nearby track is conducting its racing season.

A "Back the Track" website has been established by the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, which is leading an effort to keep the racetrack in

Ruidoso Downs. It includes an on-line survey and a link to contact legislators.

"Send them an email," said Cynthia West, president of the Chamber. "Give them your input, your thoughts on how it would impact your businesses."

Underwood said he understands there are other communities in New Mexico courting Hubbard to relocate there.

"If there's other people romancing this track we need to do some romancing too with the Legislature," he said.

# MAYOR

FROM PAGE 1A

degree in quality engineering and business administration from Hancock College in Santa Maria, Calif.; that he is a Certified New Mexico Municipal League Municipal Official (2005); a graduate of Leadership New Mexico; a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians; a Certified Quality Engineer by the American Society of Quality Control; and a Certified Professional Engineer by the California Board of Registration.

He is a director of the Ruidoso Valley Festival of Lights, the chief executive officer of Military Appreciation Week, serves on the Ruidoso Water Contingency and Conservation Committee and the Ruidoso Affordable Housing Committee, and represents the village on the Ruidoso/Lincoln County Extraterritorial Zoning Committee. He sits on the Executive Advisory Council of the Lincoln County Humane Society and on the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/Council of Governments and the Southeast-



WILLIAMS

ern Regional Planning Organization.

"I have enjoyed your support and encouragement over the past several years," Williams said. "I am honored by your confidence and consider it to be an affirmation of my values. My qualifications and experience include 30 years as a professional Quality Assurance Engineer and Organizational Manager. I am a Registered Professional and Certified Quality Engineer."

"Additionally, I am a certified Municipal Official by the New Mexico Municipal League. I see myself as a voice of reason exploring all avenues of the issues involving your Village. I am an honest, hard working, retired professional, willing to accept the challenges that the position of the Ruidoso Mayor offers."

Williams and his wife, Misti, were married on New Year's Eve 1963.

## Filing in the '3 Cs'

### CORONA

#### • Mayor

Bill Hignight

#### • Trustee (2 positions)

Sam Seely

Cal West

### CAPITAN

#### • Mayor

Sam Hammons

Bernhard Reimann

George Tippin

#### • Trustee (2 positions)

Gregory Flores

Dennis Haskell

Ricky LaMay

Diane Riska

#### • Municipal Judge

J.D. Roerhig

### CARRIZOZO

#### • Mayor

Manuel Hernandez

Mike Petty

#### • Trustee (2 positions)

Judy Fitzpatrick

Jamie Gieb

Lee Gross

Rose Kratochvil

Wes Lindsay

## Ruidoso: Plenty of choices in races

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Ruidoso voters will have plenty of choices in the non-partisan municipal election March 2.

Four candidates signed up to run for the position of mayor in the village and eight submitted papers for the three open council seats.

Vying for job of mayor will be Gus Raymond

Alborn, a member of the village Planning and Zoning Commission, former football coach at Rice University and president of the Lincoln County Food Bank; Councilor Don Williams, who also is a Lincoln County commissioner; former Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Joan J. Zagone; and James Gibson, who retired last year as administrator of the Lincoln

County Medical Center, the county hospital in Ruidoso.

Running for the three council seats up for election are incumbent James Stoddard, former executive director of the R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard Foundation; former Parks and Recreation director for the village, Rafael "Rifle" Salas, a member of the Ruidoso School Board; former firefighter and locksmith Franklin S. Pirelli; former Ruidoso Office Supply and Hallmark owner and current Lincoln County Food Bank treasurer Denise Dean; Rick Albers Jr., who has been active in the revision of the village Comprehensive Plan; Jerry Shaw, former mayor, councilor and director of the county's DWI Prevention program; Gloria Sayers, who has a special interest in zoning issues from a homeowner's point of view; and the last one to sign up, Don Dutton, an attorney, a village Planning and Zoning commissioner and former member of the New Mexico Gaming Control Board.

Municipal Judge Michael S. Line is running unopposed for reelection to his position.

All seats are four-year terms.

## Downs: Five run for council

JIM KAIVELAGE

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Two incumbent members of the Ruidoso Downs city council will face challenges at the March 2 election.

Five candidates are certified for the ballot following Tuesday's declarations.

Voters will select two council members from the field made up of Tommy Hood, Joe Blaney, Dean Holman, Thomas Chavez, and Bob Miller.

Hood an incumbent who runs the Ruidoso Downs Senior Center.

Holman, also an incumbent, is a former educator.

Blaney is a long-time city resident and a frequent attendee of city council meetings.

Chavez is a past city council hopeful and a former firefighter in Ruidoso.

Miller was the city's mayor for two terms, ending in 2008.

The next mayor's race will be in 2012.

# Brogan to run for 12th District Court judge

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Bill Brogan, former Alamogordo City Attorney and Ruidoso Assistant Village Attorney, plans to run for District Court Judge for Lincoln and Otero Counties in the June Republican primary.

He was chosen twice by the 12th District Judicial Selection Committee as one of three most qualified attorneys to recommend to the Governor to fill a vacancy on the district court serving the two neighboring counties.

The general election to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of District Judge Sandra Grisham is set for Nov. 2. Grisham was appointed when District Judge Frank Wilson retired at the end of 2008. Gov. Bill Richardson is scheduled to appoint a temporary replacement to serve until the election names her successor.

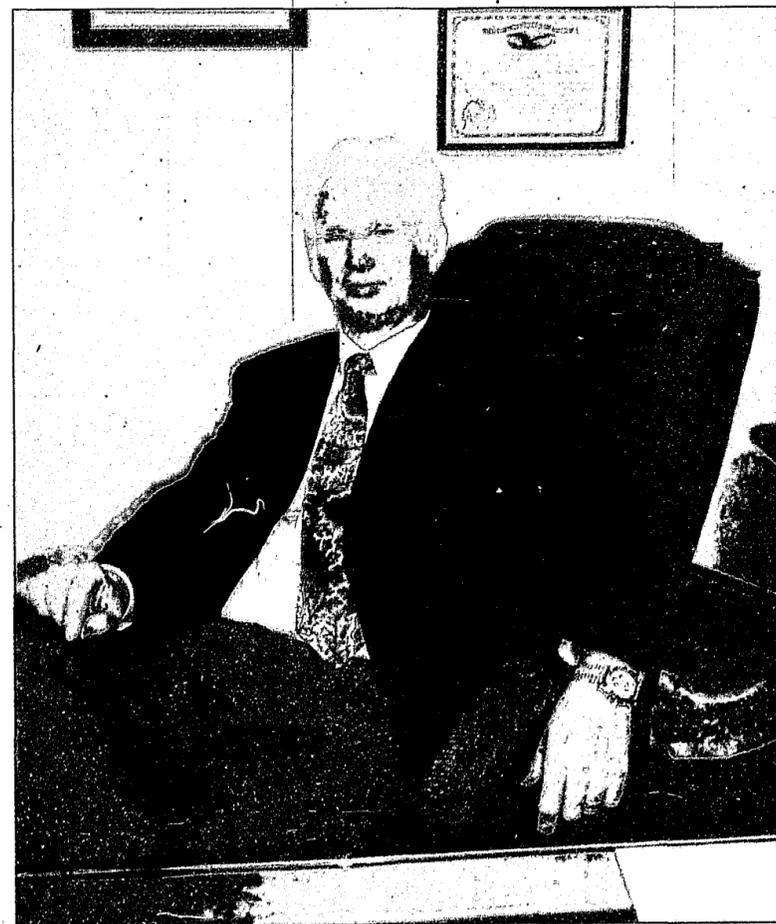
"The death of my 18-year-old son changed my views on life," Brogan said of his decision to run. "I have now learned to be patient, and a good listener. I understand there are two sides to every story and both sides are entitled to tell their story to an unbiased court. We are a nation of laws not judicial whims. Judges must be bound by the Constitution adopted by the people and the laws enacted by the Legislature. I believe I will be the type of Judge the people want and ask that they vote for

me in June for the primary election and in November for the general election."

Brogan practiced in Ruidoso from 2001 until 2006, when he moved to Alamogordo and served as City Attorney for 18 months. He is no stranger to local politics and was active in the Santa Fe political scene when he lived there, was elected to the school board in California, and ran for the Alamogordo City Commission.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and a Master of Science in Radiology and Radiation Biology from Colorado State University, Brogan served as Special Staff Health Physicist for the U.S. Army Munitions Command. He returned to his native city and earned his Juris Doctor from University of New Mexico.

Born and raised in Albuquerque, Brogan said he is comfortable with New Mexico ways and culture. He began his law practice in 1973 in Albuquerque and moved to Santa Fe as Chief Trial Counsel for the New Mexico Highway Department in 1974. Brogan practiced in California between 1977 and 1981. In 1981, he returned to Santa Fe and the Attorney General's Office, where he served as Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Boards and Commissions Division. He was then assigned primarily to the Construction Industries Division of the Regulation and Licensing Department.



With a change of administration, he served as the first in-house attorney for the Regulation and Licensing Department. Later, he returned to the State Highway Department (now known as the state Department of Transportation) as Special Projects Counsel.

After his son, Michael, was killed in 1984, Brogan returned to private practice

in Santa Fe for the next 12 years focusing on eminent domain, estate planning, and complex probate cases. His largest case was a \$750 million issue for the State of New Mexico and his smallest was an \$11 collection defense for client sued by Sears, Brogan said. He won both cases.

In 1996, he and his wife of 23 years, Julia, took a sabbatical and returned to

school at the University of Southern California. They each earned Master's Degrees in Professional Writing. After two years in the movie industry and teaching Developmental English in the Community Colleges in and around Los Angeles, and a short stint as in-house counsel for a group of radiologists, Brogan returned to Ruidoso and private prac-

tice.

In 37 years practicing law, Brogan tried hundreds of misdemeanor defenses, two felony defenses, several misdemeanor prosecutions, scores of bodily injury cases and eminent domain condemnation cases both for the State and for property owners, represented parties in contract and real estate matters, and served as contract Ruidoso Village Attorney and the organizing attorney for the Alto Lakes Special Zoning District, while focusing on estate planning in his private practice. Brogan also wrote wills and contracts.

When the Alamogordo City Attorney position was offered to him in 2006, Brogan said he jumped at the challenge. His wife joined him in Alamogordo in the spring of 2007, and they now live there while also retaining a home and numerous contacts in Ruidoso.

Brogan is the immediate past president of the 12th Judicial District Bar Association and serves on the Board of Directors for the Alamogordo Rotary Club. He has served on the Boards of four Rotary Clubs; was a founding member, board member, and president of the Santa Fe del Sur Rotary Club; was an ordained Deacon in the Santa Fe Presbyterian Church; served on the Board of the Fillmore United Methodist Church; and has been active in several fraternal and civic groups.

# EDUCATION

## NEA-NM may oppose teacher salary cuts

JIM KALVELAGE  
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A two percent salary cut for state employees and public schools teachers, to help stretch New Mexico's recession impacted revenues, was recommended by the Legislative Finance Committee on Monday.

"After two rounds of emergency action to balance the fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2010 budgets, the legislature is short on options to address this recession-driving crisis without cutting important services or raising revenue," said Representative

Luciano "Lucky" Varela, (D-Santa Fe), the chair of the finance panel.

"The legislature is hitting this wall at the same time more New Mexicans are more in need of safety net services and less able to afford higher taxes or fees."

The committee's general fund recommendation of \$2.4 billion for public schools would be an increase of \$128 million over the final appropriation for fiscal year 2010.

The proposed appropriation reflects the need to replace \$186 million in federal stimulus money that will no longer be available.

Because of the loss of federal funds, the overall money available to schools would be down slightly.

In a letter to lawmakers, Varela said the finance committee continued to emphasize public education and access to health care. For fiscal year 2011, which begins on July 1, 2010, public school support and related appropriations would account for 45.1 percent of spending from the state's general fund.

The two percent salary reduction for all public employees, including those in public schools and higher education, is estimated to save \$76.2 million.

An official with the Ruidoso Education Association said the union is opposed to simply cutting teacher salaries.

"We would hope that the legislature would be able to find more appropriate ways to fund public education fully," said Brian Brown, president of the REA. "NEA NM (National Education Association-New Mexico) lobbied at the last special session to convince legislators not to make cuts to education and were partially successful. There will likely be statewide efforts by educators to lobby against this type of cut in

salary." Brown said REA would likely support such efforts. The proposal from the Legislative Finance Committee said school districts should look at eliminating three professional development days outside the 180-day instructional calendar to achieve the two percent salary cut.

For higher education the compensation reduction would be applied to instruction, general, and all line-item appropriations.

The implementation of the salary reduction would be at the discretion of the governing board of each institution.

## TEEN SPOTLITE

Sponsored by the Lincoln County DWI Prevention

As another year is ushered in, Teen Spotlight is honored to feature area teens that have made a difference in their community.

It is exciting to see the involvement of youth and their impact in the local area. Kylie Gaines is the next teen in the Spotlight.

Kylie is the daughter of Michael and Melody Gaines and is currently in her junior year at Carrizozo High School.

Gaines is involved in a variety of activities at her school and in her community.

At Carrizozo High School, Gaines is active in sports and has participated on the volleyball team.

In addition to playing sports, Gaines is also active in the Carrizozo FFA Chapter.

She is on the State Winning FFA and 4-H Meats Judging Team. Gaines is also a member of MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement).

Gaines is also involved in the community. She is an active member of the Lincoln County 4-H Club and is the president-elect of the Lincoln County 4-H Council.

Gaines shows animals at the Lincoln County Fair, the Eastern New Mexico Fair, and the New Mexico State Fair. Memberships in the Society of Range Management and Junior Rotary round out her busy list.

Support from one's family is impor-



KYLIE GAINES

tant, and Gaines knows she has that in her life. She lists her parents and grandparents as influences in her life. Gaines is also busy planning for the future.

Her plans include attending college at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and pursuing a Bachelor's degree in nursing.

She is currently interested in becoming an emergency room trauma nurse. It is evident Gaines has a bright future ahead of her.

## Senior Profiles – Joe Lynch

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.

KIMBERLY KOTILA  
For the Ruidoso News

When Joe Lynch graduated from college, there was about to be a draft for the Vietnam War.

However, he did not want to be in the Army. The Blue Angels were in town that week, and amazed by the flying skills of these pilots, Joe applied to be a pilot in the Navy.

He was accepted for the job and acquired over one hundred hours of flight training.

Joe was later released from the Navy due to the numerous amount of pilots, but kept flying and received his pilot's license. He has been flying for over forty years and is hoping to get back in the air again soon.

"Being able to go up for half an hour and seeing a car the size of pen dot, you realize life is not so bad."

After the Navy, Joe worked in a psychiatric hospital for about three years, then worked in the

psychiatric part of a maximum security prison in Illinois as the director of education.

While there, he was given a grant for equipment to install a short order cook program.

The point of the program was to help the inmates with getting jobs when they were released.

"It is still the only program in the Illinois prison system that is making money," Joe said.

Aside from being a pilot and a teacher, Joe is also a traveler.

He has been to Greece six times and enjoys every minute of it. He describes it as being "one of those magical countries" that is full of history.

The first time he traveled to Greece he took only five hundred dollars.

While there he would travel from island to island on a freighter meeting people from all over the world.

He said when you got off at an island the kids would come running up saying, "Stay here, stay here," and invite you into their gorgeous homes like a bed and breakfast.

He never knew where he was going to stay from night-to-night.

The three main islands Joe would visit were: Crete, Santorini and Piraeus. Each time he goes back he tries to pick three new islands to visit.

The first time he went,

after about three days he decided to take off around the islands.

At that point he knew he could travel by himself if he wanted to.

"I ate like a king, drank like a fish and came back with two hundred fifty bucks."

Joe had met a few girls on the charter on his way back from Greece who spent about fifteen hundred dollars on a cruise and said they did not like it and would never do it again.

They wanted to stay in Santorini, but their cruise only allowed them to stay there for eight hours.

Joe said he was going to only spend a day there but liked it so much he spent six days there.

"I did on five hundred bucks what they did for fifteen hundred."

Joe is now an instructor at the Eastern New Mexico University in Ruidoso and would love to make the trip to Greece again.

He has also been scuba diving with sharks and manta rays, run a half marathon and other races, and is hoping to hear back soon about getting his pilot's license back so he can fly again.

Joe Lynch is a remarkable man who could entertain for hours with his stories.

I hope he is able to acquire his pilot's license once again and take me for a ride in the future.

## School day could get longer next year

JIM KALVELAGE  
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The length of the school day in New Mexico may change, beginning with the 2010-11 school year.

Legislation approved by state lawmakers earlier this year requires a school year have at least 180 full instruction days for a regular school year calendar, exclusive of any release time for in-service training.

Public schools with a four-day education week, such as the Capitan Municipal School District, Corona Public Schools and the Hondo Valley Public School District, the year must consist of at least 150 full instruction days, exclusive of any release time for in-service training.

Days, or parts of days,

that are lost to weather, in-service training or other events that are not school-directed programs, will be made up so that students are given a full instructional year.

Students are required to be in school-directed programs, exclusive of lunch, for a minimum number of hours and minutes, depending on the grade level.

In a letter to school superintendents, New Mexico Public Education Department Secretary Veronica Garcia said a rewrite of the school calendar requirements is underway.

Guidance is provided to districts that are designing their 2010-11 school year calendars. Schools with the regular five-day school week will have to provide a

minimum of six hours of school-directed programs for grades seven through 12. Full-day kindergarten through sixth grade programs would have to provide a minimum of five and one-half hours per day.

Schools with the condensed calendar of a four-day school week will be required to provide seven hours and 36 minutes of school-directed programs per day for grades seven through high school.

Full-day kindergarten through sixth grade students would see six hours and 37 minutes per day.

Upon the approval of a principal, some hours during the school year can be used for things like parent-teacher conferences or middle and high school consultations.

### EDUCATION BRIEFS

#### Grants for schools

Wells Fargo and Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico are pleased to announce that \$43,000 in classroom grants have been awarded.

The selection process was extremely difficult, given the number of worthy applications received - over 400 applications with requests totaling more than \$380,000.

Wells Fargo Teacher's Partner Program - Grant Applications Selected for Funding

Forty-seven teachers in 44 schools from 22 different communities around New Mexico have been selected

to receive \$43,032 in funding for projects providing books and supplies, field trips, classroom technology and teacher professional development.

Those who received funding teach in public schools, including charter schools, and private schools.

Lincoln County recipients of the grants are Ashley Ivins, Carrizozo Schools; Laura Bryant, White Mountain Elementary; and Lisa Vasquez, White Mountain Elementary, Ruidoso.

The Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico (Golden Apple) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

established in 1994 with a mission for recognizing excellent teachers and improving the quality of teaching.

Each year Golden Apple recognizes seven teachers from around New Mexico with the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. The Award winners - Golden Apple Fellows - give back to the profession through the many ways, both formal and informal, in which they mentor and help prepare other teachers. One significant way they give back is through teaching and mentoring aspiring teachers in the Golden Apple Scholars Program.

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# BRIDGE

FROM PAGE 1A

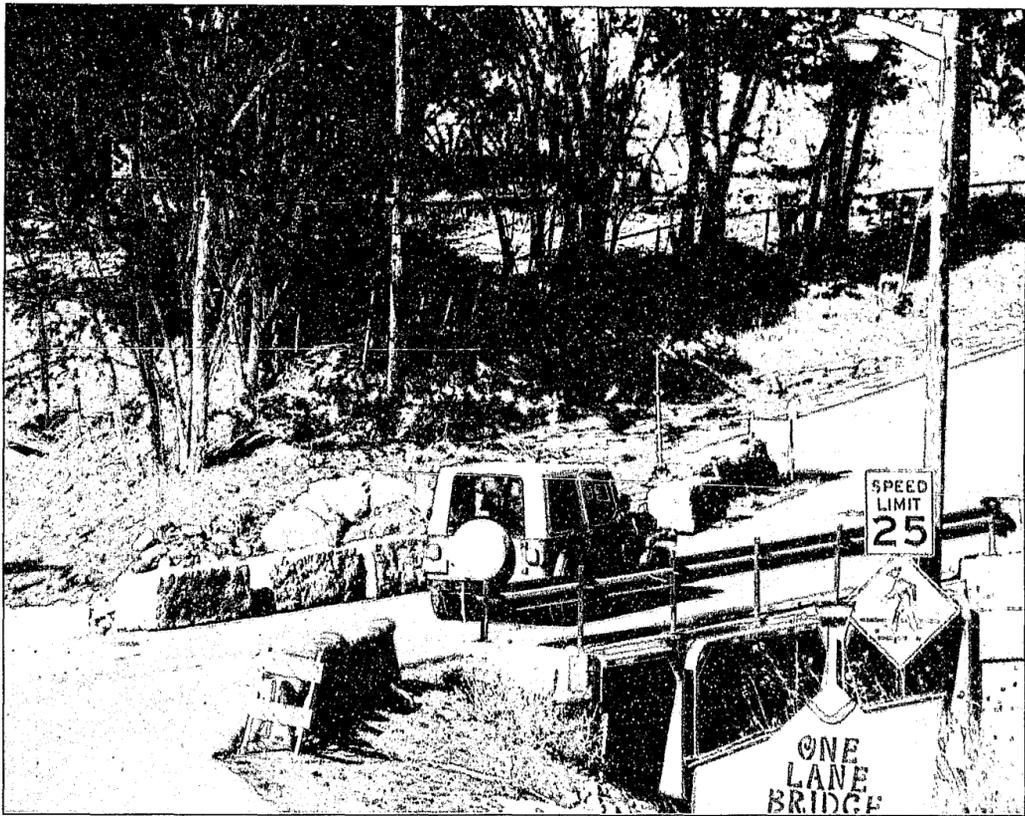
Kerry Thompson, 32, of Ruidoso was driving a 1997 Nissan northbound on Eagle Drive approaching the bridge, when the vehicle slid into the temporary guardrail, which broke. The vehicle continued off the bridge and fell about 8 feet into the Rio Ruidoso, landing on its left side.

Thompson suffered minor cuts on the hands from working to exit the vehicle. No alcohol was cited. Conditions were described in the police report as dusk and icy, and a contributing factor as, "speed too fast for conditions."

Don Brown with Corporate and Customer Communications of PNM Resources, said Tuesday the street light was scheduled to be fixed that day.

"Normally, we repair streetlights in the area within 48 hours of receiving a problem report," he said. "In this case, we did receive a report of the light being out a few weeks ago. However, a significant number of weather-related electric outages in December kept our crews busier than usual, so it's taken longer than usual to get to this particular street light."

"We don't consider street light repairs a 'low priority,' but our highest priority is



The light over the Eagle Drive Bridge has been temporarily out.

DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

hit twice," he said. "The first time it was damaged during the snowstorm and before we could get there to repair it, it was hit again. Once the accident occurred (that dislodged it), we had no material to put it back, so we put in concrete blocks as a temporary fix. We're hoping in February or March to begin construction of a permanent bridge."

The one-lane box culvert bridge was installed as a temporary fix after the previous bridge on Eagle Drive was destroyed by severe flooding on the Rio Ruidoso in July 2008.

Staff writer James Kalvelage contributed to this report.

restoring service when there are outages, as well as being sure conditions allow our crews to work safely. We appreciate the persistence of this customer in raising the issue so that the area near the bridge is properly lit."

Village Street Department Director J. R. Baumann said he was out of town when the two accidents occurred.

"But from my understanding, the guardrail was

## Colorado man killed in wreck near 'Zozo

Alcohol not considered a factor in early-morning crash

JIM KALVELAGE  
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A Colorado man was killed Sunday in a head-on collision one mile north of Carrizozo.

The crash happened shortly before 7 a.m. on U.S. Highway 54.

Joel Valdez, 19, from Denver, was traveling southbound when he drifted into the northbound lane, said New Mexico State Police Captain Keith Duncan. His 1994 Mazda pick-up truck hit an oncoming 2010 Peterbilt semi-truck.

Duncan said Valdez, who reportedly had been driving all night, might have fallen asleep. A report stated that alcohol was not a contributing factor. Valdez was pronounced dead at the crash site by a state medical investigator.

Valdez was a member of

the U.S. Marine Corps. An initial report from police that said he was heading to a detachment in Texas for deployment was incorrect. A relative said Valdez was helping his father move. The father was following behind Valdez in another vehicle.

A post on the social network site MySpace, by Joel Valdez, stated "Still on the road by myself to Texas. Life is absolutely spectacular."

The message was posted at 5:41 a.m., just over an hour before the collision.

The tractor-trailer was registered in Michigan.

The driver of the semi-truck, Theresa Plumb, 40, of Grand Rapids, Mich., and a passenger in the truck, Robert Caines, 32, of Morehead, Ky., were transported by ambulance to Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center in Alamo-gordo and later released.

The collision closed the highway for a while Sunday morning.

# BEALLS

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*Bonnie Dell McEuen passed away peacefully surrounded by close friends and family in her home at 7pm on November 29, 2009.*

Bonnie was born on October 10th 1926 in Roswell, NM. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 45 years Jim Henry McEuen. She is survived by her son Jimmy "Corky" McEuen, sisters Veda Wilde and Ruby Martin, grandchildren Larry and Beth McEuen; Anthony McEuen; Shawn and Michelle McEuen, and a myriad of loving friends. Especially Dalynn Somora, Stephanie Kist, and families whom tenderly cared for Bonnie in her illness.

Aside from being a loving mother and friend Bonnie was an entrepreneur, owning storage units and the famed B and L Pizza in Capitan. She was also a school bus driver and cafeteria cook for Capitan schools and was the recreation department director at Fort Stanton.

Bonnie loved her friends, cooking, country dancing, traveling, taking care of her son, and spending time at home. She was a fierce competitor and excelled at billiards and bowling. She will be greatly missed by all those who were honored to know and love her.



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# New Mexico float comes up roses in Pasadena

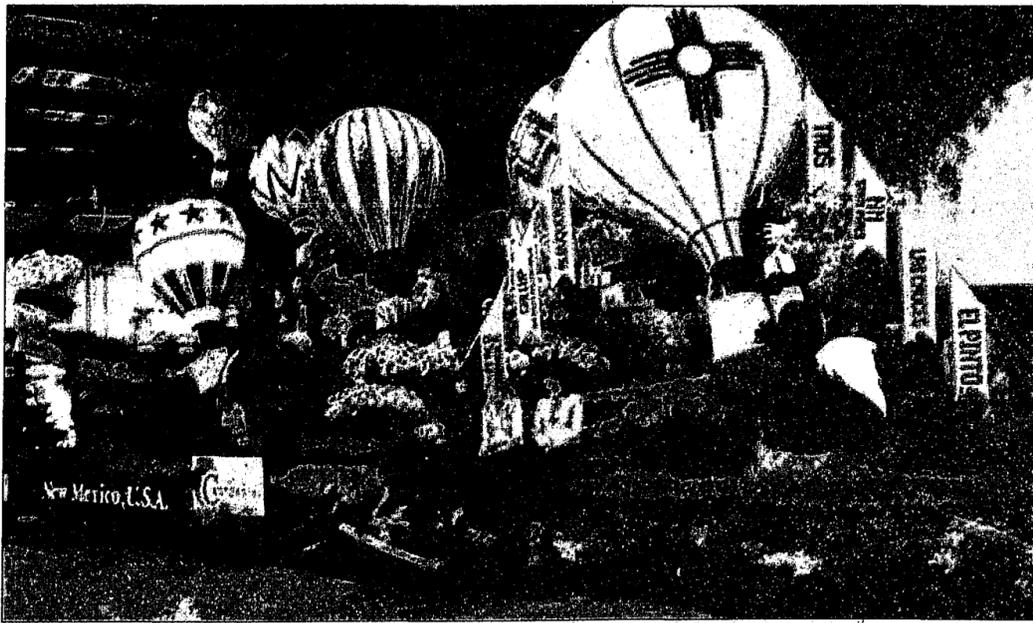
DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

For the second time in three years, the State of New Mexico's float entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade won the coveted Grand Marshal's Trophy.

"Enchantment is in the Air" was viewed by more than one million spectators lining Colorado Boulevard for the parade, and millions more watched around the world.

The float featured Academy-Award-winning Pepé Le Pew and Penelope Pussycat as they took to the southern California skies on a float memorializing the annual balloon festival.

Celebrated riders included actor Bryan Cranston, who earned widespread critical acclaim and back-to-back Primetime Emmy Awards for his portrayal as Walter White in AMC's drama series *Breaking Bad*, filmed in Albuquerque; his daughter, Taylor; Miss Mew Mexico 2008 Christina Olmi; Lauren Ivy Aguilar, an employee of New Mexico State Parks, one of the float's most ardent supporters over the years; and Little Miss New Mexico Mackenzie Brabson of Alamogordo. Brabson was in Pasadena with her mother and grandmother



market have been tremendous. This is an incredibly effective way to reach potential visitors to New Mexico from all around the country and all over the world."

Pepé and Penelope were crafted in layers of velvety black onion seed and crisp white coconut flakes. The colorful hot air balloons were created in a rainbow of materials including yellow and gold strawflower petals, green split peas, blue, hot pink and purple sinuata statice, dehydrated carrot and red bell peppers, safflower spice, sweet rice and coconut flakes. The gondola baskets were woven in cornhusk and kiwi vines.

The colorful landscape of New Mexico came alive in more than 50,000 roses. The unique rock formations were created in butter-scotch and bronze chrysanthemums with striations of roses including brown Leonodis, Café Ole, Coffee Break and tan Caramel and Sahara roses. The desert floor featured orange rose shades of Saturno, Star 2000, Mercedes, Tropical Amazon and Verano. Yucca blossoms were created with more than 10,000 white dendrobium orchid florets individually glued onto small welded rods.

volunteering as float decorators when she was asked to fill in for Miss New Mexico 2009 Nicole Miner, who was unable to attend.

The Grand Marshal's Trophy is given "for excellence in creative concept and design," and is one of the top three awards each year. It was New Mexico's third award in as many years.

Last year, the state's float featuring Roadrunner and Wile E. Coyote won the Bob Hope Humor Award, given to the float that is considered by the judges to

be the "most comical and amusing."

### Fourth entry

Today is the fourth time in the past five years that New Mexico was represented by a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

The float was once again designed by award-winning float designer Raul Rodriguez and built by Fiesta Parade Floats of Pasadena, under contract with the Tourism Department.

"This was a fabulous

experience and an incredible honor for the citizens of New Mexico," Michael Cerletti, Secretary of the Tourism Department, said of the award. "We are grateful to Raul, Tim (Estes) and all the folks at Fiesta Parade Floats. We also thank the more than 50 New Mexico volunteers who traveled by plane and automobile to California to work on the float and take part in the festivities; our volunteer float riders who are wonderful ambassadors for the State of New Mexico; and we particular-

ly want to thank our sponsors, the Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau, Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Town of Taos, the City of Gallup, Red Rock Balloon Rally, Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino, New Mexico State Parks and El Pinto Foods. "The response the state has received from our appearances in the previous Tournament of Roses Parades and the media efforts we sponsored primarily targeting the Southern California travel

## Cattle Baron closed; reasons vary

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A popular Ruidoso restaurant is temporarily closed, to make improvements.

"We are doing some remodeling," said Zachary Tischhauser, a district manager for Cattle Baron Steak and Seafood Restaurants.

"We have been meaning to get to the remodeling and now it is the end of a busy season."

The restaurant, which waved customers away on Sunday and Monday, will be closed for an undetermined amount of time.

### No date set

"It depends," Tischhauser said of a reopening date. "We don't know the extent of the remodeling."

But a collapsed sewer line may be behind the closure.

Village public works director Randall Camp said he was told there was a sewer back-up Saturday night.

"It is not on the village side, but on Cattle Baron's side," said Camp. "They have contractors there."

Camp said the village's responsibility is for the sewer main in the right-of-way along Sudderth Drive. He said the financial burden is with the restaurant and not the village.

Tischhauser did say there was some digging up and repair work taking place on some pipes.

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1

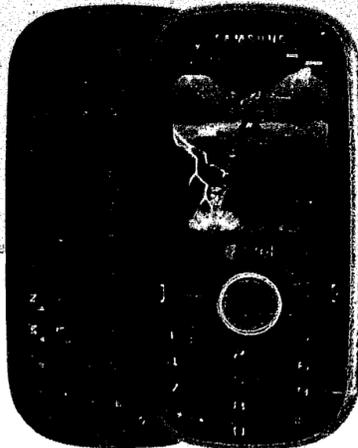
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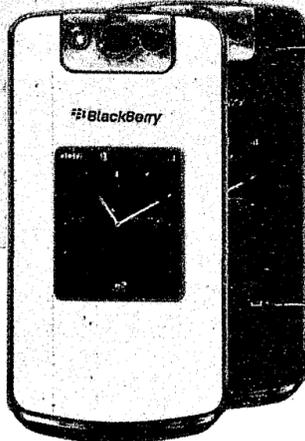
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# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6, 2010

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

PAGE 1B

## 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

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

New snow past 48 hrs.: 0 inches

Season total: 78 inches

Weather for Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 52. West wind between 5 and 15 mph. Wednesday evening, a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. Wind chill values as low as zero. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Weather for Saturday: A 10 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 32. East wind around 10 mph. Thursday evening, a 10 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12.

Current conditions: Excellent

Mid-mountain snow depth: 36 inches

Snow surface: Packed powder, machine groomed

Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, East Easy Street, Moonshine Gulch, Lower Moonshine, Lower Deep Freeze, Ramp, SBT, Capitan Lite, Snow Park, Smokey Bear, Chino, Meadows, East of East, Upper Deep Freeze, Elk Ridge, Bull Run, Game Trail, Game Trail, Buckhorn, Oscar's and Elk Lift Line.

Groomers Pick: Buckhorn

Lifts open: No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6 and No. 8. Gondola is closed.

Snowmaking: No

### Results

#### Boys Basketball

Saturday, Jan. 2  
Pojoaque 75, Ruidoso 66  
Monday, Jan. 4  
Hondo 41, Mescalero 31

#### Girls Basketball

Monday, Jan. 4  
Mescalero 51, Hondo 41  
Valerie Garcia of Mescalero scored 18 points  
Ruidoso 65, Mesilla 30  
Abriana Herrera of RHS scored 16 points

### Sports On Tap

#### Boys Basketball

Thursday, Jan. 7  
Capitan, Carrizozo, Hondo and Mescalero to attend Smokey Bear Classic in Capitan for 3-day tournament.

#### Friday, Jan. 8

Cobre at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.

#### Saturday, Jan. 9

W. Las Vegas at Ruidoso, 1 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 12

Ruidoso at Goddard, 7 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

Thursday, Jan. 7  
Capitan, Carrizozo and Hondo to attend Smokey Bear Classic in Capitan for 3-day tournament. Magdalena at Mescalero, 5 p.m.

#### Friday, Jan. 8

Ruidoso at Socorro, 7 p.m.

#### Monday, Jan. 11

Hatch Valley at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 12

Socorro at Ruidoso, 4 p.m.

## Lady Warriors tomahawk Mesilla

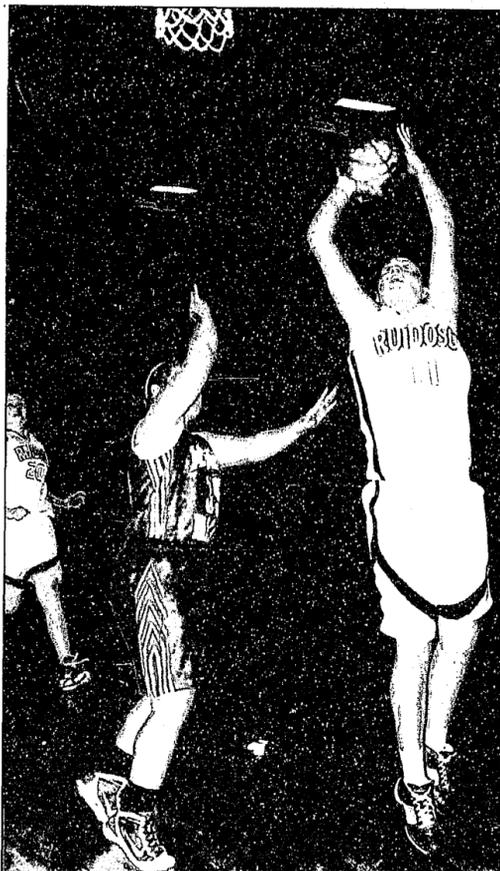
MIKE CURRAN  
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

The Ruidoso basketball girls started out slowly in Monday evening's hardwood contest with the Mesilla Valley Lady Son Blazers but 32 minutes later claimed a 65-30 victory before a home crowd.

In the opening minutes of action, the RHS girls fell behind 4-0 before going on to take a 14-4 first quarter lead, due in part to two 3-pointers by Audrina Ward and Kerbi Miller.

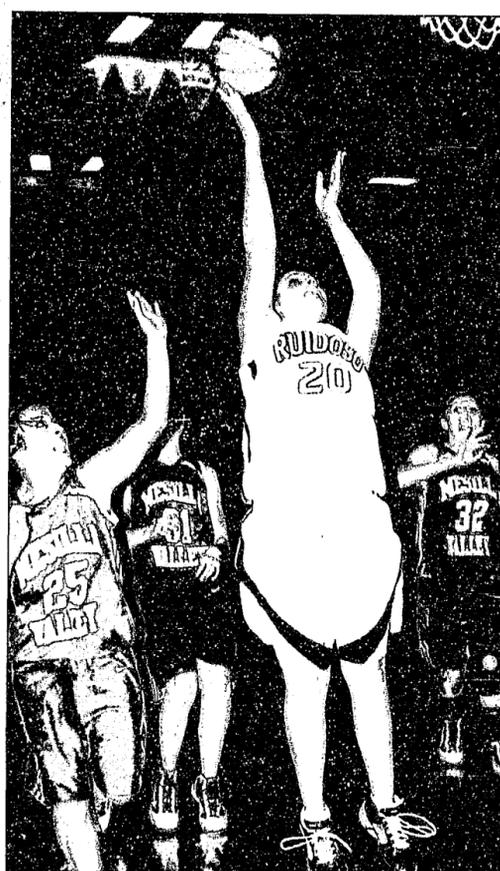
In the second quarter of action Abriana Herrera dropped in six points and Claudia Morales and Sydney Gonzales each pumped in four to help the Lady Warriors take a 31-13 lead into the locker rooms at the half.

In the third period of play the RHS girls continued to steamroller the visitors and grabbed a 53-22 advantage going into the last quarter of play.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

See RHS, page 2B Claudia Morales scored 13 points for the night.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Abriana Herrera scored 16 points against Mesilla Valley.

## Capitan's Smokey Bear Classic set to begin

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Thursday, at 2 p.m., the 34th Annual Smokey Bear Classic Basketball Tournament will hit the hardwood for three days of roundball competition.

Eight boys and six girls teams will vie for the coveted No. 1 spots, respectively.

Last year, in the girls division, Tatum earned the top spot when they downed Clovis Christian, 37-30.

The Lady Tigers grabbed third place by beating Hagerman, 47-39, and the Capitan JV girls squad showed their talent by defeating Carrizozo, 30-28, in the consolation championship game.

In the boys bracket, Reserve took first place by

defeating Tatum, 46-43, in the title game.

Capitan secured a credible third place by hammering Cloudcroft, 70-46.

Carrizozo took down the Hondo Eagles, 54-39, in the consolation championship contest.

This year, in the boys bracket, the Tigers and the Capitan JV will compete against Mescalero, Hondo, Carrizozo, Hagerman, Reserve and Cloudcroft.

The girls will compete in a pool play tournament. The winner and runner-up will be determined by their tournament record, common opponents and points scored against opponents (with a 20-point cap).

Joining the Lady Tigers on the hardwood will be Carrizozo, Hondo, Cloudcroft, Hagerman and Re-

serve. Besides some great high school basketball competition the usual good food will be served.

In the boys bracket, Thursday, the Capitan JV will face Carrizozo at 2 p.m., Hondo will play Hagerman at 3:30 p.m., Reserve will tangle with Cloudcroft at 5 p.m., and the Tigers will square off against Mescalero, at 6:30 p.m.

For the girls, Thursday, Reserve will battle Hondo at 2 p.m., Carrizozo and Cloudcroft will battle at 3:30 p.m., and Capitan will test Hagerman at 5 p.m.

The boys championship game will tip-off at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, while the girls title contest will be determined after the 5:30 p.m. game of the same day.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Zozo's Lena Reyes goes for two in last year's Classic.

## New Mexico State women top No. 21 Kansas by 1

JASON GROVES  
Las Cruces Sun-News

LAS CRUCES — Crystal Boyd hates sitting on the bench.

The New Mexico State senior guard was limited to 10 minutes in the second half due to foul trouble, but she made the most of them in a 61-60 victory over No. 21 Kansas on Sunday at the Pan American Center.

Boyd, who scored 20 of her career-high 25 points in the first half, picked up her fourth foul and had to sit for over eight minutes before returning to hit the game-winning free throw with 0.8 seconds to play.

"I had complete faith in my teammates and was just trying to stay positive because all we had to do was play defense and keep

them in front of us," said Boyd, who also had a team-high eight rebounds and four assists. "It hurts being on the bench because you want to be out there as a competitor."

With the game tied at 60-60, Boyd made a move to her left against Kansas all-American guard Danielle McCray at the free throw line. Boyd pulled up at the elbow and was fouled.

"We called a play and I used my screens," Boyd said. "People were telling me that I should drive and try to get fouled, but I elevated against her and tried to get a shot."

Boyd missed the first free throw, but gathered herself to knock down the second and give the Aggies their first win over a

ranked team since beating No. 22 Houston five years ago to the day.

"The first one slipped out of my hand but the second, I really focused hard," Boyd said. "I was thinking that the worst-case scenario would be we would go into OT."

Boyd played her best 20 minutes of basketball of the season in the first half, scoring at will from all over the court.

She was 6-of-10 shooting in the first half to tie the game at 34-34 at the break and she hit 3-of-5 from 3-point range.

"She is capable of being really darn good, but she didn't go crazy," Aggies coach Darin Spence said. "She only took one bad shot. What really happened was she played so hard

defensively and rebounding that it fueled her offensive play."

Both teams led by four in the first half, but NMSU pushed its lead to seven with Boyd on the bench.

Boyd picked up her fourth personal with 12:32 left, sending McCray to the line. McCray hit 1-of-2 to make it a 45-42 game, but the Aggies responded with four straight free throws from Jasmine Lowe and Danisha Corbett to go up 49-42 with 11:36 left.

Lowe scored 14 of her 16 points in the second half, picking up the scoring load with Boyd on the bench.

"(Lowe) controlled the ball and she didn't always shoot but found shooters and settled us into our offense," Spence said.

The Aggies didn't relin-

quish the lead until McCray hit a jumper to put the Jayhawks up 55-53 with 5:28 to play.

McCray scored nine of her 16 points during a 13-4 Kansas run with Boyd on the bench.

Boyd returned with 4:11 left as the Aggies outscored KU 8-5 in the last 3:51. Lowe tied the game at 55-55 with a jumper and then found Boyd in transition off a Tabytha Wampler steal to go up 57-55 as there were three ties and two lead changes in the last 3:51.

Lowe opened a 60-57 lead with the Aggies' lone triple of the second half with 2:25 left.

"I think I was feeling it at the time and went with the adrenaline," Lowe said. Kansas guard Sade

Morris pulled the Jayhawks to within 60-59 with 1:01 left and Jayhawks center Krysten Boogaard tied it at 60-60 with a free throw with 11.3 left.

Boogaard was fouled on a follow after one of the Jayhawks' 18 offensive rebounds as KU outrebounded the Aggies 47-33.

Boogaard made her second attempt and Spence called a timeout with 7.6 seconds left.

"Normally we have a double screen with our two bigs at the top for the point guard, but at UTEP (on Dec. 28), we did it with Crystal," Spence said.

"She went out and made a play and it was a great call because (McCray) hit

See NMSU, page 2B

# The 'Wild Bunch' rides again Saturday in Ruidoso

JACK SHUSTER  
For the Ruidoso News

"The Wild Bunch" is the theme for the January Cowboy Action Shooting match of the Lincoln County Regulators ... Cowgirls, cowboys, and buckaroos armed with six guns, lever guns, and scatter guns will gather at the Cowboy Action Shooting Range and Old West Town at the Ruidoso Gun Club range on Hale Lake Road in Ruidoso Downs on Saturday morning, Jan. 9. Competitors and spectators are urged to dress Western and get ready to have fun. Cowboy Action Shooting is the fastest growing family shooting sport in the world.

Competitors will shoot four stages based on the familiar film, "The Wild Bunch." Stages have been designed by John Steele with scenarios written by Sgt. Shuster.

"The Wild Bunch" takes place in 1913, during the height of the Mexican Revolution, in the fictional town of San Rafael, Texas. The Wild Bunch, outlaws on the Mexican-U.S. frontier, face the march of progress, the Mexican army and a gang of bounty hunters led by a former member while they plan a robbery of a U.S. army train. Pump shotguns, machine guns and automobiles mix with horses and Winchesters in this western movie.

The First Stage takes place a few months before

World War I. An aging band of outlaws led by Pike Bishop rob a Texas bank intent on using the money to retire.

The Wild Bunch breaks into the bank and holds it up, but the gang's escape is interrupted by the local temperance union, which is holding a parade in the town, singing "Shall We Gather At The River?" Various members of the gang, inside and out of the bank, spot the bounty hunters and Pike uses a bank teller as a decoy, throwing him out of the bank to draw the fire of the bounty hunters, allowing for the gang's escape. A vicious, confusing gunfight occurs, with gang members, bounty hunters, and civilians caught in the crossfire. When the robbery goes wrong, the gang is forced to flee to Mexico.

In the Second Stage, the Bunch is hired by General "Mapache" Juerta, a Mexican general working for the government, to steal a US arms shipment for him, which they agree to for a price of ten thousand dollars. The Bunch holds up the train but a posse pursues them to a bridge over the Rio Grande. After a shootout and when the dynamite wired to the bridge explodes, the Bunch crosses the border back into Mexico and makes their escape.

The gang members decide to take a stand in Stage Three. They load up shotguns, rifles, and

sidearms and march through Agua Verde to Mapache's headquarters. A nervous Mexican soldier fires at the wagon holding the weapons. The Bunch has wired the wagon with dynamite, and Pike lights the fuse. The confrontation nearly turns violent.

In the Fourth and final Stage, a vicious, bloody gunfight results as the Bunch shoots their way through Mapache's officers and takes control of the machine gun. They inflict scores of casualties on the Mexicans but finally fall due to the sheer number of their foe. Stage Four will be shot with firearms typical of the film in a new Single Action Shooting Society competition based on the movie. Called "the hottest game around," SASS Wild Bunch competition is a combination of SASS Cowboy Action Shooting and Action Shooting with 1911 Pistols. The sport uses 1911 Pistols, Lever Action Rifles, and 1897 Pump Shotguns. These firearms will be available for competitors to borrow.

The purpose of the "Wild Bunch" match is to familiarize shooters with SASS Wild Bunch Action Shooting, and with a few months of practice, Lincoln County Regulators will be ready for The Shootout at Butterfield Trail, the SASS Southwest Championship in Las Cruces in May.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. and shooters are asked to pick a Single

Action Shooting Society age-based, standard or costume shooting category when they register. "The Wild Bunch" will begin officially at 9:30 a.m. with a presentation of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a mandatory safety briefing. The shooting starts at 10 a.m. John Steele will be Match Director.

The Match Fee is \$10, cash or check. SASS rules will apply. There will be a \$3 insurance fee for non-members of the Ruidoso Gun Club. Competitors will need a minimum of 40 pistol cartridges, 40 rifle cartridges and 16 or more shotgun shells. Shooters not fully equipped are invited to borrow the firearms of the experienced cowboys and ammunition will be available for purchase at the event. All ammunition needs to be lead only. Shooters can bring any 1911 style handgun, any pump action shotgun, and any pistol caliber lever gun. The Lincoln County Regulators are furnishing about 150 rounds of .45 ACP ammo and two 1911 handguns. Possibly 2 or 3 people could shoot wild bunch style on each stage.

Participants and spectators are urged to bring a sack lunch, non-alcoholic beverages and lawn chairs. Anyone up to helping set up targets and getting the Old West town ready for the match is invited to stop at the range on Friday afternoon at 5:30 pm.



Two Regulators prepare for future trouble.

Cowboy Action Shooting is a multifaceted amateur shooting sport in which contestants compete with firearms typical of those used in the taming of the Old West: single action revolvers; lever action rifles; and side by side double barreled, pre-1899 pump, or lever action shotguns. The shooting competition is staged in a unique, characterized, Old West style. Contestants shoot in several one-to-four gun stages in which they engage steel and/or cardboard targets. Scoring is based on accuracy and speed.

The truly unique aspect of Cowboy Action Shooting is the requirement placed on authentic period or western screen dress. Each participant is required to adopt a shooting alias

appropriate to a character or profession of the late 19th century, or a Hollywood western star, and develop a costume accordingly.

The Lincoln County Regulators dress western, shoot western and never use their real names. It's the closest you can get to the Old West short of a time machine.

The Lincoln County Regulators is the Cowboy Action Shooting arm of the Ruidoso Gun Club and an affiliate of the Single Action Shooting Society. For information about "The Wild Bunch" match, Cowboy Action Shooting in general and the Lincoln County Regulators in particular, call or email Regulator Special Constable John Steele at 937-3023 or srwood@valornet.com

## RHS

FROM PAGE 1B

In the last eight minutes of hardwood action the Lady Warriors tacked on another 12 points to

take a 35-point victory.

At least 13 RHS players saw action in Monday's win.

Herrera scored 16 for the night and Morales dumped in 13.

Miller just missed double-digits with nine.

The win against Mesilla Valley now gives the RHS girls a 7-4 overall mark going into Friday's 7 p.m. game at the 7-3 Socorro Lady Warriors.

Of the 14-player Ruidoso roster, only four are seniors and so this has

to be considered a somewhat young team.

And that lack of experience occasionally showed in the Lady Warriors transition game, especially in the early going moments.

"When you play weaker

teams you have to maintain a strong intensity level for a full 32 minutes," Ruidoso head coach Julie Montoya said.

"Our defensive efforts in tonight's game left a lot to be desired.

"We must get off this

roller-coaster ride we've been on lately where we play a great game and then don't do so well in the next contest.

"We have to get tougher mentally.

"It's January now, and it's time to turn it on."

## NMSU

FROM PAGE 1B

her on the arm."

Boyd scored nine of the Aggies' first 11 points of the game.

She hit a pull up jumper

to give NMSU an 18-16 lead with 10:50 left in the first half. The lead grew to as many as four.

The Jayhawks shot 41.2 percent from the floor in the first half and took a four-point lead as well, before Boyd hit a jumper and back-to-back 3s to help

NMSU outscore Kansas 10-6 in the last 4:56.

"I knew coming into the game that I had to be aggressive and I hit my first couple shots and got into a rhythm and Coach told me to keep shooting," Boyd said.

A Marisha Brown triple

with 36 seconds left tied the game at 34-34 at half-time.

With the win, the Aggies enter Western Athletic Conference play with wins over Michigan from the Big Ten and Kansas from the Big 12.

"This puts our confi-

dence way up and was a great win," Lowe said. "Those are two big names and it showed us that we need to play our best and play our game no matter who we play."

NMSU's 10 non-conference wins match the most entering conference play

since joining the WAC in 2005.

NMSU won 10 two years ago before finishing 23-9.

"We want to ride this wave of enthusiasm, not momentum, because that doesn't last forever," Spence said.

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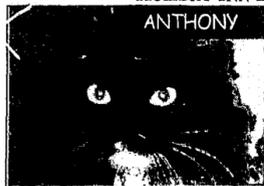
**TRUMAN**  
Truman is a very handsome medium mixed breed. He has short copper/brown hair. Truman is very well socialized with people and other dogs. He loves to romp and play with his shelter buddies, and does well with small puppies and large dogs alike. Truman is very affectionate with people and does well on a leash, just as long as he gets plenty of belly rubs on his walk! He is young, probably around a year old. Truman weighs about 45 pounds, is neutered and current on his vaccinations.

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**MEG**  
Meg is an attractive dilute tortoiseshell with white on her chest and paws. She has short hair and pretty yellow/green eyes. She is very playful with other cats, people, and also plays with her toys to keep herself occupied while alone in her kennel. Meg is affectionate and easy going. She loves to be held and petted. She is still young, about 7-8 months old. Meg has been spayed and is current on her vaccinations.

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**ANTHONY**  
Anthony is a very sweet boy who is about two years old and weighs 9 pounds. He has a very long flowing coat and is very friendly.

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**TATUM**  
Tatum is a very attractive short haired tabby point. Tatum is very friendly and sweet. She is young, about 1-2 years.

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**WATSON**  
Watson is a good looking adult cat. He has short hair and is gray with white tuxedo markings. Watson is friendly and good with other cats. He is also neutered and current on all vaccinations.

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**NINA**  
Nina is a very playful girl about 4 months old. She loves to play and spend time with everyone. She will be medium to large size when she is all grown up. All she needs now is the perfect family to move in with.

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**DILLON**  
Dillon is a cute little pup about 4 months old and has very handsome markings. He loves to romp and play. He is ready to find the perfect home today.

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# LINCOLN COUNTY

## 'Zozo science students take robotics to competition

JULIE CARTER

jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Carrizozo middle and high school students are excited about robotics the chance to build and compete with other schools with their "bots."

Ashley Ivins, Science instructor at Carrizozo Schools, announced the receipt of a Golden Apple Grant grant (\$1,000) that will allow the school to purchase robotic kits.

"We are still going to be short the number of robots we need for the number of kids that are signed up for the competition teams," she said, "but this will go a long way in helping us."

Ivins said she has nine teams signed up for this year's RoboRAVE.

RAVE stands for Robots Are Very Educational. The goal is for the students to learn by doing and have fun at the same time.

RoboRAVE is an exciting annual event where elementary, middle and high school age students participate in a team-based experience along with an adult coach to win cash awards.

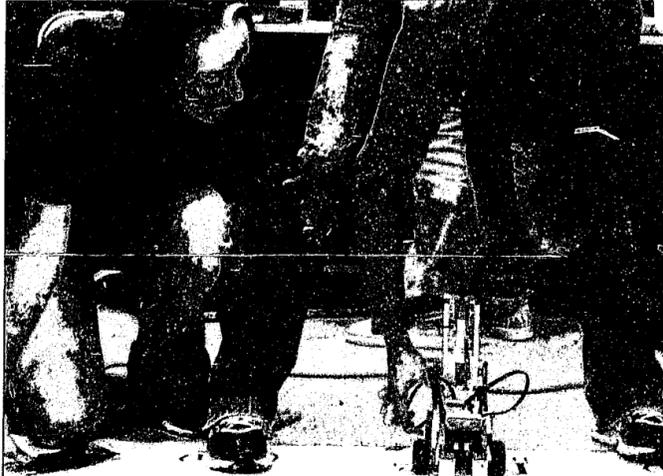
Various robotics platforms are used in the competitions - LEGO Robotics, Traxster, Boe Bot Crawler, and many others.

"We're going to use that money to purchase four robotics kits," Ivins said.

"We have been raising funds to help pay for the robots and for the kids travel expenses."

Ivins said she also will have two teams for Botball.

The Botball Educational Robotics Program engages middle and high school aged students in a team-oriented robotics competi-



tion based on national science education standards.

By designing, building, programming, and documenting robots, students use science, engineering, technology, math, and writing skills in a hands-on project that reinforces their learning.

Wells Fargo and Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico announced that \$43,000 in classroom grants were awarded. More than 400 applications were processed with requests totaling more than \$380,000.

Forty-seven teachers in 44 schools from 22 different communities around New Mexico were selected to receive \$43,032 in funding for projects providing books and supplies, field trips, classroom technology and teacher professional development. Those who received funding teach in public schools, including charter schools, and private schools.

Lincoln County recipients of the grant are Ashley Ivins, Carrizozo Schools; Laura Bryant, White Mountain

Elementary; and Lisa Vasquez, White Mountain Elementary, Ruidoso.

"So far we have raised money through donations (PFK and City Bank) and fundraisers, and now the grant," said Ivins. "We also were able to purchase three robots through the Air Force Research Laboratory SPACE Flight program. We now need money for one additional robot (\$325) plus our entry fees (\$25/team for nine teams), travel and transportation."

Ivins said the program was awarded a \$1,250 scholarship from NASA through Botball.

The robots will get continued use for competition year after year, making the expense an initial one. Ivins indicated that long-range plans are to be able to teach a course in robotics for students using these kits.

The Carrizozo students have been to two trainings this year for RoboRAVE - one in T or C and one in Roswell.

They have a workshop in February in Roswell and



COURTESY

Carrizozo Science students learned about building and using robots at robotic workshops last fall. Top left, Sarah Ferguson and Shayna Gallacher test a robot. Top right, Lane Carter and Arturo Najera test a robot on a track. The robots are programmed to use light sensors to follow a black line. Above, Josh Ventura, Fernando Najera and Don Myers build a robot.

hope to schedule one in Carrizozo in the spring. Two botball trainings will be this month in Las Cruces.

The program members will host two enchilada dinners, Jan. 29 and Feb. 16,

for fundraisers. "We are doing all we can to help ourselves, but would welcome any help with donations or sponsors to the program," she said.

Sponsors will be recognized at events by display-

ing their logo on the team banner at each competition.

Ivins can be reached at Carrizozo Schools at 648-2347 or by email at ashley.ivins@carrizozogrizzlies.org.

### CARRIZOZO SCHOOLS HONOR ROLL

#### 2nd 9 Weeks

##### "A" Honor Roll

5th Grade: Kristie Gallacher, Gracie Hooten, Lashae Lueras, Janae Willingham

6th Grade: Cirsten Barela, Emily Comstock, Christian Najer, Kadee Sedillo, Alexis Zamora

7th Grade: Fantasia Dennis

8th Grade: Devon Artech, Nicholas Chavez, Sarah Ferguson, Shayna Gallacher, Jace Hill, Mason Huston, Johnathan Smith

9th Grade: Brittany Simmons, Victoria

Ventura

10th Grade: Marshall Ventura

11th Grade: Destiny Dutchover, Joel Ferguson, Jordan Hill, Lauren Smith, Marshal Wilson, Stephanie Zamora

12th Grade: Alexa Borowski, Tessa Hendricks, Tanner Huston, Dakota Lovelace

##### "B" Honor Roll

5th Grade: Garrison Ventura, Mikhail Zamora-Barela

6th Grade: Tyrrell Barela, Micah Hamilton, Morgan Nava Munoz, Veronica Ochoa, Isaac Ogden, Caleb Ventura

7th Grade: Zhane Vega, Josh Ventura

8th Grade: Jacob Rigales, Dalton Vega

9th Grade: Analicia Beltran, Andrea Beltran, Arturo Najera, Tavi Nash, Jade Roper, Shayna Zamora

11th Grade: Nicole Apodaca, Kylie Gaines, Lacy Myers, Fernando Najera, Wade Sultemeier

12th Grade: Ryan Guevara, Stefan Najer, Lena Reyes, Carlos Samora, Betsy Solis, Arron Vallejos, Ashley Ventura.

- As reported by Carrizozo Schools

### COUNTY BRIEFS

#### Candidate forums

The Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce will host two "Meet the Candidates" forums for the upcoming town elections.

All registered candidates will be invited to attend and participate in this opportunity to answer the public's questions.

Dates for the forums are Friday, Jan. 15, and Thursday, Feb. 18.

The forums will be held in Carrizozo at the County Commissioner's Chambers beginning at 7 p.m.

The public is invited to

write down questions which will then be asked of the participants by moderator Welda Grider, owner of Superior Title Company.

This year the mayor's position and two town trustee positions are open for election. There are two candidates for the mayor's position and four for the two open trustee positions.

The Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce hopes the public will attend to find out where candidates stand on issues and also hopes that all candidates will attend in order to hear the interests of the public.

#### Blood drive

There is always a need for blood and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2-3 seconds and most people will need blood in their lifetime.

A blood drive at Carrizozo Schools is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 11, 1:30-5:30 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Carol Wilson at 648-2347.

## USDA seeks to reduce fraud

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The USDA is partnering with the Internal Revenue Service to reduce fraud in farm programs and streamlining payment limits for family farmers.

The actions are intended to strengthen the integrity and defensibility of USDA farm safety net programs and help the agricultural industry to meet requirements included in the 2008 Farm Bill.

As part of the announcement, USDA has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internal Revenue Service to establish an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted

gross income provisions for programs administered by USDA's FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

This agreement will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain limits.

The limits set in the 2008 Farm Bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average AGI for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average AGI for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average AGI for conservation programs.

The electronic process that USDA developed with IRS reviews data from tax returns, performs a series

of calculations, and compares these values to the AGI limitations from the 2008 Farm Bill. FSA and NRCS will receive a record that indicates whether or not the program participant appears to meet the income limits.

Written consent will be required from each producer or payment recipient for this process. No actual tax data will be included in the report that IRS sends to USDA. As part of the review and evaluation process, participants whose AGI may exceed the limits will be offered an opportunity to provide third party verification or other information to validate their income.

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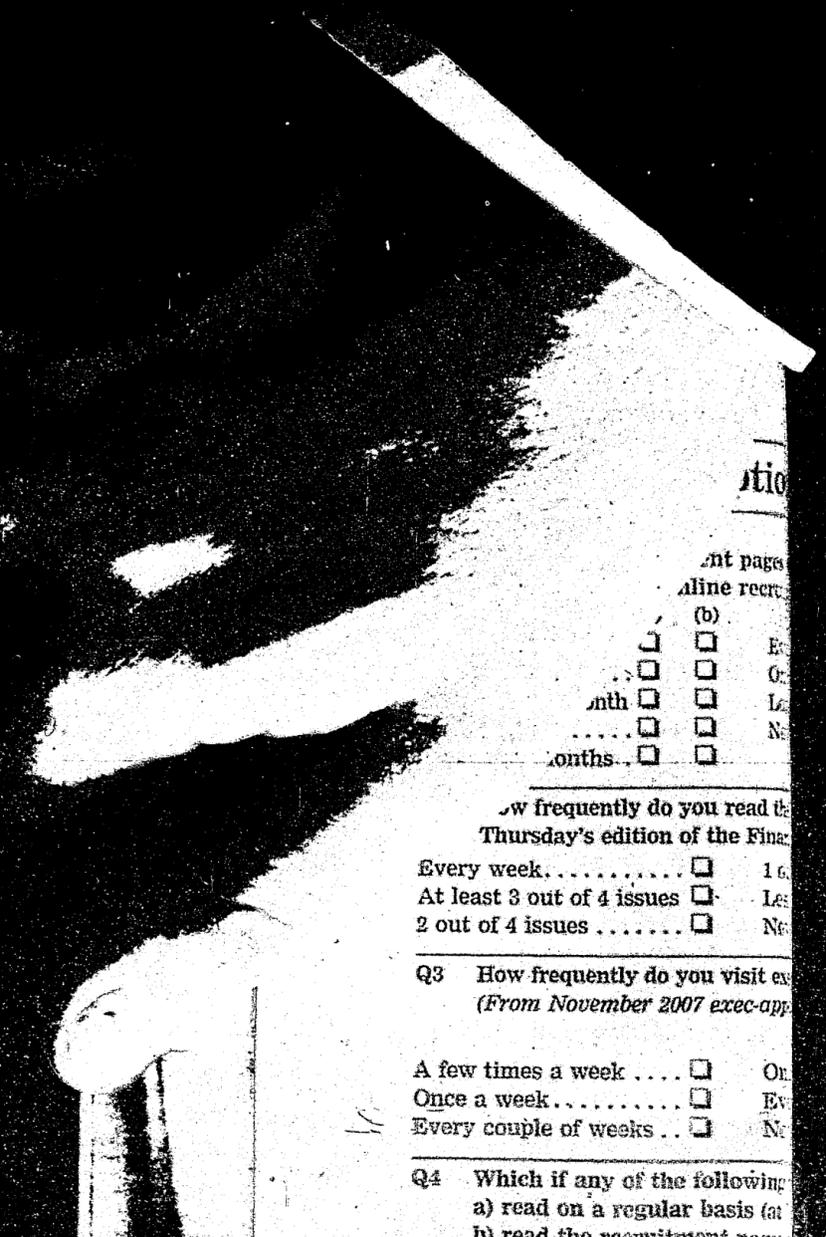
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