

RUIDOSO NEWS

Mountain Annie's has new owners
- PAGE 7A -

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 2010 • OUR 63RD YEAR, NO. 65 • 75 CENTS

Burning ban enacted

JIM KALVELAGE
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County experiences low humidity, windy conditions

The critical fire weather conditions were called conducive to the rapid growth and spread of fires.

An outdoor burning ban across Lincoln County will remain in place through at least today. County Manager Tom Stewart said the ban was initiated on Monday in Ruidoso because of windy conditions and fire precautions posted by National Weather Service.

Page 5A: Fire strikes downtown Cloudcroft; historic buildings lost

southeastern New Mexico, including parts of Lincoln County, and the county is surrounded by a fire weather watch.

agency services coordinator, there will be an open burn ban in effect through Wednesday," Stewart said. "We will look at potentially lifting the ban Thursday."

today, with above normal temperatures. Relative humidity was forecast to drop to less than 15 percent Tuesday and Wednesday, while southwest winds were expected to increase through Wednesday, particularly in the mountains and adjacent plains.

"Avoid the use of open flames or any activities that may generate sparks. Accidental ignitions will have the potential to grow quickly into dangerous wind-driven wildfire," the weather service said.

Cooler conditions and increased humidity levels were expected to develop on Thursday as a cold front will cross the region.

Stewart said a red flag warning was in place for much of

"Under the circumstances and looking to the immediate future, unless they are lifted, in consultation with the (county's) emer-

The weather service said very dry air will remain over southeastern New Mexico through

SANTA GETS A LIFT IN CAPITAN



HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Santa rings his bell and waves from the seat of a wagon as he passes Smokey Bear Park in Capitan during the annual Capitan Santa Parade Saturday. For more on the parade, see page 5B.

Former tribal leader passes

Carleton Naiche-Palmer 1947-2010

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NAICHE-PALMER

A former leader of the Mescalero Apache Tribe has died.

Carleton Naiche-Palmer passed away Saturday at a hospital in El Paso. He was 63.

In November 2007, Naiche-Palmer was elected president of the tribe, a position he had sought previously. He took office in early 2008 but was replaced this year by current president Mark Chino.

A past tribal councilor, Naiche-Palmer had also served as chair of the management board of the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino, according to Bloomberg.com. He had been active in several organizations over the past three decades, including the All Indian Pueblo Council, National Indian Council on Aging, American Indian Business and Technologies, and Sandia National Laboratories.

He held a bachelor of business degree, a master of business degree and a Ph. D in social and economic development.

Naiche-Palmer was a descendant of Chiricahua Apache leaders Cochise and Naiche and the son of the noted artist Ignacius Palmer. He had lived in Albuquerque for 27 years. Just before his election, he was the owner and main partner of a lay advocacy firm that represented tribal members before the Mescalero Apache Tribal Court.

Visitation will begin Thursday at 4 p.m. at the gymnasium of the Mescalero Community Center, with a prayer service at 6 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the community center Friday at 10 a.m., said Danny Sisson of the Lagrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

Tribal President Mark Chino called Naiche-Palmer a strong leader in the face of major financial obstacles and social plight.

"The tribe lost one of its most distinguished members. I am deeply saddened by Dr. Naiche-Palmer's passing and my prayers are with his family," Chino

said. Jackie Blaylock, Sr., who was the tribe's vice-president during Naiche-Palmer's administration, said he had always looked up to his relative.

"He was very helpful. He was very educated. Very intelligent and he thinks about what he is going to say before he says it. His words really carry a lot of meaning."

Blaylock said Naiche-Palmer was an inspiration to a lot of people.

"He had a real basic knowledge of tribal traditions. And he also had a real good knowledge of today and technology in the future. A lot of the younger people that are now becoming educated and earning degrees really enjoyed Carleton's leadership."

Former Ruidoso banker Tom Battin got to know Naiche-Palmer as a bank customer.

"At the time he was president I invited him to participate in our annual prayer breakfast, which he did. He was just a very kind man I thought was very dedicated to the tribe. He seemed to be very interested in working together with the community outside the reservation. I just thought he was a very good man."

Battin said there would be a void at Mescalero because of the service Naiche-Palmer provided.

Tragedy had saddened the Naiche-Palmer family a little more than a year ago. A son, Scott "Scotty" Ryan Palmer, died on Oct. 15, 2009.

The former tribal president is survived by his wife of 40 years, Ada, five children and 18 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He said-he said in Ruidoso Downs

■ Mayor's, councilor's account about an old bill doesn't jibe with recollection of ex-chief

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Three weeks after firing Alfred Ortiz as the chief of police in Ruidoso Downs, the mayor and a city councilor said there had been some "problems" in the department. The Nov. 22 termination followed a closed session of the city council in which Ortiz and the city's auditor were asked to attend.

Monday evening Councilor Dean Holman and Mayor Tom Armstrong provided a tiny glimpse of what they said was the issue.

The recent discussion started over a request for city council approval to

pay a nearly seven-month-old bill to Family Vision Center for \$260.22. A vision test is one of several medical procedures that City Clerk Carol Virden said is required when a candidate goes through the state police academy. Officer Alex Trujillo was sued by Family Vision Center last month because a bill for a May 2010 vision evaluation had gone unpaid. A memorandum to the city council said Family Vision Center was contacted by Ortiz who allegedly considered the bill too expensive. Family Vision Center billed repeatedly but there was no payment or follow up by Ortiz.

"Directors, if they have a question on a bill, shouldn't just ignore it, throw it in a desk drawer and nobody else knows about it," said Holman. "That should be forwarded to personnel/payroll, and not just one director

saying this bill is too high and not paying it and it just gets killed right there."

Contacted Tuesday, Ortiz denied holding back payment for any test required by the police academy.

"Anybody that we ever sent up to the academy, the only thing that we're responsible for is the drug testing and the psychological testing fees. We're not responsible for anything else. Not vision. Not dental. Not medical. So if he incurred any vision examination or other kind of testing, he is responsible for it, not us."

But Armstrong said the right process was not followed.

"That was part of our little problem that we had, was filling out the right paperwork before you buy,

See BILL, page 8A





HAROLD DAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Rotary Club member Georgia Underwood hands tickets to Becky Allen as Lincoln County Food Bank board member Sue Alborn watches at the Ruidoso Rotary Club and Sierra Cinema Food Drive for the Lincoln County Food Bank Saturday. Sierra Cinema and the Rotary Club teamed up to offer special movie showings for canned food for the Lincoln County Food Bank during the holidays. "We had a really great turn out today," Underwood said.

Helping Cloudcroft

Cloudcroft suffered a major fire to its downtown business district early Monday morning, with six businesses lost, all located in historic buildings.

Want to help? Contact the Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce at 575-682-

2733, First National Bank at 575-682-2531 or the Village of Cloudcroft at 575-682-2411.

Library to close

The Village of Ruidoso Public Library will be closed Thursday - Sunday, Dec. 23 - 26 in observance

of the Christmas Holiday. We will be open again Monday, Dec. 27.

NMDOT here

The State Transportation Commission Monthly Meeting will be held in Ruidoso at 8:30 a.m., today at the Ruidoso Convention

Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Dr.

Sonic booms

Officials with the 49th Wing have announced the flying schedule through Dec. 19.

Sonic booms could occur Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 8

a.m. to 2:45 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 16, from 6:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.; and Friday, Dec. 17, from 8 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

At this time no flights are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 18 or Sunday, Dec. 19.

Schedules can change based on a variety of reasons and scheduled times do not always mean sonic booms will occur.

For additional information, visit the Holloman Web site at www.holloman.af.mil.

Holiday recycling

Americans throw away 25 percent more stuff between Thanksgiving and the New Year's holiday period than any other time of the year, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. The extra waste amounts to an additional 25 million tons of waste or about 1 million extra tons per week. Here's how Lincoln County and Mescalero residents can reduce and recycle at this, the "trashiest time of the year".

- The annual Christmas tree recycling program at School House Park in Ruidoso between Dec. 26 and Jan. 16. Both green and flocked trees (fake snow) are accepted. All tree stands, lights, ornaments and other tree decorations must be removed for the safety of the crews and machinery.
- Send e-cards and electronic invitations to guests. An estimated 2.6 billion holiday cards are sold each year in the United States,

enough to fill a football field 10 stories high

- When making mail order purchases, request that your name be removed from the retailer's catalog mailing list.

- Getting a new plasma TV, PDA (personal digital assistant), and flat screen monitor. For Christmas? Recycle your older discarded equipment at the Solid Waste Authority or at the twice-a-year e-waste recycling events - 1st weekend of April 2011

- Be sure to take along a reusable shopping bag when heading out shopping at your favorite Lincoln County retailer.

- Request that mail order retailers ship your merchandise using paper for packing instead of polystyrene packing filler

- Reuse bows and ribbon that are in good condition.

- Create a coupon book to give services such as babysitting, yard work, home repair, special dinner or household chores etc.

- When selecting a gift, consider choosing the one packaged with the least amount of material or one packed in material you can recycle in your local program

- It's common for new gifts to replace items that still have a useful life. Remember to donate these items to your local reuse organization such as the LCMC Thrift Shop, the Humane Society Thrift Store, local church, or to the NEST domestic vio-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

Elena's Place

Mexican Restaurant

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Originals, acoustic rock, folk and jazz.
No cover

New bar in town !!!!
Visit The Studio Bar - Live Music

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso

Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
RealFeel 62° Humidity 19% Sunny and windy Wind: W 12-25 mph	RealFeel 56° Humidity 41% Turning cooler in the afternoon Wind: SW 7-14 mph	RealFeel 42° Humidity 57% Some sun, a shower possible; cooler Wind: E 7-14 mph	RealFeel 51° Humidity 39% Partly sunny and not as cool Wind: SW 8-16 mph	RealFeel 57° Humidity 35% Sunshine and patchy clouds Wind: WSW 12-25 mph	RealFeel 57° Humidity 43% Sunny to partly cloudy Wind: W 7-14 mph	RealFeel 59° Humidity 40% Sunny Wind: WSW 4-8 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

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

Almanac

Ruidoso
Statistics through Monday

Temperature:
High/low 63°/41°
Normal high 50°
Normal low 20°
Record high 86° (1969)
Record low 2° (1970)

Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.39"
Year to date 20.65"
Normal year to date 21.68"

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

Alamogordo
Statistics through Monday

Temperature:
High/low 64°/26°
Normal high 56°
Normal low 28°
Record high 72° (1950)
Record low 12° (1964)

Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.39"
Year to date 12.39"
Normal year to date 12.60"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: Who said, if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute?
A: Mark Twain, about New England.

National Forecast for Dec. 15, 2010

National Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Ablene	62/38/s	49/33/sh
Anchorage	51-9/s	121-8/s
Atlanta	38/33/c	57/50/c
Austin	76/44/pc	72/35/s
Baltimore	32/16/pc	33/24/pc
Boston	30/21/c	33/24/pc
Chicago	23/17/c	28/16/sn
Dallas	73/42/pc	60/35/s
Denver	52/19/c	28/12/sn
Des Moines	24/17/sn	27/10/c
Detroit	25/12/pc	26/19/c
El Paso	70/41/s	64/41/c
Las Vegas	61/42/pc	56/38/c
Los Angeles	64/50/sh	62/48/pc
Minneapolis	16/9/c	21/9/sn
New Orleans	62/57/c	75/59/c
New York City	30/24/pc	35/29/pc
Philadelphia	32/23/pc	35/28/pc
Phoenix	72/52/pc	64/47/c
Reno	38/21/pc	40/25/pc
San Francisco	53/41/pc	52/45/pc
San Diego	63/53/sh	60/49/c
Seattle	43/35/sh	45/34/r
Tucson	76/49/s	60/39/sh
Tulsa, OK	52/30/c	42/27/pc
Wash., DC	34/21/pc	37/27/pc
Wichita	42/20/c	39/20/pc
Yuma	76/52/pc	68/44/pc

Regional Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Albuquerque	62/38/pc	49/33/sh
Artesia	80/45/s	71/42/pc
Chama	45/21/pc	41/6/sn
Clayton	67/23/pc	34/19/pc
Cloudcroft	54/33/pc	49/17/c
Farmington	52/32/c	45/23/r
Hobbs	79/37/s	63/31/pc
Los Alamos	50/26/pc	44/21/sn
Portales	74/31/s	56/24/pc
Raton	63/24/pc	32/16/sn
Red River	45/18/pc	38/17/sh
Ruidoso	64/40/s	55/32/pc
Santa Fe	57/30/s	48/27/sh
Silver City	65/35/s	55/33/sh
Taos	51/21/pc	41/19/sn

Mexican Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Acapulco	88/70/s	88/68/s
Cancun	75/55/pc	81/63/pc
Chihuahua	72/34/s	66/32/s
Ciudad Juárez	70/41/s	64/41/c
León	77/37/s	77/37/s
México, DF	73/39/s	73/41/s
Monterrey	82/55/s	84/52/s
Morleya	79/43/s	75/46/s
Oaxaca	81/46/s	82/46/s
Plo. Penasco	77/52/s	66/46/sh
Tijuana	63/50/c	61/45/pc



COURTESY MARGARET LAHEY

The annual Halloween Pet Costume Contest sponsored by Humane Society of Lincoln County had its award ceremony recently. The winning dog, Nalani Valentina, left, was dressed in a skunk outfit (not shown). Her owner, Theo, works at the Inn of the Mountain Gods and was taking out trash to a dumpster when he heard something and looked in and found a cold, underfed 6-week-old puppy. He brought her home and the rest is history. Mariah Caster, right, is with the runner-up dog, Neco the Zebra.

FROM PAGE 2A

lence shelter.

- Remember to recycle the corrugated cardboard you have amassed. Take out the plastic wrap and Styrofoam before recycling.

- Recycle the molded plastic discarded from many new objects after removing the paperboard from inside. Paperboard containers also recycle with mixed paper.

For more information on holiday season recycling, contact the Solid Waste Authority office at 378-4697, toll free at 1-877-548-8772 or via email at gswa@greentreeswa.org. Christmas tree recycling information is available on the Authority website at www.greentreeswa.org.

Mrs. Ruidoso

Sheree Channel, Executive State Director for the Mrs. New Mexico Pageant, states the pageant is seeking applicants for the title of Mrs. Ruidoso.

Once selected, the lucky lady will advance on to represent her community in the 2011 Mrs. New Mexico Pageant to be held on March 13, 2011, in Albuquerque.

Local titleholders will compete to win a prize package including an all expense paid trip to the nationally televised Mrs. America Pageant.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old (no age limit), married at the time of competition and a New Mexico resident, no performing talent required.

To request the official application or for information, call Sheree, New Mexico's State Director at 970-674-0944 or www.mrs-newmexicoamerica.com.

Soldier lodging

Area hotels, motels/ and cabins are booked for the

Christmas holidays. If you would consider hosting a soldier/couple family for the holidays, call Millie Wood at 336-2828.

Big Brothers

Dr. Lynn Willard, Board President of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lincoln County, announces the organization has received notice of a \$158,000 grant over two years from the U.S. Department of Justice to provide one-to-one mentoring support for at-risk Native American children living on and around the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

Designed to reduce the incidence of teen suicide, juvenile delinquency, alcohol and drug use, truancy, teenage pregnancies and other behaviors and challenges to Native American youth, only 10 of these grants were awarded nationally. Activities to fulfill the grant's program requirements will be conducted primarily by the organization's Ruidoso branch office.

Board members of the local BBBS branch include: Brenda Buckner, Jan Holleman, Sandy Gladden, Kerry Gladden, Leah Henry, Veralyn Mendez, Brad Treptow, Ray Simpson and member-elect Angie Schneider-Cook.

Program director for the Lincoln County Office Toni Little will become the Tribal Partnership Coordinator/Manager under the terms of the new award. Her primary role is to identify and manage 30 new cases, or "matches," of Native American "Bigs" with Native American "Littles."

"Achieving and managing 30 new successful matches will require stronger relationships within the Mescalero community, the Juvenile Justice system, Mescalero

Schools and BIA Social Services," said Ms. Little.

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"Meanwhile, we will also need to effectively reach out to volunteers from Lincoln County who may be interested in mentoring a child from the Mescalero community."

"The terribly high incidence of adolescent suicide in the tribal community is a distress signal that cannot be ignored or forgotten," notes Steve Duffy, the newly appointed Executive Director of BBBS in Lincoln County.

"This is an urgent call to action. As a community, we can work together to stop these tragedies both on and off the reservation to be sure that our children and adolescents have safety nets and support systems that prevent even one more tragedy from happening again."

To succeed with this grant, BBBS of Lincoln County is looking for volunteers willing to devote at least four hours a month to mentoring a child from the Mescalero Apache Reservation. To become a mentor or learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters, call Toni or Steve at 258-4185 or visit the BBBS office at Lincoln Tower, 1096 Mechem Dr., Suite G-13.

New & Used Coats and Donations Being Accepted at Sierra Blanca Motors until Dec. 17, 2010.

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4 p.m. Wednesday for Friday

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4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday

OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager
Marty Racine, editor

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OUR OPINION

Turnover undermines public's faith

Get good people and keep them

Firings. Resignations. Administrative paid leaves of absence.

The turnover in municipal government and institutions seems to be on the increase lately, both in Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs.

Because they follow on the heels of recent personnel decisions, lawsuits, investigations and in-house acts of drama, and because speculation, opinion and rumors run rampant in cyberspace, we tend to search for villains and heroes, for the meanies and the martyrs — with little success other than our assumptions.

The unemployed, especial-

ly, might envy those who work in the public sector. But it's not easy. It's one thing to be competent; it's another to navigate in-house politics and the mounds of rules and regulations required by agencies.

Because personnel matters are conducted in private, the newspaper is not at liberty to print everything we hear about a particular case if it can't be confirmed and documented. Thus, we have to go privately by our own sets of assumptions.

Constant turnover chips away at institutional memory and a sense of continuity. Get the best and keep them.

Film incentives do pay off

A new study argues that New Mexico and 42 other states are wasting their money on film incentives.

"In the harsh light of reality, film subsidies offer little bang for the buck," writes Robert Tannenwald, of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

I give the study a thumbs-down for its biases and mistaken assumptions, but it's another reminder that the incentive program isn't well understood.

Tannenwald speculates that to pay for its film incentives, New Mexico "probably had to cut state services," but it hasn't happened. He claims New Mexicans are only getting the flunky jobs because "most

locations in the United States (other than Los Angeles and New York City) lack 'crew depth.'" Dead wrong. New Mexico is justifiably proud of its pool of well-trained crews, and out-of-state personnel aren't eligible for the New Mexico rebate.

Most revealing, however was a recent exchange between Tannenwald and New Mexico industry professionals on their listserv. Tannenwald made it clear he thinks subsidies to any industry are wasteful and ineffective.

New Mexico offers a 25 percent tax rebate on production expenditures and a no-interest loan for up to \$15 million per movie. Say a film-maker rents a room for \$100 plus roughly \$8 in gross receipts tax and \$6 in lodgers' tax. The state will rebate \$28.50 but receive only \$14; on the other hand, the film-maker has still spent \$85, and what happens to that \$85 is important.

The innkeeper pays employees, suppliers and taxes. The film-maker is also paying crews, restaurants, caterers, car rental companies, lumber yards and other suppliers and service providers, and they buy houses, build studios, rent space and pay taxes.

Now we're talking multipliers. That means if they eat in a restaurant and tip the waitress, those dollars will turn over several times before they leave your community. Economists can argue all day over multipli-

ers, but it's obvious there are secondary benefits.

There's more. Economic development incentives exist to encourage activities, like manufacturing, that create good jobs. Policy makers assume and communities hope for beneficial multipliers. This may rest more on faith than proof, but just try to part economic developers from their tools.

Then there are the intangibles, such as our crew base. Doug Bocaz-Larson, a film instructor at NMSU's Grants branch, says: "I even feel the effects of the film industry in little Grants. There are way more opportunities for my students now than five years ago. If a student here works

hard and really wants an opportunity, I can find them one now."

Bottom line: Our incentives worked. They brought movies, TV shows and ads here, and the productions stayed because they found excellent crews, great scenery, sunshine, film-friendly communities, and studios. And we're an hour flight from L.A. We now have standing. Which was the program's goal all along.

This year, everybody's got to sacrifice. Kill the incentives and some productions will stay but probably not enough to maintain an industry. Tinker carefully and save the state some money but preserve much of what we've got. One place to start is our no-interest loan program, which could become low-interest loans.

A game changer in the discussions will be Jon Barela, the governor-elect's choice to head the Economic Development Department, which includes the Film Office. Barela most recently worked for Cerelink, a contractor to Dreamworks to provide "cloud" (remote) computing services. Cerelink's Web site brags on New Mexico's film incentives.

Periodically, I make a pitch to look after our golden geese — all of them. I've been making that little speech as long as I've been writing columns. When I no longer have to make it, I'll know we understand what makes our economy tick.

Firing, Paid Leave, Resignation...



Doug McLeod 10
Ruidoso News

YOUR OPINION

Please remember the children

To the editor:

ASSURANCE HOME and the James Ranch Youth Shelter are both full of young people who are striving to create good lives for themselves.

A large part of their success is the direct result of the support and encouragement they receive from so many loving people in our surrounding communities.

One of our favorite traditions over the past 32 years is to ask

those of you who send out Christmas cards to remember our youngsters in their mailings. We would be so thankful if everyone would send two additional cards this year, one addressed to "The Young People of Assurance Home" and one addressed to "The Young People of James Ranch."

Both cards can be mailed to 1000 East 18th Street, Roswell, NM 88201.

Please know that this simple gesture means very much to us and to the abused/neglected homeless and at-risk children we serve.

Thank you, and with kindest regards.

Ron Malone
Executive Director
Assurance Home for Children
of New Mexico & James Ranch
Youth Shelter
Roswell

Symbols link season to the Bible

To the editor:

THE SIGHTS AND sounds of Christmas are all around us: store windows with displays, neighborhoods with lights, and decorated trees in the living room.

As we decorate our homes and businesses, be sure to appreciate the meanings of the symbols of Christmas.

These symbols originated hundreds of years ago, when families would gather in quiet solitude to decorate simple farm homes. These symbols originated during times when decorations were rare, and often required a financial sacrifice for the family.

THE TREE: Most researchers agree that the modern Christmas tree is a symbol of the new life that springs forth from the root of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. The Messiah was promised from the line of King David. Jesus was a direct descendant of King David, and His life is symbolized as the "new life" that sprouts from the tree. Jesse and David are the roots. Christ is the life.

THE CHRISTMAS CANE: Shaped like a Shepherd's cane, for Jesus said that He was "the good Shepherd." The color red in

the cane symbolizes the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross for all of humanity.

The white symbolizes the purity of Jesus' life on Earth, a perfect, sinless life. The canes that are made of candy remind us that Jesus said that we are to eat of His flesh.

THE WREATH: In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is described as The Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. The circular wreath has no beginning, and no end.

His Kingdom knows no beginning and no end. The green of the wreath reminds us that Jesus is eternal, springing forth a new life, a new covenant.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Jesus is the Light of the World. (John 8:12) A great Light has come into the world.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Christmas gifts are symbolic for two reasons. First, they remind us that the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Those gifts were chosen to be gifts for a king, gifts for a priest, and gifts for a funeral. Jesus was both king and priest, and He gave His life for us. Second, the gifts remind us of

the eternal gift that we have if we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and recognize Him as the Son of God. The gift of eternal life, dwelling with God the Father and with Jesus the Son for eternity in heaven, if we accept Jesus and trust in Him alone.

THE HOLLY: Symbolic of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore as he voluntarily submitted Himself to trial and crucifixion.

THE STAR: Usually placed on the top of the tree, the star reminds us that Jesus birth was announced by the appearance of a star. That star led the wise men to Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. Bethlehem was the fulfillment of an old Testament prediction concerning the birth of the Messiah. (Micah 5)

ANGELS: God used Angels to proclaim the birth of Jesus.

THE NATIVITY: The nativity scene reminds us of the lowly entry of Jesus into our world. He left heaven to redeem us for eternity. The lowly nature of His entry reminds us that "He who is last shall be first."

Dale O'Neal
Via email

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 mracine@ruidosonews.com. Email is preferred.

OUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The First Amendment

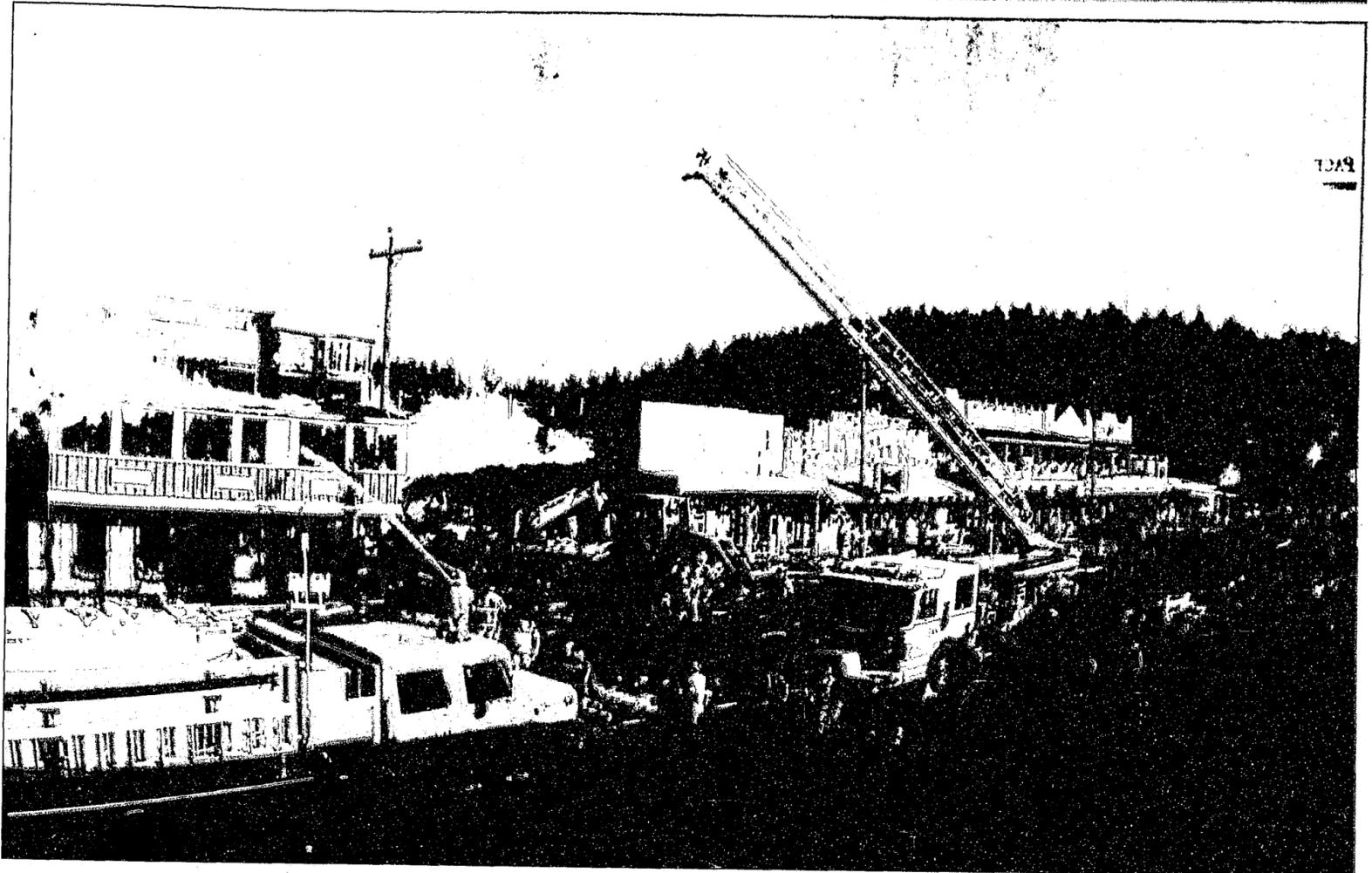
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Open Meetings

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

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

NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1



This photo of the fire on Burro Street was produced by Cloudcroft Webcam at 8:24 a.m., Monday, showing the massive response to the blaze.

COURTESY CLOUDCROFT WEBCAM.COM

Fire guts history in Cloudcroft

DUANE BARBATI
Alamogordo Daily News

A major catastrophic fire struck downtown Cloudcroft Monday morning before sunrise.

Unconfirmed reports first circulated that the fire broke out at about 4:30 a.m. Monday at the Pine Stump Mall and the Copper Butterfly store along Burro Street in Cloudcroft.

Inside the Pine Stump Mall are Dave's Cafe, Sisters, Yeti's Gift Shop, Hank's Hair Shop and Treeriffic.

Readers could take a live look at the fire by visiting Cloudcroft's webcam at www.cloudcroftwebcam.com.

Donald Tracy, of Tula-

rosa, told the *Alamogordo Daily News*, a sister paper of the *Ruidoso News*, that he was traveling to work early Monday when he noticed smoke in the sky over town.

"Even though it was dark, you could see smoke across the highway," Tracy said in an e-mail to the *Daily News*.

"When I rounded the corner at Allsup's (in Cloudcroft), I saw fire trucks and a small glow from the Pine Stump Mall building."

Tracy, who says he always carries a camera, stayed on the scene for the next hour shooting photos of the fire.

Tracy said the James Canyon Fire Department

responded to the scene, as did the Otero County Sheriff's Department and the Cloudcroft police.

"When I arrived, the trucks were in place, the main lines were already assembled and attached to the nearest hydrant, and the ladder truck was

already extended and ready to go," Tracy said. "Cloudcroft police and the sheriff's office had the streets blocked and everything seemed under control."

"A nozzle on the overhead ladder poured water on adjacent structures and

on the roof of the mall building," Tracy said.

"Firefighters soon gained access to the shops next to the mall and The Western [Bar] to check for hot spots. It seemed that a cinderblock wall separating the mall building and the Instant Karma shop was

providing protection for that shop, although smoke was penetrating those shops, probably from attic spaces."

Tracy also said a transformer "shorted out" and the lights along Burro Street went out at about 5 a.m.

The restaurant & bar inside the Swiss Chalet Inn



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EDUCATION

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 2010

Seeking to replicate a successful school

BILL DEMENT
For the Ruidoso News

A few weeks ago, I was puzzled when I reviewed the state-wide results of the New Mexico Student Based Assessment (SBA) exam.

While I noticed that many students in our county made Proficiency, I noticed that very few students in the county or across the state made Advanced Proficiency on all or some of the three parts of the exam: Reading, Math, and Science. While "No Child Left Behind" and the push for AYP is concentrating on bringing up the rear I wondered about what was being done for the high achievers, the "A" Honor Roll and Intellectually Gifted Students.

My quest for excellence and a best practice model led me to

Los Alamos Public Schools which had more students that placed Advanced in all three categories.

I decided to take a ride up to Los Alamos Public Schools to find some of the Best Practices that worked for them.

Upon pulling up to the school after almost a five-hour drive I was warmly greeted by Dr. Eugene Schmidt, Superintendent of Los Alamos; Ms. Paula Dean, Assistant Superintendent; and Ms. Sandy Warnock, High School Principal.

A few minutes later with my tape recorder going the interview started.

Dr. Schmidt told me that their resources included excellent teachers, good and caring Principals, a demanding curriculum, and motivated students that come from concerned families.

Middle School AP

Paula Dean then told me that Advanced Placement (AP) classes were probably the most important way for schools to raise the bar and implement a demanding curriculum. She stated that it is Middle School AP classes that ready students for High School AP classes.

AP classes should start in Middle School. Students that score a 3, 4, or 5 on these AP tests earn college credit in most schools.

Eighty-two percent of their test takers scored high enough for college credit.

Two hundred and sixty-seven students took a total of 469 AP exams which represented 99 percent of their senior class or 45 percent of the entire junior and senior classes.

In English, 111 students took AP tests with 85 percent earning college credit. Seventy-nine percent of the AP Chemistry class earned a 5 which is the highest AP grade.

In AP Psychology, 95 percent of students scored high enough to earn college credit.

Homework help

I asked Dean if most students were gifted. She explained that some kids need extra help. She found that by providing after school homework help and lunchtime tutoring that particularly emphasized lots of technology computer assisted programs elementary students brought their grades up.

Sandy Warnock, principal, said that with 19 AP courses in the high school they target needs that are not being met. For instance, one student took music theory.

The next statement resonated with me. AP students are given work so that they work throughout the summer vacation.

The teacher picks up when school resumes. She implores students to take at the most 5 or 6 AP classes because of the extensive work involved and she does not want to overload them.

All students must take the AP exam after completing the course and the entire class works together.

Warnock also attacks problems right away. As soon as a list of students that receive "Ds" and "Fs" comes out, they find the cause of the problem and if needed, students are placed into one of three remedial classes (math, reading, and study skills) at the high school.

They don't wait to later in the year to correct deficiencies. This sometimes occurs in freshmen or sophomore year.

Through her careful intervention and direction, once students learn the ropes and develop successful study skills, upwards of 90 percent of these students go on to pass AP exams in their junior and senior years.

Risk taking

Dr. Schmidt stated that

a tradition of excellence is embedded in the school's culture.

Students come to the school ready and eager to learn, parents are ecstatic when their child gets accepted to the school, and parents emphasize to their children how fortunate they are to be at Los Alamos and it is of paramount importance that they do their best.

Schmidt holds teachers and principals accountable and he only hires the best educators. He has excellent teachers that are Level III that hold Master's Degrees and he also has excellent teachers that are Level I.

He has a "melting pot" of teachers from across the country and from different countries that adds to the educational milieu.

His principals hail from five different states. Schmidt allows Warnock to take risks at the high school and implement new ideas to bolster the curriculum.

He emphasized that Los Alamos consistently ranks in the top 99 percentile of high schools across the country.

Being a technology driven town with Los Alamos National Laboratory being the largest employer, Schmidt's team has to be good. They are competing against other national labs across the country, namely Livermore and Oak Ridge.

He realizes that prospective laboratory job seekers will not move there if the schools were sub-par.

Schmidt also emphasized that Los Alamos National Laboratory has told him that they would hire scientists strictly from native New Mexicans if they had a large enough pool of qualified students.

Raising the bar

Even at the elementary level students in the lower grades are typically one to two grades ahead because of the vigorous curriculum which is reflected in the MAPS test.

Incoming students typically come in overwhelmed when they realize that while they were at grade level at their former school, they now find themselves behind in their new environment.

From day one, educators encourage them that the school's lofty educational goals are attainable. The bar is constantly raised and students typically rise to meet the challenge.

One third grader who came into the school behind academically and a discipline problem to boot was later approached by Dean. She asked him how he liked the school.

He replied "Great! I love my teacher and I'm



COURTESY

Los Alamos Schools administration met with Bill Dement, Ruidoso, (black shirt). L-r, Dr. Eugene Schmidt, Superintendent of Los Alamos Schools, Paula Dean, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Sandy Warnock, Principal of Los Alamos High School.

involved with my class with a Double Dutch presentation at the Senior Center."

Affluent families

Dr. Schmidt stated that many parents are affluent and are highly educated.

He told me that one girl made paper mache gargoyles as part of an art project.

When asked how she found out about gargoyles she said she saw them outside the Cathedral Notre Dame de Paris on her family's summer vacation to Paris, France.

During another conversation a fifth grade student chose the acclaimed diver

Jacques Cousteau as a topic for an assignment. When asked why she picked Cousteau, she said she was a certified diver who learned to dive during her family's annual vacation to Hawaii.

Replicating the best

Dr. Schmidt emphasized that all schools are different and you should not compare them.

While Los Alamos emphasizes academics there are rural communities that put more of an emphasis on vocational education such as FFA.

While Los Alamos families are for the most part affluent, they share many of the societal problems that many Americans experience such as divorce, single-parent run families, loss of job, and other problems.

Communities should enter into a discussion on what types of standards they espouse for their school.

Paramount is breaking the cycle of poverty. By raising the bar, communities and schools can endeavor to bring up educational standards.

Parents may be of the opinion that a High School

diploma or GED is enough. AP classes may be a way you can bring one of their children to graduate high school and it makes it easier for younger siblings to in turn graduate.

Dean added that in addition to raising the bar you need a support system to help students grow academically.

For instance, in elementary school teachers must implement a plan so that students that don't meet proficiency standards are given the opportunity and resources to grow.

Their Individual Education Plans (IEPS) reflect additional resources given such as after school homework help and tutoring.

She stressed that there is now a Federal law that mandates we help each and every student who is struggling.

This applies to every student, not just Special Education but to all students who are struggling.

They must be identified and a support system and intervention must be undertaken.

Scores in a nutshell

What started me on my quest for Best Practices were test scores. While some educators told me they don't give much credence to the New Mexico SBA, my response was "Why do we take these tests then?"

I was told that some educators give more relevance to the NWEA.

Dr. Schmidt told me that his staff looks at all the scores. I showed him my son's score who has had an all "A" average since 3rd grade.

Schmidt told me that my son who did Proficient on the SBA did not do as well as his NWEA score, and that more practical writing exercises would likely bring that up.

He said that my son would be a fine addition to Los Alamos and he would start in the middle of the pack.

Once he learned the ropes he would excel and be well prepared for college entrance tests.

He further stated that Los Alamos students do not do as well on the SBA as the NWEA and that the

state SBA is more difficult that 45 other state tests.

New ideas

I left Los Alamos with a sense of hope and with a sincere gratitude for the passion that Dr. Eugene Schmidt, Paula Dean, and Sandy Warnock exuded.

I thought of the recent community strife over the racetrack issue and wondered what if Lincoln County schools replicated some of these "Best Practices" in our schools. Could our schools be a magnet to draw young, affluent entrepreneurs with young families from across the country to Lincoln County? Could we ever turn out scientists, physicists, and mathematicians and have them ready when Los Alamos National Laboratory comes calling? Poor inner city schools across the country have become magnet schools. Why can't we replicate these successful models in our county? We have smaller school populations than Los Alamos.

When I broached this idea to one retired educator I was told "those braniacs up there are different then us." I ask why can't we set a lofty goal of making Lincoln County schools the best they can be. I know one student from the area that is now in an Ivy League school and another who is in a U.S. Service Academy which happens to be more competitive for entrance than many Ivy League schools.

This pursuit of excellence in education should be a goal for all students and not an aberration. Middle School AP Classes would be a start.

I hear much from middle school parents that their child, a perennial high achiever, never reads a book anymore. We are bringing up the bottom but we are failing our high achievers.

These "Best Practices," if implemented, would raise the bar and would make Lincoln County an attractive location for affluent parents in search of a beautiful place to live that would deliver a quality education for their children.

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JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

Holman: "It's an indication of some of the problems that we were having in that department. It's just a good indication of some of the things that shouldn't have been happening."

BILL

FROM PAGE 1A

before you send, or before you go, or anything else." Armstrong added that the situation had been rectified.

Saying he did not want to be interpreted as making

"blanket criticisms," Holman considered the matter timely.

"It's an indication of some of the problems, and this happens to be more minor, that we were having in that department. It's just a good indication of some of the things that shouldn't have been happening."

Ortiz also said the dis-

pute involved a minor amount of money.

"I think what needs to be checked is how personnel handles their billing and their accounting," Ortiz said. "I think if anything they need to be auditing themselves."

Ortiz contended one of his officers had been overpaid to the tune of \$2,300

by the personnel/payroll office and the overpayment is yet to be completely reconciled. "And no one's ever mentioned anything about that."

The mayor said there is a process for employees in dealing with the city's money.

"All you have to do is follow the procedure and you

won't get in trouble. You have to fill out the paperwork first."

Holman noted Family Vision Center ended up going after Trujillo.

Councilor Gary Williams asked about the concern over the bill.

"This was being billed directly to the police department box number so we weren't aware of it in purchasing/payroll," said finance director Terri Mosley. "We became aware of it when the employee brought this to our attention just lately."

Williams pointed to a Dec. 3 fax from Family Vision Center that was received at city hall.

"Billed numerous times

tells me that it was being overlooked or ignored or somebody makes a decision that it's too high," said Williams. "It's not for us to make a decision on that but to inquire what the actual numbers should be."

But Ortiz reiterated Tuesday that a vision examination would not be an approved expense, unlike some other medical bills.

"They sent his bills to the (police) department and I just simply put them in his mailbox because they're his. They had nothing to do with the department. So I don't know why they bring it up. They've got me completely by surprise. I think they're trying to backtrack on financial issues."

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Annual Christmas Bird Count approaches

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Ruidoso will be among 35 cities and towns in New Mexico participating in the longest running citizen science survey in the world, Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count by dedicated bird watchers.

Ruidoso's count is scheduled for Dec. 30, but the national bird tally survey involving thousands of volunteers began Tuesday and runs through Jan. 5. Those volunteers crawl out of their warm beds before dawn armed with binoculars, a checklist and hot coffee to add a new layer to more than a century of bird population information.

The data collected by observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past 100 years.

Scientists rely on the trend data from the CBC to better understand how birds and the environment are faring in New Mexico and around the country, including effects from climate change. Audubon scientists recently analyzed 40 years of CBC data, and found powerful evidence that climate change is having a serious impact on natural systems.



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

Once a year, a few Yellow-headed Blackbirds stop by photographer David Tremblay's home to rest on their migration. The brilliant yellow heads are only seen in the males. The Yellow-headed Blackbird often nests in the same marsh as the Red-winged Blackbird, but is larger and dominant, and able to displace their relatives from prime nesting spots.

The long-term perspective made possible by the Christmas Bird Count is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well. For example, local trends in bird populations can indicate habitat fragmentation or signal an immediate environmental threat, such as groundwater contamination or poisoning from improper use of pesticides.

Prior to the turn of the century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known

as the Christmas "Side Hunt." They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered and furred quarry won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then-budding Audubon Society, proposed a

new holiday tradition — a

"Christmas Bird Census" that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them.

Thanks to the inspiration of Chapman and the enthusiasm of 27 dedicated birders, 25 Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario, to Pacific Grove, Calif., with most counts in or near the population centers of the U.S. Northeast.

Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied about 90 species on all the counts combined.

This year, Audubon

New Mexico will be looking at the results of the CBC with a new lens.

"Not only will we be examining the results of the CBC for scientific data relating to how bird populations are coping with climate change, but also as a tool to extract economic data as well," explained Executive Director Karyn Stockdale. "More and more we are seeing very real connections between the state of our environment and our economic well-being."

According to the state tourism department, ecotourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry. In New Mexico, one of the largest groups of ecotourists is bird-watchers with more than one in five adults participating in the activity. However, bird-watching by state residents tells only part of the story; many people travel out of state to watch birds and New Mexico is a natural birding destination. In fact, New Mexico had more than 45 percent of their total birders coming from other states.

A study released in August by Headwaters Economics for Audubon New Mexico found that investments in conservation and restoration in southern New Mexico will provide multiple returns. They include increased employment and revenue related to tourism, already New Mexico's second-largest industry, bringing more than \$5.7 billion to the state annually, while promoting long-term economic growth and develop-

ment in the region that extends far beyond travel and recreation.

"This report outlines the mutually beneficial relationship the state has with preserving intact ecosystems for birds," added Stockdale. "Since, the CBC is one of our key assessments of habitat, bird health and trends, these numbers can help to guide important decisions about areas that need both ecological and economic attention."

In previous years, CBC results showed many birds that winter in the state are declining in numbers and analysis shows that their range is retracting north. Additionally, New Mexico is now seeing birds that were never before seen in the state or that weren't common as birds move northward from the south. For instance, 20 years ago, no one saw the Common Yellowthroat wintering in New Mexico, but now these birds winter regularly in Las Cruces and sometimes up the Rio Grande corridor towards Albuquerque.

The Pygmy Nuthatch, found in New Mexico's forests, moved 265 miles north with a 90 percent decline in the population in the state, with uncertainty about its general continental population.

To learn how to identify birds, participate in the CBC, and find local CBC leader contacts, check out <http://nm.audubon.org>. The leader in Ruidoso is Anita Powell, who can be reached at 575-257-5352 or flicker100@sbcglobal.net.

Some Things Change Over Time.....



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2010 - Average Movie Theater Ticket is \$8.00



2010 - Average Gallon of Gas is \$2.97

Is there any truth at all in the old proverb, "the more things change the more they stay the same,"? Yes. And there is no better example than First National Bank of Ruidoso where the goals of 1985, the year we opened, remain intact. To grow the bank by growing the community, to be big enough to serve your needs but small enough to communicate with our customers on a one-to-one basis, to put honesty and integrity at the top of our priority list, and to involve ourselves in community activities on an ongoing basis.

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Thanks for 25 great years Ruidoso!

Planners: Existing use should dictate zoning in annexed areas

PLANNINGS
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ing or surrounding areas in four areas into the village of Ruidoso in 2008 should dictate how the property is zoned, said members of the Village Planning & Zoning Commission.

With the possible exception of a chunk of land along U.S. 70 that may be designated C4, Heavy Commercial, the first in town, the areas mostly are residential, ranging from single-family to mobile home.

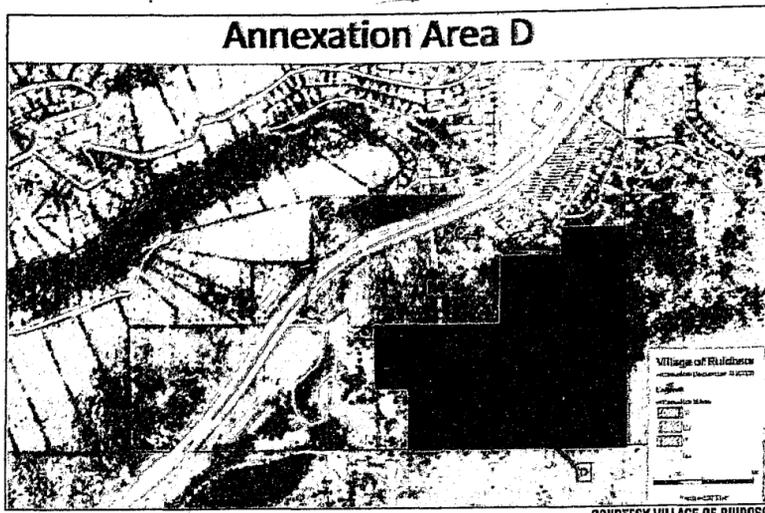
Deputy Village Manager Bill Morris said staff in 2007 identified four areas to be considered for annexation around the periphery of the village. The State Boundaries Commission approved the move. Planning and Zoning commissioners are to recommend appropriate zoning. Based on the discussion Tuesday, Morris said he will draft the recommendation for a final review as a precursor for notification of land owners about the proposed action, a public hearing, and then forwarding recommendations to the vil-

lage council for possible adoption.

"The first three areas are smaller and undeveloped and generally surrounded by one or two types of zoning districts," Morris said. "The last section D is more interesting and diverse."

The 47.99-acre block of land designated as A is located at the end of Perk Canyon off Upper Canyon, and R1, single-family residential zoning is recommended by staff. The enclave is surrounded by U.S. Forest Service land to the north, Residential 1, Single-family residential, to the west and south, and Ponderosa Heights, a Mobile Home 1 zone, to the east.

"It's a valley-shaped area at the end of Perk," Morris said. "The property to the east is steep, no doubt. After annexation, we have to provide village services, such as water and sewer, if feasible, within a reasonable amount of time, which could be five to 10 years. We're not planning to add infrastructure there at this point. We're concentrating on sewer lines where septic systems are



The map shows a segment of D along U.S. 70 as originally proposed by staff with various different zones, although they discussed going all C4.

failing."

Commissioner John Cornelius, a builder, said five separate land owners are represented there, at least three houses are built and the property previously was an undeveloped county subdivision. Lincoln County has no zoning, and the development may have preceded the adoption of county subdivision regulations.

"All we're doing is adding a zoning district on

top for potential future uses," Morris said. "We looked at what was on ground, so it's good for what is there now or for development intended in the future. R1 was the most compatible."

Rezoning doesn't occur much in the village, he said. "I think there have been two in this town since I've been here," he said. Notification to land owners about a public hearing date and proposed action will include certified letters as well as notices stapled to trees and posts in the area.

Commission Chairman Beth Hood said she would like to see Ponderosa Heights rezoned from MH1 to allow duplexes and granny flats (separate apartments without kitchens for family members), because, "It's marvelously located," close to shopping and a major road and not far from Midtown. At the same time, rezoning for duplexes or higher density housing might be considered on A Street, B Street, C Street and D Streets, an older area of town that shares similar characteristics, she said.

Cornelius agreed that areas for more affordable types of housing should be considered.

Morris said that could be accomplished with a simple change of language about principal permitted or conditional uses within a designation. "We have three cases (like that) coming up in January," he said.

"When you look at increasing density, you need to look at how people would come in and out," Morris said. "This is next to USFS land with a lot of trees. Ebarb Street is steep and fun in the winter. I still get lost back there and look for the evacuation escape route signs to find my way out."

The second block of land, listed as B and consisting of

seven parcels totaling 211.17 acres is located along Mechem Drive North across from the Swiss Chalet. Two parcels are owned by the village and have water tanks. Two parcels are used for communication towers. The remaining acres are undeveloped.

That area generally is surrounded by R1 and that is the staff's recommendation for zoning for Block B and the adjoining Block C with 36.672 acres, Morris said.

Cornelius said the views are great, but Commissioner Larry Wimbrow said the topography is steep. Access is through other existing developed areas, Morris said.

"Is this a spot where we would want future tanks and towers?" Cornelius asked.

Hood said she's hiked the area and there is flat land on top, but Morris said access could be an issue. The tract crosses Gavilan Canyon and takes in the Alto Reservoir, he said.

"(A large segment is) all one owner," Morris said. "Some group bought this one, a consortium. They requested the annexation that started the whole thing."

Area D, covering 84.29 acres, consists of 74 parcels along U.S. 70 from the intersection with New Mexico Highway 48/37 called Sudderth Drive to the boundary of the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

"The site is both built and vacant with an anticipated zoning of residential and commercial districts," Morris said. "U.S. 70 runs through this area and there are a lot of existing uses already. A large chunk is steep and not developed."

The section begins at the east end with The Emporium and the Elks' Club, includes Cherokee Village Mobile Home Park and

Twin Spruce trailer park, sweeps in an auto body collision business and motel/RV park as it moves west, and a new recreational vehicle/camping complex under construction and already approved by the village.

Morris proposed Commercial 4, heavy commercial zoning, for the land that includes the auto body shop; C2, neighborhood commercial for the hotel and RV park on the north side of the highway. On the south side, beginning in the east, the Emporium and Elks Club land would become C4, because meeting places are listed as a use in that designation, the property goes back quite deep and is along a major transportation corridor.

The Cherokee Mobile Home Park has existed for a long time and he doesn't see that changing, so M1 would be appropriate for the two trailer parks and the church, he said. The commission could specify on a future land use map versus current zoning what designation would be preferred in 10 or 20 years, if the current uses end, he said.

For the large undeveloped segment of property, Morris recommended either R1 or Agricultural residential, which allows one unit per two acres.

"I thought we could start low and wait for development of the property to come in," he said. "You could decide then if the owners' plans are compatible. It would be protected as low density until someone can show the area could handle a higher density with access and utilities."

Cornelius clarified that whatever zoning is approved, no current business could be zoned out of existence. Morris said if something happened to a nonconforming use, the owner could not rebuild, however.

An alternative could be to zone the entire 84.29 acres as C4, he said, but added that the 60 to 70 trailers in the area then would become nonconforming uses.

"We definitely lack C4 in this town," Cornelius said. "We could recommend M1 for that area, but say we see C4 in the future."

Commissioner Mark Flack said M1 zoning for the trailer parks would protect the value of the owner's investment, guaranteeing his ability to rebuild. But Wimbrow said he preferred the entire block of land be zoned C4 with nonconforming existing uses.

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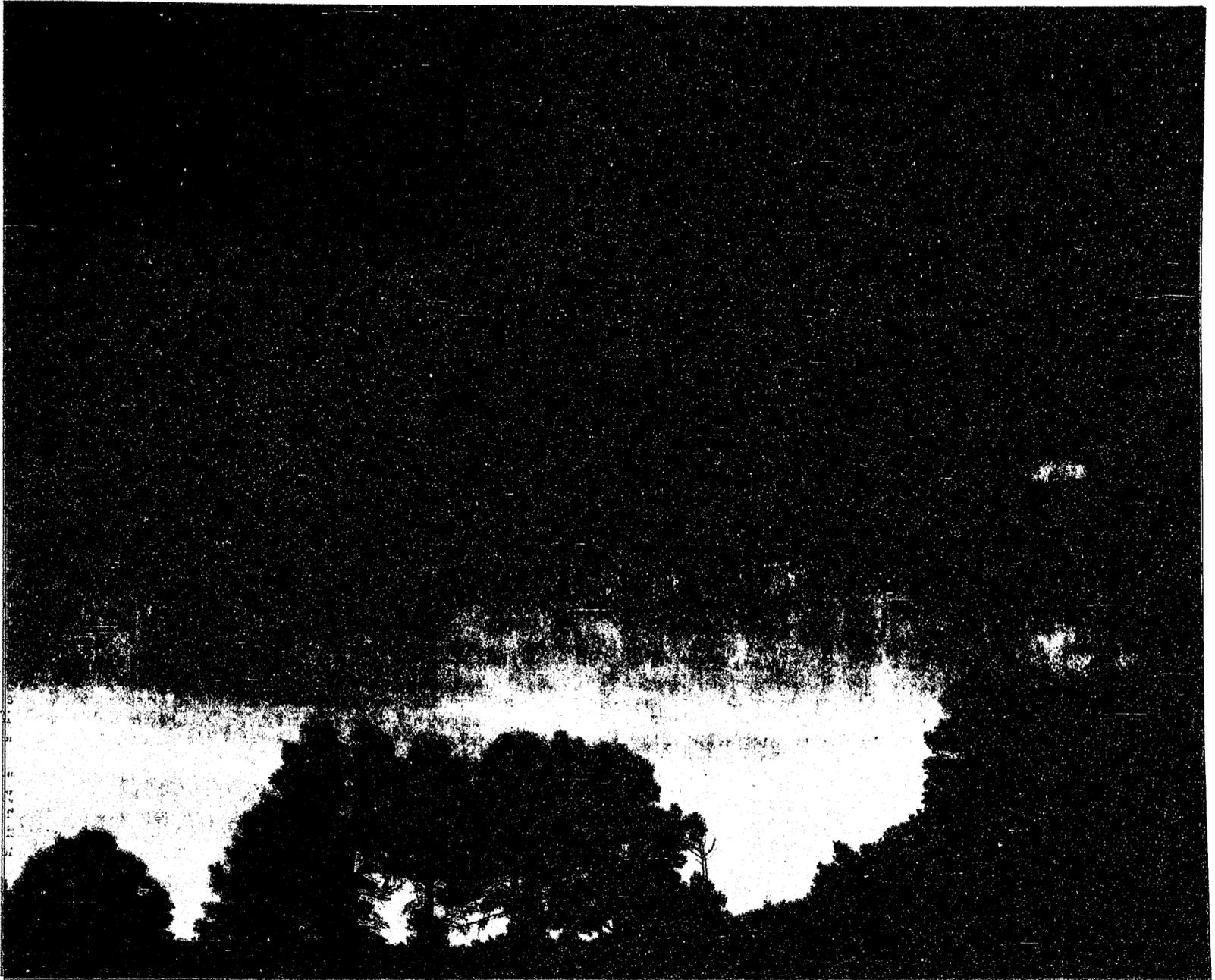
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WATERMELON SUNRISE



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

Once in a great while the atmospheric conditions are perfect for a "watermelon" sunrise, a spectacular display of red stripes across the canvas of a clear blue sky. Photographer David Tremblay caught the moment at 7:12 a.m. on a recent Sunday.

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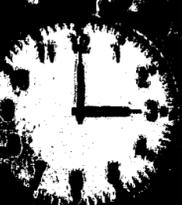


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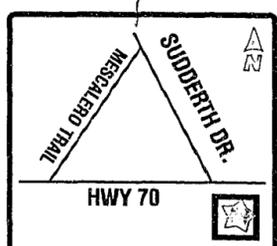
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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 2010

CALL US: MIKE CURRAN, SPORTS EDITOR • 257-4001 EXT. 4111 • MCCRAN@RUIDOSONEWS.COM

PAGE 18

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. 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: 3 inches

Mid-mountain snow: 14 inches
Weather for Wednesday: Windy with a few clouds from time to time. High around 60F. Winds W at 20 to 30 mph. Wednesday evening, windy with a few clouds from time to time. Low 38F. Winds W at 20 to 30 mph.

Weather for Thursday: More clouds than sun. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.

Snow surface: Machine groomed
Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, Ramp & Lower Deep Freeze

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

Snowmaking: Yes

Results

Basketball

Boys

Thursday, Dec. 9

Bosque 56, Ruidoso 41

Cliff 81, Capitan 29

Hondo 60, Corona 26

Friday, Dec. 10

Ruidoso 73, Navajo Prep 48

Capitan 80, Cloudcroft JV 26

Carrizozo 68, Magdalena 54

Lovington 67, Corona 17

Saturday, Dec. 11

Hot Springs 69, Ruidoso 68

Capitan 48, Cloudcroft 38

Girls

Thursday, Dec. 9

Ruidoso 72, Clovis 59

Cliff 47, Capitan 16

Hondo 60, Corona 46

Friday, Dec. 10

Lovington 65, Ruidoso 61

Animas 47, Capitan 16

Corona 58, Lake Arthur 41

Saturday, Dec. 11

Artesia 54, Ruidoso 48

Dexter 53, Capitan 52

Corona 60, Artesia JV 44

Sports On Tap

Basketball

Boys

Thursday, Dec. 16

NMMI at Capitan, 4 p.m.

Carrizozo at Mescalero Tournament, Thursday-Saturday

Friday, Dec. 17

Ruidoso at Artesia, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18

Ruidoso at Hatch, 4 p.m.

Girls

Friday, Dec. 17

Goddard at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18

Chaparral at Ruidoso, 4 p.m.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Forrest Sanchez contributes to the cause against Artesia Dec. 7.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Tyler Neill goes up for two in a Dec. 4 game against Cloudcroft. Last weekend Capitan won two out of three games at the Mountaintop Tournament in Cloudcroft.

Weekend hoops recap

MIKE CURRAN
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Of the weekend's tournament and regular season scheduled games the Capitan boys emerged with a 2-1 results while their female counterparts lost all three of their games at the Mountaintop Tournament in Cloudcroft.

The Ruidoso Warriors managed a 1-2 record at the Sundevil Tournament in Albuquerque while the Lady Warriors were also 1-2 at the Tournament of

Champions in Artesia.

The Lady Cardinals of Corona were 2-1 at the Panther Invitational in Lake Arthur while the boys dropped both of their games at the same tourney.

In a regular season scheduled game at Magdalena the Carrizozo Grizzlies handily defeated the D3-2A Steers.

The Lady Grizzlies did not play.

Capitan

Tigers coach Johnny Carson and his boys continued their winning ways as

they were first defeated by No. 2 Cliff on Thursday, 81-29, but bounced back the next day with a 80-26 victory over the Cloudcroft JV at the Mountaintop Tournament.

On Saturday they beat the Cloudcroft varsity, 48-38. The Tigers now sport a 5-2 overall season mark.

The Lady Tigers were not as fortunate as they lost to Cliff, 47-16, Thursday, were defeated by Animas, 47-26, Friday and lost a tough one to Dexter on Saturday, 53-52. The Capitan girls are now

2-4 for the season.

Ruidoso

The Lady Warriors salvaged a win at the Tournament of Champions on Thursday against Clovis, 72-59, but lost the next two games on Friday and Saturday to Lovington, 65-61, and Artesia, 54-48. The Ruidoso girls still maintain a winning record for the year with a 4-3 mark.

The Warriors opened up the Sundevil Tournament in Albuquerque with a loss to Bosque, 56-41, but

bounced back the next day with a 73-48 win over Navajo Prep. On Saturday they lost another heart-breaker when Hot Springs edged them 69-68. RHS lost to Hatch at home on Dec. 3 on a last-second basket, 52-50. The Warriors are now 3-4 to date.

"The close ones are the hardest for us," Ruidoso boys head coach Dennis Davis said. "We don't have the experience to make the right decisions at the right times. We did win a fairly close one at Tularosa, 73-68, and we've won a

Message from Hoehne: Character never rests

"On the beaches of hesitation lie the bleached bones of millions, who at the moment of victory, rested and in resting, lost all" - Anonymous

America's greatness comes from all communities, big and small, known or not and sometimes forgotten. It always has.

There is a spirit within us to endure, pursue and stand firm when challenges are thrust upon us. It could very well be in our DNA. Who knows?

Maybe that's why our Great Seal features an eagle with outstretched wings - the only country to do so. It affords all who come here, and all who are here, the chance to make their dreams become reality.

One of the latest confirmations of this came from the unlikelyst of

places - Hoehne (rhymes with Tony), Colo.

Never heard of this hamlet? Most others haven't either. Why should you? It's an unincorporated speck on the map, not federally recognized, in southern Colorado.

Nearby, as the crow flies, the ghost town of Madrid hangs on to a stubborn existence and a reminder of days gone by.



MIKE CURRAN
CURRAN EVENTS

Do you remember what may have happened to you on Nov. 27? You can bet the good inhabitants of Hoehne do.

That was the Saturday the Hoehne Farmers High School football team (13-0) won the 8-Man state championship, against all odds, for the first time since 1980.

This little story has everything a big story could have - and then some - pathos, irony, adversity, tragedy, courage, and ultimately,

triumph. You just can't get more American than that.

The only thing missing from this almost allegorical-like chronicle is a Norman Rockwell-esque painting of the participants to adorn the cover.

In the two weeks leading up to the title game the Farmers journeyed far. In the first round they brutalized Sierra Grande, 48-14, but barely got by Stratton at home, 52-46 on Nov. 13.

A week later, in the semi-finals, they blasted Merino away, 48-18, to earn the right to play for the crown. Coming into the state championship at the Caliche Buffalos the Farmers were averaging 58.5 points a game.

But Hoehne had a problem or two. The state's leading 8-Man rusher, Farmers' running back Cody Roberts, was banged up (a bad hamstring).

His end of season rushing stats led the state with 1,498 yards on 105 attempts for a 14.3-yard run-

ning average.

During the Caliche game, Farmers' freshman quarterback Sawyer Schafer played with an injured left shoulder. Adversity can sometimes lead a team to overcome, though.

At the half, Hoehne went into the locker room down 8-0 - trailing, just as the other Hoehne-area team found themselves 30 years before.

Oh, and by the way, Bob Schafer, the current Hoehne head football coach and father of the freshman quarterback, was a signal caller at the time for the John Mall Panthers of Walsenburg, which is only 35 miles away.

The skipper's nephew, Bryan Schafer, is also on the Farmers squad.

The 1980 Hoehne team went on to whip Walsh, 30-14, to win the Class A title game and go undefeated (11-0). Could the 2010

See HOEHNE, page 2B

RECAP

FROM PAGE 1B

lost one at home against Artesia."

Next up for the Warriors will be a return engagement with the Bulldogs at Artesia, Dec. 17. The Bulldogs recently lost two-out-of-three games at their own tournament last weekend when Roswell and Goddard defeated them.

"Before we play Artesia again we will be working on fundamental stuff in practice," Davis said. "We need to refine our game - not overhaul it - and learn to compete better."

Carrizozo

Grizzlies head coach Billy Page quietly has his team on a winning approach with a 4-2 overall record. Friday they journeyed to Magdalena and lassoed the Steers, 68-54, in a regular scheduled contest.

"We played a solid and complete game," Page said. "We made 70 percent of our free throws (12 for 17) which was a turnaround



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Capitan's Rudy Chavez goes airborne against Zozo Dec. 7.

from the Dec. 7 Capitan game where we only made 46 percent of our free throws in that loss (69-60).

At Magdalena we were nine for 10 from the line in the fourth quarter alone. We got in foul trouble early and had two kids foul out but our free throw success changed the complexion of the whole game. We've been focusing on that lately in practice. We work on it

everyday. There's always room for improvement, though."

Page has a young, short roster with two seniors, two juniors and a sophomore listed as starters. He has two freshmen on the bench. "Obviously, we need varsity experience."

At the Magdalena game the Grizzlies were in charge for the entire contest. At the quarter they



COURTESY

Coach Nicky Huey gives the Corona girls a chalk talk at the Nov. 19 Vaughn Tournament.

were up, 22-11, and both teams went to the locker rooms with the Grizzlies leading, 37-21.

The Steers closed the gap going into the fourth period of play, 46-40, but Carrizozo won going away by 14.

The Carrizozo girls/boys teams will attend the Mescalero tournament, which lasts Thursday through Saturday. The

Lady Grizzlies will open with Hondo at 1 p.m. on the first day. The boys will face off against Immanuel Christian on the same day at 6 p.m.

Corona

The Lady Cardinals came out of last week's Panther Invitational Tournament with a credible 2-1 record. After losing to Hondo, 60-46, on

Thursday, they recovered nicely to take down Lake Arthur, 58-41, the next day. Saturday they defeated the Artesia JV, 60-44. Coach Huey and the Corona girls are now at a respectable 4-3 for the season.

The Cardinals lost to Hondo, 60-26, and Loving, 67-17, on Thursday and Friday at the same tournament.

From all the Ruidoso News Staff we wish you a safe and joyful
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
 www.ruidosonews.com

HOEHNE

FROM PAGE 1B

Farmers squad follow suit?

The third quarter saw no score by either team and the Buffalos defensive unit continued to remain stingy into the last period of play - as did the Farmers.

At the 6:12 mark of regulation play, after Caliche had dominated the game offensively, the Hoehne boys reached down within themselves and started a 12-play, 80-yard drive to potential paydirt.

One key play that kept the Farmers drive alive was a 37-yard, miss-direction run by the banged-up quarterback Schafer.

That's when Martin Waln, who had taken up the slack for the injured running back Roberts, came forward to meet his destiny.

The Farmers were at the Buff's 10-yard line with a fourth-and-8 staring them in the face. Nowhere to go, nowhere to hide; this was it - do or die.

The Farmers' signal caller threw up a prayerful pass to Waln in the end zone who tipped the ball precariously, between two Caliche defenders, before claiming the prize for his own.

Next, Schafer made the two-point conversion to deadlock the score at 8-8 with only 2:23 left to play.

The drama continued as both teams went to overtime.

The Buffalos were awarded the first possession in OT. Two runs yielded Caliche a minus four yards. Two passes by the quarterback Tyson Weingardt were for naught.

Enter the Farmers ... and Waln again. The junior

running back was given the ball, headed off right tackle, escaped two tackles and found treasure from 10 yards out - his longest run of the day - to win the coveted second-ever gold trophy for the Hoehne Farmers.

A final score of 14-8 tells the tale. It was the defensive unit as a whole that stopped the powerful Buffalos. It was the offensive unit as a whole that scored more points than their adversary.

The Hoehne boys were in collusion with each other - a grand conspiracy, if you will - to win.

And the reason they did ... they never, not once, ever quit. Good things sometimes happen to those who don't.

Life is a mixed bag of circumstances, though. The Farmers played that game with a tragedy fresh in their minds. It had to be in their thoughts periodically

throughout the game.

You see, the day before, one of their fellow students in the small community was killed in an accidental shooting. Obviously, out of respect, the Farmers victory celebration was put on hold.

Decades from now, when the Hoehne players are old men they may find themselves in an easy chair recounting that November 2010, weekend.

When they recall their victory on the football field a slight smile might appear, for that is what was.

The smile will quickly fade as the somber remembrance of their fallen mate takes hold for what could have been.

Both incidents will go hand-in-hand and forever be linked. That's just how life is.

Hat tip: To Julie Carter who presented the idea

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SELMA

Selma is a very playful, happy-go-lucky Staffordshire Terrier, about 9 months old. She loves to go for walks and play with the other dogs. Selma has a beautiful mousey/brown colored coat with on her chest and paws. She is very attentive, outgoing and full of life. Selma weighs about 40 pounds, is spayed and current on all her vaccinations.

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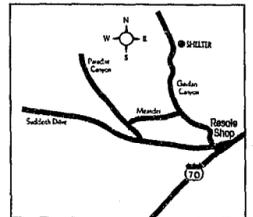


XANADU

Xanadu is a cat that definitely stands out in a crowd. He is a beautiful seal point with bright blue eyes and is also a Manx. Xanadu is young, about 8 months old, courteous and quite friendly. He gets along well with other cats, is neutered and current on all his vaccinations.

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WILLIE

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CRICKET

Cricket is a pretty red Heeler/Aussie mix. She is very attentive and eager to please. Cricket weighs 35 pounds and is about 2 years old.

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GINA

Gina is a very playful puppy about 3 months old. She has big beautiful eyes that shine and would love to find a great home.

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ROBIN

Robin is a cute, small Chihuahua mix, about 3 months old. She is quite shy when she first meets someone new, but will bond quickly. She has a beautiful dark chocolate brown colored coat with a splash of white on her chest.

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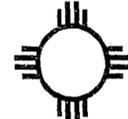
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LINCOLN COUNTY

Carrizozo police officer search continues

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

With 11 applications in hand, Carrizozo Mayor Mike Petty said the process to find a police officer to fill the open position is underway.

The Police Department has been short a full-time officer since the resignation of Darrell Chavez in November.

Petty said in Monday night's town council meeting that Chief Rachel Weiser is on medical leave for an undetermined amount of time, but she had also indicated she would be leaving the department at some point to move to Texas.

"It is my understanding that both she and Officer Gary Lindsey have jobs there to go to," Petty said. "But, I can't advertise for a new chief until I have a formal resignation in hand."

Lindsey is a part-time officer on a 32-hour/week schedule.

Petty said that he has spoken to Lincoln County Sheriff Rick Virden and to the New Mexico State Police and both departments have said they will be available to help with emergency calls as needed.

"People need to understand that the response time may vary," said Petty,

"depending on where an officer is in the county when the call comes in. Just because a deputy lives here in town, doesn't mean an immediate response."

The department's activity report showed 22 calls were responded to in November and two traffic citations issued.

Six cases were logged, four of which were felonies with two arrests.

The Carrizozo Municipal Court reported a total of \$972 disbursed to the Town of Carrizozo collected from fines, fees and court costs.

Valle del Sol

Valle del Sol developer Dan Dattola asked the council for approval for the town to take over responsibility for Phase III and IV of the Valle del Sol subdivision, a total of 158 lots.

"We will be approached Planning and Zoning soon for approval to proceed with Phase V," said Dattola. "That phase will be 44 lots on the north side of Valle del Sol Boulevard."

Dattola said there were only 15 lots left unsold in Phase I, II and III of the development, and that 340-plus lots total had been sold.

Before offering his vote for approval, Valle del Sol resident Trustee Lee Gross



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Closing out 2010, the Town of Carrizozo board of trustees held their last meeting of the year on Monday. Above left, Dan Dattola seeks approval to turn over Phase III and IV of Valle del Sol to the town. Center, Linda Rodriguez give the council an update from Carrizozo Works. At right, Mayor Mike Petty and Clerk Leann Weibrecht look over a Planning and Zoning document.

asked if the attorney should be consulted before accepting Phase III and IV. Town Clerk Leann Weibrecht responded saying the attorney had been consulted. The vote was unanimous to accept.

New Website

The new Website for the Town of Carrizozo is up and running at www.townofcarrizozo.com.

Mayor Petty gave "kudos" to Town Clerk

Leann Weibrecht and Judy Fitz, along with Trustee Dusty Voss for getting things up and running.

The site offers the demographics of the town along with a calendar of events, current weather, information about the different areas of the community, places of interest, a photo gallery and town council information.

Linda Rodriguez gave a brief report from Carrizozo Works, the town's economic

development entity.

Rodriguez said that after many months of no interest from business prospects developed through the state's economic development participation, there have recently been two inquiries.

"We didn't meet the criteria of their needs," she said, "but it was encouraging that there is some activity and interest out there now, where there wasn't before."

In other business the council:

- approved P & Z recommendations for applications for a fence at the private residence of Georgia Ortiz at 908 5th St., and structural work for Roque and Zoila Solis at 111 Central;

- approved the Holiday Schedule for 2011.

The next regular meeting of the Town of Carrizozo council will be Jan. 10, at 6 p.m.

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS



COURTESY WADE SULTEMIER

The Mountaintop Turners Christmas Project this year was the "ShoeBox Christmas." In lieu of a December meeting, members donated 27 shoe boxes filled with toys and other items for less fortunate children in the Carrizozo Elementary School. The Mountaintop Turners club was chartered in 2002 with a goal toward education of woodturning on the lathe. The club is a charter member of the American Association of Woodturners. Above, several members delivering the shoe box gifts to the Carrizozo School. Left to right, Mark Vigil, Carrizozo student; Patti Nesbitt, Carrizozo Schools principal; and Bobbie Millburn, Joe Booth and Madeleine Sabo of Mountaintop Turners.

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Santa will arrive in Carrizozo Saturday, Dec. 18. He and his helpers will deliver Christmas baskets to homebound senior citizens in the community. At 2 p.m., Santa will be in Spencer Park to had out goodies to the children. If you know of a homebound senior in the Carrizozo community who would like a visit from Santa Claus, the Santa helpers would like to add them to the list. Call Fire Chief Walter Hill at 430-8215 to add a name. The Carrizozo Volunteer Fire department would like to thank all the people and businesses who helped to make this year's Christmas event possible with their generous donations. The department purchases "the goodies," and then the volunteer firemen spend hours making hundreds of individual bags.

COUNTY BRIEFS

Capitan Womens Club

The Capitan Womens Club wishes to take this opportunity to thank the many wonderful people of Capitan and beyond who contribute to the many projects we hold.

The CWC is a non-profit based organization which primarily benefits the children of Capitan.

The CWC recently held its first Pumpkin Carving Contest with great success, and helped host the annual Halloween festivities at

Smokey Bear Park.

For Christmas it will once again provide Senior Baskets and host its annual Head Start Christmas for the children.

These worthy projects were helped by generous contributions from: Walmart, Smokey's Country Market, Capitan Chamber of Commerce, Washington

Federal Bank, Lincoln County Mercantile, Windy City and Willa and Preston Stone.

The Club offers its sincerest thanks to all who give so much to help us meet our goals.

It also wish to thank the Capitan Public Library for the use of their facilities for our monthly meetings.

And of course, kudos to the growing membership, who give generously of their time and commitment to make all this possible.

Free pumpkins

Overstock items available at the Carrizozo Market and at the Gallery 408. Free to good home needing or wanting more pumpkin products.

Christmas Store

The Carrizozo Christmas Store next to Roy's Gift Gallery is open Thursday-Sunday from 10-

until sometime later.

They have lots of great Christmas stuff for very reasonable prices and will take any donations.

All proceeds go to help further develop and maintain the Spencer Park playground.

Art exhibition

Artists of Carrizozo Exhibition will be open until Dec. 20. The Galleries will close for the holidays. Holiday shop now and get local, original artwork for gifts. Carrizozo Clay will be open through Dec. 24 for late shoppers.

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Cowboy Santa Parade



The Capitan Public Library's annual Cowboy Santa Parade was a huge success with a good turnout of "non-mortozized" participants. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Posse, Capitan Woman's Club, Lincoln County 4-Hers, Capitan Schools Band and more offered a festive site on a beautiful day. Cindy Foglesong's music students provided entertainment at the library after the parade, where Santa (Greg Haussler) greeted the children.

Photos by Harold Oakes / Ruidoso News and courtesy of the Capitan Public Library.

It is still luminaria time in Carrizozo

Carrizozo volunteers help a lot with the Christmas Eve luminarias celebration, especially with prepping the bags the first of the month.

In fact, without the volunteers, the luminaria project would not happen.

A good turnout last Saturday made for a fun time to get the bags ready for Christmas Eve.

However, the real work starts on Christmas Eve

Day when folks will meet at the main fire station at 1 p.m. to gather the trailers full of luminarias and start placing them and lighting the candles around McDonald Park and all the churches.

Then the real magic begins as townsfolk and visitors alike appreciate the beauty of the evening.

This year, however, there will be a little less magic than usual.

Donations to cover the costs (primarily of the candles) are down, reflecting the economy seen everywhere.

So this year, the luminarias will be featured in McDonald Park and at each church.

It seems the economy's hitting everyone, including this festival.

But, come join the fun and see the wonderful transformation that will be

apparent to some degree this Christmas Eve in Carrizozo.

The luminarias are an annual event sponsored by the Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce with considerable help from the Carrizozo Volunteer Fire Department and the Carrizozo community.

For more information, call the Chamber at 648-2732 or Judy Fitz at 648-2514.

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Dr. Carleton A. Naiche-Palmer



Visitation for Dr. Carleton A. Naiche-Palmer, 63, of Mescalero will be Thursday, December 16, from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM with the prayer service at 6:00 PM. The funeral service will be Friday, December 17, at 10:00 AM with all services being at the Mescalero Gymnasium at the Mescalero Apache Tribal Center. Burial will follow at the Mescalero Cemetery.

Dr. Naiche-Palmer passed away Saturday, December 11, 2010 in El Paso, Texas. He was born June 22, 1947 at Mescalero, NM to Ignatius and Althea Palmer. He graduated from Tularosa High School, received his BA from Western New Mexico University, MA from Pepperdine University and Ph.D. from Arbor University. He married Ada Rose Enjady in September, 1970.

He is survived by his wife, Ada Rose Palmer; his children and their spouses, Marlin Palmer & Jackie Yuzos, Eston and Gina Fulsom, Michelle Naiche-Palmer, Theodore and Melissa Chavez, Jesse and Lorilee Martinez, and Wynona Tahmito; his brother, Arlington Palmer and his wife Darla Smith and their 10 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a son, Scott Ryan Palmer, his parents, Ignatius and Althea Palmer, and brother Ferris Ignatius Palmer.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.lagroneRuidoso.com.

Curtis LeRoy Lathan



Curtis LeRoy Lathan passed away on November 28, 2010 in Ruidoso, New Mexico. He was born in Scottsbluff, Nebraska on April 22, 1936. He graduated from Minatare, Nebraska High School May, 1954.

He is survived by his wife, Darla; two sons, Anthony "Tony" and his wife Charla of Ruidoso Downs, NM and Forrest "Frosty Sr." and his wife Jackie of Hobbs, NM; four grandchildren, Forrest Lathan Jr. and his wife Terra of Lubbock, TX, Ashleigh Morris and her husband, Michael of Lovington, NM; TJ and LaKendra Lathan of Ruidoso Downs; three great grandchildren, Camden and Gavin Lathan of Lubbock, TX and Gracie Morris of Lovington, NM; one sister, JoAnn Sanchez and her husband Albert Sr. of Scottsbluff, NE. He is preceded in death by one son, Curtis Lathan Jr., his parents and one infant brother.

He was a member of Ruidoso Downs First Baptist Church and a member of the local VFW. He entered the Air Force in June, 1954. He was assigned to Walker A.F.B. in Roswell where he met and married Darla Jo Counts. They celebrated their 53rd anniversary this past September.

Following his Air Force retirement July, 1974 they moved to Ruidoso. He received his Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Education from ENMU. He taught in Littlefield, TX and Yuma, AZ before becoming Principal/Administrator of Ruidoso Christian School in 1988 until his retirement in June, 2001.

A memorial service will be Friday, December 17, at 1:30 PM in the Ruidoso Downs First Baptist. Cremation services is under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso and condolences may be sent to the family at www.lagroneRuidoso.com.

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RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

Dec. 6

9:44 a.m. - Officer Tyrel Tyson responded to a report of an attempted auto burglary in the 100 block of Circle Drive.

The victim reported damage to the driver's door of the vehicle, but had no idea when it occurred. The victim reportedly told Tyson his wife heard a noise at about 11:10 p.m., Dec. 3, but thought it was just some wild animal.

10:25 a.m. - A man claiming to be a victim of identity theft came into the Ruidoso Police Department to report being contact by a

collection agency attempting to collect money from him for an insurance policy he said he did not buy on a vehicle he did not own.

The man reportedly told Officer Tyrel Tyson that someone had bought an insurance policy from Progressive Insurance using his name and Progressive would not talk to him about it because he was not the one that bought the policy, but wanted him to pay for it. He said they needed a police report to remove the debt from the collection agency.

Tyson reportedly called Progressive Insurance and

was told he had to submit a written request for any information.

7:36 p.m. - Corporal Lawrence Chavez responded to the 100 block of Virginia Canyon for a report of a domestic disturbance.

Chavez arrested Jonathan Wrinkles, 37, for battery on a household member.

Chavez reports the victim told him Wrinkles went to pick up pizza and got stopped by the police. She said he became angry at her because she knew his driver's license was suspended. She reportedly said they argued and Wrinkles pushed her and struck her on the arm.

Chavez reports that the woman's son struck Wrinkles and told him to stop hitting his mom. Wrinkles and the son allegedly wrestled. There were reportedly no injuries to the son. The woman reportedly had a mark on her arm and Chavez reports that the furniture had apparently been thrown around.

The woman reported Wrinkles was out of work and had started drinking heavily since being laid off work.

Chavez booked Wrinkles and his bond was set at \$2,000 cash only.

Dec. 9

9 a.m. - Sergeant Dale Harrison responded to 2804 Sudderth for a report of a larceny.

The store owner reported that someone had taken a carved fawn between 5 p.m. the previous day and 8 a.m. that morning.

11:58 p.m. - Officer Lance Ledford responded to a report of a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Pinecrest.

Ledford reports the victim said he got in an argument with Barbara Hunter, 45, because she was drunk and left home to get away from her. According to Ledford's report, Hunter followed the victim to Pinecrest and broke a win-

Brogan gets the gavel

ELVA K. STERREICH
Alamogordo Daily News

District Judge Jerry Ritter's courtroom was overflowing Friday as the Hon. William H. Brogan was sworn in to his newly elected position as 12th Judicial District Judge.

Brogan practiced law in Ruidoso from 2001 until 2006 and served a stint as Village legal counsel.

During the ceremony Ritter offered Brogan some advice quoted from various sources, admonishing Brogan to keep his habits of mind detached, cultivate dominating humility and make it disagreeable to talk nonsense in the courtroom.

Brogan was welcomed to the bench by Mark Whorton, resident of the 12th Judicial District Bar Association, and Ritter proceeded to swear the new judge in on an old family Bible held by his wife, Julia Brogan.

When Brogan was robed and turned to face the audience, with a quiet whoosh of breath and pause, he



J.R. OPPENHEIM/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

With assistance from his daughter Barbara Chilton, Bill Brogan bangs the gavel for the first time as 12th Judicial District Judge during a ceremony Friday at the Otero County Courthouse. Before a gathering of family, friends and court officials, Brogan was sworn in as the newest district judge.

said, "I am humbled."

Walking to the podium Brogan said, "Hello, I'm Bill Brogan and I'm running for District Court judge," and the room broke out in laughter.

After many thanks to people who have helped him on the way, Brogan said he has a lot yet to learn about the job.

"District court is the highest trial court," he said. "It is the last bastion in American soil likely to pre-

serve the American way of life. You have charged me with the most important job I have ever had."

Trial judges must deal with more complexities than ever, Brogan said. Today's set of laws defies understanding but the Constitution requires strict application and he intends to follow it.

"I will do my best not to disappoint you," Brogan said. "May God bless you all as he has blessed me."

Fund set for injured teen

A fund has been established for the teen ager critically injured Sunday morning in a car wreck along U.S. Highway 70 near Fox Cave.

Jermaine Vigil, 17, is in critical condition at University Medical Center of El Paso. A relative said Vigil suffered internal injuries, a broken pelvis, shattered face bones and other injuries in the crash. He has been unable to undergo surgery for injuries to an arm and his cheek bones because of the extent of other injuries.

An account in Vigil's name has been opened at the First National Bank of Ruidoso.

Vigil's aunt, Louisa Gonzales, said both of Vigil's parents are staying in El Paso to

be with their son and thus are currently without income.

The car Vigil and his brother Zacharey, 21, were in left the highway, struck a tree, and traveled over an arroyo, sometime during the pre-dawn hours of Sunday, according to New Mexico State Police. The younger brother was taken to the trauma center hospital in El Paso by a medical helicopter. J

Gonzales said Zacharey required multiple head stitches after initially taken by ambulance to the Lincoln County Medical Center. He was later transferred to the hospital in El Paso, and was released from the hospital earlier this week. She said Jermaine fell asleep while driving.

DISTRICT COURT CASES

Probation revocation

Zachary A. Montgomery appeared in court Oct. 22 for a probation violation hearing and admitted the allegations.

Judge Karen Parsons issued Montgomery an "unsatisfactory" discharge from probation and ordered him released from Lincoln County Detention Center.

A jury found Montgomery guilty of aggravated driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, resisting, evading or obstructing an officer, driving left of center, passing in a no passing zone and

failure to obey a traffic signal on July 24, 2007. Montgomery attempted to elude Capitan Police Chief Randy Spear.

Parsons sentenced Montgomery to two years in prison and one year and 87 days on probation after that trial.

Shoplifting sentence

Billy Don Allen, aka Billy Miller, 42, appeared in court and changed his plea to no contest on charges of shoplifting over \$500 and resisting, evading or obstructing an officer under a plea and disposition agreement reached by

Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Reed Thompson.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed an additional charge of shoplifting over \$500 and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Judge Karen Parsons sentenced Allen to two and one-half years on probation.

Ruidoso Downs Police officer Martin Valenzuela arrested Allen on the charges Nov. 8, 2009. Allen took several computers,

See COURT, page 7B

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\$ 4 Bar Menu
- Wednesdays is Tapas Night -
All your favorite Tapas All Night Only
\$ 4.50 ~ \$ 5.00
- Thursday, Friday & Saturday -
Dinner Served 5 ~ 9 pm
All Prices include sales tax!!!

DEAN S. BREWER

Memorial service is scheduled for 2:00 PM, Monday, December 13, 2010 at the Grone Funeral Chapel for Dean Brewer, age 80, of Dexter, who passed away December 10, 2010. Dean was born July 12, 1930 in Hugo, Oklahoma to Ed and Buelah Brewer. Both parents preceded him in death, as well as a brother, Leon Brewer.

He married Jackye Hughes on February 10, 1959 in Alamogordo, New Mexico. She survives him at the family home.

Dean was of the Baptist faith, and was owner/operator of Cobfa Shipping & Trucking.

He was a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, and he loved Ranching, Rodeoing, and training horses. He loved his grandchildren with his wholeheart and was very proud of them.

Survivors include a son: Roper Brewer and his wife Chandra of Roswell, 2 daughters, Tracy Burge and her husband Scott of Dexter, and Donna Hobbs Maldonado, of Ruidoso, and a brother, Sid Brewer and his wife Virginia of Dexter. He is also survived by 6 grandchildren; Shaye Burge, Dallye Burge, Kelsey Brewer, Makayze Brewer, and K'Dyn Brewer and Blayne Maldonado, numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends may pay respects online at www.lagronefuneralchapel.com

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BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 6B

dow in the apartment. She reportedly said she knocked too hard trying to get keys to get inside because she was cold.

Ledford charged Hunter with criminal damage to property.

Dec. 10

3:35 p.m. - Officer Joshua Snodgrass reports Michael Cooper, 52, of Mes-calero was arrested on a warrant from Lincoln County Magistrate Court. Snodgrass reports Cooper kicked the door, cell and partition in the Ruidoso Police Department holding cell, causing damage.

Snodgrass filed a criminal complaint charging Cooper with criminal damage to property over \$1,000.

3:45 p.m. - Officer Jon Lund responded to the 100 block of Highway 70 for a report of criminal damage to property.

The victim reported that someone had shot the windshield of a vehicle, apparently with a BB gun or something similar.

Lund reports the windshield had a "quarter sized" damaged area. The value of the windshield was reportedly \$400.

Dec. 11

3:52 p.m. - Corporal Lawrence Chavez responded to a report of graffiti at 2701 Sudderth Drive.

Dec. 12

9:30 a.m. - Corporal Aaron Frost responded to the Aspen Lodge Apartments on Upper Terrace for a report of a violent domestic, possibly involving a large knife.

Frost reported that when he arrived at the apartments Shannon P. Johns, 35, came toward him quickly and refused to obey verbal commands. Frost reported that because of the possibility of a knife being involved, he drew his weapon and ordered John to stop.

John reportedly complied and Frost placed him in handcuffs for investigative detention.

The victim reportedly told Frost that John had put her in an arm bar lock, grabbed her throat choking her, and kned her in the rib cage while trying to get their 4-month old daughter away from her to keep her and the baby from leaving. Frost reported observing red marks on the woman consistent with her statement. Frost reported he examined the baby and found her to be unharmed.

Frost arrested John on a charge of battery on a household member. Unable to pay the \$2,000 bond, John was transported to Lincoln County Detention Center.

Dec. 13

7:01 p.m. - Officer Steve Corbin responded to the 100 block of West White Mountain Drive for a report of a Ford van having been vandalized.

The man reported the van belonged to his girlfriend and someone had broken a glass in the van while he was at work at Family Dollar on Mechem Drive that day.

Corbin reports that it appeared someone shot the window with a pellet or BB gun.

Reports compile from Ruidoso Police Department incident reports by Harold Oghes/Ruidoso News

COURT

FROM PAGE 6B

televisions, digital cameras and accessories from Walmart between Sept. 25 and Nov. 8, 2009.

Valenzuela Tased Allen when Allen ran from him in Walmart. The Taser failed to stop Allen, but a citizen helped apprehend Allen at

the Garden Shop entrance.

Restitution ordered

Charles Addison, 19, appeared in court for imposition of sentence Nov. 12.

Addison pled no contest to one count of larceny over \$2,500, a 3rd degree felony, under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Reed Thomp-

son. Under the agreement, Judge Karen Parsons sentenced Addison to three years probation.

Addison stole jewelry and pawned it in April 2010.

Capitan Police Chief Randy Spear arrested Addison May 13, 2010 for a probation violation because Addison's urinalysis showed positive.

Parsons also ordered Addison to pay restitution to the two victims of the theft and two pawn shops.

Damages to the jail

Christopher Dubay, 33, appeared in court Nov. 19, for imposition of sentence.

Dubay pled no contest to charges of resisting, evading or obstructing an officer and criminal damage to property over \$1,000.

The State dismissed a charge of battery on a peace officer and Judge Karen Parsons sentenced Dubay to one and one-half years on probation and ordered him to pay Lincoln County Detention Center \$1,071.

Dubay was charged May 20, 2010 with battery on a detention officer and destroying a video surveillance camera in the detention facility.

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<p>SPECIAL VALUE!</p> <p>now \$159 was *199</p> <p>Four-Burner Gas Grill</p> <p>•48,000 BTUs #134489</p>	<p>SPECIAL VALUE!</p> <p>now \$89 was *129</p> <p>Cast-Iron Chimenea</p> <p>#291623</p>	<p>10% off</p> <p>ALL IN-STOCK RUGS</p> <p>Discount taken at time of purchase. Offer valid through 12/27/10. Selection varies by store.</p>	<p>40% off</p> <p>ALL HOLIDAY DECORATIONS</p>
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You're invited to our Facebook gift-a-thon.

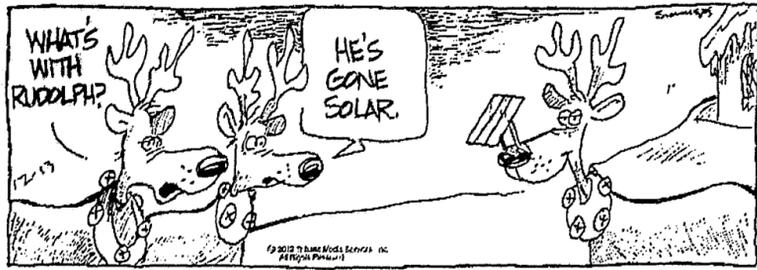
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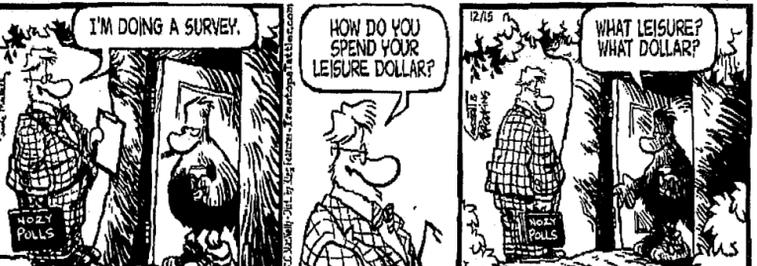
Details on our policies and services: Prices may vary after 12/20/10 if there are market variations. "Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on 12/9/10 and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and promotions apply to US locations only, and are available while supplies last. **+20 Minute Guarantee:** In-stock merchandise ordered and paid for on Lowe's.com will be ready for pick up within 20 minutes of order completion. Guarantee valid only at store selected by customer when placing order, only during store's normal operating hours, and only on orders completed at least 60 minutes prior to store closing. Orders placed less than 60 minutes prior to closing or outside of normal operating hours will be ready for pickup 20 minutes after store opening on the next business day. 20-minute period refers to preparation of product for pick up and excludes customer wait time. Time of order completion will be determined by Lowe's order confirmation e-mail. Guarantee excludes special orders, orders involving additional services, and Lowe's.com orders, and is not valid the Friday following Thanksgiving day. See store or Lowe's.com for details. © 2010 Lowe's Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. Lowe's, the gable design and Let's Build Something Together are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. (101291)

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BOUND & GAGGED



SHOE



SCRABBLE G R A M S I

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E1	O1	U1	T1	M3	C3	P3	Triple Word Score	RAK 1
A1	A1	R1	D2	N1	S1	B3		RAK 2
O1	Y4	H4	S1	G2	T1	L1	3rd Letter Double	RAK 3
A1	A1	A1	K5	L1	V4	B3		RAK 4

PAR SCORE 200-210
BEST SCORE 280

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

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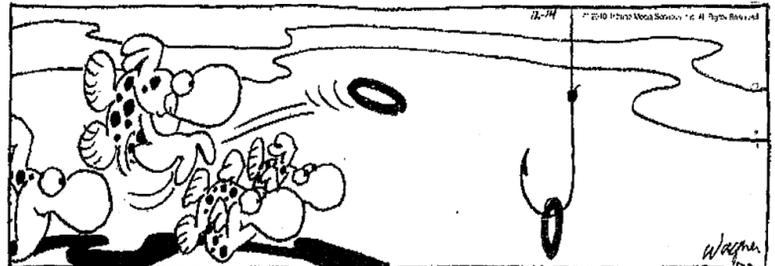
JUMBLE

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

DUMON
KECHO
WADROC
TOLBET

Ans: " " " "

ANIMAL CRACKERS



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE 12/15/10

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

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

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Published every Wednesday in the

RUIDOSO NEWS

Jumbles: MOUND CHOKE COWARD BOTTLE
Answer: What the mason faced when he was let go — "ROCK" BOTTOM



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RAK 2 =	60
RAK 3 =	65
RAK 4 =	66
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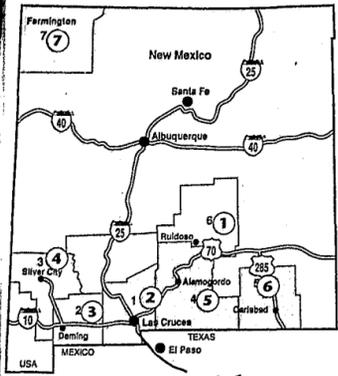
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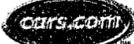
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NOTICES

100-152

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LEGAL NOTICES

152

INVITATION

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Ruidoso...

LEGAL NOTICES

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Nissan X-terra '04 auto, ac, cd, all pwr, we finance, Call Now! 915-629-0079 Barnett

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Auto For Sale 917

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