

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 2011 • OUR 65TH YEAR, NO. 68 • 75 CENTS

Commissioners slam ENMU study

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Two Lincoln County commissioners verbally jumped the local branch community college president Tuesday, challenging the results of an economic contribu-

tion study and criticizing aspects of the local campus. Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso President Clayton Alred accepted the hits and answered questions without losing his composure. At one point, Commission Chairman

Eileen Sedillo intervened, admonishing Commissioner Mark Doth not to be rude after he asked Alred, "Why are you here?" Doth said he would regroup, but that he just wanted to get to the point of why Alred was attending the Tuesday commis-

sion meeting armed with the results of a economic growth and investment analyses put together by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. "I did not appreciate the study at all," he said, calling it flawed with two-year-old statistics.

"Most of the time (when someone shows up with a study) there are other reasons they have come here." He said he heard college officials are thinking about trying to broaden the two-year institu-

See **STUDY**, page 10A

S'no'w show

Latest winter storm delivers little to Ruidoso

JIM KALVELAGE
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A winter storm packed a punch for parts of northern New Mexico but mostly bypassed the Ruidoso area.

While three to five inches of snow had been forecast for Ruidoso, only light snow, which mostly melted on impact, dropped into the village. Ski Apache was able to acquire two inches of snow on Monday. And sections of northern Lincoln County, like near Corona, also received two inches of snow.

"I'm always fascinated," Kerry Jones, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in New Mexico said Tuesday. "We say every snowflake is unique, not one is the same. And that's really true for each winter storm that comes through. And this was certainly no different."

The center of the low pressure system that moved in from the west was the strongest the forecast office has seen this month.

"Typically you experi-

ence the heaviest snow bands to the north and northwest of that low track," Jones said. "And so unfortunately the Sacramento Mountains were just to the south of the track of that low. That's basically why Ruidoso was more or less left out in combination with the fact that it was pretty warm."

Heavy snow did fall north of Lincoln County. Vaughn, for example, picked up about a foot of snow. And Santa Rosa got more than a half foot.

The heavier snows that fell closed Interstate 25 from Santa Fe to the Colorado border. And Interstate 40, from east of Albuquerque to the Texas state line, also was shut down. The closure of the interstate sections, as well as a number of other highways to the north, impacted travel on U.S. Highway 54 in a part of Lincoln County. Police halted northbound traffic, particularly semis, at Carrizozo because of stranded traffic in Vaughn. Southbound

See **SNOW**, page 11A

THE SEASON FOR GIVING



HAROLD DAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Presley, 5, and Mason Southand, 9, carry a Santa's Helpers box across the parking lot at First Christian Church Tuesday. The Southand family is visiting Ruidoso from Austin, Texas, and their mother wanted them to do something for the community while they were here, so the family volunteered to help with the delivery of presents and food for Santa's Helpers to the community's needy.

A FIERY FIFTIETH FOR SKI APACHE

More than 1,400 fire-works lit up the sky above Ski Apache as the 75 skiers and snowboarders participating in the torch-light parade wind their way down the slopes, flares in hand, celebrating 50 years of winter fun at the popular resort. For more photos from the event, see-page 12A and 13A.

ERIK BEARER/RUIDOSO NEWS



State nixes county inspection plan

Commission vows to take issue to governor

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Although state construction officials rejected a plan by the county to use private inspectors to oversee building activity in unincorporated areas of the county, commissioners are going to ask the governor to overrule the agency.

County Planning Director Curt Temple several months ago laid out a proposal to take over responsibility for building, plumbing and electrical inspections outside of

municipalities. He contended the permit fees would cover the additional expense. The job now is handled by the state Construction Industries Division and in a development zone around the village of Ruidoso by that municipality's building division.

But the majority of commissioners said they only were interested if an independent firm was contracted to oversee the work. They didn't want to hire more county employees and pay the associated benefits and

overhead. During a meeting two months ago, Ruidoso Building Official Shawn Fort pointed out that the village has been expanding its service area and he warned that state CID might not approve a contractual service.

That position was confirmed in a Nov. 21 letter from Richard William Tavelli, director of the Regulations and Licensing Department of the CID.

Tavelli wrote that his department received several

See **PLAN**, page 10A

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Christmas Eve Candle Light Dinner

Laughing Sheep Farm this year presents a traditional and cultural
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Michael Francis plays Christmas Classics
4 - 8 pm \$38 Reservations Required

- Whole wheat fig bread (Portuguese)
- LSF fresh green salad with home made cottage cheese and goose pate' (England)
- Old fashioned liver noodle soup (Germany) or Brussel Sprout Soup (Irish)
- Choice of one served with grilled cantaloupe, mashed potatoes, and collards

- *Range goose with blackberry glaze atop wildrice and forest mushrooms
- *Rack of Antelope bedded in cranberry and pinon orzo
- *Range Pheasant stuffed with pinon and currant cornbread
- Mango Sherbet • Egg nog ice cream with a splash
- * Persimmon pudding with hard sauce.

Sally's Belgians and Buggy Races 7-11



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MediaNews Group NEWSPAPER

Christmas closures

Municipal
Ruidoso, Capitan, and Carrizozo village halls will be closed from Dec. 23 through 26. In case of a utility emergency, contact the Ruidoso Police Department at (575) 258-7365 or the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department at (575) 648-2341.

Banks
First National Bank, First Savings Bank, City Bank, and Southwest Securities will be closed Dec. 24 through 26.

Washington Federal, Compass Bank, and Pioneer Bank will be closed Dec. 26.

Schools
Area schools are on winter break, with school resuming on Jan. 4 for Ruidoso and Capitan. Carrizozo schools will return on Jan. 3.

Prescribed burn

The Mescalero Division of Resource Management and Protection is collaborating with Ruidoso's Forestry Department and Fire Department, along with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Lincoln National Forest's Smokey Bear Ranger District, on a test burn of slash piles in the Flume Ridge Project today.

The activity is only a test in advance of a planned larger series of pile burning to take place



Among the cast of 75 dancers appearing Saturday in the Ruidoso Dance Ensemble's 2012 version of "The Nutcracker" were its stars Simon Pawlak, as the Cavalier, Christy Huey, as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Sabina Judah as Clara and Nicholas Mesa as the Nutcracker. More than 1,000 people flooded into the Spencer Theater for the two breath-taking performances.

KATHLEEN MCDONALD/SPENCER THEATER

The contest, which runs through Dec. 31, is being sponsored by the Ruidoso Tourism Department and is designed to capture the enduring beauty of Ruidoso and its surrounding areas.

Winning photos will be selected by a panel of judges, and the winners will receive \$100 for each photo that is selected.

The Tourism Department is looking for "lifestyle photos" that depict Ruidoso in all of its seasons, and anyone can submit up to six photos total into the following categories: outdoor recreation, dining/shopping, historical imagery, events, family fun, and relaxation.

A total of 50 photos will be selected and awarded the \$100 prize. For a complete list of contest rules and details and to download entry forms, please visit RuidosoAttractions.com/photocontest.html. The deadline is Dec. 31.

Library programs

December in the Children's Library at the Ruidoso Public Library:

Preschool story time Wednesdays at 10:30 —

Today, Christmas Movie: Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer (popcorn and juice box served).

Dec. 28, Movie: Frosty the Snowman (popcorn and juice box served).

See **EVENTS**, page 3A

in January.

The Flume Ridge Project is located in the northwest corner of the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation. It is about one-quarter of a mile south of the Ruidoso Cabins Campground and about one-half a mile southwest of Ruidoso's Upper Canyon.

Public service announcements will be issued before each of the burns.

Public service announcements will be issued before each of the burns.

Postal recycling

The Ruidoso Post Offices — Main and Hollywood Station — have joined post offices in Capitan, Alto and Ruidoso Downs in providing recycling containers in lobby

areas for use by local postal patrons in the U.S. Post Office "read, respond, and recycle" program.

The main Ruidoso Post Office, the largest of 14 current post offices in Lincoln County, is expected to see the largest volume participation the region of discarded junk mail, magazines, mail order catalogs,

newspapers, and miscellaneous paper.

Photo contest

Ruidoso, a longtime vacation destination, has unveiled the Love Ruidoso Photo Contest, which is open to anyone who has captured memories of fun times in the mountain village.



CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIALS

Start off with a Rudolph Nose Cocktail

\$9.99 TAMALE SPECIAL

Traditional red pork tamales with red or green sauce on the side, rice and beans served with a cup of fresh hot posole and chips and salsa.

\$16.99 FULL DINNER

SALAD: Stacked prime New York strip salad

ENTRÉE: Yukon scalloped potato prepared with Gorgonzola cheese, maple glazed baked ham, green bean casserole topped with French fried onions, and dinner roll

DESSERT SPECIAL: Pecan bourbon pie

For details visit InnoftheMountainGods.com/Christmas



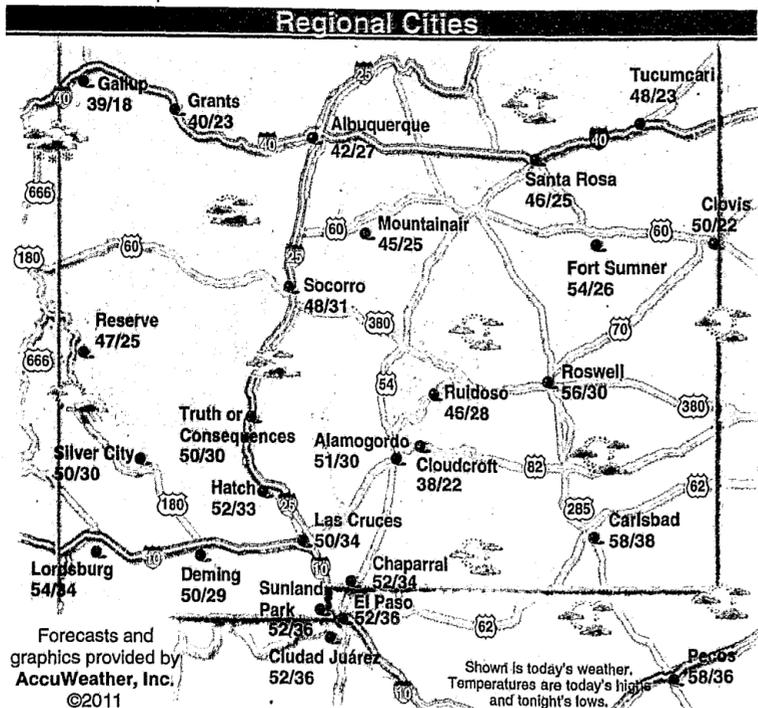
Mescalero NM, near Ruidoso

InnoftheMountainGods.com

AccuWeather® 7-day forecast for Ruidoso AccuWeather.com

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel: 40° Humidity: 46% 46° 28° 48%	RealFeel: 28° Humidity: 35% 17° 78%	RealFeel: 30° Humidity: 33% 30° 55%	RealFeel: 42° Humidity: 45% 28° 45%	RealFeel: 44° Humidity: 45% 35° 41%	RealFeel: 54° Humidity: 54° 38° 42%	RealFeel: 55° Humidity: 55° 23° 33%
Intervals of clouds and sun Wind: WSW 8-16 mph	Breezy with times of sun and clouds Wind: SSE 10-20 mph	Partly sunny and chilly Wind: WNW 8-16 mph	Mostly sunny and warmer Wind: NW 8-16 mph	Times of clouds and sun Wind: WNW 6-12 mph	A full day of sunshine Wind: WSW 6-12 mph	Sunny Wind: W 7-14 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.



Almanac

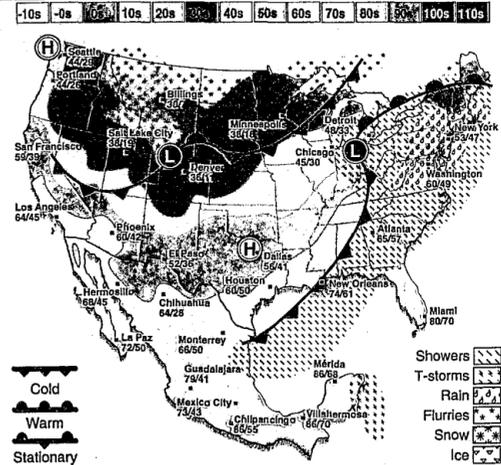
Ruidoso
Statistics through Monday
Temperature:
High/low 37°/25°
Normal high 48°
Normal low 21°
Record high 64° (1950)
Record low 3° (1965)
Precipitation:
Monday 0.05"
Month to date 0.99"
Normal month to date 0.98"
Year to date 5.55"
Normal year to date 21.26"

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

Alamogordo
Statistics through Monday
Temperature:
High/low 45°/36°
Normal high 55°
Normal low 21°
Record high 67° (2010)
Record low 13° (1996)
Precipitation:
Monday 0.56"
Month to date 1.09"
Normal month to date 0.56"
Year to date 5.55"
Normal year to date 10.45"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: Does Miami, Fla., or Los Angeles, Calif., average more rain in December?
A: Miami averages just over 2 inches less.

National Forecast for Dec. 21, 2011



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

National Cities

City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W
Abilene	56/35/pc	57/31/pc
Anchorage	29/17/c	23/7/pc
Atlanta	65/57/sh	69/53/r
Austin	57/41/pc	62/36/pc
Baltimore	56/43/r	55/40/pc
Boston	53/44/r	52/37/pc
Chicago	45/30/c	40/26/c
Dallas	56/41/pc	60/39/pc
Denver	36/11/pc	22/4/sn
Des Moines	42/25/pc	34/15/sf
Detroit	48/33/r	45/30/pc
El Paso	52/36/pc	51/28/pc
Las Vegas	56/39/s	55/37/pc
Los Angeles	64/45/s	66/46/s
Minneapolis	38/18/c	24/13/pc
New Orleans	74/61/pc	77/56/r
New York City	53/47/r	56/42/pc
Philadelphia	55/46/r	57/42/pc
Phoenix	60/42/pc	63/40/pc
Reno	45/17/pc	37/17/s
San Francisco	59/39/s	56/37/s
San Diego	60/50/s	61/44/s
Seattle	44/29/pc	44/37/pc
Tucson	58/38/pc	60/40/s
Tulsa, OK	49/32/pc	52/30/pc
Wash., DC	60/49/r	57/43/pc
Wichita	42/25/pc	40/20/pc
Yuma	66/44/s	66/44/s

Regional Cities

City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W
Albuquerque	42/27/pc	33/21/sn
Artesia	58/39/pc	54/33/pc
Chama	37/14/pc	31/-8/sn
Clayton	42/17/pc	26/9/pc
Cloudcroft	38/22/pc	37/0/pc
Farmington	40/20/pc	31/11/sn
Hobbs	56/32/pc	52/21/pc
Los Alamos	35/19/pc	33/7/sn
Portales	52/26/pc	48/16/pc
Raton	44/15/pc	22/3/sn
Fred River	33/9/pc	29/-1/sn
Ruidoso	46/28/pc	36/17/pc
Santa Fe	40/21/pc	34/12/sn
Silver City	50/30/pc	47/24/sn
Taos	36/13/pc	25/2/sn

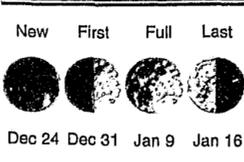
Mexican Cities

City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W
Acapulco	88/72/s	80/72/s
Cancún	82/70/sh	82/68/sh
Chihuahua	64/28/pc	59/32/s
Ciudad Juárez	52/36/pc	52/28/pc
León	79/43/s	79/45/s
México, DF	73/43/s	72/43/s
Monterrey	66/50/pc	72/50/s
Morelia	79/46/s	76/48/s
Oaxaca	84/48/s	86/50/pc
Pto. Penasco	64/45/pc	64/41/pc
Tijuana	63/43/pc	64/41/pc

Sun and Moon

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 7:02 a.m./5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset 3:41 a.m./2:19 p.m.

Moon Phases



Extremes

Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High: 83° in Kingsville, TX
Low: -3° in Houlton, ME

Monday's World High/Low:
High: 112° in Teller, Australia
Low: -52° in Omolon, Russia

EVENTS

FROM PAGE 2A

Weekends at fort

The Fort Stanton Museum will be open on weekends through March 2012. The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. There is no fee to visit the museum but donations are appreciated. The museum will not be open on Christmas Day. Since the museum opened in April 2010, more than 20,000 people have visited the Fort Stanton State Monument.

The museum features a display about the history of the fort from its creation in 1855 as a military fortification to the present day.

At the Spencer

The Flying J Wranglers "Go Tell It On The Mountain" Christmas Special (\$30) is set for 7 p.m. today at the Spencer Theater.

New for The Flying J Wranglers this Christmas season is a brand new holiday CD packed with traditional favorites, original and classic western/cowboy Christmas songs and spiritual ballads.

Entitled "Go Tell It On The Mountain," the intricate harmonies on the holiday compilation herald the true meaning of the season in tunes like "Beautiful City," "Mary Did You Know," "Angels Among Us," "Noel," "Children Go Where I tell Thee," "Riding To Ruidoso" and the CD's title song, "Go Tell It On The Mountain."

The group features tenor James Hobbs on rhythm guitar; vocalist Cindy Hobbs, the national champion yodeler and entertainer; Randy Jones, a multi-instrumentalist on guitar, mandolin, banjo, dobro and vocals; Roy Black on bass guitar and vocals, and Corinna Ripple on fiddle and vocals.

Call the Spencer Box Office at 575.336.4800 or go to www.spencertheater.com.

Lighting contest

The annual Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce lighting contest starting at dusk. First prize is \$75, second is \$50 and third is \$25 for homes.

The best business award is a traveling plaque to be shown all year at the site of the winner.

WHITE MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SINGERS



LeeAnne Myers' first-grade class checked their list and decided that "It must be Santa" as they sang to an audience of parents and teachers on Friday.

Front row, from left, Jason Klein-Kinnick, David McCaw, Quintin Allen, Robert McCarty, Alicia Silva, X-Zavier Urban, and Elizabeth Cly.

Back row, from left, Tyler Hiles, Todd Hinds, Gabriel Adams, Trevor Silva, Kody Hough, Kennedy Olson, Madison Price, and Emma Drane.

ERIK BEARER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Drought and insects affecting trees in Sacramento Mountains

STAFF REPORTS
ruidosonews.com

Findings from an annual survey completed by the USDA Forest Service's Forest Health Protection Program and the New Mexico State Forestry Division show increased conifer mortality in and around the Sacramento Mountains due to the current drought and infestations of a variety of bark beetle species.

According to the two agencies, aerial and ground surveys in the Sacramento Mountains area show several species of bark beetle are currently causing the mortality of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and white fir trees at levels higher than observed in 2010. If current drought conditions persist, tree stress and mortality will likely continue to increase in 2012.

Due to the recent

drought, trees in the Lincoln National Forest and surrounding areas in south central New Mexico have become increasingly stressed.

Bark beetles frequently attack and kill drought-stressed trees, in particular conifers. When this occurs, beetle populations may increase to levels where they can aggressively attack and kill the surrounding healthy trees, leading to pockets of mortality in an area.

"Prolonged severe drou-

ght and extreme cold last winter have left trees on private and public land very stressed," said New Mexico State Forester Tony Delfin. "This stress leaves trees susceptible to disease infections and insect infestation."

While proper thinning treatments have been shown to help reduce stress on trees and increase their ability to resist bark beetles and disease, land managers are currently exploring ways to minimize the impact of this increase in bark beetle infestation and will continue to

coordinate with private, local, state, federal and tribal entities to respond to the increase in tree mortality. "Over the past ten years, the Lincoln National forest

has treated 10,000 to 14,000 acres annually with 16,000 acres treated in 2011," explained Robert Trujillo, Lincoln National Forest supervisor.

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December 24

Please join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Refreshments 5PM

Music

December 25

You are welcome to join us!

Come Celebrate the REKSON for the Season

Sunday Christmas Day 10 A.M.

Flying J Ranch 1028 Hwy. 48, Alto

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 - 3 p.m. Friday for Wednesday
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OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Mlodecki, general manager and regional publisher
Terrance Vestal, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday
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OUR OPINION

Helping others; It is who we are

Smiles lit up tired faces Tuesday morning as the boxes of Christmas goodies and food were loaded into vehicles for delivery.

Santa's Helpers volunteers had worked for months gathering toys, clothes and food for the needy.

Volunteers wrapped presents and filled numbered boxes lined up in rows in the big room at First Christian Church.

There were hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of work soliciting donations, sorting gifts, lovingly wrapping presents and checking and re-checking lists to make sure the right presents were going to the right kids.

Stacey Miller and her volunteer organizers probably didn't get a lot of sleep Monday night for a couple of reasons.

Everything had to be ready for Tuesday morning's delivery. No more time.

And they had to wonder if

anyone would actually show up to make those deliveries.

They did show up. Police officers, firemen, and community volunteers, which included Zia Natural Gas who sent four trucks with two workers each and told them to stay until it was all delivered.

Those volunteers that made this all happen probably slept well Tuesday night for the first time in a long time, knowing it was all done, for this year.

The community once again dug deep and came through to help the less fortunate. Christmas presents and food went to families in the municipalities and on the ranches throughout the area - delivered by volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to help those who are helping the less fortunate.

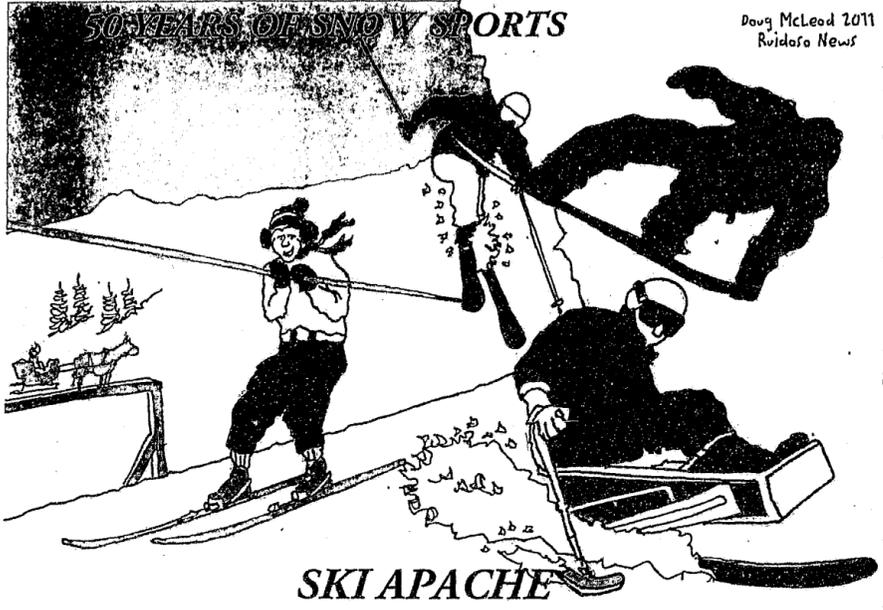
We are blessed that these citizens share what they have, be it a lot or a little.

That's what we do. That's who we are.

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.



Doug McLeod 2011
Ruidoso News

THEIR OPINION

Teachers are the agents of change

Three weeks into her job last year, Secretary of Education-designate Hanna Skandera had a teachable moment in the Capitol elevator. In a chance conversation, a woman told Skandera that she left the teaching profession because there was no recognition of excellence; her students were performing well, but next door, another teacher who was just marking time earned more because of longevity.

"We have no way to acknowledge their excellence in a meaningful way," Skandera said last week, speaking to business leaders. "How do you capture the art and science of teaching?"

This question drove a governor-appointed task force on teacher evaluations that met all summer and released its recommendations in late August.

Skandera's talk was to explain and sell the task force recommendations and enlist support ahead of the next legislative session.

What was refreshing about Skandera's message

was its overtone of support for teachers and its marked departure from the blame-the-teachers bombast that usually accompanies any discussion of reform.

"I believe in parental involvement and business activism, but our teachers are the agents of change... I believe in reading and getting a better return on investment, but who brings that? It's our teachers."

Democrats usually paint Skandera as a bureaucrat with no classroom experience, but she grew up in a family of educators. She made another important point: "Esteem for the education profession is not growing. Esteem is actually decreasing."

From 200 applicants, the task force chose teachers, parents, legislators, business people, and representatives of special-needs groups. "They did not all agree, walking in the door," she said, but they made 38 recommendations.

See **AGENTS**, page 5A



SHERRY ROBINSON

ALL SHE WROTE

THE STREETER, BY ERIK BEARER

Q: How much do you think Santa weighs? (White Mountain Elementary/Nob Hill)



Johnny Smith
Ruidoso
"Fifteen pounds, I don't know."



Kayla Thompson
Ruidoso
"We think he weighs 100 pounds."



Bella Lawrence
Ruidoso
"One-hundred pounds, I think."



Zoe Gutierrez
Ruidoso
"He weighs 100 pounds."



Andres Candelaria
Ruidoso
"Maybe 90 pounds?"



Ivan Dominguez
Ruidoso
"He weighs 109 pounds."



Devon Brazeal
Ruidoso
"Ten hundred pounds!"



Antion Bulloch
Ruidoso
"I think he weighs 90 pounds."



Xavier Solace
Ruidoso
"He weighs 50 pounds!"

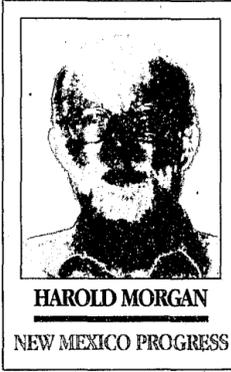


Sebastian Marino
Ruidoso
"No, he weighs 60 pounds."

THEIR OPINION

Surviving with less

By hook, crook, shifting from Peter to Paul, and hundreds of millions of federal stimulus dollars, state government survived, without major operational disruption, three years of less money coming into the general fund, the states principal pot of operating money. The period ended with the 2011 fiscal year (FY 11) that closed June 30 of this year.



HAROLD MORGAN
NEW MEXICO PROGRESS

The revenue from broad-based taxes is growing a little. These taxes include gross receipts and income taxes. Taxable gross receipts have grown 12 percent in the past six months. "New money" for FY 13 is estimated at \$250 million. That figure is FY 13 estimated revenue minus FY 12 spending.

Survival came through easing down spending 3 to 4 percent per year for four years, said David Abbey, Legislative Finance Committee director. Abbey spoke Dec. 15 at the annual legislative outlook conference of the New Mexico Tax Research Institute.

"The challenge," Abbey said, "is not to go back to old spending practices but to invest in programs that will yield better results." That means serving the "most needy" or producing the best return on investment.

The overall spending cuts ended with FY 11. For the current year (FY 12, ending June 30, 2012), the state has gotten lucky. Abbey didn't cite luck, however. Just as one-time options ran out, revenue has increased, he said.

In job terms, the projected growth averages 1.5 percent per year for the next five years. Such job growth, if it happens, will bring the state back to the pre-recession employment peak of just under 830,000.

"The FY 13 revenue outlook suggests steady but moderate growth consistent with a slow economic recovery," Abbey said. That "moderate growth" projection is considered somewhat conservative. What may be the best news isn't a number but rather a trend, or perhaps the beginnings of what may become a

Oil and gas revenue per unit of production is projected to be fairly steady the next few years with oil in the \$8-to-\$9 range per barrel and gas from \$4 to \$6 per thousand cubic feet. The amount of money to the state will be determined by the amount of production.

action, though all sorts of people are working on proposals. The pensions are outside the general fund.

"Our benefits are generous," Abbey said. The cost-of-living adjustment for the pensions of the main group of state retirees "is remarkably generous." Applying changes only to new state employees, a sometimes argued approach, will never get to a solution, namely solvent funds.

Conventional wisdom lurked in a few speakers. Richard Berry, Albuquerque mayor, pitched the fantasy of luring the headquarters of national corporations to locate in Albuquerque.

Terri Cole, long serving president and CEO of the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce repeated an old and destructive complaint, that "we are a public sector economy." As is nearly always the case, Cole failed to exempt the national laboratories and other public research institutions from the evils of "the public dollars."

Opportunity may lie with speaker after speaker discussing aspects of the absolute mess of the state tax system. We have narrowed the tax base and raised the rates, was the comment, repeated across philosophies.

"We must change our way of doing business in New Mexico," Keith Gardner, chief of staff for Gov. Susana Martinez said.

The statehood centennial will be 2012. What better time to take risk, to start over with action, not just talk.

YOUR OPINION

Adopting beautiful memories

To the editor;

I am a volunteer with the Humane Society of Lincoln County. Our organization is in the business of finding homes for stray dogs and cats, or returning lost dogs and cats to their owners. We are always looking for new ways to reach out to our community in the hope of increasing our number of adoptions.

In is within this context that our director of adoptions asked me if I could write a story about the experience of adopting a dog from our shelter. I agreed to do so and chose as my subject a Labrador retriever named Sage.

A little more than 10 years ago, my wife, Marcia, and I lost a beloved pet and friend named Tres. She was an English setter, a creature of beauty and grace.

At age ten, she was diagnosed with cancer and we had to let her go. After some period of grieving, Marcia and I decided to adopt another dog.

We had had several dogs over the years that we adopted as puppies, but this time, we decided to adopt an adult dog. We went to the Humane Society shelter on Gavilan Canyon Road and looked over the selection of dogs, all of whom were barking up a storm - except one, a skinny black dog who stood up on her hind legs, put her front paws on the kennel gate and looked me right in the eye with great dignity. Then, she did the same with Marcia. Without even any discussion, we knew she was the one.

We took her to our veterinarian, Dr. Lynn Willard, for a checkup and

he congratulated us on selecting a beautiful Labrador retriever. When I remarked that she did not look like a lab, he said that she would after she put on some weight. As I have since found out, life in the shelter can be extremely stressful for a dog, and she had been there for several months after an indefinite period of time on the streets of Ruidoso. Dr. Willard estimated her age at about two years.

After we had taken her home, we noticed some peculiarities in her behavior. When she ate, she hovered over her food bowl and glanced around furtively as if she was afraid someone would try to take her food. She was also skittish if I moved too fast or had something in my hands such as a hoe or broom. But after a few days, the behavior with her eating went away; however, she never completely lost her skittishness about long handled tools.

In short order, Sage settled into home life in the Haralson household. She proved to be everything we would want in a dog. She rarely barked and never growled or whined. And she never chased cats. If she was in the house with me, or out on our deck, she would come to me and look me in the eye. She was trying to tell me of her gratitude that we picked her out of all the dogs in the shelter. At least, I like to think that. But there was no doubt in our minds that she loved us as much as we loved her. She brought us 10 years of joy.

A few weeks ago, we noticed that she was not as active as she always had

been. At first we chalked it up to her advancing age. Then, last week, we decided we should have our vet look at her. Blood tests revealed that she had a high score on her liver test. We were given some medicine and we took her home. That was a Friday. On Saturday, I kept her in my office with me. It was then that I knew something was horribly wrong. She alternated between putting her muzzle in my lap and staring into my eyes and, then, walking over to a closed door and staring. I thought, "Oh no! Not my precious Sage!" But, I told Marcia that I thought it was time to make a hard decision. We called the vet's office and talked to someone who had weekend duty. Afterward, we decided to wait until Sunday to see if she got any better. She did, but Monday morning, we had difficulty getting her to wake up.

At 9:30 Monday morning, we made the long drive down Gavilan Canyon Road to the vet's office. Sage was in the back seat with her head hanging down. She still managed to lick my hand when I petted her. Fifteen minutes later we said goodbye.

A week has passed and we have accepted the fact that Sage is gone. In another week, we will feel a little better. But for the rest of our lives we will always remember the gentle creature that was a part of our lives for over 10 years. If I could go back to that shelter on the day that we first saw Sage, I would not change a thing.

William L. Haralson
Alto

AGENTS

FROM PAGE 5A

The current system, which emphasizes years of experience and credentials, would be replaced by teacher evaluations based on student achievement (50 percent), observation (25 percent) and locally adopted measures (25 percent).

Student achievement would have to account for disability, language spoken, and other student issues, such as a family's frequent moves.

In the event of personal differences between a principal and a teacher, someone else would observe.

The task force didn't stop at teachers.

Principals would be evaluated on the school's letter grade of A to F (50 percent), the effectiveness of implementing revised teacher evaluations (25 percent), and other measures.

Some critical changes

left behind by previous reformers were incentives to teach in underperforming schools and rural and reservation schools and to teach math and science. The task force took these up as well.

As usual, el diablo is in the details. Letter grading of schools is still untested and somewhat controversial.

And even the task force couldn't agree on how to measure student achievement.

Testing is still a sore subject for teachers.

Skandera and Celia Merrill, of the Golden Apple Foundation, emphasized that reform isn't

rewarding the good teachers and getting rid of the bad.

In between are the majority of teachers - competent, dedicated - who should get training and the opportunity to become great teachers.

Teacher salaries are the biggest part of a school's budget, Merrill said. "That's where we have our biggest investment and our biggest opportunity by making our investments more strategic."

Studies have shown that one year in a classroom with a great teacher in a class of 20 students will make a \$400,000 dif-

ference in a student's lifetime earnings. By great, she means those who go beyond instruction -- "teachers who light fires."

If we're lucky, we've had at least one of these teachers in our lives - the ones who taught us to think, the ones saw something in us, however unpromising we may have looked at the time.

"We need to champion our teachers, and we need to know that the reason we're championing them is student achievement," Skandera said.

It was an interesting speech - both call to action and extension of the olive branch to teachers.

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EDUCATION

ALL-STATE BAND



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso High School musicians Catie Cory on oboe, above, and Vivian Wilson on tenor sax, below, perform for Ruidoso school district officials. The two have been selected as participants to the 2012 all-state band.



Weather to delay school activities

Afterschool, weekend activities to depend on weather

JIM KALVELAGE
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If winter weather cancels the school day in the Ruidoso Municipal School District, activities including sporting events, also are cancelled.

But weekends use different rules and that prompted education board member Rhonda Vincent to ask for a policy that could allow students to ride with their parents.

"The reason most of the time we want the kids on the bus is because it's safer on the buses than riding in cars," Kief Johnson, the district's activities director, told Vincent. "I think that at anytime a parent felt that it was unsafe to bring the kid up to the school or anything like that, then we definitely honor that."

Vincent recalled that on Dec. 3, a Saturday, about six inches of snow fell.

That was the same day the wrestling team had a

"I think that at anytime a parent felt that it was unsafe to bring the kid up to the school or anything like that, we definitely honor that."

Kief Johnson
RMSD Activity Director

tournament in Roswell.

"We got the call that we were still going though it was delayed. Instead of leaving at 6 a.m. it was 8 a.m.," Vincent said. "We drove all the way through to Tinnie on snow-packed, iced roads. If I could have gotten our son off the bus I probably would have and not done that."

Farther to the east the highway cleared up, allowing the team to complete their trip.

"So I don't know on a Saturday what a call would be," Vincent said. "Like I said, leaving at 8 in the morning, the roads

here in Ruidoso at that time were snow-packed and icy."

She said she has lived in the Ruidoso area all her life and is used to driving on snow.

"I literally was sick by the time we got to Riverside," Vincent said. "It was that bad."

Johnson said he relies on Lincoln Transportation, the district's bus provider, to determine if travel will take place during the winter months, when road conditions may be hazardous.

"The biggest thing is our buses get along fine on the road," Johnson said. "It's the other people on the road that we're more worried about."

Johnson noted travel decisions for activities can be a hard call because of snow buildup in the Ruidoso area's mountainous terrain.

"Further north up in Colorado, there's people going to school whenever it snows," Johnson said.

"But I think we have a lot of people here that do not have the four-wheel drives. Those are some tough decisions. I wish there was a yes or a no answer out there on whether we send them or not."

Johnson said the policy is clear on what are normally school days.

"I just want to make sure we're all on the same page," Johnson told school board and administrative officials at a meeting last week. "It's kind of like if school is cancelled we cancel basically all of our activities."

"The reason I brought this up is we had a team going to Artesia and they were leaving at 2:30 (p.m.). Well about 2:30 in the afternoon, when the sun has finally gotten out there, the roads are pretty good."

"Our buses do pretty good out there. The problem is getting our kids to the gym and then whenever they get home late at night it's iced over."

Reformed math taught at RMSD

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Reformed math is getting an additional push this year with students in the kindergarten through fifth grade in the Ruidoso schools. New math coach Caitlin Robinson said the expanded instruction and assessment program takes the step past basic mathematics.

"Reformed mathematics is the way we're teaching now," Robinson said. "The basics are the way that all of us were taught. The basics dealt with operation and computation. And today we're teaching kids numbers, operations, geometry, measurement, algebra. Our fourth and fifth graders are learning beginning algebra concepts. And that is a huge shift from what we used to teach before."

The concept of reformed math is different than basic math.

"The principles really focus on conceptual understanding of the operations versus just the memorization of facts. And so that's probably the biggest shift. Also, problem solving is the way we base all of our mathematics and we base it on real life problems because that's the type of work that kids have to do when they enter the workforce today."

Concepts

Reformed math connects reasoning with the memorization process.

Robinson said the adage that students must know how to read but it's OK to not be able to do math is a myth.

"We need to dispel that myth. Math is not magic and everybody can do math."

A key part of the district's Everyday Math initiative is student assessments. Review of educational performance, using the Standards Based Assessment (SBA) test, is to achieve goals set out for Adequate Yearly Progress.

"When we started Everyday Math in K-5, our Adequate Yearly Progress goal at that time back in 2008 and 2009 (school year) was 44 percent. Our students were overall performing at 48 percent. We had a year of intense initiatives to start that program. We had a summer institute. There was a math coach in place. In that first year our scores rose overall to 56 percent. The math coach retired and, because of the budget, was not replaced. And we didn't have good implementation of the program after that. They didn't have any watchdog overseeing it and our scores have started going down."

After scores fell last year, the district's superintendent determined it was time to get back on track.

The district's Edu-

"The principles really focus on conceptual understanding of the operations versus just the memorization of facts ... and we base it on real life problems because that's the type of work that kids have to do when they enter the workforce today."

Caitlin Robinson
Mathematics coach,
Ruidoso Municipal Schools

cation Plan for Student Success (BPSS) goals are developed by looking at the SBA scores and the AYP goal, which is set by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

"And it continues to rise each year," Robinson said of the scoring goal. "So, based on that, we have come up with the EPPS plan for our students here in Ruidoso. So this is what the math proficiency goal is, and it's a little bit funny because, you'll notice that it says that we have to rise to 79 percent on this year's New Mexico SBA. And here we are at 38. So that looks like a very rigorous goal. The reason that we put it at 79 percent is that is actually the annual AYP percentage and you can't go below that. So we're looking at 79 to 80 percent of our students achieving proficiency per the state guidelines."

Testing

Assessment practices in the schools are coming into alignment with teachers using the same assessment language.

"Teachers are having to talk to each other and say, 'Why do you think this kid was proficient? I didn't know this kid was proficient.'"

Teachers must use the Everyday Math program as well as an assessment management system. Robinson said the district is putting its money where its mouth is.

"We're saying (to teachers) you will use the program. We will get you what you need. And we will give you the professional development that you need."

Education could become even more intense in the coming years with the likelihood of a set of Common Core of State Standards for teaching.

"And that's good news and bad news," Robinson said. "The common core standards is a movement that 47 states now have bought into. And there will be a set of standards that are national standards that the states have brought in. They're narrower and so I think we'll get back to a richer type of instruction. The hard thing is that they're even more rigorous in what they're asking than the standards that we have right now."

Four arrested after Saturday crime spree

HAROLD OAKES
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You want jail time with that?

Ruidoso police still are trying to identify all the victims and owners of property recovered from a Saturday crime spree that included a fateful trip to McDonald's.

Ruidoso police arrested Jeremy Williams, 23, Robert Priddy, 18, Zane Reed, 17, and Damian Quiones, 14, Saturday afternoon on multiple felony charges.

"Saturday morning patrol got hit with numerous burglary calls starting at about 7:15," Ruidoso Police Detective Cpl. Lawrence Chavez said. "At about 1:30 p.m. Sgt. (Mike) Weaver saw a vehicle that was suspected to have been used in these burglaries and made a traffic stop. He was able to obtain enough information to get search warrants on two houses, one in Ruidoso Downs and

one in Ruidoso."

With assistance from the New Mexico State Police, they searched a house in the 300 block of Harris Lane in Ruidoso Downs and a house in the 400 block of Walnut Drive in Ruidoso.

"Without talking about specific investigative techniques, our officers were able to identify four male suspects and looked for them into the night, staying well past the end of their shift," Ruidoso Police operations Lt. Ray Merritt said.

Officer David Gallegos said the officers had identified 25 victims by then end of the day.

Chavez said the police recovered firearms, laptop computers, iPods, Global Positioning Systems, Garmonds, Portable DVD players, Game Boys, voice recorders, radar detectors,



Robert Priddy



Zane Reed



Jeremy Williams

car stereos, amplifiers and speakers.

"We need the victims to help us identify where all this came from," Chavez said. "And we are not sure all the victims have come forward yet."

Chavez said Priddy, Reed and Quiones were at a party in the 100 block of Paradise Canyon Friday night and into Saturday morning. When they left the party they walked around the corner onto Meander Drive and allegedly started burglarizing vehicles.

They then continued onto Walnut and turned on Reese.

On Reese they allegedly found a car with the keys in

the ignition and took that vehicle to continue their crime spree into other parts of Ruidoso, burglarizing vehicles on Santa Rosa and Spring Road in Midtown Ruidoso.

"During this time they (allegedly) stole several fire arms," Chavez said.

According to Chavez, the three got Williams involved after the stolen car ran out of gas on Spring Street in Ruidoso.

They called Williams to pick them and their loot up. Hungry, they had Williams drive them to McDonald's.

Chavez said it was that trip to McDonald's that led to their arrests.

"One of the victims

called to tell us that her purse had been stolen from her car and that one of her credit cards had been used at McDonald's that morning to buy almost \$50 worth of food," Chavez said. "Patrol responded to McDonald's and looked at the surveillance tape and was able to identify the vehicle."

Williams, Priddy, Reed and Quiones spent \$48.33 at McDonald's using the stolen credit card.

Chavez said it also helped that Reed was seen on the videotape wearing a Cincinnati Reds baseball hat, which he was wearing at the time of the traffic stop.

Reed and Quiones were arraigned in 12th Judicial District Court Tuesday afternoon and ordered held in the Doña Ana County Juvenile Detention Facility on at least 16 charges of auto burglary, aggravated auto burglary and conspiracy.

Priddy is being held in the Lincoln County Detention Center on charges of auto burglary, aggravated auto burglary, unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, credit card fraud, conspiracy and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a total of more than 60 charges.

According to the Ruidoso Police Department, Magistrate Judge Lorena LaMay set Priddy's bond at \$1,095,000.

Williams was charged with two counts of fraudulent use of a credit card and two counts of conspiracy to fraudulent use a credit card and LaMay released him on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.

"The chief and I are very proud of our officers," Merritt said. "They all did a great job."

Chavez said that anyone with information on these crimes or victims wanting to identify the source of stolen items can call him at 575-258-7373.

Rakocy's paintings to educate and enrich local students

ERIK BEARER
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The newest paintings to grace the halls of ENMU-Ruidoso come courtesy of Bill Rakocy, whose work is showcased not only to sell, but also to educate the many art students that will pass them until the show ends on Feb. 29.

"They want unique things here so the students can profit," Rakocy said. "And that's the point, to do something for the stu-

dents."

The paintings to be exhibited were selected by Rakocy and Bruce DeFoor, head of the art department at ENMU-R, to display a variety of Rakocy's work; ranging from watercolor to oil, from a simple scene to complex portraits.

All works are to be sold by silent auction, though the paintings have a "buy it now" price as well.

Additionally, one of Rakocy's paintings, "Cowboy Visits Hillsboro," will

start at a \$1 minimum bid, giving anyone a shot at the auction.

"I've always sold things, even if I sold them for \$5," Rakocy said. "To take your art and try to use it in industry and commerce can be tough."

Rakocy added that he also disliked showing his works in art galleries too often, because "you can only paint so many sunsets." He said that to stay inspired he often felt the need to diversify and

change what he painted, working through a series of paintings as the inspiration ran its course.

"It's dangerous to be too repetitive," Rakocy said. "The possibilities here are great because you have a whole new market of people."

Rakocy's use of color is one of the most distinctive aspects of his paintings, providing strikingly lifelike depth and expression on flat canvas panels, which he said was the fundamen-

tal secret of his paintings.

"You have a page, and there's width and height but no depth," Rakocy said.

"But the real world is three-dimensional. In the realm of color, if you're looking at a rainbow, you're seeing three-dimensional color-space."

Viewing color as three-dimensional layers of light and opacity is something that can be traced back to Rakocy's childhood, as well as his years in the Navy, where he worked as a

mechanic and engineer, first for his father, and then for the U.S. Navy, instilling an analytical view of the world into him.

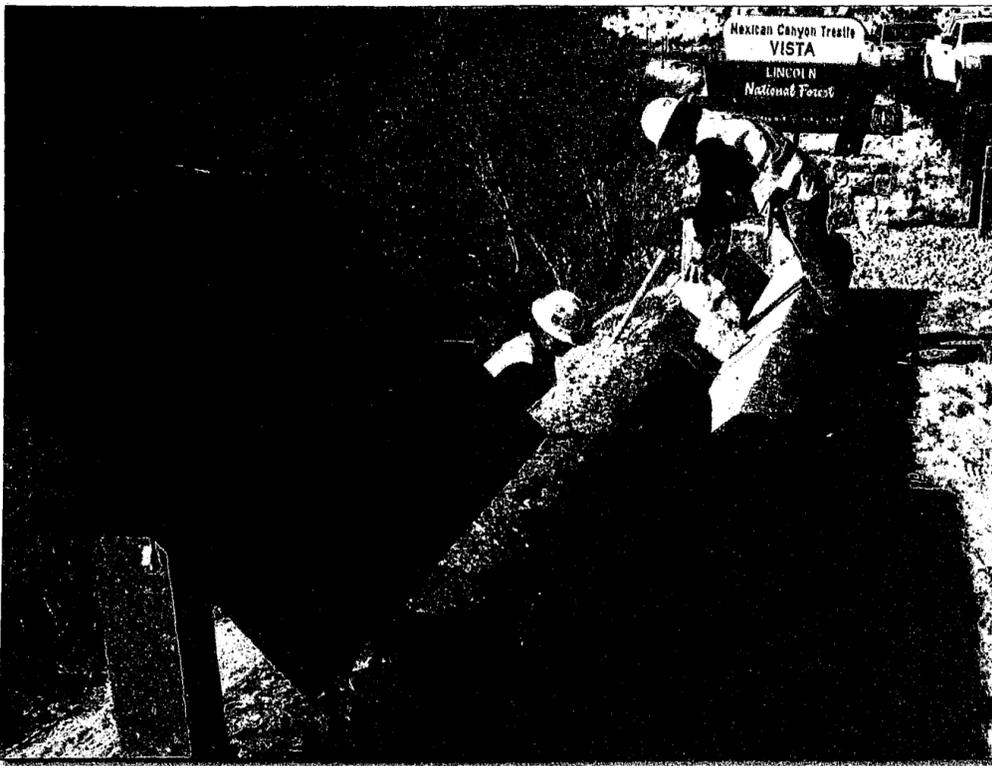
"I feel that an artist has to be a part of society," Rakocy said, citing Leonardo da Vinci as a classic example of how art and science can work together for greater success and understanding of the world around the artist.

"The artist can learn from other artists," Rakocy said.

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COURTESY OF LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

Workers put the finishing touches on a log chute at the new Mexican Canyon Trestle Vista near Cloudfcroft.

Mexican Canyon trestle vista open

The Mexican Canyon Trestle Vista near Cloudfcroft is complete and open for visitors.

"Much appreciation goes out to all who contributed, donated and diligently worked with the Lincoln National Forest to see this wonderful project to fruition. We couldn't have done it without you," said Peg Crim, the Lincoln National Forest's partnership coordinator.

The Mexican Canyon Trestle, constructed in 1899 to access timber

and for passenger travel, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an important symbol of the Southern Sacramento Mountains railroad logging history. The Lincoln National Forest built the Trestle Recreation Area in 1993 and the New Mexico Rails-to-Trails Association partnered with the national forest to build a trail system in the area. Restoration work to save the collapsing trestle was completed this year.

Local residents and visitors are encouraged to stop by the vista during their next trip to Cloudfcroft. The overlook protrudes nearly 30 feet over the edge to give viewers the best vantage point of the trestle. While there, sightseers might even hear a train whistle that blows at noon and 3:45 p.m.

The vista is along U.S. Highway 82 just west of Cloudfcroft.
— From the Lincoln National Forest

El Paso Electric issue causes power fluctuation

JIM KALVELAGE
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You weren't seeing things Friday afternoon. Low voltage caused lights to flicker for customers of PNM and Otero County Electric Cooperative in south central New Mexico.

"There was a pole on a 345 kV (kilovolt) transmission line that belonged to El Paso Electric and that pole was damaged or it burned," said Susan Sponar with PNM. "Anyway, they had to take the line down while they made repairs. And that affected our system. It took us just a little bit to compensate for that."

Power was rerouted to get electricity flowing again to make up for the situation in El Paso.

More than 30,000 PNM customers put up with the annoyance of pulsating lighting as did an estimated 10,000 Otero County Electric Co-op members.

"It affected the whole of southern New Mexico basically," said Clint Gardner, Otero County Electric Cooperative's manager of member services. "It was the transmission system. It affected us until they got it fixed. We had problems that started about 3:15 (p.m.) or 3:30. By 5 (p.m.) our lights here had stopped flickering. So evidently they (El Paso Electric Company) got it fixed."

Electric customers had plenty of questions.

"We got tons of calls," Gardner said. "You set the

"It affected the whole of southern New Mexico basically."

Clint Gardner
Otero County Electric
Cooperative

phone down and you get another one — people wanting to know why my lights are flickering. One guy told me that it reminds me of a disco."

Voltage fluctuations could damage equipment, especially items that are sensitive to power variations.

"In instances like that, what we tell people is to turn off all electronic equipment that you don't need. Unplug them just to be safe. Sometimes the voltage could drop a little low."

Gardner said the co-op has not heard of any of its members that had damage.

"If it's low voltage it can cause the flickering lights," Sponar said. "If it's extreme it can actually cause damage and we would have sent out a warning."

She recommended that electronics be protected with a surge protection device.

The village of Ruidoso had issued a notice of the power problem.

"We urge residents to be aware of the situation and conserve power where ever possible until we receive word that the main line is back up and running," said Sean Parker, the deputy village manager.

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State senator says she will seek seventh term

MILAN SIMONICH
Texas-New Mexico Newspapers

SANTA FE — State Sen. Mary Jane Garcia, saying she will work to improve early childhood education and fight the governor on a driver's license bill, announced Friday that she will seek a seventh term next year.

Garcia, D-Dona Ana, said she also will work to require larger cities and counties to report employee salaries and other financial information on the state's website.

Her bill for more public disclosure of government spending nearly carried last winter before being derailed in the House of Representatives by a fellow Democrat.

"I came close on that one. I'll try again. I don't give up," Garcia said.

Garcia was the victim of a wicked mugging last year in Albuquerque in which the attacker broke her right leg and stole \$1,800 in cash and possessions.

She said her health is fine and her energy level is as high as ever. Garcia turns 75 on Christmas Eve.

Three of her initiatives for the legislative session that starts in January involve children.

Garcia said she was committed to supporting more funding to help kids 5 and younger get off to a good start in life and in school. An improved early childhood education system will mean fewer dropouts, she said.

She also wants to work on a legislative campaign to make children more aware

of sexual predators and how to protect themselves. Garcia said she has been involved for years in efforts to prevent sexual abuse of children, but the issue is now on everybody's mind because of the scandal at Penn State University.

Her third childhood initiative, still in the formative stage, is to increase after-school programs in which communities offer computers and other productive activities.

Garcia will oppose Gov. Susana Martinez's campaign to repeal a law that enables illegal immigrants to obtain New Mexico driver's licenses.

"It's not a dangerous law," Garcia said, dismissing Martinez's characterization. "I am taking a human rights position. It is a law that helps people."

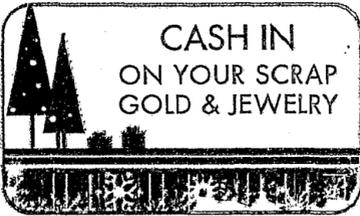
She said immigrants who are picking crops and cleaning motel rooms may be undocumented, but they are doing hard jobs and contributing to the U.S. economy.

Granting them the opportunity to have a driver's license so they can get to work and buy auto insurance is humane, Garcia said.

But, Garcia said, she would favor one-year driver's license renewals for those without proof of immigration status. New Mexico driver's licenses are good for four or eight years.

Limiting licenses to one year for those without proof of immigration status would end the governor's most persistent complaint, Garcia said.

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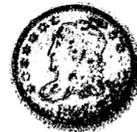
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STUDY

FROM PAGE 1A

tion's tax base. Alred said he was there for two reasons. The first was to share the results of the study showing the campus for two decades has been an economic driver in the community and provides tax money to the county. The second was to ask commissioners to consider designating to the college some of the extra money raised by a business retention tax above the \$50,000 annually that will go to Ruidoso Downs Race track to offset some of its annual tax debt for the next five years. Higher education is one of the areas eligible for the tax money, he said. "The needs of this institution are great," for scholarships, program development and textbook assistance, he said. Some time in the future, the college also may want to seek a dedicated tax support from each of the school districts in the county. Currently, although the college serves students from all five districts, only property owners

in Ruidoso pay a dedicated tax.

Doth said he has some first-hand experience with the college. His children took courses there and he was an adjunct professor. But he heard from students that some of their credits would not transfer to other colleges.

"You say you stand on your own, but you receive \$3 million tax dollars," Doth said. "I have a big problem hearing that you are an economic development tool." He'd rather give \$1 million each to the race track, to Ski Apache Resort and to the Ruidoso School District, Doth said.

He accused the college of being "self-serving to the point that you've lost sight of your mission."

"I think ENMU can provide a lot of services, but colleges are rewarded with more money based on expansion, not on need," he said. "If you try to build a new building, you get more tax dollars. New Mexico already has too many college campuses. I prefer you concentrate on needs than expand the tax base."

Alred said he appreciated Doth's passion and remarks and acknowledged that some



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

Clayton Alred, president of Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso, reports on a study of the community college's economic impact and answers questions at a Lincoln County Commission meeting Tuesday.

institutions have overbuilt, because of the current funding formula, but not ENMU-R. If the formula shifted from rewarding growth to rewarding performance, "I anticipate ENMU-R would do very well," Alred said.

He also acknowledged that New Mexico is about two decades behind other states in transferring credits. "It comes down to money," he said. Other universities and colleges receive payment

younger people) go away for their education and then come back. It's not reality to think you can keep all the kids here."

Alred said 68 percent of the high school students stay in the county, but a significant number leave and return.

Minter called the study "self-serving," and asked how much it cost. Alred replied \$9,000.

"Everyone believes in education, but I bet someone could come in with a different conclusion" using the same statistics, she said. Only 17 percent of the cost of operating the campus comes from tuition. The rest is covered by state or local taxes, she contended.

"I'm pleased to see more technical degrees teaching marketable skills," she said. And she's glad a foundation is up and running to help seek scholarship money.

"We have more college campuses than Arizona, but fewer people," she said, adding she doesn't back having a branch campus in every town. "Just because people want it doesn't mean the government should provide it," she said. People have to make sacrifices for an education and when they

graduate, they should have a marketable skill.

While she's not opposed to allowing county voters in other school districts decide if they want to pay a tax dedicated to the college, "I'd like the vote at a general election, not a special election," Minter said.

Alred said he too questions the proliferation of branch campuses, but that Ruidoso is among the most economical operations in the state.

"The alternative is no access (to higher education) or higher operations costs at greater expense to taxpayers' if students have to go elsewhere," he said.

Sedillo said she sees the need the college fills for students who want more training or can't afford to go right into a four-year institution.

"Not everyone can afford to go to bigger colleges," she said. "That's why I support ENMU-R. As far as transfer problems, my sons had trouble transferring credits from out of state too."

Sedillo said Minter doesn't represent the outlying rural areas and may not know how important the college is those residents.

"Without ENMU, they'd go nowhere," she said.

PLAN

FROM PAGE 1A

inquires recently about using locally hired, independent inspectors in local jurisdictions. He conferred with general counsel and the superintendent of regulations and licensing and determined that the use of third party contracted inspectors "will not be allowed" in New Mexico.

"The thinking on this decision centers on the concern that such an entity working with a profit incentive could be compromised in several ways absent the governmental fiduciary responsibility of an employee directly employed by the municipality," he wrote. "We feel strongly that the inspection of construction in New Mexico continue to be in the hands of direct government

employees." He noted that the CID allows loaning of local inspectors from one municipality to another with the host building official's approval.

"CID will continue by statute to be the certifying authority for all inspectors operating in New Mexico," he wrote.

County Manager Nita Taylor told commissioners Tuesday that because of CID's position, efforts for the county to issue a request for proposals for such an inspection service are on hold. She told commissioners that SAFEbuilt Building Department Services sent a letter to Gov. Susana Martinez, the New Mexico Association of Counties and the New Mexico Municipal League outlining the benefits to local government of using third-party contractors and the limitations it places on local government not to

have that option.

Commissioner Mark Doth said he would like the commission to send a letter supporting SAFEbuilt's position and outlining the cost benefits to the state.

He called the letter from Tavelli "wishy-washy" and a "typical government" response.

"The trend is to use outside entities," he said. "It's done all over the United States except in New Mexico. Again, we're falling behind."

Temple said when he looked at the governor's website, there was an emphasis on privatization and economic development. The CID's position doesn't seem to fit. The letter suggested by Doth should be sent straight to Martinez, he said. She could reverse CID's decision.

"I've been talking to some people and we're the only one out of 50 states where it

is not allowed," Temple said. "They couldn't pass legislation this year because it's a short session tied to budget, but it could be one of the goals in the long run. I noticed he never cited any laws in his letter that say we can't do it. It was just their decision."

Commissioner Kathryn Minter said she was offended by Tavelli's reference that an entity working with a profit incentive might be compromised and government workers would not.

"This is just his opinion," County Attorney Alan Morel said of Tavelli's decision. "It differs with the governor's and I think could be reversed and she can direct that."

"It's in line with her philosophy," Minter said.

Temple and Morel were told by commissioners to write a letter to Martinez with a carbon copy to the CID.



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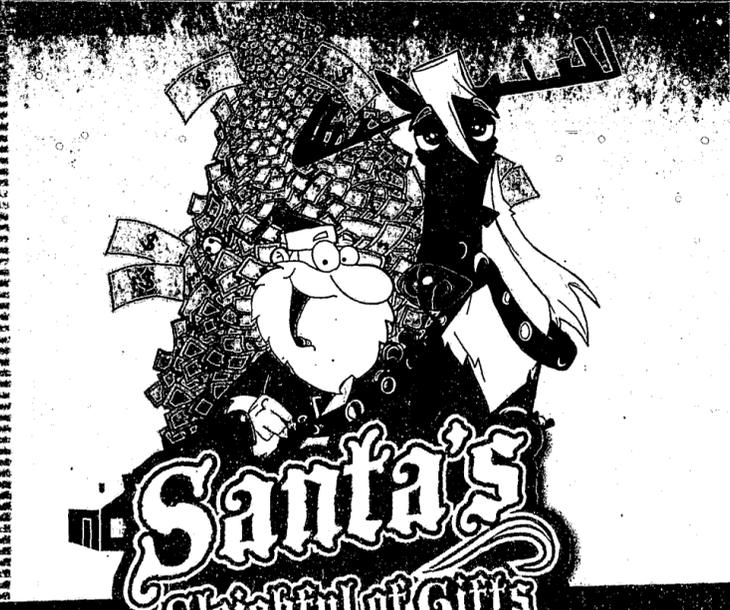
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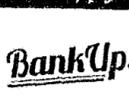
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Storm costly to county

SNOW

FROM PAGE 1A

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

The first big snow storm of the season cost Lincoln County about \$20,000 to handle, the new county manager said.

County Manager Nita Taylor told county commissioners Tuesday that the storm occurred while she was out of town from Dec. 2 through Dec. 8. Former County Manager Tom Stewart, who stayed on through her transition as new manager, stepped in and worked with Road Manager Albert Hernandez to mitigate the effects on residents, she said.

Direct expenses tied to the effort included \$7,350 for salt on the roads, \$5,726 for 286 hours of overtime payroll expenses and \$6,307 for equipment usage.

Hernandez will retire Thursday. The county received 15 applications to replace him and eight candidates were interviewed. The choice was Carl Palmer, who began work on Dec. 12.

Conditions during winter storms north of the Capitan Mountains "can get very bad out there," and catch drivers or newer residents off-guard, County Commissioner Jackie Powell warned.

"It's been a while since we've had big storms, especially on the north side of the Capitan," she said. "There were 6-foot to 7-foot deep drifts and people could get locked in for a long time. We received complaints that people couldn't get out because of the wind drifts. People who are new here may not be prepared. It's been a long drought."

Her remarks followed an inquiry by Commissioner Mark Deth on whether the county Road Department has enough money in its budget to handle a rough winter this year.

"It looks like the storms will continue to track through our area," he said.

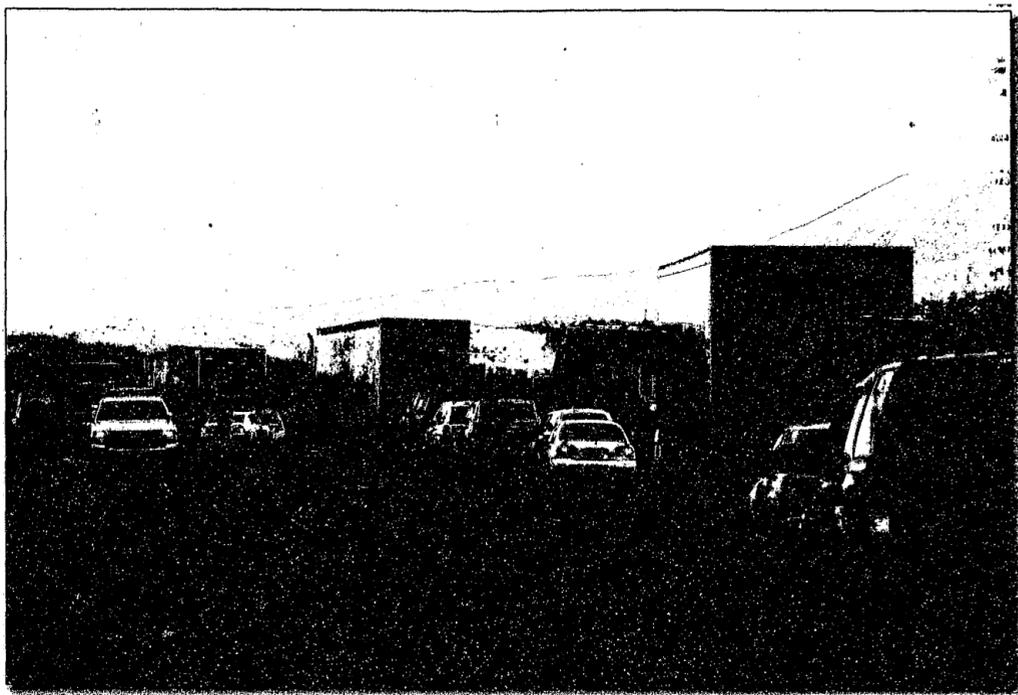
Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo said enough money was budgeted.

U.S. 54 was open to traffic.

Despite the lackluster Ruidoso results on Monday, December should go into the weather books as a wetter than average month for the village. The first week saw two snowstorms and a mostly rain event that went on for the better part of a day around the middle of the month, the moisture already is ahead of the December average of 1.58 inches.

"It is very interesting," Jones said of the wet month in the face of a continuing La Niña. "You can imagine the discussions we've had just within our weather community. Yes, La Niña is still there. However the atmosphere said, 'Hang on a minute.' The pattern that we've seen for about the last four weeks is very atypical. Even if we look in a very broad scale, places like Portland, Ore., Seattle, Wash., Spokane, Wash., currently have one of their driest Decembers on record. And that's just the exact opposite of a La Niña."

For southern New Mexico, La Niña winters typically are drier and warmer. Jones said locally there are similarities to the La Niña of a year ago.



Trucks and cars backed up at the intersection of U.S. 54 and U.S. 380 at Carrizozo Tuesday morning after New Mexico State Police closed the highway to Vaughn. Northern roads were closed because of snow and ice, and traffic was stranded in Vaughn.

"We had a very active period from just before Thanksgiving to just before Christmas," Jones said of a year ago. "But then what happened, the January-through-March period was just absolutely horrendously dry and void of good storm activity. We're enjoying this pattern very much and it is so desperately needed, but we need to keep in mind a couple of things." For starters, winter

officially begins today. The other matter that Jones said needs to be mentioned is the first 11 months of the year have been well below normal for precipitation.

"Certainly the precip that we've received this month has benefited and

that's great news. But we have so much to make up."

Additional snow is possible for later Thursday.

"This storm that we're looking at is going to be tracking a completely different track," Jones said. "This one will be coming

from Utah and the Four Corners and then kind of shearing off. That track is going to be a little bit north of the Sacramentos."

But an upslope flow, from east to west, could deliver better snows to the east slopes of the Sacramento Mountains.

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50 Years of Ski Apache



Fireworks light up the slopes of Ski Apache during the resort's celebration of 50 years of winter fun as 75 skiers and snowboarders wind their way down the slopes, bearing flares in the torchlight ceremony. More than 1,400 fireworks were set off Saturday night from two locations, said Jeff Adams of Lantis Fireworks and Lasers, the company putting on the spectacular show.



Ramir General heads down the Capitan Lite run, getting ready to dodge the crowd of onlookers at the Dummy Gelunde.

photos by Erik Bearer

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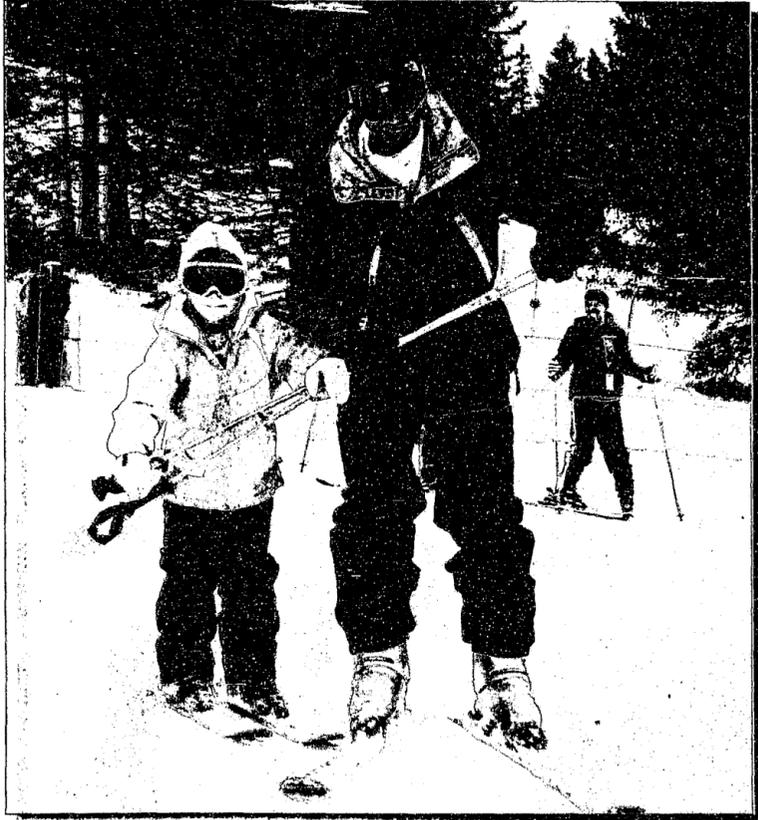
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The Flying Toilet, champion of Ski Apache's third annual Dummy Gelunde, crashes down, sending ceramic and unmentionables flying, before smashing into the finish wall.



Finally getting the hang of skiing, at least in a straight line, Drake Anderson begins to really enjoy his visit to Ski Apache.



Giving his daughter, River, something to hang on to, Manny Romero takes it easy as the pair heads down the Bunny slopes.



Showing off Ski Apache's latest in winter toys, Steven Jongeward practices on his Skki Trikke to get ready to teach lessons on the newly released model.



A fire dance started off the after-hours celebration, giving guests a hot show before the torchlight parade and fireworks began.



With little Dustin in tow, Missy Sanchez teaches him to ski by a game of follow the leader.



Catching some air, Lee Walstad takes the jumps on the Lower Deep Freeze run.



Posing with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Aholani Perez smiles for the camera.

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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 2011

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

PAGE 1B



LAYNE HOLLAND/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS



LAYNE HOLLAND/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Sawyer Miller heads down court followed by Joe Marquez in Friday's 68-53 loss.

Wambli Little Spotted Horse scored 14 points against Artesia Friday.

RHS Warriors yield to Bulldogs

MIKE CURRAN
mccurran@ruidosonews.com

The RHS boys hoops teams on Friday entertained the 4A Artesia

Bulldogs but were a little too kind as hosts, dropping the contest to them, 68-53.

The first half was a tight affair with the visitors up by four, 17-13, at

the end of the first quarter and only up by three at the half, 29-26.

At the end of three it was Artesia, 47-39, and when the final buzzer

sounded the Bulldogs left town with a 15-point win. Ruidoso's overall hardwood record evened out at 3-3.

"At times I thought we

played well and competed with Artesia," RHS head coach Dennis Davis said. "The biggest difference — the Bulldogs got some good opportunities and proceed-

ed to take advantage of them.

"In the last few minutes of play we closed to within

See **HOOPS**, page 2B

Coach pitches baseball Grade-a-Thon fundraiser

MIKE CURRAN
mccurran@ruidosonews.com

Head RHS baseball coach Gilbert Alvarado has hit upon an innovative and double-edged fundraiser for the Warrior hardball team for 2012.

Not only will his appeal for funds benefit the baseball team financially, but — more importantly — it stim-

ulates and promotes better report card grades among the players of the team. It's a winning proposition on two fronts.

"My job is to help prepare them for life when they graduate from RHS," Alvarado said. "Sports is a supplement — a vehicle — which helps to teach an athlete discipline, commitment and the benefits of hard work.

"We don't want them to do the bare minimum just to get by, we want them to go above and beyond. Our first goal this year for the squad is to have a team grade-point average of 3.0.

"Our athletes need a 2.0 to play baseball but we want them to exceed that. Secondly, we want to have a winning season, then win the district championship — and ultimately — the

state championship."

The Grade-a-Thon fundraiser could help with the first goal — and who knows? — maybe the others, too. Here are the particulars of this worthwhile cause.

Donations or contributions will be based on the following criteria:

1. Donations can be made to individual players for every class in which they

earn an 80 percent (3.0) or higher (The majority of the student athletes have seven classes). The minimum donation is \$5 per class.

2. A contribution also can be made for every class the team earns a 3.0 or higher in (The existing players currently are enrolled in 120 classes).

Alvarado's goal is for every such class to be a 3.0 or better. There is no mini-

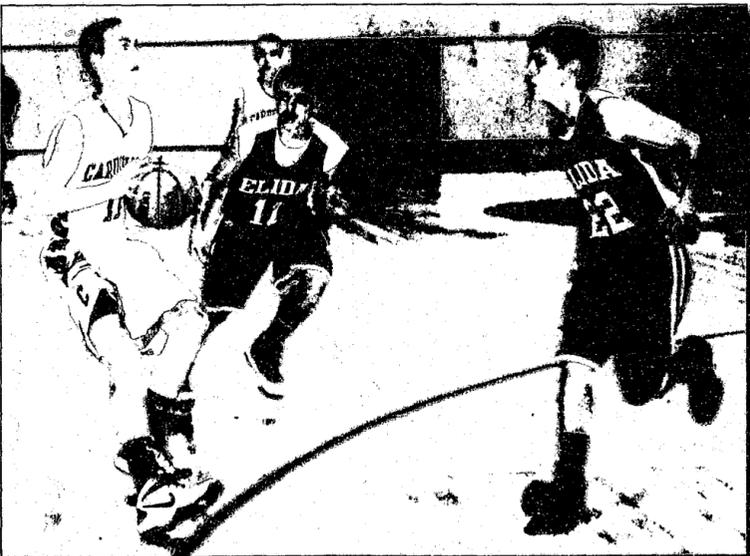
mum on team contributions.

The players will be given official report cards Jan. 12, 2012. They must then present the donor with their report card as proof of their grades.

As an example: if an athlete receives a 3.0 or higher in four-out-of-five classes the donor would contribute

See **DONATE**, page 2B

CORONA BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL



JULIE CARTER/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS



JULIE CARTER/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Corona's Ethan Johnson looks for a long shot in the Cardinal's 51-39 loss to Elida Friday.

Shelly Gensler passes the ball in Corona's tough 40-39 loss to Elida Friday.

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HOOPS

FROM PAGE 1B

six points of them and were scoring well before turnovers hurt us. Free throws hurt us throughout the game.”

The Warriors shot 28 times from the line and only made 13.

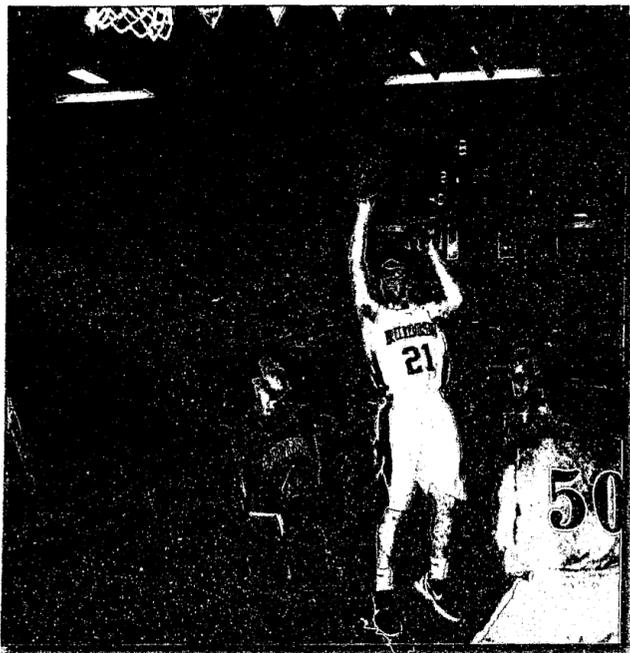
“We should have made more than 46 percent from the line,” Davis said.

Successful three-point shots only fell through 36 percent of the time — but worse yet — their two-point tries only went through the net 35 percent of the time.

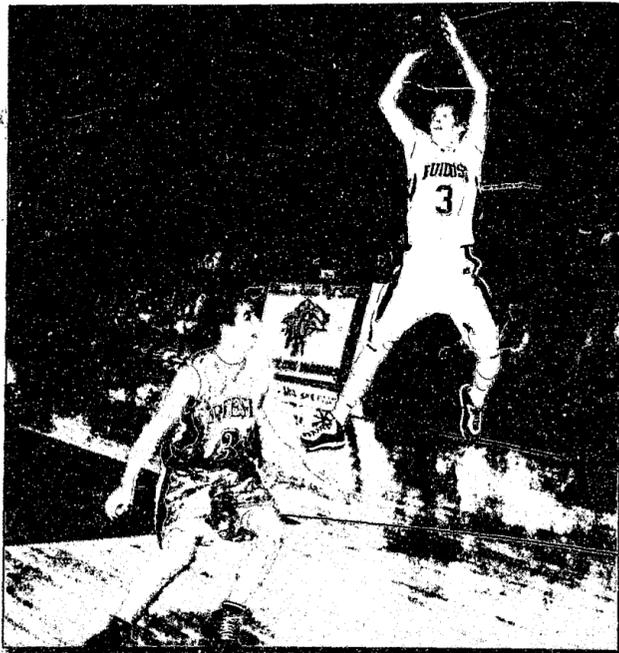
“We need to concentrate on finishing our shots — especially two-pointers,” Davis explained.

“Several of our players are capable scorers, but in Friday’s game, the percentages were not good.

“If we’re going to be successful, the boys need to be more selective on their



Ruidoso’s Sawyer Miller tries for two from the key.



Terrance Shields goes airborne for two.

attempts and/or willing to turn down a not-so-good shot to get a better opportunity seconds later.”

In the Artesia contest, Terrance Shields and Wambli Little Spotted Horse each hit double dig-

its with 14 points, while Brandon Lewis connected for nine.

“Artesia’s Zeke Montoya

hurt us with 21 points scored — predominantly two-pointers,” Davis said.

The Warriors will have

played Tularosa at home in a make-up game Tuesday and next will host Socorro in a 7 p.m. clash on Jan. 2.

DONATE

FROM PAGE 1B

\$20 (at \$5 per class, 80 percent or higher).

“Baseball is a tough

sport, in that it produces consistent failure,” Alvarado explained. “Some kids can’t deal with the failure aspect of it. Learning how to deal with adversity is pertinent to — not just baseball — but more importantly, in

the real world.”

As of this report, Alvarado and 13 players work out in an open gym, five days a week for an hour each day.

Under the rules, they may officially start team

practices on Jan. 31, when other athletes can join them after basketball and wrestling.

“We know the community is hit up a lot for contributions,” Alvarado said. “But we feel the Grade-a-

Thon is a very productive cause. It goes beyond mere eligibility and promotes good grades.”

RHS baseball players will be canvassing the area for your support in this rewarding endeavor. Please

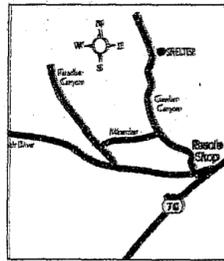
consider this meritorious effort.

Contribution forms may be obtained by emailing Gilbert Alvarado at alvaradog@ruidososchools.org or G_Alvarado2@live.com.

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JAX
JAX IS A VERY ENERGETIC AND HAPPY DOG, ABOUT 8-10 MONTHS OLD. HE IS VERY FRIENDLY WITH PEOPLE AND DOGS ALIKE. JAX APPEARS TO HAVE SOME HUSKY IN HIM, HOWEVER HIS TAIL HAS BEEN DOCKED. HE WEIGHS A LITTLE OVER 40 POUNDS AND SHOULD FILL OUT JUST A BIT MORE. THIS WEEK, JAX COMPLETED AN OBEEDIENCE CLASS AND HE IS ANXIOUS TO SHOW OFF HIS OBEEDIENCE TO HIS COMMANDS, SUCH AS SIT, STAY AND HEEL.

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COOPER
COOPER IS QUITE A GUY. HE IS ABOUT 5 MONTHS OLD AND LOVES TO CATCH ANYONE'S ATTENTION. HE IS VERY PLAYFUL AND ACTIVE, AND WOULD LOVE TO FIND A GREAT HOME.

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CAROLINE
CAROLINE IS A VERY SWEET MIXED BREED DOG. SHE PLAYS WELL WITH OTHERS AND IS ALMOST LEASE TRAINED. SHE DESERVES A SECOND LOOK AND A GREAT NEW FOREVER HOME. SHE WAS FOUND IN CAPTAIN.

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MONTY
MONTY IS ABOUT A YEAR OLD AND WEIGHS 35 POUNDS. HE IS A VERY HAPPY DOG AND VERY PLAYFUL. MONTY GETS ALONG WELL WITH OTHER FEMALE DOGS. MONTY HAD HIS LAST DAY OF TRAINING IN OUR OBEEDIENCE CLASS.

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BLOSSOM
BLOSSOM IS THE SWEETEST GIRL WHO CAME IN A LITTLE SHY AT FIRST BUT NOW GETS VERY ATTACHED TO EVERYONE. SHE WEIGHS ABOUT 30 POUNDS AND IS ABOUT A YEAR OLD. SHE PLAYS WELL WITH OTHER DOGS AND IS VERY WELL BEHAVED. BLOSSOM IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN OBEEDIENCE TRAINING IN OUR NEXT CLASS.

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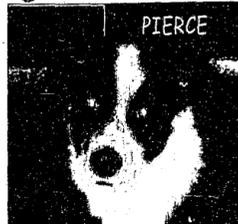
HUCK
HUCK WAS FOUND SEVERAL MONTHS AGO RUNNING LOOSE ON THE STREETS OF RUIDOSO, NM BY HIS FOSTER MOM. HE WAS 20" LONG OVERHEIGHT AND ONLY WEIGHED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 10 LBS. HIS FOSTER MOM WAS UNABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM AND KEEP HIM SAFE SO HE WAS GIVEN UP.
HUCK IS CREATIVE AND PART OF HIS WEIGHT PROBLEM WAS THE SIZE EFFECT OF THE MOUTH THAT MADE HIM PATIENT. HE HAS THE MOUTH ON HIS FOOD POUCH A LAY AND IS FORTRESS FROM LIFE. HE IS NOW AT A LOCAL HUMANITARIAN CENTER AND HAS BEEN RECOVERED SO WE WILL UPDATE HIS PHOTOS SOON.
HUCK IS A SWEETHEART WHO WOULD LAY IN YOUR LAP ALL DAY IF HE COULD. HE IS GREAT TRAINER, UNDERSTANDS SOME BASIC COMMANDS AND HAS NEVER HAD AN ACCIDENT IN THE HOUSE. HE WALKS QUIETLY WHEN A STRANGER COMES AROUND BUT IS QUITE FRIENDLY AFTER PEOPLE INTERESTED. HUCK TREATS CATS BUT IS NOT A BIG FAN. HE WILL GRAB A CAT THAT COMES. HIS ADOPTION FEE IS \$20 PAYABLE TO HUMANE SOCIETY OF LINCOLN.

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JOANIE HOLT



MELITA
MELITA IS A VERY SPECIAL PUP ABOUT 4 MONTHS OLD. SHE HAS LOTS OF PLAYFUL ENERGY AND IS VERY SWEET. WE ARE UNSURE OF HER BREED BUT HER PERSONALITY IS REALLY WHAT COUNTS.

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PIERCE
PIERCE IS A LITTLE SWEETHEART ABOUT A YEAR OLD AND WEIGHS 31 POUNDS. HE IS A LITTLE SHY RIGHT NOW BUT IS GETTING MORE SOCIAL EVERY DAY. PIERCE GETS ALONG WELL WITH OTHER DOGS.

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SHIRLEY
SHIRLEY IS A VERY SWEET GIRL ABOUT A YEAR OLD AND WEIGHS 7 POUNDS. SHE WOULD LOVE TO FIND SHIRLEY A GREAT HOME.

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ORINA
ORINA IS A VERY LAID BACK CAT ABOUT A YEAR OLD AND WEIGHS 6 POUNDS. SHE IS VERY FRIENDLY AND HAS VERY STRIKING MARKINGS ON HER LIP.

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SQUIGGIE
SQUIGGIE IS AN AFFABLE LITTLE GUY WHO IS VERY FRISKY. HE LOVES TO PLAY AND ROMP AROUND THE ROOM LIKE A LITTLE MONKEY. SQUIGGIE IS ABOUT 8 WEEKS OLD AND WOULD LOVE A NEW HOME.

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AUTUMN
AUTUMN IS VERY MUCH A LADY. SHE IS AROUND TWO YEARS OLD AND WEIGHS 7 POUNDS. SHE IS VERY SWEET AND VERY SOCIAL.

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CALLIE
CALLIE IS A BEAUTIFUL GIRL ABOUT A YEAR OLD AND WEIGHS 7 POUNDS. SHE IS VERY FRIENDLY AND LOVES TO PURR. SHE ALSO ENJOYS BIRD WATCHING THROUGH THE WINDOWS.

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ROGER
ROGER IS A VERY GOOD BOY WHO IS ABOUT A YEAR OLD AND WEIGHS 9 POUNDS. HE HAS VERY HANDSOME BLACK AND WHITE MARKINGS WITH A VERY SHIN.

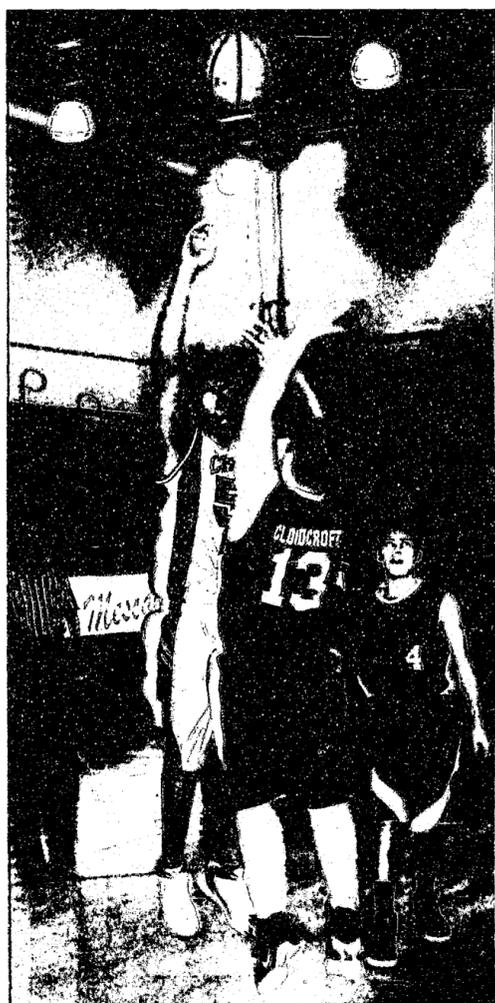
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Angel Duffy gets around an Immanuel Christian defender in Saturday's championship playoff game at the Mescalero Invitational Tournament. The Lady Warriors defeated Mescalero, 62-59, for the top spot.



Hondo's Billy Candelaria drives for two against the Alamogordo 9th-grade squad in Saturday's Mescalero Invitational Tournament playoff game for third place, which the Eagles won, 58-30.



Mescalero JV player Ariel Gaularito goes for two Saturday against Cloudcroft in a losing effort, 76-26.



Mescalero's Godfrey Cordova gets the jump on Immanuel Christian in the championship game Saturday.



Aaron Kaydahzinne hits a bucket for the Chiefs. Mescalero lost to Immanuel Christian, 44-43, in the title game Saturday.



Ashley Khinzuma gets the jump on the Alamogordo 9th-grade defenders in Saturday's tough Mescalero JV 41-40 loss to the Lady Tigers for fourth place.



Hondo's Valeria Lerma tries for two as Cloudcroft defeated the Lady Eagles Saturday at Mescalero, 53-29.

The photos on this page are by Mike Curran/Ruidoso News and are available at the Ruidoso News Media Center at www.ruidosonews.com.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Confiscated dogs, horse returned to owner

Agreement requires veterinary visits, inspections at county's request

ERIK BEARER

ebearer@ruidosonews.com

Following Mayor Sam Hammons joking announcement that "Capitan has gone to the dogs," Police Chief Randy Spear announced that the village's police force was being run ragged, caring for 44 dogs and a horse that were confiscated from a local kennel.

An agreement was reached between the District Attorney's office and Irene Howcraft, owner of Ruidoso Malinois kennels, on Monday, Spear said. Spear said that Magistrate Judge Martha Proctor signed off on returning the dogs and horse to Howcraft, but with a stipulation to allow visits from veterinarians as the county required them to check on the well-being of the animals.

Capitan police confiscated the dogs on Nov. 18 from Ruidoso Malinois kennels after a report that the dogs were malnourished and mistreated.

The animals were diagnosed with

Giardia and Coccidiosis, Spear said.

Howcraft protested the accusation, saying that the majority of her dogs "were not underweight," and that she had been out of town, leaving the animals in the care of an employee who no longer works at the kennel.

Spear said no criminal charges have been filed against Howcraft, but charges might be filed in the future.

"(Officer) Kevin (Kerinedy), bless his heart, he's there seven days a week and hasn't complained except for the weather," Spear said during the Dec. 12 village hall meeting, adding that the dogs were considered evidence.

Capitan council members previously expressed their hopes to return the animals to Howcraft as quickly as possible, alleviating the growing cost of maintaining the animals and potential need to hire a part-time employee to care for them, allowing Kennedy to return to his regular duties.

The cost of caring for the dogs and horse

had reached nearly \$5,000 since their confiscation, racking up bills for food and police overtime, Spear said.

Some of the cost for feeding the dogs was provided by donations made to the Lincoln County Mercantile in Capitan, but Michelle Ingle, an employee at the store, said only \$70 had been donated towards feeding the dogs.

"Is there potential for the village getting the money back when it's said and done," questioned Trustee Ricky LaMay.

Shirley Pavlovic, deputy clerk, said that the village would attempt to recoup costs the village had incurred in court from Ruidoso Malinois, but said not to expect any kind of settlement any time soon, as similar trials have taken two to three years.

Other business

The council also moved to award a bid to develop a new comprehensive plan for the village to R.M. Draper and Associates, an Albuquerque based firm.

The village had last developed a comprehensive plan in 2002, leaving the village "far overdue on having another one done," said Village Clerk Kay Strickland.

The state Legislature recommends that a municipality update its comprehensive plan every five years, and may limit money allocated to the municipality if the plan is not updated.

Five other bids were submitted, which were scored by a five-person committee which based its reviews on qualifications, planning experience, references and past performance, familiarity with Capitan and the surrounding areas, work plan, amount of work to be completed in New Mexico and project management. R.M. Draper was scored at 464.

Sites Southwest, scoring at 437, and Consensus Planning, Incorporated, scoring at 420, were the next highest scores. Both firms are based in Albuquerque.

See **DOGS**, page 5B

SANTA AT NEW HORIZONS



Jesusita, a resident at New Horizons Developmental Center, gets to go over her Christmas list with Santa, who was checking twice during his visit on Dec. 17.



Rebecca, a resident at New Horizons, shakes the jolly old elf's hand, sealing the deal for her holiday wishlist. For more photos, see page 5B.

The history of San Miguel Church

With a small pamphlet published by Sage Books, Inc. in 1947, I was able to get a glimpse of early New Mexico.

It was at the bookmobile that I found "Santa Fe," with drawings and text by Alfred Morang. New Mexico State Library Rural Bookmobile East supplies me with an assortment of books about New Mexico, which celebrates the centennial of statehood in 2012.

Many of the sites in Santa Fe that Carrizozo Schools students toured are included in this little book. It was early this year that I accompanied the New Mexico History class and teachers, Carol Wilson and Cathy Barela, on a tour in that part of the state. The New Mexico History mid-school class from Carrizozo Schools enjoyed an ice cream treat at the town plaza, where fiestas were held by early New Mexicans.

One of our stops in Santa Fe was at San Miguel Church, oldest church structure in the U.S.A. The original adobe walls and altar

were built by Tiaxcalan Indians from Mexico under the direction of Franciscan Padres.

The Sage Book booklet has this to say about San Miguel Church:



POLLY E. CHAVEZ
Historical Potpourri

"San Miguel is one of the oldest churches in the United States. Its time-smearred walls, its cross-tipped tower, recall the days when the white race was a minority race in New Mexico. There are certain buildings which seem to send out an aura of mystery, to evoke old tales. San Miguel is such a building. It is at once a place of worship, and a landmark in a town where landmarks are a common part of the pattern of life.

"San Miguel is situated at the corner of College and De Vargas Streets. The church was built around 1636, for the use of Indian slaves of the Spanish officials."

During the Pueblo of 1680 San Miguel was nearly destroyed.

But later it was restored, and at the present time it is one of the places that are visited by thousands of tourists during the course of a year.

"Within the church are large rectangular paintings by Giovanni Cimabue, and despite their age these religious works retain a good deal of their color and richness."

Other publications in this book series by famous writers and artists include Los Hispanos by Aurora Lucero-White and James Morris; Taos by A. J. Merrill; Pueblo Dances by Lorene Pearson and Pop Chalee; Ranches by John Sinclair and Hal West; and Spanish Villages by Lorene Pearson and Mikki Hayakawa.



Carrizozo's history students visit San Miguel Church.

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GRAND OPENING



ERIK BEARER/RUIDOSO NEWS

From left, Kalyn Sheffield and Kirsten Wilson take care of customers at the Grazing Bull, Capitan's newest restaurant, as Russell Burris, Rick Simpson, and Ron Becker (not pictured) of the Triple R Express crank out some tunes for visitors to the restaurant on Dec. 16. The restaurant, owned by Greg Hathcock, features homestyle favorites, such as chicken fried steak or a reuben sandwich, accompanied by a hearty helping of sides.

SANTA AT NEW HORIZONS



POLLY E CHAVEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

With a gift fresh out of Santa's bag, Martin, a resident at New Horizons, gets ready to wait until Christmas to unwrap it, or at least until Santa is out of sight.

LINCOLN COUNTY BRIEFS

Luminarias

Luminarias will line the streets of Carrizozo Christmas Eve, accompanied by a visit from Santa, who will be at McDonald park from 3 to 5 p.m. The luminarias will be lit from 3 to 4 p.m., and hot refreshments will be available during the event.

Capitan's Christmas Eve services

The public is cordially invited to attend a special Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 a.m. Dec. 24 at the Methodist Church in Capitan. The Christmas Eve service is open to individuals and families of all faiths. Reverend Jean Riley of the Capitan United Methodist Church will preside over the service. Refreshments will be served afterwards at the Methodist church, 354 White Oaks Avenue in Capitan. For more information on the Christmas Eve Service in Capitan, contact the Capitan United Methodist Church at (575) 354-2288.

Candle-lit story

Carrizozo Baptist Church will not have its Bible study hour or after-church potluck on Christmas Day. A candlelight story of Christ's birth will be held at the church's worship service at 10:55 a.m. Dec. 25, which will be open to anyone wishing to attend.

Light up the town

The annual Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce lighting contest will be Dec. 23, starting at dusk. First prize is \$75, second is \$50 and third is \$25 for homes. The best business award is a traveling plaque to be shown all year at the business location of the winner.

Holiday treats

Bree's homemade pastries will be open 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 23 and 24 at the Dreamspace building in Carrizozo. Bree's signature rugelah and biscotti, available with dark chocolate or plain, will be available, along with blueberry and pecan pies by the slice. Come and have a taste of Carrizozo's boutique bakery and spread the word.

Yoga in Carrizozo

Ginger is teaching yoga classes 1:30 p.m. on Fridays on the second floor of 401 12th Street, above Audrey Paton's Antiques. Come learn to relax and enjoy some stretches with the class. For more information, visit <http://www.carrizozoart-dantiques.com/patonantiques.html>

Food bank/pantry

Mobile Food Bank - 1 to 3 and 5 to 6 p.m. first Thursday.
Food Pantry (Seniors 55+) - noon to 2 p.m. second Tuesday.
Food Pantry (under 55) - noon to 2 and 5 to 6 p.m. fourth Tuesday.

Carrizozo church groups

Groups meet Wednesdays at 6 p.m., with the location depending on your child's age.
Awana (kindergarten through sixth grade) at the Baptist Church.
Tic/Tac (seventh through 12th grade) at the Methodist Church.

Upcoming meetings

Carrizozo planning and zoning - 6 p.m. Dec. 27.
Capitan planning and zoning - 6 p.m. Jan. 24.
Carrizozo town council - 6 p.m. Jan. 9.
Capitan village council - 6 p.m. Jan. 10.
Carrizozo schools - 6 p.m. Jan. 24

Bookmobile stops

Carrizozo - 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 21.
White Oaks - 8 to 9 a.m. Dec. 22.

DOGS

FROM PAGE 4B

Included in the village's request for bids was a \$50,000 maximum on the project, Strickland said. Further tipping the scale in R.M. Draper's favor was its proposal to aid the village in writing a grant for Community Development Block Grant planning money, though it would delay the project for about three months while the village waited on a response, Strickland said. The grant offers up to \$50,000 to municipalities to pay for infrastructure and economic improvement plans, such as comprehensive plans. If the grant was awarded, the village would pay \$2,500 in matching money, Strickland said. She estimated that it may take as much as three months for the firm to develop a comprehensive plan for the village, tentatively scheduling its completion in the summer of 2012. Funding was increased for the Capitan Trails Project by \$15,595.61 after engineers from Albuquerque-based Larkin Group requested additional building mate-

rials, citing supply needs over initial projections. "The next increase will be over my funeral, I'm tired of it," Hammons said, and requested that the firm's contract be examined to see if they could be held accountable for the additional expenses.



Duane H. Williams
1934-2011

DUANE H. WILLIAMS, 77, passed away at his Capitan, New Mexico, home Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

Mr. Williams was born in Magdalena, NM on June 24, 1934. He grew up in Socorro, NM, and following his graduation from New Mexico Tech (NMIMT) at Socorro (BS1956 Physics, MS1958 Earth Science), he, with his wife, Nadine (Stendel) Williams, moved to China Lake, CA. Following a 31-year career in research management at the China Lake Naval Ordnance Test Station (currently China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station), he retired from federal civil service in 1989. In 1990, he returned to his native New Mexico, adopting Lincoln County as his new home.

Mr. Williams was an athlete and outdoor enthusiast, and following his retirement to New Mexico, he became a dedicated participant in state and community affairs in active support of smaller, efficient, and open government.

Preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Berne Williams and Verna Marie (Overton) Williams, he is survived by his wife, Nadine Williams, Capitan, NM; daughter Karyl Williams with son-in-law Craig Westbrook, Capitan, NM; and son Marc Williams with daughter-in-law Danielle (Rodgers) Williams and stepson Dylan Meyers, Ridgecrest, CA.

Following his wishes, all burial arrangements were private.



Wayland Kane Kaydahzinne
1964-2011

Wayland Kane Kaydahzinne, of Tularosa, New Mexico passed away on Thursday, December 15, 2011 in Alamogordo, New Mexico. He was born on September 13, 1964 in Mescalero, New Mexico and lived most of his life there. Wayland enjoyed being with his family and friends and was a natural comedian. He loved to joke and enjoyed making people laugh. Many people knew him by "Bozo".

He is survived by three daughters, Misty Kaydahzinne, Vanessa Kaydahzinne, and Denelle Salas; six grandchildren, Jaydyn and Jalyah Lester, Ciara Rocha, Daejon Kane Kaydahzinne, Ethan Salas and Anthony Munoz; two sisters Rema Spitty and Naomi Kaydahzinne-Hiles; and two brothers Norris and Neills Kaydahzinne.

A prayer service will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the Mescalero Family Worship Center and funeral service on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 10:00 am, interment to follow at the Mescalero Cemetery.

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

Mountain Style

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The Gingerbread Queen

Johanna Rosson cooked with Paula Deen and threw down with Bobby Flay to earn her crown as the gingerbread queen

by Cheryl V. Jackson
CTW Features

Johanna Rosson's decorating skills are sweet. Rosson designs and builds gingerbread houses – and she's been head architect for some of the best. In 2005, she appeared on Food Network's "Paula's Home Cooking." After that, she was commissioned to make a special replica of a Springfield, Ill., train depot to be displayed at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum. All this exposure attracted the attention of Bobby Flay, who (unwisely) decided to challenge her to a gingerbread battle on Food Network's "Throwdown with Bobby Flay." Needless to say, the gingerbread queen held on to her crown. In a typical year, construction season for Rosson begins around midsummer, when many of the magazines she works with are completing their holiday issues.

"Whenever I make the first gingerbread house of the season, it just brings me back to life," Rosson says. "I actually listen to Christmas music to get myself into it. Last year, when I was working on a house, my air conditioning went out – and it was more than 100 degrees outside!"

Her busiest season has seen her build about 50 houses. "There was an eight-year period where I didn't sleep at all during the fall," says Rosson, who works in marketing at Fort Hood, Texas, where her family is stationed.

Rosson's culinary foundation was laid early on, as she was growing up in Illinois. "I've always baked. I baked with my grandmother and my mother. It was a part of at least every week – almost daily," she says.

She married at 19 and her husband, Steve, immediately entered the military. With that, she began moving about with the Army officer. He is currently serving in Afghanistan.

Wherever Rosson was stationed, she would take baking classes, whether it was Arizona, California or more exotic locales.

Rosson spent some time in Germany in the early 1990s, where she became enamored with the gingerbread houses displayed in bakery windows.

"I was fascinated with them. I wanted to know how to make them," she says. She cracked open a book on gingerbread houses, tried a few recipes and started to build a reputation.

"I started kicking up my creations. I started donating the houses for military fundraisers," she says. "I knew that people would be buying raffle tickets for them. I wanted them to be worth donating money to."

Rosson cultivated a specialty in replicas of famous and historical structures. Her first was a 2005 recreation of the Richmond Hill, Ga., mansion of Henry Ford that was displayed at a retirement village. As a contributing writer for *Cooking with Paula Deen* magazine, she has also rendered the Southern celebrity chef's home in gingerbread.

Her favorite creation? That was the train depot

for display at the Lincoln library. Rosson put about 400 hours into it: a labor of love. "I'm an Illinois girl. I love me some Abraham Lincoln. It was a huge honor for me," she says. "We're a patriotic family, anyway."

Family members frequently lend a hand to Rosson's projects. Her father designed a special foundation board to facilitate the building of the Lincoln depot structure. Her mother has looked after her children while she completed high-profile jobs. Her oldest son, 13-year-old Joshua, crushed up candy to make coal for the depot replica.

All of Rosson's kids (besides Joshua, there's also



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Scott, 11, and William, 8) are naturals at gingerbread building. Each creates an individual house each holiday season.

"I think for the longest time, they thought every mom did it. That was normal to them. They didn't think it was that big of a deal until I was on Bobby Flay," she remembers.

That 2007 "Throwdown" episode saw judges declare her gingerbread recreation of Abraham Lincoln's Springfield, Ill., home superior to Flay's Empire State Building replica.

In recent years, Rosson scaled back the number of houses she produces annually to about 20, mostly for fundraisers. She says she's careful that it doesn't engulf her holiday celebrations and family time.

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Nowadays, "I put off all gingerbread making to around the first week in December," she says. "For so many people, it kind of takes over your whole holiday. I don't want to be stressed out over the holiday."

Even the Gingerbread Queen herself admits, "You can't let gingerbread get in the way."

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Holiday PJs on Parade

So much for mamma in her-kerchief and dad in his cap. Today, goofy holiday pajamas are what we love, and the whole family gets in on the act.



novelty items. Pajamas are relatively inexpensive, fit all shapes and sizes and can be easily constructed by hand. They're practical yet fun and cater to many personalities and tastes. Amber Lipson, co-founder of Footsteps Clothing, Morrisville, N.C., specializes in selling matching clothing to families.

Holiday and Christmas PJ sets are the top seller.

"Everyone wants to bring their families close together during the holiday season," Lipson says. "I've talked to customers who tell me their grandparents bought matching PJs seventy-some years ago. It's an easy way for families to enjoy each other and be together."

Lipson's bestselling "A Very Merry Snowman" set consisting of red plaid flannel bottoms and a long-sleeved red shirt emblazoned with the cheerful face of a snowman in a stovepipe hat. The whole collection includes A Very Merry Me, A Very Merry Mommy, A Very Merry Daddy and a Very Merry Baby matching pajamas.

Many families call Footsteps each year to continue a tradition, but others call because they're ready to start one. The occasions vary. Some occasions are happy, like when one family bought 40 pairs to wear for a polar express ride. Others are difficult, such as when one customer's family member was sick and the rest bought pajamas as a show of love and support. "We really want families to feel close and

celebrate their unique relationships during the holidays," Lipson says. "We're glad matching pajamas helps them do so."

Looking to start a family tradition? Consider investing in a few pairs of pajamas to tighten family bonds and foster togetherness over the holiday season.

by Melanie Wanzek
CTW Features

Ever since she can remember, 26-year-old Lauren Cowart has received the same gift every year on Christmas Eve: a new pair of pajamas.

"Each year after our traditional Christmas Eve dinner, we go under the tree and pick up on box that says 'Open Christmas Eve.' It's always the pajamas," Cowart says. "We put them on immediately, then eat our dessert and open some presents. Then on Christmas morning, we gather on the front stairs in our Christmas pajamas and make a video of us reading Santa's letter about how we've grown and changed that year as a family."

Legions of families purchase matching pajamas as a special gift to every family member on or before Christmas. Some distribute them in early December so they can enjoy them all month long; others, like Cowart's family, open the expected package on Christmas Eve to wear for present-opening and picture-taking. Families often take an annual holiday group picture in matching PJs to capture the memory and share the fun with friends and extended family.

It's easy to understand the popularity of the fuzzy

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CARRIZOZO MAGISTRATE COURT BRIEFS

Nov. 18

• Larry D. Woodward, 52, of Troy, Mo., pleaded no contest to driving while license suspended or revoked.

Judge Martha Proctor sentenced Woodward to 364 days unsupervised probation, \$381 in fines and fees and a \$100 bench warrant fee.

• Manuel L. Medrano, 27, of Ruidoso Downs, pleaded no contest to accumulation of refuse and/or litter.

Proctor sentenced Medrano to 90 days unsupervised probation, \$300 in fines and fees and a \$100 bench warrant fee.

Nov. 23

• Monica M. Najjar, 31, of Belen, N.M., pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced Najjar to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$323 in fines and fees.

• Harold D. Najjar, 50, of Belen, N.M., pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced Najjar to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$323 in fines and fees.

• Katherine M. El-Kirby Vallo, 24, of Capitan, pleaded no contest to charges of possession of less than one ounce of marijuana or synthetic cannabinoids and use or possession of drug paraphernalia.

Judge Martha Proctor dismissed a charge of no proof of insurance when Vallo provided proof.

Proctor sentenced Vallo to 365 days unsupervised probation and \$476 in fines and fees.

Nov. 28

• Roberto Guillen, 50, of San Patricio, pleaded no contest to driving while license suspended or revoked and no insurance.

Proctor sentenced Guillen to 90 days unsupervised probation and \$242 in fines and fees.

• Robert McLaughlin, 32, of Alamogordo, pleaded no contest to driving while license suspended or revoked.

Proctor sentenced McLaughlin to 90 days unsupervised probation and \$131 in fines and fees.

• Rodney P. Russell, 21, of Ruidoso, pleaded no contest to no driver's license.

Under a plea and disposition agreement Russell reached with Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Williams, the state amended the charge from driving while license revoked or suspended.

Proctor sentenced Russell to 90 days unsupervised probation and \$131 in fines and fees.

• Kennalenia Martin, 44, of Roswell, N.M., pleaded no contest to no driver's license.

Under a plea and disposition agreement Martin reached with Williams, the state amended the charge from driving while license suspended or revoked.

Proctor sentenced Martin to 90 days unsupervised probation and \$131 in fines and fees.

• Steve Reynolds, 58, of Corrales, N.M., pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced Reynolds to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$273 in fines and fees.

• Marcella E. Rue, 38, of Ruidoso Downs, pleaded no contest to possession of a controlled substance.

Under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Matthew Wade, the state dismissed a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Proctor sentenced Rue to

91 days in jail, time served, 273 days of unsupervised probation and \$148 in fees.

• Joshua H. Palomino, 23, of Ruidoso Downs, pleaded no contest to no driver's license.

Dec. 8

• Darlene R. Yalch, 45, of Deming, N.M., pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced Yalch to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$273 in fines and fees.

• Steve Reynolds, 58, of Corrales, N.M., pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced

See BRIEFS, page 9B



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General Manager
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Columnist
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Susan L. Travis, PhD
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Gerald Sinclair, PhD
Columnist for Vamonos, "Healthy Mind, Healthy Body"
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Print and Multi-media Specialist
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Doug McLeod
Editorial Cartoonist
8 years



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Terrance Vestal
Editor
17 years

"It's not a goal, it's a deadline"



Erik Bearer
Lincoln County News Reporter
8 months

"...somebody get me re-writel!"



Drew Gomber
Vamonos Past Tense Columnist
6 years

"In many ways the Wild West was wilder than you think!"



Beth Barrett
Print and Multi-Media Specialist
6 years

"Southwest Living is the only real estate magazine with in home delivery."



Dina Garner
Print and Multi-Media Specialist
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"Our 'Billy the Kid' Summer Visitors Guide was a huge success!"



Barbara Westbrook
Vamonos Creative Living Columnist
39 years reviewing musicals, Opera, fine dining and travel

"The world wish for... bring to you in song and on the canvas!"



BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 8B

Reynolds to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$273 in fines and fees.

• Alicia M. Valencia, 34, of Albuquerque, pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced Valencia to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$323 in fines and fees.

• David L. Shroyer, 40, of Los Lunas, N.M., pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced Shroyer to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$273 in fines and fees.

Marc A. Shafer, 37, of Albuquerque, pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced Shafer

to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$273 in fines and fees.

Dec. 12

• Matthew Trujillo, 28, of Albuquerque, pleaded no contest to unlawful hunting or fishing, first offense.

Proctor sentenced Trujillo to 182 days unsupervised probation and \$273 in fines and fees.

Dec. 16

• Ramon Antonio Corral-Miranda, 33, of Lincoln Park, Mich., pleaded guilty to reckless driving.

Proctor sentenced Corral-Miranda to five days in jail, to start at noon Jan. 8, 2012, 85 days unsupervised probation and \$106 in fines and fees.

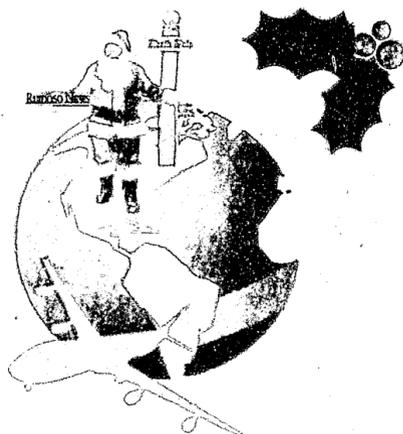
- Compiled from Judgment and Sentencing reports.

HE KNOWS IF YOU'VE BEEN NAUGHTY



Ruidoso Police Chief Joe Magill loads a box of Christmas food into his car at First Christian Church Tuesday as he prepares to make his fourth delivery of the day for Santa's Helpers. Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs police officers, fire fighters, businesses and community volunteers showed up early to insure the Christmas presents and food got delivered to needy families throughout the county.

aper experience Paper that Goes Everywhere! and a Happy New Year!"



The Paper that
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Vamonos
Alamo Living
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Yvonne Lanelli
Vamonos "Follow Me" Columnist
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"...I'm not writing a ticket... I'm writing the Police Blotter."

Chris Gonzales
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"...virtually delivering Fresh and Hot News twice a week..."

Jim Kalvelage
News Reporter
22 years

"I have seen it all!"



James Goodwin
Assistant to the GM
Business Development
Manager
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11 years

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Protecting the 'thin places'

The value in protecting wilderness areas, and why we believe Otero Mesa should be designated as a National Monument.

I remember growing up in the Midwest surrounded by tall pine trees, getting lost (and found) with my brothers, and playing on wild vines as if they were our personal jungle gyms. I remember staring up at



Whitney Kramer

some of the oldest trees or catching crawdads in the creek and knowing that God was there. I sensed that God knowing the sweetness of picking wildflowers or the comfort of a pine-scented playground created the earth. The forest is now a place for me to go when I need to be humbled, to slow down and to be reminded that He is the priority.

'Thin places'

The Celtic Christians called places like my backyard wood the "thin places" where the wall that separates God from humanity is somehow thinner and the presence of God is more powerful. Wilderness reminds us about humility and pride through the huge expanse of the night sky, which scripture tells us is declaring the glory of God.

The bigness of the wilderness makes us small before God. It teaches us and reminds us that humans are not the only part of creation that God loves or that loves God back.

Moving to the Southwest has given me the pleasure of climbing diverse mountains, taking early morning hikes through the cacti, painted-desert views, and the biggest beautiful skies I have ever seen.

Otero Mesa is an especially unique ecosystem in New Mexico. It is home to over 1,000 native wildlife species, including black-tailed prairie dogs, desert mule deer, mountain lions, golden and bald eagles and over 250 species of songbirds.

It also boasts the state's healthiest and only genetically pure herd of pronghorn antelope.

Not only is this area of the state home to diverse species, there is evidence that the Salt Basin aquifer, which originates in Otero Mesa and travels south into Texas, is the largest untapped fresh water resource remaining in New Mexico.

Otero Mesa is worthy



RICHARD BEER

Otero Mesa is the ancestral heartland of the Mescalero Apache. It was a place of legend and worship and became a safe harbor from the encroachment of European invaders. Here, Twyla Rayne, a tribal youth, makes a pilgrimage to renew her spirit.



DARREN HUSKI

The Cornudas (Horned) Mountains in the background are filled with thousands of rock paintings from hundreds of centuries, many of which are distinctively Apache and religious in nature.

of protection for these ecological reasons alone, but as Christians, we know there are additional reasons for us to support designating this area as a National Monument.

This type of designation will protect this amazing place from the ravages of industrial oil and gas exploitation and preserve a piece of creation for people to experience God's glory for years to come.

Holy relationship

By protecting wild areas, we make allowances for future generations to encounter God in the stillness of the wild.

Nature has a seemingly magical ability to make us draw closer to God, to humble us, and to remind us that we are kept in the hand of God.

Job 12: 7-10 says "But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living

thing and the breath of all [humanity]."

The earth can teach us about systems and webs that are naturally found in every biological community from the forest to the sea.

These systems and their connections remind us of why as humans, we are called to love our neighbors.

Wild places awaken our awareness to questions of life and death, spiritual formation, right relationships and religious values. In wilderness we are almost required to reflect upon the pulses of life, to the ebb and flow of cycles, to the rhythms and songs of creation.

Here we discern our Maker reflected. When we are in remembrance of our Creator, we are uplifted and creation itself then provides inspiration for our minds, healing for our spirits, and release from incorrect and false notion.

There is a holy relationship found in wild places, one that invites prayer, reflection and wonder, and that gives back in proportion to our capacity to appreciate, enjoy and find thanksgiving for the Lord's untram-



VAMPIREFREAK

Otero Mesa is one of the few remaining environments that can sustain the endangered Aplomado Falcon.

meled earth.

Whitney Kramer graduated Bowling Green State University with a bachelor's degree in environmental policy and analysis in 2008. She resides in Albuquerque. She is currently a field organizer at Restoring Eden. She is working to organize Christians in New Mexico on Wilderness issues. Restoring Eden's mission is to make hearts bigger, hands dirtier, and voices stronger by rediscovering the Biblical call to love, serve and protect God's Creation here. Visit them at RestoringEden.org.

Seasonal message

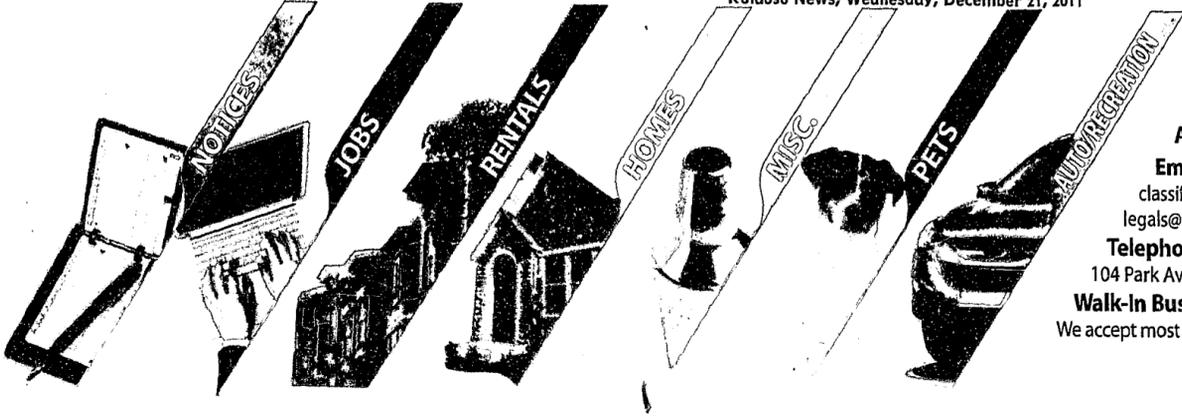
A seasonal message from Styve Homnick, chairman of the Otero

County Branch of the "Friends of Otero Mesa" Saint Francis was a visionary. I have no doubt that he foresaw the future challenge for "Mother Nature". You don't have to be Catholic to know that cruelty to animals and desecration of rare and sacred spots for monetary gain that briefly benefit the rich few and take advantage of the common folk is wrong. A place like Otero Mesa was meant to be preserved for generations to come. As for hard rock mining, the claim that the land can be renewed to its original state or even in proximity is bogus. Until it is possible for biologists to find a method of reclaiming the land to a healthy state, please find places that are not national treasures for

mining companies to abuse. These places are available. It is very clear to me that once the general public is made aware of a place within their midst that has endless recreational benefits, they will rally around it to keep it from harm's way. I have spoken with miner's who admit that it is a shame to "mess" with such a place. This is not a federal, corporate or economic issue. It is a spiritual one. My neighbor and his son just down the road a piece travel nationwide to survey land for oil and gas companies. When they have the time to relax, where is their favorite place to go for peace and solitude? Otero Mesa! Go figure. Amen.

We urge the thousands of people who read the Ruidoso News, the Alamogordo Daily News and the Carlsbad Current-Argus to make their voices heard. Write down your thoughts either for or against protecting Otero Mesa and send them to the editors. Your opinions will be published. Otero Mesa is a community issue. Local newspapers don't just report and advertise. A local newspaper seeks to be an open forum for local citizens who care about their surroundings, both physical and moral. And if the issue has a variety of positions, then each side must be treated equally and have their voices heard. A good newspaper is a bastion of Democracy.

If you would like to become active in protecting Otero Mesa, email the Otero and Lincoln County Branch of "The Friends of Otero Mesa" at : Apachevoice@aol.com. To raise your awareness about Otero Mesa visit : Oteromesa.org



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Legal Notices 152

#9536 AT (12/27,14,21) (12/28)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO, COUNTY OF LINCOLN, TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First Tennessee Bank National Association successor thru merger with First Horizon Home Loan Corporation

Plaintiff(s), Case No. #CV-11-278 vs.

(1) James S. Atchley aka James Atchley (2) Rose Atchley

(3) Unknowns: All Unknown Occupants and/or Tenants of The Subject Real Estate

(4) Unknowns: All Unknown Spouses of Any Party Living Here and All Other Persons Living Or Deceased Whose Names Are Unknown Who Claim Any Interest In The Subject Real Estate

Defendant(s), Notice of Special Master's Sale of Real Estate

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER IN ABOVE CAPTIONED MATTER THE SPECIAL MASTER WILL CONDUCT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER IN THE MONSIEUR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT THE DESCRIBED BELOW:

THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SAID SALE IS:

Date: JANUARY 13, 2012

Place: The front street of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 300 Central Avenue, Ruidoso, NM

Time: 11:45 A.M.

Common Description: #9538 AT (12/14,21) 28, 2011, (1/14, 2012

Legal Description: Lot 3, Block 3 of SUNNY SLOPE, Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico, as shown in the plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk of Lincoln County, January 26, 1991, and as amended by Lincoln County, Cabinet H, Slide 212.

Parcel Identification: #21615

Mobile or Manufactured Home:

Legal Notices 152

Common Description: None Known

The date of the Court Order is November 7, 2011, pursuant to which an Order of Sale was issued on November 7, 2011.

The referenced Court Order entered judgment for Plaintiff for \$29,537.52 plus interest, costs of this action, including all costs of the sale and costs to preserve the Real Estate, including a division of attorney's fees, taxes, and interest of \$3.56 per day shall accrue to the date of said sale.

Special master sale subject to First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank, N.A.

Special Master: KLEINSMITH & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff

Falsis Sukhyanti, Special Master 2222 Colorado Dr. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120-3660 505-228-8484

by Philip M. Kleinsmith, 86261 6035 Erin Park Dr., #203 Colorado Springs, CO 80918 1-800-842-8417

STATE OF COLORADO COUNTY OF EL PASO

Acknowledged, subscribed and sworn to before me on the 15th day of November, 2011, by Philip M. Kleinsmith of Colorado Springs, Colorado. My commission expires: 04/27/12.

(SEAL) Notary Public

#9537 3T (12/14,16,21)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Greentree Solid Waste Authority Prepare and Install Compacted Asphalt

Sealed BIDS to Prepare and Install Compacted Asphalt will be received by the Greentree Solid Waste Authority. All bids are to be submitted to Greentree Solid Waste Authority, 26590 US Hwy 70, Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico 88346, 505-378-4697. Bids will be accepted and opened at 10:00 a.m. on December 27, 2011.

Bid Forms and Specs may be obtained from the Greentree Solid Waste Authority's Office, 26590 US Hwy 70, Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico 88346, or you may call 575-378-4697.

#9538 AT (12/14,21) 28, 2011, (1/14, 2012

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF LINCOLN TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No. D-122V-CV-201000256

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,

vs. JOSEPH LORENC, LINDA T.

Legal Notices 152

LORENC, WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. OCCUPANTS WHOSE NAMES ARE UNKNOWN, IF ANY, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned Special Master will on January 10, 2012 at 9:30 AM in front entrance to the Lincoln County District Court, 300 Central Avenue, Ruidoso, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above described property in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

Lot 3A, site #2A, WHITE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS, UNIT 1, Ruidoso, New Mexico, as shown by the replat of sites 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 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rentals
300-383

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Unfurn. Home - General 352

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For sale: Gun cabinet, \$150 obo. Wooden jacket, brand new \$60 obo. Call Garrett 575-973-0178

Mission style dining room set, 4 chairs w/ table & an extra leaf. \$500. 575-326-1769

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NEW YEARS EVE Rental! Dec 31 Jan 6 Full/Partial week. 2 condos each sleeps 6 people in condo complete, indoor pool, fireplace, complete kitchen, min views. \$2000/week \$1200 wk per condo. JennieDorean RE 575-937-3868

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