

Year Ends With Fort Stanton Still Closed

by Doris Cherry

It's ghostly quiet around Fort Stanton now. The snow sits on sidewalks that were formerly cleaned within hours to prevent any accidental falls by residents.

The laundry, once a place in constant use, is quiet and cold; the green house eerily empty. Cottages remodeled for the long term care of the medically fragile sit empty. The playground at the employee's mobile home area is quiet, no children there to fill the silence.

A tiny staff remains on state payroll to keep the buildings somewhat maintained, and one or two in the business office to answer the

phone.

1995 ended with Lincoln County's oldest facility, Fort Stanton, still closed after 96 years of continuous health care service to the nation and state. The closest the fort was to being vacant in 96 years was 1965 when the state converted it from a tuberculosis hospital to a facility for mentally handicapped people. Since 1966 the Fort was home to about 200 residents, operating under the control of the New Mexico Department of Health.

The Fort has always been subject to political whims. It was first built in 1855 as a frontier military fort, its soldiers charged with controlling the Apaches. In 1861, the

Confederate Texas Mounted Rifles took over the Fort and burned many of its structures when they retreated. Colonel Kit Carson led forces to re-occupy the Fort in 1862. Some of the buildings standing today were constructed in those years after the civil war when General Black Jack Pershing served during the early days of his career.

Fort Stanton played a part in the Lincoln County War in the 1880s. In a way the Fort was a reason for the war, because it was instrumental in containing the Indians on reservations where they were given beef rations. The war erupted between merchant factions that were vying for the government beef con-

tracts. Troops were requested to keep the peace in old Lincoln during the troubled time that made B. y the Kid famous and synonymous with the old west.

After the Apache Indian campaigns came to an end at the turn of the century, the Fort's usefulness as a frontier military base also came to an end. But the facility had several large structures. Tuberculosis was then a fatal disease. New Mexico in general had become a destination for "lungers" as people with tuberculosis came to be known. Fort Stanton offered a location that was desirable to the then known "cure" for tuberculosis—high altitude, dry air and lots of sunshine.

The Fort was converted to a sanatorium for merchant marines with tuberculosis and was operated by the U.S. Public Health Service until 1953. It also served dual purposes during those years. It was home to a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the 1930s. During World War II numerous German Merchant Marines lived at the Fort, displaced by the war. Their handiwork is evident in several places, including the chapel and stables. Their gym, which had a small stage and bent wood ceiling, deteriorated to its current dilapidated condition.

In 1953 the U.S. Public Health Service turned over the Fort to the New Mexico

Department of Health which operated the hospital for tuberculosis patients until 1966. At that time the hospital was converted to hospital and school for mentally handicapped people.

Fort Stanton was home to numerous individuals over the years. But its service to the mentally handicapped came to an end in the 1990s after a series of lawsuits, and a shift from placing those individuals in large public institutions to placing them in more community settings.

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VOLUME #91, NUMBER 1

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1996

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Free Screening For Lead Poisoning To Be Held January 9

Lead is the number one environmental threat to young children. Clear signs of lead poisoning do not appear until lead levels are very high, and many of the signs are easy to confuse with other childhood illnesses. Even low levels of lead poisoning are linked to the following health problems: Behavioral problems and shortened attention span; lower IQ and poor reading ability, brain damage; slowed growth, impaired hearing, kidney damage.

Lead poisoning cannot be reversed but future damage can be stopped with prevention.

A free screening for lead poisoning will be held at Carrizozo Municipal School Tuesday, Jan. 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for children ages six months to six years.

A small sample of blood will be drawn from the child for

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Clinico Gratis Para Los Ninos

La Clinica de WIC, El Hospital de la Universidad de Nuevo Mexico, y El Departamento de Salud de Nuevo Mexico estan teniendo gratis, para todos los ninios de 6 meses hasta 6 anos de edad, un clinico de pruebo de envenenamiento del plomo.

El clinico sera el dia 9 de enero desde las 8:30 hasta las 12:00 de la mañana y de las 12:30 hasta las 3:30 de la tarde en la escuela de Carrizozo, NM telephono 648-2346.

Porque es necesario probar de envenenamiento del plomo? Porque los ninios con envenenamiento del plomo no tienen sintomas pero si puede que hacen: dano de cerebro, perdida del oido, y otras problemas de salud. Es imposible determinar si su nino tiene el envenenamiento del plomo sin probarlo. En este clinico simplemente cojen una muestra pequena de la sangre, sencillamente y pronto para el pruebo.

by Doris Cherry

At 9 a.m. Monday, January 8, the Lincoln County Board of Finance will meet in the Lincoln County Commissioners' chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

Lincoln County commission chairman Monroy Montes called the board of finance meeting. "I called the meeting so we can have a clear understanding of the county investment policy and a clear picture of the county's real excess funds," Montes told THE NEWS.

At the December county commission meeting there were questions about the county's surplus funds, and its investment policies. "By DFA (state department of finance and administration) standards we have a big surplus," Montes continued. "But I don't consider \$1 million too big a surplus. We have to look at the county growing and its needs."

Montes said that once the Board of Finance reviews the financial status of the county funds it can better consider the requests for salary increases. "Then we can make a decision based on the money available and future needs," Montes said.

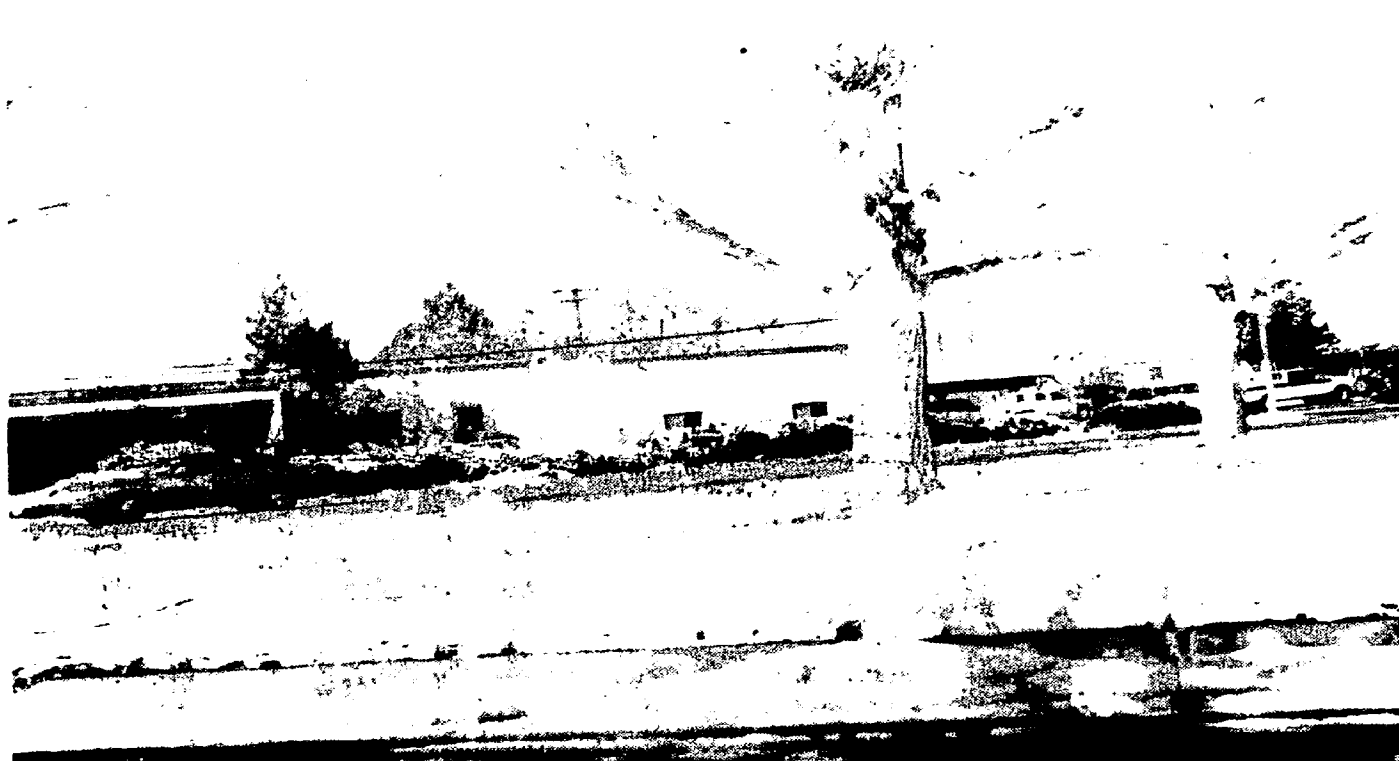
Also during the board of finance meeting, all department heads have been asked to make reports listing their specific needs.

The board of finance is the county commission, which is given authority to act as such by state law. "The board of county commissioners in each county in the state shall, ex officio and without additional compensation, constitute a county board of finance and as such, have supervision over the determination of the qualification and selection of banks, savings and loan associations and credit unions, whose deposits are insured by an agency of the United States..." the statute reads.

The law goes on to state that "Every county board of finance shall hold meetings whenever necessary for the

(SEE PAGE 9)

Lincoln County Board of Finance To Meet Monday



CARRIZO-SNO! The four inches that fell on Carrizozo Monday made the town look like a winter wonderland. The partial shade of Veterans Park near City Hall preserved some of the white cold stuff into Wednesday, while the snow on sunnier areas of town turned into water and, of course, mud.

1995 In Review

by Doris Cherry

What a year 1995.

The most upsetting event in 1995 in Lincoln County was the closure of Fort Stanton by new governor Gary Johnson. By March 24 nearly all Fort Stanton employees had been laid off. Capitan School district, the county and several business people feared the loss of those employees to the area would affect enrollment and the county's economy.

But as 1995 came to an end, Capitan School district, which predicted a severe loss of enrollment because of the closure, has more students than before the closure. Capitan business man David Cummins said his grocery store experienced no decline in sales after the fort closed. He attributed this to the tremendous growth in the Capitan area in the last two years. "Had it been just a few years ago, when Capitan wasn't growing, it would have been more serious," Cummins told THE NEWS.

Affected by the closure is Capitan-Carrizozo Natural Gas Association which derived a large amount of revenue from Fort Stanton. The gas association, co-owned by Capitan and Carrizozo, has struggled to compete with large corporation Zia Natural Gas, which made attempts to bring natural gas to residents

living within the village of Capitan.

While many condemn the new governor for closing Fort Stanton, others said it was long overdue.

Another major happening in 1995 was the Indian Gaming Compacts signed by the new governor, against legislative advice. Casino Apache on the nearby Mescalero Apache Reservation moved in slot

machines and blackjack tables and began advertising.

Perhaps the most overlooked event of 1995 was the court ruling that the majority vote for the 1994 constitutional amendment to allow a lottery and "certain games of chance" was not valid, because the people didn't realize they were voting for more expanded gambling than a

(SEE PAGE 3)

Tuesday, Jan. 9th Is Filing Day For Municipal Elections

by Doris Cherry

All municipalities in Lincoln County will hold elections on Tuesday, March 5.

Tuesday, January 9 is the only day that candidates for the municipal offices can file with their respective municipal clerks. All persons interested in being a municipal candidate must file between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at their respective municipal hall. All potential candidates must have the following documents for certification as a candidate: a declaration of candidacy (available from the clerk); a certified copy of the candidate's current affidavit of voter registration on file with the county clerk and which has been certified by the county clerk's office on a date not earlier than the adoption of the election resolution by the municipality; or the triplicate copy of the candidate's current affidavit of registration which has been stamped by the office of the county clerk as accepted for filing on a date not earlier than the adoption of the election resolution.

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GINGERBREAD HOUSE, The Birch Street home of Juan and Della Beltran in Carrizozo looks like a Gingerbread House, complete with white frosting, with snow still clinging to its roof and eaves Wednesday morning. Carrizozo area received four inches of snow and the mountainous areas of Lincoln County received 12 to 14 inches, with the ski run on Sierra Blanca getting 30 inches in two days.

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Year Ends With Ft. Stanton

(Cont. from P. 1)

As the mentally retarded left the Fort, local elected officials began lobbying the state to keep the fort as a hospital with a different emphasis. Then State Representative John Underwood was successful in getting the state begin making plans to convert the buildings into residences for people with long-term illness, and the medically fragile elderly (geriatric). Such a facility would provide a place for those medically fragile citizens and keep the Fort's work force intact.

With state appropriations remodeling got underway. One cottage was finished and ready to be occupied when election day November 1994 came around.

Governor Bruce King supported the Fort as a state hospital and said so during his campaign tours in the county. But King lost his office to newcomer Gary Johnson, who later claimed he didn't even know where Fort Stanton was.

In the final days of the King administration, a freeze was put on all admissions of geriatric and medically fragile patients to Fort Stanton. With the last of the mentally handicapped former residents gone, the Fort was in a sort of stasis, employees again uncertain of their futures. But rumors of closure were common at Fort Stanton.

Then in January 1995 the rumor came true. Just days after being sworn into his first-ever public office, newly elected governor Johnson ordered the hospital closed because he said it was costing the state an annual \$6 million, and the 120 employees were serving only a few patients. He also wanted to get the state out of the hospital business, he said.

Lincoln County elected officials and others acted. County Republican party members, state senator Pete Campos, state representative Dub Williams, county commissioners and some Fort Stanton employees met with the Governor and his new secretary of the department of health. Johnson gave them little hope; the secretary said he would work to relocate the employees within the state system. The county group wanted assurance they could be involved in any process to find a use for Fort Stanton. The state reluctantly consented.

Several bills were introduced into the state legislature suggesting studies of uses for the Fort. None were approved. The county paid former state representative John Underwood to lobby on behalf of the Fort.

But the governor wanted to lease the facility to a private entity. Not knowing the rules and procedures for dealing with state property, he began talking directly to a private entity.

Dan Lopez, executive director of Desert Hills youth treatment center, told several in Lincoln County that he had met with the governor and offered to lease the Fort. But the governor's advisors quickly educated him on the rules that the state could lease its property only after going through a process that invites bids or proposals.

The state promised glittering hope for the 200 plus Fort Stanton state employees who were facing lay off. The department of health did search to find placement for some of disposed workers in other state facilities, such as Los Lunas Hospital. Many employees took their unemployment compensation and waited for the state to find someone to lease Fort Stanton.

Bad feelings toward the governor grew in Lincoln



OPEN HOUSE AT THE CARRIZOZO NRCS new office Monday was visited by Carrizozo Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors and guests who are from left Bill Hightower (chairman), Steve Harkey, Greg Haussler (Soil Conservationist with NRCS), Howard Harkey (supervisor) and guest Oran Bailey from Peralta, New Mexico. In the background is a paper tree made by Corona school students for soil conservationist Hollis Fuchs on Arbor Day last year.

County. Some even said they heard the governor had vetoed a bill that would have provided extra unemployment compensation to the displaced Fort Stanton workers. But no such bill was approved by the state legislature. No such bill was even introduced, said state representative Dub Williams.

Various overtures were made by the state to find an alternative use of the fort. It was eyed by state corrections, which then declined because of various factors. Finally the state agreed to lease the Fort, but it would have to be turned over to the General Services Department first. At the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1995 the Department of Health withdrew its authority over Fort Stanton, and the state General Services Department (GSD), which inventories and oversees all state properties, assumed control.

GSD began a process to lease the fort. Because of the insistence of Lincoln County Commissioners, the county was entitled to have a representative to help prepare the request for proposals (rfp), and to serve on a committee to select the best proposal offered.

It was the first time the state had undertaken such a project. Because of the major expense involved with leasing the facility, the state decided to advertise nationally.

Ultimately the first rfp process cost the state \$155,000. Part of the cost was a contract with an advertising agency in Chicago which produced the "10 Best Reasons to Rent Fort Stanton" gimmick.

In August, the governor paid his only visit to the old Fort. He was flown into Sierra Blanca Regional Airport, just a few miles away, and escorted by state police to the old Fort. Wearing a t-shirt with the "10 best reasons" the governor's sales gimmick backfired, as the sign with "Fort for Rent" painted on it broke when he tried to pound it into the ground and the 10 best reasons for leasing Fort Stanton brought comments from some of the press.

During the process to prepare the rfp, State Corrections Department hinted about using the facility for a temporary prison to relieve the crowding in the state's prisons. County elected officials sent word to the state that a prison, temporary or otherwise, was not acceptable. The county already had a prison, Camp Sierra Blanca, which is located less than three miles from Fort Stanton.

Some county commissioners believed the Fort would make a good place for juvenile offenders to "straighten out" their lives. Desert Hills executive director Lopez began visiting the Lincoln County area telling everyone how he planned to make the Fort a place to help troubled kids.

In November when the deadline for all proposals to be turned into the state came, Dan Lopez's Desert Hills was absent. He claimed uncertainty among his financial partners who feared the state was

planning to construct its own juvenile "boot camp" and make their private facility cost ineffective.

The state's attempt at leasing the facility brought only one bidder, New Mexico Outreach Inc. of Albuquerque. Tracy Brannan of New Mexico Outreach proposed an outdoor boot camp program for juvenile offenders, a place for inmates with medical problems, and a home for homeless veterans. While he had good ideas, Brannan had no financial backing. County Commissioner Bill Schwettmann who visited the company's headquarters in Albuquerque found it to be a store front, with the owner living in the back.

The Fort Stanton selection committee and GSD deemed the proposal from New Mexico Outreach as unresponsive and it was rejected. New Mexico Outreach was given 14 days to respond to the rejection.

During that time some county commissioners commented the wording of the rfp and its \$1.5 million price tag kept bidders away. GSD yorped with Lincoln County attorney Alan Moral who served on the selection committee to draft several changes to the rfp in order to make another try at finding a renter for Fort Stanton. But the state had no money to continue advertising for a renter.

With a consensus from county commissioners to provide up to \$1,000 in county funds, the state agreed to issue the revised rfp. This time the state makes it clear that the \$1.3 million annual lease price is only an estimated fair market value and is subject to negotiation. The revised rfp to lease Fort Stanton is now being advertised in the legal sections of

more localized publications. January 22 is the deadline for submitting proposals. The state legislature will be in session then, and it could take action to exempt some of the provisions of leasing state property (such as a longer term lease beyond the current maximum of 25 years).

Another, and almost forgotten, aspect of the situation are the people who formerly called Fort Stanton home. How are those former clients faring in the community settings? There is no tracking, because it is not allowed by the state. Most families of former Fort Stanton residents are not happy with the privately run "managed care." Some former clients have ended up in smaller facilities for the mentally handicapped.

The state reportedly is looking at the boot camp concept for juvenile offenders. Children Youth and Families department is indicating it wants to "construct" a new juvenile facility. But the state wants private industry to take over the Fort.

This is nothing but another saga for the old facility. If youth offenders are placed at Fort Stanton it will be like a full circle to its origins. Frontier life at Fort Stanton for many of the young soldiers must have been dismal, and lots of hard work. Juvenile offenders in "boot camp" would find a somewhat similar situation as they would be under a strict disciplinary system, far away from their homes.

What will become of Fort Stanton remains to be seen. But 1995 was the year that the Fort Stanton ghosts had free run of the place.

Maybe 1996 will be more hopeful.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
January 9, 1996
Carrizozo, New Mexico

Lincoln County will conduct a public hearing on January 9, 1996, at 4:00 P.M. at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Commissioners' Meeting Room, Carrizozo, New Mexico. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the 1996 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and to advise the communities of the program goals, range of eligible activities and other pertinent information. Eligible program funding categories include Community Infrastructure; Housing Rehabilitation; Public Service; Capital Outlay; Planning; Economic Development; Emergency and Colonias. All interested parties are invited to attend and submit project ideas and provide supporting data and testimony. For information, contact Martha Guevara at 648-2385.

NOTICIA DE AUDENCIA PUBLICA
Enero 9, 1996
Carrizozo, Nuevo Mexico

El Condado de Lincoln, tendra una junta publica el dia 9 de enero, 1996, a las 4:00 de la tarde, en el casa del condado, situado en la sala de Comisionados, en la Calle Central numero 300, Carrizozo. El proposito de la junta publica sera para discutir el programa de Desarrollo en la Comunidad del Conjunto de Donacion en Nuevo Mexico (CDBG) y para avisar a los ciudadanos de las comunidades del programa, la escala de actividades elegibles y otra informacion pertinente. Las categorias de fondos publicos elegibles incluyen Infraestructura para la Comunidad; Rehabilitacion de Casa; Desembolso de Capital para Servicio Publico; Planificacion; Emergencia, y Colonias. Todos los grupos interesados estan invitados a asistir y entregar sus ideas para proyectos y datos que apoyan su testimonio. Para mas informacion, favor de hablar a Martha Guevara en 648-2385.

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 21, 1995, and January 4, 1996.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAYS

—Alcoholic Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. at Carrizozo Senior Citizens Center. Call 648-2313 for information.
 —Adult singles group meets at the Marie Laveaux Restaurant at 1214 Mechem in Ruidoso for no host dinner at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 258-3246 or 354-2635.
 —Preschool Story hour from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Carrizozo Public School library.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

—Capitan Chamber of Commerce meeting 12:30 p.m. at the chamber building on 2nd Street.
 —Lincoln County Board of Finance meeting at 9 a.m. in the commissioners room in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

—Lincoln County Commission regular meeting at 9 a.m. in the courthouse in Carrizozo.
 —Carrizozo Town Council meets at 6 p.m. at city hall.
 —Ruidoso Village Council meets at 6:30 p.m.
 —Only day to file for municipal elected positions. See related story for details.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

—Capitan Board of Education meets at 6:30 p.m. in the board conference room.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

—Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority board will meet at 10 a.m. at the authority offices in Ruidoso Downs.
 —Carrizozo Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. in the board conference room.

BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

The rural bookmobile will be in the county next week. The following is a schedule of stops:

Tuesday, January 9:	
Corona Post Office	12:30-2:30 p.m.
Carrizozo Otero Electric	4-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 10:	
Carrizozo Otero Electric	7:30-8:30 a.m.
Nogal Post Office	8:45-10 a.m.
Capitan Smokey Bear Cafe	10:30-12:30 p.m. & 6-7:30 p.m.
Lincoln Post Office	2-3 p.m.
Hondo Store	3:30-4:45 p.m.

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Thursday, January 18, 1996
 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
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 301 Country Club Drive, Ruidoso, NM
 Call 505-257-3139 by Jan. 17 to confirm your seat.

1995 In Review

(Continued from Page 1)

lottery. While it may not have been the first such legal action to overturn a vote of the people, it could be considered a turning point in a time when the people are demanding more and more control.

1995 was a year for the Lincoln County Public Land Use Advisory Committee (PLUAC) to get its first members who turned out to represent a wide variety of interests. The PLUAC had been approved after a couple of heavily attended public hearings in late 1994.

The ordinance to establish PLUAC claimed the federally owned lands within Lincoln County to be state-owned and subject to management by the county. PLUAC was charged with advising county commissioners on ways to accomplish this goal. With its passage, the county took its place in line with other western states counties which have taken similar stances.

But the Fort Stanton issue took front page over PLUAC in 1995. PLUAC quietly met and with the Rural and Ag Affairs Advisory Committee, the two groups began working on a land use plan. The most attention PLUAC received in 1995 was when its chairman Rex Wilson recommended the county commission approve sending \$5,000 to Nye County, Nevada to help its county's commission with a lawsuit filed against it by the U.S. government.

The suit deals with who has authority to maintain and determine which roads will be maintained on Forest Service Lands. Wilson said the outcome of the suit will affect Lincoln County, and all other counties with public lands. By the end of 1995 however, the \$5,000 had yet to be sent to Nye County, which by New Mexico constitutional law has to provide some type of service for the funds in order to avoid the anti-donation clause. Lincoln County had asked Nye County provide legal documents in exchange for the funds.

Land use in Lincoln County grew in 1995, exemplified by a high cost residential development in the Ruidoso area.

County commissioners approved the first phases of Ranches de Sonterra which was a 4,700 acre former ranch along the Rio Bonito below

Angus. Part of the ranch included a stretch of the Rio Bonito just above the Bureau of Land Management land at Fort Stanton which featured a small geologic area called by locals as the "falls or gorge."

Claiming Ranches de Sonterra had made no pressures on them to do so, BLM closed the Rio Bonito campground which adjoined the falls area. BLM said the area was in need of rejuvenation, and also the bureau could not afford to provide another access route around Camp Sierra Blanca prison. The previous access was right next to the camp, and was blamed for contributing to some of the problems with inmates at the minimum security prison.

The campground closure came as a quiet press release and never made major headlines.

Part of the deal between the county and Ranches de Sonterra was the county's acceptance of its paved roads. Facing the addition of several miles of paved roads into the county's maintenance system, commissioners early in the year voted to double the road frontage tax imposed on subdivision properties only, from 10 cents a foot to 20 cents to pay for the additional costs of maintenance.

Outraged county residents converged on the county com-

mission. The residents argued the tax was unfair because everyone could use the roads and such a tax wasn't imposed on people who traveled many miles over county roads to access their properties. Soon after the county road manager resigned.

Under pressure from the public, commissioners rescinded the road frontage tax completely.

With that revenue lost, commissioners debated whether it should do its own paved road maintenance, or contract it to a private company. Favoring its own work, the road manager went through the process to purchase the chip seal equipment. But dissent

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Corona High School Drama Club Dinner Theater Sun., Jan. 14

The Corona High School Drama Club will present a dinner theater Sunday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Corona High School auditorium.

The event will include dinner followed by two plays; *Here We Are* by Dorothy Parker, and *The Ugly Duckling* by A. A. Milne. Cast members are practicing the plays now.

For more information or to make reservations call 849-1432 or 849-4800. Please leave a message if no answer.

The dinner will be prepared by students and staff. The dinner theater is a fund raiser for the drama club and for field trips for the entire school.

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Capitan Extension Club To Meet On Tuesday, Jan. 10

The Capitan Extension Club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the Capitan Senior Citizens Center. There will be no hostess for the meeting.

The program presented by Mollie Mason and Edith Malcolm will be *First Aid in Cars*.

Mason and Malcolm will also present the crafts, *Sunbonnet Sue - Fabric Dolls on Stationery*. Members are asked to bring small scissors and tiny lace.

By Sarah Ewoldt

New Arrival

Hayden and Cheryl Smith of Carrizozo announce the birth of Johnathan Cert Smith born Monday, Dec. 18 at 3:12 a.m. Johnathan weighed 8 lbs. 2.4 oz. and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Johnathan is welcomed at home by a sister Lauren, age two. Lauren will be three next month.

The maternal grandmother is Frances Boling of Carrizozo and the paternal grandparents are J. W. and Opal Luce of Portales.

Hayden Smith is pastor of the First Baptist Church in Carrizozo.

THOUGHTS

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Let's save state money

By Ruth Hammond

Here it is four days into the new year and we are looking forward to whatever will happen in 1996. The past year has been memorable for New Mexico with a new governor taking the reins and deciding on his own to ignore the legislature and set himself up as a self-imposed dictator of sorts.

One of governor Johnson's first acts was to decide to close Fort Stanton by saying, "The state doesn't want to be in the long term care business." The fallacy of that statement was that the state had spent thousands of dollars conducting a study that did in fact determine that Fort Stanton would be best used as a geriatric facility. The study was conducted only after the state decided to defy the federal court order to improve Fort Stanton as a hospital and training school for developmentally disabled. The state chose at that time to move all the developmentally disabled people out into communities, many against their wishes.

The few geriatric patients that were at Fort Stanton and the others waiting for the freeze on admissions to lift for them to be able to move into the newly renovated buildings were suddenly left without a future when governor Johnson closed Fort Stanton. Now, nearly a year later, the former Fort Stanton employees continue to wait for those jobs that were promised to them and the remainder of Lincoln County continues to wait to find out what will finally be housed at historic Fort Stanton.

The trickle-down effect because of the loss of jobs and the loss of the \$8 million annual budget is hurting more and more businesses around the county but apparently governor Johnson is pleased with his decision. He has made no attempt to respond to any of the questions asked and has not visited Lincoln County except for the day he was here to mock "Weird Aunt Tillie."

There were other areas governor Johnson made decisions on his own, without benefit of legislative input, and without benefit of expert advice. Most of these decisions were supposedly made to save the state money, and/or to run state government the way governor Johnson thought it should be run. There is speculation from the people as to whether his decisions were correct or not.

We really should thank governor Johnson for saving the state money. His ideas to streamline government may have some merit and he probably has more surprises in store for this year.

Saving money is a worthwhile venture and if he would care to listen, here are a few suggestions as to how governor Johnson could have saved even more state money for the state:

His bicycle trip across the state to clean up trash could have been a double-duty trip. He could have carried buckets of sand and gravel to fill potholes on the highways, thereby eliminating the need for the state highway department. That alone would save an enormous amount of money. The state wouldn't need the trucks and heavy equipment and the highway employees.

Another cost-saving venture governor Johnson could have done while he was riding his bicycle across the state to clean up trash would have been to carry a book of traffic tickets. He could have cited speeders and other law breakers, thereby eliminating the need for the state police. Those officers could be sent home and the state would save on vehicle expense, salaries and benefits.

There are probably many numerous ways governor Johnson could save state money. Your ideas for other ways governor Johnson could save state money are needed now! Please send all suggestions to Santa Claus, care of The Lincoln County News. We need to help find additional ways to save state money!

Weird Aunt Tillie has been kicked out, former state workers continue to wait for jobs, and historic Fort Stanton deteriorates as it sits empty after more than 96 years of service, and all because governor Johnson is trying to save the state some money.

Money saving ideas needed now!



Inside The Capitol

by Jay Miller

SANTA FE—The 1996 Legislature will be the most significant in 20 years, according to Senate President Pro Tem Manny Aragon, who arrived in Santa Fe as a fresh-faced, 27-year-old in January 1975.

Aragon was referring to the large number of important issues that will be facing lawmakers this time around — an unfortunate situation in a 30-day, short session. In odd-numbered years, sessions are 60 days.

Gov. Gary Johnson can limit the subjects to be considered in a short session. The budget is all that must be addressed. But Johnson, with his "just do it" attitude, has shown a propensity for buckling down and disposing of whatever tasks are at hand. DWI legislation is about the only subject he has nixed.

Fortunately New Mexico's citizen-legislature is far more up to the task of completing its work on time than is its professional counterpart in Washington. Both governments have the same partisan differences at work. The legislative and executive branches of both are controlled by opposite parties. Sen. Aragon is as resolute about his beliefs as is U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

But our folks have jobs and businesses back home, so there is less time to posture. Here's a brief synopsis of

what's likely to be on their plates.

Budget—Revenue shortfalls this year and reduced projections for next year mean painful decisions must be made. Gov. Johnson's solution of across-the-board cuts has been rejected, even by some Republican lawmakers, in favor of prioritizing needs. That takes much more time.

Gambling—The heat is on. Indian casinos and horse tracks are up against the wall financially. Clubs with illegal video gaming machines have thousands of members pushing hard for legitimacy. Others, with well-financed lobbies, want in on the act. The situation demands a comprehensive solution — which takes time.

Veto overrides—Our constitution makes this the one opportunity to override Gov. Johnson's 200 vetoes following the '95 session. Democrats are one vote short of the two-thirds majority needed for overrides in both houses. That may mean some bills passed by Republican lawmakers will be targeted for override attempts first. If that succeeds, more will come.

Prisons—Gov. Johnson's top priority is building prisons. The legislature authorized two last year but didn't fund either. That may be cut to one. Democrats want it at Santa Rosa, Republicans at Hobbs. Other communities, such as Roswell, aren't happy with how Hobbs became Johnson's choice.

Reorganization — There's more here than meets the eye. Last year the legislature's Horizons Task Force, which Johnson vetoed for this year, began looking at government organization. Johnson took office wanting to streamline government. Lately we've seen leaks of cabinet-level reorganization planning. Only the legislature can reorganize government, but the executive branch has been doing it quietly for a year.

Federal money—New Mexico is one of the top per capita recipients. Congressional outbacks will complicate state budgeting. But new block-grant distribution systems will be the real kicker, because the governor may receive money directly that the legislature can't appropriate.

Etc.—The Constitutional Revision Commission has spent two years preparing recommendations. Legislative interim committees all have proposals. The state GOP has a Contract With New Mexico to present.

The only way all this can be completed in 30 days is for

the governor and lawmakers to quietly huddle on major issues. That's the way politics works, but our governor prides himself in not being political. Perhaps he'll decide that everything's been discussed enough already and it's time to hammer out solutions — and perhaps he won't.

Lawmakers are pressured by having to prepare for elections in June. They are further handicapped by the new law preventing them from soliciting campaign contributions as long as they're in session. If Gov. Johnson uses that to his advantage, we could see a replay of the federal fiasco.

BLM Sets Rio Bonito Meeting

The Bureau of Land Management has scheduled a meeting to discuss proposed goals and objectives for a management strategy for the lands along the Rio Bonito. The meeting will be held on January 20, at 2:00 p.m., in the San Juan Church in Lincoln.

The Roswell Resource Area, is developing a management strategy for the Rio Bonito tract lands recently acquired by the BLM and has established a Rio Bonito Management Strategy Team. During the next year, the Resource Area intends to draft a strategy to protect and enhance the riparian habitat along the historic Rio Bonito.

BLM is currently working on pre-development surveys and inventories, researching deeds, easements and covenants associated with the acquired tracts and meeting our neighbors. BLM is also field checking and verifying irrigation ditches/pipes, locating existing surveyed corners on the different tracts, inventorying fences and their condition.

The Resource Area will present the results of some of the preliminary inventories and surveys completed in the area at this meeting.

Animal Welfare Rules Of Europe Must Be Avoided Here In America

by MACE THORNTON

With fewer Americans having a direct association with farming, and thus less understanding of the humane treatment U.S. farm animals receive, American livestock and poultry producers must continue to remind the public how much they care for their animals.

Providing ample food, water and facilities for livestock makes good business sense. If producers did not provide proper care for their animals, they would not be in business long. Ironically, some European producers are struggling to stay in business, not due to the poor treatment of their livestock, but rather due to government directives that mandate inefficient animal care methods.

According to a report, "Animal Welfare Legislation in Northern European Countries," commissioned by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, U.S. livestock and poultry producers must work to avoid European-style animal welfare rules in the United States.

Written by Glen Schmidt, professor emeritus in the department of Animal Sciences at The Ohio State University, and his associate Beverly Schmidt, the report says U.S. producers should: 1.) Evaluate current production practices that could be of concern to consumers to see if those practices are essential to their operation. 2.) Develop or support additional research to produce alternative and more animal-friendly systems. And 3.) communicate with the public about the importance of specific production practices, both for the sake of the animal and for the sake of an inexpensive, high quality, and safe food supply.

Restrictive animal welfare regulations have a stronghold in the European Union. Some member countries have adopted even more restrictive regulations. England, for example, has outlawed crates for veal calves and Denmark does not produce veal at all. Key differences exist between Europe's geographic areas. Nations in southern Europe are less restrictive, influenced by the religious ideal that animals were placed on Earth to serve humans. Northern Europe nations, however, believe rules must also consider the animal's well-being, and its use.

Denmark, Sweden, England and Germany have more restrictive regulations. Sweden passed regulations in 1988 banning the use of cages for laying hens and tethering and gestation stalls for sows. This has caused a dilemma for Swedish producers who have been unable to develop alternative production methods that allow them to compete economically.

While all European Union

(SEE PAGE 7)

LETTERS to the editor

EDITOR: The increase in the national debt and decrease in our individual and state rights are due largely to many of us wanting more and more programs and funds from the federal government. More government results in less democracy! The federal government is inherently expensive and inefficient.

The states may peacefully regain their constitutional state rights through the U.S. Congress or they may convene a convention for the purpose of amending the U.S. Constitution. This requires the concurrence of two-thirds of the states and each amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of the states. A convention has never been held for amending the constitution.

The Bill of Rights' ten amendments have never been changed through constitutional amendments; however, they have been unconstitutionally changed by statutes, court decrees and executive orders (E.G. Amendment V: "... nor deprived of 'life', liberty, or property without due process of law ...". In 1972 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was unconstitutional, then in 1977, the court reversed its 1972 decision!?)

I have the following questions:

- 1.) Is the U.S. Constitution the supreme law of the land?
- 2.) Does each of us have a civic duty to preserve, protect and defend the U.S. Constitution?
- 3.) Is it possible to obey two contradictory laws, simultaneously?
- 4.) Are the laws, court decrees and executive orders that are contradictory to the U.S. Constitution null and void?
- 5.) If we obey the laws, etc. that are contrary to the U.S. Constitution, are we defying the constitution?
- 6.) Who should have the "final" determination on whether or not laws, etc. are constitutional; our presidents, legislators, judges or the people?

"Defiance of the law results in anarchy." This is a dilemma, because it is impossible to obey certain laws without defying others.

Note: In my December 28, 1995 letter, I was not attacking Mr. Queen, personally or questioning his patriotism. We merely have differences of "opinions".

FRANKLIN L. BOREN
Tinnie, NM

EDITOR: Most people have forgotten the late Senator Robert Taft, senator from Ohio in the 1940s and 1950s. Taft has been called Mr. Conservative, and the late, great Franklin Delano Roosevelt once called Taft "the conscience of the Congress."

Senator Taft was quick to call President Harry Truman's "police action" in Korea an undeclared war. The

(SEE PAGE 8)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Lincoln County News welcomes letters to the editor. Letters will be the writer's personal opinion and will not necessarily reflect the editorial opinion of the Lincoln County News.

All letters must be original, no copies or form letters will be used. Preference is given to typewritten letters. Hand-written letters must be legible.

Letters must be signed by the writer with the author's full name, address, and telephone number. Only the writer's name and city of residence will be published. Thank you; letters will not be accepted as letters to the editor.

Letters of any length will be considered for publication with priority given to letters of no more than 300 words. All letters are subject to editing for length, grammar, spelling, and reader interest.

Letters to the editor should be hand delivered or mailed to:

Letters to the Editor
Lincoln County News
P.O. Drawer 455
Carlsbad, NM 88501

OBITUARIES

We hope you have found blessings and joy in the holiday season and that you do have health and happiness all through this year.

Corona awakened Tuesday morning to a seven-inch, measured by tape, snow on the ground. The temperature was 18 degrees but the sun was shining before noon.

The Bells and Lightfoots were in Las Cruces Saturday, Dec. 19 for the NMSU commencement exercises. Crystal Bell received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and Denise Lightfoot a Bachelor of Science in agriculture.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin James entertained friends with an open house Sunday afternoon. A guided tour of the remodeled home was a high point of the festivities, plus a wide assortment of foods and happy conversation.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Holleyman had their children home for Christmas — Lon, Corona; the Dwayne Kibbes, Portales; and the Daryl Ratliff, Phoenix, who flew into Albuquerque Saturday and returned home Christmas day in order for both Daryl and Lois Ann to go to work Tuesday. They took a slightly delayed flight in order to accommodate some one's emergency. Mr. Holleyman was scheduled for cataract surgery Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Ware, Lubbock, spent two days with his daughter and family, the Kesslers. The Wares plan to leave next week for Memphis, TN where he will enter seminary.

DAISY A. HILLGER
Daisy A. Hillger passed away Christmas evening in the Good Samaritan Health Center where she had resided for a few weeks following major surgery. She was born Nov. 30, 1905 in Kendrick, OK. She moved to Corona with her family, the Perkins, and was one of the first to graduate from Corona High School. She married Herman Hillger and was closely associated with him in the oil distribution business and in real estate.

They lived in Albuquerque and in T or C before the name change and in Globe and Mesa, AZ. They worked hard but always found time to enjoy Elephant Butte Lake where they had one of the early leases for property on the lake shore. They traveled widely and were active in civic affairs.

Mrs. Hillger is survived by two sons, Marvin Hillger and wife Joan, Las Cruces; and Dave Hillger and wife Ida from Mesa, AZ; one grandson, four granddaughters and five great grandchildren.

Services were held

December 29 at Melcher Chapel of the Roses, Interment was in City of Mesa Cemetery beside the grave of her husband who had been buried there exactly eleven years before her. Casket bearers were her four grandsons, a nephew, and four grandsons-in-law. Sherrill Bradford and Rand Perkins flew out early Friday morning to attend services for their aunt. They returned to Albuquerque and Corona Friday evening.

Michele Ross, Jack, Jessica and Colton from Comfort, TX spent several days visiting with friends in Claunch and Corona.

Mrs. Bernice McCord went to Moriarty for several days with son Rusty and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Yancey spent the long weekend in Roswell with Crystal and Charlie Lueras.

Troy Yancey came from Roswell to meet Theresa's sister who came from Germany and her mother who came from Japan for the holidays in Roswell. All met for a short visit at the home of Troy's parents.

Nick Shone is the school's new halftime librarian aide. He is competent in computers and expects to get books catalogued in short order.

Mrs. Robin Pfeiffer flew to Phoenix to have Christmas with grandson, Scott Kimbell, and granddaughters Sharon and Sara. Mr. and Mrs. Stan Kimbell drove out from Albuquerque.

James and Tommy Tyree went to Eunice to meet with the Mitch Tyrees for a few days. Kirk Tyree flew from Aberdeen, Maryland where he has been stationed with the National Guard. He left January 2 for Maryland but had not yet received his next assignment.

Casey Tyree was here and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tyree came from Las Cruces.

VICTOR LUERAS
Victor Lueras was born in Progresso January 14, 1902. He died December 26, 1995 at Palomas Nursing Home in Albuquerque where he had resided for several weeks after leaving the hospital where he had surgery for a broken hip.

Rosary was celebrated December 28 at Crestview Funeral Home in Albuquerque. Mass was at 11:00 a.m. Friday in St. Theresa Catholic Church in Corona with Fr. Dave Bergs officiating, followed by burial at Pinos Wells beside his wife Valentine.

He was preceded in death by his wife, son Luis, two great granddaughters, one great grandson, and one great great grandson. He is survived by two daughters, Mary Charoz, Barstow, CA; and Elle Stewart, Corona; five sons, Speedy Lueras, Corona; Joe, Rio Rancho; Eddie and Alex, Albuquerque; Carlos, Clovis; two grandsons as his own, Ray and Joe Lueras. Mr. Lueras is survived by 32 grandchildren, 66 great grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.

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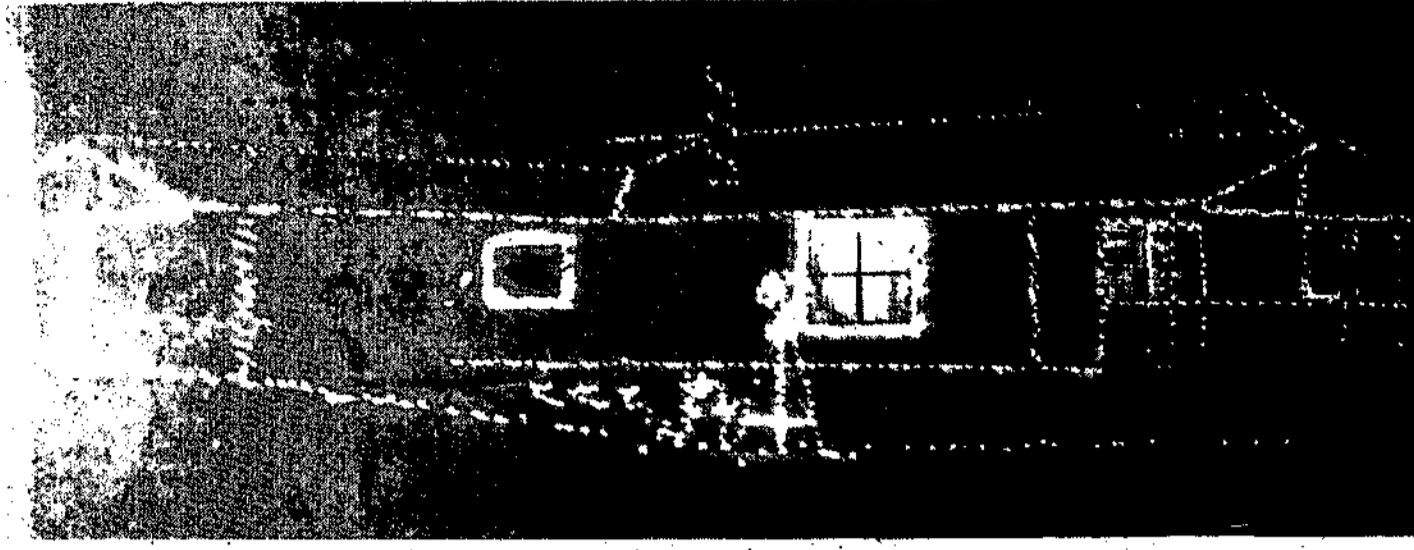
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CAPITAN NOTES



FIRST PLACE RESIDENTIAL LIGHT DISPLAY. Capitan Chamber of Commerce judges awarded \$50 to Tiger and Karen Stanbrough for having the best residential Christmas light display on their home on Smokey Bear Road east of Highway 48.

Greetings from the Omaha, Nebraska side of the road to everyone in snowy Capitan and Lincoln County.

Another installment of Ila Mae Payne's autobiography: Even others had about stopped coming to see the ranch, so everything seemed almost normal again. Vernon wasn't talking much about selling any more and I even began to hope he had given up the idea. Then he got a job moving a family from Capitan to East Texas, and would go by Abilene and see his folks.

That worried me, as I knew they still wanted us to come to Texas, and Vernon had always seemed to see things their way. Before he left I asked him to please not get down there and be talked into

something we were undecided about, like selling the ranch. He almost promised he wouldn't.

The weather was beautiful. Jack and Marie, the kids and I were in very high spirits. Hills were green and pretty, stock fat and frisky, and everything seemed wonderful. We rode the pasture, fixed fences, made things in the shop, and were excited about getting things in order to start the new school year.

Then Vernon came home, and by the look on his face when he started telling him what had been happening, I knew something was wrong. He told us the ranch was sold and we'd be moving to San Angelo, TX. He had taken some property there as part payment on the ranch.

Nobody could think of anything to say, it seemed; big evening meal prepared almost went untouched. I soon left the house and walked out over the hills for an hour, just trying to get a grip on my thoughts.

I had known all along it would happen, but wasn't prepared for that empty heartsick feeling. Nothing seemed to matter. Joy and hope had gone. Green hills, bright and beautiful days, songs of birds, fat cows and sheep and goats always to be admired up to now, all seemed like a mockery, with no meaning at all.

Jack and Marie Beller were kind and tried hard to get us excited about our new home in Texas, and all the things we'd do there, for they planned to go with us. I don't remember how long it took to get things in order to make the change.

It didn't matter anyway, as I kept denying the facts. I could think of so many ways the deal could fall through, and time after time I'd tell myself it was a bad dream, and I'd wake up and things would be O.K. I well remember the day I finally gave up.

Vernon had sold our cows to the people who had bought Pa Payne's ranch. So this day the rancher had brought his boys over to round up the cows and move them to his place. I went about my usual tasks, but never went near the corrals or looked out. But I heard the cows and calves bawling when they counted them out and started them down the road.

Then I went to the door and watched as they were driven over the hill out of sight into the Agüadera Canyon. I knew they'd come up on the other side before going over the last hill, so I went into the bedroom and watched out the window as the little herd and cowboys began to disappear over the last hill.

When the last of them faded from sight, the finality of it all struck. Uncontrollable tears ran down my cheeks and I shook with sobs till there was no emotion left.

That night I walked in the moonlight and tried to figure out where it had all gone. The awful truth about it was, it hadn't gone anywhere. It was all still here, nothing lost.

The hill where I stood would still be there as it had all the years I'd known it, and

all the years before I came, and the years after I was gone. The sun would come up tomorrow and all other tomorrows.

Summer would turn to winter, snow would blanket the hills and glisten in morning sun. Wind would blow, piling the snow in high drifts. And spring would come and the hills would be covered with flowers. Baby calves, lambs and kids would frolic over the hills. Summer, with rain clouds forming over the mountains, then the rain would come, causing the canyons to rise and tumble with headrises coming down.

Mocking birds would sing, and Phoebe's would build their nests in the barn; quail would come by now and then to see if anyone would throw grain to them. Outcome?

I was the loser. It was as I'd read in a book; it was part good, part bad, no ending. Maybe the empty pages I saw before the book closed meant there should be more. But for now, I'd just remember it as it was before the book closed.

It was September 9, 1953 when we made our final departure from the ranch. An easy day to remember, since it would be the beginning of a whole new life, and the end of another. Also, it was a week after Norman's 18th birthday. A beautiful fall day, like so many others that had come and gone, but why was it so different?

Vernon and Naomi left early with the last truckload of our belongings. Norman and I would leave later in the Jeep station wagon which was the family car. We would be loaded with last minute things, such as my pot plants, a few tropical fish, clothes and little things we had overlooked. And boy-quail and family. The last few months on the ranch I'd found him a mate in Roswell and the pair wasted no time in starting a family. The blue quail group would do fine, but they ranged far and wide, but the pets wouldn't stand a chance. So I had arranged to take them to the man in Roswell, who had a pheasant farm, with big pens for all kinds of birds, including quail, in fact that's where I'd found the female.

So when everything was loaded, we just drove away as we had so many times in the past. But all the other times we'd be coming home that evening or next day, so took very little notice of things along the way. But this time we weren't coming back, and when the home, barns, corral, trees, all the things we had put there on the raw land, that had been home for so long, disappeared from sight, I knew why it was so different from other days.

Every bend in the road, the canyons and draws we crossed, the gates to go through, even the boulders along the road were like blueprints in my memory. And like a runaway camera flashing scenes on a screen, those memories were coming back, things I thought forgotten or unimportant, hadn't even come to mind in years. Like a book!

More of Ila Mae's story next week.

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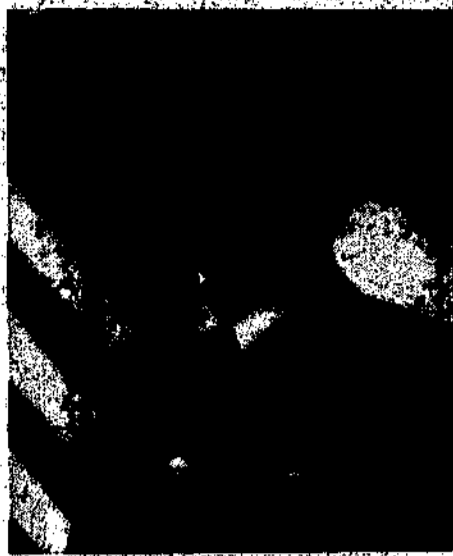
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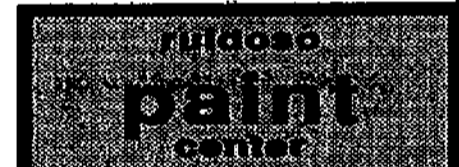
ARMY PRIVATE DAVID A. VERMILION JR., a 1995 graduate of Carrizozo High School, graduated from OSUT (One Station Unit Training) in Fort Knox, KY Dec. 22. He is now stationed in Germany. His parents are Dave and Sandy Vermilion of Carrizozo.

Animal Welfare

(Con't. from P. 4)

member nations must incorporate approved directives into their own laws, each country is individually responsible for enforcement. Persons in northern Europe are concerned about the less rigid enforcement of rules in southern Europe, which allows them to out-compete their northern neighbors.

American producers already face a slew of expensive government rules, but when it comes to animal welfare they are largely bound by state anti-cruelty laws and their own ethical standards. The last thing U.S. producers need is to have their competitiveness trimmed further by the introduction of European-style animal welfare rules. According to the report, however, new attempts at passing restrictive animal welfare legislation in the United States are as sure as the cows coming home.



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Sheriff's Report

More than a foot of snow fell over the higher elevations of Lincoln County over New Year's holiday, stranding residents and visitors. While highways were snow packed, there were few accidents with injuries.

The following information was taken from dispatch records in the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in the courthouse in Carrizozo:

December 26:

An accident was reported. 5:06 p.m. a 911 caller requested an ambulance at a residence on Central Ave. in Carrizozo for her daughter who had back pain and was coughing. Carrizozo ambulance responded and transported the patient to Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) in Ruidoso.

5:21 p.m. a caller reported a lost person in the White Mountain area. The caller's 21 year old son was lost and not dressed for the cold. The man had a cell phone with him. The case was referred to state police which initiate searches.

6:52 p.m. an officer reported an accident without injuries at mile marker 14 on Highway 48. The accident was caused by a deer and the subjects in the car were taken to Ruidoso Police Department to meet with state police. State police and Department of Game and Fish were notified.

A Ruidoso Downs police officer requested background information.

8:26 p.m. Ruidoso police called for an individual who reported a larceny in the parking lot of Ski Apache. A man wanted to talk to a deputy to report the theft of his wallet and keys. A deputy responded.

December 27:

A detention officer requested background information on a subject.

10:59 a.m. a caller reported a possible propane leak at a house in upper Gavilan Canyon. The caller reported a strong smell of propane in the area. Bonito Fire Department responded.

12:22 p.m. Ski Apache requested an ambulance for an individual on a back board and C collar. Alto ambulance transported the patient to LCMC.

5:34 p.m. a caller reported an abandoned vehicle four miles up Cedar Creek. A deputy was assigned.

Capitan police requested background information.

December 28:

2 a.m. a 911 caller requested an officer check a house with an alarm going on in the Alto area. A state police officer checked out the house.

12 p.m. Ski Apache requested an ambulance for a 21 year old male with possible head

injuries. Alto ambulance transported the patient to LCMC.

1:41 p.m. Ski Apache requested an ambulance for a 9 year old girl who fell 15 feet from a ski lift. Alto ambulance transported the patient to LCMC.

5:40 p.m. a 911 caller requested a wrecker to tow a vehicle to El Paso.

6:16 p.m. a 911 caller requested an ambulance at a store in Hondo for a woman with high blood pressure, tingling in the left arm and leg and a hard time breathing. Hondo ambulance responded and requested Ruidoso Advanced Life Support (RALS) unit which transported the patient to LCMC.

December 29:

7:57 a.m. cut trees were reported. A deputy was assigned.

3:11 p.m. Ski Apache requested an ambulance for a woman with knee and hip injuries. By 3:41 p.m. Alto ambulance had another customer. The patients were transported to LCMC.

3:32 p.m. an accident was reported on Musket Road in the Ruidoso area. A blue truck was blocking the road and the two occupants looked "stoned." The responding deputy advised it was an accident with injuries. One of the subjects had a suspended license. RALS responded.

3:56 p.m. Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc. reported a dumpster fire at mile marker 11 on Highway 48. Bonito Fire Department responded and had it extinguished within 10 minutes.

4:11 p.m. a caller reported a breaking and entering/burglary at a residence in Alto. The caller reported a broken window and stolen BB gun and saw from the garage. A deputy responded.

4:32 p.m. a 911 caller reported a possible stolen vehicle from Ski Apache. The caller advised he gave his keys to two women and they left with his rented vehicle. A deputy responded but was unable to locate the car.

8 p.m. a woman reported a domestic violence/battery. The caller advised that her son beat up a lady and she was at LCMC and she requested a deputy. A deputy responded to a location in the county, and arrested a subject.

9:01 p.m. background information was requested on a subject.

December 30:

12:31 a.m. a caller reported a runaway juvenile. The 15 year old girl was last seen on Mechem Drive in Ruidoso and had been missing since 6 p.m. December 29. The girl had run away before, and since coming home had been belligerent, rebellious and out of control. The girl had said she was going to party in Ruidoso Downs. A deputy responded.

9:33 a.m. a caller reported an accident on Montjeau Road and requested a wrecker. State police were notified.

12:35 p.m. a 911 caller in Lincoln requested an ambulance for a man with a possible heart attack. RALS responded and transported the patient to LCMC.

2:12 p.m. a 911 caller requested an ambulance at a residence on Birch Street in Carrizozo for a man who had a possible stroke and who was requesting to be taken to Socorro. Carrizozo ambulance responded.

3:02 p.m. a 911 caller requested animal control. The neighbor's dog killed his dog. A deputy took a report.

8:25 p.m. a caller reported a lost or stolen wallet at Ski Apache. A report was taken.

5:42 p.m. a walk-in requested background information on a subject. There was none.

8:29 p.m. caller reported a

drunk female minor in Corona. A deputy responded.

8:53 p.m. a caller reported a big brown cow on the Devil's Canyon road cattle guard. The owner was contacted.

10 p.m. a possible drunk driver was reported on 8th Street in Carrizozo. The responding deputy arrested a subject for careless driving.

10:54 p.m. a hit deer was reported near the intersection of Highways 37 and 48. The responding deputy was advised by the Game and Fish officer to put the deer down if it was injured and not dead, and leave it by the side of the road.

December 31:

8:45 a.m. a 911 caller requested an ambulance for a man whose artificial hip was out of place. Capitan ambulance transported the patient to LCMC.

8:47 a.m. Otero County Sheriff's Office advised of a fire on the railroad tracks south of Carrizozo. Carrizozo fire department responded.

6:14 p.m. Ruidoso Police

reported a multi-vehicle accident on Highway 48 on Snowflake Ridge and Angus Hills. Three vehicles were off the southbound lane and one off the northbound lane on Snowflake hill and one off of Angus hill. Deputies were requested for traffic control. State Police also responded.

6:27 p.m. a caller reported a fire off Highway 70 near Ruidoso Downs. A telephone pole was on fire. Ruidoso Downs fire department responded.

8:42 p.m. a suspicious vehicle was reported on Eagle Creek Road. Kids were in a vehicle and were possibly drunk. A neighbor advised that six cars had just left. The responding deputy advised he made no contact.

11:33 p.m. a hit and run accident was reported on Highway 48 near Capitan. A county vehicle was hit by a

small pickup which sustained damage. Capitan Police and a deputy responded. The deputy stopped the driver on Crest View and arrested the subject. About 15 minutes later the deputy advised there were snow drifts on Highway 380. At 12:48 a.m. the deputy advised the roads were wet and it was snowing hard.

January 1:

10:02 a.m. a 911 caller reported an accident with injuries at mile marker 265 on Highway 70 east of Ruidoso Downs. The accident was first reported as having no injuries, but when the Ruidoso Downs police officer arrived he requested an ambulance. State police and RALS responded, but the ambulance was refused.

2:38 p.m. an ambulance was requested. Capitan ambulance transported a patient to

(SEE PAGE 8)

L&L WELL DRILLING & PUMP SERVICE
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505-257-69



First Baptist Church

HAYDEN SMITH, pastor
314 10th Ave, Carrizozo, NM
648-2988 (church) or 648-2107
Sunday School..... 9:45 am
Worship Service..... 10:55 am
Sun. Evening..... Training at 8:15 pm
Evening Worship..... 7:15 pm
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

Carrizozo Community Church (A/G)

JOHNIE L. JOHNSON, pastor
Corner of C Ave. & Thirteenth, 648-2186
Sunday School..... 10:00 am
Worship Service..... 11:00 am
Thursday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

Santa Rita Catholic Community

FR. DAVE BERGS, pastor
213 Birch, Carrizozo, NM, 648-2853

SATURDAY:
Capitan Sacred Heart..... 5:00 pm
Czoza Santa Rita..... 6:30 pm

SUNDAY:
Capitan Sacred Heart..... 9:00 am
Czoza Santa Rita..... 11:00 am
Corona St. Theresa..... 4:00 pm

Church of Christ

PAUL WETZEL, minister
Ave. C at 12th, Carrizozo, NM, 648-2996
Sunday School..... 10:00 am
Worship Service..... 11:00 am
Evening Worship..... 6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

REV. ROBERT BATTON
Corner of E Ave. & Sixth, Carrizozo, NM
1-258-4144
Holy Eucharist..... 9:30 am Sunday

United Methodist Churches

WARREN K. SCHOENECKER, pastor
Trinity - Carrizozo
1000 D. Ave., 648-2893 / 257-5614
Sunday School (All Ages)..... 10:00 am
Worship Service..... 11:10 am
Choir Practice (Wednesday)..... 6:30 pm
United Methodist Men Breakfast
2nd Sunday..... 8:30 am
United Methodist Women: Every
3rd Wednesday..... 2:00 pm
Fellowship Dinner Last Sunday of Month
..... 12:30 pm

CAPITAN

Adult Sunday School..... 8:30 am
Worship Service..... 9:15 am
Children's Sunday School..... 9:30 am
Fellowship Time..... 10:15 am
Adult Sunday School..... 11:00 am
Choir Practice (Tuesday)..... 7:00 pm
Fellowship Dinner Every Third Sunday
Handmaidens (Ecumenical Women's Group)
1st and 3rd Tuesday..... 9:30 a.m.

Evangelistic Assembly

REV. DR. C.L. FULTON, Pastor
REV. DR. WILLIE MAE FULTON, Missions Dir.
ELDER JIM MILLER
711 E. Ave., Carrizozo, NM; 648-2339
Sunday..... 2:30 pm
Bible Study..... 9:00 am

Mountain Ministry Parish, Sierra Blanca Presbytery

DON & MARJORIE DANIELS, co-pastors
648-2650

Nogal Presbyterian Church:
Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.
Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

Ancho Community Presbyterian Church:
Worship..... 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.

Corona Presbyterian Church:
Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.
Worship..... 11:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study & Youth
Fellowship..... Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

Christ Community Fellowship

ED VINSON, pastor
514 Smokey Bear Blvd./Capitan
Inter-denominational
Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.

Capitan Church of Christ

LESLIE EARWOOD, minister
5th & Lincoln / 338-4627
Sunday Bible Study..... 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service..... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.

Spirit of Life Apostolic Pentecostal Tabernacle

ALLAN M. MILLER, pastor
209 Lincoln Ave, Capitan, NM
354-2025
Tuesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm
Sunday School..... 10:00 am
Sunday Evening..... 6:00 pm

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LEGALS

PUBLIC AUCTION

Sealed bids will be received by the Town of Carrizozo at the office of the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 247, 100 4th Street, Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301 until 4:30 P.M., Monday, January 8, 1996, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read. Any bids received after the above date and time will be retained unopened.

- * Bid No. 1995-01: 1979 Ford LTD
* Bid No. 1995-02: 1982 Ford Fairmont
* Bid No. 1995-03: 1983 Ford C850 Fire Truck
* Bid No. 1995-04: 1979 GMC TC10903
* Bid No. 1995-05: 1981 Dodge, D15
* Bid No. 1995-06: 1988 International
* Bid No. 1995-07: 1965 Gallion, 503 Auto Patrol, SHD 01603 With Small Blade
* Bid No. 1995-08: 1955 GMC Water Truck

ALL EQUIPMENT WILL BE AUCTIONED AS IS: Equipment can be inspected at the Town of Carrizozo yard, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CAROL SCHLARB, Town Clerk, CMC/AAE Town of Carrizozo

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 21 and 28, 1995.

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COUNTY OF CHAVES STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO vs. L.T. LEWIS, et al., and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al. Defendants.

Plaintiffs, vs. Defendants.

Nos. 20294 and 22800 Consolidated. Carlsbad Basin Section Carlsbad Irrigation District Section SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

TO: ALL DEFENDANTS IN THE PECOS RIVER STREAM RIGHT ADJUDICATION AND TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING WATER RIGHTS IN THE

PECOS RIVER STREAM SYSTEM, INCLUDING ITS TRIBUTARIES AND UNDERGROUND BASINS, WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

You are hereby notified that the adjudication or determination of the water rights for the Carlsbad Project has been initiated by Stipulated Offer of Judgment entered into by the United States ("US"), Carlsbad Irrigation District ("CID"), and State of New Mexico. The purpose of this Supplemental Notice is to inform all defendants in the Pecos River stream system water right adjudication and all water rights claimants in the Pecos River stream system of their right to contest all or any part of the water rights claimed for the Project and the manner in which they may preserve that right.

The Stipulated Offer of Judgment sets forth the rights of the US and CID to divert, impound and store public surface waters of the Pecos River stream system. The Offer describes the claimed purposes (irrigation, domestic and livestock uses), sources (Pecos River mainstem and Black River), points of diversion (Avalon Dam and junction of CID Black River Canal with Black River), place of use (25,055 acres within the Project boundaries), annual diversion amounts (the lesser of 125,200 acre feet or quantity of water necessary to supply an annual depletion of 55,572 acre feet) and priorities (Pecos River - July, 1887 for part and July, 1888 for part; Black River - 1889). The Offer also describes the claimed storage reservoirs for the Project, i.e. Lake Avalon, Brantley Lake, Lake Sumner and Santa Rosa Lake, listing their purposes, source, locations, amount of water and priorities.

Copies of the Stipulated Offer of Judgment containing in full the elements of the claimed water rights for the Carlsbad Project and a form which may be utilized for filing a notice of objection to the Offer may be obtained from the New Mexico State Engineer Offices in Roswell (505) 622-6467 and Santa Fe, New Mexico (505) 827-6150. If you do not wish to contest any part of the water rights claimed for the Project, you do not have to take any action. If you wish to contest all or any part of the water rights claimed for the Project, you must file your objections with the Fifth Judicial District Court

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Village of Capitan of Lincoln County New Mexico that: A.) A regular municipal election for the election of municipal officers shall be held on March 5, 1996. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. B.) At the regular municipal election, persons shall be elected to fill the following elective offices: 1.) One Trustee for a four year term. One Trustee for a two year term. C.) Precinct three (3) is for the regular municipal election. D.) The following location is designated as polling place to conduct the regular municipal election: 1.) Voters in Precinct three (3) shall vote at Lincoln County Fair Building, 101 West Fifth Street. E.) Voters in the absent voter precinct will vote at the

Clerk no later than January 31, 1996 at the following address: District Court Clerk, Fifth Judicial District Court, P.O. Box 1776, Roswell, NM 88201. Any defendant in the Pecos River stream system adjudication or claimant to water rights in the Pecos River stream system who does not file an objection shall be forever barred from making any subsequent objections to the water rights claimed for the Project.

Notice of this action was previously provided in March, 1995. ANY PERSON WHO HAS ALREADY FILED AN OBJECTION TO THE PROJECT OFFER MAY NOT FILE AN ADDITIONAL OBJECTION.

The name of the plaintiff State of New Mexico's attorney is Rebecca Dempsey, Special Assistant Attorney General, State Engineer Office whose address and phone number are P.O. Box 25102, Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102, (505) 827-6150. Witness my hand and seal of the Fifth Judicial District Court, County of Chaves, State of New Mexico.

Bea J. Clem, District Court Clerk. By/Trudy Hale Chief Deputy Clerk

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 21 and 28, 1995 and January 4 and 11, 1996.

ELECTION RESOLUTION VILLAGE OF CAPITAN Resolution No. 95-18

Sea resuelto por el cuerpo gobernante del Pueblo de Capitan que: A.) Una eleccion municipal regular para la eleccion de oficiales municipales se llevara a cabo el 5 de marzo de 1996. Lugares de votacion estaran abiertos al publico entre las horas de las 7:00 a.m. y las 7:00 p.m. B.) En la eleccion municipal regular, individuos seran elegidos para ocupar los siguientes cargos electivos: 1.) Un Fiduclario por un termino de cuatro anos. Un Fiduclario por un termino de cuatro anos. 2.) Un Fiduclario por un termino de dos anos. C.) El precincto tres (3) para la eleccion municipal regular. D.) El siguientes localidad son como locales para votar para llevar a cabo la eleccion municipal regular: 1.) Los votantes en el Precincto tres (3) votaran en Lincoln County Fair Building, 101 West Fifth Street, en Capitan, New Mexico. E.) Votantes en el precincto de votantes absentistas votaran en la oficina de la escribana municipal. F.) Las personas que deseen registrarse para votar en la eleccion municipal regular,

office of the Village Clerk, 114 Lincoln Avenue, Capitan, New Mexico. F.) Persons desiring to register to vote at the regular municipal election, must register with the County Clerk of Lincoln County not later than Tuesday, February 6, 1996 at 5:00 p.m., the date on which the County Clerk will close registration books. G.) All Declarations of Candidacy shall be filed with the Municipal Clerk on Tuesday, January 9, 1996 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. H.) The casting of votes by qualified municipal electors shall be recorded on voting machines, except for absentee voting which shall be by paper ballot. At least one voting machine shall be used at the polling place for the designated precinct. Adopted and approved this 20th day of November, 1995. NORMAN RENFRO Mayor

Attest: DEBORAH CUMMINS, Clerk/Treasurer CMC

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 28, 1995 and January 4, 1996.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governing Body of the Town of Carrizozo will hold their Regular Scheduled Meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 1996 at 6:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room, Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301.

AGENDA WILL BE POSTED in accordance with Resolution 94-14, Twenty-Four hours prior to meeting date and made available to the public. CAROL SCHLARB, Town Clerk, CMC/AAE Town of Carrizozo

Published in the Lincoln County News on January 4, 1996.

NOTICE OF MEETING Lincoln County Medical Center's Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, January 18, 1996, at 6:00 p.m., in the Hospital Conference Room.

The Agenda will be available at the Administrator's Office on Monday, January 15, 1996.

Published in the Lincoln County News on January 4 and 11, 1996.

REQUEST FOR BIDS The Village of Capitan is accepting sealed bids for the following piece of equipment, 1991 Dodge Ram 4x4 Standard Transmission V-8 Engine Approximately 110,000 miles White Color New Tires Minimum bid \$6,000.00.

Send bid proposals to Clerk-Treasurer Deborah Cummins at the Village of Capitan, P.O. Box 246, Capitan, NM 88316. Please mark envelope with "Ram Bid". For vehicle inspection, please call and make an appointment at 505-354-2247. The Village has the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids will be accepted until January 12, 1996 until 4:00 p.m. Deborah Cummins Clerk-Treasurer, CMC Village of Capitan

Published in the Lincoln County News on January 4 and 11, 1996.

Henen que registrarse con la Escribana del condado del Lincoln condado a mas tardar el martes, 6 de febrero de 1996 a las 5:00 p.m. la fecha en que la Escribana del Condado cerrara los libros de registro. G.) Se archivara todas las Declaraciones de Candidatura con la Escribana Municipal el martes, 9 de enero de 1996 entre las horas de las 8:00 a.m. y las 5:00 p.m. H.) Se hara un record de los votos de los electores municipales calificados en maquinas para votar excepto a los que votan por balota absente. Por los menos, una maquina para votar se usara en el lugar de votacion para los precincto designada. Adoptada y Aprobada este dia 20th de Noviembre de 1995. NORMAN RENFRO Alcalde

Da Fe: DEBORAH CUMMINS, Escribana Municipal

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Published in the Lincoln County News on January 4 and 11, 1996.



GLORIA LORRAINE WATROUS

Graveside services for Gloria Lorraine Watrous, 56, of Ruidoso was December 29, at Restlawn Cemetery in El Paso. Officiating was Monsignor Vonder Harr of El Paso.

Mrs. Watrous died December 23, at her home in Ruidoso. She was born June 16, 1939 at Newark, NJ. She married George Watrous on June 3, 1961 in El Paso.

She is survived by her husband George of Ruidoso; son William Watrous; daughter Grace Nicholson and her husband Tommy of El Paso; her mother Gragg DeFord of Ruidoso; brother Leland DeFord of Ruidoso, and a grandson.

Arrangements were under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

MICHAEL WAYNE PIERCE

Graveside services for Michael Wayne Pierce, 41, of Capitan were held Thursday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cemetery in Carrizozo. Officiating was the Rev. Dave Berga.

Mr. Pierce died December 26, at his home in Capitan. He was born March 1, 1954 in Maryland and had lived in Capitan one year - moving from Oregon. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Capitan and was a roofer.

He married Karen Denise Kaw on August 3, 1991 in Albuquerque.

He is survived by his wife Karen of Capitan; daughter Amber Star Pierce of Capitan; son Andrew Nathan Pierce of Carrizozo; two stepdaughters Julie and Jaime Reigler both of Capitan; his mother Dorothy Jean Duran of Lewiston, CA; two brothers Andrew Allen Pierce of San Ramon, CA and Bruce Nathan Pierce of Puyallup, WASH; and sister Tamara Jean Pierce of San Ramon, CA.

Arrangements were under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

SALLY REED BLACK

A memorial service for Sally Reed Black, 71, of Bellaire, TX was held December 27 at the Bellaire Presbyterian Church. Ms. Black died December 22 at her home.

Ms. Black was a former resident of Ruidoso, Lincoln, and had lived most of her life in El Paso. She was born January 4, 1924 in Lella Lake, TX. She was preceded in death by her husband Dr. Wallace Black.

She is survived by daughter Elizabeth Black Johnson of Bellaire; son Dr. Richard Black of El Paso, and three grandchildren.

CLARENCE JOSEPH HICKS

Funeral services for Clarence Joseph Hicks, 83, of Ruidoso were Dec. 23 at Gateways Church of Christ. Graveside services were at Restlawn Cemetery in El Paso.

Mr. Hicks died Dec. 18 at his home. He was born April 13, 1912 at Dalton City, IL. He married Kathryn Shepard June 13, 1936 and she preceded him in death on May 5, 1995.

Survivors include son Joe Hicks of El Paso, daughter Darla Harles of Ruidoso, six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and two sisters.

Arrangements were under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

SNMEDD Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting January 12

The Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD) board of directors quarterly meeting will be held in Roswell Friday, Jan. 12 at 10 a.m.

Special guest speaker will be Bob Forrest, chairman of the governor's citizen highway assessment task force.

Also on the agenda is election of officers and a dues assessment committee report. For more information call 505-624-6131.

Sheriff's Report

(Continued from Page 7)

LCMC. 5:21 p.m. a 911 caller requested an ambulance at Sierra Blanca Regional Airport for a subject who fell and hit his head when he was getting out of his airplane. RALS responded.

8:20 p.m. a caller reported an accident with injuries and requested an ambulance one mile south of Corona on Highway 54. State police requested the ambulance. Corona ambulance requested help from Carrizozo ambulance crew. The patient was transported

to Gerald Champion Memorial Hospital in Alamogordo.

9:06 p.m. Corona ambulance reported an accident at mile marker 163 on Highway 54. A vehicle was left on the roadside and no subjects were around. State police were notified and later advised the vehicle was located in Corona.

9:26 p.m. a caller reported a domestic incident at a residence in Capitan. A subject had consumed bleach. Capitan police and ambulance responded.

9:58 p.m. Ruidoso police reported a domestic incident at a residence on Carrizo Canyon. The responding officer advised all was okay, it was a verbal argument due to a vehicle stuck in the snow.

January 2: 8:59 a.m. a deputy requested a wrecker for an accident with no injuries on Highway 70.

10:03 a.m. a 911 caller reported a fire in Carrizozo. Carrizozo fire department responded and advised the fire was a control burn at Bud Payne's field.

11:41 a.m. a caller reported the theft of a TV from a motel room, and an officer was requested. Carrizozo police responded.

12:15 p.m. Carrizozo police advised of a two vehicle accident without injuries at 14th Street by the tracks.

12:43 p.m. a caller reported an accident without injuries and requested a wrecker on the Ski Run Road. State police were notified.

Letters to

(Continued from Page 1)

Senator warned, "If the President can intervene in Korea without congressional approval, he can go to war in Malaysia, Indonesia, or Iran, or South America."

Vietnam came next. Congress never declared war. But, as it was in Korea, so it was in Vietnam. We lost more than 50,000 of our finest in a war that our troops were forbidden to win. The cost was in the billions.

Then came Iraq. President George Bush was authorized to send the troops in, not by Congress, but by the United Nations. President Bush never mentioned the Constitution, the same Constitution that he had sworn to "preserve, protect, and defend."

Now we face Bosnia. Bosnia represents the fourth time that American presidents have sent out forces to foreign shores to fight a war that we are told is not a war, but a peacekeeping force.

The late Senator Taft made this observation regarding the Korean War: "If the incident (the Korean policing action) is allowed to go by without protest, at least from this body (the Senate), we would have finally terminated for all time the right of Congress to declare war, which is granted to Congress alone by the Constitution of the United States."

RAYMOND C. WILSON San Juan Bautista, CA

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* * 1995 In Review * *

(Continued from Page 3)

among the commissioners on whether to use this equipment was so great the equipment became an issue during several county commission meetings. At the end of 1995, the equipment remains sitting in the county yard in Capitán.

Growth in the county also led to the revised subdivision regulations. Because the county lacks a valid zoning code (one was passed in 1988 but is invalid because it lacks zoning maps), the subdivision ordinance has become an important tool in controlling development.

Commissioners held several public hearings on proposed changes, taking comment from many developers and real estate people. During one of the public hearings commissioners made a commitment to not pursue zoning, which continues to receive unfavorable response from citizens.

Growth also brings added revenue in the form of taxes and a higher valuation. Reassessment of all property in the county in 1995 resulted in the property worth exceeding the \$300 million mark. Because of this the county becomes eligible to be classified as a Class B Above county, if the valuation is maintained for at least one year. With the new classification, the county can allow its elected officials an income raise.

But during the last county commission meeting in 1995, when the elected county treasurer, county clerk and county assessor suggested the county commissioners provide a raise for employees, the commissioners delayed any discussion. One commissioner wanted to give a tax break, and asked why several funds, earmarked for specific projects, couldn't be used to provide that break.

To clarify what funds the county has, where and how they are invested Lincoln County Commission chairman Monroy Montes called a meeting of the Board of Finance on January 8.

1995 is over, but many of its activities continue on to 1996.

The conflict between the Lincoln County Sheriff and the county commission increased in 1995. At budget time in May, commissioners refused to provide matching funds for a grant for the county drug task force.

Already poor communications between the commission and the sheriff further deteriorated when the Sheriff's Deputies Association won a suit and got increased retirement benefits as a settlement.

Unhappy with the continuing suits against the sheriff's department and finally a notice of a possible suit with

allegations of wrongdoing caused the commission to ask the attorney general's office to look into the sheriff's department activities. AG investigators found some suspect activity, especially by a specific deputy, that needed further investigation and they recommended a grand jury be called. District Judge Robert Doughty III was assigned to preside over the closed-to-public grand jury, which he set for January 19 in the courthouse in Carrizozo.

Tired of the controversy and politics, sheriff James McSwane announced to THE NEWS he would not seek reelection in 1996, although he is eligible to do so.

And 1995 ends with the county commission having to seek another new manager. Manager Carolin Cooney resigned in December, after 18 months as the county's top paid employee.

Another thing that affected Lincoln County happened miles away in Washington D.C. The impasse over the federal budget has caused the closure of the county's forest service offices. And has citizens more convinced that local control is really the answer.

So 1996 opens with many issues unresolved. Fort Stanton is still closed. The forest services offices are still closed. The PLUAC still has no definitive plans. The \$5,000 for Nye County Nevada is still on hold.

1996 will be a crucial election year, beginning with municipal elections in March, to the June primary to determine U.S. Congressional race candidates and candidates for the Lincoln County Assessor, Sheriff and Probate Judge. It will also determine candidates for all offices in the New Mexico State Legislature, except the governor, who still has two years left on his term. The November general election will determine the next two years in New Mexico, and the nation.

Residents are asked to register to vote in 1996, and chose a party. According to Lincoln County Clerk Martha Proctor of the total 8,983 people registered to vote in Lincoln, 856 have registered as Declined To State or 9.5 percent of the voters. There are 4,525 registered Republicans, 3,426 registered Democrats, nine registered Green Party, and 167 registered Minor Party. Those 9.5 percent cannot vote in the primary election in June, which determines who will be on the ballot for their party in November.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Property which was valued in 1995 in this county by the county assessor is not required to be reported or rendered for 1996 or subsequent years, EXCEPT FOR:

- 1.) mobile homes
- 2.) livestock, and
- 3.) land used for agricultural purposes

If, for any reason, your property was not valued last year and it is subject to valuation this year, you are required by law to report it to the county assessor on forms provided either by mail or at the assessor's office.

All nongovernmental entities (property owners) which claim to be exempt from the property tax must report their property and claim their exemption for 1996 if the exemption was not claimed in 1995.

Reports for mobile homes, livestock, land use for agricultural purposes, property not valued last year and claims for exemptions by nongovernmental entities must be completed and mailed or delivered to the county assessor not later than the last day of February.

If you made improvements to your real property and:

- 1.) the improvements cost more than \$1,000 and
- 2.) a building permit for the improvements was not issued;

you must report the nature of the improvements and their cost to the assessor not later than the last day of February. These reports must be on forms provided by that assessor.

If you believe your property decreased in value during the preceding year, you must report, on forms provided by the assessor, a signed statement which:

- 1.) describes the property affected,
- 2.) states the cause and nature of decrease in value, and
- 3.) states the amount you contend the value has decreased.

This statement must be filed with the county assessor no later than the last day of February.

If the veterans exemption was claimed and allowed in 1995 no new claim for that exemption is required to be filed. However, if that exemption was not claimed and allowed in 1995 and it is now claimed, claim must be made by the last day of February by filing with the assessor the form provided by the assessor.

Free Screening For Lead Poisoning . . .

(Cont. from P. 1)

the free test. The quick and simple procedure can give parents peace of mind that the child is free from the risk of brain damage and other health problems that can be caused by lead poisoning.

The free screening for lead poisoning is sponsored by Carrizozo School and the New Mexico Department of Health. For further information call 648-2346.

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provided by the assessor. If the head-of-family exemption was claimed and allowed in 1995 no new claim for that exemption is required to be filed. However, if that exemption was not claimed and allowed in 1995 and it is now claimed, claim must be made by the last day of February by filing with the assessor the form provided by the assessor.

Beginning in the 1982 tax year, taxpayers are responsible for declaring their property classification to the assessor, as residential or nonresidential. When the declaration is accepted by the assessor, it shall remain as such and need not be made in subsequent years unless the classification changes. If a taxpayer has not declared their property to be residential in 1995 and desires that classification for 1996 they must complete a declaration of residential classification and return the signed declaration to the county assessor's office by the last day of February, 1996.

Certain mineral property and personal property of contractors operating in more than one county are required to be reported to the Taxation and Revenue Department,

Property Tax Division of the State of New Mexico in Santa Fe. Information about property to be reported to the Taxation and Revenue Department, Property Tax Division can be obtained from the county assessor or the Taxation and Revenue Department, Property Tax Division, Central Assessment Bureau, P.O. Box 830, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87509; Phone: (505) 827-0893.

THIS NOTICE is only a brief statement of the provisions of Section 7-38-8, 7-38-8.1, 7-38-13, 7-38-17 and 7-38-17.1 NMSA 1978 of the Property Tax Code. It is not intended to reflect the full contents of these statutory provisions. If you wish to review the full contents of these provisions, they can be examined at the office of the county assessor.

PATSY A. SERNA
Lincoln County Assessor
300 Central
P.O. Box 38
Carrizozo, NM 88301
Phone: 505-648-2306

Published in the Lincoln County News on January 4, 11, and 18, 1996.

Lincoln County Board . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

discharge of its duties, and the chairman shall convene such board whenever necessary thereof exists or when requested by two of its members or at any time when the county treasurer shall advise the chairman that he has in his custody public money in excess of the aggregate amount which depositories qualified by law are entitled to hold.

The Lincoln County Board of Finance last met in March 1995. At that time, the board approved a resolution which set the county investment policy for the "prudent investment management of the county's funds, and to maximize the efficiency of the county's cash management system." The county's policy is to be fully invested (100 percent of available cash) at all times. "The county shall use a projected cash budget as a tool for maximizing investments," the policy states.

Under state law, the county treasurer is charged with carrying out the county investment policy. "The county treasurer shall have supervision of the deposit and safekeeping of the public money of his county."

An interpretation of the state law by the state attorney general explains that the act designates the board of county commissioners as the board of finance. The actual custody of the public money is given to the county treasurer, who acts in a purely ministerial capacity. The treasurer can only deal with county funds in the manner prescribed by the board of finance, and acts by and with the advice and consent of the board of finance.

State laws also spells out how treasurers can deposit money in accounts, and it gives the treasurer power to invest money not immediately necessary for the public uses of the county and which is not invested or deposited in financial institutions. The law allows the treasurer to invest the funds in bonds or negotiable securities of the U.S., state, county, municipality or school district which has the valuation of at least \$1 million for the preceding year; or securities that are issued by the U.S. government.

The statutes also provide instruction on the surety for deposits. No public money in

the custody of the treasurer of any county shall be deposited in any bank or savings and loan association until the institution is qualified to receive deposits of public money by depositing collateral security or by giving bond.

County treasurers get some help from a handbook prepared and published by the Cooperative Extension Service of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at New Mexico State University. In Chapter Five of the handbook, treasurers are told that it is important for the level of liquidity needed for county operations be accurately calculated when determining investments of county money. Cash flow needs will determine the amount, timing and kind of investments. "In actuality, this is usually done in conjunction with the Board of Finance, County Manager and the Finance Department," the book reads.

Montes told THE NEWS he has no problem with the county's current investment policy. Mostly, he called the Board of Finance meeting so the county commission can get a clear picture of how much money Lincoln County has, and how much of that is a true surplus that can be applied to salary increases or other uses.

The board of county commissioners will then meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, January 9 in their chambers in the courthouse in Carrizozo.

The board of finance meeting is open to the public.

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FORT STANTON

FACTS & FICTION

by BETTY LOU JOINER

Happy 1996!!! The weather finally arrived in a big way! Lots of us were wondering if the moisture would get here and this second day of the year is a pretty white one with almost ten to twelve inches of snow on the ground.

Our holidays were very different but unusually nice. Hope everyone was the same. We enjoyed having Chris and Peggy Lamb of Big Spring, TX come spend a couple of days with us. Pat and Chris enjoyed discussing horses, we played lots of music and cards. Kersti of course came by at different times and enjoyed her great grandma Joiner on Christmas Eve. Audrey, Eddie, and Della took Louise to the First Christian Church Services in Ruidoso. Understand that the soloist singing had a little help from Kersti. She was a little out of tune but no one seemed to mind too much. They hurried home to the ranch to see if Santa could find their house and as usual he outdid himself in a big way. A jumping horse and a car plus ten million items were unloaded at the Bogle headquarters. On Christmas day we all enjoyed a feast cooked by Audrey. Todd Proctor joined us and we were all stuffed in a little while.

Gloria Aldaz stopped in one day last week and said she had all three of her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids at her house. Said they had such a fun time and then enjoyed the day or two after Christmas going to Las Cruces with Mandi, Anita and Ernie Trujillo. They did a

little after Christmas shopping ate lunch and just enjoyed each others company.

Lu and Gene Parker were in a little town close to Boise, Idaho. David and his wife and two little girls have just recently moved there. Robert and John Parker also went and they reported a good time. Only a few little problems with the weather and their flights.

Tracey Brannon, from Albuquerque came in last week. He is the one who put in a proposal for Fort Stanton. I visited with him for a while and understand he has until the 22nd of January to come up with backing or whatever the problem was. He was out leaving petitions for people to sign if they wanted him to bring in veterans, and kids at risk. Am not real sure all the things he plans to do. He said he would be back in a few days to pick up the petitions.

Sam Townley said that Mary visited him and her mother Jo over the holidays. She lives in California and was glad to be home for some of the holidays. Sam had the dump truck decorated with a pretty wreath. Besides that and a few decorations here at the post office and in the front office, it really didn't seem too much like Christmas. I sure missed Mr. Booky and his little elves putting up the wooden angels, Santa Clauses, etc.

Willie Hobbs worked in Ruidoso Downs one day last week. The help was sick and lots of mail with the holidays,

made Shirlene appreciate her offering. Willie and Wayne are the proud owners of a new green pickup. It is a small one, but Willie is really proud of her new transportation. She hopes to be working lots now that she has some good wheels.

Della and Dave Bonnell enjoyed Christmas day with their little ones in Albuquerque. They stopped by and wished us Merry Christmas on their way up. Patsy Racher spent the holidays in Arizona with her son and his wife.

Della Joiner our youngest, celebrated her 25th birthday at our house on the 17th. Cannot believe that she is that age. She and a friend went to Artesia and spent a couple of days there. Alto is covered with the white snow and I'm sure the golfers will be skiing instead of golfing for a week or so.

With Phil and Sherry taking some leave from the Fort, it has been just four or five of us here for the past two weeks. They will be back shortly and we will all be glad to have a little more activity going on.

Carla Briggs from Camp Sierra Blanca and her daughter Elena traveled to Oklahoma to visit her best friend. She reported a great time and sure hated to come back to work.

Mary and Nick Skogland are very proud of Gina. She recently graduated from New Mexico State. She was home for the holidays and then went

back to Washington, DC where she is employed by one of our senators or congressmen. Gina has really accomplished a lot in her years and we are all proud of her along with Mary and Nick.

Jo and Art Blazer had open house at their new home going towards Carrizozo. The big blue and white house that you see from the highway is beautiful inside too. They have a very large collection of Indian dolls, etc. She gave us a grand tour and I loved the library and the "junk" room that is above the garage. It was very interesting and lots of friends and family members enjoyed all kinds of goodies Jo had fixed.

Fletcher and Emogene wanted us to come by their home and see her widow she painted. After a couple of times we finally stopped by and what a cute little sight it was. She had painted Mr. and Mrs. Claus kissing and Rudolph was standing near by. How we all miss these scenes that Emogene used to paint at their home on the hill. They both said they also had all three of their kids home and had lots of good times. Pam, Zana, Buddy and families joined the two for several days.

Just can't get going for 1996. Hope everyone has the best year ever, and may God Bless each and everyone of you!!!!

Soccer Tryouts

The New Mexico State Soccer Association is holding its second Men's and Women's State Select Team tryout Sunday, January 21 at Gallegos Park in Canutillo, TX. For further information, call NMSSA at 505-296-6118 or 915-775-1943.

Tuesday, Jan. 9th Is

(Continued from Page 1)

All candidates must have affidavits of voter registration which show a actual physical addresses as a street address or rural route number, not a post office box.

The reason for the information is to verify that the candidate is a current resident of the municipality for which the candidate is seeking an elected office.

Positions open in the county's five municipalities are listed below:

CAPITAN

Three positions are open on the Board of Trustees. Two positions have four-year terms and one position is a two year term. The four-year positions are currently held by L.C. Cozzens and Gordon Ross. The two-year position was vacated by Bryon Carpenter who resigned in October. Candidates for the positions must file with village Clerk Deborah Cummins at village hall on Lincoln Ave.

CARRIZOZO

Two positions on the Board of Trustees and the municipal judge position are open. The trustee positions are for four years and are currently held by Harold Garcia and Eileen Lovelace. The judge position is for two years for this election only. The judge position, which normally is a four year term, will be subject to vote this year because the current judge Bill Meeks was appointed by the mayor to fill the vacancy created when Carrizozo Municipal Judge S. M. "Sally" Ortiz died soon after his election in 1994. Candidates must file with Clerk Carol Schlarb at City Hall on 4th Avenue.

CORONA

Two positions on Village Council are open. The positions are four-year terms and are currently held by A. J.

Gibbs and Turner Wilson. All candidates must file with village Clerk Cathy Muniz at village hall on Highway 54.

RUIDOSO

Three positions on the Village Council are open. The positions have four-year terms and are currently held by J.D. James, Robert Donaldson and Frank Cummins. All candidates must file with Clerk Tammie Maddox at Ruidoso Village Administration Center on Cree Meadows Drive.

RUIDOSO DOWNS

Ruidoso Downs voters will select two trustees, a mayor and municipal judge. The two positions on the Board of Trustees have four year terms and are currently held by Charlotte Craig and Judy Miller. Currently Harold Mansell holds the municipal judge office and Joe Hayhurst is mayor. Candidates file with village Clerk Leann Weibrecht at village hall on Downs Drive.

Anyone wishing to register to vote in the municipal elections must do so by 5 p.m. Tuesday, February 6. The county clerk will close the voter registration books for the municipal elections on that day.

Voter registration forms are available at all municipal halls, the County Clerk's office in Carrizozo, the county sub-office in Ruidoso, local banks and financial institutions.

For more specific election, candidacy or voter information call your respective municipal hall.



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CHEESE LOAF.....16-OZ. **\$2.42**

- ALBUQUERQUE CORN TORTILLAS.....1-DOZEN **35¢**
- BOUNTY PAPER TOWELS.....ROLL **89¢**
- ASSORTED ALPO DOG FOOD.....13.2-OZ. **2/1**
- SHURFINE, MAC and CHEESE DINNER.....7.25-OZ. **4/1**
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- ASSORTED SHURFINE BBQ SAUCE.....18-OZ. **99¢**
- WESSON OIL.....48-OZ. **\$2.29**
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- SHURSAVING SUGAR.....4-LB. **\$1.29**
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