

# C'zozo Mayor Says It Ain't So!!

## Blames NEWS "Editor/Editorials" for Complaint Letter

by Jeff Hammond

Tuesday night at the Town of Carrizozo Board of Trustee meeting was interesting to say the least. Near the end of the session while reading letters to the mayor, the mayor accused the editor of *THE NEWS* Ruth Hammond of filing a complaint with the Attorney General's office.

Hammond asked the mayor to show her where it showed her name in the letter that she had filed the complaint.

The mayor referred to the

bottom of page two of the letter where it shows where copies are to be sent, or cc, which means copies of the letter were to be sent to the listed individuals or organizations. Hammond's name was there, with no title.

The mayor replied that Assistant Attorney General Johnson told him that she along with several other people complained about his shenanigans.

Hammond asked the mayor to read the letter and show her where it said she

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(Hammond) had made a complaint.

The mayor started reading the letter. He told the assembled people he had talked to Mr. Johnson, that Mr. Johnson had done a walk thru the Town Hall and that Mr. Johnson told him he found nothing out of line.

The mayor continued on to read another portion of the letter concerning the dismissal of Ben Bradley from

receive copies of the letter.

The mayor retorted he knew what cc meant.

Hammond went on to show the mayor and town trustees the envelope she had received containing the letter from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (FOG) with the address; Ruth Hammond, Editor, Lincoln County News. She tried several times to get the mayor to understand that she received a copy due to her being the Editor of the Lincoln County News, and

that the fact the town's actions were being alleged illegal was news. Hammond asked the mayor, "Please do not say this letter came from me."

At that time the mayor stated that the whole problem started with her editorials. "Her editorials led to this. And from the other letter that was sent from our attorney to the Attorney General clarifying the wrong


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# LINCOLN County News

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VOLUME # 95, NUMBER 30

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2000

CARRIZOZO, NM 88301

## Fifteen Apply for LCSWA Manager

by Doris Cherry

Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority (LCSWA) board received 15 applications for the manager's position that carries a salary of \$40,000 a year.

During the LCSWA meeting Tuesday, July 25, board vice chair Debra Ingle read off the names of the applicants. They are Jeffrey Davis of Ruidoso, Larry Resnick of Ruidoso, Jason Anderson of Ruidoso Downs, Ben Bradley of Carrizozo, Leona Neight of Floranceville, TX, Russell Harrison of San Patricio, Leonard Mahan of Ruidoso Downs, Rick Simpson of Glencoe, Carol Virden of Carrizozo, Rene Tuttle of Ruidoso, Larry Voss of Ruidoso, Les Olson of Organ, Karen Petty of Ruidoso, Jack Davis of Alto and Timothy Burd of Carrizozo. Ingle appointed a committee of herself, Ruidoso Downs representative Jake Harris, Corona representative mayor Ernest Lueras, and the Carrizozo representative mayor to take home copies of the applications, review and score them according to the specifications for the position. A manager will be selected at the next meeting.

LCSWA chair and county commissioner Rick Simpson excused himself from serving on a selection committee because he had submitted an application. Also, applicant Carol Virden is serving as interim assistant manager for LCSWA.

The LCSWA board also approved a resolution adopting the final 2000-01 budget, with changes recommended by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). In a letter from DFA to LCSWA, it stated the final approval of the LCSWA bud-

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**NEW GAME WARDEN.** New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has a new conservation officer for this district. Anthony "Tony" Manfredi was recently stationed in Ruidoso to help patrol the vast Lincoln County district, including Carrizozo Lake and Bonito Lake area. Manfredi said he will be regularly checking for fishing licenses at Carrizozo Lake as part of the Game and Fish Department catfish program.

## Voters Asked To Okay Three Mills For Hospital And Clinics

by Doris Cherry

On Tuesday, November 6, along with selecting the next U.S. President, U.S. Senator and Congressman, Lincoln County voters will be asked to authorize the county to impose three mills of property tax a year for seven years for the maintenance of Lincoln County's hospital and maintenance and operation of clinics in Carrizozo, Corona and Hondo.

Lincoln County Commissioners approved the hospital mill levy resolution and proclamation during their regular meeting July 20 in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo. The commission chambers were filled with members of the Lincoln County Medical Center Auxiliary, the "Pink People" and

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## CCNG Hires Angelo Vega For Specially Created Job

Will Carrizozo Have A Part Time Police Chief?

### Tax Payers Need To Know!!

by Jeff Hammond

During the regular meeting of the Capitan-Carrizozo Natural Gas (CCNG) on July 19, the CCNG Board of Directors appointed Carrizozo Police Chief A. Vega to a position that was specially created recently. CCNG board chair Leroy Montes said he was the person responsible for requesting the position of Part-Time Field Director be created due to his (Montes) being unable to handle the workload. Montes stated he lost all of his vacation time taking care of gas company business and didn't feel he should give his money and time to keep the gas company going.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The position advertised in the July 6, 2000 issue of *The NEWS* was for a Part-time Administrator, not for a Part-time Field Director. The ad was requested by CCNG to be in the July 6, 2000 issue of *The NEWS* and applications were to be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 7, 2000.

Montes went on that he "was responsible, not the rest of the board, my idea to hire somebody for eight hours a week for the next six months, and that way I will have time to devote to a lot of the administrative parts of the company which I have to do both, and which Mr. Vega had to do both last year." (Vega recently resigned from the CCNG board of directors where he served as chair of the board.)

Montes continued, saying "we are not in bad shape, we are in good shape, we have never in the 10 years I have been here raised the rates, if I recall the first year or two we had a 10 percent deduct on our rates...we have always maintained our own."

At that time there were some questions from the audience by Lonnie Lipp-

man. "This was advertised in the newspaper?"

Reply by Montes, "Yes."

Lippman, "How many individuals did you interview?"

Montes reply, "Three."

Lippman, "How many applications did you get?"

Montes reply, "Five."

Montes went on to inform the audience, "on the next item I will bring the name up and the board will either approve it or reject it. If they reject him, next meeting I will bring another name up and they either approve or reject."

At that time Jerry Carroll, spectator, asked a question of the boards legal representative attorney Bob Beauvais, "Who exactly does this board answer to?"

The attorney replied, "The company (CCNG) is a joint powers entity, set up pursu-

ant to the Joint Powers Act meaning that it is a separate entity of either one of the two municipalities who are the 50/50 joint owners of the organization. There is also joining contributing resolutions from the Village of Capitan and the Town of Carrizozo which establish the overall mission of the company. Each town appoints three members to the governing body so that each town has equal representation and no town has an advantage over the other, and by working together to get a consensus on each matter." Beauvais also pointed out that currently all of the members of the (CCNG) board are "elected trustees from the owner communities."

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## Carrizozo To Lose Nine Jobs With Postal Move

by Doris Cherry

Carrizozo will lose nine jobs when the U.S. Postal Service moves its central sectional sorting operation for post offices in Lincoln and Otero Counties from the Carrizozo Post Office to the newly built Alamogordo Post Office.

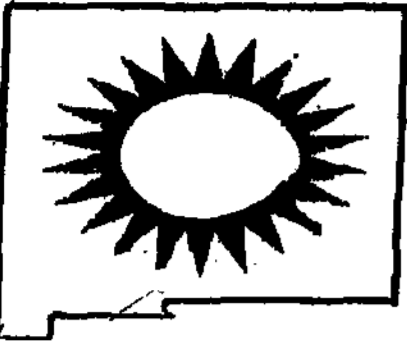
During the Lincoln County Commission meeting July 20, US Postal Service (USPS) area manager John Roark said the move will happen on September 9. Roark had been invited by the county to attend the meeting to address concerns about the move.

At the beginning of his presentation Roark said he did not have much more information about the move and could not discuss "proprietary" confidential employee

information. But by the end of the discussion on the post office, after he was confronted with questions from postal employees and concerned citizens, Roark admitted nine jobs would leave the Carrizozo Post Office, four of which are part time, "casual, non-career employees."

Roark said the move has been "in the works" for two years, since plans were made to expand the Alamogordo post office. He also said the move has to do with economics since 70 percent of the mail sorted is from Alamogordo and the other Otero County post offices. Once the new Alamogordo Post Office was built, the large automated sorting equipment was moved into

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# New Mexico Foundation for Open Government

July 20, 2000

# C'ZOZO Mayor

(Con't. from P. 1)

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
 Daniel Yohalem  
 President  
 Robert Trapp  
 Vice President  
 Kent Walz  
 Secretary  
 Susan Walton  
 Treasurer  
 Pahl Shipley  
 Past President
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
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 David Cargo  
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 Terri Cole  
 Albuquerque  
 Harold Cousland  
 Las Cruces  
 Gerald Crawford  
 Albuquerque  
 William S. Dixon  
 Albuquerque  
 Martin Esquivel  
 Albuquerque  
 Bob Gassaway  
 Albuquerque  
 Phyllis Hedges  
 Los Alamos  
 Karl Johnson  
 Albuquerque  
 Julie Moreno  
 Clovis  
 Charles R. Pelfer  
 Albuquerque  
 Patrick Rogers  
 Albuquerque  
 Arthur Schreiber  
 Albuquerque  
 Pahl Shipley  
 Albuquerque  
 Phoebe L. Spenser  
 Hobbs  
 Scot Slinnett  
 Fort Sumner  
 Jack Swickard  
 Roswell  
 Robert Trapp  
 Española  
 Susan Walton  
 Albuquerque  
 Kent Walz  
 Albuquerque  
 Scott Ware  
 Albuquerque  
 Daniel Yohalem  
 Santa Fe

Manuel Hernandez, Mayor  
 Town of Carrizozo  
 P. O. Box 247  
 Carrizozo, NM 88301

Dear Mayor Hernandez:

A review of the agenda for a regular meeting on May 23 of the Carrizozo Board of Trustees, the draft minutes of that meeting and the posting of the agenda for a June 13 meeting reflect violations of the Open Meetings Act. For that reason I am sending this letter to the Attorney General as a complaint on behalf of Cecilia Kuhnel and others who have contacted me.

The agenda for the May 23 meeting listed as Item No. 12, Closed Session (if necessary) pursuant to the following:

- Section 10-15-1.E.(2) Personnel Matters
- Section 10-15-1.E.(4) Decisions concerning purchases in the amount exceeding \$2,500.00
- Section 10-15-1.E.(5) Threat of litigation of pending litigation.
- Section 10-15-1.E.(6) Purchase or acquisition of real property or water rights.

Please note that the Open Meetings Act requires in 10-15-1(F) that meeting notices "shall include an agenda containing a list of specific items of business (emphasis added) to be discussed or transacted."

These listings are not specific but recite only the exceptions that permit executive sessions on specific topics. It is not permissible to list a group of exceptions as a blanket just in case you decide you want to close a meeting.

The minutes relate: "Motion was made by Trustee Silva and seconded by trustee Lindsay to go into Closed Session at 8:17PM pursuant to Section 10-15-1.E.(2) Limited Personnel Matters. All Ayes. Motion Carried."

The act specifies in 10-15-1(I) that to close an open meeting, "the authority for the closure and the subject to be discussed shall be stated with reasonable specificity in the motion calling for the vote on a closed meeting . . . and the vote of each individual member shall be recorded in the minutes."

Because of this wording, the Attorney General has consistently held that the vote to close a meeting must be by roll call and the vote of each individual member recorded in the minutes. No topic was mentioned in Mr. Silva's motion and there is no record of a roll call vote.

Therefore, the meeting was not lawfully closed.

The minutes state that you called the meeting back to order at 8:50 PM and that Trustee Lindsay "declared that nothing was discussed other than the topic of the session." Again, the motion to close did not state a topic.

The minutes show that you then told the board you wanted to send a letter to Ben Bradley relieving him of his duties on the Lincoln County Solid Waste Board. Mr. Lindsey made the motion, seconded by Mr. Silva, and it passed by voice vote.

Mr. Bradley's membership on the authority board was not an agenda item. Action may be taken only on agenda items. Apparently you believed you could discuss Mr. Bradley in executive session under the limited personnel exception. But Mr. Bradley was not "personnel" because he was not an employee as specified in 10-15-1(H)(2).

Nevertheless, you sent Mr. Bradley a letter dated May 23, the date of the meeting, signed by you and initialed by every other member of the board, dismissing him from the solid waste authority and criticizing his "conduct while exiting tonight's meeting."

Item No. 8 in the minutes records: "Ben Bradley presented Council with an update on the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority."

Having nothing further to say, Mr. Bradley left the meeting without comment.

Obviously then, the letter was prepared, signed and initialed either during the improper executive session or immediately after the regular meeting adjourned, and to prepare a letter in this form would have required another meeting of the board.

Additionally, my inquiry has shown that the agenda for the June 13 meeting at 6 p. m. was not posted until 9:15 a. m. that day, even though your open meetings resolution requires--as does the Open Meetings Act--that the agenda be available to the public 24 hours in advance.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Johnson  
 Executive Director

cc: Assistant Attorney General Al Lama  
 NMFOG Executive Committee  
 Cecilia Kuhnel  
 Ruth Hammond  
 Carrizozo board of trustees

doing that we were accused of."

Hammond adamantly stressed her point saying, "Nowhere in the letter you received (from FOG) did it say I filed a complaint."

The mayor said, "I'm aware of that, I'm aware of that."

Hammond asked, "Would you please clarify that you were wrong when you said I filed a complaint?"

The mayor replied "No, I didn't say you filed a complaint. I said Cecilia Kuhnel, you and other people, that's what I said. You and other people filed the complaint. Your name was brought up in the investigation."

Barbara Culler, speaking from the audience, told the mayor, ". . . that doesn't mean she filed the complaint."

At that time police chief Angelo Vega told the mayor in a quiet aside, "It's time to move on to something else."

There was other business conducted prior to this very vocal confrontation including an update on the paving project across E Avenue from the railroad tracks to the highway. It was determined that the State Highway Department is responsible for the right of way from the highway to the railroad right of way, and the Town of Carrizozo is responsible for the other side. The town clerk was directed to contact the Highway Department.

Final approval of Fiscal Year Budget Resolution 2000-01 was made, and it will be sent to Santa Fe for final approval.

There was a discussion concerning the letter from Zia Gas to Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart claiming Captain Carrizozo Natural Gas (CCNG) wouldn't be able to handle supplying the detention facility project. This claim was refuted by CCNG Operations Supervisor Neo Vallejos. Neo stated that progress was being made in the construction to extend the existing line to the new detention facility, and that they were about halfway there. He informed trustees that he foresaw no problems.

The board voted to extend a water tap across E Avenue to Leroy Lopez's property line where his meter would be located. There was discussion about the present six inch water line being able to handle this addition.

Trustees gave approval for Leann Weihbrecht and Margaret LaBelle to attend the Annual Conference in Carlsbad August 30,31 and September 1. This conference is basically designed to provide points for persons attempting to gain Certified Municipal Clerk. The criteria to become a Certified Municipal Clerk is three years of schooling followed by attendance in assorted programs offered by the state organizations to gain points. Weihbrecht stated that if she was unable to get away, that she wanted Margaret LaBelle to attend since LaBelle is in need of points to satisfy her certification needs.

Approval was also given for Rosemary Gallegos to attend the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) seminar in Ruidoso Downs August 15 thru 18. Arrangements will be made to supply Gallegos with a vehicle for travel to and from Ruidoso Downs each day.

Approval for the South-eastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD) agreement for fiscal year 2000-01 was given. This agreement is done every year, and by paying the \$350 annual dues SNMEDD.

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Working For Open Government





# C'zozo School Board Adopts New Policy

By Doris Cherry

Beginning school year 2000-01, Carrizozo high school students must have at least 23 credits to graduate and valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined by students' grade point average.

Also this fall, the person

who will help with that process is guidance counselor Karen Haughness. During their meeting July 18, Carrizozo Board of Education members approved the hiring of Haughness as guidance counselor, Melody Gaines as fifth grade teacher, Anita Sambrano and Henrietta Griego as instructional assistants. School board members also adopted revisions to policies governing graduation requirements, senior end of school activities, sexual harassment, denial of enrollment or of re-enrollment and employment recommendations for current or former employees of the district. On the graduation/senior end of school activities the policy now reads that grades to be considered for Valedictorian, Salutatorian and class rank shall be cumulative for grades level nine through 11 and the first three nine-week periods of grade 12. The final cumulative grade point average to be used to determine Valedictorian/Salutatorian will be rounded to the nearest tenth. In the event of a tie, numerical grades accrued by students in honor classes will be averaged to determine the Valedictorian.

The school board revised the sexual harassment policy to state that the board for-

bids harassment of any employee on the basis of sex. "Sexual harassment is a prohibited personnel practice. No employee of the school district may engage in any conduct of a sexual nature with any student, regardless of the student's age, ability to consent or actual consent. No employee may engage in any conduct of a sexual nature with another employee which is unwanted, unwelcomed and uninvited. Definitions of standards of conduct of a sexual nature include: verbal or physical sexual advances including subtle pressure for sexual activity; sexually oriented touch-

ing, pinching, patting, pulling at clothing; showing or giving sexual pictures, photographs, illustrations, messages or notes; writing graffiti of a sexual nature on school property; comments or name-calling to or about an employee regarding alleged physical or personal characteristics of a sexual nature; sexually oriented kidding, teasing and jokes of a sexual nature; any harassing conduct to which an employee is subjected because of or regarding the employee's sex; demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of

(SEE PAGE 6)



**SLOW DOWN** when flashing. When school starts in August, motorists in Carrizozo will know when to slow down for school zones on 8th Street, B Ave., and E Ave. Carrizozo School District worked with the state to receive the flashing signs. Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc. provided electrical installation at no cost.

## Santa Rita Fiesta Winners Are Announced

Winners of the Santa Rita Golf Tournament shoot-out were Bill Richardson and David Lucero.

The brother combination of Rafael and Mike Chavez were the winners of the two-on-two basketball tournament.

Horseshoe pitch tournament winner were Vicki Comstock and Chris Vega.

Best Fiesta Dress Costume (Adult): First, Polly Chavez; second place went to Lucia Vega. Children's division: First place went to Zhane Vega; and second place to Katrina Zamora.

## OBITUARY

ALBERT SWAN VEGA

Albert Swan Vega, 68, a native of Carrizozo, passed away Friday, July 14, 2000.

Mr. Vega was a member of the Catholic Church and proud to have served his country in the Army during the Korean conflict. He served the citizens of New Mexico as a State Highway Patrolman for 17 years.

He is survived by Yvonne "Bonnie" Vega; sons, Anthony Barela, Albert "Beto" Vega and Donna Bustos; daughters, Stephen Vega; daughters, Anne Magdelene and husband Orlando, Angela Vega, Amanda Trujillo and husband Anthony; brothers, Joe Vega and wife Isabel, Edward Vega and wife Josie; sisters, Julia Samora and husband Rito, and Mary McKinley.

A rosary was held Sunday, July 16, and a Christian burial followed Monday, July 17, both at the Santa Rita Catholic Church in Carrizozo.

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- FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS**  
 -Jalayne Spivey of the District II Office of the State Engineer is at Ruidoso Village Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- TUESDAYS**  
 -Alcoholics Anonymous 7 p.m. Carrizozo Senior Center. Call 648-1145 for information.
- WEDNESDAYS**  
 -Moms In Touch prayer group, 9 a.m. Ancho. Carpool from Carrizozo. Call 648-2460 for information.  
 -Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 7 p.m. Capitan Senior Citizens Center.
- THURSDAYS**  
 -Lincoln County Adult Singles Group 6:30 p.m. Call 354-2635 or 258-3201 for information and location.  
 -Capitan Chamber of Commerce Bingo, 6:30-10 p.m. Chamber building on Second Street.
- FRIDAYS**  
 -Alcoholics Anonymous big book open discussion 7-8 p.m. Capitan Senior Center. Call 354-4032 for information.
- SATURDAYS**  
 -Capitan Public Library open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- TODAY, THURSDAY, JULY 20**  
 -Special Lincoln County Commission meeting to accept final 2000-01 fiscal year budget, and finalize the contract with the county manager.  
 -Special Lincoln County Planning Commission meeting 7-10 p.m. Ruidoso Village Council chambers, Cree Meadows Drive, Ruidoso.
- FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 28 & 29**  
 -Capitan High School Alumni Reunion, Capitan School.
- SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 29 AND 30**  
 -Corona Summer Festival, Saturday, July 29, breakfast at senior citizens center at 7:30-10:30 a.m., parade at 11 a.m. with line up on south end of the village. Museum open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ranch rodeo 12 p.m. Corona Arena. Alumni reunion 1-4 p.m. at the school auditorium, music festival 1-5 p.m. at the tennis courts; Sunday, July 30, potluck breakfast 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 1**  
 -Pre-registration for students at Capitan Schools begins.  
 -American Legion Post #57 meets at 7 p.m. at Capitan Senior Center. All honorably discharged veterans invited.
- FRIDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 4-8**  
 -Old Lincoln Days. "Last Escape of Billy the Kid" folk pageant at 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, at 3 p.m. Sunday.  
 -Parade 11 a.m. Sunday. Fiddlers Contest at 2 p.m. Saturday, mass 3 p.m. San Juan Church. Historic re-enactments and other displays.
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**  
 -Reception and dinner for Senator Jeff Bingaman, 4-7 p.m. Capitan School Cafeteria.
- MONDAY, AUGUST 7**  
 -Football practice begins at Carrizozo school.
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 8**  
 -Lincoln County Fair begins and runs through Saturday, August 11. The fair is located in Capitan.

## C'ZOZO MAYOR

(Continued from p. 2)

assists municipalities with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications and other projects.  
 Suzi Fern, president of the Carrizozo Woman's Club, advised the trustees of the progress of the 7th annual Carrizozo Street Fair set for September 4, at McDonald park. Gary Stout is coordinating the parade and car show.  
 There was a short discus-

sion about vacation of the dead-end street off 5th on G Ave., having been fenced off by the highway department several years ago. John Vega and Leroy Najar own properties adjoining the dead-end street and requested the town vacate the dead-end street. Trustees voted to accept the vacation, and directed informing the town attorney proceed in handling the paperwork.

## CARRIZOZO HARDWARE

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## Carrizozo Recreation Center

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Tuesday thru Friday: 11:00am to 9:00pm / Saturday: 12:00 Noon to 9pm

Sunday: 12:00 Noon to 6:00pm CLOSED MONDAYS



**THOUGHTS**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**The Best Solution**

By Ruth Hammond

Government elected officials should be aware that what they say will be remembered and often repeated by the public they are supposed to be representing. One thing many people remember is that the mayor of Carrizozo chose to close city hall on July 3 in recognition of the town clerk. During a special meeting Friday, June 30, the mayor said word had been received from Santa Fe that the budget had been approved and would not be sent back to the town. The mayor also said it was the first time since he had been on the board that had happened. Our comment was that the budget would most certainly be sent back to the town with a request for the final ending cash balance from the 1999-2000 fiscal year to be included in the budget. And evidently the budget was returned from Santa Fe because the town council approved a resolution Tuesday adopting the 2000-01 fiscal year budget and requesting approval from the Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division in Santa Fe. No comment was made about how the mayor had stated the budget would not be returned to the town. Surprised?

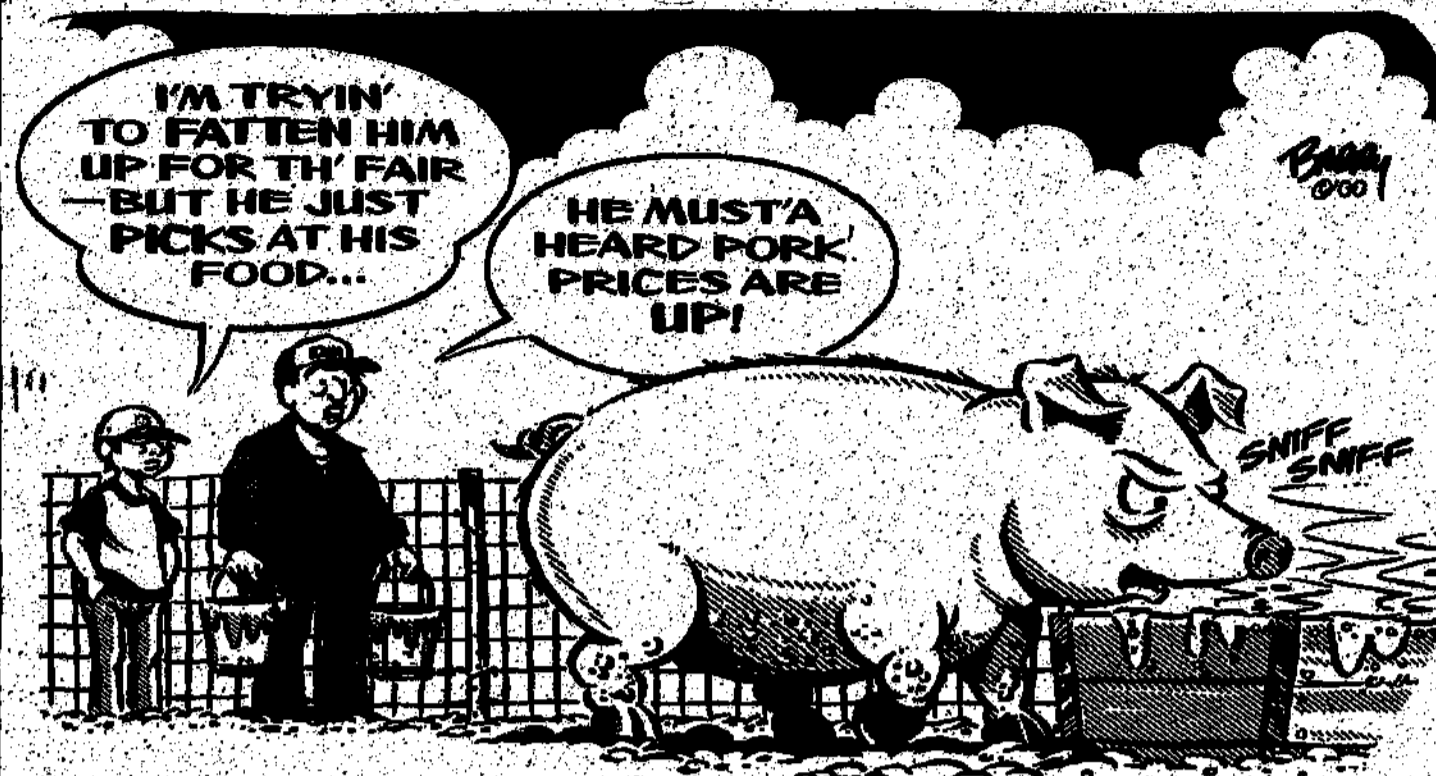
As for business as usual, closing city hall with no advance warning was an inconvenience for one person who drove 20 miles to Carrizozo to conduct DMV business on July 3. This person was quite surprised to find city hall closed when the holiday calendar that had been approved for the year 2000 by the town elected officials did not list July 3 as a day that city hall would be closed. Making the decision on Friday evening to close city hall the following Monday deprived the public of a service they deserved.

Maybe you agree with the way the elected officials have been conducting what is supposed to be public business. Some people do disagree with the way elected officials have been conducting their meetings and more than one complaint has been filed with the State Attorney General. A copy of the letter from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government that was sent to the mayor and is being sent to the Attorney General is published in this issue of *The NEWS* on page 2. The entire letter is printed for your information and to clarify that some of the statements made at the town council meeting Tuesday are incorrect. The original letter received by the editor is here in *The NEWS* office if anyone would like to verify that the letter published is a true and exact copy of the letter that was sent to the mayor with a copy being sent to *The NEWS*.

Evidently other people noticed there was a definite change in the way the elected officials conducted the meeting Tuesday. Several people have commented that it was nice to have the resolutions read for the benefit of the public before being approved by the town council. And many people were aware that roll call votes were taken on seven different issues, instead of the "all ayes" comment.

Suppose the elected officials had reacted differently when we first questioned why they were doing the things they way they were doing them. If there had been a response at that time there would have been no need for anyone to make a complaint. The best solution would have been working together, not trying to keep things hidden.

Remember what happened?



JUDITH L. CHRISTOPHER

**PSYCHIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

Ruidoso, NM  
Call for Appointment:  
(505) 257-2996

Week of July 27-Aug 2, 2K

Leo: (July 23 - Aug 22) \$ will be Up and Down but what's important is how You Save More than what You Spend

Virgo: (Aug 23 - Sept 22) The Air will be thick with Indecision. Doing Nothing will only make it Worse. Clear the Air of the Past.

Libra: (Sept 23 - Oct 22) You'll have to make Quick Decisions about a Lot of Nothing. Don't give it a Second Thought! Just Do It! Chop, Chop!

Scorpio: (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Your Temper will be Tested this Week. It's Up to You to Know what's Worth Getting Upset about and What's Not. Let it All Side By.

Sagittarius: (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Things are Looking Up. Enjoy a Beautiful Week. It will be Better because You THINK it's Better. Look for The Good.

Capricorn: (Dec 22 - Jan 19) A Real Good Time to Seek out New Things. More Money, Too. But Don't Jump into Anything too Quick.

Aquarius: (Jan 20 - Feb 18) You have the Tiger by the Tail. Now what are You going to do with it? Hang on for Dear Life!

Pisces: (Feb 19 - March 20) There will be Others who will take up Your Valuable Time, but in the Long Run it will be Worth it.

Aries: (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Stocks? Bonds? Savings Account? You need to take Another Long Look at Your Future Money Situation.

Taurus: (Apr 20 - May 20) A Short Trip for Fun would do You Most Good. It will Refresh You and make You Happy.

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20) Are You going in Circles? Why? Stop! Regroup and Walk Straight Ahead! (Unless you are having TOO MUCH fun, stay with the circle.)

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22) Your Sweet Disposition will be Needed more by Others than Yourself. Give All The Love You Can!

You Can Receive a Personal Confidential Reading From JUDITH L. CHRISTOPHER Call For App: 257-2996

**INSIDE THE CAPITOL**

by Jay Miller

SANTA FE - Gary Johnson is the most fascinating New Mexico governor since statehood. And that is saying a lot.

There was cowpoke Jim Hinkle in 1923-24 who was an outspoken advocate for making government understandable to the common man. There was former mechanic Clyde Tingley in 1935-38 whose personal charm and blunt speaking led to a close friendship with Franklin Roosevelt. And there was "Lonesome" Dave Cargo in 1967-70, a liberal Republican who thumbed his nose at the GOP brass.

These governors were some of the most colorful in our state's history. It would have been a rare pleasure to have covered them. But they were all politicians and, therefore, somewhat predictable. Gary Johnson isn't a politician and so has been a complete surprise to friends, enemies and political analysts.

Gary Johnson told us he wasn't a politician when he ran for office, but we'd all heard that one before and blew it off as campaign rhetoric. Now, after five and a half years of watching him it's hard to deny that he is a totally different governor from any we have ever had.

Johnson's only bow to a politician's brand of thinking was his decision soon after his election that he wanted to run again and, therefore, he couldn't make more than passing comments about his drug views until after he was reelected.

Other than that one concession to political reality, Johnson has been a man with no worries and no second thoughts about the political consequences of his gubernatorial actions.

It means he has had to listen to no one - not Republicans, not the business community and not his cabinet or staff. Among Republicans, Johnson's popularity has fallen the most, largely due to the drug ideas he revealed a year ago.

But if a poll were taken in the business community, the governor's numbers would be just as bad, if not worse, because of his lack of support for issues they thought he, as a fellow businessman, would advocate.

In short, Gary Johnson is a complete mystery to New Mexicans as he wanders through his eight years as governor, following nothing but his personal philosophy. He can't be faulted for not telling us. At the same time he claimed not to be a politician, he also revealed that he is a libertarian, not a Repub-

lican. He ran as a Republican because it suits his business background and because Republicans can win gubernatorial races.

But Republicans are only about half libertarian. They believe government shouldn't mess with business in most instances, but they think it is a pretty good idea for government to require that people's personal lives conform to certain standards.

So, when Gov. Johnson said people should be allowed to do drugs even though it is a bad idea, New Mexicans thought he had betrayed their trust and taken leave of his senses. But the governor had been revealing his hand ever since his 1994 campaign. He told us he would support gambling. His big crusade at the moment is to push his Bicycle Racing Commission to approve pari-mutuel wagering. He told us he believes in

Indian sovereignty and has stuck by it. And he regularly vetoes the legislation of good ideas, such as banning bottle rockets.

Gov. Johnson also comes afoul of Republicans, conservatives and the business community when those groups want government to get involved in business through subsidizing good economic development ideas. Remember, libertarians don't want government to be involved in business, period.

Here's a tip. Go the Libertarian Party Web site at [www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org) and take the 10-question quiz to learn whether you're libertarian, liberal, centrist, conservative or authoritarian. It might also be fun to fill in the blanks the way you think Gary Johnson might.

It could help solve the mystery of our governor, who still has two and a half years in office.

**County Offers Raise To Keep Manager**

Commission Looks At Raises For Elected Officials At Special Meeting Today

by Doris Cherry

Hoping to keep a county manager who has become invaluable to county operations, Lincoln County Commissioners offered Tom Stewart a raise and a two year contract.

During their meeting July 20 in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, county commissioners offered Stewart a two year contract with a salary of \$95,000 a year, three week mandatory vacation, seven day sick leave, two month severance pay and a requirement of a two month notice of leaving. County commissioners will finalize the contract during a special meeting today, July 27. Discussions about the salary were held in conjunction with discussions on the final 2000-01 fiscal year budget.

The raise was also prompted by Stewart's application and acceptance as a high point finalist to the job of Dona Ana County manager and his application to other managerial positions. Comments from other elected officials, employees and citizens favored the raise for Stewart.

County elected officials and employees may also get a raise. Today, July 27 in their

chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, county commissioners are looking at the county's 2000-01 final budget. Figures they will consider for the final budget were presented and reviewed during the July 20 regular county commission meeting. At that meeting Stewart proposed an increase in the county's "proprietary" mills. County commissioners agreed with Stewart's recommendation to set mills for the 2000-01 tax year with 2.5 mills for the hospital mill levy and raise the county's operational mills to 2.75. By doing this the county could have as much as \$500,000 extra in its general fund. With this extra funding, Stewart recommended the step increase for employees, purchases of several pieces of needed equipment and other items not funded by the preliminary (SEE PAGE 6)



**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:**

July 26, 2000

Lincoln County News  
Attn: Ruth Hammond

Reference: Letter by Robert H. Johnson

Dear Mrs. Hammond,

I, Cynthia Morales, Carrizozo Trustee and resident of Carrizozo am apologizing for the Mayor's demeanor, Tuesday evening at the Town Council Meeting, which was uncalled for.

Verbatim, this is the beginning of Mr. Robert H. Johnson's letter:

"Dear Mayor Hernandez:

A review of the agenda for a regular meeting on May 23 of the Carrizozo Board of Trustees, the draft minutes of the meeting and the posting of the agenda for a June 13 meeting reflect violations of the Open Meetings Act. For that reason I am sending this letter to the Attorney General as a complaint on behalf of Cecilia Kuhnle and others who have contacted me."

Mrs. Hammond, your name was not mentioned in this letter except, as you stated in the Town Council Meeting - Tuesday, at the bottom of Mr. Johnson's letter as receiving a carbon copy.

As a Town Trustee present at Tuesday's meeting, I am very sorry for allowing the Mayor to continue his accusations towards you. Some of us tend to forget why and who elected us (Why do we forget? Could it be some of us have already gained what we think we have as to: power, authority, think we can influence "people", etc. . . . Who knows?).

We (Mayor and Council) were elected by YOU, the citizens of Carrizozo to better our community to the best of our ability. Hey, we are human and make mistakes. We are always happy to receive a friendly reminder. So remind us.

Again, I do apologize.

TRUSTEE MORALES

**Lincoln County News**  
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A Real Good Time to Seek out New Things. More Money, Too. But Don't Jump into Anything too Quick.



# CCNG Hires Angelo

(Continued from Page 1)

Carroll rephrasing his question asked "Is there any supervisory function by a commission, a public utilities commission or anything else?"

"No" replied the attorney, going on at length explaining that CCNG has not been subject to regulation by the Public Regulation Commission since dissolving the Natural Gas Association about six years ago. By adopting a new set of by-laws the board chose not to be a regulated entity, citing a myriad of paperwork and complex administrative problems by doing so. Most of the small

gas associations and municipality owned utilities in the state are non-regulated.

Carroll asked "Do you come under any DOT regulations?"

Beauvais replied, "Yes, in fact the pipeline safety people regularly work with our staff concerning safety issues."

Carroll asked where he could get a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement, and Beauvais replied it was a matter of public record, it is just a matter of making a request for it.

There was then some conversation about the services provided by the gas com-

pany, things like re-lighting pilot lights for seniors, and other unspecified services. It was disclosed that these services are charged for, but at a much reduced rate than those offered by other existing gas companies. The conversation went on to cover the cost of purchasing natural gas increases due to the rise of distilled gas prices. It was explained that natural gas is not a distillate, so the price should not increase.

Carroll asked if the current rates for natural gas were included in the bills, and was told of the mathematical formula to figure it out. Carroll

suggested this should be included on the bill and was told the cost of the gas stays pretty constant, the difference in billing amounted to the services offered.

Montes then asked for a motion to hire Mr. Vega as an eight hours a week part time employee. Motion was made, and seconded by Carrizozo mayor board member but he wanted to make a statement first. He volunteered, "We all did interview, and the other two didn't know anything about gas, and therefore I second the motion." Vote was taken, and then Montes directed clerk Strickland to notify by registered letter Mr. Vega, and to tell the other two applicants they appreciated their interest.

Montes was asked what rate of pay Vega would re-

ceive, and Montes replied, "The rate of pay will be \$500.00 a month, and he will use his own vehicle, that's part of the compensation for use of his own personal vehicle. He will not have a company vehicle, so he will be responsible for his own gas."

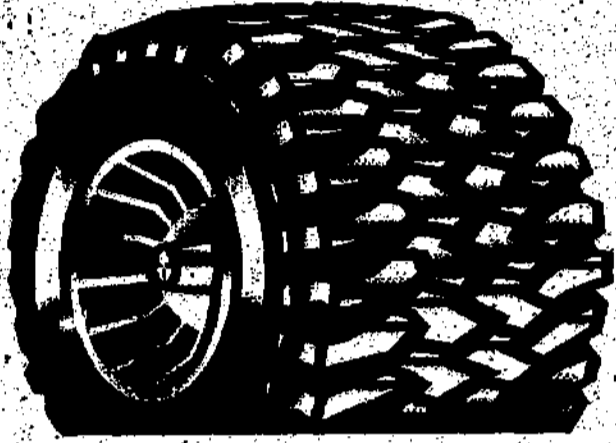
The board then asked for approval to advertise for Request for Proposals (RFP) for natural gas supply, explaining to the audience the proposal process, that they were looking for the cheapest supplier rates available, and the difference in cost in transport rates from the supplier to our area as service providers.

While waiting for the attorney to return from another engagement to discuss renewal of his services contract the conversation once again turned to the cost of

services provided. It was noted that the cost the gas company charges to re-light pilot lights seemed a little high. Montes pointed out senior citizens are charged approximately \$5.00 for a service call, and others, non-seniors \$10.00.

CCNG Operation Superintendent Neo Vallejos report didn't disclose any new problems, and discussion went on to cover laying new lines to the new detention facility being built in Carrizozo. Neo recommended they complete the project before the concrete foundations start being poured for the jail.

The CCNG board took a 10 minute break awaiting attorney Beauvais return, and upon his return his services contract was renewed.

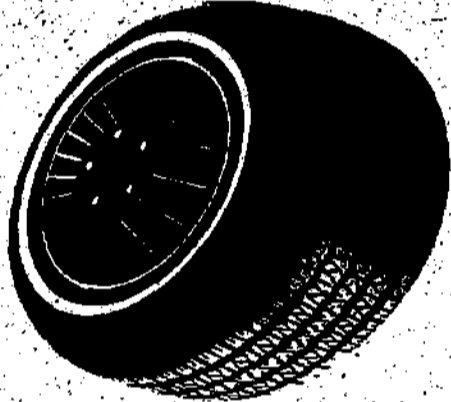


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# Ruidoso State Bank C'zozo Branch Closure Rumored

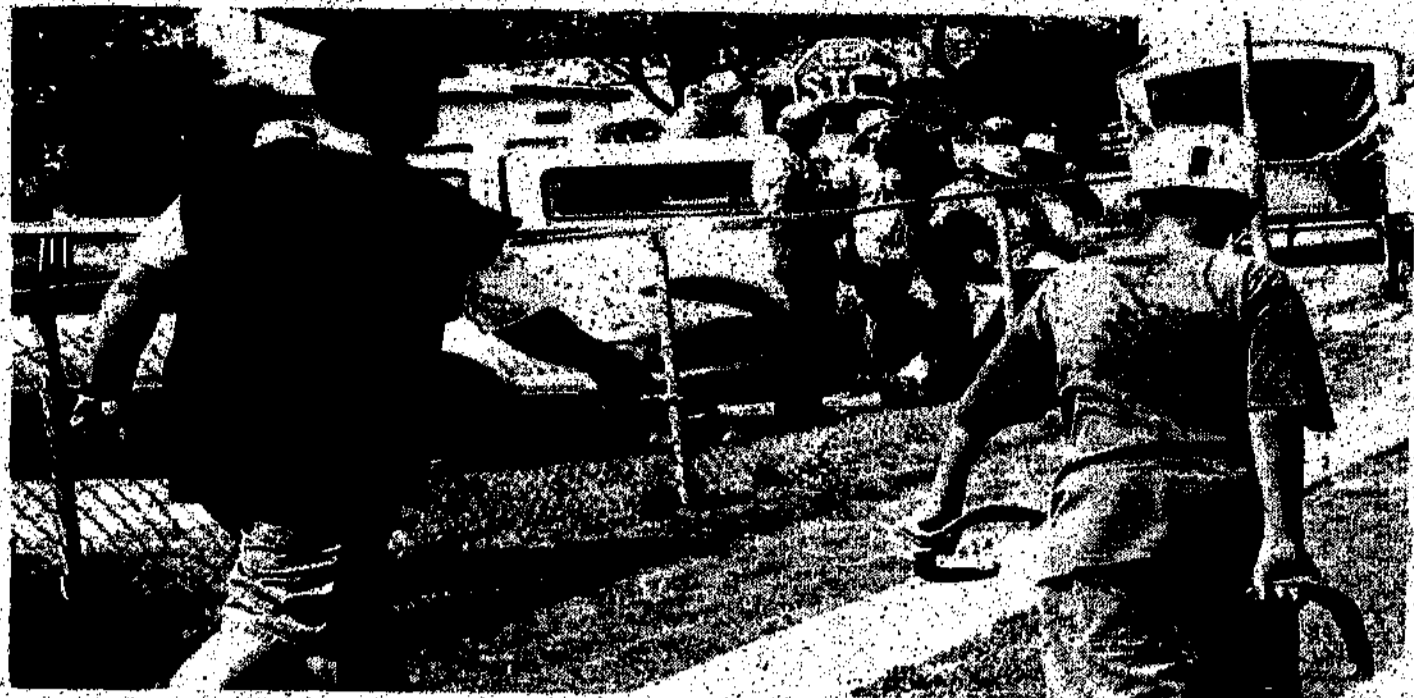
The Carrizozo branch of the Ruidoso State Bank has been rumored to be closed, forcing the county to issue a request for proposal (rfp) for a "depository bank."

During the July 20 county commission meeting held in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, Lincoln County Treasurer Joan Park said she had issued the rfp because of the rumored closure of the branch bank, which currently is the county's depository bank. In the rfp, Park included a require-

ment that any out of town bank that is accepted as the depository for county funds provide a courier on a daily basis. The deadline for the rfp is August 11 and the depository bank will be chosen at the August county commission meeting.

County commissioner Ray Nunley asked if the county will no longer use Ruidoso State Bank for investments. Park said by law the county must offer to invest money in every bank within the county and it is up to the

bank to take the offer. Last week *THE NEWS* contacted Ruidoso State Bank president Tom Battin about the rumored closure of the Carrizozo branch. Battin said currently Ruidoso State Bank is in the process of being sold, and certain business decisions considered. While he did reveal some information to *THE NEWS*, he asked that it not be published because he was concerned it might jeopardize the progress of the sale through the Public Regulatory Commission process.



**RINGING SHOES** Santa Rita Fiesta horseshoe tournament players try their luck last week. Winners of the tournament were Vicki Comstock and Chris Vega.

# County Offers

(Continued from page 4)

2000-01 budget. The pay grade increases could cost as much as \$29,470 a year. Also the sheriff had requested two additional deputies, and the detention center another officer which could cost a total of \$97,763 a year.

Lincoln County Assessor Patsy Serna, who by term limitation cannot run for office this year, again asked for an increase for elected officials to bring them to the state allowed maximum salary for Class B Over counties, which Lincoln is. The classification is based on the property valuation. Lincoln County is nearing a half billion dollars in property value. Maximum salaries allowed for elected officials in Class B Over counties is \$17,264 a year for a county commissioner, \$15,141 for probate judge, \$43,301 each for treasurer, clerk and assessor, and \$45,141 for sheriff. The salary increase affects the salaries of chief

deputies and the undersheriff.

County commissioner Bill Schwettman said Lincoln County elected officials now make \$8,000 to \$10,000 less than the maximum allowed, and make the lowest salaries for Class B Over counties in the state. As an example he said Luna County, which is a Class B county lower than Lincoln, pays its elected officials to the Class B Over limit.

Lincoln County Treasurer Joan Park, who also cannot run for another term due to limitations, agreed with the salary increase for elected officials, and salary increases for employees who deserve a raise.

County employees may get a raise, but not until mid year in December. County commissioners discussed giving employees a three percent cost of living raise. However that creates problems for lower paid employ-

ees who would get much less than a higher paid employee. Because of the inequities, Stewart requested commissioners consider changes in the employee classifications by "step." Commissioners approved his request for the step changes, which he was to present during the special meeting on the budget today, July 27.

Employees may also get a higher rate of retirement funding, if they elect to go with a higher PERA plan. The plan would provide retirees a maximum of 75 percent of their salary at retirement after 25 years. Employees and the county will each have to contribute 9.15 percent of each employee's salary toward the PERA accounts. Employees will hold an election on August 30 on the PERA increase. This will be the last time the county can offer the higher PERA to its employees.

Stewart also recommended purchase of data processing equipment damaged by lightning, half-ton four wheel drive pickup for the animal control officer, a prisoner transport van for corrections, two three-quarter ton four wheel drive pickups, a 50 ton lowboy trailer and a dump truck for the road department. He also recommended the county build a large discretionary

(SEE PAGE 10)

# C'zozo Schools

(Continued from page 3)

preferential treatment or threats concerning an individual's employment status.

The sexual harassment policy defines standard of conduct for employees; reporting, investigation and sanctions. Any employee who believes he or she has been sexually harassed should report the incident to their supervisor and/or superintendent. Reporting by employees is mandatory when any employee receives any report of sexual harassment of a student. The superintendent is to be notified. By law school officials are required to investigate all complaints. Sanctions include warnings, reprimand, suspensions, or termination subject to any applicable procedural requirements.

Denial of enrollment policy allows the school principal to deny a student enrollment in Carrizozo schools if the student: has been expelled from another district in New Mexico or other state during the previous year; had such behavior in the previous school district that makes enrollment or re-enrollment detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel.

Any student who is accused of committing a felony may be suspended indefinitely when he or she has been charged, indicted, arrested; or a petition filed alleging delinquency. Suspension will occur if the Hearing Authority or administrator believes the student poses an imminent danger or threat to other students or if the student's presence would disrupt the educational process. The length of suspension will be at the discretion of the administrator who will meet with parents to determine the educational program of the suspended pupil pending the outcome of the legal actions. A student or his or her parents may appeal a denial.

The employment recommendations policy will help the district avoid any "non-official" recommendations for former or current employees. Under New Mexico law, an employer or individual employee may be held liable for having provided incomplete or misleading employment references or recommendations. Because of this, no employee of the district will be authorized to issue a written or oral employment reference or recommendation unless the recommendation is written and authorized by the Superintendent. If an employee chooses to make recommendation, the employee must do so during his or her own time away from school property, not on any school letterhead or communications media owned by the district or other means that suggests the district has authorized or agreed with the reference or recommendation. The employee who provides a reference/recommendation must specify that he or she is

speaking for himself or herself, and not on behalf of Carrizozo Municipal Schools. Violations of this policy will subject an employee to discipline, including termination or discharge.

The board also heard a report from school superintendent James Cooper on his Reading Improvement Goals to improve reading first, then work on writing and math. "I think this is the order to approach," Cooper said. "We also need to involve the community with a committee of parents."

Cooper said if reading improvement is a goal, then the board must be prepared to provide the funding. "I see my responsibility is emphasizing reading achievement," he added. "If I go visit a class and read to the stu-

dents, it says I think reading is important."

Cooper said he wants to emphasize instructional strategies by assessing what teachers are currently doing and promoting strategies that work. He plans to establish a committee to develop an action plan.

In other business, the board:

—Authorized advertising for sealed bids for two old school vehicles, with the bids to be opened and awarded at the August board meeting.

—Discussed the construction project which is behind schedule and may force a delay of the August 22 start of school. Cooper was to keep the board informed of the remodeling in the high school.

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Santa Rita Pageant: Eileen Lovelace.  
Golf Scramble: Duane Zamora, Cookie Najjar (cooking hamburgers).  
Costume Contest: Sandy Morales, and Sandra Samora.  
Fiesta Dance: Angelo Vega.  
Enchilada Dinner: Patsy Serna.  
Silent Auction: Peggy Najjar.  
Horseshoe Tournament: Jack Payne.  
Basketball Tournament: Duane Zamora.

Special thanks to the following for their donations: Grizzly Den Videos, Sturges, Pub 48, Hosanna's, Patsy Serna, Penny Dillon, Woody Schlegel, Mary Chavez, Rudy's Body Shop, Polly Chavez, Ivy Heyman, El Mercado, Fun Trackers, Ruidoso Ford and Mercury, Whitaker Racing, Sierra Blanca Motors, Walmart, Four Winds, Mary and Albert Najjar, Cookie Najjar, Carrizozo Hardware, Carrizozo Fire Department, El Paisano, D&D Traders-Danny's Boot and Shoe Repair, Lavender and Lace, Triple A Hardware, Dorothy Guck, and Rosemary Hin-des.

Thanks to the cast and crew of the Santa Rita Pageant: Lee Tate, Alicia Morales, Kristin, Renee Racl, Sandy Morales, Elizabeth Padilla, Jim McCarty, Josie Vega, Catalina Vega, Carmen Tate, Corina Morales, Angelo Vega, Mickie Vega, Bobbie Vega, Bobbie Frank, Sara White, Mona Payne, Virgie Samora, Ruby Vega, Isaac Vega, Dalton Vega, Robert Dutchover, Adam Zamora, Anthony Beltran, Tyler Haughness, Polly Chavez, Mary Ann Bingerman, and Mable Vega.



# Voters Asked

(Continued from page 1)

three mills, a reduction from the current 4.25 mills which was approved by voters in 1992 and is authorized through June 30, 2001. In an analysis of the Hospital Mill Levy, Stewart showed how the current millage has created a huge reserve in both the clinic and hospital funds.

Using an estimated budget for LCMC and the clinics provided by LCMC administrator Jim Gibson, Stewart showed how the clinics will need \$400,000 in support for a year. Of that \$200,000 is for operation of the Carrizozo Clinic, \$50,000 for operation of the Corona Clinic, \$150,000 for operation of the Hondo Clinic. Added to the \$400,000 needed for the clinics is an estimated \$380,000 needed for payments to the state for the Sole Community Provider and Medicaid funds that are matched three to one in returns. The annual hospital capital outlay for equipment and maintenance is \$500,000 and an annual reserve of \$100,000 is added.

With this estimated \$1.4 million needed, Stewart showed how revenue from a hospital lease of \$100,000 would be added to the \$961,420 estimated revenue from the 2.1 mills for LCMC and the \$412,039 estimated revenue from .9 mill for the clinics.

Currently the clinics have carry over of \$809,183 and the hospital of \$570,534. With the proposed .9 mill the clinics needs would be covered, and would add a small surplus into the carry over fund. The proposed 2.1 mills for the hospital would not cover the needs, requiring funds to be taken from the carry over.

Resident Rod Graham asked why Presbyterian does not pay the county to lease the hospital.

County attorney Alan Moriel said the county gets only \$1 a year now. He added the county is currently in the process of renegotiating the lease.

When Graham asked how much of the mill levy will go to the operation of the hospital, county commissioner Bill Schwettmann said the county did allow the funds to go to the operation, "but we don't plan to anymore."

County commissioner Ray Nunley said the mill levy will be for capital expenditures (equipment/facility) and maintenance.

LCMC administrator Jim Gibson said the \$500,000 for capital improvements at LCMC keeps the facility up to date with technology. He said in the 28 year PHS has leased LCMC, the hospital has made money 18 years and lost money 10 years.

In response to a question by Graham who asked if the hospital had certified audits, Gibson said PHS auditor company—Ernst & Young—were CPAs, so he did not know what Graham meant by certified. Graham said that according to an AG

opinion PHS did not have certified audits.

County commission chairman Rex Wilson said that was one reason why the next mill levy specifies that property tax revenues are for the facility.

Graham was also concerned about the staffing of the LCMC emergency room with physician's assistants (PAs), rather than doctors. Gibson said all PAs are backed by a physician on call. "I have no heartburn seeing PAs (in the emergency room)," Gibson said.

"It's your life, not mine," Graham responded.

Nunley also responded to Graham saying LCMC is "far and above other hospitals its size in New Mexico or the southwest."

Gibson then said he was concerned about the estimated needs for the Hondo Clinic which he based on the needs at Carrizozo Clinic. The Hondo clinic has yet to be permitted and opened for business. Gibson said the mill levy is vital to the clinics.

"Without the mill levy money, there will be no clinics in Carrizozo, Corona and Hondo," Gibson said. "I think it is appropriate to support the outlying clinics in this 'frontier' county as designated by the U.S. Health Service." Frontier is based on the number of people per square mile in the county. Also a percentage of the mill levy goes to the mandates Medicaid and sole community provider programs, Gibson added.

Ruidoso resident Tony Seno asked if LCMC is a public hospital, when answered yes, he asked commissioners to shift the tax burden from the property owner to a gross receipt tax. Schwettmann said the county has no discretionary gross receipt taxes left. (Editor's note—the county has one remaining one-eighth percent gross receipt tax but voters must approve it.)

Lincoln resident and chair of the Lincoln County Health and Wellness Board John McGrath was in support of the mill levy and he commended Gibson for the financial improvements at LCMC.

Ruidoso resident Bob Sterchi was also in support of the mill levy, which has enabled LCMC to be "the envy of all other small rural communities."

Ernest Gonzales, PA certified at Carrizozo Clinic, also spoke in support of the mill levy. "If we get a for profit hospital (management), I've worked for for-profits, it will cost through the nose for medical care," Gonzales said. "A for profit hospital will not take all insurance, it will transfer patients without treatment. A for profit hospital is only interested in the bottom line. I support the mill levy."

Cherry Nip, supervisor for Presbyterian Medical Ser-

vices, not PHS, said health care in New Mexico has drastically changed in the last three years. "Primary care clinics will not exist without help from federal, state and county governments," she said.

Ruidoso resident Luene Robinson asked what the county will do if the mill levy does not pass. "If you have no mill funds to cover the clinics will you sell the hospital?" he asked. "Have you discussed selling if the mill levy fails or is reduced?"

Wilson said the county has heard proposals from groups eager to buy LCMC. If the mill levy fails, he said there will be no problem.

Carrizozo resident and member of the Carrizozo Health Clinic board Joan Means was in favor of the mill levy which supports the clinic and its PA who recently won a national award. "But I do prefer to move the hospital to Carrizozo," Means said. Nunley jokingly asked her not to start that issue again.

Ruidoso resident Candyce Valcarcel said she did not want people to think if the mill levy fails the hospital will be sold.

Wilson said there are options "out there."

McGrath said he had no reason to go to Gonzales or any other PA at LCMC for medical care.

With a call for the question, county commissioners by roll call unanimously approved the setting of the mill levy amounts and proclamation for the hospital mill levy election on November 9.

If approved by voters on November 9, the hospital mill levy will go into effect in the 2001-02 tax year.



The following report is based on information from the National Weather Service web site:

The forecast for Carrizozo, Hondo Valley and Lincoln County high plains:

Today, July 27: Partly cloudy with a few afternoon thunderstorms. High temperature 92 in Carrizozo, Hondo Valley, Lincoln Valley and Lincoln County high lands. Low of 59. There is a 10 percent chance of precipitation.

Friday through Sunday, July 28-July 30:

Partly cloudy with chance of afternoon through early nighttime thunderstorms. Highs Friday and Saturday in mid 80s to lower 90s. A little cooler Sunday with highs mostly 80s. Lows mostly 50s.

The forecast for Ruidoso, Capitan and the northern Sacramento Mountains:

Today, Thursday, July 27: Partly cloudy with a few afternoon thunderstorms. High temperatures in Ruidoso and Capitan 88. Lows of 49. Chance for precipitation 20 percent.

Friday through Sunday, July 28-July 30:

Partly cloudy with chance of afternoon through early nighttime thunderstorms. Highs Friday and Saturday in mid 80s in Ruidoso and lower 90s in Capitan. Lows in the 50s. A little cooler Sunday with highs mostly in the 80s.

# Old Lincoln Days Aug. 4 to 6

It's that time again for Lincoln to roll out the welcome mat and go back in time to celebrate Old Lincoln Days, August 4-6.

The highlight of Old Lincoln Days are the three performances of the folk pageant "The Last Escape of Billy the Kid." Performances are at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 6. Tickets to the pageant are \$4 for anyone over the age of 12, \$1 for children 6-12 years old, and under six are free.

This will be a reunion year for all former participants of the pageant that began in 1940. For more information call Ralph or Rosalee Dunlap at 1-505-653-4047.

The outdoor pageant is one of the few remaining amateur folk productions in the nation, stated a press release from the group. "Rowdy cowboys on horses, shooting blanks from their pistols and rifles makes for an exciting time for the whole family."

The Old Lincoln Days Parade will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, August 6. Other attractions during Old Lincoln Days include a living history camp by the Friends of Fort Seidon and other groups, the Old Time Fiddlers Contest at 2 p.m. Saturday at Lincoln Park, Catholic Mass at 3 p.m.

Saturday at San Juan Church, and the Southwest New Mexico Tomahawk and Knife Championship, primitive camp.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Fiddler's Contest can still sign up by calling Laura McInnis at 505-354-3353. All ages are invited to

participate.

Visitors to Old Lincoln Days are encouraged to bring umbrellas. Lawn chairs are allowed to be brought into the pageant grounds.

The Lincoln Pageant and Festivals is a non-profit organization.

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# A GLIMPSE OF THE MINING HISTORY OF THE SOUTHWEST

The following information is taken from the 'International Industrial Record', a mining publication (Devoted to the General MINING and Industrial Interests of the Great Southwest), which is printed on the front page of the 80 page booklet, and was published in El Paso, TX on July of 1901. The Lincoln County News will publish the entire booklet in the following weeks, depending on space available. The publication is filled with in-depth history of the mining industry in and around Lincoln County and New Mexico. We hope you enjoy it.

## The Great Southwest.

The Mining Resources of the Vast Mining Region Surrounding El Paso.

Northern Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

### PART 24

#### THE BLACK MOUNTAIN MINING DISTRICT

by J.Y. Anderson  
This district is on the east side of the Organ range of mountains, joining the Organ Mining district on the east and includes Texas canon on the south and Bear canon north 15 miles, and it extends from the summit of the range to the valley 10 miles. In most of the district the lime contact is missing, the country rock consisting largely of granite porphyry, quartzite and diorite, which is a network of veins and dikes running north and south and east and west, the ore generally being an iron and copper pyrite, in which gold values predominate, hence the local name of Gold Camp, and the district is better known by this name than Black Mountain.

The promising Texas canon mines have been well known for the past four years, although very little systematic work has been done, but the leading mines there have been recently bonded and leased by Colorado parties, and energetic development is promised. Under the San Augustine peak is the Ben Nevis Mine Owned by Texas capitalists. Considerable development has been done, proving it a very valuable property, which carries large values in gold, silver and lead, and it is surprising that the mine is not thoroughly worked and made to pay large dividends, as it undoubtedly would.

The Galloway Situated near the same point, is also a promising mine which caused quite an excitement several years since, as it produced \$30,000 in silver at a depth of 100 feet. Friction between owners and death caused it to be closed, but the present revival of mining has again brought it into notice.

There are other claims of promise also in the immediate vicinity, notably a new location called the Rofarr Nos. 1 and 2. Ore has been found near the surface running as high as \$100 in gold, and from 1300 to 9000 ounces in silver.

Two miles north of Ben Nevis is the Black Prince, Which has produced some hundreds of tons of valuable silver-lead ore, Colorado parties have recently bonded and leased it with a view to systematic

development. In the center of the district is quite a prominent peak separated from the main range, known as Mineral Hill, which is seamed throughout from summit to base with a succession of veins and dikes which carry good values in gold and silver and lead and copper, and it strikes one as a little singular that so promising a field has been so long overlooked.

On the south end of its base is the

"Maggie G." Group, which has very limited development, but shows large values in gold and copper pyrites.

On the mountains are the

"Monometallic," "Dummie B," Oriental and Bimetallist Groups, all of which carry gold values.

The Oriental group has been recently sold to eastern parties, who are arranging for extensive development and equipment. The "Dummie B." vein can be traced by the eye a distance of four miles, and is known as the mother vein of the camp, as it is very large and cuts the country from north to south in a straight line and crosses in its course the prominent mines of that portion of the district.

The "Dummie B." proper has been opened 100 feet deep by a well timbered shaft which discloses a 4-foot vein which carries gold, silver and lead, the lead running as high as 60 per cent, silver 40 ounces, and gold from \$5 to \$5500 per ton. It also has a shaft 20 feet deep showing same character and value of ores.

The Great Republic group is patented and is a "poor man's mine." It shows a breast of ore 6 feet wide in the south cross-cut, a great portion of it which will stand shipment to the railroad, and then "pay its way on the cars." One shipment from this property sampled 208 ounces silver and 2.4 ounces gold per ton. Eight sacks of picked ore netted \$40 per sack. One boulder (float from the ledge) was shipped to Denver and netted, after paying freight and treatment charges, \$102.29. There is 500 feet of development on this property.

The Keystone is also a "poor man's property." It shows a body of ore in a bluff of over 5000 tons, from which a force of ten men are at present sacking ore for shipment. This property has a shaft 85 feet deep.

(SEE PAGE 11)

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# Corona News

**Crown CowBelles met Saturday afternoon at the ranch home of the Kanes. They drank tea or coffee and ate cookies while discussing plans for the festival. They watched a style show presented by Heather Sultemeier with Cathy Yancey the model. They packaged the Crown Meat Magic which they will sell along with the brand T-shirts. Jean Brittingham, Anton Chico, longtime friend came for the party.**

husband Bryan, their daughter, Kaitlyn, niece, Anisley, Albuquerque, and Cathy's three nephews from North Pole Alaska. Alexander, Ben and Kevin Everett visited the Fullers and Gibbs here. The group was met by Connie Jones of Las Cruces and toured White Sands and the Carlsbad Caverns. The Everetts are having a wonderful vacation

Excitement is building for the Corona Festival this week and for the all school reunion Saturday with a reception in the afternoon at the school auditorium.

The class of 1950 has plans for a hamburger fry at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Lee in Duran.

Shawn and Zack Perkins came from Roswell Thursday. Lori and Mackenzie from Clovis plan to stay until Saturday at the ranch. They expect to come for the festival.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Duke and Mrs. Jerry Rasak spent the weekend with relatives in Gallup.

A memorial service for the late Don Daniel is scheduled for 4:30 Sunday, August 13 at the Nogal Church.

Donna and Gaylan Page stopped by the Perkins Saturday morning. They were making a quick business trip from Friday,

TX to Fort Collins, CO, back to Friday and on to Austin in time for work Monday morning.

Monday Mrs. John D Holleyman took her daughter, Lois Ann Ratliff, and granddaughters, Heather and Karen Ratliff, to Albuquerque to take a plane home to Phoenix. Mrs. Holleyman and granddaughters, Kasi and Jodi Kibbe went to Phoenix to visit the Daryl Ratliffs. Heather and Karen came home with them. Heather is to stay with her grandparents here and Karen to go on to Portales to stay with her aunt Karen Kibbe.

Last week the family went to the Terry Lewis ranch where Fred Jones hosted a Garlick family reunion. John D and Lon came home late Saturday, but the others spent the night in Tucumcari and came home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Tracey and Nathan Tracey were here from Cotton City from Tuesday until Saturday last week. The Traceys went to Capitán to observe the shoot there. Nathan has never shot in a high power contest, but was persuaded and lent a gun to participate. He is a junior at Animas high school.

Johnnie Erramouise was home over the weekend. Nara Visa left Sunday afternoon to help the Tatums move to Dalhart. She will be back in time to help Bill cook the pancakes for the festival breakfast Saturday morning.

Charlotte Bradshaw called from Farmington Tuesday to say that Pam Vickrey was hospitalized and they will not be coming to Corona for the festival, much to Pam's disappointment.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Husband, Yucca Flats, CA spent about 10 days with his

mother, Ruth Davidson and Jackie Davidson.

You must have noticed the bright yellow paint on the new business in town, the C and L Tire Co., C and L for Chelsea and Leo.

Magda and Isaac Montoya and granddaughter, Melissa Gallegos stopped by the Perkins Thursday afternoon. They were on their way home to El Paso after a short vacation stay with daughter Melissa Rafferty, husband Bobby, and their children at Castle Rock, CO.

## Three Suspects Sought In Church Camp Explosion

Officers from the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) joined Lincoln County Sheriff's Officers in the investigation of an alleged pipe bomb explosion that occurred about 1:10 a.m. Wednesday, July 26.

Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan told THE NEWS dispatch received a call about an explosion at the Nazarene Church Camp in Angus. When deputies arrived they found an explosive device had gone off in the small building at the entrance of the Nazarene Camp blowing out walls and damaging the structure. "The church was not exploded and no one was hurt," Sullivan said.

Deputies, lead by Dave Thomas, cordoned off the area and called the ATF. The ATF officers arrived at the scene at 1:30 p.m. Sullivan added. He said the ATF officer found BBs and other remnants from the explosive device. "A pipe bomb doesn't have to be in a pipe, it could be any type of tube including a flashlight," Sullivan added.

Sullivan said they have three strong suspects, one adult and two juvenile males and he expects an arrest within two or three days. Sullivan said he was unsure what charges will be filed until the ATF makes its report. Explosives cases are federal crimes when committed by adults. Sullivan said juveniles are usually referred back to the state for prosecution in any federal case.

Sullivan said there appeared to be no motive for the explosion as Nazarene officials reported they received no threats or had problems with employees or former employees.

The entrance street to the Nazarene Camp was to be reopened by Thursday.

## County Riders To Compete At National Rodeo

Nogal area youths Shayla, Doug and Taylor Smith have qualified to compete in the 52nd Annual National High School Finals Rodeo to be held July 24-30 in Gillette, Wyoming.

The youths earned positions on the New Mexico state high school rodeo team by their placing at the State Rodeo Finals held June 1 in Farmington.

Shayla will compete in the Girls Cutting Horse contest and Taylor and Doug will compete in the Boys Cutting Horse contest at the National Rodeo Finals.

Also at the state high school rodeo finals, Shayla won the Wrangler Girls Cutting Championship. With this she received several Wrangler clothing items.

Shayla is a ninth grade student at Capitán High School, Doug is a 10th grader at Capitán High School, and Taylor graduated from Capitán High School recently. All three are children of Wes and Cindy Smith of Nogal.

Harrell Fuller has received a Superior Rating award from the State Dept. and with it a monetary award which came at just the right time. Mr. and Mrs. Fuller are leaving August 1 as members of the Fairfax, VA Unitarian Church choir.

The Fullers helped establish the Fairfax Church, and in turn the Fairfax Church has helped to establish the Unitarian Church in Romania. The choir has learned to sing in five languages and will spend 10 days singing and making new friends.

Mrs. W. W. Korges, Menlo Park, CA arrived Thursday to spend about three weeks in her cabin here. She was accompanied by friends and has had visitors, but no names were available at nap time Tuesday. Mrs. Rogene Alford has returned from a trip to Jerusalem, but more about that next week or the next.

Betty and Fenner Jones, daughter, Cathy Caffrey,

**Corona News**  
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**What Lies Beneath (PG 13)**  
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**X-Men (PG 13)**  
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## Church Directory

**Mountain Ministry Parish, Sierra Blanca Presbytery**  
 Nogal Presbyterian Church:  
 BILL SEBRING, pastor  
 Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Worship..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Ancho Community Presbyterian Church:  
 SCOTT KING, pastor / 648-2024  
 Worship..... 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Corona Presbyterian Church:  
 Worship..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Adult Bible Study & Youth Fellowship..... Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.

**Spirit of Life Apostolic Pentecostal Tabernacle**  
 ALLAN M. MILLER, pastor  
 209 Lincoln Ave., Capitán, NM 354-2025  
 Tuesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm  
 Sunday School..... 10:00 am  
 Sunday Evening..... 6:00 pm

**First Baptist Church**  
 HAYDEN SMITH, pastor  
 314 10th Ave., Carrizozo, NM 648-2088 (church) or 648-2107  
 Sunday School..... 9:45 am  
 Worship Service..... 10:55 am  
 Sun. Evening..... Training at 6:15 pm  
 Evening Worship..... 7:15 pm  
 Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

**Carrizozo Community Church (A/G)**  
 JOHNNIE L. JOHNSON, pastor  
 Corner of C Ave. & Thirteenth, 648-2166  
 Children's Church..... 10:30 am  
 Worship Service..... 10:30 am  
 Wed. Bible Study..... 7:30 pm

**Santa Rita Catholic Community**  
 FR. DAVE BERGOS, pastor  
 213 Birch, Carrizozo, NM, 648-2853  
**SATURDAY:**  
 Capitan Sacred Heart..... 5:00 pm  
 Cizeo Santa Rita..... 6:30 pm  
**SUNDAY:**  
 Capitan Sacred Heart..... 9:00 am  
 Cizeo Santa Rita..... 10:30 am  
 Corona St. Theresa..... 1:00 p.m.

**Church of Christ**  
 FERRY ZUMWALT, minister  
 Ave. C at 12th, Carrizozo, NM  
 Sunday School..... 10:00 am  
 Worship Service..... 11:00 am  
 Evening Worship..... 1:15 pm  
 Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

**St. Matthias Episcopal Church**  
 REV. CANON JOHN PENN, rector  
 Corner of E. Ave. & Sixth, Carrizozo, NM 1-505-257-2355  
 Holy Eucharist..... 9:30 am Sunday

**The Word of Life Church**  
 REV. CHUCK FULTON, pastor / 648-2339  
 711 'E' Ave., Carrizozo, NM  
 Affiliated w/ the Evangelistic Assembly Church  
 Sunday..... 7:00 p.m.

**Tinnie Baptist Church**  
 BILL JONES, pastor  
 Sunday School..... 10:00 am  
 Church Services..... 11:00 am

**United Methodist Churches**  
 TOM WOODARD, pastor  
 1000 D. Ave. 648-2893 / 648-2846  
 Carrizozo, NM 88301  
 Sunday School (All Ages)..... 10:00 am  
 Worship Service..... 11:10 am  
 Choir Practice (Tuesday)..... 8:30 pm  
 United Methodist Women Every 3rd Wednesday..... 1:00 pm  
 Fellowship Dinner, 4th Sunday of Month 12:30 pm

**Capitan**  
 Adult Sunday School..... 9:30 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.

**Christ Community Fellowship**  
 ED VINSON, pastor (inter-denominational)  
 514 Smokey Bear Blvd./Capitan  
 Preparation Prayer..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.

**Capitan Church of Christ**  
 LESLIE EARWOOD, minister  
 5th & Lincoln / 338-4827  
 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.

**Trinity Southern Baptist Church**  
 Phone 354-2044  
 Capitán (South on Hwy. 48)  
 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship Service..... 11:00 a.m.  
 AWANA Wednesday..... 6:00 p.m.

**First Baptist Church of Corona**  
 CAL WEST, pastor / 649-7975  
 Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Worship Service..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Wed. Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.  
 Fellowship Dinner..... First Sunday of Month

**Sands RV Park & Motel**  
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**Bill Winkler**  
**Stearns Insurance Agency**  
**Rainbow Inn**



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF LINCOLN TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT No. FR 99-31

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID DANIEL SWEARINGIN, II, Deceased.

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO: TO: Dawn Swearingin; and TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF DAVID DANIEL SWEARINGIN, II, AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO HAVE OR CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF DAVID DANIEL SWEARINGIN, II, DECEASED; OR IN THE MATTER BEING LITIGATED IN THE HEREIN AFTER MENTIONED HEARING.

Hearing on the Petition filed by the undersigned Personal Representative setting forth a Petition for Order of Complete Settlement of Estate by Personal Representative will be held at the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, sitting in Carrizozo, New Mexico, on the 25th day of August, 2000, at 8:30 o'clock a.m., at which time the Court will consider the final accounting of the estate, the distribution of the estate, whether the estate is fully settled, and the discharge of the Personal Representative from further claims or demands of any interested persons.

Pursuant to § 45-1-401, NMSA 1978, notice of the time and place of hearing on said Petition is hereby given you by publication, once each week, for two consecutive weeks.

WITNESS the hand and seal of this Court this 18th day of July, 2000.

DISTRICT COURT CLERK By: Elizabeth Ysasl Deputy

Dawn Swearingin Personal Representative

Mel B. O'Reilly 7125 Prospect Place, NE Albuquerque, NM 87110 TEL 505/881-7676 FAX 505/884-6362

Attorney for Personal Representative

Published in the Lincoln County News on July 20 and 27, 2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF LINCOLN TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CV-00-104

NORWEST BANK MINNESOTA, N.A., AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT, DATED AS OF MARCH 30, 1999; DELTA FUNDING HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 1999-1, C/O DELTA FUNDING CORPORATION AS SERVICING AGENT.

Plaintiff,

vs. LEONARD SANCHEZ, a single man, Defendant.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF SUIT

TO: Defendant Leonard Sanchez: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named Plaintiff filed a Complaint for Foreclosure in the above Court on May 12, 2000, against the above-named Defendant, the general object of which is to foreclose a lien of Plaintiff against certain real property located in Lincoln County, New Mexico, commonly known as 340 Walnut Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico, and more particularly described as follows:

Lot 21, Block 1, of SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBDIVISION, Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico, as shown by the plat thereof filed in the Office of the County Clerk and Ex-Office Recorder of Lincoln County, New Mexico, on January 5, 1959.

and to foreclose the interests of the above named Defendant and any other parties bound by the notice of lis pendens filed in the County records with respect to this case, all as more specifically stated in the Complaint filed in this cause of action.

FURTHER, Defendant Leonard Sanchez is hereby notified that he has twenty (20) days from date of completion of publication of this Notice in which to file an answer or other responsive pleading to the Complaint and should he choose to file a responsive pleading or motion to the Complaint on or before the 18th day of August, 2000, judgment or other appropriate relief may be rendered against the above-named Defendant.

Richard M. Leverick of the law firm of Leverick and Musselman, L.L.C., whose address and phone number is 5120 San Francisco Rd. NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109, (505) 858-3303, is the attorney for the Plaintiff.

WITNESS the hand of KAREN L. PARSONS District Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of the Twelfth Judicial District Court of Lincoln County, this 22nd day of June, 2000.

JAN PERRY CLERK OF THE COURT

(Seal of the Court)

By: Elizabeth Ysasl Deputy

Published in the Lincoln County News on July 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF LINCOLN STATE OF NEW MEXICO No. CV 00-154

IN RE: The Petition for Name Change of SAMUEL ALLEN GARNER

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with the provisions of Sections 40-8-1 through 40-8-3, N.M.S.A. 1978 Samuel Allen Garner will apply to the Honorable Karen L. Parsons, District Judge of the 12th Judicial District, at the 12th Judicial District Courthouse at Carrizozo, New Mexico, at 8:30 o'clock a.m., on the 7th day of August, 2000, during a regular term of the Court, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard for an Order for a change of name.

from SAMUEL ALLEN GARNER to SAMUEL RALPH UNGARO.

JAN PERRY District Court Clerk

By: Elizabeth Ysasl Deputy Court Clerk

Submitted: Samuel Allen Garner

Published in the Lincoln County News on July 20 and 27, 2000.

The Claunch-Pinto Soil & Water Conservation District Board will meet Tuesday, August 1, 2000 at 10:00 A.M. for their Regular Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Robert J. Saul Recreation Memorial Building at the 111 North Roosevelt, Mountainair, New Mexico. All meetings are in accordance with the Open Meeting Act and the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, July 27, 2000.

ELECTION NOTICE CLAUNCH-PINTO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all owners of land situated in the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District in the counties of Torrance, Socorro and Lincoln, in the State of New Mexico.

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of September, 2000 at the hour of 11:30 a.m. a convention will be held to elect two supervisors of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District in accordance with the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation District Act. Location of the election will be the Claunch Women's Club Building in Claunch, New Mexico located forty-one miles South of Mountainair on Highway 55.

The positions to be filled are position #3 currently being filled by E.R. "Bud" Bagley and position #4 currently being filled by J. Brian Greene. Nomination petitions for the position of supervisor may be secured at the Gustin Hardware, 121 West Broadway Suite 108. Owners of land within the district are eligible to serve as supervisors. Nominating petitions must be signed by at least ten eligible voters and returned to Gustin Hardware, 121 West Broadway Suite 108 by August 4, 2000. Names of persons with nominating petitions will appear on paper ballots. In addition, nominations will be allowed from the floor.

All owners of land within the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District are eligible to vote. Persons may be asked by the election officials to provide a tax receipt or other documentation of land ownership to verify eligibility to vote.

Absentee ballots will be permitted.

1. By Mail - Absentee ballots will be available to persons requesting them by mail between August 7th and August 17th, 2000. The District will mail requested ballots by August 22nd, 2000. Absentee ballots returned by mail and received by the district on election day or before will be counted. Absentee ballots: 2. In person - Absentee ballots will be available to persons requesting them in person from the person shown at the bottom of this notice between August 22nd, and September 1st, 2000.

Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District

Kay Lindsey Chairman

July 11, 2000

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ELECTION CONTACT:

Dierdre L. Tarr between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12 noon Monday through Friday at 847-2941. Location of Office: Gustin Hardware, 121 West Broadway Suite 108, Mountainair, New Mexico. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 129, Mountainair, NM 87036.

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, July 27, 2000.

CAPITAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

Notice of Posting Free and Reduced Meals

A Public Release for Free and Reduced meals will be posted at the following designated locations: Capitan Post Office, Ruidoso State Bank, Farmer's Country Market, Administration Building, Elementary, Middle and High School.

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, July 27, 2000.

Fifteen Apply (LCSWA)

(Continued from Page 1)

get for 2000-01 fiscal year is contingent upon submission of unaudited beginning cash balances for year end financial report and investments and the year-end financial report for the period ending June 30, 2000 completed in the Local Government Division required format.

Simpson said as LCSWA goes through reorganization, Virden suggested the LCSWA board review the budget on a very regular basis. Virden said she made some adjustments to the final budget in expenditures for medical, workers compensation and liability insurance. She had estimated the cost of the insurance and when the bill came in it was lower than her estimates. Workers compensation was also reduced, but liability insurance increased. Virden also strongly suggested the LCSWA board review the budget on a monthly basis.

In the 2000-01 budget total revenues from collection system, administration and recycling are estimated at \$888,557 and expenditures for the collection system are estimated at \$1,098,622. Transfers of \$225,000 will be made from the fund that includes the Environmental Gross Receipt Taxes (EGRT) of \$142,019, revenue from the City of Alamogordo of \$139,177 (fees paid on landfill profits) and interest earned of \$8,807. Currently that fund has \$179,484 in its beginning cash balance. A portion of that beginning cash balance will go toward the total operational expenditures of \$1,274,468, leaving ending cash balance of \$95,829. LCSWA is required to have \$91,551.83 for its state mandated 1/12th reserve.

The board also adopted a new mileage and per diem policy that follows state limits. Virden said the new policy allows for employees who use their own vehicle to be reimbursed at 25 cents a mile, and sets per diem reimbursements to \$66 in state and \$75 for in state special areas (Santa Fe only) and out of state and \$95 for special out of state metropolitan areas.

LCSWA board members also considered changing meeting dates and time upon request of the mayor of Carrizozo. He said he works and has to take time off to attend the LCSWA meetings held during the day and he wanted to know why the board never met at night. Ingle said she also takes time off work to attend the LCSWA meeting, but she preferred the day meetings because she attended so many meetings at night and was attending school. The mayor of Carrizozo then drifted in the discussion and congratulated the employees for the good job of keeping the Alto dumpsters under control.

Carrizozo police chief Angelo Vega who came to the meeting with the mayor of Carrizozo in the town police car, suggested the board hold meetings in every member community as a good will gesture. After considerable discussion on what day would be best, with the mayor of Carrizozo suggesting a Friday night, the board learned the financial statements could be ready by the third week. Previously the board met on the third Tuesday because the bank statements arrived too late to put into a financial report. But bookkeeper Beverly Foote said the statements are earlier and she could have the reports done by the third Tuesday. With that the mayor of Carrizozo asked the meetings be on the third Tuesday at night. Board members agreed to consider the request and make a decision at their next meeting.

During the managers report, Simpson told about the success of the bear dumpsters. While the lids are working well to keep bears out of the containers, the major problem is residents who will not close the lids, or who put food on top to attract the bears. Simpson said they are working on a self closing lid design. He also said he is working with the new Game and Fish officer to catch people who bait bears. If the officer catches anyone putting out food for bears, he could cite them for "creating a wildlife nuisance" which carries a fine of up to \$500.

Simpson also reported on the recent actions of the Lincoln County Commission toward the inmate work release program. At his urging, the county commission agreed to drop the \$10 a day administrative fee charged to anyone who utilizes a county inmate for governmental entities who use the inmate program. Simpson also said he found a Carrizozo resident who works in Ruidoso who is willing to transport county inmates to the LCSWA yard to work for LCSWA daily. The resident then returns the inmates when he goes home at night. Simpson said LCSWA is providing a vehicle and payment for one hour to the resident.

Once again Simpson suggested the board raise the roll off transport fee to \$300 to match the local private enterprise which could provide enough revenue for the

roll off service to offer communities a once a month roll off service. This brought about discussion on how LCSWA needs a "pup" trailer for the existing roll off transport truck and trailer to allow the same truck to haul two containers. Such a trailer would cost about \$27,000.

Because of complaints of blowing trash at the dumpsters near Maggaddo Creek Estates on Highway 37, Simpson suggested putting up a fence to contain the trash. He said the person who owns the property adjacent to the dumpsters made the complaint and wanted the containers moved. Simpson said the location is good in all types of weather and he was unsure where to relocate the cans unless a property owner would donate the use of land. He said he would look at alternate sites in that area.

Virden reported LCSWA was turned down for a \$128,900 grant for tire recycling, that LCSWA was not eligible to participate in the federal surplus auctions and it needed to begin an Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) which it has never had. She also said she would attend a free school on the ICIP which will be held in conjunction with a grant writing school.

Simpson also discussed a proposal for LCSWA to consider disposing of tires, which could result in extra revenue.

The board took no action after a closed session on limited personnel matters.

County Offers

(Continued from page 6)

fund with the revenue from the one-eighth percent gross receipt tax for the new jail in excess of the required debt payment. Because of all the needs, Stewart recommended the commission increase its discretionary mills by one, from the current 1.75 to 2.75 mills for the 2000-01 tax year.

Ruidoso citizen Candace Valcaroel said even though it appears the mill rate would be lower than in previous years, it could result in higher taxes. She suggested the county figure in a reasonable hospital lease revenue to go into the general fund. "It seems everything is going to the hospital," she said.

County commissioners also approved the sale of a surplus county ambulance to the Town of Texico.

County commissioners are considering all changes, and will take action to adopt the adjusted figures for the final budget at their meeting being held this morning, July 27, in the courthouse.

Also at the July 20 meeting, county commissioners:

-Approved the agreement between the County of Lincoln and the Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff's Association for this fiscal year that outlines leave, holidays, extra duty assignments, group insurance and other employment policies.

-Rejected all bids submitted to install fire sprinklers at New Horizons Developmental Center because all came in over budget.

-Accepted a bid for \$8,000 for a used blood chemistry analyzer, with funds to go back into the hospital mill levy fund.

-Approved the annual service agreement with South-eastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD) for dues of \$3,500. SNMEDD assists with Community Development Block Grant (CDBGs) and as a lobbyist on behalf of member entities at the state legislature.

-Accepted the recommended expenditures of Lodgers Tax funds of \$1,500

to Mountain of Blues Festival, \$800 to Connoisseur Wine Classic, \$250 to Ruidoso Market (moved to Capitan), \$500 to Grindstone Graphics to include county lodgers in the Ruidoso brochure, \$2,000 for the Golden Aspen Motorcycle rallies; \$1,000 for the Art Loop Studio Tour, \$1,500 for the NM Chili Cook off. There was a protest that the \$500 to Grindstone Graphics was like double dipping since the company already gets money to produce the brochures.

-Heard a presentation from Tony Elias, executive director of SNMEDD on the procedures and policies of the CDBG program. Stewart suggested the CDBG as an alternative if the county does not get federal funding to expand the Carrizozo Health Clinic and the county sub-office in Ruidoso.

-Appointed Dorothy Chavez-Torres to the E-911 Committee.

-Authorized continuation of the self-imposed Predatory Animal Control Tax Levy of 25 cents per head on sheep, goats and cattle. Owners of at least 51 percent of the sheep and goats and 51 percent of the cattle on county tax roles petitions the commission to continue the levy for the next five years. Commissioners also approved the requested appointment of Bill Gallacher, Jim Cooper, Mark Hendricks, Ron Merritt, Mike Skeen and Von Weddige to the county predator control board.

Subscribe! Call 505-648-2333





**FAST ACTION**  
*Lincoln County News*  
**CLASSIFIED ADS**  
 CALL: 505 / 648 - 2333

**HIGH HOPES** is the perfect place to shop. Sewing and craft supplies and gifts. Large selection of materials. Ask Daniel about comics and 10,000+ books, 101 Lava Loop on Hwy. 380, Carrizozo, 648-2873.  
 tfn/Dec. 16

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
 Partly furnished 1-BR apartment in Carrizozo. Call 648-2836, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 tfn/July 13

**LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME:** 1-year old Huskie-Mix. Good with people and kids. If interested call 505-437-0643. All shots taken care of.  
 tfn/NC

**WILLPOWER IN A BOTTLE**  
 Lose 20 lbs. Fast. Dr. recommended 30 day \$\$\$ back guarantee! 1-888-506-6382 www.leroux.twooffice.com  
 6tp-July 20 - Aug. 24

**TRACTOR WORK:** Mowing, road grading, trenching, excavating. Water, sewer lines, electric poles/lines and septic systems installed. Turn-key mobile home sites developed. Licensed.  
 354-7000 430-8644  
 7tp-July 20 - Aug. 31

**GREAT DEAL!** 1993 14x56 Skyline Mobile Home. 2 bed/1 bath, excellent condition, new carpet throughout, all appliances, washer, dryer, shed and fencing. Can be moved will pay up to \$500.00 of moving costs. \$13,500 negotiable. (505) 434-0113 or (505) 648-2966  
 2tc-July 13 & 20

**VILLAGE OF CAPITAN REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
 Maintenance/Upkeep of Capitan Cemetery Grounds

The Village of Capitan Cemetery Board is seeking bids for the maintenance of the Village of Capitan Cemetery grounds. Bids will be accepted at Village Hall, P.O. Box 246, 114 Lincoln Ave., Capitan, New Mexico 88316 until July 14, 2000, 2:00 P.M.

For copies of the Scope of Work and additional information, contact the Village Administrator at Village Hall, 114 Lincoln Ave., Capitan, N.M., 88316 (505) 354-2247.  
 2tc/July 20 & 27

**HOST A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT!** AISE seeks local families interested in learning about the world, while making a young person's dreams come true. Host families provide meals and a place to sleep, students have their own spending money and medical insurance. Call AISE at 1-800-SIBLING or visit our web site at www.aisewest.com to select your student online.  
 5tp-July 13 - Aug. 10

**CONSTRUCTION HELP** needed for jail project in Carrizozo. Ramco Inc. is seeking people that are very familiar with commercial type, ground-up construction, with heavy concrete experience including layout, grades, rebar, form setting, and finishing. Please FAX qualifications to 505-821-5943 or call 505-821-5790  
 2tc-July 27 & Aug. 3

**SILARNS INSURANCE AGENCY**  
 CARRIZOZO  
 (505) 648-2911

**3 Bedroom, 2 Bath DOUBLEWIDE.**  
 Del. & Setup  
 Less than  
**259.00**  
 PER MONTH  
 800-530-8577

**ALFALFA HAY FOR SALE**  
 in Hondo Valley. Contact Ralph Montes. 505-653-4526  
 tfn-May 18

**FOR SALE:** Technics Stereo System, CD changer, graphic equalizer, dual cassette, turntable, speakers and cabinet. \$500 OBO.  
 648-1145  
 1tp-July 20

**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**  
**LINCOLN COUNTY** is now accepting applications for the **SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.** Obtain application at the Lincoln County Manager's Office in Carrizozo or by calling Martha Guevara at 505/648-2385. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 4, 2000. Lincoln County, Equal Opportunity Employer and in Compliance with ADA Requirements, Title II-A.  
 1tc-July 27

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 \*\*\*\*\*

**NOTICE OF VACANCIES**  
**DATE POSTED:** July 7, 2000  
**POSITION(S):** Assistant Football Coach  
 Assistant Basketball Coach  
**QUALIFICATIONS:** Coaching License, may be waived for the first year.  
**APPLICATION PROCEDURES:** 1. Application and letter of interest.  
**SEND APPLICATION PACKETS TO:** David Cooper, Superintendent Carrizozo Municipal Schools P.O. Box 99 Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301 (505) 648-2348  
**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** Until Filled.

*The Carrizozo Municipal Schools is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin. The district abides by all state and federal nondiscrimination and equal opportunity requirements.*

**CARRIZOZO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS IS A TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS.**  
 2tc/July 27 and Aug. 3

**FOR SALE IN CARRIZOZO**  
 1984 14x80 2/2+ addition on 1/3 acre 115x150. 0 down, under \$275 month.  
 1-505-296-0243  
 tfn-July 27

**BUILDING MATERIALS and CONSTRUCTION**  
**NEW STEEL BUILDING** in Crate, 40x30 was \$7,212 now \$3,890. Must sell!!!  
 1-800-292-0111  
 1tp-July 27

**SUBSCRIBE, CALL 505 / 648 - 2333**

**Open Meetings**  
 Working On Your Behalf

From Attorney General Patricia Madrid

Meetings held by public officials to discuss public business are the business of the public. The Open Meetings Act is a "sunshine law" that governs meetings of public bodies. As Attorney General, I am charged by law with the responsibility to enforce provisions of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. Who must comply with the Open Meetings Act? All public bodies must comply with this act. A public body includes: a quorum of members of ANY board, commission, administrative adjudicatory body or other policymaking body of any state agency; or any agency or authority of any county, municipality, district or city. Meetings of a public body in which public policy is formulated, public business is discussed, or action is taken, are to be open to the public. Who does not have to comply with the Open Meetings Act? Private entities such as privately owned businesses or clubs do not have to comply with this act. Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos are sovereign nations and are not required to comply with this act. Some groups, such as advisory councils, who make recommendations to public bodies are not subject to the Open Meetings Act, as long as those groups do not make decisions respecting public business or formulate public policy. What type of notice of a meeting is required? The Attorney General

considers reasonable notice to be: 10 days' prior notice for regular meetings; 3 days' prior notice for special meetings; 24 hours' advance notice for emergency meetings. Emergency meetings called with little or no notice are limited to those involving issues that could not be anticipated and which, if not addressed immediately, threaten the health, safety or property of citizens, or are likely to result in substantial financial loss to the public body. Are there exceptions to the Open Meetings Act? Yes. A public body may meet in closed session; however, those exceptions to the open meetings act are limited. In general, adjudicatory proceedings in which evidence is offered or refuted are to be conducted in open meetings. While public bodies may deliberate on adjudicatory matters in a closed meeting, their final decision is to be made in an open meeting. Such discussions may pertain to personnel matters; licensing; certain purchases which exceed \$2500; and the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights owned by the public body. Discussions by a school board about a student may be held in closed meeting to avoid identifiable information and protect the student's privacy. The Gaming Control Act has provisions which permit a portion of the Gaming Control Board meetings to be closed. Closed meetings with a public body's lawyer may be held to discuss threatened or pending

litigation in which the public body is involved or may become involved. Discussions of bargaining strategy between the public body and a bargaining unit of the public body's employees are exceptions to open meetings. How is a meeting to be closed? The public has a right to know where, when and why a closed meeting of a public body is being held. If a majority of a quorum of the public body votes to close a meeting, they must provide reasonable specificity as to the subject of discussion during the closed meeting and the subject must fall within one of the Act's exceptions. An example of reasonable specificity is to "discuss the purchase of property for a new courthouse." If a public body decides to hold a closed meeting outside of an open meeting, specificity of the subject must be given in advance. If proper notice is given, an open session before or after the closed meeting is not necessary. My office publishes the Open Meetings Act Compliance Guide, which contains the complete act and additional details. This guide is available from my web site (www.ago.state.nm.us) or you may contact my office to receive the guide free of charge. Suspected violations of the Open Meetings Act should be documented in writing, and sent to the Attorney General's Office P.O. Drawer 1508 Santa Fe, NM 87504-1508.

**A Glimpse of**  
 (Continued from Page 8)

with some drifting at bottom of shaft. The drift shows 4 feet of ore, with only one wall as yet exposed, that averages over \$12 per ton. All of the properties on the mother lode show large bodies of milling ore. The Ashville is a great cyaniding proposition. About 100 tons of ore from this property has been treated in an arastra.

**MORE NEXT WEEK. THE CHLORIDE MINING DISTRICT.**

The mineral belt is from four to eight miles wide, extending from Antelope Springs, six miles north of Grafton, south to Monument creek, eight miles south of Chloride, a distance of twenty miles. The mother lode of the district can be traced for over half of this distance, and many claim that it can be traced for over sixteen miles. This vein is marked by massive croppings its entire length, every foot of which is located. On this vein are many properties, any one of which would make a live, producing camp if situated in Colorado. There are numerous other veins running parallel with the mother lode, and spurs from it; many of them as large as the mother lode. Several of them can be traced for miles, showing a persistency seldom seen in any mining country. The Readjuster is located on one of these parallel veins, and shows sixty feet of ore on the 200 foot level, averaging from 30 to 40 ounces silver and \$2 to \$6 gold per ton.

The following are only a few of the prominent properties of the district, all situated west of the mother lode: Camden, Philadelphia, Sunset, Silver Dollar, Eureka, Iffie, Olympia, and Gold Reserve, all showing large bodies of milling ore, with shoots of ore running through the bodies of low grade ore that will "ride on the cars" and stand a wagon haul of eighty-five miles to the railroad. The Olympia has two shafts 75 feet deep, and shows an ore body 8 feet wide. This is an ideal cyanide proposition.

The Great Republic, Julia, Keepsake, Keystone, Great Southwest, Crawford, Chicago, Gold Bug, Wathena, Emporia, Braxton, Ivanhoe, and Ashville are a few of the properties of the mother lode. The El Paso and North-eastern railroad is considering the building of a branch road from their main line at Alamogordo to this camp, and to secure the traffic of Organ. When this is done there can be no question in the minds of practical men that this section will become a large ore producer and of great value. The camp is easy of access by wagons, there being a perfectly level, smooth road down the valley 50 miles to El Paso, and a good road via San Augustine pass to Las Cruces, 25 miles, and many of the mines can be reached by wagon over a good natural road. Ore is hauled either to El Paso or Las Cruces at \$5 per ton, charges for freight into the camp being the same.

**BLACK RANGE AND APACHE MINING DISTRICT**  
 by C.T. Brown,  
 The Black Range Mining district is situated on the east side and near the north end of the Black Range mountains, of which the town of Grafton is the center. The district extends some four miles south of Grafton to Bear creek, the northern boundary of the Apache Mining district. Chloride is the center of the Apache Mining district, and has a daily mail from the railroad.

The mining camp of Chloride is situated eight-five miles southwest from Magdalena, the terminus of the Magdalena branch of the A.T. & S.F. railway, from which point there is a good wagon road.

The formation is porphyritic, principally andesite in its various forms, with occasional belts of trachyte. Phonolite is found in isolated localities. Large belts of limestone occur in the Apache district.

Paralleling these are the Oro, Yellow Jacket, Kentucky and others whose names were not obtainable. Joining the Gold Dust on the west and on the Mormon vein is the

**Richmond**  
 Which has a shaft 90 feet deep upon it, and carries ore of the same character and value as those named.

Joining it on the west is the Mormon mine, which has been developed by shaft 190 feet deep, and has produced ten to twelve thousand dollars at that depth, the ore averaging \$70 per ton. Bad management, extravagance and friction between owners caused a collapse when the mine was at the point of success. It was sold in 1894 at sheriff's sale, and had been practically idle since, the present owners refusing to work it or sell out.

These mines and their surroundings are of the greatest promise and will unquestionably develop into property of very great value when they pass into hands that can and will develop them. They are a network of rich gold veins and dikes, which are pronounced by Cripple Creek engineers very similar to that phenomenally rich camp.

Still north of these, on Black mountain is the

**Chicago Bell,**  
 A most promising lead mine in the lime contact, and is claimed to be on the "Dummie B." vein, which crosses the Mormon vein, in its course north.

Seven miles north is Bear canon, in which is located the

**Bennett Group**  
 Of silver-lead veins which have attracted public attention, and which it is reported wealthy Colorado men have secured with the intention of making large developments.

The Rimmetalist and Monometalist are also very promising mines, while there are many others not so well known.

East of Mineral Hill, at its base, is

**Hidden Treasure**  
 Which has been leased by Colorado parties with several others in the vicinity which are promising claims.

At the north end of Mineral Hill are located the mines which brought the camp to public notice, some eight years since, when there was quite an exciting time and several hundred people located there.

Lack of capital and bad management brought disaster upon the camp, from which it is now beginning to recover.

**The Mormon and Sunol**  
 Mines were the center of attraction. The Mormon vein is an east and west vein, upon which are located the Sunol group, the Sunol, Sunol Extension and Maud S., which were developed to a depth of 160 feet by shafts, and on the surface for hundreds of feet by open cuts exposing ore of good value in gold, silver and copper. In the excitement a 10-stamp mill was erected before any development was made. This, with bad management and incompetency



# Postal Move

(Continued from Page 1)

that facility because the Carrizozo facility is too small. "So it made good business sense to make the move," Roark said. "The move should not affect service to the communities in Lincoln County. Mail in some of the smaller communities may be 30 minutes later in arriving."

County commissioner Ray Nunley asked if the move will affect one day delivery, because that is vital to his pharmacy customers. Roark said the postal service is committed to one day delivery to any of the 883 zip codes.

County commission chairman Rex Wilson, who asked for the USPS presentation, said the post office is a viable economic unit to the Carrizozo economy. He then asked if the USPS is a governmental agency.

The USPS is a self-supporting "quasi-governmental" entity with a board of governors. "As for a government agency using tax dollars," Roark said. "Not since the early 1970s."

Wilson then asked if the USPS has any avenue to respond to public concerns. Roark said he personally

responded and made a trip to Carrizozo two or three months ago to talk with the post office employees to let them know what was happening. Roark said he later found out he was not to have done that until it was a "done deal."

Wilson said the jobs lost is important to Carrizozo, which would have liked to have had the opportunity to expand the Carrizozo Post Office. "The small number of jobs won't have much impact in Alamogordo," Wilson said.

Roark said the same questions were raised during the consideration for the move. But a new post office was needed in Alamogordo. "Economically it makes sense if we expanded the Alamogordo facility for the sorting machines and not build a second new facility in Carrizozo, since the vast majority of mail comes from Alamogordo," Roark said, a phrase he was to repeat several times.

Wilson referred to a letter received June 7 from Roark's office that indicated no decision had been made about the move. Roark said five days after that letter, he got the decision from the headquarters in Denver.

At least three postal employees again asked why the move was being made, and why one of the large sectional sorting machines was placed in the new Ruidoso Post Office. Roark said the USPS is taking all steps to reduce costs. He assured no post office will be closed, but some existing transport routes will be changed, or eliminated.

A "casual" postal employee confronted Roark on exactly

how many jobs will be lost in Carrizozo. He said after the move there still will be a postmaster and two part time clerks. Now there are eight career employees and four "casual" employees who were hired on a temporary basis until the move was made. Roark said the career employees have been offered positions in Alamogordo or elsewhere. Only the casual employees will lose their jobs. But many saw that differently.

Charlie Niederstadt asked if the Carrizozo facility is too small and said two machines could be placed in the building. Roark said that was wrong, there is no room. When asked why a machine was put in Ruidoso, Roark said because it was a new facility.

Roark said the USPS has been mandated to break even over five years, so the move was the best business decision to reduce the overhead.

Vanessa Nava who has worked at Carrizozo Post Office for 12 years said she did not think the transportation will be cheaper by moving the sectional center to Alamogordo, because mail will have to come back to Lincoln County. "The rural routes will probably be delayed," Nava said.

Carrizozo business person and former Carrizozo Town Trustee Eileen Lovelace asked if the post office hours will be affected in Carrizozo. Roark said hours will be the same. "Only the night work will disappear, there will be no change in service hours," he said. When asking about the employees, Roark said there was no intent to hurt

employees, who may have to commute to their new jobs. Lovelace said it takes a while for houses to sell in Carrizozo if employees have to move. Roark said employees have up to one year to move with the USPS paying for the move.

Peter Wolfe, Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce president, said the chamber sent a letter to the USPS on behalf of the citizens and businesses urging the USPS to reconsider the move. "Carrizozo is centrally located on a major truck route," Wolfe said. "And there is plenty of room to enlarge the facility in Carrizozo."

Wolfe then asked if Carrizozo is slated to get a new post office, (the current one was built in 1985) since Nogal, Capitan, Hondo, San Patricio, Ruidoso and many other communities in Lincoln County got new buildings. Roark said there are no plans for a new facility in Carrizozo. "Everybody but Carrizozo," Wilson commented.

Roark said Ruidoso had outgrown its post office which was many years older than the one in Carrizozo. "We have a list on priority order for new post offices, and all those smaller ones were in old buildings in much worse shape than the Carrizozo Post Office," Roark said.

Lincoln resident John McGrath asked the move be reconsidered, mostly because USPS had not sought local input on the move. "Do business people ask the public what facility they should build?" Roark responded, appearing somewhat agitated. "We cannot reconsider the move, this is underway. I thought the reason I was invited here was to explain the reason for the move."

Wilson then requested Roark provide the logistic

information about the move, and Roark agreed to make it available from his office.

Citizen Barbara Ward said the community should have been involved.

Roark said he had no control over the move. "As soon as I heard I came to the employees," he added. "I'm not sure a proper study was done."

Resident Patsy Sanchez said the post office is a monopoly and maybe should be broken up.

County commissioner Bill Schwettmann said he hoped no one gives up on protesting the move. "A year or so ago the postal service was going to close the Fort Stanton Post Office. I wrote to all our federal elected officials and in four days got a call from Senator Domenici that the post office would not close. Write or call your officials on this."

Oscuro citizen Jerry Carroll asked if the postal service could be sued to stop the move.

County attorney Alan Morel said he did not know until that day the Postal Service was not a branch of the U.S. Government.

In the June 5 letter from Roark's office it stated the move will result in "improved mail delivery to customers of Carrizozo, Alamogordo and surrounding communities; retention of postmaster position in Carrizozo; no change in retail or post office service in Carrizozo Post Office; no career postal employee will lose a job; some employees may have to commute to another post office; effective date for relocation of the postal operations is not expected before October. If postal employees are relocated it will be done in conjunction with current union agreements, which was expected to affect three to five employees. Carrizozo will

retain its post office facility and zip code.

## A Glimpse of

(Cont from p. 11)

of the mill man, caused a shut down which is still on.

There are two other very promising veins in the group which carry high values in gold, the Gold Spring and Monarch veins, both of which have development upon them.

Joining the Sunol group west are the

Jackson and Gold Dust Claims, also on the Mormon vein, upon both of which sufficient development has been done to prove them of more than ordinary promise and value.

## Fire Destroys Motor Home In Carrizozo



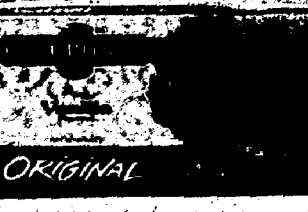


Carrizozo Police and Fire Departments in cooperation with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a motor home fire at the residence of Kenneth A. and Sharon Leslie on 18th Street about 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 25.

According to information from Carrizozo police department, Kenneth Leslie had just returned from fueling the 1978 Ford motor home when he noticed flames coming from underneath. Both the motor home and a 1982 Dodge Ram Charger Van were consumed by the fire.

"The cause of the fire is unknown until further investigation," said investigating Carrizozo police officer Sgt. James Steck. "It was most likely a combustible substance that somehow ignited causing the fire to engulf the vehicles. Steck said the Leslies told him they were all prepared to leave on a trip to Alaska to visit relatives when the fire occurred.

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