

Ruidoso Voters Turn Down \$6 Million Bond

by Doris Cherry
Election turnout for the municipal elections on Tuesday, March 7 was low in all communities.
Election turnout was the heaviest in Ruidoso, 36 percent, where voters defeated the \$6 million bond issue for the swimming pool/recreation center and returned all incumbents to the council.
While turnout was slightly lower in Ruidoso Downs (33 percent), voters elected Bob

A. Miller as their new mayor, elected Jim Bassett as trustee and returned incumbent Judy Miller to the board of trustees.
In other contests, John D. Whitaker and Leroy Montes returned to the Capitan Board of Trustees, Chuck Rominger retains the Carrizozo Municipal Judgeship, and Sandra Purrington wins as Corona position one trustee.
Election results by municipality:

CAPTAN:
Of the 983 registered voters in Capitan, 380 voted. Of those 16 voted absentee ballot and 50 voted early.
Incumbent trustees John D. Whitaker and Alfred Leroy Montes received the most votes for the two trustee positions. Whitaker received 264 votes and Montes received 188. Candidates Marcelyn V. "Van" Shamblin received 134 votes and George W. Tippin received 159. Newly re-elected trustees will be

sworn in at the start of the regular trustee meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14. Following the swearing in, the board will reorganize.
CARRIZOZO:
Of the 709 registered, 238 voted. Of those 14 voted early and three by absentee ballot.
C.O. "Chuck" Rominger was appointed as municipal judge was elected to the position with 134 votes. Municipal judge candidates Johnnie L. Johnson received 24 votes

and LeeRoy Zamora received 95 votes. For the two trustee positions, incumbent Wesley Lindsay received 198 votes and Tommy R. Guevara received 164 votes. Candidates will be sworn at 10 a.m. Monday, March 13, at town hall. The reorganization meeting will be held at the start of the regular meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 14.
CORONA:
In Corona 66 people voted, of the 136 registered voters. There was one voter

and no absentee voters.
Incumbent Position Two trustee Gilbert Stewart Jr. received 50 votes. For position one trustee Sandra Purrington was the winner with 38 votes. Candidate Mitzi Smid received 28 votes. Candidates will be sworn in at a later date.
RUIDOSO:
Of the 5,586 registered voters, 1,561 voted, with five non-residents voting on the bond election. Of those 188
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VOLUME #95, NUMBER 10

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2000

CARRIZOZO, NM 88301



CARRIZOZO LADY GRIZZLIES earned a berth and trip to the girls class 'A' state basketball tournament in Albuquerque by winning the district championship and winning their first round game at regionals last weekend. Carrizozo met Cliff's Cowgirls (Region C champs) on Wednesday night in first round action at Rio Grande H.S. Pictured are: back row (l to r) Madealyne Burr, Stella Brewer, Krista Franck, Brooke Holland and Renee Rael. Front row (l to r) Jessie Ortiz, Bianca Baca, Ashley Samora, Ariel Vallejos, Torrie Bosson and Adrienne Zamora. Not pictured: Mary Beth Bond, Ariel Burr and coach Mel Holland.

Fort Stanton Committee Drafts Letter To Governor

by Doris Cherry

A small group of people willing to roll up their sleeves to work for a solution for Fort Stanton gathered in the Lincoln County Commissioners chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo early Tuesday morning, while outside a blizzard blasted the county seat.

Attending the March 7 meeting held in Carrizozo

were State Rep. Dub Williams, Fort Stanton, Inc. (FSI) members Dick Weber, Sally Burkstaller and Jack Pruitt, Dee Kessler from the New Mexico Monuments in Lincoln, Paul Happel and public information officer Howard Parman from the BLM, Lincoln County manager Tom Stewart and Leland Wittkopp interested veteran.

The group reviewed and authorized a letter to be sent

to Governor Gary Johnson requesting permission to solicit grant funds for a study on the best use of Fort Stanton. The letter was signed by the County of Lincoln manager Stewart, Williams and FSI president Weber. Bureau of Land Management district officer Ed Roberson in Roswell was to sign the letter once it was delivered to him. The letter

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County Commission Meets Thurs., March 16

by Doris Cherry

Lincoln County Commissioners meet in regular session at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 16, in their chambers of the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

Commissioners will hold another public hearing to take input on the proposed Lincoln County Indigent Hospital/Health Care Ordinance. The hearing will

be held at 10 a.m. The ordinance establishes guidelines for the administration of the funds raised with the county-wide one-eighth percent gross receipt tax, and sets the eligibility for recipients of the fund. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available from the Lincoln County Manager's office.

Other items on the tentative agenda include:

-Consent agenda of finance, treasurer's report for February, annual reporting forms for Bonito, Glencoe Palo Verde, Nogal and White Oaks Volunteer Fire Departments, approval of total mileage of county maintained roads for submittal to the state highway department, professional services agreement with

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March 21 Is Filing Day For County Candidates

by Doris Cherry

Registered voters in Lincoln County who wish to be a candidate for a county office in the Jun 6 primary election must file as a declared candidate with Lincoln County Clerk Martha Proctor between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21.

Lincoln County offices open for election this year are Lincoln County Commission District 1, now filled by Rex Wilson, and Lincoln County Commission District 3, filled by Leo Martinez who was appointed by the governor to complete the term vacated when Wilton Howell died. Other offices are Lincoln County

Assessor currently held by Patsy Serna, Lincoln County Sheriff held by Tom Sullivan and Lincoln County Probate Judge held by Stirling Spencer.

Current assessor Patsy Serna run again because of term limitations.

Candidates' names will be drawn at the county clerk's office after the close of filing at 5 p.m. March 21. The drawing is to determine the candidate's position on the primary election ballots.

In addition to the county offices positions to be elected this year are State Representative District 56, State Senator District 8, state board of education district 8 and 12th Judicial District Attorney, Justice of

Supreme Court retention, Judge of the Court of Appeals, and one Judge of the Court of Appeals retention. Candidates for all state-wide or multi-county districts must file with the secretary of state in Santa Fe, also on March 21.

To be included on the June 6 primary election ballot, a candidate must have been registered with a major political party on or before January 31, the date the governor issued the proclamation for the June 6 primary election. The candidate must also been a resident in the district or county of the office for which she or he is a

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County Commission To Consider Fire Ban

Extreme drought and hard winds have pushed the fire danger in Lincoln County to a very high level.

Lincoln County Commissioners meet in special session tonight (Thursday, March 9) at 6 p.m. in the Ruidoso Village Council chambers of Ruidoso Administration Center on Cree Meadows Drive. They are slated to act upon a request to impose fire restrictions. Matt Reidy, fire management officer with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will make a presentation on the current drought conditions and fire danger.

Based on current weather conditions, and the USFS position on fire at the time of the meeting, county commissioners will act on one of two proposed resolutions. Both resolutions will ban all burning of open flames, fires, campfires, trash, rubbish, shrubbery or other material of any kind, and also banning the sale or use of display fireworks. The second proposed resolution has an additional paragraph stating the USFS also proclaims the ban on all burning of open flame.

As long as the county is in a fire danger condition a resolution must be adopted

every 30 days to keep the restrictions in force, county manager Tom Stewart noted in his memo to county commissioners.

If commissioners approve a resolution to ban all open flame, they also will have to approve a proclamation that a serious fire danger emergency exists within Lincoln County, due to extreme drought conditions. Under the proclamation, it becomes unlawful for a person to set a fire, or cause a fire, unless permission to do so is given in writing by the Lincoln County Sheriff's

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LOOKING FOR ANSWERS. State Rep. Dub Williams (right) meets with State Monuments in Lincoln (with back to camera), Fort Stanton Inc. members Sally Burkstaller (far left), Jack Pruitt and veteran Leland Wittkopp during an ad hoc committee meeting on Tuesday, March 7. The meeting was hosted by Lincoln County manager Tom Stewart who also met with the group. Others attending the meeting were Dick Weber president of Fort Stanton, l.c., Paul Happel and Howard Parman from the BLM office in Roswell.

County Meet Mar. 16

(Continued from Page 1)

Management Associates, Inc., and water well lease agreement with Carrizozo Municipal Schools.

-Manager's projects report.
-Farewell for Mike Borrego, retiring detention center administrator.

-Presentation by US Forest Service District Ranger Gerald M. Hawkes on Bonito Road work, forest health discussion, cooperative road agreement, forest health update with an additional presentation from Cloudcroft village manager Mike Nivison.

-Report from Lincoln County Medical Center from administrator Jim Gibson, who also will speak on the

sub-lease of office space and modifications to the Carrizozo Health Center.

-Hospital mill levy information presented by the county manager.

-Information report on ambulance bill collections by Lincoln County Treasurer Joan E. Park.

-Tax chart explanation by Park.

-Lincoln County Substation space reallocation discussion by Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan.

-Update on Fort Stanton actions, presented by county manager.

-Detention Center construction update by

architects Nims, Calvani.

-Information presentation on the Rio Bonito water transfers from Art Mason of the Roswell office of the State Engineer.

-Information on Kairos Outside Ministry, support for women whose husbands are incarcerated, presented by Georgia Culbertson.

-Discussion on the solid waste container location at Ranches of Sonterra Subdivision presented by Ron Aquayo.

-Reports from the Public Land Use Advisory Council (PLUAC) on opposition to relocation of Mexican Gray Wolf and request for closure of Forest Road 57.

-Schedule for fiscal year 2000-01 budget preparations.

-Consideration of bids and requests for proposals (rfps) for Construction of Ranches of Sonterra fire substation in the Bonito Fire District, construction of addition to the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department building, inmates medications, for road department one new dump body of a 10-12 cubic yard capacity and one set of scarifier blades.

-Lincoln County Personnel Policies and Procedures revision of pay scale/incentive pay, clarification of section dealing with injury leave and workers compensation regarding medical insurance, clarification of family and medical leave benefits at employees expense.

-Presentation on the Southwest Border Initiative by citizen Tony Seno.

-Appointments to the Enhanced 911 Committee, planning commission, and road review committee.

-Visitors not on the agenda:

-New and other business from commissioners.

-Executive session for limited personnel matters, threatened and/or pending litigation, acquisition and/or disposal of real property.

Lincoln County Students Earn NMSU Degrees

Several Lincoln County students recently earned degrees from New Mexico State University.

From Carrizozo Lori Lee Gibson earned her Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Education, Blas Herrera earned a BS in Athletic training education and Lori V. Telles earned a BS in nursing.

From Capitan, Stacie Kelli Sidwell earned a BS in education.



VETERANS VISIT. Several veterans from Roswell, Ruidoso and the surrounding area attended the special Town Hall meeting on Fort Stanton on February 24 to suggest seeking funds to convert some of Fort Stanton into a long-term nursing care center for veterans. Federal funding may be available for such a facility.

Fort Stanton Drafts

(Continued from Page 1)

represents a cooperative effort between the county and federal government agencies and private entities for the best use of Fort Stanton.

The intent of the meeting was to coordinate efforts to obtain a \$100,000 planning grant that would fund a study to assess the condition of the structures, conduct a feasibility study of potential uses of the 80 buildings at the Fort, and construct a development model involving private enterprise and governmental entities. The county is currently working on a request for proposals (rfp) for the study, with the goal to have a plan to present to the NM legislature in January 2001.

In the letter to the governor it mentions the concept of turning Fort Stanton into a living museum, conference center and family recreation complex, "incorporating a prior effort by Robert O. Anderson to have a Center for the Western Horse." It also refers to the financially successful Fort Robinson, Nebraska living history museum.

"We believe that corporate contributions can restore the facility through a building adoption program with the necessary tax credits available through 501-C3 organizations such as Fort Stanton, Inc. The history surrounding the Fort is an economic opportunity that should not be wasted on temporary uses that return no money to the state. Our combined cooperating groups have the time, resources and expertise to seek grant proposals for a feasibility study on alternatives uses of the Fort that will generate income for

the state and minimize expense," the letter states.

Happel said BLM may also have some small funds to transfer to the county to contribute toward a study.

Stewart presented copies of a letter he sent to the president about Fort Stanton, and the reply he received on March 1 from the president's director of correspondence and presidential messages. Stewart's letter was forwarded to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for review and "any appropriate action." The director advised it may take some time.

Over the course of the meeting, the group determined several issues. They agreed there is a need to stabilize the historic buildings at the Fort, possibly with an "adopt a building" sponsorship.

FSI wants to open the small museum for visitors. Stewart said he would help Williams draft a letter to the state general services department to obtain permission to allow in visitors.

The group set dates for a Fort Stanton Open House and Veteran's Memorial on May 27. The event will be hosted by Williams and sponsored by many groups interested in Fort Stanton.

Stewart said the event has potential for vendors and other entrepreneurs to raise funds. Weber cautioned that the FSI insurance requires vendors to be licensed to handle food.

A clean up day will be held on May 20 to prepare for the open house.

A fire plan for the area was developed by State Forestry and has begun. Stewart said he would talk with state forester Barbara Luna about the project.

One unresolved issue is whether the state corrections department will go through with the proposed inmate drug re-hab project at Fort Stanton. Stewart said he would find out the status of the project.

Stewart closed the meeting by saying he would write as many letters as possible. Wittkopp suggested someone contact TV news personality Sam Donaldson about the Fort Stanton situation.

Stewart is scheduled to give an update on Fort Stanton at the March 16, Lincoln County Commission meeting to be held in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.



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Carrizozo P&Z Receives Request For Re/zoning

by Barbara Culler

The regular meeting of the Town of Carrizozo Planning and Zoning Committee (P&Z) was held on Monday, March 8. Present were members Ned Pieters (acting chairman), Pat Voss, new member Kathy Williams (replacing Mike Shivers), and alternate Carol Schlarb.

After approving both the agenda, and the February 7 regular meeting minutes, Tim Means was allowed to address the P&Z. His remarks were for discussion only as he was not on the agenda.

Means asked P&Z about re-zoning the Cimarron Mill, just east of the overpass; he wants to sell used cars, do auto repair, and possibly put an auto wrecking yard there. Presently that land is zoned A-1 and there are no special exceptions for what Means proposes to do.

Voss told Means that a six foot solid fence is required around a wrecking yard. He said he wanted to put bushes around as there is a variety that grow to about 15 feet in three years. Schlarb said that she believes that part of that property is out of the city limits and Means might want to check with the county.

Voss asked about the mobile homes that are sitting on the property and Means said that one of them is a recreation vehicle and one is a permanent mobile home. Voss told him that the zoning said that the mobile can not be connected to utilities or used as living quarters.

Means was asked how he would enter the property and he told the members that he would use the present entrance off the highway and that there was an alternative entrance at the back of the property.

P&Z was told by Means that he plans on removing the crusher part of the current building and either turning the remainder of the building into storage or build it into a house. Means was told after the discussion, by Pieters, that he should ask Schlarb to place him on the next meeting agenda. P&Z requested that Schlarb check with the town attorney David Stevens to see what can be done.

The review of the town attorney's review of deletions, additions to draft zoning ordinance definitions that was on the agenda was not worked on. Schlarb said that the attorney had not received the information that former P&Z member Patsy Sanchez had sent him. Sanchez has not received

back through the mail the information that she had sent so the P&Z questions and changes for the zoning ordinance definitions will be redone by Voss and sent to the attorney.

P&Z elected a temporary chairman and temporary vice chairman. Pieters, Voss, and Williams felt that it would be best to wait until there is a full P&Z again before electing a permanent chairman and a permanent vice chairman. Pieters was elected acting chairman (3-1 with Pieters the one no vote) and Voss was elected acting vice chairman (unanimously).

Discussion was held on how to make the public aware that there is an active P&Z committee and a zoning administrator (Town Clerk Carol Schlarb) and that questions concerning planning and zoning should be brought to Schlarb and then if necessary before the P&Z committee. The members asked Schlarb to put a notice in the paper to come in and check the zoning ordinances to make sure that what is done is allowed in that area and if there is any question as to whether it is allowed to ask the zoning administrator and if necessary come before the P&Z.

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Anna Aguilar

FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS
-Jayne 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 8 p.m. Carrizozo Senior Center. Call 648-1145 for information.

WEDNESDAYS
-Moms In Touch prayer group, 9 a.m. Ancho. Car pool from Carrizozo. Call 648-2460 for information.
-Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 7 p.m. Capitan Senior Citizens Center.

THURSDAYS
-Carrizozo School Library Story Hour 9:30-10:30 a.m. for preschoolers age 3-5.
-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.
-Alcoholics Anonymous 8 p.m. Carrizozo Senior Center. Call 648-1145 for information.

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, MARCH 9
-No school in Carrizozo.
-Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) meets. Call 258-5875 or 258-3622 for information on location.
-Capitan elementary PAC meeting 5 p.m. elementary building.
-Capitan ACT parent group officer election 5:30 p.m. in the elementary building pit.
-Special Lincoln County Commission meeting, 6 p.m. at Ruidoso Village Hall.
-Capitan School Board 6 p.m. administration building.
-Lincoln County Libertarian Party 6:30 p.m. Casa Blanca Restaurant in Ruidoso.
-Corona Village Trustees meeting 6:30 p.m. village hall.

MONDAY, MARCH 13-17
-Spring break for Capitan Schools.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14
-Carrizozo Town Council, 6 p.m. city hall. Business includes hearing on tobacco ordinance.
-Ruidoso Village Council, 6:30 p.m. village hall.
-Capitan Village Trustees, 7 p.m. village hall.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15
-Free AARP tax help, 1-4 p.m. San Patricio Senior Citizens Center.
-Capitan Carrizozo Natural Gas (CCNG) board meeting, 6:30 p.m., CCNG office in Capitan.
-Lincoln County Fair Association, 7 p.m., Lincoln County Fairground office in Capitan.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16
-Lincoln County Commission regular meeting, 9 a.m. in commission chambers of Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo

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Holy Spirit. You who make me see everything and who show me the way to reach my idea. You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me, and you who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank You for Your love towards me and my loved ones. Pray this prayer 3 consecutive days without asking your wish, after the third day, your wish will be granted, no matter how difficult it may be. Then promise to publish this prayer as soon as your favor has been granted. Wish granted.

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THOUGHTS

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Savings vs Special Session

By Ruth Hammond

Saving taxpayer money was supposed to have been a priority for Gov. Gary Johnson when he was a candidate six years ago in his first try at politics. He proposed cutting back on governmental spending by privatizing various state departments. Voters agreed it sounded like a good idea, not only once, but for the second term Johnson vowed he would not seek. So much for political promises.

As for saving taxpayer money, some of the governor's plans might have sounded good, but in reality they are not working. The governor wanted to downsize government by allowing certain work to be contracted to the private sector. The fact remains that the state will pay, whether the work is being accomplished by state employees or the private sector. Either way the state pays with taxpayer money. If there is any savings, the governor has not explained it.

Voters were hoodwinked into believing the governor could actually save money. Each year the governor and the state legislature disagree on major budget and/or other state situations and special sessions of the state legislature are necessary. Johnson says it is not his fault and the state legislature insists it is not at fault, but somewhere along the way communication broke down and normal state business was not completed during the regular legislative session.

Instead of talking with key legislators and trying to work a compromise, Johnson acts as if he should rule not only the state but the other branches of government. It seems as if Johnson thinks his executive powers are above the legislative branch. While each branch of government has specific duties, neither branch should rule the other. It would be in the best interest of the state if the governor would make an effort to work with the legislature and this would save the state expense of another special session.

Not talking and not working together has caused more expense than anything else during the time Gary Johnson has been governor. The savings from not holding special sessions could easily finance highway reconstruction or be used in practical ways such as being a bonus for schools. It would have been more beneficial for the governor to work on making each state department more efficient than to spout about saving money by privatizing state government.

Government is supposed to be the form or system of rule by which a state is governed. Apparently using his veto power and not talking to other elected officials is the process that Johnson is using to govern. According to the dictionary, rule to decide judicially. Do you believe that Gary Johnson is really making his decisions judicially?

Saving state money was a winning platform for Gary Johnson. Wouldn't it be nice if saving money was as much a priority for Gary Johnson today as it was when he was a candidate for governor? If he was sincere in his desire to save state money, Johnson would do everything he could to get a satisfactory budget through the legislature during the regular session. Maybe one reason Johnson does not want to get state business completed during the regular session is that a special session will give him more time to promote his personal programs and make more promises.

Privatizing or Pirating?

J.R. Doodles

Who says I can't do SEVERAL things at once? I'm washin' th' car, waterin' th' garden, fillin' th' horse trough...



INSIDE THE CAPITOL

SANTA FE - Gov. Gary Johnson has come up with another amazing theory.

First it was private school vouchers for every student in the state, something none of the other 49 governors has come close to proposing. Then it was legalization of drugs, something no other governor has come close to thinking. And now the governor's newest idea is cutting two years out of the school curriculum in order to improve education.

Amazing Gary has been known for "thinking out of the box," as he calls it, since he first burst on the political scene in 1994. One of his first surprise announcements was to venture that prisoners are the way they are because of improper nutrition, so prison problems could be solved by a simple menu change. Sort of a you-are-what-you-eat philosophy carried to the extreme.

It should have been a tip off that extreme solutions would become a Gary Johnson trademark. We haven't heard anything lately about prison menu changes, because the answer is now a "super-max" prison, another fairly extreme solution, but this one, at least, has been tried before. Johnson justifies his switch in philosophy by informing us that many convicts are really bad guys. Evidently they are people even a super vitamin won't cure.

So far, the voucher programs that have been proposed around the nation are either pilot programs or are plans with a very long implementation period. Gov. Johnson's proposal is for a four-year phase-in to cover all 340,000 New Mexico students. And so far, no governor or any other public official has proposed drug legalization, or decriminalization, or is even talking about it, for that matter. A few will quietly agree that the federal war on drugs isn't working, but even that is fraught with political danger no one else is willing to touch.

There are similarities between Johnson's solution of legalizing drugs in order to decrease drug use and his ideas about improving education by privatizing public schools and cutting two years off the amount of education the state provides for its children and youth.

First there's the money. Gov. Johnson calls himself a cost-effectiveness guy. He sees billions more every year poured into the drug war and yet drug use is increasing. So why not save most of that \$14 billion that is being spent by the federal government?

Similarly with education, millions more is poured every year into the schools and test scores go down, and they get worse the longer a student stays in school. So why

not save millions by making schools 10.5 years instead of 12.5 years? Our students will emerge smarter because all public schools do is dumb them down.

Johnson developed his argument during the debate about extending kindergarten from a half-day program to full time. The governor's rationale was that since New Mexico students do better on nationally standardized tests in the early grades, adding another half year of school the beginning would make them start performing poorly at an earlier age.

There already is pressure to start students in school programs at age four, a year before kindergarten, which Johnson doesn't like. But his focus now seems to be more on eliminating the senior

year in high school because a large percentage of students already have dropped out by then and the rest are smart enough to graduate by the end of their junior year.

Our governor got considerable national publicity for his full-scale voucher program proposal. He got much, much more notice for his drug war ideas. The general in that war, Barry McCaffrey, added to Johnson's fame by deciding to take him on personally, calling him goofy and charging that his ideas came straight out of Rolling Stone magazine. That of course, got Johnson another interview with Rolling Stone.

Lopping off two years of public school could get him as much attention if the right people take his word

County Agrees To Need For Forest Maintenance

by Doris Cherry

Despite a recommendation the county join a lawsuit to force the forest service to concentrate on watershed restoration and maintenance, Lincoln County Commissioners chose to take the administrative route, for now.

Pam Lewis, one of the three members of the Lincoln County Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee who met on February 9, recommended the county join in a Paragon Foundation lawsuit against US Forest Service (USFS) chief Mike Domback. The suit requires Domback, and the USFS to follow the four directives (including watershed restoration) of the Forest Service Natural Resources Agenda issued in March 1998.

Lewis said the Ag and Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC) and the Public Land Use Advisory Council (PLUAC) at their last meetings had reviewed the county's Land Use Plan when the topic of water and watershed was discussed. She said the USFS is mandated by federal law to take care of the watershed. Also the county's land use plan calls for coordination between the county and federal and state agencies.

About a dozen people attended the PLUAC meeting and a few stayed over for the ARAC meeting to discuss the need for watershed restoration. Lewis said most of those citizens wanted the county to join in the suit against the USFS, so local USFS agencies will get more money for watershed restoration.

Paragon Foundation

member Jay Walley said the foundation is "examining" a law suit against the forest service nationwide. "We will sue after we exhaust all administrative remedies," Walley said. He said the lack of watershed restoration and maintenance by the USFS has led to forests "choked with invasive and intrusive species," and dangerous fuel loads that will some day result in a major fire.

Walley said the lawsuit may have to be filed for each watershed.

Copies of Domback's letter, and his speech given to forest officials and retirees in 1998 were provided to commissioners. In it Domback writes about the USFS agenda that called for increased emphasis in "four key areas: watershed health and restoration, forest road policy reform, sustainable forest management and recreation." In Domback's speech he emphasized the need for watershed maintenance and restoration and called the two "the oldest and highest callings of the Forest Service."

When asked by county commissioner Bill Schwettmann what happened with Domback's 1998 speech, Walley said "nothing, quite the opposite happened—the Roadless Initiative." Walley said the President's executive order for the roadless initiative would increase the forest acreage without roads from about 40 million now to 100 million.

County commission chairman Rex Wilson said he was unsure the first step for the county was to join in a lawsuit against the forest service, because of the cost. Rather he proposed the county exhaust all administrative procedures.

County attorney Alan Morel said all administrative remedies have to be exhausted to file suit against a federal agency. "All we can do now is work through the system," Morel said.

Walley said Paragon Foundation is hoping that within one month it will have exhausted all administrative remedies, which could take one or two years to satisfy.

Wilson also asked that the Smokey Bear Ranger District Ranger Jerry Hawks be invited to the next county meeting to update what is happening with forest maintenance.

During discussion on the issue, citizen Jerry Carroll brought up the grazing limitations in the forests, and how people are losing grazing allotments because cattle are being blamed for problems in the forests.

Walley said Canada uses sheep in the forests to control fuel load. "Ranchers here are under fire for grazing," Walley said. In the southern Sacramento (Clouderoft south), the cattle grazing allotments are under fire from the Forest Guardians group and the Southwest Biodiversity Center, Walley added. Walley also said Paragon Foundation suspects collusion between these environmental groups and the forest service.

Citizen Tony Seno said there are solutions to the forest health issue. He said the county could hire an urban forester, such as Ruidoso committed to, who would coordinate citizens and funding for forest maintenance projects. He asked the county to research any funding or matching grant for projects. Seno also suggested using prison labor at no cost to do the work. "There are solutions," Seno said.

Wilson said local forest personnel have identified and recognized the need for forest maintenance.

Nogal resident Kathy Eisen and member of the volunteer fire department, said the fire department is concerned about rural interface defense during a wildfire. She suggested the county get the Forest Service to hold discussions about creating defensible areas around homes.

Wilson said former county commissioner Stirling Spencer started the Forest Coalition to educate citizens on the need for forest watershed management, and he thought the group would hold another seminar this spring. Also, the USFS has started a fire defense line around Ruidoso, "but that's just a drop in the bucket," Wilson added.

Lewis said the USFS and the State Forestry can educate people, but can't do the forest work for private citizens. She said locally USFS has tried to do "its job (of forest maintenance)" but does not have the money.

Lewis advocated private property owners undertake thinning and removal of invasive juniper and other species. "You might have to fight your neighbors to do this," she said. "Some of them do not like to thin or burn."

Lincoln resident John McGrath spoke on the recent prescribed fires done by the Bureau of Land Management. He urged commissioners to contact the BLM about this program. Also he suggested citizens contact the volunteer fire departments for such programs.

At the end of the discussion, Wilson did not call for a motion on the lawsuit. Rather he asked for Morel to research the administrative procedures and invite Hawks for an update.

Letters to the Editor

EDITOR: That there are ongoing problems with the Capitan-Carrizozo Natural Gas Company is made evident by several things. According to the New Mexico Attorney General's Office, which is conducting an ongoing investigation of CCNG, from 1995 to 1998 CCNG's legal fees amounted to approximately \$298,000. We can, by interpretation, assume that 1999's legal expenses amounted to approximately an additional \$100,000.

When I talked to the Assistant Attorney General handling the investigation of CCNG, he mentioned that if PNM's legal expenses were proportional to their income as compared to CCNG's, they would amount to approximately \$500,000,000. This is, of course absurd, but it does indicate that CCNG, with somewhere around 900 connections in Carrizozo and Capitan, is providing an excellent living for their attorney.

The article that was published in the February 10, 2000 edition of the Lincoln County News seemed to hint that we are being overcharged for the transportation of gas, evidently from the producer to the consumer. If this is the case then it obviously must be changed.

I do not pretend to understand the legal aspects of all this, but if I look at my monthly gas bill and the variance in it from month to month, I cannot help but apply the logic used to deduce the existence of a planet that one can't see. This being the gravitational effect of the unseen body on those that are visible. Thus I deduce that the amount of my gas bill is somehow tied to the legal expenses incurred by CCNG.

I cannot help but believe that if CCNG is in a position that they are constantly needing to defend themselves legally, or conversely, to legally attack the supplier of their gas, then something is fundamentally wrong. I further wonder if the legal problems that CCNG is experiencing would be better settled by the State than through the courts.

(SEE PAGE 7)

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Commissioners Consider Mill Levy

by Doris Cherry

Lincoln County Commissioners will meet for a special session at 8 p.m. tonight, Thursday, March 9 in the Ruidoso Administration Center.

Among other items commissioners will consider drafts of the proposed Hospital Mill Levy resolution and proclamation, and the draft of the voting machine sample ballot. The draft resolution and proclamation ask voters to authorize the county commissioners to operate and maintain the Lincoln County hospital and clinics. The funds from said

levy will be divided with Lincoln County Medical Center receiving three mills and Carrizozo Health Center, Corona Health Center and the Hondo Clinic, in the aggregate, receiving one mill for eight years.

In 1992, the last time the mill levy was renewed, county commissioners included the Corona and Hondo health clinics to receive money from the one mill. At that time Presbyterian Health Services was trying to provide a one-day a week clinic in Hondo School. However, that program was discontinued for lack of space and

funding.

The Hondo clinic funding became an issue at the February 17 Lincoln County Commission meeting, when Hondo Schools Superintendent Barbara Casey requested part of the one mill levy funds for the fledgling Hondo clinic. She had been alerted to the wording in the mill levy election resolution of 1992 that included Hondo clinic under the one mill.

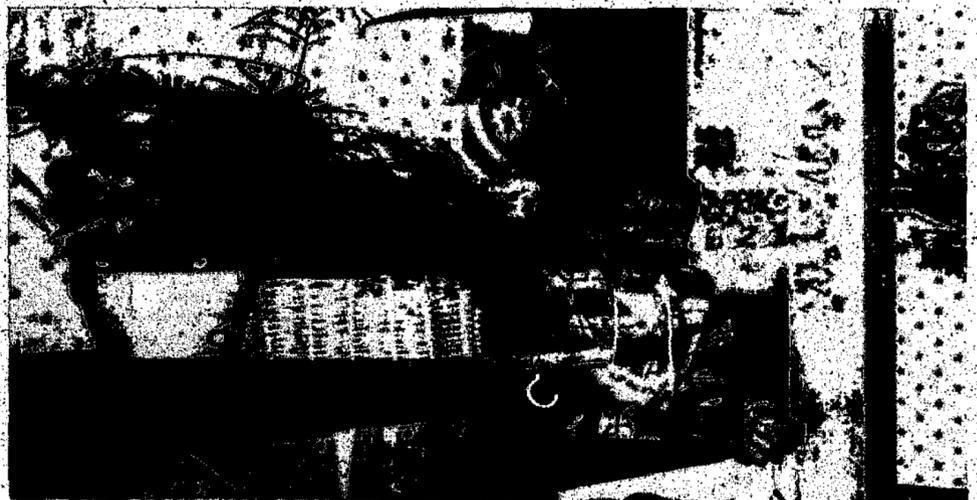
A few years ago, county commissioners donated the old dental building from the Carrizozo Health Clinic site to Hondo School, plus \$20,000 to set up the building for future health clinic. However at that time no one mentioned the hospital mill levy funds for "Hondo clinic." Hondo School sought funding elsewhere, and with state legislative appropriations and volunteer labor, the school is now on the verge of getting the facility licensed to operate as a health clinic. Casey requested that the Hondo Clinic be included in any future hospital mill levies.

This year is the year for the hospital mill levy to be renewed.

A resolution calling for the mill levy question must be approved by county commissioners and sent by the county clerk to the secretary of state before 30 days prior to the election.

In a memo from county attorney Alan Morel to commissioners about the draft mill levy documents, Morel stated the drafts were just that and he was not trying to delegate what the mill levy should be or how the mills are to be divided.

At the February 17 county commission meeting, commissioners voted to provide the Hondo Clinic with funds.



DAISY PATCH FLOWER SHOP owners Jan and Stan Cox invite everyone to the grand opening of their shop this week. Visitors to the shop this week can sign up for a prize drawing to be held on Friday. The shop is located at 311 Bonito Street in Capitan (three blocks south of Smokey Bear Blvd.) and is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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Canyon CowBelles January Meeting

Canyon CowBelles met January 5 at the Wells Fargo Bank in Carrizozo. The officers were the hostesses. There were 12 members, one child, and one guest present.

President Welda Grider reported that Canyon lost six members and gained two members for a total of 50 members.

Guest speaker Jennifer Hopper reported on Ag in the Classroom. This year's theme is *Water in the Desert*. A workshop for K-12 teachers is set for June 21-23 in Las Cruces. She stated that 30 teachers attended her last workshop and it was a success. She explained her methods on reaching non-agriculture people. She asked for ranchers to help when needed.

Welda reported on the New Mexico State CowBelle/Cattle Grower's meeting held December 10-11. She took a Cowboy Santa Claus for a door prize contribution. Patty Townsend was named CowBelle of the Year.

Myrtle Cox donated \$15.00 and everyone signed a thank you card to her.

Members agreed giving Nancy Knight a lifetime membership.

P.K. Johns
Secretary

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BUCKLE 'EM UP...

Capitan Students Ask Village To Proclaim Blue Ribbon Week

At noon today (Thursday, March 9) six Capitan 4th and 5th grade students who are members of the school mediators group will meet with Capitan Mayor Norman Renfro to request he proclaim the week of April 17-20 as Blue Ribbon Week (against violence) in the Village of Capitan.

Student Mediators Kallie Griffin, Jayna Johns, Paige Jones, Jarret Lovelace, Nikki Stevens and Mike Wilson were to meet with the mayor. They also made the same presentation to the Capitan School Board at the February 10 meeting. They gave board members blue ribbons as a way to say they wanted to prevent violence from happening in their school.

Blue Ribbon Week against violence began after a student shooting in Albuquerque. Students there came up with the blue ribbon week idea to try to stop violence in their school.

Capitan students district wide have been asked to participate in the April 17 Blue Ribbon week by wearing blue ribbons furnished by the Student Mediators. The mediators will also leave blue ribbons at Capitan Village Hall for

NMMI Open House Saturday, March 25

New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell will have its annual open house on Saturday, March 25.

Open house is for those who are interested in attending the Institute or who want to know more about the 110 year old high school and junior college.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., followed by information briefings from school officials including Superintendent Lt. General Robert D. Beckel. At 9:30 a.m. cadets will give tours and a precision military drill demonstration at 10:30 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. the Corps of Cadets will present a military parade for guests prior to lunch in the dining facility.

High school interviews and testing will be done at 1 p.m. On-campus testing and interviews are required for fall 2000-01 high school applicants. Open House is a good time for prospective students who have applied, or those who are thinking about applying for the school, to test and interview. Registration for testing will be between 7 and 7:30 a.m.

For more information about open house contact the NMMI Admissions Office at 1-800-421-5376. Information can also be gained at the NMMI website <http://www.state.nm.us.nm.mil>.

anyone interested in joining in the effort.

In addition to the wearing of blue ribbons during the week of April 17, the mediators have planned several other activities. Monday, April 17 will be "Shade Out Violence" when students will be allowed to

wear sunglasses. Tuesday, April 18 will be "Put a Cap on Violence" where students wear caps. Wednesday, April 19 is Stomp Out Violence where students wear crazy or different shoes. Thursday, April 20, "Turn Your Back on Violence" day when students wear clothes backwards.

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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.

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PART 4

Santa Barbara District

This camp can well be divided into eight distinct districts. Santa Barbara, or the original district, is a town of about 4,000 people, while two years ago the population did not exceed 500 souls. This is the oldest mining camp in the state of Chihuahua, being founded by the Spaniards some 325 years ago, and may well be considered the oldest mining camp in the northern part of the republic. The Spaniards who worked these properties in ancient times simply extracted gold, paying no attention to the immense deposits of silver, copper and lead. Up to the year 1820 some 700 "rastras" were employed, and the production ran during several years up to 80,000 and even 100,000 ounces of gold per annum.

Work was then materially interfered with by the revolution and final declaration of independence of Mexico. The camp was virtually abandoned until 1850, when Sigüeiro and Benitez again began active work on the old plan, but with little success. In 1869 an American, A.B. Sawyer, took lease on the San Francisco del Oro mine, connected with which were sixteen Castilian furnaces and corresponding refining furnaces. This gave impulse to the camp until the first years of the eighties, when the lease expired, since when several attempts have been made by foreign companies who made failures from various reasons, the ore, however, proving its value and extent if properly handled. A German-American, George Storch, worked with some

success the now famous Tecelotes mine, but his death cut short the extensive developments that he had planned. The property on account of indebtedness went to P. Erquicia, suc., who in turn disposed of the property to the Guggenheim Exploration company, the reported sum of developed the property to the extent of two and a half million dollars of ore in sight. This vein is without doubt the strongest in the whole district, carrying gold, silver and lead, and near the surface carrying some zinc. Besides the Tecelotes the Guggenheim Exploration company own the "Segobia" mine, located on the vein known as the "Miña de Agua." This mine lies alongside their mill, which is being worked. Continuing to the north of the Segobias is the "Alferino" mine, owned by Pedro Elesage and associates. This is by far the deepest mine of the camp, being worked to a depth of 500 feet, encountering old workings where thousands of tons of loose ore were recently encountered which assay from 15 to 35 percent lead, 250 to 88 grammes in silver, and 12 to 35 grammes in gold. The ore in the vein itself shows much higher results, yet the Spaniards with their primitive methods were unable to handle this ore, hence their abandoning what is now an immense fortune. Continuing north on this same vein is the Esperanza, belonging to the same company. This property has but little development. Following this to the north is the "Palo Blanco," the property of the Guggenheim Exploration company, who have put up all modern machinery and are working the mine with flattering success.

South of the "Segonia," on the same vein is the "Novidad" and Mina del Agua, the latter having development to a depth of 300 feet, while the first has but slight development. These two mines are owned by the Montezuma Lead company.

Santa "Gertrudes" Vein

Commencing on this vein to the south with the "San Rafael" and "Cabresa" mine, properties of C. Dietmar and associates, a property upon which an option has been given to E.M. Parish; continuing to the north are the Santa Gertrudes and Remedios mines, recently purchased by the Montezuma Lead company from Gerber and Urquhart and Esteban Gandara. Adjoining this is the "Clarines" property of C. Dietmar and associates, A. Oldorp holding an option on this property. Continuing on this vein and others running parallel of less importance are numerous prospects, a number of which have been purchased by E. Madero of Parra, Coahuila. This carries this vein into the already mentioned famous Tecelotes mine. To the north and bearing to the east, is the "Cabrastante," owned by the Montezuma Lead company. This mine produces gold, silver, lead and zinc, copper ore, and

even native copper is found. The vein is one of the strongest in the camp, being worked to a depth of 150 feet. This mine is located in the so called "Arroya de Vacas". Continuing in this gulch, near the opening the "Caballo" mine, property of Smelter No. 2 of Monterey N.L., is located, which company as well are working El Torro mine and other properties, with J.W. Johnston as manager.

This carries the vein to

Santiago Gulch

Which may be considered the second district.

This district is completely covered by locations and mines of importance, the most important of which is the "Alta Vista," recently purchased by Mexican capital from Alvaro Garcia. San Antonio El Tiro and San Antonio del Rincon and six other properties belonging to W.C. Beckman were recently sold to the Montezuma lead company - "El Carmen," "El Fresno," "La Encarnacion," owned by local parties, and the "Perros Bravos" mine, one of the largest properties in the

of this is the seventh, or

Ronces Valles District

In this district the leading mine is the "Mecatona," owned by American capitalists. The Hidalgo mine, belonging to Feliz Manger, is one of the heavy producers. In this district are numerous other properties ranking as A1 producers, one of which is at present being worked by L. Phelan, another by J. Cruger. Further to the south and east of this, near the state line, is the

Cerro Colorado District

The main mine being the San Francisco, having been developed to a depth of 300 feet. This mine has produced a good quantity of very high grade ore recently, which netted from \$6,000 to \$8,000 per car load. This property is owned by the late Ismael Gilan. There are a number of smaller mines in this district of less importance.

There is a small mining district north of Parral known as "Cuevillas" district, in which no large amount of develop-

completed and running in February, 1901. The mill is a concentrating and lixiviation plant, treating very successfully the ores of the camp. The capacity of the mill is 125 tons daily. The plant is most ably managed by Mr. N.H. Emmons. Jas. Hopkins, president; A.B. Seaman, secretary and treasurer; J.M. Botello, vice president. They treat almost entirely the product of the Prieta and Jesus Maria mines.

Hidalgo Mining Company Mill

The mill of the Hidalgo Mining company, at Presena, with a capacity of 150 tons daily, treats principally the product of their own mines, yet buying in small quantities from surrounding mines.

Angel Garcia Mill

The Angel Garcia mill, to be erected on the property of the Refugio, will be of 150 tons daily capacity. It is also a lixiviation plant. The machinery has been ordered and the contract for erection of the mill has been let. This mill when completed will represent



City of Parral, Chihuahua.

district, owned by the house of Stallforth, which property connects with

San Francisco del Oro District

Which may be called the third district.

The principal mines in this district are "San Francisco del Oro," "Santo Tomas," and "Sanyas," "La Cobriza," "Los Cuijas," and other properties covering 82 pertenencias, belonging to the Compania del San Francisco del Oro and Annexas, a French corporation, who are working the properties with most satisfactory results. Besides these the "El Pleito," "El Klondike," "Los Animas," "Cuadras," "Los Bronces," and "El Madronio," properties belonging to local parties, some of which are being worked with success. The latter mines carry this district to join the fourth, or

Santo Domingo District

This district has no developed mines, yet recent prospects have uncovered some very promising propositions. To the south and west of this lies the fifth, or

Buena Vista District

Composed of several mines, the principal being "La Granadina," owned by V. Primrose and associates; "Los Auras" and "Aurora," owned by C. Dietmar and associates. Crossing the cañion to the west is located San Jose mine, belonging to Bartalo Gutierrez. The products of this mine are free milling ores carrying silver and gold.

The southwestern portion of the Santa Barbara district, or the

Solices District

The principal mine of this district is the Union group, belonging to an English syndicate, W.C. Beckman being manager. The Candefaria, property of a Denver syndicate, managed by H. Van Hunert, and several other properties, all running high in gold. About eight miles southeast,

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ment work has been done, but of recent date numerous prospects are being opened up with encouraging results.

The list of mines herein mentioned comprises less than five percent of the mines of the various districts, but such as are mentioned are producers of more or less importance. There are over 800 locations or claims in the district, all told, and many are to soon begin active operation.

Mills

Parral - The oldest mill in this camp is that of Stallforth Hnos, being a 30 stamp pratio process with a capacity of 50 tons daily. This mill is treating the ores of the surrounding mines with A1 results, and has been in active operation since 1860. Steam power was put in in 1882. They treat all low grade ores from the famous Palmillo mine.

Parral Mining Company's Mill

This mill was commenced in February 1900, and

an outlay of over \$200,000. Preliminary work has been begun.

At Santa Barbara the Guggenheim Exploration company have a plant of 200 tons daily capacity. This mill is used only in the treatment of the products of the Tecelotes mine. The process in concentration.

Another mill of the same kind but of 300 tons capacity is now nearing completion, being erected by the Montezuma Lead company. This mill will be used

mines at Santa Barbara. This company is also commencing the erection of a 300 ton mill on the Hacienda de Santiago. At the same place is a mill belonging to G.P. Mackey, of 35 to 40 tons capacity. Also one belonging to Stallforth Hnos of about same capacity.

At San Francisco del Oro is a mill of lixiviation process, of 35 tons daily, the property of the French syndicate.

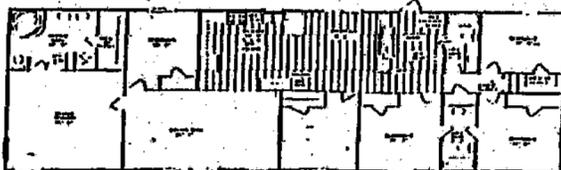


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HONDO 7TH GRADE TEAM reads for the last round of competition in the Middle School Knowledge Bowl competition hosted by Carrizozo School on March 1. Hondo team members were J.C. Yocum, Jamie Garcia, Shane Coleman, Steven Chavez, E.J. Sanchez and Humberto Lerma.

Ruidoso Voters Turn

(Continued from Page 1)

early voted and 17 cast absentee ballots. Incumbents Bob Sterchi received 823 votes, Frank Cummins received 875 and Ron Anderson received 900 to return them to the council for the next four years. Appointee Linda Flack received 952 votes as councilor in the two-year position, she was unopposed. Write-in candidate Ronald D. Hardeman received 372 votes.

The \$8 million Ruidoso bond issue failed on a vote of 883 against and 593 for.

Newly elected councilors

will be sworn in at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 13, at the Ruidoso Village Administration Center, followed by an organizational meeting at 7 p.m.

RUIDOSO DOWNS:

Of the 1,056 registered to vote, only 323 cast ballots. Of those 12 voted early and three voted by absentee ballot.

Incumbent mayor Joe M. Hayhurst lost to Bob A. Miller who received 160 votes to Hayhurst's 104. Candidate Jackie M. Branum received 73 votes.

For municipal judge

incumbent Howard R. Mansell will keep his position with the 277 votes received. Write-in candidate Fred A. Bernard received 32 votes.

For the two trustee positions incumbent Judy R. Miller and Jim Bassett received the most votes. Judy Miller received 194 and Bassett 161. Candidates Don L. Smith received 88 votes and Rene G. Olivo received 140. Swearing-in will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday at Ruidoso Downs Village Hall at the start of the regular trustee meeting.

County Considers

(Continued from Page 1)

Office (LCSO), fire chief of the fire district and by the county emergency services coordinator or the county manager.

The proclamation further bans all display fireworks and the sale and use of missile type rockets, helicopters, aerial spinners, stick-type rockets and ground audible devices within the unincorporated drought areas. All fireworks not listed shall be limited to areas that are paved or barren and have a readily accessible source of water for use by the homeowners or

general public.

In May last year, faced with spring drought conditions, county commissioners adopted an ordinance that gave the county a mechanism to establish fire bans; and ban on fireworks. The ordinance also provides a penalty fine of \$300 and/or 90 days in jail for violations of the improper handling of fire section. The fines for violation of the fireworks section are \$1,000 and/or up to one year in jail. The ordinance also requires any fireworks vendor or manufacturer and sponsors of fireworks displays in parks or other open spaces to purchase a permit from the county manager's office. The \$25 permits are good for one year.

GED Test March 24 At Ruidoso Instruction Center of ENMU

The GED examination will be given at the Ruidoso Instruction Center of ENMU on March 24.

The test will begin at 8 a.m. and will cost \$20, payable at the ENMU-Ruidoso office before the testing time. Applicants must be at least 17 years old. If under 18, the applicant must obtain an Underage Permission Testing Form from the ENMU office. A valid New Mexico I.D., social security card and the GED pre-test are also required.

For more information about the GED test, call the ENMU office at 257-2120 or 1-800-934-3668 outside the Ruidoso/Capitan area.

March 21 Is Filing

(Con't. from P. 1)

candidate, on January 31.

Every person appearing as a candidate on the primary or general election ballot shall be a candidate only under the name and party affiliation indicated on the person's voter registration certificate on the day of the governor's proclamation (January 31).

A candidate can withdraw his or her name from primary election ballot by filing a withdrawal form with the county clerk before 5

p.m. Tuesday, April 4.

Absentee voting for the primary election begins Thursday, April 27. Early, in-person voting for the primary election begins May 17.

Voter registration for the primary election ends at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 9.

Independent candidates, or those registering under a minor party, can file to be a candidate for a county office on Tuesday, July 11, to be included on the November 7 general election. Such candidates seeking offices with a multi-county or state wide district must file with the secretary of state in Santa Fe.

For more information call Martha Proctor, or county election bureau clerk Sam Chavez, at the Lincoln County Clerk's Office at 648-2394.

Young Writers Contest Deadline May 15

New Mexico high school students could win up to \$500 for fiction, non-fiction or poetry in the Southwest Writers Workshop Young Writers Contest 2000.

The contest is open to all 14-18 year old students. Cash prizes of \$500 for first, \$300 for second, \$100 for third and \$50 for fourth places will be awarded in each category.

Winners of the Young Writers Contest will receive awards at the 18th annual Southwest Writers Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Albuquerque in September.

Entries will be taken from now until May 15. Any submissions postmarked after May 15 will not be accepted. Eligible students must be between 14 and 18 as of September 1, 2000, and have not graduated prior to fall 2000. Students may have one entry per category. Fiction and non-fiction must be between 750 and 3,000 words. Poetry entries are limited to 50 lines. All entries must be typed and double-spaced.

For more information on format and to obtain entry forms call the Southwest Writers Workshop (SWW) at 505-265-0485 or e-mail at SWWriters@aol.com. Contest rules and entry forms may be downloaded from the SWW website at www.southwestwriters.org. There is a special e-mail address on the site for inquiries about the Young Writers contest.

Letters to

(Continued from Page 4)

CCNG is a jointly owned municipal utility, with a board composed of officials (elected or appointed) by the villages of Capitan and Carrizozo. This board seems to act totally without any oversight by the elected officials or either municipality, despite the fact that it is largely composed of elected officials. I attend virtually all of the meetings of the Capitan Board of Trustees, and I have never heard any reports on the gas company.

I try hard not to listen to the rumor mill in the village, but it is impossible not to hear what is being talked about with regard to CCNG. Such rumors do not bear repeating in this missive, but I do have a solution for putting an end to them. First, two of the members (one from Capitan and the other from Carrizozo) of the Board of Directors of CCNG should be consumers selected perhaps by community referendum and who have no ties to either Village Hall. Secondly, since CCNG is a municipal utility there should be a report made on the economic health, current litigation, the reasons for it and the costs of it, by one of the CCNG board members at every Village Board of Trustees meeting. A monthly balance sheet should be made available to every customer and should be mailed along with the monthly gas bill. It would be nice if this balance sheet explained in layman's terms the technical aspects of buying and selling natural gas.

I suggest the above because, from where I sit, it appears that a utility that is owned by taxpayers of two municipalities acts as though it had no accountability to its owners. It is, after all, our utility and the ultimate responsibility for its actions devolve first on the elected officials of Capitan and Carrizozo and ultimately on the taxpayers who live within those municipalities.

I attended the Capitan Chamber of Commerce's "Meet the Candidates Night" yesterday evening and one of the board members of CCNG, who coincidentally is running for office, stated that within two years CCNG's rates will decrease. I'm all for this, but I must admit I view it as another version of the old political candidate's promise of "a chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage."

I would like to make it abundantly clear that I am not advocating the sale of CCNG to anyone. I am merely asking for a clear understanding of its financial health and its charges to the consumer as well as having a say in its policy making and day-to-day operations.

Is this too much to ask as part-owner of a municipal utility?

LIONEL W. LIPPMANN
Capitan, New Mexico

GREAT DEALS GREAT MINS GREAT SERVICE
SERVICE GUIDE

To Fast, Friendly, and Courteous Service

THIS SPACE FOR RENT

THE WILD HERB MARKET
Herbs • Vitamins
Minerals • Natural Foods
Health & Beauty Aids
Books
For your health and well being:
ELIZABETH BYARS (505) 257-0138
240 Sudderth Drive
RUIDOSO, NM 88345

New Life in Home Repair Service
Bette Peterson
505-648-3012
Quality Work - Prompt Service
Affordable Rates - Free Estimates
May 24 West Old Mountain Spring RV Park Blvd.

Faced with a Drinking Problem?
Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help.
Call (505) 648-1145
Weekly Meetings Open to the Public.
Zia Senior Citizens Center
Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 P.M.

DEAMCO TRUCK CAPS & ACCESSORIES
OFFICE HOURS:
9-5:30 Mon - Fri
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One Stop Shopping For All Your Truck Tops and Toys
2917 N. White Sands Blvd. (505) 437-8777
Alamogordo, NM 88310 1-800-479-8773
You Are Welcome To Use Our Toll Free Number

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1205 'E' Ave. • P.O. Box 426 • Carrizozo, NM 88301
Ph. (505) 648-2900 • FAX (505) 648-2901
E-Mail rominger@nm.net

MAXWELL'S SPORTING GOODS
125 N. Main / Roswell, NM / 88201
Full Line Archery Pro Shop
• New and Used guns, ammo, and camo clothes.
• Muzzle Loaders, accessories, and supplies.
• Scopes, optics, range finders.
BUSINESS HOURS: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. / Monday thru Saturday
TOLL FREE PHONE 1-888-622-8401
Authorized dealers for Mathews Solo Game and Hoyt USA

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BEST PRICES IN THE COUNTY!
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101 Hwy. 380 W. CARRIZOZO, NM
505-648-2815

The Aristocrat
Assisted Living Community
Meeting your needs for all levels of Alzheimer care...
SECURED UNIT
See the difference for yourself!
252 Robert Bradley 437-3020
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that, the Governing Body of the Town of Carrizozo will hold their Organizational Meeting during the Regular Meeting of the Town of Carrizozo Board of Trustees on Tuesday, March 14, 2000 at 6:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room, Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301.

Agenda will be posted in accordance with Resolution 1999-23, Twenty-Four hours prior to meeting date and made available to the public.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact Carol Schlarb or Margaret LaBelle at 648-2371, City Hall, Carrizozo, New Mexico at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.

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

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, March 9, 2000.

LINCOLN COUNTY LODGERS TAX COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
March 29, 2000 - 10:00 A.M.

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Lincoln County Lodgers Tax Committee will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 29, 2000, at 10:00 a.m., at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Copies of the agenda for the March 29, 2000, meeting will be available at the office of the County Manager prior to said meeting.

Auxiliary aides are available upon request; please contact Martha Guevara at 648-2385 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

MARTHA GUEVARA
Assistant County Manager

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, March 9, 2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations, the following proposed ground water discharge plan(s) have been submitted for approval to the New Mexico Environment Department. The information in this notice generally has been supplied by the applicant and may or may not have been confirmed by the NM Environment Department.

DP-1201, ROCKY MOUNTAIN MOBILE HOME & RV PARK, Harlan Vincent, Owner, proposes to discharge up to 7,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater from the Rocky Mountain Mobile Home & RV Park. The facility is located 1/2 mile east of Ruidoso Downs in Section 22, T11S, R14E, Lincoln County. Up to 7,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater is collected and disposed of in two septic tank/leach field systems. Ground water below the site is at a depth of approximately 54 feet and has a total dissolved solids concentration of approximately 2,500 milligrams per liter.

Any interested person may obtain further information from the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section of the NM Environment Department, telephone (505)827-2900, and may submit written comments to the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section, NM Environment Department, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502. Prior to ruling on any proposed discharge

Notice of Price Change for Charter Communications

Effective with April 1, 2000 bills, Charter Communications will make the following price changes in the communities listed below. The service price adjustment(s) reflect updated inflation, applicable franchise related costs and programming fees, among other factors.

Communities Served: Carrizozo

Programming	Old Rate	New Rate	Change
Broadcast Basic	\$13.50	\$14.50	\$1.00
Expanded Basic	\$15.00	\$15.65	\$0.65
Premium Channels			
Showtime / The Movie Channel	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
Equipment			
Set Top Converter	No Additional Charge w/ Basic Service		
Set Top Remote	No Additional Charge w/ Basic Service		
Additional Converter	\$2.58	\$2.58	\$0.00
Remote Converter	\$3.44	\$3.44	\$0.00
Aerial Installation	\$35.95	\$35.95	\$0.00
Underground Installation	\$54.95	\$54.95	\$0.00
Reconnect (same service)	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$0.00
Aerial Pre-wired Connect	\$29.95	\$29.95	\$0.00
Underground Pre-wired Connect	\$29.95	\$29.95	\$0.00
T.V Guide Publication	\$2.95	\$2.95	\$0.00
Installation and Repair			
Safeguard (wire maintenance)	\$0.99	\$0.99	\$0.00
Unwired Home Installation	Time & Material		\$0.00
Pre-wired Home Installation	Time & Material		\$0.00
Aerial Installation	\$35.95	\$35.95	\$0.00
Underground Installation	\$54.95	\$54.95	\$0.00
Reconnect (same service)	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$0.00
Aerial Pre-wired Connect	\$29.95	\$29.95	\$0.00
Underground Pre-wired Connect	\$29.95	\$29.95	\$0.00
Additional Outlet at Time of Initial Installation	\$17.95	\$17.95	\$0.00
Additional Outlet Requiring Separate Installation	\$24.95	\$24.95	\$0.00
Relocate Outlets	Time & Material		\$8.00
Upgrade for Optional Services	\$29.95	\$29.95	\$0.00
Late Fee	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00
Non-sufficient Funds Charge	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
Collection Charge	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$0.00
Trif Charge	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
Service Call	\$17.60	\$17.60	\$0.00
Hourly Service Charge	\$25.14	\$25.14	\$0.00
Unreturned Set Top Converter	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Unreturned Set Top Remote	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00

*Rates do not include franchise fees and taxes

Published in the Lincoln County News on March 9 and 23, 2000.

plan or its modification, the NM Environment Department will allow thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice to receive written comments and during which a public hearing may be requested by any interested person. Requests for public hearing shall set forth the reasons why the hearing should be held. A hearing will be held if the NM Environment Department determines that there is significant public interest.

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, March 9, 2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Eastern New Mexico Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (ENMAAaA) is requesting Letters of Intent to submit proposals for Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals to be delivered to eligible adults residing in Lea, Eddy, Chaves, Roosevelt, Curry, Quay, Guadalupe, DeBaca, Harding, Union and Lincoln Counties during the four year period from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2004 under the Older Americans Act, the State of New Mexico and the New Mexico State Agency on Aging funds, rules and regulations. Those wishing to submit a Letter of Intent for the services above must contact ENMAAaA to obtain a Letter of Intent packet. Only those submitting an official Letter of Intent by 8:30 a.m. on March 29, 2000 will be allowed to submit proposals. Letter of Intent packets may be obtained in person at 901 W. 13th Street, Clovis, NM or by calling 505-769-1613 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or by writing ENMAAaA, 901 W. 13th St., Clovis, NM 88101. The Letter of Intent packet contains all information on units of service by county and the terms and conditions of the RFP process. ENMAAaA reserves the right to reject all proposals submitted in the RFP process.

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, March 9, 2000.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Governing Body of the Town of Carrizozo will hold their Regular Scheduled Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2000 at 6:00 p.m., City Hall, Conference Room, Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301.

AGENDA WILL BE POSTED in accordance with Resolution 1999-23, Twenty-Four hours prior to meeting date and made available to the public.

If you are an individual

with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact Carol Schlarb or Margaret LaBelle at (505)648-2371, City Hall, Carrizozo, New Mexico at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.

CAROL SCHLARB CMC/AAE
Town Clerk
Town of Carrizozo

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, March 9, 2000.

Obituary

Funeral services for John Thomas West, 75, of Alto were March 3, at Gateway Church of Christ with Jimmy Sportsman officiating. Burial followed at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Mr. West died February 28 at his home. He was born February 3, 1925 in Hamlin, TX. He served in the Army during WWII and the Korean Conflict. He was Past Master of the Masonic Lodge in Wink, TX, past Worthy Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, former board member of Alto Lakes Water Corporation. He lived in Wink, TX from 1947 until 1989 and had served as mayor and then moved to

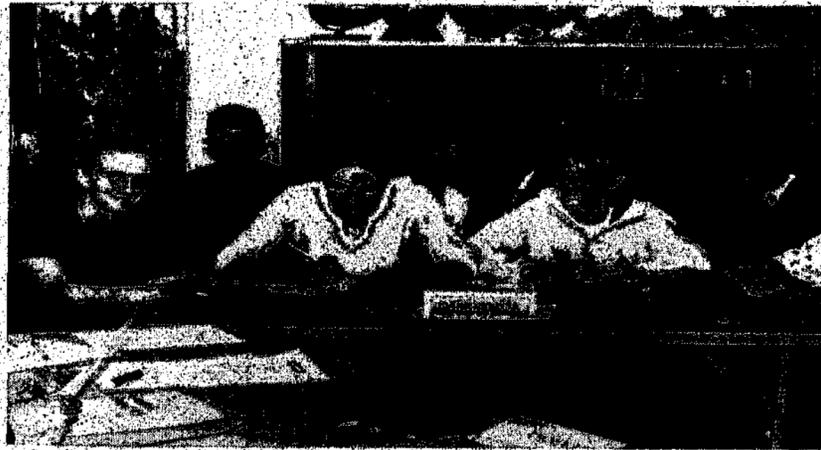
Alto. He was a member of the Gateway Church of Christ.

He married Audrey Newton on August 23, 1952 at Wink, TX. He is survived by his

wife Audrey of Alto; son, J. Mark West of Lakewood, CO; three sisters, Kay Shaw and her husband Jim of Big Spring, TX, Laudane Carr of Lubbock and Nelda

Loyd and her husband Bill of Lubbock.

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



KNOWLEDGEABLE STUDENTS. Carrizozo 8th grade Knowledge Bowl team gets ready for another round of tough questioning during the Middle School Knowledge Bowl competition hosted by Carrizozo Middle School on March 1. Members of the team are Bud Hammond, Monique Jiron, Tommie Bosson, Brent Dixon, Sam Garner and Clint McNatt. Carrizozo teacher Dr. Gerald Hawks was moderator for the 8th grade teams.



KNOWLEDGEABLE 7TH GRADERS from Ruidoso competed with teams from Carrizozo, Capitan, Cloudcroft, Hondo and Tularosa at the Middle School Knowledge Bowl hosted by Carrizozo Middle School on March 1.

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

Spirit of Life Apostolic Pentecostal Tabernacle

ALLAN M. MILLER, pastor
209 Lincoln Ave. Capitan, NM 354-2025
Tuesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm
Sunday School..... 10:00 am
Sunday Evening..... 8:00 pm

First Baptist Church

HAYDEN SMITH, pastor
314 10th Ave. Carrizozo, NM 648-2968 (church) or 648-2107
Sunday School..... 9:45 am
Worship Service..... 10:55 am
Sun. Evening..... Training at 9:15 pm
Evening Worship..... 7:15 pm
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

Carrizozo Community Church (A/G)

JOHNIE L. JOHNSON, pastor
Corner of C Ave. & Thirteenth, 648-2188
Children's Church..... 10:30 am
Worship Service..... 10:30 am
Wed. Bible Study..... 7:30 pm

Santa Rita Catholic Community

FR. DAVE BERGS, pastor
213 Birch, Carrizozo, NM, 648-2853
SATURDAY:
Capitan Sacred Heart..... 5:00 pm
C'ozo-Santa Rita..... 6:30 pm
SUNDAY:
Capitan Sacred Heart..... 6:00 am
C'ozo-Santa Rita..... 10:30 am
Corona St. Theresa..... 1:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

PERRY ZUMWALT, minister
Ave. C 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. GANON JOHN PENN, rector
Corner of E. Ave. & Sixth, Carrizozo, NM
1-505-267-2958
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. 648-2833 / 648-2848
Carrizozo, NM 88301
Sunday School (All Ages)..... 10:00 am
Worship Service..... 11:10 am
Choir Practice (Tuesday)..... 6:30 pm
United Methodist Women Every 3rd Wednesday..... 1:00 pm
Fellowship Dinner 4th Sunday of Month 12:30 pm

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

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 / 638-6627
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
Capitan (South on Hwy. 48)
Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
AWANA Wednesday..... 8:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Corona

CAL WEST, pastor / 849-7975
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

Bill Winkler

Stearns Insurance Agency

Jerry and Lanita Rasak

Rainbow Inn

FAST ACTION

Lincoln County News

CLASSIFIED ADS

CALL 505 / 648 2333

2 ACRES near Carrizozo with city water/mobile home ready/lease/buy/\$250 month
1-505-296-0243
tfn-March 2

STLARNS INSURANCE AGENCY CARRIZOZO
(505) 648-2911

TWO PURE-BRED Huskies looking for a home. One is red and white, the other one is grey and white w/blue eyes. If interested call Connie at (505) 439-0643.
tfn/NC

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath DOUBLEWIDE. Del. & Setup Less than 250⁰⁰ PER MONTH
800-530-8577

A Little of Carrizozo

--Did you know that Carrizozo had the following: Golf Course, Country Club, Recreation Center with bowling alley, public swimming pool, parks, new medical/dental clinic, airport with paved and lighted runways, new water treatment plant, industrial park open for development, served by two major highways, railroad, mountain views in every direction, County Courthouse, only minutes from Ruidoso, mild winters and summers, and just over a 1,000 friendly people.

OUTSTANDING PROPERTY OFFERED: For the discriminating buyer, an all adobe two story home built by English in 1911. Remodeled to original by Ned's Remodeling. Four bedroom, hardwood floors, lot of original wood trim, some of which was shipped here from St. Louis. Hot water heat. About 2,450 sq. ft. There will never be another like it. Located a few blocks from the center of town.

IF YOU'RE WANTING LAND: Ten acre tracts or larger a few blocks from the Carrizozo Town Limits and airport. Mostly level, on paved road and mountain views. Very good location for manufactured homes. Livestock allowed. Remember they will always be making more money, but no more land.

VERY NEAT/GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD: The Methodist Church Parsonage. 3BR / 1 1/2 BA home located on corner. Very nice with about 1,100 sq. ft. of totally usable area. Built 1976. Garage has an office area that is heated and cooled.

SMALL STARTER HOME: Three bedroom 1+ bath residence located on corner. Possible assumption with small down.

Want to list your property? Call.

Please contact **Chuck Rominger** at C.O. Rominger Company, Inc. 1208 "E" Avenue, Carrizozo, NM 88301 1-800-581-2999 (505) 648-2900 e-mail: rominger@nm.net

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

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Lincoln County is now accepting applications for the position of **DEPUTY SHERIFF** in the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, located in Carrizozo, New Mexico. Applicant must be 18 years or over, must possess a New Mexico Basic Police Officer's Certification or be certifiable by waiver, and willing to work anywhere in Lincoln County. Obtain application at the Lincoln County Manager's Office in Carrizozo or by calling 505/648-2385. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 P.M., Friday, March 24, 2000. Lincoln County, Equal Opportunity Employer and in Compliance with ADA Requirements, Title II-A.
4tc/Jan. 27, Feb. 10, & 24 & Mar. 9

TULAROSA FARM 40 ac., water rights, 2 wells, 4BR/3Bth Manufactured Home. Paved Rd. Pond, fenced pastures 585-2062
4tp-Mar. 2, 9, 16 & 23

WANTED: Used/abandoned one and two cylinder engines and equipment. Lawnmowers, tillers, generators, garden tractors, &c. Old, broken, just plain in the way, call 648-1145.
tfn/Nov. 11

LOST: A black, gray/white male Shi-tzu. Lost Saturday night Mar. 4, by Sertoma Moto X-Track. Last seen on Highway 54. **REWARD.** Call 505-692-3324
1tp/Mar. 9

ASPLUNDH TREE EXPERT CO. Line clearance trimmers wanted, experience and CDL a plus, not required. Starting pay \$7.50 to \$9.00 hr. Call 648-2355
1tp/Mar. 9

FOR RENT: 2br Apt. in Carrizozo. Call 8 am to 5 pm. 648-2836
tfn/Mar. 9

\$100 REWARD: For information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person or persons who stole my tools from 304 Cedar St., Feb. 26th. Ryobi 5" cordless circular saw and a Milwaukee Sawz All. Jim Perrod.
1tp/Mar. 9

FIREWOOD Seasoned and Split CEDAR or PINON DELIVERED 849-2849

BUILDING MATERIALS and CONSTRUCTION - Two Steel Buildings, Engineered Certified. 40x100 was \$16,880 now \$7,990. 40x40 was \$8,316 now \$3,990. Must sell, can deliver. 1-800-292-0111
1tp/Mar. 9

GUN & COLLECTIBLE SHOW March 18 and 19, Otero County Fairgrounds in Alamogordo. 9 am to 5 pm. Buy, sell, trade. 437-7116
2tc/Mar. 9 & 16

Subscribe!! Call 505-648-2333

FOR SALE: 2.67 wooded acres in Karr Canyon (15 min. from Alamogordo), w/ water and utilities close by. Restrictive covenants. Call 437-3433 days or 437-2507 nights.
tfn/NC

Corona News

Babe and Elmo Tracey have recently home from Vancouver, Washington via Portland, Oregon. Leaving Albuquerque on date of January 19 and arriving in Vancouver that afternoon and staying with Babe's sister Bertina and husband Jack.

On January 20 they all attended Babe's mother's 100th birthday celebration in a nursing home there. Mrs. Boehm was born in Richardson, North Dakota on January 20, 1900. Some 55 friends and relatives attended the party.

The Traceys stayed in Vancouver until afternoon of January 28 and flew back to Albuquerque. Mrs. Boehm seemed well and happy as the Traceys left there. On the 5th day of February early in the morning, word came by telephone that Mrs. Boehm had just passed away.

The Traceys were more or less led to believe that the funeral services probably would be the following Tuesday or Wednesday. Babe and Elmo drove to Albuquerque on Sunday noon and again flew to Washington with airline tickets, to return to New Mexico on Friday, Feb. 11. On Monday, Feb. 7, they found out that the area Catholic priests had previously planned an out of town retreat until the following Thursday night and the funeral services and Rosary were set for 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 11.

The Traceys had to call Southwest Airlines and change return flight time to Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Boehm was the third oldest of 15 children in her family.

Only Mrs. Boehm and two brothers were surviving before Mrs. Boehm passed away. One brother living in Kennebec, Washington and the other in Bismark, North Dakota.

Babe's father, passed away in 1964 in Vancouver and was buried in St. James Cemetery there. Mom Boehm was laid to rest beside dad Boehm. Mr. and Mrs. Boehm raised seven children and lost two in early infancy. Babe's brother Mathew passed away a couple of years ago.

Rain fell nearly every day in Washington on both trips. It was raining hard in Vancouver and Portland as Babe and Elmo were preparing to fly home. It was pouring rain in Oakland, CA when the plane stopped for 45 minutes there. Flew on to Los Angeles and was pouring rain there. After a change of planes in L.A. for a flight to Albuquerque the rain stopped about 50 miles east of L.A. Elmo wanted to bring rain home to New Mexico but couldn't find a bucket large enough. Everything concerned, the Traceys had a good two trips and are glad to be home.

Last week was a big week for Corona FFA. FFA Chapters

all around the country showed their FFA pride by celebrating the greatness of their organization. Fortunately for our FFA chapter we were able to do a great number of things in celebrating FFA Week, Feb. 21-25.

On Monday we began a poster contest in the high school and elementary school. The theme for the poster contest was agriculture. The winners for the poster contest in elementary were:

1st - First grade; 2nd - Fifth grade; 3rd - Second grade. The winners in the high school were:

1st - 8th grade, agricultural careers; 2nd - 10th grade, animal science; 3rd - 7th grade, beef production.

Also on Monday we decorated the high school with blue and gold to show how proud we were of our FFA Chapter. Then during 7th period we went down to the main drive of Corona for a community clean up.

Tuesday was our Greenhand Day. This was the day that we initiated our new members. The new members had to wear a Greenhand all day and get signatures of all the chapter members. We also gave cookies to the teachers and people who have supported FFA.

Wednesday was our Farm and Ranch Day. This was the day that all FFA members were expected to wear farm and ranch attire. Then during 7th period we had a Sock Hop.

On Thursday the Chapter and Greenhand officers did a presentation for the elementary students. They informed the young potential members of the importance of Agriculture in all of their lives. Refreshments were served which emphasized the demonstration given. Mr. Lane Widner and the FFA chapter thanks everyone that helped make National FFA Week a success.

Officers are: Courtney Perez, student advisor; Daj Frost, president; Meghan Romans, vice president; Laura Gonzalez, secretary; Brandon Bichelle, treasurer; Rankin Frost, sentinel; Delia Gonzalez, reporter.

Greenhand members are: Michael Finley, Taos Muncy, Tabatha Winchester, Dominica Fernandez, Tara Seely, Matthew May.

Saturday, FFA members traveled to Socorro where they participated in eight different contests.

Students of the Corona High School Fine Arts Class are looking forward to a performance by members of the Santa Fe Opera, Friday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Corona School Auditorium. The performance is free to the public and will include pop numbers and show numbers as well as arias from Mozart, Bizet and Verdi. Members of the class attended the opera in Santa Fe last fall.

Carrizozo Girls Play In State BB Tourney

Carrizozo Lady Grizzlies played Cliff in the first round of the state Class A girls high school basketball tournament on Wednesday night. Results of the game were not available at press time.

The Lady Grizzlies earned a berth in the state tournament as Region D runner up. The Carrizozo team defeated Hagerman 67-37 in the first round of the Region D tournament last weekend in Loving. But the girls lost to Loving 66-62 for the Region D title on Saturday, March 4.

Carrizozo coach Mel Holland said it was a close ball game against Loving. The girls were down only three points with only five minutes left in the game when Loving pulled ahead.

In the Hagerman game, four team players scored in

the double digits. Senior Renee Rael scored 20 points, freshman Krista Franck scored 17, junior Brooke Holland scored 16 and sophomore Bianca Baca scored 11.

In the Loving game, Franck scored 16 and Rael 12. Holland said the girls fell apart under the pressure at the last few moments of that crucial game.

Rael, Franck, Holland and Baca were named to the All-District team after Carrizozo earned that District 3A title on February 28. Player Stella Brewer was given honorable mention for her district play.

If Carrizozo defeats Cliff, the team will advance to the next round of action set for 2 p.m. today (Thursday), at Albuquerque Academy.

CLIFF 55 - Zozo 32

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CAPITAN KNOWLEDGE BOWL team members get ready for the questions during the Knowledge Bowl competition hosted by Carrizozo Middle School on March 1. Members of the 8th grade team from Capitan were: Justin Griffin, Jessica Becker, David Griego, Jordan Hunter, Javier Trost and John Garber.

County Meeting On Road Assessment Tonight, Mar. 9

Property owners who live in county subdivisions are invited to comment on proposed assessment districts or other ideas for road improvement during a special Lincoln County Commission meeting to be held at 6 p.m. tonight (Thursday), March 9, in the Ruidoso Village Council chambers of the Village Administration Center on Cree Meadows Drive.

County attorney Alan Morel will provide copies of the state statutes on special assessment districts, and the special election procedures.

He also will explain some of his research on concerns voiced at the first meeting held on road assessments.

Among the concerns was whether out of state property owners would be allowed to vote in an assessment district election. In a memo for county commissioners dated Feb. 10, Morel said he found no reference anywhere in state law to a distinction between local property owners and out of county or out of state owners. Every reference is just to "owner" which gives every property owner the

same voting privileges.

State law allows the county commission to authorize or create an improvement district for upgrading streets, roads, walkways, bridges, etc., utilities, storm sewers or flood control projects.

By resolution the county commission can establish a County Improvement District Act. Property owners in the district affected will have 30 days to object in writing. The project financed by the improvement district will proceed if no more than 51 percent object.

Statutes then outline the procedure for the improvement district.

Another method for establishing an improvement district is by petition. Property owners can petition the county to create an improvement district. Petitions must contain signatures from at least 67 percent of the property owners who will benefit from the potential assessment district.

With any assessment district, the county will have the duty to collect the assessments when due, act as trustee for the benefit of the holders of the bonds or assignable certificates, prepare an annual statement, institute proceedings on foreclosure on delinquent payments more than one year old.

Property owners can make comment about the need for road improvements, and how they prefer to have it financed. In the past the county has imposed road front footage tax to all properties within platted county subdivisions. After numerous complaints from subdivision property owners who had little if no road maintenance from the county, the county commission canceled the tax based on linear footage of the property fronting a county road.

In need of additional funds to upgrade some subdivision roads, commissioners have been holding special hearings to take public input.

During the February 17 Lincoln County Commission meeting held in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, the need for some type of mechanism to improve county roads again came to light. Residents of Deer Park Unit 6 asked

commissioners to improve the cul de sacs and at the dead end of Deer Park Drive in Alto. The road connects to an emergency fire exit for Alto.

After much discussion, commissioners voted narrowly to upgrade the road. Commissioners Ray Nunley and Bill Schwettmann voted yes on Nunley's motion for the county to upgrade, Rex Wilson voted no, and Leo Martinez and Rick Simpson abstained. Simpson abstained because he had been unable to hear over the teleconference call. Simpson was home healing from a horse related injury.

During the discussion about the road, property owners attorney Lee Griffin said that 10 of the 46 lot owners were receptive to a self assessment district to upgrade the short road and turnaround. Griffin said if all 46 property owners paid for the assessment district it would be no problem, but it would be unfair to make the five whose properties are adjacent to the road pay for the upgrade. Also, of those 46, 38 had paid on the original paving assessment for the rest of Deer Park Drive, a major artery in Alto.

Unit 6 property owner Don Ludwick said he was favorable to a self assessment, if the county rebates the property owners for what they paid on the first assessment on Deer Park Drive. He thought if the county commission's job to contact all the property owners about any proposed assessments. "We are looking for a compromise," Ludwick said. "As we do this, the road gets worse."

Morel did not recommend a rebate, because all property owners who paid the original assessment would have to be rebated.

Morel said the argument with Unit 6 is if the county accepts a plat, the county become liable for improvements.

Unit 6 was one of the last to be developed before the developer went bankrupt, then died. As a result, Unit 6 roads were never accepted by the county for maintenance.

County road supervisor Albert Hernandez recommended the property owners pay for a double chip seal paving, get the contractor to warrant the road for one year, then have the county take it over for future maintenance. "It's not the county's fault (the road is in poor condition)," Hernandez said. "Or the property owners."

Hernandez said if the commissioners wanted to improve the road he could request money from the state highway coop program.

Later in the meeting, commissioners did not include the dead end of Deer Park Drive in the list of coop projects. Projects include compacted base course and dust control suppressant for the 3.68 miles of Cora Dutton Road for total cost of \$104,435.30, LaMay Ranch Estates Ruth Road widening, culverts, new base course for 1.62 miles at total cost of \$55,100, Palo Verde Slopes streets Valley View, Reynolds Drive, Cedar Lane resurface with new base course, culverts, dust suppressant on roads .8 miles long for \$35,969, Mountain Springs RV Road base course and widening for 1.9 miles at total cost of \$6,480.

Schwettmann favored paving Cora Dutton Road. Nunley said with the dust suppressant the road could end up better.

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