

Lincoln County Ballots Inspected Wednesday

No Discrepancies Found

by Doris Cherry

Paper absentee and early voting ballots were returned to the Lincoln County Courthouse on Wednesday, December 6, on a court order that ballots be inspected, even though there had been no reports of irregularities with the paper ballots.

Because the order was requested and filed on behalf of losing Republican Rita

Nunez Neumann candidate for the New Mexico Court of Appeals Judgeship, District Judge Jerry Ritter, who signed the order for the inspection, ruled that all participants at the inspection were barred from disclosing any votes from any other race, but that of the court of appeals.

The inspection was ended after inspectors reviewed the

hand tallied and machine counted paper absentee ballots. They did not look at the paper early voting ballots. Inspectors did not announce whether they found any discrepancies or problems, according to Lincoln County elections clerk Sam Chavez. Republican inspectors did commend Lincoln County

voters for having very clean and properly filled absentee ballots, Chavez added.

After the inspection, Lincoln County paper absentee ballots were returned to the vault in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

Events leading up to the inspection began on Monday, December 5, when Dis-

trict Judge Jerry Ritter in Otero County signed an order allowing for the inspection of impounded ballots from Lincoln and Otero Counties. The order was requested by Neumann, a candidate for the state court of appeals. Neumann had also petitioned for the order that resulted in paper ballots being impounded statewide on November 12. Neumann, a Republican, lost to Demo-

cratic candidate Celia Foy Castillo by more than 30,000 votes statewide.

Lincoln County Clerk Martha Proctor said she received a call from the court about the order on Monday, and on Tuesday was involved in a tele-conference with Judge Ritter, a representative for Neumann and a representative for Castillo to work out

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Serving All of Lincoln County

LINCOLN County News

"Since 1905"

VOLUME # 95, NUMBER 49

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2000

CARRIZOZO, NM 88301



DISTRICT COURT JUDGE Karen Parsons opens one of the padlocks on the ballot boxes that contained the paper absentee and early voting ballots from Lincoln County while County Clerk Martha Proctor watches. Order for inspection was signed by Dist. Judge Jerry Ritter on behalf of petitioners Rita Nunez Nuemann and Celia Foy Castillo, candidates for NM Court of Appeals.



Santa Visits Carrizozo December 23

Ho Ho Ho, Santa Claus will visit Carrizozo at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 23 at Spencer Park.

Arriving by Carrizozo Volunteer Fire Department fire truck, Santa and his helpers will distribute candy and other goodies to all children who come to see him. Santa will also take wish list requests.

Smokey Bear Park Dec. 16

Santa Claus will be the guest of honor at Smokey Bear Park in Capitan on Saturday, December 16.

Santa will be on hand to take Christmas wishes from 6-7:30 p.m. at Smokey Bear Park.

Santa's visit is part of the annual Capitan Merchant's Open House event. Merchants will have their businesses open throughout the day, some with refreshments.

Refreshments will be served at Smokey Bear Park during Santa's visit.

Local School Board Members To Receive Leadership Awards

Carrizozo Board of Education members Steve Harkey and Gray Gallacher will receive the Leadership Achievement Award at the New Mexico School Boards Association annual convention December 8-9 in Albuquerque.

Harkey and Gallacher were among many board of education members statewide who will receive the Leadership Achievement Award. Other board members from schools in Lincoln County to receive the award are Jeanene Gibbs from Corona Schools, Braulio Alvarado and Jimmy McTeigue from Hondo Valley Schools, Susan Lutterman and James Paxton from Ruidoso Schools.

The Leadership Achievement Award is based on the board member attendance at local board meetings, state NM School Board Association (NMSBA) functions and workshops and at national SBA meetings and conferences.

Realtors Fill Special County Meeting On Zoning Ordinance

By Doris Cherry

Members of the Ruidoso Board of Realtors filled the uncomfortable chairs in the Ruidoso Convention Center on Thursday (November 30) night, to hear what the Lincoln County Commission wants to do with the county subdivision regulations and to voice their opinions on restricting development.

County commissioners held the special meeting for the hearing on the proposed changes to the county subdivision ordinance. The top proposed change is to require developers to build roads to county standard, even if the roads are private. Another proposed change is to require developments of 50 lots or more to have community water systems.

Most of the changes grew out of problems encountered by county planning officer Patsy Sanchez who is the administrator of the county subdivision ordinance, said county planning commission chair Chay Rennick of

Ruidoso. Most problems come from the uncontrolled splitting of lots in small five lot developments. "This (county) commission even raised the idea of a moratorium on subdivisions," Rennick continued. But instead of the moratorium, the commission directed the planning commission to begin work changing the problems in the subdivision ordinance.

"The problem Patsy has is lot splits that end up with 10-15 houses and no roads," Rennick said. "And the origi-

nal owners are long gone." During discussion of the proposed changes county commissioner Leo Martinez agreed on the change requiring developers to build roads. "If the roads truly stay private that's one thing, but they usually don't," he said. "Then they come to the county and want their roads improved."

"In the end they come to the county to cure their ailments," Sanchez added. "Then the county becomes owner of inferior roads by default."

Sanchez suggested the commission start thinking about zoning to control the density and to assure future developments will be good products.

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REALTORS FILLED the uncomfortable chairs at the Ruidoso Convention Center on November 30 for a special Lincoln County Commission meeting and public hearing on proposed changes to the county subdivision regulations and other business. Some citizens at the meeting were there not to comment on subdivision regulations, rather to demand something be done to fix their county road where children were bitten by dogs when their school bus could not travel to their homes because of the mud.

County Employees Get Salary Increases

by Doris Cherry

Merry Christmas, Lincoln County employees.

Lincoln County Commissioners approved proposed salary increases and job reclassification during their special meeting on November 30, held in the Ruidoso Convention Center. With the action all Lincoln County employees will get a minimum of a three percent salary increase starting December 23.

County commissioners also approved county manager Tom Stewart's proposal to reclassify the road department positions. The road department lacks a classification system which identifies employee skills and responsibilities and pays accordingly, Stewart said.

"I found that an Operator 1 in the road department is paid less than a detention officer," Stewart said.

In order to find what other road employees are paid in other counties, Stewart called Torrance, Otero and

Chaves Counties.

Pay for county employees is based on a Grade system.

An Operator 1 is assigned to a specific district and is qualified to operate road mower, road broom, BOMAG roller and 10-12 yard dump truck. There are two Operator 1 positions in Lincoln County. At Grade 10, Stewart proposed to raise the position to Grade 12 with pay range of \$18,004 to \$24,305. Average pay for operators 1 and 2 in the surrounding counties is \$22,178.

Operator 2 is a non-district position qualified to operate the mower, broom, BOMAG roller, dump truck, belly dump transporter, loader, backhoe, road grazer and dozer. Stewart proposed to increase Operator 2 from the current Grade 12 to Grade 14 with pay range of \$19,100 to \$25,785. There are three Operator 2 positions in the road department.

Operator 3, is assigned a district and serves as fore-

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DFA Flushes Work On Hondo Clinic

by Doris Cherry

"All the work we did with the Hondo Clinic was flushed," said Lincoln County Attorney Alan Morel during the special county commission meeting held at Ruidoso Convention Center on the evening of November 30.

"We're at ground zero and starting over," Morel said of the work done on agreements to authorize the county to provide \$150,000 of medical clinic mill levy money a year to the opera-

tion of Hondo Health Clinic which is owned by the Hondo Valley Public School District and operated by La Casa de Buena Salud that contracts with a citizens advisory committee.

The recent reversal in state approval for the clinic lease and the county's agreement to provide hospital mill levy funding will not immediately affect the health care services being provided at the clinic now.

Morel brought up the issue with the Hondo clinic during

the special county commission meeting during the agenda item on staff request to issue a request for proposals (rfp) for operation of the Lincoln County Medical Clinics. More said the county received a letter on November 29, just the day before the special meeting, from New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) attorney Judith Amer who recommended the county enter into a health care

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Lincoln County Ballots

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the details of the inspection. At 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 6, Proctor, her chief clerk Loree Vallejos, and elections clerk Chavez, appeared in the district courtroom in the Lincoln County Courthouse with Democratic party representatives Lincoln County vice chair Paula Gunn, Charles Rennick who said he was attorney for Castillo and Don Dutton who said he was attorney for the New Mexico Democratic Party. New Mexico Republican Party inspectors were Matt Rexroad, an attorney from California and Chris Turner from Albuquerque. There were no representatives of the Lincoln County Republican Party at the in-

spection. Lincoln County Republican Party chair Doris Nelms told *THE NEWS* on Wednesday afternoon that no one notified her about the inspection and she was unaware it had occurred before *THE NEWS* contacted her. *THE NEWS* contacted New Mexico State Republican Party headquarters and was told by state Republican Party media officer Natalie Rule that Rexroad was not representing the state Republican Party as an attorney, rather was a volunteer who has friends in New Mexico and came here to help provide manpower for the inspection of ballots statewide. Rule said officials in

the state Republican headquarters are questioning how Rennick and Dutton could speak on behalf of Castillo and the state Democratic Party. State party chairman John Dendahl did not return a call for comment requested by *THE NEWS* before deadline. Rennick told *THE NEWS* that he and Dutton prior to the inspection proceedings had entered appearances on behalf of Castillo and the state Democratic party which District Judge Karen Parsons accepted.

On Wednesday morning, state police officer John Barnes brought from Alamogordo the ballot boxes containing the Lincoln County paper absentee and early voting ballots which had been sealed with "evidence tape" and had been held in the Otero County Court Clerk's vault since ordered into impoundment on November 12. Each ballot box was sealed with two locks, with one opening with a key retained in a sealed envelope by Proctor and the other opened with a key that was mailed to Judge Parsons on election night by the presiding Absentee precinct judge.

Before the boxes were opened, Rennick and Dutton requested that Judge Ritter, by tele-conference call, officially start the inspection and answer questions. When Ritter was finally reached by conference telephone, he opened the proceedings and allowed questions.

Judge Ritter, agreeing with the legal argument from Rennick, barred the inspectors or anyone present to disclose the results on the inspected ballots of any other race than that for the court of appeals sought by Neumann and Castillo. "To preserve the confidentiality of the voters," Ritter said, Ritter added that no one could disclose the information from any other race "under penalty of contempt of court or the election code."

"I had very great concern for the integrity of the ballots," Rennick told *THE NEWS* after the inspection was completed. "Judge Ritter saw the problem and wisely entered an order to prohibit the participants of the inspection to divulge the results of any other race."

During the argument Rexroad said the inspection was not a request for a recount and it would be nearly impossible to inspect a ballot without seeing the votes of other races. The intent of the inspection was to look at the

ballot materials to determine whether there were technical problems that could justify a recount of votes. He said there had been technical problems on absentee ballots throughout the state.

Rennick said this type of reasoning was a "fishing expedition" and argued it would be unfair to all other candidates on the ballot to allow close inspection of all votes without their notification or their representatives present.

Rennick also told *THE NEWS* there had not been allegations of irregularities in the absentee ballots in Lincoln County. "Yet Neumann had her agents under cover of darkness on a Sunday night to impound ballots without prior notice to Dis-

trict Judge Karen Parsons, Martha Proctor or Castillo's representative in Lincoln County," Rennick added. Attorneys for Castillo were successful in getting the original order to impound to include her as a petitioner for the impoundment. Without this, only Neumann and her attorneys or representative would have been able to inspect the ballots, Rennick said.

Rule told *THE NEWS* that Neumann, as a candidate, had petitioned for the inspection on behalf of herself and the state Republican party statewide. "We made no bones that the inspections were to be on behalf of multiple races," Rule added. This included inspections of

ballots where there were several close races, such as a state representative race in Chaves County.

"Clerk Proctor, Judges Ritter and Parsons and the Lincoln County Absentee Precinct Board have all conducted this election in their respective roles diligently and in a manner we would expect," Rennick said. "For some reason, the Republican participants were not happy with that."

Paper ballots from Otero County were to be inspected early today, Thursday, November 7, according to the order from Ritter.

The deadline for requesting recount of votes is Friday, December 8.

Conservation Easement Issues Discussed At Cattle Growers Convention

A panel discussion of the different issues surrounding conservation easements will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. Saturday, December 9 during the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association annual Joint Stockmen's Convention at the Albuquerque Hilton hotel.

Participants will have a chance to ask questions of the panel members. Speakers include Jimmie C. Hall, president of the Production Credit Association of NM; Sid Goodloe, Lincoln County rancher; Jay Fletcher, Colorado; Butch Mayfield, Hidalgo County rancher and Dr. Floy Lilley, U of Texas at Austin. The panel will be

moderated by Eddie Ratliff, Farm Credit Services, Albuquerque. The Joint Stockmen's Convention is a meeting of five agricultural organizations—NM Cattle Growers Associa-

tion, NM Wool Growers, Int., Dairy Producers of NM; NM Public Lands Council, and the NM CowBelles. For more information call the NMCGA office at 508-247-0584.

BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12	
Corona Post Office	12:30 - 2:30
Carrizozo/Otero Electric	4:00 - 6:30
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13	
Carrizozo/Otero Electric	7:30 - 8:30
Nogal Post Office	8:45 - 9:30
Capitan Smokey Bear Cafe	10:00 - 11:30
Camp Sierra Blanca	11:45 - 2:00
Lincoln Post Office	3:30 - 4:30
Hondo Store	4:45 - 6:00

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Weather Report



A light snow dusted the higher elevations of Lincoln County late Saturday and early Sunday. Otherwise there has been no precipitation, and temperatures are at the seasonal average.

The following forecast information was taken from the national weather service internet site.

Forecast for Carrizozo, Lincoln Valley, Hondo Valley and lower elevations of Lincoln County through Tuesday, December 12:

Today, Thursday, December 7:
Partly cloudy with west winds 10 to 15 miles per hour. High temperature of 55. Thursday night, variable high cloudiness with lows to 25. Chance for precipitation zero percent.

Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9:
Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs to mid 50s, lows 20s.

Sunday, December 10:
Mostly cloudy, windy and colder with a chance for showers. Highs in the 40s, lows to 25.

Monday and Tuesday, December 11 and 12:
Variable clouds and cold with a brisk wind. Highs in upper 30s, lows to 20.

Forecast for Ruidoso, Capitan and other higher elevations of Lincoln County through Tuesday, December 12:

Today, Thursday, December 7:
Partly cloudy with west winds 10-15 miles per hour. High temperatures of 49 to 52, zero chance of precipitation. Tonight variable cloudiness with low of 20.

Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9:
Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in upper 40s, lows mainly 20s.

Sunday, December 10:
Mostly cloudy, windy and colder with chance for mountain snow showers. Highs in 30s, lows 15 to lower 20s.

Monday and Tuesday, December 11 and 12:
Variable clouds and cold with a brisk wind. Chance for snow showers. Highs in upper 20s to lower 30s, lows 10 to 20.

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Gavilan Road Speed To Remain 35 For Now

by Doris Cherry

Speed limits on Gavilan Canyon Road will remain at 35 miles per hour for now.

Lincoln County Commissioners during their special meeting on November 30, held in the Ruidoso Convention Center, tabled action on changing the speed limits on the busy county road. County commissioner Rick Simpson said some residents told him they wanted to make comments about the proposed changes in speed limit, but were unable to attend the special meeting.

In a letter from the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department district traffic engineer Robert Kartz, he recommends the posted speeds of 35 miles per hour remain as is with greater enforcement of the posted speeds. At the county's request the highway department conducted two speed studies on Gavilan Canyon Road. The results of the study showed that 85 percent of the northbound traffic on the north end of the road (where it intersects with Highway 49 in the Alb area) was driving at an average of 38 miles per hour, 85 percent of the northbound traffic at the south end of the road was traveling at 42 miles per hour. Southbound traffic on the north end was traveling at 42 and at the south end at 39 miles per hour.

The letter also noted the south end of Gavilan Canyon appears to have more speed limit signs.

Kartz explains that traffic engineers try to put speed limits at the speed that 85 percent of the traffic drives. "A greatly lower posted speed limit will create a greater disparity between those driving the post speed limit and those driving the 85 percent speed," Kartz wrote. "This has the potential to lead to more rear end accidents and to complaints by motorists of a speed trap."

County commissioners chose to table any action on the speed limits until the citizens could comment.

Several citizens were present at the special meeting to comment on the Palo Verde Slopes Subdivision Road Improvement Plan. County manager Tom Stewart said his action plan included work on the Mesa Loop Road and Arrowhead road and the county is utilizing a state highway cooperative agreement project to widen and chip seal several roads in the county subdivision that is east of Ruidoso Downs. County commissioner Leo Martinez said the county had promised to do work on the roads at least 10 years ago, yet nothing had been done.

Palo Verde Slopes residents Dewey Keller and Jamie Parnell complained about the poor roads. Keller said recently three children received multiple dog bites when they were required to walk to their homes when the school bus could not go up the main road because it was too muddy. "The school bus can't pass another car," Keller said. "This is why the road needs to be improved."

Parnell said paving the roads will only increase the amount of water run off which is a major problem now. He also said that the county is currently widening the roads toward private properties instead of in the 50 foot easement of the county roads. He also complained about Zia Gas Company tearing up the county's road right of way to install gas lines, which he claimed was being done poorly. He was concerned that with the gas lines in the county road easement, the road can never be widened in the direction of the gas lines. Keller was also concerned about the county widening the

road toward the properties, instead of in its easement.

County commissioner Rick Simpson said the Palo Verde Slopes roads were a pet peeve of his 10 years ago when he served on the county commission. He suggested concrete ditches to carry away the excess water.

County commission chair Rex Wilson said the county would look into the situation with Zia Gas installing lines in county roadways, and the drainage problems and report at the December county commission meeting.

County commissioners did approve a Forest Road Cooperative Agreement to upgrade 1.52 miles of Forest Road 131/County Road C016 that goes to the Loma Grande Ranch in the Nogal Mesa area and 1.5 miles of Forest Road 105/County road C013 that begins at the top of Nogal Hill off Highway 37 north to Highway 390 (Indian Divide Ridge Road). In the agreement the forest service purchases and provides road material for two roads, four culverts, object markers for culverts, provide a steel wheel roller and obtain necessary biological and cultural clearances. The county agreed to provide equipment and labor to push, load, dump, spread and roll the materials on the two roads. "This is a good deal," said county commissioner Bill Schwettmann.

Christmas Display At Ruidoso Public Library

A wonderful display for Christmas ornaments are on display at the Ruidoso Public Library during the months of November and December.

Capitan Chamber Sponsors Annual Lighting Contest

The Capitan Chamber of Commerce discussed the chamber Christmas tree lighting contest during their meeting December 4. Two prizes will be awarded, \$50 for the best commercial and \$50 for the best residential. Judging will be between Dec. 17 and Dec. 23.

It was announced that the chamber owns and provides the Christmas street decorations which are installed by Otero County Electric Cooperative.

Chamber bingo will resume February 1, 2001.

Lincoln County Students Attend ENMU in Portales

Nine Lincoln County students are attending Eastern New Mexico University in Portales this fall.

Three graduates of Carrizozo High School - and their majors are: Monica M. Gillihar undergraduate with no declared major; Wendy Michelle Hollis, elementary education; Nathan L. Portillo, undeclared graduate.

Six graduates of Corona High School - and their majors are: Logan G. Marshall, undeclared; Andrea Renee Martinez, computer information systems; Thomas L. Mulkey, history; William Lee Post, undeclared; Sarah J. Stewart, undeclared; Jimmy L. Stratton, physical education.

ENMU has about 3,581 students on its main campus in Portales, has a branch campus in Roswell and an instruction center in Ruidoso. ENMU-Portales offers 60 undergraduate and graduate programs.

WEDNESDAYS
-Moms In Touch prayer group, 2 p.m. 707 F. Ave. in Carrizozo.
-Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting, 7 p.m. Capitan Senior Citizens Center.

THURSDAYS
-Story Hour, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Carrizozo School Library.
-Lincoln County Adult Singles Group 6:30 p.m. Call 354-2635 or 258-3201 for information and location.

FRIDAYS
-Alcoholics Anonymous big book open discussion 7-9 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, DECEMBER 7
-Lincoln County Public Land Use Advisory Council (PLUAC) 9 a.m. Lincoln County Commission chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
-Region VI Housing Authority Board of Directors, 1 p.m. Housing Authority office in Roswell.
-Open House and book signing by Kelli Pounds, 1-3 p.m. Corona Museum.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
-Tinnie Baptist Church fund raiser, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
-ENMU-Ruidoso Community Orchestra concert. Call 257-2120 for more information.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
-Lincoln County REDTT council 10 a.m. Otero County Electric Cooperative office in Carrizozo.
-Lincoln County-Ruidoso Extra-territorial Zoning Authority, 6:30 p.m. Ruidoso village hall.
-ENMU Community Choir concert at Spencer Theater. Call 257-2120 for more information.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12
-Ruidoso Utility Council, 9 a.m. Ruidoso village hall.
-Carrizozo Town-Trustees 6 p.m.
-Ruidoso Village Council 6:30 p.m.
-Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m. Carrizozo Schools old gym. Open House at Carrizozo High School to follow.
-Capitan Village Trustees 7 p.m.
-Corona Board of Education 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
-Ruidoso Arts Commission 4 p.m. village hall.
-Capitan Board of Education 6 p.m. administration building. Business includes an update on superintendent search, 1999-2000 fiscal year audit presentation and other business.
-New Mexico Music with Tomas Vigil at the Hubbard Museum of the American West. Call 378-4142 for more information.
-Lincoln County Planning Commission special meeting, 7 p.m. Commissioners chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo. Business includes review of Eagle Ridge Subdivision, staff reports and commissioner comments.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
-Christmas Open House at Capitan Village Hall, 2-5 p.m. refreshments.

Carrizozo Thanks You!

Since 1984 Otero County Electric Cooperative, Inc. has donated their bucket truck and the time of many employees to put up the Christmas decorations for several communities in Lincoln County.

This year the co-op went further. Not only did they put up the usual decorations along Central Avenue, but they spent an extra day to put up hundreds of tiny lights in McDonald Park. Carrizozo is beautifully decorated for the holidays! We send our appreciation to:

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THOUGHTS

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Gas bills are a shocker

By Ruth Hammond

Holiday cheer will be short this year for many people in Capitan and Carrizozo. Apparently the HUGE increase in natural gas drifted down to customers this month. One family was shocked when their natural gas bill for the month of November tripled from the October bill even though they were using a wood stove for heating in November instead of relying on natural gas for warmth.

Insulation, storm doors and plastic covering for windows did help some the past two winters but evidently it doesn't matter what people do this year to try to decrease their gas usage. Don't be surprised to see people on the corner with tin cups begging for donations to try to help keep them warm during this winter that has just barely started.

Greedy people somewhere are responsible because they know people will have to use natural gas and these greedy people are guilty of a crime against the public. The excuse that there is a shortage of natural gas is ridiculous. If there was a shortage, natural gas would be rationed, just as fuel was rationed during World War II. Rationing kept people from being wasteful and help keep fuel in reserve for our armed forces to use in combat. Even if you don't remember World War II, it started exactly 59 years ago today. Rationing was a way of life during that great war.

Here 59 years later someone should get very rich by using the excuse that there is a natural gas shortage, which might be O.K. if it wasn't for what it will do to people, especially people on fixed incomes. If there was a true shortage, the correct information should be given to the people, not innuendos about cost versus using gas.

Being warm may not sound like much, but it makes us wonder how the pioneers survived when they settled this area. Back then they didn't have insulation and central heating. Many people lived outdoors where it was really, really cold, not inside a warm, comfortable building. When they were heading west their only shelter was a covered wagon, if they even had that, though most people didn't travel in the winter. They had to gather firewood, and try to maintain the red/blue color of their bodies as they sat by the fire. Their bodies were red on the fire side while their back side was blue. They probably turned a lot.

Is it possible the people who will be getting rich from the increase in gas prices want us to return to those "Good old days" once again? Or is their main intent to garner all the money they can while people get sick from being cold? Some people will do without food to have enough money to pay their gas bills. That is not right and the people responsible should know that they are causing hardships.

Lambasting the gas companies won't help. Some people will tell you there is a shortage of natural gas and crude oil and will not tell you that there are thousands of wells capped off in Oklahoma that would produce enough fuel for the entire world for centuries. Shortage? No way.

Lincoln County residents also were surprised to learn the paper absentee and paper early votes were inspected yesterday. Apparently nothing was found to be wrong.

Sincere appreciation goes once again to Lincoln County Clerk Martha Proctor and her staff for doing a great job. *Baby it's cold everywhere!*

County Charged For Ruidoso Meeting Room; Fee Returned

Lincoln County this week received a check for \$75, and a letter of apology from Ruidoso Convention Center.

When Lincoln County Commissioners agreed to hold a special public hearing on proposed subdivision regulations in Ruidoso they chose to hold it in the Ruidoso Convention Center.

At the end of the three and a half hour long special meeting on November 30, Lincoln County Clerk Martha Proctor brought up the subject of the \$75 charge to the county to hold the special meeting in the Ruidoso Convention Center.

"In the 12 years I have been county clerk I have never charged Ruidoso for holding elections," Proctor said. She said in other counties the clerks charged the municipalities to preside over municipal elections, but not in Lincoln County. However she said she may have to reconsider this. "I hope this is not a start of a lack of cooperation between the county and municipalities," Proctor added.

County commission chair Rex Wilson said this was the first time the county was charged to use the convention center.

"This is complete BS," said county commissioner Leo Martinez. "For us to pay for the convention center, I'm going to talk to the mayor (of Ruidoso)."

Apparently someone talked with the village, because according to assistant county manager Martha Guevara the county received a letter of apology from Bernadine Randolph, Ruidoso Convention Center office manager and the county's \$75 check for the rental fee returned. Guevara told THE NEWS on Tuesday, December 5, that in the letter Randolph states it was brought to her attention

that it was inappropriate to charge the county for use of the convention center. She apologized and said the center will be glad to accommodate the county meetings at no charge in the future, scheduling permitted.

Also at the end of the special meeting on November 30, Ruidoso realtor Harvey Foster thanked commissioners for holding the special hearing in Ruidoso. "We had a good turn out," Foster said. "I think this is a reflection this part of the county is interested in county commission meetings." He suggested future county meetings be held in the Ruidoso Village Administration Center meeting room. "Where it's more comfortable and more serviceable," Foster added.

Wilson said they appreciated the good participation during the public hearing.

Oscuro resident Jerry Carroll said he did not think the county commission should meet in Ruidoso. "If people are interested enough they know where the county seat is," Carroll said. "I have no gripe about coming here (for a county meeting) but it's a long way from Oscuro."

Ruidoso resident Al Junge said commissioners should hold two meetings a month with the first held in Carrizozo on the morning of the second Thursday of each month and the second being on the fourth Thursday of each month, being held at night in Ruidoso. Junge also suggested the commission chairman set a time of three to five minutes of discussion per person in order to keep the meetings shorter. "The speakers speak too long and the chairman needs to be tougher to keep them in line," Junge said. "These occasional special meetings in Ruidoso are like throwing a group of dogs a bone."



INSIDE THE CAPITOL

by JAY MILLER

SANTA FE - School vouchers failed in California and Michigan elections last month, bringing to 10 the number of statewide referenda in which voters have rejected public aid to private schools over the last 30 years.

The heavily-financed voucher campaigns lost by margins of better than 2-1 so no recounts have been requested.

Despite being shut out every time they've been put to a vote, vouchers are expected to appear before about half the state legislatures next year, including New Mexico's Gov. Gary Johnson and the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce have announced plans to push vouchers. At least one other business group may join in.

Their premise is that schools are failing and the only solution is to strengthen private schools in order to provide stiff competition. The debate over separation of church and state has raged almost since the founding of our republic. Advocates of maintaining the barrier have usually prevailed. In the realm of schools, minor inroads have been made in the area of instructional materials.

The primary interest of voucher proponents has been in behalf of private, secular schools. Gov. Johnson sees a huge school industry arising to take advantage of \$3,200 per student the state would make available. But no prospective educational entrepreneurs have rushed forward so far to help him get his bills through the Legislature. And the recent election didn't appear to have done anything to narrow the 2-1 defeats Johnson suffered at the hands of both Democrats and Republicans in both houses earlier this year.

The voucher push won't be much more successful in New Mexico next year than before, but it may help move along the effort to further expand charter schools in the state. These are public schools that are given administrative flexibility and freedom from many regulations imposed by local school districts. New Mexico has been moving slowly on this front, which is perhaps a good idea. States, such as Arizona, that have moved quickly in this experimental arena have encountered numerous growing pains.

Charter schools are seen by some as merely an attempt by voucher proponents to get a foot in the door. In Washington State last month, 52 percent of voters opposed a proposition to create charter schools. Nevertheless, it is predicted that as voucher efforts wane,

they will be placed by a rash of charter school ballot initiatives.

The group most likely to achieve success in next year's Legislature. Think New Mexico, a Santa Fe based think tank governed by a bipartisan board. This is the group that led the successful effort for full-day kindergarten earlier this year. The group is coming back with a moderate proposal that hits somewhere in between voucher supporters and those who are comfortable with the status quo.

Think New Mexico wants to see more public schools convert to dependent charter schools, a statute allowing parents and students to choose schools within and outside district boundaries, and it wants to tie education dollars to students rather than to school districts. The group also wants to shift power to hire teachers, set curriculum and oversee budgets from central district offices to individual schools.

Fred Nathan, executive director of Think New Mexico, says site-based management of schools is the way to improve student performance because it allows local control and accountability. Curriculum can be tailored to the needs of the students. The group also would like to see local-option elections that will allow voters to decide they want to completely disband their local school districts and shift power to principals, teachers and parents at each school building, saving considerable management expense.

If districts are disbanded, supplies and services could be jointly purchased through a statewide consortium, freeing more money for individual schools. If you get more money to the classroom and you let building-level advisory councils address the needs of their students, you are to see results, says Carol Romero-Wirth, the group's assistant director.

DFA Flushes

(Continued from Page 1)

facilities contract with the school district, and a new agreement be entered into between the Hondo School District and the La Casa de Buena Salud, the health care operator of the clinic. Currently the clinic is being operated by the Hondo Valley Community Health Center Advisory Committee by agreement with La Casa. "By the language of the Agreement, this committee does not appear to be a governmental entity," Amer wrote. "It is comprised of non-elected private community members."

But the problem is, the school district cannot legally run the clinic, Morel said.

The letter from DFA was in response to a question posed to DFA by Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart on whether Lincoln County may

transmit a portion of the county hospital mill levy funds to the Hondo Valley School District for operation of the Hondo Health Clinic.

"I conclude that Lincoln County may enter into a 'health care facilities contract' with the school district and utilize a portion of mill levy proceeds in exchange for an agreement," Amer wrote. She wrote that since the school district actually owns the clinic it must be the clinic advisory committee, that receives the mill levy proceeds and spends the public funds in accordance with the Hospital Mill Levy Act requirements. In addition Amer wrote, "The school district itself must

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Lincoln County News
USPS 313460

"The Lincoln County News" is published Thursdays at 309 Central Ave., Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301. Second-class postage paid at Carrizozo, New Mexico. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS, P.O. Drawer 439, Carrizozo, NM 88301.

Ruth Hammond and Peter Aguilar
Co-Publishers

PSYCHIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM



JUDITH L. CHRISTOPHER

You Can Receive A Personal Confidential Reading Call for Appointment 257-2996

Week of Dec. 7-13, 2K

Sagittarius: (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Get out your old dreams and dust them off. It's time to live a little. Know hum-bug here! Take a chance on life!

Capricorn: (Dec 22 - Jan 19) You are loved by many even if they don't or can't express their love the way you want or need it. Just know it to be true.

Aquarius: (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Don't start thinking about tax time YET! But do stay on top of business ideas. This holiday, express your love to ALL!

Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20) Bah Humbug? Not THIS Year! You'll feel warm and cozy all inside with or without others. Your spirit will soar high!

Aries: (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Use your special gifts to make someone, or everyone, you meet happy. Turn off the temper and let things slide. Be Joyful!

Taurus: (Apr 20 - May 20) Love and money, but what we weave. But knowing your luck, you'll come out on top every time. Go for the gold!

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20) Let the child inside of you go free! Dream and wish upon a star. Don't expect others to do for you what you can do for yourself.

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22) What you don't say to others is just as important as what you do say. Speak from the heart and also be a good listener.

Leo: (July 23 - Aug 22) You may have to make a major decision concerning not only you, but others as well. Go for the long haul, not the short trip.

Virgo: (Aug 23 - Sept 22) Your good heart and soul can be broken by the people who love you the most. They mean well, try to forgive and forget.

Libra: (Sept 23 - Oct 22) Have a Holly Jolly Old Time! Seek out new and exciting people. Throw caution to the wind! Begin a new way of life!

Scorpio: (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Remember your friends and family love you, not how much you spend on them. Open up your heart and not your wallet.



A GLIMPSE OF THE MINING HISTORY OF THE SOUTHWEST

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

The Great Southwest.

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

Northern Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

PART 43

EL PASO CONTINUED

The New Building.

The erection of a new high school has already begun, the contract calling for its completion January 1, 1902. The building will have twelve recitation rooms and a large study hall, and will be furnished throughout with the best up-to-date appliances. The heating and ventilating

system is entirely modern and the most nearly perfect that can be supplied. The temperature of all the rooms will be automatically controlled, while the ventilation (one of the most important problems in the construction of a school) will be absolutely perfect. Pure air will be furnished to each room by means of a large blower, or fan, propelled by machinery.

the whole volume of the air in the building being changed every fifteen minutes. The heating and ventilating plant will be installed at a cost of \$5,000. It is the same as that used in the great Southern Pacific hospital at San Francisco, where it is said that the odor of a bottle of ammonia poured out into a room can not be detected three minutes afterwards.

Churches.

El Paso has a large number of churches, all brick, illustrations of which will be found elsewhere. She has two Methodist churches, one Baptist, one Presbyterian, two Catholic, one Christian, one Congregational, one Episcopal, one Hebrew and one Lutheran.

Hospitals

El Paso has a number of hospitals. Hotel Dieu, Excelsior, St. Luke's, the county hospital, and besides these the Southern Pacific company is preparing to build a costly company hospital here for its employees.

Societies and Organizations

Bliss Lodge No. 221, K. of P. -- Organized 1895.
El Paso Lodge No. 82, K. of P. -- Organized 1888.
Myrtle Lodge No. 10 (colored).
El Paso Chapter No. 157, R.A.M. -- Organized December 10, 1884.
El Paso Commandery No. 18, K.T. -- Organized 1884.
El Paso Lodge No. 130, A.F. & A.M. -- Organized January 21,

1854.
Border Lodge, No. 374, I.O.O.F. -- Organized March 5, 1894.
Canton Del Paso No. 4, Patriarchs Militant -- Organized September 19, 1891.
El Paso Lodge No. 284, I.O.O.F. -- Organized November 22, 1882.
Mount Franklin Encampment No. 106, I.O.O.F. -- Organized February 15, 1890.
El Paso Lodge No. 2884, K. of H. -- Organized 1882.
Emmet Crawford Post No. 19, G.A.R. -- Organized 1886.
Evergreen Cemetery Co. -- Organized February 25, 1894.
Harmonial Spiritual Society -- Incorporated 1896.
Gate City Assembly No. 3041, K. of L.
Jefferson Assembly No. 1845, K. of L.
New Year Lodge No. 135, B. of L.F. -- Organized January 1893.
Rhein Lodge No. 133, Order Hermann's Sons -- Organized March 1st, 1896.
Rio Grande Lodge No. 192, B. of L.E. -- Organized 1883.
Tornillo Camp No. 42, Woodmen of the World -- Organized 1891.
American Bowling Club -- Organized 1892.
Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division No. 1.
Benevolent Protective Order Elks, El Paso Lodge No. 187 -- Organized January, 1891.
Catholic Knights of America, Branch 545.
Catholic Library Club -- Organized 1897.
Court Robin Hood No. 1, Foresters of America -- Organized 1895.
Duetscher Kegel Verein -- Incorporated, Organized September, 1887.
El Paso Club -- Incorporated.
El Paso Council No. 631, National Union -- Organized 1892.
El Paso Division No. 69, O.R.C. -- Organized 1882.
El Paso Lodge No. 133, A.O.U.W. -- Organized January 22, 1892.
El Paso Lodge No. 80, B. of R.T. -- Organized 1883.

titles and abstracts and draw deeds, options, etc. Mining litigation and other legal business relating thereto is a most intricate undertaking, and requires very careful and painstaking work on the part of attorneys. The work of this law firm has been attended with very flattering success, and it is growing in favor and popularity with the mining people of the southwest.

Physicians.

El Paso's medical fraternity will compare favorably with that of any city in the state or the southwest. Our heavy death rate here is caused by those in the last stages of pulmonary troubles coming here too late to receive any benefit. It is several times larger than our local death rate. Several of our surgeons have made enviable reputations in the treatment of severe cases of appendicitis, and other afflictions equally as fatal in result, if not attended to with promptness and skill.

Our Climate.

No place is perfect, but El Paso has one of the most desirable climates to be found within the limits of the United States. To understand this fully it must be borne in mind that latitude places El Paso low down among the southern gulf states, giving her a position among places where roses bloom abundantly in the gardens during December, and spring has already begun before the close of February. But this climate of latitude is modified and greatly changed by the physical conformation of the country, the altitude and aridity of land and air.

Elevation

El Paso is elevated 3740 feet above sea level, is about in the center of an arid section fully 1000 miles in diameter, and lies at the foot of the great slanting plateau of New Mexico. See how these act.

For about every 400 feet of altitude the difference in climate varies about one degree in latitude. Hence the summer climate of El Paso is fully that of nine degrees further north than it would be were the city situated on the level of the sea. But New Mexico is the great cooler of El Paso climate, the city being situated in the very mouth of the pass or draw through which flow the chief waters of New Mexico as well as the descending cool streams of air.

In New Mexico during winter, snow fields vast and deep form on the higher mountains and in the deep, dark canons which furrow their sides, and into which the winter sunshine seldom peeps. With the approach of summer these snows begin to melt. This is a cooling process, because it is the conversion of a solid to a liquid. Thus every snow capped mountain peak and snow covered mountain range, and snow packed mountain gorge, becomes a vast refrigerator for the reduction of heat in New Mexico's summer climate; and as New Mexico slants towards El Paso at the rate of 3500 feet in 350 miles, the same effect is had upon El Paso.

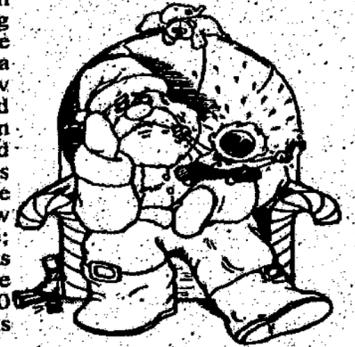
melting snow pour down innumerable streams of ice cold water, ramifying in every direction, but ultimately uniting to form the principal rivers. These streams of cooling water flow through the valleys, around the foothills and beside the mesas, absorbing heat from the air and reducing New Mexico's summer temperature, and that of El Paso.

But from the mountain sides and mountain canons in addition to the streams of cold water, which can be seen, there flow down innumerable streams of cold air, which can not be seen -- air made cold by the conversion of the solid snow to the liquid water -- and these invisible streams of cold air, being heavier than the air which has not been cooled, roll down through the valleys and over the tablelands bathing all in their delightful coolness.

But as the streams of water rush rapidly down the natural descent of the country, the arid air drinks huge draughts to slake its thirst. Or, in other words, evaporation from the water is very great. But man steps in, and by the creation of artificial streams, by running his irrigating ditches here and there and everywhere, from the main canal carrying the water supply of many fields to the little furrows spreading it out among the growing crops, he increases the evaporation many fold and spreads it over largely extended areas. And what is evaporation? The changing of a liquid to a vapor, a cooling process employed in making artificial ice and which is sufficiently vigorous can be employed to freeze water in a redhot crucible. This evaporation, then, adds another factor in the reduction of New Mexico's summer temperature, and the air it supplies to El Paso.

Afterwards come the summer rains; and while the act of raining, the condensation of vapor into liquid, is a warming process, yet so small is the per cent of humidity in the atmosphere of this section, 36 here to 79 in the Gulf states, a very severe chilling is required to wring any precipitation from the air. Thus, the temperature is always low when it rains, and no sooner has the precipitation ceased than the air begins to draw the water back again by rapid evaporation. And thus the cooling process continues; so that the long, languid, exhausting heat of the south, and the shorter but sharper and more frequent and destructive heat of the north are unknown in El Paso's delicious summer climate.

MORE EL PASO CLIMATE NEXT WEEK.



Church Directory



Mountain Ministry Parish, Sierra Blanca Presbytery
Royal Presbyterian Church: BILL BEBRING, 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., Capitán, 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
374 10th Ave., Carrizozo, NM 648-2968 (church) or 648-2107
Sunday School..... 9:45 am
Worship Service..... 10:55 am
Sun. Evening..... Training at 8:15 pm
Evening Worship..... 7:15 pm
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

Carrizozo Community Church (A/G)
JOHNIE L. JOHNSON, pastor
Corner of C Ave. & Thirtieth, 648-2188
Children's Church..... 10:30 am
Worship Service..... 12:30 pm
Wed. Bible Study..... 7:30 pm

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

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

St. Matthias Episcopal Church
REV. GANON JOHN PENN, rector.
Corner of E. Ave. & Sixth, Carrizozo, NM 1-805-287-2258
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.

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

United Methodist Churches
TOM WOODARD, pastor
1000 G. Ave. 648-2853 / 648-2846
Carrizozo, NM 85301
Sunday School (All Ages)..... 10:00 am
Worship Service..... 11:10 am
Choir Practice (Tuesday)..... 8:30 pm
United Methodist Women Every 3rd Wednesday..... 1:30 pm
Fellowship Dinner..... 4th Sunday of Month 12:00 pm
Worship..... CAPTAN
Adult Sunday School..... 9:30 am
Worship Service..... 9:15 am
Children's Sunday School..... 9:30 am
Fellowship Time..... 10:15 am
Adult Sunday School..... 11:00 am
Choir Practice (Tuesday)..... 7:00 pm
Fellowship Dinner Every Third Sunday
Handmaidens (Ecumenical Women's Group) 1st and 3rd Tuesday..... 9:30 a.m.

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

Capitan Church of Christ
LESLIE EARWOOD, minister
5th & Lincoln / 336-4027
Sunday Bible Study..... 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service..... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 8:00 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.
Worship Service..... 11:00 a.m.
AWANA Wednesday..... 6:00 p.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

Jerry and Lanita Rasak

Bill Winkler
Stearns Insurance Agency

Realtors Fill Special

(Continued From Page 1)

County attorney Alan Morel reviewed the proposed changes section by section during which time comment was taken from the public. Ruidoso surveyor Tim Collins suggested commissioners ban all future lot splits instead of creating more requirements for building roads and community systems on the land owner who splits the lot that bumps the development into the higher category subdivision. Subdivision categories are based on the number of lots. He also suggested a better definition of re-subdivision to mean only division of a single lot into more lots, because many lots are replatted to combine lots or move lot lines or easements. Morel said he took the proposed language from the Ruidoso codes.

Many speakers wavered from the section being discussed and offered generalized comments. Mark Mobley asked commissioners to change their rules and make efforts to get state rules changed to allow developers to create community water systems without having water rights. "Why not do this, since each lot has the right to drill its own well, and can use up to a half acre feet of

water a year," Mobley said. Ruidoso Board of Realtors president Harvey Foster also urged commissioners to meet with the state engineer about allowing community water systems to utilize the same water rights that would have been permitted to each individual lot. Currently the county subdivision regulations allow lots to use a half acre of water per year. Realtor Joe Zagone agreed and said it should be a trade off of well water rights for water rights for a community water system.

Rose Peebles, a Ruidoso realtor, said it would be "fantastic if the Ruidoso councilors and county commissioners would work together to get changes on this water rights requirement." "The breaking point is the community water system," Peebles said. She also said the county needs a water study and complete Master Plan. "Before you change any more rules and regulations you should have a goal for every community to have a Master Plan, instead of piecemeal changes." Peebles questioned the proposed 20 foot road width requirement because it is so costly for the developer.

Morel responded to the

comments, first the community water system. He said he proposed this first because he was unsure whether the county wanted to deal with another 499 lot subdivision that has individual wells. "If we wait for a Master Plan it could be three or four years and the cost for a water plan can be up to a million dollars," Morel added.

County planning commission member Pete Thompson said the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) is currently doing a model water study for Lincoln County. He agreed with Peebles that nothing should be changed in the regulations until it is known how much water "we got under the county."

County commissioner Martinez asked about the rules for community wells.

County commissioner Rex Wilson said there are provisions in state law for cluster or shared wells that allow up to four households per domestic well.

County commissioner Ray Nunley asked staff to research information on cluster wells.

But Bonito Volunteer Fire Department Chief Chris Denney said community water systems, with fire fighting capabilities, are needed in any development. "I think it is governments duty to protect its citizens, so I applaud your efforts to do community water systems," he added. "We cannot live without adequate water supplies."

At least 30,000 gallons are needed for fire fighting, Denney responded to a question. He also said community water systems with fire hydrants within 1000 feet of each residence improves the fire ratings that determine the cost of fire insurance. "Don't give an inch," Denney encouraged.

Lincoln resident James Sanchez approved of the community water systems for fire protection and to protect the water rights and wells already in the county. "Sometimes we are too eager to accommodate more and more and forget the ones already here," he said. As for allowing community water systems without having the water rights, Sanchez said

prior to the middle 1980s anyone could drill a well and start farming without water rights or create a community water system. Ruidoso developed its Eagle Creek wells without having water rights, because the wells were outside a partially closed basin, Sanchez added.

Newly appointed member to the county planning commission Lonnie Lippmann of Capitan said the opinion of people he talks to in the rural areas of the county is they view with suspicion Ruidoso and its developments. "It will engulf us or dry us up," he added. "We think we're just bait. For myself, I view with grave suspicion both the ambition of Ruidoso and the greed of its realtors." He received a spattering of applause from his comment.

Realtor Carolyn Hansen then spoke and agreed with Lippmann to an extent. She said private wells within Ruidoso just for keeping lawns green need to be controlled, as well as uncontrolled growth of unwanted brush such as the one seed juniper, oak brush and willows.

When asked who decided on the number of lots in a development that must have community water system, Morel said the planning commission had. Rennick spoke on the planning commission behalf said they figured the cost of a private water well times the number of lots and found that a development with at least 50 lots was feasible without too much cost. Rennick also reminded everyone that any ordinance is a living document that can be changed in the future if problems arise.

Hondo valley resident Ken Nosker said there is too much concern about water use now, since at least 85 percent of water drawn from underground is recharged back into the aquifer. He said water studies of Lincoln County have been done and there is no need for an additional \$250,000 for another water study. The county is requesting \$250,000 from the state legislature for a water study.

"What are we going to do?" Nosker asked. "Cut out economic development here so the water can run down to Chaves County and they can have it?"

Morel said he did not want to price Lincoln County

property out of the market by making new regulations. Nunley also said the county should not curtail economic development and he was unsure the county should determine what size of development must have community water systems. Morel said the county subdivision regulations must address this number or "there can be another 500 lot subdivision with 500 wells."

Other proposed changes require all subdivision roads be built to county specifications even if they are private. Morel said there is a health, welfare and safety issue when the lots in a five lot development, which currently does not have to build any roads just provide an easement, split and creates a 10 lot development without any roads. "What started as a nice little five lot subdivision is 10 lots with only a trail leading into it," Morel said. Regulations will require a 50 foot easement for all roads regardless of the width. "We just don't require roads in (developments of) five lots or less."

Proposed requirements on private roads concerned county commissioner Bill Schwettmann. "I don't know why we have to be so rigid on telling private enterprise what it can do," he said. "There is too much intrusion in the world now."

Morel said the reason for requiring certain width roads is for emergency vehicles to be able to pass each other on the same road in an emergency.

Sanchez responded to Schwettmann's comment about the road width. She said if the county does not require the infrastructure then the development will become 10 lots without roads. "Then the county is becoming a partner to the developers, because in the end they will come to the county."

Lippmann suggested the regulations state that private roads be so in perpetuity and are the property owners responsibility. Martinez said the county needs the ability to tax properties to fix roads. Lippmann said that was tried before and was met with great opposition.

County resident Candyece Valcarcel said in her opinion a road that goes to more than one house is no longer private. "To me private roads should not be allowed," she said. Morel said private roads are allowed and the public can be stopped from using a private road.

Wilson suggested the regulations just stop lot splits unless the roads are built "up front."

Wilson at the opening of the hearing said all proposed changes were just being reviewed for comment and consideration. The county commission took no action on any of the proposed changes to the county subdivision regulations at the special meeting.

Realtors thanked commissioners for having the hearing in Ruidoso and Foster pointed to the meeting room with chairs filled by residents. Some of those present were at the meeting for other business than the public hearing.

Free Admission For County Residents This Month At Natural History Museum

In the month of December residents of Lincoln County will receive free admission to the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque.

The free admission policy is part of the Museum's County Recognition Month to welcome and honor New Mexico residents from around the state. The museum is open every day except Christmas from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Lincoln Historic Preservation Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., to be held at the Community Church in Lincoln County, New Mexico.

Copies of the agenda for the December 19, 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, December 8, 2000.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND ORDINANCE #52

It is the intention of the governing body of the Village of Corona to amend Ordinance #52, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PERSONNEL POLICY FOR THE VILLAGE OF CORONA, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HERewith (SECTIONS 1.0-6.0, IN REFERENCE TO HIRING, ELIGIBILITY, INTERVIEWS, AND TRANSFERS), at the next meeting on December 14, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Interested parties may review the Ordinance at Village Hall, Hwy. 54/Main Street, Corona, NM, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 5:00.

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, December 7, 2000.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners shall hold a Public Hearing beginning at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 21, 2000, to be held at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, Carrizozo, New Mexico, to consider the Regional Water Plan.

All parties and interested citizens will have the opportunity to be heard. Copies of the proposed Regional Water Plan may be obtained from the County Manager's Office at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

MARTHA GUEVARA
Assistant County Manager

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, December 7, 2000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Lincoln County Planning Commission will hold a special meeting on December 14, 2000. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Commissioners Chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, New Mexico.

- AGENDA
- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. Review of Eagle Ridge Subdivision, Section 31, T10S, R14E
- VI. STAFF REPORT
- VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
- VIII. ADJOURN

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, December 7, 2000.



TULAROSA BASIN TELEPHONE CO., INC.

A quality telecommunications services provider that provides basic and enhanced services at reasonable rates within its service territory — Carrizozo, Cloudcroft and Tularosa. Basic services are offered at the monthly rates found here.

	CARRIZOZO		CLOUDCROFT & TULAROSA	
	Inside Base Rate	Outside Base Rate	Inside Base Rate	Outside Base Rate
Residence Service*				
Unlimited Local Usage	\$11.11	\$14.41	\$14.39	\$17.69
Measured Local Usage (\$0.03 @ Minute)	6.26	9.56	6.26	9.56
Business Service*				
Unlimited Local Usage	33.96	37.26	45.40	48.70
Measured Local Usage (\$0.03 @ Minute)	18.57	21.87	18.57	21.87
State Mandated Emergency 911 Services	.51	.51	.51	.51
Federal Mandated Subscriber Line Charge				
Each Single Line Residence and Business Telephone Number	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Each Business Multi-Line and Pay Telephone Number	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Toll Restriction				
Residence	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Business	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Local Directory Assistance	no charge for directory assistance from hospitals, health care facility patient telephones, for persons certified incapable of using a directory, or for emergency calls; pay telephone directory assistance calls are \$0.25 each, and other local directory assistance calls are \$0.60 each.			

* Touch Tone Service is included in basic service rates.

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Basic services are offered to all consumers in Tularosa Basin Telephone Company's service territories at the rates, terms, and conditions specified in the Company's tariff. If you have any questions regarding the Company's services, please call us at 595-2700 (Cloudcroft-Tularosa), 648-2700 (Carrizozo), or (800) 972-8282 if calling long distance; or visit our business office at 503 St. Francis Drive, Tularosa, for additional information regarding our services.

This notice complies with Universal Service Fund eligibility requirements.



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First Half Property Tax Bills Become Delinquent Dec. 12

Property owners have until 5 p.m. Monday, December 11 to walk into the Lincoln County Treasurer's Office in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo and pay the first half of their property taxes before the taxes become delinquent and subject to a penalty.

According to Lincoln County Treasurer Joan Park property owners may pay the first half of their property tax bills in person by 5 p.m. Monday, December 11. While December 10 is usually the deadline for payment without penalty, December 10 is a Sunday, and an extra day was given to property owners to pay their taxes in person in the treasurer's office in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

If the tax is mailed to the treasurer's office in Carrizozo, it must be post marked

by December 11, 2000 to avoid a penalty, Park added. After the delinquent deadline of December 12, a penalty of a minimum of \$5 up to a maximum of one percent of the first half payment will be imposed. The percentage will be charged monthly until the first half is paid, Park said.

Property tax payments are coming in normally, Park continued, with about 30 percent of the budgeted revenue from the taxes collected to this point. "We are right at normal, and dead even with collections at this time last year," she added.

Second half payments will become due on April 10, 2001 and become delinquent on May 11, 2001.

For more information call the Lincoln County Treasurer's Office at 505-648-2397.

County Employees

(Continued From Page 1)

man plus a "floating" operator where needed. The position is qualified to operate the mower, broom, roller, dump truck, belly dump, loader, backhoe, road grader and dozer. There are seven Operator 3 positions.

Mechanic who operates and repairs all equipment will go from Grade 14 to 16 with salary range of \$20,263 to \$27,355. Average in surrounding counties is \$30,960.

Foreman with current Grade 18 will go to Grade 20 with salary range of \$22,806 to \$30,789. Average for surrounding counties is \$32,349.

Road superintendent position with current Grade 20 will go to Grade 28 with salary range of \$28,890 to \$39,002. The road super's salary will be \$35,543. Average for surrounding counties is \$42,738.

With the raises, most county road employees will be paid comparable or more than similar employees in surrounding counties.

The total amount increase of salaries for road employees will be \$13,924 for the remainder of the current fiscal year (ends June 31, 2001). Money for the salary increases will come from within the existing budget.

County commissioners acted to approve Stewart's proposals during discussion on the agenda item about the mid year budget preparation.

"Our budget execution this year to date is outstanding," Stewart said. Approaching the mid-year in the budget, Stewart reported the county has \$431,245 "over required reserves." (Stewart never referred to the amount as a surplus.)

With the \$431,245 extra, Stewart proposed to put money into the dues/conference/mileage and per diem accounts in each county department. These were cut severely when the county was developing the current budget. "We've gone no where (traveled) so far this year," Stewart said of employees and elected officials.

Also he proposed to use the extra funds to buy more base course road materials, put more into the account to pay for outside incarceration for adults and juveniles and potential upgrade of the main courthouse electrical wiring. The juvenile detention fund is already 45 percent expended.

Stewart said he focused on making the proposed salary increases a zero sum gain. "None of our \$431,245 over required reserves will be used for the increased salaries proposed," Stewart told commissioners.

Other salary increases will

go to five elected county officials.

Lincoln County commissioners Rex Wilson and Leo Martinez who were re-elected this November will receive \$17,264, up \$3,280 from the previous \$10,706. Other commissioners are paid \$13,121 having received raises in 1998. All other county commission positions will be eligible for salary increases in 2002, after those positions are open for election.

Lincoln County Assessor elect Rick Silva will receive \$43,301, up \$5,531 from the previous salary. Assessor is allowed extra pay for certification and the classification of the county which is B-Over. Silva's chief deputy will receive \$41,136 or 95 percent of the elected official. The 95 percent was by commission action in March, 1999.

Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan will get a raise to \$45,141, up from the previous \$33,716. His chief deputy will get 100 percent of the elected official's salary, a result of commission action in May, 1999.

Probate Judge re-elect Stirling Spencer will get \$15,141, up from the \$7,506 previously.

Commissioners had previously authorized all salary increases for elected officials during their regular meeting July 20, 2000.

Commissioners will review and take action on the mid-year budget adjustments at their regular meeting at 9 a.m. Thursday, December 21 in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

German Study Scholarship Deadline Dec. 15

Deadline to apply for scholarships for high school aged students to study in Germany during the 2001-2002 academic year has been extended to December 15.

Now in its seventh year, the U.S. Department of State funded Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program offers scholarships to high school students who wish to study abroad. Students aged 15-18 are eligible to apply and need not have prior German language skills.

Interested students should call 1-800-727-4840, ext. 543 for information. Or download the scholarship application directly from www.nyusa.org/usagermany scholarship. The program is sponsored by AYUSA International which has 20 years of experience in international exchange.

FAST ACTION

CLASSIFIED ADS

CALL: (505) 648-2333

HELP WANTED
COMPUTER INTERNET
 People wanted to work online, \$75 - \$125 an hour. Full Training, Vacations, Bonuses and Incentives.
FREE E-BOOK
www.CyberCash123.com
 4tp-Nov. 16 - Dec. 7

LOW INCOME HOUSING now available in Carrizozo. One and two bedrooms. For information call 1-888-424-0909, ask for Carol Cheadle.
 9tc-Nov. 2 - Dec. 28

WANTED BARTENDERS
 Full time or part time.
 648-9994 or 648-2194
 tfn-Nov. 2

VACANCY NOTICE

November 30, 2000

POSITION: CAFETERIA CLERK
CONTRACT: Pro-rated for the remainder of the 2000-2001 contract year.
SALARY: As per District Non-Certified Salary Schedule.

- QUALIFICATIONS:**
- * Must pass Employment Physical
 - * Must pass Background Investigation
 - * Must pass TB Test
 - * Computer Experience
 - * High School Diploma or GED
 - * Commitment to Students
 - * Awareness of Day to Day School Operations

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 13, 2000 (2:00 PM)
PROCEDURE: Call or write for application. Submit letter of interest, resume and application to:
 Office of the Superintendent
 Capitan Municipal Schools
 P.O. Box 278
 Capitan, NM 88316
 Phone: 505-354-2239
 Fax: 505-354-2240

Capitan Municipal Schools policy is to select the best qualified applicant without regard to race, color, marital status, religion/creed, sex, disability/handicap, or national origin.
 1tc/Dec. 7

NOTICE TO LINCOLN COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENT DATE

LINCOLN COUNTY TREASURER reminds Lincoln County property owners that they must pay their first half property taxes by December 11, 2000 to avoid penalties and interest.

The Lincoln County Treasurer's Office does honor the postmark, but your payments **MUST BE POSTMARKED DECEMBER 11, 2000.**

INTEREST shall accrue at the rate of one percent (1%) per month or any portion of a month (Statute 7-38-49 NMSA 1979).

PENALTY on taxes that become delinquent, shall be imposed at one percent (1%) of the delinquent tax total, or a minimum of five dollars, for each month they remain unpaid. (Statute 7-38-50).

By N.M. State law, property taxes are the personal obligation of the property owner, whether or not the tax bill was received. Mail payments or contact us at the address and phone number below should you have questions regarding your property tax bills.

Joan E. Park
 Lincoln County Treasurer
 P.O. Box 709
 Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301
 648-2397 or 648-2525

STEARNS INSURANCE AGENCY
 CARRIZOZO
 (505) 648-2911

HIGH HOPES
ASK ABOUT in-store specials. Sewing and craft supplies and gifts. Collector comics and 10,000+ books. 101 Lava Loop on Hwy. 380, Carrizozo. 648-2873
 tfn/Aug. 3

FOR SALE: Motel/RV Park, Hwy 54, Carrizozo. Remodeled rooms, good occupancy, \$199,900. Betty Beachum, Realtor. 505-258-5441
 4tc-Nov. 30 thru Dec. 21

REQUEST FOR BIDS USED VEHICLE FOR SALE

Capitan Municipal Schools has the following item for sale:

1994 Dodge Ram Van B350 (Passenger)

The Capitan Board of Education will accept the highest bid. Buyer is responsible for Tax, Title and Registration Fees.

Please submit sealed bids to:

Capitan Municipal Schools
 Attention: Diana Billingsley, Superintendent
 P.O. Box 278
 Capitan, New Mexico 88316,

by 2:00 P.M., December 12, 2000. Envelope must be marked - Sealed Bid / Dodge Van.

Item can be viewed by calling 354-2239 or appointment.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

2tc/Nov. 30 & Dec. 7

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR. The County of Lincoln, New Mexico is seeking an experienced emergency services coordinator. The ideal candidate should have prior experience in Emergency Preparedness or Civil Defense programs; possess an Associates degree in Safety Engineering or a related field with two years of professional safety experience in government or a manufacturing industry; possess the ability to interact with all levels of employees and management; be familiar with local fire departments and emergency services; and possess verbal, written, analytical, computer, and persuasive skills. Position has excellent health and retirement benefits. Starting salary is \$21,497 per year, advancing to \$22,572 after 6 months in the position. To obtain an employment application by mail, send a resume to Thomas F. Stewart, Lincoln County Manager, P.O. Box 711, Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301. E-mail correspondence is acceptable at Lincolnco@nm.net, or telephone 505-648-2385. Closing date for applications is 5:00 PM, Wednesday, January 3, 2001. Lincoln County is an equal opportunity employer and in compliance with ADA requirements. Title II-A.
 1tc/Dec. 7

TEMPTATIONS GIFT STORE, 112 Central, Carrizozo, will be open Saturday, December 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Temptations will also be open Wednesdays through Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Christmas gifts, dolls, snowmen, exceptional items.
 2tp-Nov. 30 & Dec. 7

COMING SOON TO CARRIZOZO EZ \$\$ \$.
 Small Loan Business
 2tp-Dec. 7 & 14

WHITE ENAMEL WOOD COOK STOVE for sale. 40" by 24" Call 648-2464
 1tp-Dec. 7

MOVING, must sell, furniture, household items, good clothing, Hwy 380 west of Carrizozo, mile marker 63, Saturday, Dec. 9 only. 8 a.m.
 1tp-Dec. 7

FOR SALE: Computer, 400 MHz, 128 mg RAM, 6 gig hard drive, 56K modem, AC97 sound, mouse, keyboard, no monitor. 50x CD Rom. \$450. Dirk at 648-4007 after 7 p.m.
 2tp-Dec. 7 & 14

DFA Flushes

(Continued From Page 8)

thought there is no difference.

Dr. Ray Seidel of Ruidoso said there are already two opinion letters from the state attorney general about the \$1 a year lease for LCMC. "There is no question we are in conflict," Seidel said. But Morel disagreed. "It's because you represent the county commission," Seidel responded to Morel. "Not us."

Morel said the county can terminate the lease with Presbyterian with a 180-day notice, but notice must be given before the county can issue an rfp for a new lease.

But the clinics are separate agreements than the lease of LCMC, Martinez said. Morel agreed.

Before voting to approve

the motion to table the issuance of an rfp for the medical clinics, Martinez suggested the county issue one rfp for lease of its medical clinics, Hondo health clinic and LCMC. Morel said he was not instructed to draft an rfp for LCMC. Martinez then said he has asked that an agenda item be added to the regular December meeting to discuss an rfp for the lease of LCMC.

Martinez said he sees a benefit to issuing just one rfp for LCMC and all clinics and he will discuss this at the December 21 meeting.





ATTENDING THE 2000 YOUTH CONFERENCE in Birmingham, AL were: (left to right) Jay Calderara from St. Joseph Mission in Mescalero, Bishop Foley, Ray Chavez of Immaculate Conception Parish in Alamogordo, and Richard Vigil (Santa Rita Youth Minister) representing Santa Rita Catholic Community.

Santa Rita Youth Minister Attends Birmingham Conference

Four Teen Youth Ministers from New Mexico attended the 2000 Youth Conference in Birmingham, Alabama this past weekend. Representing Santa Rita Catholic Church was Mr. Richard Vigil, Santa Rita Youth Minister. He was joined by Ray Chavez of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Alamogordo, Jay Calderara from St. Joseph Mission in Mescalero and Kevin Vigil, Diocese of Las Cruces, Youth

Director. The conference had about 2000 Catholic Youth Ministers in attendance from all over the world. Highlighting the conference were speakers from different countries telling of their experiences of working youth in different cultures. The conference is designed to help Youth ministers to exchange ideas and programs for working with Catholic Youth with major speakers and workshops.

Area Students Earn Degrees From ENMU

Two Lincoln County students are among the 226 who are graduating at Eastern New Mexico University this fall.

Victoria M. Sedillo will receive her associate of art in general studies degree and Christopher D. Gonzales will receive an associate of art in general studies.

DFA Flushes

(Continued from Page 4)

properly procure the operator of the Clinic pursuant to the New Mexico Procurement Code. The Advisory Committee, a private entity, has no statutory or constitutional authority to enter into an agreement with a private contractor to operate a hospital using public funds."

Amer also wrote that Hondo School District had to provide DFA, Local Government Division (LGD), two separate letters with the first a sole source justification or other proof of compliance with the Procurement Code for how La Casa de Salud was procured as the operator of the Hondo clinic. The second letter must be an opinion letter from the Hondo School District attorney replying to the issues of whether the School District is legally authorized to receive a \$1 a year lease and whether the school district is violating the New Mexico Constitution anti-donation clause by not leasing the public property at fair market value. Amer wrote that upon receipt of these documents, "in an acceptable form", LGD may approve the transfer of the mill levy proceeds by Lincoln County to the school district for the operation of the Hondo Clinic.

County commissioners received the information during an agenda item to approve release of a request for proposals to operate the county owned health clinics in Carrizozo and Corona. Commissioners eventually tabled action on issuing the rfp because they needed to know if the Hondo Clinic will have to be included.

County commissioner Leo Martinez asked about the \$1

a year lease question in Amer's letter. Morel said he thought that had been justified that without the mill levy funding the clinics cannot survive. "If in the agreement with Presbyterian for

(Lincoln County Medical Center LCMC) for \$1 year, then what's wrong with \$1 a year with the clinics?" Martinez continued. Morel said he

(SEE PAGE 7)

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REG. LOW FAT TUB OR REG. QUARTERS **Blue Bonnet Spread** 16 OZ. **2 \$1 FOR**

KEEBLER **Zesta Crackers** 16 OZ. **99¢**

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ASSORTED GRINDS EXCLUDES DECAF **Folgers Coffee** 34.5-39 OZ. **4.99**



Hormel Chili 19 OZ. **1.09**

Lipton FAMILY SIZE Tea Bags	24 CT.	1.69
SHURFINE ELBO MACARONI OR Spaghetti	24 OZ.	89¢
QUAKER CORN Masa Harina	8 LB.	3.99
UNDERWOOD ASSORTED Spread	4.2-4.75 OZ.	99¢
SHURFINE ASSORTED Napkins	120 CT.	89¢
SHURFINE OR ART OR GALLON Glide Zip Bags	2 15-20 CT.	3.00
SHURFINE Aluminum Foli	12X75	1.79
REGULAR OR W/BLEACH POWDER OR LIQUID Wisk Detergent	63-100 OZ.	5.49

GROCERY SPECIALS

Prices Effective: December 7 to December 13, 2000
HOURS: Monday thru Saturday 8:30am to 7:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TEXSUN **Orange Juice** 12 OZ. **99¢**

ROMA **Tomatoes** **8 \$1 FOR**

BAKING **Potatoes**..... LB. **1.99**

CELLO PACK 5/10 WHITE WHOLE **Mushrooms**..... 1 OZ. **99¢**

DOLE CAESAR COMPLETE **Salad**..... 100 OZ. **1.79**

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US #1 RUSSET **Potatoes**..... 5 LB. BAG **6.99**

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