

Postal Service Vows To Improve

by Doris Cherry

Confronted with stories of lost mail, absentee ballots not arriving by election night due to slow mails, and mail taking more than nine days to go from one Lincoln County post office to another, the U.S. Postal Service has agreed to try to remedy these problems.

Lincoln County Commissioners, during their

meeting December 21 in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, complained of problems with postal services in Lincoln County to Al Prudencio, manager of administrative service for the Albuquerque district. Prudencio attended the meeting with John Roark, regional manager, and Alamogordo postmaster Tom Jack. The county

commission invited the postal managers to attend the meeting to respond to questions about the slower mail delivery and loss of nine postal employees from the Carrizozo post office.

Prudencio started his presentation by telling of how the postal service replaced eight of the 15 post offices in Lincoln County. Of those 15, the postal service owns one, leases one from

the state and leases the remaining 13. "We do pay property taxes to the county for these properties," Prudencio said.

Prudencio also said the reason to move the regional distribution center from Carrizozo to Alamogordo was because Alamogordo has 48 percent of the population of Otero and Lincoln Counties combined. Carrizozo, the former distribution center

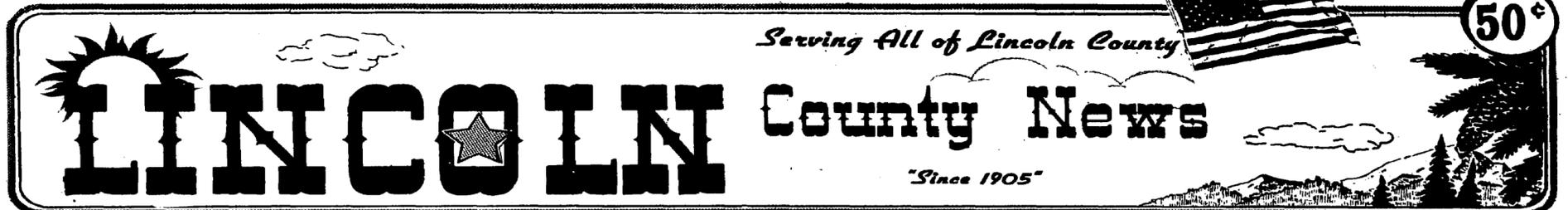
for the 883 zip codes, represented only two percent of the population from the two counties, Prudencio added. Also Alamogordo recently got a new post office with enough space to accommodate the distribution machines.

"If we hear of service not being equal or better (than before the move of the distribution center), we will

address these issues by training and retraining employees," Prudencio said. "We have the tools and equipment to get the job done."

County commission chairman Rex Wilson said when the issue of moving the distribution center first came up in July, the county

(SEE PAGE 8)



VOLUME # 95, NUMBER 52

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2000

CARRIZOZO, NM 88301

Capitan Merchants Announce Winners Of Door Prizes

Winners of the door prizes from the Capitan Merchants at the drawings held December 16 during Santa's visit:

Kara Williams - Smokey Bear Historical Park; Paul Lee Bailey - Hands On Massage; Jeff Hammond - Campbell's Country Classic; Dennia Rich - Barbara Bookout (Avon); Angelina Provine - D&D Traders; Cory Montes - Guthrie's Cutting Corral; Michael Romero - Jake Wolfhart Leather Co.; Melissa Becker - The Menagerie; Amy Irvine - Jones Saddlery; Ruth Hammond - Smokey's Hometown Shop; Miranda Romero - IMT Leather & Gifts; Jami Black - Smokey Bear Restaurant; Donna Roberson - Laurie's Grill; Kateri Hicks - Spanky's; Johnny Pacheco - Spanky's; Dixie Tillman - White Dove Treasures; William H. Merrell - Farmer's Country Market; Connie L. Strong - Lavender & Lace LTD.; Alvira Lerma - Brewer Shell Station; Sandy Burrus - Brewer Shell Station; Bill Bryan - Mule Creek Trading; Betty King - Lincoln County Mercantile (Ace Hardware)



SMOKEY BEAR AND GAME WARDEN RAY BELL pose in front of two Smokey Bear fire prevention posters soon after Smokey Bear was found clinging to a charred tree in the forest fire in the Capitan Mountains in 1950. The five-pound bear cub was taken to Santa Fe for further treatment for his burns. Smokey lived with Warden Bell and his family during the two months he was in Santa Fe and played with Bell's daughter Judy. Smokey Bear was then flown to the National Zoo in Washington, DC, where he worked in fire prevention until his retirement in 1975.

Most Endangered Historic Places Nominations Open

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is accepting nominations for its 2001 list of American's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Every year the Trust spotlights 11 notable historic places threatened by neglect, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

Deadline for the nominations is January 19, 2001. The list will be announced June 25, 2001.

Fort Stanton was named to the 11 Most Endangered List in 2000.

To obtain a nomination form, call the National Trust Communication Office at 202-588-6141, download the form at www.nationaltrust.org or call the Trust's fax-on-demand service at 202-588-6444 and select document #7001.

The trust is a private, non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable.

Smokey Spokesman Ray Bell Dies

The last chapter in the book of the life of Ray Liberty Bell, (the Forest Ranger who plucked "Smokey the Bear" cub from a burnt tree after a forest fire in the Capitan Mountains) has been completed this 21st day of December, 2000. Ray died early Thursday morning at his home in Truth or Consequences, NM after a long tough battle with cancer. He was 89 years old.

Ray was born October 3, 1911, in Frederick, OK to Thomas Grovner "Pop" Bell and Mary Ruth Sturdy "Mombell" Bell. He first came to Yeso, NM in 1912 in a covered wagon with his parents. At the age of six, Ray and

his family moved to Bergen, ND.

In 1928, at the age of 17, he threw his saddle on a horse and headed south, back to New Mexico, ending up in the small community of Mangus where he homesteaded 160 acres. In 1931 Ray traveled back to North Dakota and completed his junior and senior courses to graduate from high school in one year. He returned to Mangus in 1932, where he met Mary Ruth Wilson. They were married in Las Cruces, NM in 1933.

While Ray lived in the Mangus / Quemado, NM area, he worked as a cowboy. He rodeoed professionally, riding saddle broncs, steer wre-

stling, and calf roping to supplement his family's income. Ray was the first cowboy every to bulldog a buffalo in a rodeo.

Ray was with the United States Soil Conservation Service during 1935-36. From 1936-1939, he was a field representative with the United Pueblo Indian Service where he assisted the Santo Domingo, Santa Ana, Hopi and Laguna Pueblos with their livestock. In 1940 Ray moved to the New Mexico Game and Fish Department as a Deputy Game Warden. When Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, he joined the US Army

(SEE PAGE 2)

County Finalizes CSI Jail Contract

by Doris Cherry

When Lincoln County finally opens its new jail in the spring, all current Lincoln County Detention Center employees will continue to be on the county payroll.

During their meeting Thursday, December 21, Lincoln County Commissioners in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo on a 4-1 vote with Leo Martinez saying no, approved a compromise contract with the company that has provided administrative services to the existing jail since 1997—Correction Systems, Inc. (CSI).

Under the compromise, current county employees will continue to be on the county payroll and under county insurance plans, but will work for CSI which will operate the new jail. Additional employees needed to operate the large new facility will be hired by CSI and will be CSI employees.

CSI presented the most responsive proposal to Lincoln County's request for proposals (rfp) issued to

find someone to make the transition to the new jail when it is completed and take over administration and operation of the new jail. For the last three months the county has negotiated with CSI over the terms of the management agreement. Foremost concern was the effect of the new operational agreement on the existing county detention employees.

Since the first negotiations, detention staff were concerned about CSI at-will firing policies and benefits package. At the December 21 county commission meeting, county manager Tom Stewart said on December 19, he finally received from CSI a list of salaries and benefits for county employees if they make the transition to become CSI employees. "Our full time employees will average an 8.19 percent drop in salary due to increased costs of medical insurance," Stewart said.

(SEE PAGE 6)

Carrizozo Police Force Down To One Officer

by Doris Cherry

Carrizozo police assisted New Mexico State Police in closing Highway 54 south of Carrizozo on December 26 because of the snowy, icy blizzard conditions.

According to Carrizozo police chief Angelo Vega, he and Sgt. James Steck manned the barrier at Highway 54 throughout the morning of December 28. New Mexico State Police Mounted Patrol volunteers manned the barrier on Highway 380 west of Carrizozo, closed due to blowing snow and zero visibility.

Friday, December 29 is the last working day for Steck who will leave Carrizozo for a technical position with an electronics company in New Jersey. Vega wished Steck good luck in his endeavors and said he appreciated Steck's professionalism and friendship during his nearly three years with the Carrizozo police department.

Carrizozo police are investigating who may have placed some stolen items in an unoccupied house in Carrizozo. According to

Vega, on November 28, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office dispatch got a report of a state highway department truck abandoned on the side of Highway 54 south of Carrizozo. A deputy responded and located the vehicle which he discovered after making a license check was stolen from the state highway department yard in Santa Rosa. The same report noted that several new items with total value of \$3,000 were also stolen from the highway yard. The items however were not found with the stolen truck.

On December 15, Carrizozo police department got a call from Sandra Samora that she and David Medina had found some items in her grandfather's old unoccupied house. The new items, a chainsaw, heavy utility battery charger and thermal pump, fit the description of the items stolen from the state highway in Santa Rosa. Vega responded and secured the property and called the sheriff's deputy to confirm

(SEE PAGE 3)

Ray Bell

(Continued From Page 1)

Air Force and served his country until the end of WWII. During the war he served as a tail gunner, remote control turret mechanic on a B-29 Bomber in India and Tenian.

During his tenure in India, Ray broke his foot

when he jumped off the wing of a B-29 onto a "sacred cow" to bulldog it. He nearly caused an international crisis for his effort with the "sacred cow". It seems the people in India don't take kindly to cowboys assaulting

their cows. They aren't as understanding as the Indians in New Mexico. At the end of WWII Ray rejoined the NM Game Department and on January 1, 1946, was stationed at Capitan, New Mexico. While he was stationed in



FANTASTIC SNOW SCULPTURES decorate the bushes to the entrance of Carrizozo's Spencer Park, remnants of the Christmas Day blizzard that shut down the major highways in Lincoln County through mid-day on December 26. Up to 13 inches of snow fell on Sierra Blanca but only three inches accumulated at Sierra Blanca Regional Airport and other locations in the county. Highway crews and bright sunshine cleared roadways by Wednesday afternoon.

Capitan, he completed flight training and received his private license. In 1948 Ray became the pilot of the first plane ever purchased by the State of NM for the Game and Fish Dept. He was regarded as one of the top five single-engine pilots in the Southwest and was called upon time and again to locate lost hunters and hikers.

In May, 1950, as Chief of Law Enforcement for the NM State Game Dept. Ray was called upon to fly the game department plane to Capitan to assist with a forest fire that was out of control in the Capitan Mountains. Ray flew over the fire and helped direct the placement of equipment and personnel. At the conclusion of the fire it was discovered that a six-week-old, four pound, black bear cub had been brought into the fire camp by a 19-year-old Fort Bliss soldier who was assisting fighting the fire.

The bear was injured with burns on its paws and belly and needed medical attention. Ray flew the bear to his home in Santa Fe and had a veterinarian dress the burns. The bear was cared for by Bell and his family for two months

before "the living symbol for Smokey The Bear" was flown to The National Zoo in Washington, DC.

Ray Bell has been identified for the past fifty years as the "ranger who brought Smokey the Bear out of a forest fire." Ray devoted more than 60 years of his life to the preservation of the environment. Fifty of those years were spent as Spokesman for Smokey Bear, the world famous "fire prevention bear," a prominent figure in the preservation of natural forests. Ray was a main stay promoter of the Smokey Bear Museum in Capitan.

In 1958, Gov. Ed Mechem appointed Ray Bell as Director of the newly formed New Mexico Dept. of State Forestry, a post which he held until his retirement in 1971. Ray was a Shriner and a 50-year member of Carrizozo Lodge #41, AF & AM.

Ray is preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Ruth Wilson, the mother of their son, in 1980; their adopted daughter Judith Lynn Bell, in 1982, and his second wife, Esther Braatten, Velva, ND, who passed away in 1997.

Ray is survived by his only son, Donald R. Bell, wife Joy, of Las Cruces, NM; one sister, Bell Steel, husband Howard of Alamogordo, NM; five grandchildren, Jeri and Johnny of Las Cruces, NM, Nolan of Corpus Christi, TX, Charles of Fort Worth, TX and Mary of Ft. Hood, TX; eleven great grandchildren, Dallas, Dilan, Dustyn, Brice, Ross, Jessie, Justin, Morgan, Marshall Ray, Mary Ruth and Diana.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. today (Thursday, Dec. 28) at the Sierra Funeral Home Chapel. Ray's grandson, Rev. Charles S. Bell, will officiate.



High winds whipped up a blinding snow storm late Christmas day catching many holiday travelers along Lincoln County highways. Blizzard conditions caused state police to close Highway 70 east from Ruidoso to Roswell on Christmas night and December 26. Highway 54 north from Carrizozo to Corona was snow packed and icy and Highway 380 was closed from Carrizozo to San Antonio on December 26. Adding to that were the high winds that whipped the powder snow into zero visibility for travelers.

By the time the storm had passed in the early hours of Wednesday, December 27, only four inches of snow had accumulated in Carrizozo, at Sierra Blanca Regional Airport and other windy locations in the county. Wind-sheltered areas in higher elevations in the Ruidoso area, including Ski Apache, reported up to 13 inches of new snow from the storm.

On Wednesday morning, fog settled into the Tularosa basin below Carrizozo, keeping morning temperatures low until the fog burned off by mid morning.

The following weather forecast is based on information from the National Weather Service web site.

Forecast for today through Tuesday for Carrizozo, Hondo Valley and Lincoln County high plains:

Today, Thursday, December 28:
Partly cloudy with areas of morning fog. Chance for precipitation 0 percent. Thursday night, partly cloudy with lows in the teens.

Friday through Sunday, December 29 to 31:
Partly cloudy with highs Friday to lower 50s. Warming to mostly 50s on Sunday. Lows mostly in the teens.

Monday and Tuesday, January 1 and 2, 2001:
Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy. Highs mid 40s to 50s. Lows to 20s.

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

Today, Thursday, December 28:
Partly cloudy with high temperature of 40. Chance for precipitation 0 percent. Thursday night partly cloudy with lows in the low teens.

Friday through New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 29 through 31:
Partly cloudy with highs Friday in the 40s. Lows mostly in the teens. Warming to low 50s on Sunday.

Monday, and Tuesday, January 1 and 2, 2001:
Partly to mostly cloudy with highs in the mid 40s. Lows in the teens.

Wishing you the best in 2001!



We appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in the years to come.

Season's Greetings

Carrizozo 648-2377 Ruidoso 257-4611
Ruidoso Downs 378-1124
Vaughn 584-2321

WELLS FARGO

Carrizozo Police Force

(Continued From Page 1)

Carrizozo police were also successful in stopping four juvenile runaways from Garden City, KS. On December 3 the sheriff's office put out a notice to all police departments to be on the look out for the juveniles who had stolen the late model car in Garden City. The juveniles had abandoned another juvenile in Santa Rosa after a theft in a store in that community. About 8:30 p.m. on Central Ave. Vega stopped a car matching the description

of the one driven by the juveniles and found the two females and two males as described. Vega said he confirmed the information with Kansas authorities, then contacted the local assistant district attorney. Vega then transported the two male juveniles to a juvenile detention facility at the Bernalillo County Detention Center in Albuquerque and the two females were turned over to the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department.

The vehicle was impounded. On December 16, Vega responded to a report from a convenience store of a possible embezzlement of more than \$600. Vega said he has almost finished the investigation of the allegations. Once the information is completed Vega said he will turn over the case to the DA's office. Vega will soon be dealing with a one person police department. After Friday the department will have two vacancies for officers. Vega commended Steck and the other officers who have worked in the department. "It is very difficult to keep staff in a small police department," Vega told THE NEWS. "There is not much we can do to keep these officers when there is better pay and chance for advancement elsewhere. This community just can't be competitive."

"I am keeping positive about finding new officers," Vega added. Vega also told THE NEWS that he has declined an offer from the Village of Tularosa mayor to be police chief of the Tularosa nine officer department. He said the political atmosphere in that community and his wife's recent employment were factors in his decision to stay in Carrizozo.

County Gets Good Audit Prepares To Value Roads

by Doris Cherry

Financial reporting in the 1999-2000 fiscal year was generally good for Lincoln County, except for three findings—not enough collateral on a fund that was being transferred, and two problems associated with the county's software programs.

Lincoln County Commissioners, during their meeting December 21 in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, got a report on the recent audit conducted by Keith Day, auditor for

The Accounting & Consulting Group. Day said he believed the collateral situation was an isolated incident when the school district for which the county was fiscal agent did not honor an agreement to transfer their fund cash at a certain date. So on June 30, the end of the fiscal year, the county had all the funds for the school district in a bank account, and it appeared the county did not have enough collateral to cover the funds, as required by law.

As for the other two findings, Day said the Triadic software sometimes does not always create reports on fixed assets or on the capital outlay reconciliation procedures. Day said Glenna Robbins, county finance officer, worked on the fixed assets inventory reports for days and days. "Now I feel the county will do better with these reports in the

future," Day added. As for the capital outlay reconciliation procedures, Day said there are procedures in place. Day also warned of "profound" new changes in 2001 requiring the county to capture the value of its county roads for accounting purposes. Day said the county will have to figure the value on a per foot basis. "It will take a lot of effort with the road and finance departments to identify the major and minor roads," Day said. "And we need to capitalize the roads over their useful

life." The county will have to maintain an inventory of the roads, which might require an additional part-time position. County commissioner Ray Nunley asked how the county will realize depreciation of roads. Day said the depreciation will be the value of the asset that is wasting away and any maintenance will be capitalized.

County commissioner Bill Schwettmann asked what will happen with roads that were depreciated a long time ago. Day said they will be determined by government standard accounting. County commission chairman Rex Wilson said the county is sending people to classes on the new changes and he asked Day to help with any specific recommendations to change the county's collateral recording. Wilson said the three minor audit findings was a significant improvement from previous years audits. "Management does a good job," Wilson said of the

county finance department. County commissioners also authorized a list of county employees to take annual leave which cannot be carried over to the next year. Employees are two in detention, three deputies, three road department and two in senior centers. By county policy employees cannot carry over more than 160 hours of annual leave and all hours over that amount must be taken before the end of the calendar year. All employees listed had one hour to 80 hours over the 160 hour limit.



FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS
 -Jalayne Spivey of the District II Office of the State Engineer is at Ruidoso Village Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

TUESDAYS
 -Alcoholics Anonymous 7 p.m. Carrizozo Senior Center. Call 648-1145 for information.

WEDNESDAYS
 -Moms In Touch prayer group, 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. (No story hour during the Christmas holiday. Story Hour resumes January 4.)
 -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 7-8 p.m. Capitan Senior Center. Call 354-4032 for information.

SATURDAYS
 -Capitan Public Library open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2001
 -All public offices and banks closed for New Year's Day. All offices open Tuesday. THE NEWS office in Carrizozo will be closed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2
 -Capitan students return to school.
 -Newly elected county officials to be sworn in at 9 a.m. in the District Courtroom in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.
 -Filing day for declared write-in candidates for school board elections. File in the Lincoln County Clerk's office in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
 -Deadline for withdrawal of candidacy from a school board election race is 5 p.m. at the Lincoln County Clerk's office in the courthouse in Carrizozo.
 -American Legion Post 57 meets at 7 p.m. Capitan Senior Citizens Center.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4
 -Classes resume at Carrizozo Schools.
 -Lincoln County Public Land Use Advisory Council (PLUAC) 9 a.m. commission chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8
 -Lincoln County Rural Economic Development Through Tourism (REDTT) Council, 10 a.m. Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Capitan. Organizations wishing to be considered for grants must be represented at the monthly meetings on a continuing basis.
 -Capitan Chamber of Commerce, 12:30 p.m. chamber building on 2nd Street. (Postponed from usual first Monday because of New Year's.)
 -Ruidoso/Lincoln County Extraterritorial Zoning Commission 6:30 p.m. Ruidoso Village Hall.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9
 -Carrizozo Town Trustees 6 p.m.
 -Ruidoso Village Council 6:30 p.m.
 -Capitan Village Trustees 7 p.m.
 -Corona Board of Education 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10
 -Lincoln County Enhanced 911 Committee regular meeting, 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's meeting room in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo. Purpose of meeting is to continue to name roads with no name or duplicate names for E-911 Rural Addressing.
 -Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce, noon, Rec Center.
 -Billy the Kid Scenic Byways Committee 1 p.m. Ruidoso Village Hall.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
 -Ruidoso Arts Commission 4 p.m. Ruidoso village hall.
 -Capitan Board of Education 6 p.m.
 -Corona Village Trustees 6:30 p.m.

Merry Late Christmas Lincoln County News readers.

The Cherry household is wishing you all a Happy New Year!

We have much to be blessed for, as this following short ditty shows.

A Christmas Good Night
 Christmas 2000 we will long remember,
 as a very long, long cold snowy night in December.

Traveling to the old ones home in Belen,
 we stayed too long and let the snow begin.

Coming in flakes as huge as a hand,
 snow quickly piled up on the roads and land.

Travel was slow on the freeway,
 but we decided to go on anyway.

On Highway 500 across the Jornada
 the wind it was blowing

(SEE PAGE 5)

Subscribe Call 648-2333!!!

Carrizozo Hardware
 Since 1971

Complete line of Hardware,
 Plumbing and Electrical Supplies,
 Gas Heaters, Hot Water Heaters,
 Cast Iron Wood Burning Stoves,
 Lodge Cast Iron Cookware

We also carry Swamp Coolers, Insulation,
 Paint, Cement and Lumber

401 12th St. / 648-2212
 Peter Wolfe * Anne New

Tularosa Communications, Inc.
 (A Subsidiary of Tularosa Basin Telephone Co., Inc.)

Now Offering **Internet Service**

FREE Setup through December 2000

Check us out we have two locations
 One in Alamogordo, and Tularosa Basin Telephone Co.
 Fast, Friendly, Convenient, and Faster Speeds!

Call: 585-0824 / 438-0200

Carrizozo Joe Says:
 "Now this place is cool!"

Where the beach is a state of mind

Espresso - Pastries - Sandwiches - Gifts

Mon: 7:00 to 6:00; Tues. & Wed: 7:00 to 2:00
 Thurs. & Fri: 7:00 to 6:00; Sat: 10:30 to 6:00

Sundays for Green Bay Packer Games!

113 Central Ave - Carrizozo - 648-JOES - www.carrizozojoes.com

HELP OUR COMMUNITY LEAD THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN

NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL

The National World War II Memorial is a long overdue tribute to the individual Americans who helped win World War II. The Memorial honors the veterans who bravely fought to defend freedom, those on the home front who contributed to the war effort, and those who gave their life for our country. We have made a commitment to help create a national Registry of Remembrances for the National World War II Memorial located in Washington, D.C. To enroll yourself, a family member or friend in the Registry, or to make a financial contribution to support the World War II Memorial, contact your local District Memorial provider. There is no cost to register.

Dignity Memorial
LaGrone Funeral Chapel
 341 Sudderth Drive / Ruidoso, NM 86345
 257-7303

THOUGHTS

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Did it snow?

By Ruth Hammond

Last week we heard that it "might" snow Christmas day and most people thought it would be nice to have a white Christmas, even if it was later in the day. The blizzard that came through the entire state was not quite what we expected when weather casters said it "might" snow.

Evidently the snow storm that hit the state surprised everyone. Many major roads were closed and travel was discouraged. It is probably a good thing that the storm did not hit earlier Christmas day because if travel had been discouraged, Santa might not have made his trip.

Travel conditions are less of a concern for those of us trying to keep warm this winter. We don't have to travel but we do have to keep our homes reasonably warm and the thought of another extremely high gas bill is a worry.

It is encouraging that the year Y2K is almost over and throughout the entire year there were few computer glitches, and no computer glitches that were predicted to happen at the stroke of midnight last New Year's Eve. It was almost comical to hear people tell about hoarding food, fuel, drinking water, cash and other things last year just in case the Y2K fiasco did happen as was warned.

This New Year's Eve there are no doomsayers listing things that could happen at the stroke of midnight but there are people making their New Year's resolutions. One thing on their list should be to smile more and try to be pleasant to everyone. If everyone was more pleasant it could be a great year, and we all need a great year.

Some things we will have to adjust to in the new year will be increased gas prices, probably more snow and cold weather, and new faces on the political scene. One of the more important duties of the state legislators this next year is to begin the redistricting. That could mean that Lincoln County would be in a different state senate district and the state representative district could be changed as well as the Congressional district lines.

New political faces will include a new president and he certainly has a difficult situation to overcome. We wonder if chads will be discussed in Congress next year and if there will be any attempt to nationalize voting rules and regulations. Some things need to be corrected about the way national votes are cast to eliminate the chads and trying to decide if they are or are not actual votes cast.

Our observation is that chad-type voting machines should not be allowed anywhere. National candidates deserve to know the outcome of their races within a few days of the election, not weeks later. All candidates have a right to know if they won or not, and it would seem that setting voting standards should be a national priority.

When all else fails, remember that next Monday is the start of another year full of problems that will need to be resolved. The new year can be whatever you want it to be, it can be productive and pleasant or it can be humdrum. The new year can be an adventure filled with unmet friends or it can be the same old things. The new year can be exciting or it can be filled with apathy. The new year is your time, use it wisely. Our wish for each and everyone of you is that you have a healthy and happy new year.

Happy New Year.



Letters to the Editor

EDITOR: In recent issues the NEWS has reported at length about dog problems and animal ordinance enforcement in Capitan. How sad.

Two things come to mind: The first one is the ordinance. I read the current issue. The ordinance is fine, not perfect -- noting is perfect what we humans do. The problem is the enforcement.

When I make a wrong u-turn and are being caught, I have to pay for it. If I get a speeding ticket I have to pay for it. That's the law. If my dog (I don't have any, but I had) runs out of my property into the street, unattended, menacing people, I will have to pay for it. If I have an animal which is supposed to be licensed and isn't and is found so by an enforcement officer, I will have to pay -- that's the law. Village ordinances are our law. So far for that.

The other item is the animal. I had dogs, I know. To have an animal, any animal, is a responsibility -- not just relative to ordinance etc. No, to the animal per se. To have a dog means responsibility to that kind of life. Dogs, with few exceptions, are the replica of the owner; show me the dog and I will tell you what kind of person the owner is. One can learn quite a bit from a dog. I know, I have trained dogs. They can be reliable, trustworthy, unquestioning and self-sacrificing companions. In their ways better than people.

I do not remember who the French gentleman was who coined the phrase: 'Plus je connais les hommes, plus j'aime les chiens!' I tend to agree.

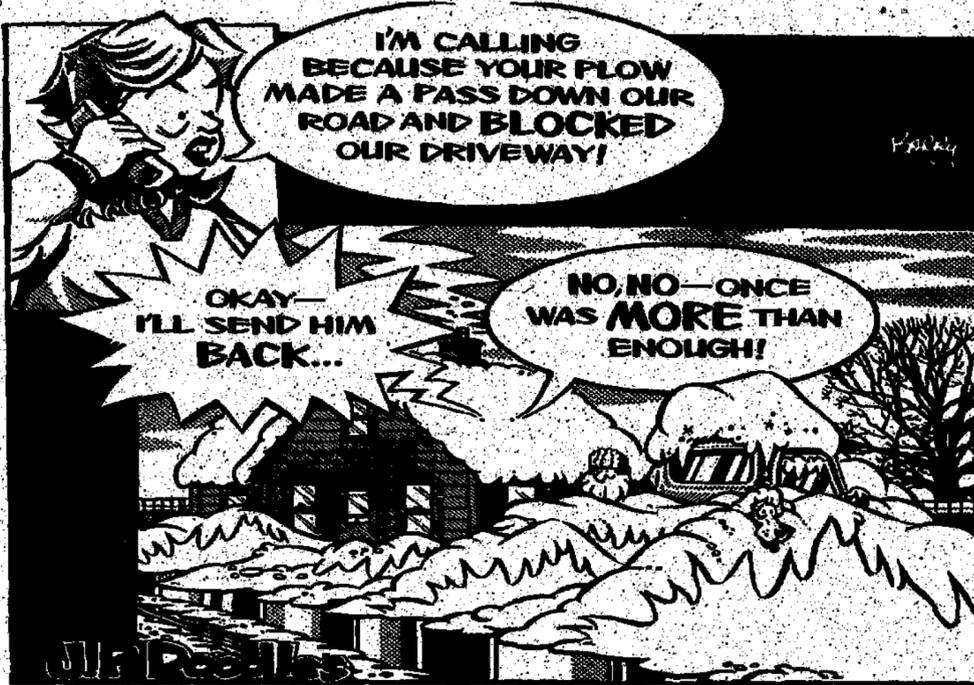
BERNHARD E.F. REIMANN
Capitan, New Mexico

EDITOR: The children's dictionary which adorns our family's bookshelf defines a hero to be "a man or boy who is well thought of for his brave actions or noble character". And while most heroism in this day is thought to apply to a person who literally saves another person's life, it is my belief that we in Carrizozo, New Mexico have a hero in our midst.

He isn't a man who's acts of bravery are routinely seen on the evening news, but he is just an ordinary man whose courage and encouragement is plain to every student and parent who's has the pleasure of knowing him.

He can be seen daily in the agriculture classroom

(SEE PAGE 8)



INSIDE THE CAPITOL
by JAY MILLER

SANTA FE - A bright beam of hope shines through the various education improvement plans being presented to the 2001 New Mexico Legislature.

Whereas previous plans have been prepared by the education community or the political system, this year's requested changes come from the public and those recommendations involve greatly increased public and parental involvement in the schools.

The last major changes in education were made 15 years ago and came as the result of separate initiatives by the governor and Legislature. In the early 1980s, a number of governors, mostly from Southern states, guided major pieces of education reform through their legislatures.

Chief among these governors were Bill Clinton of Arkansas, Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Richard Riley of South Carolina. Alexander went on to become George Bush's secretary of Education before running twice for president. Riley has been secretary of education the past eight years. And we all know what happened to Bill Clinton.

These governors were all leaders in the National Association of Governors. They all tooted their horns quite loudly and held seminars at national meetings on how to pass education reform in other states. Toney Anaya was New Mexico's governor at the time and he dearly wanted to follow suit. In 1984, he presented an ambitious program to the Legislature, financed by a full one-cent increase in the state sales tax.

Those were lean times for New Mexico's economy, and Democrats held on to power in the House and Senate by only a thread. The controversies surrounding Gov. Anaya's proposal stretched that thread beyond its limit. After calling three special sessions in an attempt to get approval for his plan, Anaya succeeded in convincing Republican and conservative Democrat voters that they needed a Republican-controlled Legislature to keep their governor in check.

The following two years saw pitched battles at the Roundhouse, with Anaya vetoing feed bills to pay the Legislature's expenses, and lawmakers trying to kick the governor out of his fourth-floor offices.

But while all this was going on, legislative leaders were learning at their national meetings about other states' legislative reform acts. And of course, New Mexico had to have one.

Obviously Anaya's reform ideas and those of the Legislature did not match. The 1985 session was almost as stormy as the one in 1984. By 1986, Anaya was in his last year as governor and needed an educational legacy. Lawmakers figured they had behaved so badly for three years that voters weren't likely to send anyone back unless they could show something for their efforts.

So Gov. Anaya and the Republican-controlled Legislature formed a somewhat unholy alliance and produced an educational reform act that stunk to high heaven. The act had no particular direction to it. Vaguely, wanted to increase graduation standards by requiring more credits for high school students and more math and science requirements.

But mostly it was a hodgepodge of everyone's favorite education ideas thrown into a big pot. Some of it has been repealed since then. Other parts are simply ignored.

In contrast, the education proposals for 2001 are coherent and have a definite mission to accomplish. Fortunately, the proposals have many similarities, which may make it easier for lawmakers to craft a unified plan. The most comprehensive proposal comes from a special citizens' force appointed by the Legislature two years ago.

The one competing proposal comes from Gov. Gary Johnson, who has an-

nounced that he will continue his efforts during his last two years office to pass a voucher plan. Those efforts don't look likely to get here, since they were defeated by better than a 2-1 margin last year.

Johnson said he would make it a campaign issue this year and offered to stump for any candidate supporting vouchers. That presumably included Democrats. But he didn't have many takers. The challengers who ran on voucher platforms did not win.

Those of you who would like to see a return to small community schools with a high degree of parental involvement, now's your chance.

Santa Fe Opera Hosts Contest For Youth Poster Designs

Student artists in New Mexico have the opportunity to design posters for The Santa Fe Opera activities in the 2001 season.

Deadline to submit entries is February 2, 2001. Designs should depict an opera, experience attending a performance, or the students response to opera. The work can be in any medium, realistic or abstract. Students may submit more than one design.

At least two winners are chosen and each will receive a \$200 savings bond. The poster winner also receive six tickets to each of the three Youth Night at the Opera performances.

When submitting art work, print the artist's full name, age, school, home address and telephone number on the back of each piece. Mail to The Santa Fe Opera Youth Poster Design Contest, POB 2408, Santa Fe, NM 87504-2408.

PSYCHIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM



JUDITH L. CHRISTOPHER

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

Week of Dec. 28, 2000 - Jan 3, 2001

Cancer: (Dec 22 - Jan 19) You'll find yourself reflecting on this last year - what you will keep and won't take into the new year. Let go and don't look back.

Aquarius: (Jan 20 - Feb 18) There will be definite changes in your life starting now. Start with your health, get your mind, body, and soul strong enough to go after anything.

Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20) Watch what you want for this next year. Wanting and needing are two different things. Plan ahead and you can have both.

Aries: (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Easy going! Don't rock the boat! Sail with the wind and you'll get to your destination quicker than you ever thought!

Taurus: (Apr 20 - May 20) Sometimes regardless how hard you try to make it your way, it can't be! Let faith intervene and carry you through this time.

Gemini: (May 21 - June 20) A real good time for a change! Plan ahead before making a move. Don't just jump into deep water. Know beforehand what you're getting into.

Cancer: (June 21 - July 22) This is a good time to recharge yourself. Turn off the noise. Be quiet. Think about future prospects, and go after your dream.

Leo: (July 23 - Aug 22) Don't even waste your valuable time on unwanted things! Clean your closets - physically, mentally, and spiritually!

Virgo: (Aug 23 - Sept 22) This next year will be totally different ONLY if you look back over the last year and change the things you don't want.

Libra: (Sept 23 - Oct 22) You will be looking harder this next year for what you REALLY want! You're ready because your finding out the real you!

Scorpio: (Oct 23 - Nov 21) You need to take care of YOU first! Good health and a good mind will make you stronger to take on anything or anyone in the future.

Sagittarius: (Nov 22 - Dec 21) At this time, STOP and look around at people, places and things, and ask yourself "Is this what I really want for another year?" If not, CHANGE IT NOW!

You Can Receive A Personal Confidential Reading From JUDITH CHRISTOPHER Call For Appt: 257-2996

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 424, Carrizozo, NM 88301.



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 45

EL PASO CONTINUED

The Courts
El Paso has all the courts, from federal down to police court. The United States circuit and district courts for the western district of Texas convenes in El Paso on the first Mondays in April and October, in the federal building.

District court for the Thirty-fourth judicial district of Texas convenes

first Mondays in January, April, June, October and December.

Forty-first district court, thirteenth Mondays after the first Monday in March and December.

County court convenes first Mondays in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Commissioners court, regular terms second Mondays of each month.

El Paso Fire Department

Organized September 10, 1882; membership 140.
Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 -- Organized 1882; membership 45.
Hose Co. No. 1 -- Organized 1882; membership 34.
Hose Co. No. 2 -- Organized 1882; membership 35.
Julian Engine Co. No. 1 -- Organized December 1892; membership 15.

The fire department has a fine steam engine, a chemical engine, one of the finest hook and ladder trucks in the state, splendid teams, and a department building illustrated herein. It is one of the most efficient departments anywhere in the state, in proof of which El Paso seldom has any disastrous fires.

Substantial Buildings.

El Paso is the most substantially constructed city in Texas. It is built almost entirely of brick, the brick being made right here in the city. They answer all purposes except that of a fine finishing brick. Fine, handsome residences, that cost from \$2000 to \$30,000 are to be found all over the city. Flowers, trees, grass and shrubbery grow in profusion here when well watered, and there are some beautiful homes here which would be creditable to a city of a hundred thousand inhabitants. It is only of late years that people began to build homes here to any extent, but now they are going up fast, and El Paso will be a city of homes as well as a city of commerce and industry.

Improvements Contemplated

It would require pages

to tell of the improvements that are contemplated for this city. If a third of them are realized it will double our population in three years. Not to mention three new railroads, there are railroad shops, railroad hospitals, large warehouses, railroad terminals, union depot, new smelters, fifteen new business blocks from two to four stories; new hotel, electric street railways, two colleges, a mining exchange, with permanent headquarters, a new national bank, another opera house, and many other things that do not readily occur to mind at this writing.

Present Possessions.

El Paso today possesses following evidence of a modern and up-to-date civilization: Electric light and gas plants; water works; telephones; street cars; perfect sewage system; public schools; churches; fraternal organizations; iron foundries; ice factories; hotels; hospitals; sanitariums; natatoriums; three national and one private bank; two express companies; two telegraph companies; four international bridges; federal building that cost \$150,000; court house that cost \$100,000; county jail that cost \$30,000; hotel that cost \$150,000; eight handsome public school buildings; several Catholic school buildings; 16 churches; large fire department building and city jail; a \$50,000 city hall; a fine opera house, and many other lesser considerations.

Building Permits.

Two months, 1897, 91 permits, calling for \$77,242.

Twelve months, 1898, 328 permits, calling for \$269,789.

Twelve months, 1899, 321 permits, calling for \$515,887.

Twelve months, 1900, 285 permits, calling for \$422,832.

Five months, 1901, 163 permits, calling for \$241,450.

Total for seventeen months, ending May 31, 1901, \$664,282.

Grand total since November 1, 1897, to May 31, 1901, \$1,526,400.

It should be borne in mind that these permits are taken out for about 40 per cent less than the real value of the improvements, in order for owners to evade taxes. Adding the 40 per cent to the above grand total will give the total value of improvements made in El Paso in the past three years and seven months in the sum of \$2,136,960.

Tax Valuation.

In 1894 El Paso's property tax valuation amounted to \$5,052,606; in 1900, \$7,978,826; computed for 1901, \$9,000,000.

If there is any city of same size in Texas or elsewhere that can render a better report the Record would like to hear from it.

The above figures do not include over a hundred thousand dollars' worth of improvements made by the El Paso Smelting works and the Federal Smelter, which are just beyond city limits, but which might properly be included, as

the city derives a vast benefit from these institutions.

PATRICK DURACK'S WILD RIDE.

Had to Cross the Swollen Yaqui Three Times at Night in Two Hours' Time.

Everybody knows Pat Durack, at least all old-timers do -- the big hearted, generous Irishman of Pecos sandstone fame, with mining interests in Sonora, Mexico. Well Pat was on his way to Oposura, Sonora, Mexico, on the 16th of September, 1898, and in about forty miles of that place when he heard news of several American acquaintances of his who were to be shot on suspicion of murder. The names of these Americans were Harry Melcher, Rose, Warner, two sons and another fellow whose name was unknown. These men had been engaged in placer mining on the Yaqui river. A Mexican had been killed near their camp and they had been arrested on suspicion, taken to Tepeches and jailed, and were to be shot without trial.

Our friend, Pat, went on to Oposura and learned full particulars of the affair, with the result that within two hours, after giving his horse a rest and feed, he was on his way back to Juarez with a 200-mile ride to Casas Grandes, there to take the train for Juarez to notify the American consul there, who in turn would notify the United States state department, for them to notify the American consul at Hermosillo, between which place and Oposura, Sonora, was a telegraph line.

Between Oposura and Casas grandes Durack had three mountain ranges to cross, besides the Yaqui and Bavispe rivers, which he had to cross three times each. The Yaqui was a half mile wide and full. This river, Durack reached at night, and with chances two to one against his ever reaching the opposite shore alive, he plunged in, headed up stream to prevent being washed down stream too far to make the landing. There were a party of American miners on the opposite side who had been waiting there nineteen days for the water to run down so that they could cross. They saw Pat's struggle in the water and threw a rope to him, Pat grasping it and being pulled out of danger of getting into the "craw", and safely to the shore.

The journey was immediately resumed. The Yaqui and the Bavispe were each crossed three times. The horse was a big fellow, and did noble service.

East of Waperly ranch, thirty miles below Bacerac, Pat met Black Jack and his gang of outlaws. Black Jack knew Durack and saluted him. Halting him, Black Jack's eye took in the fine points of Durack's horse and he offered to swap horses with him. Pat had no other choice, but the outlaw magnanimously gave him \$20 to boot. Pat dubbed his new possession "Black Jack Charlie," a tough little bronco full of muscle and energy.

However, as Charlie had already been ridden hard for several days, Pat was now at a disadvantage. On the afternoon of the last day, between Ramos and Casas Grandes, Charlie played out, and could go no further and carry any weight. Pat got off and drove him nine miles, and just in the nick of time made the train at Casas grandes at the stockyards, as it was pulling out. Pat waived the train to stop and waded a large lake in order to catch it. Soon arriving at Juarez no time was lost in notifying the consul, who wired the state department, which in turn wired the consul at Hermosillo, who wired the authorities at Oposura to give the Americans a fair trial. All of the men were acquitted except Rose, who served a short term in jail and was released.

Had it not been for the presence of the only man in that section who would take his life in his hands to save the lives of his fellow beings, the suspicious men would have been shot, and there is no doubt of their owing the preservation of their lives to Pat Durack, the fearless old Irishman with a heart big enough to risk his life even for a fellow stranger.

During his thirty-one hours' ride Pat never but once had any nourishment, and that was a cup of coffee, at Waperly ranch. Black Jack Charlie is now at Boyd's ranch, taking it easy. We herewith present a picture of Charlie and his fearless rider. Pat is known to all the Mexicans in that entire section, many of whom saw him on that ride, but knowing him so well they never detained him, for they have implicit confidence in him, and knew that nothing was wrong as far as he was concerned.

More Next Week.

OBITUARY

Memorial services for Jessie Longley-Minter, 90, will be held at the Nogal Presbyterian Church, Sunday, November 5, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. Rev. William S. Sebring will officiate. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery in Carrizozo.

Jessie passed away in Las Cruces, NM Oct. 26. She was born August 8, 1910 in Crockett, TX to Jett and Mary Rustin. They moved to New Mexico when she was 18 months old. They arrived in Nogal, living there approximately two years before moving to White Oaks, where she attended grade school. They then moved to the Bar W Ranch where she drove a buggy five miles to school in Carrizozo.

She married Millard Longley December 24, 1929 in Carrizozo and later married J. Minter in April 1951.

She is survived by three children: one son, Thomas J. Longley (T.J.) of Kent, Washington; two daughters, Phyllis Zumbalt of Hondo, and Marlene Ham of Las Cruces; one sister, Mary Nell O'Rear of Stephenville, TX; one brother, Truman Rustin of Deming, 12 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren, and 17 great-great grandchildren.

Church Directory



Mountain Ministry Parish, Sierra Blanca Presbyterian
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.

Pentecostal Tabernacle
ALLAN M. MILLER, pastor
209 Lincoln Ave., Captain, NM 354-2025
Tuesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm
Sunday School..... 10:30 am
Sunday Evening..... 6:00 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 6:15 pm
Evening Worship..... 7:15 pm
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 pm

Carrizozo Community Church (A/C)
JOHNNIE L. JOHNSON, pastor
Corner of C Ave. & Thirteenth, 648-2186
Children's Church..... 10:30 am
Worship Service..... 10:30 am
Wed. Bible Study..... 7:30 pm

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

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

St. Matthias Episcopal Church
REV. CATHAN JOHN PENN, rector
Corner of E. Ave. & Sixth, Carrizozo, NM
1,505-257-2356
Holy Eucharist..... 9:30 am Sunday

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

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

United Methodist Churches
TOM WOODARD, pastor
1000 D. Ave. 648-2893 / 648-2846
Carrizozo, NM 88301
Sunday School (All Ages)..... 10:00 am
Worship Service..... 11:10 am
Choir Practice (Tuesday)..... 6:30 pm
United Methodist Women's Evng.
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)..... 11:00 am
Fellowship Dinner Every Third Sunday 7:00 pm
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./Captain
Preparation Prayer..... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.

Captain Church of Christ
LESLIE EARWOOD, minister
5th & Lincoln / 338-4827
Sunday Bible Study..... 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service..... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Southern Baptist Church
Phone 354-2044
Captain (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 / 849-7875
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



CUB SCOUT PACK 57 gathers for a picture during their Christmas party on December 19 at the Capitan Senior Center. Cub scouts are front (right to left) Matthew Gonzales, Richard Gonzales, Kyle Williams and Aaron Grier, (back from left) Willis Hill, Roy Payton, Sonny Windhorst, Willman Seckman, Joshua Bellin-Gallagher and Drew Kelley Jr. With them are their den leader Brenda Williams and American Legion Post 57 member Bob Stephens. The Post is sponsor of the cub scout pack.

County Finalizes

(Continued From Page 1)

"One extreme case involves a 15.5 percent decrease in available salary. Needless to say, our employees are not in favor of the transfer."

Because of this, CSI also offered several options for the operation contract, including a compromise that allows the county employees to stay under the county payroll.

With the compromise, the county will pay CSI \$858,390 a year to operate the new detention center with up to 120 inmates. This amount will cover the cost of inmate care and feeding, and the cost of CSI employees. The county will continue to keep all current county detention center employees on county payroll and pay the county's portion of their medical insurance. Stewart estimated it will cost the county \$455,596 to retain these employees. As the county detention employees leave or retire, their positions will be replaced with CSI employees. County employees also will have the option to become CSI employees.

CSI president Jon Forren estimated the new jail will need about 24 to 26 employees.

Under the contract the county will be responsible for the cost of utilities, which Stewart estimated at \$48,600 for a year. Also the county will provide \$8,000 a

year toward a new transport vehicle for the jail.

Lincoln County will continue to be responsible for contractual incarceration of certain inmates who are considered too high a security risk. These inmates will be sent to such locations as Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) in Estancia. CSI also plans to offset some of the costs in the jail by renting out unfilled beds. CSI president of operations Charlie Turnbo said they have contacted the U.S. Marshal Service and the border patrol about the potential to have extra space for inmates from these agencies. These agencies will be charged \$55 a day, of which CSI will keep \$19 and the remainder will go to the county.

In response to a question from county commissioner Ray Nunley, Turnbo said they plan to use inmate labor to do the physical move to the new jail including furniture set up, and to do all landscaping once they move.

During discussion about the options of the contract, Stewart said he had concern about the payment of overtime for county employees, if CSI does not hire enough of its own employees. Currently the county has 13 full time detention employees. County commissioner Martinez said because of this and other

problems, the county had no choice but operate the detention center itself, and forgo the contract with CSI. Martinez referred to the option of the county operating the jail and Stewart said the new jail cannot be operated with only 20 employees.

Carrizozo Health Center physician's assistant Ernie Gonzales said with additional inmates, the detention center will need additional medical personnel. "Especially if you bring in inmates from the U.S. Marshals," Gonzales said. Turnbo said three years ago the county had no in-house medical personnel in the jail. Now CSI contracts a 30 hour a week nurse and he agreed they will need additional medical personnel at the new facility. Nunley then said he wanted to talk with Turnbo about this "in private." But county commissioner Bill Schwettmann raised his eyebrows and asked, "You want a private negotiation?" Nunley did not respond.

Martinez took over questioning as to whose responsibility it will be if an inmate gets sick. Stewart said it will be the county's responsibility and he is looking into accessing the new Indigent Health Care fund to pay for inmate medical costs. Nunley said the in-house nurse in the jail now has cut trips to the Lincoln

County Medical Center emergency room (in Ruidoso) a lot. Turnbo said currently they send inmates with severe medical problems to CCA. But when the new jail is completed, plans are to keep inmates with medical problems here, except in special cases such as ones with hepatitis.

Another employee was concerned county employees will get worse jobs under CSI in the new jail. Turnbo said they have not earmarked "good or bad" jobs for CSI or county employees. "Everyone will go with one uniform," he added.

"The only difference will be the name of the payee on the paycheck," said county commission chairman Rex Wilson.

If the county is sued because of alleged actions at the new jail, the county will also be liable for any actions of county employees, but not for CSI employees working in the new jail.

"If we go with private enterprise, they should take over everything, including the liability," Martinez said. "The county could run the new jail cheaper by administering the jail on our own."

County commissioner Rick Simpson said he would not favor the compromise option unless he knew the county employees are satisfied. One county employee asked if the CSI employees will be ranked higher than the county employees. Turnbo said CSI plans to hire the new additional staff locally, and has no plans to bring in staff from its 13 other managed facilities. "We believe the facility is best served with Lincoln County employed people," Turnbo said. "Except the administrator."

As for the overtime issue, county attorney Alan Morel said CSI agreed county staff will not work overtime, or CSI will pay the overtime, or hire more staff. Forren said overtime is difficult to control.

Current jail administrator John Buffington, who is a CSI employee, said Lincoln County deserves the best staff for its new jail and he plans to work as a team with the county employees.

Turnbo urged the county commission to finalize the contract because the new jail is only 90 days from scheduled completion and CSI needs to move toward the transition. He said CSI



APPRECIATING A LEADER. Capitan American Legion Post 57 member Bob Stephens presents a certificate of appreciation to Capitan Cub Scout Pack 57 den leader Brenda Williams. The Legion sponsors the cub scout pack that has grown from three to 28 cub scouts under Williams' leadership.

MIYAGI OPTICAL
 GREAT DEAL GREAT EYE CARE SERVICE

SPECIAL SAVINGS
 DECEMBER 29 thru JANUARY 4, 2000

CAST AWAY (PG 13)
 *1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / *9:30

The Emperor's New Groove (G)
 *1:00 / *2:45 / 4:30

VERTICAL LIMIT (PG 13)
 6:30 / *9:00

WHAT WOMEN WANT (PG 13)
 *1:30 / 4:15 / 7:00 / *9:15

* Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday ONLY
 \$ SUPER SAVER MOVIE

In the heart of Historic Downtown
 910 New York Ave.
 Alamogordo, NM 88310-6920
 (505) 434-0038 or 437-7877

E-mail: miyagi13@webtv.net
 www.glassesbymiyagi.com

Take your glasses to the only Optician in Alamogordo with a specialized degree to make eye glasses!

MIYAGI ISLAND OPTICAL
 James A. Miyagihara
 BS, AA, FNAO
 Certified, American Board of Opticianry
 Veteran and Tularosa Basin Descendant

"WITH IN STORE LAB"
 910 New York 434-0038

CHEAP! CHEAP! CHEAP!

DISCOUNT LUMBER, INC.
 "CASH & CARRY"

Lumber * Plywood * Timbers * Corral Panels
 Rough and Dressed

WHOLESALE and RETAIL
 (505) 354-9116

Capitan, NM 88316 / 1 Mile North on School St.

WELL DRILLING

PUMP SALES & SERVICE

COMPLETE WATER SYSTEMS

WATER FILTRATION AND TREATMENT

Owner/Operator
 Joseph Skaggs
 21 Prairie Trail
 Tularosa, NM 88352

Ph: 505-585-7918
 Fax: 505-585-7918

ACCO FEEDS

STOCKMAN'S FEED & SUPPLY
 Hwy. 380 & Hwy. 246
 CAPITAN, NEW MEXICO 88316

• FULL FEED LINES • VET SUPPLIES
 Gary & Jo Lanning
 (505) 354-3162

DEAMCO
TRUCK CAPS & ACCESSORIES

OFFICE HOURS:
 9-5:30 - Mon - Fri
 9-1:00 Saturday

One Stop Shopping For All Your Truck Taps and Toys

2917 N. White Sands Blvd.
 Alamogordo, NM 88310
 (505) 437-8777
 1-800-479-8773
 You Are Welcome To Use Our Toll Free Number

C.O. ROMINGER COMPANY, INC.
 REAL ESTATE
 (Since 1976)

REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS
 (Since 1972)

Truly A Full Service Real Estate Company.
 C.O. Rominger III / GRI, CRA / Broker & Appraiser
 1208 'E' Ave. • P.O. Box 426 • Carrizozo, NM 88301
 Ph. (505) 648-2900. FAX (505) 648-2901
 E-Mail rominger@nm.net

wants to get the new jail accredited and to do this must meet several severe standards.

With the CSI contract and the county retaining the current detention center employees, the county has budgeted \$1,272,484 to operate the new detention center and for contractual incarceration of adult inmates. The cost for juvenile detention is not added into this annual amount.

The contract also has a 90 day termination clause, which Schwettmann said can be evoked anytime CSI fails to fulfill its agreement.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

**TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

**PB 2000-031
DIVISION III**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF FLORENCE F. RACHER,
Deceased.**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within two months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned personal representative at 1011 New York Avenue, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310 or filed with the Twelfth Judicial District Court, P.O. Box 725, Carrizozo, NM 88301.

DATED: December 14, 2000.

**MARTHA PROCTOR,
Personal Representative
of the Estate of
Florence F. Racher**

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 21 and 28, 2000.

NOTICE

The Capitan Municipal Schools is accepting food bids for the Cafeteria, for January 1, 2001 to May 31, 2001. For a bid sheet please contact, Elizabeth Montoya at (505) 354-2239, Mon. thru Thurs., 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Bids will close December 29, 2000, at 9:00 am.

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 21 and 28, 2000.

LEGAL NOTICE

**TWILFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN**

**No. Cv-2000-225
Division III**

**ROBERT BROOKS,
Plaintiff,**

vs.

GROUP I
FRANCIS R. WHITESELL, a/k/a Francis Rose Whitesell; JOHNNY F. MOBLEY and NANCY S. MOBLEY, husband and wife; WILLIAM J. WHITESELL, deceased; and SHIRLEY A. MOBLEY; their heirs, devisees, and assigns;

GROUP II
JOHN DOES, 1 through 100, and all of their lawful heirs, devisees or assigns;

GROUP III
AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS OF INTEREST IN THE PREMISES ADVERSE TO THE PLAINTIFF:
Defendants.

**SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF
PENDENCY OF ACTION**

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED DEFENDANTS:

FRANCIS R. WHITESELL; JOHNNY F. MOBLEY and NANCY S. MOBLEY, husband and wife; WILLIAM J. WHITESELL, deceased; SHIRLEY A. MOBLEY, and those Defendants set forth in Groups II and III above.

GREETINGS: You are hereby notified that ROBERT BROOKS, Plaintiff, has filed an action in the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, Civil Docket No. CV-2000-255 (III), wherein you are named as Defendants and wherein said Plaintiff seeks to obtain constructive service upon you.

The general subject of said action is to quiet title to certain real estate which is the subject matter of the above-captioned and numbered cause of action and is described as follows:

Lots 11 and 13, Block 1, TALL PINES SUBDIVISION, Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico, as shown by the plat thereof filed in the Office of the County Clerk and Ex-officio Recorder of Lincoln County, New Mexico, September 10, 1968, in Tube No. 328.

You are further notified that unless you enter your appearance, plead or otherwise respond in said cause on or before February 8, 2001, judgment will be rendered against you by default and the relief prayed for in the Complaint will be granted to Plaintiff in conformity with the allegations of the Plaintiff's Complaint.

The name and address of the attorney for the Plaintiff are as follows: Alan P. Morel, Alan P. Morel, P.A., Post Office Box 1030, Ruidoso, New Mexico, 88355-1030.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Twelfth Judicial District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, on this the 14th day of December, 2000.

**JAN PERRY
Court Administrator/
District Court Clerk**

(Seal):

By: Elizabeth Ysasi
Deputy

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 28, 2000 and January 4, 11 and 18, 2001.

FAST ACTION

Lincoln County News

CLASSIFIED ADS

CALL: (505) 648-2333

**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 or part time. Outpost Bar and Grill, Carrizozo. 648-9994 or 648-2194
tfn-Nov. 2

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

**CARRIZOZO
FREE RADIO**
Christian and Patriotic talk shows from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. Monday thru Friday. Tune your radio to 100.7 FM
1tp-Dec. 28

ATTENTION
I Richard M. Bradley, due to health reasons, am no longer associated with Carrizozo Automotive Repair and Recycle as of November 27, 2000.
4tp/Dec. 14, 21 & 28, 2000 and Jan. 4, 2001

**CARRIZOZO 1/3 acre -
110' x 140' Mobile Home
Lots - Zero Down oac or
Will Install a Home \$500
Down oac
1-505-296-0243
2tc-Dec. 21 & 28**

TRACTOR WORK
Mowing, Excavating, Roads built, Gravel Hauled, water, electric, sewer lines and septic systems Installed. Turn Key Mobil Sites built.
354-7000 430-5557
3tp-Dec. 14, 21 & 28



**Merry Late Christmas
(Con't From Pg.2)**

like a tornado.

Snow blowing like baby powder, Made even Cadillac lights were way too meager.

Four hours after leaving the old ones at home, we pull over to join 10 other cars in the storm.

So there on the side of the road on a cold Christmas night, we settled under coats, blankets, sun shades, newspapers, laughing of our adventure.

Lo and behold, at the wee hour of 3, there came a bright light--the salt truck had come and the winds were slight.

The lights of Carrizozo were a welcomed sight, To many a car stranded on that cold Christmas night.

God bless you all that were out on that night, from those other weary travelers to the road guys with their bright lights.

It took us 12 hours to get home from the day of our Lord, And most of all, thank Jesus we weren't driving a Ford.

Merry Late Christmas to all readers of The Lincoln County News!

Doris Cherry and family!

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will hold a Special meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2001 at 10:30 A.M., to be held at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, in Carrizozo, New Mexico. The purpose of this meeting is to consider the following item and any other proper business that comes before the Board:

1. Executive Session: All threatened and/or pending litigation pursuant to Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1, Sub-Paragraph H(7).

Copies of the agenda for the January 2, 2001 meeting will be available at the office of the County Manager prior to said meeting.

Auxiliary aides are available upon request; please contact Mariha Guevara at 505/648-2385 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

**THOMAS F. STEWART
Lincoln County Manager**

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, December 28, 2000.

OBITUARY

**MANUELITA L.
CANDELARIA**

Manuelita L. Candelaria, 101, a lifelong resident of Carrizozo, died Sunday, Dec. 3, 2000 at Casa Arena Blanca Nursing Center.

Mrs. Candelaria was born December 27, 1898 in Rebenton, NM. She was a member of Santa Rita Catholic Church.

Survivors include a son, Joe Candelaria and his wife Elena, of Madera, CA; three daughters, Bella Killingbeck and her husband Walter of Carrizozo, Lupita Brewer and her husband Charles of Killeen, TX, and Juanita Black of Dearfield, KS; a sister, Navorra Romero of Tucson, AZ; 17 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jose Candelaria; and by two sons, Demetrio and Lloyd Candelaria.

Rosary was recited at Santa Rita Catholic Church in Carrizozo by Fr. Dave Bergs on Dec. 7 and Funeral Mass was celebrated on Dec. 8. Internment followed in Our Lady of Guadalupe Cemetery in Carrizozo.

Pallbearers were Paul Otero, Steven Brewer, Marcos Barela, Jr., and Michael Barela, Sr.

Services were under the direction of Hamilton-O'Dell Funeral Home in Alamogordo.

A toast from our family to yours . . .



**Happy
New Year!**

**Dub Williams
State Representative
District 56**



Postal Service

(Continued From Page 1)

commission was told the postal service would be as good or better. "It hasn't and that's why you are here," Wilson told Prudencio. "And it is not a few isolated instances. Your new infrastructure is not working." Wilson said the slow mails are affecting delivery of paychecks, prescriptions and court documents.

"I'm glad you pay taxes," Wilson said. "But when we don't get our taxes mailed out on time taxpayers don't get their bills on time."

Prudencio said the postal service is accountable to the public. "We are a semi-independent branch of the government, but we are still accountable to the people," Prudencio said. The postal service is not supported by Congress, rather by postal fees. "We respond to all inquiries by senators and congressmen," he added.

County commissioner Ray Nunley, a pharmacist in Ruidoso, said in the past he depended on the post office to get the more than 30 packages a day mailed out to patients overnight. "We hardly ever lost mail," Nunley said. "Now it may take two days to get to Carrizozo, one day to Capitán maybe, two to three days to Corona. And we have lost packages that I have to pay to replace." One package took three weeks before it was returned to the pharmacy.

"This is making hardships on my patients the majority of whom are seniors who don't drive," Nunley added.

Prudencio said the postal service does not intend for Nunley to lose patients

because of their service.

Lincoln County Clerk Martha Proctor said in her 12 years as county clerk she never had problems with election time mail. "Timeliness is of utmost importance," Proctor said. "One absentee application took 12 days in the mail from Capitán to Carrizozo. Some letters have taken from seven to nine days from Ruidoso to Carrizozo."

Also some absentee ballots did not arrive in Carrizozo on time to be counted in the election, even though they were sent what the voter thought would have been enough days prior to the election day deadline. "All this just since the distribution center change," she added. "It has never happened in my 12 years as clerk."

Lincoln County Treasurer Joan Park said her office has been late in sending distribution checks to various agencies because the bar coding on letters is done in Alamogordo and Las Cruces post offices resulting in a letter taking at least seven days to be delivered. By law all such distributions must be sent by the 20th of each month.

"And through no fault of ours this could affect our audit findings," Wilson added.

Park also said her office mails out 27,000 property tax bills. The bills are printed in Albuquerque so the outer envelopes can be imprinted with appropriate bar codes to speed up the mailing process and to save the county some money for postage. "But when we took these to the post office, they

could not handle them in Alamogordo, so you sent them to Albuquerque to be mailed out at the end of October," Park said. Then her office received returned tax bills because the bar codes had been distributed incorrectly.

Roark, who came to the county commission in July and promised the new postal services would be as good if not better by moving the distribution center to Alamogordo, said his report was based on the information he had available then. He said the post offices have gone through a "learning curve" since then and the postal service had its worst accounting period in the 883 zip code area since 1988.

Roark said he has made six trips to Alamogordo and Carrizozo since the distribution center was moved out in September. He said he followed the major postal trucks and found them moving on time. Also he took a sampling of 900 letters in the Carrizozo post office and found only 11 with questions whether the service was good. Of the 11, four had the wrong zip codes. Roark said the postal service wants to know when letters take too long.

"If it was bad before," Wilson said. "It is worse now."

County commissioners took a break in the discussion about the postal service to hold a public hearing on a proposed water plan. During the hearing, Proctor and Park went outside the meeting room to discuss the many problems with the postal service with

Roark and Prudencio. After the hearing, county commissioners continued to discuss the postal service situation. Prudencio said he will go back to his office and look at the problems and make an effort to improve them. "It's obvious we haven't scored a touch down," Prudencio added.

Wilson said the community is "sour grapes" because of the loss of nine postal jobs and the poor service. "There is a lot of emotion with those who are speaking up and I assure you there are many more timid ones who haven't said anything," he added.

Roark said he plans to meet with the 30 postmasters in Lincoln and Otero Counties and try to resolve the problems. "We should have never had this issue of no overnight mail from one post office to the next in Lincoln County," Roark added. "Let's not get offensive about the poor service in the 883 zip codes, rather let's work to find a solution." Roark said people need to let the postmaster know if there are specific problems with the mail.

County commissioner Rick Simpson ended the discussion with a final comment that Betty Lou Joiner does a "heck of a job" at the Glencoe Post Office.

County commissioners had also invited Alice Eppers from Congressman Joe Skeen's Roswell office to attend the meeting in order to make a report to Skeen about the postal problems. The county has notified Skeen and U.S. Senator Pete Domenici about the postal problems.

Letters To Editor

(Continued from Page 4)

teaching our young. He can be seen cheering at our volleyball games as wife referees and his three small children astonish him. And he can be seen in the parking lot shaking a parent's hand as he carefully scans the parking lot for wayward children in moving traffic.

But where he isn't recognized is behind the classroom door where his acts of heroism actually take place as he molds today's children into tomorrow's adults. No one sees the shy, teary, young student whose overwhelming fear of public speaking has kept her from reaching her full potential. Nor do they see this man daily create goals to encourage this child as she slowly builds the trust and confidence needed to make her speech. No one saw her tears as she struggled with this tenacious teacher for two weeks as he taught her the life skills she needed to believe in herself. No one saw the tears slowly abate as she carefully abided by her teacher's instructions. And no one knew of the proud smile that adorned my child's face as she came through our door finally making that speech after weeks, no years, of agony. But her teacher saw and he knew. He saw my child's fear and had the stamina to go the distance with her and make a lifelong change that will forever enhance her life.

So today as my child realizes a lifelong dream and sings her first solo at church, I would like to publicly thank this teacher, Mr. Herb Borden, for his brave actions and noble character that provided my child, as well as many other children, with the ability to overcome life's difficulties as they navigate into adulthood.

Thank you, Mr. Herb Borden for your commitment and dedication to our children, our school, and our community. I applaud you not only as a parent, but as a child whose fear of public speaking has never been overcome. Our world today needs more heroes such as yourself and the parents to recognize them. May God bless you and your family as you continue yours acts of heroism in another community.

You sir, will be sorely missed.

KARI L. BURD
Carrizozo, New Mexico

Have A Good Year!

Season's Greetings

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

					
ASSORTED Lay's®/Wavy Lay's® REG. \$2.99 2 \$4 2 FOR		SHURFINE/SHURSAVING PREMIUM QUALITY ALL VARIETIES HOMOGENIZED/LOWFAT SKIM Milk GALLON 1 99	ASSORTED Crisco Oil 18 OZ. 1 79	ASSORTED GRINDS Folgers Coffee 11.5-13 OZ. 1 79 EXCLUDES DECAF	SHURFINE FRESH SHELLED OR W/ SNAP Blackeye Peas 15 OZ. 3 \$1

PACKER TRIM BONELESS **Beef Brisket** 99¢ LB.

SHURFINE Blackeye Peas 1 LB. **99¢**

PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF **Top Sirloin Steaks** 2 19

WHOLE BONELESS **Pork Loin** 2 39

HILLSHIRE FARM ASSORTED **Smoked Sausage** 16 OZ. **1 59**

DAIRY

SHURFINE SOFT **Cream Cheese** 8 OZ. **89¢**

CARNATION ASSORTED FLAVORS **Coffee Mate** 16 OZ. **1 19**

PILLSBURY ASSORTED **Toaster Strudel** 10-11.5 OZ. **1 69**

PILLSBURY ASSORTED **Toaster Scramblers** 10 OZ. **1 69**

We Will Be Closed
New Years Eve December 31
and New Years Day
January 1, 2001

FRESH **Lemons or Limes** **10 \$1** FOR

GREEN Cabbage 4 LBS. **\$1 00**

FRESH Tomatoes **1 89**

BREAKFAST SIZE **Craisins** 6 FOR **\$1 00**

WASHINGTON EXTRA FANCY **Onion Apples** **1 79**

GREEN Onions **3 for 89¢**

SALAD SIZE **Avocados** **3 \$1**

GROCERIES	
DEL MONTE Ketchup	40 OZ. 1 29
ASSORTED Pringles	SMART BUY 6-7 OZ. 1 29
BOUNCE ASSORTED Dryer Sheets	SMART BUY 35-40 CT. 1 99
PUFFS PLUS, EXTRA STRENGTH OR FM BASIC Facial Tissue	SMART BUY 144-216 CT. 1 79
BOUNTY WHITE OR DESIGNER Paper Towels	SMART BUY ROLL 99¢
ASSORTED POWDER OR LIQUID, REG. OR W/BLEACH Tide Ultra	SMART BUY 87-100 OZ. 6 99
ASSORTED Dawn Ultra	SMART BUY 13-14.7 OZ. 1 29
REGULAR Downy	SMART BUY 64 OZ. 3 29
SHURFINE CLEAR Plastic Cups	18 CT. - 16 OZ. 79¢
SHURFINE ASSORTED Microwave Popcorn	3 PK. 99¢
DRY ROAST JAR OR COCKTAIL CAN Planters' Peanuts	SMART BUY 2 16 OZ. 5 00
ROTEL ASSORTED Tomatoes & Green Chiles	3 10 OZ. 2 00
SHURFINE SWEET GHERKIN OR Midget Pickles	10 OZ. 1 29
SANTA FE ASSORTED Tortilla Chips	SMART BUY 2 14-20 OZ. 5 00
SANTA FE ASSORTED Salsa	SMART BUY 16 OZ. 1 99

STURGES VENTURE

4th & Central / CARRIZOZO, NM / Ph. 648 - 2125
We Accept W.I.C. Checks - We Honor EBT Cards for Food and Cash