

County To Ask for Fort Commission

by Doris Cherry

The future of Fort Stanton is the number one legislative priority for the Lincoln County Commissioners. And following a recommendation in a study of the fort done by the state, the commissioners are urging establishment of a "Fort Stanton Commission" similar to the Cumbres and Toltec railroad commission that

was established by state statute.

Stanton Inc. a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Fort Stanton as a historical park and recreation site, requested the county to petition the state for creation of the Fort Stanton Commission. During the Dec. 19 Lincoln County Commission meeting held in the courthouse in Carrizozo, Tony Hoffman, president of

Fort Stanton, Inc. presented the groups position on the creation of a Fort Stanton Commission. The intent of such a commission is to "preserve, rehabilitate and open to the public this significant historic site."

Hoffman said the economic impact of a rehabilitated Fort Stanton historical park and recreation site has been estimated to be more than \$33 million a

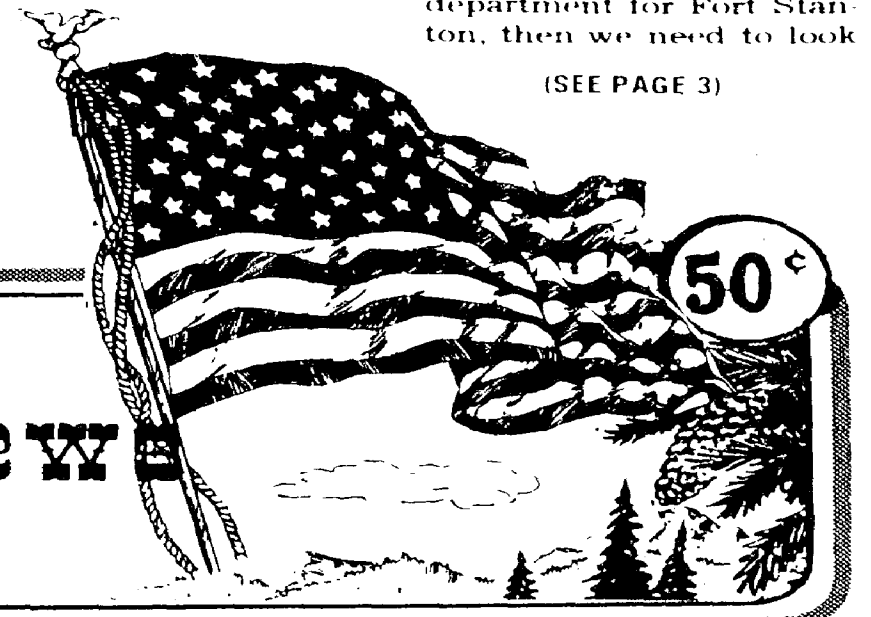
year. "Citizens of Lincoln County are passionate in their love of Fort Stanton," Hoffman said. "County officials are concerned that an asset of this magnitude is left to slowly deteriorate. The solution will most probably include county, state, federal and private interests combined into one commission that will be committed to invest in the his-

toric creation of wealth." County manager Tom Stewart, who has been involved with the Fort Stanton issue since he was hired, said the state is lacking a focal point on

the Fort Stanton issue. However, new governor Bill Richardson is asking questions about Fort Stanton, Stewart added.

"If the governor does not task an agency to set up a department for Fort Stanton, then we need to look

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VOLUME # 98, NUMBER 01

THURSDAY, JANUARY 02, 2003

CARRIZOZO, NM 88301



PROCLAIMING A WINNING TEAM. Lincoln County Commissioners issued a proclamation to honor the Capitan High School Volleyball team members who earned the Class "AA" Volleyball State Championship title in November. Lincoln County Commission made the proclamation in recognition of the team's achievement at the December 19 county commission meeting.

County Recognizes Winning Sports Teams; Passes Resolution to Support More FFA Funding

by Doris Cherry

Lincoln County had two state champion high school teams this year. And to commend and recognize these teams, the Lincoln County Commissioners during their meeting Dec. 19 made proclamations in their honor.

Proclamations were approved and read in honor of the Ruidoso High School Warrior football team and the Capitan High School Girls Lady Tiger volleyball team. The Ruidoso football team was recognized for earning the title of New Mexico 3A State Football champions. "Commissioners recognize that members of the Ruidoso High School football team have manifested their support and belief in the Ruidoso Municipal Schools' slogan... 'where excellence is expected'... by achieving success in their football season," read county manager Tom Stewart.

In honor of the Capitan volleyball team, commis-

sioners approved a proclamation that recognized the volleyball team for participating and earning the title of Class AA State winners and "brought a renowned honor to Capitan High School and to the community of Capitan," Stewart read. "The Capitan High School Girls Volleyball team should be commended for their dedication, teamwork and competitive spirit."

The last clause in both proclamations offered commissioners' best wishes, on behalf of the citizens of Lincoln County, for many more years of excellence and success.

Commission chairman Rex Wilson said the two school teams had planned to attend the county commission meeting to accept the proclamations, but they were unable to be there because of weather conditions.

Commissioner Leo Martinez said he commended the kids who did well on

their teams. "This is good now, because we hear too much adversity about our kids," he added.

Commissioners unanimously approved both proclamations.

Commissioners also approved a resolution that declares their support for a proposed \$637,100 legislative appropriation for New Mexico State University to continue to oversee the Future Farmers of America (FFA) agriculture vocational education programs in the high schools state wide.

Wilson said there is an effort by the State Department of Education to cut the budget for FFA in every school in Lincoln County. Wilson said FFA is a needed program because it builds leadership skills. "This resolution is to offer our support to the state appropriation for NMSU," Wilson added.

In the resolution it states that agriculture education programs are based on three interdependent

components of classroom instruction, FFA leadership activities and Supervised Agricultural Occupational Experience.

THE NEWS asked Wilson how FFA is connected to the Farm and Livestock Bureau. Wilson said the Farm Bureau provides some outside financial and technical support to the FFA programs.

Carrizozo Trustees Hold Special Hearing Jan. 6 On Water/Sewer Rate Increases

The Carrizozo public is invited to comment on proposed increases to water and sewer rates at a special hearing set for 6 p.m. Monday, January 6 in the Carrizozo town offices in Carrizozo Recreation Center.

Under the proposed water rate changes, residential water connection fees for a three-quarter inch meter will be \$350, for a one inch meter will be

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Commissioner Wants Assurance No One Lives on Dump Site

by Doris Cherry

Although a Ruidoso Downs area septic disposal company has been fined for illegally dumping raw sewage into an arroyo in the Glencoe area, county commissioner wants to make sure no one lives at that dump site in the future.

Lincoln County Commissioners discussed the illegal sewage dumping during their meeting on Dec. 19 at the courthouse in Carrizozo. The illegal sewage dumping was brought to the county managers attention on November 7. Valley resident Ralph Romero, who had come to find out about the situation during his campaign for county commission, had notified

the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about the dumping of raw sewage by the owner of the Circle B Campground, Jonnie Van Winkle.

In a packet of letters from the NMED to county manager Tom Stewart, the NMED and water quality bureau provided a summary of actions. That on Aug. 26, the NMED Ruidoso field office informed the bureau of several anonymous complaints of septic tank illegally discharged on Glencoe area property belonging to Van Winkle without an approved ground water discharge permit. On Aug.

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Rose Clinic May Stay Open

Rose Clinic in Capitan may stay open under a lease arrangement with Lincoln County Medical Center.

At the December 19 Lincoln County Commission meeting, Kim Stover with Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) gave a report on negotiations between Cliff and Kathleen Smith, owners of Rose Clinic and the hospital. Stover, who was reporting for LCMC administrator Jim Gibson, who was out of town, said LCMC is negotiating with the Smiths to do a one year lease of their clinic starting February 1. "We are trying to keep the Rose Clinic open for one year so we can come up with some solutions," Stover said. "This is a short term fix."

Stover also said LCMC will propose to tie in the Rose Clinic with the Hondo Clinic and/or the other county health clinics. "We feel we are moving forward", Stover added.

County commissioner Rick Simpson said La Casa de Buena Salud, which operates the Hondo Clinic, is interested in the Rose Clinic. County commission chairman Rex Wilson, said the one year temporary lease will allow the Rose Clinic to explore other options.

Smith approached the county commission in July asking the county to take over their privately owned and operated clinic. While they had no shortage of patients for the clinic, they were struggling financially, because many of the patients are low income and some unable to pay. By August the county advised the Smiths the county could not take over the clinic, but would work with LCMC on options.

In a letter dated December 4, Kathy Smith advised that she had achieved 1,000 patients in Capitan, but that most had no insurance or other medical coverage. And because of continuing bil-

Commissioner Wants Assurance

(Continued from Page 1)

27. NMED ground water bureau representatives met with Van Winkle to discuss the illegal septage dumping, at that time Van Winkle denied he had been discharging septage at the location.

On Oct. 25, representatives of NMED, with permission from Van Winkle inspect the property and documented evidence that septage had been disposed of at the site. So on Nov. 15, NMED issued a notice of violation to Van Winkle requiring remediation of the site including clean up of any residual material and placement of clean soil over the septage disposal area. On Dec. 2, Van Winkle provided a written statement summarizing the remediation efforts and photo documentation of the completed work as required. On Dec. 13, NMED issued a corrective action approval letter indicating the remediation actions had been met.

In the letter from NMED it indicated that the remediation actions were sufficient to protect public health by preventing direct contact with the illegally disposed septage. The letter indicated that since the depth to ground water below the discharge site is believed to be more than 100 feet, NMED is confident that impacts to ground water from septage disposal at the location are extremely unlikely.

Stewart also received a letter from several residents in the area about the illegal dumping to be in violation of county ordinances.

Outgoing commissioner Ray Nunley said he wanted notice of the illegal sewage dump to be a matter of public record. "I don't want someone to move in and get sick," Nunley said in reference to a mobile home on the property where the illegal sewage dumping took place. "That land is not habitable. No one can place a dwelling on a waste site." Nunley wanted some notation about the illegal dump site to be placed on the property deed.

Stewart said the illegal dumping site is about 10 by 100 feet in the "bottom of a valley." Nunley asked if the NMED or federal EPA would require any test wells to be drilled at the dump site.

County commissioner Rick Simpson, who represents the area where the illegal dump site is located, said the wells in the area of the site were tested with no contamination from the illegal dumping found. Simpson said he had recommended the owner to test a well that is

on the property where the illegal dump is located.

County attorney Alan Morel said the county's ordinance on solid waste and refuse prohibits dumping of waste within two miles of Rio Ruidoso, and the illegal dump site is within this distance. "Our ordinance is applicable to this," Morel said about the illegal dumping.

Morel then said Van Winkle had gone to magistrate court on Dec. 13 and was fined \$300 and given 90 days probation for violating the county ordinance. "We've done on the county level what we can," Morel added. The county ordinance sets penalties of \$500 fine and 90 days jail, but these exceed state penalties for such illegal dumping.

Nunley again expressed his concern that someone with children might move into the mobile home that is less than a half mile of the illegal dump site. The site is located on an 80-acre property belonging to Van Winkle. He recommended that Stewart write a letter advising the NMED and EPA that a house is on the site. Stewart said representatives from both agencies had been at the site, but he would write a letter advising the agencies of the house on the dump site.

Simpson then said the county commission needs to revise the county ordinance for illegal dumping, since the county fine and penalty cannot exceed the that of the state.

Later in the meeting during an agenda item to consider revisions to county ordinances, commissioners acted to hold a public hearing at the January 21 meeting on proposed revisions to the county waste ordinance. Commissioners also voted to hold public hearings on a proposed ordinance to provide the county-option low income tax rebate pursuant to the state Income Tax Act and a proposed ordinance for Townsite Road Maintenance.



Athletes Bring Home the Gold; and the Bronze

Heather Robertson (right) and Lisa Taylor won medals at the Special Olympics held in Las Cruces in November. Both medals were in the bowling competition with Heather winning the gold and Lisa winning the bronze. The two athletes were sponsored by Carrizozo Recreation Center. Both women reside at New Horizons Developmental Center in Carrizozo. Lisa is employed by the Lincoln County News and Heather is a volunteer at the Carrizozo school library.

County to Help With FireWise Advertising

by Doris Cherry

A coordinated effort is underway to educate the population who lives in the forest areas of Lincoln County in ways to help prevent another disastrous fire season.

Village of Ruidoso, City of Ruidoso Downs and the county are cooperating on a series of cable TV ads that are designed to educate and inform the public about fire wise forest practices. Lincoln County Commissioners at their meeting Dec. 19 in the courthouse in Carrizozo, approved a request from Ruidoso to provide \$1,844 as the county's share in the cost for the cable television spots.

There are 6,325 subscribers to the Ruidoso cable, with 4,400 in Ruidoso, 550 in Ruidoso Downs, 700 in the Alto area and 675 others in other county areas, said county manager Tom Stewart. On behalf of Ruidoso Village Urban Forester Rick DeIaco, Stewart presented the request for cooperative funding.

Stewart said DeIaco is very sensitive to make sure the cable television spots are generic in their suggestions for forestry practices. However, the suggestions will lean to-

ward the regulations in the Ruidoso village forestry ordinances that mandate thinning of lots.

In an email from DeIaco to Stewart, DeIaco wrote that the first series of four cable television spots will focus on creating defensible space around an untreated structure and how to continue to make a good defensible space in terms of ground fire.

The cable television programs will run for 26 weeks starting mid February and concluding at the end of August. The format for four of the 30 second taped spots will show a property that is brought into compliance with the Ruidoso village forestry ordinances. The spots will also show to create ground fire defensible spaces in forested properties outside the village limits.

The first spot will define how to get started and where to get technical forestry support. The second spot shows the do's and don'ts of pine needle raking and disposal. The third spot will focus on ladder fuels and flammable materials around structures. The four spot in the series will look at thinning versus clear cut-

(SEE PAGE 7)

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Church Directory

MOUNTAIN MINISTRY PARISH, SIERRA BLANCA PRESBYTERY

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

Ancho Community Presbyterian Church:
SCOTT KING Pastor 648-2074
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.

First Baptist Church

HAYDEN SMITH Pastor
414 310th Ave Carrizozo, NM
648-2968 Church or 648-2107
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:55 a.m.
Sun. Evening 7:15 p.m.
Evening Worship 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Carrizozo Community Church (A/G)

JOHNNIE JOHNSON Pastor
Corner of E Ave. and Thirteenth 648-2186
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Santa Rita Catholic Community

FR DAVE BERGS Pastor
213 Beth Carrizozo NM 648-2853

SATURDAY
Capitan Sacred Heart 5:00 p.m.
Carrizozo Santa Rita 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY
Capitan Sacred Heart 9:00 a.m.
Carrizozo Santa Rita 10:30 a.m.
Corona St. Theresa 11:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

TOM POINDIXTER, Minister 354-3135
Ave. C at 12th, Carrizozo, NM
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 7:15 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

St. Matthews Episcopal Church

REV. CANON JOHN PENN, Rector
Corner of E Ave. and Sixth, Carrizozo, NM
1-505-257-2356
Holy Eucharist Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Claunch Community Church

TONY SCACCIA Minister
849-1402
Second Sunday of Each Month 9:00 a.m.

United Methodist Churches

JOHANNA ANDERSON, Pastor
1000 D. Ave. 648-2893 648-2845
Carrizozo, NM 88301
Sunday School (All Ages) 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Choir Practice (Tuesday) 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist Women
Every 3rd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Dinner on 4th Sunday of Month 12:30 p.m.

CAPITAN
Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service 9:15 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time 10:15 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Choir Practice (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m.
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, NM
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Capitan Church of Christ

LESLIE EARWOOD, Minister
5th & Lincoln / 336-4627
Sunday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Southern Baptist Church

MEL GNATKOWSKI, Pastor 648-2530
Phone 354-2044
Capitan (South on Hwy 48)
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Corona

CAL WEST, Pastor / 849-7975
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Dinner 1st Sunday of Month

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January 2003 Construction Activities & Public Involvement Events

Shoulder and lane closures for excavation, culvert, bridge and wall construction, and equipment crossings will continue along the project corridor through January. Work will begin in Section A, Ruidoso Downs to Milepost 267. Please allow an extra 15 minutes in your travel schedule to accommodate general construction activities.

Highway closures for rock blasting will continue intermittently through the month of January on weekdays (Monday-Friday), near Hondo and Finnie (MP 285 to 290) and near Riverdale (MP 298 to 301). All blasts will begin at approximately 1:00 pm, and last up to one hour. US 70 will be closed in both directions at locations of blasts.

Up-to-date blasting closure and travel information is available at the US 70 Information Center, via the hotline, website, and roadside electronic message signs.

As construction progresses, please watch your travel speeds and drive safely! Remember construction zones are double fine zones.

Best wishes from NMSHTD and the SBC Team for a safe and happy Holiday Season and for a wonderful 2003! Remember to drive safely!

January 2003 Calendar of Events
US 70 Task Force Meeting - January 16, 2003
Place: Hondo Valley Schools Time: 7:00 pm
Public Open House - January 25, 2003
Place: Hondo Valley Schools Time: 10 AM to 2 PM

For information call
Mary Ann Wootton,
SBC Community Relations Liaison
Toll Free: 866-653-4069.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MONDAYS

--Kuros Outside and Immams Community meeting, 6:30 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Parsonage on E. Ave. Carrizozo.

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

--Fibromyalgia Syndrome Support Group, every other Tuesday, 6 p.m. K-Bob's in Ruidoso.
--Alcoholics Anonymous, 6-7 p.m. Carrizozo Zia Senior Citizens Center.

WEDNESDAYS

--Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m. Capitan Senior Citizens Center.

THURSDAYS

--Capitan Public Library preschool reading hour, 1 p.m.
--Lincoln County Adult Singles Group 6:30 p.m. Call 354-2635 or 258-3201 for information and location.

TODAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2003

--Municipal, county and state offices open.
--Swearing in of newly elected county officials, 9 a.m. district courtroom in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo. Public invited.
--Eastern New Mexico University Ruidoso office open for spring semester registration from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration by internet at www.ruidoso.enmu.edu. The spring semester begins Jan. 13. Call toll free 1-800-934-3668 or 257-2120 for information.
--LCSWA picks up poly carts in Capitan.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

--Capitan Public Library Friday Adult Lecture Series, 7-8 p.m. Eddie Tudor, Smokey Bear State Park, about the park history, present programs and future. Refreshments provided, no admission.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

--Class resumes for all local schools.
--Capitan Chamber of Commerce meets at 12:30 p.m. at chamber building on Second Street.
--Carrizozo Town Council meets at 6 p.m. in town offices in the Carrizozo Rec Center for a special public hearing on a proposed ordinance to increase Water and Sewer Rates. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the town offices in Carrizozo Rec. Center. Carrizozo Planning and Zoning Commission will not meet this month.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

--American Legion Post 57, 7:30 p.m. Capitan Senior Center.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

--Democratic Party of Lincoln County meets at 5:30 p.m. at Bonny's Restaurant on Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso. Order off menu, business meeting begins at 6:15 p.m. Call 354-2673 for information.
--Capitan School Board meets at 6 p.m. in the school administration building.



County to Ask for Fort

(Continued from Page 1)

at a (Fort Stanton) commission," Stewart said. However, currently Fort Stanton is under the General Service Department, property control division, and is not one of the department's priorities. Stewart continued.

Commissioner Ray Nunley said there seems to be a lot of federal interest in the Fort Stanton Cemetery. Stewart said he is working with the state veteran's commission on the Fort Stanton cemetery which has been designated a state veterans cemetery and had received funding for improvements. However, because of some election campaign confusion, there are now conflicts on funding for the improvements.

"The funding for Fort Stanton is separate from the funding for federal veterans cemeteries," Stewart said about the confusions for veteran cemetery funding. "The cemetery is not in competition with the federal veterans cemeteries." Stewart said he would speak with newly elected Congressman Steve Pearce about the situation with the state veteran's cemetery.

When commissioners discussed whether a Fort Stanton Commission would have any funding, commission chairman Rex Wilson said the State Fair Commission is another comparison. The Fair Commission has a large budget, Wilson added.

Hoffman said his group hopes that using the economic impact focus may help in getting attention for the Fort Stanton project.

The second legislative priority is an update to the formula used under the Small Counties Assistance Act to provide funding for more small counties to receive \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year as intended by the act. Lincoln County has received none of the money.

The next legislative priority supports a House joint memorial that proposes the state provide counties funding to house the district attorney, district court, juvenile proba-

tion officer and department of health. The county's estimated cost to house these offices is \$100,059 a year, yet it gets no funds from the state to cover these costs.

Other legislation supported by the county includes support for incorporating various completed regional water plans into a state plan and other water conservation measures; more funds returned to local volunteer fire departments from fire insurance premiums; amendment to the state fireworks act to allow county commissions to restrict use of fireworks in extreme drought; regulations to make county computer software programmers partially liable for their work; increase in reimbursement to road review members from the current \$5 which has not been updated since 1905.

In the county priorities for legislative appropriations, the top request is for \$156,000 for construction of a non-violent DWI offender housing (annex) and counseling facility with money to be taken from the state liquor taxes. The next priority is for \$105,000 to renovate the old detention center in the courthouse so the

space can be used for offices and storage. The last appropriation request is an unspecified amount for continued improvements to the Lincoln County Fair grounds in Capitan.

There will be no public

meeting with the state legislators to present these requests, as was done in the past, Stewart told THE NEWS. Instead all requests will be delivered to the legislators by SNMED District Director Tony Elias.

SIERRA CINEMA

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Joan Park

Capitan Resident Receives "Ayundando Siempre Alli" Award

Joan Park of Capitan received the "Ayundando Siempre Alli" Award (always there helping) from the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association (NMCGA) during the 2002 Stockmen's Convention recently held in Albuquerque.

"Joan does not have the privilege of being directly involved in the industry, but she has the same principles and convictions that we do and is committed to stand with us and work for us," said Phil H. Bidegain, NMCGA president. "This award is our way of thanking her for her dedication and the long hours and many miles she has put in on our behalf."

Park and the agricultural groups became acquainted during the state legislature, where she has represented Lincoln County's interests for two terms as County Treasurer. Her advice on tax and property issues has been invaluable, Bidegain said.

The Ayundando Siempre Alli Award, sponsored by Farmway Feed Mills, Las Vegas, is given each year to an individual who is not directly involved in livestock production, but whose efforts on agriculture's behalf have benefited the industry.

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ENG 097: Basic Writing Skill II • 3 cr. • Th • 4-6:30pm

ENG 104: English Composition and Research • 3 cr. • W • 6:45-9:15pm

READ 097: College Reading • 3 cr. • W • 4-6:30pm

SOC 215: Child, Family, and Community • 3 cr. • M • 4-6:30pm

SPED 293: Literacy Development Methods • 3 cr. • T • 6:45-9:15pm

Contact your local high school or Mona Culpepper at 505-784-6295.

THOUGHTS
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Resolutions to Keep

By Ruth Hammond

Newly elected officials have taken their oaths of office, Christmas decorations have been packed away, the regular pro football season has ended which means the start of the playoffs in preparation for Super Bowl, the bowl games which dominated activities yesterday are now in the record books, and life can almost return to normal. There is just one thing left to do, try to keep those resolutions you made on New Year's Day. Or have you forgotten them already?

If you don't make New Year's resolutions, there is one thing you should try to remember to do, put the correct date on checks and other papers. It is now 2003, or as old timers would say, "ought three" and deserves recognition as 2003 instead of 2002. And 2003 is important for newly elected officials because it is the year they took office, even though they were elected in 2002. New state officials will have the opportunity to flaunt their expertise during the legislative session which begins later this month. Our new governor has had legislative experience and may get along with legislators better than the previous governor did and may not veto as many things as the previous governor.

We do hope the redistricting will be a benefit for those areas switched from one representative district to another, but as with other situations we will have to wait to find out if outlying areas will actually be represented or forgotten. Thank goodness some legislators will represent the entire state, not select priority areas such as those with the most votes cast for their position. That has happened in the past and some people may remember when a past governor closed certain state offices in areas where he lost votes.

You may remember when there was a state office in Carrizozo which was closed suddenly causing workers to have to travel to Socorro or Alamogordo to keep their jobs. You may remember that eight years ago this month with no warning, Governor Gary Johnson closed Fort Stanton and the elderly geriatric patients already living there as well as the 60 or more on waiting lists were deprived of their home. And the few remaining persons with developmental disabilities were ousted from Fort Stanton. Workers were promised jobs if they would relocate, but later they were told only professional employees would continue to work.

Even though the Fort Stanton closing happened eight years ago, there continue to be concerns for the previous residents and whether they receive the quality of care they should be getting. Even though the state office was closed in Carrizozo more than 15 years ago, some people are not receiving services or their services are delayed because they do not have transportation to offices in Ruidoso or in Alamogordo. And previous Fort Stanton workers deserved much better treatment than they received eight years ago.

All we can do is hope the new legislators will do their best to not discriminate against certain areas. And we do hope they will attend all the sessions as some local people to attend, not ignore some sessions as some local people who were appointed to boards are doing in Lincoln County.

Resolving to fulfill duties should be a priority, not just for newly elected officials, but those appointed as well.

What year is it?

Tis The Season for College Financial Aid

The start of a new year is approaching and that means one thing: Students who plan to start college next fall should begin working on financial aid.

ACT offers the following information to help families find the resources they need to complete their financial aid paperwork.

The most important form is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Beginning Jan. 1, students will be able to submit the form that determines eligibility for student financial aid from federal programs. Students will need family income statements from their 2002 earnings to complete the form.

Colleges and universities use the FAFSA, but may also require students to fill out additional forms. The FAFSA is available from high school counselors or at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

ACT also urges students to:

- *Apply early for admission and financial aid.
- *Check with colleges to determine if other financial aid forms are required.
- *Apply for scholarships and grants.
- *Look into Work Study programs.

ACT also lists the following websites for information about scholarships and financial aid for college: Free college scholarship search, www.collegenet.com; The Financial Aid Information Page, www.finaid.org; The Federal Government Financial Aid Page, www.ed.gov/finaid.html; and Free Application for Federal Student Aid, www.fafsa.ed.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Lincoln County News welcomes letters to the editor.

Letters will be the writer's personal opinion and will not reflect the editorial opinion of the Lincoln County News.

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

Letters must be signed by the writer with the author's full name, address, and telephone number. Only the writer's name and city of residence will be published. "Thank You Letters" will be considered as advertising and not be accepted as Letters to the Editor.

Letters of any length will be considered for publication with priority given to letters of no more than 300 words. All letters are subject to editing for length, grammar, spelling, and reader interest. Letters to the Editor should be hand delivered or mailed to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Lincoln County News
309 Central Ave.
P.O. Drawer 469
Carrizozo, NM 88301

EARL



YA KNOW MOM, IT COULD BE WORSE... JUST THINK WHAT IF HE WAS YOUR DOCTORY

Big Dog Syndicate

INSIDE THE CAPITOL

by JAY MILLER

SANTA FE -- 'Tis the season for the calendar to play around with us. It all started with Thanksgiving being the latest date it could be, causing one less week between turkey day and Christmas. The crunch impacted stores, mail service, holiday decorating and family vacations.

Then December brought us a Friday, the 13th. Only a superstitious fool would believe that had anything to do with Cardinal Law. Mary Matalin and Henry Kissinger all resigning on the same day. Christy Whitman threatened to resign as secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency that same day. Trent Lott should have resigned. Had he done so that day, instead of waiting another week, reports say the White House would have given him a better parachute. And President Bush got a smallpox vaccination that day.

Now January is bringing us the latest start of the New Mexico Legislature possible. That gives Gov. Bill Richardson more time to prepare his ambitious legislative agenda. Most governors have a big problem getting their act together for the first of only two 60-day sessions in their four-year term. For Richardson, the dynamo, it probably doesn't make much difference. But for lawmakers, lobbyists and legislative watchers, it means a very late end to the session and messes up some spring break plans.

There were those who lamented Cardinal Law's resignation, figuring he might have been on his way to being America's first pope. If you will remember, a decade ago, New Mexico's round of church scandals derailed what many thought was Archbishop Robert Sanchez's fast track to being New Mexico's first cardinal.

About this time next year, the Republican party will celebrate its 150th anniversary. State Sen. Rod Adair of Roswell says that would be a wonderful time for the GOP to remind the nation that it is the party of Abraham Lincoln, the 13th Amendment ending slavery, the 14th (equal protection) Amendment, and the 15th Amendment, sometimes referred to as

the original voting rights act. Those reminders would be timely at a point when the Grand Old party is having to defend its honor on those matters.

Don't know how your mail service was this holiday season. Much of ours took up to three weeks to get across town instead of the usual two weeks we had been experiencing since the price of stamps went up by three cents. Someone observed that the big increase wasn't for better service, it was to pay for storing our mail.

Bronco Mendenhall's departure from the University of New Mexico's football coaching staff brought the usual spate of complaints about lack of loyalty to UNM. This came on the heels of Dennis Franchione's move from Alabama to Texas A&M. Lobo fans still haven't gotten over Fran's short stay and even shorter stints at his next two schools.

But the fact of life is that New Mexico's colleges can expect successful coaches to move on if it means big improvement in their salary and other conditions of employment. Almost anyone would do that and we can't begrudge them for it.

I am proud that Marv Levy, the Lobo coach when I was in college, is now a member of the National Football League Hall of Fame. Joe Morrison, the "Ancient Pelican" running back from the New York Giants, who coached UNM to an 11-1 record before quickly moving on, might have reached that status too, had it not been for his untimely death. And maybe Franchione is headed for the NFL too.

Lou Henson at New Mexico State University moved on to greatness at Illinois before "retiring" back to Las Cruces and taking over a struggling program that he's gotten back on its feet. Let's face it, the only coaches who want to stay are those nearing retirement or those who have reached their "Peter Principle" level of incompetence.



Have A Good Day!!!



PSYCHIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

JUDITH L. CHRISTOPHER

www.ruidoso.net/psychic
(505) 257-2890

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You have a good idea what needs to be done. Keep on track by not letting others take up your valuable time. Just say "no" when you have to.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of themselves. Do for you first so you won't be so run down. When you're happy everyone's happy.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20)
Your best friend might not be your best, if you don't find time to go out and play. Find out what is important, then throw out the rest, people too.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)
Your feelings are right on track. Keep a slow and steady pace. Remember, what you think is what you'll get in the long run. Think Rich & Healthy.

Taurus (April - May 20)
This year will be just like this last year, until you decide to do something different. You have all the answers, so get out there and make a difference.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
Don't chase your tail and feel like you're going in circles because of other people. Stop, look, and find out what you're going to do different this year.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)
If you are upset with something, or someone, then you have to speak up. Don't assume they know what you're going through, they can't right now.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)
This year could be the best ever, when it comes to money. Hope that's enough, because love won't be that easy. You have to give what you want in return.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)
A great year to do what needs to be done, and also what you want done. You will tie up old loose ends, and change the way you think and feel about others.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)
Get your running shoes on, because you're in for the run of your life. Get ready, get set, go baby go... You only thought last year was wild, just wait.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You have a great plan to do something that could make a difference in your life, as well as others. Keep secrets to yourself. Plan ahead before you spend.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
This could be your year, once you decide to make it your own. Make notes each day of what you want to accomplish. This is it, "Go for the Gold."

Lincoln County News

USPS 313460

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ruth hammond and peter aguilar
co-publishers

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Sheriff's Report

The following information was taken from dispatch records in the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo. THE NEWS would like to thank all the hard work-

ing, concerned county emergency dispatchers, who must respond to all sorts of calls, including the most intense. THE NEWS would also like to thank those who respond to those calls—sheriffs of-

ficers, administrative staff and elected officials, volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and their ambulances, volunteer search and rescue, municipal police,

state police—for your service to the county in 2002.

December 9

8:45 a.m. pit bull bit neighbor's dog at location on Cedar Rd. in Sun Valley.

12:54 p.m. deputy advised he was at a domestic at a location in Ruidoso.

1:41 p.m. suspicious person at trailer park east of Ruidoso Downs.

2:48 p.m. anonymous caller reported animal neglect at trailer park east of Ruidoso Downs. A dog was on a three foot chain, had no flap on its dog house and was shivering. Animal control officer (ACO) was assigned.

5:55 p.m. request for ambulance at the Lincoln County Detention Center (LCDC) for 26 year old male with chest pains. Carrizozo ambulance transported to Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC).

6:30 p.m. harassment. An

individual at the detention center reported a woman called her regarding a return inmate who kept calling the woman, harassing and threatening her and she's afraid of him. The caller said there was supposed to be a warrant for the inmate, but none was found when that was checked. A deputy was assigned.

6:41 p.m. suspicious vehicle at mile marker 147 on Highway 54. An 18 wheeler and small moving van had been at the end of her driveway for several hours. The responding deputy advised the caller there was a blow out and everything was okay. The caller who had a scanner said she copied the message and advised the deputy she appreciated the sheriff's office for sending someone out.

December 10

7:34 a.m. vandalism at location on Highway 70 just east of Ruidoso Downs.

11:50 a.m. assault at location on Highway 70 at Palo Verde.

3:44 p.m. theft at business location on corner of Highway 48 and Enchanted Forest.

8:38 p.m. fire alarm at theater on Airport Road. Bonito Fire Dept. was paged but the alarm company cancelled the call.

10:03 p.m. larceny/stolen property at location on Reynolds Drive.

December 11

8:37 p.m. request for ambulance at location on old Fort Stanton Road for respiratory patient. Ruidoso Advanced Life Support (RALS) Med 1 ambulance responded.

11:10 a.m. follow up to burglary at location on Reynolds drive.

3:17 p.m. cattle loose on Sunrise Drive in Alto. ACO responded and advised there were about 10 head, the gate was open and the fence down. ACO advised he herded the cattle back into a pasture and had contacted the livestock inspector.

7:12 p.m. attempt to locate on Highway 54. A caller advised that an extra long motor home without license plate or lights was northbound on Highway 54 and the vehicle almost ran into him. State police was contacted but no officers were available, so deputy responded but was unable to locate that vehicle, but he found another one.

7:38 p.m. cattle in roadway at mile marker 92 on Highway 380 in Lincoln area. Responding deputy made no contact with the cattle.

7:48 p.m. spot lighting at Rio Hondo Ranch, caller could hear shooting. State police first called, but that was cancelled and Game and Fish Dept. was notified.

8 p.m. lost dog in Loma Grande, two year old St. Bernard, named Ginger. ACO notified.

10:41 p.m. request for ambulance for infant having difficulty breathing at trailer park. Med 1 responded.

December 12

4:44 p.m. request for ambulance for unresponsive 25 year old woman at trailer park. Med 1 transported to LCMC. 10:52 p.m. request for ambulance for diabetic wife at location on Jarrat Drive. Med 1 transported to LCMC.

December 13
4:25 a.m. 911 call reporting domestic at trailer park, husband was abusing her physically and verbally. State police, deputy and Ruidoso Downs police officer responded.

8:50 a.m. request for deputy for civil standby at location in Hondo so caller could recover property.

12 noon dumping of solid waste at campground off Highway 70 east of Ruidoso Downs.

8:51 p.m. 911 report of vehicle vs. elk at mile marker 75 on Highway 380, requested deputy for report.

December 14

12:44 p.m. request for ambulance at ski area for 50 year old male with dislocated shoulder. Med 1 transported to LCMC.

4:33 p.m. accident without injuries on CO22 B near Capitan, the caller advised that she had driven her car into a pond and the car was 90 percent submerged.

December 15

10:19 a.m. request for ambulance at location on Cora Dutton Rd. Med 1 transported to LCMC.

1:52 p.m. cattle in roadway at mile marker 266 on Highway 70. Possible owners were called, deputy responded but found no cattle.

5:12 p.m. possible fire at mile marker 286 on Highway 70. Hondo Fire Dept. responded but found no fire.

5:12 p.m. accident without injuries. Deputy responded as state police were unavailable.

5:19 p.m. accident gun shot. The caller advised they were on route to the hospital with his buddy who was accidentally shot by a 42 cal. gun. The caller was advised to put pressure on the wound, then the cell phone call cut out.

(SEE PAGE 7)

C'zozo Trustees

(Cont. from P. 1)

\$400. Commercial water connection fees will be \$400 for the three-quarter inch meter, \$450 for the one inch meter, \$600 for a one and a half inch meter and \$750 for a two inch meter.

Proposed changes in the monthly water service rates include a change to give each residential customer a minimum of 4,000 gallons per month at \$14.50 per month. Plus any additional water used will be charged \$2.75 per one thousand gallons. Each commercial customer will be charged \$15.50 a month for the first 4,000 gallons used and \$2.75 per one thousand gallons used after the minimum.

Proposed changes in the monthly sewer rates include an \$11 a month fee for all water customers; and a \$350 connection fee for each connection.

Trustees are seeking the water and sewer rate increases to help pay for improvements to the water and sewer facilities.

Copies of the proposed ordinances concerning the water and sewer fees are available at the Carrizozo Town Office in Carrizozo Rec. Center.



Bear Down

Regardless of the season, it's important to answer the call of the wild.

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County to Help With

(Continued from Page 2)

ting, and the completed picture. The emphasis of the series is for visual presentation instead of text.

Spots will be aired four times a day, seven days a week on each of the 12 cable channels, with times varying. Graphic ads for the FireWise program will be aired 60 times a day on Channel 11 (public information) and the 15 minute video presentations used at the FireWise workshops will also be aired.

Commissioners received a packet of information about the Ruidoso FireWise program for 2003, prepared by Delaco who presented the same information to the Ruidoso Village Council. Some of the Ruidoso FireWise information will be specific on how Ruidoso residents are to implement their responsibility with regard to the "Community Forest Management Plan" mandates in the Ruidoso forestry ordinances. The information will be available to village residents on paper, hard copy or through the Village website, forestry department link. All of the information will be available in English or Spanish.

The FireWise information will also be provided to realtors, insurance companies, home building and other appropriate businesses. Copies of the information will be available at the public library and senior centers as well as Ruidoso Village Hall.

Some of the information in the FireWise packet included the proposed Firesmart Neighborhood Program, a critical element within the Ruidoso Community Forest Management Plan. Ruidoso Fire Department will be charged with management of the program that will be patterned after the national firewise commu-

nities programs. The main focus for the neighborhood program will be the volunteer "block captains". These captains will be trained and encouraged to get neighborhood members willing to work together to achieve village ordinance compliance. The village will coordinate public recognition with a Community Award Program for cooperating neighborhoods.

In addition to written FireWise information texts, residents will have the opportunity to borrow a one-hour video tape of ground fire management, how-to techniques and recent history of how other communities in New Mexico deal with fire prevention. Also the village plans to present a regular schedule of mini workshops for realtors, businesses, schools, civic

groups, church groups and village departments to raise public awareness of the FireWise program.

When county commissioners discussed the cooperative effort, Commissioner Bill Schwetzmann asked if the funding for the spots could come from lodgers taxes. Stewart said it would be close in whether it would qualify. County attorney Alan Morel said it would be a "grey area" if the FireWise spots would qualify for lodgers taxes which are intended to support tourism related events and information. Stewart said there is enough funding in the county's general fund for commissioners' professional services. With that, commissioners unanimously approved the county helping pay the cost to provide the informational television spots.

More Sheriff's Report

(Continued from Page 5)

Med. 1 was notified and advised the responding deputy to be at LCMC, and have another deputy go to Eagle Creek II to secure the scene.

11:46 p.m. shots fired in area of mile marker 286 on Highway 70. The caller advised they could hear arguing and there were shots fired. A deputy and state police responded.

7:59 p.m. vandalism/ slashed tires at restaurant at mile marker 283 on Highway 70.

December 16
7:15 a.m. vicious dog at location on Valley View.
8:12 a.m. 911 call from subject in Lincoln.

11 a.m. request for deputy to make report of lost cell phone in Carrizozo.

11:39 a.m. request for deputy at trailer park east of Ruidoso Downs.

2:03 p.m. request for am-

bulance for juvenile male who passed out at the sheriff's office. Carrizozo ambulance responded but was refused.

3:13 p.m. request for ambulance at clinic in Capitan for man who was not breathing. CPR was initiated but the Office of Medical Investigator (OMI) was called and the funeral home notified.

3:26 p.m. Texas caller requested welfare check of daughter who lives in Nogal Canyon. Responding deputy advised the phone company repaired the daughter's phone and all was okay.

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OLD LINCOLN TOWN

by Rosalie Dunlap

By the time you read this in the paper we will be in the new year of 2003. Where did the past year go? It has been a roller coaster ride for so many. So many friends and family have passed on, new babies have been born and new neighbors have moved into the area. There have been additions to homes and businesses. The horse operation east of Hattie's bridge have put in an extensive fencing for the horses, and the new owner of the Vorwick house has put up a nice yard fence.

The Christmas season was one of heavy, wet snow and wind. Lincoln received close to 12 inches of wet snow. The church attendance was low as everyone was snowed in. The wind prevented the lighting of the farlitos after three tries. This only makes the second time they were unable to light the farlitos due to the wind.

There were several open houses held during the season. Everyone enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Our sympathies to Marilyn Burchett and her family. Her mother passed away just before Christmas. Nancy Barone also lost her mother. She lived in Ohio.

Francis and Joe Gallegos had a houseful of family over the holidays.

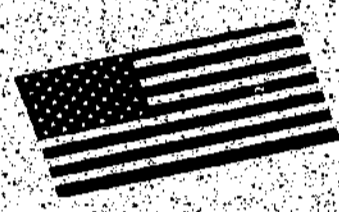
Reg and Peg Ritchie had Peg's mother, Betty Schultz, as their house guest during the holidays. We all thoroughly enjoyed her.

The Dunlap's spent their Christmas in Portland, TX with their daughter and family, Lois, David and sons Scott and Daniel. It was cloudy and warm. We came home early when we heard of the snow. We have a leaking roof and wanted to get home before the "community room"

was flooded. As soon as the weather warms up we will get it replaced.

Congratulations to Angie Provine and Nancy Knight. Angie has had a couple of write-ups on her Pioneer Woman of the Year Award and her famous fours. Nancy Knight was installed in the New Mexico 4-H Hall of Fame. The recognition party and 4-H annual award night was canceled due to the first snowstorm.

Our daughter-in-law had surgery on her hip the first part of December. Due to problems with it slipping out of place she had to have it redone. She spent 26 days in the Brockton MA Hospital.



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275 acres. Would divide 6 miles north of Tinnie, Hwy. 368. One mile of highway frontage. Make offer. Will carry note.
972-723-2643
4tc/12/12-19-26, 1/02

ATTENTION
Capitan Public Library has received an extensive collection of Civil War books. If you are interested in purchasing any of these books, please call the library or come by. The library is located at 101 E. 2nd Street.
Phone 354-3035
1tc/12-9

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Lincoln County is now accepting applications for one OPERATOR III with the Lincoln County Road Department. Applicant(s) must have five (5) years working knowledge in the operation of a motorgrader and minor maintenance of light and heavy equipment; ability to operate all construction equipment. Applicant(s) must have a clean driving record; no felony convictions; and must possess a valid New Mexico Class A Commercial Driver's License. Obtain application and job description at the Lincoln County Manager's Office in Carrizozo or by calling 505/648-2385. The last day to apply for this position is Friday, January 10, 2003 at 5:00 P.M. LINCOLN COUNTY, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH ADA REQUIREMENTS, TITLE II-A.
1tc/12/2

HORSE PROPERTY (32) acres, home, barn, workshop, tackshop, fruit trees, (2) good wells. \$243,900. Vicki at United Country. 505-585-4993
3tp/12/19-26/1-2

NEED someone experienced in searching the Lincoln County Clerk's Real Estate records, please call 505-232-3555.
1tc/12/2

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SHUR SAVING Winter Bargains

<p>SHUR SAVING PURE SUGAR GRANULATED 4 LB. BAG</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING SALTINES 16 OZ. BOX</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING ASSORTED FLAVORS SANDWICH COOKIES 32 OZ. PKG.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING EVAPORATED MILK 12 OZ. CAN</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING CORN OR VEGETABLE COOKING OIL 48 OZ. BTL.</p>
<p>SHUR SAVING STRAWBERRY PRESERVES 32 OZ. JAR</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING BLEACH GALLON</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING GRAPE JELLY 32 OZ. JAR</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING PANCAKE SYRUP 24 OZ. BTL.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING DILL SLICES 32 OZ. JAR</p>
<p>SHUR SAVING WIDE EGG NOODLES 16 OZ. PKG.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING TRASH BAGS 20 CT. BOX</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING TALL KITCHEN BAGS 30 CT. BOX</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING PAPER NAPKINS 250 CT. PKG.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING FOAM PLATES 40 CT. PKG.</p>
<p>SHUR SAVING PEANUT BUTTER 16 OZ. JAR</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING DISH DETERGENT 40 OZ. BTL.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING FABRIC SOFTENER GALLON</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING DRYER SHEETS 40 CT. BOX</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING APPLE SAUCE 25 OZ. JAR</p>
<p>SHUR SAVING CHOCOLATE SYRUP 24 OZ. SQUEEZE BTL.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING BAKING CHIPS 12 OZ. PKG.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING SALT 28 OZ. CTN.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING DOG FOOD CHICKEN FLAVOR 13.2 OZ. CAN</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING DOG FOOD BEEF FLAVOR 13.2 OZ. CAN</p>

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<p>SHUR SAVING CHILLED ORANGE JUICE GALLON</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING ENGLISH MUFFINS 1 CT. PKG.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING DINNER Mac & Cheese 7.25 OZ. BOX</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING LONG GRAIN RICE 2 LB. BAG</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING ELBOW MACARONI OR LONG SPAGHETTI 32 OZ. BAG</p>

<p>SHUR SAVING F.A.C. COFFEE 10.5 OZ. CAN</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING CANNED VEGETABLES 14 TO 15.2 OZ. CAN</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING CHERRY TOMATOES PINT CARTON</p>
<p>SHUR SAVING PAPER TOWELS 2 PLY 2 ROLL PKG.</p>	<p>SHUR SAVING BATHROOM TISSUE 4 ROLL PKG.</p>	<p>RED SEEDLESS GRAPES 2 LBS.</p>

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