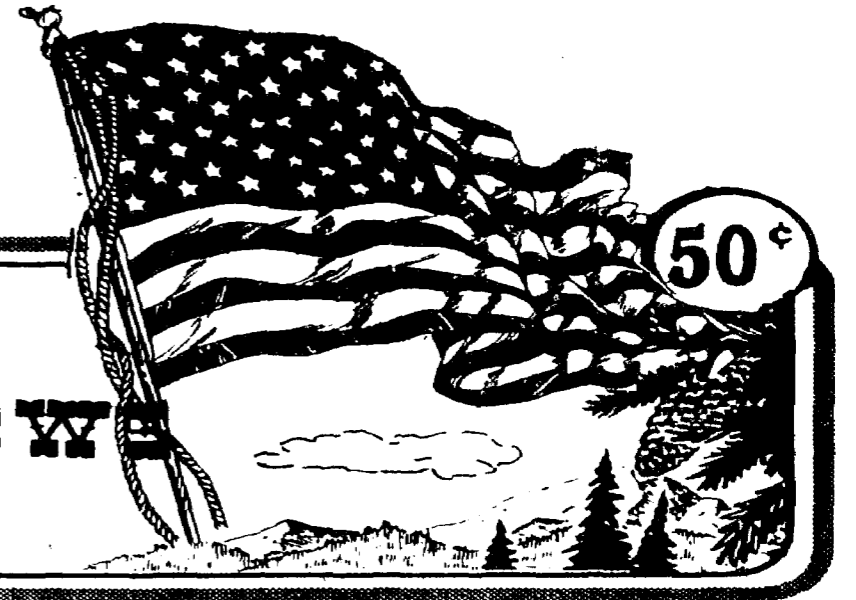


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VOLUME # 98, NUMBER 52

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2003

CARRIZO, NM 88301

Merry Christmas



To all, we extend warm and happy greetings in the spirit of this most joyous season.

It's our privilege to be a part of this fine community and we sincerely hope to continue serving our friends and neighbors in and around Lincoln County in every way possible!

**Lincoln County News
and Staff**

County OKs Hospital Supplement Payment

By Doris Cherry

Some \$2.5 million a year in charity care given at Lincoln County Medical Center will be offset by county funds contributed to the state Sole Community Provider program which returns three dollars to every county dollar.

At the December 16 county commission meeting in the courthouse in Carrizozo, Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) administrator Jim Gibson requested the county budget \$428,424 as its 2004-2005 sole community provider payment. The payment is matched three to one with federal dollars.

Gibson said the sole community provider payment is especially important for health care delivery as it is the only indigent program LCMC does with the county. (LCMC does not receive any of the county Indigent Health Care funds which are derived from a special gross receipt tax.)

"It allows us to keep our prices lower at the hospital," Gibson added.

Gibson in a letter to county manager Tom Stewart wrote that the NM Medical Assistance Division in Santa Fe requires the county to annually budget for the Sole Community Provider payments for the coming fiscal year which begins July 1, 2004. "For 2004-2005 our base is \$1,684,056," Gibson wrote. Using that amount, the county's approximate quarterly payment which is taken from the hospital mill levy funds, would be about \$107,106 per quarter.

Without the Sole Community Provider payment the hospital would have about \$2.6 million a year in bad debt, Gibson added. "If we take away the Sole Community Provider payment we would have to raise rates by about \$7 million," Gibson said. "So this is a real savings to the people of Lincoln County."

County commissioner Maury St. John was concerned the sole community provider payment has increased every year since 2001. Gibson said in the past New Mexico was largely forgotten by the feds. "We had not gotten our fair share," he added. "Instead it went to states like Louisiana. Five or six years ago the federal government recognized this error so New Mexico has gained over the last four or five years," Gibson said. He said also there have been improvements to the formula that determines the distribution of the payments based on the poverty level and insurance coverage of residents. "New

(SEE PAGE 6B)

County Manager's Report

Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart gave the following report to the Lincoln County Commissioners at their meeting Tuesday, December 16 in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo. County commissioner Leo Martinez was absent because he was attending the funeral of his mother in California.

Ruidoso Downs Annexation

Municipal boundary commission meeting was October 23, at Ruidoso Downs City Hall. As a reminder the next municipal boundary commission was set for 10 a.m. December 18 at Ruidoso Downs city hall. (The boundary commission unanimously approved the annexation. See related article.)

Progress on Stevens Tower for Hondo Valley Communications

The saga of the Tower from Hell continues. The lower two sections were erected by crane on November 19. Unfortunately the crane experienced hydraulic failure on its way back down the hill and was rammed into the side of the mountain. The leased crane blocked the access road for

two weeks. The crane was removed and installation operations are now continuing. All systems are analog and will be for the foreseeable future.

Annual Visit of State Legislators

Fony Elias with South-eastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD) is setting up a visit with the state legislators at 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 30 in the county commission chambers. Aside from our capital outlay projects, and since it is a short session in January, we should focus on supporting funding for the Fort Stanton Development Commission and the adverse attorney general opinion about the Indigent Health Care Act.

Ruidoso Downs Auction of Surplus Equipment

The auction of county equipment was held at the Ruidoso Downs road yard on November 22. Estimated revenue after commission for the auction was paid is estimated at \$9,000.

Attorney Contract Expires

For the information of the board of commissioners, the county attorney's contract expires February 17. We have prepared and issued an rfp for legal services which

will be awarded by the commissioners at the January 22 meeting.

Detention Center Disturbance

On December 3, at about 3 p.m. there was a disturbance in the E Pod of the detention center. The disturbance involved 29 prisoners and three pepper spray grenades were used. The damage to the facility was a broken pane of glass. One guard was taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure for chest pains, but was released an hour after arrival. The prisoners involved were all locals and they will remain in lock down for 30 days.

Changes of Detention Center Administration

Ray Alvarez, detention center administrator, has been promoted and will be leaving to be administrator at Correction Systems Inc. operation in Edinburg, TX. His last day at Lincoln County Detention Center (L.C.D.C.) will be January 16. Ron Lytle has been employed at L.C.D.C. administrator effective January 18. He currently is employed as warden at the NM Corrections Facility in Los Lunas, but will be retiring. Lytle previously worked with Sheriff Tom Sullivan and he knows the state.

Handicap Parking at the New Public Health Facility

Village of Ruidoso planning officer Charles Rennick mounted a campaign to ensure that his interpretation of ADA requirements were met on parking for the county's new public health facility in Ruidoso (next to Ruidoso public library near Ruidoso City Hall). As a result the architect is working on the changes which will add a parking space and cost the county approximately \$25,000 in additional costs for the facility.

Stewart reported. County commissioner Earl Hobbs said his frustration is the \$25,000 for a parking space. Stewart said the cost is due to what it will take to make the ADA parking and sidewalk work because the grade of the parking lot had to be changed and the parking lot repaved. Stewart said the requirements are three ADA spaces for every 12 spaces in the parking lot, and there are a total of 32 spaces in the entire parking lots around the county facility.

"I am appreciative of ADA," said Hobbs. "But people need to realize this causes a great deal of problems." Doris Cherry, chair of the Governor's Committee on the Concerns of the Handicapped, said Rennick contacted her about help with the project and she referred him to the committee architect in the committee office in Santa Fe. Cherry expressed concern the county could argue over ADA parking spaces at a health facility that will most likely serve disabled people.

County commission chair Rex Wilson said he understood Cherry's allegiance to Rennick. Cherry replied that she had no allegiance to Rennick, rather her allegiance was to the disabled community that deserves to have access to the new public health facility. Cherry also asked why the county did not consider a different location when the problems with the site were encountered. She also recommended the county consider another architect who would not forget ADA requirements in the original plans.

Fort Stanton Development Commission Meeting
Fort Stanton Development Commission had its third meeting on December 6. County commissioner and Fort Stanton commission member Maury St. John reported they had a very good meeting and established some priorities for legislative funding requests. The Fort Stanton commission will request \$517,500 to stabilize roofs and windows at Fort Stanton, and \$232,500 to update and remodel the administration building to expand the museum, \$201,000 to remodel the old canteen building for public use because the building has ADA restrooms and can be used as a gift shop for the museum. St. John said Fort Stanton Inc. has been approached by individuals who would like to do catering out of the canteen for visitors to the museum. The next meeting of the development commission is 10 a.m. Saturday, January 3.

Wildland Urban Interface Clearing
Greg Shaver is currently working 59 projects and has 82 closed out for a total of

141 land owner projects. The county has \$29,000 available out of the \$516,000 to be committed to additional projects. The county has received reimbursement in the amount of \$103,675 so far for the closed project with an additional \$74,260 in the works for completed projects. Stewart said some of the applicants have dropped out of the program giving an opportunity for other land owners to apply for the funding. Stewart urged land owners in the forested areas around Ruidoso to apply for the forest thinning projects. Applications are available from the New Mexico State Forestry office in Capitan at 354-2231.

Joe Skeen Memorial Highway Dedication

At 2:30 p.m. December 17, at mile marker 300 at Riverside on Highway 70, the highway was named in a dedication ceremony, the Joe Skeen Memorial Highway.

Presbyterian Blue Cross Coverage

The county received a letter from Presbyterian Healthcare Services that indicates the county employees will be covered by Blue Cross when receiving treatment in the Albuquerque facilities after December 31. This was a concern earlier in the year when PHS announced it would not have a contract for services for Blue Cross members residing in the Albuquerque area after December 31. "Please note

(SEE PAGE 6B)

Hi Carrizozo!
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!
Misty and Marilyn

Thank You Card

We want to thank everyone for the food, flowers, cards, calls, visits and caring during this time.

**The family of
Ramon L. Najar**

Merry Christmas!

To All The Great Folks in Carrizozo and the Surrounding Area.

We will hold **OPEN HOUSE** on Christmas Eve during the Luminaria Tour with **FREE Hot Apple Cider, Coffee & Cookies.** Stop by and visit, warm up and enjoy yourself.

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County Okays Beer License For Bonito Cafe'

by Doris Cherry

Lincoln County Commissioners at their meeting December 16 approved a beer and wine license for Bonito Falls Cafe located at 777 Bonito Lake Road.

Meeting in their chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, county commissioners held a public hearing on the new beer and wine license application, as required by state law. There were no objections filed with the county prior to the hearing, and no objections were voiced during the hearing held early in the regular meeting.

County attorney Alan Morel said it appeared the applicant, Terry L. Coe, provided all the information required on the liquor license application, such as distance to schools and churches. Dustin Medley representative for Coe, said the closest church is 4.5 miles in Angus and the nearest school is 12 miles.

County commissioner Maury St. John asked if they would sell package liquor or if the beer and wine is only with dinner. Medley said it is just a beer and wine license. "You have to eat to drink," Medley said. "That's part of the deal."

County commissioner Earl Hobbs asked about Coe and Medley said he was a partner with Coe, in his company T.L.C. Medley said the restaurant is actually owned by Kathryn Griffin.

County commission chair Rex Wilson questioned several changes and strike outs noted on the application. Medley said the changes were made by the hearing officer for the New Mexico Dept. of Regulation and

Licensing Department of the Alcohol and Gaming Division who reviewed the beer and wine application.

County commissioners voted 3 to 1 with St. John voting no, in favor of the application. County commissioner Leo Martinez was absent attending his mother's funeral in California.

County commissioners also: --Unanimously accepted the utility easement and dedication of a portion of County Road C-006 which is about three miles north of Capitan and goes to the Lone Tree Bible Ranch. County manager Alan Morel recommended commissioners accept the road and right of way since the county has maintained the road for years and it has been considered a county road by prescriptive use. The road is 65 feet wide.

--Approved appointment of Frank Higgins, Bob Johnson and Harry Gebertz to the Lincoln County-Ruidoso Extraterritorial Zoning Commission. County commissioner Earl Hobbs appointed Gebertz to replace Terri Sodd who had requested to be reappointed. Hobbs said Gebertz is a retired attorney who lives in Alto. THE NEWS commented that with the removal of Sodd it leaves only one woman on the seven person board. County commission chair Rex Wilson said at one time it was a philosophy of the county commission to not appoint attorneys to any boards, but the county broke that tradition when Chay Rennick (Ruidoso attorney) was appointed to the planning commission.

--Reaffirmed county com-

missioner Leo Martinez's appointment of Cliff Dickerson to the Lincoln Historic Preservation Board.

--Authorized the county attorney to schedule public hearings on changes to the county fire ordinance to reflect new changes in the state rules since the NM Environment Department will no longer issue clean air permits for burning. "There will be no permit process unless the county does it," Morel said.

--Authorized Morel to schedule public hearing on proposed changes on the Lincoln Historic Preservation Ordinance for the evening of Thursday, January 8 in Lincoln.

--Heard Lincoln resident Ralph Dunlap request that

when the designs for improvements to Highway 380 through Lincoln are being considered that the shoulders through the historic district remain grass instead of pavement because that has been found to slow motorists. Dunlap said paved turn outs could be designed for sight seers. Lincoln Historic Preservation Board member Sandra Smith said the board has a committee to work with the highway department to develop designs that improve safety while protecting the historic aspects of the district.

--Heard Oscura citizen Jerry Carroll remind everyone that the reason we celebrate the upcoming Christmas holiday is Jesus Christ our Savior.

TODAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
--Lincoln County News publishes today to allow staff to celebrate Christmas. Office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday.

--LCSWA will empty all poly carts in Carrizozo today, (a day early because of the holidays.)
--LCSWA will empty poly carts in areas north of Smokey Bear Blvd. in Capitan (a day early because of the holidays.)
--Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce Christmas Lighting Contest judging to take place between 7 and 8 p.m. tonight. No entry required, just have lights on.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 & 25, CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS
--Ruidoso Village Hall closed; Capitan Village Hall closed; Lincoln County Courthouse closed; Carrizozo Town Hall will close at noon on Wednesday and on Christmas.
--Volunteers needed to help put out luminarias for Carrizozo Luminaria display. Meet at fire station at 9 a.m. to set out bags. Lighting begins at 4 p.m.
--Carrizozo Luminaria display begins at dusk.
--Christmas Eve Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Corona; 8 p.m. Sacred Heart in Capitan; 10 p.m. in San Juan church in Lincoln; Midnight at Santa Rita Church in Carrizozo.

--Angus Church of the Nazarene candlelight Christmas Eve service 6 p.m. at the church located on State Road 48 in Angus.
--Christmas Mass at 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart in Capitan and at 11 a.m. at Santa Rita in Carrizozo.
--Pick up of expended luminaria bags begins at 9 a.m. by Carrizozo Yacht club members. Anyone wishing to help is invited to do so.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
--Ruidoso Village Hall, Lincoln County Courthouse will be open.
--Carrizozo Town Hall closed for the holiday; Capitan village hall always closed on Fridays.
--LCSWA empties poly carts in Capitan areas (except those north of Smokey Bear Blvd. which were emptied Tuesday.)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29
--Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority (LCSWA) will pick up poly carts in all of Ruidoso Downs today, a change due to the holiday.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30
--LCSWA will empty poly carts in all of Carrizozo and all poly carts north of Smokey Bear Blvd. in Capitan today.
--Lincoln County News publishes today, early for the New Year's Holiday. All copy and advertising must be submitted to by Sunday, December 28 at 5 p.m.
--Legislative Roundtable meeting 10 a.m. Lincoln County Commission chambers in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo. Officials from the county, municipalities, schools and other groups to present requests to state legislators.
--Ruidoso Village Council regular meeting cancelled because of the holidays.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
--LCSWA will empty poly carts in the remainder of Capitan today.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2004
--All public offices, including post offices, banks, federal, state, county and municipal offices closed for the holiday.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2
--County and municipal offices open, except Capitan village hall which is always closed on Fridays.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5
--School resumes in all districts in the county.
--Capitan Chamber of Commerce meets at 8:30 a.m. at the chamber building on Second Street.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6
--Filing date for candidates for municipal elections in March. Candidates must file with their respective municipal clerk between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
--Lincoln County Public Land Use and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee (PLURAC) meets at 9 a.m. in the county commission chambers in the courthouse in Carrizozo for a regular session.
--Free parenting classes begin at 5:30 p.m. at Carrizozo Recreation Center. No charge. Call Danny Watkins, Carrizozo School counselor at 648-2346 to register.

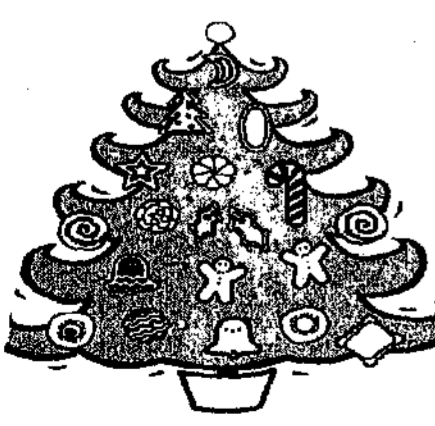
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THOUGHTS

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Have A Very Merry Day

By Ruth Hammond

Here it is two days before Christmas and children are waiting anxiously for the great day. Letters to Santa are in this issue of *The News*. These letters give an insight into what children think, quite serious at times. Must admit a few people are not familiar with some of the brand names the children requested. Years ago boys would ask for a ball and bat and maybe a mitt and girls would ask for dolls. Very different from requests made this year for electronic things.

Older people may not understand some of the new brand names children request. Years ago children didn't care what company made dolls or trucks or checker sets. Many of the letters today ask for specific brand items. And electronics are requested more often by younger children. That may be the most confusing thing to some older people because they have problems with getting the VCR to operate while really young children are asking for CD burners and players. Many people don't know what a CD burner is or what it's for.

Little children today can program a VCR while older people have to read the manual to find out how to turn it on. Little children today can carry on conversations while they are listening to loud music but older people insist they can concentrate on only one thing at a time. Little children today don't understand that older people lived not that long ago but their life styles were extremely different from the way people live today. Older people hung clothes out on clothes lines and youngsters today don't know what clothes pins are. Older people walked instead of riding most of the time and youngsters today expect someone to drive them. Older people did many things different from today's children, but there are happy mediums. Christmas is one of the best.

If you remember back to your very best Christmas, it probably wasn't about how much money was spent or how many gifts you received. You probably remember it because it was special or made you feel special in some way. And special feelings are important. Our wish is for each of you to have special feelings this Christmas to remember forever.

Don't expect too much and don't do too much and don't eat too much and it might help make this one of your best Christmas holidays. If loved ones are far away, take time to remember the good times together. It is those memories that are important, not making mad dashes to get somewhere and being too tired to enjoy visiting with those you care about.

Always remember the true meaning of Christmas. If you prefer going to a religious service, do it. If your preference is to remember Christmas privately, do it. If you prefer to be alone, do it. If you prefer to be with others, they are there.

Yuletide greetings and telling everyone you see "Merry Christmas" may help you appreciate this special season. Thanksgiving was a few weeks ago, but Christmas is a time we should also give thanks, not for gifts received but for Christmas. Can you imagine what it would be like without Christmas? Maybe you will agree that none of us want to know. Be safe, be happy and have a Merry Christmas.

King Snow & Old Man Winter: Sandman Story

by Martha Martin

"Such a good time as I've had this winter," said King Snow to Old Man Winter.

"Yes, I've had a splendid time!

"In the first place the children have made a finer snow man than I have even seen. And that is saying a good deal. For in my day you will admit I've seen a good many handsome snow men."

"I should say you had," said Old Man Winter. "Yes, if you think they have been particularly fine this year they have been."

"You, know what you're talking about and no mistake!"

"Well, I think I do," said King Snow, "and I do not think it is conceited of me to say so."

"Certainly not, certainly not," said Old Man Winter.

"I saw some wonderful snow men in village yards, in parks, in the country, and even in the cities."

"Perhaps you'd think that in the cities they wouldn't be able to make nice snow men, but I saw some beautiful ones."

"You know that last time Old Blizzard Boy and I had such fun?"

"I remember it well," said Old Man Winter, "I was on hand too."

"Of course you were," said King Snow.

"Well," continued King Snow, "there were enormous snow banks in the cities, and in one city I saw all sorts of things done with these snow banks."

"There were fine houses built -- and one was so large that it had a real chair right in one of its rooms!"

"It was a magnificent house."

"Then I saw shops made along some of these banks of snow -- snow shops and snowballs on snow counters."

"That was a magnificent sight! A simply magnificent sight."

"But, as I say, the snow men were best of all. Some of the children had poured water over their snow men at night time and they had frozen and were strong, substantial looking snow gentlemen."

"Yes, it has been a nice winter," said Old Man Winter. "Of course I think the more wintry it is the nicer it is."

(SEE PAGE 5A)



INSIDE THE CAPITOL

by Jay Miller

SANTA FE -- You'll be glad to know that Billy the Kid now has a voice. That was decided, on a temporary basis, by Henry Quintero, a District Court judge in Silver City. And, as you might expect, Billy immediately began talking.

The essence of Billy's comments to the court, through his attorney Bill Robins, was that he supports the exhumation of his mother. The town of Silver City says it has the right to make that determination since it owns the cemetery where Catherine Antrim likely is buried. Billy says only heirs have the right to decide on an exhumation and he wants her dug up.

Judge Quintero has set a hearing on the matter for January 27 and will decide at that time whether Billy can participate and whether it is proper for Gov. Bill Richardson to appoint a lawyer for him. Billy said the deceased always have an interest in what occurred to them.

Adam Baker, representing Silver City said a lawyer can't just walk into a court without a client and start presenting evidence, Billy said, watch what you're saying there, pardner.

Parties in this theater of the absurd are the petitioners, Village of Capitan mayor and Sheriffs Tom Sullivan and Gary Graves of Lincoln and DeBaca Counties. They are represented by Sherry Tippett, a Silver City attorney, who formerly was an assistant Santa Fe city attorney and the first Green elected to the Santa Fe School Board. She also served a stint as attorney for the town of Silver City.

The petitioners want to dig up Catherine Antrim and take DNA samples to compare with people who claim to be Billy the Kid. They are running into a heap of trouble because none of the communities where bodies are allegedly buried want to turn over the remains.

Why shouldn't these communities want to cooperate with the interests of history and science? Silver City says because it's merely a publicity stunt. Fort Sumner, where Billy has a grave, agrees. Hico, Texas and Prescott,

Arizona, where pretenders are claimed to be buried haven't been heard from, but are certain to oppose.

And they all likely are worried because of the high probability there won't be a DNA match. Even if Billy was shot by Pat Garrett and is buried in Fort Sumner as history records, the DNA are unlikely to match because the passage of over 120 years destroys most anything that can be tested. And the movement of Billy's and his mother's graves during that period lessens the possibility that bodies are where they should be.

Judge Quintero allowed Silver City to intervene in the petition for exhumation because it is trustee of Memory Lane Cemetery, where Antrim is buried. The town also says it has an historical interest to protect. Tippett says that argument isn't valid because no attempt was made to give the grave historical designation before the petition for exhumation was entered.

All this fussing over grave robbing and DNA isn't likely to get anywhere. The judge has told attorneys for all sides that he still is troubled that there is no legitimate interest to be served by the exhumation and an investigation that will not lead to charges being filed against anyone.

Historian Dave Clary of Roswell suggests a much better solution than DNA matching to decide whether Brushy Bill in Hico, Texas was the real Billy. Handwriting analysis was successfully used in the case of a Jesse James pretender several years ago.

Billy the Kid wrote several letters from the Santa Fe jail to Gov. Lew Wallace begging him to follow through with his promise for a pardon. Before his death in 1950, Brushy Bill wrote letters to Gov. Tom Mabry requesting him to issue the pardon. Wallace never delivered on. That correspondence to both Wallace and Mabry should be in the state archives and it would be much easier, cheaper and accurate that digging up bodies for old DNA.



PSYCHIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Psychic Judith Christopher Ruidoso NM
<http://www.ruidoso.net/psychic>
 e-mail: judithchristopher@hotmail.com
 (505) 257-2996

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) This is your time to shine. Start your new year early by doing what you have been dreaming about for a long time. Do not get into a hurry. Be Happy.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Your mind, body & soul are out of sorts. Take the time to get the gang all back together, so you can do what needs to be done, the right way, your way.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20) Money, money money. You can achieve all this once you let go of it! Try not to control people, places and things. Have faith that it will come to you.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Not now, but later, you will have to make up your mind once and for all. Speak with your heart and things will come your way like never before.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Get ready, get set, Stop! You're not ready! Plan ahead, or what you want to happen will only get mixed up in the mess you already have. Start over.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) You'll see in time that you have waited long enough to get what you really want. Start planning to make your dreams come true for you and your loved ones.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Oh yeah! It is the time to be happy and the time to understand how others really look at what you're bringing to the table of life. Rejoice in the love.

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) This could be a really happy time in your life because for once you really know what you want and what you want out of your life. Clean out the closets.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22) A new love could come your way. Love of a new job, a new place to live, a new outlook on life, if that's what you want to happen.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22) What is up might soon be down, so go with the flow of life. You'll make sure all your little ducks are in a row, before starting a new way of life.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) You are about to encounter something you really don't want to do, but will learn a special lesson once you get through it. Attitude is the key.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) It's not as bad as it seems. Your feelings are just a little touchy about things you can't control. Walk away, or just get by until it all leaves. Adjust.

Merry Christmas

Lincoln County News

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ruth hammond and peter aguilera
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 IN STATE (NM): 1 Year \$33.00 / 2 Years \$61.00
 OUTSIDE NM: 1 Year \$37.00 / 2 Years \$69.00

From the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

by R.E. Virden
Lincoln County
Undersheriff



This service is provided to the citizens of our county in an effort to address their concerns and to better assist them in protecting their day to day way of life and an attempt to continually move in a positive direction.

Take A Stand Against Drunk Driving

December is a month of holidays and celebrations. Too often, however, it is also a month of tragedy and death on our roadways. We all know the reason. People make the foolish and often catastrophic choice to combine drinking and driving.

To heighten people's awareness during the holidays, the President has designated December as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, "3D Month" for short.

Last year, a shocking 41 percent of all traffic fatalities in the U.S. were alcohol related. The good news is that New Mexico has cut the number of traffic fatalities in alcohol related accidents by 50 percent over the last 13 years. The bad news is that New Mexico continues to have the fifth worst rate of drunken driving deaths in the country.

Bear in mind that safe driving depends on three human faculties: judgment, vision and reaction. All three are impaired by alcohol consumption. Alcohol is a powerful depressant and your driving skills can be significantly degraded at levels well below the legal limit.

During this holiday season and throughout the year, take a personal stand against drinking and driving. Make a conscious commitment not to get behind the wheel after drinking and not to accept a ride from someone that has been drinking. Be a responsible host, encourage your guests to designate a non-drinking driver. Be an alert, defensive driver.

"Have a Wonderful and Safe Holiday Season"

King Snow &

(Continued from Page 4)

"Well, I'm your friend," said King Snow. "I suppose now," he went on, "I must be thinking about packing up and leaving soon."

"I hear that Mistress Spring is planning to come three weeks sooner this year than usual."

"She does that once in awhile," you know, and all her family and friends come with her.

"But of course it may not be so. I haven't heard exactly about it yet -- it was just a rumor."

"But if she comes I must get out of the way. All her children will be tagging right after her."

"First will come the Crocus children. They don't mind me so much as some of the others, though they don't love me."

"Then the Jonquil girls and the Daffodil boys will come along. Some of them will wear simple frocks and some of them will wear fancy ones with many petticoats."

"The Blue Myrtle family will follow and the Johnny Jump-Ups will come -- and they'll stay, too, after Mistress Spring goes away."

"Then the Misses Tulip will come in all their glory and the Lily of the Valley family and the Striped Grass cousins will follow."

"As they come along some people will say, 'I almost forgot about those coming out and now, here they are!'"

"Yes, soon I must make ready for Mistress Springtime and her parade, but I do not mind for I've had a glorious winter."

"So have I," said Old Man Winter with a hearty laugh.

Without it, how would anybody know what to buy! Advertising, use it!

Sherriff's Report

The following information was taken from dispatch records in the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office in the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo.

December 15
10:02 a.m. request for ambulance at location on J. Ave. Carrizozo ambulance arrived at 10:10 a.m. and left for Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) in Ruidoso at 10:17 a.m. at 10:21 a.m. requested Med 1 advanced life support ambulance meet them, which occurred at Bonito Store at 10:38 a.m., arriving at LCMC at 11:13 a.m.

10:31 a.m. animal abuse at location on Wolf Springs Circle in Capitan.

1:22 p.m. request for ambulance for possible overdose at location in Capitan. Med 2 left Ruidoso at 1:29 p.m., Capitan ambulance arrived at the scene at 1:35 p.m. and cancelled the call for Med 2. Capitan ambulance left for LCMC at 1:56 p.m., arriving at 2:30 p.m.

2:03 p.m. 911 request for ambulance at location on Midiron in Alto for male subject with lung fibrosis who had respiratory distress. Med 2 arrived at the scene at 2:19 p.m. and left for LCMC at 2:42 p.m., arriving at 3 p.m.

6:40 p.m. fire. Flames were coming from the top of a chimney on Aspen Road in Alto. Bonito Fire Dept. arrived at 6:59 p.m. and at 7:02 p.m. advised all was okay with the assignment completed at 7:31 p.m.

7 p.m. 911 report of assault at location off Highway 70 in Honda. An intoxicated male subject went to the caller's residence and caused problems, the male left when the caller advised she was calling the police. Deputies assigned.

December 16
10:54 a.m. deputy advised he was doing warrant service at Lincoln County Detention Center (LCDC).

10:57 a.m. LCDC assistant administrator requested deputy to speak with an inmate.

5:10 p.m. request for ambulance for elderly male with breathing problems at location on 12th Street. Carrizozo ambulance arrived at the location at 5:17 p.m. and at 5:28 left for Gerald Champion Hospital in Alamogordo arriving at 6:13 p.m.

5:23 p.m. LCDC requested ambulance to check out inmate. Carrizozo ambulance arrived at 5:32 p.m. but the patient refused transport.

6:08 p.m. deputy advised he was doing warrant service at location on Squaw Trail.

7:42 p.m. 911 request for ambulance at location on 12th street for baby having seizures. Carrizozo ambulance arrived at 7:45 p.m. and at 7:54 p.m. left for LCMC arriving there at 8:37 p.m.

December 17
8:21 a.m. Ruidoso police advised of an accident at Gavilan Canyon Road and Warrior Drive, and he on the look out. Deputy located the accident without injuries at 8:37 a.m. No state police were available.

8:57 a.m. K-9 with chicken in its mouth across the street from the post office in Lincoln.

2:30 p.m. deputy advised he was doing warrant service at LCDC.

9:17 p.m. missing child from location on Squaw Trail. Two deputies assigned.

9:55 p.m. request for ambulance at location on 3rd Street. Capitan ambulance arrived at 10:06 p.m. and at 10:36 p.m. left for LCMC and paged for Med 1 to meet them, at 10:52 p.m. with paramedic aboard the ambulance continued to LCMC arriving there at 11:09 p.m.

December 18
9:43 a.m. request for dep-

uty to sign off on a gas skip in Capitan, there was no information on the driver or vehicle. Deputy arrived at 11:23 a.m.

11:31 a.m. erratic drivers on Smokey Bear Blvd. The caller advised that school children were driving at a high rate of speed, throwing coke bottles at each other. At 11:39 a.m. the responding deputy checked the area and at 11:39 a.m. advised there were no erratic drivers.

12:28 p.m. vehicle in roadway behind business in Alto.

1 p.m. deputy advised of criminal sexual penetration of 14 year old female somewhere in the county.

1 p.m. deputy advised of criminal sexual penetration of 16 year old female somewhere in the county. Cases turned over to sheriff's investigator.

3:35 p.m. male subject from Carrizozo reported identity theft.

7:04 p.m. request for welfare check of business on Alto hill, the phone just rings and no one answers.

December 19
11:14 a.m. request for ambulance at ski area. Med 1 arrived at the location at 11:46 a.m. and at 12:09 p.m. left for LCMC arriving there at 12:54 p.m.

1 p.m. deputy advised of a

hit and run accident without injuries at bank in Ruidoso. 3:16 p.m. missing gun from residence in Fox Cave area. Deputy arrived at the scene at 3:50 p.m.

11:35 p.m. Union Pacific Railroad reported railroad tie fire at mile marker 120 on Highway 54 south. Carrizozo fire department arrived at the scene at 11:54 p.m. and completed the assignment at 12:05 a.m.

December 20
10:19 a.m. request for welfare check at location on El Valley Loop. Deputy assigned.

12 noon someone at the ski area reported dark smoke from Border Hills area. Deputy responded at 12:01 p.m. and by 12:19 p.m. advised there was no smoke.

7:05 p.m. suspicious vehicle at business east of Ruidoso Downs, a two door car with its lights on moved from one end to the parking lot to the other. Ruidoso Downs police checked but made no contact with the vehicle. A deputy responded and spoke with the caller.

8:17 p.m. report of a nine year old male foster child committing battery on two other kids. The child attempted to put a belt around one's neck and threatened to kill them if they told. Two deputies responded.

December 21
10:29 a.m. state police requested deputy to check for a broken down vehicle on Highway 54. A deputy responded to the area at 10:54 a.m. and at 11:05 a.m. located the station wagon with a female inside. A wrecker was called. The motel was called for a vacancy with no answer and at 11:50 a.m. the deputy advised he made contact with the local Corona salvation army representative who set the woman up with a room.

10:45 a.m. domestic violence at location in trailer park south of Capitan. The caller and her boyfriend were fighting. A deputy arrived at the location at 10:51 a.m. and at 10:55 a.m. advised all was okay, they were trying to work things out and there was no violence.

12:53 p.m. 911 request for ambulance at location on Verria Road in Ruidoso Downs for a 97 year old male. Med 1 arrived at the location at 1:05 p.m. and at 1:15 p.m. left for LCMC arriving there at 1:21 p.m.

4:33 p.m. accident on State Road 48 on the south side of Capitan. Med 1 arrived at 5:19 p.m. but was refused. Deputies responded and at 4:54 p.m. requested a wrecker.

6:56 p.m. request for ambulance at business in Alto for female cancer patient who had a seizure in her pickup and was not breathing. A first responder from

SEE PAGE 7A

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: TERRY AIELLO, 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.

First Baptist Church: HAYDEN SMITH, Pastor. 314 10th Ave., Carrizozo, NM 848-2868 (Church) or 848-2107. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:55 a.m. Sun. Evening Training at 6:15 p.m. Evening Worship 7:15 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Carrizozo Community Church (AIG): JOHNNIE L. JOHNSON, Pastor. Corner of C 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 Birch, 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 1:00 p.m.

Church of Christ: TOM PONDEXTER, Minister 354-3135. Ave. C at 12th, Carrizozo, NM. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship 1:15 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

St. Matthias Episcopal Church: REV. RON THOMSON, Rector. Corner of E Ave. and Sixth, Carrizozo, NM 1-505-268-1242. Holy Eucharist Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Cleanth Community Church: TONY SCAGGIA, Minister. 848-1402. Second Sunday of Each Month 9:00 a.m.

United Methodist Churches: JOHANNA ANDERSON, Pastor. 1000 D. Ave. 648-2893 / 648-2846. Carrizozo, NM 88301. Sunday School (All Ages) 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Choir Practice (Tuesday) 8:30 p.m. United Methodist Women Every 3rd Wednesday 2:00 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 WINSON, 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 / 848-7975. 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.

Angus Church of the Nazarene: Serving All of Lincoln County. RICK HUTCHISON, Pastor / 336-8032. Southwest Corner of Hwy. 48 & 37 Junction Between Ruidoso and Capitan, NM.

Sunday: Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Children's Church 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday: Teen dinner and games 6:00 p.m. Teen Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.

LaGrone Funeral Chapel

Jerry & Lanita Rasak

In Memory of BILL WINKLER

Stearns Insurance Agency

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
No. CV 03-17

MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. (SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR LENDER, AND LENDER'S SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS).

Plaintiff.

VS.
SUSAN M. PRYCE, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF RUIDOSO, JOHN DOE, TENANT WHOSE TRUE NAME IS UNKNOWN, JANE DOE, TENANT WHOSE TRUE NAME IS UNKNOWN, THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SUSAN M. PRYCE, IF ANY.

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Special Master, or his/her designee, will, on February 3, 2004, at 9:00 A.M., at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 300 Central, Carrizozo, NM 88301, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

SEE EXHIBIT "A"

The address of the real property is 122 MON-
JEAU DR., RUIDOSO, NM 88345. Said sale will be made pursuant to the Decree of Foreclosure entered on April 9, 2003 in the above entitled and numbered cause, which was a suit to foreclose a note and mortgage held by the above plaintiff and wherein plaintiff was adjudged to have a lien against the above described real estate in the sum of \$161,882.39, plus interest from April 16, 2003 to the date of sale at the rate of 7.37500% per annum, the costs of sale, including the Special Master's fee, publication costs, and plaintiff's costs expended for taxes, insurance, and keeping the property in good repair. Plaintiff has the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid orally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of its judgment to the purchase price in lieu of cash.

At the date and time stated above, the Special Master may postpone the sale to such later date and time as the Special Master may specify.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this sale may be subject to a bankruptcy filing, a payoff, a reinstatement or any other condition that would cause the cancellation of this sale. Further, if any of these conditions exist, this sale will be null and void, the successful bidder's funds shall be returned, and the Special Master and the mortgagee giving this notice shall not be liable to the successful bidder for any damages.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the real property and improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements, all recorded and unrecorded liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title of the above-described real property subject to rights of redemption.

Dated: December 18, 2003.

PETER BACA
Special Master
c/o Shapiro & Meinhold, L.L.P.
13725 Struthers Road, Suite 201
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(800) 286-0013 (719) 634-4868

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 23 and 30, 2003 and January 8 and 15, 2004.

LEGAL NOTICE

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-14

WHEREAS, the Governing Body in and for the County of Lincoln, State of New Mexico, meeting in a regular session on the 18th day of November 2003 has approved and adopted the Official Holiday Calendar for Lincoln County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following as the Official Holiday Calendar for Lincoln County.

- * Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday: will be observed on Monday, January 19, 2004.
- * President's Day: will be observed on Monday, February 16, 2004.
- * Good Friday: will be observed on Friday, April 9, 2004.
- * Memorial Day: will be observed on Monday, May 31, 2004.
- * Independence Day: will be observed on Monday, July 5, 2004.
- * Labor Day: will be observed on Monday, September 6, 2004.
- * Columbus Day: will be observed on Monday, October 11, 2004.
- * Veteran's Day: will be observed on Thursday, November 11, 2004.
- * Thanksgiving Day: will be observed on Thursday, November 25, 2004 and Friday, November 26, 2004.
- * Christmas Day: will be observed on Thursday, December 23, 2004 and Friday, December 24, 2004.
- * New Year's Day: will be observed on Friday, December 31, 2003.

RESOLVED IN BOARD ACTION this 18th day of November 2003.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
REX WILSON, CHAIRMAN
RICK SIMPSON, VICE CHAIRMAN
LEO MARTINEZ, MEMBER
EARL B. HOBBS, MEMBER
MAURIECE A. ST. JOHN, MEMBER

ATTEST:
TAMMIE J. MADDOX, CLERK

(SEAL)

Published in the Lincoln County News on Tuesday, December 23, 2003.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
No. CV02-266

BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREMONT HOME LOANS OWNER TRUST 1999-3,

Plaintiff,

VS.
SCOTT E. FRENCH; FREMONT INVESTMENT & LOAN; ASSOCIATES FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY, INC.; JOHN DOE, TENANT WHOSE TRUE NAME IS UNKNOWN; JANE DOE, TENANT WHOSE TRUE NAME IS UNKNOWN; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SCOTT E. FRENCH, IF ANY.

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Special Master, or his/her designee, will, on February 3, 2004, at 10:00 A.M., at the Village Ruidoso Administrative Offices Bldg., Cree Meadows Dr., Ruidoso, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

LOT 16, BLOCK 2, ENCHANTED FOREST UNIT TWO, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN BY THE AMENDED PLAT THEREOF FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, AND EX-OFFICIO RECORDER OF LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, OCTOBER 6, 1972, IN TUBE NO. 466.

The address of the real property is 16 MESA DRIVE, ALTO, NM 88312. Said sale will be made pursuant to the Decree of Foreclosure entered on September 9, 2003, in the above entitled and numbered cause, which was a suit to foreclose a note and mortgage held by the above plaintiff and wherein plaintiff was adjudged to have a lien against the above-described real estate in the sum of \$109,709.18, plus interest from July 2, 2003 to the date of sale at the rate of 11.35000% per annum, the costs of sale, including the Special Master's fee, publication costs, and plaintiff's costs expended for taxes, insurance, and keeping the property in good repair. Plaintiff has the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid orally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of its judgment to the purchase price in lieu of cash.

At the date and time stated above, the Special Master may postpone the sale to such later date and time as the Special Master may specify.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this sale may be subject to a bankruptcy filing, a payoff, a reinstatement or any other condition that would cause the cancellation of this sale. Further, if any of these conditions exist, this sale will be null and void, the successful bidder's funds shall be returned, and the Special Master and the mortgagee giving this notice shall not be liable to the successful bidder for any damages.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the real property and improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements, all recorded and unrecorded liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title to the above-described real property subject to rights of redemption.

Dated: 12/17, 2003.

JEANIE CLANCY-COFFEY
Special Master
c/o Shapiro & Meinhold, L.L.P.
13725 Struthers Road, Suite 201
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(800) 286-0013 (719) 634-4868

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 23 and 30, 2003 and January 8 and 15, 2004.

LEGAL NOTICE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
No. CV-03-282
Division III

MARK ALAN BERSANO,
Plaintiff

VS.
GROUP I- THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS, IF LIVING, IF DECEASED, THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS, AND THE UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS, IF LIVING, IF DECEASED, THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS: R.C. PITTS, ERNEST D. PREHM, and OTTO BRNEST PREHM.

GROUP II- 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 ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

GREETINGS! You are hereby notified that Mark Alan Bersano, Plaintiff, has filed an action in the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, CIVIL Docket No. CV-03-282 Div. III, wherein you are named as Defendants and wherein said Plaintiff seeks to obtain constructive service upon you.

The general subject matter 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 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, of block 18, of O.P. ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF CARRIZOZO, 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, TOGETHER WITH all improvements thereon. Subject to reservations, restrictions and easements of record.

You are further notified that unless you enter your appearance, plead or otherwise respond in said cause on or before February 5, 2004, 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 is: Arulife A. Wilfong, P.O. Box 83, Nogal, New Mexico 88341.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, on this the 18th day of December, 2003.

JAN PERRY
Clerk of the District Court
By: Jolene Biggs
Deputy

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 23 and 30, and January 8 and 15, 2004.

**Without it,
how would anybody
know what to buy!**
**Advertising,
use it!!**



Weather Report

Christmas is predicted to be clear and dry with highs in the 50s. Mild day time temperatures are expected to last through Christmas and on to Sunday, when a cold front is expected to drop temperatures dramatically.

The following information was taken from the National Weather Service website.

Forecast for Carrizozo, Lincoln, Hondo and high plains of Lincoln County:

Today, Tuesday, Dec. 23

Mostly sunny with northeast winds 10 to 15 miles per hour in the morning. High of 51 in Carrizozo with no chance for precipitation. Tonight partly cloudy with low of 25.

Wednesday,

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

Partly cloudy with high of 52. Christmas Eve night partly cloudy with low of 25.

Thursday, Christmas Day, December 25

Mostly sunny with high of 57. Christmas night mostly clear with low of 26.

Friday, December 26

Partly cloudy highs in the mid 50s to low 60s, lows in the upper 20s.

Saturday, December 27

Partly cloudy with highs in the 50s. Saturday night partly cloudy and brisk with low of 20.

Sunday, December 28

Partly cloudy and colder, with highs in the 30s to low 40s, lows in the teens.

Monday, December 29

Partly cloudy and cold with highs in the 40s, lows in the low 20s.

Tuesday, December 30

Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 40s to low 50s, lows in the 20s.

Forecast for Ruidoso, Capitan and higher elevations of the northern Sacramento mountains.

Today, Tuesday, Dec. 23

Mostly sunny with northeast winds 10 to 15 miles per hour in the morning. High of 48 in Ruidoso and 50 in Capitan. No chance for precipitation. Tonight partly cloudy with low of 22 in Ruidoso and 23 in Capitan.

Wednesday,

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

Partly cloudy with south winds 10 to 15 miles per hour. High of 50. Christmas Eve night partly cloudy with low of 24.

Thursday, Christmas Day, December 25

Mostly sunny with high of 54. Christmas night, mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s.

Friday, December 26

Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 50s, lows in the mid 20s with partly cloudy skies.

Saturday, December 27

Partly cloudy with highs in the low 50s. Saturday night partly cloudy and brisk with lows 15 to 20.

Sunday, December 28

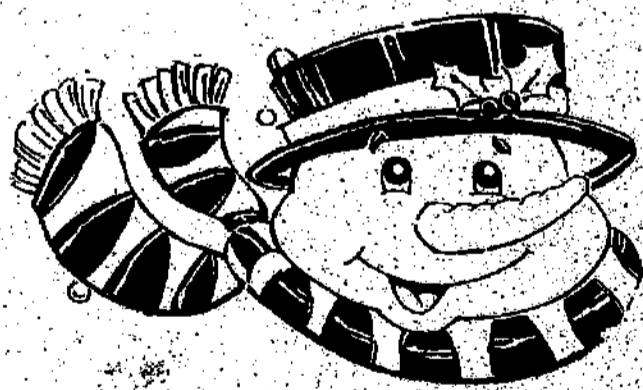
Partly cloudy and much colder with highs in the upper teens to low 30s. Lows in the low teens.

Monday, December 29

Partly cloudy, and cold with very slight chance for snow showers. Highs in the 30s to low 40s. Lows in the teens.

Tuesday, December 30

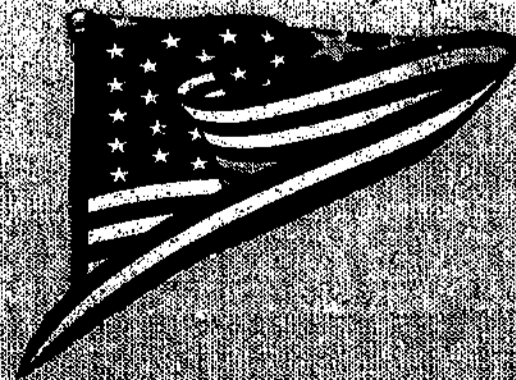
Partly cloudy with highs in the 40s, lows in the teens to low 20s.



*Peaceful &
Safe*

Holidays to

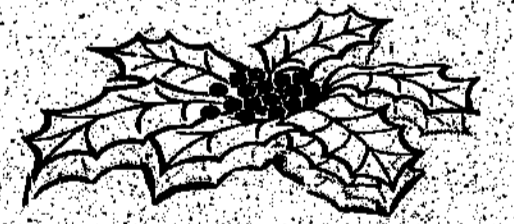
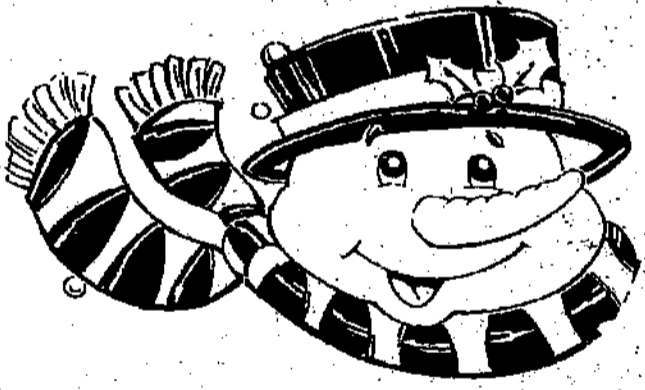
*All of our
service men
and women!*



Elves 'aplenty at C'zozo Christmas Program, Dec. 11th



Photos courtesy of Carrizozo High School Journalism Class.



Ruidoso Downs Gets OK to Annex

And Scolding for Gerrymandering

by DORIS CHERRY

The City of Ruidoso Downs received unanimous approval from the New Mexico Boundary Commission to annex 591.6 acres of land with a caveat the city must look at annexing the Palo Verde subdivision area in the future.

Boundary Commission chair Jim Scarantino, member Patrick Casey and vice chair Carmen Garza by conference speaker telephone, made the decision at their reconvened boundary commission meeting on Thursday December 18 in Ruidoso Downs. The annexation hearing began on October 23 in Ruidoso Downs at which time boundary commission members received documentation from the city and took commentary from the public. Commissioners however made no decision at that time. They had been asked by the attorney for property owners opposing the annexation to delay the decision to allow the record to remain open for seven days to allow for review of new information provided by the city and other documents provided by property owners.

Before a standing room only crowd in the Ruidoso Downs city hall meeting room on December 18, boundary commissioners concluded the witness testimony from the City of Ruidoso Downs and from those for or against the annexation. "We left the record open for seven days for review of the additional documentation," said Casey, who made the motion to conclude the witness testimony on the annexation application. Casey thanked several individuals who provided documentation and comment letters, including county resident Larry Mulligan for documentation, Jim Badger with Glencoe Fire Department and the Vincents who own the Rocky Mountain Trailer Park and Lincoln County manager Tom Stewart.

Scarantino said that although he was not present at the October 23 meeting, he had reviewed all exhibits from the city, the additional materials received and the transcript of the October 23 meeting. "So I am familiar with what occurred," Scarantino said.

Casey made the motion to close the proceedings of the annexation hearing which led the way to the decision. Casey said he had some questions whether the city could supply services it is supposed to.

"I am very concerned Palo Verde subdivision was not included in the annexation," Casey said. "It looks as though the city purposely left it out or unintentionally left out without purposely leaving it in," Casey said.

"It bothers me this unit (Palo Verde subdivision) needs the city services more than vacant fields that were annexed, yet it was left out," Casey continued. Casey said it was the city of Ruidoso Downs, not the boundary commission, that decided what lands are to be annexed.

As for the phosphorus contamination in the Ruidoso river, Casey said the area has had two major forest fires, the horse racetrack with its dung piles and septic tanks on properties along the river all of which contribute to the problem.

"Over looking all is the problem with water," Casey said.

Regardless of their personal beliefs, Casey said, the boundary commission duties are defined by state law. Under the statute, the commission looks at the annexation petition and determines if the annexation is contiguous and if the city can reasonably provide the services to the area to be annexed.

"We get into a lot of social and governmental issues," Casey said. "But we are limited by the statutes."

With that Casey made the motion to grant the annexation with a caveat - that the City of Ruidoso Downs must look at annexing Palo Verde subdivision.

"You've got people living in that subdivision who deserve the same services as those you annexed," Casey continued.

"It bothers me when that kind of gerrymandering happens and areas are excluded," he said.

Garza seconded the motion and said she shared the same concerns. "This is something that should be looked at," she added.

Scarantino said he echoed the concerns but he had sympathy with the city that has no resources to do everything at once. "Perhaps there is a way to annex that is better," he said. "But our charge is clearly stated by law and the city has met all the legal requirements."

With no debate from members Scarantino took the vote, which was unanimous for the annexation.

City of Ruidoso Downs attorney Dan Bryant then asked if the commission could include in the order for annexation a provision that individuals living in the annexation zone could file as a candidate in the March 2004 city election. The filing date is January 6, 2004.

The State Records has 30 days to file the annexation petition which will make it final and legal.

Scarantino said the boundary commission has no legal authority to grant such a request. "We can only act on the annexation petition," he added. "I don't think we've ever seen such a request before."

Casey said the boundary commission is "really a gelding commission that can't do much." He said their votes do not make a franchise.

Scarantino said the area does not become franchised until the annexation petition is accepted and filed by the State Records office.

"I confess I was afraid I knew the answer," Bryant said.

After the boundary commission meeting Sue and Smokey Davis, whose property was annexed, said they will start coming to city council meetings and making themselves heard. "We

think the city should put the name back to Green Tree," Sue told *THE NEWS*.

City of Ruidoso Downs councilor Bonnie Richardson told *THE NEWS* the city is planning to bring Palo Verde in. "We know it needs," Richardson said. "We will do it as we can. As for now, we will have a time to even meet the needs of the area we annexed."

Luminarias to be picked up on December 25

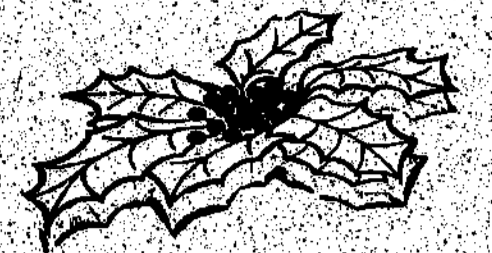
Expanded sacks from the Christmas Eve Carrizozo luminaria display will be picked up on the morning of Christmas, Thursday, December 25.

Members of Carrizozo Yacht Club will pick up the expanded sacks and they welcome any kind of help.

The luminaria display will be set up on Christmas Eve by members of the Yacht Club and other volunteers. The luminarias will be lighted at dusk. Luminarias will be placed along Central Ave. (Highway 54) through town, on the Highway 380 overpass, and on Birch.

Volunteers are welcomed to help set up and light the luminarias. Setting up will begin about 9 a.m. Christmas Eve from the Carrizozo fire station. Lighting begins about 4 p.m.

Residents who have luminarias in front of their homes may pick up the expanded sacks on Christmas.



LOOKING AT NEW LAND. City of Ruidoso Downs councilor Bonnie Richardson looks at the map of the recently approved annexed county lands after the NIM Boundary Commission meeting in Ruidoso Downs on December 18. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the annexation of 591 acres of county land, most of it located next to Hwy. 70.





Merry Christmas

from the

Capitan Chamber of Commerce

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* Rio Ruidoso Realtors.Com	* Ray & Faye Seidel
* El Paisano Wood Yard	* Dr. & Mrs. Walter Seidel
* The Menagerie	* Charter Communications
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Capitan Chamber of Commerce




Without it,
how would anybody
know what to buy!

Advertising,
use it!!

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I want a video now and a careece mushen and a phone thats blue and I want a swimming pool and a marker bord and a angle seat and a dream catcher and a bartz seat and a radeo that plays ceade and taps and I want a lip glos and the movee

cold big red and I want clothes and shoes, and shirt and sokes.
Shayna Zamora

Dear Santa,
I hope you are ready for Christmas because I am and tell your reindeer-I said hy I hope you don't bring me coll because I

want gifts and more gifts. I don't care what you get me Santa I want to see you in person and meet you.
Patrick Ryan

Dear Santa,
I really like you very much. I want alot of stuff like a radio jeep, easy bake, a matcantreabvie

dogs and a new back pack and most of all a purse, and to see my cousin. Please do that for me. I would like that very much. Will you please give me nice stuff. I hope I am on the good list this year. Most of all is I love you very much.
Nikko Ryan

Dear Santa,
I woul like a dario bike for Christmas.
Desirac

Dear Santa,
I would like a suit for Christmas. Thank you.
Jerry

Dear Santa,
for Crisntas I want a go. crat, and I want a moredesic!
Sincerely,
Sean Medina

Dear Santa,
I wish for a durtbike and a go. kart. I wish for a trumpleen. I wish for my dady to come to Carrizozo with me.
Utavious Nash

Dear Santa,
I would like a brat limo and a prom brat girl and prom brat boy.
Sincerely,
Amanda Gallegos

Dear Santa,
I want a furry phone. I want a little puppy for Christmas. I want a computer for Christmas and I want a little kitten and I want a T.V. and a DVD. Also like to see my brother.
Priscilla Lucero

Dear Santa,
I want 6 packs of hot wills and clothes.
Sincerely,
Eric Lueras

Dear Santa,
How are you! I would like a simmy automatik 22 rifle with a scope.
Thank you,
Arturo Najera

Dear Santa,
I want a vedio now and a game for my gam-eboy. Careace musen a pants and shirts and socks and a pink phone and Mary Kate and Ashley set and a bratz set, the brat Cloey and a puzzle.
Jade Roper

Dear Santa,
I would like a "My Scene Doll". I hope I get them all. I would like to have a letter from my family. I would like skates of my own. I would like blue and white stripes on it. Thank you very much!!!
Sincerely,
Brittany Irene Simmons

Dear Santa,
I want a big truck. Why do you say ho ho ho? Why do you have a sled? I want a GI Joe and a sled. I want a puzzle. I miss you.
Arden Burd



Dear Santa,
I want a X-box and a ps2.
Joshua Vallejos

Dear Santa,
I want a basketball and soccer ball and I want a belt, and I want a track nd football.
Casey Vega

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Christmas. I want a Barbie set, and I would like to have a new Barbie head, a Mary Kate and Ashley jacket. I would like a lip gloss set. I would like the Lizzie McGuire second song earrings would be nice. Maybe a drawing book, or a da book. I also would like the Barbie dolls with shoes and clothes. Hope you have a great Christmas eve.
Victoria Ventura

Dear Santa,
I want a PS2, and a X box, A 4 wheeler and my own room, a computer and a boombox.
p.s. thank you for making dreams come true.
Andrea Vigil

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is your wife, and your factory? On this book I read Help? I'm Trapped in Santa's Body. I learned that Christmas isn't about what you get. It's about what you given. In the book nobody believes in him, and he gets tired. Santa wants to quit, and move to Las Vegas! I hope you don't do that. But now I know that Christmas is about giving so talk to you later.
Yours truly,
Brea

Dear Santa,
I would enjoy a Brat, a puppy, kitten, four-wheeler, and something for my Mommy and Daddy.
Yours truly,
Marriah Ventura

Dear Santa,
I want nothing besides happy faces, smiles, and my relatives having a good time.
friend,
Sara McNatt



Christmas Glow

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, a child was born—a King. May you always know this Christmastide and the joy it brings.

From Friends and Family at Sturges

Running out of ideas for Christmas Gifts?

Why not a Subscription

to the

Lincoln County News

the Newspaper for All of Lincoln County

309 Central Ave. / P.O. Box 459
Carrizozo, NM 88301

or Call

(505) 648-2333

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* In County:	1-Year \$30.00	2-Years \$55.00
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* Outside NM:	1-Year \$37.00	2-Years \$69.00



It's the Season of Joy and good cheer
... time to wish you a most Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ROY
Roy's Gift Gallery
Carrizozo / 648-2921

Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
I have tried to be a good girl very hard this year. For Christmas I would like a bunch of toys as many as I can have. And for my Devon too. And don't forget to leave something for my goat Chocolate, and my dog Ghesi. For my mom and dad too. If you have been good this year I will sing you a Christmas song.
Delline Cheyenne Arteche

Dear Santa,
I have tried to be a good girl this year. For Christmas I would like a bratz and a barby taking rounhouse and a poty paci with other poty pacis. How is your reindeer? I will leave milk and cookies on the kichin table. xoxoxoxox.
Shayé Ventura

Dear Santa,
I would like a batmobil. I like your elvs.
Erick Cutley

Dear Santa,
I have trid to be a good kid this year. For Christmas I would like a kitten. How are your reindeer? I hope you have a safe trip.
Johnathan Smith

Dear Santa,
I have tried to be a good kid this year. For Christmas I would like a polly poket house with polly pokets and a Barbie talking towh house. How are your raindeer? Have a nice trip.
Sarah Ferguson

Dear Santa,
I want a dirt bike, and a forweler. Oh and hou are your rane deer and Mrs. Klas.
Isaac Vega

Dear Samta,
I have tried to be a good kid this year. For Christmas I would like a doll that is Snow White. How is your wife. We will leave mile and cookies on the kitchen table. I hope you have a safe trip. I love you.
Mason Huston

Dear Santa,
I have ben a gud kid this year. For Christma's I would like a brat limo and twe brats. How are your ranedeer? I will leave milk and cookies on the kitchen table. Have a safe trip.
Rylah Zamora

Dear Santa,
I have tried to be a good boy this year I want a helmet.
Nicholas Chavez

Dear Santa,
I would like a dodge vjore. I would like a forwilr. I bingood.
Branson Vega

Dear Santa,
I wood like a remot car. I would like a web blastr. How ar you and your elfs?
Jacob Porter

Dear Santa,
I would like a brbe. I would like a sleeping bag. Haw are your randir? Haw are your elvs? Haw are you, and mis klas?
Lisa Ventura

Dear Santa,
I would like a bik. I bin good. How is mis klas? I lave you.
Jaclynn Ortiz

Dear Santa,
I would like a drt bik. Hoo rae yor litl helprs? Hoo, hav you booen Santa? and mis klas? I bin good. I luv you.
Gene Gore

Dear Santa,
I would like a for wilr and a hors. How is roodor?
Zlaine Zamora

Dear Santa,
I would like a spider-man wach and spider man web blastr. Santa how iz mos clez?
Joshua Ventura

Dear Santa,
I would like a piasto shin to with raking for. I bin good. How ar yuo doowing? Wut dus the northpol look lik? Thank yuo.
Carlos Silva

Dear Santa,
I would like dodge a vipre. I would like a forwilr.
Zeb Maldonado

Dear Santa,
I would like a brbeh-aws. I would like a brbe the swanlake. I would like a elok. Thank yow santa.
Fantasia

Dear Santa,
I would like a kit wut has makup. Santa, haow is red nos the randir?
Tiffany Vega

Dear Santa,
I would like a black hat and a swetr. Thank for the presits.
James

Dear Santa,
I want a water slide, a monter truck, and a truck. Oh, one more thing a bridge with toy dirt bikes to go on my water slide. I really just want to be with my mom and dad and sister.
Merry Christmas, Val

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a Kitty cat. I will name her Flower.
Love, Dana

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a real four wheeler.
Love, Iain

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a bike and a toy cat.
Love, Collin

Dear Santa,
All I want For Christmas is a four wheeler, a bike and a remote control race car.
Love, David

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a bazooka and a truck with tank that shoots play missiles and legos.
Love, Justice

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a baby doll with a stroller, a Cinderella and Care Bears that sing songs.
Love Ashley

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a watch, a Hotwheels track and a long piece of paper.
Love, Wade



Holiday Greetings
Our hearty thanks and warm wishes to all of you.
Lavender & Lace & Capitan Coffee Co.
Capitan, NM
354-8309

May His Light Shine
On you and your family in this holy season
The Menagerie
105 W. Smokey Bear Blvd.
Capitan, NM



The spirit of the season is in the air and the hearts of people everywhere --
A small child's eyes shining bright. A Christmas tree coloring the night.
Friends and family come together, bringing a warmth to the chilly weather.
May your holidays be filled with love and cheer --
Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

Season's Greetings

Carrizozo . . . 648-2377 / Ruidoso . . . 257-4611
Ruidoso Downs . . . 378-1124 (located in WalMart)
Vaughn . . . 584-2221

WELLS FARGO

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
All I want is a NBox and a game boy. H2 hummer in dark red and I want my family to get lots of presents and I hope you bring my presents under my Christmas tree.

Your friend,
Andres Verdugo

Dear Santa,
I want a dirt bike and a N-Box I also want a Big Screen tv and a Dvd with a scr and movies. I also want a gold watch and a gold ring. The last thing I want is a manchine and a corvette.

Your's truly
Levi Corley

Dear Santa,
I would like a dirt bike for Christmas.
Please.

Sergio Ramirez

Dear Santa,
I want a Xbox, a speed boat, a airplane and a computer, and that's it many Christmas.

Love Justin

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a puppy, a bike and a model car kit, some shoes, a remote control car.

Yours truly Justin

Dear Santa,
I would like a CR70 dirt bike and a pair of chaps, a xbox, a play station 2 and a game cube, and my favorat a paint hores with a saddle and a real hores.

Yours truly,
Kary Vega

Dear Santa,
I want a new pair of shoes, please. I would like a new jacket, and some shirts. A new computer, and remotcontrol airplane. A new bed would be nice. O by the way how are the reindeer? Have a merry Christmas, tell that to Mrs. Claus.

Dear Santa,
Are you busy? Well if your not, I want to know if you can get me one of these presents. All I want for Christmas is one of these, a CD player or a P.S. 2. Hopefully it's not too much to ask for.

Sincerely,
Mario

Dear Santa,
I would please like real coyote traps for Chirismus. I would also like coyote tapes one that sounds like a crying baby human. I would like crow tapes, Oh about the traps me, and my Dad would like a number 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and 3 bare traps, 2 lion traps, and 2 fox traps, and all the matirals with it. Thank you, I'll have cookies, and milk redy for you.

Love,
Lane Levi Carter

Dear Santa,
I would like barbie for Christmas. Thank you, Barbies house with Barbies.

Sincerely, Lindsay

Dear Santa,
I would like bunnies for Christmas.

Sincerely, Mirrah

Dear Santa,
I want a shooting harman for Christmas.

Sincerely, Eli

Dear Santa,
I would like a bionicle of life, movie for Christmas.

Thank you, Jose

Dear Santa,
I would like this many bicycles.

Sincerely, Alex

Dear Santa,
I would like a sponge bob for Christmas.

Sincerely, Christian

Dear Santa,
I would lik a barbie toy house for Christmas.

Thank you, Veronica

Dear Santa,
I would like a drum set and drumsticks for Christmas.

Thank you! Alexis

Dear Santa,
I would a Lord of the rings for Christmas.

Thank you! Trevon

Dear Santa,
I would like Sqooby do video game for Chrismas.

Thank you! Dillon

Dear Santa,
I would like drumseranddrumsticks I would like for Christmas.

Sincerely, Caleb

Dear Santa,
I would like a Power puff chapstick for Christmas.

Sincerely, Cirsten

Dear Santa,
I would like a power puff for Christmas.

Thank you! Leslie

Dear Santa,
I would like a power puff for Christmas.

Thank you! Tyrell

Dear Santa,
I would like a barbie for Christmas.

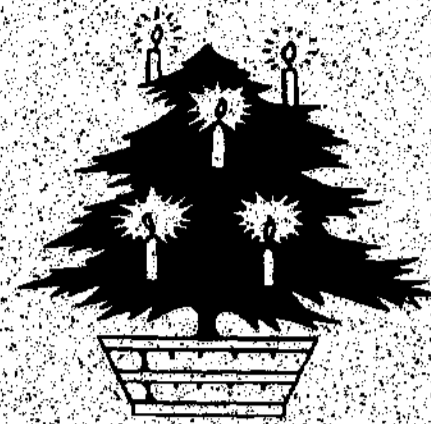
Thank you! Katee

Dear Santa,
I would like a barbie for Christmas.

Thank you! Dominique

Dear Santa,
I would like a puppy for Christmas. How are your reindeer? I will leave you milk and cookies on the kichin table. Have a safe trip.

Zachary Zamora



Dear Santa,
I would like a powerpuff chapstick for christmas.

Thank you! Emily

Dear Santa,
I woul like a package of lipgloss for Christmas.

Thank you! Patince

Dear Santa,
I have tried to be a good kid this year. I would like a brat doll for Christmas. How are your reindeer? I will leave mile and cookies on the table. How is Mrs. Claus doing. Have a safe trip.

Sincerely,
Shayna Gallacher

Dear Santa,
I have been a good kid this year. I would like a real cat for Christmas. And a brat for Christmas.

Sincerely, Erica Vega

Dear Santa,
I have tried to be a good kid this year. For Christmas I would like a life on mars set.

Jeremiah Sedillo

Dear Santa,
I would like the mask of light and a the top of fire. How are your reindeer? There will be some mile and cookies.

Jace Hill

Dear Santa,
I have been a good kid. I would like a army men set and I would like a toy machien, gun that shoutes darts.

Bo Dauster

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year, for Christmas. I want a 80cc dirt bike for Christmas.

Devon Artech

Dear Santa,
I would like a puppy for Christmas. How are your reindeer? I will leave you milk and cookies on the kichin table. Have a safe trip.

Zachary Zamora

Best Wishes for Christmas

Over the hills and through the dales into your homes we come, wishing you a happy and prosperous Christmas that will be trimmed with special things for all.

from your friends at . . .

ZIA NATURAL GAS COMPANY
707 Short Drive -- (505) 378-4277
Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346

Wishing YOU THE SEASON'S BEST

We'd like to wish all our loyal customers a holiday of peace, harmony and joy. Thank you for your trust and patronage.



Tularosa Basin Telephone Co., Inc.

Tularosa Communications, Inc.



It's Christmas!

Wishing you an abundance of Happiness for Christmas and the New Year.

Rainbow Inn
648-4006
Carrizozo

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a rainbow (and maybe a new bike).

Love,
Christopher

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a toy horse and Ocean Splash Barbie.

Love,
Arianna

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a toy horse and a DVD.

Love,
Max

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a play set with a bear and a wolf fighting and men that can watch in tents.

Love,
Bryann

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a Christmas tree.

Love,
Jacob

Dear Santa,
I want a bike and a toy bug and a living horse and a friend for my dog daisy and Tyler to come to are house and a baby kitten and a baby puppy. How is Rudolph and how is the elf.

Jordan Burch

Dear Santa,
I have been good Santa. How is Rudolph and How is Mrs. Santa. I want four Christmas is a play House and a tea set and ice skates and a play horse with a horse pin and a play hamster and a chockborde with chock and a play fish, and a play dog and it walks play tent and a globe.

Sofia Mendoza

Dear Santa,
please bring me a doll for Christmas. I have been good This year. How's Rudolph?

MarLee Parks

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a mini Christmas tree. How is Rudolph? I want a new backpack. I have been a good girl. I want a new trampoline.

Christian Sweat

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a baby doll. I have been good this year.

Aleyshea Allen

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a Sponge Bab Game and Duck Dodgers Game and a new hot wheels track and the Nascar racing Game. How is Rudolph's nose? I have been good this year. How is Mrs. Claus doing? I hope you are doing good at the North Pole.

Kary Bartlett

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a blue bike with out training wheels. How is Rudolph doing?

Justin Boss

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a Puppy for Christmas. I have been good this year. How is Rudolph?

Jack Black

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a computer for Christmas. I have been good this year.

Luis Masias

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a toy robot, a car, a toy dinosaur, a toy turkey and 100+100+100 toys. Have a happy holiday.

Your friend,
Wesley

Dear Santa,
I want an easy bake oven and an electric guitar.

Love, Kylie

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a monster truck, a trampoline, a swimming pool, a motorcycle, a bear and rabbits.

Love,
Wyatt

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a tent, a pottery barn chair, a bean bag, butterfly earrings, a baby doll, and computer.

Merry Christmas from Brayden

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a computer, a Mickey Mouse car and trail, a flute and a Barbie car.

Merry Christmas from Abril

Dear Santa,
I would like a Thomas train, a trampoline, and a dozer.

Merry Christmas, Tyler

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like gloves, a bean bag, jewelry box, make-up and a beanie hat.

Merry Christmas, Sarah

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. How are the reindeer? For Christmas please bring me high heels, a new dress, Bratz and a CD player. I will leave you milk and cookies for you.

Love, Taylor Shaver

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. How is Mrs. Santadog? For Christmas bring me a bow and arrow, motor cross pants, remote control dirt bike and a good snowboard. I will leave cookies and milk for you.

Love, Ohlin Skeen

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How is Mrs. Claus? For Christmas please bring me a Barbie jeep, a necklace with little people on it with my mom and dad's birthstones and a playhouse. I will leave milk and cookies for you.

Love, Abby Bullock

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How is Mrs. Claus? For Christmas please bring me an elk call, a coyote call and a new hat. Bring Megan a new baby doll. I will leave cookies and milk for you.

Love, Kaydn Traylor

Dear Santa,
I have been good Santa. I want to see Mrs. Claus. I want a shirt, I want a biggun, I want a SP iderman table, I want a CD player. I will leave milk and cookies for you.

Robert Garcia

Dear Santa,
Would you please bring me a new baby doll and some clothes? I'll leave you some cookies and chocolate milk.

Love, Tyelynn

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. Can you bring a spiderman and a rabbit.

Love,
Xavier Zamora

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a big screen TV, a stuffed animal cat, and a stuffed horse like Spirit. I love you.

Love, Tessa

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a bed that you blow up and it turns into a car. Then I can take it into Mommy's room and sleep there.

Love, Bailey

Dear Santa,
I think you already know me. My name is Kohlby. This is what I want you to bring me. A TV with a game cube and these games Army game, rocketship game, and a Harry Potter game. That's all.

Thanks, Kohlby

Dear Santa,
How are all of your reindeer doing? I want a set of drums, a yo-yo, and a toy star. You need to land on a tile by the fireplace. Don't forget my little brother, Colt.

Love, Wyatt

Dear Santa,
My name is Hannah, and I have been good. All I want for Christmas is 2 gerbils and 2 white bicycle wheels. I real star would be nice too.

Love, Hannah

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a play station, a race car, and a Santa. I think that you're great.

Love, Shawn

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph doing? I want a race car with remote, a raptor, and a Blast Off Ship with a remote. I have been good. Nothing is better than Santa.

Love, Oliver

Dear Santa,
I love Christmas. I would like some new clothes, a real cat, and the world. I like living in Capitan. I love my teacher. Please send some more snow.

Love, Gabi

Dear Santa,
Is it snowing at the North Pole? I have tried to be good. I would like Tony Hawk Ramp Off a Helicopter, and some toys. I will leave you some Oreos and eggnog.

Love, Brad

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How are the reindeer doing? For Christmas please bring me video now, b-b gun, game boy, coyote call, a dog, and hat. I will leave cookies and milk for you.

Love,
Jared Thomas

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How is Mrs. Claus doing? For Christmas please bring me bratz boots, a fake horse, animal books and a Bratz lunch box. I will leave cookies and milk for you.

Luv Dana Dean

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a puppy for Christmas. I have been good this year. How is Rudolph doing? My dogs are doing good. Santa how are you doing at the North Pole? I have got A's and B's. How are all the reindeers?

Destini Taylor

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. I would like a motorcycle. And can you please bring my mommy some snow.

Love,
Daniel Zamora

Dear Santa,
I have been really good. I would like some candy and a motorcycle.

Love,
Marissa Sanchez

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. Can you please bring me a motorcycle & a truck bring my brothers something too.

Love,
Nickolas Archuleta

Dear Santa,
Please bring me cars for Christmas. I have been good this year. How is Rudolph's nose?

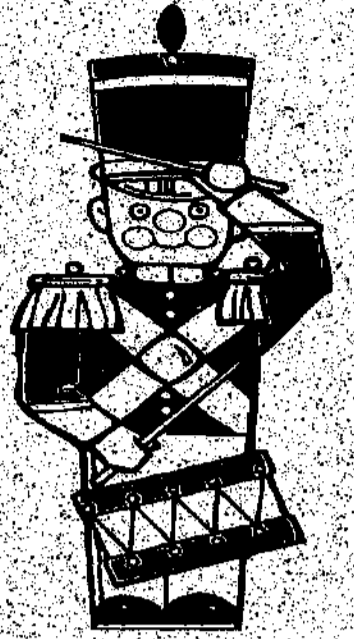
Juan Villanueva

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a Memory game for Christmas. I have been good this year. How's Rudolph?

Mariah Haynes

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a dog for Christmas. I have been good this year. How is Rudolph?

Steven Brothers



THE NEW YEAR IS ALMOST HERE! HAVE YOU REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT PURCHASING YOUR OWN HOME?

> 1997 Manufactured Home. Four bedrooms and two full baths, 1,650+ sq. ft. New wood deck porches, wood flooring in kitchen and dining area. Built-in fireplace. Located on corner with 0.43+ acres. All city utilities.

For sale at way less than the typical selling price. With average credit and down payment, your payments could be in the range of \$325 to \$375 per month depending upon interest rate.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO OPERATE A LARGE RESTAURANT?

How about a restaurant that is located at one of the best intersections in the state. A proven location where the traffic count should do nothing but get higher. Has a gross per year that is similar to the asking price. If you are a serious potential buyer, then you should contact Chuck.

THE C.O. ROMINGER COMPANY, INC.
Would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Good New Year!

C.O. "CHUCK" ROMINGER
Owner / Broker
1208 E Avenue, Carrizozo, NM
505-648-2900

Noel

May you have the gladness of Christmas which brings Hope and the Spirit of Christmas which brings Peace and Love.

Season's Greetings from all of your friends at

FARMERS COUNTRY MARKET
Farmers Country Market
Capitan, NM
(505) 354-2219

The Magic of Christmas

May His Holy Spirit be with you and your family this Christmas and throughout the new year.

Johnson Stearns and family

Merry Christmas

As good and jolly as Old Santa Claus, that's how we hope your Christmas will be. Our special thanks to our loyal customers for your kind patronage.

CHRIS & DI'S 4 WINDS
111 N. Central / Carrizozo, NM
Ph. 648-2964

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like two toy turkeys. I Love you, Tell

Dear Santa,
My mom really needs a washer and dryer. I would like a new pillow, a CD player, a karaoke machine, a bean bag, and a leash for my dog Marshmallow.
Love, Regan

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How was Mrs. Claus doing for Christmas please bring me a barbie doll a barbie House radio one dollar. I will leave you cookies and hot milk for you.
Maygen Middleton

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How are the reindeer doing? For Christmas please bring me a toy huskie, toy ducks, a toy Santa, a CD burner, CD player, and aradio. I will leave milk and cookies for you.
Brittany Kent

Haunted Mansion. My mom wrote a different note that had some other things that I wanted too.
Love, Patricia

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a tiger cat and a Santa. How are all of your reindeer doing? Thank you very much.
Love, Jacob

Dear Santa,
This is what I would like for Christmas, A TV for my room and a stuffed teddy bear.
Love, Lauren

Dear Santa,
My name is Evan. I would like a rocket and a van. Don't forget me.
Love, Evan

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie girl and a Barbie boy, a baby doll, make-up, a swimming pool and a trampoline.
Merry Christmas, Mary

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How is Mrs. Santa? For Christmas please bring me a gameboy, a remote control car and rats I will leave cookies and milk for you.
Love Dillon Trapp

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is a big screen TV, a Hillary Cat telephone, and a Lizzie McGuire DVD called Fashion Lizzie. How is Rudolph? Are you having lots of snow? Is Santa Claus real? Yes! Thank you.
Love, Emily

Dear Santa,
How are you? I would like Barbie of Swan Lake, Finding Nemo, and the movie

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a snowman, a Christmas tree, presents, a car and that's it.
Merry Christmas, Diego

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. How are the reindeer? For Christmas please bring me a CD player, skates, stereo, and CD burner. I will leave cookies and milk for you.
Love Courtney Swanner

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How is Mrs. Santa? For Christmas please bring me anything you would like. I want you to surprise me. I will leave you milk and chocolate ckip cookies.
Luv Georgia Lynn Eldridge

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. Can you please bring a truck & some tools.
Love, Tristen Barela

Yuletide Greetings

Thanks for keeping our business "ever-green!"

From our family to yours

Merry Christmas!

LCM LINCOLN COUNTY MERCANTILE

108 E. Smokey Bear Blvd. CAPITAN, N.M. 88316

Dear Santa,
I would like a Haulk, (with sound) a dinosaur set with scenery, a toy rattle-snake, iguana leppard, tiger, giraffe, mountain lion, elephant, crocodile and dinosaur book.
Merry Christmas and Best wishes too!
Logan

Dear Santa,
I want a bracelet, a ring, a phone with a phone book, a bible, a pencil, a purse, shells, bubbles, a picture, glue, a poney, a bike, a power puff blanket, a paper and paint with a cup.
Merry Christmas, Ashton

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. How is Mrs. Santa? For Christmas bring me a Labador puppy, Bratz dolls, Bratz things, remote control scooter and teacherS markers. I will leave cookies and milk for you.
Love, Olivia Bertrand

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. Can you please bring me a tractor, motorcycle and a hammer?
Love, Austin Vega

Dear Santa,
I have been a very good girl this year. I would like a bratz with a bed, markers, paper & stickers. Bring Dillon a race car.
Love, Torri Trapp

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. Can you please bring me a babydoll?
Love, Mya Zamora

Happy Holidays

May the gifts of Christmas, happiness and love, be yours now and throughout the many years to come. We appreciate your goodwill.

HALL AUTOMOTIVE
354-2216
Capitan, NM

Best Christmas Wishes!

Behold the eternal beauty of this blessed time!

Merry Christmas and our sincere thanks to our cherished friends and neighbors.

TIERRA VERDE
Patsy and Tony

GREETINGS

We're thinking of all our loyal customers and wishing them a beautiful holiday season and every happiness during the coming year. We look forward to serving you in the future.

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Ruidoso, NM 88345
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Have A Good Day!!



County OKs Hospital

(Con't from P. 1)

Mexico ranks at the bottom of the pile for health insurance coverage," Gibson added. "So there is a disproportionate share of indigent care in New Mexico."

Currently the county takes money out of the hospital mill levy funds for the sole community provider payment. Gibson said as the sole community provider payments get larger, there will be less money from the mill levy for capital improvements at LCMC. "That is why Presbyterian has put up to \$300,000 toward capital improvements at the hospital," Gibson said.

St. John asked if the county hospital mill levy can continue to support the sole community provider payments which increase so much each year. Gibson said there is no question the mill levy can support the payments. "In my opinion it would be irresponsible for the county not to take advantage of the program," Gibson added.

County commissioner Earl Hobbs said if the county puts in less, then it will get back less. Gibson said the county can approve all the suggested payment, a portion or none. Hobbs then pointed to a memo by county manager Tom Stewart who compared the Lincoln County payment to the lower one for Gerald Champion Memorial Hospital in Otero County.

Gibson asked why the manager did this comparison. "It tells me there is more indigent impact here than at Gerald Champion," Gibson added.

St. John said Gerald Champion treats many people from the air force base who have insurance coverage.

County commission chair Rex Wilson said it is interesting that portions of the Lincoln County population have income levels that are quite high, and other portions of the population have low income levels.

"It seems we are getting more divided by those eco-

(SEE PAGE 7B)

Mgrs. Report

(Con't from P. 2)

that this change does not affect Blue Cross members who reside outside of the greater Albuquerque area," the letter from PHS stated. "You may still refer your patients to Presbyterian facilities and specialty physicians in Albuquerque because Presbyterian has a contract with Blue Cross to continue to provide services to members living outside the Albuquerque area."

"Presbyterian also has a contract with Blue Cross for our facilities and physicians in Clovis, Espanola, Ruidoso, Socorro and Tucumcari as we have had for many years," wrote Mark Kelfstock chief operating officer PHS.

Hobbs said he was struck by the letter from PHS "as very good." Hobbs, who has Blue Cross through his federal retirement, said he had been told the opposite (about PHS honoring Blue Cross from patients outside Albuquerque).

Stewart said apparently the situation applies to all Blue Cross holders outside Albuquerque. However, Stewart recommended Hobbs and any other Blue Cross insurance holder to "stick a copy of the letter (from Blue Cross) in his wallet to go to Albuquerque (for medical treatment)."

Wilson asked Stewart if any of the county employees chose to switch their health insurance carrier. Stewart said no.

LCSWA Gets Look At Station Designs

by Doris Cherry

Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority (LCSWA) members got their first look at preliminary designs for the new office/transfer station and recycling center to be constructed on the LCSWA land on Highway 70.

During their meeting December 18 in the LCSWA offices in Ruidoso Downs, LCSWA operational supervisor Debra Ingle presented the preliminary concept plans developed by the consultant. Ingle said she met with the consultant and LCSWA employees and they came up with some changes that are needed. She said changes included a dog walk for the humane

society shelter which will be located on the same property.

The LCSWA operational buildings will be entirely enclosed with a sound barrier wall which Ingle proposed be constructed from bailed used tires. LCSWA has a bailer but it takes 100 tires to make a bail. Ingle said she will do a promotion for old tires when it comes time to construct the wall. On top of the tire bail wall, there will be a six foot chain link fence with privacy slats and barbed wire at the top for security, Ingle added.

All solid waste and recyclable materials will be enclosed.

LCSWA member Leo Martinez suggested the facility have video cameras for security and because the

facility will be spread out. Ingle said she has asked for a full video system, which she has asked to include taping capabilities.

Martinez commended the conceptual design. "I don't see this as an architectural bomb," he added. "But we do need to stay on top of the costs."

Capitan representative on the LCSWA board, the mayor, asked if there are any facilities like that now in operation. Ingle said there are similar facilities in Torrance County and in Dona Ana County.

Once the conceptual design is accepted, the design will be taken to an engineer for actual working plans.

The Capitan mayor asked how much LCSWA spent for the land. Ingle said \$750,000 cash. As for the cost of the new facilities, Ingle said it could be also \$750,000 depending on whether they can use the bailed tires for the privacy

wall. She said LCSWA has 2,000 old tires stored so it can do the wall.

Martinez said he liked the idea of the tire wall. Ingle said the only expense of that wall will be the stucco covering and the fencing on the top. She said LCSWA used the bailed tires for the Capitan construction landfill closure to fill in a low area, saving about \$42,000 in dirt work. She said if LCSWA had a tire shredder it could shred the tires which can be landfilled. "But with a landfill that has a 100 year life, do we really want to fill it up with tires?" Ingle asked. "We need to look for use of these tires beyond the landfill."

Carrizozo representative Ray Dean then suggested the LCSWA office at the new site be reoriented to take advantage of passive solar. "We're not talking about adding to the cost of the building," Dean said. "With 23 percent of the

south wall in glass with a proper overhang you won't believe how little energy it will take to heat the building."

Dean also encouraged passive solar to heat the mechanics shop and other out buildings. Ingle said the mechanics do want some heating in the shop.

"We have the opportunity to start from scratch here," Dean said. "We need to look at passive solar." Dean also recommended recovering rainwater from the large square footage of roof planned for the new facilities.

Ingle said the new LCSWA facility is projected to be completed in 18 months. She said LCSWA will go to the state legislature in January to request funds.

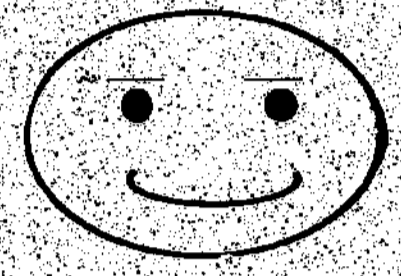
LCSWA members also approved a \$10,000 contract with H. John Underwood

for lobbying services at the January 2004 state legislative session. Ingle said LCSWA received \$97,000 from the 2003 legislature, with the help of Underwood. Ingle said in 2003 LCSWA requested \$800,000 but based on recommendations from the legislature the funding requests were broken into four phases. "We will be asking for \$100,000 this time for the second phase," Ingle said.

The \$10,000 for the lobbying services was budgeted, Ingle added.

Martinez said LCSWA should ask for as much money as it can.

Dean suggested Ingle present the request at the Legislative Roundtable set for December 30 in the courthouse in Carrizozo. Ingle said she will be at the Roundtable meeting.



County Commissioner Leo Martinez Has Close Call

Lincoln County Commissioner Leo Martinez had a close call last week.

Martinez told THE NEWS he was on his way back to Lincoln County from the airport in El Paso on Wednesday, December 17 when he was involved in an accident on Highway 54 just north of the Texas border.

Martinez, who had been in California to attend the funeral of his mother, said he was trying to get back to Lincoln County in order to attend the dedication of Highway 70 as the Joe Skeen Memorial Highway. He said he saw the vehicle with young people come onto the highway in an irresponsible manner and had slowed down because he was unsure what the young people were going to do.

"Sure enough they turned left right in front of me," Martinez said.

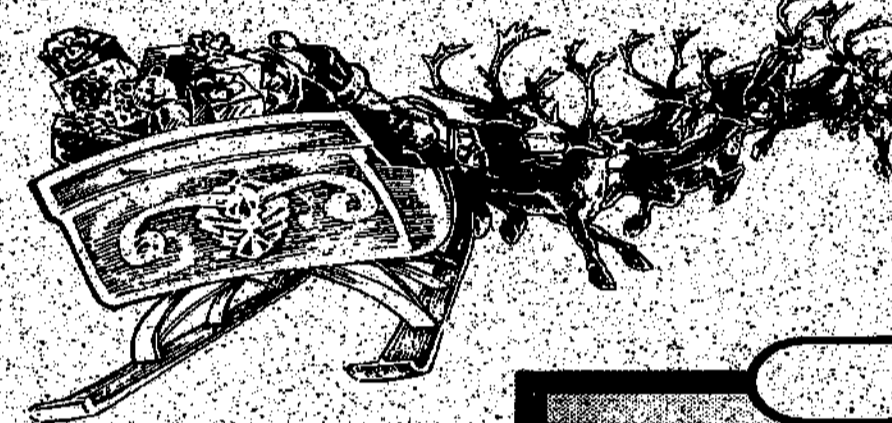
Although he was only going about 45 miles per hour, Martinez said he hit the car with the young people causing his Mitsubishi Montero to turn over on top of the car. He said the young people, who were uninjured, were trying to flee the scene but witnesses who had

stopped to help detained them until the Otero County Sheriff's Office arrived. He said the witnesses provided testimony on how the accident occurred, even though the young people had changed their stories about the accident when police arrived.

Martinez, who was wearing his seat belt, was not injured, although he said he had aches and pains and few bruises. The young people were cited for failure to yield to traffic, no vehicle registration and no insurance, Martinez said.

Although he did not make it to the highway dedication, Martinez was at the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority (LCSWA) meeting on Thursday, December 18. He represents Lincoln County on the LCSWA board.

One interesting thing happened during the accident, Martinez said. When his vehicle overturned he felt something fall onto his chest, which he assumed was broken glass. It turned out to be the St. Christopher medal, given to him when he joined the Knights of Columbus, which he had placed in his vehicle. "That medal landed right on my heart," he said.



Mgrs. Report

(Cont. from P. 6B)

nomically well off and those struggling to get by, and this is illustrative of this," Hobbs commented.

Gibson urged commissioners to budget the sole community provider payments as requested.

Stewart said he likes the \$300,000 idea for the payment and said he wanted to keep the amount "bench marked" because he is concerned the payment will consume more of the mill levy. "I recommend you approve the requested amount and look at the payment next year," Stewart said. "I want to be cautious."

Hobbs asked how much the hospital mill levy currently brings in. Stewart said the 1.1 mill brings in about \$596,000 a year. However, the last hospital mill levy election authorized up to 2.1 mills be collected. Hobbs said he did not want to go to the full mill levy amount.

Commissioners voted 3 to 1 on the payment with Hobbs voting against it. County commissioner Leo Martinez was absent, attending his mother's funeral in California.

In other business, commissioners:

Awarded the bid for an ambulance module for the new Carrizozo ambulance to Horton Ambulance of Grove City, Ohio for a cost of \$88,736, the only bid.

The module will be installed on a new chassis which will be purchased from state contract for \$25,931. The new ambulance will replace the underpowered diesel model that has trouble getting up the hills. The total cost of the new ambulance will be \$114,667 which is \$4,744 over budget but the overage will be taken from anticipated savings in the general ambulance operations budget, Stewart stated.

FAST ACTION

Lincoln County News

CLASSIFIED ADS

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CARRIZOZO
(505) 648-2911

FOR SALE: Carrizozo area, lots for Mobile Homes from \$100 month. 505-489-4941
12/23-30 / 1/8-15

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service is interested in leasing approximately 2,850 square feet of office space in Carrizozo. Interested lessors should contact Jim Perr, USDA-NRCS Real Property Leasing Officer at 505-761-4412.
2tc/12/18-23

WANTED: Remote lot or acreage near highway 532 and 48 intersections. Accessible only by 4x4 drive. Leave message (832) 419-0847.
1tp/12/23

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OBITUARIES

LOUISE MCNATT BABERS

Funeral services for Louise McNatt Babers were held Dec. 20 at Tinnie Baptist Church with Pastor Bill Jones officiating. Burial followed at Tinnie Cemetery.

Louise was born May 11, 1912 in Clouderoft. She took pride in being the same age as New Mexico. She died Dec. 16.

Louise was educated all 11 years in the old brick school house in Tularosa. In 1929 she was married to Tom Babers and in 1942 they moved to San Patricio. Louise was postmaster in San Patricio for 37 years.

She was a member of First Baptist Church in Tinnie. She was also a member of several organizations, including Lincoln County Historical Society, National Association of Postmasters, Garden Club and Extension Club, board member of Home Health Service, and she was editor of NM Postmaster's Newsletter for 10 years.

She is survived by son Bill Babers and wife Sandra of Dexter, grandson, great granddaughter and sister Lucille Marr of Tularosa, her caretakers Ginny Dean

of Roswell and Stella and Delfina Herrera of San Patricio, and many nieces and nephews.

Louise was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Tom Babers.

Pallbearers were her nephews Fred Lloyd Packer, Don and Gerald Marr, Louis Holland, Earl Rae, Bill Trammell, Jim and Terry McNett and Arthur Cain. Honorary pallbearers were Stella Herrera, Delfina Herrera, John May, Paul Jones, Walter Limacher, Ron Doan, Bob Boebinger, Jim Ogden and Peter Rogers.

CHARLES WILLIAMS

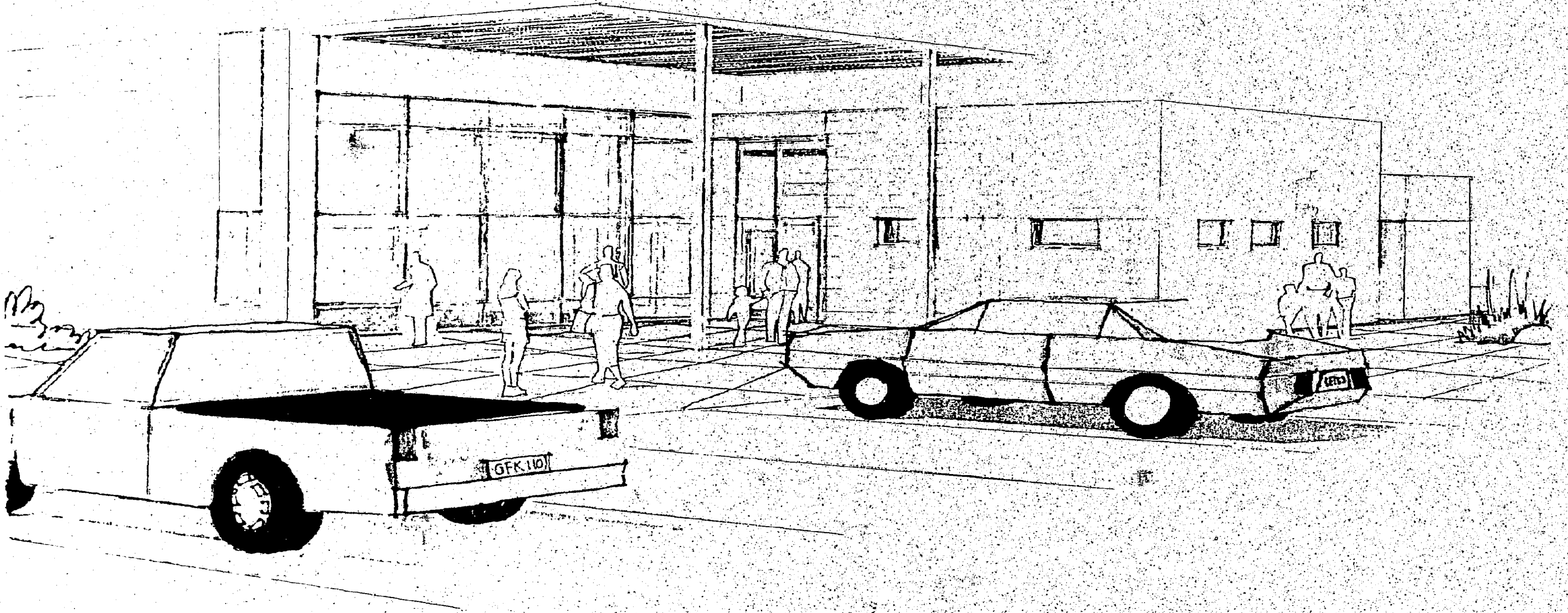
Graveside services for Charles Williams, 75, of Capitan were Dec. 19 at the Capitan Cemetery.

Mr. Williams died Dec. 14 in Capitan. He was born July 14, 1928 at Pampa, TX.

Survivors include his wife, Ethel Williams; son, Bobby Sours of Lampassas, TX; three daughters, LaDoris Sours of Ruidoso, Wanda White of Summerfield, OK and Elizabeth Spangler of Heavner, OK; 12 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

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

Sketch of the New Proposed Carrizozo Town Hall



NEW YEAR'S SALE-A-BRATION DAYS

SANTA FE REG./SEASONED
TORTILLA CHIPS 2 FOR \$5
14-20 OZ.

SANTA FE ASSTD.
CHUNKY SALSA 2 FOR \$4
16 OZ. JAR

CAPRI-SUN, TANG OR KOOL-AID
DRINK POUCHES 2 FOR \$4
6-10 PACK

ASSORTED
PAGE PICANTE \$1.79
16 OZ. JAR

MILK
Shurfine or Shur Saving
Premium Quality
Homogenized or Lowfat
All Varieties
gallon
\$2.39

DORITOS
CHIPS
Assorted 9-13 oz.
reg. \$3.29
2 FOR \$5

Top Ramen
NOODLES
Top Ramen Assd.
3 oz. pkg.
10 FOR \$1
Nissin Cup
Noodles 2.25 oz. 3 FOR \$1

RUSSET POTATOES
5 LB. BAG
99¢ EA.

BREAKFAST SIZE: **4 FOR \$1** SALAD SIZE: **2 FOR \$1**
GRAPEFRUIT **AVOCADOS**
TANGY JUICY **LEMONS** **8 FOR \$1** GARDEN FRESH **YELLOW ONION** **3 LBS. \$1**
FRESH JUMBO **GARLIC** **5 FOR \$1**

* CORN MUFFIN OR BUTTERMILK BISCUIT
JIFFY MIXES 3 FOR \$1
8-8.5 OZ.

CLAUDE'S SAUCE
16 oz. BBQ Brisket or
12 oz. Fajita Marinade
2 FOR \$4

Velveeta
KRAFT VELVEETA \$3.99
Reg. or Light
32 oz. loaf

JALAPEÑO PEPPERS
Sply Hot! **69¢** LB.

BLACK EYE PEAS
Shurfine
Reg. or w/Snaps
15 oz. can
3 FOR \$1

NAVEL ORANGES
10 FOR \$1

Frozen Foods

FAT FREE SHERBET 2 FOR \$5
Blue Raspberry Assorted
1/2 gal. round

JALAPEÑO POPPERS 2 FOR \$5
8 OZ. PKG.

MOZZARELLA CHEESE STICKS 2 FOR \$4
POPPERS 8 OZ. PKG.

KRAFT SINGLES \$2.79
Ind. Wrapped American
16 oz. pkg.

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Family Pack DRUMSTICKS or
Thighs 49c Lb.
New York Strip Steak \$4.99 Lb.
Top Round Steak \$2.69 Lb.
London Broil
Roast \$2.49 Lb.
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