

County Treasurer Keeping Close Eye on Tax Revenues

by Patrice Brazie

As of November 30th, the Lincoln County Treasurer's office has collected 54 percent of the county's total projected budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. 43 percent of property taxes due earlier this month were collected in the month of November as well, according to treasurer Beverly Calaway. On December 19th, Calaway's office distributed \$3,657,569 to the entities for which the county collects tax

revenues.

"We've been closely monitoring the county's one-eighth gross receipts tax collections, which are dedicated to the detention center debt service," Calaway told the county commissioners on December 16th.

County manager Tom Stewart said that the one-eighth gross receipts tax that supports the county-owned detention center also provides the funding for the county's indigent health care fund.

"If we start to see that decline, Scott Anala and I will have to sit down and make a plan," Stewart said. He suggested that Lincoln County might not see much of a decline in gross receipts taxes as the nation's economy slows.

"I think our community is a relatively inexpensive tourist destination, and I don't think the American public is going to give up doing some kind of break from the heat of Texas," Stewart said. "I'm hoping

that we don't see a significant decline in gross receipts."

County commissioner Dave Parks said that, traditionally, tourists have continued to come to Ruidoso and Lincoln County during slow economic times.

"Instead of going to Hawaii or Europe, people come to Ruidoso," Parks said. "The only time that we really hit a variance in that

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CARRIZOZO, NEW MEXICO 88301



GABRIELLA MASON, of Carrizozo, had a chance to make her wishes known to the man from the North Pole when Santa visited Carrizozo on Saturday past. (Photo by Patrice Brazie)

Patient Numbers Down at LCMC

by Patrice Brazie

Decreased revenues from both in-patient and out-patient services at the Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) give an early indication of the affects that a troubled economy could have on health care systems across the state, according to hospital Administrator Jim Gibson.

In an address to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners during its December 16th meeting, Gibson said that in-patient services have seen a two-percent drop in volume from last year and out-patient figures indicate a significant drop of 15 percent.

"We're a leading indicator, I think because of the nature of our community, a resort community largely," Gibson said. "Those resort dollars get hit first in a worsening economy. The rest of the state's health care delivery system is catching up rapidly," he said. "I anticipate the calendar year 2009 and

the fiscal year 2009-2010 are going to be very, very difficult times for the health care delivery systems in the state."

Gibson told the county commissioners that, because of the unsure economic forecast, he would not be asking for an increase in funding through the federal Sole Community Provider program. That program provides funding for small, rural hospitals to help cover the costs of providing treatment to those who cannot afford to pay for health care.

The county puts up one dollar for every three federal dollars provided through the program. The county's share is collected through a property tax mill levy.

"We are authorized to have the prior year's approved amount, plus the supplemental amount, plus a market basket index which is usually three to five percent," Gibson said. "I thought long and hard about it this year."

The administrator said that he and the hospital

board have kept the Sole Community Provider funding at about the same level for the past few years, expecting the annual growth of hospital revenue to make up for increased funding needs.

"In my judgment, we need to not (increase the funding request) because we'll need those mill levy funds for other things," Gibson said. "We need to make the hard decisions to contain our costs as volume goes down or expand our services if volume goes up. We need to be flexible in that manner," he said.

"We need to tighten our belt and get used to that, and that's why I decided, and the board concurred, that we need to keep our (program funding) base at \$2,046,956. That is used direct against patient care for people who cannot pay for their patient care," Gibson said.

The county's portion of the monies that the medical center received last year from the Sole Community Provider was \$584,594, and that figure is estimated to be the same for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

(SEE PAGE 4)

Lincoln County to Revise Lodgers Tax Applications

by Patrice Brazie

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners approved one Lodgers Tax award during the county commission meeting of December 16th. As recommended by the Lodgers Tax committee, the organizers of the 2009 Carrizozo Cowboy Days will be reimbursed for \$3,000 that will be spent for promotion and advertising.

The three day bi-annual event will take place on June 12th, 13th and 14th. Roland Castor of Carrizozo, who presented the funding request to the Lodgers Tax Committee, reported that the first Cowboy Days event in Carrizozo in 2007 filled the motels and ran one local restaurant out of food.

County manager Tom Stewart said that he has been working with a new Lodgers Tax Committee member,

Brad Cooper of White Oaks, to establish some new policies regarding the scheduling of committee meetings and the sequencing of recurring annual events.

"Most of the activity is in April and May or towards the end of the calendar year," Stewart said. "I'm looking at having a meeting perhaps every two months. Brad is considering once a year, but I'm not sure that would do it, so I'm looking at perhaps negotiating with them (the committee)," he said.

Stewart said that he would probably send out notices to the organizers of the known recurring events to inform them of committee meeting dates and deadline requirements. He said he is

(MORE ON PAGE 2)

County Receives PILT Money

by Patrice Brazie

County manager Tom Stewart, during his monthly report to the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners, said that he recently

met with Ernesto Ortega, director of New Mexico State Monuments, to discuss the future of Fort Stanton.

Stewart said that, while the transfer of the

Fort from the Property Control Division to the State Monuments division is not yet complete, but moving along well. Some legislative funding issues associated with the transfer will be worked out in the upcoming legislative sessions in Santa Fe, he said.

Regarding some of the county's outstanding legislatively funded projects, Stewart said that the installation of a heating and cooling system at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds is progressing rapidly and that the Arabela Fire Department can expect delivery of a new fire truck sometime in March. Completion of a security wall at The Nest domestic violence shelter is also underway with an expected finish date sometime within the next 30 days. Other projects include the construction of a new fire station at Glencoe and a new fire truck for the Lincoln fire department.

On November 21st, the county received additional funding from the federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The \$637,928 was deposited into the county's investment accounts, Stewart said. He also received a letter from the state Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management confirming that the State of New Mexico will be allocated more than \$8,000,000

for the procurement of inter-jurisdictional and inter-disciplinary communications equipment across the state.

Congressional changes to a funding program of the U.S. Forest Service called Title III will affect the availability of resources that have in the past been utilized to support the purchase of equipment for White Mountain Search and

(MORE ON PAGE 3)



A VERY JOLLY ST. NICK has been making his way around the world talking to kids before his big night out delivering toys on Christmas Eve. Santa was escorted around Carrizozo on a fire truck Saturday last. (Photo by Patrice Brazie)



CARRIZOZO VOLUNTEER FIREMEN delivered packages of food to needy families over the weekend. (Photo by Patrice Brazie)

Lincoln County to Revise

(Continued from Page 1)

also working on a calendar of local events and is aware of some that have not requested county funding in the past but may do so in the future.

Stewart said that he will closely monitor Lodgers Tax awards as he watches for any downward trends in the generation of Lodgers Tax revenues.

The application for Lodgers Tax funding for events is also being modified, Stewart said, to include information about how event attendance is being measured, how it will be promoted and how much of the

advertising budget will be spent outside of the county. The manager said that by measuring the attendance numbers and origin of those in attendance, the Lodgers Tax Committee could be provided with data that would help to determine whether or not an event is actually drawing visitors from outside of the county who will stay in local lodging facilities.

"If they're not attracting lodgers, then perhaps it's one that should be funded less than requested," Stewart said. "It's a budgetary issue that (requires) prioritization

and bang for the buck needs to be measured," he added.

Members of the Lincoln County Lodgers Tax Committee serve two year terms. The current members are Brad Cooper, Gail Major, David Vigil, Kay Rucker and Victor Garrett.

In other business, the county commissioners chose their appointments for several committees and commissions in which they participate.

County commissioner Jackie Powell and Lincoln County resident Stirling Spencer will continue to

serve on the Coalition of Counties.

County commissioner Eileen Sedillo will again represent the county in the Chaves County Community Action program which apparently holds no meetings.

County commissioners Dave Parks and Tom Battin will continue service on the Village of Ruidoso's Extraterritorial Zoning Authority along with Ruidoso's appointee Ron Hardeman.

Powell will replace Battin on the Interstate Stream Commission.

Blaine Armstrong and Russell Waterhouse were appointed to continue their positions on the Lincoln Historic Preservation Board.

Parks and Stewart were re-appointed to the New Mexico Insurance Authority.

Lucy Servies, Jerry Longbotham and Wolfgang Diem have agreed to serve another two years on the Lincoln County Senior Citizens Olympic Committee.

Sedillo and Stewart will serve again as Lincoln County representatives in the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD).

Parks will sit on the board of the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority.

Also on December 16th, the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners approved restaurant liquor licenses for beer and wine sales at the Wortley Hotel and for the Laughing Sheep Farm Restaurant, both in Lincoln.

In The Service

Navy Seaman Recruit Jesse D. Underdown, a 2004 graduate of Capitan High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Underdown completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event

of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet.

"Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.



DISTRICT COURT CALENDAR

The Calendar for District Judge Karen Parsons

Monday, December 15

8:15 a.m. Larry Ysasi v. MVD; CV-2008-326 (Merits) (ProSe/Belles)

Criminal Jury Trials - 8:30 a.m.

- #1 Fred Berry; CR-07-192 Burson/Holmes
- #2 Fred Berry; CR-2007-202 Burson/Holmes
- #3 Dustin Bentley; CR-2008-174 A.Eley/Mitchell P.C.
- #4 Jennifer Burgess; CR-2008-175 A.Eley/Mitchell P.C.
- #5 Julie Grisham; CR-2008-177 Burson/Bryant
- #6 Justin Slaughter; CR-2008-136 A.Eley/Mitchell P.C.

Tuesday, December 16

Judge Parsons in Ruidoso

8:30 a.m. Eric Castleberry v. David Christopher; (Mtn/Protective Order) CV-2008-136 (R. Hawthorne/Olsen)

9:00 a.m. - Juveniles

First Appearance

Saiben G; JR-2008-59
Anthony M; JR-2008-60
Michael ; JR-2008-56

Change of Plea

Dawayne G.; JR-2008-39
Jaime D; JR-2008-53

Adjudicatory

Niko C.; JR-2008-40
Skylar R.; JR-2008-49
Lorren M; JR-2007-42

Other

Jessica D; JR-2008-54 JI/Consent Decree
1:05 p.m. Beatriz Ontiveros v. Castillo v. Rodriguez; CV-2006-261 R.Hawthorne/Z Cook
3:00p.m. Drug Court Screening
4:30 p.m. Drug Court

Wednesday, December 17

Criminal Jury Trials - 8:30 a.m.

- Lindsay V.; JR-2008-17 - Burson/Torrez
- #2 Robert Eganis; CR-2008-10 Burson/Mitchell P.C.
- #3 Jesus Castillo; LR-2008-04 J.Eley/Mitchell
- #4 Alice Jackson; CR-2008-178 Def to Plea 12-12
- #5 Candelario Pedroza; CR-2008-181 A.Eley/Mitchell P.C.
- #6 Ray Barala; CR-2008-129 Thompson/Rose
- #7 Matthew Stubbs; CR-2008-185 A.Eley/Holmes
- #8 Jacob Scott; CR-2008-184 A.Eley/Rose
- #9 Jesus Villanueva-Saenz CR-2008-182 Blankinship/Holmes

Thursday, December 18

Criminal Jury Trials - 8:30 a.m.

- 1 of 2 Days - #1 Jose Prieto; CR-2008-51 (Interp Diem) Key/Wills
- 1 of 2 Days - #2 T. Riordan; CR-2007-113 Esquibel/Mitchell P.C.
- #3 Jamie Jackson; LR-2008-03 J.Eley/Mitchell P.C.
- #4 Joel Martinez; CR-2008-180 A.Eley/Klein
- #5 Andy F. Gonzales; CR-2008-189 A.Eley/Rose
- #6 Andy R. Gonzales CR-2008-187 A.Eley/Rose
- #7 Faustino Miranda; CR-2008-192 A.Eley/Mitchell P.C.

Friday, December 19

Criminal Jury Trials - 8:30 a.m.

- 2 of 2 Days - #1 Jose Prieto; CR-2008-51 (Interp Diem) Key/Wills
- 2 of 2 Days - #2 T. Riordan; CR-2007-113 Esquibel/Mitchell P.C.
- #3 Jeffrey Daniels; CR-2007-65 Burson/Mitchell P.C.
- #4 Paul Sias; CR-2008-203 Def to Plea 12-12
- #5 Rudolpho Lopez; CR-2008-194 A.Eley/Rose
- #6 Scott Yates; CR-2008-193 Burson/Mitchell P.C.
- #7 Robert Craun; CR-2008-143 J.Eley/Mitchell
- #8 Billi Jo Whitlock; CR-2008-149 J.Eley/Rose

10:00 p.m. Charles Autrey v. Patricia Autrey; DM2008-133 (Cont of Interim Relief)(Gibson/ Pro Se)

Monday, December 22

Judge Parsons - vacation

Tuesday, December 23

Judge Parsons - vacation

Darrell Brantley

- 10:00 a.m. Ashley Bowser v. Randy Villarrela DV-2008-99
- 11:00 a.m. Marissa Telles v. Marco Flores DV-2007-26
- 1:05 p.m. Sarah Whittaker v. Mike Yeager DV-2008-100
- 2:00 p.m. Bonnie Neudauer v. Thomas Neudauer DV-2008-101
- 2:30 p.m. Melissa Apodaca v. Chris Apodaca; DV2008-103

Wednesday, December 24

Judge Parsons - vacation

Court Closes at Noon

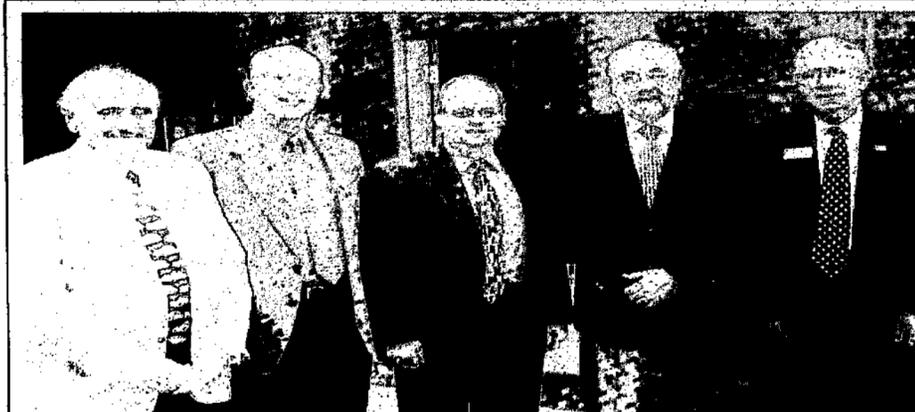
Thursday, December 25

Court Closed

Merry Christmas!

Friday, December 26

Court Closed



THE EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY Board of Regents signed an opening agreement Friday morning at their meeting at ENMU-Portales between ENMU-Ruidoso and the Spencer Theatre near Ruidoso. The agreement allows for possible future expansion of ENMU-Ruidoso on property owned by the Spencer Theatre. Pictured are (L-R): Stewart Ashman, secretary of Cultural Affairs for New Mexico; Michael Elrod, president of ENMU-Ruidoso; Charles Centilli, executive director of the Spencer Theatre; Tom Battin, development officer for the Spencer Theatre; and Steven Gamble, ENMU president. (Courtesy Photo)



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MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS
 -Free GED classes 6 to 8 p.m., Carrizozo School Library.

TUESDAYS
 -Capitan Public Library preschool story hour 4:00 p.m.
 -Alcohol Anonymous 6:30 p.m. Carrizozo First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAYS
 -Corona Public Library Story Hour 4 p.m.
 -AWANA for children age 3 through 6th grade, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Carrizozo, non-denominational activities. Call 648-2107 for information.
 -The Tao, a non-denominational instruction for teenagers, 6:00 p.m. Methodist Church in Carrizozo. Light meal.

FIRST and THIRD THURSDAYS
 -Representative from State Engineer's office is at Ruidoso Village hall from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
 -American Legion Post #11, service Carrizozo area meets at 9:00 a.m. at Wells Fargo Bank.

EACH FRIDAY
 -A) Anon family group for families and friends of alcoholics, noon, Methodist Church, Carrizozo, bring lunch.

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
 -Luminaria lighting begins at 3:30 p.m. Enjoy the luminaria display, tune to radio FM 101.9 for holiday music while on luminaria tour.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
 -Merry Christmas Everyone!!!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29
 -All copy for this week issue of *The Lincoln County News* due in office by 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31
 -*Lincoln County News* publishes one day early this week.
 -Swearing in of newly elected county officials, 9:00 a.m. in District Courtroom.
 -Special meeting of Lincoln County Commissioners 9:30 a.m. in Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo. Agenda includes considering appeal of a planning commission decision on proposed subdivision and a request for assistance from residents of Los Chozas Estates subdivision with a low water crossing.

Gambler's Anonymous meetings. The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop gambling. Local information 682-6200.



In Loving Memory

Charley Gallegos
 12-23-'06
 We love and miss you brother.

Love,
YOUR FAMILY

Treasurer Keeping Close Eye

(Continued from Page 1)

was in 1985 when the oil patch "totally cratered," he added. "If oil gets down to \$25 a barrel we may be in trouble, but other than that we're probably all right," Parks said.

With an interest rate of four-and-a-half percent on the bond for the detention center, Parks suggested that the county might consider looking into refinancing that loan to get a lower interest rate and Stewart agreed.

"But I don't know how receptive the bank industry's going to be, and the bond industry is going to be to that," Stewart said. "I'm really concerned that there's another mortgage crisis on the horizon that people haven't paid attention to, which is the adjustable ARMs that are going to come due here in the next couple of years," he said. "We've seen one peak with the sub-primes and I'm afraid we're going to see another peak with the adjustable ARMs. I'm really fearful for, probably, the next three or four years," Stewart said.

County commissioner Tom Battin suggested that the county's credit rating might prove to be an advantage in the future should some refinancing of loans be considered.

think the state, unlike the federal government that can produce money, has to operate on a balanced budget," he said. "I think New Mexico's in fairly good shape compared to California with a 41.8 billion dollar deficit coming in 2010. Counties are in good shape because we derive our revenue primarily from property taxes," Stewart said. "Even if properties go into foreclosure, I think someone is still paying the taxes on them."

Lincoln County Lodgers Tax showed a slight decline in July and August of this year, Calaway reported, probably due to the flooding that forced the temporary closing of several R.V. parks and other lodging facilities in the Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs areas.

"We need to be very conservative with the awarded lodgers tax monies this year," Calaway said. "We have collected only 48 percent of our projected budget. This is down from 57 percent in 2007," she added.

County commissioner Jackie Powell opined that the high price of gas over the summer months could have affected the lodgers tax receipts even more than the flooding.

As of November 30th, the total amount of cash held by the Lincoln County Treasurer was \$15,723,789, Calaway reported. The average interest rates earned in November varied from about one-half of a percent to a little more than three percent in the various accounts held by the county.

"This month we are seeing a negative rate of interest on treasury bills for the first time since the 1930s," Calaway said.

Stewart said that, in reviewing the various investment pools and funds of the state, they're down about 25 to 30 percent.

"The retiree accounts are down significantly, and I read some statistics where it said that they were paying out \$25,000,000 a month and taking in \$24,000,000 a month," Stewart said. "I

Receives PILT

(Can't from P. 1)

Rescue. Stewart reported that, while funding for equipment for the organization may no longer be available, the Title III program will offer funding for the costs of search and rescue operations.

The county manager said that until funding through the program becomes available next year, the county will provide \$4,000 in funding for the organization. Stewart has asked that members of White Mountain Search and Rescue develop a method by which the group can document its actual operational costs for reimbursement through the federal program.

The Lincoln County Legislative Capital Outlay hearing is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 8th at the Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs. State Senators Tim Jennings and Rod Adair and Representatives Nora Espinoza and Dennis Kintigh are expected to be present.

Requests from county and municipal governments will be heard first, followed by non-governmental entities which will be heard based on the order in which they sign up at the meeting.

Newly elected officials of Lincoln County will be sworn into office on December 31st at 9:00 a.m., in the district courtroom in Carrizozo. Judge Karen Parson will preside.

A FINE GIFT FOR SOME ONE



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Ad paid in part by Carrizozo Lodgers Tax and Lincoln County Lodgers Tax

PUBLIC NOTICE / NOTICIA PUBLICA

Discharge Permit Application / Aplicación para Permiso para Descargar: For up to 15,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater to a treatment and disposal system / Hasta 15,000 de galones por día de aguas residuales domésticas a un sistema de tratamiento y disposición

Applicant & Discharge Location / Solicitante & Sitio de Descarga: Cannon Industries LLC - Oscuro Site, on US Hwy 54 and Lincoln County Rd A002, approximately 16 miles South of Carrizozo

For More Information / Para Más Información (DP-1706): Ground Water Quality Bureau / Sección de Agua Subterránea NM Environment Department / Departamento del Medio Ambiente

(505) 827-2900 www.nmenv.state.nm.us (public notices)

Information in this public notice was provided by the applicants and will be verified by NMED during the permit application review process.

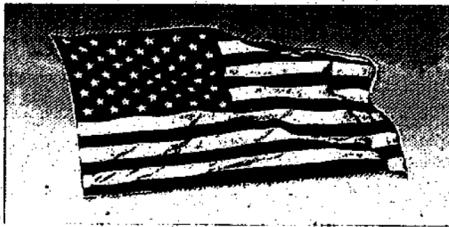
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UNTIL THEY COME HOME

THOUGHTS
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Christmas Future - Good News Ahead?
By Ruth Hammond

Christmas of the Future has not been set yet and it is a good bet that things will be quite different than they have been in the past. The downturn in the economy has many people concerned. Others are objecting to the feds bailing out companies that are paying exorbitant salaries and bonuses to a few supposedly qualified CEOs who may be responsible for their companies going broke. It makes a person wonder the reasoning behind the actions being taken by the federal government in this huge mess.

All this time we are hearing that one reason is to keep people working and not have losses of jobs. Are you one of the many wondering why some of these millionaire CEOs don't dip into their pockets and reimburse their companies a few million dollars to help keep jobs? If they were being paid in accordance with the remainder of the employees, this fiasco probably wouldn't have happened.

Listening to the double talk makes it interesting, but as you know, the powers that be aren't asking the people. If they did they might be surprised at the answers they'd get and they might even find a better solution. But the top officials are all buddies and they need to stick together and do what is best for each other instead of looking out for the people who are footing the bills. Such is life.

Unless something drastic happens, this scenario will happen again in a few decades. But from action taken by the Lincoln County Commissioners earlier this month a similar situation may not happen again. There is a plan to revise the way the lodger's tax monies are distributed and that is good news. Through the years we have watched as officials have consistently handed out money after an event has been held, supposedly because the organizers won't know the cost until after the event is over. That is a bunch of malarkey because the lodger's tax money is not to pay the entire cost but to help with the expenses.

Monitoring of how lodger's tax money is spent is long overdue and we are glad it will finally be part of the policy. It will be refreshing to hear statistics presented as to attendance from where, etc. When the county lodger's tax program was organized it seemed a good idea, but as good ideas go at times, there were snags. The main snag was that officials were not consistent with doling out the money, and there seemed to be no method of monitoring.

Now a new policy may be enacted and more people should benefit. Apparently the object was for some of the events to become self supporting but it didn't happen. It was evident that some of the same groups came back year after year asking for and receiving lodger's tax money.

Yes, we realize it takes time to institute new policies but this policy should have been in effect long ago. Let's hope that this new policy will be an example of Christmas future for the county and be Good News for everyone!

EARL...



THE ONLY THING ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT COLDER THAN MY HANDS AND FACE AT THIS MOMENT ARE MY FEET.
Big Dog Syndicate

Seasons Greetings

Inside the Capitol

by JAY MILLER, Syndicated Columnist

SANTA FE -- Untrained state government managers are costing New Mexico's taxpayers big bucks. And it's about to get bigger.

KRQE News 13, in Albuquerque, reports that the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys is paying a soon-to-retire state employee a year's wages to stay home rather than going to the trouble of firing her for being disrespectful and lying about her work duties.

The agency director Randy Saavedra says, "It's either that or be tied up in court or whatever the process is with the review board." Saavedra says he was told by the state Risk Management Division that the cost of a lawyer, possible appeals and punitive damages could cost the state thousands of dollars.

That means the prudent thing to do with taxpayer money is to pay almost all this employee's \$54,000 annual salary rather than paying thousands of dollars for lawyers, appeals and punitive damages?

The simple answer is management training for all employees hired or moving up to a supervisory level. It would save the cost of lawyers, appeals and punitive damages.

The state of New Mexico has a Personnel Act that covers the hiring and firing of employees. The reason for the act is that when Gov. Jack Campbell took office in January 1963, he was surprised to find that nobody showed up to work that day.

He was told it was customary for the new governor to fire everyone and hire his friends. Campbell didn't think that was the way to run a state so he called in his friend Ray Powell from Sandia Corporation to help him get a personnel law in place.

Among many items in the law is a section governing the discharge of employees. By following the procedure and using progressive discipline, employees can be fired for cause.

It should be part of every new manager's training. But it seems there is no training for new management personnel. And then they receive bad advice from the lawyers at the state Risk Management Division.

If supervisors do their jobs correctly, an administrative review of a discharge is likely the most that will ever happen. Most lawyers wouldn't want to take a case on to court because of the small chance of winning. And punitive damages would be out of the question.

blunder. Attorneys should know better. Of course, district attorneys deal with criminal offenses, not civil. And as one of them is quoted by KRQE, if this employee had committed a criminal offense, firing would be justified.

Well, yes, it would. But most employees don't commit criminal offenses on the job.

To make matters even worse, KRQE learned that in the past few years, at least two other employees in the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys have been put on paid leave for months instead of being fired.

Aha, more employees are catching on. The word is getting around. When you are nearing retirement, start misbehaving on the job and get your last year's pay with no work.

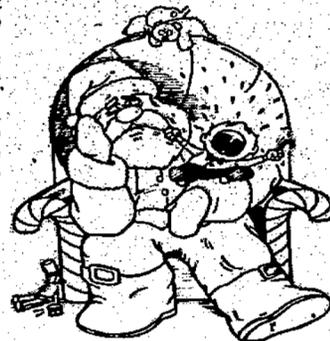
What's more, the state Risk Management Division advises all agencies of state government. It wouldn't be giving this advice only to one small agency. Any employee in state government is

eligible for the gray train.

My advice to state government is immediate management training going for all supervisors. There are plenty of good trainers around who can provide it. It also can be done through college courses. And don't worry about the cost. The state will save money by not paying annual salaries to problem employees on leave.

Look at what other states around us are doing. Gov. Janet Napolitano, in Arizona, has instituted an outstanding program.

Also look at training programs for new state employees. They need to be taught the rules and regulations and not just hope to pick it up from co-workers.



Numbers Down at

(Con't. from P. 1)

Gibson said there has been a big drop in the number of small businesses in the state that provide any health care coverage for their employees.

"I think our community is going to suffer kind of like it did in the 1980s when the oil patch dried up," he said, "except this one is the whole economy: it's worldwide. I think we have to be prepared for a tough time, so the Sole Community Provider program becomes even more important than in the past."

Gibson said that he has, for the past six or seven months, been hoarding the hospital's cash, not replacing or buying new equipment if it can be extended for another year.

"I'm using the auxiliary money to buy capital items. I'm hitting the Lincoln County Medical Center Foundation for money and keeping my operating cash so that it grows, so that if we have trouble we'll be able to meet payroll and those kinds of things," Gibson said. "I don't know of any hospital in the state that isn't in a hiring freeze at this point," he added.

The county's board of commissioners approved the medical center's Sole Community Provider funding at the same rate as last year.

WEATHER REPORT

by Jeff Hammond

We might see a white Christmas in Lincoln County. Forecasts say there is a pretty good chance for snow showers at the higher elevations of Lincoln County starting this evening, continuing through Christmas day. The lower elevations have a slight chance for rain showers, and the winds out of the west are always a concern of the high desert areas around Carrizozo.

Current conditions for skiing at Ski Apache are; eight of 55 trails are open, with three lifts operating. 21 inches of machine groomed powder/packed powder at the lower elevations, and 24 inches of machine groomed powder/packed powder at higher elevations.

More lifts and trails may be opened

for weekend skiing depending on amounts of snow fall received before and during the weekend.

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

Today, Wed., Dec. 24, 359th day of 2008

A slight chance of rain showers, mostly cloudy, with a high near 44, west winds between 15 and 20 mph with occasional gusts as high as 35 mph, night: A slight chance of snow showers, mostly cloudy, with a low around 33, southwest winds between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

A slight chance of rain showers, partly cloudy and breezy, with a high near 44, night: A slight chance of snow showers, partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

Friday, December 26

A fair chance of showers, mostly cloudy, with a high near 50, night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Saturday, December 27

Mostly sunny, with a high near 46, night: Partly cloudy, with low around 16.

Sunday, December 28

Sunny, with a high near 45, night: Mostly clear, with a low around 19.

Monday, December 29

Sunny, with a high near 51, night: Mostly clear, with a low around 20.

Tuesday, December 30

Sunny, with a high near 49, night: Mostly clear, with a low around 19.

Forecast for Ruidoso, Capitan and Corona and most of the Hondo Valley:

Today, Wed., Dec. 24, the 359th day of 2008

A fair chance of snow showers, mostly cloudy, with a high near 38, west winds between 10 and 15 mph, night: A fair chance of snow showers, mostly cloudy, with a low around 28, west wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

A good chance of snow showers, partly cloudy and breezy, with a high near 43, night: A fair chance of snow showers, partly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Friday, December 26

A good chance of snow showers, mostly cloudy, with a high near 46, night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Saturday, December 27

Mostly sunny, with a high near 42, night: Partly cloudy, with low around 17.

Sunday, December 28

Sunny, with a high near 48, night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22.

Monday, December 29

Sunny, with a high near 47, night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22.

Tuesday, December 30

Sunny, with a high near 46, night: Mostly clear, with a low around 21.

The above information was taken from the National Weather Service Website. For up to date weather reports, go to www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/ on the internet. This website is up-dated every four hours.

The New Mexico Highways Department has developed a new toll free number for up to the hour road constructions/ conditions information. Just dial 511, listen to the options and go from there. You can also get up to the minute, in-depth, construction updates by logging in to www.nmroads.com for any area of the state.



Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas

Old Lincoln Town

by Roselle Dunlap

Merry Christmas, and Hanukkah and others to all my readers.

A lot has happened in Lincoln during our absence the past month.

The Old Fashion Christmas sounds like it was fun. Sue Maness won the Christmas tree contest with her wooly decorations. It is so cute.

The CowBelles, the Extension clubs and many other organizations held their Christmas parties while we were gone.

We spent Thanksgiving

ing in Willcox, Arizona with Ralph's brother, Kenneth and Carol and our granddaughter and husband Jerry and our great grandson, Tristan. Naturally everyone wanted to hold and play with him.

We came home for a couple of days and then were on our way to Kerrville, Texas. We took two days to arrive there. We spent several days there. We met so many people with ties to Cloudcroft, Alamogordo and Ruidoso.

Mr. and Mrs. Morin were one couple. Patti Gilbert Morin went to high school in Alamogordo and thought she had gone to high school with Jon Amastae. She was also a graduate of NMSU. Another couple had a cabin in Cloudcroft. One couple referred us to some apartments.

We went to the senior citizens center where we met all these fine people.

What a fabulous place. The building was built on land that was owned by the family for the seniors. There are all kinds of crafts and activities for everyone. No reason to be bored.

(MORE ON PAGE 8)

Lincoln County News

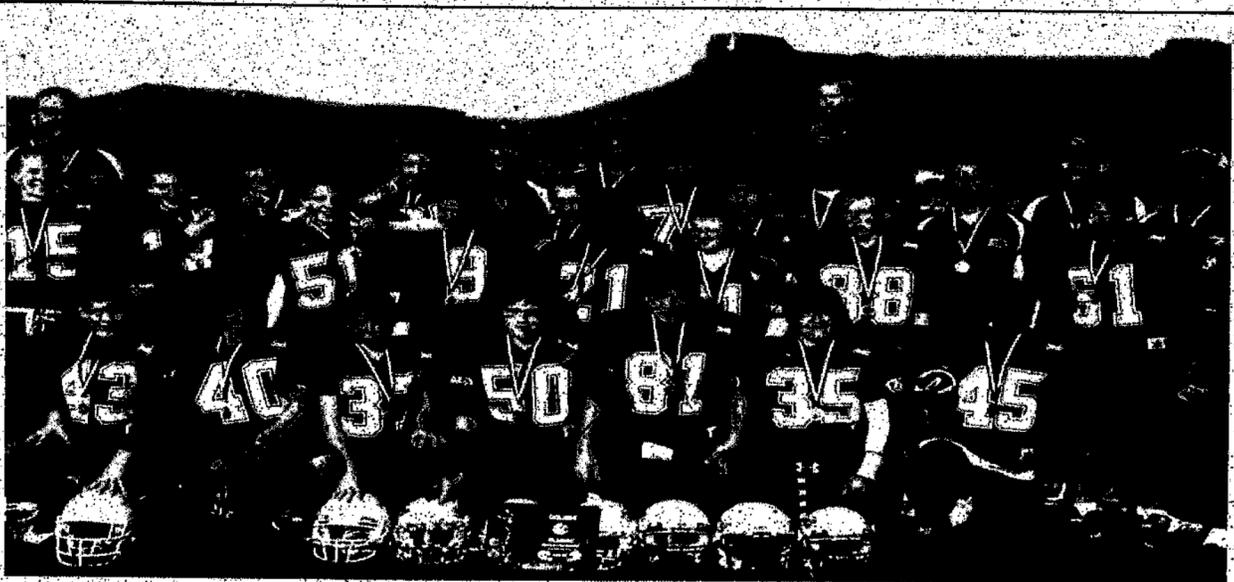
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IN COUNTY: 1 Year \$30.00 / 2 Years \$55.00
IN STATE (NM): 1 Year \$33.00 / 2 Years \$61.00
OUTSIDE NM: 1 Year \$37.00 / 2 Years \$68.00





ABOVE PHOTO SHOWS the Rio Rancho Rams football team that competed in this year's Albuquerque YAFL League. The Rams finished regular season play as Conference Champs in the Junior Division with a 7-1 record, the Rams lost to Valley in the playoffs by the score of 14-12. The team then competed in the Albuquerque State Tournament where they came in 3rd - losing to Santa Fe and defeating Aztec. In late November the Rams traveled to Denver, CO and represented New Mexico in the 3rd Annual Golden Classic, going 3-0 in the 3-day competition and captured the championship. Team posed for this photo after being awarded the championship plaque and individual championship medals. In photo are: (Kneeling) Chris Zirpel, Tyler Chavez, Marcos Travers, Tyler Gale, Josh Hinman, Zach Janis, Matthew Guevara; (Middle Row) Corbin Hayes, Dustin Brown, Alex Tartaglia, Brady Patterson, Chris Gutierrez, Jared Lumley, AJ Lermuseaux, Kris Mortensen and Matthew Aguilar; (Back Row) Coach Lumley, Easton Bruere, Joseph McTeigue-Garcia, Coach Patterson, Coach Mortensen, Omar Vigil, Trey Patterson. (Courtesy Photo)

SHERIFF'S REPORT

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

December 8
 5:47 a.m. B & E reported at Hondo Elementary School in Hondo, deputy dispatched.
 11:09 a.m. Welfare check requested at residence on Little Creek in Rancho Ruidoso Valley Estates, deputy dispatched.
 1:05 p.m. Alarm reported at location on Chavez Canyon Road in Hondo, deputy dispatched.
 1:32 p.m. Agency assistance requested at residence on Alta Mira in Ranches of Sontero, deputy dispatched.
 3:41 p.m. Warrant service at Lincoln County Detention Center (LCDC) on Airport Road in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 3:44 p.m. Warrant service at LCDC on Airport Road in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 5:18 p.m. Alarm reported at location on Smokey Bear Boulevard in Capitan, police dispatched.
 9:39 p.m. Medical call at LCDC on Air Port Road in Carrizozo, ambulance dispatched.
December 9
 3:23 a.m. Medical call at location on Enchanted Forest Loop in Alto, Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance and deputy dispatched.
 4:08 a.m. Medical call at residence on A Avenue in Carrizozo, ambulance dispatched.
 9:45 a.m. Unknown trouble call from Picacho Post Office in Picacho, deputy dispatched.
 10:51 a.m. Vandalism reported at location on Windswept in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 4:14 p.m. Medical call at Cummings Gym at Capitan High School in Capitan, ambulance dispatched.
 6:05 p.m. Medical call at location on Billy the Kid Court in Alto, ALS ambulance dispatched.
 9:03 p.m. Welfare check requested at location on Hwy 37 in Nogal, deputy dispatched.
December 10
 2:25 a.m. Accident reported on Hwy 54 in Ocuero, ambulance and deputy dispatched.
 2:49 a.m. Suspicious activity by person(s) in vehicle reported at location on Deer Park Road in Alto, deputy dispatched.
 11:36 a.m. Fire reported at location on Musketball in Alto, Bonito fire units dispatched.
 2:46 p.m. Accident reported at location on FR 120 in Alto, Bonito fire units and deputy dispatched.
 4:00 p.m. Information report at Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) located in the Lincoln County Courthouse (LCC) on Central Avenue in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 4:04 p.m. Agency assistance requested by New Mexico Department of Corrections Adult Probation and Parole (APO) officer at business location on Hwy 48 in Alto, deputy dispatched.
 4:40 p.m. Registered Sex Offender check at LCSO in the LCC on Central Avenue in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 7:04 p.m. Medical call at location on Deer Creek Road in Alto ALS ambulance dispatched.

December 11
 11:42 a.m. Welfare check requested at location on West Cedar in Capitan, police dispatched.
 2:19 p.m. Abandoned vehicle reported at mile marker 52 on Hwy 380 west of Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 3:28 p.m. Medical call at location on Central Avenue in Carrizozo, ambulance dispatched.
 6:18 p.m. Dog reported running loose on Crazy Horse in Alto, deputy dispatched.
 6:46 p.m. Agency assistance requested by APO at residence on CR 019 in Hondo, deputy dispatched.
 10:14 p.m. Registered Sex Offender check at LCSO located in the LCC on Central Avenue in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.

December 12
 8:33 a.m. Dog reported running loose on Moccasin Trail in Alto, deputy dispatched.
 12:02 p.m. Warrant service at District Court located in the LCC on Central Avenue in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 4:47 p.m. Abandoned vehicle reported near intersection of Bonito Lake Road and FR 107 in Bonito, deputy dispatched.
 5:19 p.m. Traffic hazard reported at mile marker 129 on Hwy 54 north of Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 5:46 p.m. Warrant service at LCDC on Airport Road in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 5:59 p.m. Agency assistance requested at business location on Hwy 48 in Alto, deputy dispatched.
 6:17 p.m. Domestic battery reported at location on Hwy 380 in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.
 7:30 p.m. Domestic battery resulting in agency assistance requested at residence on Fourth Street in Capitan, police, ambulance and deputy dispatched.
 8:03 p.m. 911 Hang-up from residence on Drexel Avenue in Carrizozo, police dispatched.
 8:25 p.m. Dog reported running loose on Hwy 380 in Carrizozo, police dispatched.
 8:43 p.m. Suspicious activity by person(s) in vehicle reported at business location in Capitan, police dispatched.
 9:31 p.m. Agency assistance requested by Capitan police at intersection of Forest and Second Street in Capitan, deputy dispatched.

December 13
 10:49 a.m. Lost or stolen passport reported at business located at Hwy 54 and Hwy 380 intersection in Carrizozo, police dispatched.
 11:30 a.m. Agency assistance requested by Capitan police at location on Hwy 380 in Capitan, deputy dispatched.
 11:51 a.m. Assault reported at location on Broken Arrow in Ruidoso, deputy dispatched.
 11:53 a.m. Unknown trouble call from residence on Birch Street in Carrizozo, police dispatched.
 3:08 p.m. Registered Sex Offender check at LCSO in the LCC on Central Avenue in Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.

(MORE ON PAGE 6)

Church Directory



MOUNTAIN MINISTRY PARISH, SIERRA BLANCA PRESBYTERY

Nogal Presbyterian Church:
 E.W. "Bo" LEWIS, Pastor
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
 Worship 11:00 a.m.

Ancho Community Presbyterian Church:
 Worship 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Corona United Presbyterian Church:
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
 Worship 11:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church

HAYDEN SMITH, Pastor
 314 10th Ave., Carrizozo, NM
 648-2868 (Church) or 648-2107
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service 10:55 a.m.
 Sun. Evening 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. - April
 AWANAS 8:00 p.m.

Carrizozo Assembly of God
 Corner 13th & C Ave.
 Barbara Bradley, Pastor
 Children's Ministry and Nursery Available
 Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
 Youth Service 6:00 p.m.

Santa Rita Catholic Community

FR. FRANKLIN, Pastor
 213 Birch, Carrizozo, NM, 648-2853
 DAILY MASS / Santa Rita 8:30 a.m.
SATURDAY:
 Capitan Sacred Heart 5:00 p.m.
 Carrizozo Santa Rita 7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY:
 Capitan Sacred Heart 8:30 a.m.
 Carrizozo Santa Rita 10:30 a.m.
 Corona St. Theresa 1:30 p.m.

Angus Church of the Nazarene
 'Serving All of Lincoln County'

RICK HUTCHINSON, 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 and Children's Church 10:30 a.m.
 Family Worship 8:00 p.m.
 Wednesday:
 Community dinner 6:00 p.m.
 Adult classes, Youth games and study, Kids Klub 7:30 p.m.

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

Rev. d Canon Peter Sanderson,
 Priest-in-Charge
 Corner of E. Ave. and Sixth, Carrizozo, NM
 Ph. 605-257-2956
 Holy Eucharist Sunday 9:30 a.m.

White Oaks Community Church
 Non-denominational
 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Church Community Church

TONY SCACCIA, Minister
 648-1402
 Second Sunday of Each Month 8:00 a.m.

United Methodist Churches

JOHANNA ANDERSON, Pastor
 1000 D. Ave. 648-2883 / 648-2846
 Carrizozo, NM 88301
 Sunday School (All Ages) 10:00 a.m.
 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
 Choir Practice (Tuesday) 6:30 p.m.
 United Methodist Women
 Every 3rd Wednesday 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 8:30 a.m.

Christ Community Fellowship

ED VINSON, Pastor (Inter-denominational)
 514 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan, NM
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Capitan Church of Christ

LESLIE EARWOOD, Minister
 5th & Lincoln / 336-4627
 Sunday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 8:00 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

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

Sun. at
 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.

Grace Fellowship Church
TERRY AIELLO, Pastor
 849-0105
 Corona, NM
 Worship 9:30 a.m.

Obituary

FLOYD EARL PROCTOR

Floyd Earl Proctor died on December 13. He was born in Corona on August 2, 1936 to Floyd and Loretta Proctor. He was the first of eight children. He moved to Farmington in 1956 and became a skilled welder. While in Farmington he met and married Gwendell Jones. They had five children. After five years with El Paso Natural Gas Co. he purchased a small farm in southern Missouri and later moved to the industrialized area of Northwestern Indiana just outside of Chicago. After 13 years Floyd Earl moved his family back to New Mexico, first in Albuquerque then returning to Farmington as a welder. In the mid 1980s Floyd Earl returned to Corona and the family ranch helping to care for his father and ranching. In the early 1990s he resumed welding and pipeline, this time in the Permian basin, living in Eunice, NM. While living in the southern part of the state, he reacquainted himself with Peggy Bussey from the Corona area. Floyd Earl and Peggy were married on September 5, 1998, and soon made their home in Corona. This union doubled the size of Floyd Earl's family. Later he and Peggy relocated to Artesia. Floyd Earl is preceded in death by his father Dee Floyd Proctor and brother Dee Proctor. He is survived by his wife Peggy, mother; Loretta, sons; Jimmy, Fred and Chad; daughters; Veronica, Denise, Meridec, Marha, Sam, Tracie, Edna; 27 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; his brothers Bo and Sandy; sisters; Sissy, Radna, Veda, and Alma; numerous nieces and nephews, and a world of friends. Pallbearers were Todd Proctor, Tim Proctor, Jimmy Maxwell, Clint Leary Sulzmeier, Melvin Sulzmeier and Anthony Gallegos. Honorary pallbearers were all those whose heart was branded by Floyd Earl. Floyd Earl was laid to rest at the Proctor Family Cemetery in Corona on December 15. Arrangements entrusted to Harris-Hanlon Mortuary.

'We Salute and Thank All of Our Service People.'

Jerry & Lanita Rasak
LaGrone Funeral Chapel

In Memory of
BILL WINKLER
Insurance Exchange
 Carrizozo Branch

Letters to Santa . . .



Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a MP3 player.

Thank you,
Max

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a real life puppy.

Thank you,
Joanna

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. Can you please bring a kitchen dolly.

Love,
Z'maury Zamora

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. Can you bring me some big green Hulk hands a iron man and a batman.

Love,
Noah Williams

Dear Santa,
Me and my sister Gracie have been good. Can you bring me a Hannah Montana jacket, clothes, and Hannah Montana hair. Can you bring Gracie a little pony.

Love,
Bella & Gracie Bartz

Dear Santa,
I would like a Power Ranger Game with a whole bunch of adventures in it. I want a thousand Power rangers with swords. I would like some spurs and a vest. I also would like a gun with a holster.

Love,
J.J.

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy can you please bring me a truck and car.

Love,
Anakin Miller

Dear Santa,
I have really been a good boy this year. Can you please bring me a robot dinosaurs.

Love,
Mathias Zamora

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. Can you please bring me a pink cowgirl hat.

Love,
Bryana Villanueva

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year can you please bring me a dirt bike and a four wheeler.

Love,
PJ Samora

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. Can you please bring me a race track, dump truck, and cars for the race track.

Love,
Robert Lueras

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. Can you please bring me a race car Jeep and a blue motorcycle.

Love,
James Hemphill

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. Can you please bring me a playdough game, and a toy shop.

Love,
Izaiah

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. Can you please bring me a truck. Can you please bring Jade and Danny a prize. And bring my baby brother a puppy.

Love,
Ty Roper

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy can you please bring me a motorcycle.

Love,
Johnny

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. Can you please bring me a barbie and a bratz doll.

Love,
Sabrina

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year can you please bring me a Wii with a game and two controllers.

Love,
Daniel

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy can you please bring me a car.

Love,
Kalvin Vega

Dear Santa,
I want a guitar. I believe in you. I like your reindeers.

Love,
Colton

Dear Santa,
I want a train set please. I wish it was Christmas everyday.

Love,
Hunter

Dear Santa,
I want a real cellphone and a fake sword.

Love,
Drey

Dear Santa,
I am glad that you are going to my house to give me presents. I am making snowballs with my mom and dad and we are having lots of fun. I want Dragon Moon Sand and lots of presents. I hope you have a great Christmas time. I love you Santa.

Good-bye,
Nicola

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How are your reindeer? How is Mrs. Clause doing. I would like a ipod for Christmas.

Love,
Savannah Sanchez

Dear Santa Clause,
How is Rudolph? I helped my Mom and Dad take out the trash. I would like a play station 3. And I would like a xbox 360.

Love,
Patrick Hooten

Dear Santa,
How is Roodaif doing? How are you doing Santa? I want a mp3 for Christmas. I want a farm set. I will leave some milk and cookies.

Love,
John Wyatt Hemphill

Dear Santa Clause,
How are your reindeers? And can I have a bike? Play stashin 3.

Love,
Jullan

Dear Santa,
How is Roodolf? I've been good this year. I helped my mom plant the garden. I would like the game Shrek Carnivl games. And pro wheely sycl.

Love,
Detrich Miller

Dear Santa Clause,
How is roodaif? I would like a mp3 and a xbox for Christmas please.

Love,
Orion Wyatt

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a Dallas Combo bike.

Thank you,
Ethan

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a sparkle jeep.

Thank you,
Tazia

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a monster truck.

Thank you,
Keegan

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a pencil sharpener.

Thank you,
Samantha

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a Barbie doll.

Thank you,
Suntana

(MORE ON
PAGE 8)

**THE TASK AHEAD OF YOU,
IS NEVER AS GREAT
AS THE POWER BEHIND
YOU.**

**BE STRONG IN THE LORD, AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER.
EPHESIANS 6:10**

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen"

Sheriff's Report

(Con't. from P. 5)

5:11 p.m. Fire reported at Rose Clinic on West Smokey Bear Boulevard in Capitan, fire units and police dispatched.

6:25 p.m. Domestic battery reported at residence on Edna Lane in Capitan, police dispatched.

7:42 p.m. Medical call at residence on West Third Street in Capitan, ambulance dispatched.

8:23 p.m. Suspicious activity reported at location on Hwy 54 south of Carrizozo, deputy dispatched.

8:34 p.m. Alarm reported at location on La Rinconada Lane in San Patricio, deputy dispatched.

9:11 p.m. Suspicious activity by person(s) in vehicle reported at LCDC on Airport Road in Carrizozo, police dispatched.

11:00 p.m. Missing or lost person reported from location on White Oaks Road, deputy dispatched.

December 14
7:43 a.m. Information report at location on Cowboy Court in Rancho Ruidoso Valley Estates, deputy dispatched.

7:58 a.m. Medical call at location on Stable Road in Alto, ALS ambulance and deputy dispatched.

9:03 a.m. Agency assistance requested at location in Ruidoso Downs, deputy dispatched.

9:10 a.m. Unknown trouble call from business located at intersection of Hwy 54 and Hwy 380 in Carrizozo, police dispatched.

11:02 a.m. Agency assistance requested at location on FR 120 in Alto, deputy dispatched.

2:34 p.m. Civil dispute reported at location on BeBord in Ruidoso, deputy dispatched.

3:43 p.m. Information report at Ski Apache, deputy dispatched.

7:25 p.m. Medical call at location on Stable Road in Alto, ALS ambulance dispatched.

8:31 p.m. Information report at location on Spring Street in Ruidoso Downs, deputy dispatched.

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for Anyone!
Anytime of the Year!*

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LEGALS

**LEGAL NOTICE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
No. CV-08-371
Division III**

ROY H. BROWNING, JEROME WAYNE MORRIS, MARTHA D. MORRIS, MARC A. PACE, AND JAY SKAGGS,
Plaintiffs,

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: THOMAS FORD, RICHARD G. McCARTER, BETH McCARTER, JOHN R. GIORDANO, MARY ALICE GIORDANO, AND HAROLD W. WAGGONER, ALSO KNOWN AS HAROLD WAGGONER; AND

GROUP II: ALL UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS OF INTEREST IN THE PREMISES ADVERSE TO THE PLAINTIFFS;
Defendants.

**SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF
PENDENCY OF ACTION**

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO THE ABOVE DEFENDANTS NAMED OR DESIGNATED:

GREETINGS: You are hereby notified that Roy H. Browning, Jerome Wayne Morris, Martha D. Morris, Marc A. Pace, and Jay Skaggs, Plaintiffs, have filed an action in the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, Civil Docket No. CV-08-371 Div. III, wherein you are named as Defendants and wherein said Plaintiffs seek 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:

Lot 7 of SIERRA VISTA ESTATES SUBDIVISION, 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, on November 4, 1960;

You are further notified that unless you enter your appearance, plead or otherwise respond in said cause on or before January 26, 2009, 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 Plaintiffs' Complaint.

The name and address of the attorney

for the Plaintiffs is: Archie A. Witham, (575) 354-2698, 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 9th day of December, 2008.

JAN PERRY
Clerk of the District Court
By: Gloria LaMay
Deputy

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 11, 18 and 24, 2008.

**LEGAL NOTICE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
No. CV-08-372
Division III**

JAMES MEGILL,
Plaintiff,

vs.

GROUP I: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED DECEASED PERSONS: CURTIS L. BERRY, SARAH C. GRAY, AND RANDY L. STUFFELBEAM,

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 DEFENDANTS NAMED OR DESIGNATED:

GREETINGS: You are hereby notified that James Megill, Plaintiff, has filed an action in the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, Civil Docket No. CV-08-372 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:

Lot 1, Block 4, DOCKRAY ADDITION, Capitan, 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.

You are further notified that unless you enter your appearance, plead or otherwise respond in said cause on or before January

26, 2009, 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: Archie A. Witham, (575) 354-2698, 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 9th day of December, 2008.

JAN PERRY
Clerk of the District Court
By: Gloria LaMay
Deputy

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 11, 18 and 24, 2008.

**LEGAL NOTICE
RESOLUTION #1 - 2009
OPEN MEETINGS RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, section 10-15-1(B) of the Open Meetings Act (Sections 10-15-1 through 10-15-4 NMSA 1978) states that, except as may be otherwise provided in the Constitution or the provision of the Open Meetings Act, all meetings of a quorum of members of any, board, commission other policy-making body of any state agency held for the purpose of formulating public policy, discussing public business or for the purpose of taking any action within the authority of such board, commission or other policy-making body, declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times; and

WHEREAS, Any meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act at which the discussion or adoption of any proposed resolution, rule, regulation or formal action occurs shall be held only after reasonable notice to the public; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-15-1(D) of the Open Meetings Act requires the Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District to determine annually what constitutes reasonable notice of its public meetings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District on this 10th day of December, 2008, that:

1. Regular meetings of the Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District shall ordinarily be held each month at 1:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month at 1011 S. Atkinson. A proposed agenda will be available from the District Clerk whose office is located 1011 S. Atkinson, Roswell, New Mexico. Notice of regular meetings will be given seven (7) days before the meeting to parties who request it in writing.

2. Special meeting of the Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the members upon seven (7) days notice. Parties who have requested notice of meetings in writing will be notified by telephone.

3. Emergency meetings of the Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District are meetings called under circumstances which demand immediate action by the Board of Supervisors. Although the Board of Supervisors would avoid emergency meetings whenever possible, such circumstances may occasionally arise. Emergency meetings may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the members upon four (4) hours notice. Parties who have requested a notice of meetings in writing will be notified by telephone.

4. Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (E) NMSA 1978, the Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District may close a meeting to the public if the subject matter of such discussion or action is included in Subsection E or the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1 NMSA 1978. If any Board of Supervisors meeting is closed pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (E) NMSA, such closure:

(1) If made in an open meeting, shall be approved by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Supervisors and authority for the closure shall be stated in the motion calling for the vote on a closed meeting shall be taken in an open meeting and the vote of each individual member is to be recorded in the minutes. Only those subjects announced or voted upon prior to closure by the Board of Supervisors

may be discussed in a closed meeting; and

(2) If called for when the Board of Supervisors is not in an open meeting, the closed meeting shall not be held until public notice, appropriate under the circumstances, stating the specific provision of law authorizing the closed meeting is given to the member and the general public.

Passed by the Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District this 10th day of December, 2008.

Aubrey Dunn Jr.
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District
December 10, 2008

Published in the Lincoln County News on Thursday, December 24, 2008.

**LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT**

No. D-1226-CV-2008-0231

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE MLMI TRUST SERIES 2007-MLNI,
Plaintiff,

vs.

RAYMUNDO URBINA, MARTHA URBINA, AND UNKNOWN TENANT (REAL NAME UNKNOWN),
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT

TO: RAYMUNDO URBINA AND MARTHA URBINA

You are hereby notified that a civil action has been filed against you in the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, by Plaintiff, Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee for the MLMI Trust Series 2007-MLNI, in which Plaintiff prays for foreclosure on its Note and Mortgage on real property located in Lincoln County, New Mexico as described in the claim in said cause against Defendants named above, that the said real property be sold according to law and practice of this Court to pay the lien of the Plaintiff, and that the interest of the Defendants, and each of them, and all persons claiming under or through them and all other persons bound by these proceedings be barred and foreclosed of all rights, interest of claims to said real property, and for such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

The property involved is the real estate and improvements located at 405 Reservoir Dr., Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico 88346, and more particularly described as:

Lot 2, Block 4 of MOUNTAIN HOME SUBDIVISION, Lincoln County, New Mexico, as shown by the plat thereof, filed in the office of the County Clerk of Lincoln County September 3, 1946, in Tube No. 78,

including any improvements, fixtures, and attachments, such as, but not limited to, mobile homes. If there is a conflict between the legal description and the street address, the legal description shall control.

You are further notified that unless you enter or cause to be entered your appearance or file responsive pleadings or motions in said cause within twenty (20) days of the third consecutive publication of this Notice of Suit, judgment will be rendered in said cause against you and each of you by default, and the relief prayed for will be granted.

The name of the attorneys for Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee for the MLMI Trust Series 2007-MLNI is Little & Drantel, P.C. 7430 Washington Street, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109, Telephone: (505) 833-3036.

BY ORDER OF the Honorable Karen L. Parsons, District Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District Court of the State of New Mexico, and the Seal of the District Court of Lincoln County, entered on December 12, 2008.

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 24, 31, 2008; and January 8, 2009.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that on November 17, 2008, Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District, P.O. Box 750, Alto, NM 88312, filed application No. H-719-S17 with the STATE ENGINEER for permit to change location of well H-719-S-17 located in the SE¼SW¼SE¼ of Section 35, Township 10 South, Range 13 East, N.M.P.M. Applicant proposes to drill replacement well approximately 1175 feet in depth, and 16 inches in diameter located in the SE¼SW¼SE¼ of Section 35, Township 10 South, Range 13 East, N.M.P.M. The replacement well will be located approximately 17 feet west of the original well.

For the continued diversion of up to 613.94 acre-feet per annum of groundwater for domestic and subdivision purposes in the Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District Service Area, describe as follows:

SUBDIVISION	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE
Part of SE¼SE¼	24	10 S	13 E
Part of	25	10 S	13 E
Part of	26	10 S	13 E
Part of S½	27	10 S	13 E
Part of E½	33	10 S	13 E
Part of	34	10 S	13 E
All of	35	10 S	13 E
Part of N¼	36	10 S	13 E
Part of SW¼SW¼	19	10 S	13 E
Part of NW¼	30	10 S	13 E
Part of NW¼	31	10 S	13 E
Part of N¼NW¼	31	10 S	13 E
Scenic View Ridge, Tracts 1, 2, 3, & 4	31	10 S	13 E

The replacement well will be located approximately 17 feet west of the original well.

The wells are located within the Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District service area in Alto, Lincoln County, New Mexico.

Any person, firm or corporation or other entity having standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (legible, signed, and include the writer's complete name and mailing address). The objection to the approval of the application must be based on: (1) Impairment; if impairment you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) Public welfare/conservation of water; if public welfare or conservation of water within the state of New Mexico, you must show you will be substantially affected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with John R. D'Antonio, Jr., P.E., State Engineer, 1900 West Second Street, Roswell, New Mexico 88201, within ten (10) days after the date of last publication of this Notice. Facsimiles (fax) will be accepted as a valid protest as long as the hard copy is sent within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing postmark will be used to validate the 24-hour period. Protest can be faxed to Office of the State Engineer, (575) 623-8559. If no valid protest or objection is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with Sections 72-2-16, 72-5-6, and 72-12-3.

Published in the Lincoln County News on December 18, 24 and 31, 2008.



"Season's Greetings!"

Santa Letters

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a skateboard.

Thank you,
Dollton

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a p23 player.

Thank you,
Jacob

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like an orange bike.

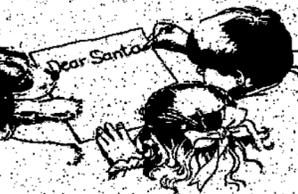
Thank you,
Kaitlin

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a princess doll for Christmas.

Thank you,
Sydney

Dear Santa Clause,
How are you doing? How are your reindeer? I helped my mom and dad rake the yard. I want a guttar for Crismis, also a backhow for crismis, and a plan for crismis. I also a neckles for crismis. I love you Santa.

Love,
Nicklas Swearingen



Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a truck.

Thank you,
Matthew

Dear Santa,
How are your raindeer doing? I helped my dad and grampa rake the yard. Can I have that teckdeck dudes action farm van that transforms to a skate park for Christmas and a necklas for christmas.

Love,
Austin Dennis

Dear Santa Clause,
How are you doing? How are your reindeer? I helped my mom and dad rake the yars. I want Halo3 for my xbox 360 game, and a red remote contrler for my xbox 360.

Love,
Dominic Barela

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is Mrs. Clause and your reindeer. I heped my mom and dad clean house. I would like a baby alive go poty for Chrimas and a ipod.

Love,
Samantha Miller

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? Can I have mp3 and a plat stashun 3. Can I have a prowleesikl?

Love,
Clayton Swift

FAST ACTION
Lincoln County News
CLASSIFIED ADS
Call: (575) 648-2333

VALUABLE COUPON!
ELSIE'S HOLIDAY SPECIAL (W/COUPON)
Buy one Elsie Burger w/fries and two soft drinks at full price and receive a second Elsie Burger at one-half price!
(EXTRAS NOT INCLUDED)
--- EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2009 ---

FOR SALE Four cemetery plots, Capitan Cemetery. Sold all together. \$800. Call 575-627-0930 leave message. 4tp-Dec. 18-Jan. 8.

HOUSE FOR SALE or RENT in Carrizozo. 3 bedroom, 2 bath on 1.5 acres, fresh remodel, horses ok. Sale \$78,000, Rent \$550. Owner finance available.

575-937-6321
tfn/11/20

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
Lincoln County News
Call 575-648-2333

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

YOUR NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY / STATE _____ ZIP _____

I WOULD LIKE MY AD TO RUN
(Check appropriate box for number of weeks)
[1] [2] [3] [4] [5]

Here's What I Would Like to Say
\$6.00 per Week / for 20 words or less **

1.) _____

_____ 20. _____

(** Add 10 cents per word for each word over 20.)

COST OF AD: _____ MAIL or BRING TO:
Tax: (.0625) _____
TOTAL: _____

Lincoln County News
P.O. Drawer 459
309 Central Ave.
CARRIZOZO, NM 88301
Ph. or Fax: 575-648-2333

Lincoln Town

(Cont. from P. 4)
Leaving Kerrville we headed for Portland, TX (Corpus Christi). We visited our daughter and husband Lois and David Coleman. It was cold and windy and had one night of freezing weather.

While there, Lois's scrapbooking group, the YA YA girls held their Christmas party. After the gift exchange and dinner we were going to do some scrapbooking. But we never left the dinner table visiting with each other and having a good time.

When we arrived home it seemed like we were having doctor visits.

Sunday the Episcopians met at the home of the Dunlaps. Church will meet at the Jordons (Casa Patron) home the first Sunday of the month and the Dunlaps the third Sunday of the month.

The Preservation Board met Thursday with a lively discussion about solar systems.



Waiting For a Sail
The Modern Merchant
Doesn't wait for SALES
HE ADVERTISES

LEGAL NOTICE
RESOLUTION #3 -- 2008
CARRIZOZO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OPEN MEETINGS RESOLUTION

Whereas, Section 10-15-1 (B) of the Open Meetings Act (Sections 10-15-1 through 10-15-4 NMSA 1978) states that, except as may be otherwise provided in the Constitution or the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, all meetings of a quorum of members of any board, commission or other policy-making body of any state agency held for the purpose of formulating public policy, discussing public business or for the purpose of taking any action within the authority of such board, commission or other policy-making body, are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times; and

WHEREAS, any meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act at which the discussion or adoption of any proposed resolution, rule, regulation or formal action occurs shall be held only after reasonable notice to the public; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-15-1(D) of the Open Meetings Act requires the Carrizozo Soil and Water Conservation District to determine annually what constitutes reasonable notice of its public meetings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Carrizozo Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors on this 9th day of December, 2008 that:

1. Regular meetings of the Carrizozo SWCD shall ordinarily be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the NRCS Office located on Twelfth street Carrizozo, NM. A proposed agenda will be available at the office. Notice of regular meetings will be given seven days before the meeting to parties who request it in writing. Notice of regular meetings will be released seven days before each regular meeting. Meeting dates for 2009 are: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8 (unless otherwise published in paper).
2. Special meetings of the Carrizozo SWCD may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the members upon seven days notice. Parties who have requested notice of meetings in writing will be notified by telephone. The Ruidoso News and Lincoln County News will be notified by telephone.
3. Emergency meetings of the district are meetings called under circumstances which demand immediate action by the Board of Supervisors. Although the Board of Supervisors would avoid emergency meetings whenever possible, such circumstances may occasionally arise. Emergency meetings may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the members upon **three hours notice**. Parties who have requested a notice of meetings in writing will be notified by telephone. Notice of emergency meetings will be posted at the district office, at the Post Office in Carrizozo, at Wells Fargo Bank in Carrizozo, and other places deemed appropriate.
4. Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(E) NMSA 1978, the Carrizozo SWCD may close a meeting to the public if the subject matter of such discussion of action is included in Subsection E of the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1 NMSA 1978. If any Board of Supervisors meeting is closed pursuant to Section 10-15-1(E) NMSA, such closure: (1) if made in an open meeting, shall be approved by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Supervisors and authority for the closure shall be stated in the motion calling for the vote on a closed meeting. The vote on a closed meeting shall be taken in open meeting and the vote of each individual member is to be recorded in the minutes. Only those subjects announced or voted upon prior to closure by the Board of Supervisors may be discussed in a closed meeting; and (2) if called for when the Board of Supervisors is not in an open meeting, the closed meeting, the closed meeting shall not be held until public notice, appropriate under the circumstance, stating the specific provision of law authorizing the closed meeting is given to the members and to the general public.

Melvin Johnson, Chairman 12-9-08
This resolution passed upon motion by Steve Harkey and second by Jack Allen Davidson, with vote as follows:
Melvin Johnson, Absent
Gray Gallacher, Absent
Steve Harkey, Yes
Jim Grider, Yes
Jack Allen Davidson, Yes

ATTEST: Cathy Perez Date: 12-9-08
Published in Lincoln County News on Wednesday, December 24, 2008.