Prairie Haven Cemetery offers first columbarium in county

**DENISE MARQUEZ**

Six feet under the ground is not the only option for county residents to put their loved ones remains. Prairie Haven Cemetery, 1900 E. Stanolind, has a columbarium available for residents to place cremated remains instead of ever placing in a Lea County cemetery.

Director of Operations, Ramiro Ramirez, said the columbarium is the first one over ever placed in a Lea County cemetery. It was "a high demand for residents within the county and people are going for cremation for affordability," she said. "People are trying to cut down on funeral costs and burial fees to place a place to put cremated remains instead of the traditional spreading." 

Douglas McDonnell, Hobbs parks and recreations director, approved the columbarium approved by commissioners during a July 7 commission meeting. The columbarium has 242 by 12-inch niches available for purchase. Each niche will be allowed two cremated remains, which will require a $1000 placement fee and $30 perpetual cash fee.

"We feel the fees that we are bringing are reasonable," she said. "The staff have done research on other columbarium fees in the area and we find ours to be very affordable. We are going to allow them a prepayment plan or pre-arrangement to come up to the cemetery." 

Ramirez said after Monday's dedication ceremony the first set of cremated remains will be placed in the columbarium.

"It's ready to go," she said. "After the dedication on Monday we're going to have our first placement of (cremains) of Father Dennis Fountain." 

Fountain served as pastor for nine years at St. Blasius Catholic Church in Hobbs before he retired in 2009. He died Dec. 29, 2013.

For more information on the dedication ceremony, contact Junior College.

Denise Marquez can be reached at 395-5457 or at reporter@hobbsnews.com.

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**LOUVINOY**

Lovington Police Department activity for 7-11-14

• Four ambulance runs: 3900 block of Avenue B; 1300 block of West Clinton.

• Nine calls for service.

• No data for non-criminal incidents.

Hobbs Fire Department activity for 7-11-14

• No data available.

**Fuego Wireless Retail Manager Paulina Huerta cuts the ribbon Saturday to commemorate the grand opening of Fuego Wireless in Hobbs at 2400 N. Grimes. Next to her are Hobbs Chamber of Commerce executive Grant Taylor, 94.9 DJ Tom A and her staff Emily Gutierrez, Jenea Juarez, Marissa White, Gracie Martinez, Courtney Sosa and 94.9 DJ Kevin B.**

New Internet provider opens store in Hobbs

**DENISE MARQUEZ**

Residents now have more options in Internet access thanks to Fuego Wireless opening its doors.

Fuego Wireless had its grand opening and ribbon cutting Saturday at its new location, 2400 N. Grimes, at the Hobbs Plaza behind First National Bank.

"We've been open at a limited basis," Joe Berick, Fuego Wireless director, said. "We had the store set and we got our new products (ready) (served) (yesterday) (first time) for the first time.

The new store will offer cell phones, access to the internet, prepaid cell phone plans, high speed internet and home security.

"What (Fuego Wireless) is becoming is a wireless destination," Berick said. "One of the products that we have offer our wide use. internet for homes. Basically, customers can come in and sign up for service and we will leave the store with a wireless route. They just plug it in, it's ready to go. It's plug and play and they can plug and log into it. It goes our LTE network and provides them with high speed internet."