

**Aggies lose 3rd straight**  
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THE LAS CRUCES  
**Bulletin**



**Bill Allen's legacy**  
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# Resilient mayor looks forward



**MIYAGISHIMA**

**By Susie Ouder Kirk**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima is resilient, if nothing else.

The newly re-elected Las Cruces mayor tends to land on his feet, regardless of the stumbling blocks

that crop up in front of him. At 5 years old, he survived a lightning strike that hit a tent he and his siblings and friends were playing in at the Miyagishima home in Alamogordo. The neighborhood friends were enjoy-

ing a game of Monopoly, when their dog Blackie stood up, stuck his nose out the door flap, sniffed once, and drew himself back into the tent. He stood quiet and still for several seconds, and then a bolt of lightning hit the

tree above the tent.

The shock wave flung the children three feet into the air, still in their cross-legged positions. The sound was horrifying and huge. The event made the

SEE **FORWARD**, PAGE A13

## Author: Xmas traditions abound

**By Mike Cook**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

If you ask award-winning author and Las Cruces native Denise Chavez how to describe a traditional borderland Christmas, she likely will call it “mestisaje,” which in English means “mixture.”

For Chavez, the holidays are a time to enjoy and venerate the special sights, sounds and flavors – the “cultural elements that are unique and special” – to Christmas

SEE **TRADITIONS**, PAGE A18



BULLETIN PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BELARDE

## Hoops and the Force

Darth Vader helps the New Mexico State University cheerleading squad throw out miniature basketballs to the crowd at NMSU's men's basketball game Sunday, Dec. 13 against Wyoming at the Pan American Center. NMSU deemed the game “Star Wars Night” and many fans dressed up as their favorite characters from the movie series. The new movie, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” opens Friday, Dec. 18, on multiple screens at Cineport 10 and Telshor 12 in Las Cruces. For more photos from the Aggie game, see page A28.

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# Doña Ana County 'Your Partner in Progress'

## Online option makes pet licensing easy

Companion animals in Doña Ana County and the City of Las Cruces are required to be licensed, and the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley has made the process as easy as a few clicks and keystrokes on any computer with Internet access.

Contracting with PetData.Com, the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley has made it much easier for responsible pet owners to come into compliance with both city and county licensing laws.

Basic annual fees for licensing dogs, cats and rabbits are \$7 for spayed/neutered animals and \$50 for unaltered animals. In the county, there is a one-time fee of \$10 for altered animals belonging to senior citizens. Within the City of Las Cruces, licenses for animals belonging to seniors are \$5 annually. There is no cost to license a qualified service animal. PetData charges an additional \$1.95 fee for the online service, with the Animal Services Center receiving its share. Payment options include Master Card, Visa, Discover and American Express.

By going to [ascmv.org](http://ascmv.org), pet owners can click through to the licensing tab, where they will be led through the process and can make the appropriate payment online.

Owners can also license their animals in person at the Animal Services Center facility, located at 3551 Bataan Memorial West in Las Cruces.

Regardless of whether licensing a pet in person

or online, owners are required to submit proof of current vaccinations, proof that the animal is microchipped and proof of the animal's reproductive status. These documents must be scanned and attached to the license application prior to making payment online.

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley provides PetData with the metal licenses, which are then mailed to pet owners who use the service. Licenses obtained at the Animal Services Center are provided at the time of payment.

Owners of unaltered animals who wish to avoid the higher annual fees associated with intact animals can make appointments to have low-cost spay/neuter surgeries performed by the Animal Services Center's veterinarian. The Animal Services Center also offers low-cost microchipping services.



In addition to the low-cost surgeries and microchips offered by the Animal Services Center, the Doña Ana County Coalition for Pets and People, SNAP and the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico routinely offer the services at discounted prices at various events throughout the year.

In establishing higher licensing costs for unaltered animals, both city and county officials are hopeful that more animals will be fixed, thereby dramatically reducing the annual intake of adoptable animals into the Animal Services Center each year. The strategy ties in with the Zero in Seven initiative, which has been embraced by both the Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners and the Las Cruces City Council.

The goal of Zero in Seven is to ensure that by calendar year 2019, no healthy, adoptable animals will require euthanization by the Animal Services Center staff. Driving down the annual intake numbers is key to the strategy.

Codes and animal control officers in both the city and the county are empowered to issue citations to pet owners who are not in compliance with licensing requirements for all dogs, cats and rabbits at any residence within Doña Ana County.

Revenue from licensing will fund Animal Services Center improvements and program initiatives.

For more information on pet licensing and responsible pet ownership, visit [www.ascmv.org](http://www.ascmv.org), or call (575) 382-0018.

### County offices to be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

Doña Ana County offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1, to allow employees time with their families during the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The administrative offices of the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department will be closed, but law enforcement and emergency services in the field will be continuous, with saturation patrols and DWI checkpoints planned throughout the holiday period.

### Report illegal dumping sites

Doña Ana County residents can discreetly and anonymously report illegal dump sites directly from their smartphones.

"No Throw" is available on both the iOS and Android market. The free app allows users to keep Doña Ana County beautiful by snapping a photo of an illegal dump site. After a few short steps, the photo and location of the dump site is reported to Doña Ana County Codes

Enforcement officials using the phone's GPS location.

To download the app, enter "Doña Ana County" in the app store search bar.

As always, illegal dumping can also be reported by calling 1-877-NO-THROW.



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# Sheriff, county to square off in court

**Bulletin report**

On one side is the Doña Ana County's Board of Commissioners and County Manager Julia Brown. On the other side is Sheriff Enrique "Kiki" Vigil.

The two sides square off in front of Judge Manuel Arrieta in Third Judicial District Court at 4

p.m., Friday, Dec. 18. At stake is control of the Doña Ana County Detention Center.

Vigil and the commission's contentious relationship ticked up another notch Tuesday, Dec. 8, when the sheriff's office arrested the jail's director, Christopher Barela,

for fraud, and took control of the jail.

Later in the day, the county commission obtained a temporary restraining order from Judge Arrieta to remove Vigil from control of the jail. County Manager Julia Brown gave the order to Vigil who turned

over control to the county.

Now the two sides will meet to see if the restraining order will stay in place.

Before the jail dustup even started, though, Vigil and the county – which sets the sheriff department's budget – had already butted heads.



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# Sonoma, LCCC part ways

**Bulletin report**

As of Friday, Dec. 18, the Sonoma Ranch Golf Course at 1274 Golf Club Road and the Las Cruces Country Club will part ways.

"We are 100-percent public as of (Dec. 18)," said Robert Pounds, with Sonoma Ranch. "They're (country club) not associated as of (Dec. 18)."

Pounds said the golf course would close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 17 for inventory and then reopen Friday with normal hours.

The Sunset Grill will not be affected, though it will close early on some days to host holiday parties.

The Las Cruces Country Club, a 501(c)7 nonprofit, vacated its longtime location on North Main Street

in 2011 and looked for a new home. The LCCC agreed to purchase Sonoma Ranch Golf Course for a little less than \$5 million, a deal that was reported as complete in November 2014.

No details have yet been given for the reason the two entities have split.

When asked if the deal had fallen through or if LCCC could not meet the financial requirements of the deal, LCCC President Bonnie Baden said, "No comment. There is no information I can give you."

The Las Cruces Country Club was formed in 1928 as the first golf course in southern New Mexico offering memberships to singles, couples and families.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Former secretary of state apologizes**

Dear New Mexicans,  
 I cannot begin to express how deeply sorry I am for my transgressions and the damage I caused to the public's trust in public officials. I only hope the people of the state of New Mexico will move forward and someday forgive my actions which were not borne out of greed but rather a result of very tragic personal circumstances which led to some very poor decisions on my part. I have not made excuses for my actions. I have simply tried to explain the circumstances which led to my transgressions. I only hope the people of this great state find it within themselves to forgive me.

*Dianna J. Duran*



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# Opinion



## From the publisher

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

### You know you're a southern New Mexican if ...

While there are obvious similarities in celebrating Christmas no matter where you go, every corner of the world has its own special twist on the holiday.

Years ago, I had a pastor who had done a lot of work in Japan.

She told me of the time she saw, during the Christmas season, a decoration at a store in Japan depicting Santa Claus nailed to a cross.

Clearly, the Japanese had some research to do.

Here in southern New Mexico, you won't see anything so bizarrely blasphemous.

However, many of our Christmas traditions would seem foreign to many in other parts of the United States.

Following are some December topics you could hear in southern New Mexico and probably nowhere else.

We know it's typically

warmer here than in other parts of the country, but at Christmas, when the stoves and ovens are working overtime, and the house is full of folks, it can really get warm.

That's when you might hear: "Man, I shouldn't have changed over the swamp cooler last week. It's going to be 75 today!"

Thankfully, New Mexicans don't give fruit-cakes for holiday gifts as often as people in other parts of the country.

And why would we when we've got such delicacies as biscochitos, tamales and, of course, hundreds of delicious locally made salsas. They make great gifts.

That leads to conversations like this: "Tio's going to be disappointed. You only got him the medium salsa, not the hot."

Kevin's cousin Chris visits from Georgia, and Kevin takes him to the

store to get some last-minute Christmas items.

Cashier: "Did you find everything you need?"

Kevin: "Oh, I need some lighters."

Chris: "Wait, you don't smoke!"

Kevin: "Luminarias. We're going to have luminarias."

Chris: "This I gotta see."

New Mexico's surely the only state in the union where, in December, when the kids are all out of school, stores run out of brown paper lunch bags.

Here's a scene with sisters Lisa and Laura discussing the Christmas dinner menu.

Lisa: "We'll have turkey and ham, stuffing with green chile, potatoes au gratin with green chile, cornbread with green chile, and for dessert, apple pie with ..."

Laura: "Don't tell me, green chile."

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



Lisa: "No, silly, a dusting of red chile."

Some families have a tradition of making tamales, often an all-day affair. The preparation leads to discussions such as this: "How many people are coming? How many tamales do we need? Do we have enough masa?"

I mean, most folks in other parts of the country don't even have a clue what masa is.

Right after saying grace at the dinner table, Uncle Felix (who lives in Las Cruces): "Man, I just love having a white Christmas."

Aunt Luisa (who lives

in North Carolina): "Are you crazy? It's 60 degrees outside and dry as a bone!"

Uncle Felix: "Yeah, but look at the top of the Organ Mountains. There's still a little bit of snow at the top."

Aunt Luisa: "I don't see it."

Uncle Felix: "No, look just to the right of the rabbit ears."

Aunt Luisa: "Well, maybe. Just a little."

Uncle Felix: (imitating Bing Crosby, badly) "... and may all your Christmases be white."

SPECIAL NOTE: We're just about a month away from the opening of the

2016 New Mexico Legislative session, which begins Jan. 19, 2016. The 12th edition of the Las Cruces Bulletin's Southwest New Mexico Legislative Guide will be out that week, too.

This year we're offering direct delivery to those who would like a copy. If you follow New Mexico politics, or value the guide as an annual resource, send us an email to [legislativeguidereservation@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:legislativeguidereservation@lascrucesbulletin.com) or call us at 524-8061 and let us know the home or office address where you'd like to receive your copy.

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# BaxterBlack

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## Finding a bargain is an art



Sharon had hauled the old piano home in a stock-trailer. It came outta the Miner's Club in Mountain City where, according to the bartender, it had set since the early thirties. It was in sad shape and one

end of the ancient upright was full of holes. Bullet holes! Considering it had never been outta the bar, the piano player musta needed lessons!

Sharon gave the piano to me and I hauled it home

where it sat in my garage for a year.

Brother Steve came to visit. He's a talented musician with a craftsman's ability. He's also one of the thriftiest humans this side of Ebenezer Scrooge. He asked me if he could try and get the old piano in workin' order. "Of course!" I said, "I'll pay for the parts...whatever it takes!" I blocked out 3 or 4 hundred in my mind, "Just save

your receipts."

I came home that afternoon and the garage floor looked like an orchestra had exploded! He had dismantled that piano down to wire! The harp lay naked on the concrete.

Over the next several days I watched the rebuilding take place. Steve would go out on parts runs and return with a replacement hammer, just the right set screw or a used, but ser-

viceable piece of ivory. He took particular pleasure in makin' a shrewd trade. "Whatever the costs," I'd say, but he enjoyed finding a bargain.

One day he took me along on a parts run. We drove down the tracks, behind a big nursery, down a dusty road and pulled up to a dilapidated house with a few outbuildings. I was struck by the fact that

nothing was painted. There was one unspectacular sign that read PIANOS-TUNED AND FIXED. We went inside and were greeted by the proprietor who obviously knew Steve. He was a sad lookin' man. The house was full of pianos. Even two in the kitchen. There was an empty can of tomato soup on the sink. I wan-

SEE **BLACK**, PAGE A6

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# When is it too early for formal public schooling?

Question: when is the best age to start children in public schools? This is like the question: why not teach algebra to five-year olds?

Answer: our brains must develop before we can do formal logic. The age to start formal public school education is not until the age of six.

However, a big push in our society by well-meaning people and power-hungry politicians is that earlier contact with school makes a better scholar. They say that while ignoring the research. They have many reasons not involving the welfare of the children when they want to start children younger.

However, other people, myself included, feel cer-



**Michael Swickard**  
In My  
Opinion

tain brain development phases must occur for children to thrive in a formal education setting. Research I will point to suggests you can injure young children by putting them in formal academic settings too soon.

We should look at the research, but the way many professional educators have been operating of late is to ignore all research that doesn't support what they want. They say, "Forget the research; we want to have a bigger empire and employ more people."

When I was young most

students began their formal education at the age of six. The generation that sent men to the moon and returned them safely started their schooling at this age. It works. The children were in family or church daycare until it was time to start school.

Then there came kindergarten. In the 1960s there was the adoption of public school kindergarten for many students. In New Mexico it was the middle of the 1970s when the public schools uniformly started offering kindergarten. But that kindergarten was vastly different than what we see now.

Back then it was only for half of the day and focused on play activities. Children sang songs and played games and took naps and went home saying, "I love school." Then well-meaning people said, "Why don't we keep them all day?" It

made sense since parents would not have to accommodate the other half of the day.

The beauty for the politicians was it allowed public schools to hire twice as many kindergarten teachers. And for a while that was how schools went. But then administrators started talking about changing kindergarten into a formal academic activity.

They justified changing kindergarten to formal education for five-year-olds so when these young students are in fourth grade they will do better, making the school seem more successful. Kindergarten now doesn't look like it did. The play and informal curriculum is gone and the five-year-olds are just trying to learn the six-year-old stuff a year early. How is that working? Terribly, but no one is paying attention.

Research at Stanford

University suggests the move to get children into academic classrooms sooner comes with liabilities. There is an interesting study that even mainstream news organizations are noticing, titled: "The 'The Gift of Time? School Starting Age and Mental Health.'"

This research from Stanford University looks at when students start and if starting a year later would be better. There are countries that start their children later in school. What is the outcome?

The later-starting children do better on the fourth and eighth grade tests and seem to not have as many mental health issues. But the research doesn't fit the political needs of our education leaders. The vast industrial public education complex needs the young children in the system.

And I am fine with that if these politicians will just read the research and see that they can make the first year a year of curiosity, play and social involvement but they cannot teach formal education to the majority of the five-year-olds.

Further, we must see our young children by their number of days alive and not birth year. I was born seven days before the cut-off so I was the youngest and smallest boy in most of my classes. Some of my competing classmates were fifteen percent older than me that first year.

The Stanford study, which can be downloaded for five dollars talks about all of these issues. I do wish some of our leaders would look at this great research.

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## BLACK FROM PAGE A5

dered through the rooms amongst the piano landscape, leaving Steve and the owner to do business. From the looks of his home, he lived alone and probably not very high on the hog. Pianos in various

stages of repair filled every available space.

I heard Steve and the man dickering in the kitchen.

"I'm sorry," Steve was saying, "I can't give more than five."



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"I've got to get ten. It's surely worth ten," the old man pleaded.

I'm thinkin' to myself, "Steve, we can be generous. The ol' feller probably hasn't eaten in days. What's five bucks. Besides, I'm payin' for it.' But I knew better than to interfere. The bartering continued for several minutes. The old man finally came down to seven, but Steve wouldn't budge. Finally, with a whimper, the old man gave in. He had met

his match.

As we climbed into the pickup to leave I asked Steve what he had bought. He held up a little ribbon of red felt, maybe six inches long. "For the hammers," he explained.

I said, "Man, that don't look like it's worth five bucks!"

"Five dollars?" he said, "No, I gave five cents for it!"

The final bill for rebuilding my piano was \$18.34!  
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Programs for Domestic Violence Victims & Offenders

# Money needed for programs to help children, poor

**Oscar Vasquez Butler**  
Guest Columnist

The 2016 legislative budget session is to consider the fiscal needs of the State of New Mexico. Doña Ana County, one of the highest proportion of Hispanics in the United States (approximately 66 percent) and having the second most populated county in New Mexico is severely in need of educational, social and economic stimulus: the county statistically has a very young population (66 percent younger than 19 years of age) 8 percent younger than 5 years of age, a 12.5 percent elderly population (65 years

and older) and 42 percent of children living in poverty within the county's 37 Colonias (rural communities).

With the level of poverty in Doña Ana County, why aren't our legislators appropriating money to address Early Childhood Education, increase senior programs and adult and youth employment programs?

As research has proven, a child's learning absorption is from birth to 6; and instead of the governor and the Public Education Department staying rigid on holding children back in the third grade due to lack

of educational proficiency, they should support a permanent fund appropriation in support of Early Childhood Educational Programs.

More important, our legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, must pass a legislative funding bill to not only support such programs, but also provide for additional teaching resources in the classroom.

If we don't invest early in our children, then we will continue to see detrimental effects and the social cost of poverty: an increase in teen pregnancy, truancy, high school drop-outs,

drug and alcohol addiction, juvenile and adult incarceration and at-risk-youth's turning toward gang membership as a social outlet.

Additionally, increased funds must be appropriated for senior programs; as the elderly struggle to survive on fixed incomes, trying to make ends meet, deciding between paying rent, buying prescriptions or putting food on their tables, the daily isolation and pressures of living with poverty can only be relieved through social interaction with others.

Funds to municipalities and counties for in-

creasing community center activities, such as increasing senior meals and recreational and social activities would greatly alleviate the depression, stress and tensions of aging, and particular to those living alone.

Lastly, additional funds must be appropriated to stimulate local economies: a comprehensive adult and youth employment program should be expanded to provide and develop employment opportunities, both in the private and public sectors.

With the unemployment rate in Doña Ana County being the high-

est in the state, it is essential to invest in our young adults and youth; this would provide not only a stimulus to the local economy, it may also result in the reduction of criminality in the community.

We must also learn from what is happening in other eastern states and communities: high numbers of unemployed adults and youths, and idle minds, may lead to crime, violence and civil disobedience, a foreseeable tax burden for county residents.

*Oscar Vasquez Butler is the past county chairman and commissioner.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Column missed the mark

Good morning, I just wanted to express my disappointment in the front page story about Coach Roger Grays. The story gives a personal account of meeting the Coach's mother and wife.

One thing that is missing, and I think would have been important to mention, is that Coach Gray's nephew, who he raised as his own, was also playing on the Centennial team.

I think it quite poignant that he played and played well. I believe he made at least two of the sacks of the Artesia quarterback, which were huge plays! You even included a photo of him in the sports section picking up another player after a touchdown, but no mention of it. That would have been a great photo to accompany the front page story.

It is reported that both football teams honored Coach Roger and gives an account of the crowd and the feeling in the stands. Another thing that was missing is that the middle section where Mrs. Grays was sitting, had been reserved for Desert Hills Elementary,

where the Coach was their PE teacher. Those stands were filled with little 5 to 11-year-old kids and parents from Desert Hills, who were also there to honor him. They wore red ribbons with footballs and held signs that said DHES is #rogerstrong. The Desert Hills kids also had a tremendously tough time losing a coach they loved. LCPS had grief counselors at the school the whole week after his death.

I was just surprised that such significant details were missing from the story. There were many aspects that we loved about Coach Grays and we will miss him.

—Aggie Oczon Saltman

### Column was fantastic

The article in today's Bulletin about coach Roger Grays by Susan Ouder Kirk is one of the best written columns I have read in a newspaper in quite some time. Even though I was not personally familiar with the coach, or the news of his tragic recent passing, her article made me feel a closeness to him and his family who bravely attended the championship game. Excellent writing

will have that effect.

Please pay Susan well during her stay at the Bulletin, I suspect she has a great future ahead of her!

—Thomas Dolan

### Spread your blessings

We have much to be thankful for... a heritage and a history unsurpassed in nations. People deny that we were a Christian nation but I know those roots run deep. Our form of government was directly inspired by the Bible. An example: The Bible is for the Government of the People, by the People, and for the People.

John Wycliffe (1320-1384), a professor at Oxford University, became one of the greatest English reformers. His most outstanding achievement was being the first to translate the Bible into the English language. Known as the "morning star of the Reformation," Wycliffe included this statement in the General prologue of his 1384 translation of the Bible:

"Winter Solstice is the darkest part of our year. It would have been the same in Israel when Christ was born. Another way our God uses to point to

His Son who is the Light of the World."

All this will be because the mercy of our God is very tender, and heaven's dawn is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, and to guide us to the path of peace," from Zechariah's song, Luke 1: 78,79/Isiah 9:2

I do want to remind you to spread the blessings you have been given. Remember to give to the poor; food, clothes for children, and blankets are especially useful.

Many Americans have suffered loss this season; remember them in your prayers.

Merry Christmas

—Bev Courtney

### Work continues on Unified Development Code

In October of this year the Doña Ana County Commissioners approved and adopted the 2040 Plan or Comp. Plan for the County and provisionally the Unified Development Code (UDC) or the zoning code for the County. Currently the Planning and Zoning Commission is working on revisions and correction to the UDC

along with the County zoning staff.

The County Planning and Zoning Commission intends to produce zoning code for the County and re-zone the Las Cruces Extra Territorial Zone (ETZ). However, incorporated cities like Las Cruces and Anthony can either adopt the new UDC or keep their existing zoning code; the ETZ area outside the city limits is being involuntarily forced into being compliant with the new UDC zoning code. The County has two legal paths, as I see it; they can hold public hearings with all ETZ residents properly notified, as spelled out in the New Mexico State Article 21 Zoning Regulations, specifically 3-21-6 Zoning or the County can exempt the ETZ zone from re-zoning under the UDC. Any attempts to re-zone the ETZ will result in legal action that will further delay the zoning plan implementation for the remainder of the County.

The County Commission and the Zoning Commission needs to be made aware of State law.

—Richard Majestic

## Coming Up

**Dec. 18-24**

### Tax-Aide Program seeks volunteers

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program needs volunteers across New Mexico and especially in Las Cruces to provide free tax assistance and preparation for members of the community who need help in this area, generally those with low to moderate income. Volunteers are needed to electronically file tax returns, to greet taxpayers and help organize their paperwork, to set up and keep running computer equipment used to electronically file tax returns and to manage sites and do quality control. For more information on becoming a New Mexico tax volunteer, go online to [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide) today.

### Make space for your clothes and raise funds

Help La Academia Dolores Huerta raise funds by donating gently used clothing, shoes, accessories, linens, bath items, toys, household items, and books. Deadline to drop off items is Dec. 18. Make donations at La Academia Dolores Huerta, 1480 N. Main St. or Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 277 E. Amador Ave., Suite 305.

Questions? Contact [ladhparents@gmail.com](mailto:ladhparents@gmail.com) or call Eldelisa at 571-5716.

### Christmas carol sing-along set for Dec. 19

The Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Peace Lutheran Church present a sing-along at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave. All ages are welcome to this free event. The sing-along will last about an hour so take a break from the rush of last-minute Christmas preparations to come join in the singing of carols reflecting the reason for the season. There will be hot cider and biscochitos available. For information, call 523-5229.

### Crafty Kids at White Sands Monument

Join rangers on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. in the visitor center courtyard for a 30-minute craft and interpretive program about creepy crawlers, amazing adaptors, and out-of-this-world geology. Target age for this project is 6 to 10 years old. The program is free, and parents are encouraged to attend. The Monument is located at 19955 Highway 70, Alamogordo. For information, call 575-479-6124

or visit [www.nps.gov/whsa](http://www.nps.gov/whsa).

### Republican Women of Mesilla Valley

The Republican Women of Mesilla Valley will close the year with a meeting at St. Clair Winery and Bistro, 1720 Avenida de Mesilla on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The new year will begin with the seating of new officers: President, Natalie Chadborn; Vice President Annie Harbison; Secretary Carol Cooper; and Treasurer Sharon Noe. Reservations are required and will be collected at 527-5574. Visitors are welcome with reservation.

### Luminarias, music on the Plaza in Mesilla

The Town of Mesilla will host the annual Luminarias and Christmas Carols on the Plaza Thursday, Dec. 24. The Don Walker Family will lead in singing Christmas carols from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Town of Mesilla, the Lions Club of Mesilla and the Las Cruces High School Baseball team, in partnership with the Las Cruces High School Band will light luminarias in the plaza and around town beginning at dusk. Anyone interested in helping light the luminarias should call the Town of Mesilla at

524-3262 ext. 116. Several thousand luminarias will be displayed. As part of the Christmas Eve event on the plaza, the Mesilla Fire Department will hold a candle-light vigil.

### Chamber of Commerce cookies with Bill

Join us for a special reception to honor and say goodbye to Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Bill Allen. Bill has led the Chamber for the past five years. Bill's leadership has made a major impact on the Chamber and our community. He will be leaving us at the end of December. Cookies and coffee will be provided and we invite you to drop in at your convenience on Friday, Dec. 18, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Chamber, 505 S. Main St., Suite 134. For details, call 524-1968.

### Model Railroad Club meeting Saturday

Southern New Mexico N Scalers Model Railroad Club has their monthly meeting and model railroad running day on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. located at the club layout at the Southern New Mexico Fairgrounds. Layout is located in the white quonset hut. Enter from the far west gate. For more information, contact Mike Fifer at 526-8834.

**Dec. 25-31**

### Temple Beth-El serving breakfast at Camp Hope

Temple Beth El members will again be providing and serving breakfast for the residents of Camp Hope on the morning of Dec. 25. For information, call 524-3380.

### Birding ID tour at Leasburg State Park

The monthly bird ID tour at Leasburg State Park is set for Saturday, Dec. 26. Meet Volunteer Birding Guide CJ Goin at South Day Use Area for a walking tour along the banks of the Rio Grande. You might observe a Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, American Flicker, Killdeer, Phainopepla, American Pipit, Spotted Sandpiper or Pyrrhuloxia. Dress warmly with appropriate footwear. Easy to moderate walk along mostly level ground. Cost: Regular entrance fee. Contact Alex Mares at 524-4068.

### Lake Lucero guided tours

Take a tour of Lake Lucero with a ranger Sunday, Dec. 27, at 10 a.m. and learn about the formation of the famous white sands, and the special plants and animals that live in and around the dunes. The Monument is located at 19955

Highway 70, Alamogordo. The program is \$8 for adults 16 years and older, and \$4 for children. Make reservations online only at [www.nps.gov/whsa](http://www.nps.gov/whsa).

### Winter Art Camp for grades 7-12

The City of Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Department presents "Winter Art Camp" for local youth grades 7-12. Teens will explore the fundamentals of art through various activities that will lead up to painting a mural on City property. They will learn to use various traditional and modern media in conjunction with different painting techniques and styles. The camp will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 28-30 at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. Participants must provide their own lunches. For more information, call 575-541-2455. The TTY number is 575-541-2772.

**JAN. 1-7**

### First Day Hike at Leasburg State Park

Join a park ranger on a moderate walking tour of the Mogollon trail and visit geothermal springs along the riverbed at Leasburg Dam on Friday, Jan. 1, 2016. Tours start at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Located 15 miles north of Las Cruces, exit 19 at Radium Springs. For information, call 524-4068.

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# Shoplifting suspect used stun gun, knife

## Bulletin report

Las Cruces Police are still asking for the public's help in identifying the man suspected of shoplifting from Target, and using a stun gun and knife on a store employee during his escape.

Investigators learned that at around 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, loss prevention personnel at Target confronted a man suspected of shoplifting electronics from the store. As loss prevention approached the suspect, the man pulled out a contact stun gun and deployed it on the security officer.

The two men engaged in a scuffle near the front of the store before the suspect drew a knife and used it to threaten the employee. The loss prevention employee was not seriously injured during the scuffle.

A Las Cruces Police officer was in the vicinity and saw the suspect running from the store. The officer tried to make contact with the suspect, but the man got into a vehicle and fled the parking lot. The fleeing vehicle ran a red light at Telshor Drive and Lohman Avenue, and was last seen headed south on Telshor.



COURTESY PHOTO

Las Cruces police are seeking this suspect in a shoplifting, stun gun incident.

The suspect is described as white or Hispanic, and in his early 20s. He was wearing a gray baseball cap, gray sweatshirt and blue jeans. He fled the parking lot in a silver Toyota Camry with tinted windows.

The property stolen from Target included earphones, a GoPro camera and a few compact discs. The value of stolen items was estimated at around \$475. Investigators determined the suspect used a homemade magnetic device to remove security locks

from the merchandise. That device was inadvertently left behind as he fled the store.

The suspect faces charges of shoplifting, aggravated battery, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and resisting, evading or obstructing an officer.

Anyone with information that can help identify the suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or send a tip by text message to CRIMES (274637), keyword LCTIPS. Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that helps identify the suspect.

## Three charged following robbery, shooting

Las Cruces Police have charged two women and one man following a bizarre robbery and shots fired incident from Saturday morning.

Cori Runnels, 18, Cayla Blue, 23, and 21-year-old Aaron Pritchard were arrested in the incident. Blue and Runnels are charged with shooting at or from a motor vehicle, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and conspiracy. Pritchard is charged with one count of robbery.

Officers learned the incident began at around 1 a.m. at the Halo Hookah Lounge at 2460 S. Locust St. Detectives believe Runnels, Blue and Pritchard were at Halo when they approached a 23-year-old man about settling a \$50 debt owed to Blue. After a heated discussion, the man agreed to pay the \$50 but insisted he needed to retrieve the money from someone else.

As the parties drove away from the Halo lounge in separate vehicles, the 23-year-old man tried to elude the suspects for a moment. During that time, Runnels is suspected of randomly firing 3-4 rounds out of the vehicle's window in an attempt to intimidate the 23-year-old.

All the parties met again, this time at Dublin's Street Pub at 1745 E. University Ave., where they again discussed settling the debt. The parties then drove separately to Lava Rock hookah lounge at 111 S. Solano Dr.

The 23-year-old man, Blue and Pritchard entered Lava Rock but



PRITCHARD

RUNNELS

BLUE

the victim again failed to pay the \$50. The parties went outside where the suspects continued to press the man for the cash. At some point, a knife-wielding Runnels is suspected of approaching and threatening the man who was knocked to the ground by Pritchard. Runnels and Blue are suspected of kicking the man while he was on the ground.

Detectives believe Pritchard stole jewelry the victim was wearing. The victim was transported to Memorial Medical Center for injuries to his chin and face. His injuries were not life-threatening.

Runnels is being held at the Dona Ana County Detention Center with a cash-only bond set at \$15,000. Bond for Blue was set at \$10,000 cash while Pritchard is held on a \$5,000 bond.

## In The News

### Holiday schedule for City offices

City Hall and most other City of Las Cruces offices will be closed to the public Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday,

Dec. 25 and Friday, Jan. 1, for the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Emergency services such as fire and police will not be affected.

The following is the schedule of services/closures for Dec. 24:

- Frank O'Brien Papen Center 12 – 5 p.m.
- East Mesa Recreation Center

OPEN 12 – 5 p.m.

- Regional Aquatic Center OPEN 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Thomas Branigan Library

CLOSED

- All Senior Programs CLOSED
- RoadRunner Transit MODIFIED (6:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
- Solid Waste Services collected as

normal

- Foothills Landfill will have normal hours
- All museums CLOSED
- Convention and Visitors Bureau CLOSED
- On Dec. 25: all offices are closed and no services are available.

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## In The News

### 'Mother Hubbard' receives entertainment industry award

Barbara "Mother" Hubbard has been honored with yet another entertainment industry award recently as she was presented the "Golden Circle Award" at Billboard Magazine's International Touring Conference in New York City.

The award, of which Hubbard was only the second recipient, is presented to "an industry legend who's shown outstanding commitment to the live music business, and fostered its growth and success through vision, ethics, mentoring and professionalism."

The award was a complete surprise to Hubbard, the retired former Special Events Director of New Mexico State University, who also has been the director of American Collegiate Talent Showcase (ACTS) since 1976 and is still active in the industry.

She continues to raise funds for local shows through her involvement and promotion locally.

Hubbard has created 15 different scholarships through the NMSU Foundation honoring friends, family and industry enter-

tainers such as Reba McEntire, George Strait and Brooks and Dunn to name a few who have themselves made significant contributions to the scholarships presented each year to students at NMSU.

"Since 1978, she's been fostering young minds with the ACTS program, teaching students about the music industry and providing scholarships to those in need," said Louie Messina, a friend of Hubbard's and president of the Messina Group, which has presented national tours for Taylor Swift, George Strait and Kenny Chesney.

"It's all about her kids. If she was talking to me or Sir Paul (McCartney) or King George (Strait)... it was all about doing a show for her kids. She's dedicated to her kids," Messina said.

Previously Hubbard had been awarded Pollstar Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award, Venue Today Magazine's First Women of Influence Award, and International Entertainment Buyer's Association's Harry "Hap" Peeble's Founders Award.

## Teacher keeps Mexican tradition alive

By Mike Cook  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Pat Minjares is a first-grade teacher at Vado Elementary School. She's also an artist, keeping alive the tradition of making Mexican tin holiday ornaments.

She can take a small piece of tin – or even aluminum or tinfoil – place a paper drawing on top of it and use a small tool to trace the design onto the tin, attach a hook or punch a small hole in it, color it with acrylic paints or even sharpies, lacquer it and create a decoration that is colorful, inexpensive, quick to make and traces its roots to Mexican cities like Oaxaca and San Miguel de Allende where the tradition began centuries ago.

Minjares is also sharing her art and creativity with children and adults in classrooms and workshops in El Paso and the Las Cruces area to help preserve the tradition of "art made of tin," as it is called by Casa Dolores, Center for the Study of the Popular Arts of Mexico.

"Often an excess material, tin alloy was simply an ingredient in making the more expensive copper for shipping and armaments and was left as recycled scraps," according to <http://www.casadolores.org/saintly-and-spirited-art-made-of-tin.html>. "Sometimes called the 'poor man's silver,' tin was relatively inexpensive and accessible. Thus the popularity of this material flourished, becoming a channel of artistic expression to create objects such as masks, mirrors, milagros (small amulets) and ex-votos (objects used as votive offerings). As a re-usable material from canned goods and containers from European ships, to contemporary designs derived from recycled aluminum cans, this brings full circle its constantly adaptable nature."

Mexicans also were forced to use tin to create household goods and ornaments during the Spanish colonial period, when Conquistadores forbade them to use the more valuable silver and gold, Minjares said.

She said tin art had a renaissance in the 1960s, but has fallen out of favor because it doesn't generate a lot of money. "It means something to me," said Minjares, who added she doesn't want it to become a lost art. "The culture is important."

It's also a great craft for children, even small ones. For them, Minjares said, it's best to use aluminum or tinfoil because it doesn't have shape edges. Tape a design to the alumi-



PHOTO BY MIKE COOK

Patricia Minjares shows some of the tin ornaments she made.

num or tinfoil and place it on a small stack of newspapers so the surface underneath isn't marred. Then, let the child trace the drawing he or she has chosen. You can help attach a hook or poke a hole in the ornament and help the child cut the shape out with scissors. Then, the child can use acrylic paints or felt pens to color the ornament – on one side or both sides.

And, Minjares said there is really no such thing as a mistake. You can use your finger or an eraser or similar blunt-ended tool – even the flat part of a scissors handle – to rub out a line or dot or any other shape you don't want on the ornament and start again.

A child – or an adult – can make an ornament in a few minutes, or take as long as he or she wants to perfect it. And, you can use other tools to make borders and shapes on your ornament – try the gentle use of Phillips screwdriver to create a star, for example.

There are endless designs to choose from for ornament making, including stars, roosters, religious

figures, birds and holiday icons like Santa Clauses and snowmen. You can make just about any size you want, and the tin ornaments can be used to decorate everything from Christmas trees and wreaths to Dia de los Muertos altars.

Minjares said she often uses the lids that come with large aluminum steam pans as the base for her ornaments. The lids are inexpensive, available in many stores, and, unlike the pans themselves, are free of ridges and wrinkles. She has worked on a variety of other surfaces as well, including 36-gauge aluminum metal foil.

Minjares taught herself the art of tin ornament making.

"I just figured it out as best I could," she said. Her mother has some tin ornaments Minjares made when she was in the third grade, she said.

"It's important that we continue this, because people appreciate it," said Minjares, who has been a teacher for 31 years.

Contact Minjares at [patriciamin-jarez@yahoo.com](mailto:patriciamin-jarez@yahoo.com).

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Las Cruces International Film Festival's Ross Marks unveils the festival's 2016 poster Friday, Dec. 11, at a release party at Glenn Cutter Gallery.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD COLTHARP

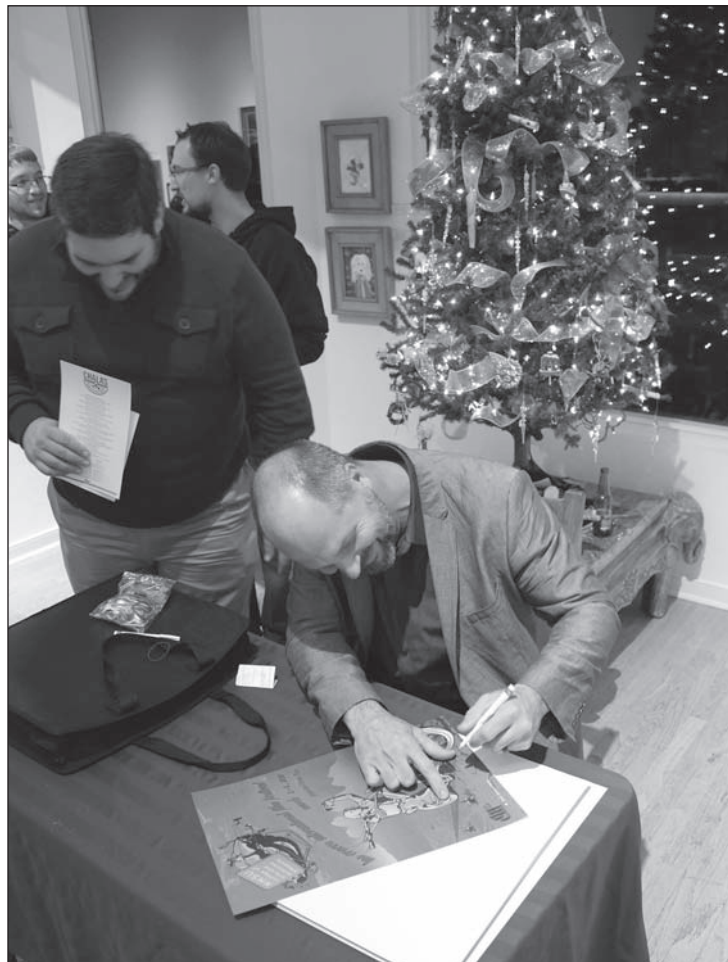


Mike and Veronica Beckett and Philip and Marsha San Filippo



Rakhila, Matthew and Kublai Byrnes

# Lights, camera, action!



Artist Derek Fisher signs a limited print of the Las Cruces International Film Festival 2016 poster he created.



Erik Jessen and Deniece Sanchez



Udell and Grace Vigil



Sally Cutter and Natalie Valenzuela helped host the event.



Carol McCall and Elaine Sasnow



Ross and Debra Marks

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# City continues upgrades at Klein, Desert Trails Community parks

By Mike Cook  
Las Cruces Bulletin

With support from local residents, the City of Las Cruces is upgrading one of its oldest and smallest public parks near Downtown, and one of its largest and newest parks on the East Mesa.

Klein Park, located at 155 N. Mesquite St. in the city's Historic Mesquite District, was dedicated in September 1953 in honor of former Las Cruces Mayor Sam Klein. It is the city's oldest public park; and, at about 1.34 acres, it's also

one of the smallest.

Desert Trails Community Park, located at 3492 Sonora Springs Blvd. in the Sonoma Ranch area, on 34 acres of U.S. Bureau of Land Management land, is the city's second largest developed city park behind Butterfield Shooting Range, which is more than 400 acres in size. The park opened in 2009, although the city began working with the BLM on its development more than a decade ago, said City landscape architect Cathy Mathews.

City Parks and Recreation Department Director Mark Johnston said residents of the Mesquite neighborhood reached out to the city and state legislators about neighborhood improvements several years ago, and Klein Park was one of the projects selected.

With \$200,000 in capital outlay funds and guidance from Sites Southwest landscape design company, the city created a master plan for redevelopment of Klein Park, Mathews said.

About 90 neighborhood residents attended public meetings organized by former Las Cruces City Councillor Miguel Silva to gather input for the master plan. Their suggestions included making the park more walking friendly and adding picnic spaces, lighting, security and artwork, Mathews said. She said the city also got input from elementary and high school students, who wanted more grass in the park and more play equipment.

The final plan, which local residents approved, also calls for an amphitheater to be built on the Mesquite Street side of the park, along with a bus stop and improved drainage, Mathews said. The work will cost about \$1.5 million total, she said, and will be done in phases as grant funds and capital outlay from local legislators are available.

"We anticipate an early spring construction phase, with completion prior to the summer



of 2016," said Johnston. "If, in fact, we don't have the funds in hand at that time, we will wait until the summer is over and go to construction in early fall."

The goal for development of Desert Trails Community Park is to maintain its extensive green space and natural habitat, Mathews said. The city, the BLM and local residents want to develop its trail system for walkers and runners while preserving its open space and natural wildlife, which includes tortoises, jackrabbits, roadrunners, quail, coyotes and snakes, she said.

Work on Desert Trails also will be done in phases as funding is available, Johnston said. It will include additional repairs to the park's

original construction as well as parking lots on the north and south ends, additional trail development, picnic shelters, restrooms and play/recreation opportunities for both children and adults, he said. Johnston said the total cost will be \$2.5-\$3 million.

Las Cruces has "86 parks and growing," Johnston said, with several large parks currently in development, including a remote-control air field and archery park and a new trail system behind Las Cruces Dam.

For more information, visit <http://www.las-cruces.org/departments/parks-and-recreation> and <http://www.lascrucescvb.org/explore/parks-monuments/city-parks/>.

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## FORWARD

FROM PAGE A1

local paper; one of the Miyagishima brothers was knocked unconscious, but no one was seriously hurt except for Blackie. Like a faithful guardian angel, the dog took the brunt of the lightning strike, saving the children.

Miyagishima recently survived a (less lethal) political storm when he won his third term as Las Cruces mayor, amid an aggressive assault by political rivals which included out-of-town PAC money, thousands of mud-slinging flyers and the dredging up of an old police file. But Mayor Ken, as many people call him, just stuck it out and kept moving forward.

"I was exhausted after the negative campaign," he said. Not knowing it was coming blindsided the mayor, as he scrambled to do damage control. But to his surprise, the people of Las Cruces came out in big numbers on Election Day and overwhelmingly voted to keep him in office.

He must be doing something right.

But he seems a little unsure of what that is, exactly. When asked if he can finally have a "Sally Field moment," (she famously announced at the Oscars, "You like me. You really like me!") Miy-

agishima shrugged and said, "I'm not really sure what that's about."

### Mayor's Award

Instead of dwelling on the fortuitous election, he'd rather talk about the elements of his politics that make him proud.

"One thing I really am proud of is a program I have, which was started in 2008, for third-graders." He initiated the Mayor's Award on Education eight years ago as an incentive program to keep kids in school.

"I go in and we talk about why they need to go to school and graduate. They get a certificate that says they promise to graduate, and they sign it and I sign it." Throughout the years, he checks in with the third graders as they mature to remind them of their contract.

"I'll tell them that I remember signing the certificate, and that they can't break their promise."

During the last eight years, 14,000 kids have come through the program.

"2018 is the graduation year of the very first class," he explained, "so I'm excited to see how many have stayed in school. That's important to me."

In fact, Mayor Ken would like to see Las Cruces have the highest high school graduation rate in the

state.

"It could happen," he insists.

### Nutrition challenge

The Mayor's Award program for third graders is two-fold: "The second part is the fitness and nutrition challenge," which he initiated in collaboration with the state. In addition to promising to graduate, third graders within the 25 participating elementary schools also agree to eat a healthy diet, which is something that touches him personally.

"One of my heroes is my brother, James," Miyagishima said. James has diabetes which resulted in the loss of his eyesight, his foot and one of his kidneys. He is a kidney transplant recipient who lost everything he had, including his business.

"He lost a lot, but he never gave up. I mean—wow!"

### Economic development

As for Miyagishima's politics, he knows that one of the top issues he has to tackle is economic development. Although the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce endorsed candidates opposing the mayor, he still considers himself a business owner and points out that, "Our gross receipts are up from previous years."

He mentions the climate,

the people, the public school system and New Mexico State University as important factors in that growth. Although some groups made an effort to unseat him as someone unfriendly to growth and development, Miyagishima notes that,

"Our area is one of the few places in New Mexico that is growing," and he's supportive of the high tech aerospace industries.

He's even an ex-officio board member for the chamber this year.

After reaching out to the local Homebuilder's Association, he said, "We have some things we're working on."

He's allocated \$400,000 for automated planned review software, which will make it possible for building plans to be scanned and sent around via email, rather than having to be hand-walked all around town. This will reduce the wait time for builders from weeks to days.

"We've also hired a business liaison to help business owners more quickly and efficiently navigate the permitting process, and we will be cross training inspectors," to streamline the building process, he said.

Just after the election in November of this year, Miyagishima approached the Greater Las Cruces Chamber to set up a meeting and address the issues head on.

Although he has yet to

meet formally with the Chamber (Bill Allen, the current Chamber CEO recently submitted his resignation to take a job in Michigan), Miyagishima said he will open a dialog about what he feels is best for Las Cruces, which does not include the city endorsing candidates in elections. But, he adds, "I'm not going to let this interfere because we have to move forward."

### What's next?

The mayor is enthusiastic about new infrastructure going up around town.

The new combination police and fire station, to be located at the corner of Lohman Ave. and Sonoma Ranch Boulevard, is in the works.

He'd also like Las Cruces City Manager Robert Garza to reconsider his recent retirement announcement.

"Robert should not retire. He has the ability to bring people together. The people of Las Cruces should learn more about him before he leaves," the mayor insists. Garza is a friend and role model for Miyagishima, who also admires Bruce Lee and John F. Kennedy.

He once met Donald

Trump in Japan and they shook hands. The only thing Miyagishima took away from the encounter was that "His hair wasn't done. It was white."

The citizens of Las Cruces made it clear that they appreciate the mayor, and he appreciates them right back.

"Our people and their compassion speak volumes. Things like Tough Enough to Wear Pink and Cowboys for Cancer Research mean a lot. Las Cruces is filled with people who care about each other and are giving," he said.

Had he not won the election in November, he would have cheerfully changed paths to spend more time with his wife and children, and would have turned attention back to his insurance business. No worries; just a shift of course.

One final question is of vital importance to the mayor's Las Cruces constituents: Red or Green?

"Oh. That's hard. It's red enchiladas with an egg on top, but green enchiladas with chicken and sour cream," Miyagishima explained, once again deftly navigating a tricky obstacle.

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## In The News

### Heart Institute cardiologists join MMC

Residents of southern New Mexico now have access to the cardiologists of New Mexico Heart Institute. A new partnership between NMHI and Memorial Medical Center (MMC) has brought this world class heart team to Las Cruces. Two NMHI physicians will provide general and interventional cardiology care

to patients at 2450 S. Telshor Blvd., Suite 207.

"We know some residents of southern New Mexico have been traveling to Albuquerque to receive care and we are happy to bring our expert team of compassionate, experienced cardiologists here to Las Cruces to continue to strengthen the cardiovascular care they are already receiving at Memorial," said Dr. Sean Mazer, president of the New Mexico Heart Institute's Board. "This partner-

ship shows our commitment to the heart health of everyone who lives in Las Cruces and the surrounding communities."

Memorial Medical Center and the cardiologists of NMHI will offer a comprehensive range of cardiology treatments that encompass general cardiology; preventative noninvasive, interventional as well as diagnostic services such as echocardiography and nuclear testing. "New Mexico Heart Institute is one of the

premier groups of cardiovascular physicians in the nation," said John Harris, CEO of Memorial Medical Center. "We are excited to have them join us in bringing the finest cardiovascular care to the people of Southern New Mexico."

Drs. Munif Alkouz and Faisal Zaeem will join MMC's team of six cardiologists and will begin seeing patients at the Las Cruces location inside New Mexico Cardiovascular Associates offices across from MMC.

# NMSU alum returns to College of ACES

By Kristie Garcia  
For the Bulletin

Traveling full circle is nothing new to New Mexico State University alum Rod McSherry. He has gone from Deming, New Mexico, and back to Deming, and from Washington, D.C., back to Washington.

He has come full circle once again.

McSherry received a master's degree in international agriculture from NMSU in 1986 and has returned to the NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences as the Gerald

Thomas Chair for Global Agricultural Initiatives. His position is that of an endowed chair that honors former NMSU President Gerald W. Thomas.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in animal science from NMSU in 1984, McSherry was one of the

first students to receive a master of agriculture from NMSU.

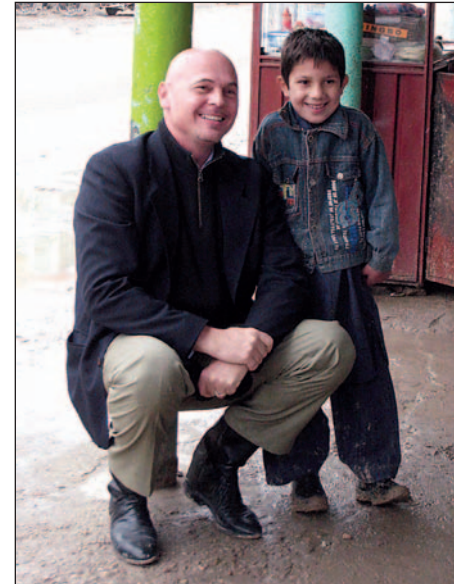
While working on his master's, he took part in a cooperative with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service in Washington, which led to a 28-year career as a Foreign Service Officer. Following a stint in Washington, he headed to Moscow for his first assignment with the USDA in 1989.

He would not be assigned to U.S. soil for another 22 years.

From 1989 to 2011, McSherry had assignments in Moscow, Mexico City, Caracas, Bangkok, Baghdad, London and Afghanistan. He had the responsibility of assessing the local agriculture situation in terms of global food security.

"My objective was to analyze and report on what was going on in those key partner countries regarding agriculture," McSherry said. "We wanted to know what they were producing, what they were consuming, what they were putting on the market and what they were taking off the market. Was there an opportunity for U.S. agriculture, for exports?"

While assigned to non-conflict countries, McSherry's job was to determine whether there



Rod McSherry, New Mexico State University Gerald Thomas Chair for Global Agricultural Initiatives, is seen next to a boy while assigned to Afghanistan during his career as Foreign Service Officer with the USDA.

NMSU COURTESY PHOTO

were events that would affect agricultural production in the United States, such as policy decisions, legislation, increases in productivity, changes in land policy or changes in water access.

"I needed to know what was going on in that country that would have an impact on the American ability to export food, agriculture, beverages, anything made of agricultural products, to that country," McSherry said. "Conversely, what were they doing in that country that might mean trade flow was coming to America?"

McSherry's responsibilities also included international trade policy. He worked closely with the World Trade Organization to ensure countries were transparent in what they

did agriculturally.

However, priorities shifted for McSherry when assigned to war zones or post-war zones.

"When I arrived in Iraq and Afghanistan, it was different; it was more of a reconstruction job," he said. "There was an immediate food security need. In a conflict or post-conflict situation, all trade mechanisms are disrupted, so we were trying to figure out if there was something immediate we needed to do to make sure that food was flowing, despite wars going on."

McSherry's final assignment was in Washington, where he remained for a year to wrap things up before leaving his Foreign Service career in 2012.

SEE ACES, PAGE A15

## SECOND OPINION

From Memorial Medical Center

### Don't Hesitate to Vaccinate for FLU

By Twyla Anderson,  
MMC Infection Control

Influenza, FLU, is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. The BEST prevention against the FLU is to be immunized each year.

**Myth: "The FLU is not a serious disease."**

Yes, FLU is a serious disease of the nose, throat and lungs. Each year in the U.S. over 200,000 people will be hospitalized and many will die.

**Myth: "The FLU shot can cause the FLU."**

No, the FLU shot (vaccine) cannot cause the FLU. Vaccines are the weakened form of the disease germ (FLU), once the vaccine enters the body; the body responds and makes antibodies to fight that disease germ (FLU). Vaccines do not cause disease. Serious problems from a FLU shot are very rare.

**Myth: "The FLU shot does not work."**

Most years the annual vaccine matches the strains of FLU circulating that FLU season, but FLU is not always predictable as was seen in 2009 with the Influenza A, H1N1 outbreak. Another vaccination had to be developed to prevent the spread of the new circulating FLU virus. Scientific studies show the effectiveness of the FLU shot range from 70%- 90% when there is a good match between the circulating FLU viruses and those in the vaccine.

**Myth: "The side effects are worse than the FLU."**

The worst side effect a person is likely to have from a FLU shot is a sore arm. The FLU mist vaccine may cause some mild nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat and cough. The risk of a severe allergic reaction is less

than 1 in 4 million.

**Myth: "Only older people need a FLU vaccine."**

Wrong. Everyone over the age of 6 months of age needs to be immunized each year against the FLU. Seniors and young children often have the most complications from the FLU, but when more people are immunized against the FLU, it protects our seniors and children because less people around them are sick. In the U.S. last FLU season, 2014-2015, the Pediatric deaths were 147.

**Myth: "You must get your FLU shot before December."**

Incorrect. FLU vaccine can be given before and during the FLU season. The best time to be immunized is October and November, but you can be immunized later as well. Influenza viruses circulate year round, but there are more cases of FLU during October through March. The vaccine is formulated each year to protect against the circulating FLU viruses, that is why vaccination each year is so important.

Getting your FLU vaccine each year is the very best prevention from catching the FLU however, should catch the FLU even after being vaccinated, you should experience a less severe course of FLU illness.

Other strategies in the prevention of FLU are 1. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, 2. Keep your hands clean, use soap and water or alcohol based hand hygiene products. 3. If you are sick, stay home, please don't spread your germs. 4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth - germs spread that way, 5. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with

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# ACES FROM PAGE A14

He returned to Deming, where he helped manage his family farm, ranch and feed lot.

After expressing an interest in helping NMSU on an international level, McSherry received good news from College of ACES Interim Dean Jim Libbin.

“The associate deans got together and we decided

having Rod with us would be a great use of the Gerald Thomas Chair,” Libbin said. “Gerald always supported internationalization and agriculture on the global level, and if he were here today, I know he’d be very happy.”

Libbin said Cornell Menking, associate provost for NMSU’s International and Border Programs, is al-

ready doing great things for the university regarding internationalization, and he is confident McSherry will add to those efforts.

“Rod’s efforts will concentrate on agricultural development and institutional capacity building projects, an emphasis that will complement, rather than compete with, the great efforts of NMSU’s Office of International and

Border Programs.”

Branding and identity is a priority needed to get the NMSU name in front of appropriate donor organizations so that the Colleges of ACES will be called on for assistance, according to McSherry.

“For instance, it would be very important for global security if there is economic stability in a certain country,” McSherry explained. “Agriculture may

be very important, but who’s going to implement those ag projects? Part of it, without fail, involves ag research, ag education, some sort of extension, food and nutrition, which takes us straight back to the ag college at NMSU.”

In such a scenario, McSherry said NMSU personnel would assist that particular country’s researchers with a crop conducive to its environment.

With new ideas being put into action, Libbin said McSherry already has made an impact on NMSU and the college.

“He understands what we’re trying to accomplish, and he has already turned out great ideas and made great connections,” Libbin said. “The fact that Rod has come back to NMSU speaks volumes about his loyalty and his desire to give back.”

## Home Builders and Great Gatsby

The Las Cruces Home Builders Association takes a trip back to the 1920s for its Great Gatsby-themed banquet Friday, Dec. 11. Left to right: Kaitlyn Caffrey, Andrew Sigle, Cindy Torres



PHOTOS BY SUSIE OUDERKIRK

From left, Doug Lorenz, Alma Lorenz, Wendy Curtin, Kelly Curtin.

## Free rides for veterans through DAV

The Disabled American Veterans free ride program, which supplies van rides for veterans to hospital and doctor appointments, can be reached at

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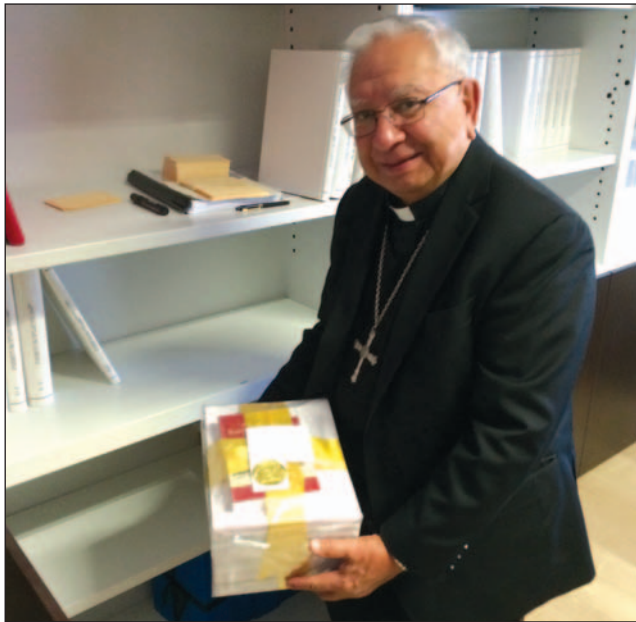
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# Ramírez petitions Rome for nun's sainthood



COURTESY PHOTO

The Rev. Ricardo Ramírez, Bishop Emeritus of Las Cruces, places the paperwork, including extensive investigations, in a vault at the Vatican as he passes his role as postulator the cause of Sister Blandina Segale (to be beatified) officially to another in Rome.

By Elva K. Österreich  
Las Cruces Bulletin

While Sister Blandina Segale died in 1941 at the age of 91, her spirit is active in the lives of many today. Indeed, during an early December press conference, The Rev. Ricardo Ramírez, Bishop Emeritus of Las Cruces, spoke about her as if she was sitting next to him.

On June 29, 2014, Ramírez was chosen to pick up Sister Blandina's cause and took on the job of postulator. As postulator Ramírez was appointed to present gathered evidence for the sister's beatification and potential canonization to the Vatican.

The Archdiocese completed an investigation on Sister Blandina Nov. 13 of this year and Ramírez, along with the cause's petitioner, Allen Sánchez CEO/President CHI St. Joseph's Children, and several mem-

bers from the sisterhood headed to Rome to officially turn in their investigation and petition on Dec. 10.

"It was emotional," Sánchez said. "It was wonderful."

The delegation met with the new postulator, who takes over the case once it's turned over to the Vatican.

Sánchez said they sat with the archbishop who told them, "We are very happy with her story and her ministry and how it relates to the babies of today."

The Vatican accepted the story of Sister Blandina with open arms.

"The hospitality was unbelievable," Sánchez said. "They called her the Piccola (little one) of New Mexico."

With the transfer of the petition to Rome, he said, "We are bringing the Little One of New Mexico to the whole world."

The actual transfer, when Ramírez placed the documents on the shelf in the vault was the most touching moment of all for Sánchez.

"Her message of hope, nonviolence and recognizing every person as having the dignity of a human being now begins a gift to the world," he said. "She was just so good to everyone, a great example to us today. She was a little one who did big things and gave lots of hope to people and she is still giving hope from the grave."

During the earlier press conference, Dec. 3, Ramírez talked about Sister Blandina and his role in her progression toward sainthood.

"Sister Blandina had a long life filled with a lot of heroic events," he said. "She herself was the postulator for the case of another sister, Saint Elizabeth Ann

Seaton, one of the first American saints."

The title of Servant of God is part of the petition.

"'Heroic virtue' are very important words," Ramírez said. "They imply not just an ordinary holy person, but a very special holy person."

He said that Sister Blandina's fingerprints are all over New Mexico. She was instrumental in establishing the first public schools, the first private schools and the first health care systems in the state. She believed in taking care of the children.

"We can't invest enough in our children," Ramírez said. "She was an example of compassion and mercy and she speaks to us from the grave in this world of violence."

One of the incidents proved by investigation showed sister Blandina saved a man from a New Mexico lynch mob. James Morris was convicted instead, later pardoned by the territorial governor and sent home to raise his four children.

Ramírez believes Sister Blandina will be patron for a lot of issues relating to the present.

"New Mexico needs a saint," he said. "If we ever needed miracles, it's today."

Coming to the state in a covered wagon at the age of 22, Sister Blandina is credited with bringing the first crusher to New Mexico for the first gravel pit. There have been comic books written about her and she met and talked with creator of the film "Ten Commandments," Cecil B. DeMille.

"Actually," Ramírez said. "We are all called to be saints. The church doesn't make saints. The church recognizes their holiness."

## Sister Blandina Segale

The Servant of God, Rosa Maria Segale (Sr. Blandina

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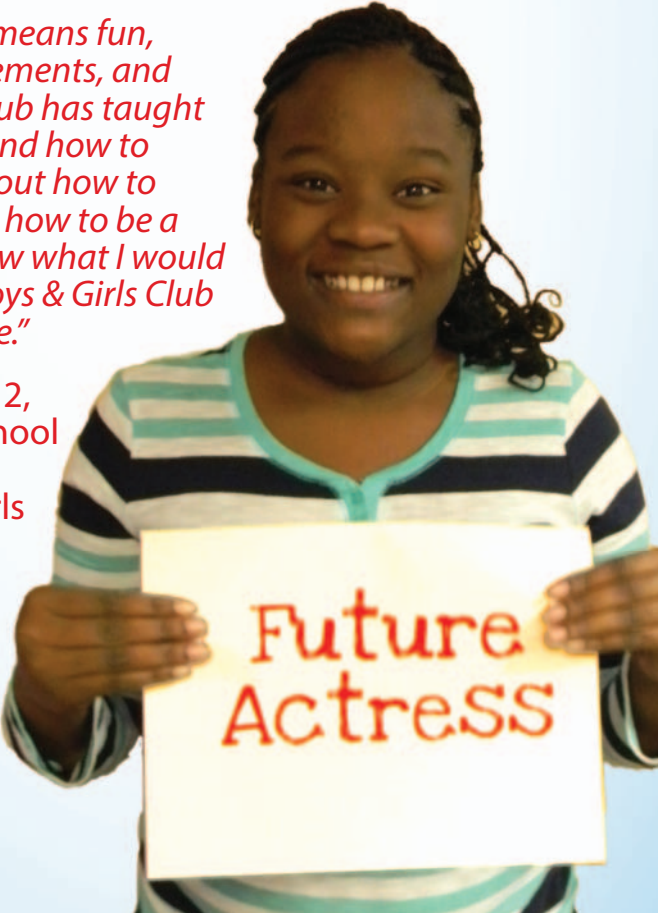
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- Khalila G., age 12,  
Sierra Middle School  
7th Grader and  
4-year Boys & Girls  
Club Member



## TRADITIONS FROM PAGE A1

in Las Cruces and Mesilla.

She helped make thousands of meatballs (albondigas in Spanish) for this year's Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and participated in the festival Saturday, Dec. 12 at Tortugas Pueblo south of Las Cruces. She also plans to make bizcochos, and other traditional southwestern recipes that are popular during the holidays, like pasole, tamales, Mexican wedding cookies and Mexican hot chocolate.

Chavez said attending a performance of Los Pastores del Valle de Mesilla, the traditional folk miracle play about the birth of Christ, is another important part of the holiday for her. Los Pastores has been performed annually for more than 50 years at the Basilica of San Albino Catholic Church in Mesilla.

And, Chavez said she will attend midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, joining many others who will be walking down a street in Las Cruces or calle in Mesilla lined with traditional luminarias –

called farolitos in northern New Mexico.

The simple task of combining a paper bag, some sand and a candle to create a luminaria and then lighting it is "a beautiful, ceremonial thing," Chavez said. Even the poorest residents of the area take "pride and joy" in lighting their homes during the holidays with luminarias and other "beautiful lights," she said.

"New Mexico is a very sacred, mother place," Chavez said. Its holiday traditions are multi-cultural and transcend religious differences, she said. "Christmas is a time of coming together as brothers and sisters and as mothers and fathers ... (a time of) remembering the ancestors. We just need to remember that we are all one people," Chavez said.

Chavez, 67, is a national award-winning author whose works include "A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture," published in 2006, which includes many of her mother's family recipes. She also has written novels, short sto-

ries, poetry and plays, and has received the American Book Award, the Premio Aztlán Literary Prize, the Mesilla Valley Author of the Year Award and the 2003 Hispanic Heritage Award for Literature.

Chavez also won the 2015 New Mexico-Arizona Book Award in the Fiction/Other category for her novel, "The King and Queen of Comezón" in November in Albuquerque. The book also won the International Latino Book Award in fiction at the American Library Association Conference in October in San Francisco.

Chavez founded the Border Book Festival in 1995 and ended it earlier this year after a 20-year run. She is now concentrating on the sale of books, art and music at Casa Camino Real book store at 314 S. Tornillo St., in the Mesquite Historic District where she grew up. Chavez and her husband, Las Cruces artist and photographer Daniel Zolinsky, also sell rare books on [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com).

You can contact Chavez at 523-3988 or [casa@casacaminoreal.org](mailto:casa@casacaminoreal.org).



# Council discusses election financing, recalls

By Mike Cook  
Las Cruces Bulletin

At its Monday, Dec. 14, work session, the Las Cruces City Council heard a second presentation on public financing of city elections, took a step closer to revising the procedure for recalling elected officials and discussed setting a date for a special city election in 2016.

## Public financing of city elections

Following up on a July 2015 presentation, officials from Common Cause New Mexico (CCNM) told Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima and city councilors that adopting a “small donor campaign” financing system would increase the participation of both candidates and voters in city elections at a cost to the city of \$800,000 over a four-year election cycle.

Under the CCNM draft policy, candidates for mayor who agreed to public financing and qualified for it could receive a four-to-one match of up to \$80,000 on contributions they received from registered voters in the city. Candidates for city council could also receive a four-to-one match of up to \$15,000 on contributions received from registered voters in the candidate’s council district. Because those running for judgeships in New Mexico face some fundrais-

ing restrictions, a candidate for Las Cruces municipal judge could receive a \$15,000 block grant after qualifying for public financing.

Under the CCNM proposal, candidates for mayor and city council could accept contributions from outside the city (mayoral candidates) or a council district (council candidates), but those contributions would not be matched by public dollars. And, a mayoral candidate who agreed to public financing could receive no contributions from a person or organization inside or outside the city of more than \$200. A candidate for city council couldn’t receive a contribution of more than \$100.

To qualify for public financing, a candidate for mayor would have to collect at least 100 contributions of at least \$5 totaling at least \$5,000; candidates for city council and municipal judge would have to collect at least 25 contributions of \$5 totaling at least \$1,000. To qualify, candidates also would have to submit petitions with the valid signatures of a percentage of registered voters either in the city (mayor, judge) or a council district.

The proposed \$800,000 in city spending is based on an assumption of three candidates running for mayor, three for each of the city’s six council seat and

two for municipal judge during a four-year election cycle. That’s a total of 25 candidates for mayor, the six council seats and the two city judgeships. It also includes \$100,000 to administer the program and \$111,000 for additional candidates.

All city elected officials serve four-year terms, with elections in November of odd-numbered years and three council seats on the ballot every two years.

If public financing of Las Cruces city elections is adopted, it would be entirely voluntary. Any candidate for a city office could choose to participate or not.

Public financing would encourage “more candidates and everyday people to get involved” in city elections, said CCNM Las Cruces Campaign Manager Craig Fenske.

Retired New Mexico State University American politics and constitutional law professor Nancy Baker, Ph.D., said a June 2015 New York Times/CBS polls shows that 66 percent of Americans believe the wealthy have more influence than others in elections, 84 percent believe money has too much influence in elections and 85 percent believe elected officials often enact policies to benefit large campaign donors.

“Everyone should have an equal opportunity to in-

fluence” elections, she said. Public financing shows that “government is not for sale.” It also would provide “greater trust in local government,” she said. Candidates would spend more time interacting with voters to get the small contributions needed to qualify for public financing, and

then could spend more time interacting with voters during the campaign instead of fundraising.

Research shows that public financing also significantly increases competition among candidates, particularly when challengers are facing an incumbent; it increases “the

level and diversity of citizen participation as campaign donors”; and it increases “citizen participation in political campaigns,” Baker said. “The benefits are not simply theoretical, they’re actual.”

CCNM Albuquerque

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE A20

## Don't Miss This



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**Sunday, Dec 20**  
10:30 am: Cantata Worship Service  
Christmas Eve

**Candlelight Services, Dec 24**  
4 pm: Service for children of all ages  
7 pm: Traditional Service

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Advent Music & Worship

**First Presbyterian Church . 526-5559 . 200 E Boutz Rd**  
(just west of LC High School)

## COUNCIL FROM PAGE A19

Campaign Manager Heather Ferguson said Albuquerque adopted public financing for city elections in 2005. She said Las Cruces can study the public financing programs there and in other cities to avoid their mistakes. For example, she recommended that the city adopt a public financing program as an ordinance rather than as a change to the city charter, as Albuquerque did.

Mayor Pro-Tem Greg Smith said some local residents may have concerns about spending taxpayer dollars on political campaigns. He said the success of public financing in other communities “helps build the case that this is the way to go.”

“This is tax dollars,” Smith said. “My tax dollars might not be going to someone I support. I do think the public weighing in on this would be helpful.”

“Recently in Las Cruces we have seen the effects of outside money coming in,” said Councillor Olga Pedroza, referencing to last month’s hotly contested races for mayor and two seats on the city council. Candidates, she said, should “go to the voters, get them engaged in the election.”

“I really agree with the goals of public financing,” said Councillor Jack Eakman, who won the District Four council seat by 11 votes in November. But, he said, city residents should have an opportunity to vote on it, rather than just the

mayor and council.

Councillor Casandra Gandara, who won her District One seat last month by 18 votes, asked where CCNM came up with 25 contributions as a minimum to qualify for public financing. “Shouldn’t it be higher?” she asked. Gandara also said a \$5 minimum contribution to help a candidate qualify for public financing was “too high for some folks,” especially local residents earning the minimum wage.

“We’re taking a fairly simple process and making it very complicated,” said Councillor Ceil Levatino. Her biggest concern, she said, is citizens’ first amendment rights, including those of people who don’t contribute to campaigns. “My votes (on the council) don’t just reflect my district. Why can’t voters from other districts who support my positions contribute?” she asked.

Levatino said the district she represents (District 6) is the largest and most diverse district in the city. In campaigning, she said, “raising money has nothing to do with ringing doorbells.” There are “lots of ways people can be engaged without ever contributing a penny, and that’s just as valuable,” she said.

“Asking taxpayers to finance” city election campaigns – I’m struggling with that, I really am,” Levatino said. “\$800,000 is a lot of money out of the budget,” she said. And, under

public financing, she said, “people who don’t support me, some of their money is going to support me. Some people I don’t support would get my money. There’s something inherently wrong with that in my opinion.”

Levatino also said public financing would benefit “people who are too lazy to do it. If you’re committed to running, you will raise money,” she said.

Enacting public financing will not solve the problem of money and politics, said Councillor Gill Sorg, “but it helps it, albeit in a small way. We’ve got to do something. People don’t realize that 80 percent of their lives are run by local government,” he said.

Assistant City Attorney Thomas Limon said the proposed public financing policy does not include funding for potential litigation if a candidate accepts public financing and then violates its provisions. He said public financing also could place an additional burden on the city clerk’s office in determining candidates’ compliance with the application process, contribution requirements and campaign spending and reporting.

Merrie Lee Soules of Las Cruces, who ran unsuccessfully for the New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission in the June 2014 Democratic primary, told the council she is a “huge, huge supporter of public financing.” Having it in her PRC campaign allowed her to concentrate on issues

and educating voters about her instead of soliciting contributions. “I could totally separate my candidacy from fundraising. It was invaluable,” she said.

### Recall

Assistant City Attorney Robert Cadello discussed proposed changes to the city charter for the city’s recall petition process.

Proposed changes would include: insuring that anyone circulating a recall petition is a qualified city voter if the recall targets the mayor, or is a qualified voter in the district which a targeted council member represents; allowing anyone who signs a recall petition to withdraw his or her signature from the petition up to seven days before the city council acts on the petition; adding five working days to the current 20 working days the city clerk would have to certify recall petitions; increasing from 10 to 15 percent the number of signatures of registered voters required for a recall petition, either citywide if the recall is for the mayor or districtwide if it is for a council member; defining the terms “misfeasance,” “malfeasance” and possibly “nonfeasance” in the petition; and adding a recall election to the next regularly scheduled election instead of holding a special recall election within 60 days of recall petitions being validated by the city clerk.

Miyagishima and councillors raised a number of questions about the proposed changes.

Smith said waiting to schedule a recall election until the next regular city election may be too long to wait, especially if the recall involves an issue of malfeasance. “We should probably move more quickly than that,” Eakman agreed.

Miyagishima said a supplemental provision which gives those circulating a recall petition additional time to get more signatures if the city clerk’s office determines that of the voter signatures initially submitted, enough are invalid to drop the total below the minimum required, should be deleted entirely from the recall process.

Councillors also suggested setting specific start and stop dates for the collection of petition signatures. Levatino suggested that the “the clock starts when petitions are picked up” from the clerk’s office.

Levatino also said if the percentage of valid signatures required is raised from 10 to 15 percent, those seeking a recall should have 90 rather than 60 days to collect signatures. She also suggested a shorter time for petition signers to withdraw their signatures. Each voter, she said, should “take responsibility for knowing what the heck they’re signing. You should read what you’re signing. You should understand what you’re signing,” she said.

Gandara said there should be a finding of probable cause by a district court judge before petitions are circulated. She also

said the recall petitions should consider registered voters who don’t read or write English and who can’t read or write any language.

City Manager Robert Garza said the recall issue will be brought back to a future council work session for additional review before it is brought forward for a vote.

### 2016 special city election

Garza said the city could schedule a special election in 2016 on proposed changes to the recall process and possibly other topics as well, including public financing of city elections, GO bonds and quality of life issues.

Finding a date for a special election could be difficult, he said, because Las Cruces Public Schools has as mill levy election in February, the primary election is in June and the general election is in November.

Holding the election in August is probably the best option, Garza said, because it would give the city time to “carefully craft the questions” that will be on the ballot, and would provide adequate public notice of the election. In the alternative, he said, the election could be held in November, with questions placed on the general election ballot. Or, there is the possibility of doing a mail ballot.

The council will continue to discuss dates for and issues to be placed on a special election ballot at future council meetings.

## SAINT FROM PAGE A16

Segale, SC) was born Jan. 23, 1850, in Cicagna, Italy. Her family migrated to Cincinnati, Ohio when she was four years old. Her first word as a child was Gesu (Jesus).

On Sept. 13, 1866, she entered the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. She was sent to work in the newly acquired territories of the western United States in

1872. Arriving first in Trinidad, Colorado, Sr. Blandina taught the poor. In 1877 she was transferred to Santa Fe where she cofounded the public and Catholic schools. Her work included starting hospitals in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Other heroic virtues include her tireless work of teaching and healing the

immigrant, the marginalized, and the poor, and advocating for women and children. She challenged the occupying government and military in fair treatment of the Native Americans. Sister Blandina came to the aid of mistreated railroad workers, finding time to care for the sick while building orphanages, hospitals, schools and trade schools.

She calmed mobs of armed men from taking the law into their own hands and helped criminals seek forgiveness from their victims, and even saved a man from a hanging party by facilitating reconciliation between him and the man he shot before he died.

In 1897 she founded the Santa Maria Institute in Cincinnati, serving immigrants. She led the organi-

zation until 1933. The institute is still in operation today, serving the poor and marginalized.

In 1900 Sister Blandina returned to Albuquerque for two years to help start the St. Joseph Hospital whose mission continues today as CHI St. Joseph’s Children.

Many of the adobe structures Sr. Blandina built still stand today as monuments

to her courage. For example, the convent in Albuquerque’s Old Town bears her name. Her life’s work is well documented in the archives of the Sisters of Charity Mother House in Cincinnati.

The Servant of God died on Feb. 23, 1941, in Cincinnati at the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity at the age of 91. Her last words were “Gesu e Madre.”

## Bill Allen's legacy: Next gen leaders

**By Alta LeCompte**  
Las Cruces Bulletin



ALLEN

Bill Allen, president and CEO of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, is heading north to take a new job. But he may eventually be back.

"I've heard Las Cruces is a great place to retire," Allen said with a smile. "You close the screen door, but you leave the big door open."

He will take over the position of president and CEO of Midland Area Cham-

ber of Commerce/Midland Tomorrow in Midland, Mich., a career move he said will enable him to expand his work to include economic development as well as chamber duties.

Allen leaves behind a host of administrative changes inspired by his MBA studies and early career in financial management and sales.

He also leaves a legacy of new programs he believes may make a lasting

impact on the organization and the community.

### Engaging young leaders

"The biggest long-term impact is Junior Leadership, because it's the gift that keeps on giving," Allen said.

He said the program, now in its fourth year, is modeled on Leadership Las Cruces, but for high school students.

"We were way oversubscribed this year," Allen said.

The Chamber received 40 applications and was able to accept 27 teens into the program. He said.

Gearing up for 2015-16 in November, the teen leaders took part in the annual Ag Day, gaining insights into the role and economic impact of agriculture in

SEE ALLEN, PAGE A25

## Second Planet Fitness location opens on Telshor

### Bulletin report

A second, larger Planet Fitness has opened its doors in Las Cruces.

The new facility, nearly 21,000 square feet in size, opened Monday, Dec. 14, at 1100 N. Telshor Blvd. It joins the original location at 1300 El Paseo Road.

Like the El Paseo location, the new Planet Fitness will be open 24 hours Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The new facility includes all the standard workout equipment, including free weights and weight machines and cardio equipment. It will also have a p360 circuit, "which will allow members to get a quick, full-body workout in just 30 minutes," said Planet Fitness Marketing Assistant Emily Headley of El Paso. "It includes TRX training and targets multiple muscle groups at a time. Each exercise is timed and can be adjusted to

SEE FITNESS, PAGE A24



BULLETIN PHOTOS BY ALTA LECOMPTÉ

Members and guests of the Las Cruces Green chamber of Commerce turn their attention to the awarding of door prizes at a Green Drinks mixer held Thursday, Dec. 10, at LuLu Elements for Living in Mesilla.

## Green Chamber catches holiday spirit



Vince Gutschick and Lou Ellen Kay of Las Cruces Academy visit with retired software engineer Donald Leslie and Julie Seton of Indelible Enterprises LLC.



Membership chair Nancy Simmons welcomes Allen Perca to Green Drinks.

## City's new business liaison says electronic filing is on its way

**By Michael Cook**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

The City of Las Cruces' new business liaison said people starting a new business or expanding or altering an existing business in Las Cruces will be able to submit their plans for city review and approval electronically within the next six months to a year.



BUSTOS

Donald Bustos, 52, who began work as the city's first ever full-time business liaison in August, said electronic filing will be "a game changer" and will "eliminate a ton of paperwork."

"Electronic plan check ... will lower the approval time for our customers and cut the cost of providing hard copies to us," said Assistant City Manager Daniel Avila, who is Bustos' immediate supervisor. "We are working to make the permitting section even more customer friendly."

SEE FILING, PAGE A23

# 19th century lighthouses have message for modern highways

How to fund public works is an old question in economics.

It was a topic taken up by Adam Smith and it was discussed in detail by the 19th century economist John Stuart Mill. Mill's basic idea was that the user should pay. Applying this rule ensures that people only use what they value enough to pay for. But application of this rule to public works is often difficult.

Take the example of a lighthouse. The user pays principle means ships that use the lighthouse for navigation should pay for it, but the collection of fees directly from a passing ship is obviously not easily.

One solution is for the government to directly support the lighthouse from tax revenue. While

**Chris Erickson**

*State of the Economy*



sometimes this is the only solution, doing so violates the principle of user pays. The burden is imposed on all taxpayers, whether they are users or not. Better, if possible, is to design a tax that targets users – but not general taxpayers.

For lighthouses, the solution is to impose a port fee charged to ships on docking. After all, many ships that use a particular lighthouse will also make port nearby.

Of course, some ships will use the lighthouse, but not use the port, so will benefit without paying a lighthouse fee.

Other ships will dock without using the lighthouse, so will pay a fee for an unused service. A port fee, therefore, is a blunt instrument – but it's better than taxing everyone for benefits provided a few.

Lighthouses have a message for funding highways, which is to tie taxes to usage. We would like to charge those who use the highways for the cost of maintenance. Toll roads are common, but often toll roads are impractical. Stopping to pay a toll is time consuming and inconvenient. Moreover, charging a toll may be impractical. Imagine

paying trying to collect within the city limits of Las Cruces. The many egress, exits and inter-sections make such a task impossible.

That is why a fuel tax often makes sense as a mechanism for raising funds for highways. The more you drive, the more you use the roads, the more fuel you consume, the more you pay.

It's not a perfect solution. The damage done to a road is related to the vehicle's weight. Weight is only imperfectly related to gas mileage. And fuel taxes are unpopular, especially in rural states like New Mexico. Still, a fuel tax does a pretty good job of taxing those who most use the roads, corresponding to the user pays rule.

Studies show that the

average New Mexican driver spends more than \$500 extra on repairs each year thanks to bad roads. This is about average nationally, but is a bigger burden for New Mexicans because we are low-income state. And it's a cost that we could avoid through improved roads.

Currently, New Mexicans pay 18.88 cents per gallon gasoline tax. Raising that to 23 cents, which would still be below the national average, would generate an additional \$50 million per year. That would go a long way toward fixing our roads. The reduced cost of repairs should be sufficient to pay for the tax. That is, by paying a higher gasoline tax, drivers in New Mexico should save money.

Frankly, we as individuals should be angry that our neighbors are costing us so much by not paying adequately to use our roads. We should be even angrier that out-of-state drivers aren't paying adequately. We should demand that others pay for the damage they do to our roads by demanding higher fuel taxes. Sure we would have to pay more, but the repair costs we would save would be worth it.

*Christopher A. Erickson, Ph.D., is a professor of economics at New Mexico State University. He has taught at NMSU for almost three decades. The opinions expressed may not be shared by the regents and administration of NMSU. Erickson can be reached at [chrerick@nmsu.edu](mailto:chrerick@nmsu.edu).*

# Summits develop food entrepreneurship

While Bernalillo County economic developers work hard to attract major industries to Albuquerque and unincorporated parts of the county, they understand that supporting the creation of numerous small businesses can lead to an equal number of jobs and opportunities.

This approach to growth has spawned a series of business summits over the past two years, each hosted by a Bernalillo County commissioner and highlighting a business opportunity or concern identified by that commissioner or the commissioner's constituents.

The summits connect entrepreneurs with resources to help them get started or expand, elected officials who can answer questions and hear their concerns and business experts willing to share firsthand experience and advice.

Participants walk away with



fresh ideas, and commissioners learn about impediments to growth.

Concerns raised by food-service entrepreneurs at a summit for restaurateurs in 2014 led to increased opportunities for home-based food-oriented businesses.

The county's Health and Sanitation Code was revised to allow residents of unincorporated Bernalillo County to publicly sell baked goods, jams, jellies and dry mixes they produce and package in their own homes at farmers markets, fairs and similar venues.

Before the change, the county food code did not allow any foods prepared in a private home to be sold commercially, even products with long shelf lives and no need for refrigeration.

## Food for growth

Agrotourism is important to New Mexico in general and Bernalillo County in particular, according to Commission Chairwoman Debbie O'Malley, who hosted the most recent summit held last month at Hotel Albuquerque.

That summit focused on food and it aimed to educate and inspire New Mexicans who are – or want to become – food entrepreneurs, whether by growing food, producing a food-based product or preparing food for others to eat.

More than 130 people attended to hear from experts, network with peers and nurture their embryonic business ideas.

Experienced entrepreneurs showed up to learn more about what Bernalillo County is doing to support farms and food-centric businesses.

Two centerpiece speeches by

successful food entrepreneurs injected inspiration into the day's events and demonstrated how passion, commitment and a love of New Mexico's heritage are common ingredients of food-based ventures of all sizes.

Celina Aldaz-Grife, owner of Celina's Biscochitos, described her evolution from real-estate agent to owner of a bakery based on her traditional version of the New Mexico state cookie.

Matt Rembe, executive director of Los Poblanos, explained how the historic Albuquerque ranch functions as an inn and organic farm that produces the food served at its on-site restaurant, La Merienda.

Workshops led by government and business experts showed summit-goers how to put their ideas and aspirations into play.

Each workshop addressed an essential concern of food

entrepreneurship – operations, marketing and logistics – and described what's involved in running and marketing food-oriented businesses and what business owners need to know about safely and legally preparing food for sale.

In addition to activating communication that can inform policies, summits are about relationship building, according to Shawn Perry-Turner of the county Economic Development Department.

Connections made at the summits continue afterward, with county specialists continuing to help summit participants find resources they often don't even know about.

*Finance New Mexico is a public service initiative to assist individuals and businesses with obtaining skills and funding resources for their business or idea. To learn more, visit [www.financenewmexico.org](http://www.financenewmexico.org).*

## Save the Date

**FRI 1/22**

**6-9 p.m. Chamber Choice Awards & Gala**, Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. For more information, call the chamber at 524-1968.

**FRI 1/30 – MON 2/1**

**Las Cruces Day Santa Fe, Eldorado Hotel & Spa, 309 W. San Francisco, Santa Fe.** Annual event to focus on the legislative issues of Las Cruces and Southern New Mexico. Hosted by the Greater Las Cruces

Chamber of Commerce and the Council of the Conquistadores. *Early bird registration ends Jan. 8.* For more information, call the chamber at 524-1968.

**SAT 3/5-SUN 3/6**

**10 a.m. Las Cruces Home Builders Association 2016 Home & Garden Show**, Las Cruces Convention Center. Booth spaces and show sponsorship opportunities available. Early bird registration deadline Feb. 12; late registration deadline Feb. 19. For more information, contact the association at 526-6126 or [events@lchba.com](mailto:events@lchba.com).

## FILING FROM PAGE A21

Creating the business liaison position “is a commitment to community development and our residents that we will improve customer service in the permitting section,” Avila said. “We are monitoring every transaction and getting instant feedback from our customers by the ‘Happy or Not’ customer interaction stations” located at city hall.

Bustos said he has spent the past four months learning “how the city works with businesses” and making recommendations on how to improve the process.

He also has dealt with complaints from business owners.

Bustos acknowledged that a major challenge in his new job is overcoming the perception held by some that the

city is not business friendly. He said Avila and City Manager Robert Garza are “committed to changing that perception.”

“I’m not going to say the city is perfect,” Bustos said, “but they’re willing to help.”

Bustos said the city “gets blamed for a lot of things.” In his first month on the job, for example, Bustos said he dealt with calls from two contractors who said they had submitted business plans to the city and wanted to know why it was taking so long to hear back about them.

Bustos said he checked out the

complaints and discovered that neither contractor had actually submitted any plans to the city.

“I am pleased with Donald’s accomplishments to date, which include making updated information available to our customers so they can understand the permitting process and interacting with new customers to insure we are providing the best customer service possible,” Avila said.

“By creating this position, customers will understand the permitting process better and hopefully have a good experience with the City of Las Cruces.”

A native of Las Cruces, Bustos is a 1981 graduate of Las Cruces High School. He has two bachelor’s degrees from New Mexico State University, in real estate and fi-

nance.

Bustos said he has worked in customer service “my whole career – getting the customer satisfied, getting them what they want.”

After working briefly for Wilson’s (which became Service Merchandise) and Walmart, he spent 26 years with Fed Ex in Las Cruces before retiring last year. After a year in retirement, Bustos said he was ready to return to work. “I love golf, but you can only play so much,” he said.

Contact Bustos at 541-2191 or [dbustos@las-cruces.org](mailto:dbustos@las-cruces.org).

## CFSNM – past, present and future

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) has seen tremendous growth since its inception in 2000.

The success of the past shaped the present, and the present will surely determine the accomplishments of the future.

Dedicated employees, board members, volunteers and donors have played a pivotal role for the past 15 years. They are undeniably making a positive impact in our community today and are essential to the Foundation’s future achievements.

Patsy Duran, CFSNM donor, supporter and former executive director, left behind a legacy in southern New Mexico – a legacy that will exist for generations to come. Inspired by a passion for improving the lives of those living in the region, she was led to a rewarding career and benefitted so many.

Further, Patsy created a vision for the people of the area and never lost sight of that vision. She had a gift of connecting with and inspiring donors; she was the perfect person to link philanthropic-spirited individuals with community needs. The best part? Patsy’s passion was genuine – she, herself, was a donor and believed in the impact of charitable contributions.

“In order to ask others to share in the dream of creating endowments, I had to contribute first, not only time, but money,” she said. “Giving came before asking.”

Contributions made by individuals like Patsy have allowed the CFSNM its growth. The past paved the way for today’s achievements.

In June 2015, the CFSNM Healthcare Committee put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) in an effort to grant money to nonprofits committed to addressing health-related

issues in southern New Mexico. The Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces was selected as one of several recipients.

The Boys and Girls Club proposal, Triple Play, encourages youth to lead a healthy lifestyle. The program encompasses three areas – mind, body and soul. Funding provided by the CFSNM allows the Boys and Girls Club to change Las Cruces youths’ attitudes and behaviors around leading a healthy life.

“We are extremely grateful to the Foundation to have been a recipient of these funds, because it really helps us refocus a lot of our energy on the program and making sure we’re fulfilling our mission,” said Ashley Echarria, Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces CEO and executive director.

While the accomplishments past and present are substantial, the future of the CFSNM is very promising.

CFSNM staff are devoted to spreading the word about the good work the CFSNM does and establishing relationships with community members interested in addressing community needs.

One community member ready to step up to the plate is Tim Query. Tim is a member of the Southern New Mexico Down Syndrome Families organization and is dedicated to providing opportunities for Down Syndrome teens who want to pursue some

form of education beyond high school. This dedication is the reason why the organization has decided to create an endowed scholarship through the CFSNM.

“Just like any other parent, our families love our children and want to see them reach their potential, whatever that potential may be for each individual,” Query said.

“Through this scholarship we hope to not only provide financial assistance to area persons with Down Syndrome to pursue their passion beyond high school, but to also use it as an awareness tool for southern New Mexico parents and help them realize that their child with Down Syndrome can live a rich, productive life and contribute to society.”

Establishing scholarships, like the one being created by the Southern New Mexico Down Syndrome Families organization, is central to the CFSNM’s mission.

With the support of donors and volunteers, the CFSNM’s future is bright, but brighter still is the future of our community and its citizens as we work together to create lasting and meaningful change.

*Are you interested in establishing an endowment or contributing to a scholarship? Interested donors are encouraged to call the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico at 521-4794 or email Courtney Merhege at [courtney@cfsnm.org](mailto:courtney@cfsnm.org).*

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## FITNESS FROM PAGE A21

various fitness levels.”

Headley said the new location will also include a hydro-massage lounge bed, along with massage chairs, tanning rooms, a total body enhancement room and men’s and women’s locker rooms.

The new Planet Fitness location will be “fully staffed at all times, to include a designated gym trainer, front-desk staff and cleaning crew,” Headley said.

For more information, call 522-7867 and visit <http://www.planet-fitness.com/gyms/las-cruces-nm-618>.



## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### HTC plans for 2016

This month’s High Tech Consortium (HTC) of Southern New Mexico membership meeting will be 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at the Sonoma Ranch Golf Course Banquet Room.

This month’s meeting will be a planning session for 2016. Focus areas will be identification of technology centers of excellence in southern New Mexico and discussion on how best to best support their awareness and growth; how to grow the consortium’s individual and enterprise membership base; and how to broaden HTC awareness and effectiveness within southern New Mexico.

Meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in growing technology in southern New Mexico is encouraged to attend.

The price for mattendance (no lunch) is \$5; meeting attendance with lunch is \$20 – check or cash preferred. There will be a business card drawing for one complementary meal at the end of the planning session.

For more information, call Terry Jack at 522-3868.

### City of Las Cruces features online business tool

The City of Las Cruces Economic Development Office offers a free online tool designed

to help local businesses grow by making smarter decisions through data analysis.

SizeUp for Local Business Intelligence can be found on the city website at [www.las-cruces.org/sizeup](http://www.las-cruces.org/sizeup). It allows businesses to easily obtain specific data on revenue, salaries, health insurance costs, supplier locations and more.

“With SizeUp, any business can instantly access competitive benchmark, advertising, demographic, industry, geographic and cost-of-business data that huge corporations use every day,” said city economic development specialist Cruz Ramos.

“While a lot of emphasis has been placed on industrial recruitment, we are also interested in helping existing Las Cruces businesses grow and thrive. This is one of the tools in our ‘Economic Gardening’ program designed to help businesses currently in Las Cruces. The City appreciates them and wants to help when we can.”

SizeUp for Local Business Intelligence (SizeUp LBI) gathers data from public and private sources and provides four main tools:

**Performance benchmarking:** See how a specific business “sizes up” by comparing its performance to all competitors in its industry.

**Competitive assessment:** Map where competitors, customers, and suppliers are located to determine where to better serve

customers.

**Best places to advertise:** Identify areas with the highest revenue for an industry, the most underserved markets, and filter for the best location based on demographic and business characteristics.

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To access SizeUp for Local Business Intelligence, visit more additional information about SizeUp or other business assistance programs offered by the City’s Economic Development Office, contact [econdev@las-cruces.org](mailto:econdev@las-cruces.org), or Cruz Ramos at [cramos@las-cruces.org](mailto:cramos@las-cruces.org).

You can also click the green “Additional Support” tab at the top of the webpage to provide us with your contact information.

### State certifies Navajo tech center

New Mexico Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela has presented the Navajo Tech Innovation Center business incubator in Church Rock with state-certification, making it the first Native American state-certified business incubator in the state.

The New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD) will invest \$18,500 toward the new business incubator.

The Navajo Tech Innovation Center includes 27,000 square feet for both the incubator facility and production space next door with a training room and arts center.

“I am proud of the nearly five years of work that has gone into developing the Navajo Tech Innovation Center which will mentor Navajo businesses as they move from the incubation facilities to their own space, creating jobs and new wealth in the Navajo Nation,” Barela said.

The Innovation Center currently is serving 27 client businesses.

Certification will enable closer collaboration and exchange of resources with the state as well as the Navajo Nation, an NMEDD release stated. The Navajo Technical University (NTU) submitted the certification application and is managing the incubator. NMEDD assisted with the certification process.

Studies have shown incubated businesses have a survival rate of 87 percent while only 44 percent of small businesses that work in isolation survive. Incubator-based enterprises are also more attractive to prospective investors.

The incubator certification process and requirements provide “best practice” standards to ensure the sustainability of the incubator.

The new Navajo Tech Innovation Center brings the total to

six active certified incubators in New Mexico.

### Comcast opens Albuquerque bi-lingual center

Tuesday, Dec. 8, Comcast celebrated the grand opening of the Albuquerque bilingual customer support center with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The state-of-the-art 47,000 square-foot facility has the capacity to seat approximately 450 agents.

Comcast has been hiring for the new positions and providing comprehensive training to team members for nearly a year. With the addition of the call center, Comcast has more than 650 employees across the state and expects to have 850 by early next year.

The new call center will provide customer support for Comcast residential products and services, handling calls primarily from Spanish-speaking customers across the country, as well as calls in English.

“I’m pleased that Comcast made the business decision to invest in New Mexico and create 450 new jobs in the process,” said Gov. Susana Martinez. “Comcast’s decision to locate this facility in Albuquerque underscores the fact that New Mexico has the talented workforce and resources to fuel business growth.”



## WestStar Bank marks Las Cruces anniversary

### Bulletin report

WestStar Bank, founded in El Paso, this month marks its second anniversary as a Las Cruces community bank serving primarily business clients.

Las Cruces Market President Mike Cheney said he's proud of the success of the bank and looks forward to continuing to add value for its customers. The reputation of WestStar Bank has expanded in the community in the past two years, he said.

"You must be both a successful banker and a successful bank," he said. "Our staff is top-notch and represents us well."

Cheney said the bank focuses on businesses and business owners, doing a lot of construction lending and working with manufacturers and professionals.

"We're very fortunate to have grown to the point where we are adding some staff," Cheney said of the Las Cruces market.

He said WestStar will soon hire a new commercial lender "to help us continue to do what we do and help us meet demand."

In the competitive banking environment, Cheney said he has a secret weapon: his staff of eight.

"I've got these folks and no one else does," he said.

He said many of WestStar's customers do business in both El Paso and Las Cruces and the bank can make connections for them in both markets.

"One way we can add value is to connect them with people of influence they may want to do business with. We can make those connections. We understand the business climate down there," Cheney said.

He described WestStar as a community bank that offers a broad spectrum of business and personal banking services and listens to what the community needs.

"I like the community banking aspect of banking," he said. "We get to sit across from someone and get to know what their needs are."

He said WestStar's two greatest strengths are its confidentiality and its speed.

"Customers are not in busi-



BULLETIN PHOTO BY ALTA LECOMPTÉ

**Minerva Moralez, senior personal banker, and Mike Cheney, market president at WestStar Bank, 555 Telshor Blvd., Suite 100 A**

ness to visit banks," he said.

WestStar provides quick responses and "structures things that make sense."

He said although Las Cruces has been slow to recover from the Great Recession, he believes the community is seeing the beginning of an influx of new residents who have sold their homes in places such as California and Canada and are relocating to the City of the Crosses.

Burrell College also is driving demand for housing, he added.

"Construction needs to return to its former level for the local economy to be fully vibrant," he said.

As occupancy gradually increases, apartment complexes are under construction, he said.

"Occupancy rates are running over 90 percent," Cheney said.

Commercial expansion also is under way, he said, particularly in the logistics sector and the boom in southern Doña Ana County.

"We are looking to see a domino effect from that," he said.

Cheney said he expects online and bricks and mortar banking to co-exist for the foreseeable future, since they offer choices for both business and personal banking customers.

Community commitment is a tradition of WestStar Bank, said Cheney who is chairman of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.

Cheney has served as chairman of the annual United Way Campaign for San Juan County, on the NMSU College of Business Advisory Council, member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce. He has volunteered with the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, and Boys and Girls Club and many more organizations.

## ALLEN FROM PAGE A21

the state.

In December, they visited with Lorenzo Alba Jr. of Casa de Peregrinos food pantry and met with Jardin de los Ninos executive director Audrey Hartley to learn of about local nonprofits that address the needs of the homeless and economically disadvantaged.

"It's a nice perspective, especially this time of year," Allen said. "They were given information on how people can help, especially if they're under 18."

Allen said the Junior Leadership functions like Leadership Las Cruces in that participants set up their own information-gathering visits and are responsible for photographing and writing about their experiences for the Chamber's publication The Bottom Line.

### Jobs, jobs, jobs

Another initiative the chamber undertook under Allen's leadership was Skill-Ready Doña Ana, a workforce project funded with an \$80,000 grant in 2013. The program helps employers connect with the people who have the baseline skills to be successful employees. It does this by promoting skills measurement that has a demonstrated ability to predict employee success.

Skill-Ready Doña Ana provides prospective employees with a means to assess their skills and then take action to add skills in which they may be deficient.

"It's harder to recruit new businesses if we don't have people to do the jobs," Allen said.

On the other hand, creating a future for skilled and educated young people that will keep them from moving away to pursue their careers also is a challenge, he said.

New graduates need more than an entry-level job to hold them here, Allen said.

"There's got to be a career path that's clear to those folks - what am I going to be doing when I'm 35, 45. It's important for us to help smaller businesses and those that need particular skill sets," he said.

If the jobs exist and are visible to young workers, they can seek the skills they will need to grow their careers in the

### BILL ALLEN

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, 2006-10: executive director  
Colliers International Insite Commercial Group, 2004-06: vice president-accelerated sales; director of operations  
Xerox Corp. 1993-2004: business development manager; sales operations manager; operations controller  
Mercer, 1986-93: controller

#### EDUCATION

MBA, Richard DeVos School of Business, Northwood University, Midland, Mich.  
BBA, Northwood University; baseball team pitcher four years

#### HONORS

Russell J. "Rusty" Hammer Award, Western Association of Chamber Executives, 2014

#### Organizations

New Mexico Chamber Executives Association executive board 2012-15; 2015 president  
Statewide Adult Education Advisory Council, NM Higher Education Adult Basic Education Division, 2014-15  
Executive Council, Gage New Mexico, 2013-15

Board of Directors: The Bridge of Southern New Mexico, Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance

#### FAMILY

Wife: Stacie Children: Ethan, 12; Emma, 10; Parker, 3; Jaxon, 20 months

Mesilla Valley, he said.

### Trends to celebrate

Allen said the Chamber is working with the medical community and other groups to launch a new initiative that should spur growth and job creation.

"People down here are very willing to drop the 'give me the credit' mode and work together for the community," he said. "That speaks so well for this area."

He said although the Chamber initiated a political action committee (PAC) - Create Jobs Doña Ana in 2015 - that endorsed another candidate, Mayor Ken Miyagishima reached out the Chamber following the election to discuss ways to grow the economy and create jobs.

In addition, he said, City Manager Robert Garza is addressing permitting and inspection issues that some businesses have raised.

"I think there are encouraging signs," Allen said.

He said although candidates endorsed by the Chamber did not win their local elections, the

margin of difference in two council races shrank this year.

"As controversial as it is, I believe putting a PAC together and getting more involved in politics will have a positive long-term outcome," Allen said. "I think our process is really good, though it could be tweaked."

"We need to stay above the negative stuff. That will not change, whether it's an issue or a candidate."

### Community moves forward

Allen said he came to Las Cruces in 2010 when his research revealed that in addition to being the second largest city in New Mexico, Las Cruces also was part of a growing border region and had military facilities nearby.

"There were a lot more opportunities to do fun work," he said.

The fun work has led to the Chamber's achieving a 90 plus percent retention rate, which Allen said beats the average of mid 80s; collaborating with organizations such as the Border Industrial Association and the Borderplex Alliance, including assisting new businesses with their permitting and inspection processes; advocating for White Sands Missile Range; engaging in a capital campaign for the Chamber's new building.

"I think the Chamber is very well positioned for the future," Allen said. We reviewed our three-year plan in the past couple months and we have completed or are in the process of completing over half the items.

He said leaving will be very difficult "because of all the great relationships we've been able to build."

"The opportunity in Midland was something I couldn't not take a look at," he said. "I like the idea of a combined chamber and economic development office."

He called the city of Midland fantastic, noting it is world headquarters for both Dow Corning and the Dow Chemical Co.

"They have amenities most smaller cities don't have," he said.

Allen said he is looking forward to partnering with the major corporations and helping develop is Midland's Smart Zone, composed of former industrial properties that are ready to be repurposed.

## NM State football inks seven signees

Bulletin report

Seven student-athletes – including a former Las Cruces High Bulldawg – have signed to play for the New Mexico State University football team. Head coach Doug Martin reports Junior college transfers Johnathan Boone, Jaleel Scott, Josh Aganon and Conner Cramer, as well as high school student-athletes Isaiah McIntyre, Jared Phipps and Austin Shaw will join the Aggies for the spring semester.

“We couldn’t be more excited to have these young men join the Aggie football family at mid semester,” Martin said. “All are outstanding young men and students, and their impact on the field will be felt immediately. Having them here for the spring semester and spring football practice is huge for us and addresses some of our most immediate needs in the 2016 recruiting class.”

McIntyre is a 5-11, 175-pound wide receiver who was a standout prep football player at Las Cruces High School. In 2013, he was selected All-District as both a wide receiver and a safety. McIntyre was also on the track team for the Las Cruces High School Bulldawgs, where he was the 5A State Champion in the high jump in 2014.

Boone is from Orlando, Fla. and attended Freedom High School before beginning his college career at

SEE **SIGNEE**, PAGE A27



BULLETIN PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BELARDE

New Mexico State University guard Matt Taylor is fouled as he splits the Wyoming defense on his way to the hoop Sunday, Dec. 13, in the Pan American Center. Taylor finished the night with 7 points as the Aggies fell to the Cowboys, 62-59. To see more photos from the night, turn to page A28.

## Ags looks end to losing streak

Bulletin report

After suffering a sweep at the hands of in-state rival the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University’s men’s basketball team has another rival in its sights.

The Aggies (5-5) are in the midst of a three-game losing streak after they fell

79-61 to the Lobos in Albuquerque Wednesday, Dec. 16. NMSU also fell at home Sunday, Dec. 13 when a rally fell short and Wyoming left Las Cruces with a 62-59 win.

Next up is a trip south across the state line to tangle with Texas-El Paso where

SEE **AGGIES**, PAGE A28

## Ag women eye history against Lobos

Bulletin report

The New Mexico State University women’s basketball team can do something no Aggies squad has done in two decades: win a third-straight game against in-state rival the University of New Mexico.

The Aggies and Lobos square off at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 20 in Albuquerque. NMSU is in search of a season sweep against the Lobos and its third-straight win in the series dating back to last season.

The last time NM State swept New Mexico in a season was in 1995-96. The last time NM State reeled off three-straight wins against the Lobos spanned from the 1984-85 season to the 1995-96 season, a 16-game winning-streak for NM State.

The Aggies beat the Lobos 78-59 at home on Nov. 17.

Four NMSU players are averaging double-digit scoring.

Senior guard Sasha Weber sets the pace with 12.4 ppg. Forward Brianna Freeman averages 11.9 ppg while guards Tamera William and Brooke Salas pour in 10.7 and 10.2 points per game respectively.

Freeman leads the team on the boards with an average of 7.6 rebounds per outing and also has a team-high .545 percentage from the floor.

Khadijah Shumpert is pacing UNM

SEE **WOMEN**, PAGE A28

## Rose tabbed as 3rd Team All American



ROSE

Bulletin report

NM State football’s Larry Rose III was selected to the Associated Press All-American Third Team, the association announced. He was the only Sun Belt Conference student-athlete chosen for this prestigious honor.

Rose III is the seventh Aggie to be named to an

Associated Press All-American team and the first since Karl Dean in 1974 and 1975. Dean was also selected to the Third Team.

Two running backs were chosen for each of the three teams. Rose III joins sophomore Royce Freeman from Oregon on the Third Team. This award comes after

Rose III was named the Sun Belt Conference Offensive Student-Athlete of the Year and placed on the All-Sun Belt First Team last week.

Rose III led the conference with 1,651 rushing yards and had 14 touchdowns on 240 carries. He is the first back-to-back 1,000-yard rusher for the Aggies

since Denvis Manns (1995-98). The sophomore broke the all-time single season rushing record for NM State with his 191 yards against UL-Lafayette during week 10 of the season. He finished the year ranked No. 6 in the all-time single season rush-

SEE **ROSE**, PAGE A27

# Decisions, decisions: How golfing decision-making can make or break you

On the golf course, the game is played in such a way that, whether we realize it or not, we are required to make decisions and choices at every point in our round. The greater the stakes or prize, the bigger the decision seems to be.

Throughout the hours of our golf round, we decide what club to hit, where to aim, what line to start our putts, how much speed to hit them and many more choices we must make with clubs, direction, distance, type of shot and much more. We even need to choose the nature of our attitude and thought processes for a particular round.

We may feel those choices happen by default, and sometimes they do, especially when we let our mind lapse into a state of "autopilot." Sometimes we zone-out, both in golf and maybe in life, not thinking and grasping that we have several options for the decision we face, while fail-

ing to understand the reality of the situation at hand.

Let me offer an example on the positive side.

Some folks might remember the final round of the 2012 PGA Zurich Classic in New Orleans when tournament co-leader, with eight holes to play, Jason Dufner hit his ball into a lateral water hazard. The ball was perched on a muddy bank, partly in shallow water, but still hitable.

But there was the matter of a rather formidable alligator lurking in the water near the bank less than ten feet away. CBS color man Gary McCord, talking to the viewer audience, urged Dufner to go for broke and step in the water and hit the ball out of the muck, despite the alligator. Dufner, not having won in 164 previous PGA tournament appearances, decided to take a penalty drop out of the hazard, played his third shot to the

**Charlie Blanchard**  
Golf Doctor



green, and then proceeded to sink a 40-foot putt to save par.

That's golf.

After 72 holes, Dufner was tied with veteran Ernie Els and went to a playoff. Dufner made birdie on the second playoff hole. This was all witnessed by Dufner's fiancée, the lovely Amanda Boyd, and they were married a week later.

When it comes to important decisions, I sometimes think back to the movie "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," where Jones and his adversary finally find themselves inside the temple and come face-to-face with the centuries-aged Sir Arthur beside a table filled with different chalices, all of which might be the Holy Grail, and might

hold the magic elixir of everlasting life.

Jones' treacherous enemy picked the most ostentatious and bejeweled chalice, drank from it, and was instantly vaporized. Whereupon Sir Arthur, unmoved, uttered, "he chose poorly." When I make the wrong choice in putting or in shot selection, I myself am known to utter, "I chose poorly." In Jason Dufner's case, he chose wisely.

Professional golf tournaments are won and lost by decision making. Zach Johnson decided to lay up on all the par fives in the 2007 Masters; he birdied 11 out of 16 of them for the week and won by two shots. He simply decided to not make any long mistakes and let his putter do the work. Contrast Dufner's and Johnson's decisions to the decision Jean van de Velde made on the 72nd hole, leading by three shots, of the 1999 British Open at St. Andrews. He proceeded to

make a succession of bad decisions, compounded by a series of bad shots. Have you ever done that? Van de Veld's play on that late afternoon has become a modern historic meltdown, losing a major he had in the palm of his hand. What does all this mean to you and me? Golfers who are confident and unflappable tend to make the best decisions under adverse and critical circumstances. Throughout the years I had always coached young, skilled golfers to become acutely aware of their own circumstances and typical tendencies, as well as their internal emotions and energy level when they are in serious competition. I believe you shouldn't think while making the golf swing, but you sure better think and focus without getting distracted when attending to the myriad of conditions and variables that need choices.

That's my final decision.

## SIGNEE FROM PAGE A26

Ellsworth Community College in Ellsworth, Iowa. The 6-3, 190-pound wide receiver was selected to the All-ICCAC First Team in the fall of 2015 after amassing 774 receiving yards on 45 receptions. Overall, Boone racked up 1,007 all-purpose yards and seven touchdowns.

Scott also attended Ellsworth Community College. The Rock Hill, South Carolina native played for Rock Hill High School

prior to moving to Ellsworth, Iowa. Scott, a 6-6, 212-pound wide receiver, was named to the All-ICCAC First Team in the fall of 2015. Scott garnered 668 receiving yards and nine touchdowns on 45 receptions.

Aganon, a Scottsdale, Ariz. native, played at Chaparral High School before attending Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz. At 5-10, 180 pounds, he earned Sec-

ond Team All-ACCAC as a wide receiver after scoring seven touchdowns and collecting 633 receiving yards on 62 receptions.

Cramer played at Alma Bryant High School in Mobile, Ala. prior to attending New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell. The 6-2, 195-pound quarterback was a two-time WSFL Offensive Player of the Week and was then selected to the All-WSFL First Team in the fall of 2015. Cramer averaged

268.2 passing yards per game and completed 26 touchdown passes and only nine interceptions.

Phipps, a 5-9, 165-pound cornerback from Arlington, Texas played at Mar-

tin High School. He was a Second Team All-State Texas 6A Kick Returner and a First Team All-District 4-Texas 6A Corner Back in 2014.

Shaw is a cornerback

out of Frisco High School in Frisco, Texas. He is 6-0 and 170 pounds. In 2014, Shaw was a First Team All-District 9-5A Texas Corner Back.

## ROSE FROM PAGE A26

ing records for the Sun Belt Conference.

The Fairfield, Texas native had three 200-yard rushing games and seven 100-yard rushing games. Rose III racked up a career-high 260 rushing yards over New Mexico, but the highlight of his season was a 212-yard, four touchdown rushing performance against

Idaho on Oct. 31. He scored two touchdowns in the final 3:56 of the game to force overtime and then added one touchdown in overtime to lift the Aggies to victory.

In addition to his rushing yards, Rose III ranked first in the conference in all-purpose yards with 1,934. He racked up four 200-yard all-purpose

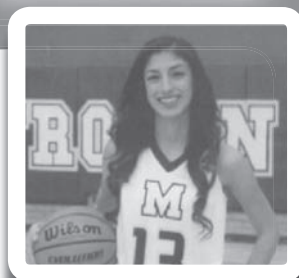
games and nine 100-yard all-purpose games. Following spectacular performances against Idaho and Texas State, Rose III earned back-to-back SBC Offensive Student-Athlete of the Week awards.

Rose III also had 283 receiving yards and two touchdowns on 30 receptions. This included a flat-pattern pass, which he took 77-yards to the end zone at Texas State.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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**Bulletin**

**Laramie Tesillo** is an 18-year-old senior at Mayfield High School. She plays point guard on the Lady Trojan's basketball team. Tesillo is a humble, positive, encouraging, hard-working and ambitious young lady. She is an excellent student, with a 4.0 GPA. Aside from basketball, Tesillo is very involved in her academics, going to church with her grandparents and enjoys spending time with family and friends. She thanks her parents and coaches for pushing her to do her best every day and in all things.



**Isaac Vance** is a 17-year-old junior at Mayfield High School. He played running back on the football team and rushed for 2,067 yards on 241 carries and scored 27 touchdowns. He also hauled in 17 passes for 338 yards and four touchdowns. On special teams he had 13 kickoff returns for 368 yards. On defense he recorded 17 solo tackles and six assisted tackles. He also plays point guard on the Trojans basketball team and centerfield for the baseball team. Vance is an outstanding leader with a great work ethic who is always positive and leads by example. He is involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and enjoys watching sports and being around friends and family.



MAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

## Aggies come up short on Star Wars night



Jonathan Barnes fails to block NMSU Forward, Pascal Siakam, from driving to the basket.



NMSU forward Pascal Siakam fights with Wyoming's Josh Adams to maintain possession of the ball.

BULLETIN PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER BELARDE



Obi-Wan Kenobi attempts to defeat Darth Vader during a halftime light-saber battle.



Dressed as a Bounty Hunter from Star Wars, Centennial High School Teacher, Darin Cabot, competes during the halftime relay.

## AGGIES FROM PAGE A26

NMSU will try to right its ship. The Aggies topped UTEP 73-59 at home on Dec. 2.

A sweep of the Miners (6-3) would be an early Christmas present for the Aggies as they face a tough slate of games. NMSU takes on Oral Roberts at home on Monday, Dec. 21 and then travel to Baylor on Dec. 23 and Wichita State on Dec. 28.

Against the Lobos, sophomore forward Pascal Siakam dropped in 21 points but was held to just four rebounds and a blocked shot.

NM State played without junior captain Ian Baker after the 10-minute mark in the first half. The Aggie point guard was wiped out on a screen at half court. He was on the floor for eight minutes before walking to the bench. He did not return to the game.

"This was a disappointing loss," said NM State head coach Marvin Menzies. "We struggled at the foul line and just didn't take advantage of some of the opportunities we had."

To compound the loss of Baker, the Aggies also got into foul trouble. While NM State did not have a player foul out, it caused personnel problems in the second half.

"Between the injury and then getting into foul trouble we had to play some guys who hadn't had a lot of time this year," said Menzies. "It's unfortunate that it came at The Pit, but hopefully we can learn from it."

While the Lobos built an 11-point first half lead, the Aggies made a run just before the half and trimmed it to a 38-32 contest after sophomore Tanveer Bhullar converted a layup and free throw into a traditional 3-point play.

But the Lobos came out with a 6-0 run to start the half as Siakam picked up two quick fouls to have four in the contest. The Aggies played from behind the rest of the contest.

NM State shot 45.3 percent from the floor for the game, hitting 24-of-53 shots, while the Lobos connected on 30-of-63 from the field, 47.6 percent. But it was the second half that was the difference as UNM hit 56 percent, while the Aggies hit 38 percent.

"It was a tale of two halves," said Menzies. "We shot well in the first half to stay in it, but you have to hand it to UNM. They played very well offensively in the second half."

Free throws also doomed NM State in the contest. The Aggies struggled at the charity stripe hitting only 13-of-29 attempts, 44.8 percent.

The Lobos hit 7-of-20 from the 3-point arc, while NM State went 0-for-7 from long distance.

And for just the second time this season, the Aggies were out rebounded by an opponent, as the Lobos grabbed 40 boards to the Aggies 28. UNM has been the only team to out rebound NM State this season.

For the second time this season Bhullar equaled his career highs in scoring and rebounding, as he just missed a double-double with nine points and nine rebounds. Jalyn Penie recorded a career-high with three blocked shots.

The Aggies don't have long to recover from the loss as they face the second game of the I-10 Rivalry on Saturday against UTEP. Tipoff at the Don Haskins Center is 7 p.m.

## WOMEN FROM PAGE A26

with 14.1 points per game and shooting .550 from the floor to go with her team-best 6.9 rebounds average.

The 6-foot forward has recorded 20-point games in three of her last four and averaged 18.2 points during that stretch.

Cherise Beynon is the only other Lobo to average double-figures, checking in at 10.4 points per game.

The sophomore guard leads the team with 13 three-pointers, 35 assists and 20 steals.

### Previous home game

Despite a scare in the first quarter, NM State pulled away from Eastern New Mexico down the stretch on Monday, Dec. 14 thanks to Tyesha Taylor's career-high 15 points to give the Aggies

a 76-61 win. The redshirt freshman was 5-of-13 from the field, but made 5-of-6 free-throws during NM State's run to hold the Greyhounds at bay.

NM State held advantages in a handful of scoring categories on the night, including a 32-8 edge in the paint. The Aggies were able to convert 25 ENMU turnovers for 28 points and had a 26-11 advantage in second-chance points thanks to their 24 offensive boards. The NM State bench also flexed its offensive muscles, outscoring the Eastern New Mexico bench 46-26.

### Trakh-ing in the wins

The victory against Eastern New Mexico gave head coach Mark Trakh his 350th career win at as a head coach. Trakh, in his fifth year with NMSU, previously served as the head coach at the University of Southern California and at Pepperdine.

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# Science, engineering lead NMSU grad around the world

**Jane Moorman**  
For the Bulletin

Dan E. Arvizu has traveled an amazing career path since he first walked onto New Mexico State University's campus in 1968.

He is one of the world's leading experts in the fields of renewable and sustainable energy and one of the top 20 Hispanic scientists and engineers in America.

NMSU honored that path during the 2015 fall commencement on Saturday, Dec. 12, by presenting Arvizu with an honorary doctorate.

"When I came to New Mexico State, the extent of my plans was to study engineering at its excellent engineering school," said the Alamogordo High School graduate.

As the first member of his immigrant family to attend college, Arvizu began a journey that has taken him to all parts of the world.

He shared some of the discoveries he has made during that journey with the doctoral graduates during a hooding ceremony Friday evening on campus.



**ARVIZU**

He talked about the ingredients for success, such as preparation, persistence, partnership and passion in the thing that a person does.

Arvizu's retirement on Nov. 30 marked the conclusion of his career associated with research laboratories. For the last 10 years, Arvizu has been the director and chief executive officer of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado.

Arvizu also served as executive vice president with

MRIGlobal, an independent not-for-profit laboratory that has conducted scientific research for government and industry since 1944. Its programs span the areas of national security and defense, life sciences, energy, engineering and agriculture and food safety.

"My interest in science was sparked in fifth grade and grew throughout high school," he said.

He attributes that nurturing of his scientific curiosity to federal funding provided to Alamogordo School District in support of Holloman Air Force Base children attending the public schools.

"I got my first exposure to NMSU during my calculus class in 12th grade," he said. "Our teacher was an NMSU professor."

A gifted trumpet player and his high school band's president, Arvizu received a music scholarship to

NMSU. While studying engineering, he played in the marching band, symphony and pep band.

As with most students, college was all about discovery for Arvizu.

"One of my first discoveries was what opportunities an education really unlocks," he said.

"By my sophomore year, I had already discovered the bigger world. I had gone from the small town of Alamogordo to Las Cruces and then to Dallas to work with Texas Instruments as a co-op student, alternating semesters between NMSU and Texas Instruments.

"It was a marvelous opportunity that gave me really good exposure to what the engineering profession was all about," he said. "It's been quite a ride ever since I've been at it for 40 years."

After graduating from NMSU in 1973, Arvizu

began his career at AT&T Bell Laboratories.

"While at Bell Labs, I was doing some revolutionary work on what we call convective cooling for the first solid-state systems that Bell Labs was designing," he said. "This was about the cooling of electronic equipment, which today is still a very important topic."

During that time, he returned to school to complete his master's and doctoral degrees at Stanford University. His emphasis was in heat transfer and fluid flow.

"Education is really about learning how to learn," he said. "Advanced degrees are really about developing the critical thinking skills that are necessary to really navigate in this increasingly complex world we live in."

Arvizu's scientific inquiries shifted to solar power after the Department of En-

ergy, a new agency under President Jimmy Carter's administration, began research on solar energy.

"I was a pioneer. No one else was doing that kind of work," he said. "I get a tremendous satisfaction in how technology has progressed and that I've had some small part in making those breakthroughs occur."

Along the way, he has served two six-year terms on the National Science Board, the governing board of the National Science Foundation, to which he was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2004 and President Barack Obama in 2010.

Arvizu is a strong supporter of STEM – science, technology, engineering and math – education.

"One of my passions is STEM education in general," he said. "The skill level

SEE **GRAD**, PAGE A31

**NM STATE**

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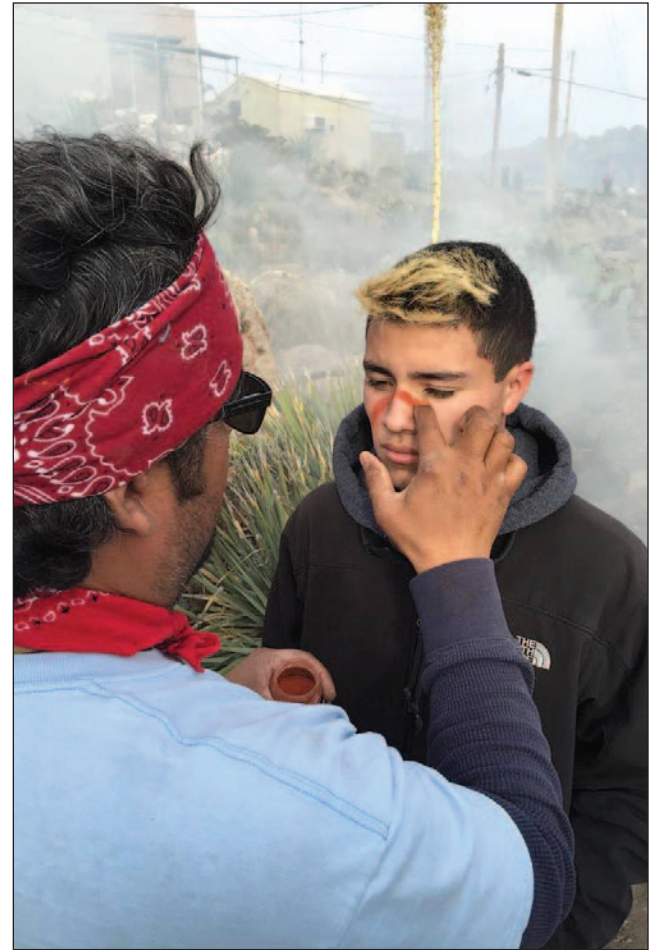
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## Pilgrims climb "A" Mountain

Pilgrims climbed Tortugas "A" Mountain Friday, Dec. 11, one of the main events of the Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a three-day gathering and celebration held by the Los Indigenes de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. The event coincides with a Roman Catholic

feasts that honors the Virgin of Guadalupe, an appearance of the Virgin Mary to a peasant named Juan Diego in Mexico in the 1500s. An altar was built at the top of the mountain where candles were placed and Bishop Oscar Cantú conducted Mass.



## CHRISTINE DIANE MITCHELL

*September 8, 1942 to December 6, 2015*

CHRISTINE DIANE (CRANDALL) MITCHELL, age 73, formerly of Racine, WI, passed away December 6, 2015, at La Posada Mesilla Valley Hospice. She was born September 8, 1942 in Ladysmith, Wisconsin to Willis G. and Frances Roberts Crandall. She grew up in Spooner, WI and graduated from Spooner High School in 1960 and attended Eau Claire Vocational College in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

In 1966 she married Eugene Clarence Mitchell "Mitch", to whom she was married until his death in 2007.

Final arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces and Sunset Crematory, 300 East Boutz Road. For online condolences logon to [www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com](http://www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com)



The Las Cruces Bulletin will publish paid obituaries, which may include up to two photographs. Brief death notices are published at no charge. For more information, call 524-8061, or email [obits@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:obits@lascrucesbulletin.com).

## WILLIAM R. DOUGLAS

*September 5, 1936 to December 2, 2015*

WILLIAM "BILL" R. DOUGLAS, passed away December 2, 2015 at Memorial Medical Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Bill was born September 5, 1936 in Denver, Colorado. He grew in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Bill graduated from Cheyenne High School in 1954. He went on to have a very

successful career with Mountain Bell Telephone Company and retired in 1985.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting that donations be made to Warrior Canine Connection 23222 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville, MD 20833. In his memory.

Entrusted to the care of

## PATRICIA PADILLA

*September 26, 1943 to November 27, 2015*

PATRICIA "PATSY" PADILLA, age 72 of Las Cruces entered eternal life Friday, November 27, 2015 at La Posada - Mesilla Valley Hospice. She was born September 26, 1943 in Santa Rita, NM to Patricio and Lucinda Jimenez Garcia. Patsy attended Western New Mexico University and NMSU, where she obtained a degree in Business and Education. She retired from the Las Cru-

ces Public School System as a school teacher at Lynn Middle School.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Sunset Crematory, 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces 527-2222. For online condolences logon to [www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com](http://www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com)



## MARCELINA CAMPOS POLANCO

*November 21, 1933 to November 28, 2015*

Our dear beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, MARCELINA CAMPOS POLANCO, age 93, of La Mesa passed away Saturday, November 28, 2015 at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born No-

vember 21, 1933 in Gosogachi, Chihuahua, Mexico to Froilan and Maria Luisa Garcia Campos. Marcelina was a very active person in the Mesilla Valley where she served as a Board Member for the Tierra Del

## MICHAEL PHILLIP LOPEZ

*October 19, 1959 to November 16, 2015*

Our beloved father, grandfather, son, fiancé, brother and uncle, MICHAEL PHILLIP LOPEZ, age 56, of Las Cruces entered eternal life on Monday, November 16, 2015 at Memorial Medical Center. He was born October 19, 1959 in Long Beach, CA to Joseph D. and Florinda Asanador Lopez. Michael served his country honorably in the United States Army and

worked as a construction laborer.

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Housing Development, worked as a cook and sewing instructor in the Centro Campesino in San Miguel, and was very involved in politics.

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## GRAD FROM PAGE A29

of the general workforce, in terms of technical skills, is much more demanding than before."

There is an ever-growing need for professionals who are in the STEM fields, he noted - especially underrepresented minorities and women.

"We've got work to do," he said. "It starts at the elementary school level. We need more focus on STEM subjects throughout the

pipeline of our training and education."

Arvizu takes pride in his involvement in training another generation of professional scientists and engineers while at NREL and now in retirement, as he becomes a visiting professor at Stanford University.

"The scientists who were inspired by the early years of aerospace, like I was, are now retiring," he said. "It has been exciting

to have the younger generation join NREL with their enthusiasm, creativity and innovation."

Arvizu's life path is coming full circle as he heads back to Stanford University in January to teach energy transformation.

"I'm very pleased to get an opportunity to be on campus and work with graduate students," he said. "They are really smart and enthusiastic. It's going to be fun."



## DONALD TAYLOR

December 2, 2015

At age 97 LT COLONEL DONALD TAYLOR USAF, Ret, slipped peacefully away to heaven on December 2, 2015.

Don was preceded by his cherished wife of 58 years, Lois, and is survived by his son Wil and his daughters Dor-

othy and Susan-Fay (and grandchildren Peggy and Kathy and Kathy's children).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests you make a donation to your favorite charity or to Mesilla Valley Hospice, 299 Montana Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

## EDWARD BRIGNONI

March 13, 1961 to December 5, 2015

EDWARD BRIGNONI, age 54, of Las Cruces entered eternal life on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at Mountain View Regional Medical Center surrounded by his loving family. He was born March 13, 1961 in Houston, TX to Antonino Brignoni and Carmen Valenzuela. Edward was a welder by trade and a member of the

Mission Lutheran Church. Entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces, 527-2222 Your exclusive providers for "Veterans and Family Memorial Care." For online condolences logon to [www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruc.com](http://www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruc.com)



## DELIA GARCIA TAPIA

March 2, 1945 to December 3, 2015



On Thursday, December 3, 2015 our dear beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, DELIA "DOLLY" GARCIA TAPIA, age 70, of Las Cruces entered eternal life at her home surrounded by her loving family. "Dolly" as she was fondly known to family and friends was born March 2, 1945 in Laredo, Texas. She retired as a cosmetologist and was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Those left to mourn her passing include her husband of thirty-seven years, David Tapia of the family home; two sons, Joey Estrada (Susie) of Coppell, Texas, Raymond Maese (Jeannette) of Gilbert, Arizona; a daughter, Rachel Garay of San Jose, California; two brothers, Art Granado of Albuquerque and Danny Granado of Las Cruces; a sister, Delfina Granado also of Las Cruces. Other survivors include eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Dolly was preceded in death by her maternal

grandmother, Emilia Palacios and her aunt, Emilia Sanchez.

Visitation for Mrs. Tapia was held on Monday, December 7, 2015 in Baca's Funeral Chapels 300 E. Boutz Road where the Prayer Vigil followed. Family and Friends joined together to celebrate the Funeral Mass on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 10 AM at St. Genevieve Catholic Church, 100 S. Espina Street with Reverend Rogelio Martinez officiating. The Rite of Committal and Interment will follow in Masonic Cemetery, 760 S. Compress Road where she will be laid to rest in the family plot.

Serving as casket bearers will be Raymond Maese, Nick Hernandez, Jeff Segreto, Aaron Zamora, Juan Martin Garay, and Robert Estrada.

The Tapia Family has entrusted their loved one to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces. 527-2222. Your exclusive providers for "Veterans and Family Memorial Care." For online condolences logon to [www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruc.com](http://www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruc.com)



## SARA ALVAREZ GARAY

February 13, 1936 to November 22, 2015

On Sunday, November 22, 2015 our dear beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, SARA ALVAREZ GARAY, age 79, of Derry entered eternal life at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Sara was born February 13, 1936 in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico to Miguel and Martina Bustillos Alvarez. She was a homemaker and a

member of the Family Worship and Praise Center.

Service arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces, 300 E. Boutz Road 527-2222. For online condolences logon to [www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruc.com](http://www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruc.com)



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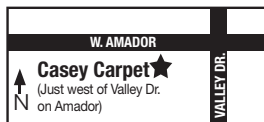
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# Life is Good in Las Cruces

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015

B1

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Tickets now on sale  
for film festival  
**B2**

## HOMES & SW LIVING



Keep fire safety  
in mind during  
the holidays  
**B17**

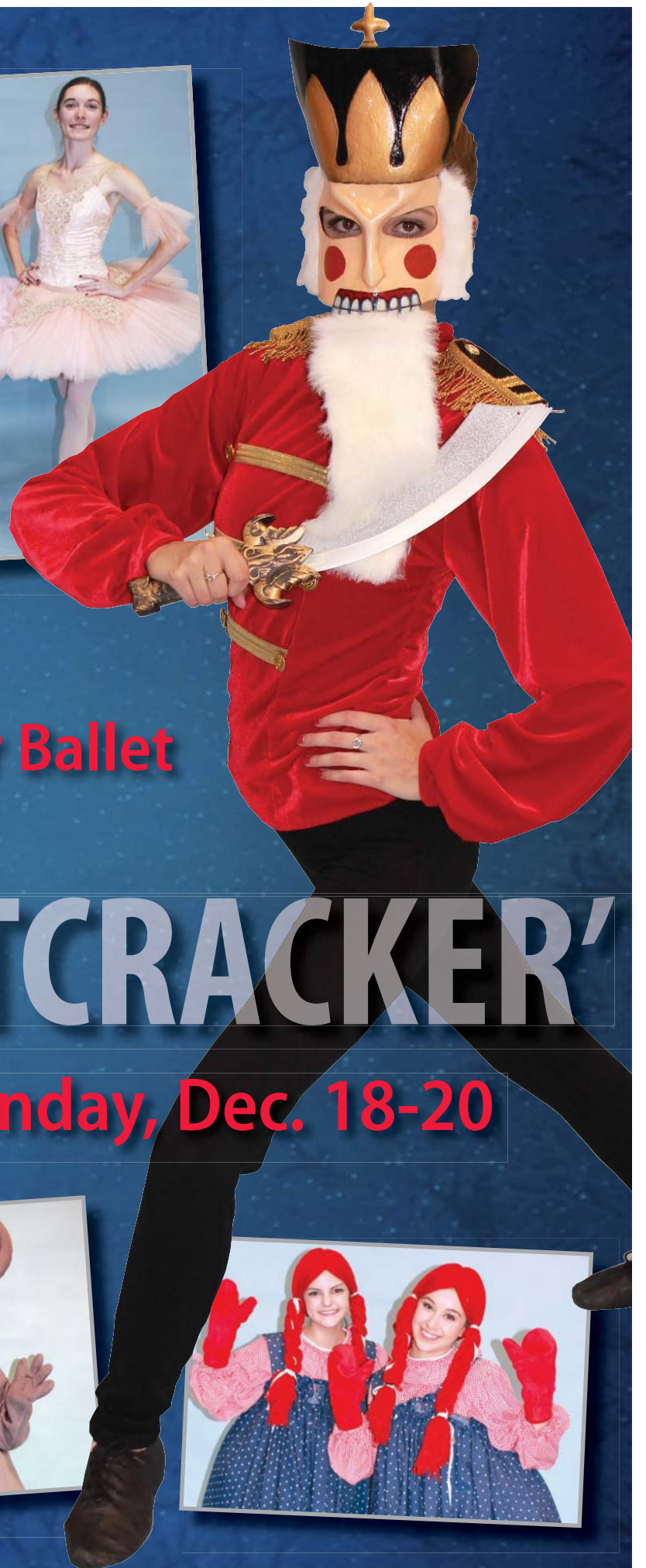
## HEALTH & WELL BEING



Food safety should top  
your Christmastime list  
**B28**

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Las Cruces Chamber Ballet  
presents

# 'THE NUTCRACKER'

Friday through Sunday, Dec. 18-20

See feature in  
Arts & Entertainment,  
**B2**



## Las Cruces Chamber Ballet presents 'The Nutcracker'

**By Zak Hansen**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

At the Stahlbaum's cozy family Christmas celebration, youngsters Clara and Fritz greet the arriving guests while their parents bestow toys on the visiting children.

Suddenly the mysterious Dr. Drosselmeyer appears, entertaining the tots with tricks and wind-up toys. His special gift to Clara – a wooden nutcracker – meets a quick and untimely fate at the hand of jealous Fritz, who breaks it in a fit.

Drosselmeyer repairs the doll, the party comes to a close and the children head off to bed – until Clara is beset by giant mice, led by the Rat King, rescued by the valiant, life-sized Nutcracker. After the battle, Clara is whisked from the Land of Snow across the Lemonade Sea to the Kingdom of Sweets, where they're greeted by none other than the Sugar Plum Fairy with a grand ball in their honor.

The Las Cruces Chamber Ballet, from its longtime home at Michele's Dance Academy, presents the 32nd annual production of "The Nutcracker" ballet with three performances this weekend, Friday through Sunday, Dec. 18-20 – just in time for the holidays.

This year, Herr Drosselmeyer (Travis Manning) entertains guests again with his magic dolls, the Ballerina and the Sultan (Angelina and Ashleigh Randazzo, respectively). Clara (Shannon Downey) and Fritz (Miranda Romero) continue their sibling rivalry, and the Snow Queen (Jade Kelley) will deliver Clara and her new friend the Prince (David Paulson-Cahall) to the Land of the Sweets, where the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy will be shared by Victoria Rel and guest artist Seattle Eberwine.

While Las Cruces Chamber Ballet has been performing "The Nutcracker" since 1983, each year producers strive to keep it fresh, and this year is no exception.

Two years ago, in 2013 – the 30th anniversary production of "The Nutcracker" and 35th of Michele's Dance Academy – Artistic Director Kevin Self along with Ballet Mistress Charlene Manning and Assistant Ballet Mistress Laura Vehcione, overhauled the two-act ballet's entire first half – a massive and deeply involved 50-dancer piece.

This year, the production will feature new sets, new choreography, new costumes and new special effects,

making it perfect for theatregoers young and old, whether they know the piece or not.

Another treat this year will be a return appearance by Tiffany Hohle, pulling double duty as Mrs. Stahlbaum and the Rat Queen. A former member of Las Cruces Chamber Ballet, Hohle has returned to the Mesilla Valley after her dance career took her to Las Vegas and Japan, as well as a spot in the San Diego, Calif., group Culture Shock in its hip-hop adaptation of "The Nutcracker." As the Rat Queen, Hohle will battle the Nutcracker (Jade Denninger) and her entourage of mice.

"The Nutcracker" ballet was originally choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov and scored by renowned composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (who also penned "Swan Lake" and "The Sleeping Beauty") in the late 1800s. It was adapted from German author E.T.A. Hoffman's 1816 "Nussnacker und Mausekönig," or "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King."

"The Nutcracker" was first performed on Sunday, Dec. 18, 1892, in St. Petersburg ... and was unsuccessful, save for its composer's titular 20-minute suite, inescapable for the month or

so preceding Christmas even today, some 100 years later, filling department store speakers and holiday soundtracks alike.

In the latter half of the 20th century, the ballet's popularity surged after George Balanchine, the "father of the New York Ballet," revived it in 1954. Since then its popularity has exploded, and today it holds its place as a perennial holiday standard, performed each Christmastime by thousands of dancers in hundreds of companies across North America and beyond.

Performances of the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet production of "The Nutcracker" ballet are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18-19, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. Atkinson Recital Hall is located at 1075 N. Horseshoe Drive on the New Mexico State University campus.

Tickets are \$21 and are available at the Pan American Center box office in person or by calling 646-1420, or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Michele's Dance Academy at 527-1893 or visit [www.micheles-danceacademy.biz](http://www.micheles-danceacademy.biz).

*Zak Hansen can be reached at [zak@](mailto:zak@)*

## Tickets on sale for Las Cruces International Film Festival

**By Mike Cook**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

The first ever Las Cruces International Film Festival (LCIFF) isn't until March 2016, but tickets are already on sale, and only a limited number will be available.

There are three ticket packages for the festival, said LCIFF Executive Director Ross Marks: a student pass for \$25 and an all-access film pass for \$75, both of which provide access to all movies and workshops; and a VIP all-access pass, which also provides access to all films and workshops and to all private after-parties and a reception with veteran Hollywood actor Danny Trejo, who will be the festival's special guest.

Marks said he expects 2,000 to 3,000 people to attend the festival, which will be held March 2-6, 2016, at Allen Theatres Cineport 10, Hotel Encanto and New Mexico State University. LCIFF is being sponsored and hosted by the NMSU College of Arts and Sciences. He said the Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau is also a major sponsor.

Films are already being submitted for the festival, Marks said. He expects submissions to include about 24 independent films, 18 documentaries, 60 narrative

shorts and 30 student shorts to be submitted by the Jan. 15, 2016 deadline.

One of the major highlights of the festival will be the Shoot Las Cruces Pilot Contest, Marks said. Filmmakers must submit a 60- to 90-second trailer for a television series pilot to be shot entirely in Las Cruces. The winner will receive \$30,000 in cash, goods and services, and will be flown to Los Angeles to meet with a major Hollywood production company to help sell the winning pilot to a distributor, which could be a network, cable company or video on demand, Marks said. The contest is based on a similar competition the Santa Fe Film Festival has held for the past two years. Both its winners "have gotten TV deals," he said.

Trejo will be honored March 3 with the festival's first Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment award. Trejo's many films include the "Machete" series, based on the character he created for a fake trailer in Quentin Tarantino's "Grindhouse," as well as his role in the "Spy Kids" series. Trejo is also well known for a recent Snickers candy bar commercial in which he portrays

Marcia Brady.

The festival will include a March 3 screening of "Machete," a 2010 feature film whose cast included Trejo, Steven Segal, Robert De Niro, Cheech Marin and Lindsay Lohan. The screening will be attended by Trejo and the film's screenwriter, Al Rodriguez, who will conduct a question-and-answer session afterward, Marks said. That will be followed by a VIP reception at the Hotel Encanto.

Las Cruces' Tony-winning playwright and Oscar-nominated screenwriter Mark Medoff is on the festival's advisory committee, and will conduct a festival workshop and will be a film competition judge, Marks said.

The LCIFF will also include Tune Up Las Cruces, a series of workshops designed "to get Las Cruces and its residents trained to work in the film industry," Marks said. A major goal of the festival is "to create awareness of Las Cruces as a viable film community." It will include workshops on acting, casting and set readiness – the last for local businesses that want to



TREJO

# FILM FESTIVAL FROM PAGE B2

work in the film industry in Las Cruces, he said.

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 480, which represents professional film technicians, will conduct workshops on joining film unions.

Marks said he is particularly grateful to Allen Theatres for its support of LCIFF. One of the biggest struggles faced by film festivals is finding screening venues, which are often very costly or very spread out, he said. "We've got all of our film screening at Cineport 10, (which) makes the festival easy to navigate."

Marks, an assistant professor of film at the NMSU Creative Media Institute who served as artistic director of the White Sands Film Festival for three years, said he has attended 60 to 75 film festivals across the country. He first attended the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, in 1994 as a recent film school graduate. Marks returned to the festival to compete in 1995 and again in 1997 for a screening of "The Twilight of the Golds," a movie he directed for Showtime.

The Sundance Film Festival "transformed Park City as a major hub for films," Marks said. He sees the same opportunity for the Las Cruces festival to "create an identity of what Sundance used to be 20, 25 years ago, as a home for independent home-makers." Las Cruces, he said, could become "the Sundance of the Southwest."

Marks said there are probably 1,000 film festivals throughout the U.S., and building attendance for LCIFF "is not going to happen overnight." But, by recruiting filmmakers whose works have won awards at other festivals to participate, "we will attract an audience," he

said. Festival staff are "being very proactive and aggressive in recruiting films that have done well at other festivals" for the LCIFF, which he said can make the Las Cruces festival "an all-star collection of filmmakers."

There are also 22 NMSU students who are "reaching out to independent filmmakers around the world to make them aware of our film festival," Marks said.

Honoring Trejo also will help attract an audience, as it provides "recognition for Hispanic actors, especially in our community," Marks said. "He ties the festival into the community of Las Cruces so well. He is so recognizable and so celebrated internationally, he brings attention to the festival just by being here."

Marks is also a member of the board of directors



Film fest fans David Salcido, Ross Marks, Mark Medoff and Gill Sorg.

of the new Film Las Cruces nonprofit that has a three-year agreement with the City of Las Cruces to hire a city film liaison and bring film and television production to Las Cruces.

"We've got some tremendous, tremendous support for film in Las Cruces," he said. "Virtually every business, every media outlet, everybody that I've contacted (about LCIFF) has gotten involved in a big way, which just shows the support is out there in the community." Las Cruces "really wants to see the film in-

dustry succeed, particularly the business community," Marks said.

For more information, contact Marks at 646-7472 or [rossm@nmsu.edu](mailto:rossm@nmsu.edu). Visit, [www.lciffest.com](http://www.lciffest.com) and [www.facebook.com/LCIFFest/](http://www.facebook.com/LCIFFest/).

For tickets, visit [www.lciffest.com](http://www.lciffest.com) or [www.eventbrite.com/e/las-cruces-international-film-festival-tickets-18417900436](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/las-cruces-international-film-festival-tickets-18417900436).

You can submit a film for the competition at [www.withoutabox.com/03film/03t\\_fin/03t\\_fin\\_fest\\_01over.php?festival\\_id=14090](http://www.withoutabox.com/03film/03t_fin/03t_fin_fest_01over.php?festival_id=14090) or by calling the LCIFF at 646-6149.

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**EOT: TWISTED HAMS**  
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**ROBERT MIRABAL - "RIVER"**  
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**EOT: FLAT BLACK**  
January 19, 2016 • 6:30pm

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**MARK NIZER, COMEDIAN & ILLUSIONIST**  
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 Team Anime ages 12-18
- FRI DECEMBER 19 • 7:30 P.M.** **RIO GRANDE THEATRE**  
 Hard Road Trio New CD Release Concert with special guest King Ibu
- SAT DECEMBER 20 • 6:00 P.M.** **RIO GRANDE THEATRE**  
 Las Cruces School of Dance Gift of the Magi
- MON DECEMBER 21 • 10:00 A.M.** **Branigan Library**  
 The Polar Express 30th Anniversary Celebration
- TUE DECEMBER 22 • 10:30 A.M.** **Branigan Library**  
 Read to Me-Storytime ages 1-3
- TUE DECEMBER 22 • 4:00 P.M.** **Branigan Library**  
 Teen Game Night-ages 12-18 (ONLY TUE this week)
- TUE DECEMBER 22 • 6:30 P.M.** **RIO GRANDE THEATRE**  
 Every other Tuesday: Las Cruces Ukles
- WED DECEMBER 23 • 10:00 A.M.** **Branigan Library**  
 Toddler Time-Storytime ages 3-5
- WED DECEMBER 23 • 11:00 A.M.** **Branigan Library**  
 Mother Goose Time-Activities for Infants
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- TUE JANUARY 5 • 6:30 P.M.** **RIO GRANDE THEATRE**  
 Every other Tuesday: Twisted Hams
- SAT JANUARY 16 • 7:30 P.M.** **RIO GRANDE THEATRE**  
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Brittany Hymer, as Clara, dances while Jester Doll and Russian Doll—Lindy Matthews and Riley Black—look on in the Las Cruces School of Dance and Music's production of "The Nutcracker Ballet."

## LC School of Dance and Music holds holiday performances

A group of Las Cruces dancers are partnering with others from southern New Mexico – and more much farther flung – for a trio of holiday performances taking place in December.

The Las Cruces School of Dance and Music, located at 1390 N. Main St., along with students of the Alamogordo Academy of Ballet – some of whom were recently accepted to and completed the highest level of the American Ballet Theatre's summer intensive – will present a performance of "The Nutcracker" ballet. The beloved show also includes fantastic original choreography special for this production.

"The Nutcracker" will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at the Oñate High School Performing Arts Center, 5700 Mesa Grande Drive. All tickets are \$15. For more information, call 525-5670.

At 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, LCSDM jazz, tap and hip-hop dance students take the stage of the historic Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., to present an original stage adaptation of O. Henry's classic holiday story "The Gift of the Magi" by Marc Moffett, a writer and University of Texas-El Paso Professor of Philosophy.

The wry tale of love and confusion comes to life on stage with dance, music and a new twist – an unbeatable way to celebrate the holiday season.

Tickets to "The Gift of the Magi" are \$15.

Last but certainly not least, the LCSDM has been chosen by the Moscow Ballet as its partner school for its production of the Great Russian Nutcracker, making a stop in the Borderlands at the Plaza Theatre in El Paso at 3 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, and 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve. The production features dancers from Alamogordo, Las Cruces and El Paso.

Tickets to Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker start at \$28 and are available via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

Tickets for all shows are available at the door and by visiting [www.tututix.com/lascrucesschool](http://www.tututix.com/lascrucesschool). For more information on these shows or the Las Cruces School of Dance and Music and the Alamogordo Academy of Ballet, call 525-5670 (Las Cruces) or 437-3810 (Alamogordo) or visit [www.newmexicodanceandmusic.com](http://www.newmexicodanceandmusic.com).

## NMSU Theatre Christmas gift idea: Buy a 'memory'

If you're looking for a unique Christmas or Chanukah gift this year, the New Mexico State University Theatre Arts Department and the American Southwest Theatre Company (ASTC) have an idea for you. Why not buy a memory in ASTC's 30th anniversary gala, which will be held Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, beginning at 7 p.m., at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave.

During the event, NMSU theatre students and faculty, along with several community actors, will perform "memories" (short scenes) from 14 of the many plays and musicals that have been performed at NMSU since Tony-winning playwright Mark Medoff and the late Bruce Street created ASTC in 1985. You can sponsor a memory of your choice for \$150.

That sponsorship also gets you two tickets to the gala, your name or the name of your business announced from the stage during the gala and a listing in the playbills for NMSU Theatre Arts' 2016 shows.

In addition to "memories," the gala will include a costume parade, featuring many costumes worn by actors on the NMSU stage during the past three decades; a social hour with hors d'oeuvres, dessert and a cash bar; a silent auction; a slide show featuring more ASTC remembrances; and a musical preview of ASTC's upcoming "Broadway Today" event, including a performance by Megan McQueen. There will also be live music provided by Triple Play.

To sponsor a memory, contact ASTC Board President Dr. William Storm at 646-3180 or [wstorm@nmsu.edu](mailto:wstorm@nmsu.edu). Visit [www.nmsutheatre.com/astcgala.php](http://www.nmsutheatre.com/astcgala.php) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/events/1526251784355176](http://www.facebook.com/events/1526251784355176).

## City Parks & Rec holds winter art camp and mural painting

The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department is announcing a winter art camp for local youth grades 7 through 12 beginning Monday, Dec. 28, taught by Las Cruces artist, art instructor and co-founder of West End Art Depot Shaunna Foster.

Teens will explore the fundamentals of art through various activities which will lead up to painting a mural on City property. Participants will be encouraged to play with and develop ideas into strong visual compositions. They will learn to use various traditional and modern media in conjunction with different painting techniques and styles, with an emphasis on aerosols. This camp will encourage a more articulate use of the visual language while fostering civic pride.

Camp will be held at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. The camp begins Dec. 28 and runs through Thursday, Dec. 30. Camp times will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a lunch; participants provide their own lunch. Registration for this program is free and all materials will be provided. For more information call 541-2454.

# Call to Artists

## NM Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum seeks tour guides

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, is looking for volunteers to be tour guides during the spring 2016 season. Tour guides help the museum teach visitors about the rich cultural legacy of New Mexico by taking students through the museum. Enrich your own knowledge of New Mexico agricultural history at the same time. For more information, call Debbi Holderby at 522-4100 ext. 116.

## Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery accepting applications

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is accepting applications for exhibitions, and encourages artists to stop by the gallery to learn more. Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday. For more information, call 522-2933 or visit [www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com](http://www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com).

## Fiction book entries sought for NMPW women's book contest

An outstanding New Mexico writer will be honored for her work in fiction in spring 2016 when her book receives the prestigious Zia Award, given by the New Mexico Press Women.

New Mexico women writers are invited to submit their fiction books for consideration of the award, given each year at the annual New Mexico Press Women spring conference luncheon. The 2016 conference luncheon will be held April 23, 2016 at Bosque Retreat Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Finalists are re-

quired to attend the award luncheon to read from their work.

A book published in the last three years is eligible. Any fiction book published in 2013, 2014 or 2015 will be accepted for consideration of the 2016 Zia Award.

Publishers or authors

may submit a book entry. Membership in the association is not required, but the writer must be a woman. Authors must also live in the state, or have a strong connection to New Mexico, however the book can be published anywhere.

Early bird entry is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members if the entry is postmarked by Thursday, Dec. 31. Regular entry

is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Membership in NMPW is \$13 annually.

For consideration please submit: A cover letter with contact information (include email) containing the following: author's biography, author's connection to New Mexico, description of the book, a copy of the book, entry fee and optional membership fee, payable to "New Mexi-

co Press Women."

Mail to the following address: Jessica Savage, Zia Award Contest Chair, 1612 Ralph Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88001.

Entries must be postmarked by Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016. An acknowledgment letter will be emailed upon receipt of the entry.

Book entries are consid-

ered a donation to the organization and are not returned. The books will be part of the silent auction, held at the annual spring awards banquet, to raise scholarship funds.

For more information on the contest please send correspondence to the address listed above or email [jsavage@cybermesa.com](mailto:jsavage@cybermesa.com).

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**[www.bgclascruces.org](http://www.bgclascruces.org)**

**Your donation gives young people like Isaac the Gift of a Great Future.**

*"The Club gave me the confidence I needed to live through and past bullying. I have countless friends from learning how to make them at the Club, I'm getting good grades, and I can play guitar. Ultimately, all the positive aspects in my life stem from the Boys & Girls Club."*

**- Isaac D., age 16, Arrowhead Park Junior and 7-year Boys & Girls Club Member**

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**Santa Rosa de Lima Parish FUNDRAISER**

**New Year's Dinner Dance**  
**December 31 2015**

St. Genevieve's Parish Hall  
 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave.  
 Dinner 6:00 p.m.  
 Dance 7:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Los Latinos Band  
 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
 Tropicalísimo Apache  
 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Couple \$100.00 Single \$75.00

**TROPICALÍSIMO APACHE**

**LOS LATINOS**

For Tickets call Santa Rosa de Lima Parish 575-382-8123

# Events Calendar

## FRI. 12/18

**10 a.m. to noon, Coloring Club for Adults**, Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St. Join the countless people who have discovered this fun way to recapture one of the joys of childhood in a safe and relaxing environment. It's OK to color outside the lines or use unexpected colors. Enjoy the companionship of other women who want to release their inner artist. Gentlemen are welcome, also, but no children, please. The club is BYOB and C - Bring Your Own Book and Colored pencils, or use our materials. A variety of pages will be ready to be colored, from simple pictures to intricate designs. Free. Call 647-4480.

**3 p.m. Evolved: Future Talk – Nonhuman Life in Space**, Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science, 411 N. Main St. Evolved is a program that makes circuits through time, discussing important points in evolution and the development of the world as it currently exists. Join museum staff every Friday at 3 p.m. to explore the beginnings of the universe and dis-

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Tue.-Fri. 10-6 p.m. • Open Sat. 10-5 p.m. • Closed Dec. 24th thru 28th • 523-9806

**Fountain Theatre**  
www.mesillavalleyfilm.org  
2469 Calle de Guadalupe in Mesilla  
575.524.8287

Dec 18 - 23  
**Freeheld**  
New Jersey police lieutenant Laurel Hester (**Julianne Moore**) and her registered domestic partner Stacie Andree (**Ellen Page**) battle to secure Hester's pension benefits when she is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

\*\* This film is free to members.

Dec 21 - 22  
**Christmas in the Clouds**  
1:30 matinees only. All seats \$5.  
A classic comedy of mistaken identity and romance set during the holiday season at a Utah ski resort owned and operated by Native Americans.

\*\*Closed December 24-25

Nightly 7:30 pm Saturday Matinee 1:30 pm Sunday Matinee 2:30 pm  
\$7 Regular • \$5 Members • \$6 Senior/Student/Military

**PBS NEWSHOUR**



NM STATE TV/FM  
www.krwg.org

Weeknights 5:30pm  
Weekends 6:30pm

cuss what the future may hold for us, as informed by modern philosophy and science. This week, we will explore nonhuman life in space. Free. Call 522-3120.

**7 p.m. Boba Cabaret presents "Carol of the Belles" dinner show**, Boba Café, 1900 S. Espina St. 'Tis the season for tight harmonies and equally tight skirts, because your favorite all-singing, all-dancing girls are hauling out the holly in their Christmas spectacular. Featuring favorite tunes such as "Jingle Bell Rock," "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and more, this show is sure to get you in the Yuletide spirit. Starring Christa Fredrickson, McKensi Karnes, Valerie Mirelez and Jamie Smith with Seth Zamora on piano. Dinner seats at 6 p.m., show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$27.50 and include dinner and a cocktail. Call 647-5900.

**7 p.m. Live music with Tiffany Christopher**, Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. Food truck will be Joshua's Pies. No cover. Call 527-5310.

**7 to 10 p.m. Live music with Tejano Pryde**, The Game Sports Bar and Grill, 2605 S. Espina St. No cover. Call 524-4263.

**8 to 10 p.m. Live acoustic guitar with James Gier**, Vintage Wines, 2461 Calle de Guadalupe. No cover. Call 523-9463.

**8:30 p.m. Boba Cabaret presents "Carol of the Belles" cocktail show**, Boba Café, 1900 S. Espina St. 'Tis the season for tight harmonies and equally tight skirts, because your favorite all-singing, all-dancing girls are hauling out the holly in their Christmas spectacular. Featuring favorite tunes such as "Jingle Bell Rock," "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and more, this show is sure to get you in the Yuletide spirit. Starring Christa Fredrickson, McKensi Karnes, Valerie Mirelez and Jamie Smith with Seth Zamora on piano. Cocktail show at 8:15 p.m., show begins at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 and include a complimentary cocktail. Call 647-5900.

**9 p.m. Live music with singer-songwriter Chris Baker**, Pecan Grill & Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd. No cover. Call 521-1099.

## SAT. 12/19

**7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Big Daddy's Flea Market**, 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. A wide variety of items will be available. Call 382-9404.

**8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces**, Main Street Downtown. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art, pet adoptions and more. Free. Visit [www.fcmlc.org](http://www.fcmlc.org).

**9 a.m. to noon, MVM Farm volunteer day**, MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculture, composting, laying hens, season extension and crop planning in our region? Come and volunteer at the MVM Farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 805-6757 for directions or email [info@mvmfarm.com](mailto:info@mvmfarm.com).

**10 a.m. to noon, Make an Ornament class**, Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St. Drop by anytime and make your choice of holiday ornaments. Materials will be available for you to make a variety of ornaments and cards. Come put your imagination to work to make something truly unique for family or friends. Children age seven and up are welcome with parental attendance encouraged. Cost is \$1 suggest donation per child. Call 647-4480.

**10 a.m. Family Science Saturday**, Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science, 411 N. Main St. Join the museum as we learn about the science of food. This week's topic is candy crystallography. All ages are welcome, from 3 to 93. Free. Call 522-3120.

**10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces**, COAS Bookstores, 1101 S. Solano Drive and 317 S. Main St. This week, Douglas

## PLAYBILL

### LAST CHANCE:

**Shrek the Musical**  
Las Cruces Community Theatre  
313 N. Main St.  
523-1200  
Tickets \$10 to \$14  
8 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Thursday  
Through Sunday, Dec. 20

Jackson will be the storyteller at the Downtown location and Gloria Hacker will be the storyteller at the Solano location. COAS will give coupons for free books to all children who attend. Free. Call 524-8471.

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m. SNAP**, Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science and Museum of Art atrium, 491 N. Main St. Recognizing the importance of interdisciplinary learning experiences, the education staff of the Las Cruces Museums system have collaborated on a new program offering SNAP – the Science, Nature and Art Program. The program encourages visitors to embrace their artistic creativity while engaging in educational activities inspired by Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This week's topic is holiday science – make a Moravian star. Free. Call 541-2137.

**Noon to 3 p.m. Live music with The Plateros**, Sparky's Burgers, BBQ & Espresso, 115 Franklin St., Hatch. Join The Plateros, a world-touring Native American family band from New Mexico, for an afternoon of music. No cover. Call 644-1897.

**2 to 6 p.m. Live jazz with Derrick Lee Trio**, Sombra Antigua Winery, 430 La Viña Road, Chamberino, N.M. No cover. Call 915-241-4349.

**3:30 to 4 p.m. Learn to play Middle Eastern rhythms**, My Place Jewell, 132-B Wyatt Drive. No drum required but must call ahead for loaner drum. Cost \$2 per lesson. Call 693-1616.

**7 to 10 p.m. Live music with Dan White**, The Game Sports Bar and Grill, 2605 S. Espina St. No cover. Call 524-4263.

**7:30 p.m. Hard Road Trio "Smoke and Redemption" CD release party**, Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Hard Road Trio – mandolin master Steve Smith, guitarist and songbird Chris Sanders and cellist Anne Luna – celebrate the release of the new album "Smoke and Redemption." Also on the bill will be special guest King Ibu, who is a guitarist, percussionist, singer and songwriter from Podor, Senegal. Copies of the "Smoke and Redemption" and other CDs from the Trio and King Ibu will be available. Showtime is 7:30 pm with doors opening at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$17 for adults; \$5 for 12 and under. At the door ticket prices are \$22 for adults and \$5 for 12 and under. Call 523-6403 or visit [www.riograndetheatre.com](http://www.riograndetheatre.com).

**7 p.m. Boba Cabaret presents "Carol of the Belles" dinner show**, Boba Café, 1900 S. Espina St. 'Tis the season for tight harmonies and equally tight skirts, because your favorite all-singing, all-dancing girls are hauling out the holly in their Christmas spectacular. Featuring favorite tunes such as "Jingle Bell Rock," "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and more, this show is sure to get you in the Yuletide spirit. Starring Christa Fredrickson, McKensi Karnes, Valerie Mirelez and Jamie Smith with Seth Zamora on piano. Dinner seats at 6 p.m., show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$27.50 and include dinner and a cocktail. Call 647-5900.

**8 to 10 p.m. Live jazz and sax with Steve Selby**, Vintage Wines, 2461 Calle de Guadalupe. No cover. Call 523-9463.

**8 to 11 p.m. Live jazz with Derrick Lee Trio**, High Desert Brewing Co., 1201 W. Hadley Ave. No cover. Call 525-6752.

**8:30 p.m. Boba Cabaret presents "Carol of the Belles" cocktail show**, Boba Café, 1900 S. Espina St. 'Tis the season for tight harmonies and equally tight skirts, because your favorite all-singing, all-dancing girls are hauling out the holly in their Christmas spectacular. Featuring favorite tunes such as "Jingle Bell Rock," "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and more, this show is sure to get you in the Yuletide spirit. Starring Christa Fredrickson, McKensi Karnes, Valerie Mirelez and Jamie Smith with Seth Zamora on piano. Cocktail show at 8:15 p.m., show begins at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 and include a complimentary cocktail. Call 647-5900.

**9 p.m. Live music with Overcome Las Cruces**, Pecan Grill & Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd. No cover. Call 521-1099.

## SUN. 12/20

**7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Big Daddy's Flea Market**, 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. A wide variety of items will be available. Call 382-9404.

**10 a.m. to noon, Sunday Morning Hike**, Dripping Springs Natural Area, 15000 Dripping Springs Road. Join Bureau of Land Management Park Ranger intern Emma Jornlin for Sunday morning hikes around Dripping Springs Natural Area, each with an interpretive theme. This week, we'll talk about how plants survive in the Chihuahuan Desert on a hike to Dripping Springs. 3 miles round-trip. Bring your own water, food, good boots and extra clothing. Hikes are limited to 20 participants. Email Jornlin at [ejornlin@blm.gov](mailto:ejornlin@blm.gov).

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday Farmers Market**, Tractor Supply Co., 1440 W. Picacho Ave. This is a true farmers market with produce and food as the primary items, along with some arts and crafts. Free. Call 993-6521.

**2 p.m. Bluegrass, country and folk music jam**, O'Donnell Hall, corner of Williams and Gregg Streets on the NMSU campus. All players are welcome. Free. Call 405-1290.

**2 to 5 p.m. Live music**, Rio Grande Winery, 5321 Highway 28. No cover. Call 524-3985.

**2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Live music with Rick O'Brein**, Sombra Antigua Winery, 430 La Viña Road, Chamberino, N.M. No cover. Call 915-241-4349.

**3 p.m. Christmas Music with the New Desert Harmony Singers**, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave. The New Desert Harmony Singers will wrap up their holiday season with a free public concert. Returning for their second year as special musical guests will be the NMSU Gospel Choir under the direction of Dr. Bobbie Green. In addition to joining NDHS for a couple of songs, the NMSU Gospel Choir will also perform a few of their own. This will be a wonderful afternoon of holiday music the whole family can enjoy. Admission is free, but donations of non-perishable food items, cash, or check will be accepted and provided to Casa de Peregrinos food bank. Call 373-1816 or email [NDHSingers@gmail.com](mailto:NDHSingers@gmail.com).

## MON. 12/21

**9 p.m. Open Mic hosted by Chris Baker and Friends**, Pecan Grill & Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd. No cover. Call 5214-1099.

## TUE. 12/22

**1 to 3:30 p.m. Beginning Drawing and Painting**, My Place Jewell, 132-B Wyatt Drive. Pencil, pastel, charcoal drawing and watercolor and acrylic painting focusing on the basic and advancing at your own pace. Taught by artist and educator Wayne Carl Huber. Adults and high school home school stu-

dents are welcome. Enroll any Tuesday for four weeks at \$45. Contact Huber for supplies and more information at 647-5684.

**5 to 6 p.m. Belly Dance Club**, My Place Jewell, 132-B Wyatt Drive. Join one of the longest-running dance groups in the area. Open to ages 11 and older. Great low-impact exercise. Cost \$4 per lesson. Call 639-1616.

**6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Argentine Tango de Las Cruces**, 2251 Calle de Santiago, Mesilla. Daniel Haverporth will teach a class from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., dances from 7:15 to 9:30 p.m. Cost \$5, NMSU students free with ID. Call 620-0377.

**6:30 p.m. Every Other Tuesday: Las Cruces Ukles**, Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Las Cruces' only ukulele group takes the stage touting what they refer to as the "hot instrument of the decade" and playing great songs from days gone by. Every Other Tuesday is a Doña Ana Arts Council program showcasing local performers on the stage of the Rio Grande Theatre. Free. Call 523-6403 or visit [www.riograndetheatre.com](http://www.riograndetheatre.com).

## WED. 12/23

**8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces**, Main Street Downtown. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art, pet adoptions and more. Free. Visit [www.fcmlc.org](http://www.fcmlc.org).

**9 a.m. to noon, MVM Farm volunteer day**, MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculture, composting, laying hens, season extension and crop planning in our region? Come and volunteer at the MVM Farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 805-6757 for directions or email [info@mvmfarm.com](mailto:info@mvmfarm.com).

**5 to 8 p.m. Open Mic**, New Mexico State University Barnes & Noble, University Avenue and Jordan Road. Poetry and musicians alternate. Organized by David Rodriguez. Free. Call 646-4431.

**8 to 10 p.m. Open mic**, Q's Steak, Pasta and Brewhouse, 1300 Avenida de Mesilla. No cover. Call 571-4350.

**8 to 10 p.m. Old-time fiddle music with Los Cacahuates**, Spotted Dog Brewery, 2900 Avenida de Mesilla. No cover. Call 650-2729.

## THU. 12/24

**1 to 3:30 p.m. Intermediate to Advanced Drawing and Painting**, My Place Jewell, 132-B Wyatt Drive. This intermediate and advanced class will focus on the unique concerns of each student, working in a variety of media, including watercolor, acrylic, water soluble oil paints, pastels, and colored pencil. Subject matter will comprise of still life, landscape, figure, and architectural space. Students may start classes at any time and proceed at their own pace. Open enrollment starting any Thursday. Cost \$45 for four two and a half hour sessions. Call 647-5684.

**5 to 6 p.m. Belly Dance Club**, My Place Jewell, 132-B Wyatt Drive. Join one of the longest-running dance groups in the area. Open to ages 11 and older. Great low-impact exercise. Cost \$4 per lesson. Call 639-1616.

**8 to 10 p.m. Live music**, Bosque Brewing Company, 901 E. University Ave., Bldg. 985 Suite B. No cover. Call 571-4626.

**8 to 11 p.m. Live music**, High Desert Brewing Co., 1201 W. Hadley Ave. No cover. Call 525-6752.

**FRI. 12/25**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

## SAT. 12/26

**7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Big Daddy's Flea Market**, 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. A wide variety of items will be available. Call 382-9404.

**8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces**, Main Street Downtown. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art, pet adoptions and more. Free. Visit [www.fcmlc.org](http://www.fcmlc.org).

**9 a.m. to noon, MVM Farm volunteer day**, MVM Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculture, composting, laying hens, season extension and crop planning in our region? Come and volunteer at the MVM Farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 805-6757 for directions or email [info@mvmfarm.com](mailto:info@mvmfarm.com).

**10 a.m. Family Science Saturday**, Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science, 411 N. Main St. Join the museum as we learn about the science of food. This week's topic is roasting reactions. All ages are welcome, from 3 to 93. Free. Call 522-3120.

**10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces**, COAS Bookstores, 1101 S. Solano Drive and 317 S. Main St. This week, Judith Ames will be the storyteller at the Downtown location and Sonya Weiner will be the storyteller at the Solano location. COAS will give coupons for free books to all children who attend. Free. Call 524-8471.



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Right on Nopalito Rd.

# Galleries & Openings

## LAST CHANCE

**UNSETTLED GALLERY** presents the fifth annual "Let's Go Ornamental" exhibit, featuring eclectic area artists – and a few from further afield – creating artful treasures perfect in size, composition and price for gifting or adding to your personal collection. The holidays are an excuse and inspiration for our artists, and the gallery, to allow a bit of fun, discovery and experimentation to enter the creative process resulting in work to enjoy not just for the holidays, but year-round. "Let's Get Ornamental" opens with an artists' reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. The exhibit will remain on display through Saturday, Dec. 19.

Unsettled Gallery is located at 905 N. Mesquite St. Regular gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and by appointment. For more information visit [www.unsettledgallery.com](http://www.unsettledgallery.com), email [u@unsettledgallery.com](mailto:u@unsettledgallery.com) or call 635-2285.

**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY** presents its fall 2015 collaborative exhibition, "Points of Departure." Forming a multifaceted curatorial exchange, three concepts will be on display within the gallery for "Points of Departure": Laboratory, Curatory and Points of Departure. The UAG will host a plethora of community programs, taking place from mid-November through early December. For the complete schedule, visit [uag.nmsu.edu](http://uag.nmsu.edu). "Points of Departure" will remain on display through Saturday, Dec. 19.

The NMSU University Art Gallery is located inside D.W. Williams Hall, at the intersection of University Avenue and Solano Drive. Regular gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, visit <http://uag.nmsu.edu> or call 646-2545.

## ONGOING

**ADOBE PATIO GALLERY** presents the Border Artists' second exhibition of small-scale art show "Small is Beautiful II." This exciting show introduces two of the Border Artists' newest members, Margaret Berrier and Sharbani Das Gupta, whose work will be shown alongside three Signature Members – Carolyn Bunch, Tom Gerend and Dan Tapper – as well as active members Tauna Cole, Janice Cook, Sherry Doil-Carter, Winfrey Hearst, Annetta Hoover, Amanda Jaffe, Suzanne Kane, Cassandra Lockwood, Rosemary McLoughlin, Jeanne Rundell, Storm Sermay, David Shaw, Jo-An Smith, Jean Wilkey, Bob Willis and Terry Wolfe. The art in "Small is Beautiful II" may be small in size, but it's powerful in feeling and wide in variety. During December, a percentage of each sale of art will be donated to Jardin de los Niños. "Small is Beautiful II" will remain on display through December. Throughout December, a portion of each sale will be donated to Jardin de los Niños. From 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, Border Artists' Founder Virginia Ness will be honored, along with co-founder Carolyn Bunch, and the rest of the Border Artists will be in the gallery to chat with visitors. Light refreshments will be

served, and door prizes donated by the artists will be available.

Adobe Patio Gallery is located at 1765 Avenida de Mesilla. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 532-9310.

**BRANIGAN CULTURAL CENTER** presents three new exhibits opening for the month of December, "Remembering the Mays," "The Beggars of Venice" and "Around the World, Around Other Cultures."

Celebrating local history and one of Las Cruces' pioneering families is the focus of "Remembering the Mays." Settling in Las Cruces in the late nineteenth century, John and Elizabeth May opened and operated the successful Rio Grande Hotel on Main Street. The couple raised six children in Las Cruces, many of whom grew to become important figures in their own right, owning important businesses throughout the City and becoming involved in local and regional politics.

The exhibit will feature historic photographs as well as items from the Museum System's collection that belonged to members of the May family, allowing visitors insight into life in Las Cruces during an exciting period of time in which the city was rapidly developing.

The suite of drawings "The Beggars of Venice" captures the many characters of the most present but often unnoticed residents of Venice, Italy. Utilizing graphite and ink on paper, artist Ed Smith's images create a sense of historical continuity with the great artists Callot, Tintoretto, Tiepolo, Goya and Rembrandt. "The Beggars of Venice" will remain on display through Jan. 23, 2016.

"Around the World, Around Other Cultures" is an exhibit of the work of artist Alejandra Gamez. Gamez developed her own style of producing monotypes while studying at the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juarez. Utilizing mediums of acrylic ink and paper, this show presents a series of artwork that illustrates the artist's passion for different countries and cultures, and how they relate to each other in the world. "Around the World, Around Other Cultures" will remain on display through Saturday, Dec. 26. Branigan Cultural Center is located at 501 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 541-2154.

**TOMBAUGH GALLERY** presents "Steel and Wings," an exhibit of new works by Las Cruces artists Jill Somoza and John Northcutt. Somoza's paintings capture an ephemeral quality by painting on vinyl sheeting stretched in unusual shapes. The pieces chosen for this show were all done in the past two years and display the simple lines of juxtaposed panels combined with curved wood. These paintings are more accurately described as elaborate sketches of fleeting feelings, drawn in wood, vinyl, color and line. Northcutt's sculpture is minimal kinetic and viewer participatory. He has chosen to explore the concept of the existence of multiple planes within a plane and their interaction. The planes are based on minimal geometric shapes, rectangles, squares, triangles, etc., interacting with each other. In the past, he has worked thematically drawing ideas from American Indian mythology, art history references, or observations on friends, thus giving the work an allegorical quality. For this show,

he draws inspiration from the Sand Hill Cranes and their flight. "Steel and Wings" will remain on display through Jan. 22, 2016.

Tombaugh Gallery is located inside the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, 2000 S. Solano Drive. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and by appointment. For more information, call 522-7281.

**BIG PICTURE DIGITAL IMAGE EXPERTS AND GALLERY** presents "Southwest Visions" by fine artist Greg Allen. Inspired by the mystical terrain of the desert, Allen brings to life the landscapes of the Southwest, capturing light, forms and architecture. His authenticity and purity of vision is delineated throughout the work. Many of his oil paintings possess a distinctly classical composition while others are imbued with a contemporary painterly surface. Illuminated from within, viewers experience an overwhelming sense of familiarity, intimacy and innocence. "Southwest Visions" will remain on display through the end of December.

Big Picture Digital Image Experts and Gallery is located at 311 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 647-0508.

**MAS ART** presents the work of two young talents, Rudolf Medina and Sherrena Richardson, a combination of realistic style shown through Medina's work and the fascinating surrealism style of Richardson, in the joint exhibition "Anecdotes and Striations." The exhibit will remain on display through the end of December.

Mas Art is located at 126 S. Main St. Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 526-9113.

**QUILLIN-STEPHENS GALLERY** welcomes everyone back for a Christmas Ramble featuring wood-turner Les Fairchild. Fairchild specializes in wood inlay, combining several types of wood in intricate patterns to create items ranging from bowls to kaleidoscopes, as well as offering Christmas ornaments and jewelry in wood. In addition, the gallery's four permanent artists will offer some Christmas specials to help you complete your shopping list. The show will remain on display through the end of the month.

Quillin-Stephens Gallery is located behind COAS Books at 317 N. Main St. For more information and gallery hours, call 312-1064.

**WEST END ART DEPOT** is proud – and a little sad – to present its final exhibit at the warehouse by the tracks, David Canales' "Metal Show." The gallery's final show features sculptures incorporating metal and found objects, and photographs based on the sculptures. Canales, a Las Cruces transplant from L.A., will also exhibit custom-built game tables. Available for modest prices, everything included in the show is priced at \$300 or less. On his current work Canales said, "The principle idea I am working with is metal. I'm fascinated by the longevity of the material. Secondary to that solidity is the interplay of light and, third, there is a primary focus on balance, if not symmetry." "Metal Show" will remain on display through the end of the year.

West End Art Depot is located at 401 N. Mesilla St. Gallery hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday and by appointment. For more informa-

tion, call 312-9892 or visit [www.we-ad.org](http://www.we-ad.org).

**ART OBSCURA GALLERY** presents two exhibitions for the month of December: Jesse Reinhard's "Reflections" and Sam Ross' "Etiquette Unraveled," upstairs in the Tiny Room Gallery.

Jesse Reinhard received an MFA in printmaking from NMSU and has been active in the local art scene since arriving in Las Cruces in 2004. Along with Art Obscura, his artwork can often be found at the West End Art Depot and Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market. This is rumored to be Reinhard's last show in Las Cruces, as he is moving to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area at the end of the year to join a religious cult.

"Etiquette Unraveled" reveals artist Sam Ross' new paintings that vibrate with humor. This month-long display showcases his new work, along with limited edition T-shirts, prints and miniature paintings. "I've always been the jovial type and I love connecting with people through humor, which is what I primarily aim to achieve through this style," Ross said.

"Reflections" and "Etiquette Unraveled" will remain on display through January 2016.

Art Obscura Gallery is located at 3206 Harrelson St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 494-7256.

**COTTONWOOD GALLERY**, inside Southwest Environmental Center, presents a new show of artwork by Las Cruces painter Meg G. Freyermuth. Freyermuth recently completed the first Artist-In-Residence program for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, a program that supports public lands through art. An avid hiker, traveler and gardener since childhood, Freyermuth uses these experiences to display her passion for the environment through brightly colored, dramatic paintings and drawings of the United States' wilderness. Freyermuth's show will remain on display through the end of January 2016.

Cottonwood Gallery is located inside Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St. Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 522-5552.

**NOPALITO'S GALERÍA** presents Kate More's "The Tortugas Journey of Our Lady of Guadalupe," an exhibit of photographs from her research on the Tortugas Pueblo, as well as Norma Hartell's "La Vida de Un Agricultor (Life of a Farmer)," depicting the connection between farmers and their livestock. Both exhibits will remain on display through the end of December.

Nopalito's Galería is located at 326 S. Mesquite St. Gallery hours are 4 to 7 p.m. Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 524-0003.

**MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY** features two local artists for the month of December, Bert Gammill and Lori Shalett. Gammill is a mixed-media artist working in watercolor, oils, pastels and pencils, rendering realistic things that are close to her – horses, dogs, cats, friends and family. The gallery is also pleased to welcome its newest member, Mike Shalett, a basket-weaver. In addition, the gallery's 30 member artists offer work in many media.

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday. For more information, call 522-2933.



**ART ON EASELS GALLERY**, located inside the Community Enterprise Center, features nearly 50 works by members of the Las Cruces Arts Association. December's LCAA featured artist is Penny Dunklee. Dunklee is a longtime member of the LCAA and is a well-known watercolorist. A versatile artist, she draws on many inspirations to create her images, often instilling her sense of humor along the way.

The Community Enterprise Center is located at 125 N. Main St. Art on Easels Gallery is open from 5 to 7 p.m. during each First Friday Downtown Art Ramble, as well as during the Las Cruces Farmers & Craft Market on the first and third Saturdays of the month. For more information, visit [www.lascrucesarts.com](http://www.lascrucesarts.com).

**AA STUDIOS** presents "New Paintings and Monotypes" by Las Cruces abstract artist Michael Pavao for the month of November. All Pavao's work for this show is new, and the small-format monotypes are dynamic and affordable. Pavao numbers, rather than titles, his work, incorporating the date of completion. Doing this avoids the preconceived imagery or meaning a formal title often suggests, and suggests an affinity with music and math, where form is counterbalanced by the space around the form. A feeling of improvisational jazz can be seen in Pavao's work. "New Paintings and Monotypes" will be open the second weekend of the month, as well as by appointment, through Jan. 2, 2016.

Aa Studios is located 2645 Doña Ana Road. Gallery hours are by appointment the second weekend of the month, 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 520-8752.

**AMARO WINERY** features paintings and drawing by Meg Freyermuth and a landscape pastel series by Wayne Carl Huber. The show will remain on display through Jan. 10, 2016.

Amaro Winery is located at 402 S. Melendres St. Hours are 3 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 1 to 10 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 527-5310.

**FIREBIRD RISING FINE ART GALLERY** presents its grand opening celebration and exhibition "Union of Flames," a group show of local, national and international visual artists featuring Paul Neff, Lilith Love, Wes Naman, Chris Bardey, Jodie Herrera, Jef Bourgeau, Deret Roberts, Cody Jimenez, Michael Ponce, Praxis, David D. Sorensen, Stephanie Sweet, Maureen Bachaus and Michael C. Gutierrez. "Union of Flames" will remain on display through Jan. 3, 2016.

Firebird Rising Fine Art Gallery is located at 330 W. Mountain Ave. Regular gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday and by appointment. For more information, call 303-2434.

**NEW MEXICO FARM & RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM** presents in its north corridor "In a Nutshell: Growing Nuts in New Mexico," an exhibit centered on nuts grown here in the Land of Enchantment. Few crops are more diverse and individually tied culturally and economically to the various geographic areas of New Mexico's bountiful nut crops. Each of the state's top nuts – piñon, peanuts, pecans and pistachios – has its own story to tell about how and why it is grown and harvested. The exhibit covers everything from the definition of a nut to its health benefits. In between is a fascinating look at the history, research and uses as well as growing and harvesting techniques. "In a Nutshell" will remain on display through Sept. 25, 2016.

The museum presents in its arts corridor "Linda Hagen: Light Affects." New Mexico always has been renowned for the effects of its light and its attractiveness to artists. Light affects the way we view this beautiful state, and in this collection of paintings by Las Cruces artist Linda Hagen, she accepts the challenge of capturing light on canvas – on form, distance and color. A love of animals, the West and nature inspire Hagen's work. "Light Affects" will remain on display through April 3, 2016.

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum is located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Regular museum admission is \$5 adults, \$4 senior citizens, \$3 children ages 4 to 17, \$2 active U.S. military and veterans and free for children age 3 and younger. For more information, visit [www.nmfarm-ranchmuseum.org](http://www.nmfarm-ranchmuseum.org) or call 522-4100.

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**CAFÉ DE MESILLA** presents "Art Demitasse," an exhibit by the Ten O'Clock Club. The "Tennessers" meet monthly at 10 a.m. on the 10th day of each month to talk art; every other day of the week at 10 a.m., they think art or, most often, get involved with their media to create, work and play. "Art Demitasse," the last of the Tennessers' 10th anniversary shows, will remain on display through December.

Café de Mesilla is located at 2190 Avenida de Mesilla. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For more information, call 524-0000.

**DESERT ROOTS ARTISTS' MARKET AND GALLERY** features works by local artists and a cozy café area. Desert Roots Artists' Market and Gallery is located at 1001 S.

Solano Drive. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 652-7366.

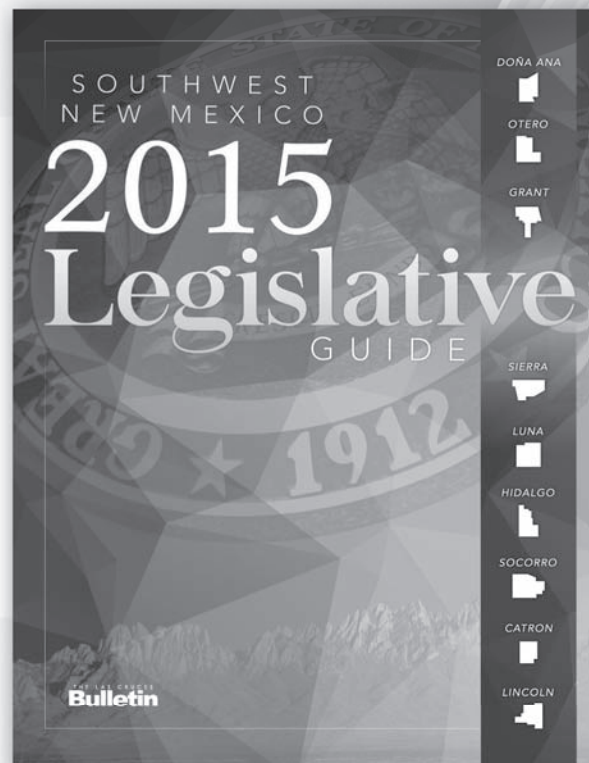
**DOÑA ANA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER** is currently displaying more than 100 pieces of new, original artwork created by students from Las Cruces Public Schools and Gadsden Independent School District in the center's first-floor corridor. The exhibit includes drawings, paintings, photography, etchings and more.

The student art exhibit complements the permanent art collection held inside the center, featuring 41 original acrylics and oils by Joyce T. Macrorie, several historical photographs and landscapes, art from students attending J. Paul Taylor Academy and Hatch Valley Public Schools and more.

The Doña Ana County Government Center is located at 845 N. Motel Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 647-7210.

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# 'Freeheld' sputters but redeems itself in the end

**Review by Jeff Berg**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

The first 40 minutes of "Freeheld" were, to me, almost unbearable. It felt boring and clichéd and there was very little chemistry between the two leads, Julianne Moore and Ellen Page.

But once the big ball was dropped, shall we say, things changed remarkably and the film turned itself around, becoming at once moving and believable.

"Freeheld" is based on the true story of Laurel Hester (Moore) and her partner, Stacie Andree (Page), who challenged the system after Hester, a long time member of the Ocean County, N.J., police

department, developed lung cancer and tried to ensure that Andree would be assigned her death benefits upon her passing.

However, since the two women were not "married," the freeholders, who must be like a New Jersey version of county commissioners, denied her request repeatedly and with some degree of obvious prejudice.

There was an Oscar-winning short film of the same name on the subject a few years ago which I have not seen, which morphed into this feature, but the story is fascinating and strong, being the only thing that holds the film together.

Hester starts getting treatment (she died in 2006)



Ellen Page and Julianne Moore star in director Peter Sollett's "Freeheld," now playing at the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla.

while Andree wrings her hands appropriately and mercilessly.

Support, at least locally, is not forthcoming, other than a local reporter who stays on top of the story. After a fashion, Steve Carell, as Jewish gay-rights activist and self-proclaimed "loud, gay Jew" Steven Goldstein shows up with a posse in tow, to set up protests and marches to raise the visibility of the women's plight.

His theatrics gain a lot of attention and make the lives of the freeholders, shall we say, much more out of the ordinary.

It was interesting to note that the efforts of Carell and the others are embarrassing for the most part, rather than helpful.

A bit later on, a co-worker of Hester's, her partner on the force, shows some support and a freeholder starts to sway in his opinionated opinion.

Hester's intention was to help push the envelope concerning rights for gay people and with that she was successful. I just wish "Freeheld" was able to show it in a more capable way, one that would honor Hester and Andree, rather than make them look like caricatures.

Also playing this week is my second favorite Christmas movie of all time, "Christmas in the Clouds" for two matinee shows at 1:30 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Dec. 21-22. Don't miss it!

*Jeff Berg can be reached at nedludd76@hotmail.com.*

## Sudoku

Complete the grids below so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. It is a game of logic, not math, and there is only one solution per puzzle. Have fun and exercise the grey matter.  
Tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

### BEGINNER

4			6	5	7		9	
		9	1	4		3		
3	5						2	
5			2		9		6	
9	6			7			4	3
	8		6		4			5
	9						7	1
		5		9	6	4		
7		3	8	5				2

### CHALLENGER

	2	5					3	7
				3				
9			2		1			5
2			8		7			4
		6				7		
4			3		5			1
5			7		2			8
				9				
	7	8					2	1

### EXPERT

		7	1		8			2
					6	8	1	
		6	2					
					8		3	1
	4							6
1		9		7				
					7	2		
	5	1	4					
6			9		5	1		

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

9	1	6	3	4	5	2	7	8
7	3	2	9	6	8	5	1	4
5	4	8	2	7	1	6	3	9
3	2	4	1	8	7	9	5	6
6	9	1	4	5	2	3	8	7
8	5	7	6	9	3	1	4	2
2	6	5	7	3	4	8	9	1
4	8	9	5	1	6	7	2	3
1	7	3	8	2	9	4	6	5

5	9	3	4	8	1	7	2	6
8	1	6	9	7	2	3	4	5
2	7	4	5	6	3	9	1	8
1	6	5	3	2	4	8	7	9
4	3	8	7	1	9	6	5	2
7	2	9	8	5	6	1	3	4
3	4	7	2	9	8	5	6	1
6	8	2	1	3	5	4	9	7
9	5	1	6	4	7	2	8	3

1	5	9	4	3	7	6	2	8
3	6	4	5	2	8	9	1	7
7	2	8	1	6	9	4	5	3
5	1	7	8	9	2	3	4	6
2	9	6	7	4	3	1	8	5
4	8	3	6	1	5	2	7	9
8	3	1	2	7	6	5	9	4
9	7	2	3	5	4	8	6	1
6	4	5	9	8	1	7	3	2

© Puzzles by Pappocom

# BrainGames



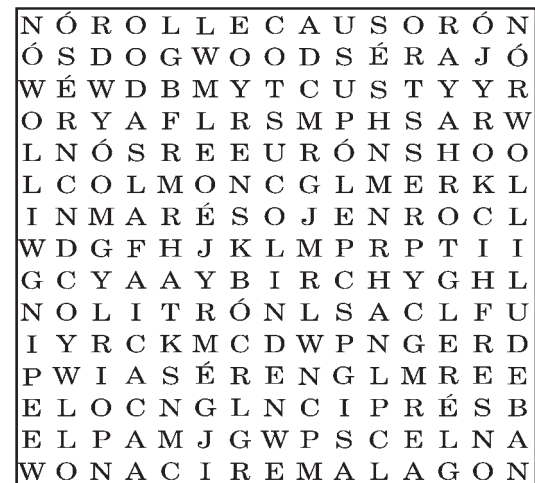
## Word Salsa

Circle these English words and their Spanish equivalents that appear in the grid horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backward. Encierre estas palabras en inglés y sus equivalentes en español que aparecen al revés, horizontal, vertical y diagonalmente.

### FALLING LEAVES

- | ENGLISH        | SPANISH         |
|----------------|-----------------|
| ASH            | FRESNO          |
| BEECH          | HAYA            |
| BIRCH          | ABEDUL          |
| CYPRESS        | CIPRÉS          |
| DOGWOOD        | CORNEJO         |
| ELM            | OLMO            |
| HICKORY        | NOGAL AMERICANO |
| LINDEN         | TILO            |
| LOCUST         | ACACIA FALSA    |
| MAPLE          | ARCE            |
| OAK            | ROBLE           |
| WEeping WILLOW | SAUCE LORÓN     |

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## Crossword Puzzles

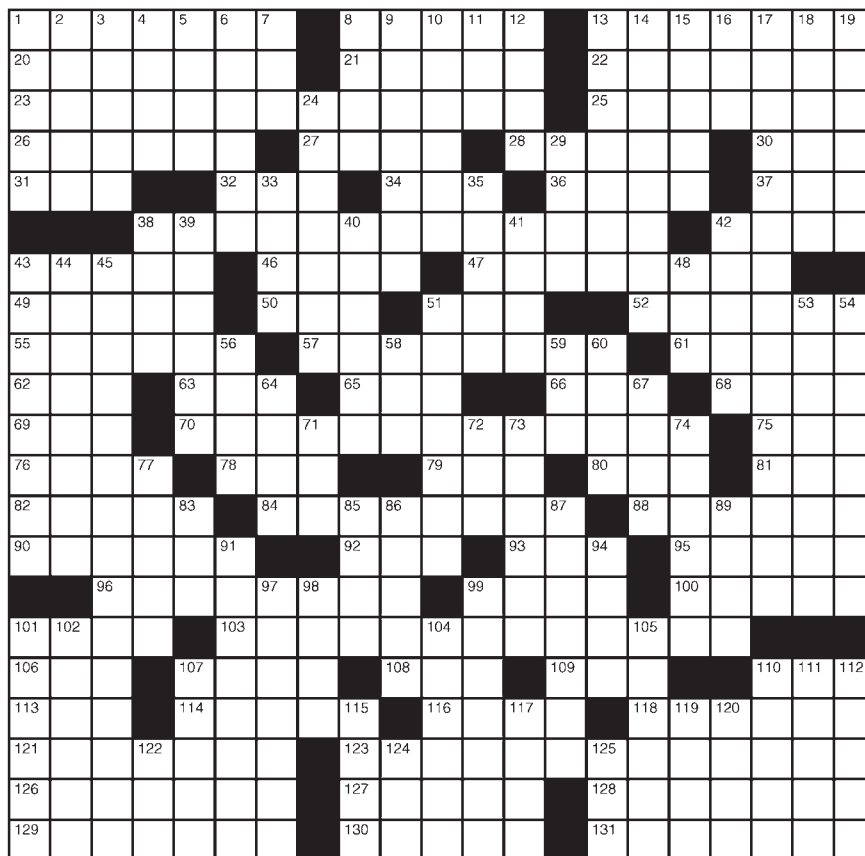
### Diagramless, 21 x 21

Like a regular crossword but with an added challenge. Sleuths must also create the diagram and figure out where the numbers and black squares go.

- ACROSS**
- Astronaut views
  - #1 spot
  - Castle feature
  - Hunted
  - All set
  - Burden
  - Peach or rhubarb
  - Freshly painted
  - Of the ankle
  - Other side
  - "A Chorus Line" number
  - Load from a lode
  - "That means \_\_\_!"
  - "Go ahead!"
  - Rap sheet abbr.
  - Bring in
  - Mythical monster
  - Modern letter
  - Grp. concerned with defense
  - Action of obliging
  - Detailed mapping
  - Opposition
  - Planets
  - Apprehend
  - Bantu language
  - Chapter in history
  - Scarf fabric
  - Breed
  - Certain something
  - Fond du \_\_\_, Wis.
  - Investment option, briefly
  - Ball in a socket
  - Certain digital watch face, for short
  - An impurity added to a pure substance
  - Fifth, for one (abbr.)
  - Cry from Homer Simpson
  - Be hopping mad
  - Contrived
  - Ancestry
  - Spring flower
  - At one time, at one time
  - Rebuild the lego house
- DOWN**
- Passport to business success?
  - Bit in a horse's mouth
  - His "4" was retired
  - Degree in math?
  - Caught some Z's
  - White powder
  - Islamic chieftain
  - Potpie morsel
  - Boundary
  - Hog heaven?
  - Pertinent
  - Buttercup
  - Of a fiery sky streak
  - Give one's \_\_\_
  - Salty Chinese sauce
  - Small forest buffalo
  - White blood cell
  - Atlanta-based airline
  - Half-circle
  - Decree
  - Rounded up
  - Letters
  - "Who, me?"
  - Personals, e.g.
  - Store convenience, for short
  - Fancy neckwear
  - 30-day mo.
  - "I have an idea!"
  - Game pieces, e.g.
  - Night spot
  - Mozart's "L \_\_\_ del Cairo"
  - Kan. neighbor
  - Alternative passage (music)
  - Stare (at)
  - Biochemistry abbr.
  - Wood-shaping tool
  - Fraternity letter
  - Altdorf is its capital
  - Eligible for jail free existence for a bit longer? "Farewell"
  - Old cars for new cars?
  - Send to the canvas
  - Porcino
  - Mine entrances
  - 7th day of March, July May and October
  - "So \_\_\_!"
  - Tennis call
  - Ballad ending
  - Scot's not
  - Fed. construction overseer
  - Famous movie street
  - Barbecue offering
  - Pipe joint
  - Turn red, perhaps

### SANTA'S UPGRADES

- ACROSS**
- Colonel of KFC
  - President Garfield's middle name
  - Skirmishes
  - Made into law
  - Eric of "Top Hat"
  - Newman of "SNL"
  - Online funnies?
  - Included within
  - "Seinfeld" gal
  - Peddle by shouting
  - Land of Oranjestad
  - Small, humble dwelling
  - Member of the fam.
  - E. O'Brien film
  - \_\_\_ volente (God willing)
  - Hebrew month
  - Choice abbr.
  - Emoticon contests?
  - Church projection
  - Son of Charlemagne
  - Very small
  - Heart rhythm
  - Bonfire remnants
  - Command to Fido
  - Actor Knight
  - Overrefined
  - Volcanic rock ejecta
  - Type of collar
  - Cohort of Che
  - Light brown
  - IV x XIII
  - Wire-service letters
  - Curry or Russert
  - Feudal laborer
  - Mary of "Where Eagles Dare"
  - Collectibles featuring online notables?
  - Little barrel
  - Spanish red
  - Patriotic men's org.
  - Scrooge's expletive
  - Post-E.R. place
  - Porthos, to Athos
  - Satellite of Jupiter
  - Uttered in a trilling voice
  - \$100 bills
  - Place position
  - Help
  - Married
  - Full of: suff.
- DOWN**
- Prayers, perhaps
  - Golfer
  - Ballesteros
  - Hemlock homes
  - Gas from the past
  - Mini-Frisbee?
  - So far
  - Jai \_\_\_
  - Sleuth Spade
  - AFL-\_\_\_
  - School subj.
  - Make a blunder
  - Type of ray
  - Adhesive strip
  - Assign to a feedlot
  - Main movie
  - Small round object?
  - Even less prudent
  - Antiknock fluid
  - Adenauer
  - Pearson and Flatt
  - Final authority
  - Most pricey
  - Passover meal
  - Tropical lizard
  - Of birth
  - Fifth of MMMDV
  - Harrow rival
  - Cure
  - R. Reagan's Star Wars
  - "Fernando" group
  - Hair wash followup
  - Gilberto of Bossa-Nova fame
  - Confidential assistant
  - Michael Caine film
  - Grazing areas
  - Salad green
  - Pick-up sticks call?
  - Slightly askew
  - Single sleeper
  - Apartment building
  - Mournful writers
  - Small isles
  - Center starter?
  - Windy City rail inits.
  - Soprano Te Kanawa
  - Baghdad land
  - 1700 in letters
  - Indonesian island group
  - Long-snouted fish
  - Masticated
  - Political pundit John
  - University of Maine town
  - Dijon donkey
  - Over 50 org.
  - Travel stamps
  - Contrivances
  - Corrida cries
  - Trump namer
  - Arnaz of show biz
  - Repair-shop vehicles
  - Issue forth
  - "The Bells of \_\_\_"
  - Quantity of a look?
  - Tranquil
  - Like successful jingles
  - Java
  - Get a smile out of
  - Old hat
  - Boston cagers, for short
  - Small harbor
  - Ed or Leon
  - Horseback game
  - Gillette razor
  - Skiers' ride
  - \_\_\_ for tat
  - Eng. instruction letters
  - Offbeat



### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



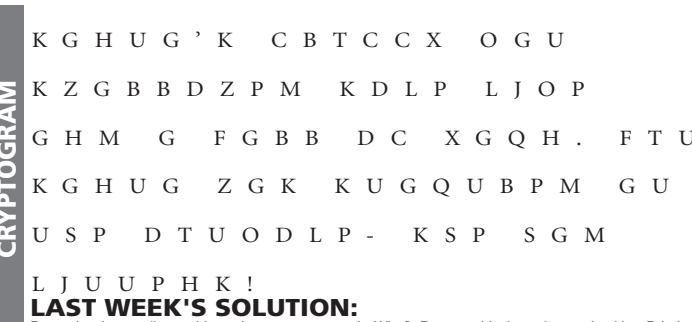
#### Word Salsa



#### Diagramless



#### Black to Black



#### CRYPTOGRAM

L J U U P H K!  
**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:**  
 December is a really notable and uncommon month. Why? Because it's the only month with a D in it.





Anthony Mackie, Seth Rogen and Joseph Gordon-Levitt star in director Jonathan Levine's R-rated Christmas comedy "The Night Before," now playing at Allen Theatres.

## 'The Night Before' has rough edges but a heart of gold

**By Zak Hansen**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Reteaming with the principles from his hilarious and sometimes heart-breaking "50/50," director Jonathan Levine has again enlisted Seth Rogen and Joseph Gordon-Levitt for "The Night Before," an R-rated holiday caper that blends crass humor and plenty of substance abuse with genuine heart and a little bit of Christmas schmaltz, making it a worthy addition to the "new" Christmas canon.

Fourteen years ago on Christmas day, Ethan Miller (Gordon-Levitt) lost his parents in a car accident, and is taken in by his two best friends, Isaac Goldberg (Rogen) and Chris Roberts (Anthony Mackie) for the holidays, cementing their status as lifelong best friends and creating for the threesome a new

Christmas custom.

Today, though, that's all about to change as the trio stands on the cusp of adulthood and the future of their tradition seems uncertain.

While Ethan toils away thanklessly in a hotel, pining for lost love Diana (Lizzy Caplan) and struggling with a stagnant music career, Isaac and Chris are phasing up – Chris with his status as a promising young professional athlete, and Isaac with his expecting wife Betsy.

It seems Ethan's luck may have changed, at least temporarily, when he swipes a trio of tickets for The Nutcracker Ball, a legendary, underground, invite-only bash for the ages – the "Holy Grail" of Christmas parties.

From there, "The Night Before" plays out more or less as expected, with Ethan, Isaac and Chris drinking and

drugging their way through a variety of increasingly ridiculous scenarios, descended upon by a motley crew of characters and, perhaps, learning a lesson about Christmas after all.

While Levine's film may not break any new narrative ground, very much by design, it's a snappily written and delightfully crude exercise in partly improvisational comedy, letting its talented principals lean on their obvious strengths and established chemistry. This loose framework is effective for laughs, though some viewers may find its writing too scattershot to hang together and its premise – we have to get to X before Y or else Z! – too formulaic.

Rogen and Gordon-Levitt have an easy comedic chemistry about them, as well as a familiarity with the director, so it's little surprise their characters

fare well in "The Night Before" – everyone involved knows everyone else's strengths, and plays to them. Mackie, then, is a surprise, fitting in easily as the athletic, popular end of this oddball trifecta, with a kind charisma about him. Despite their obvious difference, you could pretty easily buy these guys as friends. Hell, they are friends.

The film's set pieces are, by nature, hit-or-miss, but its leads make even the jokes that fall flat worth a chuckle. An extended sequence with a very high, very Jewish Isaac accidentally stumbling into midnight mass with the in-laws – after seeking shelter in the Nativity scene – ranks among its best.

"The Night Before" is stuffed like a stocking with in-jokes and nods to the

# 'THE NIGHT BEFORE'

FROM PAGE B13

Christmas films that came before. Patient viewers – or ones who watch a lot of holiday programs – will catch overt nods to all the classics – “It’s a Wonderful Life,” “A Christmas Carol,” “Miracle on 34th St.” – as well as the new-school. “Home Alone” and “Die Hard” come up a lot, as they should.

The supporting players in “The Night Before” are largely its strongest asset. Levine wrangled a few of this generation’s best and brightest comedians, along with a few megastars, for the smaller roles, some of them blink-and-you-miss-it quick.

The fantastic Jillian Bell (Comedy Central’s “Workaholics”) shows up as Isaac’s very pregnant wife Betsy, playing her as appreciative of her hus-

band’s commitment to her during the pregnancy, rather than the harping shrew so many movie wives are. This gratitude, coupled with her husband’s coming responsibilities, prompts Betsy to gift Isaac a small wooden box loaded with every drug available.

Caplan, as Diana, too, breaks the conventional mold of love interest; her reasons for leaving Ethan are realistic and rounded, and her hesitance to re-engage him is seen as real. The wonderful Mindy Kaling (“The Office”) as Diana’s wing-woman Sarah, Illana Glazer (“Broad City”) as a weed-stealing superfan and Lorraine Toussaint (Vee, of “Orange is the New Black”) as Chris’ mother round out the film’s strong cast of comedic ladies, each with

## THE NIGHT BEFORE

Rated: R

Running time: 101 minutes

Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Anthony Mackie

Director: Jonathan Levine

much more on their mind than the boyish men in their lives. It’s a welcome change to a sometimes painfully nasty genre.

This being a stoner bro-comedy, cameos abound – I’ll spare you even the more forecasted of them – none better than Michael Shannon, in a rare comedic role as the boys’ high-school drug dealer, back in business, seer-like, almost messianic, to sell them joints that will show them past, present and future, a la “A Christmas Carol.” He’s one of the movie’s strongest fea-

tures, despite his limited screen time.

“The Night Before” handles its subject matter well and with underlying sincere sweetness amid its irreverent subject matter. We’ve seen this before, both in Levine’s previous work and Rogen’s earlier pairings with screenwriter Evan Goldberg – “Superbad,” “Pineapple Express” and “This Is the End” – which, along with the rest of the freshman class of bro-comedy torchbearers, have signaled something of a push away from the

mean-spirited underdog comedies of the 1990s and 2000s, not to mention the cringe-inducing sex comedies of the late 1970s and 1980s and their vulgar potshots at all the regular targets – typically anyone not a white male.

As much as it is a Christmas film, “The Night Before” is a movie about millennials staring down the perceived abyss between prolonged adolescence and adulthood, about the ways friendships change over the years, about trading a little bit of spry stupidity for something resembling

security or certainty.

For Isaac, on the cusp of fatherhood, his anxieties about raising a daughter are revealed in a ranting, coke-fueled video message, sent of course to all the wrong people.

For Chris, his insecurities about his place in the league and, possibly, as a man, are revealed in the lengths he’ll go to please an established all-star, not to mention what he’s willing to put in his body to impress on field. And for Ethan, as for many young men entering their 30s, what does it mean to have your friends move out, move away, move up or even move on, and what do you do when that happens?

It’s this sweetness, in the end, that allows “The Night Before” to take its place as a true holiday movie. Granted, one with nonstop, flagrant drug use, bawdy sex talk and reams and reams of four-letter words.



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 Stephany Trego  
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 Basketball Team  
 The Liars  
 Rachel Martinez – vocals  
 Oliver Charity – vocals  
 Scott Guthrie – lead guitar  
 Jason Reed – bass guitar  
 Dru Hubbard – drums  
 Groove Factory  
 Maggie Garcia – vocals  
 David Jaramillo – lead guitar  
 Henry Jasso – bass guitar  
 Frank Chacon – piano  
 Ron Leone – trumpet
- Jaime Fee – saxophone/flute  
 Mike Otero – trombone  
 Oscar Padilla – drums  
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 LMS Spirit Team  
 Jason Bloomer-Coach,  
 Unidentified Dancers,  
 Jerney Edmonson  
 Choreographer/Dancer  
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 Naomi Ramirez, drum major  
 Valerie Trujillo,  
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 Jesse Cayhill-Adams, producer
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# WORSHIP SERVICES

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Father Yossi Sarid - (575) 649-5625  
 Father John Price - (575) 740-0369

**SUNDAYS**  
 9:00 am – Holy Communion  
 10:15 am – Coffee & Bible Study

**2nd & 4th SATURDAYS**  
 5:00 pm – Prayer followed by Vespers and Fellowship  
 Services begin January 2.

**1st & 3rd SUNDAYS**  
 9:00 AM – Morning Prayer (Eucharist from reserve Sacrament)  
 10:15 – Coffee & Vestry Meeting

**7975 Doña Ana Rd., Las Cruces**  
[www.stmarysathill.com](http://www.stmarysathill.com)

Call 524-8061 To Be Included

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**The Baha'i Information & Reading Center**  
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 Book Club Wednesday, 6 p.m.  
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**525 E. Lohman**  
**575.522.0467**

## Baptist

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 LAS CRUCES, NM



**SUNDAY**  
 Bible Study 9 & 10:45 am  
 Morning Worship 9 & 10:45 am


**WEDNESDAY**  
 Students & Youth 6:00 pm  
 Adult Connections 6:15 pm

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

106 South Miranda  
 Downtown Las Cruces  
**524-3691**  
[www.fbclascruces.com](http://www.fbclascruces.com)

## Catholic - Independent

**Holy Family American National Catholic Church**  
*A Catholic Community Where All Are Welcome*



Service Times  
 Mass  
 Saturday 5:30 pm  
 Sunday 10:30 am  
 Morning Prayer Tue.-Fri. 9 am  
 Evening Prayer Tue.-Fri. 5:15 pm

Clergy: Frs. Jim Lehman & Louie Amezaga  
**575-644-5025**  
 702 Parker Road • Las Cruces, NM 88005  
[www.holyfamilyancc.com](http://www.holyfamilyancc.com)

## Catholic - Roman



**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES**

VIEW ALL LISTINGS OF CATHOLIC CHURCHES ON OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.DIOCESEOFLASCRUCES.ORG](http://WWW.DIOCESEOFLASCRUCES.ORG)

## Christian

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**

Sunday: Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.  
 Wednesday: Testimonies 7 p.m.

**All are WELCOME!**

**325 West Mountain Ave.**  
**Las Cruces, NM**  
**575-523-5063**

**The NEW One Way Life Center**  
 Ministers Ralph & Norma Molina

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 Bible Study Wed. 7 p.m.

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**Las Cruces**  
**575-233-2413**

Full Gospel • Christ Centered  
 Everyone Welcome

## Disciples of Christ/ United Church of Christ

*Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ*



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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**Weekday Services**  
 Tuesday - 9:30 AM - Morning Prayer  
 Thursday - Noon - Holy Eucharist

**Sunday Services**  
 8:30 AM - Rite 1  
 10:30 AM - Rite 2

**518 N. Alameda Blvd.**  
**526-6333**  
[www.SaintAndrewsLC.org](http://www.SaintAndrewsLC.org)

**St. James' Episcopal Church**

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 Wednesday: 10 a.m.

[www.stjameslascruces.org](http://www.stjameslascruces.org)

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## Jewish

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## Lutheran

**Trinity Lutheran Church-ELCA**  
 2900 Elks Drive, LC  
 575.523.4232  
 Sunday Worship 9:00 am

CHRISTMAS EVE  
 CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP  
 Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm

[www.trinitylutheranlc.org](http://www.trinitylutheranlc.org)  
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[etz-chayim.org](http://etz-chayim.org)

## Methodist

**El Calvario United Methodist Church**

Sunday School 10 a.m.  
 Worship 11 a.m.

Journey Discipleship & Bible Study  
 Wednesday 6-7 • All Welcome

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**Rev. Nema Rivers-LeCuyer**

300 N. Campo  
 575-524-1230  
 575-652-1188  
[nemadean@outlook.com](mailto:nemadean@outlook.com)  
 P.O. Box 2842  
 Las Cruces, NM 88004

"Come and see..."  
 "Venga y vea..."

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225 W. Griggs Ave.  
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 Unplugged Contemporary Worship 9:30 a.m.  
 Traditional Worship 10:45 a.m.

[www.lascrucesmethodistchurch.com](http://www.lascrucesmethodistchurch.com)

**Morning Star**  
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521-3770  
 2941 Morning Star Dr. at Roadrunner Pkwy

Blended Worship - 8:15 a.m.  
 Contemporary Worship - 9:45 a.m.  
 Traditional Worship - 11:15 a.m.

Please call for information about our Ministries, Sunday Schools and Small Groups or visit our web site: [www.morningstarumc.org](http://www.morningstarumc.org)

**Rev. Travis Bennett**

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Pastor: Rev. Pam Rowley

Sunday Worship Services  
 Traditional — 8:30 a.m.  
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4 blocks north of NMSU  
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 Rev. Terry Lund  
 125 Wyatt Drive  
[unityoflascruces.org](http://unityoflascruces.org)



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Sunday Celebration 11am  
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[wellspringnow.org](http://wellspringnow.org)

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[www.riveroflifeupc.org](http://www.riveroflifeupc.org)

## Presbyterian

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Faith and Fellowship  
 Worship: 8:45 am

Sunday School: 9 am

Traditional Worship  
 Service: 10:30

English, Spanish, and Korean congregations  
**200 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces**  
[www.fpc.lc](http://www.fpc.lc)  
 (575) 526-5559



COURTESY PHOTOS

Members of the University United Methodist Church production of the Advent Journey entertain visitors during the holiday event. Half-hour tours and a marketplace are free to participants from 5-8 p.m. on Dec. 19 and 20.

## Advent Journey at University United Methodist Church

Motorists driving past University United Methodist Church at 2000 S. Locust St. between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Dec. 19 and 20 may slow down when they see a flock of sheep and angel choir out on the church lawn.

While the choir and sheep are important parts of the church's traditional "Advent Journey" gift to the community, they also offer everyone an invitation to stop and enjoy this free presentation.

During the half-hour journey, first-century Judea comes alive as vis-

itors walk through a series of scenes depicting the Nativity story.

Laura Wells and Melly Locke, Advent Journey directors, have assembled a cast of over 100 costumed characters of all ages.

A busy marketplace with artisans such as potters, woodworkers, spice and silk merchants, and beadmakers greet visitors with hands-on activities as they wait to begin the Journey.

In the marketplace, visitors sign up to be part of groups, or tribes, who enjoy vignettes from the

gospel story together. Tours leave every five minutes and last approximately half an hour.

Among the vignettes are the Annunciation, with Mary and the Angel Gabriel; Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth; refreshments in the inn; a visit with the shepherds and their sheep; closing with a live Nativity scene in the church sanctuary. Admission to the Journey is free, and visitors may see it as many times as they wish.

All are welcome! For information, contact the church office at 522-8220.

## RELIGION LISTINGS

### Calvary Baptist presents light shows

Calvary Baptist Church celebrates the Christmas season with a light show program set to music on Friday, Dec. 18, Saturday, Dec. 19 and Sunday, Dec. 20. Four showings will take place each night at 7, 7:30, 8 and 8:30 p.m. There are cookies and hot chocolate during the shows. Cars park on the south side of the church and visitors walk to the north side. For information, call 522-7900.

### Community Christmas carol sing-along set for Dec. 19

The Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Peace Lutheran Church present a sing-along at 3 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave. All ages welcome. Free. It will be about an hour in length so perhaps people would like to take a break from the rush of last minute Christmas

preparations to come join in the singing of carols reflecting the reason for the season. There will be hot cider and biscochitos available. For information, call 523-5229.

### Advent Journey at University United Methodist Church

"Advent Journey" is UUMC's gift to the community on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20 from 5-8 p.m. During the half-hour journey, first-century Judea comes alive as visitors walk through a series of scenes depicting the Nativity story. A cast of over 100 costumed characters of all ages, a busy marketplace and tours are free to visitors. For information, contact the church office at 522-8220.

### Peace Lutheran holiday events

Children and youth at Peace Lutheran will be leading worship with their pageant Jesus' Family Tree on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 9 a.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. Peace

Lutheran will host a "Longest Night" Service. The service of the Longest Night occurs on the winter solstice when night is the longest of the year. The service of The Longest Night becomes a metaphor for people who find themselves alone for the first time or those fighting depression. Peace Lutheran is committed to reminding all people that they are not alone. We worship together this night to provide, hope, strength, and community.

Peace Lutheran offers three opportunities to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ. On Christmas Eve there will be a 4 p.m. service (a family-friendly service) and a 7 p.m. candlelight service. Additionally, there will be a service on Christmas Day at 10 a.m. For more information, please call 522-7119.

### Temple Beth-El Shabbats and services

Friday, Dec. 18, 7:20 p.m. Welcoming Shabbat; 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service. Rabbi Karol will speak on "We Can

Work It Out."

Saturday, Dec. 19, 9:00 a.m. Talmud Study; 10:15 a.m. Shabbat morning service and potluck Kiddush.

Friday, Dec. 25; 7:20 p.m. Welcoming Shabbat; 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service for Renewal of Spirit featuring special music and prayers for healing within our Shabbat liturgy.

Saturday, Dec. 26, 9:00 a.m. Talmud Study; 10:15 a.m. Shabbat morning service and potluck.

For information, call 524-3380.

### Cross of Christ Lutheran Church hosts special services

Do you hear what I hear? Cut through the static and noise by joining us at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 2540 El Paseo Roa for a children's service on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m., come on Christmas Eve for a candlelight service at 6:30 p.m., or spend the 25th at our Christmas Day song service at 11 a.m. For more information, call 649-5458 or visit our website at [crossofchrist.org](http://crossofchrist.org).

# Temple Beth-El donates to Habitat for Humanity

Partial proceeds from Temple Beth-El's third annual Matzo Ball Open golf tournament benefitted Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Over \$1,000 was raised from

the event. Members of the Board of Trustees presented MVVHFH with a check at the Habitat office.

According to "Adelante," the Beth-El monthly newsletter,

the 3rd annual golf tournament hosted 18 teams at Pico Hills Country Club on Oct. 25.

"We are truly grateful for the generosity and support of our

community, this was a very successful event," stated Maria Vasquez, executive director of Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity.

The funds will go towards

construction costs, enabling Habitat to complete 4 more homes this build season. Temple Beth-El is located at 3980 Sonoma Springs Ave. and can be reached at 524-3380.



## Keep fire safety in mind this holiday season

### December is one of the leading months for U.S. home fires

With the winter holidays right around the corner, New Mexico State Fire Marshal John Standefer reminds New Mexicans that holiday decorations, Christmas trees, candles and cooking all contribute to an increased number of home fires during the month of December, making it one of the leading months for home fires nationwide.

“When you’re decking the halls this year, make sure to keep fire safety in mind,” Fire Marshal Standefer stated.

That’s also the main message behind Project Holiday, the National Fire Protection Association’s annual holiday fire safety campaign, which works to educate the public about the increased risk of home fires during the holiday season.

When decking the halls this holiday season, follow the NFPA’s simple safety tips to help keep you, your family and friends safer from fire.

“The holidays carry a host of traditions and festivities that people look forward to all year,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s vice president for Outreach and Advocacy. “Unfortunately, many of these activities carry hidden dangers that present potential fire hazards.”

Consider these facts:

- **Holiday Cooking:** While cooking fires are the leading cause of U.S. home fires and injuries year-round, Christmas Day and Christmas Eve ranked second and third (after Thanksgiving) as the leading days for home cooking fires. On Christmas Day 2013, there was a 58 percent increase in the num-



ber of home cooking fires than on a typical day, and a 54 percent increase on Christmas Eve. Do not leave food on the stove unattended.

- **Christmas Trees:** Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they do occur, they’re much more likely to be deadly when compared to most other fires. One of every 31 reported home Christmas tree fires results in a death each year, compared to an annual av-

erage of one death per 144 total reported home fires.

- **Candles:** December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. The top four days for home candle fires are New Year’s Day, Christmas, New Year’s Eve and Christmas Eve. In December, 11 percent of home candle fires began with decorations, compared to four percent the rest of the year. More than half (56 percent) of home candle fires occur when something that can catch

on fire is too close to the candle.

- **Holiday Decorations:** Between 2009 and 2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 860 home fires that began with decorations (excluding Christmas trees). These fires caused an annual average of one civilian death, 41 injuries and \$13.4 million in direct property damage. One fifth (20 percent) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen; and one

out of six (17 percent) started in the living room, family room or den.

- **Decorative Lights:** Inspect light strings and throw out any with frayed or cracked wires or broken sockets. When decorating, don’t run more than three strings of lights end to end. Extension cords should be in good condition and UL-rated for indoor or outdoor use. Check outdoor receptacles to make sure the ground fault interrupters don’t trip. If they trip repeatedly, that’s a sign that they need to be replaced. When hanging lights outside, avoid using nails or staples, which can damage the wiring and increase the risk of a fire. Instead, use UL-rated clips or hangers.

- **Fireplaces:** Soot can harden on chimney walls as flammable creosote, so before the fireplace season begins, have your chimney inspected to see if it needs cleaning. Screen the fireplace to prevent embers from popping out onto the floor or carpet, and never use flammable liquids to start a fire in the fireplace. When cleaning out the fireplace, put embers in a metal container and set them outside to cool for 24 hours before disposal.

“A heat source too close

to the tree causes roughly one in every four Christmas tree fires,” Fire Marshal Standefer added. “One of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems. Be sure to unplug Christmas lights on the tree when you are out of the room, and ensure that your Christmas tree is properly hydrated. A dry tree can be engulfed in flames in less than 30 seconds.”

“Fortunately, with some added awareness and by taking some simple safety precautions, people can ensure a safe and festive holiday season,” said Carli. “That’s what Project Holiday is all about.”

Project Holiday offers a host of online tips and resources for consumers, along with tools and resources for local fire departments to promote the campaign and its safety messages in their communities. For additional holiday fire safety information, visit <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/seasonal/winter-holiday-safety>.

“We at the State Fire Marshal’s Office wish all New Mexicans a very safe and happy holiday season,” Fire Marshal Standefer concluded.

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# Asombro Institute a 'wonder' in more ways than one

By Susie Ouder Kirk  
The Las Cruces Bulletin

You've probably heard of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park here in Las Cruces. You may not know exactly where it is, or what it is, but you know it's out there and has something to do with the desert. But have you heard of Asombro Institute for Science Education? Maybe not.

Surprise! They are one and the same. And they both celebrated a 25-year anniversary in 2015. Who knew? Well, the 210,000 student visitors who have enjoyed the Park will never forget their experience there.

This vibrant and educational institution, Asombro, which means "wonder" in Spanish, is a Las Cruces treasure in many ways. First and foremost it serves as an educational facility for students of all ages, teachers, and the general public. One goal of the Institute is to provide "quality, hands-on science education to southern New Mexico students." And boy, has it ever.

In addition to reaching every seventh grader in the Las Cruces public schools, Asombro hosted over 17,813 young learners this year alone. Through classroom participation and workshops, nearly six hundred teachers were involved with the Institute in 2015 as well. Asombro programs have been recognized at the local, state and national levels, and are considered a role model for other educational outreach programs.

According to Director Dr. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, "The Asombro Institute for Science Education was awarded the New Mexico Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence



PHOTO PROVIDED

**The Asombro Institute is located at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park where students can learn all about the wonders of the desert, even the creepy, crawly ones.**

this year."

In addition, two successful events illustrated the diversity of the Institute's programs. "More than 100 students participated in our fourth Desert Data Jam competition in the spring," Bestelmeyer said. "This unique project challenges students to improve their data literacy by using existing ecological datasets collected in this area to design creative projects that communicate the trends in the data to nonscientists. Students were amazingly creative; they submitted songs, poems, physical models, games, and infographics to represent data about the desert."

The Data Jam has been so successful that it is now being duplicated by science educators in New York, Maryland, Florida, Oregon, and Puerto Rico.

Some of the engaging programs available at the Park are named to encourage curiosity. "Creepy Crawly Critters of the Desert Southwest" appeals to the brave, while the "Desert Scavenger Hunt" is sure to entice the adventuresome. "Growing up Arid" is an introduction to desert plants, and the "Desert

Discovery Trail Walk" is just what it sounds like: a hands-on (or should it be "feet-on?") exploration of the Chihuahuan desert.

For 25 years, the 935-acre Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, located six and a half miles north of Highway 70 (from the intersection at Oñate High School), has hosted learners of all shapes and sizes as they unravel some of the mysteries of the desert. Because the desert is so enigmatic, even natives of southern New Mexico will learn new things while visiting the Park.

"We have five staff members who all have a passion for science and science education," Bestelmeyer explained. "We are trained scientists and educators, with a Ph.D, Masters Degrees, and Bachelor's degrees in wildlife biology, forestry, environmental conservation, and education. We all consider ourselves so lucky to have found a way to combine our talents and training to help improve science literacy for students in our region."

One question posed on the Asombro website is, "Does creosote bush smell like rain or is it the other way around?" This is actually something I've always wondered about. The knowledgeable staff is more than ready to answer these kinds of questions, as well as pose others you didn't even know you wanted to ask.

Bestelmeyer is quick to extol the virtues of the Nature Park's volunteers. "More than 100 people contribute their time and talents to assist us with everything. Our volunteer Board of Directors plays an active part in setting our annual goals, developing policies, and raising funds

to help Asombro succeed. Other volunteers assist us with hands-on education programs in classrooms and on field trips and public events like the Desert Dash.

"Many scientists from the USDA/ARS Jornada Experimental Range and NMSU volunteer their time to help us make sure we bring the most up-to-date science directly to students," she continued. "Still other volunteers get together monthly to do the behind-the-scenes work preparing education materials that we use in programs. I'm admittedly biased, but I think Asombro volunteers are the most talented, generous people in our community!"

Looking into the future, Bestelmeyer explained the Institute's focus for 2016. "Our primary goal is to make sure that we continue to offer quality science education programs that help people of all ages learn about science and especially about the amazing desert we are lucky enough to call home."

They just completed strategic planning for 2016, and are working on a great lineup of activities that include some of the most popular programs, such as Desert Stories, Stepping Out for Science Inquiry, the Butterfly Flutterby and the Desert Dash.

"We just hosted our third annual Desert Dash 5K, 10K, half marathon, and children's 1-mile trail race last month. We had the largest number of runners ever - more than 300. It was great to see so many people out enjoying the trails at the Nature Park in such a family-friendly fundraising event,"

"In addition, we're excited to develop new activities to help

students understand data and to incorporate even more reading and math standards into our programs. We'll also host a new series of public events called Taking Flight this spring to help people of all ages learn about plants, insects, birds, and bats of the desert."

Because the Institute is a non-profit educational organization, it relies on grants and donations to survive. Justin Van Zee, president of the Asombro board of directors, writes that "In the past, over 90 percent of...contributions have directly supported our educational programs."

It's no secret that in New Mexico, education is a struggling institution. Politicians from both camps, in addition to business leaders, educators, and the general public all agree that the education of our citizens—both children and adults—is critical to the state's success.

Bestelmeyer addresses this issue with a request: "Investing your time and treasure to Asombro and becoming either a volunteer or donor means that we can work together to increase students' science literacy and understanding of our desert region. Support from individuals and businesses in the Las Cruces region will help ensure that thousands more children get to experience the wonder of science in their classrooms and at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park for years to come."

So, what's the answer to the question about that distinctly New Mexican aroma that fills the air after a rain storm? Bestelmeyer clarified, "The characteristic smell that we get after a rain in the desert comes from the creosote bush." Now you know.

## My Kids Café (socks required) schedules holiday activities

My Kids Café is a "totally kid friendly" coffee house that entertains both children and adults. The 4,000-square-foot facility, 532 N. Telshor, H., promotes active, hands-on play and aims to provide parents and the community a place of com-

fort and relaxation.

This full-service coffee house offers age-appropriate play areas for children birth to 9. Café rules require no shoes (adults, too) but definitely socks.

Monthly calendar events and spe-

cial events can be viewed online at [Mykidscafefun.com](http://Mykidscafefun.com).

Create a Stuffable Friend will be held Friday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pick a friend, stuff him, name him, make a wish and take him home. Admission is \$10 or \$6.50 with a

canned good donation. Free for parents and children over 12.

Our Elsa will be at the Café on Sunday, Dec. 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. for open play. The theme is snowflakes with cookie decorating and Olaf crafts.

For information, call 449-4161.

# Special unit serves those victimized by crime

## Candlelight vigil remembers, represents hope

By Susie Ouderkirk  
The Las Cruces Bulletin

On Dec. 5, a candlelight vigil took place at St. Paul's United Methodist Church led by Pastor Eddie Rivera of St. Paul's and Magistrate Judge Conrad Perea. During the vigil, several dozen participants walked from Alma d'arte Charter School to Pioneer Park holding candles and balloons to be released in a show of remembrance of nearly 100 area people victimized by DWI or homicide over the years. The procession headed back to St. Paul's for a reception dinner, a candle ceremony and a remembrance video. The vigil demonstrated hope for changes in the future to eliminate deaths due to driving while intoxicated or murder. It was a collaboration between the Las Cruces Police Department-Victim Assistance Unit, the Las Cruces Police Department, the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office and the Mesilla Valley DWI Resource Center.

The LCPD Victim Assistance Unit was started in 1993 after receiving federal grant funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Through the years, law enforcement agencies have become actively aware of the need to have Victim Advocates available to assist victims with direct services. This allows the officers and detectives the time need-



PHOTO BY CHRIS BELARDE

An altar for victims of DWI or homicide is lit with candles during a special vigil which included a procession and a dinner.

ed to devote to their case investigations.

The Las Cruces unit was the first police-based victim assistance program in the State of New Mexico, explained Judith Baca, program coordinator. "At that time we were considered a pilot program, until 1997, when we became a model for the state and were then absorbed into the police department as city employees. Since we are a municipality, our jurisdiction of services lies within the city limits and we provide direct services to victims of violent crimes."

Baca has overseen the program since 2011 and is very proud of how far it has come

in expanding awareness about services within the community and its external collaboration with other agencies.

"I am very proud to say that we work very well with our partnered agencies and have the same common goal: to provide the best services that we possibly can to the victims that we serve," she said.

The mission of the Las Cruces Police Department Victims' Assistance Unit is to provide the community residents with: an array of comprehensive services as needed; collaboration with other community agencies; crisis intervention at the time of the occurrence, financial assistance

through the New Mexico Crime Victim's Reparation Commission; and guidance through the steps of the criminal justice system.

Because the unit is part of the local government, they are prohibited from soliciting for financial assistance, but Baca points out that if people want to help out, she suggests donating gently used stuffed animals, which officers carry in their vehicles to give to children at the scene of a call or who come in to the police station.

"We also have a volunteer program known as the Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) that consists of volunteers from the community,"

Baca said. The Crime Victim Advocates are required to be on-call 24/7 and the CIRT volunteers help out by being available for on-call duty on the weekends. They also participate and assist us with community outreach events."

Partnering with CIRT and the law enforcement agencies is the Mesilla Valley DWI Resource Center, which works to reduce DWI incidents by collaborating with the courts and providing a Victim Impact Panel for first time offenders. According to the DWI Resource Center's website, one of the hopes of the organization is that by hearing about victim speakers' experiences since the injury or fatality of a loved one, offenders will make better choices before drinking, having a designated sober driver, stay where they are partying, or not drink at all. Educational topics include underage drinking, ways to reduce the number of young people engaged in this dangerous activity, as well as provide positive role models. The Resource Center can be reached at 527-3479.

A CIRT training for interested volunteers is planned for the spring of 2016, the dates for which will be posted on the LCPD website, Facebook and Twitter.

Baca added that the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office also has a Victim Assistance Unit that covers and provides services for victims within the county. The LCPD Victim Assistance Unit phone number is 528-4111 and the DACS phone number is 525-8879.

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# ChileKnights

## There's still time to make homemade Christmas gifts

If you haven't finished gift shopping for the upcoming holidays, you're most likely in panic mode. Take a deep breath. It's still early enough to consider homemade gifts that are not only easy to make but also edible. More importantly, you'll save dollars and avoid the last minute shopping mall crowds and long lines. There is a plethora of tasty gift giving recipe ideas in books and on blogs but to save time, I share some of my favorites. A perk is that most of the recipes have few ingredients. In fact you may already have them on hand. If not, make a list (check it twice!) and head to your nearest grocery store. Happy Holidays!

### Cayenne Hot Cocoa Mix

Yield: 5 ½ cups dry mix  
 2 cups powdered sugar  
 1 cup cocoa (Dutch-processed preferably)  
 2 ½ cups powdered milk  
 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 2 teaspoons cornstarch

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients and whisk until evenly incorporated.

Pour hot cocoa mix into an airtight container such as a one-pint jar. Using a ribbon, tie a note card to the jar with the following recipe: Fill a mug half full with the hot cocoa mix and pour in hot water or milk (for a richer taste). Stir to combine.

### Spicy Hot Apple Cider Mix

Serves 5

Stir into hot apple juice or red wine for a delicious and warming holiday drink!

4 cups sugar  
 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
 1 teaspoon or more cayenne powder  
 2 teaspoons ground nutmeg  
 2 teaspoons ground cloves

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and fill into individual airtight jars.

Recipe: Start with 1 tablespoon per quart of juice but adjust to taste. (Adapted from *savorynothings.com*)

### Dark Chile Chocolate Rum Truffles

Yield: 24 truffles

6 ounces chile flavored dark chocolate  
 5 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 3 tablespoons heavy cream  
 Pinch salt  
 1 teaspoon rum extract (or 2 tablespoons rum)  
 ¼ cup cocoa powder  
 ½ teaspoon cinnamon

In a bowl, mix cocoa powder and cinnamon together and set aside.

Melt together chocolate, butter, and cream in a double boiler (or very slowly in the microwave, stirring often). Stir until smooth.

Stir in salt and flavoring. Allow to cool to room tem-

### Sunny Conley Chile Knights



perature before covering with plastic wrap. Refrigerate until firm enough to handle (about 2 hours) no longer.

Coat your hands in cocoa powder to avoid getting fingers sticky. Roll mixture into 1 inch balls and toss with cocoa powder and cinnamon mix. Refrigerate overnight to set fully. Wrap several truffles in colorful cellophane and tie with a bow. Festive holiday candy cartons also work. Truffles can be stored in the fridge for up to one week. Freeze for longer storage.

### Sweet and Spicy Granola

Yield: 15 cups

1 container old-fashioned oats (6 cups)  
 8 ounces sliced almonds  
 1 cup dried cranberries  
 1 cup chopped dried apricots  
 1 cup light-brown sugar  
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
 1 teaspoon cayenne powder  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 1 ½ stick unsalted butter  
 ½ cup honey

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl, toss together all ingredients except butter and honey.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, melt unsalted butter. Stir in honey. Pour over oat mixture and toss to distribute. Spread granola onto a parchment lined baking pan and bake, stirring occasionally, until oats are toasted and sugar begins to caramelize, 35 to 40 minutes. Cool completely on pan. Transfer 2-3 cups each in an airtight container. (Adapted from *countryliving.com*)

### Holiday Bean Soup Mix

Yield: 10 cups

In a large bowl, mix together 1 cup each of the following dry ingredients\*: pinto beans, kidney beans, small lima beans, great Northern beans, yellow split peas, green split peas, whole green peas, whole green lentils, split red lentils, pearl barley (\*These are suggestions. Mix or match as desired.)

For each gift:

In a small jar with a tight fitting lid, add 1 cup of the bean soup mix. Print the following recipe on a note card and attach to the jar with a ribbon.

To prepare bean soup (Makes 8 servings)

½ cup bean soup mix  
 1 large onion, chopped  
 1 large carrot, chopped  
 ½ pound sliced smoked sausage or cubed ham

1 (28-ounce) can tomatoes, undrained  
 2 teaspoons chili powder  
 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper or to taste  
 Pinch ground cloves  
 2 tablespoons dry sherry (optional)  
 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice  
 Salt and pepper to taste

Rinse bean mix; cover generously with cold water and let soak for 8 hours or overnight. Drain. In a large Dutch oven, combine bean mixture with 6 cups water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer for about 1 ½ hours or until tender. Add onion, carrot, smoked sausage, tomatoes (breaking up with fork), chili powder, and cloves; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered for about 30 minutes or until flavors are well blended. Stir in sherry, lemon juice, and salt and pepper to taste.

### Spicy Southwest Hot Rub

Yield: 1 gift

½ cup paprika  
 3 tablespoons cayenne pepper  
 5 tablespoons black pepper, freshly ground  
 1/3 cup garlic powder  
 1/3 cup onion powder  
 1/3 cup salt  
 1 ½ tablespoons oregano, dried  
 2 ½ tablespoons thyme, dried

Combine all ingredients together in a bowl. Spoon mix into a one-pint jar or other glass container. Seal. Add a bow and it's ready-to-go!



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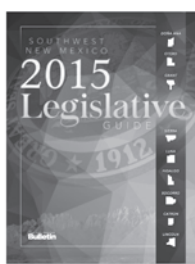
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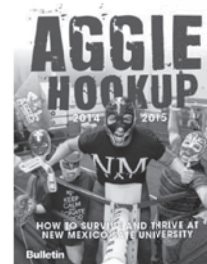
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## Food safety should be at top of your holiday lists

With Christmas fast approaching, the next week is full of good cheer and plenty of food. To help keep your holiday season and new year healthy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is issuing food safety recommendations for your Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's Eve, Three Kings Day, or other festive gatherings. These tips come from years of experience working to make sure that the meat, poultry and egg products you eat are safe, wholesome and properly labeled.

### Steps to follow when cooking a holiday roast

- Use separate cutting boards, plates and utensils for raw roasts and cooked roasts to avoid cross-contamination.
- Wash items such as cutting boards that have touched raw meat with warm water and soap, or place them in a dishwasher.
- To avoid overcooking beef, veal, pork and lamb roasts use a meat thermometer. These roasts should be removed from the oven when they reach an internal temperature of 145 °F and allowed to rest for three minutes before serving.
- Turkey, duck, and goose should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165 °F as measured by a food thermometer. Temperatures should be taken in three areas of the bird: the thickest part of the breast, the innermost part of the wing, and the innermost part of the thigh.

### Food safety tips for holiday party buffets

- Keep hot food hot and keep cold food cold by using chafing dishes or crock pots and ice trays.
- Hot items should remain above 140 °F and cold items should remain below 40 °F.
- Use several small plates when serving food.
- Discard perishable foods left out for 2 hours or more.
- Leftovers should be refrigerated or frozen immediately in shallow containers. Reheat leftovers to 165 °F.
- If you're transporting pre-cooked food to a holiday get together, keep cold foods safe on the way there by placing items in a cooler with ice or



gel packs to keep them at or below 40 °F. If you're transporting hot foods, wrap dishes in insulated bags or towels and newspaper to keep their temperature above 140 °F.

### Top food safety holiday gifts

- Food Thermometer: a useful tool for even the most experienced cook as it is the only way to ensure that meat is fully cooked.
- Cutting Board: using separate cutting boards for raw meat and ready-to-eat food is a great way to prevent cross-contamination.
- Kitchen Towel: these towels should be washed frequently to avoid cross-contamination, so a home cook can never have enough kitchen towels.

### Steps to follow for mail-delivered holiday food

- Check with the mail delivery com-

pany to ensure they send perishable items, like meat and poultry, cold or frozen and pack it with a cold source.

- Foods should be packaged in a foam or heavy corrugated cardboard container.
- Delivery should occur as quickly as possible — ideally, overnight.
- Foods should arrive frozen or partially frozen with ice crystals still visible or at least refrigerator cold — below 40 °F as measured by a food thermometer.

To have immediate access to food safety information, download the FoodKeeper application.

This smartphone and tablet app created by FSIS will help you evaluate what items in your refrigerator and pantry are still good and what may be past its prime. As you're putting together dishes for meals at home or parties at work, it will help

you make sure you're using fresh ingredients. The FoodKeeper offers storage advice on more than 400 different food and beverage items and can help you decide what you can keep and what you should throw out. It also offers handy guidance on leftovers, which you'll probably have a lot of after the big meal. Download the FoodKeeper today on your Android or iOS device.

Consumers can learn more about key food safety practices at [Foodsafety.gov](http://Foodsafety.gov) and follow @USDAFoodSafety on Twitter.

Consumers with questions about food safety can call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) or chat live with a food safety specialist at [AskKaren.gov](http://AskKaren.gov), available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, in English or Spanish.

# NMSU to offer free Lamaze classes in English, Spanish in spring

In spring 2016, the New Mexico State University School of Nursing will offer Lamaze childbirth preparation classes in both English and Spanish for free to pregnant women in their sixth to eighth month of pregnancy.

NMSU nursing faculty and students are teaching the educational classes to women. To register, call college assistant professor Martha Morales at 575-646-8089 or email at [moralestm@nmsu.edu](mailto:moralestm@nmsu.edu).

NMSU will offer two six-week English courses and two six-week Spanish courses starting in early February in the College of Health and Social Services building. Pregnant women must be 24 to 32 weeks pregnant by the first class.

The English courses will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. The first session is from Feb. 4-March 10 and the second session is March 24-April 28.

The Spanish courses will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Wednesday. The first session is from Feb. 3-March 9 and the second session is March 23-April 27.

"Lamaze classes provide the avenue for moms and their support persons to advocate for their individual needs as they labor and have their baby," Morales said. "One of the philosophies of Lamaze is to allow labor to start on its own and to provide the laboring woman a support person(s) who will be there for her and guide her through the techniques, which

facilitate the process of birthing.

"The positive bond which the expectant couples build during the classes is demonstrated when they come back to 'Show and Tell' to show the baby and tell the story of their birth," she added. "Each couple presents their individual report on the birth and responds to questions from the graduating Lamaze class."

Preparing for the sixth consecutive semester of courses, Morales said she is not surprised by the growth of the classes.

"After we initiated Lamaze classes two years ago, I was told by my community partners that Lamaze was not being offered anywhere in Las Cruces. We began with five couples in fall of 2013. We have offered two

English series each semester, which have been filled to capacity of 15 moms and their support persons. I have actually had to turn moms away."

Spanish courses were added in fall 2015 after Morales was informed of the community's need.

"Several moms and their support persons were bilingual in English and Spanish, so I had to be creative in providing educational materials conducive to learning in both languages," she said.

A support person is welcome to attend with the mothers. Free parking is available off Jordan Street. For more information on Lamaze childbirth education classes, visit [www.lamaze.org](http://www.lamaze.org).

## Ways to stay healthy this holiday season

With the holiday season upon us, many people's schedules are hectic once again. There are social events and family gatherings to attend, shopping ventures to make, and decorating to be done. While fun, the holiday season can be a time of added pressure, which leads to stress and other unhealthy situations.

At a time when you want to be at your best, stress can affect your physical well-being. The American Psychological Association says the hustle and bustle of the holidays has psychological consequences for some people. More people are inclined to feel that their stress increases, rather than decreases, around the holidays. The National Institute of Mental Health says chronic stress can lower immuni-

ty and cause excretory, digestive and reproductive systems to stop working properly. Stress also may cause you to eat unhealthy snacks to cope, and that can lead to unwanted weight gain.

Stress is not the only potential health hazard that can arise around the holidays. A greater number of parties expose you to an abundance of foods and drinks you may not consume on a regular basis, and that can lead to a lot of mindless eating. Weight gained during this time of year can be difficult to shed come January, when colder temperatures challenge many people's motivation to exercise.

Also, social settings put you in close contact with a greater number of people, potentially increasing your exposure to



Do your best to avoid stress or illness around the holidays.

germs.

You can still feel your best during the holidays. Follow these tips for maintaining a healthy mind and body.

- Get the flu vaccine. The flu vaccine can protect you against various strains of the flu. Get a flu shot before the holidays so you are ready for cold and flu season.

- Carry disinfecting

wipes. Germs can linger on surfaces long after an infected person has come and gone. Studies from researchers at the University of Arizona in Tucson have found the flu virus — and even the antibiotic-resistant bacteria MRSA — on airline tray tables. Buses, trains and doors all may be harboring germs. Wipe down surfaces with disinfecting

wipes and allow them to air-dry before touching them. This can help you avoid coming into contact with germs.

- Balance your activities. It can be tempting to overbook your schedule with a ton of activities, but this may ultimately prove stressful. Leave days open to relax and do things you want to do, such as viewing Christmas light displays or even just unwinding at home with a good book. Try delegating some tasks to others in the household so you don't take on too much responsibility.

- Keep up an exercise routine. Don't stray too far from your exercise schedule. You may have to move workout times to free up other time later in the day for shopping or parties. Early morning is a good time to exercise

because it gets you moving first thing in the morning and might even encourage you to hit the sack a little earlier each night, ensuring you get all the sleep you need. Exercise also can improve energy levels and relieve stress.

- Don't focus on food. Focus more on enjoyable activities that keep you moving rather than always being seated around the table for a big meal. Save indulgences for one or two treats on the holidays and eat sensibly otherwise.

- Talk to someone. If the holidays have you feeling blue, talk to a friend or family member. If you need more professional support, find a social worker or psychologist that can help you work through stress and other feelings.

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# Pets and People



PHOTO BY CHRIS BELARDE

Mayor Ken Miyagishima attended the recent Action Programs for Animals meeting.

## Animal advisory board proposed

### Bulletin report

Mayor Ken Miyagishima was the guest speaker at the Coalition for Pets and People meeting on Dec. 8 at Branigan Library. The mayor fielded questions from members of the audience and also presented his own history with animal welfare. He mentioned several recent cases of animal neglect and abuse and how they have affected his thinking about animal welfare. Mayor Miyagishima has been very supportive of animal welfare work in the community for many years (CfPP was founded in 2011).

One important message

of the mayor's discussion was the possibility of charging fines for city strays to discourage second or multiple incidents with the same animals so they can be returned to the owner instead of City ACO's automatically taking strays to the shelter and causing undue stress on the shelter as well as the pets, when they can be identified and returned home directly.

The development of an animal advisory board for the city was also discussed and supported by the mayor and was voted on by the members present to pursue.

## PET BRIEFS

### APA kitten adoptions at the Mall

Action Programs for Animals will have a booth at the Mesilla Valley Mall's Santa's Market during the holiday season. We will feature kittens for adoption as well as pet-related items for sale. Saturday, Dec. 19th, 12 to 6 p.m. For information, call 644-0505 or 571-4654.

### Animal Services Center in need of winter goods

With the cold winter weather approaching quickly we are in dire need of blankets, sheets, comforters, and

towels to keep our dogs outside warm and cozy through the cold nights! If you have any of these items in your closet that you no longer use or need, we would be happy to take them off your hands! Call 382-0018.

### Volunteers needed to help at center

The Animal Services Center is looking for volunteers to help us with dog walking, off-site adoption events, outreach programs, and more. Do you have a few hours a month to help give love and kindness to a homeless pet? If so, contact us to find out how you can get involved.

Call, visit our website or Facebook page, or stop by the shelter today. Call 382-0018.

## Pet of the Week

Meet the adorable Dobbs! He is a fun and outgoing type of guy who loves to go for long walks. He also loves to stay home and cuddle up next to you while watching some Netflix and eating delicious peanut butter cookies! Dobbs has been at the shelter for 1 year and 2 months. His biggest wish this holiday season is to find his forever home.

Please give this amazing dog a second chance at happiness and come meet him today. He is a 3-year-old brown and tan Doberman cross. For more information, call: 575-382-0018. Hours of Operation: Monday thru Friday: Noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: Noon to 5 p.m., 3551 Bataan Memorial West.

Additional services offered by Animals Services Center of the Mesilla Valley:

Microchip your pet today for only \$20! Available daily, no appointment necessary.

Pet Licenses — City and County licenses available daily. City: Altered \$7; Unaltered \$50. County: Altered \$7; Unaltered \$50.

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program — Dogs \$35, Cats \$25. By appointment only.



**Adopt any APA rescue animal from Nov. 1st-Jan. 4th for the low fee of \$25**  
Check our adoptable animal listings and calendar for holiday adoption events: [www.actionprogramsforanimals.org](http://www.actionprogramsforanimals.org)  
**575-644-0505**  
APA Adoption Center, 800 W. Picacho Ave.  
Open Tues/Thurs/Sat 12 to 5 p.m. (and by appointment)

**Look for APA at the Mesilla Valley Mall's Santa's Market each weekend from Nov 27th thru Dec 20th!**



Read the entire  
Bulletin at  
[www.lascrucesbulletin.com](http://www.lascrucesbulletin.com)

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# Managing pain in horses and supporting good health

The obvious fact that makes the management of pain in an animal so difficult is the inability of the animal to actually tell us in words what is happening. We can certainly speculate with injuries and illness and know that a horse is hurting; even likely pinpoint the location of the pain. And having a clear guideline is profoundly helpful.

In cases where we do not have clarity or certainty, we can observe the horse for “pain indicators.” These include, but are not limited to, increased heart rate, rapid respiration, sweating and shaking. A horse in pain might drop to the ground and roll violently or press himself against walls or fences. He might throw his head about or kick out in anguish. It is important for us to stay safe and alert when evaluating and treating horses that hurt.

A Veterinary exam can rule out some causes of symptoms and pinpoint areas of trauma or imbalance.



**Katharine  
Lark Chrisley**  
*Stable Woman*

Medications that suppress the symptoms are necessary, but equally important is discovery of the cause of those symptoms. Relief is realized by addressing the actual cause of pain after that pain is lessened.

In general: cold is applied to new, acute injuries and heat is applied to old, chronic injuries. In cold weather, application of blankets to the body and deep bedding in a proper pen with shelter will aid in comforting the horse and speed up healing. Leg injuries will usually require some type of support through bandages and/or boots to the leg and the hoof. If a single leg is injured, support of the remaining three legs will aid healing by keeping them from becoming stressed and injured.

The horse is walking on “digits” — each leg is the equivalent of one of our fingers, so extra loading of uninjured parts can escalate to increasing injuries and pain.

Internal pain can be the result of digestive disturbances, even ulcers. A Veterinarian can properly assess the horse’s condition and supply the medications that relieve immediate suffering. The reasons for internal distress can be determined and any future recurrences prevented with proper diet, abundant water, an anti-parasite program and a stress free environment.

Inflammation can be a common cause of pain and anti-inflammatory drugs help short term in the beginning. Herbs that can prevent inflammation over long term use (ingested) are: white willow bark, celery seed, turmeric root, meadowsweet, yucca root, boswellia and devil’s claw. Herbs for external use as infusions are: arni-

ca, comfrey, peppermint and rosemary. Essential oils for pain are peppermint, lavender and anise seed. Do not use any drug or herb on pregnant or lactating mares without professional guidance.

Pain in a horse’s hoof can often be caused by bruising which can lead to abscesses that can be excruciating! Soaking the hoof in very warm epsom salt water for 30 minutes 3 times daily will draw out pain and abscesses. If you suspect a horse’s hoof sole has been bruised on a ride, dose him with homeopathic arnica or belles remedies as soon as possible. This can prevent or reduce the bruising.

Pain can be like a ghost that appears and disappears in a horse’s life.

Tracking it down, identifying causes and choosing treatments can be challenging but rewarding. In the end, we must always see the horse as a whole and support the body’s good health at all times.

## Healthy Happenings



### Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center has new winter hours

The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department will set new hours at the Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave., beginning January 2, 2016. The new hours of operation for Monday through Friday will be: Fitness session from 6-9:30 a.m., group session from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m., open swim session from 2-6 p.m. and Parks & Recreation programs from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

New Saturday hours will be are: Fitness session from 8-11 a.m. and open swim sessions from noon-3:30 p.m. and 4-7:30 p.m. The center will be closed on Sunday.

The new hours of operation for the upstairs fitness area at the center are Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

The new hours begin January 2, 2016 and will end March 27, 2016. For more information, call The Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center at 541-2782.

### Free course in Spanish for Alzheimer’s families, caregivers

“Cuidando con Respeto” is a free course presented in Spanish for caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. It provides much of the same helpful information as the popular “Savvy Caregiver” Program. It will be presented as a two day course in two, 4-hour sessions. The following options are available: Tuesday, Jan. 12 and 19, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or Thursday, Jan. 14 and 21, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. All classes will be held at the Southern Area Health Education Center, 4003 Geothermal Dr. To register or for more information, please con-

tact Alma Gross, 646-3061 or [algross@nmsu.edu](mailto:algross@nmsu.edu).

### Crossroads Acupuncture celebrating the holidays with \$10 sessions

On Christmas Eve day (Dec. 24) Crossroads Acupuncture invites everyone to duck out of the holiday stress for a community acupuncture treatment from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 130 S. Main in Downtown Las Cruces. Schedule your appointment online at [crossroadsacupuncture.com](http://crossroadsacupuncture.com) or call 575-936-0200.

### Zumba toning class

The City of Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Department will add an additional Zumba Toning class at the Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave., beginning January 5, 2016. The new class will take place every Tuesday from 5 to 5:50 p.m.

Zumba Toning adds resistance by using Zumba Toning Sticks (or light weights) and helps you focus on specific muscle groups, so you stay engaged! The toning sticks enhance your sense of rhythm and coordination, while toning target zones, including arms, your core and lower body.

For more information, call the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center at 541-2782.

### New Mexico launches behavioral health and veterans online portals

The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) and New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS) have launched new online portals that will act as “one-stop shops” to help people find and navigate the behavioral health-related and veterans services

available to them.

The new Network of Care for Behavioral Health and Network of Care for Veterans, Service Members and Their Families portals streamline access to behavioral health-related and veterans services, providing a single place for information and resources for individuals, families, agencies and providers.

Available online at [newmexico.networkofcare.org/mh/](http://newmexico.networkofcare.org/mh/), Network of Care for Behavioral Health provides a comprehensive directory of services and information for individuals and their families seeking to address depression, substance abuse and other behavioral health-related issues. Services include contact information for and access to addiction treatment and recovery; education and employment resources, child, adolescent and family services; legal and medical providers; and more. The portal also provides access to the latest news about behavioral health-related conditions, treatments and other valuable information.

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Meet the adorable Dobbs! He is a fun and out-going type of guy that loves to go for long walks! Dobbs has been at our shelter for 1 year 2 months now; his biggest wish this holiday season is to find his forever home! Please give this amazing dog a second chance at happiness and come meet him today!



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