

Don't forget to turn back your clocks
Page A30



THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin



NMSU opens new stadium skybox
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LOCAL NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SINCE 1969 • WWW.LASCRCESBULLETIN.COM • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2015

VOLUME 47 • NUMBER 32

'Homelessness is growing' in Cruces area

By Mike Cook
Las Cruces Bulletin

In Las Cruces and Doña Ana County, "homelessness is growing," said Las Cruces Homeless Coalition member Yoli Silva.

At Las Cruces Public Schools, where Silva works as a federal programs social worker, 275 students have already been identified as homeless in the 2015-16 school year that started in August. LCPS doesn't usually reach that number until the end of the calendar year, she said.

"We have 35 people staying at Camp Hope right now (that's our tent city)," said Community of Hope Executive Director Nicole Martinez. "Our stats show that we average 44 new clients a week and average 314 unique persons each week. We have 195 people in our housing programs."

"We have maintained an average of 45 children per day," said Jardin de los Niños Executive Director Audrey Hartley. "We have a perpetual waiting list of children – mostly of two- and three-year-olds. It is

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE A11



Tough enough to wear PINK

New Mexico State University cheerleaders fire up the crowd Saturday, Oct. 24 at Aggie Memorial Stadium. The cheerleaders, football players and much of the crowd wore pink as part of the Tough Enough To Wear Pink game, to recognize the fight against breast cancer. To see more photos, see pages A14-A15. To read about the game, see page A24.

BULLETIN PHOTO BY CHRIS BELARDE

Three vie for mayor's seat

By Mike Cook and Brook Stockberger
Las Cruces Bulletin

Two men who hold seats on the Las Cruces City Council hope to be mayor of Las Cruces for the next four years.

One woman who has never sought a political office before, though, wants to best both of them.

Mayor Ken Miyagishima seeks his third-straight term while two-time City Councillor Miguel Silva will give up his District 1 seat after two terms to try to become mayor himself.

Miyagishima

Miyagishima has held either a city or county elected office for more than 22 of the past 23 years and he hopes to continue that string for at least four more years. Miyagishima, 52, seeks his third term as mayor.

"Las Cruces is making great strides forward as a city," Miyagishima said. "Everywhere you look you see progress being made."

He points to his "strong financial stewardship, a commitment to comprehensive planning and enhanced public safety," as key achievements of his administration.

Miyagishima, a resident of Las Cruces since he was 10, is a district manager for Farmers Insurance and celebrated 30 years with the company in January.

Miyagishima said the city needs to move closer to self-sufficiency.

SEE SEAT, PAGE A10



MIYAGISHIMA



SILVA



ORTEGA

ELECTION 2015

What: Las Cruces municipal elections

When: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 3

What: Races for mayor, Districts 1,2,4 on the city council and for municipal judge

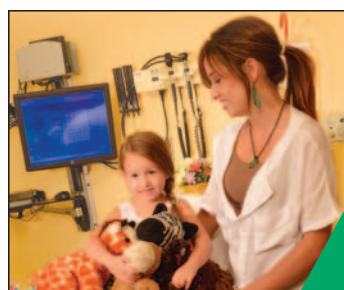
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Allie, age 4, rattlesnake bite

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ER





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FRIGHTFUL FUN!



Doña Ana County employees will celebrate Halloween today with office decorations and a costume contest, both of which are open to the public. Office decorations will be judged beginning at 10 a.m. The costumes will be judged at 2 p.m. in the main rotunda of the building, with cash prizes from the Employee Activity Committee going to the scariest, funniest and most-original costumes. No taxpayer funds are used. The Doña Ana County Government Center is located at 845 N. Motel Blvd., in Las Cruces.

2014 PHOTO: Corrie Stone-Fielder

New student art show staged

More than 100 pieces of new, original student artwork from the Las Cruces and Gadsden Public Schools have been installed in the first-floor corridors of the Doña Ana County Government Center at 845 N. Motel Blvd. in Las Cruces. The exhibit includes paintings, etchings, photographs and drawings.

The official opening of the newest student show was held Thursday, Oct. 29, from 3-4:30 p.m. The student art shows have been a rotating fixture for Doña Ana County's main lobby since 2000, with thousands of works by local student artists displayed for the public during that time.

The student art exhibit complements the permanent art collection within the Doña

Ana County Government Center, which includes 41 original oils and acrylics – mostly landscapes – donated in December of 2013 by Las Cruces artist Joyce T. Macrorie, as well as a series of historical photographs in the upstairs rotunda, and a spectacular photograph of the Organ Mountains donated in 2007 by Las Cruces artist R. Frederick Silva. The piece, titled "Fall Splendor," hangs on a second floor east wall.

Also on display in the upstairs rotunda are works by students from the Hatch Public Schools, as well as a 10-piece mural by Las Cruces artist Meg G. Freyermuth. Titled, "Leap: It is Unchanging, Yet Trembles Sweetly," the impressionistic depiction of the Organ Mountains hangs on the west wall of the second-floor rotunda of the building. Below it is a plaque with information about the painting, its history and its

dedication.

On permanent display downstairs is an original oil painting by the late Las Cruces artist Alice Terry, donated to the Doña Ana County Government Center in 2008. The painting, titled "Heart of the Problem," depicts a dry desert arroyo and represents the artist's respect for the

power of arroyos and the damage they can inflict to property during the summer Monsoon Season inherent to southern New Mexico.

Las Cruces artist Virginia Maria Romero donated four signed prints to the Doña Ana County Government Center for permanent display. The pieces are on display on the second floor near the elevators.

On semi-permanent display in the main lobby is

one of New Mexico's most famous painted ponies. *Caballo de Las Cruces* is covered with more than 2 million tiny, decorative, glass beads. The pony is for sale by the Doña Ana Arts Council, with the proceeds to benefit the historic Rio Grande Theatre. *Caballo de Las Cruces* was designed by local artist Julianne Hadfield. The pony's artistic features honor Las Cruces and the surrounding area.

Also on semi-permanent display is "The Gift" by New Mexico artist David Linn, on loan from the New Mexico Arts Council's Art in Public Places program. The painting is displayed downstairs near the central elevators.

The public is invited to tour the art exhibits both upstairs and downstairs at any time during normal county business hours. The collection is curated by the Special Projects Office.



This piece is part of the new student art show hanging in the Doña Ana County Government Center.

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October 30, 2015

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Vasquez may not be able to hold office

Gilbert Vasquez is on the ballot for Las Cruces City Council election to represent District 4.

If elected Tuesday, Nov. 3, though, he might not be able to serve. Such necessitate another election.

Vasquez — who is in the race against Richard Hall and Jack Eakman — is a



VASQUEZ

convicted felon and thus is not allowed to hold office unless he receives a pardon from the governor, something that does not appear to be com-

ing anytime soon.

A story by KRWG FM/TV reports Vasquez was convicted of aggravated battery more than 30 years ago. The candidate said he received a lot of help to overcome previous substance abuse problems and he has received public support.

“I’ve got to stress that because that’s why I’m trying to give back to the community,” he told KRWG. “People were welcoming, people were forgiving, and people believed that I could do something that I didn’t know I could. Of course this was many years ago,

but it’s still the same. So, I still work with people that are struggling, that’s what we do.”

The Las Cruces City Charter doesn’t prevent a convicted felon from running for office,

as long as they are able to receive the gubernatorial pardon before taking the oath of office. Vasquez said he has already submitted

SEE VASQUEZ, PAGE A5

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Opinion



From the publisher

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

Finding light in cancer's darkness

As each degree of separation slips away, the shock deepens.

"Did you hear Luisa's cousin has breast cancer?" And you feel badly for your friend Luisa's cousin.

"Did you hear Luisa has breast cancer?" That one's tougher, because Luisa has been your friend for so long.

Then there's the call from your mom about her sister: "Aunt Maria has breast cancer." You remember Aunt Maria as long as you can remember anybody in your life.

Another call from your mom, like the one I received recently, reduces another layer of separation: "Your father has cancer in his bladder." That really brings it home.

The final degree to fall away is when you hear it directly from your own doctor, for example: "I'm sorry, we've found cancer in

your colon."

Having the news about my dad's cancer so fresh on my mind and heart, I went through Pink Week this year a little differently.

At many of the events, the emcee asks the cancer survivors to stand.

It is a powerful moment.

Growing up, we hear the phrase "Staring death in the face" and we think of a sheriff in the Old West, at high noon, in the dusty street facing an outlaw for a gunfight.

Today, however, staring death in the face often means lying on your back in a clean bright room, staring at the ceiling, as monitors beep, tubes run in and out of your body and doctors and nurses mill about.

Those standing survivors have typically spent many hours in

clean bright rooms. It is a courage we can't fully understand if we haven't faced it.

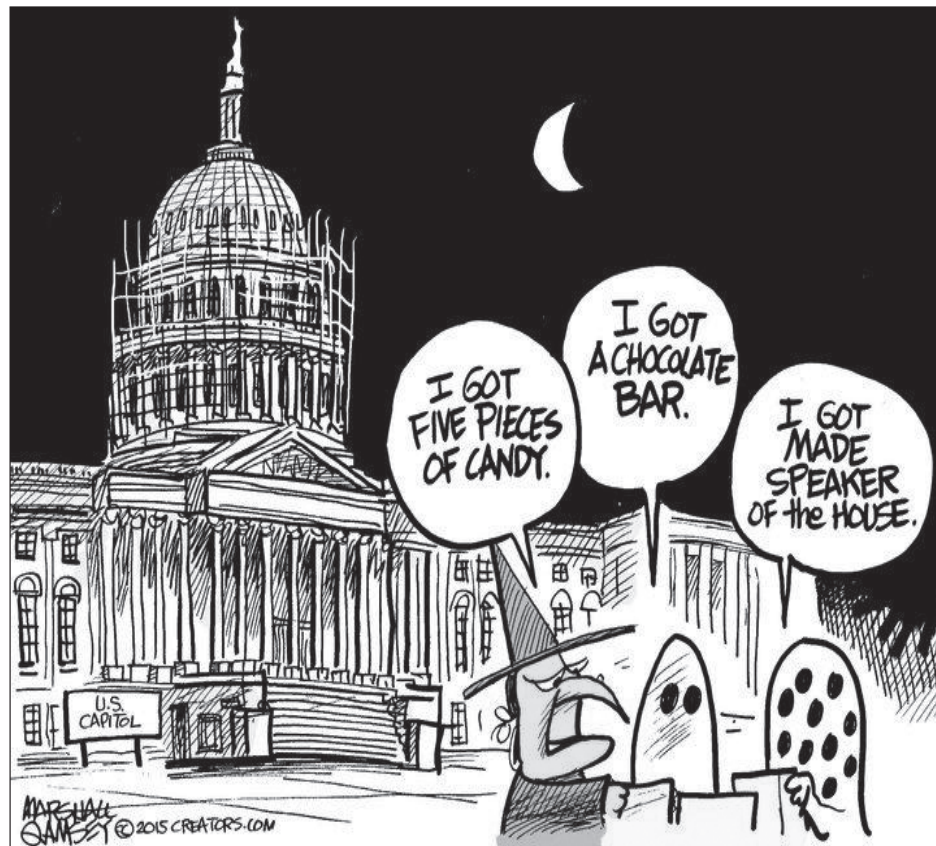
After the emcee asks the survivors to stand, another group is asked to stand.

"If you have a friend or loved one," the emcee will say, "who is struggling with cancer, who has survived cancer, or has lost the battle to cancer, please stand."

At that point, almost everyone in attendance is standing, most with glistening eyes and a lump in their throat as the memories fill their hearts.

Many times, the victims themselves hold up better than their loved ones. We can't stand to see our husband, wife, father, mother, sister, brother, friend or – most painfully – our child in agony. We worry about their future, and our possible future with-

EDITORIAL CARTOON



out them.

Pink Week reminds us of these dark moments, but it also reminds us of the joy of life and the possibility of discovering a cure.

Perhaps the most uplifting sight of the week came near the end of the Tougher Than Cancer Fashion Show at the Pan American Center. Strutting down the catwalk were three dozen of the toughest people you'll ever know, holding a sign in their hand announcing how long

they've survived cancer. Whether the sign said 15 years or 1.5 years, they all had a conquering look in their eyes.

Because of the generous donations of the audience and everyone who contributes in Pink Week and beyond, every step those survivors took represents a step closer to a cure.

Thanks to the work of Cowboys for Cancer Research and New Mexico State University Aggies are Tough

Enough to Wear Pink, today there are million-dollar endowments at both NMSU and the University of New Mexico for cancer research. Researchers at both universities are making great progress against cancer using the funds raised right here in New Mexico.

So whether you're able to contribute \$25 or \$25,000, take a look at the Cowboys for Cancer Research website, www.c4cr.com, and help make another step toward a cure.

THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin

2012 "General Excellence" Award
National Newspaper Association - Second Place

2012 "Business of the Year" Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
2011 "General Excellence" Award New Mexico Press Association
2010 "Community Arts Award" Doña Ana Arts Council
2009 "Small Business of the Year" Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
2008 "Spirit of Service Award" New Mexico State University Foundation
2007 "VIVA Award" N.M. Association of Commerce and Industry

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BaxterBlack

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE



Ike's Tour

Bein' a country vet, I've had my share of emergency calls regarding escaped animals. Feeder steers in City Park, buffalo at the mall or snakes in the school yard. But none of my rescue missions can compare to Gary's tale entitled "THE DAY IKE TOURED FAIRVIEW."

Even thirty years ago Fairview, UT put on a pretty good rodeo. Gary happened to be mounted and in the arena when the bull ridin' began. Ike was a big

rough blue gray brahmer with horns like petrified cedar and the disposition of a constipated bank examiner! Ike dislodged his rider with ease, made straight for the 6 foot arena fence and cleared it by two cow lengths! He broke for Downtown with Gary hot on his heels!

Ike's first stop was a garage. The shocked owner saw the big bull gallop by and slide in. Thinking to trap him, he closed the garage door. Gary had just

turned his horse into the driveway when the garage door exploded in a shower of splinters and glass! Ike thundered by him with a good portion of the door skewered to his head!

He ran across the street scattering lumber and drove himself between the shavs of a parked pony cart...head first! He picked it up and smashed it into the side of a car!

Gary went to buildin' a loop as the headed down the street. Ike poked his head in a service station, decided against payin' a visit, bounced across the next lawn and into the backyard where a picnic was in progress.

"Don't anybody move!"

screamed Gary as Ike wandered amongst the frozen relatives, squealing toddlers and potato salad. Gary roped him, but the rope broke when Ike jumped over the neighbor's privacy fence. Someone threw Gary another rope. He dropped the horn knot over the saddle horn and roped Ike again! He set his horse. When Ike hit the end of the line, Gary might as well a'been chained to a box car

dropped off the Bay bridge! It jerked him and his saddle up and over the ol' pony's withers!

Ike ran across the back porch as Gary and his horse sorta hopped along behind him like they had their pants down around their knees! Ike made a loop around the porch posts, then headed back to the street. The posts tore out with a screech and the roof collapsed like a hot dog stand closin' its eyes.

Finally Gary's buddies got two more ropes on Ike. They tipped him over on the curb and managed to guide him (as in guided missile), across the road. But not before he kicked in the window and driver's side door of a curious on-looker who had stopped to gape!

Ike lived to make several more tours. There were some arenas he just didn't care to stay in.

www.baxterblack.com

VASQUEZ

FROM PAGE A3

an application to the governor's office.

In an emailed response to KRWG, a spokesperson from the governor's

office, Michael Lonergan said "We've received an incomplete application from Mr. Vasquez; we have returned it to him so he can complete it. A felon seeking clemency must follow a specific

process that was established by the governor, which includes an investigation, report, and recommendation from the parole board. Once completed, these will be reviewed."

Please Vote November 3rd



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Voting for a different future

"This is a frightening statistic. More people vote in 'American Idol' than in any US election." — Rush Limbaugh

Around New Mexico this next week are municipal elections not to be confused with the general elections held this same time next

Michael Swickard
In My Opinion



year. Having municipal elections on an off year from the general elections can be both good and bad: good because we citizens

can concentrate on just the town or city leaders as a whole, and bad because voting at times is less than 10 percent of the population.

How can anyone think they got a mandate "from the people" when nine out of ten of their constituents

made the decision to not vote? These elections are not about who is going to be the next councilor or mayor, they are about how people will live in our little slice of heaven in the next generation.

The decisions that are made in the next few years will not be widely known by people 50 years from now. But those people so very far in the future will either live better or worse lives because of the actions of politicians today. People who are not born yet will prosper or not because of our votes to elect differing people.

People talk about the "Get out the vote" efforts. Personally, I do not care if people vote. If you have to be told to vote, I do not care if you do. If you are just pulling levers for the sake of pulling levers so we can say a higher percentage voted, please do not vote.

More so, if the difference between people running for office is cosmetic rather than a test of policy, again, stay home and vote for American Idol. We should not spend our time trying to get people registered and to the polls. We should spend our time getting people to care. That starts with getting people of character and integrity to run. If po-

tential voters believe in those running, they will register and vote.

What do I hope for this election? I hope that the people of character and integrity in each race win, regardless of party affiliation or if they are the incumbent. I hope the will of the people triumphs over voter fraud, regardless of who wins.

I hope that the next generation of leaders tackles the problems of the local community in an effective way so that long-term solutions work. I hope whoever is elected understands political solutions only work for political problems. They should never use political solutions for anything else.

After the votes are counted, I hope that the animosity that is so unbecoming of our society is lifted. Vote if you care. If you do not care, please stay home and watch the stars dance

I started watching elections when Kennedy and Nixon ran. I was just a kid. Then there was Goldwater-Johnson. On election night we finally had a television that I got to stay up and watch. On the Nixon-Humphrey election night I was a freshman in college and sat in the lobby of the dorm watching tele-

vision and wondering what the future would bring. My first chance to vote was Nixon-McGovern.

Somewhere in a box I have an "I like Ike" button that represents one of the high points of my political life. Ike was admired by my Mom and Dad so I admired him, too.

Some of the people I have the most respect for are politicians. Elections are like West Point, about character and integrity. The service academies concentrate on character development and personal integrity as should our elections.

We have spent quite a bit of time on what swag the politicians will give us for our vote. We do not really know what challenges our next crop of leaders will face. Therefore, this election is not about solutions to things that have already happened. It is about the future.

We know that people of character and integrity will do better in moments of crisis. We know that there will be chaos and crisis during the next several years. We know that, for the sake of our country, we should vote character and integrity.

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County Commission sets fee for census in Santa Teresa incorporation

By Mike Cook
Las Cruces Bulletin

At its Oct. 27 meeting, the Doña Ana County Commission approved a resolution setting \$1,286.25 as the amount that must be deposited with the county Treasurer's office by a group working to incorporate Santa Teresa to conduct a census in the portion of the county proposed for

incorporation.

That amount will pay Research and Polling, Inc. of Albuquerque to use 2010 census figures to extrapolate the area's current population, said Chief Deputy County Clerk Scott Krahling.

County attorney Nelson Goodin said there is no legal definition for a census, but that Webster's Dic-

tionary and Black's Law Dictionary define it as "a counting."

The commission adopted the resolution on a vote of four to zero, with Commissioner David Garcia recusing himself from the vote.

Once the application for incorporation is completed — including census figures

COMING UP

Free Flu shots at MMC

Say “boo” to the flu and get your free flu shot on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Memorial Medical Center, 2450 S. Telshor Blvd. For more information, call: 532-4463.

Ag Day street fair brings free farm fun Oct. 31

The 3rd annual Agriculture Day street fair happens at NMSU on Halloween from 2 to 6 p.m. before the Aggies play a home game. In the parking lot between Aggie Memorial Stadium and the Pan Am Center, dozens of groups will represent New Mexico’s diverse agricultural community. Booths, trick-or-treating, a stick-horse race, and live horses, cows, and sheep. Food includes free samples of red chile stew, pinto beans, roasted peanuts, sliders, root beer floats, and milk chugs. Free. For more information, visit www.nmda.nmsu.edu.

Fall Las Cruces Dream League Soccer Program Registration

Registration is now underway at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave., for the Parks & Recreation Dept.’s Las Cruces Dream League Soccer Program. The program provides a positive soccer atmosphere specifically designed for players with cognitive or physical challenges. The league offers basic experience, introductory skill development and games for soccer athletes with a wide range of abilities. The program is for players 4-12. All games are played at Meerscheidt

Rec Center. Cost is \$25, which includes a uniform shirt. Parents or care providers must be present with athletes during league activities. The Dream League Soccer Program runs from Nov. 7 through Dec. 19. Game time is 3:30-5 p.m. Coaches and volunteers are needed, and must pass a background check. For information, call 541-2563 or 541-2554. The TTY number is 541-2772.

Tai Chi Classes

The Parks & Recreation Department conducts on-going registration (until filled) for Tai Chi classes at the Frank O’Brien Papen Community Center, 304 Bell Avenue. This class is a traditional approach to learning Tai Chi – the slow-motion, moving meditation exercise for relaxation, health and self-defense. Classes take place 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Monday and Friday beginning Oct. 26, and are open to adults of all ages.

Registration is 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost is \$30 per 4-week session, \$15 for those age 60 and older. This program is on a first-come,

first-served basis and space is limited. For more information, call 541-2455. The TTY Number is 541-2661.

East Mesa Recreation Center suspends operation on Election Day

Because the City of Las Cruces’ East Mesa Recreation Center, 5589 Porter Rd., will be a voting convenience center on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, it will suspend its regular programming that day. All regular programs and activities will resume on Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Las Cruces Museum of Art fall classes

Las Cruces Museum of Art announces the start of the Studio Program’s second Fall Session with new classes and new instructors. The session runs Oct. 28 to Dec. 16, with a break at Thanksgiving. Children’s courses include a Homeschoolers Art class with gallery

emphasis, Afterschool Mixed Media and Children’s Ceramics. Adult courses include Ceramics (beginner and intermediate/advanced), Landscape Painting, Oil Painting, Art Critique and Technique and Classical Drawing. Tuition ranges from \$60 to \$110 per session. The Museum is located at 491 N. Main St. For more information, call 541-2137 or las-cruces.org/museums.

Meerscheidt Rec. Center changes hours during election

Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave., will be a voting convenience center on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, and the “Rec. Gym” and cardio room will be closed after 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, and all day Tuesday, Nov. 3, to accommodate voters. The gym will open for normal recreational play on Wednesday, Nov. 4, and the cardio rooms will open for normal use on Thursday, Nov. 5.

Carrie Underwood plans Las Cruces show

Seven-time Grammy winner and “Pollstar’s” three-time top female country touring artist, Carrie Underwood, has scheduled a concert in Las Cruces for April, 2016. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m., Friday Nov. 6 online at www.aeglive.com.

The singer, who just released her fifth studio album, “Storyteller”, will launch a new arena tour in 2016 to take her new music on the road. The Storyteller Tour - Stories in the Round, in association with award-winning cosmetics brand ALMAY, will arrive at 7 p.m. in New Mexico State University’s Pan American Center, Saturday, April 16, 2016.

The Storyteller Tour – Stories in the Round will be Underwood’s first tour “in the round.” With the stage in the middle of the arena floor, the 360-degree setting will allow fans on all sides of the arena to get a very intimate and unique concert experience.

The tour will include special guests Easton Corbin and The Swon Brothers. Tickets will be available for The Storyteller Tour beginning Friday, Nov. 6 at 10am local time at www.aeglive.com. Fans who buy Carrie’s new album, Storyteller, through her online store, www.carrieunderwood.fm, will receive a code for early access to tour tickets.

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SUN-NEWS



MINT



Gonzales



elle White

Work continues on the city plaza in Downtown Las Cruces.

BULLETIN PHOTOS BY MIKE COOK



City Council approves new Downtown projects

By Mike Cook
Las Cruces Bulletin

Meeting as the Tax Increment Development District (TIDD) board, the Las Cruces City Council – joined by Doña Ana County Commission Chairman Billy Garrett as an ex-officio member – voted unanimously to approve new TIDD projects for the improvement of Downtown.

The new projects are:

- Updating the Downtown master plan, at a cost of about \$100,000, said Las Cruces Downtown Coordinator Andy Hume. The last Downtown master plan was completed in January 2004, he said, noting that 61 of the 91 projects and tasks outlined in the plan have been completed or are in process.

- Conducting a market research strategy, at a cost of about \$100,000, Hume said. The study would coordinate the city's economic development efforts with potential pri-

ivate investment opportunities.

- Completing capital upgrade to the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Downtown Mall. Upgrades will include improved dressing rooms with showers added, upgrading security and energy efficiency, replacing the sound board and making improvements to the lobby area. The total cost will be \$100,000 to \$150,000, Hume said.

- Enlarging and upgrading Downtown restroom facilities located behind the Rio Grande Theatre, at a cost of \$250,000 to \$300,000, Hume said. The upgrade is expected to be completed by July 2016, when the Downtown plaza project on Organ Street is also expected to be completed.

Downtown area

TIDD was created in 2008 “to generate revenue within the Downtown area

and to use those revenues within that area for public improvement projects,” according to a City of Las Cruces executive summary. Its current projects, begun in April 2013, are:

- A Downtown charrette, which was completed in March 2014 at a cost of \$70,000.

- The Downtown plaza, which is currently under construction and will cost about \$6.5 million, Hume said. Demolition and rough grading are complete, he said, and old utilities are currently being replaced. The next steps in the project will include stage and water features, concrete work for streets, and landscaping. The project is on time and on budget, Hume said.

- Conversion of the Church and Water street from a one-way to a two-way traffic configuration. The project is in the preliminary design phase, Hume said, and is expected to cost about \$4.8 mil-

lion. It includes traffic modeling and simulation, and will include an extension of Water Street to Lohman Avenue. The preliminary design phase will be followed by final design and then construction, he said.

- Design and construction of callecititas – streets passing through Downtown – including Organ, Main, Court and Hadley.

Hume said TIDD is funded through existing gross receipts tax revenues. Approved projects do not create any new taxes. The New Mexico Legislature also contributes some TIDD funds, he said. City Manager Robert Garza said about \$2 million in generated for TIDD each year. All four new TIDD projects will cost less than \$1 million total, he said.

Memorial park

After the TIDD meeting was completed, council members reconvened as

the city council and held a work session. They got an update on the city's employee health care and on improvements to Klein Park.

The park is located in the Mesquite neighborhood between San Pedro and north Mesquite streets and between Griggs and Organ avenues. It was named in honor of former Las Cruces Mayor Sam Klein, who served 1932-34, 1938-44, 1946-48 and 1949-53, serving longer as mayor than anyone else. Klein was mayor in 1948, when Las Cruces was incorporated as a city.

Phase one improvements to the park will include a conceptual master plan, which will cost \$20,000; wall and stage plaster repair, costing \$184,000; electrical power and repair for the stage, costing \$20,000; and security cameras, costing \$42,000; said city landscape architect Cathy Mat-

thews. All funding will come from the New Mexico Legislature, she said. Construction is expected to begin in March 2016.

The city council will meet in regular session at 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2. It will be the last board meeting for Councillors Miguel Silva, district one; and Nathan Small, district four. Silva, who has served eight years on the council, is running for mayor in the Tuesday, Nov. 3 city election. Small is retiring from the council after eight years of service. Incumbent Mayor Ken Miyagishima is a candidate for re-election on Nov. 3, as is Mayor Pro-Tem and district two City Councillor Greg Smith. Districts 3 (Olga Pedroza), 5 (Gill Sorg) and 6 (Ceil Levatino) are not on the Nov. 3 ballot.

For more information, visit <http://www.las-cruces.org/en/departments/city-clerks-office/city-council-meetings>.

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CENSUS FROM PAGE A6

– it must be submitted to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration for review and approval, Nelson said. If approved by the state, the county commission would vote on a special-election resolution and an incorporation election would be held, he said.

At the meeting, the commission also unanimously approved the reappointment of Mark O'Neill to the county Labor Management Relations Board.

Sheriff criticism

At the beginning of the meeting, County Sheriff Enrique Vigil read a statement criticizing the commission for inquiries into the way he conducts his office. "I am an elected official. I am not an employee of the county," Vigil said. "I will not allow the county administration to violate my constitutionally protected rights as a citizen or as an elected official," Vigil said.

Later in the meeting, County Commission Chairman Billy Garrett said he has "respect for all elected officials. I support our deputies and support staff and would welcome opportunities to work with their management."

Clerk's office

County Clerk Lynn Ellins said the clerk's office was closed for part of a work day recently because a "disheveled gentleman" fol-

lowed one of the clerk's office employees into the office, handed her an envelope and told her, "Don't open it now; open it when you get home and then call me." Ellins said the sheriff's office was called at that point and the clerk's office was temporarily closed. An investigation revealed that the manila envelope handed to the clerk's office employee contained a real estate publication, Ellins said.

Teen pregnancy

At the meeting, the commission also received a report from Jamie Michael, director of the county Health and Human Services Department, who said the county has partnered with Christopher Productions on the production of a video about teen pregnancy. The video, she said, is on the county's website, under a link to teen pregnancy on the Health and Human Services Department page at <https://donaanacounty.org/health>. She said the video is "a nice tool for young people ... parents and policymakers" and will be distributed to "key partners in the community."

Michael introduced Dr. Earl Nissan, chairman of the local Teen Pregnancy Work Group, which Nissan said he and others started 10 years ago. In 2005, Nissan said, the county had the highest teen pregnancy rate in the state. Births by girls ages 17-19 in the coun-

ty declined from 46 per 1,000 in 2005 to 15 per 1,000 in 2015 – a drop of 66 percent, Nissan said.

In 2007, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education approved comprehensive sex education as part of the high school health curriculum, and later approved family planning in school based health centers, he said. And, with support from former New Mexico State Rep. Mary Helen Garcia, D- Doña Ana, Nissan said a health class – including comprehensive sex education – was added as a high school graduation requirement in New Mexico.

Nissan also credited the GRADS in-school program for teen parents and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy Start program for helping to reduce teen pregnancy in the county and statewide.

Workshops and seminars that started locally in 2005 helped to keep teen pregnancy in the media, he said. "There was a public awareness created that kept the discussions alive that we need to do something about this. "We are still far above the national average, but we're getting closer."

"All you have to do is look at social media to know that kids are better informed about sex than we were when we were in high school," Nissan said. "The kids' knowledge is unbelievable. This is helping them to plan better and think their way through

having a child."

In a letter to New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, Nissan said he told the governor that 683 high school students visited four New Mexico Department of Health-funded school based health centers in one recent year. Estimating that it costs \$2,100 for the first year of a baby's life, Nissan said family planning provided by those health centers may have

saved the state \$1.434 million in Medicaid costs in just one year.

Nissan said the Teen Pregnancy Work Group would like to get additional funding from the state and the county to extend school based health center hours to provide services to more students. Nissan said all members of the work group are volunteers. The work group itself, he said, has no budget.

The county commission's next scheduled meeting is a work session beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3 in commission chambers in the county government building, 845 N. Motel Blvd. The single item on the agenda is staffing/strategic plan.

For more information, visit <https://www.donaanacounty.org/content/notice-work-session-november-3-2015>.

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SEAT FROM PAGE A1

One idea is to build a solar power plant to help cut the city's \$10 million annual electric bill. Businesswoman Eugenia "Gina" Montoya Ortega has also thrown her hat into the ring.

Ortega

The candidate with no political experience under her belt believes that very fact is one of her strong points.

Ortega, 47, known as "Gina," is a Las Cruces native and co-owner along with her husband, Ray, of La Fiesta Bakery at 455 N. Valley Drive.

"I bring a positive alternative and choice in this election," she said. "I am a person that will be committed to the true needs of our community and will not

THE CANDIDATES

MAYOR

- Ken Miyagishima (Incumbent)
 - Miguel G. Silva
 - Eugenia Montoya Ortega
- ### CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1
- Kasandra A. Gandara
 - Steve D. Calderazzo
 - Melecio Eli Guzman
- ### CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2
- Gregory Z. Smith (Incumbent)
 - Philip A. VanVeen
- ### CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4
- Gilbert Vasquez
 - Richard A. Hall
 - Jack Eakman
- ### PRESIDING MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE
- William M. Kinsella
 - Kieran Ryan

vacillate or flip flop on important issues that need to be brought before the voters.

"People that know me in this community appreciate that I will bring sincerity and fervor. I am a fighter for this community."

She said she has been a local advocate for small

businesses and a strong proponent for public safety.

Silva

After eight years on the Las Cruces City Council representing District 1, Silva now hopes to be mayor. Silva, 55, said his "top priority is to improve our quality of life as a community. To do this we need to take an honest assessment of our present situation which includes quality of education, jobs, recreation and workforce, to name a few."

An adjunct professor at Doña Ana Community College, he teaches English, Photoshop and web design. He also spent 25 years with family-owned Silva Sanitation. He moved to New Mexico when he was a high school freshman and graduated from Gadsden High and New Mexico State University.

He said one of his strengths is his ability to bring people together even if they don't agree. He said his greatest accomplishment would be "that I brought many groups of opposing perspectives to the table to address the many community challenges.

Gandara, Guzman vie for District 1 seat

By Brook Stockberger
Las Cruces Bulletin

Miguel Silva said he did not plan to seek a third term on the Las Cruces City Council as the District 1 representative.

Instead, he is on the ballot for the job of mayor in the Nov. 3 municipal election.

With his seat set to open, state employee Kasandra Gandara and businessman Eli Guzman seek the seat.

Steve Calderazzo announced earlier he has withdrawn from the race, but his name will still appear on the ballot.

District 1 includes the Mesquite and Alameda Historic Districts; Las Cruces Downtown Main Street; north Mesquite and Alameda residential districts; the distinct neighborhoods within the Juniper, Spruce and Ash residential districts, the Las Cruces Country Club neighborhood; and the southwest Elks neighborhoods.



KASANDRA GANDARA



ELI GUZMAN

Gandara

Gandara, a Las Cruces resident for more than 20 years, said she is active in public health, education and other areas and hopes to raise the quality of life in the city's neighborhoods.

"In my face-to-face conversations with residents in District 1, I am learning that a responsive leader is critical to inclusive policy," she said. "I intend on engaging all residents in our community, listening to their needs, and make policy that benefits everyone. I want to be a voice for hardworking families."

Gandara manages a staff in nine counties in southern New Mexico in state government.

As a supervisor in the field of social work, including certification as a trainer, she has developed a statewide best practices model, organized advisory groups with community partners and youth leaders, and has facilitation experience.

Guzman

A lifelong Las Cruces resident, vice chairman of the Las Cruces Parks and Rec-

reation Board and owner of Guzman Sport Karate Kickboxing Inc., Guzman believes he can bring "inspiration" to District 1.

Guzman, who was born and raised on Court Street and the Mesquite area — where he's operated his dojo for 14 years — said of District 1, "I have witnessed a lot. There is a need for inspiration in the district. That's why in June of 2001 I opened a karate dojo on the corner of Las Cruces and Mesquite Street. This had a positive impact in the neighborhood and community, giving an alternative to gangs and drugs.

"I created a family and an amazing team of kids who became champions. I believe my contribution of leadership and my passion for my community will inspire the future youth to step forward and be leaders."

Guzman has also worked with the Parks and Recreation board and is active in the Las Cruces Public Schools, giving presentations on anti-bullying, self-respect, self-esteem, respect and dedication.

Read the entire paper at www.lascrucesbulletin.com

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HOMELESS FROM PAGE A1

our policy not to turn anyone away, but we just don't have the space to take all of the children in at one time."

Community of Hope

Jardin is a facility for homeless and near-homeless children and their families, and is part of the Community of Hope, which also includes St. Luke's Health Care Clinic, El Caldito Soup Kitchen and Casa de Peregrinos emergency food program.

Over the last couple of years, "the number of nights lodging that we provide has been on the increase," said Gospel Rescue Mission Executive Director Bob Jeska. From January through September 2015, the mission provided more than 15,600 nights' lodging to men, compared to almost 12,000 nights in all of 2014. It provided 5,215 nights' lodging to women and children for the same period in 2015, compared to 4,402 in all of 2014. The mission served about 54,000 meals January through September 2015, compared to almost 58,600 in all of 2014.

The mission has 110 beds and is usually at capacity from November through February because of colder weather, Jeska said. And, because the mission doesn't turn anyone away, it sometimes sets up cots in its dining room if the number of clients exceeds the number of beds.

'A Godsend'

The Homeless Coalition includes the Community of Hope, Gospel Rescue Mission and Jardin de los Niños, along with many other agencies and organizations, including La Clinica de Familia, LCPS, Gadsden Independent School District, Deming Public Schools, La Casa, Inc. domestic violence program, the City of Las Cruces Juvenile Citation Program, the state Children, Youth and Families Department,

the state's Income Support Division and Workforce Solutions Department, the office of U.S. Representative Steve Pearce, R-N.M., New Mexico Legal Services, Mesilla Valley Hospital and several local churches, including the First Assembly of God and the First Baptist Church, said Silva.

"The coalition has been a Godsend to us at Jardin," Hartley said. "They obtained seven computers for our after-school program so that the students can now complete their homework. They also furnished us with musical instruments for our music program. They have been a true ally in giving our children what they need to succeed."

Bringing all these agencies together "allows us to network with each other when we have a homeless family," Silva said. "We know who we can call."

Pearce's Las Cruces office Outreach Director Peter Ibarbo is working with the coalition to change the federal definition of homelessness to include not only people who live on the street, but those families and individuals who are temporarily housed in a motel or doubled up with family members or friends, Silva said.

Stereotypes

The stereotype of homeless people as unwilling to work is not accurate, she said. Many have part- or full-time jobs, but can't make ends meet for themselves or their families. "They have to choose between food and rent," she said. Some minimum-wage earners have seen their hours cut from 40 to 20 or 25 hours a week. "That's not going to pay the rent, car payment, food, insurance, utilities. It won't cover everything," she said.

"There are homeless families every day. And we're taking kids under five," Silva said. One family served by the coalition included a grandmother with 13 children ranging in age from two to 15. The grandmother was living in a van with two of the children. The other children were living temporarily with other family members and friends. Now, with help from the coalition, they are all living together with a family member, Silva said. And, all the children have stayed in school. "They go to school and they do their homework," she said.

Another family of nine, Silva said, is living in a trailer that has no windows or doors, and the roof was partially caved in during the recent hail storm.

Many homeless are

high-school students whose parents are in jail, have abandoned them or have been deported. Sometimes, a parent or parents are drug addicts and older children choose to leave and live in a healthier and safer environment, if they can find it. They often couch-surf with friends or relatives, Silva said.

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE A29

VOTING CENTERS

On election day voters can cast ballots at any one of 14 voting convenience centers located throughout Las Cruces. Voters are no longer restricted to vote in the district in which they are registered. Voting convenience centers at the following locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.:

- Branigan Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave.
- Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd.
- East Mesa Recreation Center, 5589 Porter Dr.
- Frank O'Brien Papen Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.
- Good Samaritan Village, 3011

- Buena Vida Cir.
- Henry Benavidez Center, 1045 McClure St.
- Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave.
- Doña Ana Community College - East Mesa Branch, 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd.
- Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.
- Rehabilitation Hospital of Southern New Mexico, 4441 E. Lohman Ave.
- Newman Center, 2615 S. Solano Dr.
- Highland Elementary, 4201 Emerald St.
- Jornada Elementary, 3400 Elks
- Desert Hills Elementary, 280 Roadrunner Pkwy.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Joaquin Chavarria, right, and fellow CAMP student, Brayan Ramos, left.

NMSU helps migrant children chase goals

Christophe Chino
Las Cruces Bulletin

Summer memories can be filled with trips to the local pool, hiking, camping and sunbathing, but for Joaquin Chavarria, his most vivid childhood memories were waking up early each morning and working with his family;

something that was necessary to put food on their table.

Chavarria can remember when he was a young boy in Hagerman, beating the sun out of bed in order to work. His parents, Jose and Carolina, were Mexican migrant farm workers who had come to the United States to seek out a better life

for their family. This work was not easy, and the days were never short. There are no off days for workers such as Chavarria and his family; there is no pension, there are no sick days or vacations, and health care is out of the question.

Chavarria's family has to work from day to day

in order to survive.

"I would go to the pool maybe two or three times over the summer, but I mainly worked," he said. "I wish I could have been like the kids who had to do their daily chores at home and then got to go play. Summers were hard to enjoy. I wish I

SEE GOALS, PAGE A13

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GOALS FROM PAGE A12

could have had more fun. I wish I could have gone camping.”

He recalls working on Christmas Eve, doing lawn work alongside his father.

“I would look at all the kids playing outside, enjoying their Christmas break, I wanted to be doing that,” he said.

Even though the work was tough for Chavarria and his family, he said they would continue to push on each day, with the hope that things would get better.

CAMP

Chavarria is now a freshman at New Mexico State University, studying international business, hoping to tie his knowledge of agriculture with his desire to travel. This is something he would not have the circumstances to do without the assistance of New Mexico State University’s College Assistance Migrant Program.

Since its inception in 2002, the CAMP program has recruited more than 378 students of migrant parents, and of that, 150 have gone on to earn degrees.

“Signing up for this program is the opportunity for these kids,” said Michelle Montano, CAMP’s director. “Many kids out there are not even getting the opportunity.”

‘Bright Spot’

Each year CAMP awards 30 freshman farm worker students a scholarship in order to attend NMSU. The program provides tutoring, mentoring, as well as both academic advising and financial support.

The program pays for a freshman’s tuition and housing expenses, while also allotting a small stipend for books.

Though the financial aspect of the program is only for freshman students, the academic and emotional support continues well past the first year in college.

Montano explained that CAMP recruiters are sent out to some of the most remote parts of the region to both recruit and encourage prospective high school seniors to seek out a higher level of education at NMSU.

Many of these prospects are not the typical college student, but CAMP aims to help give them the opportunity that they could be missing, she said.

NMSU’s CAMP was nationally recognized by the White House as a ‘Bright Spot in Hispanic Education’ last month.

Assist

Jaime Lopez, CAMP’s academic advisor, holds the program very close to heart. Lopez comes from a similar background as many of the students he advises. His parents were also mi-

grant workers, and he understands many of the struggles that incoming freshman with this type of background can encounter.

“A lot of these students don’t know the inner workings of the university, and that’s what we are here for,” Lopez said. “That’s the thing I enjoy the most out of this program, being able to assist other students so they don’t have to struggle the way I had to struggle.”

‘Nothing is guaranteed’

Since CAMP is federally funded, every five years they must send a proposal to the U.S. Dept. of Education in order to keep their funding and place at NMSU. In Jan. 2017, for the third time, the program will have to send the proposal. The preparations have already begun, said Montano. Even though the program has experience in sending successful proposals, the stress and time that goes into producing a

proposal never lessens. “It’s a very worrisome situation,” said Montano, “everything could come to an end without funding, and nothing is guaranteed.”

The staff must collect data, prepare a model of operations for the next 5 years, and find answers to a series of questions that are asked of them, both about the productivity

of the past years of operation, as well as the preparations for the years ahead; ultimately they must lay out their plan of action.

With a large population of the state being composed of migrant workers and their families, the ability to receive an education has an impact that spreads much further than the single student.

“The success of the students impacts much more than themselves, it affects the well-being of their families and the state,” said Montano. “The students who are able to get a better education; they lift up their families,” he said. “I see my family, poor and suffering, and I want to make it better. I want to make them proud.”

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BULLETIN PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER BELARDE



Tough Enough To Wear Pink supporters gather on the field at Aggie Memorial Stadium at half-time of the Aggies' game.

BULLETIN PHOTO BY B. DYER

A pink firetruck parades past those on hand to celebrate Tough Enough to Wear Pink.

Eighteen-month-old Hope Harrison poses for a photo with Pistol Pete.



Tough enough to wear

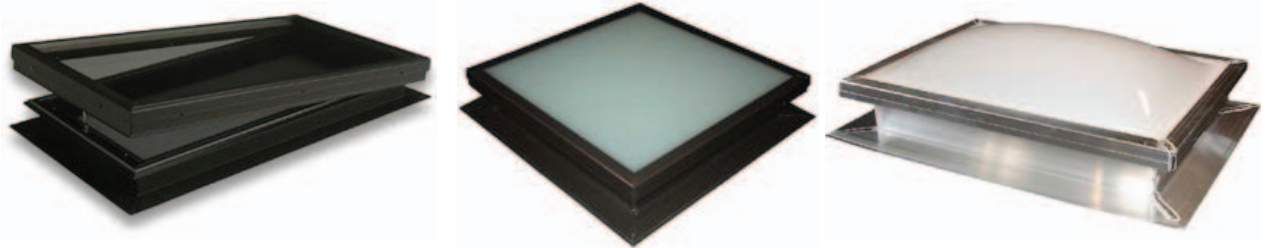
PINK



A member of New Mexico State University's international students group dances while celebrating before the Tough Enough To Wear Pink football game Saturday, Oct. 24 at Aggie Memorial Stadium.



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Ghost Stories

Local Paranormal Investigation Group relishes the spooky stuff

By Susie Ouderkirik
Las Cruces Bulletin

You're drawn in by the grainy, green night-vision video, handheld by someone with shallow breathing, stumbling through cobwebbed halls in an abandoned building, searching for signs of the supernatural: a disembodied voice, a wavering shadow, a bump in the night. There is inevitably a sudden noise, and the camera spins wildly left and right, trying to find the source of the sound. The breathing gets faster, and we hear rapid whispering: "What was that?" "Did you hear that?" And then a hasty retreat, camera bobbing, as the terrified human high-tails it back to the safety of civilization.

This popular television reality genre of the "ghost hunter" variety takes audiences along on a trek to discover proof of the spirit world. Groups of semi-professional researchers with thousands of dollars' worth of electronic equipment

traipse through dark houses and condemned buildings searching for proof of the paranormal on helmet cams and handheld photo equipment. Jumpy paranormal investigators, recording devices humming, walk through shadowy hallways of deserted buildings in search of the holy grail of the supernatural: a real, live ghost.

Well, maybe not "real, live" seeing as a ghost, by definition, must be dead. Either way, there's no doubt that these programs can be frightening to true believers, and at least startling and eerie to skeptics.

It's one thing to watch these shows from the comfort of our own, non-haunted homes. But what does it feel like to actually be in one of these allegedly haunted places? One active group in Las Cruces knows exactly how it feels, and relishes the experience.

Southwest Paranormal Investigations (SPI), founded in 2006 by Newman Advertising executive Patrick

Olona, is an honest-to-goodness ghost hunting organization that focusses on the Las Cruces area. And with nearly 100 investigations under its belt, SPI is Las Cruces' premiere ghost hunting outfit. A business description on Facebook states the purpose of the

group is to "Investigate, research and document paranormal activity as it exists using the latest in advanced technological devices and experience."

And when it comes to gadgets and gizmos, SPI has an electronic abundance. Olona has spent tens

of thousands of dollars on equipment, including trap and digital cameras, digital recorders, K2 meters, REM Pods, night vision, ultra violet and infrared cameras, DVRs and 45 "specialty" cameras. One especially valuable asset is Olona's full spectrum camera

which sees all light, even that which is invisible to the human eye. There's also the official SPI van, emblazoned with the spooky green lettering of the group's logo, which carries said equipment as well

SEE GHOST, PAGE A17



Pat Olona using a handheld camera

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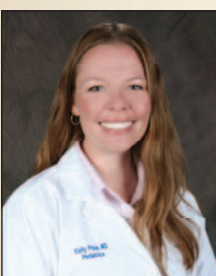
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GHOST FROM PAGE A16

as serves as an office when needed during on site investigations. And counting up the hours Olona and his investigators have logged in, at minimum wage they'd all jump up at least one tax bracket.

For a typical investigation, SPI members set up their equipment for an overnight research visit and compile up to 12 hours of audio and video recordings. There is usually access to electricity, but not always. The investigation at the old Dona Ana County Courthouse and City Jail didn't have lights or electric current, so the crew investigated in total darkness. But when you're chasing ghosts, you have to turn out the lights!

Intrigued by those grainy ghost hunting videos on t.v., I volunteered with SPI to offer my limited ability as a "sensitive," someone who can feel or sense the supernatural. I don't know much about my ability, I only know that when I look at certain buildings or into certain rooms, I sometimes see short "videos" of what I believe are former occupants going about their lives. I have no proof that anything I see is even accurate, but most of these images are backed up, after the fact, by history. I make sure that no one on the site of the investigation gives me any information, and I purposely do not research any of the locations beforehand.

Except for one thing

My evening at the investigation usually starts with a walk-through of the building in which I let any images just pop into my head. If a picture is very strong, I mention it to my companions. Now and then I feel something halfway between an emotion and a gut instinct, something similar to the feeling that some of us get when we think we're being watched.

At that point I will ask, out loud, if anyone is there with me, and I explain why I am there.

These walk-throughs are usually videotaped and/or recorded for EVP, electronic voice phenomenon, which is the occurrence of sound and voices not heard by the human ear, but



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pat Olona takes a reading during an investigation at the Double Eagle Restaurant.

caught on tape. The EVP sessions will be reviewed later for evidence.

After my initial walk through, I may go into a room, turn on a video cam-

era and just wait in the dark or begin a conversation with whomever may be there. Personally, I haven't heard or seen anything that spooked me or changed the way I feel about the paranormal. Except for one thing.

I had an experience at the Double Eagle Restaurant that I just can't explain. As I walked into the mens restroom in a short

SEE GHOST, PAGE A18

SECOND OPINION

From Memorial Medical Center

What Happens After A Mammogram?

Eduardo J. Martinez, M.D., D.A.B.R. Imaging Center of Las Cruces at Memorial Medical Center

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women in the U.S.A. The national Cancer Institute estimates that 231,840 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,290 will die from breast cancer in 2015. According to the SEER Cancer Statistics Review 12.4 percent or about 1 in every 8 women born in the United States today will have breast cancer at some time in their lives. In men, the American Cancer Society estimates that 2,350 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 440 men will die from it in 2015. The estimated lifetime risk of breast cancer in men is 1 in 1,000.

Modern medicine utilizes an array of diagnostic imaging tools to detect stage and monitor breast cancer. While not perfect, the currently preferred screening modality is mammography which yields x-ray pictures of the breasts. According to the American Cancer Society the combined results of multiple American studies estimate that the risk of dying from breast cancer decreases 15 to 20% with modern mammography and European studies estimate a risk reduction by 33% or more.

Diagnostic mammography is the

most common way to problem-solve any suspicious or questionable findings from the screening mammogram. Breast ultrasound utilizes sound waves to image the breasts and is good for analyzing the composition of masses. Breast MRI scanning uses magnetic resonance to create three dimensional images of the breasts and is the most sensitive for certain breast cancers.

Memorial Imaging Services offers breast imaging services in all three technologies. The Imaging Center of Las Cruces, at 160 Roadrunner, is accredited in mammography and breast ultrasound and is the only facility to offer dedicated breast MRI imaging in the southern New Mexico region. Memorial Imaging Services also offers ultrasound guided breast needle biopsy services when needed and stereotactic mammographically guided breast needle biopsies. Surgical biopsies are performed at the Memorial Medical Center main hospital. If cancer is detected, Memorial Cancer Center provides the highest standard of cancer care in the region.

Although mobile mammography is available, we believe that obtaining your breast imaging needs as much as possible from a local, single comprehensive provider helps to ensure timely and efficient health care. Memorial has a Breast Cancer Navigator who will help with any questions or concerns throughout the process.



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GHOST FROM PAGE A17

hallway next to the bar, I believe I saw and heard something skittering very quickly up the wall between the sink and the toilet stall and exiting out of the room in the far upper corner of the ceiling.

I can only describe its movement as something like a large lizard with four legs and a tail. It stopped me in my tracks. The cam-

era operator accompanying me didn't hear, see or feel anything. Even now, when I think of the event and what could possibly have made that barely perceptible movement, I get a tight, unpleasant feeling in my stomach.

Most recently, Olona experienced a Class "A" EVP at the home of (the deceased) Oliver Lee in Tim-

beron. A Class "A" is an electronic voice phenomenon that can be clearly understood the first time it is heard. While taking a walk-through of the ranch house, Olona heard a man's voice ask, "Who is he?"

One night during an investigation at the Double Eagle, all the power went off in the building. Several restaurant employees were still on the premises doing last minute cleaning and they were scared. "That

was kind of weird..." Olona admits.

Owners tell us what they see

Olona emphasizes that SPI is not a group that eliminates or exorcises ghosts: they just want to communicate and interact with elements of the supernatural in an effort to identify quantifiable evidence of the paranormal. "We don't charge for

our services," he explains. "If someone is experiencing paranormal activity, we'll set up a meeting and discuss the situation. We're very private. We let the owners tell us what they see and where the hot spots are. At that point we may plan an investigation."

The SPI crew waxes in size due to the fact that its members are all average folks, working full time jobs, raising families and paying bills, so evaluation of the recorded information sometimes takes weeks. Team members watch and listened to every minute of audio and video collected during the overnight investigation and report on what they hear and see. "Once we finish an investigation, we go over everything with the house or building owner and share it all with them," Olona said. They post most of what they encounter on their website: Southwestparanormalinvestigations.com and on their Facebook page.

SPI's mission is bolstered by the number of home and business owners who have approached the group requesting investigations.

People who live and work in these places are convinced they hear, see and feel the presence of

the supernatural, and very much want to have their experiences verified and, if possible, explained.

Well known buildings that SPI has investigated include: The Rio Grande Theatre, Double Eagle Restaurant (twice), Dripping Springs Sanitarium, The Old Tortilla Factory, The Amador Hotel and the Fountain Theatre.

It's not a debate

The next investigation is probably at the New Mexico Store in Mesilla. The team is discreet about publicizing upcoming investigations because outsiders can jeopardize the experience by simply driving by, making noise and interfering in a number of ways.

Every one of us has his or her own opinion about the existence of ghosts or spirits. SPI doesn't want to enter into any theological or metaphysical debates; the team members just want to make it possible for normal people to have a discussion about the unexplainable things they see, hear or feel, and to have those experiences substantiated.

Eerie? Yes. Thought-provoking? Sure. Is it all in our imaginations? Probably. But do we know for sure? No we don't. To contact SPI, call 649-0638.

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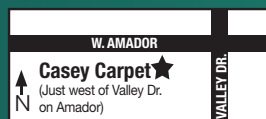
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NAACP Doña Ana County Branch members attend conference



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO BY RICHARD COLTHARP

Several members of the NAACP Doña Ana County Branch attended the New Mexico State Conference of Branches Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24, in Alamogordo. Attendees included Julia Brown, state NAACP president Sam Bone, Alma Bone, Alfred Rucks, Sarah Addison, Dr. Bette Green, Florence Hamilton, Dr. Bobbie Green, Curtis Rosemond and Howard Guion.

NM Home Builders plans evening of 'firsts'

By **Alta LeCompte**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The New Mexico Home Builders Association will celebrate its feminine side Friday, Nov. 6, in Las Cruces when it installs its first woman president, Pat Bellestri-Martinez of Soledad Canyon Earth Builders.

The event, titled Builders & Bling, will be an evening of firsts.

This will be the first time in recent memory the organization has held its installation dinner in Las Cruces.

It also will be the first time a husband and wife have held the office of president, Bellestri-Martinez said. Her late husband, Mario Bellestri, served as

PAT BELLESTRI-MARTINEZ

Soledad Canyon Earth Builders
949 S. Melendres St.
www.rammed-earth-homes.com

pat@adobe-home.com
527-9897

president until 2002.

The couple built their rammed earth construction company together, starting with their own home, the first to be built in Talavera.

Their story began in 1983 when they married and planned to build an adobe home.

"We attended an earth and technology conference at the University of Arizona," Bellestri-Martinez said. "It was fascinating. One medium they talked

about was rammed earth."

Family home comes first

Although her background was in managing the predecessor to Mountain View Market Co-op and he had managed a warehouse in Tucson, the couple decided to undertake building their own home.

"He had done some remodeling," she said.

They chose to use rammed earth construction.

The process consists of the compressing, or ramming, of soil into forms that create building blocks or constructing entire walls, layer by layer. Although its origins are in antiquity, in the past 30

years rammed-earth construction has enjoyed a world-wide resurgence, in part because walls of earth are better able than walls built of other materials to maintain a constant temperature. The homes are considered sustainable and less costly to heat and cool.

Before they had even completed their home,

they were getting requests from friends asking the couple to build for them. Bellestri got his contractor's license and they were on their way to building a business.

"In 1987, I started working with him full time," she said. "As the business grew, he would take the home to sheetrock and I would take it to

completion."

Family continues to build

Bellestri-Martinez said her husband died in 2008.

"I said, 'Well, let's just keep on going.'"

Her daughter-in-law Melissa Bellestri, who joined the business in 2003 as

SEE **FIRSTS**, PAGE A21



Pat Bellestri-Martinez of Soledad Canyon Earth Builders will serve as 2016 president of the New Mexico Home Builders Association.

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MVEDA reports 'phenomenal' year

By Alta LeCompte
Las Cruces Bulletin

Companies already operating in Doña Ana County are beginning to move into expansion mode following years of uncertainty, CEO Davin Lopez of the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance told an audience getting its first peek at MVEDA's annual report.

Lopez said during the fiscal year from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, 50 percent of growth occurred in companies coming into the area, 50 percent in companies already located here.

He said in the past, 70 to 80 percent of growth has come from companies moving into the area.

"At the heart of the recession, it was 95 per-

MVEDA 3-YEAR TOTALS
FY 2013-15

New jobs: 1,779

Site visits: 75

Capital investment:
\$205,886,085

Completed projects: 30

New payroll generated:
\$55,814,362

MVEDA-supported retention and expansion: 78

cent," he said Monday, Oct. 19, at the Fountain Theatre.

"Our companies are now moving out of recession."

During the past year, MVEDA has intensified its efforts to assist existing businesses.

"We've seen a change this past year," he said. "We have been sitting

SEE MVEDA, PAGE A22

Chinese building spree a sign of problems

Chris Erickson
State of the Economy



When there is too much money sloshing around and nothing profitable to spend it all, we begin to see projects that don't make business sense.

In the Gild Age, circa 1870 to 1890, it was large mansions, like those built by the Carnegies, the Vanderbilts and the Rockefellers.

In modern times, it's Chinese skyscrapers.

Tall buildings are almost always a sign of too much money sloshing around. They tend to pay a very low return, so are the type of investment that is undertaken after all other ideas are exhausted.

Justifying a really big building based on cash flow often can't be done. At the same time, they take a lot of money to build, so to justify them requires something other than a business plan.

If we look at China, we can see this lack of business justification. Already we read about ghost buildings—large, high-rise apartment buildings with few or no tenants, yet construction continues unabated.

The state is a major player in this process.

The Chinese State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) is a large player in the commercial building market, involved, for example, in the building of the Goldin Finance 511 Building, the tallest building currently under construction in China.

Funding comes from Chinese state owned banks, which have been given a lending quota. If officials at these banks want to keep their positions, they have to find projects to which to lend.

But in the current environment in China, finding a project that pays a return is very difficult. Hence, loans for skyscrapers.

The Chinese market is already overbuilt and is becoming yet more overbuilt. In 2014, China completed 58 skyscrapers; in 2015, it is scheduled to complete 105 more. (Number 2 was the Philippines, which built five in 2014.)

Chinese officials justify all the construction as necessary to attract foreign investors in order for their development plans to succeed.

Then, there is China's plan to convert 250 million people for rural to urban living in the next 20 years. While it is true that many of China's new high rises are either residential or mixed residen-

tial, the luxury apartments that characterize China's high rises don't seem like the type of housing to which the rural poor are likely to gravitate.

Of course, requiring large buildings to be profitable is a relatively recent phenomenon. It wasn't until 1930 with the completion of the Chrysler Building in New York City that the "world's tallest building" had to be a business structure. Prior to that, the tallest building was either a church or a civic monument.

In some sense, the Chinese are following in a long tradition, dating back to the pyramid—tall building are to glorify the rulers, not to make a profit.

Christopher A. Erickson, Ph.D., is a professor of economics at New Mexico State University. He teaches economic development. The opinions expressed may not be shared by the regents and administration of NMSU. Erickson can be reached at chrerick@nmsu.edu.

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SUN 11/1
2 to 6 p.m. Dia de los Muertos Cigars & Spirits, Signature Room at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino, 1200 Futurity Drive, Sunland Park. The event benefits the Armijo House restoration. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, call the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, 524-1968.

FRI 11/6
11:30 am to 12:30 p.m. Las Cruces Green Chamber

of Commerce Lunch and Learn, How to Write Grants for Nonprofits and Businesses, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. For more information contact Carrie Hamblen at 323-1575.

FRI 11/13
8 a.m. 2015 Federal Update Breakfast with U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, Las Cruces Convention Center 680 E. University Ave. For more information contact the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce at 524-1968 or www.lascruces.org.

MON 11/16
Noon. Customer Service Luncheon, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Registration 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact the

Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce at 524-1968 or www.lascruces.org.

THU 11/19
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce Green Drinks at Antix Inc., 717 W. Organ Ave. For more information, call Carrie Hamblen at 323-1575.

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.

FIRSTS FROM PAGE A19

Bellestri-Martinez's assistant and quickly assumed new duties "because she's so smart and talented," is now the estimator and project manager. Son Max, a junior studying business at New Mexico State University, is the business manager/IT specialist.

"He grew up with us in the business," Bellestri-Martinez said. "He started doing job-site cleanup. When he was in high school, he got his friends to do the cleanup and he was the supervisor."

Bellestri-Martinez's primary role now is to collaborate with clients.

"I finish houses, too," she said.

Also on board are two full-time builders who "have been with us

a long time and know what it means to build in rammed earth."

Building homes, building relationships

Soledad Canyon Earth Builders builds only custom homes they plan from scratch with their clients. Although rammed earth is their specialty, they also build frame homes.

"Our next home is a hybrid," Bellestri-Martinez said. "It will have a frame exterior and rammed earth walls on the interior."

To increase energy efficiency, they typically install aluminum-clad wood windows and spray foam insulation into the

roof cavity and garages, which are not rammed earth.

About 80 percent of their projects are for out-of-town buyers who find them on their website, Bellestri-Martinez said.

She said in the past two months she has seen an uptick in activity, receiving calls from people who are now ready to move to Las Cruces. Among there are a man from Maryland who plans to retire, a couple relocating here for a job and people from Seattle.

Before a contract is signed for any project, everything that will be in the house - from appliances to door knobs - is selected.

"We want to choose everything before we break ground so that we can create a budget before construction starts," Bellestri-Martinez said. "We go

shopping together and then we transfer all the information to spec sheets. That creates an atmosphere of openness and transparency and we learn to work together so they can get the home they want."

When a home is completed, the clients get a book with "all the important things they need to know about their house" and invoices for everything it contains.

Bellestri-Martinez said she enjoys creating homes for new people who put their trust in her team.

"I love building that relationship," she said. "A lot of our clients are now close friends."

Hanging out with smart people

In addition to her work with the state Home Builders Associa-

tion, Bellestri-Martinez is active in the local and national organizations.

She said during her 20 years with the Las Cruces Home Builders Association she has served on many committees, including membership and Showcase of Homes and as secretary of the board. She continues to work on the membership committee and is an advisory member of the board on behalf of the New Mexico Home Builders Association board.

"It gives me a lot of pleasure to have learned so much from a lot of smart business people," she said. "I love hearing their perspectives."

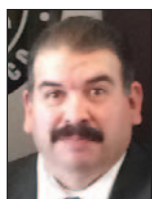
Alta LeCompte can be reached at 680-1840 or alta@lascrucesbulletin.com.

Law enforcement pro to seek House seat

Bulletin report

State Rep. Jeff Steinborn has cast his gaze on a run for a spot in the New Mexico Senate next year, so his District 35 House of Representatives seat will be up for grabs in 2016.

Las Cruces Paul "Pablo" Martinez an-



MARTINEZ

nounced he will seek the job.

Martinez, a Democrat, is a retired corrections administrator with the New Mexico Correc-

tions Department and owns a private investigations business.

Martinez is currently a contract investigator with the office of inspector general in the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department and reports he previously served on the New Mexico Gang Task

Force and was a contract investigator/inspector general with the 3rd Judicial District Attorney's Office.

Martinez said he plans to use his background in criminal justice to advocate for stricter legislation that protects victims of violent crimes and to

help promote public safety.

"I bring a diverse experience in law enforcement and corrections and have volunteered for over 30 years as a civil rights leader fighting for equity and inclusion for all people of color, particularly in the Hispanic commu-

nity," he said in a release. "I believe this experience provides me an objective and balanced approach to understanding the needs of our communities and neighborhoods in the areas of public safety, education, economic development, health and labor management."

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University students participate in a STEM workforce development initiative in which small businesses in San Miguel provide job experience for the student students. The program is a collaboration among Achieving in Research, Math & Science (ARMAS) Center, the Las Vegas/San Miguel Entrepreneurial Network and Los Alamos National Laboratory's Community Programs Office.



Program offers students small-business experience

By Carole Rutten
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Forestry professor Edward Martinez initiated the program to support small businesses while increasing students' chances of success.



ED MARTINEZ

Preparing college students for a career involves more than just filling their heads with knowledge. It includes giving them a realistic idea of what employers will expect from them once they graduate.

Several students at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) are getting this well-rounded perspective as part of a workforce development initiative of the university's Achieving in Research, Math & Science (ARMAS) Center, the Las Vegas/San Miguel Entrepreneurial Network and Los Alamos National Laboratory's Community Programs Office.

The collaboration supports small businesses in San Miguel County by providing meaningful work experiences for undergraduate students who are pursuing bachelor's degrees at NMHU.

"The literature shows that students who participate in internships or service projects related to their discipline are more successful (in school) than those who don't," said Edward Martinez, a forestry professor in NMHU's Department of Natural Resources Management and coordinator of the ARMAS Center, which aims to recruit and retain students majoring in science, technology, engineering or math — the STEM disciplines — and see them through to graduation.

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) collaboration was Martinez's second foray into job placement for students.

His first grant-funded project placed STEM students in Las Vegas-area government and nonprofit settings doing natural-resource-man-

agement tasks. The success of that model led the university into a placement program with broader economic development ambitions and a partnership with LANL and the Las Vegas/San Miguel Entrepreneurial Network, which acted as the liaison between the university and local businesses.

Participating businesses are required to submit job descriptions and describe specific projects they'd like the student interns to tackle. This helps the internship coordinator match students with compatible businesses.

While the program pays the student's salary during the internship, the business owners or managers must provide mentorship that's tailored to the student's ambitions and helps the student develop critical work-related skills. "They're not just taking on an employee," Martinez said. "We want businesses to treat them like interns and mentor them — help them develop skills."

Semilla Natural Foods in Las Vegas was among the first businesses to participate in the program when it launched this spring. "We were so excited with our first intern and she's going to stay for a while — that we got two more, because we couldn't pick between them," store manager Debbie Morse said.

Interns begin by learning how the store operates - how to receive shipments and read invoices, how to price products and verify which are organic. Besides their routine work duties, Morse said, the interns have time to work on special projects geared toward their area of study.

The pharmacology major developed a storyboard about herbs with natural healing properties, which the store uses to educate consumers. The student majoring in biology and hoping to become an ophthalmologist is working on a project about herbs that support eye health. The

MVEDA FROM PAGE A20

down and talking to companies and understanding their issues instead of just surveying them."

As a result, MVEDA has gained a greater understanding of what the economic development organization and its partners need to do to assist existing businesses that want to grow.

Lopez said staff have been meeting regularly with existing companies and implementing new tools to make it possible for them to stay and to grow in Doña Ana County.

Among the existing companies adding jobs are third-party call centers, which Lopez said is a national trend.

Lopez said these businesses now can tap into state incentives previously not available to them because the state felt they were not going to be around for the long haul.

Third-party all denters now are on a par with other call centers, he said.

"Sitel, Convegys, Cyracom — they've all been here seven, eight, nine years and they're trying to find ways to grow," Lopez said.

"They all have expanded at higher wages."

Lopez said during the fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30 2015, 454 new economic-based jobs were created and 29 companies paid site visits to the area.

"I'm very proud to say we've had another phenomenal year," Lopez said. "Not our best year ever, but a phenomenal year."

MVEDA targets aerospace, ag products industries

Lopez said MVEDA has generated a lot of leads in back office and manufacturing in the past two years.

He said MVEDA's efforts to diversify the local economy in the past two years have focused heavily on aerospace activity and value-added agriculture.

"We're getting more looks from those industries," he said. "We are able to capture the attention of the companies with our unique assets."

He said although some 423,000 square feet of industrial and commercial space has been created, the county

needs more.

"We're down to almost zero in Santa Teresa and the city is getting very narrow in terms of space that fits companies' needs," Lopez said.

He called for the construction of spec buildings and streamlining of permitting processes in both the county and city.

"If we want to compete, we have to be at four months" for the construction of industrial and commercial buildings, Lopez said.

Ads grab the spotlight

Lopez said MVEDA this year has created a series of superhero ads starring Captain Expansion that are running in trade magazines, positioning New Mexico as the superhero state.

"I think it's working for us," he said, stating that the trade magazines are now requesting articles from MVEDA.

In another new initiative, MVEDA is partnering with New Mexico State University's Arrowhead Center to "hand hold" young, innovative companies as they compete online for crowd funding.

"We have not seen another economic development organization around the county doing this," he said.

MVEDA is partnering with Doña Ana Community College, the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the New Mexico Workforce Connection to provide Job to Career Readiness Boot Camps aimed at improving the soft skills of job seekers.

To date, 2,600 people - more than 1,400 of them high school students — have participated in 10 events.

"We're not educators, but we felt we (MVEDA) needed to get involved," Lopez said.

He said Boot Camps acquaint job seekers with employer expectation and show them how to home in on their soft skills.

Lopez said some 30 percent of Doña Ana residents age 20 to 29 are not in the workforce.

"This is our future, this is what we're dealing with, what we need to improve," he said.

Alta LeCompte can be reached at 680-1840 or alta@lascrucesbulletin.com

BRIEFS

Arrowhead CEO to speak Oct. 30

Kathryn Hansen, director and chief executive officer of Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University, will present an update on Arrowhead's technology transfer initiatives at the High Tech Consortium of Southern New Mexico meeting 11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30, at the Sunset Grille, Sonoma Ranch Golf Course, 1274 Golf Club Road.

Hansen has extensive experience in management of programs and in business and technology development. She has managed large technology development contracts for both the private and public sector.

She has served NMSU for more than 25 years in several positions, including co-director of the Aerospace and Autonomous Systems Laboratory and business development director for the Physical Science Laboratory.

Anyone interested in grow-

ing technology in southern New Mexico is encouraged to attend. The price for meeting attendance (no lunch) is \$5; meeting attendance with lunch is \$20.

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

MVEDA to report on year's accomplishments

The November MVEDA Business in the Borderplex Forum will focus on MVEDA's activities during the current fiscal year and a review FY 2014-15.

The forum will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

Davin Lopez, CEO, will give an update on MVEDA's progress year-to-date in meeting its board-approved performance goals. Copies of the recently released FY '15 Annual Report will be available at the meeting.

The meeting will begin with a hot entrée buffet.

Advance registration is \$20, payable by major credit card

via the secure PayPal portal on the registration form at www.mveda.com. Payment at the door with cash, check or credit card is \$25.

Kiplinger, Business Facilities rank NM in Top 10

New Mexico has some new rankings to talk about.

The state just made the Top 10 six times on two notable lists by Kiplinger and Business Facilities magazine

The first is Kiplinger's list of Most Tax-Friendly States in the U.S. where New Mexico came in at No. 8, sandwiched between Arizona and Nevada.

Primarily based on lifestyle, the Kiplinger list points out that with the ability of today's workforce to literally work from anywhere that there are still some common-sense things to consider when deciding where to live like taxes.

Second, is the recently released issue of Business Facilities magazine which features its 11th Annual Rankings Report.

New Mexico made the Top 10 in the following five categories:

- No. 3 Education: Tech Skills Leader
- "... New Mexico has pioneered dual-credit tech programs that give high school students a leg up on two-year tech school degree programs."
- No. 5 Workforce Training
- "New Mexico has enacted several enhancements to its job training incentive program (JTIP), including streamlined application procedures and expansion of the JTIP program to more industries. The program is now a recurrent part of NM's state budget, which is a significant commitment to continuity."
- No. 9 Renewable Portfolio Standards Leader
- No. 10 Best Infrastructure
- No. 10 Solar Power Installation Leader

In the same issue, New Mexico is also included in a location section focused on the digital media industry: Digital Media Is on the Move.

PROGRAM

FROM PAGE A22

other intern, a conservation management major, created a display about companies that don't use genetically modified products for the October commemoration of Non-GMO Month.

Other area businesses participating in the project include Energy Concepts and Balanced Health Acupuncture.

As part of the three-way partnership, Martinez will provide leadership to a committee of higher education, secondary education, business and community members who want to establish an ARMAS-like initiative in Los Alamos and other nearby counties. The funding for this initiative was provided by Los Alamos National Security LLC, the company that manages the laboratory.

For more information, visit www.lanl.gov/community-environment/community-commitment/index.php.

Carole Rutten, deputy director, Los Alamos National Laboratory Community Programs Office, prepared this article for Finance New Mexico, a public service initiative to assist individuals and businesses with obtaining skills and funding resources for their business or idea. For more information, go to www.FinanceNewMexico.org.

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Ags hope to scare up Halloween win

Bulletin report

Ghosts of Aggie football teams past have risen their head this season as the New Mexico State program, with just five winning seasons in 55 years, has fallen to 0-7 on the season with a 52-7 shutdown at the hands of Troy on Oct. 24— just the second victory for Troy this year.

The defeat marked the 17th straight loss for the Aggies, dating back to 2014.

So the ghosts are hanging around Aggie Memorial Stadium again this year, but the Aggies, 0-3 in Sun Belt play — hope to perform an exorcism at

6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31 when they play host to the Idaho Vandals in a Halloween clash.

Idaho (4-3, 2-2) is coming off its second-straight conference win after topping ULM 27-13 at home in the Kibbie Dome Oct. 24. Quarterback Matt Linehan led the team as he went 23-of-39 for 315 yards, three touchdowns and an interception. Elijah Penny led the Vandals' rushing efforts as he amassed 184 yards on 34 carries.

NM State and Idaho have met 21 times before, with the Vandals

SEE **AGS**, PAGE A25

New Mexico State University running back Larry Rose III looks for room against Troy, Saturday Oct. 24 at Aggie Memorial Stadium. Rose rushed for 180 yards and scored NMSU's sole touchdown in a 52-7 loss. The Aggies next play Idaho.

BULLETIN PHOTO
BY CHRISTOPHER BELARDE



Guests file into the new Club 27 presidential skybox at Aggie Memorial Stadium immediately following a ribbon-cutting ceremony held just outside the venue. (NMSU photo by Darren Phillips)

NMSU opens new stadium skybox

Justin Bannister
For the Bulletin

Amid cheers, applause and a newly cut ribbon, New Mexico State University celebrated the official opening of Club 27, the university's new skybox at Aggie Memorial Stadium during a ceremony on Oct. 24. The event coincided with the NMSU Homecoming football game.

"We're excited, not just for this new facility, but to also work with everyone who made it happen," said NMSU President Garrey Carruthers. "We are pleased to renew a partnership with our friends at Citizens Bank of Las Cruces. We're also grateful for the continuing support of Stan Fulton. Both were instrumental in making this a reality."

Club 27 is funded exclusively through private donations, including \$1 million from Stan Fulton, owner of the Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino, and an additional contribution from Citizens Bank of Las Cruces.

"We are extremely pleased to be a contributor to the Club 27 project and New Mexico State University," said George Ruth, president of Citizens Bank of Las Cruces. "Our partnership and friend-

ship with the university over the years has benefited both institutions and the Las Cruces community."

Carruthers credited Rick Baugh, general manager of Sunland Park Race-track and Casino, for the original vision to have a place at Aggie Memorial Stadium dedicated to hosting donors and guests.

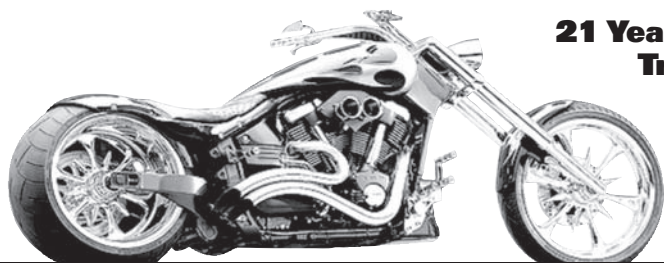
"Skyboxes are important for Division 1 athletic programs," Carruthers said. "This space will be critical for raising dollars from donors who give not only to athletics, but also to academics. We know our guests will enjoy the experience of being with their fellow Aggies and cheering on our team. We're also proud when we can use Aggie-owned businesses for a project like this. The furniture, civil engineering firm, signage and other pieces of the facility were provided by NMSU grads."

Club 27 is approximately 2,000 square feet, including an exterior terrace, and was constructed on the east side of Aggie Memorial Stadium.

The facility provides space for the university to entertain guests as well as

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SEE **STADIUM**, PAGE A25

AGS

FROM PAGE A24

holding a 15-6 series advantage. The two teams last met on Oct. 18, 2014 in Moscow, Idaho, a 29-17 Vandals victory.

Bright spot

While few things went right for the Aggies in their 45-point loss to Troy, sophomore running back Larry Rose III continued his hot pace. Rose, who scored NM-SU's sole touchdown on a 13-yard pass from quarterback Andrew Allen, rambled for 180 yards on the ground. He now has 1,973 career rushing yards, which ranks ninth all-time for the Aggies.

Rose has 871 rushing yards for the season as he eyes his second 1,000-yard rushing season.

Additionally, Rose led the team in receiving with five catches for a career-high 67 yards and one touchdown. The receiving touchdown is the first he has had since his first game in an Aggie uniform, the 2014 season opener against Cal Poly. He has 180 receiving yards on 20 catches for 2015.

Behind center, Allen went 13-of-33 for 161 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions. The sophomore quarterback is 43-of-84 for 469 yards and four touchdowns in his two games this season as senior quarterback Tyler Rogers is out with a thumb injury that has sidelined him for the past three games.

On defense, Derek Ibekwe and Dalton Herrington both racked up eight tackles, and Herrington added one tackle for a loss. Ibekwe leads the team with 65 tackles and 4.5 tackles for loss through seven games. The sophomore also has a forced fumble on the season. Herrington has 34 tackles, 3.0 tackles for loss and an interception.



NMSU PHOTO BY DARREN PHILLIPS

NMSU celebrated the official opening of Club 27, the university's new skybox at Aggie Memorial Stadium during a Homecoming ceremony on Oct. 24.

STADIUM

FROM PAGE A24

visiting university presidents.

The space can also be rented during high school football games at the stadium and for special events. For more information about renting the facility, contact 575-646-5567 or presevents@nmsu.edu.

Last week, NMSU Regents approved naming the skybox Club 27. It had previously been known as just the presidential skybox. The new name acknowledges NMSU President Garrey Carruthers

who served as the 27th governor of New Mexico and the 27th president of NMSU. Carruthers is also the only NMSU Aggie to hold those positions.

Since Carruthers became president in 2013, nearly all improvements to NMSU athletic facilities have been secured through private funding, including installation of new turf for Aggie Memorial Stadium, renovations to Presley Askew Field, a renovated weight training facility for all NMSU athletes, and locker room improvements for both the football team as well as the swimming and diving team.

Prep scores

Football
Centennial 55, Valencia 13
Mayfield 53, Deming 7
Oñate 38, Gadsden 0
Tularosa 20, Mesilla Valley
Christian 12

PREP SCHEDULES

Friday, Oct. 30

Football
Mayfield at Gadsden, 7 p.m.
Las Cruces at Oñate, 7 p.m.

Boys soccer – state tournament

Goddard at Centennial, 5 p.m.
Gadsden at Las Cruces, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31

Girls soccer – state tournament

Los Lunas at Centennial, 11 a.m.
Sandia at Las Cruces, 1 p.m.

Volleyball

Las Cruces at Gadsden, noon
Oñate at Mayfield, noon
Santa Teresa at Centennial, 1 p.m.

Cross country

Centennial – district meet at Valencia

Volleyball

Centennial at Valencia, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 5

Football

Santa Teresa at Centennial, 7 p.m.

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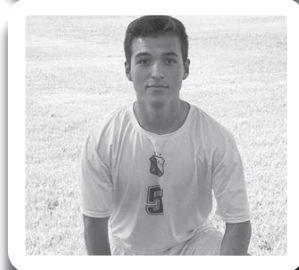
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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Bulletin

Alaniz Salas is a 17-year-old senior at Las Cruces High School. She plays striker on the Lady Bulldawgs soccer team. This season, Salas has had 13 goals and seven assists. She is adaptable, positive, intelligent, respectful, very coachable, a great leader and always carries a good sense of humor. Salas is a dedicated student with a 3.76 GPA and when not in school or on the soccer field, enjoys rugby, her family, church and student government.



Henry "Kiki" Najera is a 17-year-old senior who plays striker on the Bulldawgs soccer team. He currently leads 6A boys soccer with 43 points and 18 goals, including seven goals in district 3. Four of those goals came last week in a 4-0 win over Oñate. Najera does all he can for the team. He has energy for days and strongly supports his brother who is on the JV team. He works hard in the classroom, has a 3.0 GPA and is always in a good mood. Outside of school and soccer, Najera enjoys spending time with his family, long boarding and lifting weights.



CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Gage M. Gavin Memorial PGM Golf Tournament is slated for November

With an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start, on Saturday, Nov. 7, a fundraising golf tournament is scheduled to take place at Las Cruces Golf Club at Sonoma Ranch to help fund an endowment and honor the memory of Gage Gavin, beloved son of Gavin and Tamara Gavin.

Gage was a very special person and a recent graduate of Oñate High School, who passed away in his sleep June 22. Pat Gavin is a longtime and highly valued friend who has served as Director of the PGA Golf Management Program – known locally as PGM – at New Mexico State University from 1993 to present.

The Gage M. Gavin Memorial PGA Golf Management Golf Tournament is planned for there to be two flights: A “friends and family” flight and a “PGM and associates” flight. Should there be more players and teams than cur-



Charlie Blanchard
Golf Doctor

rently expected, an afternoon shotgun will be arranged. During the luncheon, which will be provided by LCGC at Sonoma Ranch, a raffle and a live auction will be held as part of the fundraising effort.

The \$100 per player registration – four to a scramble team – includes green fee, cart, lunch and prizes. A \$1,000 major sponsor payment includes your four-player team and a “tee sponsorship.”

A basic Tee Sponsor is \$200, entitling your organization to have a sign displayed on a particular teeing ground. For other details you may contact Pat Gavin at (575) 649-8993. Flyers with entry forms for the tourna-

ment are available in the lobby at LCGC at Sonoma Ranch.

Soon after Gage’s passing, Pat Gavin established the Gage M. Gavin Endowed PGA Golf Management Scholarship. He explained the endowment as follows: “This endowed scholarship will allow Gage’s memory to live on forever. Every dollar donated will go directly to this memorial endowed scholarship to help PGM students with learning disabilities. Our goal is to raise \$150,000 over the next three years for this scholarship.

The scholarship fund has already become endowed, which ensures that the scholarship will payout every year. The money is put into a university foundation account and the annual interest will be dispersed as a yearly scholarship. Since the principal is not touched, this endowed scholarship will con-

tinue forever.”

What is equally significant in terms of funding is the fact that NMSU has announced #Giving Tuesday, which means on December 1st every dollar donated to a scholarship anywhere on campus will be matched by the university dollar for dollar. Since the golf tournament qualifies the donations and entry fees from that event will be deposited on December 1. In effect, golfers who play and donate more will get to contribute twice as much.

Back last November, Pat Gavin was the recipient of the 2014 PGA National Horton Smith Award in recognition of his contributions to professional development and education within the golf industry.

Prior to that national tribute he had received the same award at the regional level – the Sun Country PGA Sec-

tion that encompasses New Mexico and Far West Texas – thirteen times.

He took over as director of the PGM program in 1993, which was started as an official NMSU academic program by longtime legendary Aggie Golf Coach and College Coaches Hall of Fame member Herb Wimberly.

The Gage Gavin Golf Tournament proceeds will, of course, be deposited in lump sum. But individual contributions to the Gage Gavin Endowment, as separate from the tournament, can be made with credit card or a check payable to NMSU Foundation, and mailed to NMSU PGA Golf Management Program, Box 30001, Dept. PGM, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

“We’re expecting that this event and funding effort will go as planned and it will make a big difference in a lot of lives,” Gavin says.

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Chess champ, 11, tests the players' skills

By Susie Ouder Kirk
Las Cruces Bulletin

Where in Las Cruces can you find upwards of 70 excited kids strategizing, charting, formulating, projecting and executing precise and intricate battle plans in an environment of friendship and camaraderie? At the Boys and Girls Chess Club, of course! A project developed at the Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces in May of 2014 has involved more than 120 kids in the “thinking man’s game” of chess. To test their collective skills, on Oct. 15 the Club hosted a very special young chess champ to play six simultaneous matches in a celebration of the sport.

Eleven year old Sophia Moore, the daughter of Chris and Katya Moore, is a 6th grader at Camino Real Middle School and has been playing chess since 3rd grade. She has won 3 first place finishes in rated chess tournaments, and is the 2015 New Mexico State K-6 Champion. She currently holds a United States Chess Federation rating of 1096. But she’s just a regular kid who likes volleyball, story writing and swimming.

Sophia joined a dozen young chess players at the Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces to play six simultaneous games, chat with the other players and give advice. The event was created by Bill Bradley, volunteer chess club coordinator (“Grampa Memo” to the kids). He sees chess as a vehicle for things that will be good in the students’ lives.

“We use chess as a way to build self-confidence and self-esteem. Each child is constantly praised for effort and improvement. We also think chess helps build different kinds of thinking skills



including critical thinking, decision-making, creativity and innovation,” Bradley said.

According to Ashley Echavarría, Boys and Girls Club chief professional officer, the importance of the chess program here is not just about chess: “It’s about relationships. The relationships the kids build with adults and each other. It’s about how they look forward to seeing Grampa Memo.”

Ten year old Emma Christiano, who attends Mesilla Park Elementary, and has the reputation of being one of the best players in the Club explains, “Patience is what I’m learning from chess right now.” And, she added, “I like the strategizing. I like putting it all together to learn how different people play and trying to beat a good ranked player.” When she grows up she wants a job “in education. And to be a professional basketball player.”

Patience is a word that came up a lot during the informal matches. Uni-

versity Hills Elementary student Marcuss Flores, 9, agrees with what club mate Emma said, “My favorite thing about chess is patience. It taught me to be quiet in school.” Marcuss used to get in trouble a lot for talking,

and chess helped him change that.

Like her colleagues, Sophia Moore said that what she likes best about chess is how it takes patience. “You have to sit through long matches.” When asked if chess relates to

things in real life, she nodded and said, “It’s like middle school! You have to know end games and how to attack. Plus you need to learn to lose well.”

Sophia ended up winning 12 out of 12 matches against the Club players,

and then won matches against two adult staff members. She believes that her chess skills will help her later in life when she becomes an ER doctor. “You have to be patient, calm yourself down, and do what you need to do,” she said.

According to “Grampa Memo” Bill Bradley, what the Boys and Girls Chess Club could use the most of right now is adult volunteers to just play matches with the kids.

The Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces in a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving children ages 6 to 18 after school and during summer, winter and other breaks by providing a safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, life enhancing programs and character development experiences, hope and opportunity. The local chapter is located at 330 W. Las Cruces Ave. and can be contacted at 526-1519.

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The New Mexico State football team wore pink jerseys in honor of its game against Troy Saturday, Oct. 24 being tabbed the Tough Enough To Wear Pink outing. The contest also marked the university's homecoming. Pink is used as a recognition of the fight against breast cancer.



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MAGDALENA "NENA" JACQUES GUZMAN

October 18, 2015

MAGDALENA "NENA" JACQUES GUZMAN, 85, of Las Cruces passed away Sunday, October 18, 2015 at La Posada Mesilla Valley Hospice. Services are pending with Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces and Sunset Crematory. 527-2222

AYDEN ARMANDO ESNAYDER

October 19, 2015

AYDEN ARMANDO ESNAYDER, 15, of Las Cruces died Monday, October 19, 2015 at his home. Services are pending with Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces.

ANGEL FERNANDEZ YAÑEZ

October 19, 2015

ANGEL FERNANDEZ YAÑEZ, age 64, of Las Cruces passed away Monday, October 19, 2015. Services are pending with Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces 527-2222.

MICAELA BARRAZA GALVAN

September 29, 1915 to October 16, 2015

MICAELA BARRAZA GALVAN, gently took our Lord's hand on Friday, October 16, 2015, at Mesilla Valley Hospice-La Posada surrounded by her loving family.

Micaela was born to Juanita and Manuel Barraza and recently celebrated her 100th birthday, on September 29, 2015 born in Mesilla, she helped her parents raise

her brothers and sisters as well as worked at the "Rancho".

The family would like to express their heartfelt love and appreciation to Mom's special niece, Roberta Barraza and our Tia Cuca who were with our family throughout these dark days.

Also to the wonderful staff at Mesilla Valley Hospice-La Posada for the

amazing care, love and respect they gave to our Mother.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces 527-2222. For online condolences logon to www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com



IRMA BORUNDA

May 18, 1973 to October 13, 2015

IRMA BORUNDA, age 42, of Las Cruces entered eternal life Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at Mountain View Regional Medical Center surrounded by her loving family. She was born May 18, 1973 in El Paso, Texas.

Irma was employed as a staff developer in Home Health Care and was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Borunda and Bane-gas Families have entrusted their loved one to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces 527-2222.

For online condolences logon to www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com

COSME S. DELGADO

April 2, 1920 to October 13, 2015

COSME S. DELGADO, 95, of Las Cruces entered eternal life Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born to Cosme and Soledad Sanchez Delgado on April 2, 1920 in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico. Cosme was an automotive mechanic by trade who was well known and loved by everyone.

sive providers for "Veterans and Family Memorial Care." For online condolences logon to www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com



Entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces. 527-2222 Your exclu-

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.

HOMELESS FROM PAGE A11

In need of support

The greatest need faced by the coalition and its member programs is housing, she said. Helping an individual find a one-room apartment is challenging enough, she said; but, a "decent and livable" two- or three-bedroom apartment for a family is harder to find, Silva said.

And, "supporting our community agencies is

key." If, for example, Casa de Peregrinos runs out of food, "we have nowhere to send our families," she said.

Clothing is also a major need, along with diapers and formula at Jardin de los Niños.

The coalition doesn't take cash donations, but Silva said it can tell potential donors where to send their checks, clothing, food, toys, books and

other donated items.

The Homeless Coalition was created more than a dozen years ago. After a period of inactivity, it started up again about four years ago, Silva said. "We're committed, we're dedicated; and we really want to see best services our there for families to succeed," she said.

The coalition meets from 9 to 10:30 a.m. the third Friday of the month, except in June, July, August and December. Every

month, coalition members meet at the office of a different participating agency so all members can learn about their coalition partners, Silva said.

Here is a list of upcoming meetings and their locations: Nov. 20: Gospel Rescue Mission;

Jan. 22: Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity administrative offices; Feb. 19: New Mexico Law Access administrative offices; April 15: Mesilla Valley Hospital; and May 20:

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. All meetings are open to the public.

For more information, contact Silva at 527.5913 or ysilva@lcps.k12.nm.us.



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Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 1

Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 1, 2015, so don't forget to set your clocks back before you go to bed Saturday night.

DST was first enacted in the United States on March 19, 1918, according to <http://www.webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/e.html>. It was repealed in 1919, when Congress overrode President Woodrow Wilson's veto. President Franklin Roosevelt instituted year-round DST – called “war time” – from Feb., 1942 to Sept. 30, 1945. There was no federal regarding DST from 1945 to 1966, so states could choose whether or not to observe it and when it began and ended.

President Richard Nixon signed the Emergency DST Energy Conservation Act of 1973 into law on Jan. 4, 1974, which resulted in DST beginning two days later. Congress amended the law, returning Standard Time in October 1974, with DST resuming on Feb. 23, 1975.

Until 2006, DST ended the last Sunday in October. President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in August 2005, which changed the law changed so that New Mexico and most other states “will begin Daylight Saving Time at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March and revert to standard time on the first Sunday in November,” according to the website.

Thanking Walmart



BULLETIN PHOTO BY MIKE COOK

Left to right are Walt Baker, president of the American Legion Post 10 Riders of Chapter 4 of Las Cruces; Las Cruces Walmart store managers Joel Aguilar (Rinconada Boulevard store), DeAnna Leyba (Valley Drive store) and Tobias Flores (Walton Boulevard store); American Legion Post 10 chaplain Lawrence Orvis and Dwight Weir of the post. All three Las Cruces Walmart stores were honored for their support of American Legion food drives and fundraisers, including Operation Wounded Warrior and Comfort Items Needed in 2015. All of the legion's food drives and fundraisers benefit homeless veterans and other homeless people at the Community of Hope and the Gospel Rescue Mission.

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Accountability and Education in New Mexico and the U.S.

The Accountability Movement and the Great Lie: Limitations of Standardized Testing and How These Tests do not Demonstrate Teacher Effectiveness or What Students Know
by Dr. Michael Morehead, Former Dean of the College of Education, NMSU

A Review of Data We Can and Cannot Trust as Derived from Standardized Test Usage in New Mexico
by M. Kim Johnson, former president of the Coalition for Excellence in Science and Math Education, and Past President of the New Mexico Academy of Science

High-Stakes Assessment for Students Who Receive Special Education Services
by Dr. Karen Potter, Assistant Professor, Special Education & Communication Disorders, College of Education, NMSU

Current Climate in Education Leading to Teacher Shortages: What Are We Doing About It?
by Dr. Karen Trujillo, Research and Technology Specialist, College of Education, NMSU

Wednesdays (4th and 11th) and Mondays (9th & 16th)

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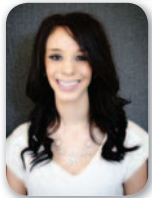
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Don't forget to Fall Back! Set your clocks back an hour on Sunday, November 1st at 2AM!

Meet Our Newest Agent, Kaitlin Munoz



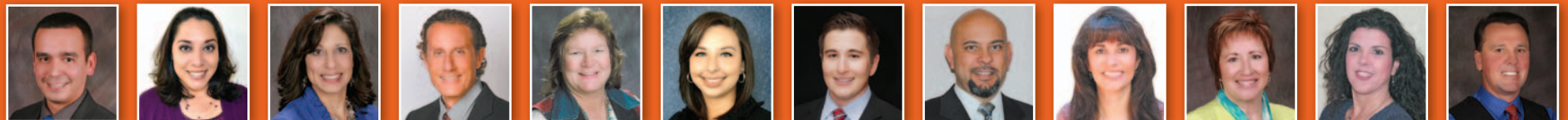
As a new Associate Broker I pledge to learn the business from every angle so that whenever a situation comes up, I can help you to the best of my abilities. I hope to make the process of buying a home an easy and enjoyable experience. I have lived in Las Cruces all my life and know the area; an aspect that can help your real estate needs. Call Kaitlin today at 575-649-9038 or e-mail krealty95@gmail.com



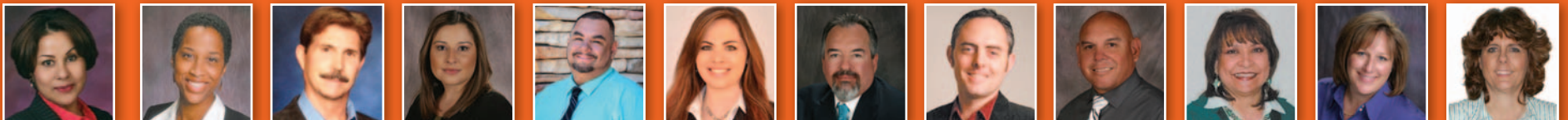
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COFFEE, PASTRY & CURRENT EVENTS

Free coffee and pastry served along with lively discussions at "Coffee & Current Events" at the Sage Café, 6121 Reynolds Drive.

olds Drive.

From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday, participants can talk about what's going on over coffee and pastries.

Call 528-3151 for more information or for directions.

ENHANCE FITNESS

Enhance Fitness with Alex Palacios is free from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at the Sage Café Senior Center, 6121 Reynolds Drive.

Call 528-3151 for more information.

Enhance Fitness is also held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

For more information, call 528-3000.

DANCESPORT

New Mexico State University's DanceSport team teaches two weekly lessons from 7 to 8 p.m. and from 8 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in the Rentfrow Gym, 3165 Williams Ave. The first class is a beginner class and is free.

The second class costs \$5 and is intermediate. For information, call 646-5704.

AEROBICS

Move to music through exercises designed to increase strength.

Classes are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Meerscheidt Recreation Center,

1600 E. Hadley Ave. Cost is \$2, or \$1 for those 60 or older.

BINGO

Bingo will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays at American Legion Post 10, 1185 E. Madrid Ave.

Doors open at 3:30 p.m. and first game is at 6:30 p.m. Food and sodas will be available.

For more information, call 526 9139.

Free bingo on the East Mesa every Thursday from 1 to 2 p.m. at the

Sage Café Senior Center, 6121 Reynolds Drive.

For more information, call 528-3151.

TRAIN DOMINOES

Come and join the fun at train dominoes Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Sage Café, Senior Center,

6121 Reynolds Drive, on the East Mesa.

New players are welcome.

For more information, call 528-3151.

SHUFFLE BOARD

Shuffle board tournaments are held every Sunday at VFW Post 10124, 709 S. Valley Drive.

Open to all VFW members and their sponsored guests. For more information, call 525 5761.

AQUATICS FITNESS

Aquatics fitness class combines cardio with strength building and is for all ages and fitness levels. Class is from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday.

The classes take place at the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave. Cost is \$2, or \$1 for those 60 or older.




Welcome To Our Team Dr. Kathleen Callaghan OB/GYN

Dr. Callaghan has more than 20 years' experience in obstetrics and gynecology. A passion for medicine runs in the family. Her husband is an ER physician and their children are both pursuing a medical career. Dr. Callaghan is dedicated to being involved in the community, with a special focus on high-risk young women.

Education

MD, Residency and Fellowship training at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Las Cruces PHYSICIAN PRACTICES

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Life is Good in Las Cruces

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2015

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Local theaters set the stage for spooky fun

B8

HOMES & SW LIVING



Safety among ghouls: Keeping safe this Halloween

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DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS



See feature in Arts & Entertainment, B2

Mesilla hosts

DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION

Friday through Monday, Oct. 30-Nov. 2 on the plaza

Mesilla celebrates Dia de los Muertos

By Zak Hansen
Las Cruces Bulletin

Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican traditional holiday honoring and celebrating the souls of the deceased, who are believed to return to Earth once a year to visit loved ones. Each year, altars are constructed and adorned with colorful displays, and the favored food and drinks of loved ones are served in remembrance.

The town of Mesilla's annual Dia de los Muertos celebration returns to plaza this weekend, Friday, Oct. 30, to Monday, Nov. 2.

This year, altar building on the plaza begins at 2 p.m. the day before the festival, Friday, Oct. 30, when friends and family members gather to build shrines to the souls of their departed loved ones, ornamenting them with colorful papel picado and bright yellow marigolds and stocking them offerings of those things the departed – especially food, drinks and personal effects – may want to take with them.

The Dia de los Muertos celebration itself begins at 10 a.m. on All Hallows' Eve, Saturday, Oct. 31, with music from Mobi Disc before the noon opening ceremonies, presented by soloist Linda Goff. That day and throughout the weekend, the plaza will be filled with not only the ofrendas, or offerings, to the dead, but also plenty of delights for the living – food, drinks, arts and crafts and other vendors will have their finest Day of the Dead wares available, along with entertainment throughout the day music from April Ticket (1:30 to 3:30 p.m.), folkloric dancing from Grupo Valle del Sol Folklorico (4 to 5 p.m.) and music from Pop Jazz (6 to 8 p.m.).



Las Cruces artist Ana Valdez donned face paint - and a stuffed monkey atop her shoulder - during the town of Mesilla's 2012 Dia de los Muertos celebration.

The hour in between performances – 5 to 6 p.m. – the town goes quiet as the Basilica of San Albino, at the northern end of the plaza, holds evening services.

On Sunday, Nov. 1 – All Saints Day – the festival opens again with opening ceremonies and a song by Goff at noon, followed by performances from Latin

SEE DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS, PAGE B11



Ernestina, Alice and Sabina Quientero sit together at a booth at the 2013 Dia de los Muertos festival in Mesilla.

History of Dia de los Muertos

Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, has its roots dating back more than 3,000 years to Aztec and Meso-American civilizations, which used skulls and bones in rituals intended to honor and celebrate the dead. The souls of the departed were believed to return to the corporeal realm during a month-long ritual, which fell in the ninth month of the Aztec calendar, around the beginning of August in the Gregorian calendar.

When the Spanish arrived to the area more than 500 years ago, they encountered this tradition and its seeming mocking of death – viewed by the Catholic Spaniards as the end of life and certainly no laughing matter, if not outright sacrilege – and attempted, unsuccessfully, to eradicate the practice.

Instead, over time, the ancient Aztec ritual gradually merged with Catholic tradition and the Spanish moved the remnant holiday to coincide with the Christian triduum of Allhallowtide: All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day – Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.

Today, the holiday retains its focus on celebrating the lives of friends and family members who have died through the building of altars, called ofrendas ("offerings"), as well as honoring the deceased with sugar skulls, marigolds and paper flowers, along with the possessions and favorite foods and drinks of the departed, with participants often placing these items at loved ones' gravesites.

While Western Christian remembrances of the deceased often take a serious, somber tone, Dia de los Muertos is filled with bright colors and lively celebrations, recognizing death as a natural part of the human experience and, at times, even mocking or laughing at death through caricature, most recognizably the calacas and calaveras – skeletons and skulls – portrayed as enjoying life and its minutiae, dressed in fantastic clothes and found situated in humorous situations.

Today, Dia de los Muertos is celebrated throughout Mexico and some places in the United States, especially those places with large Hispanic populations.

Glossary:

Altars – Altars and offerings built by the family and friends of the deceased, often stocked with their favorite foods, drinks and possessions. Sometimes called ofrendas.

Calacas – Skeleton figures representing death, often brightly dressed or placed in comical situations.

Calavera – Skull.

Catrina – "Dapper Skeleton" or "Elegant Skull." "La Calavera Catrina," an etching created in the early 20th century by Mexica printmaker José Guadalupe Posada depicting a female skeleton dressed in the trappings of a wealthy European woman. Over time, the image has become an icon of Dia de los Muertos.

Cempazuchitl – Yellow marigold, an Aztec symbol of death often placed on Dia de los Muertos altars.

Copal – A tree resin often burned as incense ceremonially during Mesoamerican rituals, still prevalent in Dia de los Muertos celebrations.

Dia de los Muertos – Day of the Dead.

Iluminación – A cemetery ceremony in which candles are lit intended to guide wandering souls to their respective altars.

Ofrendas – Goods left on altars as offerings to the dead or, sometimes, the altars themselves.

Pan de los muertos – Literally "bread of the dead." A sweet roll traditionally eaten at the gravesite or altar of a loved one. Sometimes flavored with anise or orange flower.

Papel picado – Bright tissue paper with intricate designs cut out, a common Dia de los Muertos decoration.

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Oct 30 - Nov 5

A Walk in the Woods

Travel writer Bill Bryson (**Robert Redford**) takes a long-lost old friend (**Nick Nolte**) for a hike along the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail.

NOTE: There is no Saturday matinee on October 31.

Halloween Late Show! *Nosferatu* 10:45pm

Nov 6 - 12

Learning to Drive

As her marriage dissolves, a Manhattan writer (**Patricia Clarkson**) takes driving lessons from a Sikh instructor (**Ben Kingsley**) with marriage troubles of his own.

Nightly 7:30 pm • Saturday Matinee 1:30 pm • Sunday Matinee 2:30 pm
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Call to Artists

LCCT accepting submissions for 2016-17 season

Las Cruces Community Theatre is now accepting play and musical submissions for its 53rd season. If you are an experienced director and would like to submit a work, please visit <http://lcctnm.org> and download the director's application packet and submit the required items for consideration by the theater's play reading committee.

If you are not an experienced director, but would like to be considered down the road to direct, we can provide opportunities as an assistant director to help you gain the knowledge and experience necessary.

LCCT is always looking for new directors, actors, and volunteers in all areas and would love to have the community involved. See our website for ways to volunteer and for emails of board members who can answer questions.

All submissions must be postmarked on or before Sunday, Nov. 1. Please include appropriate contact information and a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to have your script returned. Mail submissions to: Patrick Payne-LCCT Playreading Chair, 3040 Jennifer Street Las Cruces, NM 88005.

The 53rd season lineup will be announced by the end of January 2016. A list of plays previously presented at LCCT can be found at <http://lcctnm.org/50-years-of-theatre>.

Aa Studios calls for 2016 exhibition proposals

Aa Studios, located 2645 Doña Ana Road, is calling for regional artists in 2016. The 17' by 25' combination studio and gallery features fine contemporary art

from emerging artists and artists with limited local gallery representation.

Owner Roy van der Aa opened his working studio as a gallery in August 2012 and participates in the North Valley Art Loop opening every three months. Five two-month slots are currently available taking two feature walls or the whole gallery. The gallery has posted hours three days per month and is open by appointment the rest of the month.

There is no fee to apply or show, but the gallery takes a 20 percent on work sold. Interested artists can email a proposal, short artist bio, resume and eight JPEG images (4 inches on the longest edge at 150 dpi) to wsiwyg@zianet.com. Proposals are due by Sunday, Nov. 15. For more information, call 520-8752.

Arts Council seeks Downtown Civic Plaza artists

The Doña Ana Arts Council is seeking artists within a 150-mile radius of Las Cruces to design one or more of four features that will be part of the new Las Cruces Downtown Civic Plaza. The four features will include splash pad benches, steel door covers for electrical building, splash pad water feature and a sundial.

Required is a resume, maximum two pages, electronically; five digital images of previous work; rendering of design concept for one or more features; and a short letter of interest, maximum one page, to include how your work will complement and coordinate with the existing Main Street Downtown environment and structural elements. Applicant's name must appear on all materials submitted. Send submissions to admin@daarts.org. No entry fee is required.

Entry deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20. For technical questions, contact Jim Vorenberg at jd-vberg@aol.com or 639-8586. For administrative questions, contact the Doña Ana Arts Council at admin@daarts.org or 523-6403.

Fiber and fabric artists wanted

The Potters' Guild of Las Cruces invites artists who work in fabric and fiber to collaborate with Potters' Guild clay artists to create works for the biennial show "Fire and Fiber" 2016.

For more information and to team up with a Potters' Guild artist, contact Mary Lou LaCasse at 640-0182 or mlacas-searts@gmail.com. For more information on the Potters' Guild of Las Cruces, visit www.pottersguildlc.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FRI OCTOBER 30 • 10:30 A.M. Branigan Library
Rhythm Roundup-Songs/Dances for ages 2-5

FRI OCTOBER 30 • 3:30 P.M. Branigan Library
Library Lab-Stories & Crafts for ages 6-9

FRI OCTOBER 30 • 7:30 P.M. RIO GRANDE THEATRE
Dona Ana Lyric Opera presents a Halloween Opera double bill: "The Cask of Amontillado" and the Verloren Opera "A Tale of Lost Love"

SAT OCTOBER 31 • 1:00 P.M. Branigan Library
Team Anime-for ages 12-18

SAT OCTOBER 31 • 3:00 P.M. RIO GRANDE THEATRE
Dona Ana Lyric Opera presents a Halloween Opera double bill: "The Cask of Amontillado" and the Verloren Opera "A Tale of Lost Love"

TUE+THU NOVEMBER 3+5 • 4:00 P.M. Branigan Library
Teen Game Night-for ages 12-18

THU NOVEMBER 5 • 4:00 P.M. Branigan Library
Beading Workshop

FRI NOVEMBER 6 • 5:00 P.M. RIO GRANDE THEATRE
Art Ramble with artists Sue Bonar and Alia Pinedo

FRI NOVEMBER 6 • 7:00 P.M. RIO GRANDE THEATRE
The City of Las Cruces and the Consulate General of El Paso present Malagueño Variete'

TUE NOVEMBER 10 • 6:30 P.M. RIO GRANDE THEATRE
Every Other Tuesday presents New World Drummers and Dancers

WED NOVEMBER 11 • 7:30 P.M. RIO GRANDE THEATRE
The Las Cruces Civic Concert Association presents the Cotik-Lin Duo

ONGOING EVENTS:

- Downtown Art RAMBLE - 1st Friday of the Month 5-7pm
- Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market - Wed. and Sat. Morn.

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UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Feliz Navidad! Christmas in Song and Dance
December 12, 2015 • 6:30pm
December 13, 2015 • 2pm

Robert Mirabal: January 16, 2016 • 7:30pm
Mark Nizer: January 29, 2016 • 7:30pm
Josh Grider: February 13, 2016 • 7:30pm
Judy Collins: February 21, 2016 • 6pm
Barrage 8: April 8, 2016 • 6pm
Irene Oliver Lewis: April 16, 2016 • 7:30pm
(Dichos de Mi Madre)

Cirque ZumaZuma: April 22, 2016 • 7:30pm

Tickets available online at www.RioGrandeTheatre.com or call (575) 523-6403

Picacho Peak Brewing Co. continues local microbrew boom

By Zak Hansen
Las Cruces Bulletin

For 19 years, husband-and-wife Xavier and Cynthia Mendoza have owned and operated Grapevine Plaza, 3900 W. Picacho Ave., a sprawling, 13-acre space perfect for special events, weddings and caterings.

In recent years, the Mendozas have started to expand their scope, bringing in concerts – including last month’s performance by Little Joe and La Familia, which drew more than 500 people to the facility’s large, well-groomed lawn – and festivals, including 2013’s inaugural Blazin’ Brewfest, sponsored by the New Mexico Brewers Guild, an event so unexpectedly successful, the NMBG has returned to the southern part of the state twice annually since.

Perhaps inspired by the wild success of that sunny day in June that held the NMBG’s first festival, the Grapevine Plaza’s latest expansion – the opening of Picacho Peak Brewing Co. on the plaza’s grounds

– may very well be its greatest, but surely won’t be its last.

Soft-opened in September, Picacho Peak Brewing Co. will toast to its grand opening with an all-day celebration from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, featuring live music, food trucks, fun and, of course, locally brewed craft beer.

The performance lineup includes country-tinged rock from singer-songwriter duo Gertch’s Folly, classic rock ‘n’ roll from Triple Jack and blues, rock and R&B from Derrick Harris. On site, The Greenhaus, 138 Sandwiches and Luchador food trucks will provide food.

For now, Picacho Peak has on-tap five flagship beers – Smooth Stout, Rojo Grande, Angelic Amber Ale, Javelina Black IPA and Roadrunner IPA – meant to cover the tastes of just about any drinker and available year-round. As the brewery moves along, seasonal and specialty brews will be rotated in and out, for



Samples of Picacho Peak Brewing Co.’s five flagship beers: Smooth Stout, Rojo Grande, Angelic Amber, Javelina Black IPA and Roadrunner IPA.

an eventual total of around 15 at all times.

So, how do they stack up?

Picacho Peak’s Smooth Stout lives up perfectly to its name – easy and smooth-drinking, “like morning coffee” as brewer Jim Fulkerson said, but spared the heavy, sometimes syrupy mouthfeel that accompanies many stouts. “This is something you could drink all day long without any remorse,” Fulkerson said.

The Rojo Grande – “Big Red,” named in honor of a friend of Fulkerson’s and rugby player – is a red ale not unlike Killian’s Irish Red, and one of the brewery’s most popular, a fact attributed by General Manager Michael Layton to its “unisex” appeal. Not too heavy, not too light and packed full of flavor, this easy-drinking beer is great for men and women – even, Fulkerson said, those who tend toward the Bud Light side of things. No judgement here. Since

opening the taproom’s doors, the Rojo Grande has been responsible for several converts to the craft side.

A bit hoppier, the Angelic Amber Ale is clean and smooth with a very light amber color, lightly fruity at first with a hoppy bite at the end. “I’ve been surprised by how many people love this one who don’t typically drink IPAs at all,” Fulkerson said. “It’s not biting your tongue off as it goes down, and that’s why the non-hop drinkers are able to drink this so easy.”

Described by its creator as something like a stout and an IPA together, the Javelina Black IPA is deep black in color, deep and rich in body and flavor and hopped from start to finish, a taste profile achieved by Fulkerson’s use of a whopping 18 different hop varieties –

The final of five, Picacho Peak’s Roadrunner IPA is said by Fulkerson to be the people’s choice in

the short time the brewery has been open. With just the right balance between floral and bitter, the hops in the Roadrunner IPA bite back, but not at the expense of drinkability. Perfect for a sunny afternoon, the Bulletin’s own Pam Rossi described the Roadrunner as “the beach in a glass,” and we think she nailed it.

While things are up and running at Picacho Peak, there’s still much more to come. Early reviews (including my own) from customers, even fellow brewers, have been overwhelmingly positive, but one benefit of the soft-open scenario is the flexibility it allows the restaurant and brewery to respond to its customers. If something is good, let them know; if something is bad, let them know – Fulkerson and company can handle it.

“That’s one thing about a brewer – we will definitely talk honestly,” he said with a laugh. “We aren’t shy and we want every-

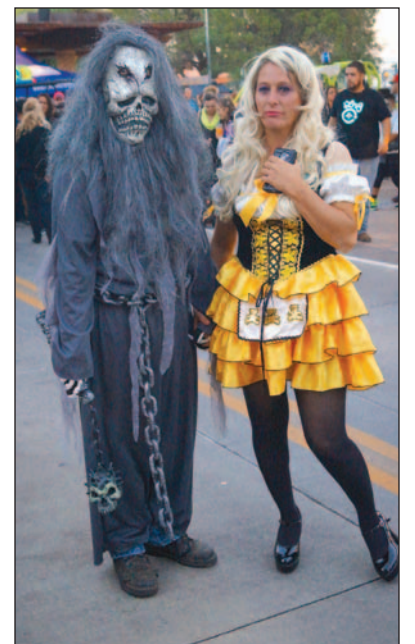
one’s opinion. If they think something sucks, we’re more than happy to handle that.”

With more beer to come – and a larger taproom underway in the building’s rear – the future is bright for Picacho Peak, but the growth won’t stop there. Utilizing the Grapevine’s extensive available space, plans include regular live music, comedy shows, stage plays and dinner theater, movie nights on the lawn, even volleyball courts and rugby pitches. The menu, which currently includes appetizers and classic pub staples along with nightly specials, will change and grow with customer demand and seasonal availability.

As a work in progress, Picacho Peak is already looking great. We can’t wait to see what it will look like when it’s finished.

Zak Hansen can be reached at zak@lascrucesbulletin.com.

Zombie Walk



BULLETIN PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL BENNETT

Thousands of the undead roamed through Downtown Las Cruces during the annual Zombie Walk, held Saturday, Oct. 24, on Main Street.



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Events Calendar

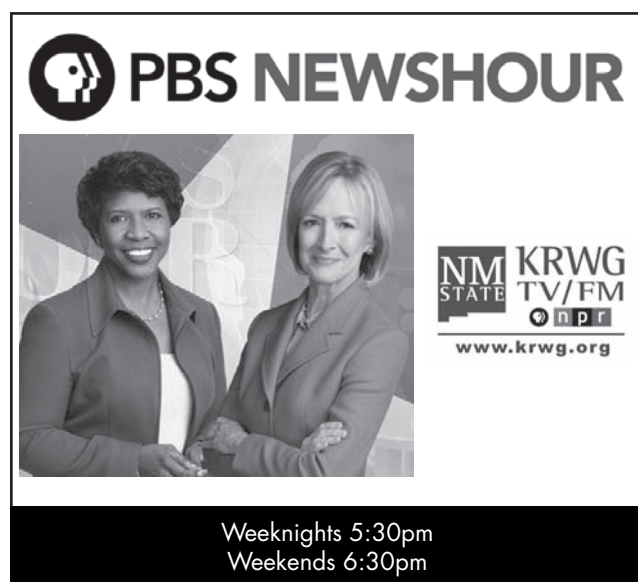
FRI. 10/30

3 p.m. Evolved, 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 discuss what the future may hold for us, as informed by modern philosophy and science. Free. Call 522-3120.

7 p.m. Halloween party featuring live music from Tiffany Christopher, Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Halloween party and costume contest. Green Chile Paddy Wagon will provide food. Call 527-5310.

7 to 10 p.m. Live music with Ghetto Blaster, The Game Sports Bar and Grill, 2605 S. Espina St. No cover. Call 524-4263.

7:30 p.m. Reading: prose writers Matt Bell and Matthew Salesses, Health and Social Services auditorium, NMSU campus. Matt Bell is the author of "Cataclysm Baby" (2012)



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and "Scrapper" (2015), among others. Matthew Salesses is the author of the novel "I'm Not Saying, I'm Just Saying," a novella, "The Last Repatriate" and two ebooks, "Different Racisms" and the forthcoming "All-American Bear Terrorizes Canada," both from Thought Catalog Books. Free.

8 to 10 p.m. Live acoustic rock with Rick Hernandez, Vintage Wines, 2461 Calle de Guadalupe. No cover. Call 523-9463.

9 p.m. Live music with Sancho Katz Band, Pecan Grill & Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd. No cover. Call 521-1099.

SAT. 10/31

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.

9 a.m. to noon, Mountain View Market Co-op Farm volunteer day, Mountain View Market 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 Mountain View Market Farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 523-0436 for directions.

10 a.m. to noon, Sugar Skull workshop, Nopalito's Galeria, 326 S. Mesquite St. Visit the gallery to learn to make Sugar Skull and celebrate and learn about the Mexican traditions of Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. To register call 524-0003 or email galleospatricia0@gmail.com.

10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces, COAS Bookstores, 1101 S. Solano Drive and 317 S. Main St. This week, Gloria Hacker will be the storyteller at the Downtown location and Florence Hamilton 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. This week, we will focus on optical illusions. Join our Mad Scientists for some spooky scientists. The program encourages visitors to embrace their artistic creativity while engaging in educational activities inspired by Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Free. Call 541-2137.

2 to 5 p.m. Fourth annual PITS for Peace Fest, Pioneer Women's Park, 500 W. Las Cruces Ave. The event will include vendors, raffles, dog adoptions, a vaccination clinic, a dog Halloween Costume Contest, and presentation of the Hero Dog Awards. The event celebrates Pit Bull Awareness Month and the peaceful, loving nature of all dogs. All well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome with their families. The festival supports APA's (ACTion Programs for Animals) ongoing work in Dona Ana County to help our shelter and community reach our No Kill goal. To this end, APA has rescued nearly 1,900 animals since 2012, most of which were rescued from the municipal shelter. They rescue the animals who need the most help: cats, kittens, mamas with puppies, shy/timid dogs, heartworm-positive dogs, Chihuahua mixes and many pit bull mixes. Besides shelter animals, APA also helps place many former abuse-case animals from DAC as well as dogs from research facilities when retired.

2 to 6 p.m. Live music with Frontera Jazz, Sombra Antigua

PLAYBILL

LAST CHANCE:

Sweeney Todd

No Strings Theatre Company 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Black Box Theatre 2 p.m. Sunday
430 N. Main St. Through Sunday, Nov. 1
523-1223

Winery, 430 La Viña Road, Chamberino, N.M. No cover. Call 915-241-4349.

5 to 8 p.m. Trunk and Treat, Elks Club 1119, 3000 Elks Drive. The Elks Club will host a "Trunk and Treat" event in the parking lot, with free trick-or-treating and games for children inside the building. Email plawrence13202@msn.com.

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 Overcome Las Cruces, The Game Sports Bar and Grill, 2605 S. Espina St. No cover. Call 524-4263.

8 to 10 p.m. Live rockabilly with Double Clutchers, Vintage Wines, 2461 Calle de Guadalupe. Dress in your best 1950s get up and break out the lettermen jacket – prizes for best-dressed. No cover. Call 523-9463.

8 to 11 p.m. Live rockabilly and outlaw country with Sorry About Your Sister, High Desert Brewing Co., 1201 W. Hadley Ave. No cover. Call 525-6752.

9 p.m. Phantom Halloween Party with DJ Gene-e-ous and Border Avenue, Pecan Grill & Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd. No cover. Call 521-1099.

SUN. 11/1

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 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 p.m. New Horizons Symphony Orchestra concert, Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe Drive on the NMSU campus. Concert featuring NMSU Professor Emeritus of Music Dr. William Leland playing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, Schubert's Unfinished Symphony and Beethoven's Egmont Overture. Directed by Dr. Marianna Gabbi. Free. Call 520-1555 or visit www.nhocruces.com.

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 Travis Manning, Sombra Antigua Winery, 430 La Viña Road, Chamberino, N.M. No cover. Call 915-241-4349.

MON. 11/2

9 p.m. Open Mic hosted by Chris Baker and Friends, Pecan Grill & Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd. No cover. Call 5214-1099.

Local theaters set the stage for spooky fun

Halloween weekend is upon us, and in honor of the holiday, Las Cruces' community theaters each have some spooky special programming slated for the weekend Friday, Oct. 30 to Sunday, Nov. 1.

Downtown at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St., longtime Downtown home of No Strings Theatre Company, catch three final performances of Stephen Sondheim's musical classic "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Set on the streets of 19th-century London, "Sweeney Todd" tells the tale of Benjamin Barker, also known as Sweeney Todd, and his bloody revenge on Judge Turpin, who exiled him some 15 years before. Allied with Mrs. Lovett, owner of the dying pie shop, two duo will introduce a carnal new ingredient to Lovett's meat pies, drawing ever-growing crowds to the booming business and a steady stream of new victim to Sweeney's barber chair.

After its 1979 Broadway debut at the Uris Theatre, "Sweeney Todd" became a critical and audience favorite, having been mounted and remounted a number of times all over the world, garnering a number of Tony and Olivier Awards along the way and serving as the source material for Tim Burton's acclaimed 2007 film of the same name starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

This No Strings Theatre Company production is directed by Nora Thomas, who most recently directed



Lon Chaney stars in the 1925 silent horror classic "The Phantom of the Opera," which will be screened Friday night at Las Cruces Community Theatre accompanied by a live organist.

the company's lauded production of "Into the Woods" at Black Box Theatre in 2014. The cast of locals includes Rafael Medina, Diane Thomas, Shaun Hadfield, Carol Ayon, Chris Hornung, Cameron Lang, Mario Raggazone and Jamie Smith, along with chorus members Xodia Choate, Daniel De La Rosa, Vanessa Dabovich, Layla Jackson, Chris Sedillo, Joseluis Solorzano and Autry Sutcliff.

Tickets are \$12 regular and \$10 students and seniors. Call 523-1223 for more information or to make reservations.

Nearby, Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St., will host a silent movie night at 8 p.m. Friday,

Oct. 30, with a screening of the 1925 Lon Chaney-starring horror classic "The Phantom of the Opera" accompanied by live organ music from Plaza Theatre organist Ken Fedorick, playing the film's original score.

Popcorn, soda and other snacks will be available. All tickets are \$10 at the door and will benefit the theater's continued capital campaign to purchase and renovate the historic Downtown space. Tickets are available at <http://lcctnm.org> or at the box office, opening at 7 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 523-1200.

SEE SPOOKY FUN, PAGE B13

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

BEGINNER

2	9		4				1	7
8			7				9	5
	1			6	3			
		6		5			2	9
		5	8		1	3		
3	4			7		1		
			5	9			4	
6		1			7			3
4	2				8		7	6

CHALLENGER

5	8	1		2				9
9				7	6			
			2	1		4	6	
			6		4			
	6	4		3	9			
		7	3					2
2				4		9	8	3

EXPERT

	5					3		9
				5	2			1
3			6			8		
		4			6		7	
8								3
	9		5			4		
		7			1			6
9			2	6				
5	1						8	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

BEGINNER

1	2	6	4	8	5	7	9	3
9	5	7	2	1	3	4	6	8
8	3	4	7	9	6	1	2	5
6	7	3	8	4	1	9	5	2
5	1	2	6	3	9	8	4	7
4	8	9	5	2	7	6	3	1
7	4	1	9	5	2	3	8	6
3	9	5	1	6	8	2	7	4
2	6	8	3	7	4	5	1	9

CHALLENGER

6	8	7	2	9	5	3	4	1
4	3	1	8	7	6	2	9	5
2	9	5	3	1	4	6	7	8
8	2	9	7	4	3	5	1	6
5	6	4	9	2	1	7	8	3
7	1	3	5	6	8	4	2	9
9	7	8	6	5	2	1	3	4
3	4	6	1	8	7	9	5	2
1	5	2	4	3	9	8	6	7

EXPERT

2	8	1	9	5	6	3	4	7
9	7	6	8	4	3	2	1	5
5	3	4	1	2	7	8	9	6
8	9	2	5	3	1	6	7	4
6	5	3	2	7	4	1	8	9
4	1	7	6	8	9	5	2	3
7	4	5	3	1	2	9	6	8
1	6	8	4	9	5	7	3	2
3	2	9	7	6	8	4	5	1



Altars are constructed on the Mesilla plaza each year during Dia de los Muertos to honor the memory of friends, family and loved ones who have passed from this world to the next.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS FROM PAGE B2

Funktion (1:30 to 3:30 p.m.) and an encore dance by Grupo Valle del Sol Folklorico (4 to 5 p.m.)

The festival closes this year on Monday, Nov. 2, on All Souls Day. At 6 p.m., celebrants begin to gather on the plaza and, at 6:15 p.m., depart the plaza en masse as the candlelight procession wends its way through town to San Albino Cemetery for the *Iluminación*, guiding wandering souls back to their place of rest for another year. Immediately following the procession, guests will make their way back to the plaza for coffee and pan de muerto, or bread of the

dead, until the festival closes.

Each year, Mesilla's Dia de los Muertos celebration is put on by the nonprofit Calavera Coalition, a small, dedicated group of volunteers responsible for the production of this event honoring the memories of those who've left us. All proceeds are utilized for the facilitation of future celebrations, with a portion donated to a number of local community charities. This year, the coalition is encouraging attendees to bring with them non-perishable food items, which will be donated to Casa de Peregrinos emergency food bank.

GALLERIES

FROM PAGE B10

TOMBAUGH GALLERY presents "Worlds within Worlds: Encounters with Spirits of the Land," an exhibit of the photographic work of Lyndia Radice. After a lifetime drawing, painting and taking photographs, Radice moved from New York City to the high desert of New Mexico, bringing her into daily intimate contact with Mother Earth and her creatures. One day, playing with a reflection filter on her camera, she focused on a set of gnarled, old fence posts; the resulting mirror images revealed each post had a unique personality and spirit. They are the guardians of the land. Using this reflection technique, Radice's photos uncover "worlds within worlds," revealing the hidden spirits of the land and nature herself. "Worlds within Worlds" opens with an artist's reception from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, and will remain on display through Sunday, Nov. 29.

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 "This Vibrant Land" by fine artist Marjorie Moeser. Moeser's paintings are inspired by the Mesilla Valley landscape. The artworks are memory pieces evolved from her day-to-day interaction with the agrarian land that sits afoot the Organ Mountains. The farmland becomes an oasis in the surrounding desert. Tilled fields become linear rhythms and patterns and the furrows become water channels that reflect the brilliant blues of the sky. Moeser's landscapes are not place-specific – they are intuitively evolved and meant to transport the view to a place of imagining only he or she knows. "This Vibrant Land" opens with an artist's

reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, and will remain on display through the end of November.

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.

EL PASO ELECTRIC GALLERY presents an exhibition of the work of New Mexico State University Fine Arts graduates Sue Ann Bonnar and Alia Pinedo, presenting their latest mixed-media works. Studying the camera lens most of her life, Bonnar's work explores the connection of time and place, spurring a conversation concerning the impact of our everyday life decisions on the world around us. Pinedo's work is a reflection on the vestiges of human occupation in the environment. The exhibit opens with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, and will remain on display through the end of November.

El Paso Electric Gallery is located inside the lobby of the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 523-6403 or visit www.riograndetheatre.com.

MAS ART presents "Monochromatic Rhythm," a dual exhibition of artwork from two very talented New Mexico State University students Mariah Morrell and Mathew Garza. "Monochromatic Rhythm" opens with an artists' reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, and will remain on display through the end of November.

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.

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, Jeal 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. "Small is Beautiful II" opens with an artists' reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, and will remain on display through December.

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.

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Las Cruces Bridal & Special Event Showcase
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016
Las Cruces Convention Center 680 E. University Ave.

'A Walk in the Woods' a pleasant stroll with two fine actors

Review by Jeff Berg
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Two mighty fine actors tackle the roles in "A Walk in the Woods," based on a book by humorist Bill Bryson.

Originally optioned by Robert Redford in the 1990s, he had wanted to make the movie with Paul Newman, who sadly was too ill when the first attempt to shoot the film was made.

A part time New Mexico resident, Redford stars as the slightly awkward Bryson, and Nick Nolte joins him as his friend Stephan Katz, when Bryson slightly unexpectedly decides to walk the Appalachian Trail. It is a 2160-mile path that goes from Maine to Georgia, and Bryson decides, somewhat on a whim, to take a hike.

Unable to find anyone to join him on the journey, Bryson is a bit at odds as to what to do until his old friend Katz calls him from Iowa. They were friends long ago and Bryson queries Katz about some money owed him from years before, to which Katz responds he is working on that.

Bryson agrees to have Katz tag along and, of course, when he arrives at

Bryson's home, Katz looks like, well, Nolte. Grizzled, out of shape and carrying some extra tonnage, Katz had also drank heavily for many years at his home in Iowa.

Too late to turn back, they travel to Georgia to start their trek after Bryson's amusing visit to an REI outdoors store.

They are not a mile up the trail when

Katz announces his first hint of exhaustion, but the two traveling wheezing geezers soldier on. In reality, both actors are in their 70s, while the real Bryson and Katz were in their 40s when they did the trail.

Along the way they meet some nice

folks, mostly helpful and interesting except for a gabby young woman who thinks she knows it all, but actually knows nothing. It takes them a while to shed her, but a good duck at the right time can work wonders.

Of course Bryson and Katz are able talk about old times but mostly – thankfully – they don't do much in the way of flashback. Rather, they gather their resources to continue their march through rain, snow and sun.

A good scene takes place when the two



Robert Redford and Nick Nolte star in director Ken Kwapis' "A Walk in the Woods," now playing at the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla.

trekkers stop for a rest and a motel along the way and Katz meets a lady who has eyes for him, while her husband has a fist for him. It is an amusing chance, countered by Bryson's acquaintance with the woman who runs the inn where they are staying.

Katz is proud of his "conquests," shall we say, and at one point opines to Bryson, "I've been with way more married women than you have." Bryson had

not strayed in his 40 years of marriage.

There are also a number of beautiful scenes from the trail that enhance a somewhat predictable story.

"A Walk in the Woods" won't show you much that you won't expect, but it is a pleasant way to spend some outdoors time, indoors.

Jeff Berg can be reached at ned-ludd76@hotmail.com.

SPOOKY FUN FROM PAGE B28

Also Downtown, the Doña Ana Lyric Opera (DALO) and Doña Ana Arts Council will join together at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St., to present a duo of one-act operas with ghostly and macabre themes perfect for the spooky season at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday.

"The Cask of Amontillado" is an operatic setting of Edgar Allen Poe's famous Victorian Gothic short story by Daniel Pinkham. Montresor has been publicly humiliated by his "frenemy" Fortunato one too many times and is out for revenge. But Montresor has plans to trap Fortunato at his own game. One night during the annual carnival season, he puts his mad, fiendish plan into action. Pinkham's highly chromatic musical language adds just the right amount of eeriness to make the hair on the back of your neck stand on end.

"The Verloren Opera: A Tale of Lost Love" will receive its world premiere in Las Cruces, and will kick off a program of new opera development for DALO. The plot of this one-act chamber opera, composed by New Mexico State University Music Department Head, Lon W. Chaffin, focuses on an opera company that has fallen on hard times. It is rumored that the opera house may be haunted, and this fact has driven the

customers away. Through twists and turns, the protagonists learn that the fabric of time and space is more fragile than they thought.

Dr. John Carlo Pierce will direct both operas and appear as Fortunato. As Montresor, NMSU graduate student, Ejerson Balabas, will join him. NMSU students Cory Gasparich and Danielle Turner will head the cast of "The Verloren Opera." Ingrid Larragoity-Martin, NMSU Associate Director of Instrumental Studies, will conduct the student ensemble.

All reserved seat tickets are \$17 for main floor or balcony seats; student tickets are \$5. Prices include all fees. Tickets may be purchased online at www.RioGrandeTheatre.com, at the Rio Grande Theatre box office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, by phone 575-523-6403 or at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the performance begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information visit the website or call 523-6403.

Across town on the stage of the Mark and Stephanie Medoff Theatre inside the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, American Southwest Theatre Company (ASTC) and the NMSU Department of Theatre Arts presents beloved children's classic "A Wrinkle in Time" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave.

"A Wrinkle in Time" tells the story of two children who must rescue their scientist father. "Just when

Meg Murry wants to curl up in bed and hope for someone else to solve all of her problems, she gets launched into the adventure of a lifetime," reads press materials provided by ASTC. "Traveling through space-time to distant planets, together with her extraordinary little brother and their new friend, Meg sets out to rescue her father from a force so powerful it threatens to control everything in the universe and beyond."

Written by Madeleine L'Engle in 1963, "A Wrinkle in Time" was awarded the prestigious Newbery Medal, Sequoyah Book Award and Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, and began L'Engle's successful series about the adventures of the O'Keefe and Murry families, known together as the Time Quintet. The book was adapted for the stage by John Glore in 2010.

NMSU Theatre Arts Professor Larissa Lury, said the sci-fi story of "A Wrinkle in Time" is ultimately about "how members of a family can travel through their own separate adventures and can come back together stronger and more caring than before. The show is suited primarily for fourth- to sixth-graders.

Lury directs an all-student cast, with student designers Dena Hurab (set), Megan Thompson (costumes) and Drew Kelley (lights).

All tickets are \$5. For more information, call 646-4515 or visit www.nmsutheatre.com.

Ghosts of the Past



In part of the outside Ghost of the Past Tour, siblings Karis and Micah Funk play out a scene titled "Angels of Bataan".



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER BELARDE

Guests cross the Historic Green Bridge in the evening hours at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum during the museum's annual Ghosts of the Past living history tour, held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24.




Winifred Jahnke shares the history of a Reba Simpson's Las Cruces farm during World War II.



A group of volunteers and employees which played various New Mexicans of historical interest.





Student Interns and volunteers from left; Kyle Mery, Megan Schaeffer, Bob Borus, Dottie Austin, Neil Fuller, Angie Morgan, Karis Funk, Nathanael Emerick, and Micah Funk.



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Safety among ghouls: Keeping safe on Halloween



Daniel and Nicole Bird take Rylee trick-or-treating. Halloween allows people to step outside of normal day-to-day dress and behavior, but remembering to go out with a common-sense eye on safety will keep the holiday fun.

Take common sense approach to holiday

Bulletin staff report

Halloween provides people with the opportunity to wear strange outfits, demand candy from strangers and eat as much sugar as can be consumed while still safely on this side of a coma.

However, as delightful as all these activities sound, trick-or-treaters should take measures to make sure all of the activities stay safe and fun.

Despite decades of urban legends, there has never been a recorded incident of Halloween mass candy poisoning. However, whether trick-or-treating or staying home with a classic Halloween flick, you should keep safety and common sense in mind when enjoying the holiday.

The Las Cruces Police and Fire Departments remind adults, and trick-or-treaters of all ages, to take the necessary steps and make Halloween safe for everyone involved.

Perhaps the most important safety precaution — especially for parents of young children — is to make sure trick-or-treaters are adequately chaperoned by a parent or responsible adult.

Residents who invite trick-or-treaters onto their property should ensure

that sidewalks and walkways are adequately lighted and safe for their guests.

When trick-or-treating, keep in mind the following:

- Make sure young children are accompanied by an adult or a responsible teenager when they go door to door. If possible, go in a group.
- If you can't accompany your children, instruct them to trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood and along well-lighted streets.
- Make sure that costumes are visible to motorists and homeowners.
- If children are going to be out after dark, make sure they carry a flashlight and/or have glow sticks attached to their costume.
- Teach your children to use the sidewalks if they can. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the street, facing traffic.
- When crossing the street, do so only in designated crosswalks and only after checking for traffic.
- Motorists should be aware that more pedestrians — and especially children — will be out, so slow down and take extra precautions, especially

SEE SAFETY, PAGE B19

Reduce your use of water in the garden before winter sets in

The recent hail and rain storms we have had should serve as a reminder to reduce your outdoor watering. Yes, I know we will still have some pretty warm days ahead of us, but at this juncture it is best to ease off on irrigating. In fact, overwatering at this time of year may lead to excessive lush growth, which can suffer severe damage when Old Man Winter comes around. It is best to let the vegetation in your landscape "harden off" so they can go into their winter slumber.

Gary Guzman
Gardening
Guru



Newly-planted items may need a bit more watering than those that are established, but not as much as summer watering. They will give you a hint that they are thirsty when the outmost growth begins to wilt. Take note as to how often this happens as it will be an indicator on how frequent you need to irrigate.

Make sure you thor-

oughly saturate the entire root ball each time you water. This will create a deeper root system, which will be more drought-tolerant in the following

months. Keep in mind that even if the above ground growth does not seem to be active, the underground root growth is.

If you are watering too

much during this time of year, some of the leaves may begin to yellow or even have a burnt appearance.

This may also reduce

the brilliant fall colors some trees and shrubs can attain in the cooler months.

SEE GUZMAN, PAGE B18

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Hot or cold? Expert gives advice for composting in cold weather

By **Angela Simental**

For the Las Cruces Bulletin

As the weather finally plunges down from triple digits, gardeners spend fall and winter preparing for the spring. Preparing compost is an important part of growing healthy plants. Winter in the desert Southwest is different from any other part of the country, and to have the perfect compost through cold weather requires a little knowledge.

“Not all composting operations get hot. Not all composting operations need to be turned,” said John Zarola, outreach coordinator at New Mexico State University’s Bernalillo County Extension office. “Composting in the winter is a fine thing to do — cold or hot method.”

Zarola said, in general, cold-composting operations will slow down, while hot operations will do what they normally do — but the decomposition formula remains the same for each.

“Maintaining 50 percent moisture in any operation is a bit easier, as there is less evaporation at lower ambient air temperatures,” he said.

Zarola provided some tips to have the best cold or hot compost during cold weather:



NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Whether you’re creating compost using hot or cold methods, there are steps you can take during the cold weather to get the most out of your operation.

Cold composting

Tip 1: In a cold method, there is no intention to create heat in the operation. Use bins, piles, pit, trench, sheet, worms and Bokashi.

Tip 2: Cold composting operations approach equilibration with the ambient air temperature. Once the temperature drops below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the microbial action slows, prolonging the

decomposition process, but the whole system will balance out as temperatures rise in the spring.

Tip 2: 50 percent moisture should be maintained throughout the process. When ambient air temperatures are lower, there is less evaporation in the process. Cold piles may remain static (not turned) as long as coarse bulking material is regularly added, especially to piles. Or, they may be churned and turned as the homeowner wishes.

Hot composting

Tip 1: In a hot composting method, there is an intention to create and maintain heat in the operation.

Tip 2: The batch method requires a minimum of a cubic yard of organics with a mixture of two parts carbon with one part nitrogen and 50 percent moisture. Heat is generated as the microorganisms secrete enzymes, which break the bonds of the carbohydrates. The heat being generated internally is not affected by the ambient air temperature.

Tip 3: Hot piles are a high-energy process, which require oxygen, so they need to be churned and turned every 7 to 14 days to maintain heat in the operation.

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GARDEN CALENDAR

Fall gardening classes

Jackye Meinecke, former owner of Enchanted Gardens, will hold a series of fall gardening classes. All classes will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturdays at Casa De Mi Alma Wellness Center, 920 N. Alameda Ave. The cost for each class is \$7.50 per person, cash or

check. To reserve your space, e-mail gardens@zianet.com or call 575-323-0903 to leave a message.

- Oct. 31 — Xeriscape Design Using Drought Tolerant Plants. Discover the principles of xeriscape design to create a lovely desert garden filled with native and drought tolerant plants. A well-planned garden will provide shade, wind protection, good use

of water runoff and lots of native and drought tolerant flowers.

- Nov. 7 — Evergreen Plants for the Desert Garden. There are many options for adding winter color and structure to the desert garden using desert evergreen plants. Discover evergreen plants beyond junipers and hawthornes. Consider evergreen plants for texture, color and structure in the desert garden.

GUZMAN

FROM PAGE B17

Red oaks, Chinese Pistache and Raywood ash trees can be adversely affected by this action.

On the other hand, one does not want to completely stop watering, just reduce the frequency.

This can also lead to stressed-out greens that will suffer during the coldest months of the year, as well as the following spring. This is particularly true when we have dry and warmer winter months with little or no precipitation.

Your watering schedule applies to evergreen as well as deciduous trees and shrubs and lawns. As mentioned above, even though there are no leaves or no new growth there is still root activity. As a rule, dormant lawns, trees and shrubs should get by on one or two deep watering per month.

Cool-season grasses, such as fescue or rye, should get by on once every seven to 10 days. Well-established evergreens should get by every 10 to 15 days or less, depending upon maturity.

The above watering schedules should be used as a guideline

only. There are other variables to consider when irrigating during the offseason, such as temperature, humidity, wind, cloud cover, amount of shade and soil type.

Please keep all this in mind when you re-program your timers or when you are out manually watering. Don’t let the recent rains fool you into thinking our drought is over — we all need to do our part. We live in the desert and should do all we can to use our most precious resource wisely.

Gary Guzman, owner of Guzman’s Color Your World Gardening Centers can be reached at gary@lascrucesbulletin.com.

NMSU crop researcher becomes an onion whisperer

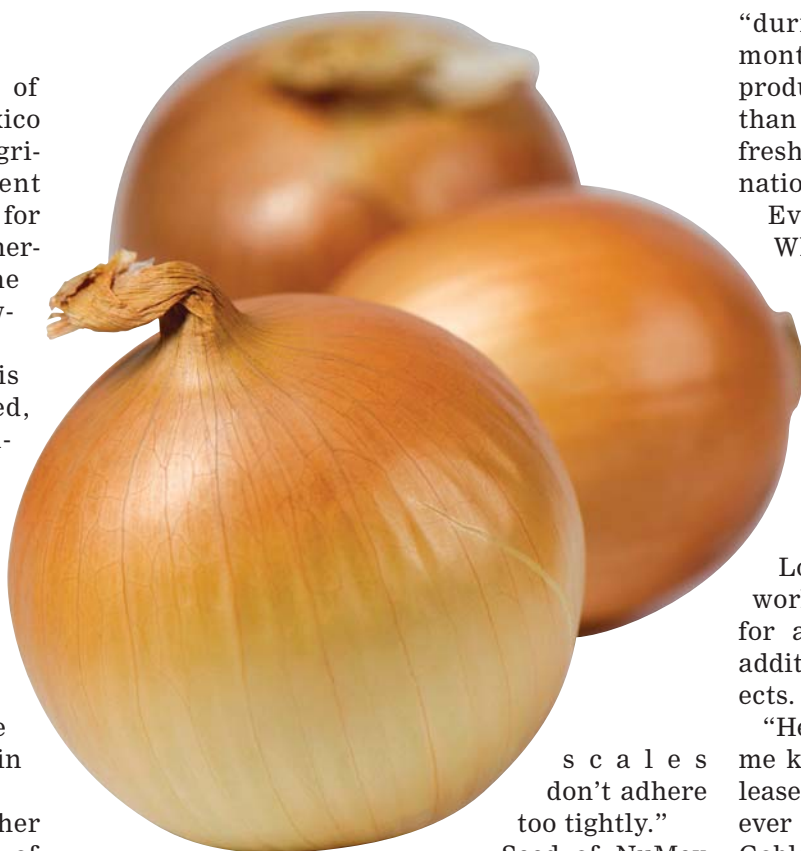
By Vicki L. Nisbett
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

A new cultivar of onion from New Mexico State University's Agricultural Experiment Station is now ready for seed industry commercialization with the assistance of Arrowhead Center.

NuMex Whisper is an open-pollinated, highly single-centered, late-maturing, intermediate-day, yellow-scaled onion cultivar and is sown in the fall in southern New Mexico and similar environments. The onion was released in 2013.

NMSU's Christopher Cramer, a professor of horticulture in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Jose Fernandez Memorial Chair in Crop Production, has worked on this project since 1978, after crossing numerous short-day and intermediate-day varieties in different ways.

He's worked toward developing an onion bulb that is firm, has dry, high-quality outer scale characteristics,



and has a center-growing point. NuMex Whisper's scale characteristics, such as bulb firmness and scale color, adherence, thickness and number, were important in the quality evaluations.

"It's important that a jumbo onion bulb have a single growing point," Cramer said, "especially for using them for onion rings. It's also important that the

scales don't adhere too tightly."

Seed of NuMex Whisper is sown in the fall and harvested in late June or early July. Usually, New Mexico onions are harvested from May through August.

According to David Thompson, the associate dean and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, New Mexico is the leading producer of fresh-market, non-storage onions in the United States.

"In fact," he said,

"during the summer months, New Mexico producers supply more than 60 percent of all fresh onions consumed nationwide."

Even though NuMex Whisper was developed for New Mexico, it should grow well in other regions of the country where intermediate-day onions are grown.

Rob Gobleck of Lockhart Seeds has worked with Cramer for about 15 years on additional cultivar projects.

"He is always letting me know about new releases and about whatever he is working on," Gobleck said. "I arrange for him to put trials out on different farms."

Funding for the development of NuMex Whisper was provided by the New Mexico Dry Onion Commission and the NMSU Agricultural Experiment Station.

"There are about 15 to 20 universities in the U.S. that have public vegetable breeding programs," Cramer said. "Only one other university does onion breeding."

For more information on "NuMex Whisper," contact Cramer at cscramer@nmsu.edu or 575-646-2657.

Arrowhead Center's Intellectual Property and Tech Transfer Office is assisting Cramer with the commercialization of NuMex Whisper. For more information on Arrowhead Center, visit <http://arrowheadcenter.nmsu.edu>.

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SAFETY FROM PAGE B17

on residential streets.

- Makes sure costumes or decorations do not come into contact with open flames, such as candles or jack-o'-lanterns.
- Ensure that costumes fit appropriately and do not interfere with walking or vision.
- Know which friends your children will be with and which route they are taking.
- Leave your porch light on so children will know it's OK to visit your home.
- Instruct children never to eat anything until they are home and the treats have been carefully examined.

Cut and wash fruit before eating. Throw away anything unwrapped. Check the wrappers of commercial treats for evidence of tampering.

- Moderate the amount of candy your child consumes.
- Report to the police any inappropriate behavior, potentially dangerous situations or suspicious activity.

The LCPD also reminds trick-or-treaters to be conscious of the fact not all homeowners celebrate Halloween or enjoy ghosts and goblins knocking on their door. A good rule of thumb is to refrain from trick-or-treating at homes without Halloween displays or adequate lighting, and keep the trick-or-treating to respectable hours.

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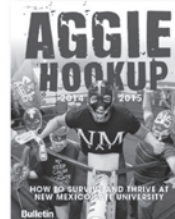
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Health & Well Being

SNAP expects to reach 1,400 vouchers in 2015

Spay, neuter program tries to combat pet overpopulation

By Mike Cook
The Las Cruces Bulletin

When SNAP (Spay and Neuter Action Program) was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1998, its mission was primarily education and outreach. Three years later, it changed the “Awareness” to “Action” in its name and added issuing vouchers for the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats to its mission.

In 2001, SNAP helped subsidize 54 animal surgeries. In 2015, that number is expected to reach 1,400, said SNAP Co-Director Janice English. She said the program would like to be able to provide twice or even three times that number of vouchers to more fully address the issue of cat

and dog overpopulation countywide.

SNAP works with 11 veterinary practices in the county to accomplish its mission, which reads “to prevent the suffering and death of dogs and cats due to overpopulation.”

The program “facilitates low-cost spay/neuters for pets coming from qualifying, low-income households in Doña Ana County,” according to snapnewmexico.org. The website notes that “90 percent of all pets relinquished to shelters are from low-income households. By reserving all assistance funding for only those qualifying as low income, the pet-keepers who most contribute to shelter overpopulation



Cats recover from surgery after being spayed or neutered through Paws N' Hooves Mobile Vet Services as part of the Big Kitty Fix.

PHOTO PROVIDED

are the ones being assisted.”

SNAP is funded by donations from individuals and organizations, and

has received grant funds from PetSmart, Best Friends and Union Pacific Railroad, as well as Doña Ana County. It cur-

rently receives no funding from the City of Las Cruces.

Fundraisers like the upcoming Pet Photos with Santa (10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8, at the SNAP office) and the sixth annual Critter Christmas (7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Las Cruces Convention Center) are also important funding sources.

English said co-pays from participating pet owners also “make a big difference.”

The way the program works is, a person visits the SNAP office or applies online to see if he or she qualifies for SNAP services. If the person seeking services qualifies as low income, SNAP collects a co-payment and issues a voucher for spaying or neutering services that can be redeemed at one of the veterinary practices that participates with the program. The pet owner is responsible for making and keeping the vet appointment.

Once the surgery is completed, the voucher and an invoice for services come back to SNAP for processing. “This procedure also builds a rapport between these clients and the veterinary clinic that does the surgery,” English said. “Many of these pets have never seen a veterinarian previously.”

Dr. Elizabeth Carver of Mesquite Animal Vaccination Clinic provides pet immunizations for as low as \$5 to \$10 per pet with a SNAP voucher. Carver owns and operates a mobile vaccination clinic that provides services throughout the county.

SNAP works with clients, and sometimes does

SEE **VOUCHERS**, PAGE B29

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Big Kitty Fix has neutered, spayed more than 1,200

By Mike Cook
The Las Cruces Bulletin

One of the Spay Neuter Action Program's (SNAP) local partners is the Big Kitty Fix (BKF), which is co-directed by Michelle Corella and Anne Markman. With the cooperation of SNAP and Dr. Amy Starr, BKF has overseen the spaying or neutering of about 1,200 pet and feral cats since April 2012, said Corella.

Starr, the owner of Paws N' Hooves Mobile Vet Services in Anthony, N.M., conducts a spaying and neutering clinic each month at the SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho Ave. At the Oct. 26 clinic, Starr spayed or neutered 26 family and feral cats, said Corella. As many as 33 cats have been "fixed" at a single clinic, she said.

Some of the cats spayed or neutered on Oct. 26 are part of a colony of feral cats in the north valley, Corella said. The surgeries are being paid for through a SNAP grant and by private funds from individuals like Corella. She said about 30 cats from that colony have been trapped, neutered and returned to date. And, homes have been found for about 25 kittens born into that colony, she said.

When cats are brought in to the clinic, they are not only spayed or neutered, they are also vaccinated and micro-chipped and receive an ear tag so city and county animal control officers know they have been fixed. The cats also receive medical care, in-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Dr. Amy Starr, owner of Paws N' Hooves Mobile Vet Services in Anthony, N.M., conducted The Big Kitty Fix, a monthly spay and neutering clinic all day Oct. 26 at the SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho Ave., Suite 103, spaying and neutering 26 family pets and feral cats. The Big Kitty Fix is a 501c3 established under the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico and a partner with the Las Cruces Coalition for Pets and People.

cluding treatment for parasites and infections.

BKF is a 501c3 established under the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico and a partner with the Las Cruces Coalition for

Pets and People.

Corella is also director of the New Mexico State University Feral Cat Program, which she said has reduced the number of feral cats on the NMSU campus by about

80 percent in the past dozen or so years.

BKF will conduct two additional cat spaying and neutering clinics at SNAP in 2016, on Monday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 12, Corella said. Clin-

ics start at 7:30 p.m. and continue until 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact SNAP at 524-9265 or visit www.snapnewmexico.org or <https://www.facebook.com/events/745474778915421/>.

VOUCHERS

FROM PAGE A1

not require any co-pay at all if the individual or family is in extreme poverty, English said. It can also provide lower co-pays to people dealing with colonies of free-roaming cats.

SNAP staff also give information to pet owners about other services, including vaccinations, adoptions and other spay and neuter services for the pets of people who do not qualify for SNAP vouchers. SNAP can provide animal traps as part of the nationwide trap, neuter, return (TNR) program for free-roaming cats.

"We try to help everybody we can," said SNAP Board Vice President and volunteer Suzanne Bramlett.

SNAP also coordinates monthly spaying and neutering clinics at its office. With the support of Dr. Amy Starr, owner of Paws N' Hooves Mobile Vet Services in Anthony, N.M., SNAP conducts a clinic from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every third Saturday of the month for

UPCOMING SNAP FUNDRAISERS

- "Pet Photos with Santa" will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, and Sunday, Nov. 8, at the SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho Ave., Suite 103, across from Peddlers Pavilion. Photos are \$25 for two four-inch by six-inch prints and a CD with extra images. The event also includes refreshments, prizes and raffles.
- Sixth annual Critter Christmas will be held 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Tickets are \$40 each. The event includes live music by the Derrick Harris Jazz Band, silent and live auctions, raffles, a dog treat buffet, a pet and people parade, Christmas caroling, a new food menu and a no-host bar. Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome to attend. Tickets are available now at American Classified, 151 S. Solano Dr.; Better Life Pet Food, 365 Avenida de Mesilla and their new store at 315 Telshor Blvd., behind Whataburger; Horse N Hound Feed N Supply, 991 W. Amador Ave.; and the SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho Ave., Suite 103, across from Peddler's Pavilion. You can also buy tickets online at HoldMyTicket.com/event/224760.

For more information, contact SNAP at 524-9265 or visit www.snapnewmexico.org or <https://www.facebook.com/events/745474778915421/>.

pet owners who find it difficult to make appointments with local clinics during the week.

Starr also conducts a monthly Big Kitty Fix spay/neuter clinic strictly for cats at the SNAP office. The Big Kitty Fix is a 501c3 established under the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico and a partner with the Las Cruces Coalition for Pets and People, English said.

SNAP also works with other local nonprofit animal welfare groups in the

area, and supports the TNR program advocated by Doña Ana County and other governmental entities in the state and around the country.

"I think we have a really active animal advocacy community here," said Bramlett, who has been a SNAP volunteer since 2006. That community, she said, includes not only organizations, but "a lot of concerned people who are not part of a group."

English and fellow Co-Director Julie

Miller are SNAP's only paid employees. The program also has about 20 active volunteers, including Bramlett and Lynn Mulholland, who has been a volunteer for about 10 years. She works in the SNAP office every Tuesday and, like Bramlett and others, also volunteers during SNAP clinics and at fundraising events.

"Our volunteers are great," English said, "but we could use twice as many."

English said SNAP's greatest need is "support from the community." That includes volunteering and supporting SNAP's fundraisers and making other donations, she said.

"It's a great program," English said. "It's really beginning to take off because of everybody working together."

The SNAP office is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The office is located at 2405 W. Picacho Ave., Suite 103, directly across the street from the Peddlers Pavilion.

For more information, contact SNAP at 524-9265 or visit www.snapnewmexico.org or <https://www.facebook.com/events/745474778915421/>.



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	'08 Ford Edge \$10,999*

†Tax, title, license and dealer service transfer fee additional. Sale price includes all applicable factory incentives. Not everyone will qualify. Subject to prior sale. On select models. With approved credit. See Dealer for details. *See Sisbarro for complete Best Test details. When all factory maintenance as recommended by original owner's manual is performed by Sisbarro. 133-point certification of mechanical components, power accessories and electrical systems to ensure working order at time of purchase, does not assure overall condition or future roadworthiness of vehicle. Lifetime powertrain coverage only on vehicles five years from most current model year includes engine (except for carburetor and gasoline/diesel fuel injection components) front wheel drive, rear wheel drive and transmission. 72-hour exchange for vehicle of equal value. Sales volume based on most recent Polk Cross Sell data.

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