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5,566 marchers set for Bataan

Registration down by more than 1,000

By **Todd G. Dickson**
Las Cruces Bulletin

At the close of official registration Wednesday, March 13, 5,566 participants had registered for the annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range Sunday, March 17.

That's 1,220 less than last year's record 6,786 marchers, but last year also marked the 70th anniversary of the World War II prisoner-of-war atrocity that killed thousands of men, including many New Mexicans.

However, there is a significant drop in the number of military marchers, said WSMR Chief of Public Affairs Monte Marlin, which organizers are attributing to financial uncertainty from sequestration cuts to military spending.

Of the total who registered for this year's march, 3,462 plan to travel the full 26.2-mile marathon-length route, with the rest taking the shorter honorary route of 14.2 miles. Among the marchers, there are 225 teams of five.

Marlin said the local community continues to support the event with a small army of volunteers – 340 manning water stops, 160 helping with set-up and other activities, 600 providing medical services and some range medical staff acting in their official capacity for the event.

As was done last year, the marchers will start on the range's big soccer field, instead of the Frontier Club.

"It just gives the marchers more elbow room," Marlin said.

Last year, a parachuting group thrilled marchers in a pre-dawn drop, but they won't be returning this year because of the sequester spending restrictions, Marlin said.

While there will be fruit, snacks, sport drinks and water along the routes, marchers should come prepared with their own supply of water and nutrition.

The range's forecast for Sunday is for a high of about 78 degrees and a low of about 50 with breezy to gusty conditions. The skies are expected to be mostly clear to partially cloudy.

"Last year, we had a large number

See **Bataan** on page A11

Rallying to Lizzy's rescue

City faces risk dilemma from park's fire truck

By **Todd G. Dickson**
Las Cruces Bulletin

She's seen better days, but residents in the Mesquite Street neighborhood are working to find a way for the City of Las Cruces to preserve an 83-year-old fire truck that has long been a feature at Klein Park.

The 1930 La France fire truck is more than just a non-functioning antique with rust and chipping paint. It is the city's second fire truck, making it one of the oldest artifacts illustrating the reason Las Cruces incorporated as a town in 1907 – which was to level taxes for full-time fire protection with modern equipment.

Lizzy, as the fire truck is called by local residents, was Fire Engine No. 2. Las Cruces' first fire engine was a machine using a chemical reaction process to spray water, one of only three ever made, but it was acquired by family members of one of the town's founder, Pablo Melendrez, who sold it to a collector in Seattle, said David Chavez of Las Esperanzas, a neighborhood preservation group.

See **Fire truck** on page A10



Left, Partrick Marquez, 4, and his brother, Ivan, 5, play next to a 1930 red fire truck in Klein Park Monday, March 11. In the above undated archival photo, it was in the center of the city's fleet of public safety vehicles.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Steve MacIntyre

Dropping enrollment continues at NMSU

Tuition increase part of budget discussion

By **Todd G. Dickson**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Even though a recent trend of decreasing enrollment continues at New Mexico State University, a tuition increase remains a possibility as NMSU officials begin crafting a budget for the next academic year.

At the NMSU regents meeting Monday, March 11, Bernadette Montoya, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, gave a spring enrollment update that showed a decline of about 1 percent.

Even though there are more than 13,000 undergraduate students, NMSU is experiencing its largest decline in graduate numbers at more than 3 percent, Montoya said. Also, most community college campuses also saw drops in enrollment, she said, with the Carlsbad

campus being the exception because of dual-credit courses, in which high school students earn credit for their diploma and an associate degree by taking college classes.

Montoya said what NMSU is experiencing is not out of line with what most other New Mexico higher-education institutions are experiencing, and NMSU's six-year graduation rate has remained consistently at about 44 percent from 2003-06.

Montoya reported that NMSU's fall-to-fall retention rate of 72 percent has held steady in recent years.

To work on improving the graduation rate, NMSU officials have reached out to students who left a semester or two short of completing their degree, Montoya said. The story often heard was of financial difficulties keeping students from finishing, she said.

One way the university can help these students is to offer more online degree programs, especially at the undergraduate level, she said.

Montoya said officials will keep working to

improve retention and graduation rates.

Regent Isaac Pino said he believed the growth in Carlsbad was in response to work opportunities on the eastern side of the state and that other campuses needed to be more flexible to offer classes in response to market demand.

Tim Ketelaar, Faculty Senate chair, said the challenge is finding a balance of providing students the opportunity for higher education while keeping excellence as an expectation for student performance and in instruction. This is the kind of balance that the Faculty Senate's working group on salaries is trying to achieve in its push for salaries that are more competitive.

Earlier that day, regents heard a variety of budget consideration priorities that could result in possible tuition and fee increases ranging from no increase to an increase of 4.2 percent.

The regents will meet again next month to hear more on tuition and fee rates and budget guidelines.

See **NMSU** on page A11

NEXT WEEK

WHAT'S INSIDE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ready for a break yet?

Las Cruces Public Schools, New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College to take a week off for spring break March 25-29.



\$1



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More than 100 artists to exhibit at the Las Cruces Arts Fair this weekend - C2





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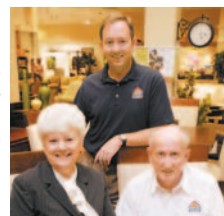
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Lawmakers hit the court for Hoops for Hope fundraiser



New Mexico legislators took part in the 2013 Hoops for Hope legislative basketball game Friday, March 1, in Santa Fe to raise money for the fight against cancer throughout the state. The New Mexico Senate team, representing the University of New Mexico Lobos, scored 33 points, with the State House of Representative team, representing the New Mexico State University Aggies, scoring 40 points to win the game. The game raised \$20,080 for the UNM Cancer Center, the official cancer center of New Mexico.



Freshman Sen. Bill Soules, D-Las Cruces, signals he is available for the ball to be passed to him.



State Reps. Terry McMillan, R-Las Cruces, and Jeff Steinborn, D-Las Cruces, show that Democrats and Republicans can work together as they keep senators from moving the ball down the court.

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From the publisher

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

From darkness, a powerful light

'Minds Interrupted' illuminates mental illness

The voice came crystal clear from the kitchen. Micah Pearson, then a teenager, heard his mom yelling the way moms yell at teenagers. Like a typical teenager, he yelled back a few times before finally getting off the bed to go see what she wanted.

Trouble is, when he got there, she was not there. He heard the voice again from the laundry room. Again, when he got there, she was not there. Pearson's mother, in fact, was not even in the house.

Thus began a saga of struggle for Pearson that would eventually lead to his diagnosis of bipolar disorder at age 22.

The struggle is far from over, Pearson said from the stage of a packed Rio Grande Theatre Monday, March 11. Pearson, now 35, and six others shared their personal and family stories of mental illness in a powerful presentation titled "Minds Interrupted."

If you don't know someone who struggles with mental illness, you're the exception, because it affects one in four adults and one in 10 children.

However, even those of us who know people who struggle with it seldom understand the grip it holds on the daily lives of the sufferers and their families.

That was the point of "Minds Interrupted."

The seven people sat in chairs on the stage, each taking their turn standing in a spotlight and reading their stories from their binders.

The audience was riveted.

If you met Al Barrera on the street, you'd instantly like him. He's a big guy with a full beard, glasses and a ready smile. When his beard goes fully white, he'll probably make a great Santa Claus.

A few years ago, his world was quite different from what it is now. He was nearing retirement and looking forward to spending more time with one of his favorite pastimes: fishing.

Things changed, however, when his younger adult daughter began having serious problems with her bipolar disorder. He retired, moved to Las Cruces and became her caregiver.

It has not been easy, he told the audience. Barrera exhausted his retirement savings and now, at age 65, has had to go back to work, taking a job with the U.S. Postal Service.

The love he has for his daughter was obvious, but so was the stress of his struggle.

As a journalist, I've written and researched a great deal about mental illness. I've seen the struggles close hand with family friends.

Until "Minds Interrupted," never had I seen such a stark, raw illustration of the struggle, heartache and – yes – success, joy and love associated with mental illness.

I hope this program can come to Las Cruces again and again, and that as many people as possible get to see it.

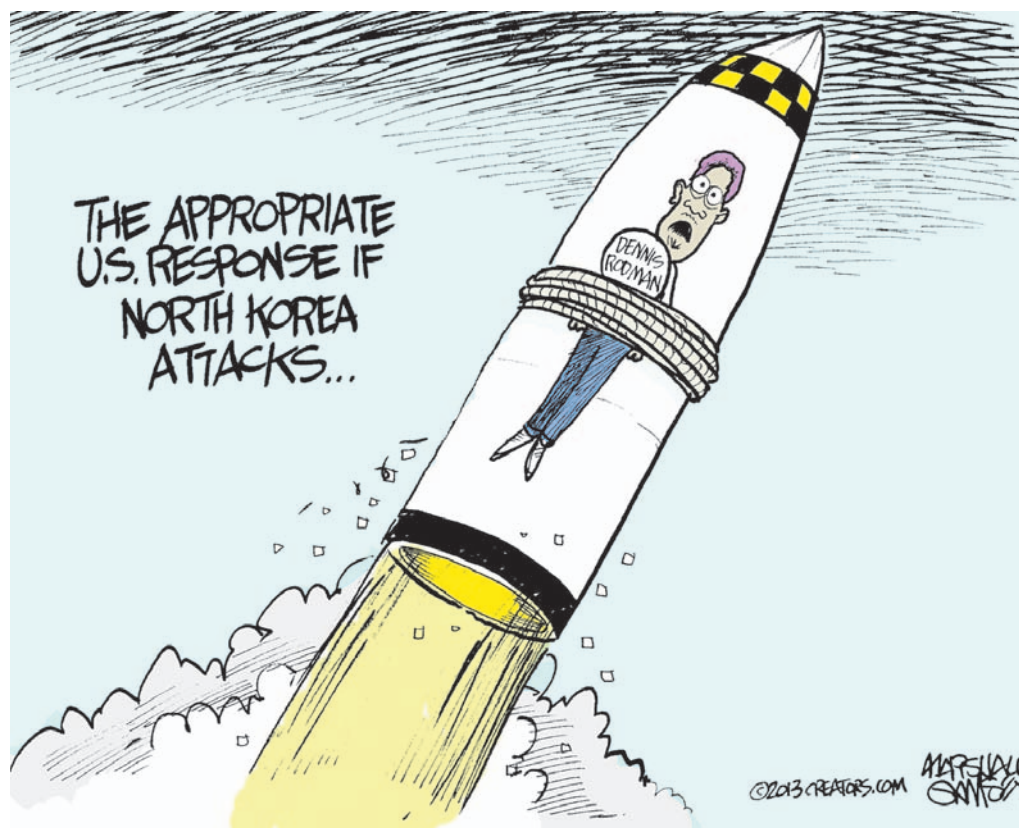
Dealing with mental illness has been a national problem on many levels for generations. Progress has been limited, I believe, because so few people really understand the scope of the problems. Seeing a program like this demonstrates the practical issues as well as the issues of the heart that accompany mental illness.

Presenters represented bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety.

Big kudos for Pamela Field, president of National Alliance on Mental Illness-Doña Ana County (NAMI-DAC), for bringing "Minds Interrupted" to Las Cruces. Big kudos to Michele Herling, producer/director and founder of the Compassionate Touch Network in Santa Fe. She conceived and created the project.

To learn more about "Minds Interrupted," visit www.mindsinterrupted.com.

To learn more about dealing with mental illness in Las Cruces, contact NAMI-DAC at 386-6890 or visit www.nami-dac.org.



Letters to the Editor

Rummage sale fosters animal adoptions

At our rummage sale extravaganza on March 2, at the VFW Post 3242, our two organizations raised more than \$2,300 and found homes for three dogs.

We'd like to thank the people who donated rummage sale items, baked goods, food, etc., and we'd like to thank the many volunteers who sacrificed a lot of time and effort putting on the event.

Special thanks go to our hosts, Commander Lee Hampton and his staff, who were very accommodating.

Businesses that supported the event were Bravo Mic Communications, Albertsons on Main Street, Nopalito's, Savers and A Dayley Gooming, as well as the Las Cruces Bulletin for their announcements.

Event committee members Dee Dougil, Jean Gilbert and Anna Juarez pulled off a wonderful event that included rummage sale items, raffle baskets, food and drink sales, as well as dog and cat adoptions – all under one roof.

We hope we can make this an annual or semi-annual event.

Also, a huge thanks goes out to our supporters and friends and all the members of the public who came to the sale and purchased items.

All proceeds go to programs and services helping animals and their people.

Michel Meunier

Action Programs for Animals

Frank Bryce

Humane Society of Southern New Mexico

No accountability in detention center fiasco

Our hearts go out to Stephen Slevin. What's \$15.5 million to him compared to what was done to him by Doña Ana County?

That settlement aside, why are we not seeing anything about the people responsible for this atrocity. People are cited and even jailed for treating their pets no worse than Slevin was treated.

Was this a case of "not my job?" Seems as a minimum, some jobs should be lost, if not prosecutions.

Tom Jameson

The Las Cruces Bulletin invites readers to submit letters, preferably by email to editor@lascrucesbulletin.com. They can be sent in by fax at 526-4621. Letters also can be mailed or dropped off at 840 N. Telshor Blvd., Suite E., 88011. Letters should not exceed 200 words and must include the writer's name, address and telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters may be edited for length or content.

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2012 "Business of the Year" Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces

2011 "General Excellence" Award New Mexico Press Association

2010 "Community Arts Award" Doña Ana Arts Council

2009 "Small Business of the Year" Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces

2008 "Spirit of Service Award" New Mexico State University Foundation

2007 "VIVA Award" N.M. Association of Commerce and Industry

2006 "Newspaper of the Year" New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau

2005 "Business of the Year" Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce

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Legislative session nears end

Lawmakers face a hard deadline to close efforts



Jay Miller
Inside the Capitol

Noon Friday, March 15, marks the beginning of the final day of the Legislature's 2013 regular session.

New Mexico's legislatures begin and end at noon. Legislative days also begin and end at noon, but that timing is more flexible.

But noon Saturday, March 16, is not flexible. Until the 1960s, lawmakers were allowed to "stop the clock" and allow time well past noon to get business finished. But the state Supreme Court ruled that our constitution says nothing about clock stopping and that any bills passed after noon are invalid.

There is no law specifying the end of the 20-day period the governor has to sign or veto legislation. So governors play it safe and get all their bill signing done before noon of the 20th day. It doesn't matter when he or she vetoes bills because they don't go into effect anyway. Some governors don't even bother vetoing bills they don't like. Those are called pocket vetoes and don't carry any explanation about why the governor doesn't like the bill.

As of the beginning of this week, lawmakers had only gotten 10 bills through both chambers and up to the governor.

One of those bills benefited the spaceport by limiting the liability of suppliers of parts of space crafts. No company wanted to come here without that guarantee. Reportedly, numerous companies already have passed New Mexico over because of not having the limited liability.

Now that we have it, we are back in the game. Let's hope we aren't too late. We're going to have to hustle.

The state budget, of course, is another item that has to pass. Public employees at the state and school district levels have major complaints with this year's budget.

For the first time since 2008, the state is showing a surplus. But the employees who have seen salary and benefit cuts for the last five years find themselves left out again this year as the surplus is used for other priorities.

Gun laws are likely the most prevalent of any issue in every state. New Mexico has many bills on all sides of the gun issue. Considerable publicity was given to a bill to make it a felony for any New Mexican to enforce any new federal gun control law. The Council of State Governments reports that 30 states have similar laws in their hoppers.

If you think that is hard-headed, Missouri has a bill under consideration preventing any member of its lower house from proposing any legislation that further restricts an individual's

right to bear arms. The penalty for introducing such a bill is a fourth degree felony.

I will state again, I do not think our nation will ever solve its gun problems with legislation. Most of it will not pass. None of it will work. Our culture will just have to grow out of its fascination with guns. I predict it will take at least several generations.

New Mexico legislators are generally a courteous lot. Occasionally they try power plays on each other, but they know that is part of the game.

The one exception is the annual basketball game between the House and Senate. The fighting spirit in that game is only for the fun of it. The House usually

wins. They outnumber the Senate 70-42 and usually are younger.

The games are fun to watch and the \$5 admission fee goes to the University of New Mexico Cancer Center. The Cancer Center is the official cancer center of New Mexico and is one of 67 National Cancer Institute-designated centers in the nation.

Figures released by the center say it treats 65 percent of adult cancer patients in New Mexico and nearly all the child cancer patients. That is where former House Speaker Ben Lujan was treated.

Some interesting relationships have been formed between lawmakers who were treated there at the same time. It took years for many to figure why Sen. Billy McKibben, a Lovington Republican, and Sen. Emilio Naranjo, the longtime Rio Arriba Democratic kingpin, were such fast friends.

Jay Miller may be contacted at insidethecapitol@hotmail.com.

“ New Mexico legislators are generally a courteous lot. Occasionally they try power plays on each other, but they know that is part of the game. ”

Buzz about St. Baldrick's

Fundraiser finds new hair-shaving champions in its sixth year here



Todd G. Dickson
Between the Lines

March has become, for me, the time of year that my hair – excluding the uppermost region – gets noticeably long.

That's because I only get my hair cut once a year. During the afternoon of Saturday, March 16, I will be among others at Dickerson's Event Center getting my head shaved.

Six years ago, I was oblivious to the cause of raising money for children's cancer research. My family has been blessed to not have had that touch the lives of close relatives. But Mat Hall – and many others since – have enlightened me to a cause that has found a place in my life, my heart and my year.

Hall was then organizing a St. Baldrick's head-shaving event for Las Cruces. The St. Baldrick's Foundation raises money for research for cures and treatment of childhood cancers through these events in which adults and healthy children get their heads shaved in return for donations.

In Las Cruces that first year, I decided to do what I could to help Hall get this new event a good start, considering it had to find a place among well-established and successful fundraisers in the city. To give it an extra boost of media attention,

I publicized that I would be a "shavee" and began hitting up people to donate on behalf of my "follicle sacrifice."

In the years since, I've been able to find people of greater local celebrity willing to get their heads shaved. I challenged elected officials to become "shavees." That was tricky – because many of our local elected officials were already bald. I did get a city councillor and county commissioner to step up, however. Now there are about 100 "shavees" each year.

Over the years, I've learned the survival rate for children with cancer has greatly improved because of the research funded by St. Baldrick's – which is an accomplishment, considering childhood cancer isn't as well-funded as research for adult cancers. Being a part of something that makes a difference keeps me coming back. I also like that the St. Baldrick's organization puts very little into "overhead" expenses to make sure the lion's share of funds raised goes to research.

This year, I am part of the "All that Buzz" team, which is close to reaching its fundraising goal. I wish I could say it has anything to do with me, but we have a couple of team members who are making an impressive go at it. Our team has a mom – Rose Ann Vasquez – and she will even have a portion of her head shaved at her daughter's school.

How can I beat that? Just the same, if you'd like to help me make a show of it, visit www.stbaldricks.org and search for the Las Cruces event, or me by name, or "All that Buzz." I'll admit, though, I get a lot more donations after people see my "annual hair cut."

The Doña Ana County Assessor

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Making the educational system worse

Too many administrators, too much testing burden students and teachers

Michael Swickard
In My Opinion



The other day someone complained, "I just want us to go back to quality education like when I was in public school."

That assumes schools 40 years ago were better than now. We certainly spend more money per student now and have many more administrators. Often it is these "experts" who have gone mad controlling teachers.

Does that make education better? No, the ultra-administrative school setting does not improve education; rather, it destroys the heart of good teaching.

Were schools better in the past? I do not trust revisionist thinking, so I spent a day in the library reading archived newspapers to see what was said years ago. Newspapers years ago proclaimed: The public schools are failing because Russia got Sputnik into space ahead of us.

In the 1930s, "They are not teaching enough Latin and Greek."

Earlier, it was the same story; education

was always better 30 to 40 years ago and not now.

The major problems in today's public schools are two-fold: public perception and the proliferation of administrative accountability routines. In our popular media, there is a consensus that schools are failing because some students fail and others do not perform well. The media notion is that when students are not successful it is entirely caused by teachers just not teaching right.

The real test of teaching is not if someone fails, rather why some students fail. If students fail because of a lack of motivation or hard work, that is the parent's domain. Schools cannot educate students who do not wish to learn.

There are three general populations in schools. There are those students who come to school wishing to learn. They are almost always successful. The middle group is students who come to school insistent they will not learn. When they come determined to not learn, they are almost always successful at that. And, there are the students who are amenable to learning, but only if teachers teach to their specific learning interests. They decide when and if to learn.

Almost all of our societal angst concentrates on students who do not wish to learn. Consider: Can we force students to learn? Imagine if cattle prods were used.

"What is the capital of South Dakota?" Wrong. Zap. That might work in the short term, but they will be flinchy about learning forever. And, there would be that messy business about human rights.

The second problem is the effect over the past 30 years of the rapidly expanding administration. In the 1960s there were few administrators. How did they know if

teachers were good? The principal walked into classes and talked with parents and students. The principal knew who was good and who needed help.

We no longer trust principals to administer, they instead coordinate legions of experts who spend their time trying to find things to justify their employment. Most teachers would really like the bloated administration to leave them alone to teach, since that is their role.

Teachers say the administrative experts who cannot themselves teach assume all teachers are the same and all students are the same. They want each teacher to listen to them rather than concentrating on educating students. There has been a tsunami of

accountability tests in the past 20 years that trump real teaching. Everyone now spends almost all of their time in concern for the administrative tests rather than student learning. What the students need is to quit spending the entire year getting ready for the teacher accountability tests and just spend it learning.

An example of goofy experts: A teacher was called to a meeting with an expert who said, "Do not use the SF basal readers."

The teacher shrugged, "OK, do you have a different basal for me to use?"

"No," the expert said.

"But you want me to use a basal as I teach reading?" the teacher asked.

"Of course," the expert answered, "Just do not use the SF basal you are using right now."

No wonder teachers cringe when the experts show up. They are overwhelmed with well-paid experts who cannot hit water from a boat. They know that, politically, every student in America must be above average or there will be hell to pay.

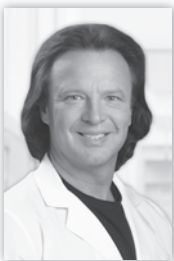
Michael Swickard is co-host of radio talk show News New Mexico from 6 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday on a number of New Mexico radio stations and through streaming. Swickard may be contacted at michael@swickard.com.

“ If students fail because of a lack of motivation or hard work, that is the parent’s domain. ”

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BaxterBlack



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Pegasus flies again

It was a peaceful Utah winter morning. Levi stood next to his bedroom window and pulled back the shade.

He squinted as his eyes took in the brilliance of a new day. Fresh snow lay like a blanket over the corals, the meadows and the mountains beyond.

Puffy little cotton ball clouds clung to the peaks like chimney smoke. The sky-blue background made it look like God had decorated heaven's wall with ceramic tiles.

As if on cue, at the far end of the loading alley, Levi saw a vision. A reflection of a fairy tale illustration from his childhood; it was Pegasus the flying white stallion thundering down the alley, snow billowing behind him and his wings spread as if to mount to the sky.

"Holy Nephi!" Levi yelled at himself.

In seconds the vision took shape. It was not Pegasus – it was his \$3,500, comin' 2, cream-colored with a white blaze, newly purchased, future sire quarter horse colt!

What appeared to be wings was actually a shiny galvanized corral gate. Positioned in its exact center was the head of the wild-eyed colt.

Levi's adrenalized dilated pupils noted the colt's

trajectory was so center-fire that neither end of the 8-foot gate was touching the alley boards.

The colt swung into an opening of an adjacent pen full of ranch horses. They broke apart like a hand grenade going off. Those that didn't go straight up went out the other side crumpling a second gate into tin foil.

It took Levi three minutes and 26 seconds to dress, call the hired man and reach the pen.

The colt had one more trick. He made a pass toward the broken gate, somehow stepped on his galvanized necklace, did a tuck-and-roll flip flop, popped out of the noose and landed on his back, unharmed – to everyone's relief.

Reminiscing with his wife later at breakfast, Levi said, "I'm not sure what we'd have done if he hadn't pulled himself loose."

"You could have roped him," she said.

"I doubt it," he said. "Sure you could. You've got a shiny buckle there on the dresser that says you won the Big Loop in Jordan Valley. If that's not a test of your big loopin', I don't know what is!"

Baxter Black may be contacted at through his website at www.baxterblack.com

Guest column

Many eyes make democracy work

Vigilance keeps our government working for the people

By **Gwyneth Doland**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

A few weeks ago, I was picked up at the Nashville airport by a cheery taxi driver who, it turned out, was originally from Somalia. He fled his native country as it was being torn apart by a bitter and violent civil war, he told me, and escaped with his family first to Nairobi, then to Damascus.

We marveled aloud at the irony of how Syria, so convulsed with violence now, had then been his secure oasis.

I asked if he missed Somalia and he said he missed his family and the life they had, but he didn't miss living in a country where the government failed to provide even the most basic services and the people were left to fend for themselves amid warring factions.

Steering his minivan toward downtown Nashville with one hand, he gestured with the other at the smooth, wet pavement, then a glowing stoplight.

"Look at all this," he said. "Here your streets are paved, the lights are on, people can work and businesses can grow."

In Somalia everyone was corrupt, he said. The government took everybody's money but they never gave it back;

people stole the money at every level, so the streets were never paved, the stoplights never on.

"Everybody complains about the government here," he said, laughing, mystified. "But they don't know what it's like."

I laughed with him and then thanked him for reminding me to be grateful for the relative peace and prosperity we have. Everyone loves to point fingers – I more than many – at all the things that are unjust, unfair, corrupt or just imperfect. But this happy Tennessean reminded me to be thankful for all we have gained from two centuries of protesting, complaining and lobbying.

"You know, this is kind of what I do for a living," I told the driver. I work to make sure that people can look in the government's books and go to meetings where big decisions are made. I help people keep an eye on what's going on so that we know the system is working right. And yes, we find problems, but with the help of great newspapers, TV and radio, we bring those problems to light and try to get them fixed.

Because, yes, our streets are (mostly) paved and our stoplights (mostly) work, but it's only because there are people

who check to make sure that the money the government said it was going to spend on roads and lights is really spent on roads and lights. It's because we have the right to see the budget, the requests for proposals from the paving companies and the receipts for the light poles – even the emails between the public officials and the contractors.

Some try to paint this vigilance as intrusive, a hassle or unnecessary. But asking to see the records or watch the meetings doesn't mean you're accusing someone of wrongdoing. It means you want to go to bed at night secure in the knowledge that the right thing has been done.

I slept better that night, even in a strange hotel room, grateful for the many eyes that keep our towns, our state and the country moving slowly but surely in the right direction.

Join us in a nationwide discussion about the importance of access to public information and what it means for you and your community. Sunshine Week is March 10-16.

Gwyneth Doland is the executive director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, www.nmfog.org. NMFOG's toll-free hotline is 888-843-9121.

Letters to the Editor

Preserve New Mexico's water

New Mexico is facing a water crisis. We use more than we replenish.

In order to defuse the coming water wars, we are asking Gov. Susana Martinez and the state Legislature to please stop mindless economic development. No more development for its own sake.

Connect development to water use. Require a percentage of water used to be returned to the aquifer through water treatment. Outlaw water grabs. Stop the fraudulent registration and declarations of water rights with the Office of the State Engineer.

If you can support these aims, please sign the petition

Water for a Future in New Mexico at <http://signon.org/sign/water-for-a-future-in>.

Max Yeh

Kentucky-style health care

Whatever its problems, Kentucky rates at the low end of the Gallup Health-ways Well-Being index. It appears Sens. Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell want to spread Kentucky's malaise to the rest of the United States.

I suggest we wash out our ears after hearing either one of them speak. It's already spread to West Virginia and Mississippi.

Dale Robison

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Coming Up

Embroiderers' guild

The Las Cruces Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, a national organization of stitchers, meets twice a month at the Village at Northrise, 2880 N. Roadrunner Parkway, in the Hallmark Building. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. the second Saturday and the fourth Wednesday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

For more information, call 522-4684.

'Afro-Latina' talk

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, 2000 S. Solano, will present Romina Pacheco at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 15. Pacheco will give a talk titled "Living to Tell: Moving Afro-Latinas' Voices to the Center."

Pacheco is originally from Maracay, Venezuela. She is a student in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at New Mexico State University, where she is completing her doctorate in critical pedagogies with a minor in women's studies.

For more information, call 522-7281.

Tennis tourney set

The Las Cruces Tennis Players Association will host a "Get Active" tennis festival at Lions Park, 701 W. Picacho Ave., from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 16. The event is free to children ages 5 to 14. The festival will include an introduction to tennis, fun, games and registration for spring and summer programs.

For more information, contact lcppta@hotmail.com or visit www.tennisatlionspark.com.

Camera club meets

The Doña Ana Camera Club will meet at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St., at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 19.

The meeting will feature a presentation by Ali Keyes titled "Passion." Pat Hulser will present "10 Minutes with Annie Leibowitz." The

"10 Minutes With" presentations highlight individuals who have had great influence on photography.

Technical presentations, friendly suggestions for improving member photos, travelogues, networking and other activities are given at the meetings for photographers of all abilities.

For more information call 524-1288 or visit www.dacameraclub.org.

GOP women gather

The Doña Ana County Federated Republican Women will meet at 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 22, at the Good Samaritan-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. The speaker will be retired judge Susan Riedel. Lunch is \$10 and reservations are required by noon Monday, March 18.

For more information, call Caren Lulich at 373-0828.

Garden workshop

Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla, will host a workshop on creating a hummingbird garden at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16.

Attendees will learn the plants and other habitat requirements needed to create an inviting garden for hummingbirds. The workshop is free to Enchanted Gardens benefit members or \$7.50 per person. Reservations are requested.

For more information, contact 524-1886 or gardens@zianet.com.

Air gun safety class

The City of Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Department will accept registrations for the spring session Adult Air Gun Safety Class, at the Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.

Class registration will be Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. until the class is full. Classes are Tuesdays, April 2 and 9 and Thursdays, April 4 and 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. at

the center.

The Adult Air Gun Safety Class will offer instruction on how to use firearms safely and how to improve one's ability to hit a target.

The skills and safety practices students will be taught are adaptable to all firearms.

Cost for the class is \$20 per person for students ages 18 to 59 and \$10 per person for students 60 and older.

For more information, call 541-2550. The TTY number is 541-2661.

Detention center graduation ceremony

Twenty new detention center officers will be sworn in at 10 a.m. Friday, March 15, after having successfully completing a seven-week Basic Detention Officers' Academy at the Doña Ana County Detention Center.

The public is invited to attend the graduation ceremony at the Commission Chambers of the Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd.

Graduating detention officers are: Yadira Arreola, Jeremy Cardona, Guillermo Coronado, Ramon Garcia, Jack Gonzalez, Paul Holguin, Nathan Hollars, Jacquelyn McMullen, Javier Ochoa, Jamie Ortega, Bianca Paz, James Provencio, Miguel Rios, Brittany Rodriguez, Jesse Rogers, Alejandro Romero, Jason Smith, Miguel Terrazas, Domingo Torres and Raquel Villalobos.

District 5 Doña Ana County Commissioner Leticia Duarte-Benavidez will deliver the commencement address, and Doña Ana County Magistrate Judge Oscar Frieze will administer the oaths of service.

Jardín reception

Jardin de los Niños will launch its "Plant a Seed ... Help a Child Grow" Tree of Life campaign from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, March 15, at Jardin de los Niños, 999 W. Amador Ave. The campaign is a celebration of life and a renewal of spring, honoring the organization's founders, supporters and many volunteers, whose work has transformed the lives of homeless children and their families in our community since 1995. A reception, tours and drawings will follow the event.

For more information, call 522-2111.

Learn to dowse

A Dowsing for Personal Health and Well-Being Class will be offered from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the Metaphysical Life Enrichment Center, 2600 El Paseo Road. Jeanne Gehringer of the American Society of Dowsers will teach how to use dowsing for personal health. Areas covered will include chakras, meridians, auras, toxins, allergies and infections. There will be a fee for the class.

For information, contact Jeanne Gehringer at 522-4667 or mjeanne@zianet.com.

MHS spaghetti dinner

Mayfield High School Bands will host a fundraising spaghetti dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in the Mayfield cafeteria, 1955 N. Valley Drive. Cost is \$7 per plate. Tickets are available from MHS band students and at the door the day of the event. Plates will include spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, bread and a cookie. Entertainment will be provided by the Mayfield Jazz Band.

Plates are available for eat in, carry out and delivery (five plate minimum order).

For more information or to place a delivery order, contact Kathy Espinoza at 649-0087 or didalou@aol.com.

Story Time at museum

The Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., will host Story Time from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 16. Visitors may listen to a Thomas the Tank Engine book and enjoy a Thomas video while completing a related free craft activity. Children of all ages welcome.

For more information or to RSVP, call Joanne Beer at 647-4480.

Primetimers meet

The Farm Bureau Primetimers, a group seeking to promote the importance and awareness of agriculture in the Mesilla Valley, meets the third Tuesday of each month at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road.

Their next meeting will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 19. Gary Esslinger and Steve Hernandez will speak on "Watering the Mesilla Valley."

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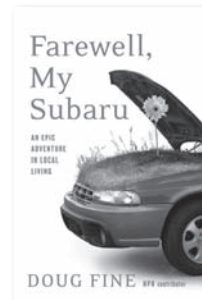
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Fri., March 22, 1 p.m.
Too High to Fail: Cannabis and the New Green Economic Revolution

Doug Fine lived for a year in the first U.S. county to legalize the ancient hemp plant, following one individual plant from

seed to patient. In this wild, revealing, and funny talk, Fine provides the first in-depth look at the burgeoning legal cannabis industry and how the "new green economy" is shaping our country.



Sat., March 23, 10 a.m.
Petroleum Free in One Year

Doug Fine will share his humorous stories interwoven with personal experience on his southern New Mexico ranch and important facts to show how anyone can

move seamlessly to sustainability, through solar power and other easy tips at home, vegetable oil-powered autos and a sustainable diet.



Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University
Each presentation will be followed by a Great Conversation for audience discussion of these thought-provoking topics. A \$3 donation is requested at the door for the Community of Hope's homeless veterans program.
For more information, e-mail lcpreswomen@gmail.com.

Coming Up

Lunch, catered by Dickerson's Catering is \$10, including dessert and tip.

For more information, call John or Povy Bigbee at 233-4820.

Youth basketball

The City of Las Cruces Parks & Recreation Department will accept registrations for the Youth Sportsmanship Basketball League at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave., through Saturday, March 16. Registration hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The Youth Sportsmanship Basketball League is composed of boys, girls and co-eds in the following divisions:

- Pre-kindergarten through kindergarten
- First and second grade
- Third through eighth grade

Cost is \$40 per participant, which includes a game jersey. All participants must be issued an activity ID card. Bring proof of age and grade level when registering. All documentation will need to be submitted by each team before they can be scheduled for league play.

Important dates:

- Friday, March 15: Returning teams must confirm by this date.
- 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 23: New player meetings at Meerscheidt Recreation Center
- 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 3: Coaches meeting at Meerscheidt Recreation Center.
- April 4, 6, 11 and 13: Team payment dates.
- April 22: Spring Youth League play begins.

For more information, contact 541-2563 or athletics@las-cruces.org. The TTY number is 541-2182.

Lifeguarding classes

The City of Las Cruces Aquatics Department will accept registrations for American Red Cross Lifeguarding Certification at the Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 18-22.

Classes are open to anyone age 15 and older who can pass the required skills test.

Through videos, group discussion and hands-on practice, participants will learn:

- Rescue skills for use in water and on land
- First aid and professional rescuer CPR/

AED training for use in an emergency situation

- Professional lifeguard responsibilities
- Surveillance skills to recognize and prevent injuries

Classes are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 25-29 at Frenger pool, 800 Parkview Drive. Cost is \$165 per participant. Payment due after passing the skills test on the first day. Payment may be made by Visa, MasterCard, check or cash.

For more information, call 541-2782. The TTY number is 541-2641.

Photography exhibit

The New Mexico State University Library will display the photographic exhibit, "Out of the Shadows: The Women of Southern New Mexico," from Monday, March 18 to Oct. 15 in the Milton Gallery on the fourth floor of the Branson Library.

The free exhibit, organized by University Archivist Martha Shipman Andrews, captures the self-reliance of women ranchers, the craftsmanship and industry of Native American women, the comfortable lives of a prominent Hispanic mercantile families and the opportunities created for women by educational institutions.

The photos from the NMSU Library's Rio Grande Historical Collections and Hobson-Huntsinger University Archives also appear in Andrews' book "Out of the Shadows: The Women of Southern New Mexico" (Rio Grande Books/NMSU Library, 2012).

For more information, contact Andrews at 646-5028 or email mandrews@lib.nmsu.edu.

Knitting classes

Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., will host two basic knitting classes for adults from 5:30 to 7 p.m. beginning Wednesday, March 20 and Thursday, March 21.

The classes are designed for beginners and novices who have never knitted before. Students will develop a solid foundation in 10 weeks. Men and women ages 18 and above are welcome and initial supplies will be provided.

Classes will be held in the board room at the library. Class size is limited to 10 participants and registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact Carmella Lee at 528-4024 or calee@las-cruces.org.

org. The TTY number is 528-4008.

Minnesota Club meets

The Minnesota Club of Las Cruces will meet for lunch at noon Wednesday, March 20, at the Golden Corral, 601 S. Telshor Blvd. All former Minnesotans are invited. The meeting will include a Medicare presentation.

RR Book Club

The Rail Readers Book Club will meet at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St. The club will discuss Anne Perry's "Dorchester Terrace." New members are welcome.

City seeks senior input

The City of Las Cruces' Senior Programs will conduct a series of public hearings to receive comments on the needs of elderly residents and their caregivers from senior citizens, their advocates, and other interested individuals and organizations.

The information received will help in planning for the distribution of federal and state Older Americans Act funds for fiscal year 2013-2014.

The hearings are scheduled as follows:

- 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo Ave.
- 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, March 22, Frank O'Brien Papan Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.
- 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 26, Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.
- 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, March 29, Benavidez Center, 1045 McClure Road

Written comments can be mailed to Lori Grumet, Administrator, City of Las Cruces Senior Programs, P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004, delivered to Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite, faxed to 528-3352 or sent via email to lgrumet@las-cruces.org.

Anyone in need of an accommodation for a disability to enable them to fully participate in this event may call 528-3000. The TTY number is 528-3217.

German club meets

The Friends of the German Language (Freunde der Deutschen Sprache) meet at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month during

the school year at New Mexico State University in Breland Hall, Room 170A. New members are welcome. On Thursday, March 21, the club will show a German-language comedy film with English subtitles.

For more information, call Christine at 524-2530 or Heike at 522-5393.

Historical society meets

The Doña Ana County Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at the Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, in the auditorium.

David Soules, who has been inventorying historic and prehistoric sites on the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in Doña Ana County, will provide a virtual tour of his finds. The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Jim Eckles at 521-8771 or nebraska1950@comcast.net.

Lunch & Learn set

Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., will host Lunch & Learn from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, March 21, in the Roadrunner Room. The event is free to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch, no food is provided.

Dave Turner, El Paso master gardener, will speak on "Starting Seeds Indoors." Attendees can learn how to get a head start on summer vegetables by starting seeds indoors for later transplanting.

For more information, contact 647-4394 or slh303@yahoo.com.

Toastmasters event

Toastmasters International will have an open house from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main St., hosted by area 31 and 45 Toastmasters Clubs.

Anyone interested in learning more about Toastmasters International and opportunities to join the organization are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. with opening comments following at 6:45, and a panel discussion on the purpose of Toastmasters at 7 p.m. Closing remarks will be at 8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact David Wallace at dwall9132@gmail.com or Vanessa at 541-3665 or vflore@las-cruces.org.

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Fire truck

Continued from page A1

Although generations have grown up playing on Lizzy, last year the city's risk management division found it to be unsafe, said Las Cruces City Councillor Miguel Silva at a meeting with Mesquite Street residents Thursday, March 7. That left the city with the options of repairing it or removing it to sell as either an antique in an auction or, more likely due to its current condition, as scrap metal, Silva said.

City Parks and Recreation Department Director Mark Johnston said after risk management put the city on notice about the fire truck, his workers can't touch it – not even to put on a fresh coat of paint – without bringing it up to Americans with Disabilities Act and playground safety standards.

"As soon as I modify, I have to comply," Johnston said. In addition to daunting ADA requirements, playground safety standards today are a far cry from the playgrounds many

grew up knowing, he said.

"That's why there are no more teeter-totters on playgrounds," Johnston said.

To bring the fire truck up to the modern ADA and safety standards could cost \$60,000 or more, he said, and the end result would be Lizzy losing all of her antique charm through soft edges.

"We realize it is something that has been there a while so there are a lot of emotional ties," Johnston said. "By today's standards, I just can't do it. ... I'm on notice now."

Silva said he wanted the meeting to also address what would be done with the park space if the truck was removed.

"We just couldn't pull the truck and leave a vacated space," he said.

Residents at the meeting, however, insisted on making preservation of the truck the only focus of the discussion.

Horacio Zertauche said he found it upsetting that the city was considering scraping Lizzy. He said that the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department has antique vehicles adorning

the exterior of its portion of the government center on Motel Boulevard.

"Why move it? It's not hurting anybody," Zertauche said. "All you've got to do is paint it and put a fence around it. It's a part of Las Cruces history."

Joe Herrera agreed that the most efficient solution was to put a fence around the fire truck and leave it at the park.

"We don't want the truck to go away for the kids," he said. "You don't sell history for scrap metal."

Chavez said residents have become much more sensitive about historical preservation following the losses of so many old buildings in the original Downtown area.

"You could say this is where we're drawing a line in the sand," Chavez said. "We've seen enough of the city's past and older buildings gone. We have to fight for every piece of history we have left."

The fire truck is part of the city government's history, so city officials have a responsibility to preserve it, he said.

"I don't want to see it auctioned off or sold on eBay," said Wilma Hutson who also lives near the park

Residents asked if the private sector could raise funds to help preserve it on-site and keep people out via a wrought-iron fence – a common architectural feature in the Mesquite neighborhood. Johnston said he would be very willing to look at that kind of partnership, so long as it was clearly understood that it would be for preservation and historical value, not as a functioning vehicle, or for children to play on.

"That would at least keep it preserved at this point in time," he said.

While Chavez said he doesn't like that children would no longer be able to play on the truck, he understands the city government's liability exposure. But it should remain as an historical artifact and an educational tool, he said.

"The poor girl has been sitting there just melting away," Chavez said.

Since the meeting, Chavez said there has been a lot of discussion for raising funds to pay for a restoration and fencing approach.

Silva said he wants to see firmer estimates on costs for different approaches to restoring the fire truck and revisit the options with residents in about a month.

That Lizzy was almost on a fast-track to the junk yard concerns residents such as Chavez, who are concerned about historical preservation. He said the city needs to make it a matter of policy to first look at preservation before disposal of its older property.

"I'm glad we're talking about trying to find a solution instead," he said.

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Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Steve MacIntyre
 Children play on an adjacent jungle gym to the old red fire truck in Klein Park Monday, March 11.

Bataan

Continued from page A1

of heat-related injuries," Marlin said. "If you drink when you're thirsty, it's too late. People need to hydrate a lot before they start on the march."

Living history

Although there are other Bataan memorial marches, the WSMR event is the largest and best known because of the many New Mexicans who were part of the early WWII prisoner of war cruelty.

On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers surrendered to Japanese forces. Among the Americans were members of the 200th Coast Artillery from the New Mexico National Guard. Thousands died in the march to a POW camp. Other survivors were later wounded or killed when unmarked enemy "hell ships" transporting them to Japan were sunk by U.S. forces.

This year, there will be 13 Bataan Death Marchers at the start or along the routes, Marlin said. Last year, the event was graced by the presence of 17 survivors.

Some of the marchers will camp overnight and participate in pre-events on the base, including a dinner at the Frontier Club and a free showing of a film about Bataan.

Before the marchers begin, there will be a ceremony recalling the Bataan Death March event, as well as recognizing the visiting survivors. The opening ceremony starts at 6:30 a.m. and non-marchers can watch the ceremony, but they will need to arrive to the base early as there will be significant traffic congestion.

"Marchers and others need to get here well before 6 a.m.," she said.

Many will carry heavy backpacks, while others will travel light, shedding light cloth gloves and other clothing along the way. Marchers and guests attending the march at

WSMR are advised to prepare for increased security and possible delays at the gate when entering the installation.

All vehicles should carry registration and proof of insurance with the driver holding a valid license. Adults will be asked to show a valid photo ID. Those without an ID will be delayed outside the gate while their information is checked.

Registered marchers received a vehicle pass as part of registration process. This pass should be prominently displayed in the windshield. Those entering WSMR without regular access or a marcher's pass will be issued a visitor's pass.

For more information about the Bataan march and events, visit www.bataanmarch.com.

University involvement

The local memorial march was originally started by an ROTC unit at New Mexico State University more than 24 years ago and later was moved to the missile range, which has hosted it each year, with the exception of 2001 because of the 9/11 terror attacks.

More than 60 Army ROTC cadets and cadre from NMSU will participate in this year's event.

"The Bataan Memorial Death March was an idea by an NMSU Army ROTC cadet, Ray Pickering, now a retired lieutenant colonel, to ensure the legacy of the Battling Bastards of Bataan would never be forgotten," said Army ROTC Commander Lt. Col. Andrew Taylor. "The over 1,800 soldiers of the New Mexico Army National Guard's 200th Coast Artillery, anti-aircraft, were the first to fire in defense of the Philippines, and were the last organized unit to be surrendered before the infamous death march. Their suffering had just begun and would last over the next three and a half years as prisoners of the Japanese, and the rest of their lives."

Prior to the march, 20 cadets will conduct two historical seminars at 2:30 and 4 p.m. Saturday. They will also escort Bataan survivors to the seminar and locations at White Sands.

On Sunday, the Bataan Battalion will kick off the march by providing a crew to fire the cannon.

Then, a cadet, wearing a replica uniform, will take part in the tribute on the main stage.

There are three NMSU teams registered for the trek, two male and one female. Two cadre members will also participate. Last year, an all-male team from NMSU took the top prize in the ROTC Light division.

Cadets and cadre will also hand out water and fruit at checkpoint six.

The cadets geared up for the weekend through annual physical training activities and several seminar rehearsals. As part of their physical training, cadets took part in ruck sack

marches, where they marched 7 miles, carrying more than 35 pounds in their backpacks.

In the first official march, Pickering planned to have 25 cadets march 25 miles. They began at the NMSU Horseshoe and marched up to Baylor Canyon and then went over the pass to Aguirre Spring.

"In 1989, the Department of the Army officially designated NMSU Army ROTC as the Bataan Battalion," Taylor said. "Our new Bataan Battalion patch was unveiled during last year's 70th anniversary ceremonies by those Bataan survivors present."

NMSU

Continued from page A1

Interim President Manual Pacheco started the workshop by discussing the principles that are guiding the development of the budget, including recognizing the role NMSU plays in providing a quality education to the citizens of the state at the lowest possible cost while managing the impact of overall reduced state level funding.

"The university operates in a very efficient manner," Pacheco said. "This is the leanest university I have ever been associated with."

Some of NMSU's budget priorities for FY14 include required increases such as the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board's combined employer contribution increase of 2.25 percent and an anticipated increase of 15 percent in health premiums. In addition, if state funding is provided, a faculty and staff compensation increase of 1 percent also will be included in the final recommendation.

NMSU's institutional priorities under consideration include phase one of a Faculty Salary Enhancement Plan, funding for faculty promotion and tenure, enrollment management initiatives, such as scholarships, tutoring and advising services, graduate student support, an increase in

required fee allocations and an additional 1 percent for faculty and staff compensation.

Currently, there are no plans to recommend an increase in housing or parking rates for FY14. Increases under consideration for meal plans range from 3.28 to 3.43 percent.

NMSU community colleges could see tuition increases as well, including up to 1.3 percent for resident in-district students at NMSU-Alamogordo, up to 2.3 percent for resident in-district students at NMSU-Carlsbad and up to 1.6 percent for Doña Ana Community College students. Currently there is no proposed increase for NMSU-Grants.

At the regular meeting, Mike Cheney was re-elected to serve as chair of the regents board. Regent Javier Gonzales was elected vice chair and Pino will be the board's secretary/treasurer. They will serve in these roles for one year.

Cheney said the NMSU presidential search committee was still on track for regents to make a selection by May's commencement.

Wednesday, March 20, is the deadline for submission of nominations, from which the search committee will offer five finalists.

Meanwhile, Pacheco said he is working with NMSU administrators to simplify processes and find efficiencies. That requires an openness in administration to be willing to first say "yes" to ideas than rejecting them by reflex, he said.

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Legislature 2013

Proposed 1 percent raise won't go far for workers

Retirement increase offsets pay boost

By **Bruce Krasnow**
The New Mexican

Museum custodian Sharon Christ would love to tell state lawmakers and Gov. Susana Martinez to take their proposed 8 cent-an-hour raise and shove it.

But the Albuquerque woman, who is paid \$8.32 an hour by the state Department of Cultural Affairs, really needs the money. The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science worker has been a state employee six years and has received just one pay increase – when she was taken off her initial probation period. And most years, due to insurance and pension increases, her take-home pay – about \$490 every two weeks – has gone down.

With overtime, Christ grossed \$17,309 last year, according to the state's online Sunshine Portal, less than Albuquerque's new minimum wage.

"My take-home pay is less than when I first started," she said. "It used to be that working at a museum, working for the state, was prestigious. Now I can make more at McDonald's."

As of Jan. 1, with the increase in Albuquerque's minimum wage, most private-sector jobs in the city now pay at least \$8.50 an hour. But the city ordinance doesn't cover government workers.

Christ would be among 25,000 state employees and teachers who would see their first salary increase since 2008 under a state budget that passed the Legislature Tuesday, March 12. The measure goes to Gov. Susana Martinez, who said she supports the raises – including 4 percent for those in law enforcement – if she were to get other concessions from lawmakers in

such areas as economic development and education reform. The raises that passed the Legislature would cost the general fund an estimated \$32 million.

Paul Singdahlsen, an employee representative for the 3,000 members of Communications Workers of America 7076, said it's not fair to hold pay raises hostage because politicians can't compromise on other issues – and that even with the 1 percent bump, workers such as Christ would probably take home less in the coming year because of a change in the retirement formula.

As an example, he said someone making \$15 an hour would take home at least \$42 less per month with the proposed additional contribution to the Public Employee Retirement Association.

"SB27 (which passed Wednesday, March 13) now has current language that increases state employees' contribution to PERA another (1.5 percent)," while reducing the state's contribution increase to 0.4 percent. "This will be another pay cut for state employees, for the sixth year in a row," said Singdahlsen, who earns \$46,700 a year as a metals worker for the Department of Cultural Affairs.

"Oil and Gas revenues were up this past year, yet there is still a 'budget crisis.' In reality, it is a revenue crisis," he said.

"State employees have continued to give up more than our fair share to the state. We are only asking that everyone pay their fair share."

The employee union also contends there are 1,000 fewer state workers than when Martinez took office, and that has meant more work for those still on the payroll.

And many have taken second jobs.

Records change sought

Juvenile arrest records limit adult futures

By **Nico Roesler**
The New Mexican

Caught with a 16-ounce can of Bud Light beer as a college student, at the age of 20, T.J. was criminally charged with being a minor in possession and contributing to the delinquency of a minor – himself.

T.J., who was working toward a degree in criminal justice at New Mexico State University – which he earned a year later – fought the charge in the New Mexico court system.

The 2006 charges filed in Las Cruces were later dropped by the state, more specifically, by the office of then-District Attorney Susana Martinez.

Now, T.J. is hoping Gov. Martinez will reconsider a law that she vetoed last year, which would allow him to petition to have those charges expunged from his record. T.J., who asked that his last name not be published, testified before the House Judiciary Committee at the state Capitol on Saturday in support of Senate Bill 294, which passed a Senate floor vote two weeks ago, 41-0.

The charges against T.J. were dropped "in the best interest of justice," according to a nolle prosequi – a document that declares the state is declining to prosecute a case, T.J. said.

Although the charges have been dismissed, they have hindered T.J.'s ability to land some dream jobs. T.J. said he was turned away during employment interviews with NASA, the FBI and other security jobs in Texas because of the dismissed charges.

"Every time someone does a background search, that comes up, and I have to explain what exactly happened," he said.

T.J., a native of Farmington, now works for the state. But the charges still haunt him. "Those charges are there for life for now," he said. "It's as if there is a feeling of 'once a criminal, always a criminal.'"

SB 294, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Michael Sanchez, D-Belen, would allow some criminal records to be expunged after a hearing before a district judge.

The person seeking to expunge an arrest record would have to convince the judge that he or she was a victim of identity theft or wrongful arrest, or that one year has passed after a case was dismissed without conviction on any alleged misdemeanor or felony charge.

Those convicted of misdemeanor charges could petition for expungement if no other charges have occurred for at least five years. If the conviction involved domestic violence or abuse, the person would have to prove no other charges have occurred for at least 10 years. Those with convictions involving sex offenses, crimes against minors and drunken driving would not be allowed to petition for expungement.

After a hearing on the petition, the judge would have 30 days to issue an order.

Martinez said in her veto message last year that the bill would "fundamentally and negatively alter the New Mexico criminal justice system and place a significant impediment on the public's and media's right to know about information relating to convictions, arrests and other criminal proceedings."

"Employers should not have their access to this information denied, and it would be tragic for a parent to lose their ability to inquire into the background of a potential child care provider who, hypothetically, had been arrested three times for child abuse or been convicted previously of domestic violence," Martinez said. She noted in her veto message that the bill had been opposed by the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence as well as the Foundation for Open Government.

When asked several weeks ago whether there was anything the Legislature could do to the bill that could get her to sign it, Martinez said, "No."

"In the eyes of an employer, an indictment and a conviction are the same," said Santa Fe attorney Evan Woodward. "Whereas in the eyes of the law, they are totally separate things. But with no expungement statute, there is no clear path or remedy for a factually innocent person who has been indicted of a crime to get their record cleared up."



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Legislature 2013

House passes bill to lessen pot penalties No jail proposed for holding less than half a pound of marijuana

By **Steve Terrell**
The New Mexican

Adults possessing less than 8 ounces of marijuana in New Mexico would no longer receive any jail time under a bill passed Monday, March 11, by the House.

The House voted 37-33 in favor of House Bill 465, sponsored by Rep. Emily Kane, D-Albuquerque. The bill would reduce penalties for possession of up to 4 ounces to a civil penalty with increasing fines while eliminating the potential for jail time for any amount up to 8 ounces.

"Spending \$5 million a year to arrest people with small amounts of marijuana is a waste of resources," Kane said during the three-hour debate on the bill. "We could put that money to better use."

Rep. Brian Egolf, D-Santa Fe, put it more strongly.

"Why on God's green Earth would we want to spend money throwing college kids in jail for having a few joints when we could be spending that money on early childhood education?" he said during the debate. He called current marijuana laws "institutional state stupidity."

Advocates of the bill can claim bipartisan support. Two Republicans – House GOP Whip Nate Gentry and Rep. Terry McMillan of Las Cruces – joined 35 Democrats to vote in favor of the bill.

Three Democrats – Debbie Rodella of Española, Donna Irwin of Deming and Sandra Jeff of Crownpoint – voted with 31 Republicans against it.

The bill now goes to the Senate, which has only four and a half more days to act on it. And even if it passes both chambers, Gov. Susana

Martinez is opposed to it and likely would veto. On Monday, March 11, the Governor's Office reissued a statement by a spokesman in regard to the marijuana bill:

"As a prosecutor and district attorney, the governor has seen first-hand how illegal drug use destroys lives, especially among our youth, and she opposes drug legalization or decriminalization efforts. Proponents of these efforts often ignore the fact that the vast majority of people convicted for possessing small amounts of marijuana are diverted to treatment programs and those who are sentenced to prison are individuals with long criminal records with convictions for things like assault, burglary, and other crimes."

Leading the charge against the bill was Rep. Bill Rehm, R-Albuquerque, a retired police officer. Rehm said he's personally seen the "bad side" of marijuana use. Rehm argued that decreasing penalties against marijuana would encourage its use among young people.

Kane responded by saying other states that have reduced marijuana penalties have not experienced an increase in its use.

Kane, a firefighter for more than 20 years, said she's seen accidents and other problems caused by alcohol and hard drugs, but none caused by marijuana. She also said that the idea that marijuana is a "gateway" to other drugs is a myth.

There were some light-hearted moments during the debate. House Democratic Whip Moe Maestas of Albuquerque read from newspaper headlines and anti-drug posters from the 1930s and 1940s, when some law-enforcement officials were whipping up outrage against marijuana.

"This is why we're debating this bill today,"

he said.

Rep. Bill McCamley, D-Las Cruces, said the bill should have gone further. "Why are we not legalizing it?" He scoffed at the idea that marijuana smokers were any kind of threat to public safety. People who smoke marijuana, he said, typically "watch PBS, laugh, eat some Cheetos and go to bed."

Under HB465, possession of up to 4 ounces of marijuana would be a civil penalty with increasing fines between \$50 and \$300. Possession

of more than 4 ounces but less than 8 ounces would be a misdemeanor, with no potential for jail time.

Currently, in this state, possession of up to 1 ounce of marijuana is a petty misdemeanor crime with fines and possible jail time. Possession of more than 1 ounce and up to 8 ounces is a full misdemeanor crime, with bigger fines and possible jail time of up to a year.

The House's action comes at a time in which public seems to be softening its views on cannabis legalization. In November 2012, voters in the states of Colorado and Washington decided to legalize marijuana. Supporters of the bill pointed to a recent poll by Research & Polling Inc. shows 57 percent of voters polled supporting the idea of reducing penalties.



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Legislature

Lawmakers prepare for final push

Bills and issues backing up as clock ticks down to end

By **Steve Terrell**
The New Mexican

As the Legislature begins the grueling final week in its current 60-day session, only three bills have been signed into law.

There's the "feed bill," which pays for the session, passed in the session's first week. There's a measure that designated April as "Bataan-Corregidor Heritage Month."

Then, just last week, Gov. Susana Martinez signed Senate Bill 10, which would repeal some requirements for notices given by professional surveyors when conducting land-grant surveys.

It would be a severe understatement to say that none of these bills was among Martinez's priorities listed in her State of the State address. None was among the litany of big ideas unveiled in the news conferences of Democratic lawmakers in the early part of the session.

But as anyone familiar with the workings of the Legislature knows, the list of bills that ends up on the governor's desk soon will begin to grow. Martinez said she isn't worried.

"A lot of the work gets done in the last week and a half to two weeks of the session," she said. "Things are going to keep moving. It's not abnormal. This is the way things work. Hopefully, I'll be getting bills on my desk that help our economy move forward, that help the educational plan for our kids to get better. I really hope we can do that so that we can be competitive in New Mexico."

However, many of the major items on Martinez's docket have run into brick walls in the session.

Just last week, House Republicans fell short in trying to force a floor vote on House Bill 606, which would repeal the state law allowing New Mexico to issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants. It was sent to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, which tabled it. A similar bill, SB521, sponsored by Senate Republican Leader Stuart Ingle, R-Portales, and Sen. John Arthur Smith, D-Deming, was tabled in a Senate committee last week.

Both the House and the Senate education committees last month tabled bills championed by the governor. The Senate panel voted along party lines to table SB260, sponsored by Sen. Gay Kernan, R-Hobbs. The bill would mandate retention for third-graders who are not proficient in reading. The bill also would have required that students who are deficient in reading receive intensive remediation and intervention efforts in kindergarten through second grade, before retention becomes

a reality. The House Education Committee tabled a similar bill sponsored by Rep. Mary Helen Garcia, D-Las Cruces.

Asked if there was a chance the bills could be revived in the next week, Martinez said she was "hopeful that our legislators will listen to the citizens of New Mexico who want our kids reading by the third grade."

Martinez's main economic priority this session was to lower the corporate tax rate. However, no move in that area seems imminent. Dozens of tax-relief measures were introduced, but none seems to have much momentum. Democrats want to pay for any tax cuts by closing loopholes, but they are afraid Martinez wouldn't go along with that.

Sen. Carlos Cisneros, D-Questa, told The New Mexican recently that there was more serious talk of cutting taxes early in the session, when a potential budget surplus seemed likely. But now it seems there will be no significant surplus.

Also, Congress' failure to come up with an agreement to stop mandatory federal budget cuts also plays into the Legislature's reluctance to cut state taxes.

"Our dilemma is we really are reluctant to spend any more of our budget until we get a sense of what the impact (of the federal cuts) is going to be," Cisneros said.

"(The Senate Finance Committee is) looking at the budget right now," she said. "When the budget gets finalized, then they'll look at the tax bills and where they can move or not move those. But the budget needs to be solidified first."

Here's a look at some other bills that are still alive in the Legislature and have a chance of passing:

- **Spaceport:** Legislation to limit lawsuits against firms that supply parts for spacecraft used in Virgin Galactic's operation at the \$209 million spaceport in southern New Mexico is one of the few areas of bipartisan agreement in this session. In the early weeks of the session, bills sailed through the Legislature.

SB240, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tem Mary Kay Papen, D-Las Cruces, passed the Senate with no opposition, while the House unanimously approved the identical HB308, sponsored by Rep. James White, R-Albuquerque. Both bills have passed both chambers and are headed to Martinez for her signature, which she has said she would sign.

The bills would require Virgin Galactic and other space travel companies to carry \$1 million in insurance to qualify for the liability limitations. The bills also would extend the contract between the spaceport and Virgin to 2021. Currently, the contract expires in 2018.

- **Film:** What's come to be known as the Breaking Bad Bill (named after the Emmy-winning cable series shot in Albuquerque) would increase the size of rebates for money spent on film production in the state to 30 percent for a television series that shoots at least six episodes in a single season.

It also would allow the state to carry forward unused film production tax credit funds from previous years, if the state spent less than the current annual cap of \$50 million. For example, if the state spent only \$40 million on rebates one year, the next year the cap would go up to \$60 million.

House Bill 379, sponsored by Rep. Moe Maestas, D-Albuquerque, passed the House unanimously and has cleared two Senate committees, most recently Senate Finance last week. The next stop is the Senate floor.

- **Gun control:** HB77, which would require background checks on anyone buying firearms at gun shows, passed the House last month with bipartisan support. Martinez has said she would sign the bill if it stays in its present form.

The bill got a bumpy start in the Senate, where the Public Affairs Committee initially tabled it. However, Rep. Miguel Garcia, D-Albuquerque, the bill's sponsor, agreed to an amendment to satisfy Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto of Albuquerque, the lone Democrat to vote against it. The committee voted along party lines Thursday, March 7, to give a do-pass recommendation.

If the bill makes it through the Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Senate, it will have to go back to the House for concurrence because of the committee's amendment.

- **Pension fix:** The Senate last week approved SB 27, which would change the pension system for nearly 90,000 state and local government workers and retirees. The Public Employees Retirement Association has a \$6 billion gap between its assets and the cost of future retirement benefits.

The bill would reduce annual cost-of-living adjustments for pension benefits. It also would require employees hired after June 2013 to work longer before collecting pension benefits.

- **Minimum wage:** The Senate last week passed SB 416, sponsored by Sen. Richard Martinez, D-Espanola, which would raise the statewide minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour from \$7.50 an hour. Businesses with fewer than 11 workers would be exempt. This accounts for about 17 percent of all employees in the state, according to a fiscal impact report by the Legislative Finance Committee.

All Senate Republicans voted against the bill, and Martinez is likely would veto it. A spokesman for the governor said she is concerned about a situation in which "New Mexico would have the highest minimum wage in the region, while simultaneously having the highest job-killing business tax rate."

The bill is headed to the House floor.

- **PRC reform:** Because of constitutional amendments passed by voters in November, there are several bills related to the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) working through the Legislature. None has made it all the way yet, but all are moving and none seems to have serious opposition.

There are two different bills dealing with establishing minimum qualifications for commissioners have passed the House and Senate. Other PRC reforms are still in committees.

Gus Macker

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The area marked in yellow and labeled "1" notes the location of the Las Cruces Country Club in proximity to Interstate 25 and an Albertsons Supermarket, labeled "2."

Community plan unveiled for Country Club property

Developers envision a mix of homes, retail, offices and a medical center

By Alta LeCompte
Las Cruces Bulletin

Developers of a 110-acre mixed-use community on the site of the former Las Cruces Country Club property were scheduled to present the project and take public input at a neighborhood meeting Thursday, March 14, at the Las Cruces Home Builders Association.

The community, called Park Ridge, is designed as a place to live, work and play. It would feature health care, commercial, retail, residential and recreational uses.

Plans call for an on-site 40-acre medical campus. Retail space would be anchored by a major national tenant, according to a website announcement. There also would be office space.

Parks, open space and a central plaza would enhance the sustainable community design, which would be connected by walking trails and bike lanes.

The format for Thursday night's meeting included a brief presentation by local developer Bob Pofahl and comments from several neighbors who have been giving input on the project for several months.

Pofahl said traffic specialists who conducted a study of the area as well as engineers who developed a drainage plan for the project would be on hand to answer questions.

He said that as a result of previous input from neighbors, the project team has added more green space and buffers on the property.

"We want to get input from a broader group of neighbors, give them an opportunity to hear our vision and build relationships" he said. "This is something we're doing voluntarily. We've had five previous meetings to gain input from neighbors."

A group of local and regional investors is acquiring the property at 2700 N. Main St.

Both national and local consultants have signed on to bring the Park Ridge project to reality. These include Pofahl of CBI holdings, Galichia Medical Group, Las Cruces Jay Robb of Heritage Assisted Living and NAI 1st Valley Realty.

Pofahl said Zia Engineering and Environmental Consultants of Las Cruces are the civil engineers and planners for the project. Architects include Steve Newby Architects, a Las Cruces firm, and Spanberg Phillips Tice Architecture.

"Successful redevelopment of this significant property offers an opportunity to encourage new investment in Las Cruces as well as the existing neighborhoods. The project will create a community that will enhance quality of life and identity of the entire area while providing jobs and economic growth for Las Cruces," Pofahl said.



Clockwise from lower left, this site plan shows the different uses being proposed in the Park Ridge development, starting by noting there is a permanent ball field in Apodaca Park bordering the property, which could be a neighbor to a future charter school; a drainage pond would also double as a linear park; a retail center with a plaza would run along North Main Street, including a possible hotel; a small park for offices would transition to an area for assisted living; next to the assisted living section would be the proposed medical center and a city walking trail; town homes would be built on the other side of the walking trail; residences would fill in the remaining inner sections.

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Rounds marks six years as superintendent

School board gives unanimous support in vote

The Las Cruces school board gave Superintendent Stan Rounds a great sixth anniversary gift at its Feb. 26 meeting by voting 5-0 to extend his contract until July 1, 2015, adding a year to his previous contract.

"In its search for a new superintendent six years ago, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education knew we needed to bring stability to LCPS," Board President Connie Phillips said. "Stan Rounds has provided that stability. His wealth of experience in New Mexico public school finance has led our schools through the challenging times that we have faced in recent years in reduced education funding."

Rounds said he has found the past six years with LCPS the most rewarding of his more than 37 years in public education, including 30 years as superintendent in Des Moines (in Union County in northeast New Mexico), Hobbs, Alamogordo and now Las Cruces.

"I'm the luckiest guy in the world," he said. "It's a joy, it's an honor. It's many, many hours of work, but it is tremendously rewarding."

Rounds said bringing stability to the school district is "the first thing that I feel good about."

"When I got here, there was a counter-current," he said. "With a team effort, we've been able to settle that. I think we're a lot better off than we were. I'm proud of what we've

been able to do for our children."

Rounds said the downturn in the national economy has created school budget issues.

"My first year as a superintendent in Des Moines was a shudder, but the economy we've faced the last few years in Las Cruces has presented the most difficult budget challenges I've ever faced," he said. "I'm really proud and grateful that we've been able to make some very hard financial decisions without having to lay anyone off. We've kept our mission intact through these tough times and been

able to maintain a robust and forward-moving educational program through a horrible fiscal mess."

Board President Phillips said Rounds and the board have developed an effective partnership over the last six years to proactively meet the needs of our students and staff.

"When I got here, the first task the board of education gave me was to move out on getting building projects implemented," Rounds said.

The money was there from successful bond issues, but LCPS had not secured the necessary land or begun construction, and was in danger of losing state matching funds.

Since Rounds took the reins in early 2007, LCPS has built Monte Vista Elementary School, Mesa Middle School, Centennial High School, Arrowhead Park Early College High School and the Field of Dreams

baseball complex.

Mayfield High School has undergone major renovations, including the construction of a \$2 million theater. A \$56 million renovation at Las Cruces High School will soon begin.

"We've really done a substantial amount of work," Rounds said. "It's not often that a superintendent gets to build a high school, and we've built two, and Early College High School II is on its way."

Part of Rounds' legacy in Las Cruces will be the opening of the state's first early college high school – a model Gov. Susana Martinez wants to replicate around the state.

"Our partnership with the Bridge of Southern New Mexico, the business community, New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College to open Arrowhead Park Early College High School has been remarkable," Rounds said.

As APECHS reaches the end of its third year of operation, it still has not recorded a single dropout.

Rounds also has placed a great deal of emphasis on what's going on in the classroom. This year, 20 schools have implemented the Gomez and Gomez Dual Language Enrichment program, which Rounds called "a game changer that is showing tremendous payback for all participating students, not just English language learners."

Seven schools are part of the new Joint Ungraded Multi-age Program (JUMP) that puts kindergarten, first- and second-grade students with reading challenges together in a

single classroom.

"Rather than implement a third-grade retention program that countless national studies show doesn't work, we've come up with JUMP to raise the reading scores of our youngest students," he said.

Nearly 200 Lynn Middle School and Mayfield High School parents will graduate from LCPS' Institute for Parent Engagement (IPE), which is designed to strengthen the bond between families and schools. IPE will expand to additional schools in 2013-14.

During Rounds' tenure, the LCPS graduation rate has increased more than 17 percentage points, and the school district has instituted a schoolwide energy conservation program that has already saved the district more than \$2 million.

"It is very hard for me to put into a few words my belief that Stan Rounds is one of the best, if not the best, superintendent in New Mexico," said New Mexico Public Education Commission member Gene Gant, who served eight years on the Las Cruces school board, including two while Rounds was superintendent.

Rounds, Gants said, "is a leader among leaders, an innovator among innovators, who is willing to think out of the box, bring others to an understanding of what innovation can do for the education of all students and then lead people to willingly move forward for the common goal of educating all students through innovation."

Rounds said he is grateful for the relationships he's built in Las Cruces in the past six years. For example, he

works closely with NEA-Las Cruces President Patrick Sanchez and Classified School Employees Council President Irma Valdespino on employee rights and responsibilities.

"We can deal with hard issues in a collegial manner," he said. "We don't always agree, but we all know what's right for our kids."

Rounds said the high quality of teachers and other staff is a major reason for his success in Las Cruces.

Rounds also is proud of the technological advances in the district.

"Today, I can visit a kindergarten classroom and watch a 5-year-old being fully engaged in front of a state-of-the-art Promethean board," he said. "That's the direction we're moving in, and we're doing it without losing the vital connection between the student and the teacher."

"I am pleased to call Stan Rounds a friend, a confidant, a mentor and a colleague," said Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Winston Brooks. "As superintendents of the largest two school districts in the State of New Mexico, we have much in common. We talk frequently to discuss and share ideas and challenges. New Mexico is fortunate to have someone like Stan, who has dedicated a lifetime and a career helping youngsters grow and achieve."

"Stan Rounds is as wise and knowledgeable about public education in New Mexico as anyone I know," said New Mexico Senate President Pro Tem Mary Kay Pappan, D, Mesilla Park. "I rely on his advice and sound judgment on many education-related issues as they come before the Legislature. Congratulations on his many years of service to children, families and education in New Mexico."



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Hispano Chamber doesn't support monument effort

Backers asked to change statements

Kirk Clifton, president of the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces, is asking the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NMWA) to remove the organization from its list of supporters for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks national monument proposal.

Clifton said the chamber's board does not support the proposal to have President Barack Obama designate more than 600,000 acres in southern New Mexico as a national monument.

In a letter to the wilderness alliance, Clifton said the NMWA continues to list the Hispano Chamber's support on its website and other publications, despite being informed differently in late 2011. The chamber's board is "demanding that you immediately cease and desist from naming the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces as a supporter," he wrote. "We are not in support of this particular legislation and will publicly disclose that immediately."

Dictionaries distributed



Students at Hermosa Heights Elementary School hold up new dictionaries given to them by the Rio Grande Rotary Club. Each year, the group each year gives dictionaries to third-graders in local schools. Las Cruces Public Schools photo

Group donates to mission



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

John Townsend, who heads community outreach for the Gospel Rescue Mission, accepts a check for \$405.50 from Bonny and Bill Wheeler of the local New Mexico Vintage Iron Club. The group is best known for restoring antique tractors that are displayed each year at the Southern New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo. The Gospel Rescue Mission provides food and shelter for the homeless while offering spiritual support.



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School principal to 'box' Austin Trout

April 5 is date for fundraising bout at Central

Austin Trout, put up your dukes, and get ready to face your toughest opponent yet: "Purple Flame Solis."



TROUT

Central Elementary School broke its old record and surpassed this year's goal by raising nearly \$2,600 in its annual Pennies for Patients campaign.

Because the school collected more than the NMSU Aggies Jack Nixon will

than the \$2,000 it hoped to raise, Principal Eloisa Solis will keep her promise to students and staff and climb into the ring for a boxing match with World Boxing Association Super Welter Weight Champion Austin "No Doubt" Trout of Las Cruces. KGRT Radio News Director and the Voice of

serve as referee and ring announcer.

That special event will take place at 9:45 a.m. Friday, April 5, at Central Elementary, 150 N. Alameda Blvd.

"Students at Central voted on several entries for a ring name and the name selected for me was 'Purple Flame Solis,' since my favorite color is purple," Solis said. "The entry song for the fight will be 'Fire' by The Ohio Players."

"This is the largest amount we have ever collected for the Leukemia

and Lymphoma Society," Central Elementary teacher and campaign coordinator Renee Perry said. "Looks like Ms. Solis will have to practice her 'bob and weave' and 'float like a butterfly and sting like a bee.'"

Central Elementary's top-fundraising classes during the campaign:

- Angie Gutierrez's first-grade class: \$392.63;
- Maria Arellano-Chaves' kindergarten/first-grade class: \$289.01;
- Patricia Lozano's second-grade class: \$208.56.

As the top-earning class,

Gutierrez's first-graders get a pizza party. Chaves and Lozano's students will get ice cream or popsicles.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. It funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services, and it helps blood cancer patients live better, longer lives.

The Pennies for Patients campaign has special relevance for children and their families, as leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer among children under the age of 20. The Pennies for Patients program began in 1995 in North Carolina.

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CrimeStoppers

Auto burglaries

Las Cruces Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person responsible Jan. 11 for breaking into a van that was parked near a business in Santa Teresa.

According to Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office investigators, a man was seen breaking into the van that was parked at a business on the 1700 block of Borderland in Santa Teresa.

The suspect was believed to have arrived in a silver minivan and approached the passenger-side of the victim's van. The suspect took several tools and electronics from the victim's van.

The suspect is said to be Hispanic, and was wearing a gray hoodie and blue jeans. He appears to be approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall with a medium build and black hair.

Anyone with information that can help identify who is responsible for committing this burglary is asked to call Las Cruces Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477) or send a tip via text message to CRIMES (274637), keyword LCTIPS.

The Crime Stoppers number and text messaging services are operational 24 hours a day and you do not have to give your name to collect a reward.

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Keeping up

Ramon Rueda is thankful for the opportunity to compete.

The Texas Tech University sophomore is a walk-on to the track and field team after transferring from New Mexico State University, where he competed in cross country.

The Mayfield High School graduate finished the preliminaries of the 1,000-meter run in 2 minutes, 30.37 seconds at the Big 12 Indoor Championship. Although he didn't advance to the finals, he set a personal best, which ranks as the team's best time for the indoor season.

"I wasn't expecting to go," Rueda said. "Just being there, gaining the feeling of those championship races. I was very happy with my time for my first conference."

The experience is what Rueda needs, according to assistant coach Jon Murray.

"Having an opportunity to compete and just being around the track," he said.

Murray said Rueda did fine at the conference meet, a "higher-pressure situation" to which he'll become accustomed.

Rueda trained hard during the summer for his first year at Texas Tech.

"I really worked on building up and slowly increased my mileage," he said, adding that he averaged 50 to 55 miles a week.

Now he's running 60 to 70 miles per week.

"I look back a year ago at the workouts we did, and I'm running faster in my workouts," he said. "I'm feeling really strong."

He expects to compete in the 800 and 1,500 runs during the outdoor season, when Murray expects he'll learn to prepare a race strategy to make himself more effective.

"He's got plenty of endurance," Murray said. "He's a smart kid. We'll give him more situations when he's got to decide what to do."

Rueda knows he has to pace himself better.

"I realize sometimes I take off a little too fast," he said. "Overall, you want to stay in the middle of the pack."

More men's track and field

Eastern New Mexico University junior Matt Dominguez finished seventh in the 800 at the Lone Star Conference Indoor Championship. The Mayfield product's time was 1:58.50.

Also from Eastern New Mexico, freshman Ricky Milks has been competing in the sprints. The former Trojan placed sixth in the 60-meter dash during the South Plains College Invite, finishing in 6.94 seconds. He was sixth in the 200, with a time of 22.18.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at bkle3@aol.com.

Aggies hope for repeat

Sy, Bhullar and Mullings earn WAC awards

By **Jim Hilley**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The New Mexico State University men's basketball team will be trying to do something this week that no team has done since 2002 – win the Western Athletic Conference Tournament in back-to-back years.

The University of Hawai'i won the tournament in 2001-02, and the Aggies, who won the tournament and gained the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in 2012, are in Las Vegas, Nev., trying to repeat as conference tournament champs.

NMSU coach Marvin Menzies said he believes there is no clear favorite to win the tournament this year.

"I really think there are a lot of teams that could win it," he said, "even teams that aren't expected to rank very high and have had close games all conference long."

"Idaho's a sixth seed, and we won our two games by a total of three points, so I don't think you can count anybody out."

In order for the Aggies to repeat as champions, the Idaho Vandals were the Aggies' first obstacle to overcome Thursday, March 14. Sporting the 2012-13 Conference Player of the Year, the Vandals were picked in the top half of the conference standing at the beginning of the season, but ended up 7-11 in conference play.

If the No. 3 seeded Aggies were successful in getting past Idaho on Thursday, the Aggies would face the winner of the game between No. 2 seeded Denver and No. 7 Texas State, played the same day. Texas State defeated No. 10 Seattle 68-56 Tuesday, March 12, in one of two "play-in" games that day. In the other "play-in" game, No. 9 UT-San Antonio defeated San Jose State 67-49, setting up a Thursday matchup with No. 1 Louisiana Tech.

The Aggies have a very different team than the one that brought home the WAC trophy last year.

"Last year was Wendell McKines, Hamidu

See **Aggies** on page A21



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Steve MacIntyre

Aggie guard K.C. Ross-Miller tosses in a short jump shot against UT-Arlington's Jamel Outler during the Aggies' narrow, come-from-behind 69-66 victory over the Mavericks Saturday, March 9, at the Pan American Center.

Aggie women fall to top-seeded Seattle

NMSU struggles after strong first-half

After holding a commanding lead in the first half of the quarterfinals round at the 2013 Western Athletic Conference Championship, the New Mexico State women's basketball team eventually fell 77-53 to the No. 1 tournament seed Seattle University on Wednesday, March 13. The Aggies finish the 2012-13 season with an overall 15-16 record. Seattle will move on to the semifinals with a 19-8 record.

Senior Stefanie Gilbreath led the Aggies in her final game with 23 points, 12 of those coming in the second half. Fellow senior Kelsie Rozendaal worked her way to 10 rebounds on the night and two assists. The pair helped NMSU to a 33-25 lead over the Redhawks at the half.

Seattle worked the floor to shoot 51 percent and collect 39 rebounds on the game to the Aggies 35.

"I cannot say enough about how proud I am of this team and the fight they have had all year long," NMSU coach Mark Trakh said. "I tip my hat to Seattle. It is a great program. I love the way we came out and played in the first half – we really took control of the court. Seattle just came up in the second half and did the same thing. But at the end of the day, I am so proud of this team and everything they have worked for."

NMSU picked up the early lead with a 3-pointer by sophomore Danesia Williamson that started the Aggies on a 16-4 run early in

the opening half. The Aggies dominated the boards until the 10:45 mark when Seattle was able to break up the Aggie run with a layup.

NMSU allowed the Redhawks 13 unanswered points and a 22-21 lead going into the final media timeout of the half. Two missed free throws by Seattle gave NMSU a rebound and Gilbreath nailed a three-point basket to regain the lead. She came back with two more buckets behind the arc to extend the Aggies lead to 29-22 with just over a minute left in the first period.

After senior Camila Rosen hit two free shots and the Redhawks came up with a three from the top of the arc, Williamson closed out the half with two shots from the line for a 33-25 lead over Seattle.

The Aggies shot 37.9 percent from the floor
See **NMSU** on page A21

Aggies get 69-66 win at the Regular season finale

Photos by Steve MacIntyre



Aggie senior forward Bandja Sy shows an acrobatic move past University of Texas-Arlington forward Karol Gruszecki Saturday, March 9, at the Pan American Center.



Sy shoots over Gruszecki in the Aggies' 69-66 win over the Mavericks in the final regular season game.



NMSU students Ali Rhodes, Sarah Dinning and Madison Hunt cheered as the Aggies took the court against UT-Arlington.

Aggie center/forward Renaldo Dixon puts up a shot over UT-Arlington forward Jordan Reves.



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Aggies

Continued from page 19

Rahman and Hernst Laroche," Menzies said. "It was a different level of experience.

"We have some experience this year with Bandja (Sy) and Tyrone (Watson), but with Tyrone a question mark, whether he will be able to play at all, it's a little bit of a lull from what we were hoping to bring into the tournament."

Sy, who is averaging 11.8 points

and 7.3 rebounds a game for the Aggies, was named Sunday, March 10, as a WAC all-conference first team selection. Watson is trying to recover from a sprained ankle suffered in the Aggies win over Louisiana Tech Thursday, March 7, in the Pan American Center.

"Tyrone has improved, but not at a rate we would have liked," Menzies said. "It was a pretty severe sprain, and for those of you who don't know, a sprain can be worse than a break at times."

Menzies said the sprain was

affecting both sides of the ankle, making recovery even more difficult.

The Aggies have already proven they can win without Watson, however, as the senior served a one-month suspension during February. The Aggies were 6-1 in that span, losing only at Utah State on Feb. 16.

"We've proven ourselves to be successful without Tyrone, the younger guys playing a lot of minutes," Menzies said.

Also receiving all-conference honors for the Aggies were sophomore Daniel Mullings, who was named to the All WAC Second Team and the All-WAC Defensive Team, and Freshman center Sim Bhullar, who was named the WAC Freshman of the Year, to the All-WAC Freshman Team and the All-WAC Third Team.

"It's a great honor," Bhullar said about his selection. "Definitely, to be the first WAC Freshman of the Year in the school's history. All the hard work has paid off, losing the weight - everything's meant for a reason."

Bhullar said he is looking forward to the conference tournament.

"This is going to be the first time I have been in this type of tournament," he said. "I think we are all ready for the tournament. Everybody's focused, everybody knows what the goal is."

"Everybody wants to make each other better. In practice, everybody is going to go at each other and try to make each other our best come tournament time."

The semifinal game in the Aggies' bracket is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, March 15, with the tournament final set for 9 p.m. Saturday, March 16, on ESPNU.

Oklahoma tops Ags

Mott pitches outstanding game

The New Mexico State baseball team (8-10) fell 3-2 to No. 17 Oklahoma (14-4) in the final inning of the game, Wednesday, March 13, at L. Dale Mitchell Park in Norman, Okla.

After Oklahoma crossed the plate in the bottom of the first, both teams were scoreless until junior Michael Paulson tallied an RBI double to left field that brought in senior Parker Hipp, who got on base with a walk. It was Hipp's 18th walk of the year, which leads the team.

NMSU took the lead in the sixth inning when Bobby Lecount tallied a run on a wild pitch. Lecount got aboard with a walk, advanced to second on a wild pitch and reached third when Paulson flied out to center field. Paulson finished the day going 2-of-3 at the plate with an RBI. The Aggies took a 2-1 lead into the seventh before the Sooners tied up the game on an RBI double down the line.

A Sooner player reached base on a single through the left side and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt. That base runner would get to third when he eluded a tag at third base before scoring on a walk-off sac-fly. Although he was credited with the loss, senior starting pitcher Adam Mott had a stellar performance as he worked 8.1 innings, while striking out seven batters and giving up just two earned runs. He now has a team-high 30 Ks on the year in 34 innings of work.

The Aggies return home for a four-game series with Alabama A&M starting, at 6:05 p.m. Friday, March 15. The game is scheduled to air over the radio waves on KSNM AM 570, although is subject to change due to other sporting events in the region.



Western Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year Sim Bhullar talks with the media Monday, March 10, at the Pan American Center.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jim Hilley

NMSU

Continued from page A19

in the first half and held Seattle to 37 percent. Gilbreath led all scorers with 11 points and Rozendaal topped the box score with seven boards in the opening half.

With a much slower-paced second half, Seattle scored the first four field goals to tie the game at 33-33. Weber responded with two big three's for NMSU for a 39-35 lead. Seattle knotted the score again with

a jumper and a pair of free throws and the teams began to trade buckets on each side of the court.

The Redhawks took off on a 14-0 run for a 51-43 lead over NMSU and held the Aggies scoreless for more than five minutes until Gilbreath hit a layup off the right corner of the glass. The Redhawks went on another 14-point run over the Aggies before Gilbreath came up with the Aggies' next five points to finish the Aggies' scoring. Seattle came up with the final seven points of the night to finish with a final score of 77-53.



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Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jim Hilley

Las Cruces High School students give a rousing send-off to a bus carrying the Las Cruces Bulldawg girls basketball team Tuesday, March 12, as the LCHS boys and girls teams departed for the New Mexico State High School Basketball Championships in Albuquerque. Unfortunately, the No. 9 seeded LCHS girls fell later that day to No. 1 Clovis, 62-61. The No. 6 Bulldawg boys defeated No. 3 La Cueva 64-58 Wednesday, March 13.

Las Cruces teams advance

LCHS, Mayfield and MVCS make semifinals

In the 5-A boys bracket of the 2013 US Bank State Basketball Championships, No. 6 Las Cruces High School defeated No. 3 La Cueva 64-58 Wednesday, March 13, and was scheduled to play No. 7 Hobbs in the 5-A semifinals at 8:15 p.m. Thursday, March 14, in the Pit in Albuquerque.

The championship game will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the Pit against the winner of Thursday's semifinal game between No. 1 Eldorado and No. 4 Clovis.

Las Cruces win over La Cueva ended the high school career of Bryce Alford, who set all New Mexico single-season scoring record in New Mexico high school basketball during the third quarter of the game. Alford, the son of University of New Mexico coach Steve Alford, has committed to play for the Lobos next year. Alford scored 33 points in the game and ended with 1,050 for the season. The previous record

was held by Nick Pino of Saint Michael's High School in Santa Fe who scored 1,033 points in 1962-63.

In 2-A boys action, No. 7 Mesilla Valley Christian Schools got past No. 2 Pecos 52-46 on Wednesday, March 13, and was scheduled to play No. 3 Dexter in the semifinals at the Santa Ana Star Center (SASC) in Rio Rancho at 4:45 p.m. Thursday, March 14. The winner of that game will advance to the 2-A championship to play the winner the semifinal between No. 1 Lugana Acoma and No. 5 Acoma.

The No. 2 Mayfield High School girls defeated No. 7 Eldorado 59-40 Wednesday, March 13, and moved into the 5-A semifinals to play No. 6 Volcano Vista at 3 p.m. Thursday at the SASC. The other semifinal matched No. 1 Clovis against No. 7 Las Cueva at 1:15 p.m. Thursday. The 5-A girls championship will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at the Pit.

Ags fall to Sun Devils, Irish

NMSU ends non-conference play at Nebraska

On the final day of the Diamond Devil Invitational Sunday, March 10, the New Mexico State softball team dropped to host Arizona State and Notre Dame, finishing the tournament 1-3 and moving to an overall season record of 15-10. The Aggies fell 6-0 to host Arizona State and dropped 5-0 to the Irish on Sunday, March 10, at Farrington Stadium.

NMSU fell 6-0 to ASU after holding the Sun Devils to just one run through the first six innings. The seventh inning proved pivotal in the game as ASU scored five runs for the final 6-0 win over NMSU.

"I think we pitched well enough in both games to win and we did great defensively," associate coach Cat Heifner said. "Offensively, we just have to come up key and string some hits together."

As the Aggies got back to the diamond against Notre Dame, senior Amber Olive led things off with a single to left in the top of the

first. She was caught stealing at second, just her second of the season. Sophomore transfer Lacey Rother picked up her first hit of the day went through the left side.

NMSU was unable to turn those hits for a run, but Notre Dame wasted little time before plating the first run of the day off a double to right field.

The Aggies came up with a single to left center by Olive and a fielder's choice by Rother in the sixth before ND made a play at second and then nabbed a fly out to get out of the inning. The Irish plated one in their half of the sixth with a bases-loaded walk by McAdams.

The Aggies ended the game on three straight outs to fall 5-0 to Notre Dame.

NMSU now looks to its final regular season series before moving on to conference play with three games at the University of Nebraska at 3 and 5 p.m. Friday, March 15 and at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in Lincoln, Neb.

H I G H S C H O O L Sports Schedule

Centennial High School

March 15-16..... Softball at Southern New Mexico Softball Tournament...TBA
 Saturday, March 16... Tennis (co-ed)..... Oñate High School..... 10 a.m.
 Baseball at Del Norte High School..... noon, 2 p.m.
 March 22-23..... Tennis (co-ed)..... at Mayfield/LCHS Tennis Tournament.....TBA



Las Cruces High School

March 13-16..... Boys Basketball at State Basketball Tournament.....TBA
 Baseball at New Mexico Baseball InvitationalTBA
 March 15-16..... Softball at Southern New Mexico Softball Tournament...TBA
 March 22-23..... Tennis (co-ed)..... at Mayfield/LCHS Tennis Tournament.....TBA
 Softball at Carlsbad Softball Tournament.....TBA



Mayfield High School

March 14-16..... Girls Basketball at State Basketball Tournament.....TBA
 March 14-16..... Baseball at New Mexico Baseball InvitationalTBA
 March 15-16..... Softball at Southern New Mexico Softball Tournament...TBA
 March 22-23..... Softball at Carlsbad Softball TournamentTBA
 Tennis (co-ed)..... at Mayfield/LCHS Tennis Tournament.....TBA



Oñate High School

March 14-16..... Baseball at Carlsbad Baseball Tournament.....TBA
 March 15-16..... Softball at Southern New Mexico Softball Tournament...TBA
 Saturday, March 16... Tennis (co-ed)..... at Centennial High School 10 a.m.
 March 22-23..... Tennis (co-ed)..... at Mayfield/LCHS Tennis Tournament.....TBA



Mesilla Valley Christian Schools

March 14-16..... Boys Basketball at State Basketball Tournament.....TBA
 Softball at Hot Springs TournamentTBA
 Tuesday, March 19 Baseball at Lydia Patterson Institute..... 3 p.m.
 March 21-23..... Baseball at Dexter Baseball TournamentTBA
 Thursday, March 21... Softball at Ruidoso High School..... 4 p.m., 6 p.m.



Mesilla Valley Christian Schools

High School

Athletes of the Week

Devyn Rice

Devyn Rice is a 17-year-old junior at Mesilla Valley Christian Schools. He plays guard and forward on the boy's SonBlazer basketball team. Rice currently averages seven points and six rebounds per game. He is a dead-eye shooter (over 50 percent per game from the field) the team's best defender, and a good positional rebounder. Rice takes on the opponent's most potent scorer to shut him down. That attitude says it all. He "walks the talk" and has incredible hops for a person his size (5'11"). Rice finishes better than most and has a variety of offensive moves that makes him a dangerous offensive threat. He is special because he works so hard on the court, in the weight-room, and in becoming a student of the game.

Rice has had national exposure in basketball. He played in the Phenom 150 camp in San Diego for the top juniors in America and while there, showed great athleticism and a positive attitude for the game of basketball. He is a quiet leader who moves behind the scenes. Rice is an excellent student, with a 4.0 GPA, and loves to learn. He demonstrates incredible academic potential as a future scholar and is very quick and effective in his decision-making. When not on the court or in the classroom, Rice loves to play any game or contest.

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Hannah Rohwer

Hannah Rohwer is a 15-year-old sophomore at Mesilla Valley Christian Schools. She is on the Lady Blazer's swimming team. Her favorite events are the 50 and 100 freestyle. It is Rohwer's second year on the varsity swim team and she has been a member of LCAT for two years. She swam her personal best this season with a 1:11.14 in the 100 and 32.99 in the 50. Rohwer is friendly, kind hearted and has a great sense of humor. She is persistent in all her endeavors, including her academics - having a 3.0 GPA. Outside of swimming and the classroom, Rohwer is a FFA member, enjoys her youth group at Calvary Baptist Church and hanging out with her friends.

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Charlie Blanchard
Golf Doctor

Statistics are a wonderful thing. They reveal so much about the state of affairs around us, and so much about ourselves.

As for statistics being valid and meaningful numbers, a wise man once said, "statistics are like bikinis; what they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital."

When weekend golfers think of keeping track of statistics they usually consider the basics – fairways, greens and putts. It's a very good idea to monitor these numbers, because the more fairways you keep your drives on, and the more greens you hit in regulation, the better your chances of scoring. The fewer putts you take, the more matches you'll win.

All the professional golf tours keep extensive stats on player performance. Going way beyond "fairways and greens" this information goes much deeper into the effectiveness and efficiency of the best players in the game.

“ Let's face it, tour stats can be mind-boggling. ”

There are PGA Tour stats on 250-to-275 yard "approach" shots (for us mortals 250 is a decent drive), as well as 50-to-75 yard approach shots. There are "sand-save" numbers relating to the percentage of par saves from sand bunkers. Other tour stats include "three-putt avoidance," holes (played) per eagle, and "scrambling" ratio, which is pars saved per greens not hit in regulation. The tour carefully tracks figures on scoring in each tournament golf round, with "final-round scoring" being the most telling.

Two of my favorite stats are the "bounce-back" number and the "par-breaker" number. Bounce-back represents the frequency that a player makes birdie on the hole immediately following a bogey or worse. It's really an indicator of mental toughness that puts a face to the old saying, "It's not how hard you fall but how quickly you bounce back." The "par-breaker" stat, of course, is the number of birdies a player makes as a percentage of all the tournament holes played. Again, this isn't something the average golfer thinks about. This represents a mindset of zeroing in on the birdie from the tee shot to the putt, like an archer to a bullseye.

But, let's face it, tour stats can be mind-boggling. I mean who can relate?

C'mon, holes-per-eagle? Most chops play golf their entire lives and maybe have one eagle, when they bladed a shot over the green and it miraculously ricocheted off a ball washer into the hole for a three.

As I read through PGA Tour stats I confess my mind wanders. I recall one of my statistics professors who quipped that 98 percent of all statistics are made up. Statistics

are sort of like an accountant who says to his client, "When I do your books do you want to show a profit or a loss?"

So, I started thinking up even more obscure methods of tracking personal performance, and more interestingly analyzing golfer behavior. Here are some of my unique and contrived golf stats that you might consider keeping careful logs on.

- **Face-savers:** Your percentage of good shots after cold topping the ball.
- **"Over" ratio:** Frequency of a player declaring a "breakfast ball" on the first tee. (This is sometimes called the "hit 'til you're happy" stat.)
- **Panhandling stat:** The probability of a given player begging competitors for strokes before teeing off.
- **Shank-you's:** Number of solid shots after two consecutive shanks per round.
- **Bear-downs:** Percentage of putts made after someone says "get it close" as you address the ball.
- **Hangover scoring:** Average score on morning rounds when you suffer from a serious hangover.
- **Post-meltdown scoring:** Your average score on the next round when you've just shot 12 over your handicap.
- **Post-sandbag scoring:** Your average score on the next round after you have just had a net 62, which means you're not a really a 13 after all.
- **Polies:** Your number of 8-foot putts (flagstick length or longer) made per round to save net bogie and collect \$20 from the group.
- **Wedgies:** Proximity (number of feet from the hole) of your next shot after laying the sod over the first wedge attempt.
- **Gimmies:** Putts longer than four inches (roughly the width of the hole) that you get to pick up during a round. This stat is adjusted by the number of putts you thought should have been gimmies.
- **Stupidos:** Putts that should have been gimmies that you missed. Often confused with a "yip."
- **Freebies:** The number of actually playable, quality golf balls you found during a round.
- **Five-putt avoidance:** This is simply your playing companions conceding your fifth putt after they have seen enough of you hockey-pucking the ball around for three minutes. This stat sometimes comes into play in "sweet-and-sour" tournaments.
- **Driving distance:** Total distance (in miles) you had to drive your cart in a round.
- **Tourette's ratio:** The number of four-letter words that begin with "F" you have uttered per hole that do not include "fore."
- **Redeaux:** After missing your attempted putt badly, this is your percentage of second attempt (re-putts) made per round; as they say, that second guy is really good. As the Famous Japanese Pro says, "Hit second

Golf tournament

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- ball first."
- **Helicopter ratio:** Club throws per round.
- **Arrows:** Fairways hit with thrown clubs. This does not count provisional throws. Your score is reduced by SkyCaddie units that are destroyed by flying clubs that hit them. (Actual case.)
- **Splinters:** The number of broken clubs per round.
- **Vanity ratio:** High scoring rounds not posted compared to total rounds played.
- **Sandbagger ratio:** Low scoring rounds not posted compared to total rounds. (I'd much rather play a vanity handicapper for money than a sandbagger.)
- **Pounding index:** Number of beers consumed per round. Index is doubled by beers afterwards.
- **Suds-saves:** Number of beer cup catches per 18 holes, as your beer is about to exit the cart cup holder when your cart flies recklessly over mounds and around corners.
- **Bump-and-runs:** Other golf carts hit per round.
- **Ironman index:** The number of golf rounds you have played in a year, over 100.
- **Risk-taking index:** The number of rounds played on your anniversary, your wife's birthday and Mother's Day.
- **Driver-of-the-month stat:** The number of rounds played per new driver. Ten years ago my stat here was 200 rounds with a driver; today it's about 20. So many clubs, so little time.

- **Whining chart:** Number of complaints about course conditions, weather, hole locations, slow play and other variables per round. Want any cheese with that whine?
- **Needling tally:** How many times per 18 holes a brainless fellow who may be personality disordered, will try to rattle, jab, poke or otherwise try to unsettle another player, usually not his partner.
- **Volcano effect:** The number of hits on the ground or concrete cart path with a metal-head club before the club (or shaft) actually breaks. I once witnessed 27 blows from a friend.
- **Snail classification:** How freaking slow can you play? Do you not comprehend that other human beings who are golfers are waiting in the fairway? Are you the same idiot that turns out of a parking lot directly in front of me causing me to slam on my brakes? It's truly a crying shame that Detroit doesn't put turn signals on the cars that wind up in New Mexico.
- **Tightwad scale:** This is the number that represents the dollar tips, as a percentage of expenditure, that individuals leave for the cart girls and the bartenders at the clubs they play. High is good.

Dr. Charlie Blanchard is a licensed psychologist specializing in sports and leadership who works with PGA professionals and young golfers to enhance their performance. He partners with coach Herb Wimberly as the principal instructors at Performance Golf Schools. Contact Blanchard at sports@lascrucesbulletin.com

NM
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**ATHLETE
of
the WEEK**



Sim Bhullar
Freshman, Men's Basketball

Freshman center Sim Bhullar was named the 2013 WAC Freshman of the Year. He averaged 11.3 points, 7.3 rebounds and 3.0 blocks per game in WAC play. He was also named to the third team All-WAC and All-Newcomer team. Bhullar is the first Aggie in school history to earn the WAC Freshman of the Year award. In 2001, James Moore was named Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year. Bhullar ranked first in the WAC in blocks and field goal percentage (60.2) in league contests.



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Aggie Insider

Postseason looms

Both men and women Aggies garner all conference honors on the court



Jack Nixon
Jack's Corner

Here we go ... another post-season conference tournament and another chance for a trip to the NCAA postseason tourney.

The Aggies head in winning three of the last four, two in the "come from behind" category, the other, a blowout over the tourney's No. 1 seed. Again, Marvin Menzies' team has improved throughout the season and has a decent shot, even though its lineup is still a question mark with Tyrone Watson's injured ankle. Three NM State Aggies got some postseason hardware, Bandja Sy was first team, Daniel Mullings second team and all-defensive and New Mexico State's "Canadian Colossus," Sim Bhullar, was WAC Freshman of the Year.

For Sy, it was affirmation of the promise of athletic achievement Menzies has been counting on since Sy's freshman year. At times, it was painful to watch Sy as a freshman and sophomore learning how to play at the highest level of college basketball.

As a senior, the native of Cergy, France, has hit clutch shots in three different games, including the go-ahead 3-pointer March 9 versus UT Arlington. Sy's defense has been consistent and his athleticism and long frame consistently bedeviled opposing ball handlers.

The Aggies have been a defensive marvel this year, and Mullings received the nod from the rest of the conference coaches

for his ability to distort the opposing offenses. Add to that his membership on the second team as a sophomore, and Mullings' future appears to be headed for regular membership on the first team down the road.

Bhullar's selection could not have been a surprise to anyone. The school's single-season blocked shot record, the conference's best field goal percentage and game in and game out intimidation of shooters inside made it impossible to ignore him.

The Aggies season has been different from any others I have seen in my time in the Mesilla Valley. The slow build is a Menzies trademark, but to see player after player step up and mature on the job when called upon has been a first.

Honors for the Trakh team, too: As the preseason polls predicted, Stefanie Gilbreath was the recipient of postseason recognition. She was named conference newcomer of the year and was placed on the second team in the all-conference voting. She had the third best scoring average in the conference and finished the season by scoring in double figures in each of the Aggies' 18 WAC games and 20-plus points in nine games this season.

In WAC games, the senior ranked third in the conference in scoring and 3-pointers per game, fifth in free throw percentage, ninth in blocks and 12th in rebounding. Like the men, Trakh's team has had a series of wild finishes and unexpected victories. Teams with that *modus operandi* are dangerous when tournaments start in mid-March.

Aggie fans are a great help to basketball team

Players focused on tournament opponents



Marvin Menzies
Men's Basketball
Head Coach

First, and foremost I want to thank all of our fans for a tremendous season in the Pan American Center. A 15-1 record on the season, and trust me, I wish we could get that one back.

I want all of the season ticket holders, single game ticket buyers and students to know how much it means to all of our student athletes for you all to show up to the game and be loud.

I will bring up one perfect example this season of how a great crowd can impact a huge game. This year against UTEP we had more than 10,700 people in the stands. Every single one of you that was at the arena knows you had a direct impact on our players storming back from down nine points with less than five minutes to go. The atmosphere you created was electric and helped our players fight toward victory.

I'm sure you all are very happy that I decided to sign my first junior college player, Kevin Aronis, after he shot us back into the game.

Currently, I'm sitting up in my hotel room at the WAC Tournament in Las Vegas. We are preparing to play Idaho this afternoon.

When you are reading this letter

our game versus Idaho has already been played, hopefully with your Aggies winning.

Our players are focused and prepared for the tournament. They have been watching film on Idaho and reading the scouting report since we ended our last home game against UT-Arlington. Our staff and I are excited about the potential of this team in March and very pleased to see all the Aggie fans in Las Vegas.

Finally, I want to thank you all for supporting me as your head coach. It is an honor to represent a program with such a rich history in such a beautiful area of the country. My family is very proud to call Las Cruces our home.

I am also very proud of our basketball team. When I say "our," understand that this is our team. Everyone that has purchased season tickets, bought a single game ticket and students that come out to the games are a part of this Aggie basketball family.

This season, family has been a key word for the fabric of our team. These players have truly bonded together and they are brothers. This is what I believe led us from having a record of 6-8, to ending the regular season with a record of 21-10.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter and hopefully while you are reading it, we are preparing to play in the WAC semifinals.

Go Aggies!

“ It is an honor to represent a program with such a rich history ”

Upcoming

In Aggie Athletics

Friday, March 15 Men's Basketball

WAC Tournament
Las Vegas, Nev.
TBD

Women's Basketball

WAC Tournament
Las Vegas, Nev.
TBD

Swimming and Diving

NCAA Zone 'E' Diving
Championships
Colorado Springs, Colo.
All day

Women's Tennis

UTEP
Las Cruces
2 p.m.

Track and Field

Willie Williams Classic
Tucson, Ariz.
All day

Softball

Nebraska
Lincoln, Neb.
5 p.m.

Baseball

Alabama A&M
Las Cruces
6 p.m.

Saturday, March 16 Men's Basketball

WAC Tournament
Las Vegas, Nev.
TBD

Women's Basketball

WAC Tournament
Las Vegas, Nev.
TBD

Swimming and Diving

NCAA Zone 'E' Diving
Championships
Colorado Springs, Colo.
All day

Track and Field

Willie Williams Classic
Tucson, Ariz.
All day

Softball

Nebraska
Lincoln, Neb.
Noon and 2 p.m.

Aggie student-athlete spotlight



Karysta Donisthorpe
Sophomore
Softball

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Karysta Donisthorpe went 1-1 on the weekend with 8.1 innings of work for a 1.68 ERA in the circle at the Diamond Devil Invitational.

She allowed just two earned runs and tallied a combined nine strikeouts with three walks.



Stefanie Gilbreath
Redshirt senior
Women's Basketball

Stefanie Gilbreath earned the final WAC Player of the Week honor this season when she averaged 21.5 points a game in the Aggies' two road wins at Louisiana

Tech and UT Arlington. She was named WAC Newcomer of the Year and second team All-WAC for 2012-13.



Michael Ormseth
Senior
Baseball

Starting senior pitcher Michael Ormseth made an appearance and tallied a win as he worked 6.0 innings striking out six batters and allowing only two walks and four hits. Two

runs scored on Ormseth but neither was earned so he finished the weekend with a 0.00 ERA.

I MUSTACHE YOU A QUESTION...



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THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

Great Aggies honored at the Hall of fame induction

Photos by Steve MacIntyre



Photos of Presley Askew, Lou Henson, Gerald Hines and Warren Woodson, the U.S. Bank/New Mexico State University Hall of Fame inductees, were displayed inside the NMSU practice gym Saturday, March 9, before the halftime ceremony at the NMSU-UT-Arlington men's basketball game.



Henson, Charley Johnson, Dave Thompson, Presley Askew Jr. and Walter Hines, son of Gerald Hines, pose with the hall of fame photos.

Former Aggie football player Dave Thompson stands next to a photo of inductee Warren Woodson.



Son of NMSU Hall of Fame inductee Presley Askew, Presley Askew Jr., stands to accept his father's award.



Thompson and Charley Johnson walk onto the court escorted by an Aggie cheerleader at the Pan American Center.





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LOCAL GAMES FACTS

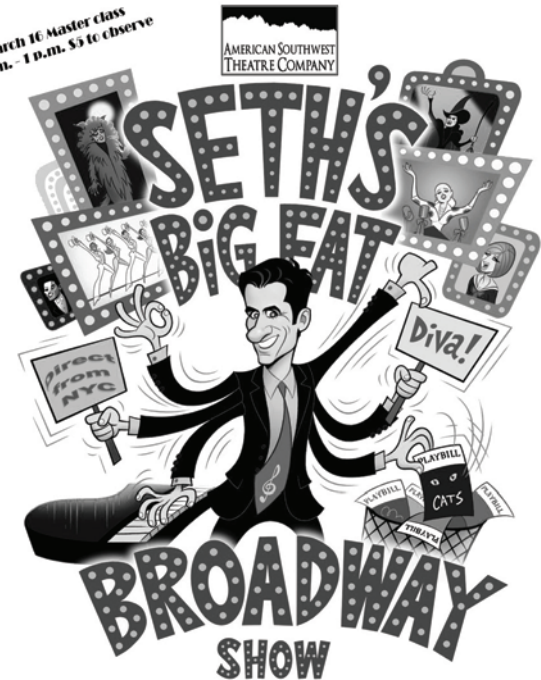
- Must be 50 years old before December 31st
- Great camaraderie and sportsmanship
- Compete at Nationals - every two years
- Age Divisions - 5 years
M/W 50-54; 55-59; 60-64...
- Competing in senior sports is living a healthy lifestyle.
- Contact local game coordinator for qualifying



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March 16 Master class
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$5 fee observe



SETH'S BIG FAT BROADWAY SHOW

As host of Sirius/XM Radio's On Broadway, pianist for over a dozen Broadway shows, and Playbill.com columnist, Seth Rudetsky will use his private video and audio collection to wow audiences with his knowledge of theatre history and trivia.

Friday, March 15 - 2 performances only!
2:30 pm - \$20 Adults/\$10 Students
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VIP Reception following the evening performance - \$25

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Looking Back

This week in the history of the Mesilla Valley



Jim Hilley
Reflections

100 years ago

1913

• The month-old daughter of Frank Campbell was baptized Sunday, professor Fabian Garcia and wife acting as sponsors. The tot was named Natalia Julieta Campbell.

• The Gem Barbershop was sold by Ben Woods to Jimmie Silva and Nick Kennedy, who "will keep up the policy of catering to those who want the best," The Las Cruces Citizen reported. "As they are both well known, we apprehend that they will meet with success."

• Forrest McKinley, with his wife and son, came in on the evening train from the south. They started from Deming in their automobile and got "pretty near to Anthony" when one wheel on their car "crushed to pieces" due to the bad condition of the roads. They traveled the rest of the way to Las Cruces by train.

75 years ago

1938

• Doña Ana County farmers voted overwhelmingly in favor of federal cotton marketing quotas. According to Lee Gould, county extension agent, 698 votes were cast in the county, with 570 in favor and 128 in opposition. The vote was favorable in most cotton-growing areas of New Mexico.



"El Molino," or Schaublin's Mill, was operated by Jacob Schaublin, who was originally from Switzerland and came to Las Cruces in 1860. It was traditional for mills to be built at the end of irrigation canals, so this mill may have stood at what was once the southern end of the Las Cruces canal, which originally ran seven miles from near Doña Ana to present-day Downtown Las Cruces. Schaublin's daughter married Martin Lohman, for whom Lohman Avenue is named.

New Mexico State University Library
Rio Grande Historical Collections photo

• L.C. Lusk was elected president of the Mesilla National Farm Loan Association at an annual meeting held in the Branigan Memorial Library.

• The Rio Grande Theatre's offerings included Sonja Henie and Don Ameche in "Happy Landing," Mae West in "Every Day's a Holiday" and "Stand In" with Joan Blondell and Leslie Howard.

said Dr. J.R. Gurnick, chairman of the county Sabin Oral Sunday Steering Committee.

• Twelve-hundred high school musicians and their teachers were expected to descend on Las Cruces and Las Cruces High School for the New Mexico Southwest District Music Festival. Bands, choruses and small ensemble performers were to arrive March 23.

• The New Mexico State University Roadrunner women's basketball team was headed to Seattle to play Pac-10 champion Washington Huskies in the NCAA Tournament. The Roadrunners received an automatic bid to the tournament as the High Country Athletic Conference champions.

• A Chinese Pistache tree was planted by Jo Milton in honor of her late husband Gen. Hugh Milton, during an Arbor Day event at the fire station on Missouri Avenue. Milton said the Chinese Pistache was her husband's favorite tree. The tree was donated by New Mexico Beautification Inc.

50 years ago

1963

• Many Las Cruces and Doña Ana residents were receiving their second dose of the Sabin oral polio vaccine, and were advised they could get their second dose at the same clinics at which they received the first dose. "Our aim is to get greater participation the first dose,"

25 years ago

1988

• County Commission Chairman Al Keaton and Commissioner David Holguin were involved in a shoving match when the two disagreed on allegations concerning a plan said to be in the works to oust County Manager Russell Lummus.

Information gathered from New Mexico State University Library's Microform Area and Archives and Special Collections. Edited by Jim Hilley.

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Spaceships, roadrunners and other flights of fancy

Markets, spaceport soar; sculpture nearly ready for return landing



David McCollum
*Life is Good
in Las Cruces*

Wow, the stock market has gone crazy recently, and has hit an all-time high.

As far as recommending folks to invest their hard-earned money in stocks, I prefer a bit more conservative investment. Stock values seem more of an indicator of short-term consumer confidence than they are an indicator of our nation's overall economic health.

There is very little difference between gambling and the stock market. The way I see it, buying equities and anteing up in poker are similar in that each "investment" is based on people's greed and tolerance of risk.

A wise man once told me a sure sign the stock market is about to suffer a decline is when your barber starts giving you financial advice to buy stocks.

Guess what? Last week my barber proudly announced that he was moving his savings into the stock market, and encouraged me to do the same.

Based on the "wise man's" previous advice, guess it must be time to sell.

The YouTube clip of an unselfish act by a high school basketball player in El Paso has gone viral. The player intentionally passed the ball at the end of a game to a handicapped opponent, just to allow him to score the first and only points of his career. Currently, the two young men and their mothers are making the national talk show circuit. Glad to see the exposure this single act has received.

However, I have neither seen nor heard any comments about how many (thousands) acts of kindness the handicapped young man's mother and family have provided to him every day of his life. Nor has there been acknowledgement for all the other caregivers who quietly and graciously have given of themselves to others less fortunate, without seeking or receiving any recognition.

Two new Las Cruces events were announced this past week.

Downtown Las Cruces will be the site of a country music festival May 17-19. Dawn Starostka of the locally owned Helping Hands Event Planning will be coordinating the three-day festival along with the Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau. I understand the plans are to close Main Street for the weekend of down-home music, dancing and fun.

The other event will be a United States Tennis Association professional women's tennis tournament to be held at New Mexico State University June 2-9. Local tennis aficionados can participate in meeting and interacting with the pros starting with a kick-off dinner at the Ramada Palms on June 2. Other plans include a pro-am mini-tournament, tentatively set for June 3, and a youth clinic and carnival. The actual professional tournament will begin on June 5 with the finals set for June 9.

A recent report on Spaceport America was encouraging, if not downright exciting. So far, 570 tickets at \$200,000 a pop have already been sold. However, the commercial space travel is not the only thing that will be happening.

Our spaceport is in the process of hiring a creative "attraction" development com-

pany from Orlando to create an array of interactive displays at the spaceport itself. I understand the company has worked with Disney on developing several of the visitor attractions at Disney World. Plans are to attract more than 200,000 visitors annually to the spaceport. Now, if Doña Ana and Sierra counties can just figure out how to work together to pave the southern access road ...

Perhaps the best short-term news about the Spaceport is that, according to New Mexico Spaceport Authority Executive Director Christine Anderson, New Mexicans can expect the spaceport to be fully self-sufficient

by mid-2014.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this important project.

For those who have missed seeing the roadrunner sculpture that previously had been overseeing Las Cruces from its perch on the west mesa near I-10, I understand the iconic bird will be returning soon from its refurbishing project by its creator, Olin Calk, and will once again be serving as the welcoming sentinel to our city.

David McCollum is publisher emeritus of the Las Cruces Bulletin. For comments or ideas about this column, contact him at dmccollum@lascrucesbulletin.com.

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SENIOR PROGRAMS

Programs at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., are for those age 50 and older. Membership is free and is required to participate in classes and activities.

Munson Center offers a variety of classes at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Some classes offered are: beginning jewelry, clay works, china painting, stained glass, creative writing, Spanish, woodcarving and quilting.

For registration information, call 528-3000.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

AARP Driver Safety Program courses are open to drivers age 55 or older. A certificate issued upon successful completion of the four-hour course may qualify the participant for a discount on insurance, depending on the driver's insurance policy. Cost is \$12 for AARP members

and \$14 for nonmembers, paid at the door the day of class.

Participants need to bring their driver's license, a pen or pencil and correct change if paying with cash. AARP members must bring their membership cards to receive the discount.

Classes are held on a first-come, first-served basis. The next available classes are:

- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday,

March 16, at the Radium Springs Community Center, 12060 Lindbeck Road. Bring a sack lunch and snacks.

- 9:30 to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23, Southwest Senior Lifestyle Expo, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Expo admission is \$3.

For more information, visit www.aarp.org or call 505-830-3096.

THE VOYAGERS TRAVEL CLUB

The Voyagers Travel Club is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

Trips currently being booked include:

- **Tucson/Tubac/Major league baseball spring training game:** March 26-28. Cost: \$390 double, \$425 single.
- **Lake Lucero day trip:** March 30. Cost is \$32.
- **Santa Fe Turquoise Trail:** April 10-12. Cost: \$280 double, \$310 single.
- **San Antonio:** May 5-11, seven days, six nights. Cost: \$620 double, \$800 single.
- **Eastern Mediterranean Cruise:** June 15-23, nine days, eight nights. Call for details.
- **Niagara Falls/Toronto:** Sept. 23-26, four days, three nights. Cost: \$1,647 double, \$1,972 single. For more information, call Helen Glover at 805-4920 or 312-6152.

AEROBICS

Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of

movement and activity. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles and a ball are offered for resistance; a chair is used for seated and/or standing support.

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 registered Senior Program members.

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 at the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.

Cost is \$2, or \$1 for registered Senior Program members.

YOGA CLASSES

Yoga encourages proper body alignment and brings balance, strength and calmness. Classes are from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.

Cost is \$2, or \$1 for registered Senior Program members.

ZUMBA GOLD

Zumba Gold modifies Zumba moves and pacing to suit the needs of active older participants. It's a dance-fitness class that feels friendly and, most of all, fun.

Classes are from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave.

Cost is \$2, or \$1 for registered Senior Program members.

CARDIO, CORE & MORE

The core muscle group is often referred to as your "trunk" and involves all of the muscles surrounding the trunk. A weak core can contribute to lower-back pain, poor posture and loss of balance.

Basic classes are from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.

Cost is \$2, or \$1 for registered Senior Program members.

TAI CHI CLASS

Tai Chi class is from 3 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Center, 975 S. Madrid St., in the auditorium.

SUPER SENIORS WATER AEROBICS

Super Seniors Water Aerobics are from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.

The class is available only to seniors age 60 and older. A \$1 donation is suggested.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

The AARP and the Community Action Agency free tax preparation is available from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday through April 12 at 3880 Foothills Road. Tax



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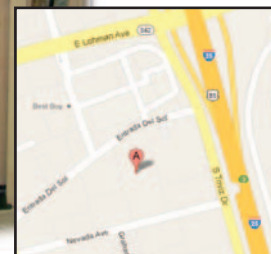
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preparation is also available from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. There are no eligibility requirements. For more information, call 527-8799.

SWINGING DANCERS

The Swinging Dancers will meet at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Couples, individuals and guests are welcome, light refreshments will be provided. Entertainment will be provided by Tom Rutherford. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., dancing is from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$6. For more information, call 523-1871.

TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE

"Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance" classes are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday at the Frank O'Brien Papan Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave. The free program includes 24 Tai Chi forms that emphasize weight shifting, postural improvements and better balance, and is taught by accredited Tai Chi instructors from New Mexico State University's Department of Human Performance, Dance and Recreation. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. For more information, or

to sign up, contact Phillip Catanach at 541-2550 or pcatanach@las-cruces.org.

THE NETWORK VOLUNTEER CENTER

The Network Volunteer Center connects individuals 18 or older to volunteer positions at more than 25 Las Cruces agencies and organizations. Individuals 55 or older may be enrolled in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and receive free, supplemental volunteer insurance while on the job. For more information, contact 528-3035 or thenetwork@las-cruces.org.

50+ SINGLES BREAKFAST CLUB

The 50+ Singles Saturday Morning Club meets at 9 a.m. the first and third Saturday of the month at Furr's Family Dining, 2340 E. Griggs Ave. Cost of the breakfast buffet is \$6.69.

GOING SOLO SINGLES

Going Solo Seniors is a way for seniors to meet new friends and stay active. Activities include dining out, potlucks, game nights and day trips. For more information, call Judy at 522-6543, Judy at 527-2723 or Rosalie at 527-4891.

AARP MEETS EACH MONTH

AARP meetings are held at 2 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at the Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Meetings offer people over the age of 50 interesting guest speakers, light refreshments and a chance to socialize. For more information, call Sue Lundgren at 382-0733, or email galileo915@centurylink.net.

CITY RECREATION SCHEDULE

The following classes are at Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave. For more information, call 541-2782:

- **Yoga:** 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Aquatic Fitness:** 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays through Fridays; 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays; 8:30

to 9:30 a.m. Saturdays; and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

- **Circuit Training:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Aqua Zumba:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Aqua Fit:** 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays; 10 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

- **Safe and Gentle Cardio:** 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays
- **Aquatic Fitness:** 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Cardio Core & More Basic:** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays
- **Super Seniors Water Aerobics:** 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- **Lunch Break Yoga:** Noon to 12:50 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays



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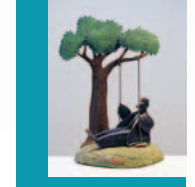
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Benavidez Community Center
1045 McClure Road..... 541-5185

Eastside Community Center
310 N. Tornillo St..... 541-2304 or 541-2305

Frank O'Brien Papan Recreation Center
304 W. Bell Ave..... 541-2455

In-Home Services
304 W. Bell Ave..... 541-2451

Resource Center
975 S. Mesquite St. 528-3307

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Measles threat grounds Mattingly

Astronaut later flies on Apollo 16, space shuttle missions



By **Michael Shinabery**

New Mexico Museum of Space History

Thomas Ken Mattingly II had never contracted the common childhood disease German measles. When he was finally exposed, as he trained for Apollo 13, NASA pulled him from the mission just 72 hours before launch.

"The doctors were afraid he might break out in a severe rash at the moment (Jim) Lovell and (Fred) Haise were on the moon," Hamish Lindsay wrote in "Tracking Apollo to the Moon" (Springer/2001). "They were particularly concerned that swollen fingers and sore muscles could have slowed him up, particularly in an emergency."

"Mattingly never did come down with the German measles," said "Who's Who In Space: The First 25 Years."

Born on March 17, 1936, Mattingly got his chance to fly two years later, this time on Apollo 16, piloting the Command Module Casper. The capsule was so named because, according to Hamish, Mattingly had "overheard some youngsters say that the astronauts in their suits looked like Casper the Friendly Ghost." The CM, then, was named with a "touch of humour (sic)" for the cartoon spook so "kids could identify with the mission."

Born in Chicago and graduated from high school in Miami, Mattingly earned an aeronautical engineering degree from Auburn University in 1958. He then joined the Navy as an ensign. After receiving his wings in 1960, he flew the A1H Skyraider off of the USS Saratoga, and then the A3B Skywarrior strategic bomber from the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was at the Air Force Aerospace Research Pilot School, Edwards Air Force Base, in 1966 when NASA chose him as one of 19 new astronauts. "Who's Who In Space" said Mattingly "specialized in the systems of the Apollo command module and took part in the development of the Apollo spacesuit and backpack."

Apollo 16 left Earth early on a Sunday afternoon, April 16, 1972, roaring through the atmosphere atop the 363-foot tall

Saturn V rocket. Three days later the crew entered lunar orbit. At that point, said the NASA publication "Apollo 16: Scientific Investigation of the Moon," the crew sent their "spent" booster stage "crash(ing) into the moon about 150 miles west of (the) Apollo 12 landing site." Commander John Young and Lunar Module Pilot Charlie Duke then climbed into Orion and flew off around the back side of the Moon. That's when trouble occurred that could have aborted the mission.

"Casper had to make a burn to change orbit," Hamish said, and as Mattingly initiated, he radioed Mission Control in Houston "there is something wrong with the secondary control system in the engine. When I turn it on, it feels as though it is shaking the spacecraft to pieces."

The astronauts' "hearts sank down to their boots – two and a half years of training and only (42,322 feet) from their target and now it looked like they would have to abort," Hamish wrote. "That engine was their ride home!"

Young gave the matter some thought, and then radioed an order to Mattingly to "delay" the burn.

"It was a cliff-hanger of a mission from where we were sitting in the cockpit," Young said. "The secondary vector control system on the SPS (service propulsion system) motor wasn't working right, and if they didn't work right the mission rules said it was no go. The people on the ground did studies at MIT and Rockwell and in the end it worked out just fine."

The delay cost them six hours. Finally, Orion touched down in the Descartes Region, which was more than 8,000 feet higher in altitude on the lunar surface than where Apollo 11 landed.

Mattingly had plenty to occupy his solitary time while Young and Duke made three excursions. He "was obtaining photographs, measuring physical properties of the moon and deep space and making visual observations," said NASA's "The Apollo Spacecraft: A Chronology Vol. IV."

On Sunday, April 23, one week after the mission began, Orion left the lunar surface and mated up with Casper. "After docking" and transferring the "crew and cargo," "The Apollo Spacecraft" said, Orion's "ascent stage was jettisoned ... into lunar orbit rather than impacting (the) lunar surface." Subsequently, on Tuesday, a "scientific subsatellite was launched into lunar orbit."

En route home on April 25, Mattingly suited up for an extra



NASA photo

Thomas Ken Mattingly II floats outside the Command Module Casper, during a spacewalk, as Apollo 16 flies home from the moon.

vehicular activity, or spacewalk. He spent more than an hour outside the craft.

"After depressurizing and opening the hatch, Mattingly climbed out," Hamish said. "Duke followed, and describes the scene for us: 'I followed, floating out a body length, and anchored my feet on the hatch sill. My job was to make sure (Mattingly's) lines didn't get tangled in parts of the spacecraft. As I floated out, I was again overcome with the awesome beauty of space. The panorama of the universe was spread out before me, and I felt like a spectator in an audience watching the play unfold. Ken was the performer – and the universe was the stage.'"

Casper splashed down on April 27. Mattingly, however, had more trips ahead of him, aboard the new Space Shuttle.

Michael Shinabery is an education specialist and Humanities Scholar with the New Mexico Museum of Space History. E-mail him at michael.shinabery@state.nm.us.

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Citizenship award surprises



A surprised Anna Mae Evans holds the Las Cruces Civitan Club's citizenship award memorializing her late husband, D. Kent Evans, a former county commissioner, as she learns Monday, March 11, that she is the recipient of the inaugural award. In addition to being a constant companion and supporter of her late husband, Evans was recognized for being active in the Federation of Republican Women and other community organizations, as well as a regular observer of the Doña Ana County Commission.

APECHS wins \$100,000 in national science contest

Students made video on conserving water

Arrowhead Park Early College High School is one of five national grand-prize winners in Samsung's "Solve for Tomorrow" video contest.

APECHS Principal Jennifer Amis said the school will receive \$100,000 in technology, including smart boards, LED TVs and laptops.

APECHS was one of 15 national finalists in the grand-prize competition, which ended March 4.

In addition to APECHS, the four grand-prize winning schools are from Los Angeles; Miami; Baxter, Minn., and Brooklyn, N.Y. One was selected in online voting.

The other four, including APECHS, were selected by a panel of judges.

"It is rewarding to work with an innovative staff who promote excellence in student work," Amis said. "Projects such as this, where students apply research and development strategies to solve real-world problems, enabled students to deliver this winning two-minute video, which showcases that excellence. We are excited and look forward to working with local industry to fabricate the product the students designed and actually put it to use to do our part in conserving water."

More than 1,600 schools from across the country entered the contest that kicked off in August 2012 with an essay submission on how STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) can help the environment in their community, according to a Samsung

news release.

Seventy-five classrooms, 25 each from rural, suburban and urban schools, were selected as semi-finalists and received a Samsung camcorder, laptop and Adobe editing software to create videos to compete in the video phase of the contest that answered the challenge: How can STEM help improve the environment in your community?

For the finals competition, 15 ninth-, 10th- and 11th-graders composing the school's "Samsung Solve for Tomorrow group" created a video that describes how STEM concepts can help the local environment.

APECHS students researched the implications of drought and proposed a solution in the video. Watch the award-winning video at <http://tinyb.it/152C1F6680E>.

APECHS and the other grand-prize winners will be honored in a ceremony April 17 in Washington, D.C.

As part of their prize package, the five winning schools also have the option to host a community e-waste recycling day through Samsung Recycling Direct, an e-waste program that has recycled more than 250 million pounds of electronic waste in the United States since 2008.

The Solve for Tomorrow contest is part of Samsung Hope for Children, the company's philanthropic initiative focused on helping children lead healthier, smarter and more sustainable lives.

Neighbors We've Lost

DEATH NOTICES

HOLCOMB

A Celebration of Life for Ila Rae Holcomb, 77, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the VFW Post #6917, 5845 Bataan Memorial West, Las Cruces, NM. Mrs. Holcomb passed away on March 4, 2013.

Arrangements are with Getz Funeral Home. 575-526-2419

SMYTH

Natalie I. Smyth, 86, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Monday, March 4, 2013. Arrangements are by Getz Funeral Home & Getz Family Crematory. 575-526-2419

ROSALES

Services for Gonzalo C. Rosales, 85, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, were held at St. Genevieve's Catholic Church, burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery where he was laid to rest.

Arrangements are with Getz Funeral Home. 575-526-2419

WALLACE

Oma Rae Wallace, 98, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Tuesday, March 12, 2013. She was born June 16, 1914 in Joy, Texas to Calvin and Nellie Lanhan Skelton.

Oma Rae is survived by a host of family and friends, who will deeply miss her.

Memorial Services to celebrate her life will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 29, 2013 at Good Samaritan Retirement Village.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home and Getz Family Crematory. 575-526-2419

LOYA

Roberto C. Loya, 67, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away Monday, March 11, 2013 at Mountain View Regional Medical Center. Services are pending with Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces. 575-527-2222

SAUER

Stephen G. Sauer, 81, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, went to eternal rest March 7, 2013 at Mountain View Regional Medical Center.

Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Mass was held.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Basilica of San Albino, PO Box 26, Mesilla, New Mexico 88046.

Entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces and Sunset Crematory. 575-527-2222

GONZALEZ

H. Daniel "Danny" Gonzalez, 70, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, left his dwelling place on earth and entered eternal life to be with his heavenly Father on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Visitation for Danny will begin at 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 15, 2013 in Baca's Chapel of Prayer, 300 E. Boutz Road where the Prayer Vigil is scheduled for 10 a.m. The Funeral Service will follow immediately thereafter with Reverend Narciso Rivera officiating. The Rite of Committal and Interment will follow in the San Albino Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces. 575-527-2222

MONTOYA

Juan Montoya, Jr., 63, of San Pablo, New Mexico, entered eternal life in the early dawn on Sunday morning, March 10, 2013 to be with his heavenly Father surrounded by his loving family. Juan served his country honorably in the United States Marines during the Vietnam War and was a member of the VFW Post #10124.

Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service will be held Friday, March 15, 2013 at 3 p.m. in Baca's Chapel of Prayer, 300 E. Boutz Road with Reverend Narciso Rivera officiating. Military honors will be accorded by the Marine Corps League - El Perro Diablo Detachment.

Entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces and Sunset Crematory. 575-527-2222 Your exclusive providers for "Veterans and Family Memorial Care."

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MARCHAPALOOZA
drag race

All proceeds benefit the **march of dimes**

Saturday, March 23
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
SNM Speedway

\$5 per person
Kids 12 & under free

Come out and see teams from the SNM Speedway, Las Cruces Bulletin, BravoMic Studios, Radio of Las Cruces, Pan American Center and many more as they dress in drag to compete in a track meet to raise money for the March of Dimes! Also get the chance to get autographs from your favorite Speedway drivers and photos with the drag queens!

For more information or to sign up your team, call Theresa at 524-8061 or Sarah at 524-7913

EASTER BUNNY
candy
photos
EGGS
hunt
FUN
EASTER BASKETS

the easter bunny arrives
saturday, march 16 at 11 am

Visit him daily at his garden home located near Gordon's Jewelers thru March 30, 2013.

Photo Packages Available*
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Bunnyland sponsored by: **Coca-Cola**

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Telecommute this, Marissa



David Salcido
On second thought ...

Not so long ago, I counted myself amongst the privileged few who were able to work from home and make really good money doing it. Granted, that was back before the bottom fell out of just about every industry not directly related to the military, but that's not the point.

What I'm trying to get at is that telecommuting was the way I did business back at the turn of the century when dial-up and fax machines were common and yet, still, it was a very prosperous venture for me. With the improvements in technology over the last 15 or so years, what was a good situation then would be an excellent one today.

The only reason I bring this up is because there has been an awful lot of noise coming across the interweb, recently, concerning pros and cons – mostly cons – of working from home.

Now, we all know that some ideas die hard, but seriously, all this fuss over a dismantling of the high-stress, halogen-infused, cubicle-stacked work environment that has all the appeal of getting film developed? It is the 21st century, after all.

It all started when Marissa Mayer, CEO of Yahoo, made headlines in February by ending the company's telecommuting program. As a result, all employees with "work-from-home arrangements" were asked to return to the mothership for re-integration into the hive.

This last-gasp attempt by the fiscally ailing digital media giant might not have registered a blip on the national business screen, but then Michael Bloomberg, the king, er... I mean mayor of New York City, chimed in on the subject. Referring to the concept of telecommuting as "one of the dumber ideas I've ever heard," Bloomberg went on to extol the virtues of water cooler banter as a source of "ideas and information."

Sure, if you're Don Draper and the year is 1963. Apparently, his honor Bloomberg hasn't kept up with the times and doesn't know that water coolers were long ago replaced, first by chat-rooms, then by text messaging.

Fifty years after the Mad Men era of the mayor's youth, most office break rooms have been converted into high school cafeterias to better accommodate the daily gossip and drama that the environment breeds. The real business is

See **Telecommute** on page B2

INSIDE

Profile

Hispano Chamber's Kirk Clifton.....B7

In good company

Gracie Barra Las CrucesB8

Celebrating new digs

MVM Kitchen, United WayB12

Renewing an old promise

Destination businesses enhance Mesilla Park

By **Alta LeCompte**
Las Cruces Bulletin

East Union Avenue, near the deteriorating South Main Street railroad depot, looks like an unlikely spot to open a nightclub.

Do the owners of Whiskey Dick's, who are investing in the structure that most recently housed the teen-friendly Club Fusion, know something other businesses don't?

Perhaps they've heard the undercurrent of a movement to realize the potential the Rio Grande Land Co. saw when it began developing the neighborhood in 1887.

Early settlers called the place Mesilla Park. Its business district along the tracks withered as Las Cruces grew in the 20th century. But the people who lived in its mansions and on its modest farms loved the place.

They still do. And they think the future of Mesilla Park lies in its history.

Spreading the word

Shared history and a surprising sense of community unite the people of Mesilla Park in

See **Mesilla Park** on page B2



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Alta LeCompte

John Moen, owner of Trophy Country, assists Shirley Jaquez, executive director of Jardin de Los Niños in selecting a butterfly design for the fundraiser Plant a Seed ... Help a Child Grow. Moen appreciates the cachet of his Mesilla Park address, but sees challenges ahead for the business district.

CVB launches Ticket to Taste

Dining adventure a hit on Facebook

By **Alta LeCompte**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Are you craving coffee and pastry, European style? Or have you set your heart on Mexican, Asian or pizza? Whatever your pleasure, Ticket to Taste can take you there.

A total of 45 local restaurants are enticing diners to visit between March 1 and May 31 and earn a chance to win the grandest dinner imaginable. But more about that later.

You may already have seen the official-looking passport books containing the Ticket to Taste offer in one of your favorite eateries.

The passports disappear quickly from participating restaurants, but staffers from the Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau, which is running the promotion, stop by often to restock them.

"Last week, Jerry Harrell of Double Eagle Restaurant called to say there was a tremendous response and request more passports," CVB's Communication Director Chris Faivre said.

Sean Hayes, general manager of Mesilla Valley Kitchen in the Arroyo Plaza on East Lohman Avenue, is equally delighted with the response the first week of the promotion. He said about 25 people showed their passport books Tuesday morning, March 8.

Technology drives promotion

Faivre said CVB staff are surprised so many people are using the passport books, because getting a passport stamped is not the only way to participate. Restaurantgoers also have the option of playing via text, he said. Each participating restaurant has its own text code.

"I thought the texting would have really



Pizza was the first featured food to star on Facebook in the Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau Ticket to Taste promotion, offering dining adventure and a chance to win prizes until May 31.

taken off faster," he said. "But it seems people are going for the passports instead, though that may reverse itself later."

The promotion has another technology twist: the CVB is promoting the promotion on Facebook and encouraging participating restaurants to do the same.

Stephanie Montoya, social media intern with the CVB, is in charge of that aspect of Ticket to Taste. Each week, she presents a theme on Facebook. The opening week it was pizza.

Information, activities, daily featured restaurants, coupons, trivia, polls and a weekly drawing lure people to return to CVB's

Facebook and the pages of participating restaurants.

In the first poll, participants vote for their favorite pizzeria. To date, Zeffiro's Pizzeria Napolitano is in the lead, Montoya said.

"(Facebook) is the best way to get recognition and get people involved," Montoya said.

Drawing for dinner

"We need to keep engaging people with social media because it's such a long promotion, a long time to keep someone involved," Faivre said.

See **Dining** on page B2



Commercial buildings on Main Street in Mesilla Park run the gamut from highly functional to in need of serious rehabilitation.

Mesilla Park

Continued from page B1

their campaign to create an historic district on and around far South Main Street. The target area comprises portions of Las Cruces, Mesilla and a chunk of Doña Ana County.

A small group, led by David Clement, met in September 2012 to launch a project to brand the neighborhood and secure historic designation. The group has been working quietly all fall and winter.

A communication committee is creating a website and putting together a newsletter.

Clement's wife, Janet Clement, heads a neighborhood improvement committee that hosted a program Saturday, March 6, presented by code enforcement officials from the city, county and town of Mesilla. They currently are planning to participate in the April 13 Great American Cleanup.

David Clement, meanwhile is pursuing the research he hopes will lead to the historic designation.

The committee he chairs will meet Saturday, March 30 to prepare for the arduous task of

validating Mesilla Park's historic credentials.

"We have looked at the area that was incorporated in the original Mesilla Park. Within the original boundaries are 700 structures" he said. "A smaller section may be the solution, but the committee has to make the decision of how big an area it wants to include."

Once the boundaries are defined, volunteers will survey the area to document all of its structures. Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University history professor, will conduct a workshop for the group in late spring, Clement said.

Mesilla Park offers 'a different ring'

Whiskey Dick's is not the first business to discover Mesilla Park in the 21st century.

Nearby at 3201 Harrelson St., Jay Chapman is getting the former Mikey's Place building ready to house his business, RCI Power and Light.

Meanwhile, Lorenzo and Ali Liberto have refurbished their catering kitchen at 3000 Harrelson St. for their Pasta Express & Pizza.

When another Mesilla Park business owner, John Moen, decided to relocate Trophy

Country several years ago, he moved down the block from his shop to a vacant building at 3401 S. Main St. at the corner of Union Avenue.

The building had more space, some financial advantages and he got to keep a Mesilla Park address, which he values.

"It has a little bit different ring than Las Cruces," he said.

Moen noted things are looking better across the street where a granite company recently moved in and another warehouse is being renovated.

Trophy Country, however, is surrounded by some dilapidated and unoccupied commercial buildings, as well as by buildings that have benefited from TLC and now house thriving businesses.

Moen's customers don't care about neighborhood aesthetics. They don't come to a trophy shop to browse and enjoy the neighborhood ambience.

"It's a destination-type business," he said. Although spiffing up the neighborhood wouldn't directly benefit him, Moen said he would be "all for it."

As he sees it, reinvigorating the neighborhood poses some challenges.

Moen pointed out that most of the South Main Street shops are only 800-900 square feet, which limits the type of enterprise that could succeed.

Parking also is a challenge for many of the buildings, although his business and several others have off-street parking.

Still, the 40-year resident waxes nostalgic when he talks about the retail establishments that have come and gone.

"Bravo's Café used to be 1st National Bank when I was a kid," he said. It has been a bakery and was an insurance business for years, he added.

Janet Mancha of Funky Karma, another new destination business, said she's excited about Mesilla Park's branding project.

She and her husband, Enrique Mancha, own the specialty incense, tea, herb and spice shop at 3207 S. Main St.

They relocated to Mesilla Park from Las Cruces about four years ago, bringing their customer base with them.

Mancha said they found a charming building and really liked the community.

Commenting on efforts to reinvigorate the neighborhood, she said, "I support whole heartedly whatever is going on."

Dining

Continued from page B1

Ticket to Taste will end with a drawing conducted June 3 by promotion sponsor the Las Cruces Sun-News.

Doña Ana County residents are competing to win the grand prize: dinner for eight prepared at the home of Kelley Coffeen, author of four cookbooks on southern New Mexico cuisine and the official Convention & Visitors Bureau food blog. The cash value of the prize is \$1,000.

County entrants must purchase one meal at

20 different participating restaurants and have each purchase validated by restaurant staff.

Visitors from outside Doña Ana County are competing to win two nights complimentary local accommodations and a \$500 gift certificate to experience the culinary delights of Las Cruces. The cash value is \$1,000.

The promotion was developed in a brainstorming session last fall and has been in development since then.

"The emphasis is on having all restaurants participate and getting the community to try new restaurants," Faivre said. "It's important to our industry that restaurants are doing well."

Details

Ticket to Taste participating restaurants

- Andele Restaurant & Dog House
- Aqua Reef Euro Asian Cuisine
- Bite of Belgium
- Boba Café
- Café A Go Go
- Café de Mesilla
- Cattle Baron Steak & Seafood Restaurant
- Chilito's Restaurant
- Day's Hamburgers
- De La Vega's Pecan Grill & Brewery
- DG's University Deli
- Double Eagle Restaurant
- Emilia's on the Plaza
- Empire Hibachi Grill & Supreme Buffet
- Farley's Food & Fun Pub
- Fox's Pizza Den
- Garduños of Mexico Restaurant & Cantina
- Great American Grill
- High Desert Brewing Co.

- Josefina's Old Gate Café
- La Posta de Mesilla
- Lorenzo's Italian Restaurant
- Los Compas Mexican Restaurant
- Luna Rossa Winery
- Mesilla Valley Kitchen
- Meson de Mesilla
- Nopalito's Restaurant
- Ono Grindz
- Paisano Café
- Ruby Tuesday
- Sabor Restaurant & Bar
- Santorini
- Savoy de Mesilla
- Spirit Winds Gift Source & Coffee Bar
- St. Clair Winery & Bistro
- Sunset Grill
- Texas Roadhouse
- Thai Delight
- The Bean
- Tiffany's Pizza & Greek Cuisine
- The Game Sports Bar & Grill
- Vintage Wines
- Zeffiro's New York Pizzeria

Telecommute

Continued from page B1

handled remotely.

To make matters even more unfathomable, Fox News pursed its lips and tut-tutted over the fact that Best Buy had joined the fray when CEO Hubert Joly announced that it too would be ending its flexible work program.

The debate escalated. Even Sir Richard Branson, CEO of Virgin Galactic and the next High Commander of the known universe, chimed in on the subject, voicing disappointment over the backsliding of corporate America.

"Yours truly has never worked out of an office and never will," Branson said in a Feb. 25 blog entry on his Virgin Galactic website. "This seems a backwards step in an age when remote working is easier and more effective than ever. Working life isn't 9 to 5 anymore. The world is connected. Companies that do not embrace this are missing a trick."

Leave it to that bastion of liberal thinking, the Christian Science Monitor, to bring everything into perspective. It did so by first pointing out that, according to a 2011 study by independent research firm, the Telework Research Network, the typical telecommuter is "a 49-year-old, college educated, salaried, nonunion employee in a management or professional role, earning \$58,000 a year at a company with more than 100 employees." Maybe the researchers should have used a wider demographic than that provided by the Monitor, but that's not really the important part.

That came when it quoted statistics from the study, which said that the number of workers who regularly telecommuted grew 61 percent from 2005 to 2009 and that another 69 percent growth was expected by 2016. Which means there are going to be a lot of old, professional white guys working from home in a few years, whether Yahoo and Best Buy like it or not.

In any case, the outcome of all this questionably sourced rhetoric is that telecommuting is here to stay. Take that Mayer, Bloomberg and Joly. You know that you're on the wrong side of an issue when both the Christian Science Monitor and Fox News are weighing in on the side of evolution versus stagnant corporate thinking.

Honestly, I think this whole debate is just one more example of the growing pains that come with prosperity; especially in a society that is constantly trying to stay one step ahead of the technological obsolescence curve. One of my professors in college was very fond of saying that the first rule of language is change. It was his contention that whether purists like it or not, change is inevitable. I think the reflection applies here, as well, though my addendum would be, the first rule of change is getting over it.

I'll close with another quote from Branson, this one from a March 4 follow-up blog: "Choice empowers people and makes for a more content workforce. In 30 years time, as technology moves forward even further, people are going to look back and wonder why offices ever existed."

To which I can only say, "Amen, High Commander."

By the Numbers



Building Las Cruces



Walmart Supercenter

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by David Salcido

Construction continues on Las Cruces' third Walmart Supercenter, 3331 Rinconada Blvd., at the southeast corner of Northrise Street and Rinconada Boulevard. The store, which will provide both grocery and general merchandise, is scheduled to open in early summer.

Recent projects featured in Building Las Cruces

Publish date	Building	Address	Contact
March 8	Dunkin' Donuts	2513 N. Main St.	800-374-5308
March 1	Valley Vista Plaza	1451 S. Valley Drive	532-9779
Feb. 22	Genghis Grill	880 S. Telshor Blvd.	888-436-4447
Feb. 15	Renovations at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces	705 S. Telshor Blvd.	522-4300
Feb. 8	IHOP	Turrentine and University avenues	522-8240

Our numbers

Dining out

47 percent

Of Americans surveyed rarely or never go out to eat

30 percent

Of Americans surveyed go out to eat one time a week

16 percent

Of Americans surveyed go out to eat two times a week

7 percent

Of Americans surveyed go out to eat three times a week

5 percent

Are going out to eat more often now than six months ago

Source: Rasmussen Reports

Gas update

Monday, March 11

Average retail gasoline prices in New Mexico have not moved in the past week, **averaging \$3.44** per gallon. This compares with the national average that has **fallen 3.2 cents** per gallon in the last week to **\$3.66** per gallon.

New Mexico prices **Monday, March 11**, were **15.6 cents** per gallon **lower** than the same day one year ago and are **24 cents** per gallon **higher** than a month ago. The national average has **increased 10.2 cents** per gallon during the last month and stands **8.8 cents** per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

1. Sam's Club	2711 N. Telshor Boulevard	\$3.36
2. Dylan's	1900 N. Main Street	\$3.36
3. Bradley's	1260 El Paseo Road and 920 El Paseo Road	\$3.38
4. Alon	825 Avenida de Mesilla	\$3.38
5. Murphy Express	1290 S. Valley Drive	\$3.38

Source: www.newmexicogasprices.com, as of Monday, March 11

Adventure Travel Airfare Watch

FROM EL PASO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	LOWEST AVERAGE ONE-WAY FARE	CARRIER
Albuquerque	\$133.80	US Air
Atlanta	\$246.80	US Air
Austin	\$122.80	United
Chicago	\$233.80	US Air
Dallas-Love	\$127.80	US Air
Houston	\$138.30	US Air
Las Vegas	\$139.80	US Air
Los Angeles	\$139.80	American
Phoenix	\$145.90	US Air
San Antonio	\$69.80	United
New York City	\$143.80	American
Orlando	\$279.80	US Air
San Diego	\$156.80	US Air
Seattle	\$229.80	US Air
Washington, D.C.	\$211.80	American
London roundtrip	\$989.70	US Air
Paris roundtrip	\$3,879.70	US Air
Rome roundtrip	\$1,040.80	Delta

Source: Adventure Travel *Prices effective March 19 - 26*Restrictions apply* Holidays

Money

Comparing the U.S. dollar

Euro

\$1.30022 in U.S. dollars
0.76910 per U.S. dollar

Mexican Peso

\$0.07955 in U.S. dollars
12.57100 per U.S. dollar

Japanese Yen

\$0.01040 in U.S. dollars
96.16004 per U.S. dollar

Canadian Dollar

\$0.97349 in U.S. dollars
1.02723 per U.S. dollar

Source: www.msn.com, as Monday, March 11



Market snapshot

For the week of Feb. 25 - March 1, the market reports:

Index	Started	Ended	Change	% Change	% YTD
DJIA	14089.66	14397.07	307.41	2.2	9.9
Nasdaq	3169.74	3244.37	74.63	2.4	7.4

Strong: Consumer staples, financials, health care

Weak: Energy, telecom

Source: http://briefing.com

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Briefs

Local Realtor receives service achievement



SZALAY

Laura Szalay of Keller Williams Realty has received the highest level of service achievement in the real estate industry for the second year in a row. The Quality Service Certified Platinum Award is in recognition of earning 100 percent client service satisfaction in 2012 as measured by Leading Research Corporation (LRC).

A Quality Service Certified (QSC) award status is the only recognition in the real estate industry based on independently validated customer satisfaction survey results. After the conclusion of real estate transactions, clients of QSC agents receive a survey, asking them to rate the agent on various aspects of the service process. The surveys are administered and the results are received and compiled by LRC.

Client feedback from the surveys becomes part of the agent's credentials. An overall satisfaction rating is displayed on the consumer websites (www.qualityservice.org and www.ratedagent.com) where buyers and sellers have the ability to select a real estate professional based upon each agent's validated record of service satisfaction.

Senate passes bill to lower tax rates for microbreweries

On Thursday, March 7, the New Mexico Senate passed SB81, a bill that would remove a graduated tax hike on microbrewed

beer in the state. As the law currently stands, once brewers reach 10,000 barrels, the state excise tax increases from 8 cents per gallon to 41 cents per gallon. State brewers claim that because Colorado pays 8 cents per gallon no matter how many barrels they create, the discrepancy hurts local business.

The state Tax and Revenue Department argues that the total recurring annual loss to the state, should the bill become law, would be \$830,000 to \$1.3 million. Brewers counter that increased production, without the limitation to deter them, would require more employees, which would mean more jobs, and the increased production would in the long run help the state.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Sue Wilson Beffort, R Bernalillo, next goes before the Taxation and Revenue Committee.

Las Cruces audiologist named 2012 Hearing Professional of the Year



KREZE

Advanced Hearing Care, a full-service audiology practice based in Alamogordo with locations in Las Cruces and Ruidoso, recently announced that one of its providers, Melissa Kreze, Au.D., has been named the region's 2012 Hearing Professional of the Year by the battery manufacturer Rayovac. Nominated for this prestigious award by her patients for providing them with superior hearing care, Kreze said she is honored to be recognized by both her peers in the hearing care community and

the patients who have known her for years and benefited from her care and experience.

The Hearing Professional of the Year award recognizes outstanding hearing care providers for exceptional service and commitment to their profession. Kreze was among six audiologists selected by Rayovac from across the country, with patients' nominations supported by written letters from the individual patients describing the exceptional care and service they received from their valued hearing care provider.

Rayovac will donate \$500 in the name of each regional winner to the charity of their choice. Kreze has selected a

Rotary International funded mission by the Starkey Hearing Foundation as her charity, which fits thousands of people in poverty-stricken communities around the world each year with new hearing aids.

High Tech Consortium presents two guest speakers

This month's High Tech Consortium (HTC) of Southern New Mexico membership meeting will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 15, at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. There will be two presentations to the membership: William Hett-Dobricky of Doña Ana Community College and Scott Bryant of Nano-Network of New Mexico.

Hett-Dobricky will discuss the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) and the services and programs offered to small businesses in Doña Ana and Sierra counties.

Bryant, president of the Nano-Network of New Mexico, will discuss micro and nanotechnology commercialization, current trends in nanotechnology and the opportunities for southern New Mexico.

Bryant will also introduce the NanoTox Academy, together with the Bioscience Center, and will discuss the Western Region Nanotechnology OEHS Mini Boot Camp designed specifically for those professionals who oversee Engineered Nanomaterial (ENM) operations and who are responsible for influencing Occupational & Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS).

HTC membership meetings are open to the public and free; anyone interested in growing high technology in southern New Mexico is encouraged to attend. For more information contact Terry Jack at 522-3868 or terry@imac.us.com

Free technology workshop to be held

The Barnes & Noble at New Mexico State University Bookstore & Cafe at East University Avenue and Jordan Road will host a free technology workshop for the public entitled, "You got an iPad for the Holidays, Now What?" If you still struggle to learn the ins and outs of you iPad, join them at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 16, for free demonstrations and information.

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Rosemary Reynaud Benefit Specialist

Doña Ana County Building Permit Report Feb. 1-28

Las Cruces Home Builders Association

Permit No.	Contractor	Owner	Project	Address	Permit \$
38050	Greentree Construction	James & Chadelle Robinson	Reroof	225 Fort Fillmore Road	\$147
38052	Jared Curry Construction	Norman & Linda Gruner	Single Fam	4432 Organ Mesa Loop	\$982
38055	Dela Construction	Natanael & Alina Jimenez	Single Fam	1079 Quinito Sol Loop	\$408
38056	Self	Raul Baltierrez	Reroof	3020 Rio Hondo	\$110
38057	Self	Stephan Bukowski	Rock wall	5022 Heno Mine Road	\$115
38060	self	Maria Isabel Chavez	Addition	5831 Dry Harbor Court	\$298
38061	Self	A. V. Martinez Family Ltd.	Reroof	571 Spanish Broom Road	\$110
38066	Self	Gabriel & Amanda Arroyo	Single Fam	33 Scudbuster Road	\$1,239
38067	G. Bishop Roofing	Caroline & Freder Thompson	Reroof	5160 Noche Bella Loop	\$100
38068	Self	Mark Castanon	Single Fam	325 Pico Lane	\$342
38069	Self	Francisco Zacarias	Single Fam	345 Pico Lane	\$342
38070	Rokas	Walter & Michelle Wesol	Rock wall	4880 Cripple Creek Road	\$88
38075	C. Donnelly Roofing	Murphy Blevins	Reroof	4110 Tesota Drive	\$170
38079	Self	Randal Miller	Reroof	5950 Tres Sendas	\$83
38080	Optimym Roofing	Stanley & Juey Berryman	Reroof	2435 Janet Ann Lane	\$170
38081	Gilbert & Sons Roofing	Homer Waters	Reroof	3820 Valdes Road	\$324
38082	GL Green	Judy M. Cota	Single Fam	1574 Arco De Goya	\$739
38083	R Builders	Ignacio & Erica Gonzalez	Addition	330 East Plaza Road	\$90
38085	Ed Dorbrandt Construction	Gabriel Murry	Single Fam	29 Springfield Drive	\$1,157
38086	Rokas	Robert Nordmann	Rock wall	7851 Hembrillo Pass Road	\$76
38087	Hernandez Fencing	Suzanne & Peter Kane	Rock wall	3205 McDowell Road	\$66
38088	Self	Colin & Tammy McVaugh	Rock wall	251 Stone Drive	\$70
38089	Self	Donald G. Sr & Joyc Robinson	Reroof	2445 Webb Road	\$60
38092	Classic NM Homes	Barton & Kim Yerxa	Single Fam	3928 Loma Bella Drive	\$988

* Information provided by LCHBA from information provided by City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County permit offices

Five credit score improving tips

Tracking your credit can save you big bucks

Gary Sandler's
Real Estate
Connection



According to Consumer Federation of America, "Most consumers still do not know basic facts about credit scores and their financial significance."

The point was driven home recently when a poll taken by Opinion Research Corporation revealed that only 47 percent of the consumers polled considered their own knowledge of credit scores to be good or excellent. The remaining 53 percent considered their knowledge of the subject to be fair or poor.

From another perspective, that means that more than half of all consumers lack sufficient knowledge about their credit scores to understand the impact they have on the cost of borrowing money, obtaining insurance, applying for employment and for renting a home or apartment.

The concept is pretty straightforward. People and companies that extend credit assume you're going to pay or repay them in the same manner you're paying or have paid your other creditors. The level of risk you present to creditors – such as insurance companies, landlords and others – is expressed by your credit score. Credit scores are also commonly referred to as FICO scores. FICO is an acronym for Fair Issac & Co., the folks who own the scoring software.

Credit scores can range from a low of 300 to a high of 850, with many plateaus in between. The lower your score, the greater the risk you pose to the creditor and the more you'll pay to borrow, insure or rent.

The three major credit bureaus – Experian, Equifax and TransUnion – all derive your score by rating five individual aspects of your credit history.

First up is your payment history, or how well you've paid your obligations in the past. Whether or not you pay in a timely manner makes up the largest portion of your score, accounting for 35 percent of your total.

The next largest portion of your score, 30 percent, is based on how much you owe. Keep in mind that it's better to owe \$5,000 on a card with a \$10,000 limit than it is to owe \$3,000 on a card with a \$4,000 limit. Ideally, your balances should not exceed about 35 percent of your total available credit.

The third component of your score is based on the length of your credit history and is responsible for 15 percent of your total. Has

anyone ever suggested that you close your old accounts? Don't do it! Doing so will shorten the length of your credit history, as will opening new accounts, which brings down the average age of your history.

No. 4 on the list of the five components is calculated based on new credit obtained and is responsible for 10 percent of your overall score. Have you opened quite a few accounts lately? If so, this portion of your score might only generate about 10 percent of the total potential it could have added to your score. Why? Because it appears that you're on a quest to borrow, borrow, borrow (heading for Bolivia, are you?), which may put a strain on your finances in the future.

Last, but not least, the final 10 percent of your score is based on the type of credit you're utilizing. The mix includes mortgages, credit cards, retail accounts and the like.

A good credit score can indeed save you money. If your score is 620 or above, chances are that you'll be charged a relatively low interest rate. If your score is above 760, you can expect to be offered the lowest rate available at any given time. By the way, the median credit score in the U.S. is 723. The median is where half the scores are higher and half are lower.

Just the opposite is true if your score is in the low 600s. The line in the sand is actually drawn at the 620 mark. Below that, you'll have to shop for your credit in the subprime department. If you can keep your score above 620, however, you should be able to borrow at "normal" rates for most any type of purchase.

According to the folks at www.myfico.com, there are five easy ways to improve your credit score.

First, pay your bills on time. A person with an average credit score of 707 can raise his/her score by as much as 20 points by paying all bills on time for one month.

Keep your balances low on credit cards. Maxing out your cards can lower your score by as much as 70 points. Keeping your balance at or below 30 percent of your maximum available credit is a good rule of thumb.

Don't open new accounts you don't need. Has a department store offered you a five, ten or fifteen percent discount if you open a new charge account? Opening new accounts can lower your average account age, lowering your score by up to another 10 points.

Manage your debt. Keeping your debt and number of creditors in the "sweet spot" will raise your score. Someone who has no credit cards can be a higher risk than someone who has managed their cards responsibly.

Don't close old accounts. Even if you do close an account, it will still show up on your report and may be factored into your score. Additionally, closing old accounts will shorten your credit history.

As you can see, you are the person who's in charge of your credit scores and can influence them – positively as well as negatively – by choosing how you manage your debt. If you haven't checked your credit file recently, it may be a good idea to do so now.

Everyone in the U.S. is entitled to a free annual look into their credit files at each of the three credit bureaus. Access can be gained by logging on to www.annualcreditreport.com

com or by calling toll free to 877-322-8228 (which is not currently working due to our area code change). No phone or computer? You can request your reports by writing to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105283, Atlanta, GA 30348-5283.

With a little due diligence and an improved credit score, there's a good chance that I'll soon ...

See you at closing!

Gary Sandler is the president of Gary Sandler Inc., Realtors in Las Cruces and the host of Gary Sandler's Real Estate Connection, broadcast each Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. on KSNM-AM 570. Sandler is the 2007 and 2010 recipient of the New Mexico Broadcaster's Associations Talk Show Host of the Year award. Questions or comments may be directed to Sandler at 525-2400 or by emailing gary@gary-sandler.com.

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Save the date

FRI. 3/15

11:30 a.m. High Tech Consortium of Southern New Mexico membership meeting, Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. Guest speakers William Hett-Dobrisky and Scott Bryant. Free to the public. For more information, call 522-3868.

TUE. 3/19

11:30 a.m. Farm Bureau Primetimers present "Watering the Mesilla Valley," New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Guest speaker Gary Esslinger of Elephant Butte Irrigation District and Steve Hernandez. Lunch by Dickerson's Catering, cost \$10. For more information, call 233-4820.

THU. 3/21

9 a.m. "How to Get a Business Loan," Small Business Development Center, Doña

Ana Community College Workforce Center, 2345 E. Nevada Ave., Room 101A. Free to the public. For more information, call 527-7676.

11:30 a.m. "Reassessing Risk in Your Portfolio," Charles Schwab Independent Branch, 141 S. Roadrunner Parkway, Suite 141C. Free to the public. For information, call 993-5050.

2 p.m. "Getting and Keeping Customers," Small Business Development Center, DACC Workforce Center, 2345 E. Nevada Ave., Room 101A. Free to the public. For more information, call 527-7676.

SAT. 3/23

9 a.m. Consumer Debt/Bankruptcy Workshop, Law Office of Kenneth Egan, 1111 Lohman Ave. Free to the public. For more information, call 505-797-6068.

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Out on a limb, but don't hand me the saw

Predicting the future can be hard to do



Chris Erickson
State of the Economy

Economists are often asked to predict the future and I'm always willing to give it a try. But doing so is a dangerous activity because it turns out Doris Day is right: The future is not ours to see; what will be, will be; que sera sera. That is, when forecasting, one is often wrong. (The same isn't true, by the way, when

explaining what has already happened).

Recently, the big question has been the impact of the sequester on New Mexico. It's an important question with important implications for the state, and I've weighed in with my own prediction. I predict New Mexico will lose 28,000 jobs, from the combination of tax increases and budget cuts enacted since the beginning of the year.

My forecast is the most pessimistic of any of forecasts I've seen and it has me worried. I don't like being out on a limb by myself. It's much better to be the same as everyone else.

Then, if I'm wrong, at least I can claim I'm no more wrong than anyone else.

As things stand now, I'll either be a hero or a goat. Hero I like; goat I don't.

Still, I stand by my forecast. I'm not backing down. The tax increases imposed in January, plus the spending cuts associated with the sequester will shave about 3.5 percent off job growth over the next two years. Since growth would have been between 3 and 4 percent under normal conditions, I'm saying that the New Mexico economy will be essentially flat during 2013 and 2014.

Sticking to my guns is becoming more difficult. The Sequester has come and gone without much happening. Meanwhile, the Dow Jones hit new highs, housing seems to be bouncing back and the national economy is on the rebound. Even President Obama has backed off his previous prediction of major disruptions from the sequester.

But national trends are not translating into local trends. The state economy is not the national economy. New Mexico is suffering a recession, and enjoys one of the poorest performing state economies in the country. For 2012, for example, New Mexico ranked 49th

out of the 50 states for employment growth (negative 3.4 percent).

New Mexico real estate is not doing very well either, down 1.5 percent during 2012, according to the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Nationally, real estate prices were up slightly. Las Cruces real estate did worse than statewide; prices were down 2.4 percent.

A weak state economy coupled with reduced government spending and higher taxes. This is a combination for continued recession. That is what I'm predicting.

The federal government has long been a major employer in our state. Sandia, Los Alamos, White Sands and three military bases have traditionally been the major employers. But federal government is no longer a growth industry. We're in a period of transition and transition often means disruption.

So, I'm out on a limb but I think I'm right, or at least, not that wrong. Of course, there is always this: If I'm right, I'll be sure to remind you; if I'm wrong, I'll never bring it up again.

Christopher A. Erickson, Ph.D., is a professor of economics at NMSU. He has been forecasting the New Mexico economy for more than a quarter century. The views expressed may not be shared by the regents and administration of NMSU. Erickson can be reached at cherrick@nmsu.edu.



Retirement May Be Far Off,

But the April 15 Deadline for IRA Contributions Isn't.

You have only so many years to prepare for retirement. That's why contributing to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is so important. Fortunately, you still have time to maximize your 2012 IRA contribution before the April 15 deadline.

By contributing now, your retirement savings can have more opportunity to grow. Even if you already have an IRA elsewhere, it's easy to transfer it to an Edward Jones IRA and begin receiving the face-to-face guidance you deserve.

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U.S. Drought Monitor

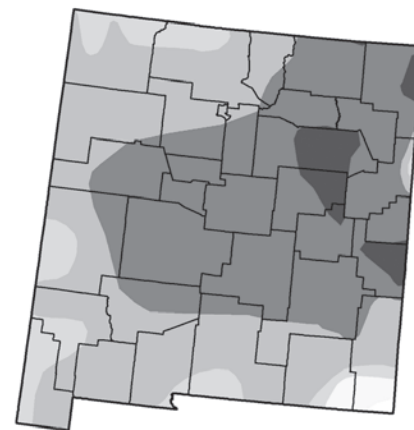
February 26, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

New Mexico

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.20	99.80	98.46	89.78	49.88	4.39
Last Week (02/19/2013 map)	0.20	99.80	98.45	89.85	49.59	1.22
3 Months Ago (11/27/2012 map)	0.07	99.93	98.80	92.35	23.12	0.97
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.97
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	62.56	12.25	0.66
One Year Ago (02/21/2012 map)	11.69	88.31	81.50	59.57	24.79	8.13

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



Released Thursday, February 28, 2013
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Companies ready the pumps

Farmers await news about aquifer recharge

By **Marvin Tessneer**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Well and pump companies are busy preparing for another season of pumping ground water as irrigation districts indicated a low surface water supply.

The Elephant Butte Irrigation District reported during an earlier meeting that it would possibly release 6 inches in June, but the board of directors emphasized that is not definite.

"We're very busy drilling new wells and fixing old ones," said Terry Herring of Anthony Pumping and Drilling. "The water table is dropping, and we're hoping it'll be recharged when they put water into the river in June."

His drilling operations indicated that the water table has dropped 4 to 6 feet.

Southern New Mexico farmers are enduring their third year of drought.

"The water table has been going down but not enough to hurt us, but the quality of water, the sodium, is what's hurting us farmers," said Jerry Franzoy of Hatch. "It's too early to tell. During July and August we'll know the whole story."

Ramon Alvarez, in the south end of the county, reported that currently the ground water is adequate.

"But once we start pumping for crops, it's going to go down," he said. "We hope to get that 6 inches in June to recharge the aquifer."

But water agencies' data indicate that a good snow runoff, which recharges the water table, is not promising.

The current water storage in both reservoirs is down 211,288 acre-feet in Elephant Butte – or 10 percent of normal for this time of year – and 9,814 acre-feet in Caballo, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reported.

The bureau doesn't plan to announce water allocations until April for the three irrigation districts: EBID, El Paso Conservation District No. 1 and Mexico.

The mountain snow pack for the Rio Grande Basin is 70 percent of average. The spring snow runoff at San Marcial above Elephant Butte Reservoir is 39 percent of normal – 200,000 acre-feet, according to the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Profile

Kirk Clifton: Strengthening regional relationships

Hispano Chamber president looks to work with El Paso, Mexico

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of profiles of the board chairs/presidents of Las Cruces' three chambers of commerce. Kirk Clifton is president of the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces.

Tell us about your "day job."

I work within the Treasury Department in the corporate office.

My responsibilities include coordinating power generation, transmission, substation and new facility projects within El Paso Electric Co. I also conduct negotiations and transaction finalization for the purchase and/or lease of real estate for the growth of the company.

I am currently involved in the new East Montana power plant and transmission lines, the acquisition of real estate for a new office facility and operations center on the west side, and the relo-

cation of facilities for the construction of the new minor league baseball field in El Paso.

Much of my job consists of negotiating and building relationships with stakeholders, including customers, land owners, local, state and federal agencies.

What qualities/skills have you cultivated to enhance your performance in the workplace?

The majority of my career I have spent working with a diverse group of individuals. I have developed a keen sense of ... the importance of listening to the needs of people and the outcome they ultimately desire. This skill leads to success in negotiation.

Being heavily involved in the community has given me a sense of building bridges and not fences. Collaborative problem solving has proven to be a successful methodology in dealing with issues, whether in the work place or the community.

Who were your most memorable mentors and what role did they play in your pursuit of education and career goals?

My parents taught me the values of hard work, integrity, honesty, the importance of an education and the need to be actively involved in the community. As they have always been small business owners, I was able to witness the hard work and drive that was required to achieve their success and security.

While completing my undergraduate degree, Jack Wright and Bob Czerniak were professors instrumental in shaping who I became as a professional. Their passion for the subject matter and support every step of the way laid a solid foundation for the next 19 years of my professional career.

When did you join the chamber? What made you do so?

I joined the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces in 2009 and quickly realized joining would greatly expand the marketability of the firm I was with at the time through their diverse outreach.

The Hispano Chamber was very receptive to small business and provided excellent service and communications to its members as well as truly caring about our school-age youth through various programs and affiliations.

One of the most impressive qualities of the Hispano Chamber is that the organization is not a "country club" atmosphere, but an inclusive group. They not only wanted everyone to get involved, but truly valued the input from members.

What would you like to accomplish in your term as president?

We will strongly support legislation that supports business development, growth and job creation. I will also seek accountability for those who make decisions that damage businesses.

During this process, though, I will invite these decision-makers to sit down with my board of directors and our membership to listen to what really matters to a business owner.

I also intend on continuing to strengthen international trade and to forge relationships with our partners in Mexico, the El Paso area

and the region. I will achieve ... a more broad-based approach, regionalizing business. Regionalization is a goal not only for the Hispano Chamber, but to promote area businesses during this process.

Education has always been an important component of the Hispano Chamber. We will continue by working with stakeholder groups and supporting the school-age children in Las Cruces. Through these efforts, I would like to build a more cohesive arrangement between local and regional business and the Las Cruces Public Schools, area charter schools and private schools.

How will you work with schools and colleges to help develop the work force?

The first step in this process is to create a more business-friendly environment for existing businesses to grow and regional/national businesses to relocate to Las Cruces.

By creating a solid base of businesses that demand a higher-educated work force, we can then begin implementing programs in both the schools and colleges that can provide this work force and hopefully retain some of our local talent.

Our schools do a fantastic job and are improving daily. Unfortunately, we are training a work force that takes their skills, education and talent outside of the Las Cruces region. There is not as much opportunity in the area as there are in other parts of the country.

It is imperative that we begin involving the stakeholders within our educational institutions with the efforts of those of us involved in supporting and encouraging business. To an extent, education and economic development go hand in hand.

What are the missing ingredients that could take the Mesilla Valley to the next level as an economy? What is the chamber's role?

The missing ingredient that could potentially take the Mesilla Valley to the next level is business growth/retention

and the recruitment of new businesses and industry. With the existing business tax structure, coupled with excessive government regulation and "unfriendly processes," it is not necessarily a conducive environment for businesses. It should not be a negative experience to try and establish a business in Las Cruces.

Regional and nationally based business entities need to have assurance that Las Cruces will welcome them. As a chamber, we will continue to promote these philosophies and work with our elected officials in doing so.

What do you enjoy doing when you have time off?

I enjoy spending time with my boys right here in beautiful Las Cruces. With the exceptional weather we have year round, I also enjoy racing motocross, mountain biking, golf and supporting Aggie athletics.

Where do you take out of town guests?

I enjoy introducing them to the fantastic food we have at various restaurants throughout Las Cruces and the uniquely different shopping and entertainment experience you can find here. Of course, a "pilgrimage" to Chope's on a Friday night is usually on the agenda.

Why is life good in Las Cruces?

Life is great in Las Cruces because of its cultural diversity, its weather and its people. I can attest to the fact that this is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

What would like Las Cruces to know about you?

I want people to know the success of Las Cruces is very important to me and that giving back to a community that has been so good to me is essential.

Details

Kirk Clifton

Land Acquisitions
El Paso Electric Co.

Previous positions

- City of Las Cruces Planning Department
- Logos Real Estate Development Inc. development administrator, chief development officer,
- Zia Engineering & Environmental Consultants planning director

Education

- Mayfield High School
- New Mexico State University Bachelor of Science
- University of Texas at El Paso, completing MBA

Family

- Wife Janet Acosta-Clifton
- Children Konnor, 6, and Kaleb, 10

Organizations

- Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces president, former chairman of the nominating committee, chairman of the government affairs committee and vice president
- Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance board member
- Southern New Mexico March of Dimes board member
- Cub Scout Pack 68b den leader
- Jornada Masonic Lodge No. 70, master mason
- NMSU Town and Gown Commission
- National Hispanic Cultural Center
- New Mexico State Real Estate Commission Board

Honors

- Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout
- United States Congressional Commendation





Owners Jacob and Angela Benitez teach the gentle art of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu at Gracie Barra Las Cruces

Las Cruces Bulletin
photo by David Salcido

In Good Company: *Gracie Barra Las Cruces*

Spreading the word that Jiu-Jitsu is for everyone

Jacob and Angela Benitez bring the Gracie Barra name to Las Cruces

By David Salcido
Las Cruces Bulletin

In January, the first Gracie Barra Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu School, powered by a world-renowned association and a near-legendary name, opened in Las Cruces without fanfare at 421 Avenida de Mesilla.

Like the discipline it espouses, the entry was quiet and well-executed. Owners Jacob and Angela Benitez had realized a dream that had been years in the making.

The endeavor started modestly, when a young Jacob Benitez discovered a love for Jiu-Jitsu, an ancient martial art unlike any other. Believed to have begun around 2,000 B.C., Jiu-Jitsu arose amongst Buddhist monks in India, where a deep respect for all forms of life allowed the development of a system of self-defense that aimed to neutralize aggression without necessarily harming the aggressor.

"I've always been into martial arts," Benitez said. "Growing up I was really into Bruce Lee. I also used to box when I was young. Then I saw Royce Gracie in the 'Ultimate Fighting Championship,' back in the early '90s. I had never heard of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. I thought, if I could box, I could handle myself. Then I saw this skinny little Brazilian guy taking on people of various martial arts styles and taking them down to the ground. I thought it was a pretty effective style, so I decided to try it out. That was my introduction to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu."

Fueled by a desire to learn more, Benitez began training in earnest, driving to Albuquerque on a regular basis to train with black belt Alberto Crane. In 2005, he earned his blue belt and decided that teaching would be his next step.

He opened Three Crosses Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in his garage, where he initially helped friends train for cage fighting. When word began to spread, others showed interest and soon he found himself teaching regular classes for both adults and children.

"Once I actually started training, I learned

what Jiu-Jitsu really was, not just a fighting style, but something that could help people mentally, spiritually and in so many other ways," he said. "Not just in a gym or a fight, but in every aspect of your life. It can make you, I think, a better person. Once I realized all the benefits, I fell in love with it."

In 2009, Benitez and his wife Angela moved the school to a permanent location on Main Street. After two years in that location, the business had grown and they found themselves needing a larger space. Another move came soon after, to a location on 17th Street. Then, as 2012 began to wind to a close, the Benitez family took the big leap.

"I've trained under the Gracie Barra flag for years," Benitez said. "That's where my instructors have always come from. As we've gotten bigger and bigger, we decided to transition. When we decided to move into the new building in September, we went ahead and registered under the Gracie Barra name, to make it official."

What's in a name? Plenty when it comes to Gracie Barra Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Founded in 1986 by Carlos Gracie Jr., the very first Gracie Barra school was located in the city of Barra da Tijuca, in Rio de Janeiro. Gracie himself came from a long line of Jiu-Jitsu masters with formidable reputations, including his father Carlos Gracie Sr., his uncle Helio and brother Rolls.

In 2001, the Gracie Barra Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Schools Association was born and today the organization has offices in the United States, Brazil, Australia and Europe, with around 300 schools around the globe.

Inspired by this success, Benitez has helped many people of both genders and a wide age range realize their potential over the years. One convert was his wife Angela.

"When Jacob started training, I was just an observer," she said. "I didn't really start taking it seriously until after the birth of our fourth child, in 2007. I started training for myself and became excited about learning and watching myself progress. It started out as something that was just fun, something we could do together. I

also realized what a good workout it was."

Because of that experience, Angela Benitez has become an advocate for the artform, especially where women and children are concerned.

"When I hear women say they can't do it, I say, 'don't believe that lie,'" she said. "It's all based on self-defense. These are things that are taught as rape prevention at police academies all across the country. It puts you in situations where you are on your back and shows you how to fight from that position and how to get to a safe place from there. To have that knowledge is invaluable. It's something you can't get anywhere else. If you can do yoga or Zumba, you can do Jiu-Jitsu."

"I know a lot is being said out there about bullying, too. I think Jiu-Jitsu hits home there. You learn to defend yourself and just that knowledge alone gives you the confidence to avoid confrontation. I see it all the time. These kids come in very shy and timid. A few months later they're the ones tearing it up on the mat. They are very confident and their parents tell me all the time, 'my kid is doing so much better in school'"

As a mother and teacher, her goal is to reach as many children as she can and give them the knowledge and confidence they need to be healthy, happy adults.

"I tell the kids, in a bully situation, when someone is trying to hurt you, don't hesitate to control," she said. "You never strike, you never hit, you never punch. You control the situation until a teacher or an adult can come help you. That is very unique in the martial arts world."

Perhaps the most telling aspect of this phenomenon is that the entire Benitez family has become active in the artform. The Benitez have four children, ages 6, 8, 13 and 16. All train regularly; a point of pride for both Jacob and Angela.

"There's never been a complaint," Angela said. "Each has found their own Jiu-Jitsu within themselves. Our oldest daughter competes at a high level. We're going to the Pan-American championships in California this month and she'll be competing at the blue belt level for the first time. That's a huge step for her."

Details

Gracie Barra Las Cruces

Address
421 Avenida de Mesilla

Phone
642-2399

"That's why we say this is a family business," Jacob added. "A lot of our clientele is made up of families. We have parents here doing one class and the kids in the other room training at the same time."

Angela believes that family is the key to success in their business.

"The Gracie Barra motto is, 'Organize like a team, fight like a family,'" she said. "You feel this throughout all of the Gracie Barra schools. It's familiar no matter where you go."

In fact, this was one of the main selling points when it came to joining the Gracie Barra association. The couple love the fact that their students will be accepted no matter where they travel. As a premium school, the cache is carried throughout the world and should any of their students need to train in Europe, Asia or Australia, all they need to do is look up the nearest school and they have a home.

Continued growth is the name of the game when it comes to Gracie Barra Las Cruces. In three years, Jacob Benitez is hoping to have doubled the size of his student base and widened the influence of this gentle art throughout the region.

"We just want to keep growing and putting the name out there, letting people in Las Cruces know what Jiu-Jitsu is and what Gracie Barra is," he said. "If people want to do positive things, we can help them. That's my wish, to keep growing and keep progressing."

Innovation begins here

HD3 Discovery Day brings NM innovators

The High Desert Discovery District (HD3) – New Mexico’s only private sector lead high technology start-up accelerator – and the Arrowhead Innovation Network will host HD3 Discovery Day, Wednesday and Thursday, March 20-21, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road.

Innovators from all over the state have applied to present their discovery to a highly experienced group of entrepreneurs, innovators, management experts and investors.

“The Arrowhead Innovation Network is pleased to partner with HD3 for Discovery Day, benefiting the faculty and students of NMSU and the entire region through accelerating start-ups and economic growth,” said Garrey Carruthers, vice president for economic development and dean of NMSU’s College of Business.

The purpose of the HD3 Discovery Day is to offer New Mexico innovators the opportunity to vet and discuss their innovation, their challenges, strategy and market promise in front of a highly experienced group of business achievers. Each HD3 adviser has extensive

experience in matching technology opportunities with needs in the marketplace, product development, investment strategy, marketing and sales, management, valuations and exits. In addition to their experience, each adviser also brings a wide international network of contacts and resources that are tapped to accelerate the most promising discoveries.

Each presentation and discussion time is limited to 30 minutes, and all panel presentations are conducted in a private setting to allow for the maximum of sensitive and proprietary business and technological information to be shared, for a fluidity of discussion, strategy and suggestions to occur. All Discovery Day discussions remain confidential.

HD3 hosts this signature program twice per year. Each event typically receives as many as 30 applications from all over the state. Twelve to 15 are typically selected to present based on the list of criteria developed by HD3.

The evening prior to Discovery Day, a social gathering for the selected presenters and the HD3 advisers will be held.

For more information, see www.hddd.org.

Fostering positive change

‘Our American Voice’ comes to area schools

Several years ago, Bonnie Poloner of Mesilla was invited to “Our American Voice,” a program of the Barat Education Foundation, and she wanted to see it in New Mexico. As chance would have it, Jeannie Sanke, Ph.D., of the Barat Education Foundation in Chicago, reconnected with a childhood friend, now in Cloudcroft. From there, bringing “Our American Voice” to southern New Mexico took off.

The Barat Education Foundation develops partnership to support education programs that are community-focused.

“We believe in partnership, collaboration and civic engagement. We are thrilled to be partnering with CFSNM on the “Our American Voice” program and given their support and counsel to date, we know this will be a successful and a long-term joint venture,” Sanke said. “I am especially excited because General Lew Wallace is my great-great-uncle on my mother’s side and my husband as an infant lived in Alamogordo while his dad was serving in World War II. So we are pleased and honored to be invited into the southern New Mexico community.”

“I am so grateful to Bonnie Poloner for introducing the Foundation and the Our American Voice program to the CFSNM,” said Sheila A. Smith, CEO/chair of the Barat Education Foundation. “Our board and staff are thrilled to be partnering with the CFSNM.” On Aug. 24, 2012, the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) and the Barat Education Foundation hosted a presentation to local agencies and organizations to introduce Our American Voice, a program developed to teach middle school students to collaborate as they learn the fundamentals of American democracy, and work to create positive change in their communities.

In February, Smith and Poloner provided a workshop to train the facilitators in the area. Currently there are four sites, in Las Cruces, Deming, Silver City and Alamogordo, participating in the program. A fifth site in Las Cruces should be getting on board soon. The CFSNM provides the financial and philanthropic portions of the program and the Barat Education Foundation provides the training, curriculum, and

ongoing implementation support. In addition, the CFSNM funded the initiative as part of a middle school collaborative project through the Wal-Mart Foundation.

“It seems like bringing “Our American Voice” to the area has been destined to happen,” said Sanke, the presenter during the workshop and the area coordinator from the Barat Education Foundation. “We have never seen groups understand the core of the program like we have seen here.”

“Our American Voice” was created for middle-school youth because it is an ideal time to introduce them to the functioning of a democratic society and prepare them to be lifelong citizens; cultivate critical thinking and collaboration skills, and develop the cognitive ability to grasp complex concepts and engage in community problem solving.

“Our American Voice” relies heavily on online interactive and social networking tools to reach youth where they are and can be implemented in schools, after-school programs and youth centers. The program includes two parts, blending active citizenship with community action.

The program consists of 65-80 hours of team meeting time. A detailed facilitator’s guide for program implementation coupled with OAVspace, the secure “Our American Voice” website provides program participants and facilitators current and historical information, online activities and opportunities to link to other facilitators and students.

“With every single site we have approached in southern New Mexico, the program seems to align perfectly with what these organizations are trying to do,” Sanke said.

For more information on the Barat Education Foundation, visit www.thebarat-foundation.org. For more information on “Our American Voice,” visit www.ouramericanvoice.org.



The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the Southern New Mexico community now, and in the future. Through the establishment of permanent funds you can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. For more information, visit www.cfsnm.org or call 521.4794.

Thinning out the herds

Drought causes ranchers to reduce cattle numbers

By **Marvin Tessneer**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The prolonged drought is forcing New Mexico cattle ranchers to continue reducing herd numbers, according to the latest report from Charlie Rogers, Clovis Livestock Auction owner.

The Clovis auction is running from 1,500 to 1,600 head of cattle weekly, compared with 5,000 to 6,000 head last year, as cattlemen continue reducing their herds because of the drought and lack of grazing.

Cattle herd numbers are about 50 percent of what they were a year ago, Rogers estimated, “because feeding the cattle is not cost effective.”

In 2012, the New Mexico beef cow inventory was 435,000 head. As of January this year, the inventory was 390,000, the lowest on record, starting in 1920, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

“Ranchers need rain or snow to get the ranges back into good shape,” he said.

Although ranges received some soil moisture from winter storms, more precipitation is needed for spring “greening up,” according to Caren Cowan, executive director, New Mexico Cattle Growers Association.

And politics reportedly is reaching into the cattle industry, according to Cowan in an

association news release: “There is deep concern about the upcoming federal sequestration, which promises to result in the closure of beef processing plants due to the furlough of federal inspectors. The mere announcement that such a furlough could happen has dramatically affected commodities trading.”

Some sections in New Mexico have been receiving moisture, reported Nick Ashcroft, New Mexico State University Extension range specialist.

“But it depends on how much moisture we’ll get during the monsoon season and if it’ll help the plant growth,” he said. Monsoon is a local term for the rainy season that usually arrives in July, August and September, which is important to improve soil moisture to support plant growth.

The district recorded some improvement along the Arizona state line, but not enough to relieve drought conditions, according to Leticia Lister, rangeland management specialist.

“All this equates to very little new growth of vegetation,” she said. “And this year we have seen an increase of

non-use permit units. This means ranchers are reducing their livestock numbers due to the lack of forage.”

The BLM drought-damaged district includes Doña Ana, Sierra, Luna, Hidalgo, Otero and Grant counties.

“ Ranchers are reducing their livestock numbers due to the lack of forage. ”

LETICIA LISTER,
rangeland management specialist

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

2013 SMALL BUSINESSES OF THE MONTH

February Keller Williams Realty
March Kraenzel's Landscaping

HOW TO NOMINATE A BUSINESS

Tell the chamber about a great local business. Go to www.lascruces.org/downloads.php, scroll down to Member Spotlight Nomination Form and download a nomination form. Candidates for Business of the Month will have more than 10 employees. Candidates for Small Business of the Month will have 10 or fewer employees. For more information, call the chamber at 524-1968.

KRAENZEL'S LANDSCAPING

Location:
2902 N. Valley Drive
Owner:
David Kraenzel
Contact info:
312-1147
www.lascruceslandscapes.com
Quote:
“We want our customers, when the landscape is done, to walk out the door and say, ‘Aha! That’s exactly what I wanted,’” David Kraenzel said.

THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

Green Chamber welcomes MVM Kitchen

Photos by Zak Hansen



At the ribbon cutting for the new Mountain View Market Kitchen, 120 S. Water St., on Friday, March 8, Caitlin Karrenberg holds the proclamation with Shahid Mustafa and Mo Valko, joined by Green Chamber members Carrie Hamblen, Lucas Herndon and Jim Graham.



Valko cuts the green ribbon. Joining her is Roseanne Camunez and Renee Frank of the Green Chamber, Karrenberg and Mustafa of Mountain View Market, Green Chamber Executive Director Hamblen and board member Herndon.

Dual ribbon cutting for United Way of SWNM

Photos by David Salcido



On Friday, March 8, CEO Mike Zaragoza cuts the dual ribbons at United Way of Southwest New Mexico, 255 E. Idaho Ave., Ste. 24, while board members Marianne Lappin and Collins Reynolds hold the proclamations, surrounded by staff and members of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces.



The celebratory cake for the ribbon cutting at United Way of Southwest New Mexico is flanked by ribbons and proclamations from the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces.

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Cutting the ribbon for Sonic Drive-in 40th anniversary celebration

Photos by David Salcido



Mayor Ken Miyagishima cuts the ribbon denoting Sonic Drive-in's 40th anniversary in Las Cruces at the 1603 El Paseo Road location, Tuesday, March 12. Joining the mayor in the celebration are Bob Merritt, owner; Belen Holguin, general manager of the North Solano Road location; Barbara Stammer, owner; Claud Gamble, general manager of the North Valley Drive location; Eddie Nevarez, general manager of the El Paseo Road location and Tad Benda, regional director of the franchise.



Miyagishima congratulates Merritt on 40 years as a successful local businessman.



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Deadline to enter is 5 pm March 15, 2013!

Arts & Entertainment

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FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2013

C1

'The Secret Garden' comes to life
C3



DAMN Union builds a musical community
C7



Taco truck offers triumphant tastes
C9



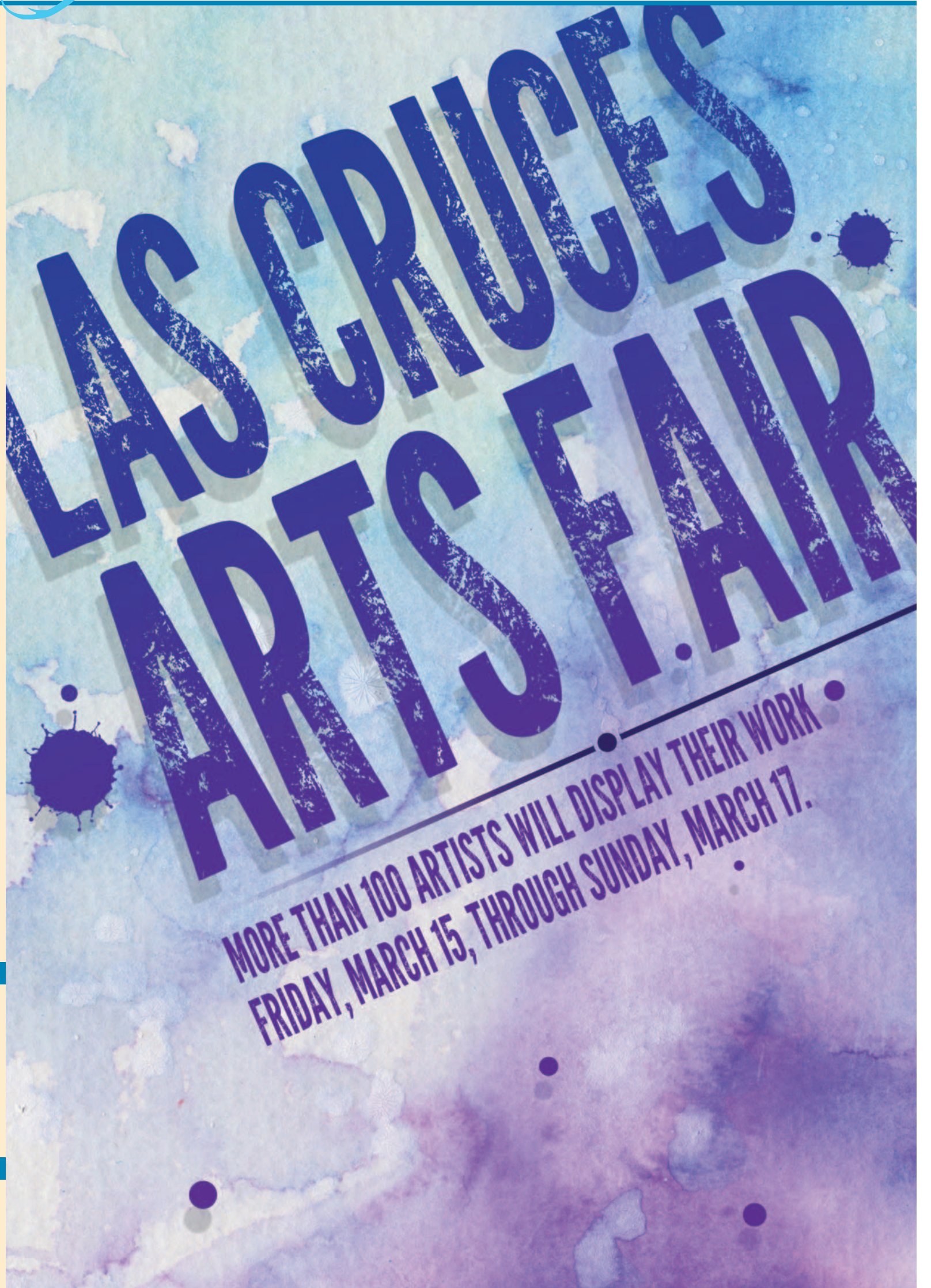
'Oz the Great and Powerful' is neither
C15

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NEXT WEEK

LC 52
Filmmakers aim to create 52 short films by the year's end.



Third time's a charm

Las Cruces Arts Fair returns with more than 100 exhibitors

By **Zak Hansen**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Jewelry, painting, sculpture, metalwork, photography, leather, printmaking, wood-working, furniture, glass art, mixed media, world-class ceramics and textiles – all this and more will fill the exhibit halls of the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., as more than 100 artisans come together for one of the largest collections of art and artists in the Southwest.

The third annual Las Cruces Arts Fair opens at 5 p.m. Friday, March 15, and continues from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 16, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 17. Tickets are \$6, free for children 12 and under, and all proceeds benefit the numerous community programs and events undertaken by the Doña Ana Arts Council and the historic Rio Grande Theatre.

Throughout the weekend, performances, lectures and artist's demonstrations will inform and entertain while guests browse among the thousands of unique and beautiful pieces on display and for sale by artists from around the country.

Sally Cutter, a driving force behind the Las Cruces Arts Fair, along with her husband, Glenn, said "there truly is something for everyone at the fair.

"There will be demonstrations, lectures, children's activities for the younger crowd, a silent auction – just so much is happening

that weekend.

"This year we have added several new artists with totally unique pieces, plus our guest artists – we've brought in 17 of the finest potters in the world, from the village of Mata Ortiz.

"Everyone who attends the fair will get a chance to see art that was made by more than 100 artisans from 18 different states, not to mention from all over New Mexico."

This year, the Las Cruces Arts Fair is pleased to introduce its guest artists, 17 potters of Mata Ortiz, who will be on hand to demonstrate their skill and offer up their wares for purchase.

Mata Ortiz, located in northern Chihuahua, Mexico, is internationally known for its one-of-a-kind ceramics, passed down through generations from Juan Quezada, a self-taught artisan and sculptor.

More than 40 years ago, when Quezada was a young boy, he discovered a cave full of pottery made by the Paquime Indians, his ancestors, a culture that had disappeared hundreds of years before. Awed by the quality and craftsmanship, Quezada began to make his own pots in the same tradition, using local materials.

After more than four decades, Mata Ortiz has become home to hundreds of artisans working in this ancient tradition, who sell their work on an international scale.

One family, Laura Burgarini, Hector Gallegos Jr. and Paula Gallegos Burgarini, 8, will

demonstrate their skills at this ancient art, alongside their fellow Mata Ortiz potters.

During the special event opening of the Las Cruces Arts Fair, 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 15, Rosa and Renato of "Duetto Krystal" will provide Latin rhythms and vocals throughout the evening. "Patchwork," an acoustic Americana group, will also play during the opening.

During the following two days, fairgoers will have their pick of a number of engaging and entertaining presentations, lectures and artist demonstrations from educators, speakers and even exhibitors, on a wide-ranging variety of topics.

On Saturday, March 16, demonstrations commence at 10 a.m., with Marie Siegrist discussing "Techniques to Add Texture to Watercolors," including brushwork, sponging and other ways to imprint watercolor. At noon, Ron Saltzman will give a talk titled "Framing to Enhance Your Artwork," which features new materials, colors and techniques of custom framing.

Russell Diers, co-author of "The Magnetism of Mata Ortiz," will lecture about the people, places and pottery of Mata Ortiz at 2 p.m. Closing out Saturday's lectures will be Judy Licht's 4 p.m. demonstration, "Techniques of Painting on Silk."

These one-of-a-kind lectures and demonstrations continue Sunday, March 17, starting with a 10 a.m. lecture by Walter Parks, author of "The Miracle of Mata Ortiz," about Juan Quezada and the history of these world-renowned potters.

At noon, Marilyn Hansen will give a demonstration called "Creating Sculptural Baskets," incorporating wood and natural materials in homemade baskets. The lecture and demonstration series closes at 2 p.m. with "The Mystic of Tapestry Weaving" with Jan Harrison, who will teach how to incorporate circles, curves and angles in weavings.

The Las Cruces Arts Fair is more than just a great way to see some unique and thrilling works of art, though – it also benefits the

“The fair really shows Las Cruces as a place that appreciates and supports fine art.”

SALLY CUTTER,
Arts Fair organizer

Details

Las Cruces Arts Fair

Where

Las Cruces Convention Center
680 E. University Ave.

When

- 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 15
- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 16
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 17

Cost

\$6, children 12 and younger free

Artist demonstrations and lectures

Saturday, March 16

- 10 a.m. Marie Siegrist – "Techniques to Add Texture to Watercolors"
- Noon Ron Saltzman – "Framing to Enhance Your Artwork"
- 2 p.m. Russell Diers – "The Magnetism of Mata Ortiz"
- 4 p.m. Judy Licht – "The Technique of Painting on Silk"

Sunday, March 17

- 10 a.m. Walter Parks – "The Miracle of Mata Ortiz"
- Noon Marilyn Hansen – "Creating Sculptural Basketry"
- 2 p.m. Jan Harrison – "The Mystic of Tapestry Weaving"

community at large, putting Las Cruces on the map as an arts destination.

"The arts fair is important to Las Cruces because it brings a lot to the community and places us among some of the best juried shows in the Southwest. More than that, the fair really shows Las Cruces as a place that appreciates and supports fine art," Cutter said.

For more information about the fair, the exhibiting artists or the Doña Ana Arts Council, call 523-6403 or visit www.las-cruces-arts.org

Archaeology Day

Branigan Cultural Center
501 N. Main
Las Cruces, NM
las-cruces.org/museums
575-541-2154

Saturday March 16th
10am to 2pm

FREE ADMISSION

Activities include:

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Artist Demonstrations • Silent Auction
Children's Art Activities







Admission \$6 Children under 12 Free

LAS CRUCES CONVENTION CENTER

'The Secret Garden' blooms in Las Cruces

LCHS Performing Arts production opens March 20

By **Zak Hansen**
Las Cruces Bulletin

On Wednesday, March 20, one of the most beloved children's stories comes to life, as the Las Cruces High School Performing Arts departments' production of "The Secret Garden" takes the stage at the Oñate Performing Arts Center, 5700 Mesa Grande Drive.

In a rare collaboration, several of the LCHS performing arts departments – theater, choir, orchestra and dance – have joined together to make this production one of a kind.

"What makes this production special is the idea that you have these teachers whose specialties are music, or dance or acting, coming together to teach," said Philip Hernandez, publicist, Doña Ana Community College instructor and president of the Las Cruces Community Theatre and Doña Ana Theatre Association.

"It's tremendous, because you really don't see that level of support at any of the other schools. You don't usually get that until college, and even then it's rare."

The 1911 novel "The Secret Garden" was written by English author Frances Hodgson Burnett, who also penned the children's classics "Little Lord Fauntleroy" (1885) and "A Little Princess" (1905). Almost entirely overlooked at the time of its publication, "The Secret Garden" has, over the last century, become regarded as one of the best children's books of the 20th century.

Set around the turn of the 19th century, "The Secret Garden" follows the young, spoiled, temperamental and perpetually sour Mary Lennox, born to wealthy English parents living in India, too involved in their own lives to take much interest in their daughter. Mary's parents are killed in a cholera epidemic, and she is sent away to live with her distant uncle, Archibald Craven, at his Yorkshire manor.



"The Secret Garden" cast members rehearse for their performance of the beloved children's tale, which opens at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20.

Upon her arrival at Misselthwaite Manor, Mary is her usual sour self. She begins exploring the estate, discovering a bedridden cousin named Colin, confined to a single room, as well as an overgrown garden, once the favorite place of her now-deceased aunt.

As Mary begins to restore the garden with the help of Colin and a local boy named Dickon, she discovers other secrets of the manor that will change the lives of all those involved.

The story, written more than a century ago, still resonates with audiences today, due to its themes of belief, positive thinking and, indeed, a little bit of "magic."

"It's a really appealing production because, in the story, Mary is trying to find this secret place," said Alyssa Gose, LCHS student playing the role of Mary. "Everyone has a place they go – their refuge – where they can go and let it all out, by themselves. Everyone has to deal with that some time, so I think anyone can relate to this story."

Michelle Gose, Alyssa's mother and president of the LCHS Choir Booster Club, said the story's longevity adds to its appeal.

"Since 'The Secret Garden' is such a classic book, almost everyone has read it. It appeals to adults, who read it when they were young, but it's also a story that kids and young adults can go see and appreciate," she said.

Alyssa Gose, who is active in the theater community – "The Secret Garden" will be the sophomore's 25th production – radiates enthusiasm when she talks about the project.

"We have a lot of fun during rehearsals, and everyone is really committed," she said. "They're all really in the moments, and it's a really motivated cast."

"All in all, the story is a classic, we have a lot of really talented people, and the music is beautiful."

Hernandez, also heavily involved in the music and theater scenes in Las Cruces, has the highest hopes for the production.



Charles LeCoq, director of the LCHS theater department, directs cast members Dustin Hadfield and Alyssa Gose during rehearsals for "The Secret Garden."

"It's almost blindsiding that this production is coming from a high school," he said. "We don't want people to think that, because it's coming from a high school, that they should somehow expect less."

"I anticipate this to be one of the highest-quality theatrical events to happen in Las Cruces for some time, honestly."

Details

The Secret Garden LCHS Performing Arts

When

7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, March 20-22

Where

Oñate Performing Arts Center
5700 Mesa Grande Drive

Cost

- \$10 general admission
- \$5 students with ID

Contact

- 639-0511
- events@lchstheatrebooster.org



Dancers perform during last year's "We Are One – Dance and Drum" performance at the Rio Grande Theatre.

Music and dance come together

Show features drummers and dancers of all skills and styles

The eighth annual "We Are One – Dance and Drum," a show highlighting student dance troupes from southern New Mexico, west Texas and Chihuahua, Mexico, will present dance styles and rhythms from the Middle East, Sub-Saharan and North Africa as well as American Tribal belly dance forms at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St.

Dance troupes in the two-hour production vary in experience, dance style and philosophy, but are united by their love of rhythm and movement and can say, "We are one when we dance and drum." Dancers and drummers range in experience from seasoned artists to beginners with only a year or two of dance or drum study. Three drum groups – New World Drummers, Desert Heartbeats and Percussion 10 + 1 – will also perform. A two- and three-dimensional art show, "We Are Art," will be on display in the El Paso Electric Gallery, located in the lobby of the Rio Grande Theatre. The show will be on display through April 1.

Tickets to "We Are One – Dance and Drum" are \$8, and can be purchased at My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive, from dance troupe members or by calling 639-1616.

For more information, contact 526-5940 or email4jewell@yahoo.com.

Bulletin Advertising Works!



"The Las Cruces Bulletin's advertising and coverage of the Las Cruces Arts Fair, through the Doña Ana Arts Council, contributed to the show's success. Some 3,000 people visited the event on March 16-18. About 150 children took part in activities designed especially for youngsters. It gives us great confidence to know that the Bulletin is behind community events like this one, which gives us the momentum to plan the Las Cruces Arts Fair again next spring. We always know we can count on the Las Cruces Bulletin to promote the arts in the Las Cruces community."

MAGGIE AND GEORGE GRIFFIN • SALLY AND GLENN CUTTER
CO-CHAIRS, LAS CRUCES ARTS FAIR
DOÑA ANA ARTS COUNCIL

"We can count on the Las Cruces Bulletin to promote the arts in the Las Cruces community."

Contact Claire Frohs at 524-8061 for help with your marketing needs.



Galleries & Openings

OPENING

CORBETT CENTER ART GALLERY will host the City of Las Cruces Therapeutic Recreation Program's 17th annual art exhibition, "17," featuring artwork from participants of the Therapeutic Art Program. The show will be on display from Friday, March 15, through Thursday, March 28.

The Therapeutic Art Program provides developmental art opportunities to participants of all ages and levels of learning. "17" empowers artists to create artwork for an exhibition to showcase their talents and incorporate themselves fully into the community. The program also provides social, artistic and recreational opportunities to participants with and without disabilities at several locations throughout the community. To learn more about the program, call 541-2550.

Corbett Center Art Gallery is located on the second floor of the Corbett Center Student Union, 1600 International Mall, on the New Mexico State University campus. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. For more information, call 646-3235.

NEW MEXICO FARM & RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM presents "New Mexico's African American Legacy: Visible, Vital, Valuable," an exhibition focusing on African-Americans and their contributions to New Mexico history. The exhibit, presented by the African American Museum and Cultural Center (AAMCC) of New Mexico in

Albuquerque, focuses on some of the first African-American families that settled in different communities around the state. A large portion of the exhibit features the history of African-Americans in Las Cruces, including some of the original families, Lincoln High School, Booker T. Washington Elementary School, churches, homesteads and the Doña Ana branch of the NAACP, chartered in the 1930s.

An opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 21. The exhibit will remain on display in the North Corridor through Sept. 15.

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum is located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 522-4100.

ONGOING

ARALIA FINE ART GALLERY will feature the watercolors of John Schooley for the month of March.

Schooley, a 30-year advertising industry veteran, is a self-taught artist who uses watercolors to capture landscapes, florals, still lifes, animals, building and beaches, among others. Schooley is also a member of the New Mexico Watercolor Society-Southern Chapter.

Aralia Fine Art Gallery is located at 224 N. Campo St. Gallery hours are 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday, 2 to 7 p.m. Friday, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday or by

appointment. For more information, visit www.araliagallery.com or call 650-7543.

MOUNTAIN GALLERY is hosting an exhibition of the Black Range Artists for the month of March. The following prizes were awarded: Best of show for Brad Simms' "Yang and Yin," first place for Rayma Claessen's "Dream Mountain," second place for "Blue Pod" by Jan Severson; third place for "Lefty's Lineup" by Caroline Kennedy; honorable mention for "River of Rain" by Trish Spinazola; and an honorable mention for Angela Hernandez. Co-op members of the Las Cruces Arts Association are also exhibiting at the gallery during March.

Mountain Gallery is located at 138 W. Mountain St. Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 652-3485.

WEST END ART DEPOT presents "EstrogenFest 2013: The Women of We.AD y Amigas" for the month of March.

"EstrogenFest 2013" is a show featuring works in many media by the lady members of the West End Art Depot arts co-op and assorted XX-chromosomed friends.

West End Art Depot is located at 401 N. Mesilla St. New gallery hours are 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, or by appointment. For more information, call 312-9892.



"At a Run" by Mel Stone is one of several works currently on display at Mesquite Art Gallery, 340 N. Mesquite St.

MESQUITE ART GALLERY presents the work of two artists for the month of March, David Shaw and Harvey Hilbert.

Shaw, a photographer, spent his early career as an oil-field worker in Alaska, and will show a series of never-before-seen photographs taken 23 years ago.

Hilbert, a painter, was wounded in Vietnam and later earned his Ph.D. and became a Buddhist monk and painter.

Gallery owner Mel Stone will also exhibit a number of new photographs.

Mesquite Art Gallery is located at 340 N. Mesquite St. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 640-3502, or visit www.mesquiteartgallery.com.

MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY will feature two Las Cruces artists for the month of March, Merideth Loring and Richard Spellenberg. Loring combines her lifelong love of fabric and needle crafts with her artistic vision of developing objects and materials to be reborn into new forms.

Spellenberg, a woodworker who began his love of the craft in his teenage years, uses a process called wood turning, one of the oldest woodworking crafts dating back 4,000 years.

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday. For more information, call 522-2933 or visit www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

MAIN STREET GALLERY presents the Big Picture Customer exhibit for the month of March. The show features the photographic works created by customers of the Big Picture Digital Image Lab, and is an opportunity for professional and non-professional photograph artists to exhibit their works in a gallery setting, some for the first time. Artists include Micah Pearson, Ben Alexander,

Storm Sermay, Ron Saltzman, Chuck West, Will Keener, Pam Needam and Robert Edmonds.

Main Street Gallery is located at 311 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 647-0508.

BRANIGAN CULTURAL CENTER presents the photographic display "Pancho Villa and the Mexican Revolution," curated by anthropologist James J. Hester. Through this photographic biography, the enduring legacy of Pancho Villa in his many capacities can be seen as captured through the lenses of his contemporaries.

The cultural center also presents "Masterworks: Googlepaedic Narrations of and the Dysfunction of Damage," an exhibit by Shaurya Kumar. The exhibit addresses Kumar's "own displacement from (his) native environment and cultural roots, and will be virtual interpretation of (his) memories and ancient murals during travels to remote villages and temples in India."

The Branigan Cultural Center is located at 501 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 541-2154 or visit www.lascruces.org/museums.

NOPALITO'S GALERÍA presents the selected furniture of designer and artisan carpenter Francisco Goytia. Goytia was born in Zacatecas, Mexico, and has been evolving his craft as a professional carpenter for the last 50 years. His style is unique and hand-carved, and represents the classical colonial hacienda style of Mexico. The galería will display Goytia's custom furniture consisting primarily of chairs, coffee tables, mirrors and tables. The show will run through Sunday, March 31.

Nopalito's Galería is located at 326 S. Mesquite St. Gallery hours are from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For

more information, visit www.nopalitosgaleria.com.

QUILLIN STUDIO AND GALLERY presents a "Festival of Notecards" during the month of March.

Artists always have fun creating note cards, and this selection ranges from fractals to pentangles to more traditional cards. They can be sent to someone special, or framed alone or in groups. Artists include Sally Quillin, Mike Stephens, Kim Gaskill, Jay Foster Savage, Steven Zinns, Roy Fister and Melanie Berry.

Quillin Studio and Gallery is located at 317 N. Main St. Gallery hours are Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, call 312-1064.

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART presents "Elemental New Mexico," an exhibition of works in a variety of media.

The New Mexico landscape is the inspiration for "Elemental New Mexico," and includes Bill Gilbert, Diane McGregor, Brian Kluge, Nolan Winkler, Anthony Howell and Michael Berman. The show will be on display through April 6.

The Las Cruces Museum of Art is located at 491 N. Main St., next to the Branigan Cultural Center. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 554-2137 or visit www.lascruces.org/museums.

NEW MEXICO FARM & RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM presents "Mesilla Valley Weavers: Threads Through Time." This diverse exhibition features 44 different woven works from the artists of the Mesilla Valley Weavers Guild. The exhibit will be in the arts corridor through March.

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum is located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 522-4100.

NMSU Outdoor Recreation Adventure Arts Series

Presents

SARAH REINERTSEN

Sarah stepped on the world stage after making sports history in one of the toughest endurance events in the world -- the Hawaii Ironman. This legendary race includes a 2.4-mile swim (3.8km), 112-mile bike (180km), and a 26.2-mile run (42.2km). Sarah is the first woman on a prosthetic leg to finish the Ironman World Championships in Kona. Sarah's story has been covered in many national newspapers and she has graced the covers of Runner's World, Triathlete, Competitor and ESPN magazine. In 2009, GPP Life published her book, entitled "In A Single Bound."



Thursday March 14th, 2013, 7:00pm
Rio Grande Theatre

Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door

Can be purchased at the NMSU Outdoor Center or
at the Rio Grande Theatre Email: outdoor@nmsu.edu

Phone: 575.646.4252

EventsCalendar

FRI. 3/15

2:30 p.m. "Seth's Big Fat Broadway Show," New Mexico State University Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Seth Rudetsky – Oberlin-trained Broadway pianist, actor, writer and host of Sirius/XM Radio's "On Broadway" – uses his private video and audio collection to wow audiences with his knowledge of Broadway theater history and trivia. This one-man show includes his trademark "Deconstructions," in which Rudetsky breaks down performances from Broadway legends like Barbra Streisand and Judy Garland, note by note, giving audiences a dizzying amount of detail and humorous asides. Cost \$25. Call 646-1420.

5 to 8 p.m. Open mic, NMSU Barnes & Noble, University and Jordan avenues. Poetry readers and musicians alternate. Organized by David Rodriguez. Free. Call 646-4431.

5 to 9 p.m. Las Cruces Arts Fair, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Nearly 100 artists from 18 states, including New Mexico, will bring their wares for this fine art fair. There will be free artist demonstrations and lectures, as well as creative activities for children 6-12. Artists are contributing pieces representative of their work to a silent auction that will benefit the Doña Ana Arts Council. Opening night festivities include live music and a cash bar. Cost \$6, children 12 and younger free. Call 523-6403.

7 p.m. Live music with Blues Messiah, Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Call 527-5310.

7 p.m. Project in Motion presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the Gin Studios, 430 N. Compress Road. Project in Motion aerial dance company presents a mesmerizing adaptation of the classic Shakespearean comedy as you've never seen it before. Cost \$10. Visit www.projectinmotion.com.

7 to 10 p.m. Jazzman Ross and the Jazz Show Band, Ump 88 Grill, 1338 Picacho Hills Drive. Dixie, cool and blues in two shows, 7:10 and 8:35 p.m. No cover. Call 647-1455

7:30 p.m.. "Seth's Big Fat Broadway Show," New Mexico State University Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave. Seth Rudetsky – Oberlin-trained Broadway pianist, actor, writer and host of Sirius/XM Radio's "On Broadway" – uses his private video and audio collection to wow audiences with his knowledge of Broadway theater history and trivia. This one-man show includes his trademark "Deconstructions," in which Rudetsky breaks down performances from Broadway legends like

Barbra Streisand and Judy Garland, giving audiences a dizzying amount of detail and humorous asides. Cost \$25. Call 646-1420.

8 p.m. "Twitch," Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Inspired by recent events in LeRoy, N.Y., "Twitch" follows a group of already marginalized high school students who begin to develop tics and tourette's-like symptoms, a condition they name "the twitch." Cost \$10 regular admission, \$9 students and seniors. Call 522-1223.

SAT. 3/16

6:30 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.

9 a.m. to noon, Mountain View Market Co-op Farm Volunteer days, 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.

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market, Downtown Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art. Free. Email fmarket@las-cruces.org.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Las Cruces Arts Fair, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Nearly 100 artists from 18 states, including New Mexico, will bring their wares for this fine art fair. There will be free artist demonstrations and lectures, as well as creative activities for children 6-12. Artists are contributing pieces representative of their work to a silent auction that will benefit the Doña Ana Arts Council. Cost \$6. Call 523-6403.

10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces, COAS Bookstores, 1101 S. Solano Drive and 317 S. Main St. This week, Douglas Jackson will be the storyteller at the Downtown location and Gloria Hacker will be the storyteller at the Solano location. COAS will give coupons for free books to all children who attend. Free. Call 524-8471.

7 p.m. Project in Motion presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the Gin Studios, 430 N. Compress Road. Project in Motion aerial dance company presents a mesmerizing adaptation of the classic Shakespearean comedy as you've never seen it before. Cost \$10. Visit www.projectinmotion.com.

8 p.m. "Twitch," Black Box

Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Inspired by recent events in LeRoy, N.Y., "Twitch" follows a group of already marginalized high school students who begin to develop tics and tourette's-like symptoms, a condition they name "the twitch." Cost \$10 regular admission, \$9 students and seniors. Call 522-1223.

SUN. 3/17

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Las Cruces Arts Fair, Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Nearly 100 artists from 18 states, including New Mexico, will bring their wares for this fine art fair. There will be free artist demonstrations and lectures, as well as creative activities for children 6-12. Artists are contributing pieces representative of their work to a silent auction that will benefit the Doña Ana Arts Council. Cost \$6. Call 523-6403.

2:30 p.m. "Twitch," Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Inspired by recent events in LeRoy, N.Y., "Twitch" follows a group of already marginalized high school students who begin to develop tics and tourette's-like symptoms, a condition they name "the twitch." Cost \$10 regular admission, \$9 students and seniors. Call 522-1223.

3 p.m. Mesilla Valley Concert Band concert, Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 North Horseshoe, on the NMSU campus. The 100-member Mesilla Valley Concert Band will perform a diverse program featuring a Gilbert and Sullivan-style medley, a gaelic piece by Percy Grainger, a percussive march titled "Xerxes" and more. Free. Visit www.mesillavalleyconcertband.org.

7 p.m. Project in Motion presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the Gin Studios, 430 N. Compress Road. Project in Motion aerial dance company presents a mesmerizing adaptation of the classic Shakespearean comedy as you've never seen it before. Cost \$10. Visit www.projectinmotion.com.

TUE. 3/19

1 to 3:30 p.m. Beginning to Advanced Drawing and

20,000 blankets donated



Project Linus coordinator, Suzi Stolfus, center, presents La Casa Inc., represented by Amy Johnson Bassford, left, with the Las Cruces Chapter of Project Linus' 20,000th blanket. The blanket was created by blanketeeer Mary Clark, right. The Las Cruces chapter of Project Linus was started in 1999 by Linden Rannels and donates homemade blankets for children 0-18 years to 44 local organizations including La Casa, hospitals and the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department.

Painting, My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Open to students of all skill levels. Taught by art educator Wayne Carl Huber. Call 647-5684.

7:30 p.m. Sin Fronteras open reading, Palacio Bar, 2600 Avenida de Mesilla. SPLAT (Society for Poetry, Literature and Alternative Theatre) invites all interested readers. Bring three poems or up to five minutes of prose. Sign up begins 7:30 p.m., readings begin at 8 p.m. Hosted by Michael Mandel. Free. Call 521-7311.

WED. 3/20

11 a.m. Rail Readers Book Club, Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St. The Rail Readers book club meets the third Wednesday of each month. This month's selection is "Dorchester Terrace," by Anne Perry. New members are always welcome. Free. Call 647-4480.

1 to 3:30 p.m. Life Drawing and Open Studio, My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Gesture drawing and detail portraiture taught by art educator Wayne Carl Huber. Call 647-5684.

7 p.m. "The Secret Garden," Oñate High School Performing Arts Center, 5700 Mesa Grande Drive. The Las Cruces

High School Performing Arts departments – theater, dance, choir and orchestra – have joined together for a production of "The Secret Garden," based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Cost \$10, \$5 for students with ID. Call 639-0511 or email events@lchstheatrebooster.org

THU. 3/21

1 to 3:30 p.m. Intermediate to Advanced Painting. My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Watercolor, acrylic and water-soluble oil painting classes taught by art educator Wayne Carl Huber. Open enrollment starting any Thursday. Cost \$50 for four two and a half hour sessions. Call 647-5684.

7 p.m. Big Band Dance Club, Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court Ave. The Big Band Dance Club invites you to join us to dance ballroom, Country, swing and Latin styles. This week, music will be provided by DJ Mike D'Arcy. Beginner's group dance lesson begins at 7 p.m., dances from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost \$7. Call 526-6504.

7 p.m. "The Secret Garden," Oñate High School Performing Arts Center, 5700 Mesa Grande Drive. The Las Cruces High School Performing Arts departments – theater, dance, choir and orchestra – have joined together for a production of "The Secret Garden." Cost \$10, \$5 for students with ID. Call 639-0511.

Wheels of Dreams 2013

Car Show
Las Cruces, NM

MARCH 23, 2013
FIELD OF DREAMS
WWW.RODRUNNERSCARCLUB.COM
GATES OPEN AT 8:00 AM

OPEN TO ALL VEHICLES
PRE-REGISTRATION
MARCH 15 TO 22ND, 10:00 TO 4:30 PM
PICACHO WEST MINI & RV STORAGE, 5105 W PICACHO AVE LAS CRUCES 575-541-8121
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL CINDY TORRES 575-649-1646 OR BOB COAS 575-649-9919
PRE-REGISTRATION FEE \$25.00
DAY OF SHOW \$35.00

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
SWAP MEET & CAR CORRAL
WALTER BROWN 575-640-5920

DOOR PRIZES
BASKET RAFFLE
50/50 DRAWING
ENGINE/TRANNY DRAWING

FIRST 100 WILL RECEIVE GOODIE BAGS!
CLASS & BEST OF SHOW AWARDS, FOOD & CAR VENDORS, MUSIC
PROCEEDS BENEFIT LAS CRUCES YOUTH AND IMPORTANT CHARITIES

GREAT COUNTRY MORNINGS

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PATRICIA

KGBT
104

Flights of enchantment

Project in Motion's Midsummer Night's Dream is an aerial and terrestrial delight

Review by **David Salcido**
Las Cruces Bulletin

I have a confession to make. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is not my favorite Shakespearean play. In fact, it doesn't even fall into the top 10.

I know. Somebody revoke my Bard Card, but, before you do, please understand I am not the only thespian on the planet who sees this work as Shakespeare light. As comedies go, it's no "Taming Of the Shrew."

Which is probably why I am so elated that the latest incarnation of the bard's most famous comedy has been given a new lease on life via a brilliant production currently unfolding at The Gin, 403 N. Compress Road, home to one of the area's most ambitious and unconventional dance troupes, Project In Motion.

It is here that artistic director Hilary McDaniel-Douglas and guest director from Kansas State University, David Ollington, have re-imagined the tale of mischievous faeries, mercurial love and rude mechanicals into a non-stop promenade of magic, movement and merriment.

To begin with, casting key members of the aerial dance troupe in the faerie roles is so ingeniously obvious it borders on the sublime. From the pastoral opening scene to the giddy terpsichorean finale, each segment is seamless in its placement; almost as if the bard himself had envisioned the interludes that would lend the production a breathtaking and other-worldly quality.

One pas de deux in particular, featuring veteran members of the dance company Stephen Pohuski and Lauren Mendoza as the faeries Mustardseed and Peaseblossom, is so gracefully articulated, with intertwining ascents and gravity defying drops, that there are moments when you will believe these faeries have actually taken flight.

Combine these instances of aeronautical ease with a pitch perfect cast of terrestrial actors and you've got the makings of a resplendent performance that will not soon be forgotten. Eric Young, fiercely handsome and effortless in his delivery, is a formidable Oberon. As a counterpoint, Britney Stout's Titania is sultry, seductive and radiant, whether she is lounging in her faerie bower or floating gracefully to the stage for her tête-à-tête with the transformed Bottom, played to comic perfection by veteran actor David Edwards.

Edwards is backed by a capable group of shameless clowns who turn the more



Las Cruces Bulletin photos by Steve MacIntyre

Peaseblossom, played by Lauren Mendoza, and Mustardseed, played by Stephen Pohuski.

farcical moments in the play into a slapstick marathon. The moment when they actually perform the play within the play for the Duke of Athens and his courtesans is a delightful bit of staging that is so perfectly timed one wishes for a rewind button, just so it could be viewed again in order to catch all of the subtle nuances.

Mark Steffen's officious Peter Quince, Chris Rippel's stutteringly nervous Snout/Wall and Kyler Breed's over-the-top Flute/Thisbe are standouts, but Sam Schoenfeld's Snug and Jean-Luc Hester's Starveling shine as the much-maligned moon and reluctantly fierce lion.

The problematic moments of this play, for me, have always been those in which the lovers are prominently featured. As written, and usually acted, the young paramours are vain, mean-spirited and, let's face it, annoying. I usually find myself wishing these scenes would end so that we can get back to the fun stuff.

Let me just say that I have had that preconceived notion knocked askew by a quartet of acrobatic and entertaining young talents. William Zimmerman and Julian Alexander, as the warring suitors Lysander and Demetrius, perform each confrontation like a well-choreographed dance, which is exactly what is intended. They strut and preen, roll and cavort, from one face-off to the next, while never missing a verbal beat.

Claire Koleske and Megan Thompson are comely and a delight to watch, with Thompson's Helena – a role I usually despise for her unending whine – so capably crafted that one can't help rooting for the poor dear. A wholly unexpected display of gymnastic trust between Thompson, Zimmerman and Alexander is so artfully infused and refreshingly original that I may never look at that scene the same way again. For the first time in more than 40 years, I found myself thoroughly enjoying the young lovers' episodes.

I would be very remiss if I didn't mention young Alex Zolnerowich, who is outstanding



The fairies and the tiny faeries dance in the beginning of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," produced by Project in Motion, at the Gin Studios Sunday night, March 10.



Helena, played by Megan Thompson, Hermia, played by Claire Koleske and Lysander, played by William Zimmerman.

as the mischievous Puck. He gambols about the stage with a spritely bounce that is only made more effervescent by a boisterously infectious laugh. To discover that Zolnerowich had never even climbed a fabric until he arrived in Las Cruces from Manhattan two months before was a revelation. He holds his own alongside the aerialists, while his near-operatic pronouncements invoke exactly the kind of thrill one comes to expect from a strong and skillful Puck.

Because productions of William Shakespeare's works come and go, each with its own merits, it isn't often that my list of favorites will alter. This may have been one of those times. I liked this production so much, it's made me reevaluate my reasoning and that, in and of itself, gives it wings.

Oberon, king of the fairies, played by Eric Young, talks to the audience during a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."



Details

'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

When

7 p.m. Friday through Sunday
March 15-17

Where

The Gin Studios
430 N. Compress Road

Cost

\$10

Website

www.projectinmotion.com

Featured band: *DAMN Union*

Hot D.A.M.N.

Doña Ana Music Night Union set to tour

By **Zak Hansen**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The Doña Ana Music Night Union, or DAMN Union, is a collection of talented multi-instrumentalists, singers and songwriters who accompany one another, play on each other's songs and join each other for shows and on tours.

"We've all been coming together on and off for years, playing music in different projects at different times," said David Tucker.

"We wanted to put together something where we could actually make a living doing it."

Composed mainly of members of Tucker's long-running music night, the DAMN Union has, at its core: Tucker, Audra Rodgers and Neeshia Macanowicz of Alma y la Tierra Muerta; Danny Graves and Aaron Ransbarger of the Rawdogs; Joey Hecker of Squeaky Wheel; and Larry Ramos of Beans and Crackers.

These seven musicians are only the central members of the DAMN Union, though. Aside from the groups represented by the core members (Alma y la Tierra Muerta, Rawdogs, Squeaky Wheel and Beans and Crackers), the DAMN Union is closely associated with a plethora of musicians from Las Cruces, all over the Southwest and, indeed, the rest of the country. These include Sean Lucy, Palace Flophouse, Bourbon Legend, the Blue Gramas and the Supersonic Bogeys, among many others.

First coming together in a real sense

in the fall of 2012, the DAMN Union began with what Tucker referred to as a desire to "get together more musicians from Las Cruces and the area, and build this into something bigger." Tucker said the Union grew organically from the regular attendees of the weekly music nights, evolving into "the touring and performing arm of Music Night."

Doña Ana Music Night, which Tucker has held at The Farm for the past three-and-a-half years, stemmed from "years and years of loose gatherings where everyone played music," he said.

"The music night wasn't really an official 'thing,'" Tucker said. "It's more that it just grew organically from everyone's mutual love of music."

This music night welcomes, on average, 25 people a week – but that can vary wildly.

"Sometimes, almost no one comes," Danny Graves said. "Other times, it's the thing to do."

"Music night is ... its own thing. It's kind of like chaos theory in action. It's

like, 'Let's throw a bunch of musicians in a room together and see what happens.'

"It's easily the weirdest thing I've ever experienced," he said with a laugh.

The idea behind this weekly gathering of like-minded musicians, Tucker said, was to strengthen the music scene in Las Cruces, while welcoming in musicians from all over.

"We have so much quality local music here, and we want to showcase what we have, what comes through here on tour, treat them well and really establish a community," he said. "Community is



Photo by Yvette Lopez

The Doña Ana Music Night Union: Audra Rodgers, Danny Graves, Aaron Ransbarger, Larry Ramos, Neeshia Macanowicz and David Tucker

Details

Doña Ana Music Night Union (DAMN Union)

Friday, March 15

- 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Gina's Cantina, 300 N. Main St. (Alma y La Tierra Muerta)
- 9:30 p.m. The Game, 2605 S. Espina St. (with Beans and Crackers)
- 11:30 p.m. West End Art Depot, 401 N. Mesilla St.

Sunday, March 17

- 4 to 7 p.m. The Game, 2605 S. Espina St. (with Rawdogs)

Thursday, March 21

- 8 p.m. High Desert Brewing Co., 1201 W. Hadley Ave.

Thursday, May 2

- 7 p.m. Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. (art show at 5 p.m.)
- Cost \$10

Tickets on sale at Hubbard's Music 'N More, Mesilla Valley Pro Music, The Bean de Mesilla, Milagro's Coffee y Espresso, Spirit Winds and Vintage Wines

Website

www.damnunion.bandcamp.com

everything."

Tucker will take this loosely defined but tight-knit community on the road this year, when the DAMN Union and friends head out for a lengthy tour – "from Mother's Day to Thanksgiving," Tucker said.

He's not exaggerating.

The upcoming tour, which officially kicks off May 2 with a show at the Rio Grande Theatre, will take the DAMN Union to 190 cities in 44 states.

This more than six-month-long tour across the country will be, Tucker said, "a realistic way to be out, playing music and making a little money doing it every day."

Friends and fellow musicians they've met over the years will join the DAMN Union in different cities as they trek across the country.

"The seven members of the Union will be on the whole time," Tucker said, "and other people will meet up with us and pick up shows here and there. Anyplace anyone has friends, family, whatever, they're going to head up and play a few days."

Tucker, who Graves describes as "kind of a road animal," is no stranger to touring. In different capacities and with different groups, Tucker's spent at least a few months out of each of the last seven years out of town and playing music. Graves, no stranger to touring but less rehearsed in the ways of the road as Tucker, has some amount of good-natured trepidation about the six months spent away from home.

"We're just leaving home for six months and seeing what happens ... like astronauts. I don't know if we'll ever be the same when we get back," he said.

For more information on the kick-off show, visit www.riograndetheatre.com.



DOWNTOWN
It's Really
happening

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRI. MAR 15	10:30 A.M.
Rhythm Roundup – Music & Movement ages 2–5 Branigan Library	
FRI. MAR 15	3 P.M.
Fantastic Fridays – Stories & Crafts ages 7–11 Branigan Library	
FRI.–SUN. MAR 15–17	(SUN 2:30 P.M.) 8 P.M.
Twitch Black Box Theatre	
SAT. MAR 16	10 A.M.
Fun with Acting class Black Box Annex	
SAT. MAR 16	10:30 A.M.
Storytellers of Las Cruces COAS Bookstore	
MON. MAR 18	3 P.M.
Computer Class: MS Word 2007 Branigan Library	
TUE. MAR 19	10:30 A.M. +6:30 P.M.
Branigan Book Club Branigan Library	
TUE. MAR 19	10:30 A.M.
Read to Me – Storytime ages 3 & Up Branigan Library	
TUE. MAR 19	3 P.M.
Computer Class: Know Your PC Branigan Library	
WED. +THU. MAR 20+21	10 A.M.
Toddler Time! Stories for kids 1–3 Branigan Library	
WED. MAR 20	11 A.M.
Mother Goose Time Branigan Library	
WED. MAR 20	2 P.M.
Book Reading – PIG BEHIND THE BEAR Branigan Library	
WED. MAR 20	2 P.M.
Computer Class: Advanced Internet Branigan Library	
THU. MAR 21	NOON
Lunch & Learn Branigan Library	
THU. MAR 21	6:30 P.M.
Club del Libro Carlos Fuentes Branigan Library	



ONGOING EVENTS:

- Downtown Arts RAMBLE - 1st Friday of the Month 5-7pm
- Camino del Arte - 2nd Saturday of the Month 11am-3pm
- Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market - Wed. and Sat. Morn.

SPONSORED BY:



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Give me the simple life

Taquería Chavez's triumphant tacos

By Zak Hansen
Las Cruces Bulletin

"Simplicity," said Leonardo da Vinci, "is the ultimate sophistication."

The simple things in life are often the best, and the same holds true for food. There's a place for haute cuisine, for molecular gastronomy, for highly experimental cooking, but for me, and many more like me, basic is better.

While not a hard and fast rule, "less is more" definitely applies to Mexican food, and here along the border, we have a heck of a lot to choose from. Some places tinker with generational recipes, some add elements of other food cultures and some borrow handily from whatever their taste allows - with mixed results. When it comes to this kind of food, the old ways are definitely the best ways, and no one in Las Cruces makes better, simpler food than Gonzalo Chavez at Taquería Chavez.

For more than a decade, Chavez has provided Las Cruces with a keen eye and a willingness to try new things what I can safely call the best tacos in town - and I'm a man that loves his tacos.

Chavez, who operates Taquería Chavez, a familiar sight at 1400 E. Lohman Ave., came to the United States from his hometown of Colima, Mexico, a small state on the western seaboard of the country, in 1976.

Settling with his family in Modesto, Calif., Chavez worked for many years as a welder. This career led him to a path of constant improvement.

"Every day that I do something," Chavez said, "the next day I try to do it a little better."

Since arriving in Las Cruces in 2003, Chavez has operated Taquería Chavez, first for four years in the parking lot of the K-Mart on El Paseo Road, and then, for the past eight years, in his current location on Lohman Avenue.

Operating a food truck, all the niceties, all the flash and flair are gone - with no fancy décor, sterling silver dinnerware, stuffy maître d's or dishes that arrive at the table on fire or brandishing sparklers - and customers are forced to focus on the food.

Lucky them. Taquería Chavez offers fare from Chavez's home state of Colima - carne asada, al pastor, chicken, shrimp - all prepared simply, from fresh ingredients, and served on a Styrofoam plate with a plastic fork and knife, exactly the way it should be.

The carne asada tacos are served no frills, as they have been for centuries. Three to a plate, each taco is made with two small corn tortillas piled high with grilled marinated steak and topped with cilantro and diced onions, served with lime wedges and homemade salsa. That's it - and that's all it needs to be.

My first experience at Taquería Chavez was one of those dining experiences that, I hope, everyone has at some point. Upon first bite, I got mad. Yes, mad.

I was briefly but zealously angry, mostly with myself, for not having been sooner. Seriously - what have I been eating for the past 12 years?

The well-cooked, perfectly mari-

Details

Taquería Chavez
Address
1400 E. Lohman Ave.
Hours
8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Monday through Saturday
Phone
650-2847

nated steak, the pungency of the onions, the herby cilantro and the citrus and acid of the lime perfectly balance one another, set off by the hot - but not too hot - house-made salsa.

The tacos al pastor is different, but just as good. Made with marinated pork, rather than steak, they're finished off the same simple way, cilantro, onions and lime. The chicken tacos vary slightly, with the same toppings and the addition of a few pieces of chopped lettuce, the crisp, cool crunch balancing spicy, well-marinated chicken.

Shrimp is another of Chavez's specialties, especially given that he hails from a coastal area. Good shrimp tacos are a rarity this far from any real body of water (sorry, Elephant Butte), but Taquería Chavez's are fantastic - like something you'd find near the beach.

There are big things on the horizon for Taquería Chavez, too. Within the coming weeks, Chavez will receive the blueprints for a restaurant to be built on the very spot where his truck has stood for eight years. Don't worry, though - Chavez said he'll be serving the very same simple, high-quality food he's already known for.

Until then, though, Chavez will continue to operate out of his trusty truck and look to expand his business. With food this good, that shouldn't be hard.

"People don't just come to Taquería Chavez once," he said. "They give us an opportunity, or hear about us from a friend or a coworker, and come by, and then they're regulars. I have guys that come by almost every day."

Silence the violinist, doff your dinner jacket and get to Taquería Chavez for a taste of true Mexican food - simple, fast, inexpensive and delicious - and, seriously, the best tacos in town.

Oh, and leave the MasterCard at home - Taquería Chavez only accepts cash. Now that's simple.



Gonzalo Chavez serves a grilled steak quesadilla from the window of Taquería Chavez, 1400 E. Lohman Ave.

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Television Listings

Sports News Movies

ON AIR COMCAST CABLE

FRIDAY EVENING MARCH 15, 2013

Table of Friday evening TV listings from 5:00 to 11:30 PM, including channels like PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, and MSNBC.

SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 16, 2013

Table of Saturday morning TV listings from 5:00 to 10:30 AM, including channels like PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, and MSNBC.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON MARCH 16, 2013

Table of Saturday afternoon TV listings from 11:00 to 4:30 PM, including channels like PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, and MSNBC.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MARCH 20, 2013

Table of TV programs for Wednesday evening, March 20, 2013, including shows like News, Jeopardy, Wheel, American Idol, and various sports and entertainment programs.

THURSDAY EVENING MARCH 21, 2013

Table of TV programs for Thursday evening, March 21, 2013, including shows like 2013 NCAA Basketball Tournament, The Storm That Swept Mexico, and various entertainment programs.

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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 gray matter. Tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

BEGINNER

9x9 grid for the Beginner Sudoku puzzle.

CHALLENGER

9x9 grid for the Challenger Sudoku puzzle.

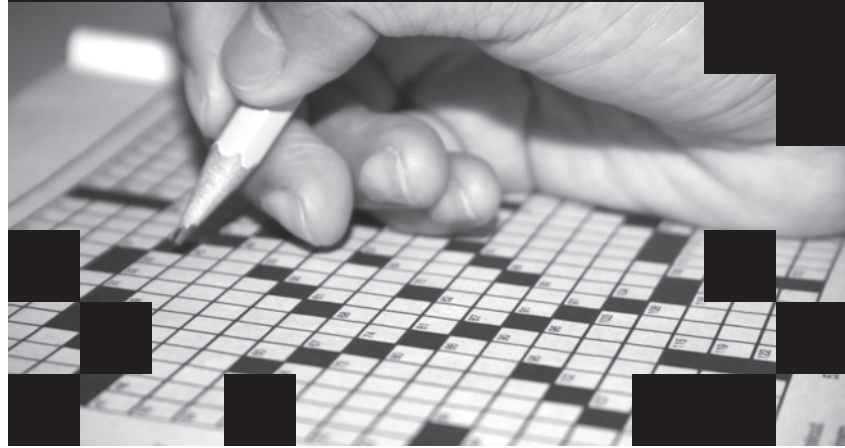
EXPERT

9x9 grid for the Expert Sudoku puzzle.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Three 9x9 grids showing solutions for last week's Beginner, Challenger, and Expert Sudoku puzzles.

BrainGames



Word Salsa

Circle these English words and their Spanish equivalents that appear in the grid horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backward. Encierre estas palabras en inglés y sus equivalentes en español que aparecen al revés, horizontal, vertical y diagonalmente.

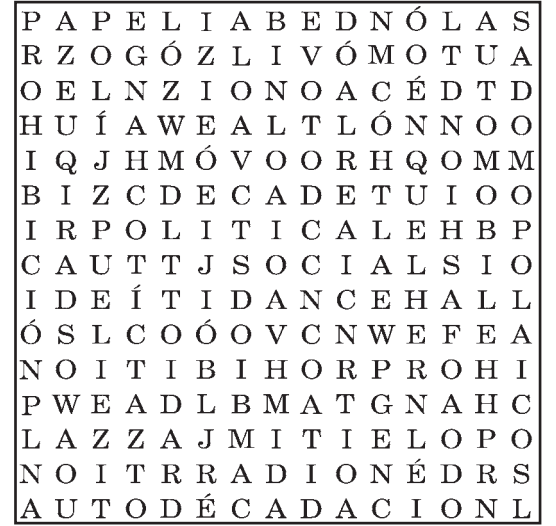
THE ROARING TWENTIES

ENGLISH

- AUTOMOBILE
- CHANGE
- DANCE HALL
- DECADE
- FASHION
- JAZZ
- POLITICAL
- PROHIBITION
- RADIO
- SOCIAL
- VOTE
- WEALTH

SPANISH

- AUTOMÓVIL
- CAMBIO
- SALÓN DE BAILE
- DÉCADA
- MODA
- JAZZ
- POLÍTICO
- PROHIBICIÓN
- RADIO
- SOCIAL
- VOTO
- RIQUEZA



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09/25

Crossword Puzzles

Diagramless, 21 x 21

Like a regular crossword but with an added challenge. Sleuths must also create the diagram and figure out where the numbers and black squares go.

ACROSS

- 1 Of the heart
- 8 John Wayne film
- 9 Lat. or Lith., once
- 12 Skilled craftsman
- 13 End of the small intestine
- 16 Small barracuda
- 19 Bulgarian cash
- 22 Flexibility
- 23 Dr. Leary's drug
- 26 Kneeling bench
- 27 Toy racer
- 30 Point: pref.
- 31 Adjectival suffix
- 32 Dads
- 33 Dogpatch Daisy
- 34 Rough tear
- 35 Coarse file
- 39 Sm. landmass
- 40 Notable
- 44 Literary miscellany
- 45 "Dies ___"
- 46 Old-time Olds
- 47 Bedrock pet
- 48 901
- 49 Cyrillic USSR
- 50 European eagle
- 51 Port-of-Spain man
- 56 Sr. org.
- 57 Fuss
- 58 Superlatively sore
- 59 DDE opponent
- 61 Pers. savings
- 64 Worth noting
- 67 A-Team member
- 68 Actress Loretta
- 69 Goddess of folly
- 70 Sicilian town
- 71 French summer
- 72 Singer Smith
- 73 Seventh tones
- 74 "Bad Day at Black Rock" director
- 77 Gun owners' grp.
- 78 Meth. of operation
- 79 Addams Family cousin
- 80 Glutton
- 81 ___ Aviv-Jaffa
- 82 7 on a sundial
- 83 Building wing
- 84 Contains in a box
- 88 Lines in a sonnet
- 93 ___ Baba
- 94 Depend
- 95 X-coordinate of a point
- 96 Nordic goddess
- 97 "Philadelphia" director
- 98 Candy pops, to Brits
- 104 IRS mo.
- 105 Most limber
- 106 Curdled snacks

DOWN

- 1 Volcano opening
- 2 Make public
- 3 Baloney!
- 4 Half of MCII
- 5 Naxos's neighbor
- 6 Arab cloak
- 7 Plotters' plots
- 9 Builder's office
- 10 Lost traction
- 11 Kidneys: pref.
- 14 A. Godfrey's instrument
- 15 Half a Kenyan rebel?
- 16 NCO rank
- 17 Brief photo
- 18 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 20 Railroad honcho
- 21 Canvas depiction
- 23 Feeble
- 24 Leaf through
- 25 Song for two
- 27 Meadowsweet
- 28 Movie platters
- 29 Scandinavian capital
- 35 Costa ___
- 36 Reliquary
- 37 Baptism and the Eucharist
- 38 California evergreen
- 40 D.C. summer hrs.
- 41 USSR space station
- 42 Opening moves
- 43 Insignificant ones
- 52 Of the lower alimentary canal
- 53 34th president
- 54 Gas: pref.
- 55 Eminem's Dr.
- 60 Swipes
- 62 River islands
- 63 Editor's note
- 65 Opp. of SSW
- 66 Dodge fuel
- 74 Queens ballpark
- 75 Driving expense
- 76 Wrinkly citrus fruit
- 84 Lubitsch and Mach
- 85 Modern: pref.
- 86 Calc. key
- 87 Writer Rand
- 88 Passing craze
- 89 U.K. honor
- 90 West Point inst.
- 91 B.C. cops
- 92 Level
- 99 Tic-tac-toe win
- 100 Unhewn timber
- 101 Baton Rouge sch.
- 102 Comparative suffix
- 103 Superlative ending

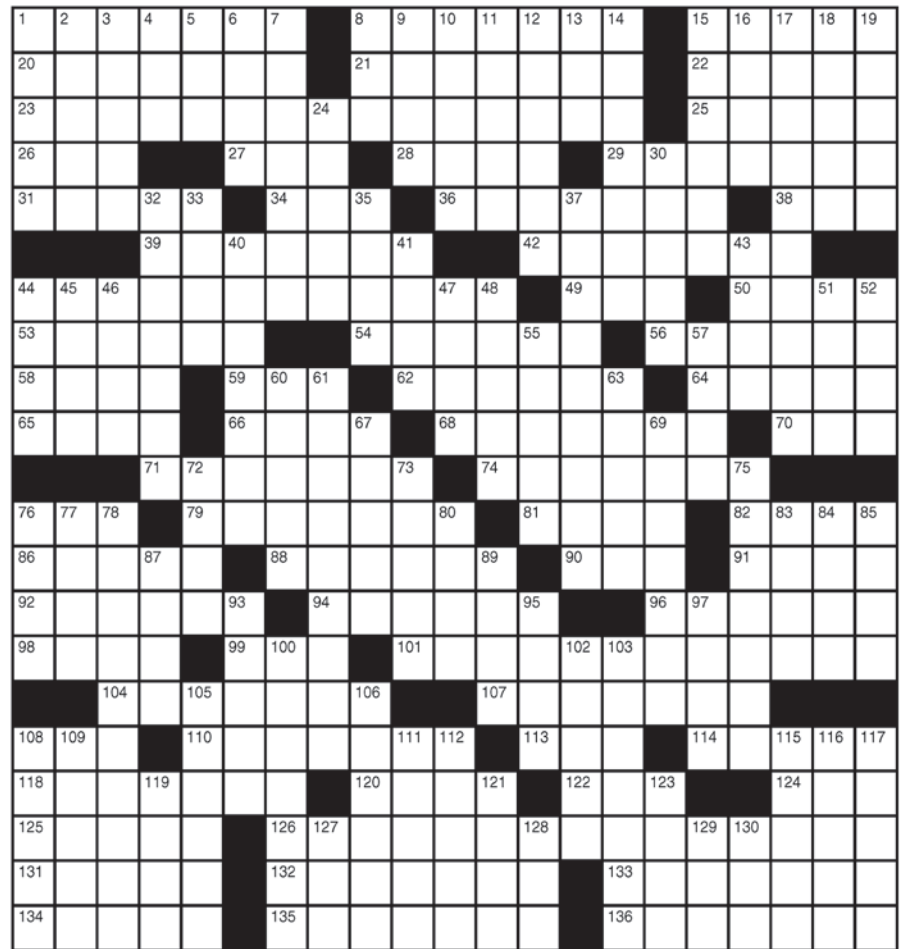
THINKING GAP REQUIRED

ACROSS

- 1 Self-denying individual
- 8 Hurt, as a toe
- 15 Propels skyward
- 20 U.S. peninsula
- 21 Casual emphatic denial
- 22 Stage front
- 23 Adhesives breakthrough claim?
- 25 Lake ___ Vista, FL
- 26 CPR performer
- 27 "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
- 28 Oompah sounder
- 29 Root vegetable
- 31 Glory and Tobacco, e.g.
- 34 Small lump
- 36 Roadway pit
- 38 Dosage amt.
- 39 Two cents
- 42 Relaxer, for many
- 44 Where to catch "Gone with the Wind" airings?
- 49 Can.-Mex. go-between
- 50 Full of keen anticipation
- 53 Ocean mammals
- 54 Flight between stories
- 56 Basic character
- 58 Oscar-winner Thompson
- 59 Light knock
- 62 Look up to
- 64 Pass on (to)
- 65 In the vicinity
- 66 U.S. tennis stadium honoree
- 68 Pittsburgh player
- 70 Opponent
- 71 Laugh-track users
- 74 Relief bringer
- 76 Director Lee
- 79 Showy blooms
- 81 Japanese P.M. (1964-72)
- 82 One of the Baldwins
- 86 Payload
- 88 Penn pal
- 90 Recipe meas.
- 91 Arizona river
- 92 Craving
- 94 Kind of counter
- 96 Make beloved
- 98 Uniform
- 99 ___ pro nobis
- 101 Auto body repair special?
- 104 Chinese appetizer
- 107 Hurly-burly
- 108 Co. brand names
- 110 Set apart
- 113 Tour guide
- 114 Drop off

DOWN

- 118 Movie studio section
- 120 Spanish kiss
- 122 Astronaut Jemison
- 124 ___ Simbel
- 125 Change for the better
- 126 Architectural innovation in the hospitality arena?
- 131 Taylor or Adoree
- 132 Public speaking
- 133 Charlotte and her kin
- 134 Charger
- 135 Enters data anew
- 136 International accord
- 1 Chasing
- 2 Video effect
- 3 Terra ___
- 4 Stretch of time
- 5 Up to, briefly
- 6 In an aimless way
- 7 Seasoning with a kick
- 8 "30 Rock" inspiration
- 9 Racetrack figure
- 10 Exhaust
- 11 Tolkien's ring finder
- 12 Respiration unit
- 13 Some U.S. bonds
- 14 Iron-hand rulers
- 15 L.A. tar pits
- 16 Artistic work
- 17 Rudeness in Paris?
- 18 Pick-me-up
- 19 Loses it
- 24 Outfit for C. Yeager
- 30 Composer Berg
- 32 Singles
- 33 "Pursuit of the Graf ___"
- 35 Archery gear
- 37 Indoor kid?
- 40 Tuition category
- 41 Jot down
- 43 London art gallery
- 44 Pop singer Stefani
- 45 Woebegone lament
- 46 Dixie sch., briefly
- 47 Hoarse sound
- 48 Wind-blown toys
- 51 Hydrox rival
- 52 "Sommersby" star
- 55 Jean and Janet



- 57 Composer Thomas
- 60 Broad tie
- 61 Talking loudly on a cell in public?
- 63 Mongrels
- 67 Writer Zola
- 69 If all goes well
- 72 Wall St. debuts
- 73 Baseball commissioner Bud
- 75 Child's floppy toy
- 76 Play parts
- 77 Port on Okinawa
- 78 Area needing a good cleaning?
- 80 Nintendo rival

- 83 Stead
- 84 Verve
- 85 Haul
- 87 Actor Kinnear
- 89 Unwind
- 93 Body trunk
- 95 Baba au ___
- 97 M. Harmon series
- 100 Cheer on
- 102 Tense situation
- 103 Stalemate
- 105 Like some jewelry
- 106 Maze runner
- 108 Slope devices
- 109 "The Cryptogram" playwright

- 111 Peevish
- 112 Impede, in law
- 115 Consumed
- 116 Film maven Roger
- 117 Throb
- 119 Support for a proposal?
- 121 Mythical monster
- 123 "SportsCenter" stn.
- 127 Dander
- 128 Fleur-de-___
- 129 Chart-topper
- 130 Laudatory lines

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Word Salsa

Diagramless

Wing Ding

CRYPTOGRAM

CYOY QF XRY BXDYOLHT BXTQEQSMT

SMHFY DXOEC DQIY FHBBXOE: "FEXB

OYBYME XLLYRIYOF - IXR'E OY-YTYSE

ECYU!"

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

An angry customer told a barista her coffee tasted like mud. The barista kept her cool and playfully retorted, "Yes, it's fresh ground."

AtTheMovies

Oz the weak and mediocre

Special effects only redeeming quality

Review by **Rachel Christiansen**
Las Cruces Bulletin

When Margaret Hamilton spat the words, "I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too!" as the Wicked Witch of the West in "The Wizard of Oz," my 7-year-old self dove underneath a blanket.

Although that was my first time viewing the 1939 classic, I had about the same reaction when cable television continued to air one of the greatest films of all time every year after that.

Hamilton's legendary role earned her a No. 4 spot on the American Film Institute's list of the "100 years of The Greatest Screen Heroes and Villains."

But when Mila Kunis produced her best high-pitched, wicked-witch laugh in the most recent

spinoff, "Oz the Great and Powerful," both of my movie dates were literally snoring.

Granted, comparing a film to "The Wizard of Oz" would be similar to comparing a contemporary play to "Hamlet," yet I can't hide my disappointment – or my inevitable comparisons.

James Franco plays the role of Oscar – or Oz, for short – a womanizing carnival magician who gallantly proclaims within the first five minutes of the film that he "doesn't just want to be a good man, but a great one!"

Several broken hearts, one angry ogre-man and a raging tornado later, Oscar finds himself smack dab in the middle of the Land of Oz, which seems to fulfill a prophecy in which a great wizard will descend from the sky to save the people from the evil-doings of the Wicked Witch.

A phony at first, Oz charms his

way through the Emerald City to take his throne and a room full of riches.

Cheap magic tricks and fancy smoke screens allow Oz to keep up the façade – and also to piss off the wrong women.

Kunis, appearing at first as her beautiful, doe-eyed self, is Theodora, a young, naïve witch who is susceptible to fits of anger and random fireballs shooting from her hands.

Her sister, Evanora, played by Rachel Weisz, has cleverly deceived the citizens of Oz to believe the evil witch is really Glinda the Good Witch, played by Michelle Williams.

Oz picks up a lovable crew of comrades along his journey to destroy the Wicked Witch and rightfully take his throne – albeit they are no Tin Man, Scarecrow and Lion.

First impressions about these characters turn into exactly what they seem to be – shallow and lacking substance insulted by cheesy



Oz, played by James Franco, is accompanied by his lovable outcasts China Girl and Finley, a flying bellhop monkey, to journey to disarm the Wicked Witch in Sam Raimi's "Oz the Great and Powerful."

dialogue.

A broken, delicate china girl who needs fixing alludes to one in Oz's pre-Emerald City life, in which a little girl in a wheelchair begs him to use his powers to make her walk.

A flying monkey in a bellhop suit is Oz's loyal sidekick, a bumbling idiot sort of character who reminds us a whole lot of his right-hand man in the carnival act – someone to push around and who never really gets the credit he deserves.

The colors and life-size flora were not lost on me – the special effects and cinematography of this 3-D film were some of the best I've seen, but I would expect at least that from this powerhouse Disney \$200 million production.

"The Wizard of Oz" was known for its exploratory special effects.

One mishap even seriously injured the Wicked Witch, who, ironically in real life, was known for her kindness.

While the developers of the film have said they were trying to give rise to a fairy tale with a male protagonist by adapting a story from one of the 13 Oz books by L. Frank Baum, director Sam Raimi said he wanted to "nod lovingly" to the 1939 classic.

Talk about riding coattails.

This isn't the first time Disney has disappointed me with remakes – think "Willy Wonka" and "Alice in Wonderland" – with what I think will be mind-blowing rejuvenations of classics and are really just fancy smoke screens on their road to riches.

How's that for a cheap allusion?



The Emerald City maintains its dreamlike appeal, but "Oz the Great and Powerful" is not what I envision over the rainbow to be like.

Grade
C

OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL

Rated: PG

Running time: 130 minutes

Starring: James Franco, Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz, Michelle Williams

Director: Sam Raimi

Oscar-nominated shorts make big impression

Shorts are Sweet

Review by **Jeff Berg**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

This program keeps expanding and if one were to sit through the entire gallery of animated, narrative and documentary films, one would certainly end up with carbuncles on their derriere after the seven-hour show.

However, this week at the Fountain Theatre, you'll be remiss if you don't sit and watch the presentation of the animated and narrative films, which runs about half that time.

Here are mini-reviews of each, except for three bonus animated pieces that weren't shown in advance screenings.

Animated (Note: all of these films are dialogue free)

By far the best and shortest of the bunch, this three-minute work will certainly have appeal to area residents. "Fresh Guacamole" is a computer piece, wherein you can watch someone make a very clever new version of everyone's favorite dip, using hand grenades, billiards balls, dice, poker chips and

Monopoly houses. There might be a hidden theme to look for here.

In "Adam and Dog," first dog meets first man, they bond, and you may note a lot of similarities between man and beast until first woman enters the scene. The only non-comedy in the animated section, this short brings to light the relationship between man and beast and, to a lesser degree, woman.

"Paper Man," from Disney, is probably the weakest film here, but that isn't a bad thing. It is an old-fashioned black and white piece that takes place in the '40s. A young office worker goes to great lengths, using paper airplanes, to meet a young woman he met and lost on the subway. It won the Oscar.

"Head Over Heels" is a very creative CGI (computer generated) piece about an aging couple whose marriage is stale, so much so, that they literally live at opposite ends. A unique solution comes into play to hopefully bring them together again.

It was odd to see a short featuring one of the characters from the only TV show that I watch, "The Simpsons." In this typically Simpson piece, "The Longest Daycare," baby Maggie is dropped at the Ayn Rand Day Care Center, where she encounters mean baby Gerald, who creates art by smashing butterflies

on the wall with a hammer. Maggie becomes determined to save some of the creatures. Watch for a really obvious continuity error in the opening scene.

This entire program is family friendly, too!

Narrative Shorts

It's a good thing that the animated films are all comedies, since the narrative part of the program is made up of four heavy dramas and one lighter drama.

In "Asad," the least dark of the films, a young Somali boy (Asad) longs to join his friends as a sea-going pirate, but is left behind due to his age. However, he is not without adventure himself when a kind old fisherman shares his catch, which he uses as bail for a friend. Soon, he finds himself trying to cure his own bad luck at fishing and comes up with an unusual catch. Not a bad film, but the ending didn't feel appropriate to the lead in.

"Curfew," the Oscar winner, finds Anthony, who has just cut his wrist, answering a phone call from his frantic sister, who needs someone to care for her young daughter immediately. This darkly comic turn leads into his excursion to a bowling alley with his young charge (after he bandages his wrist), and perhaps down the path of reconciliation with his estranged and abused sister. Not bad, but the blend of comedy and darkness doesn't blend too well.

"Buzkashi Boys" was "shot on location in Kabul city by an alliance of Afghan and international filmmakers" and tells a coming of

age tale for two young boys, one who lives on the streets, the other the son of a blacksmith. If buzkashi were played in the U.S., it would be all over the Internet, since it apparently is a traditional competitive "game" among men of Afghanistan. The game requires great horseback riding skill and a strong stomach, since the goal is to carry a dead goat to a flag for points. One of the boys wants to become a buzkashi rider, which leads to adventure and tragedy.

A twisty-turny sci-fi type flick is titled "Death of a Shadow." It is a slightly futuristic piece about a young man who is trying to retrieve his own shadow for but an hour, but must take pictures of 10,000 people at their moment of death when they lose their own shadows. He knows the fates of all whom he photographs and falls in love with a mysterious and beautiful woman along the way.

Last, there is "Henry," perhaps the saddest short film I have ever seen. Henry is an aging pianist who tries to rescue his wife after a mysterious meeting with a stranger and a scenario where he may have been kidnapped. Another vaguely futuristic film, Henry's dilemma is compounded by the fact that he doesn't know the truth of his situation.

All in all, this year's films are about like they have been in the past. Some well written, all well directed and all worthwhile.

But short films seldom get their due, so do take the opportunity to see these.

Life is short ... go have fun! jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin.com



Opening Friday, March 15, at the Fountain Theatre, the Oscar shorts presentation runs more than 3 hours, with an intermission between programs.

GRADE
A-



AtTheMovies


Picking the Flicks

Movie information from www.rottentomatoes.com. Movie reel based on a 5-point scale.


Oz the Great and Powerful
Rated: PG
Plot Overview: A magician leaves Kansas and finds himself in an enchanted land, where he will decide whether or not he will become great.
Starring: James Franco, Mila Kunis
Director: Sam Raimi



Identity Thief
Rated: R
Plot Overview: An accounts rep travels across the country to confront the woman who's stolen his identity and run amok on his tab.
Starring: Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy
Director: Seth Gordon



A Good Day to Die Hard
Rated: R
Plot Overview: John McClane heads to Russia to help his son, who is working as a CIA operative, to prevent a nuclear arms heist.
Starring: Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney
Director: John Moores



Jack the Giant Slayer
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: Jack, a young farmhand, accidentally opens a gateway between the human and giant worlds, reigniting an ancient war.
Starring: Nicholas Hoult, Stanley Tucci
Director: Bryan Singer



Safe Haven
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: A mysterious young woman arrives in a small North Carolina town and begins a relationship with a single father, but dark secrets from her past threaten her new life.
Starring: Josh Duhamel, Julianne Hough
Director: Lasse Hallström



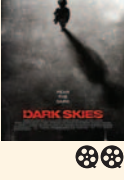
Escape from Planet Earth
Rated: PG
Plot Overview: On the planet Baab, famed astronaut Scorch Supernova is a hero. When an SOS arrives from a notoriously dangerous planet, Supernova is caught in a trap.
Starring: Brendan Fraser, Jessica Alba (voices)
Director: Cal Bunker



Dead Man Down
Rated: R
Plot Overview: A rising gangster and a damaged woman join together on a violent campaign of retribution on those who ruined their lives.
Starring: Colin Farrell, Noomi Rapace
Director: Neils Arden Oplev




Dark Skies
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: A suburban family is terrorized by an otherworldly – and deadly – force, and must take matters into their own hands.
Starring: Keri Russell, Josh Hamilton
Director: Scott Stewart




Silver Linings Playbook
Rated: R
Plot Overview: Pat has lost his job, his wife, his house and his sanity. After eight months in an institution, he returns home to pick up the pieces.
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence
Director: David O. Russell




Snitch
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: After his son is wrongly convicted of a drug offense and sent to prison, a father makes a deal to become an informant and infiltrate a vicious drug cartel.
Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Barry Pepper
Director: Ric Roman Waugh



21 & Over
Rated: R
Plot Overview: Finally 21, an honor student celebrates his birthday with a night of drinking, debauchery and excess – the night before a medical school interview.
Starring: Justin Chon, Skylar Astin
Directors: Jon Lucas, Scott Moore




The Last Exorcism Part II
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: Nell Sweetzer, attempting to rebuild a life after the terrifying events of the first film, is once again possessed by an evil force.
Starring: Ashley Bell, Spencer Treat Clark
Director: Ed Gass-Donnelly



The Incredible Burt Wonderstone
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: Once a superstar, Las Vegas magician Burt Wonderstone struggles to retake the spotlight from a rising guerilla street magician.
Starring: Steve Carell, Jim Carrey
Director: Don Scardino



The Call
Rated: R
Plot Overview: A 911 operator takes a life-changing call from a kidnapped girl, and must confront a killer from her past to save the girl's life.
Starring: Halle Berry, Abigail Breslin
Director: Brad Anderson



OPENS FRIDAY, MARCH 15

OPENS FRIDAY, MARCH 15

New this week on DVD

Tuesday, March 19

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Fantasy
Starring: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellan
Director: Peter Jackson

This is 40
Rated: R
Genre: Comedy
Starring: Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann
Director: Judd Apatow

Les Misérables
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Musical
Starring: Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway
Director: Tom Hooper

Zero Dark Thirty
Rated: R
Genre: Drama
Starring: Jessica Chastain, Joel Edgerton
Director: Kathryn Bigelow

Top Grossing March 8-10

1 Oz the Great and Powerful (Week No. 1) \$79,110,000	6 21 & Over (Week No. 2) \$5,091,000
2 Jack the Giant Slayer (Week No. 2) \$9,839,000	7 Safe Haven (Week No. 4) \$3,753,000
3 Identity Thief (Week No. 5) \$6,334,000	8 Silver Linings Playbook (Week No. 17) \$3,618,000
4 Dead Man Down (Week No. 1) \$5,345,000	9 Escape From Planet Earth (Week No. 4) \$3,218,000
5 Snitch (Week No. 3) \$5,098,000	10 The Last Exorcism Part II (Week No. 2) \$3,167,000

<p>Allen THEATRES</p> <p>SHOW TIMES GOOD FRI. 3/15 THRU THUR. 3/21</p> <p>LIKE US ON FACEBOOK REGISTER CELL NUMBER: allentheatres TO: 90210</p>	<p>STARTING MARCH 22</p> <p>THE CROODS</p> <p>OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN</p>	<p>OPERA in CINEMA</p> <p>PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER</p> <p>SUN. 3/17 12:00PM TUES. 3/19 7:00PM TICKETS \$15.00</p>	<p>HUMP DAY Film Club</p> <p>WED. 3/20 2:00 & 7:00 CINEPORT 10 ALL SEATS \$5.00 STRUCK BY LIGHTNING</p>
<p>CINEPORT 10</p> <p>700 S. TELSHOR BLVD. www.allentheatresinc.com</p>	<p>TELSHOR 12</p> <p>2811 TELSHOR BLVD.</p>	<p>PLEASE BE COURTEOUS TO YOUR FOLLOW PATRONS, TURN OFF YOUR CELL BEFORE ENTERING THE AUDITORIUM.</p>	
<p>OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL</p> <p>SHOWING IN 3D DAILY 12:25 3:20 6:20 9:15 (PG) \$2 UPCHARGE NO PASS OF ANY KIND</p>	<p>JACK THE GIANT SLAYER</p> <p>SHOWING IN 3D DAILY 11:40 4:50 10:00 (PG13) \$2 UPCHARGE NO PASS OF ANY KIND</p>	<p>JACK THE GIANT SLAYER</p> <p>SHOWING IN 3D DAILY 4:50 10:00 SAT-SUN 11:40 (PG13) \$2 3D NO PASS OF ANY KIND</p>	<p>JACK THE GIANT SLAYER</p> <p>SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 2:15 7:25 (PG13)</p>
<p>SAFE HAVEN</p> <p>DAILY 11:30 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50 (PG13)</p>	<p>A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD</p> <p>DAILY 12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30 (R)</p>	<p>OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL</p> <p>SHOWING 3D DAILY 3:40 6:35 9:30 SAT-SUN 12:45 (PG) \$2 UPCHARGE NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>	<p>LIFE OF PI</p> <p>SHOWING IN 3D DAILY 4:00 7:00 9:50 SAT-SUN 12:30 (PG) \$2 UPCHARGE NO PASS OF ANY KIND</p>
<p>JACK THE GIANT SLAYER</p> <p>SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 2:15 7:25 (PG13)</p>	<p>21 & OVER</p> <p>DAILY 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00 (R)</p>	<p>THE CALL</p> <p>DAILY 2:00 4:35 7:05 9:40 SAT-SUN 11:30 (R) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>	<p>21 & OVER</p> <p>DAILY 2:00 4:35 7:05 9:40 SAT-SUN 11:30 (R)</p>
<p>SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK</p> <p>DAILY 12:00 3:15 7:10 10:00 (R)</p>	<p>The Incredible BURT WONDERSTONE</p> <p>DAILY 11:30 2:05 4:40 7:15 9:50 (PG13) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>	<p>IDENTITY THIEF</p> <p>DAILY 2:00 4:35 7:05 9:40 SAT-SUN 11:30 (R)</p>	<p>OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL</p> <p>SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 3:10 6:05 9:00 SAT-SUN 12:15 (PG) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>
<p>IDENTITY THIEF</p> <p>DAILY 11:45 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00 (R)</p>	<p>OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL</p> <p>SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 1:20 4:55 8:25 (PG) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>	<p>BLESS ME ULTIMA</p> <p>DAILY 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00 SAT-SUN 11:30 (PG13)</p>	<p>OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL</p> <p>SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 3:10 6:05 9:00 SAT-SUN 12:15 (PG) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>
<p>DARK SKIES</p> <p>DAILY 3:00 9:45 (PG13)</p>	<p>ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH</p> <p>SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 12:45 5:15 7:30 (PG)</p>	<p>VIDEO 4</p> <p>1005 S. EL PASO</p> <p>ALL SEATS ALL TIMES \$3.00</p>	<p>WRECK IT RALPH</p> <p>DAILY 4:45 7:15 9:50 SAT-SUN 2:10 (PG)</p> <p>LINCOLN</p> <p>DAILY 5:25 8:50 SAT-SUN 2:00 (PG13)</p> <p>HOBBIT</p> <p>DAILY 5:30 9:00 SAT-SUN 2:00 (PG13)</p> <p>JACK REACHER</p> <p>DAILY 5:00 8:00 SAT-SUN 2:10 (PG13)</p>

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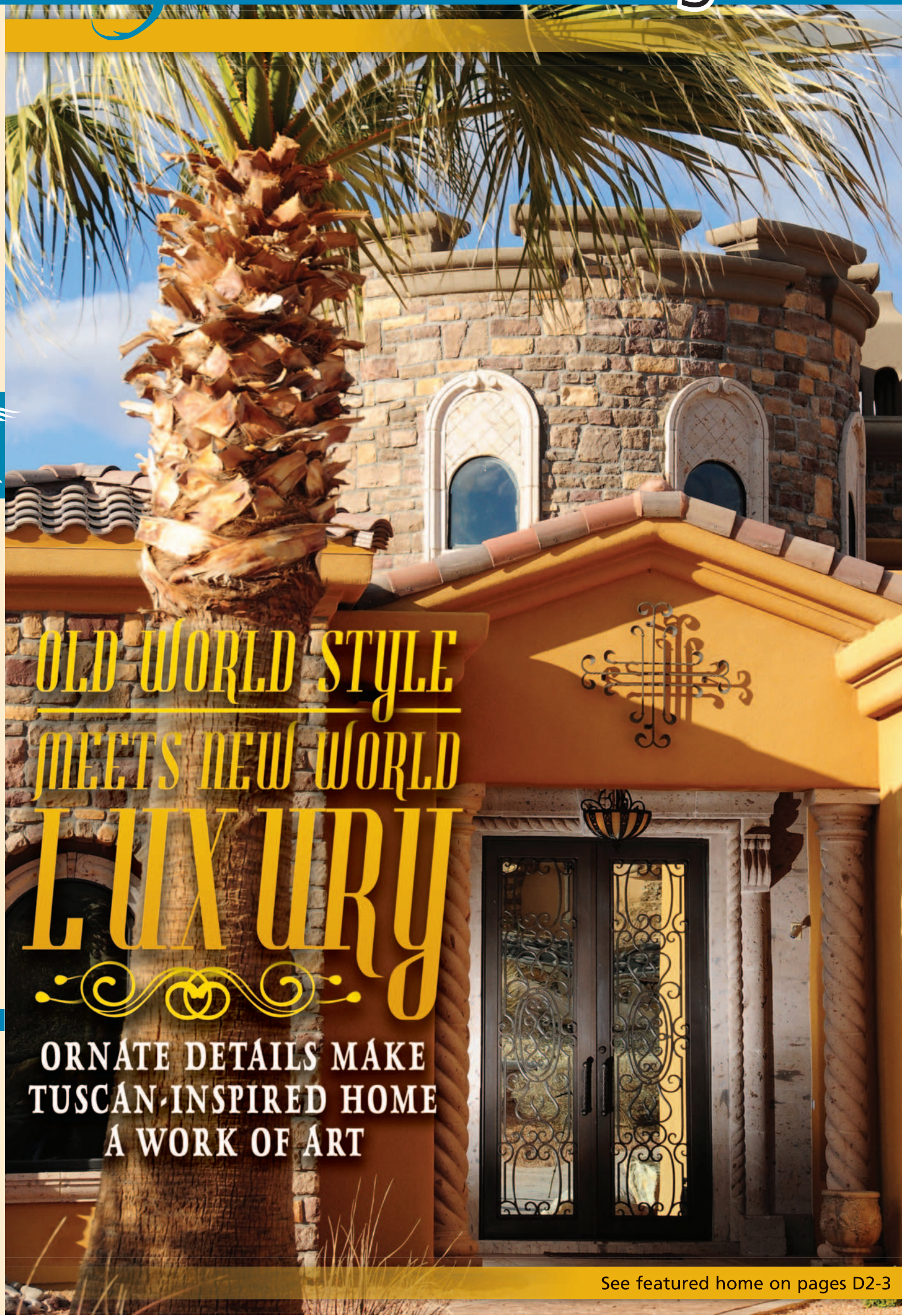
D19

CHURCH



New Mexico
welcomes new
United Methodist
bishop

D13



OLD WORLD STYLE MEETS NEW WORLD LUXURY

ORNATE DETAILS MAKE
TUSCAN-INSPIRED HOME
A WORK OF ART

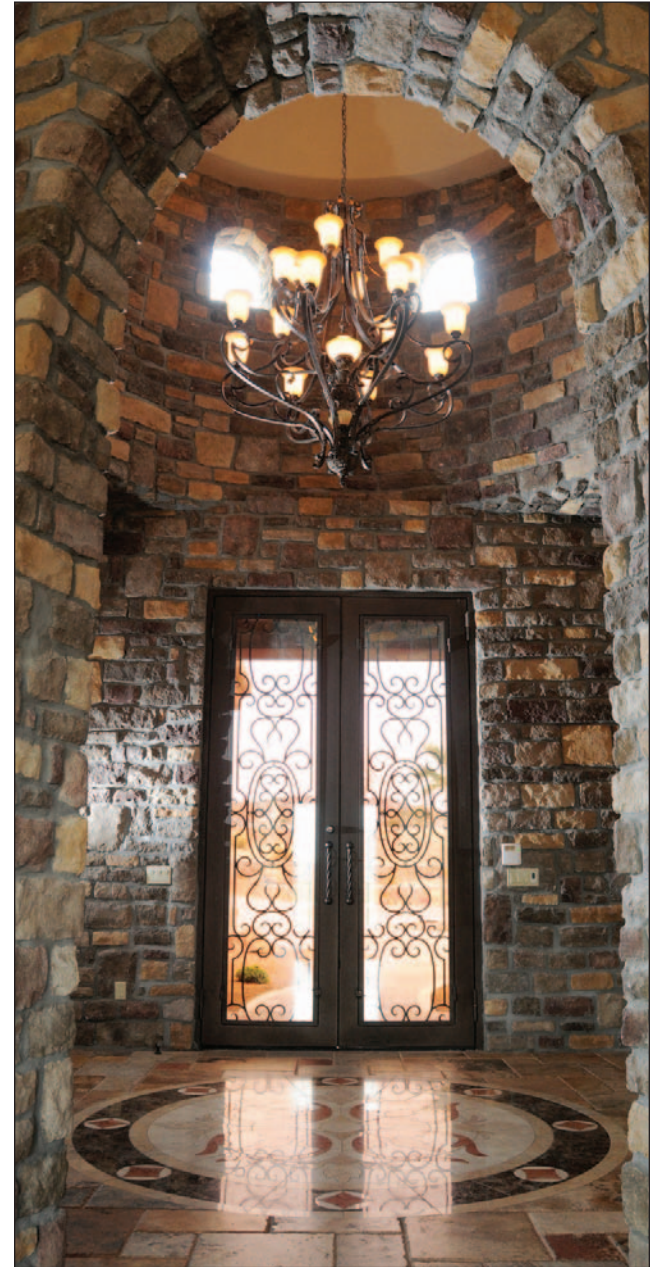
See featured home on pages D2-3

Featured home: 6215 Lazo del Norte

Photos by Steve MacIntyre



The home at 6215 Lazo del Norte was built by R. Hines Construction in 2008.



Stone work gives the home a feeling of grandeur.



Brick lines the microclimate-controlled wine cellar.



The tasting room features an Old World style.



Travertine and custom wood work fills the home.



Decorative exposed trusses accent the family room.



The large kitchen was designed around entertaining.



The living space continues on the covered patio.



Ornate details are seen throughout the spacious abode.

A home that leaves you breathless

Castle-inspired abode unique against the desert landscape

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

With stone towers rising from the Las Cruces landscape and ornate detail used inside and out, the home at 6215 Lazo del Norte is truly a castle set against the Organ Mountains and desert surroundings.

Homeowners Allan and Soledad Brozek hired R. Hines Construction to build the palatial 7,326-square-foot Tuscan-inspired residence in 2008 after the couple's son had moved to the gated community.

"He picked an area he knew we would move to," Allan Brozek said. "He bought the house next door and told us this lot was for sale."

Sight unseen, the couple purchased the 1.44-acre lot, which is located beside the community's tennis courts and behind Bureau of Land Management land.

When discussing the home with builder Robert Sandoval, who constructed their son's house, the couple wanted it to be similar to their Mesa, Ariz., abode – but larger – with an abundance of space for entertaining.

"We wanted an entertaining-type of home rather than having a lot of bedrooms not being used," said Allan Brozek, adding that the home includes three bedrooms and multiple rooms for other uses.

While the couple knew the basics of what they wanted – large open spaces and one-of-a-kind style – several of the elements and details were done "on the fly," Allan Brozek said. This resulted in a truly unique residence not commonly found in the Mesilla Valley.

"The house is a work of art," said Allan Brozek, adding that it took nearly six months to design the home and about a year and a half to construct.

"We explained the type of home we liked – the open layout, a lot of stone and the best of the best – and (Sandoval) went to town," Soledad Brozek said. "He's an artist, basically."

The artistic touches begin at the stone-covered façade. Columns made from cantera stone frame the entry.

"I have a taste for pillars," said Soledad Brozek, adding that the columns, and other cantera elements, were used throughout the home.

Inside, a rotunda measuring 24 feet high with a grand chandelier and covered in stone welcomes guests.



The observation deck features an unobstructed view of "A" Mountain.

"Everything was custom made for this home," said Allan Brozek, adding that the medallion placed in the Versailles-patterned travertine floor was brought in from Albuquerque.

To the left is a hall that leads to the guest bedrooms, which feature private bathrooms, as well as the three-car garage – placed on the side of the home so as not to detract from its façade.

This wing of the residence demonstrates the various architectural details found throughout the elegant structure. In addition to vaulted ceilings, designer lighting and lit nichos, the home features ornate wood trim and crown molding, 8-foot doors and various stone elements, including Brazilian granite countertops.

"With all of the stone and the different kinds of stone ... it's a very sturdy house," Allan Brozek said.

The entrance leads into the living room, which features large windows framing "A" Mountain and the Organ Mountains. A gas fireplace with a hand-carved wood mantel fills the formal space, which transitions into the dining room.

"We wanted to minimize interior walls and maximize interior space," said Allan Brozek of the open floor plan. "The flow is perfect. It's great for entertaining."

While the dining room features a 12-by-7-foot picture window to also capture the unobstructed view, the focal point of the dining room is the ceiling.

"It took on a life of its own," said Allan Brozek, explaining that it began as four panels, then wood trim and brick placed in a tongue-and-groove pattern were added.

The brick featured on the ceiling was left over from the wine cellar. A cantera arch and pillars surround a wrought-iron door that encloses the tasting room of the wine cellar. Jerusalem cobblestone lines the floor.

"I wanted a real old look for the cellar," said Allan Brozek, a wine educator. "The house was built around the wine cellar."

The cellar has a microclimate that is set at a constant 55 degrees, and can store up to 4,000 bottles, he said.

A wet bar transitions from the dining room into the kitchen and family room area.

"Four slabs (of Brazilian granite) were used in this area," said Allan Brozek, adding that they ventured to Phoenix to select each slab used in their castle.

He said the family spends a majority of their time in the family-kitchen area, which is Soledad Brozek's favorite space.

"I like to cook and entertain," she said, adding that her favorite meal is breakfast. "I like having the family in here while I'm cooking."

The kitchen was designed with two islands – one used as a

casual dining and gathering space and the other for cooking. Custom-made cabinets designed by Justin Sherwood fill the kitchen and feature a dark stain, a complement to the elaborate tile work along the floor and backsplash.

Hand-scraped, decorative trusses line the ceiling leading into the family room. Telescopic doors disappear into the wall, connecting the covered patio and family room, melding the interior and exterior spaces.

A half bathroom completes the great room area. Featuring an onyx countertop that lights up and glass sink bowl, the bathroom has a seashell feel and includes a door to the backyard.

On the other side of the home, tucked behind hand-carved, arched French doors, is the home's library.

"Our objective in this room is we didn't want to see any drywall," Allan Brozek said.

The library is covered in wood, from the hardwood floors with recycled pieces to the built-in bookshelves and desk and ending at the wood-covered ceiling. Even the creamy marble top of the desk, with sparkling brown lines, is reminiscent of tree bark.

Across the hall is another set of hand-carved, leather-clad French doors, which enclose the media room. Featuring a 125-inch screen and projector, the room seats eight and has a fiber optic ceiling design to look like stars when illuminated.

Also in this area is the master suite. Beams cover the tray ceiling as hardwood lines the floor. A fireplace is located across from the bed and the space is filled with natural light thanks to numerous windows placed along a curved wall.

A wet bar is beside the entrance to the master bathroom, at the center of which is the air-jetted bathtub. Encased in travertine and surrounded by cantera pillars, the bathtub is a work of art. Placed above it is a tiled mosaic created from a poster specially selected by the couple for the space.

The bathroom features two sinks, two water closets and two finished walk-in closets, but its jewel is the walk-through shower, which took three weeks to be tiled, Allan Brozek said.

Also found in the bathroom is a small, brightly lit room, which is used as Soledad Brozek's office. A door leads to the expansive patio.

The patio is a continuation of the interior living space. In addition to travertine tile floors, it also includes a two-way fireplace, an abundance of seating, artwork and an outdoor kitchen, complete with a grill and sink.

Another stone-covered tower encloses a set of winding stairs that leads to a viewing deck. The deck overlooks the entire property, which includes a yard with a play set for the grandkids, as well as the neighborhood and surrounding desert.

Details

Featured home

6215 Lazo del Norte

Square footage

7,326

Acres

1.44

Bedrooms

Three

Bathrooms

Five

Fireplaces

Five

Price

\$2.2 million

Special features

Tuscan style with hand-carved wood and various stone elements, a media room featuring a 125-inch screen and projector, a wood-covered library, climate-controlled wine cellar with attached tasting room and observation deck

Contact

Linda Uribe at 915-549-5139 or
linda@teamjuanuribe.com

ChileKnights

Lucky meals for St. Patrick's Day

Irish fare meets New Mexico spice

Sunny Conley
Chile Knights



*"Leprechauns, castles, good luck and laughter.
Lullabies, dreams and love ever after.
A thousand welcomes when anyone comes ...
That's the Irish for You!" – Irish Blessing*

Corned beef and cabbage and Shepherd's Pie come to mind as we prepare to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

It's a lively celebration filled with "all things green." Chileheads take particular notice by adding a wee bit of green chile to traditional Irish dishes. And leftovers allow for creativity.

Consider Reuben pizza, a delightful mélange of corned beef, sauerkraut and taters sparked with a favorite green. Shepherd's Pie does its own jig from sassy serrano peppers. Pair either dish with an Irish smoothie – go ahead, add drops of Bailey's Irish Cream for "interest." (Leprechauns are sworn to secrecy.)

Sláinte! (Pronounced "slawn-cha," meaning "Health!" A common toast in Ireland, the equivalent to "Cheers!")

Irish Cream Serrano Smoothie

2 cups vanilla frozen yogurt or vanilla ice cream, softened
1 banana
1 to 2 shots of cold espresso (or 2 ounces cold brewed coffee)



Add a wee bit of two kicks to an Irish smoothie with pieces of serrano and splashes of Bailey's Irish Cream.

1 tablespoon Irish cream flavored syrup (such as Torani)
1/2 (or more) serrano pepper, minced
Green food coloring (1 to 2 drops or to desired color)
Optional: Drops of Bailey's Irish Cream, ice cubes

Place all ingredients together in a blender. Whirl until smooth. Serve immediately in a tumbler, add ice cubes if desired. Makes 1 12-ounce smoothie.

Reuben Pizza

For the dough:
2 teaspoons sugar
1 package active dry yeast
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra for bowl
3 cups all-purpose flour plus more for dusting
1 teaspoon fine salt

For the toppings:
5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for the pan
3 cups sliced green cabbage
Kosher salt
1 teaspoon pickling spices, tied securely in cheesecloth
1 large potato, peeled and thinly sliced
Freshly ground black pepper
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 to 2 Anaheim peppers (or other favorite green), stemmed, seeded and chopped
3/4 cup Monterey jack cheese
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
6 slices corned beef

For the dough, whisk 1 cup warm water (105 degrees) with the sugar in a bowl; scatter the yeast over the top and set aside until foamy, about 10 minutes. Stir in the olive oil.

Whisk the flour and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the center and pour in the yeast mixture. Gradually stir the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients to make a rough, shaggy dough. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. (Add more flour to prevent sticking, if necessary.) Form the dough into a ball; place in a large oiled bowl, turning to coat with oil. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and set aside at room temperature until the dough has doubled in size, about 90 minutes.

For the toppings, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add the cabbage, season with salt and cook until just soft, about 5 minutes. Add the pickling

spices and just enough water to cover. Simmer over low heat, covered, until the cabbage is tender, about 20 minutes. Drain the cabbage and set aside (discard spices).

Place a pizza stone in the oven, if you have one, and preheat to 500 degrees. Toss the potato with 2 tablespoons olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast in a single layer on a baking sheet until golden, about 15 minutes.

Divide the dough into 2 equal pieces. Roll one into a 14-inch round (keep the remaining dough covered). Place the round on a floured pizza peel (if baking on a stone) or a large oiled pizza pan; drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Scatter half of each of the cheeses, corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and Anaheim peppers on top. Season with salt pepper and red pepper flakes. Carefully slip the pizza onto the hot stone, if using, or place the pan in the oven. Cook until golden and crispy, 10 to 15 minutes. Repeat with the remaining dough and toppings. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Pickling Spices

If you don't have pickling spices on hand, this is an easy recipe that can be tweaked for individual tastes. Stores well in an airtight container.

6 tablespoons mustard seed
3 tablespoons whole allspice
6 teaspoons coriander seed
6 whole cloves
3 teaspoons ground ginger
3 teaspoons red pepper flakes
3 bay leaves
3 cinnamon sticks

Crush the cinnamon sticks into pieces and crumble the bay leaves. Combine all ingredients and store in an airtight container. Makes about 1 cup.

Blessed Shepherd's Pie

1 pound corned beef, ground
3 cloves garlic, peeled
3/4 cup low fat sour cream
1/2 cup Cheddar cheese, separated
1 serrano pepper, stemmed, seeded and minced
1 1/2 pounds red potatoes, cut into chunks
2 tablespoons flour
1 (10-ounce) can cream of mushroom soup
1 cup mushrooms, sliced
4 cups cabbage, chopped
1/4 cup water
4 cups frozen mixed vegetables

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cover potatoes and garlic with water in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil on high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

Drain and return to saucepan with sour cream. Mash to desired consistency. Stir in 1/4-cup Cheddar cheese and minced serrano pepper.

While the potatoes are cooking, brown the meat in a large pan. Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute. Add vegetables, cabbage, mushrooms, cream of mushroom and water. Continue to cook for 5 minutes.

Spoon meat mixture into a 9-by-9-inch baking dish. Cover with mashed potatoes. Bake for 18 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup of Cheddar cheese and bake and additional 2 minutes or until heated through and cheese is melted. Makes 6 servings.

Sunny Conley, a former Las Cruces, is an award-winning cookbook author and food columnist. Contact Conley at sunny.conley@gmail.com.




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New Mexico State University Department of Geography photo
The dots on this map represent the different trees on the Las Cruces campus of New Mexico State University. By mapping the trees, researchers hope to use the data they gather to determine which species are sustainable to the Southwest region.

NMSU maps trees

Professor examines water use

How compatible are the trees on the New Mexico State University Las Cruces campus to the desert Southwest?

Researchers in the College of Arts & Sciences' Department of Geography are using state-of-the-art program software to answer just that question.

The Spatial Applications and Research Center has been commissioned by the Office of Facilities and Services to map every tree on campus in an effort to collect their various characteristics and whether they are sustainable for the region.

To accomplish this task, the department has turned to the i-Tree computer program.

"This program allows us to identify each tree species on campus," said Buddy Clark, a GPS field and GIS technician for the department's SpARC lab. "By looking at the tree species we have on campus, we can look at what takes in the most water and which trees do well here. We can plant those trees that thrive in and can survive in this desert environment, and eventually phase out the trees that do not."

The project started in May 2011. Clark is now working on a more in-depth version of the map. Out of 13 zones, he has finished mapping one zone and is working on another.

Through his process of mapping, Clark identifies each tree by species and also looks at the diameter of the trunk, the condition of the leaves and the wood, and observes each tree's location in relation to buildings, medians and other spaces. The computer program collects and stores all the data.

More than 65 species of trees and more than 6,000 trees are on campus – a number that changes almost daily as trees are planted or removed – and Clark is tracking each one.

"The i-Tree program gives us a good management tool," he said. "Everything that a person needs to know about a specific tree on campus is available through the data collected."

This program also benefits students on campus. Carol Campbell, an associate professor of geography, uses the campus as her living laboratory and said her interest in the program is to help facilitate ecological balance on campus.

She is working with Clark to apply the program to NMSU and has also used it to produce lab activities for her students in biogeography.

The students utilize the program in the field to learn about the natural environment, as well as how to bring that information into GIS education to see how that data is analyzed and combined for such characteristics as carbon sequestration and oxygen production.

"I think this is a fantastic program," she said. "This is a wonderful start for Las Cruces and NMSU. Contributors such as Davey Tree and the Arbor Day Society have all supported this program because trees are one of those resources that are really critical for clean air, oxygen, habitat and provisions for all different kinds of organisms. I wouldn't like a place without trees."

Clark said the Office of Facilities and Services can use the data gathered when deciding on any campus upgrades or remodeling, and it can also be used for general campus aesthetics.

Get flashed – in a good way

Protection from moisture important for life of home

Miles Dyson
Living Green



While researching this article, I discovered an entirely different type of window flashing (just Google "window flashing images" to see what I mean).

The window flashing I want to talk about just keeps your walls from getting soggy and does not involve paparazzi or exhibitionist neighbors.

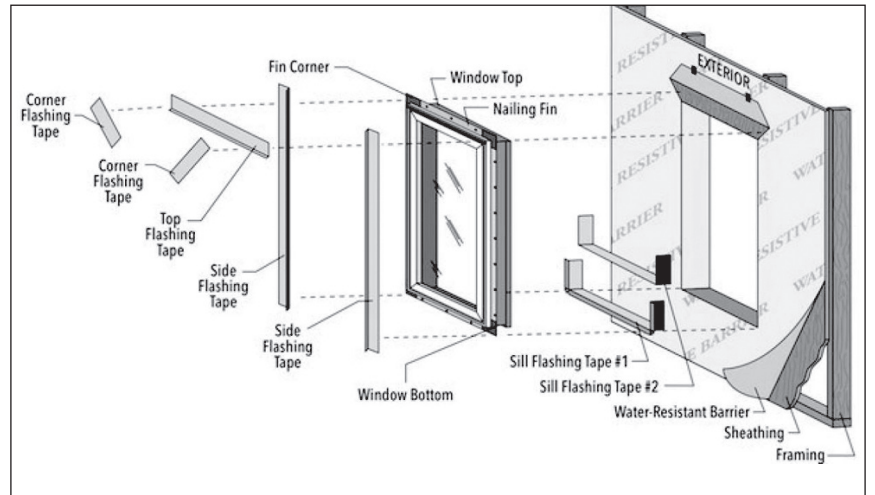
Despite what we have seen the last several years, it does sometimes rain in Las Cruces. When it does, one of our traditional Southwest-home design features can cause problems. Pueblo and Southwest-style homes prevalent in our area do not have roof overhangs or eaves.

Low-slope roofing and parapet walls perform well for our predominantly dry, sunny and often windy days. This design can also leave exterior doors and windows more exposed to the effects of moisture. Precipitation tends to directly hit and sheet down this type of wall, greatly increasing potential water entry around doors and windows.

Builders and code officials recognize this potential moisture problem. Nearly every new home includes high-tech, selectively permeable, synthetic vapor barrier house wrap (Tyvek by Dupont is one example) and a waterproof membrane flashing around rough window and door installations.

When this type of moisture management system is correctly installed before lathe and stucco or other siding products are applied, moisture entry around door and window assemblies is rarely an issue.

Problem is, this system – though almost always installed – is not installed in the correct sequence to allow the



This diagram shows the proper sequence of installation for a window flash.

components to perform the moisture fighting function. Manufacturers of windows and window membrane flashing recommend setting windows in the house frame just after the house wrap is installed but before the lathe and stucco structure go on. Since the carpenter or framer is usually responsible for setting the windows, they set the windows at the end of the framing process but before the house wrap. The stucco crew installs the house wrap, but it is too late to place the membrane flashing – thus, the correct moisture flashing membrane install sequence is sacrificed for speed and cost. The proper materials are in place, just not in a sequence that will help to prevent water entry to the rough wood sheathing, insulation and framing of the home.

Once water moves in to the wall system, a number of issues arise. Termites need cellulose and water to thrive – exactly the conditions found at leaky, poorly flashed installations.

Enough moisture can actually break

down the structure of plywood or particleboard sheathing beneath stucco or siding surfaces. Mold and mildew also thrive in this dark wet environment and can cause severe respiratory issues for occupants inside the home.

You may be wondering, what does this have to do with green construction? The answer is simple: if a six-year-old house requires \$40,000 of repairs because the wall systems have turned to mush, then the house wasn't very green – because rebuilding the house has an environmental impact. Durability and indoor air quality are each key when constructing an environmentally friendly home.

Be sure you and your builder pay close attention to this simple detail during the construction of your home – you don't want get caught on the wrong side of the "flash!"

Miles Dyson is the owner of Inspection Connection LC - Professional Home Energy Rating and Home Inspection Services in Mesilla Park and can be reached at 202-2457. For more information, visit www.icenergyrate.com.

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Visiting the houses of yesteryear

Historic home tour gives peek into Mesilla abodes

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Dating back before New Mexico became a state in 1912, Mesilla is filled with history, much of which can still be found in the quaint town located along state Highway 28.

Residents will get a firsthand look at this history during the third annual Casas de Antaño, held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

“Last year, we focused on Las Cruces because of the (state’s) centennial, and this year we’re focusing on the Town of Mesilla,” said Eric Liefeld, president of Mesilla Valley Preservation Inc., the organization responsible for the historic home tour.

“The cool thing is there will be a broad slot of architecture. It will range from the very earliest, first Mesilla colonists – small humble places – to some homes of the merchant class.”

The 2013 home tour will feature eight homes on seven properties, each at different stages of the preservation process.

“It occurred to me that people look at preservation and think they’re not allowed to change anything,” Liefeld said. “The truth is very far from that. ... It’s about understanding what pieces are important, what pieces are valuable.”

Throughout the tour, visitors will see examples of how structures have been changed and modified to adapt to new uses.

“(The Mesilla Community Center) is a great example for us of adapted reuse because it has life beyond its original use,” he said. “The town put a huge amount of resources into it over the years.”

Originally built as a school, the center recently underwent renovations and this will be one of the first opportunities for the public to take a look at the structure.

Two stops on the tour – the Jose M. Barela and Quirina Apodaca Houses, both at 2232 Calle de Arroyo – show the humble beginnings of Mesilla. Through research, Liefeld has been able to date the small properties, measuring 500 to 800 square feet, to 1844, when the owners left Doña Ana and came to Mesilla.

“These people literally left what became the United States after the Mexican-American War and came back into Mexico,” he said. “They were pioneers of Doña Ana and Mesilla.”

Liefeld added that these homes have been



The Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Monument will be featured during Casas de Antaño, held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 23, in Mesilla.

stabilized and are in the beginning stages of the preservation process.

On the flip side of these quaint homes are larger, statelier structures such as the Reynolds-Chavez-Fountain House and the Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Monument.

The state monument is the current home of J. Paul Taylor, and this is an opportunity to see the historic property before it is open to the public, Liefeld said.

Other stops on the tour are the Rafael Bermudez House, located behind the Basilica of San Albino Catholic Church, and the C.T. Turney House.

“It’s a big, brick farm house out in the middle of a field east of Mesilla proper,” Liefeld said of the property owned by one of the biggest ranchers in Doña Ana County.

The Dixon House rounds out the tour. The home was built around the 1920s, and was originally two separate buildings. The home was recently renovated and features a modern look, Liefeld said.

A new feature to this year’s tour, photos representing a glimpse into early life in the Mesilla Valley will be sold. Liefeld said the photos, which date back to the 19th century, have come from as far as a basement in Vermont.

“Someone was just going through the valley and snapped a photo,” he said, adding that the

image was taken around the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, around the 1890s. “It shows businesses and the church, and how things have changed over time.”

Since beginning Casas de Antaño in 2011, the response from the public “has been fantastic,” said Liefeld, adding that it had 450 visitors the first year and 550 in 2012.

“It turns out, a lot of people are doing preservation things,” he said, citing the Mesquite and Alameda districts and restoration projects such as that taking place at Phillips Chapel CME as illustrations. “We’re trying to raise the level of discussion and highlight those examples.”

Liefeld said MVP members have already seen an impact from the tours. Not only have the tours drawn in new members, but there has been an increase in awareness.

“One of the houses last year, people had been looking at and couldn’t wait to get in it,” said MVP member Sara Orton, adding that the Town of Mesilla has been very supportive of the historic home tour.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at any of the stops on the tour, except for the Mesilla Community Center, which will be open to the public for free.

For more information, call Tour Coordinator Wenda Trevathan at 644-0599 or visit www.mvpres.org.

Details

Casas de Antaño

When

1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 23

Where

- The Rafael Bermudez House – 2226A Calle de Guadalupe
- The Reynolds-Chavez-Fountain House – 2250 Calle de Picacho
- The Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Monument – 2346 Calle Principal
- Old Mesilla School/Mesilla Community Center – 2251 Calle de Santiago
- The Jose M. Barela and Quirina Apodaca House – 2232 Calle de Arroyo
- The C.T. Turney House – 1401 Boutz Road
- The Dixon House – 2144 Calle Principal

Cost

\$15

Contact

Call Wenda Trevathan at 644-0599 or visit www.mvpres.org



The Mesilla Community Center – once the Mesilla school – will be a stop on the historic home tour.



The Rafael Bermudez House is located behind the Basilica of San Albino Catholic Church. It was built at the turn of the 19th century, and is still used as a residence today.



The C.T. Turney House, located on Boutz Road, was built by one of the biggest ranchers in Doña Ana County. It is one of eight homes featured during the tour that demonstrate adaptive reuse.

Getting to know: *Gamboa Trucking & Materials*

Helping with landscaping perfection

Family business makes name in hauling rocks

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

As drought conditions continue to plague New Mexico, many are trying to find ways to cut back on their water consumption, such as installing low-maintenance rock landscaping.

Luckily for Las Cruces, Gamboa Trucking & Materials is here to help them with their rock landscaping needs.

The company was created 17 years ago by Joe Gamboa, described by his daughter and office manager, Anabel Corona, as a “Jack of all trades.”

“He used to do long-distance hauling and odd jobs,” she said. “People kept asking him (about rock materials) and he knew where to get it, so it became his niche.”

In the beginning, the company was a family affair, with Corona and her mother working as Gamboa’s only employees.

“I would drive around with him in his truck,” Corona said of the early years.

Soon, the business grew and Gamboa Trucking & Materials now has about eight employees. While Corona considered a different career avenue in college, she stayed onboard with her father.

“When I was in college, it was a way for me to help with the family business and to make some money on the side,” said Corona, who earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from New Mexico State University. “Now, I’m



Gamboa Trucking & Materials, located at 3475 Bataan Memorial West, features a variety of rock landscaping options from which customers can choose. The company has a pit outside of Las Cruces, in the Mesquite area.

sucked into it.

“I enjoy the interaction with people and helping them plan out their projects. It feels good to help people.”

When the housing market took a hit in 2007-08, Gamboa Trucking & Materials felt it.

“Things got slow,” Corona said.

Rather than sitting around and waiting for business to pick up, Gamboa was proactive and went out to meet new customers and find work.

One trend that has emerged from the housing market downturn is homeowners taking care of their landscaping needs themselves, rather than hiring a third party to do so, Corona said.

“Before, we had about 20 landscapers who would buy in bulk. Now, we have about six,” she said. “We’re seeing more people doing it themselves.”

“(When working with do-it-yourself customers) we mostly try to be as courteous and helpful as possible. It’s a lot of work when you do it yourself, so we want to give them their money’s worth.”

Corona said often times, people will look for the best deal, not realizing that an inexpensive price tag usually means an inexpensive product.



The company has a selection of boulders.



Since its creation 17 years ago, Gamboa Trucking & Materials has provided more than 3,000 tons of rock landscaping supplies a month to the community.

Details

Gamboa Trucking & Materials

Owner
Joe Gamboa

Phone
373-8202

Address
3475 Bataan Memorial West

and boulders are kept at its yard, 3475 Bataan Memorial West. The company has a leach rock – round gravel – pit outside of Las Cruces in Mesquite.

Corona said they can also bring in rock from other locations, such as pits in Texas and Arizona.

“We haul out 3,000 tons – on a slow month – out of our yard,” she said.

In addition to delivering their own materials, Gamboa Trucking & Materials also makes deliveries for companies that don’t have trucks. This is one example of how the company has formed relationships and partnerships with others in the industry.

“We handle the delivery of the materials, but we will make recommendations for someone to do the landscaping part,” Corona said.

In addition to delivering the landscaping materials, Gamboa Trucking & Materials also hauls out material and cleans yards, Corona said. She added that the company has also made donations around town, including the Vista Middle School landscaping and the sand used to fill the luminarias that decorate NMSU during Christmas.

The company has plans for the future and is looking to add plants to its supply.

“We want to start selling plants because we found that people want to do (their landscaping) in one shot,” Corona said.

“You have to make sure it’s not too brittle because it can break down or lose its color over time,” she said, adding that they’ve even come across rocks painted to resemble a certain stone or color.

No matter a client’s personal preference of color or price, Gamboa Trucking & Materials has various rock color and sizes from which to choose, as well as landscape stone, plaster/concrete stone, crusherfine, top soil, cobble stone, boulders and metal edging.

“Most people just order a small amount, but no matter what, we try to make it as personalized with our customers as possible,” Corona said. “Sometimes we’ll get weird requests, and we’ll try to cater to them.”

Samples of the company’s decorative stone

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Get that perfect drink temperature

Coffee Joulies cool down your beverage, keep warm longer

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

They say to be successful in life, you must do what you love – or at least enjoy the people you work with, because that makes the long, arduous hours worth it, right?

I'm fortunate enough to work with very creative people who make me laugh, even when they're not trying.

Collaboration is a must in this business – after all, one person can come up with so many ways of saying the same thing before they have to lean on the wit and wisdom of those around them.

Trying to think of an interesting way to introduce this week's gadget, the Coffee Joulies, I turned to my coworkers for help. Google searches for hot beverage statistics had led me nowhere; a poem in an iambic pentameter was futile because what rhymes with Joulies other than hollies, cannolis and frijoles?

Luckily for me, there was Jim, our pun-tastic copy/sports editor with whom I share an office. For Jim, the answer was simple: I should take a page from Goldilocks.

"Goldilocks drank Papa Bear's coffee and it was too hot. Goldilocks drank Mama Bear's coffee and it was too cold. But then she drank Baby Bear's coffee with the Coffee Joulies and it was just right," he recited.

I couldn't have worded it better myself. So if you, like Goldilocks, are looking for that cup of coffee that is just right, give Coffee Joulies a try.

What is it?

Coffee Joulies – pronounced joo-leees – are the answer to achieving that perfectly hot beverage temperature.



erage temperature.

The Joulies, made from the highest-grade stainless steel – the same as silverware – are the brainchild of Dave Petrillo and Dave Jackson. The duo and their egg-shaped product have received much attention of late, being featured everywhere from "The Today Show" to "Shark Tank."

What makes this gadget special is that it promises to cool down hot beverages quickly

so they can be enjoyed sooner as well as keep it at a desirable temperature longer.

While Coffee Joulies are marketed to cup o' joe lovers, they can also be used in other warm beverages including tea, hot chocolate, cider and even soup. Simply add one of the shiny beans – measuring about the size of a medium chicken egg – to your container and then pour in your hot liquid.

How does it work?

The trick to the Coffee Joulies is the unique material. The metal bean will soak up the excess thermal heat, which makes the beverage too hot to drink, because its center contains an edible phase change material (PCM), derived from plants. The PCM will melt at 140 degrees and absorb the heat in the process, cooling your drink faster than normal.

The heat will stay in the Coffee Joulies, and when the beverage reaches 140 degrees – the perfect drinking temperature – the PCM will begin to solidify, releasing the absorbed energy back into the drink.

This allows your refreshment to stay at that "perfect" temperature constantly. One Coffee Joulie works for 4 ounces of liquid.

While Coffee Joulies can be used in just about any container, manufacturers recommend using an insulated vessel, such as a vacuum thermos bottle or to-go tumbler. This is because the more efficient the insulation, the more effective the beans will be. The more exposure to air the beverage has, the quicker it will cool down and the faster the Joulies will lose their heat.

Made of the same material as table knives, the Coffee Joulies are reusable and should last a lifetime. Also, because the material is similar to your silverware, the gadgets can be placed in your dishwasher to be cleaned – although simply rinsing them with hot water should do the trick.

Where can it be found?

Coffee Joulies can be purchased online at www.joulies.com.

How much does it cost?

A set of five Coffee Joulies costs about \$50, while the "Perfection Pack," which includes five stainless-steel beans, a thermos and other items, costs approximately \$80.

Popular drink fixes problems

Tea bags can help solve issues you face every day

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The days are warming up, but there is still a nip in the air at night, making it the perfect time to curl up with a good book – or the TV remote – and enjoy a piping hot mug of tea.

While tea is often associated with our cousins across the pond, the United Kingdom surprisingly comes in 13th place for tea consumption, according to a list composed in 2009. At No. 1: Paraguay, a landlocked country in South Africa.

The United States was ranked 70th for tea consumption, four spots in front of Canada and 19 ahead of France – one behind Sweden and 25 behind Germany, however.

While some are probably attracted to tea for its diverse range of flavors, others may be drawn to it for its health benefits.

Tea is a well-known source of antioxidants, especially those that have been linked to protecting the body from aging and the effects of pollution. It has also been shown to aid in weight loss as well as reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

If you find yourself consuming more tea, whether for its health benefits or robust flavor, there is a good chance you'll be left with an abundance of leftover tea bags. Rather than filling your garbage with the bags, use them around the house.

1. Fix a broken nail: After a nail has torn, it may seem like your only option is to say goodbye and cut your nail. There is another solution, however. Repair the nail with a tea bag. Apply nail glue to the torn nail and let dry. Cut a small square from a dry, unused tea bag and attach it to the area with more nail glue. Make sure there aren't any bubbles hiding under your patchwork. When the glue has dried, buff the patch with a fine nail file and when it is smooth enough that you don't feel the sheet when you run your finger along it, add another dot of nail glue. After that has dried, you can paint your nail with colored or clear polish.

2. Give your eyes some relief: Are your eyes red and puffy due to a restless night or a bout of pink eye? Soothe the discomfort and reduce the puffiness with tea bags. Soak two tea bags in ice-cold water and apply them to your eyelids as compresses. The tea will rejuvenate your face, helping to remove the redness and puffiness after a few minutes.

3. Flavor your meat: The next time you fire up the grill, skip the store-bought marinades and use leftover tea bags to flavor your meat. Just place some tea and the tea bags into a plastic bag with the meat for a few minutes. It will add a savory taste to your meal.

4. Clean around the house: Grease and grime that lurks on your mirrors, floors and even linoleum have a new cleaning agent to fear: tea bags. Use the bags to mop your lino-

leum floors and clean your kitchen countertops. Tea bags can also be used to clean unpainted wooden furniture – just wipe the surface thoroughly so it doesn't stain.

5. Freshen your home: In addition to cleaning your home, tea bags can be used to make it smell better. Stuff a few aromatic tea bags in your closets, shoes and other stuffy, musty areas. They will absorb unwanted odors and leave a fresh scent behind.

6. Soothe a sunburn and acne: Your skin can also benefit from those leftover tea bags. Add tea bags to your bath and soak in the water mixture to relieve a bad case of acne or uncomfortable sunburn.

7. Cure stinky feet: Foot odor is an embarrassing problem many people have to deal with. Rather than avoiding taking your shoes off, treat the smelly problem with tea bags. Brew a batch of fragrant tea and let it sit in the refrigerator overnight. The next day, pour it into a bowl large enough for your feet to be added, and soak your tootsies in the brew. The tea contains tannic acid that will absorb the toxins in the feet that cause the odor. Baking soda and lemon juice can be added for a full pedicure treatment.

8. Fertilize your plants: Your plants can also benefit from your leftover tea bags. Use them as an addition to your fertilizer for your houseplants. The tea leaves will provide the plants nutrients and help absorb and retain moisture. If your pot is leaking more than you desire, place a tea bag over the hole in the bottom to prevent the mess.



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Around-the-home item: Tea bags

Learning lots at the Home & Garden Show

Photos by Beth Sitzler

S. Stringham of Las Vegas, Nev., makes balloon creations for kids at the Sunspot Solar Energy Systems booth during the 31st annual Home & Garden Show held Saturday and Sunday, March 9-10, at the Las Cruces Convention Center.



Billy Massie and Dania Ramos of El Paso Electric Co. provide information about the various rebate and energy-efficiency programs available through the utility company.



Truly Nolen Branch Manager Omar Martinez and Service Coordinator Gary Bautista show a group of spectators how an emperor scorpion changes color under a black light.



Master Gardeners Marjie Snell and Tracy Thompson work at the organization's booth.



Valerie and Brian Dutil get information from Jerome Hanway and Bruce Ball of Consolidated Solar Technology.

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Home Sales Scoreboard

LAS CRUCES AREA

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Closed Sales New Homes	3	6	2
Closed Sales Existing Homes	15	20	11
Pending Home Sales (All)	211	210	164

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Median Price New	\$176,840	\$167,450	\$169,000
Median Price Existing	\$157,000	\$127,000	\$160,000

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Average Days on Market (All)	114	130	150

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Total Homes on Market (All)	1,087	1,073	1,071
Real Estate Agents	374	374	399

"Homes" include detached single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums

Source: Las Cruces Multiple Listing Service (MLS)* for the period 03/03/13 to 03/09/2013
*MLS is wholly owned by the Las Cruces Association of Realtors
** Unknown per LCAR

Tips for that bathroom remodel

Give your master suite an updated look that fits your needs



Maureen Villmer
Practical Design

Two areas that I constantly work on in remodeling are the kitchen and the master bath.

These two areas can give more impact in your home than any other. To get your creative juices flowing, let's talk about the master bathroom first.

Any change you make in your master bath will change your daily routine. Here are some things to remember when considering a remodel of your master bath:

- Add storage space to your bath. Consider a closet, shelves or a pantry cabinet for your bathroom products. Extra soaps, tissues, toothpaste and shampoos or towels need to be stored and organized. A remodel is a perfect time to add this storage area.
- Increase your overall space. Be creative. Is there a space behind this bathroom that you could take to increase the square footage of this bath? How about an attached closet or a whole room? I once took a small bedroom behind the master bath, opened it up into the space of the master and doubled the size of a master bath. This fit the needs of the client perfectly without adding more square footage to the house.
- Just recently, I have taken out more bathtubs than I have

put in. People are finding other uses for that space; mostly by enlarging the shower area or putting the commode in a separate room of its own. As long as one bathtub is in a home, I can easily recommend the elimination of the tub in the master bathroom.

- Change your flooring. Ceramic tile is an excellent choice for the bath area. Carpet easily soils and shows wear in the bath area. Consider replacing carpeted area with tile. If you like warm under your feet, and not the cold feel of tile, add radiant heat in the floors. It is so easy today with radiant heat stripes that can be added in strategic areas just where you stand or come out of the shower. They are easy to install, thermostatically controlled and go right under your tile. They are sold by the square foot. If you want to know more, Google "radiant floor heating."
- If you have room in your bathroom remodel to create a relaxing environment, add space for a chair or bench. This gives a touch of luxury.
- Vanities need to be at a 36-inch height. This is now a standard in the industry. Along with moving the height of the vanity up, don't forget to move your light above the vanity up, too. It will make all the difference in the world as to how high the ceilings look.
- Add lighting. Don't underestimate the importance of good lighting in a bathroom. Adding more overall lighting can make a small bathroom appear larger. By moving the lighting up to about a foot from the ceiling and adding more mirror, you can really make a bathroom appear larger and taller.
- How about a skylight? If you can't get a window into the space, consider a skylight for a touch of natural light during the day.
- One of the easiest ways to change a bathroom without investing big bucks is to change the hardware, such as drawer pulls, faucet handles and showerheads. These can make a big impact.
- Be sure to sell your old cabinets, toilet, sink, etc. Don't just throw them in the landfill. You can also donate items to the ReStore or another charity. ReStore, 2301 S. Main St., sells items and the money goes to the Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity. It is a great way to help others.

“ Any change you make in your master bath will change your daily routine. ”

Maureen Villmer is an interior designer in Las Cruces with 35 years of experience. If you have questions you would like answered in her column, email her at maureenvillmer@hotmail.com, visit [Environs Interior Design](#) on Facebook or call 496-7605.

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Tell the age of any horse



Katharine Lark Chrisley
Stable Woman

They say, "Inspect the lower jaw of course." The teeth of horses can be used to estimate their age pretty accurately, because their teeth "erupt" continuously from their jaws.

It has been said that equine teeth grow constantly, and this is how it appears. In reality, each tooth is a very long structure that works its way forward and down from the upper jaw and forward and up from the lower jaw.

Just as the horse's hooves grow continuously to allow for wear, the elongated tooth works its way outward to make up for the wear that occurs from chewing. The big difference is hooves really do grow forever like our fingernails do; the horse's teeth have a limit and can be worn away.

While the horse is chewing his fibrous meals, any discrepancies in his or her bite will cause sharp points to form. These are generally on the outside of the upper teeth and the inside of the lower ones. When this happens (and it is very common, especially in older horses), the horse's cheeks and tongue can be bitten. Food can be improperly chewed and digestive disturbances, weight loss and many problems when being ridden (from the mouth pain) can crop up. The horse may leave "wads" of moist, partially chewed hay called "quiddings" in the feeder or around the corral. These are a good indicator that this horse needs to see a veterinarian or equine dentist for a teeth "floating".

When the sharp points form, the teeth need to be filed smooth to return the horse to a comfortable and functioning state. The practitioner will hold the horse's mouth open with a dental speculum, probably lightly tranquilize the horse (to relax the jaw) and use special files to remove the painful points. Modern veterinarians even have power tools for smoothing out the sharp edges, but caution is advised in all tooth-floating procedures – you cannot put back tooth that has been filed away, and we know there is a limit to the tooth length. To over-file and remove unnecessary amounts can doom the horse to an elderly life without any teeth left!

The young horse has "milk" teeth or "baby teeth" that do fall out as the permanent teeth arrive. We call the process, "shedding caps" and sometimes you will see the old baby tooth on top of the arriving new tooth. If it does not pop off on its own, The vet may need to remove it. I have a baby tooth "cap" mounted as a charm on a chain that I wear.

Horses can also have "wolf teeth" that erupt within the "bars" or gaps between the incisors in front (the biting teeth) and the molars in back (the chewing teeth). Wolf teeth end up sitting in that gap where the bit in the bridle sits and can cause great pain. Sometimes there

See **Horse** on page D16

Lifestyle expo lures seniors

Health, finance, travel and more to be discussed

By **Lorena Sanchez**
Las Cruces Bulletin

It's more a than health expo, and event producer Keith Whelpley wants everyone to know it.

The Southwest Senior Lifestyle Expo returns to Las Cruces for a third year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 22-23 at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

"This event is going to be special because we have a better range of speakers than ever before," Whelpley said. "It will have something for everyone."

Whelpley, who publishes Southwest Senior Monthly, thought it was important to "have a crown jewel event for my readers," he said.

This year's theme takes attendees back to the 1960s.

"The theme was chosen because it shows how important this generation has been to the world," Welpley said. "This generation was so diverse in its thinking, but together, very powerful. This is a Southwest Senior 'thank you' to that generation."

The theme will be present throughout the two-day event, which will provide those who attend with information on travel, recreation, health, finance, home improvement, senior services and more.

"The event has evolved," Whelpley said. "I'm learning about the retirement community more and seniors are learning Southwest



Local AARP members Harold and Marcella Dineen at the 2011 Southwest Senior Expo offer Joe Sepulveda information on becoming a member of the organization, which is for those age 50 and older. This year's expo will be held Friday and Saturday, March 22-23, at the Las Cruces Convention Center.

Senior is celebrating the community."

In addition to all the information available, there will be a variety of entertainment and hands-on learning experiences, such as wine tasting, a talent show, demonstrations, gardening seminars, health screenings, music, a prom and vintage cars.

"We're going to have master gardeners giving extensive gardening tips for this area," Whelpley said. "We're also going to have an auto display from the Rod Runners as well as

the British Car Club and vintage motorcycles.

As far as activities go, Whelpley said, everything is more diverse.

The keynote speaker of the expo is Doug Fine, author and NPR contributor.

"(Fine) is a nationally known author who will be giving two talks," Whelpley said. "One on sustainable living and (the second) on legalizing cannabis."

Both are topics discussed in Fine's published

See **Senior** on page D16

Walk MS set for April 6

Registration and fundraising begin

By **Lorena Sanchez**
Las Cruces Bulletin

With more than 2,900 people in Las Cruces living with multiple sclerosis (MS), it is important to spread the word about the illness and work toward a solution.

Walk MS is the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's (NMSS) major fundraiser to help raise money for research and provide services to those affected by MS.

"Unlike the March of Dimes or breast cancer, a lot of people aren't really aware of MS," said Jamie Phillips, NMSS Las Cruces committee member. "I think it's really important we get the word out so we can help others. It's important to bring awareness to the cause and find a cure."

The 2013 walk will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Registration will begin at 8 a.m.

The walk has been a part of the Las Cruces community for more than a decade, and continues to help raise awareness.

"MS is a very unpredictable disease that strikes people in the prime of their life," said Maggie Schold, senior development manager. "Three times as many women than men are affected by MS." The illness is also incredibly expensive, costing the average MS patient approximately \$60,000

See **Walk** on page D16

Details

Walk MS

When

- 9 a.m. Saturday, April 6
- 8 a.m. registration

Where

Young Park, at the pavilion
1905 E. Nevada Ave.

Cost

Free

Contact

- www.walkms.org
- www.nationalmssociety.org



National MS Society-New Mexico photo

Las Cruces participated in the 2011 Walk MS. The walk is intended not only to help fund research and resources for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, but also to raise awareness throughout the community about MS. The 2013 walk will be held Saturday, April 6, at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

Sinking the shot



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Lorena Sanchez

Noberto Trujillo aims his yellow huacha at the hole on the board as his competitor Bernie Carillo looks on Tuesday, March 12, during the Doña Ana County Senior Games huacha competition at the Frank O'Brien Papen Recreation Center. Trujillo and Carillo competed against each other in the 80 to 84 year old age group and ended their match in sudden death, tied 7 to 7. Trujillo won, scoring the final point. Both qualify for the state games. Seven men and one woman played in Tuesday's competition. The first person to score 11 points or the person with the most points at the end of the match wins. The object of the game is to sink the huacha into the hole on the board. For more information or to register, call 541-5171.

2013 DOÑA ANA COUNTY SENIOR GAMES SCHEDULE

Date & time	Event	Location
Saturday, March 16, 8 a.m.	Swimming	NMSU Pool
Thursday, March 21, 6 p.m.	Racquetball	Tom Young's Fitness Center
Friday, March 22, 5:30 p.m.	Talent practice	Las Cruces Convention Center
Saturday, March 23, 1 p.m.	Talent show	Las Cruces Convention Center

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Health Briefs

Register for Walk MS

Registration is open for Walk MS, a walk to raise money and awareness to fight multiple sclerosis (MS). The race will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave. Onsite registration will begin at 8 a.m.

Registration is free. Participants are asked to register early to allow time to raise funds to support MS research, programs and services that directly impact individuals and families living with the disease. The average participant raises \$225, and fundraising prizes are awarded beginning at the \$100 level. To register early, visit <http://walkmsnewmexico.org>.

For more information, contact Maggie Schold at 505-243-2792 or maggie.schold@nmss.org.

NMSU Spring Wellness Fair is family friendly

New Mexico State University Spring Wellness Fair, a family-friendly event meant to spread the word about the importance of living a healthy life, will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Preciado Park next to O'Donnell Hall (on the corner of Stewart and Williams streets) on the NMSU campus. The event is free and will include performances and demonstrations by a variety of wellness-related groups. There will also be face painting, an obstacle course for children, a bungee run and a joust.

The goal of the Spring Wellness Fair is to provide the community with useful information and resources about staying healthy. On-campus programs, local businesses and nonprofit groups with a health-related emphasis are invited to participate and give out information about their programs and services. The fair is sponsored by the NMSU Wellness, Action and Violence Education program, social work services, Campus Health Center and Associated Students of NMSU.

For more information, call Lori Haussamen at 646-2731.

Masquerade aids those affected by autism

The Carnival Maquerade Ball, which benefits the Hearts for Autism Fund, will be held from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. Tickets are \$60 per person or \$700 for a corporate table.

There will be live entertainment, a DJ, a parade of costumes, a cash bar, silent auction, dinner, dancing and a candy bar. This year's theme is "Carnaval."

Those who may not be able to attend the event but would still like to contribute can sponsor a child for the camp, which costs \$200 to attend.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Hearts for Autism Fund, which provides trainings with national speakers, funds

Camp New Amigos, a camp for children with autism, and alternative treatments.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 526-6682.

Workshop for those caring for loved one with Alzheimer's

The New Mexico State University Southern Area Health Education Center will host "Caring with Respect," a program designed for Spanish-speaking families and caregivers tending to a family member with Alzheimer's disease. The workshop will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. April 11 and 12, at the Southern Area Health Education Center, 4003 Geothermal Drive.

The classes will provide a basic understanding of the necessary skills and attitudes to manage the needs and challenges of a person with Alzheimer's disease. Learn about this disease and its stages, practical information to help your loved ones, and how to understand difficult behavior that may be exhibited by the person with Alzheimer's. Learn how to take care of yourself as well as your loved ones and how to share experiences while affirming those experiences through a variety of support and resources. The program is sponsored by the Association of Alzheimer's in Albuquerque.

To register, contact Claudia Leyva, program facilitator, at 646-3061 or at cleyva@nmsu.edu. Registration for the workshop will close at 5 p.m. April 9.

March is Red Cross Month

Gov. Susana Martinez has proclaimed March 2013 as American Red Cross month in New Mexico.

President Barack Obama, as honorary chairman of the American Red Cross, has issued a proclamation declaring Red Cross Month for the United States. Both leaders urge citizens to support the nonprofit humanitarian aid organization.

During Red Cross Month, the American Red Cross recognizes the nation's Everyday Heroes who give of themselves and in some way help their community.

The Presidential Proclamation refers to the American Red Cross response to Sandy, where 18 New Mexicans from the Red Cross were deployed. New Mexico Red Cross members also deployed to Hurricane Isaac, the Little Bear Fire and two Colorado wildfires in recent months.

March was first proclaimed as Red Cross Month 70 years ago by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The proclamation by Gov. Martinez states that New Mexico recognizes those who help individuals and families in need, and that the Red Cross works tirelessly through its volunteers and employees to support members of the military, veterans and their families, and responds to local and national disasters.

NMSU to offer free screening

Children 0 to 5 years old to be tested for developmental delays

New Mexico State University will offer free developmental screening for children ages 0 to 5 years old from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 16. The screening will be held at the NMSU School for Young Children in buildings 600 and 700 of Myrna's Children's Village at the corner of Williams Street and Sam Steel Way.

"We want to provide a community-based developmental screening for young children from birth to five years old to see if there are any problems in their development," said Zhen

Chai, special education and communication disorder assistant professor.

The screening will help identify any potential delays in five developmental areas: cognitive, motor, language/communication, social/emotional and adaptive behaviors. If developmental delays are discovered, screeners will provide parents information about where they may take their child for further evaluation. The NMSU team also will provide suggestions on how parents can interact with the child at home to address the area of concern.

Chai said that early screening will identify those children who may have developmental delays, or those who may be at risk for developmental delays, so the children will receive service as early as possible. Early intervention services can improve children's development dramatically to help them learn important skills and prevent failure in schools.

The screening will be conducted by undergraduate students in Chai's Assessment of Young Children birth to 8-year-old class and is a collaborative effort between the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders and the NMSU School for Young Children.

"This is a great opportunity for the students to practice what they have been trained, and a great opportunity for them to do something for their community," Chai said.

For more information contact Chai at 646-5971.

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Celebrating art at the Southwest Jewish Art Festival

Photos by Steve MacIntyre

Local artists Linda Sanchez and Sylvia Bowers mingle Saturday, March 9, during the Southwest Jewish Arts Festival held by Temple Beth-El.



Sanchez holds a piece of her work on display during the annual art festival, which featured work from 44 artists.



Rabbi Larry Karol guides a prayer during a Havdalah Ceremony, which ends the Jewish Sabbath.

New Mexico gets new United Methodist bishop

First order of business: getting to know his new state

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin



Bishop Earl Bledsoe

The ringing in of the New Year marked not only the beginning of 2013, but also a change to the United Methodist Church Northwest Texas/New Mexico Episcopal Area: a new bishop.

At the beginning of January, Bishop Earl Bledsoe and his wife, Leslie, made New Mexico their new home when the couple moved to Albuquerque after his assignment with the North Texas Conference.

"It's a totally different area," said Bledsoe, a Texas native. "New Mexico is a whole new state to me."

Bledsoe said he "received the call" in the 1970s after he thought he wanted to be a teacher.

"I did my student teaching and hated it," he said, adding that he went to seminary at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, where he received a master's degree in divinity before earning his Doctor of Ministry from Drew University in New Jersey.

He served throughout Texas, and was superintendent of the Bryan/West District.

Bledsoe said he was excited to take over as bishop of the Northwest Texas/New Mexico Episcopal Area, adding that he likes the mountains and the friendly people.

"New Mexico has some of the most hospitable churches I've ever been to," he said.

While the area is new to him, he has already become aware of some issues facing the district.

He said throughout the country, numbers in the United Methodist Church are declining.

"And New Mexico is no different than any other state," he said, adding that there are several bright spots where churches in areas such as Clovis and Sacramento, N.M., are able to reach out to the community. "There are churches making changes. It's been a privilege to visit some of these churches and see how they're reaching out to the community. It's not a broad brush stroke.

"Part of it is we get into 'tradition' and forget to share the good news of the Gospel and Christ and welcome new people in."

He added that another cause of the declining numbers is the lack of young members becoming involved with the church.

"We need young people to take a place in the church," he said.

While the Northwest Texas/New Mexico Episcopal Area is a smaller conference, Bledsoe said this is a strength, and encourages congregants to focus on what they have and not on what they don't have.

"Jesus chose 12, not a thousand,

and they changed the world," he said. "There is something to be said about being small."

Bledsoe said he has a full schedule in front of him with two conferences – in New Mexico and northwest Texas – ahead of him. He added that he plans to visit churches throughout the state during his first year in his new position.

"One major goal for this first year is relationship building and getting to know people – that's goal No. 1," he said.

During his second year, he said, he will take what he learned and develop priorities for the conference.

"I'm sensitive to people who may not have a voice and are shut out of the decision-making process," he said. "I know people have different ideas on how to move forward."

With a lot on his plate already, Bledsoe said he is eager to get going and make the area his new home.

"We're really excited to be here," he said, adding that Leslie, who lost her sight 12 years ago, also is eager to conduct her ministry in the state. "Her ministry is a different type than mine."

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SPRING ENCHILADA SUPPER

The Music Ministry of St. Paul's United Methodist Church will hold its Spring Enchilada Supper from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 15, in the church fellowship hall at 225 W. Griggs Ave. The menu includes red enchiladas – and an egg on top, if you like – or chicken potpie, along with slaw, beans, roll and dessert. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for ages 12 and under. Eat-in or take-out are available.

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

The Hope and Care Ministry of Sonoma Springs Church will hold its annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the church, 3940 Sonoma Spring Ave. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 10 and younger. To-go dinners will be available. For more information, call the church at 526-4907, Judy at 523-6528 or Roxann at 373-0138.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

The University United Methodist Men will host its second annual St. Patrick's Day dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at the church, 2000 S. Locust St. This will be a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner. Tickets are \$9 in advance at the church office, \$10 at the door. Children younger than 12 are free. All proceeds will go to the group's mission projects.

LENT AT MISSION LUTHERAN

Mission Lutheran Church and School, 2752 Roadrunner Parkway, will hold the Jonah Survivor Series at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. with a fellowship soup supper at 5:15 p.m. Wednesdays through the Lenten season. Sundays during Lent, discovery of the prayer that Jesus taught will be held at 9 a.m. For more information, call 522-0465.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Holy Family Ecumenical Catholic Church, 702 Parker Road, will hold the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. Fridays as part of its Lenten services. For more information, call 644-5025.

LENT AT PEACE LUTERAN

Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave., will hold soup suppers and evening services beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesdays throughout the Lenten season. The last service will be March 20. For more information, call 522-7119.

SALT & LIGHT COMPANY

The Salt & Light Company Children's Ministry begins at

4 p.m. Wednesdays at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Boutz Road, for children in kindergarten through high school. Dinner will be served.

ECUMENICAL TAIZE SERVICE

Peace Lutheran Church, First Christian and Holy Family Ecumenical Catholic Church will sponsor a Taize Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave. For more information, call 522-7119.

HOLY WEEK RETREAT

The 2013 Holy Week Retreat for World Peace will take place March 20-30 at Holy Cross Retreat Center, 600 Holy Cross Road. Author Wayne Weible will speak at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 23-24, for a \$20 donation. The registration fee is \$250. To register or make a payment, call Tillie at 915-309-4837 or Joe at 649-0356.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

"Personality Types and Four Spiritualities" meets from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23, in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces library, 2000 S. Solano Drive. In this workshop, we will explore how personality types lead people to choose different spiritual paths. Registration is \$15 and class is limit to 60 participants.

ECKANKAR EVENT

Eckankar, the Light and Sound of God, will hold a free discussion from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 23, at Ramada Palms Hotel and Conference Center, 201 E. University Ave. The topic will be "Finding the Love In all Things."

EASTER MUSICAL

The Las Cruces branches of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will have an Easter Musical at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 24, at 3210 Venus St. For more information, call 496-2036.

HOLY WEEK AT EL CALVARIO

El Calvario United Methodist Church, 300 N. Campo St., invites the public to Holy Week services, including: Foot Washing and open Communion, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28; The Seven Sayings from the Cross, 3 p.m. Friday, March 29; and "The Passion of the Christ," showing 5 p.m. Saturday, March 30. For more information, call 647-4910.

EASTER EVENTS AT SONOMA SPRINGS

Sonoma Springs Church, 3940 Sonoma Springs Ave., will hold the following Easter events: Palm Sunday worship with a traditional service at 8 a.m. and a contemporary service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday,

March 24; Seder dinner at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, reservations are required; Easter Sunday worship with a traditional service at 8 a.m. and a contemporary service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, March 31; and a healing service at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 14. For more information, call 526-4907.

PEACEFUL GOOD FRIDAY

Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave., will hold a peace program on non-violence conflict resolution for grades four through eight from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Good Friday, March 29. Pre-registration is required and lunch will be provided. For more information, call 522-7119.

EASTER CELEBRATION CONCERT

The New Mexico State University Choir and gospel recording artist Rosalind Jones will join the New Heights Faith Community during the Easter Celebration concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. This is a free event. For more information, contact Rev. Joe Whitley at 202-9908 or pastorjoe@newheightsfaith.org.

LC FIRST SATURDAY SERVICE

Las Cruces First, 5605 Bataan Memorial West, will begin holding services at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays to accommodate those who can't attend Sunday morning service. The Saturday services offer a casual and inviting setting with great worship, a timely message from the Lord and refreshments and fellowship at the end of every service. For more information, call 524-0654 or visit www.lascrucesfirst.org.

OPEN SPIRITUAL GROUP

The Association for Research and Enlightenment (ARE) Edgar Cayce Studies and General Spiritual Group hold group meetings from 10 a.m. to noon the first Sunday of each month. The meetings are hosted by local chapter leader Linda Aragon and are open to the public. Anyone seeking spiritual study, knowledge and awareness is encouraged to attend. For more information and location, call Aragon 382-6400.

GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

If you've lost someone close to you or know someone who has, Grief Share is a special weekly support group held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at the Morning Star United Methodist Church, 2941 Morning Star Drive, Room 105. At Grief Share you will learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. Each session stands alone. For more

DEADLINE FOR CHURCH NEWS

Items for the Church News section are due the Friday before it will be published. Entries must include: name of event, time, date, location with address, a short description, cost and contact information. Entries and questions can be emailed to beth@lascrucesbulletin.com.

information or to register, call the church office at 521-3770. Jackie Sledge at 915-525-2575 or Jim Maxon at 532-9699.

YEAR OF FAITH SERIES

Holy Cross Catholic Church Community will hold its "Credo – I believe" Year of Faith series from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays in the gathering space, 1327 N. Miranda St. Msgr. John Anderson will lead discussion on praying the Apostles Creed. Bring your Bible, a copy of the Catechism of the Catholic church (available for a small donation) and any "goodies" you'd like to share. There is no charge, but registration is required. For more information, call 523-0167.

PEACE LUTHERAN PRAYER GROUPS

Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave., offers two prayer groups. A centering prayer group meets weekly at 8 a.m. Saturdays for 20 to 30 minutes. Gathering for Prayer meets Monday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 522-7119.

MEN'S CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Catholic men are invited to attend a men's Catholic fellowship breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. the second Saturday of the month at Delicia's del Mar, 1401 El Paseo Road. The monthly gathering is an opportunity for men to fellowship with other Catholic men and renew themselves spiritually. The time will consist of praise and worship, teaching on male spirituality, fellowship and breakfast. The fellowship is sponsored by the Cathedral of Immaculate Heart of Mary in collaboration with other Mesilla Valley Catholic parishes. The cost of the breakfast is \$5. For more information, call 524-8563.

GOOD NEWS THRIFT STORE

The Good News Thrift Store, 144 Wyatt St., is now accepting donations, which are tax deductible. Free pick up is available. The store, which helps women after they leave prison, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 649-2922.

Senior

Continued from page D9

works.

Approximately 3,500 people attended last year's event, which is meant to be a tool for seniors, local or recent transplants, who may not be aware of all the services and resources available to them in the area, said Stan Blitz, marketing director.

"A lot of people come to Las Cruces from a big city and are accustomed to certain services and they might not know we have those types of services," Blitz said.

From 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 23, there will be a Second Chance Prom that will continue on with the '60s theme and live music – Oldies But Goodies. The prom is open to anyone of all ages who would like to attend. It is \$15 per person or \$25 a couple to attend.

"Las Cruces is a growing retirement community," Whelpley said. "(The event) celebrates active aging. Our expo is intended for the senior who still has a lot of life and ideas. Seniors have a lot to offer this community."

Walk

Continued from page D9

per year to live with the disease, said Schold.

MS is a disease of the central nervous system, explained Phillips. It can affect the brain or spinal cord.

"Your white blood cells get confused and think they're suppose to attack the myelin – the covering of the nerve," Phillips said.

Still, MS affects each individual differently. There are different levels of MS. The worst-case scenario is optic neuritis or paralysis.

"It is the No. 1 disabling disease of young adults in the country," Schold said.

Which is why it is important that people become educated about the disease.

"NMSS provides programs and services to people with MS," Schold said. "We provide professional education not only to doctors, but anyone who comes in contact with anyone with MS. We advocate for anyone with MS."

Approximately 150 people participated in the walk last year to help get the word out about the cause.

Walk MS and NMSS are encouraging friends, families and coworkers of

all ages to get involved and register early with enough time to raise money for the cause. The average participant raises \$225. Fundraising prizes are awarded and begin at the \$100 level.

There are three routes participants can choose from a 1-mile, 2.5-mile or 5-mile route that will begin and end at Young Park. Leashed pets are welcome to join the walk.

There will be complementary food and entertainment before and after the event.

Registration is free.

For more information, visit www.walkms.org or www.nationalmssociety.org.

Details

Southwest Senior Lifestyle Expo

When

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 22-23

Where

Las Cruces Convention Center
680 E. University Ave.

Cost

\$3

Contact

- www.southwestseniorexpo.com
- 642-8888



Dharmahorse photo

Majic the Foxtrotter, with Jerry Crenshaw, is "releasing" after a massage, showing us his nice teeth.

Horse

Continued from page D9

are "blind" wolf teeth that are beneath the gums or erupt sideways. These require extraction by the veterinarian.

Short, white teeth, aiming pretty much up and down are the teeth of a young horse. Elongated, dingy colored teeth aiming forward are an older horse's profile. The teeth are vital to the horse's well being.

Katharine Chrisley is a lifelong horsewoman, equine specialist, instructor and trainer who owns and operates Dharmahorse – a company based upon simple training methods and natural healing for horses and the people who love them. Her "Stable Women Program" connects women and horses. Chrisley maintains an Herbal Stable Yard and teaches Horse Whispering on the Organ Mountains. For more information, visit www.dharmahorse.org.

Taking steps to curb child obesity

Health department funding healthy school-based programs

More than 14 percent of kindergarteners and about 21 percent of third-graders in New Mexico were obese in 2012.

That's just one of the statistics released by the New Mexico Department of Health about childhood obesity rates in the state.

"The Weight of Our Children" 2012 update released by New Mexico Department of Health coincides with National Nutrition Month. Data collected by the Department of Health for three years shows a troubling trend: a significant increase in childhood obesity between kindergarten and third grade.

"Parents, family members, teachers and community members need to continue to work collaboratively to encourage children to eat healthy and be active. It's a lifestyle change we all need to work on together," said Department of Health Secretary-Designate Retta Ward. "We need to set better examples by eating more fruits and vegetables and getting off the couch and being active, whether it's playing a sport or just getting out to a playground."

Childhood obesity increases the risk of type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and other precursors to heart disease. Children who adopt healthy habits early may reduce their likelihood of developing chronic diseases as adults.

Families across the United States are eating out more than ever, according to new information released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The average American eats away from home four times a week and studies show that can translate to putting on an extra eight pounds per year. Research shows that the money spent on food away from home in the United States has increased from 26 percent in 1960 to 49 percent in 2011. Food cooked at home tends to be cheaper and healthier. One way to avoid eating out is to cook extra food so you can eat leftovers.

The department of health is also targeting prevention strategies through a federally funded community transformation grant in 10 counties and four tribal communities with Healthy Kids New Mexico. The counties include: Chaves, Cibola, Curry, Doña Ana, Guadalupe, Lea, Luna, McKinley, Rio Arriba and Socorro. The tribal communities include: Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Mescalero and Zuni.

Communities were selected based on a number of factors including population, health status, poverty status, racial and ethnic diversity and readiness to implement prevention programs. Healthy Kids New Mexico includes partnerships with state agencies such as Children, Youth and Families and Public Education and local schools, municipalities and community organizations that combine and create programs to give kids

what they need to eat well, learn, play and live fully.

"Part of the solution to reducing childhood obesity is environmental change. We want children to be active, but they need a place where they can play safely outside. We want children to eat healthier, but we need to make sure they have access to healthier food," Ward said.

Through Healthy Kids New Mexico, some communities and school districts have implemented a number of programs to increase healthy eating and living. Changes include:

- Purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables for school meals through the Farm to School cafeteria program (Chama, Socorro, Belen, Bernalillo, Clovis, Taos).
- Conducting fruit and vegetable tastings in the cafeteria (Grants) and in the classroom (Las Cruces).
- Increasing access to affordable and fresh fruits and vegetables in rural communities through the Bountiful Baskets program (Chaves County).
- Establishing community and school gardens.
- Training High School Culinary Program students to teach cooking classes to elementary school students (Hatch).
- Training middle school students to teach elementary students how to plant, maintain and harvest a school garden (Hatch).
- Establishing a walking trail along the Tularosa Creek in the center of the Mescalero Apache community.
- Establishing walking and biking routes from neighborhoods to schools so more students can participate in walking and biking to school (Las Cruces, Socorro, Grants, Gallup, Deming).

In September 2012, Gov. Susana Martinez announced the Department's 5-2-1-O Challenge as a Centennial Project for all third-graders. The New Mexico Centennial Healthy Kids 5-2-1-O Challenge encourages healthy eating and plenty of physical activity. Students are challenged to do the following for 21 days, the amount of time it takes to change eating and exercise habits:

- **5:** Eat five fruits and vegetables every day.
- **2:** Limit TV and computer use to two hours a day, and use the extra time reading books or learning new hobbies.
- **1:** Get at least one hour of physical activity a day.
- **O:** Drink plenty of H₂O every day.

Results of the challenge are expected to be available in late Spring 2013.

"The Weight of Our Children" 2012 update can be found online at <http://healthykidsnm.org/resources/NMDOH-HKNM-About-2012-NMChildhoodObesityUpdate.pdf>

March is _____ Month

American Red Cross • Brain Injury Awareness • Hemophilia • National Colorectal Awareness • National Developmental Disabilities Awareness • National Eye Donor • National Kidney • National Nutrition • National Poison Prevention • National Professional Social Work • Save Your Vision • Workplace Eye Health and Safety • National Athletic Trainers

Week

17-23 National Poison Prevention
18-23 National Youth Violence Prevention

Day

20 National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness
21 Companies that Care
22 World Water

F.Y.I.

This act of Congress was signed into law on Sept. 16, 1961, by President John F. Kennedy, after which the Poison Prevention Week Council was organized to coordinate this annual event. Congress intended this event as a means for local communities to raise awareness of the dangers of unintentional poisonings and to take such preventive measures as the dangers warrant.

There are two basic themes of Poison Prevention Week: "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons!" and "Poisoning Spans a Lifetime." Parents must always be watchful when household chemicals or drugs are being used. Many incidents happen when adults are using a product but are distracted (for example, by the telephone or the doorbell) for a few moments. Children act fast, and adults must make sure that household chemicals and medicines are stored away from children at all times. If you think someone has been poisoned, call 1-800-222-1222 to reach your poison control center. This national toll-free number works from any place in the U.S. 24 hours a day.

Sources: www.nationalwellness.org, www.poisonprevention.org

Healthy Happenings



TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 381

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 381 is open to new members of all ages at its Thursday morning meetings, which start with a private weigh-in from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Weigh-ins are followed by group discussions of weight loss, dietary help and nutrition. The group meets at Trails West Senior Community Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, in the main room. For more information, call 523-6240.

TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 219

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 219 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays. This support group assists members in achieving and maintaining healthy weight loss goals. For location information, call Doris Fields at 524-7461.

ART OF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

Art of Recovery, a support group for adults in recovery from mental illness, meets from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at The Bridge, 2511 Chaparral St.

The group matches those in need of support with volunteers to help build bonds, share experiences and create arts and crafts to sell in a supportive environment.

For more information, call Kathy or David at 522-6404 or email bridge@nmsu.edu.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step spiritual program for those with a desire to stop eating compulsively. There are no fees. The program meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive. Enter through the back door.

Overeaters Anonymous is also offered at noon each Wednesday at St. James Episcopal Church, 105 Saint James St.

For more information, call Wayne at 647-5684.

GLBTQ CENTER OFFERS SUPPORT

The Las Cruces GLBTQ Center, 1210 N. Main St., provides a variety of groups and services for Las Cruces' gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning community.

For more information, call 635-4902, email info@newmexicoglbtqcenters.org or visit www.newmexicoglbtqcenters.org.

FYI HOSTS NEEDLE EXCHANGE

The Families & Youth Inc. Needle Exchange Program, located at 1320 S. Solano Drive, seeks to reduce HIV and hepatitis C by decreasing the circulation of unclean syringes and helps drug users overcome addiction by providing free information on available drug-treatment services.

The office is open from

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. The service is confidential and no appointments are needed. For more information, call Stefano at 556-1549.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP

A Las Cruces HIV Support Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center, 1210 N. Main St. The group offers advocacy and support for those infected with or affected by the HIV virus, and focuses on the rebuilding of community, outreach, education, self-advocacy and wellness.

For more information, call Seth at 621-0681.

BRAIN INJURY GROUP

The Brain Injury Group meets from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Friday at the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority, 926 S. San Pedro St. Each meeting features games, movies, artwork, music, books, puzzles, coffee and conversation. For more information, call Dolores Garcia at 805-1301.

HATHA YOGA AT PEACE LUTHERAN

Hatha Yoga classes for beginners are held at 5:30 p.m. Mondays and noon Fridays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Classes are taught by Shoshana, a certified instructor. The class is gentle and non-competitive. Donations are accepted. Attendees are asked to bring a mat or blanket.

For more information, call 522-7119.

T'AI CHI CHIH AT MOUNTAINVIEW

T'ai Chi Chih sessions taught by Rose J. Alvarez-Diosdado are from 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays at MountainView Medical Plaza, 4351 E. Lohman Ave., Suite 404. Classes are free to Senior Circle and Healthy Women members, or \$2 for non-members.

Free classes are also available to Senior Circle and Healthy Women members from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at Encantada Park, 1000 Coyote Trail.

For more information, call 312-8320 or email rositaad4@gmail.com.

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS

Adult Children of Alcoholics/Co-Dependents Anonymous meets at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Arid Club, 334 W. Griggs Ave. The one-hour meetings are intended to help those raised in alcoholic or dysfunctional family situations deal with their issues and move on to a healthier, happier life through a 12-step program.

For more information, call 647-5684.

YOGA CLASSES BENEFIT JARDIN

Karen Nichols is offering 90-minute yoga classes for adults and upper teens at 6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Donations in excess of space rental benefit Jardín de los Niños. Participants should bring a yoga mat and any props they may need. Classes are suitable for all levels of experience. For more information, email Nichols at karen_f_n@yahoo.com or leave a message at 882-4943.

YOGA CLASSES BY BETH LEBLANC

Mixed gentle yoga sessions for men and women – with and without chairs – are taught by Beth LeBlanc from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

Laughter yoga sessions by Le Blanc are taught from 9 to 10 a.m. Thursdays.

Both classes are at MountainView Regional Medical Center, 4311 E. Lohman Ave., in the Women's Resource Room, and are free to Senior Circle and Healthy Women members. For others, a \$2 donation is requested.

Yoga sessions are available from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Fridays at Encantada Park, 1000 Coyote Trail. Classes are also available at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. Thursdays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave. Donations are accepted.

For more information, call 522-0011 or 640-7614.

YOGA CLASSES AT UU METHODIST

Olivia Solomon is offering yoga classes for all levels from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Thursdays at the University United Methodist Church, 2000 S. Locust St. For more information, contact Solomon at 522-5350 or wildyoga@yahoo.com.

TAIJI QIGONG DANCE

Mei Ling Po McKay is offering a slow and relaxed moving meditation exercise with gentle elements of dance from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Fridays at My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Classes are \$4. Classes are suitable for all levels of experience.

For more information, email McKay at harmeizianet.com or call 382-8978.

TRAINING FOR ALZHEIMER'S CARE

Family and caregivers of people with Alzheimer's can receive free training in late-stage Alzheimer's care from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, March 15, at the Alzheimer's Association, 1121 Mall Drive, Suite C. The session will detail Alzheimer's disease characteristics and progression, while delivering practical tools for caring for people in the final stages of the disease. No reservations are necessary.

For more information, contact 647-3868 or msiderisdorame@alz.org.

SILENT MEDITATION

Anyone interested may participate in 30 minutes of silent meditation at 5 p.m. each Tuesday at the Las Cruces Friends Meetinghouse, 622 N. Mesquite St. There is not cost to attend.

For more information, call Laura Solberg, at 526-1853.

CITY RECREATION SCHEDULE

The following classes are at Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave. For more information, call 541-2782:

- **Yoga:** 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays
- **Aquatic Fitness:** 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays through Fridays; 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays; 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Saturdays; and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Circuit Training:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Aqua Zumba:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Aqua Fit:** 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays; 10 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Safe and Gentle Cardio:** 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays
- **Aquatic Fitness:** 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Cardio Core & More Basic:** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays
- **Super Seniors Water Aerobics:** 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

• **Lunch Break Yoga:** Noon to 12:50 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

• **Tai Chi:** 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

• **Indoor Cycle:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays

• **Zumba:** 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

The following classes are at Meerschiedt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. For more information, call 541-2653:

• **Aerobics:** 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

• **Pickleball:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

• **Pilates:** 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

The following class is at Benavidez Recreation Center, 1045 McClure Road. For more information, call 541-2550:

• **Zumba:** 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

The following classes are at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. For more information, call 528-3000:

• **Enhance Fitness:** 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

• **Tai Chi:** 3 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

TAI CHI FOR BETTER BALANCE

"Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance" classes are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday in the auditorium at the Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.

The program includes 24 Tai Chi forms that emphasize weight shifting, postural improvements and better balance. Each session includes new techniques, as well as

an overview of techniques used in previous sessions. The class is free and open to the public. Older adults who have suffered a fall or are at risk of falling are encouraged to attend. Attendees should wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Phillip Catanach at 541-2550 or pccatanach@las-cruces.org.

COMPASSION & CHOICES

Compassion & Choices Las Cruces will meet from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., in the Roadrunner Room. Dr. W. Terrence Meyer will present "Quality of Function as a Guide to Advance Health Care Decisions." The meeting is open to the public. For more information, contact Judith Scott at 527-8432 or jnaomiscott@comcast.net.

SNM DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach will hold its monthly Diabetes Educational Support Group meeting from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Thursday, March 21, at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., in Meeting Room 3. The meeting will provide open discussion, a short teaching and a question-and-answer period. The event is free and no pre-registration is required. The meeting is intended for those informed they have diabetes, family and friends of those with diabetes and all who are interested.

For more information, contact the Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach at 522-0289, snmdo@snmdo.org or visit www.snmdo.org.

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Pets and People



Tenets of responsible pet ownership

Dogs and cats have similar needs



Jake Sims
Pet Connection

Owning pets is both a source of great pleasure and responsibility.

There are many similarities between being a guardian for a pet and the role of parenting. Responsible pet ownership means a commitment for the life of the animal.

Responsible ownership is built on a foundation of respect for a pet's traits, needs and recognizing that a pet is not an inanimate object void of feelings and sensitivity.

One study by a biologist at the University of Texas at Austin found dogs to be fairly emotionally complex, with four specific areas of personality: competence, emotional stability, affection and sociability.

Interestingly, these components are very similar to the categories of human personality. A significant characteristic of a dog is its highly developed pack instinct; meaning, a responsible owner should not isolate or restrict contact with other dogs and humans.

As with dogs, a cat's social nature can also be quite complex. This is accentuated by their

natural inclination to be independent and solitary. Cats like to rule their own lives and are guided more by their own interests than by group pressures.

This does not mean cats are anti-social; they are very adaptable and affectionate. Cats also show emotional capacity for happiness, stress, anxiety, grief and sense of loss. Many empirical observations validate the intensity of a cat's emotions in circumstances such as the loss of a close human or animal companion or being in a different environment.

The duty of pet care is based on the internationally recognized Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare:

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst:** Provide access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
- **Freedom from discomfort:** Provide the appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from pain, injury or disease:** Prevent by rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to express normal behavior:** Provide sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
- **Freedom from fear and distress:** Ensure conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering.

The following are simple guidelines that outline the practical elements of responsible pet ownership:

- Owning a pet is a lifetime commitment. If you can't make the commitment, don't get

- a pet.
- Choose a pet that fits your lifestyle. Don't get a highly energetic dog if you don't have time to exercise it. If you can't afford grooming or can't do it yourself, pick a low-maintenance pet.
- Spay or neuter your pets. There are too many homeless pets killed every day – don't add to the tragedy.
- Don't make your dog a "backyard dog" or chained dog. Dogs thrive on companionship.
- Be aware of weather conditions. Leaving a pet in the car on a hot day or in the yard without shade or water risks its life.
- Make sure your home is pet safe. Pesticides, medications, household cleaners and some houseplants (dieffenbachia, philodendron, hyacinth and mistletoe) can be deadly to your pet. Keep them out of reach.
- Provide veterinary care for your pet. Keep vaccinations up to date and schedule annual checkups.
- Have pets micro-chipped and place identification tags on the collar. It could mean the difference between safely returning home or dying.
- Obedience train and socialize your pet.
- Don't let your pets run loose. Dogs should be walked on leashes. Any outdoor play should be secure in a fenced area – cat fencing is also available. An outdoor, free-roaming cat's average lifespan is three years; an indoor cat's average lifespan is 14 years.
- Provide your pet the proper diet. Obesity can be as deadly as malnutrition. Be aware that some foods can be deadly, such as chocolate and fatty foods can cause pancreatitis.
- Make sure your pet gets the proper amount of exercise.
- Take precautions during holidays. The Fourth of July can be the scariest time of year for pets, so make sure pets are secure. Halloween is another holiday to keep pets safely indoors or in a secure area.
- Take special care of your pets during their senior years.
- Most importantly, be kind to your pet and shower them with love and attention. Remember, you are their world.

Jake Sims is the facilitator for Animal Welfare And Responsibility Education (AWARE). He is passionate about educating the public on animal welfare and lowering euthanization rates in Doña Ana County. Sims is a volunteer with the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley and part of the center's strategic planning committee. He is also part of the county's animal ordinances review committee. Sims can be reached at info@awaredac.com.

Animal Resources

ACTION Programs for Animals
P.O. Box 125
Las Cruces, NM 88004
644-0505
actionprogramsforanimals@yahoo.com
www.actionprogramsforanimals.org

Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley
3351 Bataan Memorial West
Las Cruces, NM 88012
382-0018
www.ascmv.org

Animal Welfare And Responsibility Education
2292 Divot St.
Las Cruces 88001
644-5692
info@awaredac.com

Doña Ana County Humane Society
P.O. Box 1176
Las Cruces, NM 88006
647-4808
www.donaanacountyhumanesocietyinc.org

New Mexico State University Feral Cat Management Program
P.O. Box 3912
Las Cruces, NM 88003
639-3036
fcamp@nmsu.edu
www.nmsu.edu/~fcamp

Humane Society of Southern New Mexico
P.O. Box 13826
Las Cruces, NM 88013
523-8020
mail@hssnm.org
www.hssnm.org

Las Cruces Dog Park Coalition
P.O. Box 13345
Las Cruces, NM 88013
525-8694

Pet Help Line
Operated by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico
523-8020

Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary
840-D El Paseo Road
Las Cruces, NM 88001
527-4544
safehaven@nightfury.com
www.safehavenanimalsanctuary.net

Spay Neuter Action Program (SNAP)
2405 W. Picacho Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88005
524-9265
www.snapnewmexico.org

Missing cat from Germany



The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV) has taken in a female Persian seal point cat that was found the morning of Saturday, March 9, near the intersection of El Camino Real and North Main Street. A scan of the cat showed she has a microchip that traces back to a military facility in Spangdahlem, Germany. Shelter officials are hoping the public might recognize the cat, or know of a family that recently relocated to the Las Cruces area from Germany. If anyone has information on the cat's owners or knows where they can be located, call the ASCMV at 382-0018, or stop by the shelter offices, 3551 Bataan Memorial West.

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Pets and People



SNAP takes action to help owners

Working to avoid shelter over population

By **Lorena Sanchez**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Since its start in 2001, Spay Action Neuter Program (SNAP) has assisted in the spaying and neutering of approximately 11,000 animals – cats, dogs and rabbits.

The purpose of the nonprofit is to assist low-income individuals by covering the expense to have their pets spayed or neutered.

“We turn no one away,” said Janice English, SNAP co-director. “The only crime these animals committed was being born.”

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley has one of the highest intake rates in the nation, but is working with a very small budget, English said.

“This organization helps the whole of Doña Ana County,” English said. “We work in the north and south valleys and East Mesa, city and county.”

Ten veterinarians in the community work with SNAP to provide low-cost spay and neuters to those who can't afford it.

To apply for low-cost spay or neuter, sign up at the SNAP office, 2405 W. Picacho Ave., Suite 103, or fill out an application and mail it in. The cost of the procedure through SNAP is \$25 for cats, \$35 for dogs. If the procedure is done through the shelter, the cost is \$15 for

cats \$25 for dogs.

SNAP will then send a voucher for the procedure with one of the 10 veterinarians who work with the organization.

“We don't turn anyone away who can't pay,” English said. “We'll then subsidize the co-pay.”

There are several messages organization officials would like to get out to the community to help curb the pet overpopulation.

“Please be responsible and don't litter,” said Julie Miller, co-director of SNAP.

People are unaware that there is help available, and SNAP offers the help most people need to reduce the pet population, said Sherry Gara, SNAP president, which is why the organization was started.

“We also wanted to educate people on why it's important to take care of their animals,” English said.

To put things into perspective, for those who may not think pet overpopulation in the shelter affects them, Miller said taxpayers foot the bill.

“Taxpayers pay to kill these animals,” Miller said. “All costs associated with euthanization including paperwork is \$250 per animal.”

Approximately 390 animals were euthanized in January. SNAP along with other animal advocate organizations in the community, is working toward a

no-kill community to eliminate the extra expense and save lives. SNAP's role is to offer a low-cost option for those who can't afford the added expense and help reduce the pet over population.

SNAP operates on donations, fundraisers, volunteers and grants, Gara said.

“When the economy is bad and our donations are down, we've had to put people on waiting lists,” English said. “There is also a lack of volunteers, especially bilingual ones.”

Any assistance is appreciated.



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Lorena Sanchez

Janice English, Julie Miller, Bella and Sherry Gara of the Spay Neuter Action Program work to reduce over population in the shelter that results in the euthanization of thousands of animals each year.

Details

Spay Neuter Action Program (SNAP)

Address

2405 W. Picacho Ave., Suite 103

Phone

524-9265

Hours

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday to Friday

Pet fun facts

Reptiles

- Iguanas are able to hold their breath for up to 30 minutes.
- A garter snake can give birth to 85 babies.
- There are more than 8,000 species of reptiles on the planet that live on every continent, except Antarctica where it's too cold.
- “Cold-blooded” is not the best way to describe reptiles. Their blood is not necessarily cold by itself. Reptiles are ectothermic, which means they get their body heat from external sources. Reptiles cannot regulate their body temperature internally as humans do.
- Reptiles are among the longest-lived species on the planet. Large tortoises, such as the Aldabra tortoise, can live for more than 150 years. Alligators can live nearly 70 years. Ball pythons, a popular type of pet snake, can live up to 40 years – something to consider before getting one as a pet.
- Most of the world's snakes – nearly two-thirds – are non-venomous. Only about 500 snake species are venomous, and of those, only 30 to 40 are considered harmful to humans. In other words, less than 2 percent of all snakes are considered harmful to humans. The opposite is true in Australia where there are actually more venomous snakes than non-venomous snakes. Australia is the only continent where venomous snakes outnumber non-venomous snakes.
- It is a fact that more Americans die each year from bee stings than from snake bites.
- The scales of all snakes – and many lizard species – are made of keratin, which is the same substance that makes up the hair and fingernails of humans.
- Snakes shed their skin in relation to their growth rate. A young snake will shed more often because it typically grows fastest during the first two years of its life. An older snake will shed less often as its rate of growth slows.

Source: www.animalleague.org, www.reptileknowledge.com

Pet briefs

APA/DAPA! rummage sale

ACTion Programs for Animals (APA) and Doña Ana Pets Alive! (DAPA!) are holding a rummage sale from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 16, at the organization's pet food bank, 901 Piñon St. There will be a wide variety of household goods, electronic equipment, collectibles and art items for sale. Proceeds from the sale go to APA/DAPA! programs and services, which work toward a no-kill community.

For more information, contact Michel Meunier at 644-0505 or actionprogramsforanimals@yahoo.com

Equine fair set for March 23

The 2013 Red Sky Farm Hunter Jumpers and Dharmahorse Natural Horse Support Center are hosting “An Equine aFair” from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at 7440 Arroyo Seco.

There will be demonstrations in equine massage, red light therapy, Reiki, groundwork for riding, jumping exercises, a tack sale and more. Items for the sale will be accepted through Thursday, March 21. Booths are still available. Products featured at the fair include items for horses, woodworking and jewelry. Admission is \$5 at the door – there are door prizes. This is an opportunity for area horsemen and horsewomen to meet, exchange information and immerse themselves in all things equine.

For more information, call 541-0137.

Readings for Feedings Pet Food Donation Drive

Volunteers will be doing Tarot readings, runes readings, dowsing (pendulum work) and more from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, March 23 and March 30, at 1980 E. Lohman Ave., Suite E. People are asked to bring 35 pound. of dry dog food or a large bag of dry cat food for a free reading. All the pet food collected will be donated to the ACTion Programs for Animals (APA) pet food bank and their Doña Ana Pets Alive! rescue dogs and cats. There will also be a donation jar for

collections in honor of Little Bear, a puppy saved with 20 others in December 2012 from the Sundland Park landfill. Little Bear needs a hernia operation, so any monetary donations will go toward his surgery.

Doña Ana Pets Alive! monthly doggie date

Join ACTion Programs for Animals (APA) one evening per month at Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. in the Roadrunner Room, to learn about Doña Ana Pets Alive! (DAPA!) campaign.

DAPA! is a goal-based effort working toward making Las Cruces and Doña Ana County the first community in New Mexico to reach a no-kill status. Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the last Thursday of every month beginning Thursday, March 21. Meetings will open with a short introduction followed by an informal forum for instruction, a question-and-answer session and additional information on how to become more active in the campaign. Help stop the needless killing of more than 8,000 pets in the community each year.

For more information, contact Michel Meunier at 644-0505 or actionprogramsforanimals@yahoo.com.

ASCMV donation and volunteer requests

Donations of dog crates, dog treats (with no red dyes), collars, leashes, towels and igloos are needed for the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley, 3551 Bataan Memorial West. Donations can be made during regular business hours, from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday or noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, or left at the door if closed.

Volunteers are needed at the shelter for dog walking, off-site adoption events, outreach programs and more.

A few hours a month is all it requires. For more information, call 381-0018 or visit the shelter.

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Deliciously artistic skills showcased at *Cakes for a Cause*

Photos by Steve MacIntyre

Stephanie Baumann of Let Them Eat Cake and Lindsay Weekheiser of Create a Cake act as judges at the 2013 Cakes for a Cause Saturday, March 9, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. The event benefits the March of Dimes' March for Babies.



Ryan Bradshaw, 7, enjoys a cupcake during the event. This year's theme for the cake decorations was "The Wild West."

Tony Naranjo looks at a cake by Samantha Howard.



A cake by Colleen Barela had a sign that read "Babies R Us" incorporating the March of Dimes cause with the Wild West theme.



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