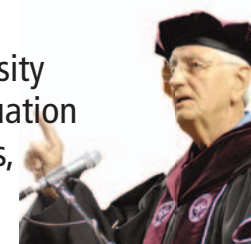




**Last Minute
Gift Guide**
Inside

THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin

New Mexico
State University
winter graduation
full of events,
A10



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LOCAL NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SINCE 1969 • WWW.LASCRCESBULLETIN.COM • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013

VOLUME 45 • NUMBER 48

Brown takes county helm

New manager says she's listening a lot

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

In her official public debut Monday, Dec. 9, new Doña Ana County Manager Julia Brown said she will spend the next few weeks listening to an array of the area's officials and residents to hear their ideas for what county government should be doing.

The county government is tapping \$15 million from savings to keep its budget balanced, so the county will need to find more efficiencies in services provided as well as possibly raise revenue, Brown said.

Before a plan of action is begun to avoid having to lean on reserves in the future, Brown said it is important for her to hear from as many people as possible, including employees.

"You will find that I'm a person who doesn't like to be cloistered," Brown said. "I like to be in the trenches and know the people working there."

A woman with a long and accomplished career, Brown said she chose to move to Doña Ana County a year ago after researching it thoroughly and finding the area to have a variety of attractions and great potential.

Stressing the budget, however, is that a lot of the area's economic development potential hinges on the future success of efforts such as the rail-yard/port-of-entry complex in the southern county and Spaceport America just outside of the county's northern boundary.

Brown said she is supporter of the spaceport and one of the main actions taken in a County Commission meeting the following day was a resolution in response to a lawmaker's criticism. Doña Ana and Sierra counties have committed a portion of their gross receipts taxes (GRT) to paying for spaceport construction, with a portion of the GRT also going to the schools

See **Manager** on page A11



It feels like
CHRISTMAS

A horse-drawn carriage boards guests to take them on an evening tour of Downtown Las Cruces at the Winterfest celebration Friday, Dec. 6. For more Winterfest photos, see page A2.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Chris Berlarde

Cruces-Mayfield rivalry rises in USA Today poll

Online voting ends Dec. 18

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

You couldn't have asked for more out of a high school football rivalry than the Las Cruces-Mayfield state championship game Saturday, Dec. 7. It filled Aggie Memorial Stadium, was tied at halftime and ended with the Bulldawgs winning 27-26 after blocking an extra point that would have tied the game.

Well, there is one thing that Las Cruces Public Schools and

fans of the rivalry believe could add another layer of history to the match-up - having it declared the top high school rivalry in the nation by USA Today.

In an online voting poll, the Las Cruces vs. Mayfield rivalry became one of the top 10 high school football rivalries in the nation by getting the most votes for this region. The Bulldawg-Trojan rivalry took it for New Mexico at the end of November to advance to the regional win Tuesday, Dec. 10.

See **Rivalry** on page A11

Pearl Harbor survivor recalls infamous day

Sailor can't forget the attack

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

Even though it was bitterly cold Saturday, Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor survivor Archie Luce wore only his Navy uniform as he spoke about his memories of the Japanese attack during a ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Luce was barely 18 and performing light duties after injuring his hand in an accident with a saw a few days before. That bright, sunny morning in Hawaii would soon

turn into a day of horror as 353 Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes in two waves attacked the eight Navy battleships in the harbor - all would be damaged and four would be sunk, as well as 188 U.S. aircraft destroyed. In all, 2,402 Americans were killed and 1,282 wounded.

"I was just a kid, but I lived a lifetime the next couple of weeks," Luce said. "What I saw will live in my memory for a lifetime."

Those images came back to See **Pearl Harbor** on page A16

NEXT WEEK

A time for new signs?

City Council to consider allowing sidewalk signs for Main Street Downtown businesses at its meeting Monday, Dec. 16.

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LIFE IS GOOD IN LAS CRUCES

Local Nutcracker production marks 30 years



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DEFINING SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

Holiday cheer shines at the Downtown Winterfest

Photos by Christopher Belarde

At the Downtown Winterfest Friday, Dec. 6, Crossroads City Derby team members Andi Cenicerros (Nurse Hell Doll), Kat Sanchez (That Darn Kat) and Steven Chavez (Philty Muppet) sold merchandise to fundraise for their tournament in March.



The City of Las Cruces Christmas tree near Branigan Memorial Library was lit prior to Friday's Winterfest celebration.



Natalie Green of Green's Beans holds out a cup of home roasted coffee. This is Green's third winter selling her unique blends.



Washboard player Jesse Moya, with his band Sign of The Shines, entertained Winterfest guests with alternative rock favorites.

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Opinions



From the publisher

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

Education debated

Testing will likely be hottest of many topics

Public education is a hot topic these days in New Mexico, as it is nationwide. Get ready, it's only going to get hotter. The areas of debate will be many, including third-grade retention, teacher evaluation, school evaluation, curriculum and others. Likely the most heated topic will be standardized testing. What test to use, how often to test, how will the results be used – these are just some of the questions of concern. You will hear from politicians, school administrators, school board members, teachers, parents, advocates and students. Many will claim they have the best solution, but none can predict the future well enough to be certain. The state will likely want uniformity, so it can compare apples to apples when testing numbers roll in. A cookie-cutter approach seldom works, however, and I would hope the state would leave some of the decisions in the hands of local school boards and administrators. After all, our schools in New Mexico are not all apples. Raton is not Deming and Carlsbad is not Farmington. We have apples, oranges, jicama, green chile and more. Not all students learn the same way, not all teachers teach the same way (thank God) and not all school systems should work the same way.

I guided one daughter through public schools (in Alamogordo and New Mexico State University) and have another in her sixth year in the Las Cruces Public Schools. My experience has been the school's reputation, test scores or rankings are less important than the teacher who's actually standing in front of my child. My daughters have had some amazing teachers. Other leaders, such as an exceptional principal or a strong superintendent, can make a significant impact, but I believe the teacher is the single most important factor in a child's education, closely followed by the parents.

Schools and teachers both need some form of objective evaluation. Schools and teachers' work needs to be measured. Success should be rewarded and failure corrected. The big question is what determines success and failure. What evaluation process is chosen and why?

Regardless of the form it takes, I don't believe any evaluation process will knock out a truly exceptional teacher. I do believe, though, undue emphasis on standard tests can limit the breadth of teaching.

Friends of mine who are teachers in New Mexico (as well as Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona and Virginia) express frustration with time spent teaching to standardized tests and the lack of time to teach context and practical application.

In Tulsa, Okla., my high school chemistry and physics teacher, Patrick Bell, taught a great deal both in and out of the textbook. Had I been under his tutelage today, with the extended emphasis on standard tests, I probably would not have learned at least one of the following, each of which I have applied in real life many times:

1. The volume of a cylinder and a cone.
2. How to calculate fuel capacity and mileage.
3. "The word is pronounced nuclear. If you hear someone pronounce it nuclear, you'll know that person is a slob."

Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent Stan Rounds said something stunning recently, and after I absorbed what he said, it made sense.

Rounds said students currently in high school today are likely to go into one of seven career fields, but only two of those fields exist today. Three others are in the process of being created now. Two others have not been invented yet; they will be invented by our current generation of high schoolers.

So how do you properly prepare students for a work force with so many unknowns? With standardized tests? There's a good chance the math and science in those tests will help, but it's unlikely there will be a new career field in test taking.



NELSON MANDELA and the PATH to PEACE

Letter to the Editor

Mandela's passing spotlights his record

It was with mixed emotions that I reacted to the news reports that Nelson Mandela, following 95 years of a life that left an indelible mark on the 20th century, had died. His passing saddened me, yet it lifted my spirits when noting reports were also spotlighting his awesome record of contributions to society.

His acts of love and forgiveness to the ruthless oppressive regime that caused so much pain and suffering to him and his people were acknowledged by the media. This brought joy to my heart, because a war-weary world needs prepping and collective consciousness raising to begin a new paradigm in the quest for world peace, justice and equality instead of hate and vengeance.

Mandela's bringing of change in South Africa from a tyrannical, racist government to an inclusive democracy, without a retaliatory

eye-for-an-eye/tooth-for-a-tooth mentality, added to other world peace promoters' work.

Mahatma Gandhi, Pope Paul II and Martin Luther King Jr. were other icons who demonstrated that non-violence works.

I acknowledge that there are those who don't share my perception of Mandela's history for, yes, he was placed on a "terrorist list" by the U.S. government.

Margaret Thatcher, British prime minister, whose family had financial interests in South Africa condemned him as a terrorist. The CIA had a hand in bringing Mandela to "justice" and a lifetime sentence in prison.

Later, he was removed from the "list" with action taken by a Democratic Congress, which overrode Ronald Reagan's veto.

Juxtaposed with this "dark" part of his story, is the fact that he was responsible for peacefully ending apartheid and was recognized for his good works with 246 awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize.

Maury Castro

The Las Cruces Bulletin invites readers to submit letters, preferably by email to editor@lascrucesbulletin.com. They can be sent in by fax at 575-526-4621. 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.

Urgency needed now

Crushing national debt means U.S. will soon be on the skids like Greece



Michael Swickard
In My Opinion

While I am painting with a broad brush, there does not seem to be much urgency in our nation – and especially in our young people – for anything. Americans are lollygagging along, going trillions of dollars further in debt and only being concerned about which politician promises the best plunder for their vote.

Americans show no urgency about our national debt. If you combine the on-book and off-books debt, it is more than \$500,000 for every man, woman and child in America. This means that every American must stop taking from the government chest and repay all of that money or that debt will be passed on to the next several generations.

Being that far in debt should make every American kick the wall, but most citizens want even more debt so they can continue doing what they have been doing for years – ignoring the debt entirely. Their plan is to take the bounty from government now and leave the pain of repayment to their children.

Speaking of their children, the young people also show no urgency about this debt being laid on them. I would have to assume the lack of urgency on the debt is either out of ignorance or they, themselves, plan to leave the debt to their children.

These citizens think if we do not look at the national debt, it does not exist. And politicians smilingly say, “You are right, vote for me and I’ll give you more stuff from the public funds than my opponent.”

I was talking to a university president recently. He mentioned that college students today routinely take a four-year degree and turn it into six years or more of lollygagging around the campus while acquiring thousands of dollars of student loans. His concern was their lack of urgency about getting done with college and getting out into the work force to start repaying the loans.

I like the word “urgency.” It is only used in some aspects, such as sports, but not much in legislatures and Congress. For our legislators and leaders there is always tomorrow. Further, no matter the crisis, we must wait until after the next election to fix any problems. Then there is an election after that election so no movement.

Again, painting with a broad brush, many college students are in no hurry to get out of school. The other day, I did talk to a sophomore student in mechanical engineering. He had worked the summer before driving a forklift for a chile operation.

That student seemed focused on getting in and getting done and getting on with his life.

It was nice to see someone who hears the clock ticking. America is like someone standing on the Titanic and commenting that the water is only coming into the ship one gallon at a time. Correct, but oh so incorrect.

Even though Americans live much better lives than their grandparents in general, there are no guarantees that we Americans can continue to live so well much longer. Who am I to spoil the American dream of all taking and

no giving that is foisted on our young people today?

Well, first of all, I am telling the truth, and I do agree that always taking and never giving sounds ever so nice for them. But it is nothing but a lie.

Further, it is a lie they will discover at some point. Other countries, one by one, are discovering the lie. In Greece the citizens are rioting because their leaders lied to them for a long period of time and promised so much. The Greeks were lulled into expecting to always be takers and not givers.

But the world does not work that way for very long. Then it will happen. At that point we may see urgency to continue taking and not giving. Sorry, time’s up.

Michael Swickard hosts the syndicated 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. Email: michael@swickard.com.

“No matter the crisis, we must wait until after the next election to fix any problems.”



BaxterBlack

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Crypt orchid is king

“In the land of the geldings, the crypt orchid is king.”

That seems to be the best way to describe American politics since Ronald Reagan or Harry Truman, but we get what we deserve.

Politics by nature is divisive, susceptible to corruption and injurious to the participant. Government bureaucracy is the pre-eminent example of Peter’s Principle, which says as long as one achieves at a position he is in, he will be promoted. When he finally reaches a position he is not good in, he remains at that level. Mediocrity is the expectation.

The appointed jobs after elections often go to big campaign donors or cronies. Cabinet and judicial positions are only as good as the judgment of the president himself.

Stop and remember how presidents are chosen. By the time they reach that level they are fully gelded politicians. To paraphrase William Buckley, “I would rather be governed by the first 400 people in the St. Jo phone book, than by the hapless congress and administration in Washington, D.C.”

We are governed by the lowest common denominator.

I don’t know which is more unintelligibly obtuse – a politician being interviewed by a reporter or an NFL lineman being questioned about his poor performance.

When they pontificate from the podium

that “everybody counts or nobody counts, that we are all in this together,” ask yourself why every senator, representative, administration member and their sycophants are exempt from the force-fed debacles they create and we, the victims, are gagging on.

We resent CEOs in business who wreck a company, get fired and walk away with millions of dollars. Our own elected government potentates in Washington wreck their own havoc but have protected themselves with a “golden parachute” that would make Donald Trump blush.

I must admit, after making these comments I have little hope that it will ever change. Even the terms of Presidents Washington, Adams and Jefferson were beset with connivery, slander and sabotage.

“Lack of character” did not begin with Nixon or end with Clinton. The most we can expect from our leaders is “not to make it worse.”

On a lighter note, once you get over the indignation, disgust and urge to protest, try this: while watching them squawk politico-media blather on television with their talk show accomplices, turn the sound down. Then imagine they are actors on a reality show discussing hemorrhoid medications.

At least it would be more believable.

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Letters to the Editor

Soroptimists express appreciation

On behalf of Soroptimist International of Las Cruces, we want to thank everyone who donated, sponsored and participated in our second annual Soroptimist International Turkey Trot.

Our Turkey Trot would not have been possible without our sponsors.

Platinum sponsors: Carlos Parra; Dental Associates, PA and The Las Cruces Bulletin

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We received dozens of individual donations, and volunteers helped us make our event a success and furthered our mission of helping women and girls in our community. Our club is grateful for the volunteers from Oñate High School football team and their parents. This group has volunteered at both of our Turkey Trot runs.

Since the club's inception, Soroptimist International has raised more than \$260,000, which has helped organizations in Las Cruces. Girls Can, Gospel Rescue Mission, Dress the Child, Coats for Kids and Casa de Peregrinos, National Child Protection Training Center-Southwest Region and women returning to school are a few of the causes that Soroptimists has recently supported.

We hope to see you all again at our third annual Soroptimist Turkey Trot that will take place on Nov. 22, 2014.

*Marcia Starich
Soroptimist International Las Cruces*

Fear tactics surround border issues

As a prosecutor for 19 years, I never had a favorite agency – only favorite agents I admired and respected. The recent letter by Zack Taylor of the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers (NAFBPO) is unworthy of them.

Taylor's organization is not the official association of retired border patrol officers. It uses fear tactics to undermine protecting our public lands. While Taylor has a right to his opinions, no one should think he speaks for the majority of Border Patrol agents I saw upholding our laws in a professional and humane manner.

In 2010, NAFBPO held a meeting in Las Cruces and invited NumbersUSA to participate. NumbersUSA was founded by John Tanton, a white nationalist who questioned the "educability" of Latinos and warned of whites being outbred. (After protest by our community, NumbersUSA pulled out of this meeting as did the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce.) At Taylor's event, Las Cruces were shown a slide from Arizona and told if Sen. Jeff Bingaman's proposal to protect our public lands became law, we would see "rape trees" where immigrants would rape women and put their undergarments up in trees to set an example for others.

After a decade of discussion and significant consensus, we need to reject Taylor's radical anti-immigrant agenda and his tactics of fear – and complete the community's campaign to protect our special lands such as the Organ Mountains, Butterfield Stagecoach Trail and Camino Real.

Peter Ossario

Guest column

End NSA surveillance dragnet

Current bill fails to rein in out-of-control agencies

By **Ron Wyden, Mark Udall and Martin Heinrich**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

The framers of the Constitution declared that government officials had no power to seize the records of individual Americans without evidence of wrongdoing, and they embedded this principle in the Fourth Amendment. The bulk collection of Americans' telephone records – so-called metadata – by the National Security Agency (NSA) is, in our view, a clear case of a general warrant that violates the spirit of the framers' intentions. This intrusive program was authorized under a secret legal process by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), so for years American citizens did not have the knowledge needed to challenge the infringement of their privacy rights.

Our first priority is to keep Americans safe from the threat of terrorism. If government agencies identify a suspected terrorist, they should absolutely go to the relevant phone companies to get that person's phone records. But this can be done without collecting the records of millions of law-abiding Americans. We recall Benjamin Franklin's famous admonition that those who would give up essential liberty in the pursuit of temporary safety will lose both and deserve neither.

The usefulness of the bulk collection program has been greatly exaggerated. We have yet to see any proof that it provides real, unique value in protecting national security. In spite of our repeated requests, the NSA has not provided evidence of any instance when the agency used this program to review phone records that could not have been obtained using a regular court order or emergency authorization.

Despite this, the surveillance reform bill recently ratified by the Senate Intelligence Committee would explicitly permit the government to engage in dragnet collection as long as there were rules about when officials could look at these phone records. It would also give intelligence agencies wide latitude to conduct warrantless searches for Americans' phone calls and emails.

This is not the true reform that poll after poll has shown the American people want. It is preserving business as usual.

When the Bill of Rights was adopted, it established that Americans' papers and effects should be seized only when there was specific evidence of suspicious activity. It did not permit government agencies to issue general warrants as long as records seized were reviewed with the permission of senior officials.

Congress has a crucial opportunity to reassert constitutionally guaranteed liberties by reforming the NSA's overbroad collection of Americans' personal data. But the Intelligence Committee bill squanders this chance. It would enable some of the most constitutionally questionable surveillance activities now exposed to the public eye. The Senate should be reining in these programs, not giving them a stamp of approval.

As members of the Intelligence Committee, we strongly disagree with this approach. We had already proposed our own, bipartisan surveillance reform legislation, the Intelligence Oversight and Surveillance Reform Act, which we have sponsored with a number of other senators. Our bill would prohibit the government from conducting warrantless "back door searches" of Americans' communications – including emails, text messages and Internet use – under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. It would also create a "constitutional advocate" to present an opposing view when the FISC is considering major questions of law or constitutional interpretation.

Rather than adopt our legislation, the Intelligence Committee chose to codify excessively broad domestic surveillance authorities. So we offered amendments: One would end the bulk collection of Americans' records, but still allow intelligence agencies to obtain information they legitimately needed for national security purposes by getting the approval of a judge, which could even be done after the fact in emergency situations. Another of our amendments sought to prevent the NSA from collecting Americans' cellphone location information in bulk – a capability that potentially turns the cellphone of every man, woman and child in America into a tracking device.

Each of these proposals represents real and meaningful reform, which we believe would have fulfilled the purpose of protecting our security and liberty. Each was rejected by the committee, in some cases by a single vote.

But we will continue to engage with our colleagues and seek to advance the reforms that the American people want and deserve. As part of this effort, we will push to hold a comprehensive reform debate on the Senate floor.

There is no question that our nation's intelligence professionals are dedicated, patriotic men and women who make real sacrifices to help keep our country safe and free. We believe that they should be able to do their jobs secure in the knowledge that their agencies have the confidence of the American people.

But this trust has been undermined by the NSA's domestic surveillance programs, as well as by senior officials' misleading statements about surveillance. Only by ending the dragnet collection of ordinary Americans' private information can this trust be rebuilt.

Congress needs to preserve the agencies' ability to collect information that is actually necessary to guard against threats to our security. But it also needs to preserve the right of citizens to be free from unwarranted interference in their lives, which the framers understood was vital to American liberties.

Ron Wyden of Oregon, Mark Udall of Colorado and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, all Democrats, are United States senators.

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Help scouts help others



Members of the Boy Scout Troop 10 gather around their canned food Christmas Tree, which will be featured at its pancake breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the American Legion Post 10, 1185 E. Madrid Ave. The pancake breakfast with sausage, hash browns and a beverage costs \$8 and doughnuts will be given out in return for donations of canned food.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Audubon Christmas Bird Count tradition continues

Thousands volunteer for avian census

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place from Saturday, Dec. 14, through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014.

Tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas will take part in the adventure that has become a family tradition among generations, including in more than 35 locations in New Mexico.

Families and students, birders and scientists – armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists – will go out on the annual mission to count birds, often starting before dawn in the freezing cold.

Each year, the Audubon CBC mobilizes more than 70,000 volunteer bird counters in more than 2,300 locations across the Western Hemisphere, from above the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego. The CBC utilizes the power of volunteers to track the health of bird populations at a scale that professional scientists could never accomplish alone.

“From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the CBC does it for love of birds and with the knowledge that their efforts are contributing to science and bird conservation,” said Robert Templeton, of Dixon, N.M., who will be participating in the bird count for the 15th year in a row.

Last year, 2,369 counts and 71,531 people tallied more than 60 million birds of 2,296 different species. Counts took place in all 50 states, all Canadian provinces and more than

100 count circles in Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands. Three new counts were even welcomed in Cuba, where – for the first time ever – the tiniest bird in the world, the Bee Hummingbird, was included in the CBC results.

New Mexico contributed to the overall total last year by counting 30 circles with more than 500 volunteers participating. Those counters cataloged more than 389,000 individual birds (more than 85,000 in Bosque del Apache alone) of 225 species.

Albuquerque, not usually one of the leaders in species count, had the most species of any count circle with 122.

The Audubon CBC is a citizen science project organized by the National Audubon Society. Even novice birders are welcome on the count. They are teamed up with expert birders who can identify all the birds, but the novice adds another set of ears and eyes. It can be a great learning experience. There is no fee to participate and the quarterly report, American

Birds, will be available online.

Audubon New Mexico: As the state office of the National Audubon Society, Audubon New Mexico's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

For more information, contact Staci Stevens at 202-294-3101, sstevens@audubon.org or visit <http://nm.audubon.org>.

“Everyone who takes part in the (bird count) does it for love of birds.”

ROBERT TEMPLETON,
Audubon bird count volunteer

Students sell luminarias

Proceeds go to LCHS band program

The Las Cruces High School Showcase Band has begun its 26th annual sale of luminarias through Monday, Dec. 16.

Luminarias can be purchased through any LCHS band student or online at www.tinyurl.com/LCHS-Luminaria. See the online order form for pricing.

Luminarias will be delivered and set up Saturday through Monday, Dec. 21-23. Exact day of delivery is only available for orders of 500 or more luminarias. Purchase of luminarias from the LCHS Band does not include lighting or disposal of luminarias, nor for the replacement of luminarias due to weather or vandalism.

CRIME OF THE WEEK featured on page **A13**

Call **526-8000** or **1-800-897-2746**

if you have information about this week's crime of the week or any other crime.

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Coming Up

Voz Vaqueros performance set

Voz Vaqueros will perform its annual Christmas program at three locations in December: 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2900 Elks Drive; 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave.; 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3100 Buena Vida Circle. Voz Vaqueros practice at 7 p.m. each Monday at the Village at Northrise, 151 N. Roadrunner Parkway.

For more information, call Lewis at 525-9819.

Model rocket launches

FLARE (the Fellowship of Las Cruces Area Rocketry Enthusiasts) is inviting the public to its monthly sport launch at the Waterfalls Launch Site in Las Cruces at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, (weather permitting).

For more information, contact Thomas Kindig at thomas@flare-rocketry.com or 201-3336.

Blood drive set Dec. 13

Doña Ana County will host a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, in the main rotunda of the Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd. The blood drive originally was scheduled for Friday, Dec. 6.

Each holiday season, United Blood Services sees blood reserves fall to critical levels. Doña Ana County invites its residents to join in giving the gift of life. Appointment slots are available every 20 minutes.

To make an appointment for a screening and donation, call Janine Divyak at the Doña Ana County Planning Department at 525-6130. Each donor will receive a snack and some juice, along with promotional materials.

Giving blood normally takes less than an hour, and the results save lives throughout our region. The staff at United Blood Services screens each applicant and then allows qualified

donors to take a seat in one of the comfortable recliners where the donations are processed.

All materials used in the donation process are sterile and disposable. Donors cannot contract any blood-borne disease by giving blood. All donated blood is typed to determine the A-B-O group and the Rh factor and then tested for safety, including a test for the HIV virus. Tainted blood is not distributed. Most units of accepted blood are separated into several components, allowing one donation to help several people.

Checkpoints ahead

The Las Cruces Police Department has scheduled at least one sobriety checkpoint and four saturation patrols over the next three weeks.

Sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols are intended to reduce the number of motorists who drive while intoxicated. Additional enforcement activities may include underage and party patrols.

Las Cruces Police encourage those who plan on consuming alcoholic beverages to use a designated driver – someone who will not be drinking alcoholic beverages – for their transportation needs.

Anyone who needs a safe ride home on Fridays, Saturdays or holidays between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 3 a.m. can take advantage of Project Home, a program sponsored by Doña Ana County and Las Cruces Shuttle and Taxi. One or two people can receive a \$5 taxi ride home from anywhere within Doña Ana County. For up to four people the fee is \$10. Grant funding pays the balance of transportation charges.

For Project Home taxi service call 524-TAXI.

Mesilla Park survey

Students from New Mexico State University's (NMSU) Historic Preservation class who have surveyed Mesilla Park to begin the process of nominating the neighborhood to the state and national registers of historic

places will present their work and plans for the project from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at the Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.

Those interested in attending are asked to park on Linden Street and enter through the original main doors on the east side.

For more information, contact Jon Hunner at 646-2490 or jhunner@nmsu.edu.

NMSU board of regents

The New Mexico State University Board of Regents will meet at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13, in the Regents Room of the Educational Services Center on the Las Cruces campus.

A closed executive session is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. to discuss legal matters in accordance with sections 10-15-1 H (7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act. Should the regular regents meeting be extended, it will delay the closed executive session. If delayed, the closed executive session will begin immediately following adjournment of the regular meeting.

Copies of the agenda for the regular meeting will be available at NMSU Zuhl Library, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting and also will be posted on the university website at <http://regents.nmsu.edu/agenda>.

The Board of Regents meeting will be available through webcast at <http://panopto.nmsu.edu/bor/>.

Any individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the meeting may call 646-2356 at least three days prior to the meeting or as soon as possible for accommodations.

Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats are available by calling 646-2356.

Mesquite district to hold Winterfest

Las Esperanzas Inc., assisted by the A. Fielder Memorial Safe Haven Weed & Seed participants, has planned the neighborhood's fifth annual Winterfest at Klein Park, 155 N. Mesquite St., from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

The event includes a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate donated by Woodmen of the World, free hay rides around the Mesquite Historic District by Chris Valenzuela and music by DJD, the Central Elementary School students will welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus with their favorite Christmas carols.

"Over 400 luminarias will light Klein Park that evening and members of Las Esperanzas Inc. have a unique way of decorating with luminarias," said Dolores Archuleta, president of Las Esperanzas. "Instead of using sand to fill the paper sacks for the luminarias, we use donated people and animal canned food."

After the event, the canned goods are donated to El Caldito Soup Kitchen and the Doña Ana County Humane Society. Donations of canned food and volunteers to assist with the decorating are welcomed at Klein Park starting at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14.

Las Esperanzas Inc., established in 1999, is dedicated to preserving the Mesquite Street and the Original Town Site Historic District in Las Cruces. Contact Archuleta at 524-7873 for more information.

Christmas bird count

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For more information, contact Staci Stevens at 202-294-3101, sstevens@audubon.org or visit <http://nm.audubon.org>.

Breakfast with Santa

La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services of Southern New Mexico will host Breakfast with Santa from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Aztec Masonic Lodge, 180 E. Boutz Road.

For a \$5 donation, a pancake breakfast will be served. There will be the opportunity to have a photo with Santa to take home. Proceeds will benefit La Piñon SARS and KidTalk.

For more information, call 526-3437.

Model railroaders meet

Division 7, the Road Runner Division, of the Rocky Mountain Region-National Model Railroad Association will meet at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St. The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Mike Weiss 532-1051 or mikeweiss65@gmail.com.

Make an ornament

The Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 352 N. Mesilla St., will offer ornament making opportunities from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 14 and 21. Participants can make their choice of ornaments. Several types of ornaments will be available, including foam picture frames,

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Coming Up

Pearler beads (melty beads) and pipe cleaners. The event is open to all children age 6 and older, with parental attendance encouraged. Cost is \$1 suggested donation per child at the time of class.

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

Celebrate Christmas in Sierra County

Truth or Consequences celebrates its Old Fashioned Christmas at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, in the downtown area, beginning with a tree lighting ceremony in Evelyn Renfro Park followed by holiday refreshments, bonfires, horse-drawn carriage rides and the sounds of carolers and live performers.

The First Baptist Church, 220 Broadway St., will feature a live nativity. Participating downtown businesses will keep their doors open until 9 p.m., and Santa will make an appearance and listen to the wishes of children during the evening. For more information, visit www.torcmainstreet.org.

T or C's Second Saturday Art Hop will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. Downtown businesses, art galleries, restaurants and shops will keep their doors open late to promote holiday shopping.

More than 4,000 luminarias will light the sandy beach paths of more than 25 campsites at Elephant Butte Lake State Park from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, during the Luminaria Beachwalk. The event includes hayrides, caroling, an appearance by Santa, a boat and RV lighting contest and a boat parade.

An awards ceremony and Christmas party will follow at Elephant Butte Inn. The Elephant Butte Rotary Club will be taking donations to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Guests are asked to enter through the main gate of the park. The Luminaria Walk is sponsored by the Elephant Butte Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 740-1777.

The Elephant Butte Christmas Arts and Crafts Show will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday Dec. 14, at the Elephant Butte Community Center, 313 Rio Grande Circle. Handmade, one-of-a-kind items, including jewelry, gourd art, paintings, ceramics, yard art and fine art, will be for sale by local vendors. For more information, contact Steph Ross at 740-3971 or srfoxie@gmail.com.

For more information on events in Sierra County, visit www.sierracountynewmexico.info.

Soccer tryouts set

Fearless United Soccer U-12, an all-girls competitive soccer team, is having tryouts from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Veterans Park, 2651 Roadrunner Parkway. The team is looking for girls with soccer experience born between August 2001 and June 2003. Attendees should bring required gear and water to the tryouts.

For more information, call Ilene Bell at 649-7350

MVCS open house

Mesilla Valley Christian Schools, 3850 Stern Drive, will hold a Kindergarten Open House from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16.

Mesilla Valley Christian Schools is fully accredited by ACSI, NM Department of Education and NCA.

This is a night for parents with prospective kindergarten students for fall 2014 to meet teachers and learn about the curriculum and Christian school philosophy.

For more information, call 525-8515.

Education town hall

Public television station KRWG-TV will host a town hall on public education at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, in KRWG-TV's Milton Hall studios on the New Mexico State University campus. The forum is free and open to the public and audience questions are encouraged. The town hall will be broadcast at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19.

Panelists for the program include: Jane Asche, co-chair, Education Committee,

League of Women Voters of Las Cruces, who will present information about the league's education study.

Andrea Fletcher, associate superintendent for Turnaround Initiatives, Las Cruces Public Schools, who will discuss school reform changes implemented by LCPS.

Patrick Sanchez, president of the National Education Association (NEA), Las Cruces, who will discuss the impact of changes in public education on teachers and students.

New Mexico State Sen. William Soules will present proposed legislation during the 2014 NM legislative session and discuss funding issues relevant to public education.

Concrete class set

New Mexico State University's Engineering New Mexico Resource Network will start off the New Year with its 50th Annual Samuel P. Maggard Quality Concrete School that includes workshops and lectures covering various concrete-related topics Jan. 3-4, 2014.

The class is intended for professional engineers and others involved in the construction industry and will provide the latest technologies and information used in concrete applications. The workshops encompass a range of competency levels to accommodate those attending. Among the sessions offered will be like aggregates, HIPERPAVE, mix design, defects, sampling and testing, petrography and more.

"Our main goal is simply to improve the quality of concrete construction and engineering industries in our region," said Craig Newton, associate professor of civil engineering at NMSU and chair of the school.

For more information or to register, visit www.engr.nmsu.edu/outreach_concrete.shtml or email engr-nm@nmsu.edu.

Kiwanis build can tree

Las Cruces Kiwanis Club will host the 11th Annual Kiwanis Can Tree food drive Friday through Sunday, Dec. 20-22. The Christmas Can Tree is a unique community-wide project of loving and caring for others during the

holiday season.

Donated canned goods will be accepted at Walmart Supercenter, 571 Walton Blvd. Donations can be made 24 hours a day. Food donations will be distributed at noon Dec. 22, to three local nonprofits; Casa de Peregrinos, El Caldito Soup Kitchen and Gospel Rescue Mission.

Cash donations will be accepted on-site by Kiwanis members or they may be mailed to Las Cruces Kiwanis, P.O. Box 6357, Las Cruces, NM 88006.

For more information, call Bernadine Dallago 642-8336.

Turn back the Sun

Leasburg Dam State Park will host "Turning back the Sun," from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21.

New Mexico State Parks staff, Friends of Leasburg Dam State Park, the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces and members of various Native American communities will join in "turning back the Sun," in observance of the winter solstice.

Visitors can see and taste how traditional Pueblo adobe horno bread is baked. There will also be Native American dancers, traditional winter coyote stories, arts and crafts and a short video showing nearby petroglyphs interacting with light, shadow and time. Various interactive activities and presentations will be available throughout the day. The Astronomical Society of Las Cruces will have a solar telescope for public use during the day and various telescopes as well as a 16-inch research grade observatory telescope open for public viewing at night.

Leasburg Dam State Park is located in Radium Springs. From Las Cruces take Interstate 25 north to exit 19 and follow the signs to the park.

The event is free with appropriate park fees. Bring a lawn chair and dress warm.

For more information, contact the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces at outreach@aslcnm.org or the state park at 524-4068.

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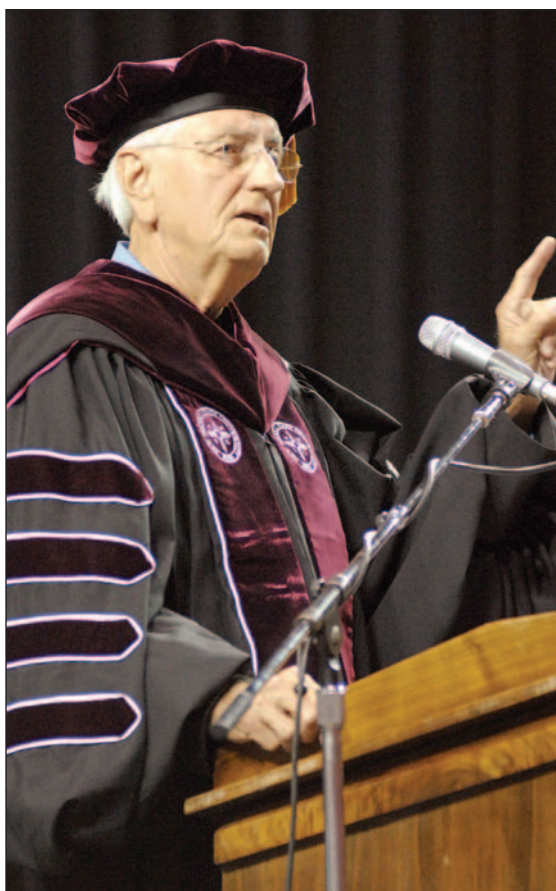
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New Mexico State University's investiture of President Garrey Carruthers and a reception honoring him will take place Saturday, Dec. 14. The investiture, or formal installation ceremony, will open NMSU's fall 2013 commencement, scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Pan American Center. The public reception will be held from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Pan Am Center practice gym.

NMSU photo by Darren Phillips



Investiture ceremony set for Carruthers

Public reception for NMSU president to follow

New Mexico State University's investiture of President Garrey Carruthers and a reception honoring him will take place Saturday, Dec. 14.

The investiture, or formal installation ceremony, will open NMSU's fall 2013 commencement, scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Pan American Center. The public reception will be held from 12:30-3 p.m. in the Pan Am Center practice gym.

"When we selected President Carruthers to lead NMSU, we were confident in his experience and skills to serve this great university," said Mike Cheney, chairman of NMSU's Board of Regents. "During his first six months, Garrey has demonstrated a strong commitment to expanding opportunities for all students,

faculty and staff. We are pleased to honor him as our 27th president."

Carruthers first set foot on the NMSU campus more than 50 years ago as a student. Today he is the only NMSU graduate to also serve as the university's president.

In 1964, he received his bachelor's degree in agriculture from NMSU and went on to earn a master's in agricultural economics from the university the following year. After receiving a Ph.D. in economics from Iowa State University, Carruthers returned to NMSU in 1968, this time as a faculty member.

Over the next few decades, Carruthers taught in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business and even served as acting director of the New

Mexico Water Resources Research Institute.

Carruthers later ran for and won the New Mexico governor's office, becoming the state's 27th chief executive and the first NMSU grad to hold that post. After leaving office, he joined the business world. He led a team that founded a managed care company where he served as president and CEO.

In 2003, Carruthers once again arrived at NMSU, this time as dean of the College of Business. He also served as the university's vice president for economic development. Regents named Carruthers as NMSU's president this past May.

For more information and to RSVP for the reception, visit <http://presevents.nmsu.edu>.

Alumni group touts outstanding graduates

Selected honorees to receive awards at noon luncheon

The New Mexico State University Alumni Association recently announced the university's fall 2013 Outstanding Graduates. The awards recognize students who excel in overall academic performance, active participation in leadership roles and professionalism and social responsibility in the form of community involvement.

Honorees from New Mexico State University's Las Cruces campus will receive their awards at the Outstanding Graduate Luncheon at noon Friday, Dec. 13, in the third floor Bistro at the Danny Villanueva Victory Club, located inside the NMSU Stan Fulton Athletic Center.

The Outstanding Graduates are: Taysha Ham from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; Kevin Culver from the College of Arts and Sciences; Roger Lilly from the College of Business; Michael Leslie from the College of Education; Eric Reed from the College of Engineering; Ryan Garcia from the College of Health and Social Services; Aileen Cruz from the American Indian Program and Ugochukwu Ogbue (Ugo) from the Office of International and Border Programs. The two graduate students are Morgan Harding, who will receive her master's, and James Kilcrease, who will receive his Ph.D.

Ham will graduate with a bachelor's degree in agricultural and extension education and a minor in journalism and mass communications. During her time at NMSU, Ham has upheld her status as a Crimson Scholar, earned a spot on the College

of ACES dean's list since 2010, and assisted in representing the university as a Presidential Ambassador and as an ACES College Ambassador.

Culver will graduate with a bachelor's degree in both philosophy and sociology. During his time on campus, he served as president of Sophia, NMSU's philosophy club, and held a section editor position for the campus newspaper, The Round Up. Culver, a Crimson Scholar and the Sociology Department's Outstanding Senior, plans to pursue a career as a lawyer.

Lilly, who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in accounting, has maintained a position on the College of Business' dean's list and was awarded as a 2013 Outstanding Auditing Student. A Crimson Scholar, Lilly has served as secretary for Beta Alpha Psi and volunteered to serve as an English/writing tutor at NMSU's Alamogordo campus.

Leslie will graduate with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and plans to pursue a career in emergency medicine. Throughout his college career, Leslie has been awarded the Medical Auxiliary Scholarship provided by the Los Alamos Medical Center, and the College of Education Alumni Scholarship.

Reed, who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, has earned multiple academic and extracurricular scholarships. He was also a member of the American Society's Civil Engineer's Concrete Canoe Team and has dedicated time to service projects all over the world, including two

service trips to Africa, and performing low-income outreach in North Carolina.

Garcia, a member of Eta Sigma Gamma Honors Society and president of the Public Health Student Organization, will graduate with a bachelor's degree in community health. Garcia has volunteered for United Blood Services, Hope Centers, La Casa Women's Shelter, American Cancer Society and NMSU Suicide Prevention activities. His volunteer work has also extended globally with work as an international volunteer at an orphanage in Peru.

Cruz, an active member in the American Indian Program, will graduate with a bachelor's degree in business administration and management. During Cruz's 2010 appointment as Miss Native American NMSU, she helped advocate for NMSU diversity programs and recruited Native American students to the campus. The Crimson Scholar also serves as president for the Native American Business Student Association and plans to pursue a master of business administration degree and work for her tribal community.

Ogbue, a native of Lagos, Nigeria, will graduate with bachelor's degrees in business administration and electrical and computer engineering. He is the National Society of Black Engineers Chevron International Study Scholar, the National Society Board of Corporate Affiliates Scholar and recipient of NMSU's Klipsch School of Electrical and Computer Engineering Departmental Scholarship. Ogbue will also graduate as a Crimson Scholar.

Harding will graduate with a master's degree in special education with a specialization in autism. She is currently teaching Mayfield High School students with low incidence disabilities the academic and functional skills needed to transition into adulthood. In 2012, Morgan was awarded the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Beginning Teacher of the Year Crystal Apple Award.

Kilcrease, who will graduate with his doctorate in plant and environmental sciences, has received the Deans Award of Superior Academic Performance and the Honor Scholar Academic Achievement Award through the Honors Program. In 2011, James was diagnosed with cancer but maintained his responsibilities as a graduate student; he then established the Aggie Cancer Survivor Scholarship to help and support other NMSU cancer survivors.

For more information about the outstanding graduates program, contact NMSU Alumni Relations at 646-3616 or email alumni@nmsu.edu.

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New Doña Ana County Manager Julia Brown talks at a press conference Monday, Dec. 9, in the County Commission chambers.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson



Manager

Continued from page A1

to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics education (STEM). State Rep. Patricia Lundstrom, a Gallup Democrat, is questioning whether that is creating unequal education funding, but the Doña Ana County Commission describes the spaceport GRT school money as more akin to grant funding.

Adding to the challenges before county government, Brown said, is that there is less federal money available, with the possibility of losing payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) as part of congressional budget cutting.

The budget squeeze was illustrated also by a debate at the Doña Ana County Commission meeting Tuesday, Dec. 10, over spending \$93,664 for two years of membership to the South Central Regional Transportation District.

Commissioner Ben Rawson questioned the need for paying that much money, but Chairman Billy Garrett said he considered it a worthwhile project for residents and the future of the county.

Jack Valencia, a former Las Cruces city councillor who is working for the regional transit district, said the money would pay for pilot projects around the county to see what kind of system works best for providing more public transportation in the county.

Mesilla Mayor Nora Barraza, vice chairwoman of the board for the regional transit

district, said funding will help the organization go out into the county to seek feedback and begin providing services.

Sandra Tatum of Radium Springs said many people in the county lack opportunity because they don't have access to very basic resources, such as transportation. Improving public transportation in the county will help people find more work and the elderly to get to medical appointments.

Bob Hearn, an East Mesa resident, said the funding will pay for starting the process of creating more public transportation and should be looked at more as seed money.

Valencia said the district will start by expanding the Z Tran shuttle, which currently commutes Las Cruces to White Sands Missile Range and Alamogordo. The majority of commissioners stood behind the seed money.

"The costs we're incurring today are going to pay big benefits for us," Commissioner David Garcia said. "Every penny we spend today is going to be worth several more pennies in the future."

Even though the Z Tran service is only a year old, it has seen its ridership double, Valencia said.

The commissioners did approve paying the transit district fee, so long as the budget can handle it.

Commissioners also OK'd an overhaul of pet ordinances, which approves of feral cat colonies to be set up by residents and new time limits on chaining dogs and other restrictions.

Generally speaking



White Sands Missile Range Commander Maj. Gen. Gwen Bingham talks about the challenges and opportunities facing WSMR at the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce's military update luncheon Thursday, Dec. 5, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Bingham said the sequester furloughs and government shutdown in the past year was hard on employees at the testing range. "We never want to see that happen again - agree?" Bingham said.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Rivalry

Continued from page A1

The online voting for the next round of voting in USA Today's second annual Best High School Football Rivalry competition began Wednesday, Dec. 11, and continues until Wednesday, Dec. 18.

[Http://contest.usatodayhss.com/vote/rivalry-2013/round-3](http://contest.usatodayhss.com/vote/rivalry-2013/round-3) is the link for voting.

Other regional winners were Leominster vs. Fitchburg in Massachusetts, Westfield vs. Plainfield in New Jersey, Louisburg vs. Bunn in North Carolina, Wausau East vs. Wausau

West in Wisconsin, Norfolk Catholic vs. Pierce in Nebraska, Upsala-Swanville vs. Royalton in Minnesota and Mater Dei vs. Servite in California. The two wildcards are Douglas vs. Bisbee in Arizona and Warner Robins vs. Northside in Georgia.

The LCHS/MHS rivalry beat out four other high school rivalries to win the state competition: Artesia vs. Goddard, Belen vs. Los Lunas, La Cueva vs. Eldorado and Las Vegas-Robertson vs. West Las Vegas.

The winners of the eight regions, along with two wild cards, moved on to the final round of 10. The winner receives \$5,000 to be split evenly between the two schools.

Making monsters

Mini monster trucks, that is

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

Joel Buschmann, a New Mexico State University football athlete, has put his Ph.D. studies on pause as he and his former Aggie teammate Joe Suder can make a business out of building mini monster trucks.

Almost on a lark, Buschmann began working on his first monster truck two years ago. After succeeding in getting Monster Energy drink to be his sponsor, he transformed a 1968 Chevrolet Suburban body into his first monster truck and took it to the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) show in Las Vegas, Nev., last year. Out of 58,000 entries, the towering, black truck called "Overkill" with its 522-cubic-inch, 1,500-horsepower engine finished in the top 50.



Joel Buschmann and Joe Suder stand next to the two mini monster trucks that have finished in the top 50 of a national specialty vehicle show in Las Vegas, Nev., two years in a row.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

This year, Buschmann and Suder returned to the SEMA show in October with a slightly less menacing mini monster truck – a 468-cubic-inch, 850-horsepower engine in a smaller frame – and again finished in the top 50.

"As far as I know, we're the only company from New Mexico that has been able to do that," Buschmann said.

The sweet part of the attention from the first show, he said, is that the new mini monster truck has already sold for \$65,000.

The 26-year-old Buschmann has formed a business called Overkill

Racing and Chassis with Suder, forcing him to put on hold his Ph.D. in cellular molecular biochemistry. But Buschmann said he is putting his master's degree in business management to good use getting sponsorships for the vehicles and making the business work. Buschmann said he already has two more orders for mini monster trucks.

In addition to the customized trucks, Buschmann's company also makes chassis to order. He designs each truck or chassis on a computer program first, which helps reduce time wasted fixing mistakes.

NMSU honoring two at ceremony

Aggie Legends adding Faubion and Pangborn

New Mexico State University will honor Carl Faubion and Rose Marie Valdes Pangborn as Aggie Legends at the fall 2013 commencement ceremony, Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Pan American Center.

Aggie Legends is a tradition that pays tribute to alumni who have achieved great success in their lives and who supported the university in multiples ways. Aggie Legends, which began in 2012, are honored at each commencement ceremony.

"These two individuals are perfect examples of what it means to be a New Mexico State University Aggie," said NMSU President Garrey Carruthers. "Carl Faubion was known around the state for his contributions to agriculture, while the important research done by Rose Pangborn shows that NMSU truly is all about discovery."

Faubion, a member of the class of 1950, was a strong advocate for agriculture. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in range management. Faubion and his wife, Joan Hoskins, met at NMSU, married in 1949 and the couple began farming in the Mesilla Valley in 1951. They went on to own and operate a farm near Hill, N.M., a ranch in Sierra County and the Porter-Faubion fertilizer company.

Faubion received many accolades for his contributions to the industry. In 1980, he received the Farm Family of the Year award. Faubion was honored with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's Top Hand Award for Service to Agriculture in 1998 and the Livestock Bureau's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award in 1992. He was named the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Distinguished Alumnus in 2000.

For 12 years, Faubion was a member of the NMSU Board of Regents, and he was named the first president emeritus of the board.

A member of the class of 1953, Pangborn was a pioneer in sensory analysis of food attributes. She earned a bachelor's degree from NMSU and a master's degree from Iowa State University.

In 1955, Pangborn joined the Department of Food Technology at the University of California, Davis, and served with distinction for 35 years.

It was Pangborn's research that helped scientists understand and measure people's responses to the food they eat. She found "taste is a lot more complicated than the perception of light or sound," and it depends on multiple factors. She was honored with the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) William V. Cruess Award in 1977 and was elected an IFT fellow three years later.

Pangborn published more than 180 scientific articles and co-authored three textbooks, including "Principles of Sensory Evaluation," a key text for a generation of sensory scientists.

Former Aggie Legends include Pecos Uvalde Finley, Fabian Garcia, Albert T. Gonzales, Paul W. Klipsch, Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez, Roy M. Nakayama, Era Rentfrow, Sara Elizabeth Stewart and Clara Belle Williams.

“ Carl Faubion was known around the state for his contributions to agriculture, while the important research done by Rose Pangborn shows that NMSU is truly all about discovery. ”

GARREY CARRUTHERS,
New Mexico State
University president



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CrimeStoppers

Arson suspected

Las Cruces Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that helps identify the person or person who may have set fire to a commercial building two days before Thanksgiving.

The Las Cruces Fire Department extinguished the blaze, but not before the building at 255 N. Mesquite St. suffered heavy fire and smoke damage on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 26. The fire also damaged a large amount of retail merchandise within the building.

Initial estimates put the damage to the building and contents at around \$100,000.

Anyone with information that can help identify the person or persons who may have set fire to the building is asked to contact 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.



Transit center opens



Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima cuts three ribbons – for the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Green Chamber of Commerce – at the city's new intermodal transit center Friday, Dec. 6. The new 7,000-square-foot facility will be the central location for mass transportation options, mostly Roadrunner Transit service. The \$3.6 million intermodal transit center was made possible with a combination of federal and local funds.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

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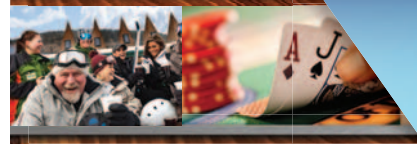
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Centennial is having a great 2013

First senior class makes it memorable

By **Maille Mulligan**
Centennial High School senior

The newest high school in Las Cruces continues to soar, whether it's in the classroom or on the field. Recently, Centennial High School went through an accreditation process, and received full accreditation with no restrictions.

Here are some of the Hawks' other accomplishments this year:

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) donated money from the morning café to breast cancer awareness programs during Las Cruces Public Schools Pink Week in October. CHS raised more than any other school during LCPS' competition on behalf of Cowboys for Cancer Research.

The CHS girls soccer team finished its season second in district. The boys soccer team competed at state as a representation of CHS.

CHS band members played their hearts out and took seventh place at the Battle of the Bands in November, coming in first place for New Mexico's 4A schools.

Student government is currently competing for the New Mexico Association of Student Councils (NMASC) Student Government of the Year award. CHS StuGo also has three students holding Southwest District positions and one student holding the state's second vice



Centennial High School media students/Yearbook photos government mixer.

president office.

The CHS volleyball team flew through its season, ultimately winning district. The girls made it to state, where they competed up to the quarterfinals.

Future Farmers of America (FFA) recently attended a leadership training program and participated in a community service project with Mesilla Valley Maze.

The CHS football team dominated district and competed for the 4A state title.

The CHS cross country boys' team won

district and ran at the state level.

Two Centennial students (Nicolette Young and Micaela De Larosa – nominated by CHS social studies teacher Andrew Montoya) were selected to attend the Student Board of Directors for El Paso Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. These students attend meetings once a month among 27 students from the Las Cruces/El Paso area.

Centennial Yearbook staff is competing for an excellence award to be presented by Josten's publishing company.

The Centennial Student News Media Program is working hard to attend National Student Television Network Conference.

CHS music programs had seven Allstate choir students, 13 All-state band students and



Freshman, sophomore, junior and senior class representatives pass a balloon with their feet during the Homecoming assembly.

one All-state orchestra student.

The CHS theater program held Southern New Mexico's Fright Fest over Halloween weekend and attended a theater competition in Farmington.

All of the school's second-year (CHS opened in September 2012) programs have been working extremely hard to create a path for years to come. As the 2013-14 second semester begins, CHS students and staff plan to continue their success, ending the school year with the graduation of CHS's first senior class.

Seniors compete in a cheering contest for the spirit award at the Homecoming assembly.



The CHS band performs at New Mexico State University's Aggie Memorial Stadium during the Battle of the Bands.



One of the distinctive aspects of CHS is vocational training, such as the culinary arts program.

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Pearl Harbor survivor Archie Luce shakes the hand of 14-year-old Matthew Jacintho of Boy Scouts Troup 64 as his daughter Naomi Hall watches during a ceremony Saturday, Dec. 7, at Veterans Memorial Park.



Las Cruces Bulletin photos by Todd Dickson



Vintage aircraft from the War Eagles Air Museum in Santa Teresa fly over the ceremony.

Pearl Harbor

Continued from page A1

the 89-year-old as he spoke to a group of 25 – mostly veterans of more recent wars and Boy Scouts – attending the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony.

Luce said he and a friend mistook the beginning of the attack for a training maneuver, but they quickly discovered that it was a surprise attack by the Japanese to take out the U.S. naval fleet, ignoring the dry dock and fueling facilities, which military experts would describe as advantageous to the U.S. quickly regaining its naval capabilities.

The attack came as a huge shock to the American people and brought the United States into World War II. The following day, President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed Dec. 7, 1941, as “a date that will live in infamy” because the attack came while the U.S. was negotiating with Japan to avoid entry in the war.

Luce described seeing pickup trucks loaded with bodies blackened by either the spilled ship oil that floated on the surface of the harbor waters or by the burning fires of the fuels and explosions.

“Have you ever smelled the smell of burning human flesh?” he asked the group. “It’s a distinct smell that lives with ya.”

Luce, who lives in Las Cruces, recalled a friend of his who had qualified for deep-sea diving and would be putting his abilities into retrieving bodies trapped inside the sunken and behind firewalls of damaged ships. At first, Luce said he thought he wouldn’t go into detail about what his friend saw, “but, perhaps I should.”

Behind the firewalls, the divers expected to find bodies, but what they often found were only body parts, Luce said.

By comparison, Japanese losses in the attack were light: 55 airmen and nine submariners were killed in the action and one was captured. Only 29 Japanese airplanes were lost during the battle.

Saturday’s ceremony included a flyover of vintage aircraft from the War Eagles Air Museum in Santa Teresa, one trailing smoke. The sounds and sights gave realism to the ceremony, said J.R. Turner, a state veterans service officer. Turner was also a proud father as he watched his son, Benjamin – a 16-year-old Junior ROTC cadet at Mayfield High School – read a paper of research about the attack. The ceremony was organized by the Mesilla Valley Chapter of the Military Officers of America.



Benjamin Turner, 16, of the Air Force Junior ROTC unit at Mayfield High School, reads a paper he wrote about the Pearl Harbor attack as his father J.R. Turner, a field service officer with the New Mexico Department of Veteran Services, looks on.



Luce tells his story to those attending the ceremony organized by the Mesilla Valley Chapter of the Military Officers of America.



The garrison flag is raised with assistance from veterans, Boy Scouts and the public.

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Making a splash in the Big 10



Barbara Boxleitner
Keeping up

Samantha Harding's devotion to swimming is showing this season for the University of Minnesota.

The Las Cruces High School graduate has emerged as a top performer in multiple individual events for Minnesota, the Big Ten Conference champion the past two years.

"She's as passionate about the sport of swimming as you can imagine," Minnesota coach Kelly Kremer said. "She's probably one of the hardest workers we have."

The sophomore spent half of the summer at home, swimming with her club team, and half at campus, where she trained with teammates.

Named to the all-Big Ten second team last year, Harding often has placed in the top three.

"I'm really excited," she said. "I'm doing much better than last season."

Among her performances were a third in the 1,650-yard freestyle and fourth in the 500 freestyle against the University of Wisconsin. She was part of the 800 freestyle relay team that finished third. She was second in 1,000 freestyle and third in 500 freestyle against



HARDING

the University of Michigan.

Harding's specialty is distance freestyle, though she has competed in sprint freestyle

"It comes naturally," she said about the stroke.

She also contributes regularly in the individual medley, an event the coach said is harder to fill than some of the other specialties.

"She's really developed in all three pretty equally," he said. "She's a very versatile swimmer."

Sometimes Harding competes in shorter distance events, such as the 200 breaststroke. She finished third in that during the Jean Freeman Invite, the most recent meet against eight schools.

"It's definitely nice in training to have a little flexibility with the strokes," she said.

See **Keeping Up** on page A22

Bulldawgs edge Trojans 27-26



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Christopher Belarde

Las Cruces High School fans celebrate the Bulldogs' second straight New Mexico 5-A football championship Saturday, Dec. 7, at Aggie Memorial Stadium. After storming back from a 14-point deficit in the first half, the 'Dawgs held off a valiant effort by rival Mayfield High School Trojans to tie the championship game with minutes to play by blocking an extra point and securing the 27-26 victory. See more photos on pages A18-19.

Aggie volleyball falls in NCAA tourney

Arizona Wildcats advance to second round in San Diego

The Western Athletic Conference volleyball champion New Mexico State University Aggies fell in straight sets (14-25, 23-25, 19-25) to the University of Arizona in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at Jenny Craig Pavilion Friday, Dec. 6, in San Diego.

It was the Aggies' first defeat since Oct. 19. With the loss, New Mexico State ends the season at 22-11.

The Aggies hit .102 on the match, compared to the .230 of the Wildcats. Arizona edged NMSU in kills (41-37) and assists (37-32), out-blocked the Aggies 13-5 and had 65 digs to the Aggies' 55.

Gwen Murphy led NMSU with nine kills on .333 hitting, while Jordan Reifsteck had a

team-high 20 digs. Stephanie Ziegler had 16 digs, while Taylor Livoti finished with 17 assists and seven digs and Ciara Brown dished out 14 assists.

Arizona took a 3-0 lead early in set one before the Aggies got on the board with a kill by Murphy. NMSU put together a five-point run, but the Wildcats came back quickly to get the lead. The Aggies trailed 12-8 midway through the set, as Arizona's blocking proved difficult for NMSU. Arizona continued to hold the lead during the set and claimed a 25-14 win, out-blocking the Aggies 6-1.

NMSU opened set two with a block by Ziegler and Desiree Scott, and held the early lead 7-4. The Aggies kept the momentum

going with a 14-10 advantage off an ace by Ziegler and a kill by Bradley Nash.

The Wildcats came back to take its first lead in the set 22-21 and took seven of the final nine points for the 25-23 win, going up 2-0.

In set three, Arizona grabbed an 8-5 lead, but NMSU kept the match close until the Wildcats took a six-point advantage, 15-9, off five straight points. The Aggies took the next four of six points, but still trailed 17-13 as Arizona looked to halt NMSU's season.

Ziegler smashed a kill to bring the Aggies within five at 21-16, and the Aggies got the next two points, but Arizona claimed the set 25-19 to advance to round two of the tournament and end the Aggies' season.

LCHS slips by Mayfield at the New Mexico 5-A state championship

Photos by Christopher Belarde and Orlando Santana

Las Cruces High School coach Jim Miller celebrates the Bulldawgs' second straight state championship with his players at Aggie Memorial Stadium Saturday, Dec. 7, after LCHS topped arch-rival Mayfield High School 27-26.



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Matt Zertuche is embraced by teammates after a tough loss for the Mayfield Trojans.

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Kavika Johnson runs in for a Mayfield touchdown.



Bulldawg Jalen Bishop wraps up Mayfield senior Phillip Ehly.



Isaiah McIntyre prepares to stiff-arm Mayfield defensive lineman Andrew Bolanos.



Las Cruces' Kameron Miller runs for a first down on a quarterback keeper.



Isaiah Carrera's interception helped the Trojans get an early lead against the defending champion Bulldawgs.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

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RYLEE MELOY
is a 14-year-old sophomore at CHS. She runs cross country and track and plays guard/forward on the Lady Hawk's basketball team. In Meloy's last two games, she pulled off two double-doubles. Meloy is a very responsible, hard working person. She cares a lot about people and is a positive influence on others. Outside of sports and school, Meloy likes to read and draw. She loves hanging out with her friends and tries to spend quality time with her family. When Meloy graduates she hopes to go to Duke University to become a Physical Therapist.

BEN HINDES
is a 17-year-old senior at CHS. He plays center on the Hawk's basketball team. In a Dec. 6 game versus Los Lunas, he had six rebounds, 11 points and four assists. Hinde is friendly and welcoming, always in a great mood which transfers to others around him. He is a good student, with a 3.30 GPA. Hinde works very hard to be the best that he can be on and off the basketball court. Outside of sports and school, Hinde loves hanging out with his friends. He enjoys going to the movies and spending time with his family. After graduating, Hinde hopes to go to either NMSU or UNM and study Forensic Science.

CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL

2013-14 NEW MEXICO STATE MEN'S BASKETBALL

BACK TO BACK WAC CHAMPIONS

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AGGIE UP

Onthegreen

A bone of contention

Golf course conditions and setup can be aggravating



Charlie Blanchard
Golf Doctor

A few nasty episodes around town have heightened my awareness of the interplay between golfers and those folks whose job it is to set up the golf course properly.

Golfers can be a curious and bitter lot, especially when they are playing badly and blaming it on the golf course. On the other side, greenskeepers and golf pros can be a highly defensive group, prone to stonewalling, especially when their work is challenged and criticized.

My intention here is to inject some common sense into the debate, along with several of my considered opinions and ideas. Bear in mind that my statements are firmly backed up by my own opinions. (Please laugh.) There's a good chance that those who are responsible don't read my column, but here goes anyway.

Let's start with the speed of the greens. After they have been "punched" (aerating with surface holes) and top dressed with sand, which may be unevenly applied, greens tend to be very slow, a condition guaranteed to be aggravating to regular players.

Greens at some golf courses are brought back up to speed quicker than others. Greens superintendents are usually reluctant to mow very close in the most scorching part of summer for fear that they'll lose the greens. Golfers may not be aware of these and other realities of turf upkeep.

My personal feeling is that it always seems greens get punched just when they are perfect. What golfers want is consistency, with decent speed from day to day and week to week.

Even more than that, they want predictability from green to green and round to round. That's pretty much how the

professional tours set up their venues. Golfers want the practice green, where they putt to warm up, to perfectly reflect the actual conditions on the golf course.

It doesn't seem too much to ask, but it doesn't seem to work out that way.

The length of grass in the rough can also be a sore spot with many golfers. I recently played in a tournament in Albuquerque where they had grown the rough so long that golf balls settled down into it so deeply they were almost impossible to find. The situation became quite annoying as golfers spent half the time on some holes searching for balls that were in play just a few feet off the fairway.

It seemed as though management at that particular golf course needed to impress the out-of-towners with how hard their golf course was. But it led to five-hour-plus rounds. I was impressed by how ignorant they were about the playability of their golf course.

The point is, there should be some reasonable compromise between what golfers want and what golf course management wants. It is a gross mistake for the head PGA professional to take a "hands-off" or sideline approach to the maintenance and setup of his or her golf course. That is what a PGA pro is trained to do and is responsible for.

A golf club manager, generally speaking, is not trained or knowledgeable about golf course upkeep. Golf courses that want their places to play somewhat like a U.S. Open are misguided. With the golf industry as a whole still struggling to thrive, arrogance toward pedestrian golfers is not the way to grow the game.

Golf is hard enough for the average weekend warrior without creating rough so deep it swallows golf balls. A reasonable guideline, I think, is that a player should be able to easily find his ball in the primary rough, and be able to advance it in an airborne flight with his swing.

They need to mow daily in summer; not as often in winter.

Further, I have found none of the local golf courses fit to play the ball "down" in the fairways. Some of the close mown areas are nice, but there are overwhelming spots where ridiculously tight lies and stupid lies prohibit a decent shot.

I like playing the ball up, except at courses such as Sandia or some clubs in Dallas. We need to do better, to keep golf fun, which the PGA favors.

Perhaps the biggest point of contention between golfers and golf course managers (greens people, golf professionals, club managers, and so on), has to do with the location of holes cut on the greens.

It's a complicated issue, so I'll try to simplify things a bit. Golfers don't necessarily want "easy" hole locations, but they do want holes cut in places where there is some reasonable chance of making a medium length putt (say 30 feet) without running a great risk of four or five putting.

Greens people (management) want to be able to use the entirety of the putting surface for possible hole locations and to utilize certain rarely used areas of the greens in order to give more popular portions of the greens relief from heavy foot traffic.

Some resorts in Florida and Hawaii seem to want to prove how hard their greens are to putt.

That's a really good way to keep golfers from coming back.

Golf course people should be aware of the weather predictions early in the day when they set their pins. If it is predicted to be very windy, how much an idiot can you be to place the holes on downward slopes where the ball cannot stop. One of the groups I play with has the "forward motion" rule to prevent the "up-and-back" routine on excessively windy days, which seems to me a brainy solution.

Regular golfers often become incensed over what they perceive as lack of thoughtfulness and arrogance on the part of those whom they pay to make their golfing experience a good one. Here are a few considerations that might help golf course management with setting up their courses in a manner that makes golf rewarding for everyone.

First, establish a training plan and some criteria for qualifying an employee to take a hole cutter out on to the golf course. You don't have to be a "golfer" to select suitable hole locations, you just need to be someone who will do it thoughtfully, intelligently and be accountable.

Second, have the head PGA professional become intimately involved with the process of deciding how long the rough is, how fast the greens are and where holes are cut on a week-in and week-out basis.

As for the business of selecting hole locations, it would be most appropriate to factor in important variables such as which days are the busiest and which days high-handicappers play the most. You certainly don't want the trickiest holes on days such as Wednesdays and Fridays, when folks hurry from work and aren't interested in a five-hour round of playing hockey with their golf ball.

Have someone on your staff responsible for checking the weather forecast every day (early), and communicating with the greens people. If you know the wind is going to blow 30 mph, don't place any holes in the middle of slopes – folks are going to take forever on the greens.

One simple rule-of-thumb is that, if a ball rolls up just short of the hole and then rolls right back down the slope, it's an inappropriate spot for the cup.

One of my closest and much-appreciated golf companions recently shared a wonderful story that took place at his old golf club in Utah.

"We used to – I said used to – have problems with ridiculous hole locations," he said. "That was until we finished our first tournament one April when the pins were just plain stupid.

"A bunch of us went into the clubhouse and escorted the head pro out to the 18th, green where we promptly threw him into the pond. Do you have any idea how cold that mountain water is in April?"

Golfers would like greenskeepers to place flagsticks on the greens as thoughtfully and carefully as when they establish frost delays.

As golfers, we could use some reminding in regards to helping our own cause.

First of all, go out of your way to chat with your golf pro and greenskeepers. Let them know you and your friends appreciate their efforts, even though you may have differing opinions. Tell them of things you would like to see different, doing so in a courteous and direct manner. If you're not already a member, join your club's men's or lady's golf association so you can become part of the conversation to create your favored conditions. It's up to the associations to provide constructive feedback and recommendations to club management on course conditions and course setup.

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

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Holidays are upon us

Aggies spread the warmth of the season



Pistol Pete
Pete's
Ponderings

The "givin' season" is here again, and don't you know the Aggies are doing their part.

The men's basketball team's dive into community service has drawn some national attention. Senior Kevin Aronis has been added to the National Association of Basketball Coaches 2014 Allstate NABC Good Works Team.

The honor recognizes a select group of college basketball student-athletes who have made significant contributions to the greater good of their communities through volunteerism and civic service.

Givin' to our community is something the Aggie teams participate in every year, competing against each other. The team that donates the most time to our town is recognized in May by Athletics Jefe Dr. McKinley Boston.

In most years, Cathy Rodolph's softball team takes the honors, but men's basketball is comin' up strong on the rail.

Sim Bhullar and his teammates have been putting in time at El Caldito Soup Kitchen, takin' on whatever chores are necessary. Serving food, doing the dishes, cleaning up the galley and any other job that is related to a restaurant operation.

Aronis also has the top GPA on the

team, so there are other reasons to give him a pat on the back.

'Ole Pete is mighty proud of all of these cowboys and cowgirls – the tennis team that takes care of cleaning up the roadside near campus, the clinics put on by head football coach Doug Martin and all of the walks, runs, after school visits and time spent just being a friend add up to thousands of hours of love, caring and concern for our town.

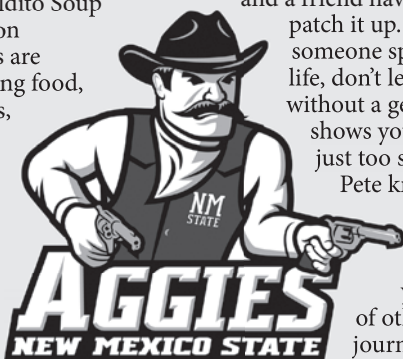
This world can seem cold sometimes and it's comforting to know that all of the Crimson and White athletes are putting their actions up front to warm the lives of all types of people no matter what their station in life.

The semester is ending now and Pete is gonna be standing proud on Saturday, Dec. 14, when the graduation rolls are called. Every year, the ranks of the graduates grow larger. NM State athletes earn their degrees in larger numbers than the general student population and the numbers keep growin'.

The holiday season – and Pete means whichever holiday you observe – is fast upon us. Here's my wish that you can take some time to share the joy you have in your heart and follow the lead of these Aggies.

By givin', we receive. If you and a friend have a wrangle, patch it up. If you have someone special in your life, don't let a day go by without a gesture that shows you care. Life is just too short and 'Ole

Pete knows the trail gets a little easier to ride when you think of others on the journey.



Swim team gives back

Aggies work over the Christmas holiday to fulfill goal of a WAC championship



Rick Pratt
Head Swimming
& Diving Coach

For most students, the end of finals means a time to relax, visit family and recoup after another semester of studies.

For the swim and dive team, it's a completely different time of the year. We are in the middle of our season and that means when school is out, it is time to work harder than ever. We have to really push forward and remain focused during the next month in order to make our goal of a WAC championship title in March.

It has been a very busy semester, with much hard work along the way. In October, we faced a tough Air Force team at 7,000 feet in Colorado Springs, Colo. We then started off our home schedule with a strong win over Northern Colorado, a WAC affiliate member.

A few weeks later we had some great swims at the Houston Invite; senior Terrin Seaver and junior Jessica Legge led our team and posted WAC top times in several events.

After returning from Houston, we stayed in town to train hard during Thanksgiving week, with only a couple days off to visit with family. Finally, this past Saturday we came up a little short against NAU, another WAC affiliate, but had some great performances.

Finals are done Friday, Dec. 13, but the team will stay on campus training doubles every day until Dec. 18. Doubles represents a 90-120 minute swim practice in the morning, followed by weights or dry-land training and another water practice in the afternoon.

Our girls then head home for 10 days, but will all be practicing with their respective club teams at home.

We return Dec. 28, for another

day of doubles before heading to Tucson, Ariz., where we will have a training camp for five days before we face Pac 12 opponents Arizona and Oregon State.

When we return home, we will continue training doubles until school is back in session, as we prepare for a WAC dual meet against the University of Idaho. This meet will be here at home, at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 18, 2014, and it will be an emotional senior day.

For most people, it might seem ridiculous to put in all this work to shave 10ths or even 100ths of a second off a personal best time, but for a swimmer this is standard.

To go through the grind of our sport is a privilege that most do not understand.

In addition to the demands of our training, the team works just as hard in the classroom and in the community. Our team has never had a cumulative GPA below a 3.2 and the team logs in more than 500 hours of community service annually.

Hard work, dedication and sportsmanship are some of the lessons that we foster in our team culture because ultimately it is these traits that will make our swimmers and divers successful business leaders, parents and citizens after their time here at NM State.

Our goal is always to strive for a WAC championship, but through it all, we are achieving so much more than a title.

For swimming, the WAC has eight teams and is a very competitive field. We have a good chance of finishing on top this season, and it should be an exciting spring for our group. Our swim and dive team represents NMSU with pride and I would like to thank them for that.

I am very proud and fortunate to work with all our athletes, who sacrifice so much for our program.

Upcoming

Saturday, Dec. 14

Men's Basketball

Drake
Des Moines, Iowa
6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Men's Basketball

New Mexico
Albuquerque
7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Women's Basketball

UC Irvine
Irvine, Calif.
8 p.m.

Aggie student-athlete spotlight



Desiree Scott

Senior
Volleyball
Tucson, Ariz.

Senior Desiree Scott marked four kills and two block assists in a three-set loss to Arizona in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, Friday, Dec. 6, in San Diego. Scott etched

her name in the Aggie record books for blocks in a season and career. She had 48 solo blocks this year, putting her in the No. 5 spot for that category.



Briana Freeman

Freshman
Women's basketball
Killeen, Texas

Briana Freeman, a freshman, led the Aggies during the "Rivalry Week" by averaging 10.5 points in the Aggies two losses. She started both contests and averaged 3.5 rebounds on

the week. Freeman had 12 points in the loss to UTEP on Tuesday, Dec. 10, then scored nine against New Mexico. Freeman has started four games and is averaging 5.2 rebounds and 7.3 points.



Terrin Seaver

Senior
Swimming and diving
Lake Geneva, Wisc.

Senior Terrin Seaver swept the backstroke events at Northern Arizona, Saturday, Dec. 7, winning the 100 back, an event in which she holds the school record, in a time of 57.19 while also

winning the 200 back with a time of 2:03.75. She also helped the Aggie team win the 200-yard medley relay as they posted a time of 1:47.25.



U of A drubs Ags

Rematch with UNM is Dec. 17

The New Mexico State University men's basketball team dropped its second-consecutive game to a top 25 team after losing to top-ranked University of Arizona, 74-48, in front of a packed crowd at the McKale Center in Tucson, Ariz., Wednesday Dec. 11. NMSU falls to 7-5 while the Wildcats remain undefeated at 10-0.

The Aggies played well and hung in there with the top team in the country during the first half and the beginning of the second half, but did not have enough to keep pace with the No. 1 Wildcats.

For one of the few times this season, NMSU struggled in the paint with the Arizona big frontline. The Aggies were outrebounded 38-22 and the Wildcats doubled NMSU's point production in the paint, 36-18.

"Their athleticism and size on the wings really gave us a problem," said NMSU coach Marvin Menzies. "Arizona did a good job rebounding and our unforced turnovers is just disappointing. We had a lot of benchmarks that we didn't meet but we are going to continue to work to where we need to get."

NMSU was led by junior guard Daniel Mullings who finished with a game-high 18 points. He was the only Aggie to finish with double-digit points.

NMSU will now continue its road swing with a trip to Des Moines, Iowa to face Drake University on at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. The Aggies will play at New Mexico at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17.

NMSU's next home game will at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, against Northern New Mexico.

Rival UNM Lobos top NMSU women

Poor shooting from the charity stripe dooms Aggies

The New Mexico State University women's basketball team dropped its lone meeting with in-state rival New Mexico 65-55 on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Aggies drop to 3-6 on the season, while the Lobos move to 4-4.

NMSU was led by sophomore Sasha Weber with 11 points and junior transfer September Offutt, who was just shy of her first career double-double when she scored 10 points and grabbed with nine rebounds. The Aggies shot 20-60 from field goal range.

The Aggies struggled from the free throw line, hitting only 50 percent, and

made just 21 percent from beyond the arc. The team combined for 34 rebounds to New Mexico's 43. NMSU won the turnover margin 16-11 and scored 10 points off the bench.

The Aggies struggled offensively in the first half with the Lobos scoring the first seven points. The Aggies rallied back and got within one off a free throw by freshman Brianna Freeman and a pair of three's by the freshman and sophomore Abby Scott.

The Aggies stayed within 10 points of the Lobos until the 11-minute mark of the second half when New Mexico ran

away for nine straight points and built a 17-point lead – the largest of the game.

Trailing 54-37, three straight free throws by Freeman and two three-pointers by Scott helped the Aggies slash the lead in half with 7:13 on the clock.

The Lobos scored the next five points off a couple of fouls by the Aggies, but Offutt broke up the run with a layup to make the score 60-50 in the final five minutes.

NMSU now takes a week off during finals week before heading to California to face UC Irvine at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Sports Briefs

Seaver is Swimmer of the Week

New Mexico State swimmer Terrin Seaver was named the Western Athletic Conference Women's Swimmer of the Week for the week of Dec. 2-8, the conference announced Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Seaver, a senior from Lake Geneva, Wis. (Elkhorn High School), swept both backstroke events during New Mexico State's dual meet with Northern Arizona on Saturday, Dec. 7. She won the 100 back with a time of 57.19 and the 200 back with a time of 2:03.75. Though the times were not season-bests for Seaver, both are in the WAC's top-10 for the year. She also swam the leadoff leg of the Aggies' winning 200 medley relay team (1:47.25).



SEAVER

Seaver has the fastest time of the season for the Aggies in the 100 back (55.67), 200 back (1:59.32) and 100 fly (55.58). She also is the NMSU record holder in the 100 back with a time of 55.38 in 2012.

This is the first WAC Swimmer of the Week award for Seaver and the second conference award for the Aggies this season, as sophomore Audrey Ruiz won the WAC Diver of the Week award for the week of Oct. 28-Nov. 3.

NMSU continues its season on Jan. 3, 2014, with a trip to Tucson, Ariz., to compete in a three-way meet.

Aronis noticed for good works

New Mexico State senior guard Kevin Aronis was recently nominated for the 2014 Allstate NABC Good Works Team.

For the second year, Allstate and the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) are recognizing a select group of men's college basketball players who stand out for their charitable achievements and community involvement. Those nominated for the honor are committed to enriching the lives of others while contributing to the greater good of their communities.

Scott is all region in volleyball

New Mexico State's Desiree Scott was recently named to the 2013 All-Midwest Region volleyball team, as announced today by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). Scott is an honorable mention selection.

The WAC Player of the Year and WAC Tournament MVP, Scott averaged 2.59 kills on .369 hitting to go along with 1.32 blocks per set. She led the league in blocking and ranked third in hitting percentage.

Those named to the all-region teams are now eligible for All-America honors, which will be announced next week during the AVCA Convention.

Keeping Up


Continued from page A17

Harding has worked to improve her starts, turns and breaststroke pullouts.

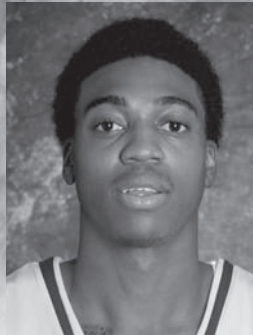
"My turns just aren't very fast," Harding said, after finishing second in the 1,000 freestyle against University of Iowa.

"I'm trying to get them to be more fast and powerful." Minnesota is scheduled to compete in January 2014 in Hawaii.

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




ATHLETE of the WEEK



Daniel Mullings

Junior, Guard, Men's Basketball


Daniel Mullings averaged 16.5 points per game in two games played last week and earned a spot in the NM State record books, scoring the 1,000th point of his career at the 17:32 mark in the second half against No. 19 Gonzaga. Mullings is the 31st Aggie to reach 1,000 points while wearing the Crimson and White and is currently No. 30 on the all-time scoring list at NM State, surpassing former Aggie guard Billy Keys (1999-00), who scored 1,004 points in 65 games. Mullings was 44 percent from the field, while pulling down 10 rebounds, dishing out six assists and picking up four steals.



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HIGH SCHOOL Sports Schedule

Centennial High School		
Dec. 12-14.....	Girls Basketball at Capital City Tournament TBA	
Dec. 13-14.....	Wrestling at Las Cruces High School Tournament..... TBA	
Tuesday, Dec. 17		
Girls Basketball	at Riverside High School 6 p.m.	
		
Boys Basketball	at Riverside High School 7:30 p.m.	
Las Cruces High School		
Dec. 12-14.....	Girls Basketball at Albuquerque Academy Tournament..... TBA	
Dec. 12-14.....	Boys Basketball at Albuquerque Academy Tournament..... TBA	
Dec. 13-14.....		
Wrestling	Las Cruces High School Tournament..... TBA	
Tuesday, Dec. 17		
Girls Basketball	Deming High School 7 p.m.	
Mayfield High School		
Dec. 12-14.....	Girls Basketball at Moriarity Tournament TBA	
Dec. 13-14.....	Wrestling at Las Cruces High School Tournament..... TBA	
Friday, Dec. 20		
Boys Basketball	Carlsbad High School..... 7 p.m.	
Oñate High School		
Dec. 12-14.....	Girls Basketball at Rio Rancho Tournament..... TBA	
Dec. 13-14.....	Wrestling at Las Cruces High School Tournament..... TBA	
Mesilla Valley Christian Schools		
Dec. 12-14.....	Boys Basketball at Sandia Prep Tournament..... TBA	

Looking Back

This week in the history of the Mesilla Valley



Jim Hilley
Reflections

100 years ago

1913

• The dance given by the freshman class at the ag college was called “a delightful affair” by the Rio Grande Republican. The hall was decorated with crimson and white, with pennants and palms everywhere. Each corner was decorated by a class, with the junior class displaying an electric sign saying “Junior.” Music was provided by the Ruiz Orchestra, and “a floor as smooth as glass made dancing a pleasure.”

• The Up To Date Restaurant across Main Street from the Catholic Church was under new management. The restaurant served meals for 25 cents, short orders at all hours and was open until 10 p.m.

75 years ago

1938

• The board of regents at the New Mexico state college voted to name the new \$65,000

gymnasium in honor of Dan W. Williams of Las Cruces, president of the board. The men’s dormitory was to be named in honor of Harry L. Kent, former president of the school.

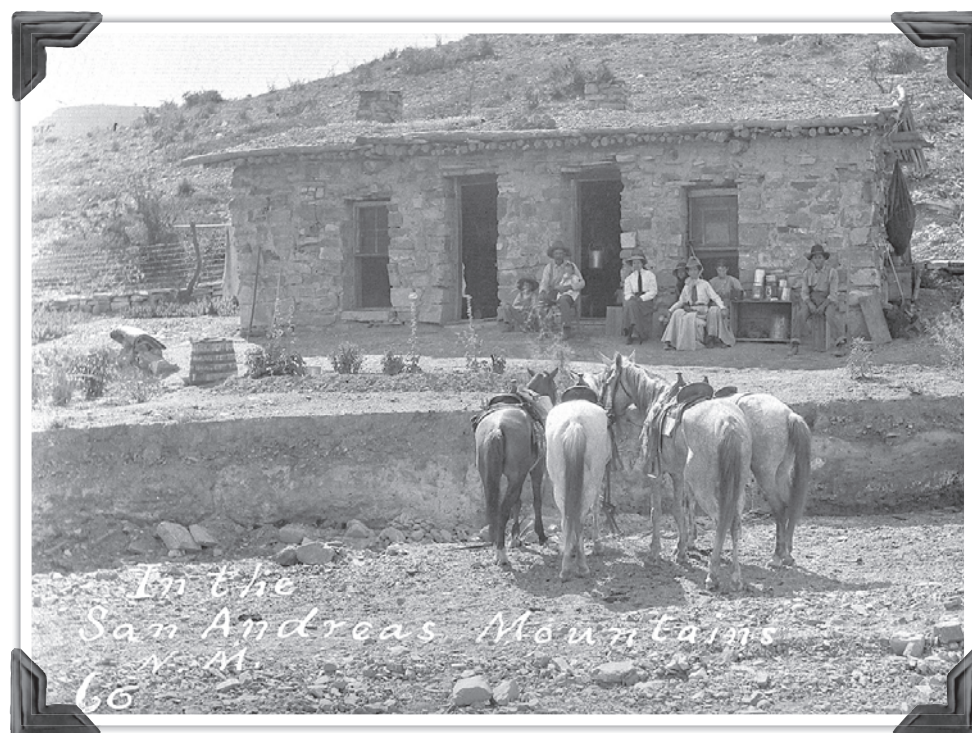
• Congressman J.J. Dempsey announced the approval of Works Project Administration (WPA) projects including \$5,372 to landscape the new courthouse, \$4,697 for pasture and barn improvements at the college and \$3,374 for gymnasium improvements.

50 years ago

1963

• Boys Club Executive Director Bud Cody said the new club had signed up 508 members and 100 to 150 boys were at the club every day it was open. The club was hosting Golden Gloves trainers Sammy Burke and Frankie Miranda for Golden Gloves workouts in the basement.

• New Mexico State University regents heard predictions that university enrollment would increase by as many as 500 students a year for the next two years. President Roger Corbett told the regents the university faced some “critical and hard decisions in the next year.” He also warned, “Our next permanent academic construction cannot possibly begin before 1966.”



New Mexico State University Library Rio Grande Historical Collections photo

Settlers in the San Andres Mountains used whatever material was available to build their rustic homes.

25 years ago

1988

• An Alabama teenager who found a balloon in her grandparents’ front yard in Mobile, Ala., won \$100 in a fundraising promotion that was part of the NMSU centennial celebration. The balloon, along with a ticket attached, was launched during the Homecoming football game Oct. 29.

• Mayor Herculano Ferralez easily withstood a recall challenge, 334 to 122. The recall was prompted by some residents’ opposition to the new Picacho-Spruce alignment project and “evolved into such issues as his alleged lack of leadership, land acquisition projects he touted and his support of a municipal sales tax increase that voters rejected.”

Information gathered from New Mexico State University Library’s Microform Area and Archives and Special Collections.

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Drug sweeps yield 24 guilty pleas

Anthony man last of cases in federal court

Javier Castruita, 45, of Anthony, N.M., entered a guilty plea Monday, Dec. 9, to cocaine trafficking charges in federal court in Las Cruces.

Castruita's guilty plea resolves the last remaining case charged as a result of a multi-agency investigation that culminated in the filing of drug trafficking charges against 28 suspects.

Castruita and 27 others were charged in criminal complaints with distributing cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana in and around southern Doña Ana County.

The charges against the defendants were the result of an intensive four-month, multi-agency investigation. During the course of the

investigation, officers oversaw approximately 40 covert drug buys and the purchase of five firearms from the defendants.

Castruita was the 24th guilty plea entered by defendants arrested as a result of the investigation.

Charges against one of the remaining three defendants were dismissed in support of his prosecution on more significant methamphetamine trafficking charges in the Western District of Texas. Charges against the other two were dismissed with leave to refile.

The cases were investigated by the FBI's Las Cruces Cross-Border Drug Violence Hybrid Squad, the Las Cruces-Doña Ana County Metro

Narcotics Agency, the U.S. Border Patrol and the Doña County Sheriff's Office

Castruita and his two co-defendants, Gloria Portillo Valdivia, 51, and Carlos Alberto Valdivia, 56, both of Anthony, N.M., were charged with cocaine trafficking offenses. Portillo Valdivia pled guilty and was sentenced to 10 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. Valdivia pled guilty under a plea agreement that requires the imposition of an 84-month sentence.

Castruita faces as much 20 years in prison.

Abel Romero, 29, of Anthony, N.M., Victor Cano, 30, of Anthony, N.M., and Jaime Cano, 30, of Canutillo, Texas, were charged with cocaine and marijuana trafficking offenses. Romero also was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Victor Cano pled guilty under a plea agreement that requires the imposition of a sentence in the range of 30 to 37 months in prison. Jaime Cano pled guilty under a plea agreement that requires the imposition of a sentence in the range of 40 to 60 months in prison. Romero pled guilty under a plea agreement that requires the imposition of a 131 month prison sentence.

Noe Perez-Rodriguez, 46, of Berino, N.M., and Larry Valles Sr., 50, of Los Lunas, N.M., each pled guilty to methamphetamine trafficking charges. At sentencing, each faces a sentence of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in prison.

Rudy Portillo, 54, and Isaiah Portillo, 20, both of Anthony, N.M., and Victor Leos, 53, of Anthony, Texas, were charged with heroin trafficking offenses. Isaiah Portillo, Leos and Rudy Portillo entered guilty pleas. At sentencing, Rudy Portillo and Leos each face a sentence of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in prison, and Isaiah Portillo faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Victor Alvarez, 43, of Las Cruces and Benjamin Ochoa, 31, of Las Cruces pled guilty to cocaine trafficking charges. Each faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison at sentencing.

Daniel Arrieta, 38, of Anthony, N.M., pled guilty to a heroin trafficking charge and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Michael Vega, 26, and Raul Martinez, 25, both of Anthony, N.M., were charged with cocaine trafficking offenses. Vega pled guilty and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years. The charges against Martinez were dismissed without prejudice.

John Eric Sapien, 25, of Anthony, N.M., pled guilty to a cocaine trafficking charge and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Jose Salcido, 51, of Anthony, N.M., pled guilty to a cocaine trafficking charge and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison at sentencing. The charges against Gerardo Garcia, 63, who was the sole fugitive, were dismissed following his deportation to Mexico.

Joey Martinez, 29, and Eloy Rios-Montoya, 40, both of Anthony, Texas, pled guilty to cocaine trafficking charges and face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison at sentencing.

Freddy Sanchez-Ramirez, 56, of Anthony, N.M., and Roberto Andres Urquidi, 34, of Canutillo, Texas, pled guilty to heroin trafficking charges and face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison at sentencing.

Jesus M. Baeza-Lascano, 44, of Anthony, N.M., pled guilty to a cocaine trafficking charge and was sentenced to 10 months in prison. Baeza-Lascano, a Mexican national, will be deported after he completes his prison sentence. The charges against Martin Nevarez, 49, of Anthony, N.M., were dismissed.

Jose Alvarez, 27, of Anthony, N.M., and Angel Herrera, 31, of Berino, N.M., each pled guilty on Sept. 12 to heroin trafficking conspiracy. Each was sentenced to time-served and two years of supervised release.

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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.

The center offers a variety of classes at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Membership cards are available in the Resource Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 528-3000.

YOGA CLASSES AT AQUATIC CENTER

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 Programs members.

THE VOYAGERS TRAVEL CLUB

The Voyagers Travel Club trips currently being booked:

- **Cattleman's Steak House, Indian Cliffs and El Paso museums** Jan. 17, 2014. Cost is \$22, not including meal.
- **Palomas, Deming and Luna County Museum** Feb. 24, 2014. Cost is \$22.
- **"Meet the Irish"** March 16-25, 2014. Cost is \$3,408 double, \$3,987 single.

- **San Francisco, Napa Valley and Monterey** June 2-6, 2014. Cost is \$2,200 single, \$1,730 double.

- **Oregon Explorer:** Sept. 7-15, 2014. Cost is \$3,000 per person, double. Call for single rate.

- **Adriatic and Western Mediterranean Cruise:** 18 days. Oct. 25, 2014. From \$1,889 per person. For more information, call Helen Glover at 805-4920.

AEROBICS

Move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activity. 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 Programs members.

SENIOR CIRCLE YOGA CLASSES

MountainView Regional Medical Center, 4311 E. Lohman Ave., offers classes targeted to the senior market. Senior Circle yoga classes are for ages 50 and older are \$15 per year or \$2 per class.

- **Gentle yoga sessions – with and without chairs:** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Fridays at Encantada Park, 1000 Coyote Trail.
- **Stretch yoga – gentle:** 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays at MountainView Regional

Medical Center, 4311 E. Lohman Ave., in the Marketing & Women's Resource Room 404.

- **Laughter and gentle yoga:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Thursdays in the Golden Mesa Activity Room, 151 N. Roadrunner Parkway. Guided by Blissful Beth. For more information, call 522-0011 or 640-7614.

ZUMBA GOLD AT MUNSON CENTER

Zumba Gold modifies Zumba moves and pacing to suit the needs of active older participants.

Classes are from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

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

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION AQUATIC PROGRAM

The Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program is 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.

Participants must be age 60 or older and Senior Programs members. \$1 suggested donation.

DANCES AT MUNSON CENTER

Mark Coker will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 14 and 21, at Court

Youth Center, 402 W. Court Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$6 per person.

For more information, call 649-5306.

BINGO AT MUNSON

Free bingo is offered from 1 to 2 p.m. each Wednesday at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. The game is open to all registered members of Senior Programs. Players have a chance to win a prize and have fun with friends and neighbors.

For more information, call 528-3000.

BINGO HELD AT AMERICAN LEGION

Bingo will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays at American Legion Post 10, 1185 E. Madrid Ave. Doors open at 3:30 p.m., first game is at 6:30 p.m. Food and sodas will be available. A overall blackout pays \$1,000 to a single winner.

For more information, call 526-9139.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

The Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter has the following support group meetings each month:

- 11:30 a.m. each Thursday at Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Road. For more information, call Jan at 522-7133.
- 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Arbors

of Del Rey, 3731 Del Rey Blvd. Respite care available during meeting. For more information, call Michael at 382-5200.

- 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Village at Northrise, 2884 N. Roadrunner Parkway, in the Desert Willow Building. For more information, call Bonnie at 556-6117.

The Alzheimer's Association – New Mexico Chapter has offices at 1121 Mall Drive, suite C.

For more information, call 800-272-3900 or 647-3868.

BORDERLAND BONES CONCERT

The Borderland Bones, a local trombone quartet, will perform a free holiday concert at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at the Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, in the auditorium.

For more information, call 521-1290.

THE THURSDAY BRIDGE CLUB

The Thursday Bridge Club meets for lunch and bridge at 11 a.m. the first and third Thursday of each month at the Saratoga Room, 1763 E. University Ave.

For more information, call Judy at 373-9309, or Ann at 522-7240.

CARD AND TABLE GAMES

Anyone age 50 or older

is welcome to play bridge, pinochle, canasta, Hands N Feet, chess and Mah Jongg.

Call 528-3000 for times and locations.

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 Elsa Baker at 525-3990.

NARFE MEETING FEATURES MUSIC

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Chapter 182 will meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

The meeting will feature a program of excellent Christmas music by the New Desert Harmony Singers. The music will start at 9:30 am. Members are encouraged to bring a guest to share in the warmth of the holiday season.

All current and retired federal employees are encouraged to attend the meeting and become part of the group.

There is a cost of \$12 (cash only) for the breakfast buffet beginning at 8:45.

Reservations are requested to Carol Main at 382-7686 or Carol Decker at 522-3033.

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Caring for kids at Mesilla Valley CASA

Photos by Todd Dickson



Volunteers who serve with the Mesilla Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) were honored at a Christmas party Friday, Dec. 6, at the Saratoga Room. The CASAs volunteer to advocate for children in court proceedings.



CASA Executive Director Doreen Gallegos gave an award to Scott Scanland, above, for organizing this year's golf tournament fundraiser. Family Court Judge Fernando Macias, right, was recognized for his support of the role CASA advocates play in court proceedings, such as custody placement, foster care and adoption.



Victim advocates Suzanne Sandoval, Lorena Hermosillo and Vanessa Holguin are joined by District Attorney Mark D'Antonio and Gallegos.

Neighbors We've Lost

OBITUARIES

DR. DONALD WATSON

March 12, 1956 to December 8, 2013

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Dr. Donald Watson, 57, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, on Sunday, December 8, 2013 in Elephant Butte, New Mexico. Donald was born March 12, 1956 in Macon, Georgia to Dr. Robert Lee and Mary Jane Barnel Watson. A graduate of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, he practiced orthopedics in the area for over 20 years. He spent 10 years in El Paso before starting at Memorial Medical Center in June 2003.

Dr. Watson was a compassionate and skilled surgeon who was committed to providing the best care for his patients. He opened Bone and Joint Center of Southern New Mexico in 2006, then served as the hospital's chair of surgery from 2008 to 2010.

Those left to mourn his passing include his daughter, Holly Smith of Albuquerque; two sons, Michael and John Watson both of Tucson, Arizona; his mother, Mary Jane Watson of Mississippi; his fiancée, Terry



Astorga and her daughters, Desiree Romero and husband Anthony all of Las Cruces, Brianna Astorga of Tucson, Arizona, and Andrea Astorga of Dearborn, Michigan; three brothers, Kenny Watson and wife Shelly of Austin, Texas, Jimmy Watson and wife Lisa, and David Watson all of Mississippi. Other survivors include three grandchildren, as well as nieces, nephews and cousins. Dr. Watson was preceded in death by his father.

An Evening Service will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2013 in Baca's Chapel of Prayer, 300 E. Boutz Road with Dr. Maurice Hollingsworth officiating. A private Graveside Service is scheduled for a later date.

The family requests that donations be made in his memory to his favorite charity, St. Jude Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Service arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces. For online condolences, log on to www.bacasfuneralchapelslas Cruces.com.

DEATH NOTICES

SANCHEZ

Pedro M. Sanchez, 82, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, entered eternal life on Thursday, December 6, 2013 at Casa Del Sol Senior Care Center. Services have been held. He has been entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces, 575-527-2222. For online condolences, log on to www.bacasfuneralchapelslas Cruces.com.

DOMINGUEZ

Frank O. Dominguez, 86, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away on Friday December 6, 2013 at his home. Arrangements are pending with Getz Funeral Home and Getz Family Crematory.

GARCIA

Joaquina Petra Garcia, 87, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at her home. Services have been held. The Garcia Family has entrusted their loved one to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces, 575-527-2222. For online condolences, log on to www.bacasfuneralchapelslas Cruces.com.

SERRANO

Roberto J. Serrano went to his heavenly home on December 8, 2013. Funeral Service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, December 13, 2013 at the Las Cruces First Assembly of God, 5605 Bataan Memorial West, with Pastor Pedro Cevallos officiating. Concluding Service and Interment will follow in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 5140 W. Picacho Avenue where he will be laid to rest in the family plot. The Serrano Family has entrusted their loved one to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels, 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces, 575-527-2222. For online condolences, log on to www.bacasfuneralchapelslas Cruces.com.

RAVESSOUD

Henry William Ravessoud, 61, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, entered eternal life Thursday, December 5, 2013 at his home with his loving mother at his side. A graveside service for Mr. Ravessoud will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2013 at Masonic Cemetery, 760 S. Compress Road, where he will be laid to rest in the family plot. The Ravessoud Family has entrusted their loved one to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces, 575-527-2222. For online condolences, log on to www.bacasfuneralchapelslas Cruces.com.

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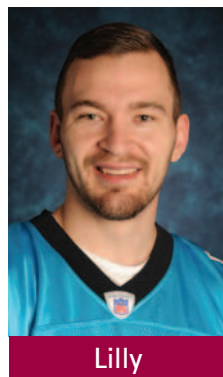
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James Patrick Kilcrease
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Environmental Sciences

Michael Aaron Leslie
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Ugochukwu Chidiebere Ogbue
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The places we love

Carrie Hamblen
Going green



Much of my childhood was spent moving around. My father was career military, serving in the Army for more than 20 years. My parents decided after a three-year tour of duty in Germany that the Southwest would be our home.

I grew up in northeast El Paso, where many military retirees purchased homes when they entered civilian life. From my backyard, I could see the Franklin Mountains glow when the sun rose every morning. I think it was there, in my adolescent years, I first began paying attention to the majestic beauty of those mountains that seemed as though they were right in my backyard.

When the random snow storm would hit west Texas, I would whip out my Minolta X-370 camera and head out to the desert to capture the beauty and calm of the snow-covered peaks.

During the months of June and July, when individuals would take fireworks to high places on Transmountain Road and believe it was actually a good idea (really?) to shoot them off into the mountain valleys, I would shake my head in frustration and sadness as I watched the parched mountainside burn and glow with the rapidly moving fires.

It wasn't until I moved to New Mexico in 1992 that I became much more conscious of how important the landscapes are to a community's identity. See **Love** on page B2

INSIDE

Securing the future

Estate planning for everyone B3

Farmers welcome snow

Spring outlook looking up B8

Santa visits local mall

Families turn out for pizza breakfast.. B9



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Alta LeCompte

Michelle Stecher of the Michelle Stecher Agency talks with an insurance client. She is one of a number of local agents trained to assist consumers and small businesses in the process of learning about and signing up for health coverage.

Details

Health insurance guides

For help determining whether you are now eligible for Medicaid and enrolling in Medicaid or a plan through the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, contact one of the following guides:

- La Clinica de Familia
385 Calle de Alegria
532-2044
- Ben Archer Health Center
1998 Motel Blvd.
541-5941
- Memorial Medical Center
2640 S. Telshor Blvd.
532-4485
- Community Action Agency
3880 Foothills Road
527-8799
- MountainView Regional Medical Center
Eligibility Screening Services
4311 E. Lohman Ave.
536-6835

Now's the time to sign up

Local 'elves' help residents, businesses get health insurance

By **Alta LeCompte**
Las Cruces Bulletin

A new question rivals the traditional holiday greeting of, "Are you ready for Christmas?" In 2013, December's other Question of the Month is: "Have you signed up for health insurance?"

The deadline for enrolling has been pushed forward from Dec. 15 to Dec. 23 for coverage effective Jan. 1, 2014, so there's still time to make the deadline.

"Because of the tight window of time, we urge people who have signed up for coverage through the exchange to call and confirm that their application has been received and when and how to submit payment," said Debra

Hammer, chief communications officer for the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange.

On Oct. 1, the New Mexico Health Insurance exchange (NMHIX) launched its consumer web portal, Be Well New Mexico, <https://bewellnm.com>. The website is available in English and Spanish.

Be Well New Mexico directs individuals to HealthCare.gov, the federal health insurance marketplace portal to apply for and enroll in coverage.

The state is running its own Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace, found online at <https://shop.nmhix.com>.

There is help on the ground in Las Cruces for individuals and small businesses seeking to navigate the sign-up process.

Local help through guides or agents

Individuals can get help sorting their options at designated Las Cruces sites.

Staffing the sites, located at hospitals and nonprofit community service agencies, are guides or navigators. They are part of a state-wide system set up by the State of New Mexico with an \$18.6 million federal grant.

Specially trained guides answer enrollment questions and explain policy provisions and coverage.

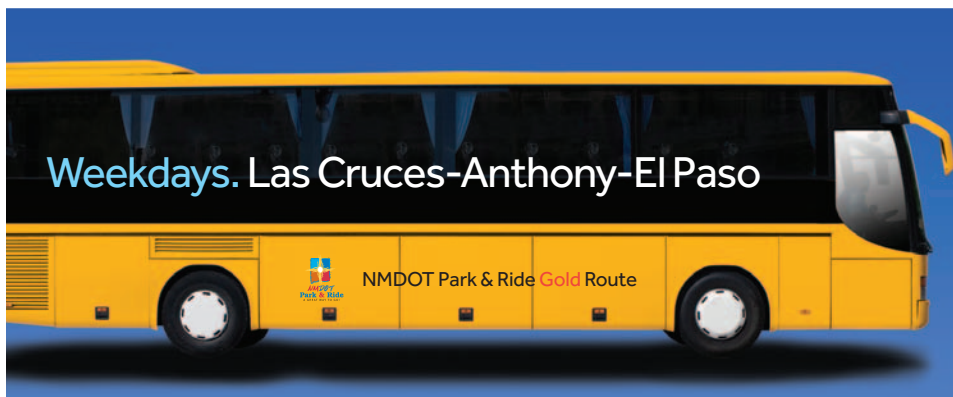
One place the service is available is Community Action Agency.

Because of website issues, the guides at CAA have been concentrating on identifying clients who are now eligible for Medicaid and bringing them in for appointments.

Individuals with annual income lower than \$15,000, families of three with income under \$26,000 and families of five with income under \$38,000 are now eligible under the expanded guidelines, office manager Nancy Coles said.

About 40 have signed up at CAA for Medicaid, Coles said. About 70 are waiting

See **Insurance** on page B3



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Love

Continued from page B1

In El Paso, the Franklin Mountains, featuring the lighted Texas star, are associated with the border city in the same way the jagged silhouette of the Organ Mountains is associated with Las Cruces. It's a symbol of the community and a comforting beacon of the place we call home.

I don't know of any Las Cruces resident who doesn't feel a sense of "coming home" upon seeing our Organ Mountains when driving into town on Interstate 10 from Deming.

Now we are in a position to protect our beloved Organ Mountains. We are also in a position to protect the Sierra de Las Uvas and Kilbourne Hole.

What we must remember is that these areas that surround our wonderful city contribute to the quality of life we are so lucky to have.

As our city continues to grow, our participation in the level and speed of growth is critical. With growth will come more jobs, higher demand for services, housing, traffic and more. We cannot ignore how the inevitable growth of our community will also lead to more visitors to the many tourist attractions that surround us. The Organ Mountains Desert Peaks (OMDP) is one of those areas that will play a large part in the growth in tourism – and why it is important to designate it as a National Monument.

Within the area that would be the OMDP National Monument, there lie the remnants of a Butterfield Trail station, the site where the Apollo space mission astronauts practiced

driving the vehicle that would eventually move them about on the moon, aerial targets that were used by WWII pilots and thousands of petroglyphs created by Native Americans who roamed the land long before we did. Throughout these areas, what we will see is the preservation of the crossroads of New Mexico's diverse heritage. This alone should be enough to warrant protection of these spaces.

However, the benefits OMDP will bring to our local businesses is an additional plus. According to an economic impact study commissioned by the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, the protection of the region's public lands would contribute more than \$7.4 million in additional annual economic activity and double the number of jobs supported by the outdoor recreation and tourism

industry in the region. Additionally, approximately \$560,000 in state and local tax revenue will be generated. With more people visiting our area to see these sites, we can expect foot traffic to increase in our restaurants, local stores, hotels and more. This will trickle back into our community in the form of taxes, increased revenues and more jobs.

Permanent protection of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks area is an investment in the sustainability of New Mexico's economy and ensures our region's unique role as the crossroads of southern New Mexico's heritage will continue and grow.

Carrie Hamblen is the executive director of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce. More information at www.nmgreenchamber.com

Estate planning should be a priority

CFSNM helps with charitable giving now and in future

By **Charlotte Tallman**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

With the New Year approaching, it is an excellent time to focus on estate planning.

"Estate planning is a highly technical and changing area and it is necessary to guarantee family and financial plans are met," said Diana Seward, a financial adviser with Edward Jones and a Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) board member. "The only way to ensure your wishes are carried out is if you have an estate planning professional put together all the documentation."

By planning their estate, people are able to name those who will receive assets after their death and make sure appropriate steps are

taken so taxes do not draw more than needed. In addition, they can select those who will handle business affairs and medical care in the event that the planner becomes incapacitated.

Planning can lead to peace of mind that financial affairs are in order, Seward said

Estate plans can be very simple or complex.

Estate planning is important no matter what the net worth, and taking inventory of assets with a financial planner is the best place to start, keeping in mind estate planning becomes more complicated for people with sizable estates.

Estate planners can create legal



SEWARD

documents, offer advice, keep up with current laws and help administer the disposition of assets. Assets include investments, retirement savings, insurance policies and real estate or business interests.

In addition to making sure family members are taken care of after the planner's death, estate planning

allows for charitable giving. The CFSNM is committed to helping with charitable giving, now and in the future. The CFSNM provides opportunities for donors to place their money where they want to make a charitable difference.

The foundation also provides training for estate planning attorneys, accountants, bankers,

investment advisers, estate planning and tax practitioners, financial planners and life insurance underwriters during their annual Estate Planning Institute.

During the Estate Planning Institute, local, regional and nationally recognized speakers offer the latest information on estate planning. Before the Estate Planning Institute was created, professionals had to travel as far as Albuquerque to attend classes for their continuing education credits.

"We had our best attendance ever this year and I think that has to do with the reputation of the institute," Seward, chair of the Estate Planning Institute, said. "Professionals are coming to learn more about financial planning for their clients."

Before the end of the year it is important to review estate plans and

tax plans to prepare for any changes that need to be made in 2014.

"If there is not a review of an estate plan this year, it definitely needs to be done at the start of next year. If there is not an estate plan in place, that needs to become a priority," Seward said.

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the Southern New Mexico community now, and in the future. Founded in 2000, the Community Foundation offers opportunities for local people who want to give back locally. The beauty of the Foundation is that you need not be wealthy to make a positive difference in the lives of people throughout our area. Through our planned giving programs, you can honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits the people of Southern New Mexico, including Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero and Sierra Counties, for generations to come. The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico can advise you on how best to maximize contributions, no matter what size. For more information see our website at www.cfsnm.org or call 521-4794.

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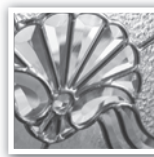


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Insurance

Continued from page B1

for appointments.

Those whose annual incomes exceed Medicaid guidelines will be assisted later as website issues are resolved, Coles said.

"It's crazy that we can't help people," she said.

Coles said people who have the time to sit in front of a computer for hours can easily access the federal marketplace and enroll at home.

She suggested they try during evening hours when online traffic is lower.

Another place to get help is with agents and brokers selling marketplace products. They meet licensing requirements and take training on the Be Well New Mexico protocol and publicly subsidized insurance programs.

Michelle Stecher, agent and owner of Michelle Stecher Agency in Las Cruces, said as of Friday, Dec. 6, she had not yet served a small business customer.

She said the health insurance customers she sees fall into two categories – those who don't know where to start and those who have gone online and determined their eligibility and want help to complete their enrollment.

"Your eligibility tells you how much the federal government will pay for you," she said. "My role is to show them how it works. I help you determine what fits your budget and works best for you."

What does health insurance cost?

A report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said individuals in New Mexico will pay an average of \$282 a month for a mid-range insurance plan considered a benchmark by the federal government. That's lower than the national average of \$328. Those

costs are before people apply any tax credits they may be eligible to receive, the Associated Press reported.

Stecher said, however, that demographics may have a negative impact on rates for Las Cruces.

She explained that consumers used to have to answer 20 to 50 questions in order to determine their rate, a practice that elevated the cost of insurance for people with pre-existing conditions. In an Affordable Care Act reform designed to rid the system of discrimination based on pre-existing conditions, applicants now answer only three questions: their gender,

where they live and whether or not they smoke.

Under the new system, rates determined by Zip code may not work in the favor of Las Cruces.

Because the local population is older on average, rates determined by Zip code appear to be relatively high for many residents.

"A good 80 percent will see an increase in what they'll be paying," Stecher said. "Most will pay \$100 to \$200 more per month."

She said there is "widespread surprise" about the cost of health insurance, both on an off the exchange.

"The federal government is going to have to come in and work more closely with insurance companies, or insurance companies are going to have to go to the government and say that without additional underwriting tools they can't price the plans," she said.

The good news for many Las Cruces, however, is they now can qualify for Medicaid.

Stecher said many of her customers qualify under the expanded Medicaid ruling. Only a few of the uninsured fail to qualify for Medicaid, she said.

Stecher said she found out the hard way that the glitches related to enrolling online are browser-related.

She said she was directed from the federal consumer site to the state site and back again. Shut out, she called and waited on the line for tech support.

"NMHIX has been wonderful with troubleshooting," she said.

"Despite the problems with the federal website, one thing they are not out there promoting is the website is not working well with Internet Explorer. Nine out of 10 times with Google Chrome or Firefox it runs very efficiently."

Options for small businesses

In New Mexico's SHOP marketplace, employers must cover a minimum of 50 percent of their employees' health care costs, according to a Kaiser Foundation report.

If a business has less than 25 full-time employees, offers coverage to all full-time employees, has an average annual salary for all employees of less than \$50,000 and contributes at least 50 percent of premium costs for

employee plans, the business may be eligible to receive a tax credit.

Employers select a health plan level (bronze, silver, gold, or platinum) to offer employees and select a reference plan on which to base their contribution for each employee. Employees can select any plan within the metal level offered by their employer, although they may have to pay more, based on the plan they choose.

One hundred New Mexico small businesses signed up to buy insurance on the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange in the exchange's first six hours of operation, according to Albuquerque Business First.

"I was really excited," NMHIX Interim CEO Mike Nuñez told BizFirst. "They (employers) were scattered and many of them were in rural

areas. I was pleased that the first ones were in the hinterlands."

Nuñez said there were some glitches in the system, particularly for businesses with older Internet browsers, but those issues were being resolved.

Hammer said, as of Friday, Dec. 6, 1,288 small businesses in New Mexico had begun the application process for SHOP. Of those, 521 had selected a plan to offer employees and 361 had completed the registration process.

She said a total of 170 employees of small businesses in New Mexico had signed up for coverage.

There is one phone number that all customers can call to receive assistance: 855-99-NMHIX.

“ One thing they are not out there promoting is the website is not working well with Internet Explorer. ”

MICHELLE STECHER,
insurance agent

Details

Health insurance agents

Specially trained and licensed agents can walk Las Cruces through the process of determining eligibility, enrolling and choosing among available plans. Agents include:

- Pat Campbell Insurance LLC
141 Roadrunner Parkway
524-8642
- Western Insurance Consultants LP
1065-D S. Main St., Suite C
525-0064
- Martha Sanchez Insurance Agency
100 Wyatt Drive, Suite C
527-9889
- Jason Weedman
7466 Sierra Luz
256-3693
- McGonigle Insurance Inc.
156 Wyatt Drive Suite 5
650-1808
- 'N Compass Group
1161 Mall Drive, Suite D
647-0009
- Michelle Stecher Agency
506 S. Main St., Suite 940
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Building Las Cruces



CVS Pharmacy

A deal has been finalized and the property at the northeast corner of Main Street and Picacho Avenue awaits the start of construction on a new CVS Pharmacy. A fourth quarter 2014 opening is planned, according to commercial Realtor Jake Redfearn of NAI First Valley.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Alta LeCompte

Briefs

Dunkin' doubles

At 5 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, Las Cruces were able to start their day with free Dunkin' Donuts coffee during the grand opening of a new store at 3835 E. Lohman Ave., Suite 100.

The newly constructed Dunkin' Donuts is now open daily, 4:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Sizzling Platter LLC, a Utah-based restaurant management company, owns and operates the new store, along with the Main Street location that opened in July.

"We are thrilled to be growing in the Las Cruces market," said David Hall, vice president of finance for Sizzling Platter LLC., "New Mexico has taken a real liking to the Dunkin' brand."

"We offer an array of all-day options," said Ted Morton, Sizzling Platter CEO. "From your first cup of iced or hot coffee to our amazing breakfast and lunch sandwiches, we believe it's a perfect fit for Las Cruces."

Sizzling Platter LLC operates and manages restaurant locations across seven western states under the Dunkin' Donuts, Little Caesars, Sizzler, Red Robin and Hoppers Grill & Brewing Company brands.

HTC to celebrate holidays

The High Tech Consortium (HTC) of Southern New Mexico will hold its monthly meeting and year-end social event. Friday,

Dec. 20, in the ballroom at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

The monthly membership meeting 5 to 5:30 p.m. will be immediately followed by the annual reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and no-host beverages will be served.

This will be a relaxed evening of networking and discussion of New Mexico's professional science and technology-associations and shared efforts to advance engineering and technology cooperation in southern New Mexico.

For more information, call Terry Jack at 522-3868 or email terry@imac.us.com,

ScottHulse adds four associates

ScottHulse law firm has expanded its professional staff in El Paso with the addition of four new associate attorneys: David Hansen, Roberto Chavez, Lauren Serrano and John Collins.

ScottHulse is a full-service law firm with offices in El Paso and Las Cruces. ScottHulse attorneys have represented individuals and major participants in the commercial and industrial sectors of the El Paso, Juárez and Las Cruces Borderplex region since 1889.

"Dynamic growth in El Paso and the Borderplex is attracting some of the brightest and the best – talented professionals who want to make El Paso their home and be a part of these exciting changes," said ScottHulse Chairman David Bernard. "Our firm is growing with the Borderplex, so we're delighted that we were able to recruit these four outstanding attorneys, who share both our values and our enthusiasm for our community. The diversity of their roles is reflective of the strong growth across many of our core practice areas."

Hansen joins the firm's tax, foundations, nonprofits and exempt organizations and intellectual property sections. Before joining ScottHulse, he was an attorney adviser for the Social Security Administration in Falls Church, Va. He earned his L.L.M. in taxation from New York University and his Doctor

of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Texas. He also has a Master of Business Administration degree from Cornell University.

An El Paso native, Chavez assists ScottHulse clients with international and cross-border business, Mexico law and corporate and securities legal matters. He earned his JD degree at The University of Texas School of Law.

A lifelong El Pasoan, Serrano is an attorney in the business law section at ScottHulse. Her practice areas include estate planning, probate, asset protection and small business planning. She earned her JD degree at Texas Tech University School of Law, where she graduated with honors.

Collins joins the firm's litigation, labor and employment, education and construction law groups. A native of Houston, he earned a JD degree, cum laude, from Baylor University Law School.

IRS announces 2014 mileage rates for taxpayers

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued the 2014 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2014, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 56 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 23.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The business, medical and moving expense rates decrease one-half cent from the 2013 rates. The charitable rate is based on statute. The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

These and other requirements for a taxpayer to use a standard mileage rate to calculate the amount of a deductible business, moving, medical or charitable expense are in Rev. Proc. 2010-51. Notice 2013-80 contains the standard mileage rates, the amount a taxpayer must use in calculating reductions to basis for depreciation taken under the business standard mileage rate, and the maximum standard automobile cost that a taxpayer may use in computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan.



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Interns receive Career Experience Awards

EXCEL students win in the workplace

Bulletin Staff Report

Hundreds of parents and friends packed the cafeteria at Oñate High School Tuesday, Dec. 3, for the fall 2013 Student Career Experience Awards.

Among those attending were staff of the Las Cruces Bulletin, there to congratulate photography intern Brianna Tome, who received an Outstanding Student award.

Her mom, dad, sisters, brothers and boyfriend were on hand to see her taken completely by surprise.

Tome said when EXCEL teacher Chris Ashby said she has a good eye for photography, she broke down.

"I've never won an award before," Tome said.

Tome, a Las Cruces High School senior, has been taking photos since her freshman year. She has completed seven high school art classes and plans to continue her education at Doña Ana Community College.

At the Bulletin, she worked with graphic designers who mentored her as she honed her skills in macro-photography and photo editing.

"Photography captures a moment, a memory," Tome said. "It's nice to be able to look back at the past."

The career awards event was sponsored by Las Cruces Public Schools, Skill-Ready Doña Ana and the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce.

On display were posters created by Experience-based Career Education and Learning (EXCEL) students placed in internships in private and public sector workplaces during the fall semester.

Two students – Gary Melton, who worked at JD Custom Machine, and Victor Tyfair, who honed his skills at Leasburg State Park – received awards for creating the best career posters.



Photography intern Brianna Tome took this photograph of a flower. Nature is one of her favorite subjects. Her mom chose this one as her favorite.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Brianna Tome

Outstanding Student Awards for the EXCEL and Youth Tutoring Youth (YTY) Programs went to the following students:

Bibiliana Ponce, Cesar Chavez Elementary; Rebecca Whitlock (YTY), Sonoma Elementary School; Lesly Ruiz, Memorial Medical Center ICU; Grant Levron, Radio Las Cruces; and Tome.

Derek Baldonando, Destiny Hunt, Elijah Johnson, Gary Melton, Christopher Serna, Danielle Smith, Madeleine Woodward,

William Blevins, Martin Burkardt, Haddie Garrison, Stephanie Goodman and Brianna Rodriguez received Gold Level National Career Readiness Certificates.

Skill-Ready Doña Ana Employer Champion Awards for implementing skills-based hiring that uses WorkKeys assessments and for supporting EXCEL and SRDA were presented to Brewer Oil and the City of Las Cruces.

EXCEL stands for Experience-based Career

Education and Learning – learning about careers through actual work experience. The elective allows high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to learn about careers and themselves from real life experiences in the world of work.

Students are placed at community job sites in careers of their choice for half of each school day and spend the other half-day taking courses at their high school. Students earn two credits for their EXCEL class.



Photo by Olivia Tome

Brianna Tome, Outstanding EXCEL Student winner, surrounded by EXCEL teacher Chris Ashby and Las Cruces Bulletin staffers Rafael Torres, Rachel Courtney, Jessica Grady and Ramon Gonzalez following a poster session and awards presentation at Oñate High School.

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Early snows a gift?

Rocky Mountain winter could help local farmers

By **Marvin Tessneer**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The northern mountain snow packs are accumulating, but Mesilla Valley farmers are not counting on a good irrigation runoff yet.

State climatologist David DuBois said snow storms have arrived in the mountains that supply water to the EBID system.

"They're really a good start at this point for the snow packs when you compare them with the last three years," he said.

According to DuBois, water equivalency percent compared with their 30-year averages are:

Rio Chama Basin, 108; Jemez River Basin, 155; Pecos River Basin, 133; Red River Basin, 110; and Eagles Nest Basin, 110.

"But you have to look at the overall trend," DuBois said. "These figures are from the higher elevations and the snowfall has flattened out recently. The bottom line is, it's better to have above an average snow pack at the beginning of the irrigation season but we'd better see how it runs off before we start celebrating."

Even with a good runoff, much of the water can be lost in the arroyos and Rio Grande bed that have been left dry by three years of extreme drought.

"The 2013 irrigation season was the worst since 1964," said Phillip King, Elephant Butte Irrigation District hydrology consultant.

In 1964, the EBID delivered 206,000 acre-feet to Lower Rio Grande farmers. But in 2013, the district could only deliver 109,000 acre-feet, or 4 inches of water to EBID, El

Paso and Mexican farmers, King said.

With a good snow pack, Lower Rio Grande irrigation normally is conducted from April until September.

Leo Barrett, maintenance foreman, said all 600 miles of canals and drainage ditches have been cleaned to handle water and concrete structures have been installed to measure canal water flow.

"We're ready to go when the water gets here," he said.

One EBID customer who is optimistic about the coming irrigation is Marty Franzoy, who farms 720 acres in the Salem and Rincon area.

"We're getting a lot more rain and snow up here, and the water situation is looking a lot better than last year," Franzoy said. "In one rain, I got 12 inches on my farm and some runoff. I got my year's quota average in one week. They call it the Thousand Year Rain."

Franzoy raises chile, onions, alfalfa, cotton, pecans, wheat and corn silage.

Rain and snow runoff also have been building up storage the Abiquiu and Cochise reservoirs to the north, which help the Rio Grande runoff.

"Everything is wet from Elephant Butte north to the Rio Grande head waters," Franzoy said.

The storage at Elephant Butte Reservoir is 228,190 acre-feet, 10 percent of capacity. The snow pack runoff into Elephant Butte at San Marcial last spring was down to about 40 percent of average.

Meanwhile, pecan growers are hoping for dry weather to expedite their harvest.

Pecan grower David Daviet said a freeze arrived at the right time, but his area received 2 inches of snow and he had to wait until his orchard dries out so he could move in harvest machinery. The machinery can leave ruts in the soggy ground that may fill with nuts that are difficult to recover.

"A dry orchard floor is a fast harvest,"



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jessica Grady

Snow has begun to fall to the north of the Mesilla Valley, bringing hope of a better runoff in winter 2014. In the Organ Mountains, pictured last winter, significant snowfall has yet to arrive.

Daviet said.

"Our main concern in the Mesilla Valley right now is how much the 'salt' water has

affected our pecan trees," he said. "The salt water has stressed our pecan trees, and stress hurts the yields."

The Arbors shares dreams with The Jardin de los Niños family



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Alta LeCompte

Michael Manzanares, public relations and Alzheimer's liaison, and Mary Lopez, activities director, prepare bears for delivery from the Arbors of Del Rey to Jardín de los Niños in time for a Wednesday, Dec. 18 children's Christmas party. The Arbors staff and friends, with a major assist from the Mayfield High School softball team, collected more than 140 cuddly toys. "We want to give the children a really special holiday," Manzanares said. "It's important for kids to have dreams and hopes."

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AGGIEUP

Santa shares some goodies at the Mesilla Valley Mall breakfast

Photos by Alta LeCompte



Santa holds a bottle of sparkling cider he's about to award to one of the children attending Breakfast with Santa at the Mesilla Valley Mall, an annual event held Saturday, Dec. 7.



Santa congratulates grand prize winner Eva Bulla, 8, a student at J. Paul Taylor Academy, who took home a sack of toys almost as tall as she is.



Las Cruces High School cheerleader Ripley Pierce wraps gifts as a fundraiser.



Brothers Zachary Hudson, 8, and Jackson Hudson, 4, are full of pizza at Breakfast with Santa.



Shoppers get an early start and make preparing for the holidays a family affair.

Madison Kahle, 10, and Mackenzie Kahle, 8, have attended every Breakfast with Santa at the mall for five years, and embrace the family tradition.



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

BECK'S COFFEE

Contact info: 556-9850
www.facebook.com/beckscoffee
 Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market

Mission: To roast and brew the best coffee in the Las Cruces area, while providing unparalleled customer service and variety.

History: Rebecca "Beck" Rosnick opened Beck's Coffee, working out of her home in 2010. She was soon able to purchase a professional roaster and expand her business. In August, Tyrell Thacker was trained as roaster and Beck was able to head off to Australia to be with her family.

2013 SMALL BUSINESSES OF THE MONTH

February	Keller Williams Realty
March	Kraenzel's Landscaping
April	Amaro Winery
May	The LNG Company
June	Advanced Hearing Care
July	Haciendas at Grace Village
August	'N Compass Group
September	Helping Hands Event Planning
October	Arbonne
November	Legalshield/Eldelisa Nava
December	Beck's Coffee

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.

THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin



Classifieds

claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned personal representative at the address listed below, or filed with the Doña Ana Probate Court, 845 N. Motel Boulevard, Las Cruces, NM 88007.

Dated: 5 December 2013

Sarah Vigil
2926 Glass Road
Las Cruces, NM 88005

ESTRADA LAW, P.C.
/s/Michele Ungvarsky
Michele Ungvarsky, Esq.
4611 Research Park Circle
A112
Las Cruces, NM 88001
575.556.2462
Attorneys for The Estate of
Eloy Vigil

Dates: 12/13, 12/20, 2013

THE STATE OF
NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF
DOÑA ANA
THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT

No. D-307-CV-2013-02030

BANK OF AMERICA,
NATION ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,

vs.

RICHARD A. KEDING
JR., a married person as
his sole and separate prop-
erty; WELLS FARGO
BANK, N.A.; ATLANTIC
CREDIT & FINANCE
INC.; MORRISON SUP-
PLY COMPANY; NEW
MEXICO TAXATION
AND REVENUE DE-
PARTMENT, MOTOR
VEHICLE DIVISION;
ABC Corporations I-X,
XYZ Partnerships I-X,
John Does I-X and Jane
Does I-X, THE UN-
KNOWN HEIRS AND
DEVICES OF ANY OF
THE ABOVE, IF DE-
CEASED, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF NEW MEXI-
CO to Defendant Richard
A. Keding Jr.:

You are hereby notified that the above-named Plaintiff, BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, has filed a civil action against you in the above-entitled Court and cause, the general object thereof being to foreclose a mortgage on real property located at 9400 Polaris Street, Las Cruces, NM 88012. The real property which is the subject matter of this action is legally described as follows:

LOTS 9 AND 10 IN
BLOCK 1 OF MOONGATE
SUBDIVISION, LOCATED
IN DOÑA ANA, NEW
MEXICO, AS THE SAME
IS SHOWN AND DESIG-
NATED ON THE PLAT
THEREOF FILED FOR RE-
CORD IN THE OFFICE OF

THE COUNTY CLERK OF
DOÑA ANA, NEW MEXI-
CO ON APRIL 18, 1966
AND RECORDED IN
BOOK 9 AT PAGES 94,
PLAT RECORDS.

Unless you serve a pleading or motion in response to the Complaint in said cause on or before thirty (30) days after the last publication date, judgment by default will be entered against you.

MCCARTHY HOLTHUS
& LEVINE, P.C.
By /s/Matthew A. Silverman
Matthew A. Silverman
(24751)
8502 E. Via de Ventura,
Suite 200
Scottsdale, Arizona 85258
Attorneys for Plaintiff
855-809-3977

WITNESS the Honorable
James T. Martin, District
Court Judge, of the Third
Judicial District of New
Mexico Judicial District
Court, Doña Ana County,
New Mexico, this
6th day of December, 2013.

CLERK OF THE
DISTRICT COURT
By Jose A. Gomez
Deputy

Dates: 12/13, 12/20, 12/27,
2013

THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF
DOÑA ANA
STATE OF
NEW MEXICO

IN THE MATTER OF
THE PETITION OF
MARY CATHERINE
TOMEI, Petitioner.

Cause No. CV-13-2574
JUDGE: Manuel I. Arrieta

NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR CHANGE OF
NAME

TO WHOM IT MAY
CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that Mary Catherine Tomci will apply to the District Court of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, on the 28th day of January, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. at the Doña Ana Judicial Complex, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, for the purpose of changing her name from Mary Catherine Tomei to Mary Kay Tomei.

DATED: 11-26-13

DISTRICT COURT CLERK

/s/Naheainer
By: Deputy

Dates: 12/06, 12/13, 2013

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12/30/2013

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Nutrition, Health Educa-
tion, Family & Child
Development, Extension
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ployed and willing to
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required, reimbursed at
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Dates: 12/06, 12/13,
2013

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Life is Good in Las Cruces

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013

C1

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



'Out of the furnace'
is a little cold
C11

HOMES & SW LIVING



Festive, yet frugal,
decorating tips
C13

HEALTH & WELL BEING



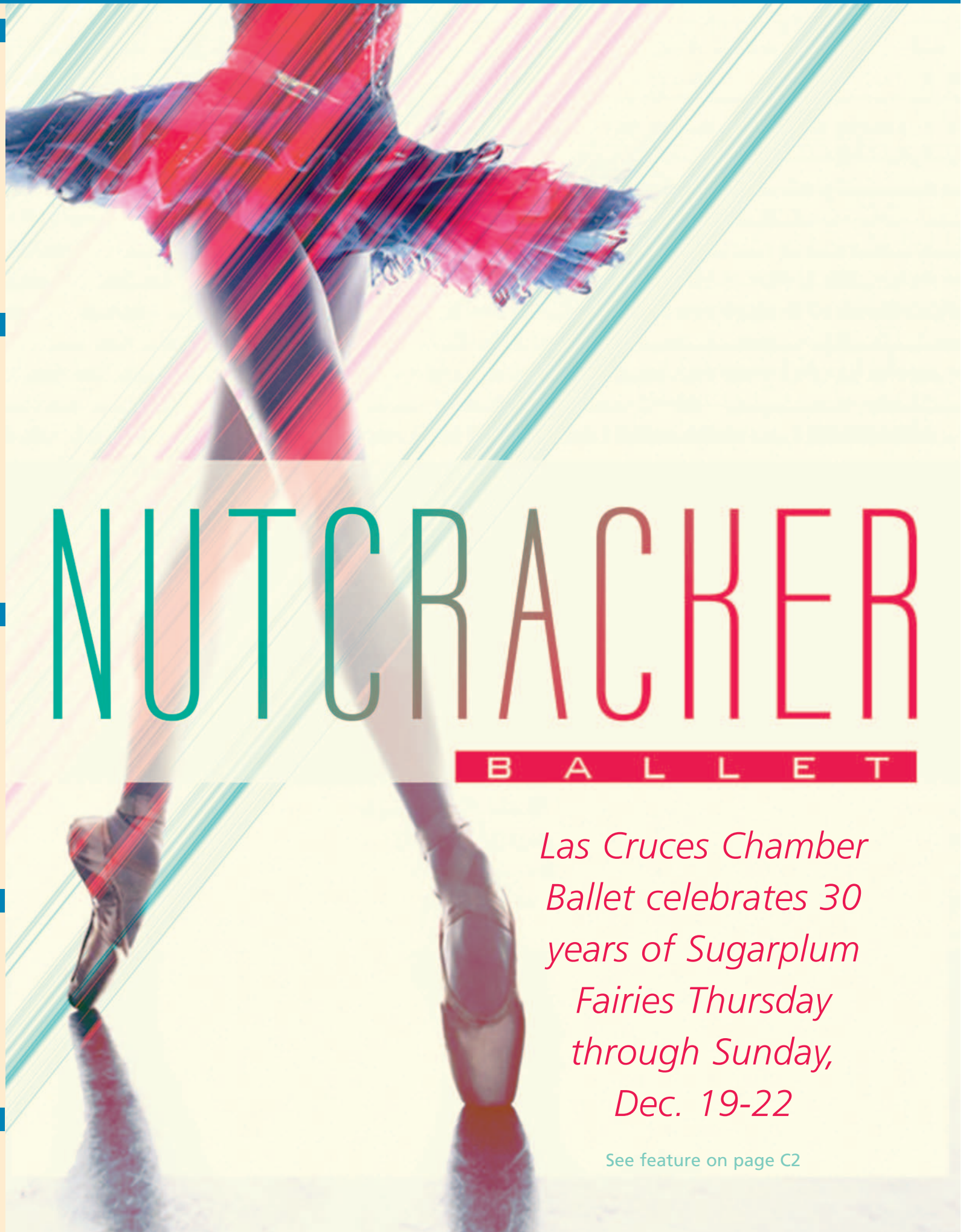
Be a Santa to a
Senior this season
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NEXT WEEK

**Lighting up
Las Cruces**
The spirit shows in homes
and businesses



NUTCRACKER

BALLET

*Las Cruces Chamber
Ballet celebrates 30
years of Sugarplum
Fairies Thursday
through Sunday,
Dec. 19-22*

See feature on page C2

Christmas with the Stahlbaums

LCCB celebrates 30th anniversary of holiday classic

By **Zak Hansen**
Las Cruces Bulletin

This month, the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet celebrates its 30th anniversary production of the beloved Nutcracker ballet, with four performances at the Atkinson Recital Hall on the New Mexico State University campus.

In celebration of the 30th annual production of The Nutcracker, and the 35th anniversary of Michele's Dance Academy, home of the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet, Artistic Director Kevin Self, along with Ballet Mistress Charlene Manning and Assistant Ballet Mistress Laura Vechione, has overhauled the entire first act.

"Basically, act one hadn't been touched substantially for the past 20 years," Self said. "Because it's so massive and so involved, with more than 50 dancers at some points, nobody wanted to touch it."

"We started working on it back in July, took it on, and now I understand why we took all of 20 years to tackle it," he said with a chuckle.

The cast of dancers will see a few surprises this year, with two dancers arriving from the Dance Theatre of Harlem to take on the roles of the Sugarplum Fairy and her Cavalier as well as the return to stage of director Self as Herr Drosselmeyer.

Self said he "pseudo retired" five years ago, but this year, a young dancer tackling the role of Clara, 12-year-old Brigid Walker, inspired

him to enter the spotlight again.

"We choreographed the whole thing around her," he said. "She's only 12, but you won't believe what she can do."

Self said the return to the stage, however, hasn't been easy, especially for someone like him, who already closed the door on his professional dance career at the age of 22, following time spent dancing with the American Ballet Theatre out of New York, one of the largest and most respected companies in the world.

"The average age for a male dancer to retire is between 22 and 25," he said, recalling the times he stood at the dance barre alongside luminaries including Eric Bruhn, Rudolf Nureyev and Russian defector Mikhail Baryshnikov.

"Coming back after five years might be a mistake," Self said with a laugh, "but thank God for Ibuprofen."

With the stage layout changed dramatically, the center stage Christmas tree shifted to stage left, the existing choreography had to be radically changed to accommodate, but Self, along with Manning and Vechione, insisted on keeping elements first incorporated into the choreography by Self's late wife and founder of Michele's Dance Academy, the first dance studio in Las Cruces, Michele Self.

"Essentially, the entire choreography has been changed, but we've retained a few of the highlights Michele had in there," Self said. "We

“What’s most important to the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet is that it’s been all community supported over the years.”

KEVIN SELF,
artistic director of the
Las Cruces Chamber Ballet

keep her choreography in there because a lot of the kids have grown up with it, they know it. There are little movements and flourishes in there, and they all know what they are and why we keep them still."

Also new, a \$10,000 drop has been purchased, which Self described as "just beautiful." Much of the staging used by the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet has been cobbled together over the past 15 years, after a fire at their Downtown warehouse destroyed everything.

"We had sets for Nutcracker there, for Sleeping Beauty, for Swan Lake - full ballets," he said. "We've never recovered from that all the way, but we're putting it together as we go."

When Michele passed nearly eight years ago, after a lifetime love of dance and instruction and a 20-year marriage, which Self described as "simply a wonderful life," he said he made a promise to her: to keep the academy alive and thriving, which it's done.

"We've just celebrated 35 years here," he said. "That's a lot of ballet shoes."

Self said Michele's Dance Academy still thrives in Las Cruces due to the dedication of not only Manning and Vechione, but to the continued support of the community at large.

"What's most important to the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet is that it's been all community supported over the years," he said. "We don't accept any grants; we only accept the support of the people in this city who want to see dance, through donations and ticket sales."

"No one gets paid to do this. In the whole of these 30-some years, it's been all-volunteer, and that says so much about Las Cruces and the people in it."

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, Friday, Dec. 20, and Saturday, Dec. 21, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. Tickets are \$25, and may be purchased through www.ticketmaster.com or by calling the Pan American Center box office at 646-6120.

Details

Las Cruces Chamber Ballet presents The Nutcracker Ballet

When

- 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 19-21
- 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22

Where

Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe Drive on the NMSU campus

Cost

\$24

Contact

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Website

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Featured group:

The Strangeluvs Burlesque & Variety

Naughty or nice? Strangeluvs Burlesque puts a sultry spin on the holidays

By **Zak Hansen**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Around the holidays, the City of the Crosses becomes a flurry of activity, with events, musical performances, theater productions and more, all imbued with the Christmas spirit.

Those interested in something a bit different, though, are in luck, with one local burlesque troupe putting their own sultry, sexy twist on the holidays.

The Strangeluvs Burlesque & Variety troupe will host its coming-out troupe show, "A Very Strangeluv Christmas" burlesque and variety show at 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the West End Art Depot, 401 N. Mesilla St. Getting further into the Christmas spirit, they've partnered with Toys For Tots, and bringing a new, unwrapped toy for a needy child will take \$2 off the \$7 ticket price.

The Strangeluvs were formed in August by founders Cinema and Lucy La Bamba when an existing troupe, That's What She Said, was left without a leader.

"Our director moved out to Austin, leaving the troupe, but there were some difficulties in terms of who was going to lead, and a new troupe started," Cinema said.

"When the troupe leader left, it was a weird situation," said Lucy La Bamba. "We didn't know where to go from there, and no one knew who was supposed to be making the decisions. (Cinema) and I really wanted to try our hand at doing it ourselves, being our own leaders, directing – stressing ourselves out even more – so we formed a new troupe."

The Strangeluvs troupe now stands at eight full members: Cinema, Lucy La Bamba, Vivienne Manhattan, Ella Quint, Phoenix, Adonis Malone (the Strangeluvs' first and only male member) and two who are still in the process of selecting stage names.

While several members of That's What She Said have gone on to form their own group, adhering to a more traditional, classical style of burlesque, the Strangeluvs have tended more toward neo-burlesque, which gives them a wider berth of creative freedom with regards to musical accompaniment, styles of dance, props and onward.

"Every dancer should go back, and they should all have those traditional routines in their repertoire, but neo-burlesque really allows

us to push the envelope a bit more and explore different things," La Bamba said.

For the members of the Strangeluvs, burlesque has been a way to grow, to push their comfort levels and build confidence, all while putting on a fun, seductive show.

"The best part for me has been pushing my comfort level," Cinema said.

With connections to several local filmmakers, she said she's gotten comfortable being on camera; with burlesque, not so much.

"With film, you get used to it and it's fun, but you don't get nervous anymore," she said. "With this, I've never stopped getting nervous."

Lucy La Bamba echoed those sentiments.

"You never stop getting nervous, and that's the really beautiful thing about it," she said. "It's really hard to get over that, but it's amazing how much it boosts your confidence. That's really been a saving grace for us."

With two burlesque troupes in Las Cruces and the holiday theme dominating the majority of town happenings, the Strangeluvs had its work cut out for it setting itself apart with its first performance.

"Before we did a Christmas show, we had wanted to do something with a freak-show theme, but we realized it was only a month since we had taken in new members – not enough time to learn burlesque," Cinema said. "We pushed it back and figured, why not just combine them?"

"We really wanted

Details

A Very Strangeluv Christmas

When

9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Where

West End Art Depot,
401 N. Mesilla St.

Cost

\$7, \$5 with new, unwrapped toy

Website

[www.facebook.com/
Thestrangeluvsburlesque](http://www.facebook.com/Thestrangeluvsburlesque)

to do something different, not just a Christmas show," La Bamba chimed in. "We wanted to put our own, weird spin on it. We're called the Strangeluvs – we wanted to do something strange."

So what does that mean?

For Cinema, "we wanted to have girls and guys who incorporate both in their act, with a Christmas element and a freak show element," she said.

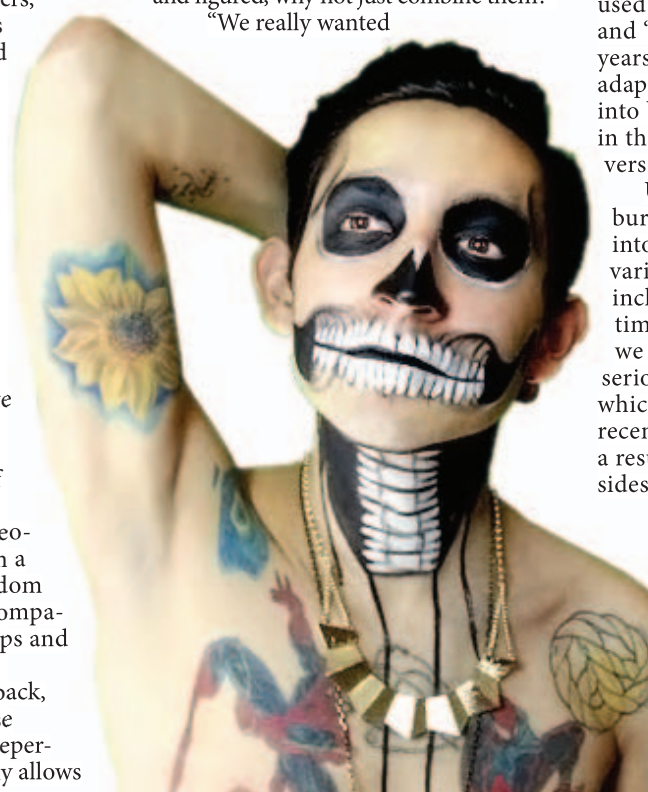
Sure, there will be presents to unwrap and plenty of tinsel, but "A Very Strangeluv Christmas" is anything but kid stuff. To leave an air of mystery, attendees can expect a Christmas performance unlike any they've ever seen. Burlesque, however, often gets a bad rap, one Cinema and Lucy La Bamba said they'd like to dispel.

"A lot of people are ill-informed and skeptical about burlesque," Cinema said. "If they're actually there, they'll see it's not raunchy; it's playful, sexy and fun."

Burlesque, in fact, arose as European literary and social satire in the 17th century. At first, the word was used interchangeably with "parody" and "pastiche," which evolved over the years into Victorian burlesque, which adapted well-known plays and operas into broad, risqué musical plays. Later in the late 1800s, the show form traversed the Atlantic Ocean.

Upon arrival on American shores, burlesque gradually incorporated into its repertoire of musical acts, variety acts, comedy and theater the inclusion of striptease, which, in time, came to stand as the art form we know today. Prohibition dealt a serious blow to American burlesque, which gradually faded by the 1970s. In recent years, however, the art has seen a resurgence in popularity on both sides of the pond.

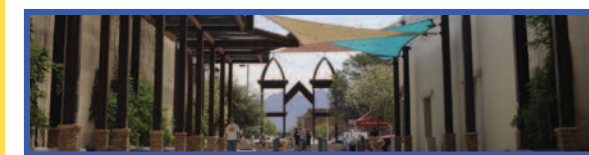
Strangeluvs Burlesque & Variety troupe member Adonis Malone will join their fellow dancers for "A Very Strangeluv Christmas" at 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at West End Art Depot, 401 N. Mesilla St.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

FRI DEC 13	1030 A.M.
Rhythm Roundup – Music & Movement ages 2–5	Branigan Library
FRI DEC 13	3 P.M.
Dinosaurs A to Z	LC Museum of Nature & Science
FRI DEC 13	3 P.M.
Fantastic Fridays	Branigan Library
FRI – SUN DEC 13–15	8 P.M. (SUN 230 P.M.)
Nora	Black Box Theatre
SAT DEC 14	1030 A.M.
Storytellers of Las Cruces	COAS Bookstore
SAT DEC 14	2 P.M.
Teen Holiday Ornament Program	Branigan Library
SAT DEC 14	11 A.M.
Saturday Morning Family Story & Art Journeys	Branigan Cultural Center
SAT DEC 14	NOON
Old-Fashioned Ornaments Family Workshop	Branigan Cultural Center
SAT DEC 14	2 P.M.
Lecture: Lincoln in New Mexico	Branigan Cultural Center
TUE DEC 17	1030 A.M.
Read to Me – Storytime ages 3 & Up	Branigan Library
TUE DEC 17	630 P.M.
Branigan Book Club	Branigan Library
WED+THU DEC 18+19	10 A.M.
Toddler Time! Stories for kids 1–3	Branigan Library
WED DEC 18	11 A.M.
Mother Goose Time	Branigan Library
WED DEC 18	2 P.M.
Cultural Connections Book Club	Branigan Cultural Center
THU DEC 19	Noon
Lunch & Learn	Branigan Library



ONGOING EVENTS:

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

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Galleries & Openings

ONGOING

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART presents "Green," a multimedia installation by Marietta Patricia Leis, inspired by her time as an artist-in-residence in Thailand; "Extended Passage of Time," panoramic photographs of White Sands National Monument by Gunnar Plake; "Metamorphosis," a post-humorous exhibition of Gail Factor's large-scale oil paintings; and "Tejido Fronterizo/Border Tapestry," works in various mediums by members of the Southern New Mexico Border Artists. All four exhibits will remain on display through January 2014.

The Las Cruces Museum of Art is located at 491 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 541-2137.

BRANIGAN CULTURAL CENTER presents "Toys and Dolls: The Warner Collection," a celebration of the toys and dolls from the permanent collection, "Adorning the World: The Intersection of Jewelry and Culture," an interpretive presentation of tribal jewelry by artist Karen Feder and "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," a traveling exhibit examining how President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War, the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties.

All three exhibits will remain on display through January 2014.

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.

QUILLIN STUDIO AND GALLERY presents a Christmas Bazaar, featuring work from more than 10 local artisans including leather and copper work, 3-D sandscapes, indoor and outdoor sculpture, jewelry, gifts and hand-decorated cards for special holiday gift-giving.

Quillin Studio and Gallery is located at 317 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday. For more information, call 3121064.

MOUNTAIN GALLERY presents monthly art installations by members of the Las Cruces Arts Association, as well as a Christmas Bazaar featuring works created by LCAA members.

Mountain Gallery is located at 138 W. Mountain Ave. Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, as well as from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, for the Downtown Art Ramble. For more information, visit www.lascrucesarts.org.

MESQUITE ART GALLERY presents "Stocking Stuffers," reasonably priced

items from select artists and photography from gallery owner Mel Stone. The exhibit will remain on display through the end of December.

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 541-1126.

M. PHILLIP'S GALLERY has acquired some incredible new art glass, including a monumental piece by Rick Satava. The gallery will also be continuing its annual Christmas sale, with 15 percent off art glass and amber jewelry.

M. Phillip's Gallery is located at 221 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 525-1367.

MAIN STREET GALLERY presents "Many Faces from Different Places," a collection of the oil-on-canvas portraits of American Indian and Latino cultures as well as, for the first time, several stone sculptures. The exhibit will remain on display through the end of December.

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 1:30 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 647-0508.

CREATIVE HARMONY GALLERY AND GIFTS presents an exhibit of the photography of Pamela

Needham. Needham's photography is done in vibrant color, and focuses on nature themes and landscapes. The exhibit will remain on display through the end of December.

Creative Harmony Gallery and Gifts is located at 220 N. Campo St. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and by appointment. For more information, call 312-3040.

WEST END ART DEPOT presents "Dynamic Institution," an exhibit of work from 14 New Mexico State University graduate art students from diverse backgrounds, featuring artworks ranging from the poetic to the polemic. The exhibit will remain on display through Jan. 28, 2014.

West End Art Depot is located at 401 N. Mesilla St. Gallery hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday. For more information, visit www.we-ad.org.

ADOBE PATIO GALLERY presents "Shine," a collection of Georjeanna Feltha's multimedia artworks inspired by the desire for self-discovery and a strong focus on the strength of human spirit, to close out the 2013 Pro-Artists series. The exhibit remain on display through Jan. 4, 2014.

Adobe Patio Gallery is located at 1765 Calle de Mercado. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 532-9310.

CUTTER GALLERY presents an exhibit of the work of ceramic artists Susi and Richard Bergquist. Susi is well known for her free-standing Indian folklore pieces, mojaves and ledger drawings, and Richard's specialty

is clay santos and nativities. The gallery also continues to exhibit original drawings, paintings, cards, ornaments, boxes, woodcuts and sculptures in its Mesilla Valley Christmas Show.

Cutter Gallery is located at 2640 El Paseo Road. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 541-0658.

MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY features two artists, Rayma Claeseen, known for her beautiful landscapes, and Richard Spellenberg, a wood turner. The gallery is also pleased to welcome two new members, Bonnie MacQuarrie and Lori Shalett, and one returning, Carlos West. The exhibit will remain on display through the end of December.

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe in Mesilla. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday. For more information, call 522-2933.

NEW MEXICO FARM & RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM presents a compilation of 50 to 60 lithographs from renowned cowboy artist Robert "Shoofly" Shufelt. The exhibit will remain on long-term display in the museum's Heritage Gallery.

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum is located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and

\$2 for children ages 5 to 17. Children 4 and younger, museum friends members and U.S. military veterans receive free admission. For more information, call 522-4100.

AA STUDIOS presents Isadora Stowe's "transportation series," a body of work inspired by modes of movement and immobility, seeking to create a dialogue about the larger meaning of transitions visual, physical and mental. The exhibit will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, 2014, 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014, and 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014.

Aa Studios is located at 2645 Doña Ana Road. Gallery showings are by appointment. For more information, call 541-9770.


NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY presents "Conserving Tradition: The NMSU Retablo Collection," "Make 'Em All Mexican," an exhibit of repurposed American cultural icons by Los Angeles-based Latina artists Linda Vallejo and "Post-Racial U.S.?" a national juried exhibition. The exhibits will remain on display through Dec. 21.

New Mexico State University Art Gallery is located inside D.W. Williams Hall, at the intersection of University Avenue and Solano Drive.

Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and evening hours from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

For more information, call 646-6110 or visit www.nmsu.edu/~artgal.

★ Las Cruces Chamber Ballet ★
Presents:
THE NUTCRACKER




★ ★ ★ ★


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Television Listings



FRIDAY EVENING DECEMBER 13, 2013. Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and channels (PBS 2, CBS 3, ABC 7, FOX 8, NBC 9, CW 14, WGN 15, ESPN 26, ESPN2 27, USA 31, TNT 32, TBS 33, COM 35, LIFE 39, FOOD 40, HGTV 41, A&E 43, HIST 44, TLC 45, DISC 47, ANPL 50, FAM 51, DISN 52, NICK 54, AMC 57, SYFY 59, CNN 62, CNBC 63, MSNBC 64). Includes program titles like News, Jeopardy, Wheel, Last Man Standing, etc.

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 14, 2013. Table with columns for time slots (11:00-4:30) and channels (PBS 2, CBS 3, ABC 7, FOX 8, NBC 9, CW 14, WGN 15, ESPN 26, ESPN2 27, USA 31, TNT 32, TBS 33, COM 35, LIFE 39, FOOD 40, HGTV 41, A&E 43, HIST 44, TLC 45, DISC 47, ANPL 50, FAM 51, DISN 52, NICK 54, AMC 57, SYFY 59, CNN 62, CNBC 63, MSNBC 64). Includes program titles like Hometown, MotorWeek, NMSU, This Old House, etc.

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SATURDAY EVENING DECEMBER 14, 2013. Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and channels (PBS 2, CBS 3, ABC 7, FOX 8, NBC 9, CW 14, WGN 15, ESPN 26, ESPN2 27, USA 31, TNT 32, TBS 33, COM 35, LIFE 39, FOOD 40, HGTV 41, A&E 43, HIST 44, TLC 45, DISC 47, ANPL 50, FAM 51, DISN 52, NICK 54, AMC 57, SYFY 59, CNN 62, CNBC 63, MSNBC 64). Includes program titles like News, Jeopardy, Wheel, Rudolph, etc.

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Television Listings



TUESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 17, 2013

Table of television listings for Tuesday, Dec 17, 2013, from 5:00 to 11:30 PM. Channels include 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, SVFY, CNN, CNBC, and MSNBC.

WEDNESDAY EVENING DECEMBER 18, 2013

Table of television listings for Wednesday, Dec 18, 2013, from 5:00 to 11:30 PM. Channels include 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, SVFY, CNN, CNBC, and MSNBC.

THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 19, 2013

Table of television listings for Thursday, Dec 19, 2013, from 5:00 to 11:30 PM. Channels include 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, SVFY, CNN, CNBC, and MSNBC.

This Week on KRWG-TV 22



Sunday, Dec. 15 7 p.m. Downtown Abbey Marathon

Monday, Dec. 16 7 p.m. Antiques Roadshow

Tuesday, Dec. 17 8 p.m. How Sherlock Changed The World

Wednesday, Dec. 18 7 p.m. Nature - Wolves and Buffalo

Thursday, Dec. 19 7 p.m. Newsmakers

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EventsCalendar

FRI. 12/13

5 to 8 p.m. Open mic, New Mexico State University Barnes & Noble, University Avenue and Jordan Road. Poetry readers and musicians alternate. Organized by David Rodriguez. Free. Call 646-4431.

7 p.m. Border Baroque Holiday Concert, Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Border Baroque is an alliance of professional musicians dedicated to bringing the masterworks of the Baroque era to contemporary audiences. Ensemble programs are enriched by the occasional addition of works from other eras to compare or contrast with the unique musical heritage of the Baroque. Suggested donation is \$3. Visit www.riograndetheatre.com.

7 p.m. Mesilla Valley Teen Singers present "Winter Wind," University Presbyterian Church, 2010 Wisconsin Ave. Mesilla Valley

Teen Singers' annual Christmas concert, "Winter Wind," features selections that all have something to do with the cold wind that blows through at Christmastime. The group is made up of more than 50 young vocalists from area high schools, as well as home-schooled students. Free. Call 405-7133.

7 to 11 p.m. Inaugural Sombra Antigua Christmas Party, Sombra Antigua Winery, 430 La Viña Road, Chamberino, N.M. With live music, wine and hors d'oeuvres. Cost \$125 per couple, reservation only. Call 915-241-4349.

7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Contra Dance, Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago. The Southern New Mexico Music and Dance Society, a nonprofit organization that sponsors dances and music jams, will hold a holiday contra dance featuring the Celtic String Band. Lessons begin at 7:30 p.m. Cost \$6, youth discount \$1. Call 522-1691.

SAT. 12/14

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.

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, Main Street Downtown. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art. Free. Email fcmarket@las-cruces.org.

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.

10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces, COAS Books, 1101 S. Solano Drive and 317 S. Main St. This week, Nancy Banks will be the storyteller at the Downtown location and Judith Ames

will be the storyteller at the Solano location. COAS will give coupons for free books to all children who attend. Free. Call 524-8471.

1 p.m. "The Santa Clause," Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Come to the Rio Grande Theatre for a screening of the 1994 holiday comedy "The Santa Clause," starring Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold and Peter Boyle. Cost is \$2 suggested donation, children 12 and younger free. Call 523-6403.

3 p.m. "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Come to the Rio Grande Theatre for a screening of the 2000 holiday comedy "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," starring Jim Carrey and directed by Ron Howard. Cost is \$2 suggested donation, children 12 and younger free. Call 523-6403.

5 to 6 p.m. Learn to play Middle Eastern rhythms, My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. No drum required but must call ahead for loaner drum. Cost \$2 per lesson. Call 693-1616.

5 p.m. "The Santa Clause," Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Come to the Rio Grande Theatre for a screening of the 1994 holiday comedy "The Santa Clause," starring Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold and Peter Boyle. Cost is \$2 suggested donation, children 12 and younger free. Call 523-6403.

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7 p.m. Singing Out presents "Joyful Sounds," Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave. Singing Out, southern New Mexico's LGBTQA chorus, presents its 2013 holiday concert, "Joyful Sounds." Singers of all walks of life perform holiday tunes spanning all religions and cultures. There will be standard holiday classics, even a few with a twist. Cost \$10. Visit www.singingoutlascruces.org.

SUN. 12/15

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.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday Farmer's Market, Tractor Supply Co., 1440 W. Picacho Ave. This is a true farmers market with produce and food as primary items, along with some holiday crafts. Free. Call Monty Sarvo at 993-6521.

1 p.m. "The Santa Clause," Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Come to the Rio Grande Theatre for a screening of the 1994 holiday comedy "The Santa Clause," starring Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold and Peter Boyle. Cost is \$2 suggested donation, children 12 and younger free. Call 523-6403.

2 p.m. Bluegrass, country and folk music jam, Doña Ana Community College commons area, 3400 S. Espina St. All players are welcome. Free. Call 405-1290.

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Come Blow Your Horn

Las Cruces Community Theatre
313 N. Main St.
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523-1200
8 p.m. Friday and Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Through Sunday, Dec. 22

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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.

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BEGINNER

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

CHALLENGER

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

EXPERT

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

BEGINNER

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

CHALLENGER

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

EXPERT

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

LCCT premieres 'Come Blow Your Horn'

Smith's comedic timing is a must-see

Review by **Gerald M. Kane**

For the Las Cruces Bulletin

In the annals of contemporary American theater, "Come Blow Your Horn," the current bill of fare playing at the Las Cruces Community Theatre through Sunday, Dec. 22, will be remembered best as Neil Simon's first play and first hit.

The show had a respectable run of about a year and a half after it opened to positive reviews on Feb. 22, 1961. The original cast featured Hal March, who became best known as the host of the television game show "The \$64,000 Question," and noted character actors Lou Jacobi and Pert Kelton. Two years later, it was turned into a successful film starring Frank Sinatra, Lee J. Cobb and veteran Yiddish actress Molly Picon.

The story is simple and dated. An unworldly 21-year-old bachelor, Buddy Baker, decides to leave his parents home to move in with his worldlier, older playboy bachelor brother, Alan. Both brothers work in their father's wax fruit business, and neither wishes to follow in their father's footsteps. Their parents' only dream of a happy family with loving spouses for their sons and, of course, grandchildren.

In hindsight, Simon wasn't crazy about "Come Blow Your Horn." He wrote in his memoirs years later, "This play seems like the crude markings in a cave by the first prehistoric chronicler." I wouldn't go that far.

During the opening night performance at LCCT last week, I sat through the first act of "Come Blow Your Horn" and didn't chuckle at all, nor did I hear much laughter around me.

"Why?" I asked myself. After all, this is Neil Simon, considered one of the funniest comic writers of the 20th century.

He was a part of the "work room" at Sid Caesar's weekly television series "Your Show of Shows," working alongside such legends as Caesar, Woody Allen, Carl Reiner, Howard Morris, Imogene Coca, Mel Brooks and Selma Diamond. In addition, he worked with his brother Danny, on whom the older, world-wise playboy bachelor Alan is based.

Simon has garnered more Oscar and Tony nominations for his work than any other playwright and received the Pulitzer Prize for his touching comedy/drama "Lost in Yonkers."

Then it dawned on me why I heard no laughs in the first act. This is a play that was funny when it opened 64 years ago. The lifestyles portrayed on stage are dated. Some of the humor doesn't ring true in today's culture. The central character is a "playboy" and "swinging bachelor." Buddy, the character modeled after Simon himself is 21 years old and a sexual novice. Our society and values have changed. Just watch the high-schoolers portrayed on "Glee." Women are no longer "playthings."

But then, in this season of miracles, a miracle took place on the LCCT stage and turned the whole show around. Guffaws could be heard throughout the theater for the remainder of the play.

As the curtain comes down on act one, the doorbell of the bachelor pad rings, and when Buddy opens it, slouching there is a bedraggled woman in a fur coat and hat leaning against the doorpost. It is Alan and Buddy's stereotypical Jewish mother. What lies in store?

I cannot begin to put into words how the amazing acting skills and comic timing of Susan Smith, who more than brings this amazing role to life, changed the tempo of the show and blasted it full force into today's world.

Eager to escape her clutches, Buddy leaves his mother alone in the apartment to answer the phone and field many messages on a rotary phone, involving illicit dates and business appointments, without a pencil or an Alka Seltzer to calm her upset stomach.

Smith's performance is one I doubt I shall ever forget. She is a legend in Las Cruces theater and most deserving of all the accolades she has accumulated over the years. Bravo for director Patrick Payne for letting Smith do her thing.

Smith's partner in crime is Sam Damon, whom we last saw in "Red" from the American Southwest Theatre Company. He



"Come Blow Your Horn" is Neil Simon's first play and first hit. It is now playing at the Las Cruces Community Theatre through Sunday, Dec. 22, with performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

is far more at ease in the role of Alan and Buddy's bombastic father. The chemistry between Smith and Damon is palpable and fun.

The other cast members do a serviceable job on an appropriately appointed set designed by Payne and Larry Chandler.

For Smith's performance alone, it is well worth the trip to see a historically significant American comedy, for which I am blowing my horn loud and clear.

"Come Blow Your Horn" runs through Sunday, Dec. 22. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m.

Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for students, seniors or military, \$8 each for groups of 10 or more and \$7 for children 6 and younger. Reservations for "Come Blow Your Horn" can be made online at www.lcctnm.org or by calling 523-1200.

Gerald Kane has reviewed theater, film and opera for NPR stations and newspapers in New Orleans, Phoenix and Kansas City as well as for the Las Cruces Bulletin. A former member of the American Theatre Critics Association, he has taught "Jews on Screen" at NMSU. He is the Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces.

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Holiday happenings at the Farm & Ranch Museum

New Mexico history class returns

The popular New Mexico history class at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum will be offered again in 2014.

Anyone interested in registering for the class may choose between two offerings – 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, from Jan. 15 through March 19, or 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays, from Jan. 16 through March 20.

The cost is \$45 per person (there is a \$10 discount for members of the museum's Friends group). Space is limited to the first 32 people to sign up for each of the two classes, which fill up quickly each year. Registration and payment are required in advance (cash or check only, and checks should be made out to Friends of the NMFRHM).

The class is taught by retired New Mexico State University professor Jo Tice Bloom.

The format will be lecture/discussion with each week focusing on a different aspect of New Mexico history. Beginning with the early Indian settlements and trade, the talks will

follow a chronological sequence into the 21st century. Spanish friars and Mexican land grants, water laws and new foods, roles of the military and women, Spanish and American conquest and arts and literature will be among the many subjects covered. Each week, participants will receive a talk outline and a reading list of fiction and non-fiction.

There are no papers to write, no exams to take – just a relaxed time to share facts and ideas about New Mexico's vibrant history.

To register and reserve a spot, drop by the museum soon. For more information, call 522-4100.

Here is a look at the activities coming up in December:

Culture Series: Stories of Holidays Past

7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12

The museum's annual December living history event, "Stories of Holidays Past," will offer visitors a retrospective view of New Mexico

history during the holiday season. The audience will enjoy several different holiday vignettes in the museum's theater with characters from various time periods in our state's history. There will be several encore performances from characters that were part of the Ghosts of the Past event in October. Admission is \$2.

New Exhibit: Heart of the Home: The Art of Patricia Burnett

Friday, Dec. 13, through April 6, 2104

This beautiful exhibit features 26 pieces of art – mostly acrylic paintings and some mixed media – that are based on quilt patterns from the family of artist Patricia Burnett. Burnett,

of Las Cruces, said the art and accompanying words are a "kind of social history of a pioneer family." The exhibit will be on display in the museum's Arts Corridor.

Holiday Craft Activities

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21

Children of all ages are invited to visit the museum on this day and create holiday ornaments and crafts that they can take home for decorations. Regular museum admission is required – \$5 for adults, \$3 senior citizens and \$2 for children 5 to 17. Children ages 4 and younger are admitted free. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



An exhibit of the art of Patricia Burnett will open Friday, Dec. 13, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.

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Call to Artists

ARTFORMS MEMBER SHOW SEEKS ARTISTS

ArtForms Member Show 2014 is seeking participants for the 16th annual For the Love of Art Month at the Branigan Cultural Center. The member exhibit will be on display from Feb. 7 through March 1, 2014.

Original art pieces must have been completed in the past two years and not shown locally. Artists can submit two pieces, with wall art limited to 32 inches wide. Sculpture/modular piece limits apply. Cost is \$10 at intake. Artist's statement and 300 dpi jpeg or TIFF are requested for publicity purposes.

Deadline for the member show is Jan. 3, 2014. Not a member? Visit www.artformsmn.org for the BCC application and membership forms. For questions, email Joanna Bradley at artformsfloa@gmail.com or joannabradley@live.com.

FOR THE LOVE OF ART MONTH REQUESTS ARTISTS

ArtForms Artists Association of New Mexico invites regional artists to show at the Las Cruces Convention Center Friday and

Saturday, Feb. 7-8, 2014, as part of For the Love of Art Month 2014.

Original art will be presented; therefore, no resale, imports, kits or commercial objects will be accepted. Nonmembers of ArtForms are required to email three jpegs formatted to 300 ppi/dpi to artformsfloa@gmail.com, with artist's name, medium and contact information. Members should send 300 dpi jpegs and a biography for publicity purposes.

The deadline for application is Jan. 10, 2014, with total payment required. Costs vary for members and nonmembers, and the application is available at www.artformsmn.org. For questions, contact Cherie Gamboa at artformsfloa@gmail.com or 527-0020.

MV FINE ARTS GALLERY SEEKS ARTIST DISPLAYS

The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery, located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre in Mesilla, has openings for fine artists to display their artwork.

For more information, stop by the gallery, or call 522-2933. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

AtTheMovies

'Out of the Furnace' fails to ignite

Talented cast can't save a cliché-riddled script

Review by **Zak Hansen**
Las Cruces Bulletin

A slow, tedious and ultimately tired tale of revenge and redemption, masculinity and the death of the American dream, "Out of the Furnace" manages to eke by on the powerful performances of its talented cast, impressively making the best out of a bad script, but ultimately falls flat.

In many respects, "Out of the Furnace" is similar to – albeit better than – this year's "Killing Them Softly," another overwrought exhortation of American masculinity and violence, both its causes and consequences, squandering a talented cast by incessantly hammering home its messages.

Set in Braddock, Pa., a rapidly sundowning steel town where dilapidated homes line the filthy streets and belching smokestacks choke the dreary skyline. Christian Bale stars as Russell Baze, a steel worker who spends his downtime nursing drinks at the local bar and rolling around in bed with his baby-crazy girlfriend, Lena (Zoe Saldana).

Russell's younger brother, Rodney (Casey Affleck), is just as much of a blue-collar totem, an erstwhile Army grunt safer waging war in Iraq than left to his own devices stateside. We first meet Rodney dejectedly shouting at televised horses at the OTB, purchasing losing tickets with money borrowed from small-time loan shark and bar owner John Petty (Willem Dafoe).

Russell is an all-American working man, slaving away in a dying industry, caring for his homebound, dying father (Bingo O'Malley) and paying off his brother's debts with his hard-earned checks. All that changes, though, when Russell, leaving a bar, T-bones a vehicle, killing its driver and passenger, a small child.

Russell lands in prison and, while he's locked away, biding his time as quietly as he can, save for a vicious altercation with a fellow

inmate, the world waiting for him outside topples down. His father dies, his younger brother continues his downward trajectory and Lena, his sole shining light in a grey, industrialized life, leaves him for Wesley Barnes (Forest Whitaker), a Braddock police chief, and is pregnant with his child.

To pay his every-ballooning debts, Rodney has taken to street fighting in matches arranged by Petty, taking place in the long-abandoned mills that dot the dreary terrain. Rodney's gambling has landed him there, but his habits and his temper keep him there, losing control in fights and refusing to take a dive.

Increasingly desperate, Rodney pleads with Petty to arrange a fight for him in the deep backwoods country of the Appalachians, which would be led by Harlan DeGroat (an excellent Woody Harrelson).

DeGroat is, as Petty puts it, "inbred mountain-folk from New Jersey," who spends his days spiking amphetamines and swilling moonshine from mason jars when he isn't dirtying his hands in all manner of back-door dealings. DeGroat is prone to explosive bouts of brutality and violence; as he himself puts it, "I got a problem with everybody."

Things get worse, as one can imagine, and Rodney, along with Petty, is killed, his body abandoned in the dense Appalachian wild. Frustrated by the apparent inaction of the police, especially Barnes, Russell takes matters into his own hands and sets out to avenge his brother.

The struggling, postindustrial region of the U.S. provides a suitable backdrop for director Scott Cooper's tale (he co-wrote with Brad Ingelsby), all ashen greys and rusty browns, but unfortunately, the narrative falls short. As a revenge/redemption story, it's neither gleeful enough ("Death Wish," anything recent by Quentin Tarantino) nor cautionary enough, refusing to explore the toll vengeance reaps on victim and avenger alike. For a film so full of heavy, devastating stuff, "Out of the Furnace"

is largely bereft of much weight.

The editing is heavy-handed and blatant, the most egregious example of which cuts between Rodney preparing for his ill-fated bout and Russell stalking deer in the woods on a hunting trip with his uncle (a wasted Sam Shepard). The insistence of Cooper to hammer home his message sucks the life right out of it.

Narrative woes aside, or perhaps owing to the lacking story, the cast of "Out of the Furnace" admirably try to raise the film above the din.

Affleck is especially affecting as Rodney, his empty eyes and cracking, sing-song voice

evinced the fragmented vulnerability hidden by a rough exterior. As a returned veteran, he's been tasked to protect the country, and on his return to "real life" Rodney can't be bothered to devote to the futility of mill work, as his father and brother have.

Harrelson, too, shines as DeGroat, his simmering, malignant menace bubbling just beneath the surface. DeGroat is a fairly stock character in this kind of film, but Harrelson dives in, inhabiting the character will all he is. It's a chilling, electric performance.

That high caliber of acting, though, can't quite salvage the picture from falling largely flat. Nice frames, as they say, won't save bad paintings.



OUT OF THE FURNACE

Rated: R

Running Time: 116 minutes

Starring: Christian Bale, Casey Affleck

Director: Scott Cooper

'You Ain't Seen Nothin'' yet

Film's experimental nature misses mark

Review by **Jeff Berg**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

I was bored after an hour, and that doesn't happen much for me in movies. I watch hundreds a year, so there is always plenty of potential for that, but this one really managed to make that happen.

"You Ain't Seen Nothin'" is apparently a reworking of two unrelated plays by Jean Anouilh: "Eurydice" (1941) and "Dear Antoine: Or, The Love That Failed" (1971).

A playwright has passed away and some groups of actors, all of whom have played the characters (that they are now playing) have gathered to watch a new version of the play, as they act out the "new" play in the

film. Got it?

So, in essence, you are witness to several different versions of the same play, with the same characters being played by various actors. That work is "Eurydice."

Through this, we, the audience, are supposed to understand that each actor, at various points in their own lives, is experiencing the character they are playing, albeit it different ways,

depending on their age and life experiences. All of this is done because of the last wishes of the now deceased playwright.

Got it? I really didn't, and even though

I think it was a noble attempt at something new, different and fresh, it didn't work for me in the least.

Director Alain Resnais is 91, and even though this is an ambitious project – he is currently in post production with still another film – it just doesn't cut it. It is too convoluted, confusing and ultimately dull, unless you are really, really into theater.

It also feels like Resnais is trying to take apart the very nature of stage performances in an experimental way that must have

been a good idea on paper, but doesn't hold together well on the movie screen. It is an ambitious conceit that certainly deserves the niche audience it may find.

Stick with the director's earlier films such as the superb "Hiroshima Mon Amour" or "Last Year at Marienbad." You'll thank me.

I've seen plenty. Email me at jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin.com



AtTheMovies

New on DVD Tuesday, Dec. 17

Picking the Flicks

Movie information from www.rottentomatoes.com. Movie reel based on a 5-point scale.

<p>Thor: The Dark World Rated: PG-13 Plot Overview: Thor battles to save Earth and the Nine Realms from attack by a vengeful enemy out of the past. Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman Director: Alan Taylor</p> 	<p>The Hunger Games: Catching Fire Rated: PG-13 Plot Overview: Peeta Mellark and Katniss Everdeen become enemies of the state after their Hunger Games victory sparks a revolution. Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson Director: Francis Lawrence</p> 
<p>Delivery Man Rated: PG-13 Plot Overview: A middle-aged underachiever is faced with the revelation that he fathered more than 500 children via anonymous donation when 142 file a lawsuit to learn his identity. Starring: Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt Director: Ken Scott</p> 	<p>Frozen Rated: PG Plot Overview: After her kingdom is trapped in an eternal winter, Anna must find her sister, Elsa the Snow Queen, and break her icy spell. Starring: Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel (voices) Directors: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee</p> 
<p>Out of the Furnace Rated: R Plot Overview: After his brother is lured into a criminal organization and disappears, a man takes matters into his own hands to find justice for his brother. Starring: Christian Bale, Casey Affleck Director: Scott Cooper</p> 	<p>The Book Thief Rated: PG-13 Plot Overview: A young girl is sent to live with a foster family during WWII, and learns to read with some help from a guest under the stairs. Starring: Sophie Nelisse, Geoffrey Rush Director: Brian Percival</p> 
<p>Last Vegas Rated: PG-13 Plot Overview: Four childhood friends reunite in their 60s for a bachelor party in Las Vegas. Starring: Robert DeNiro, Michael Douglas Director: Jon Turteltaub</p> 	<p>The Christmas Candle Rated: PG Plot Overview: An angel visits Gladbury and bestows a miracle on whoever lights the Christmas Candle. Starring: Hans Matheson, Samantha Barks Director: John Stephenson</p> 
<p>The Best Man Holiday Rated: R Plot Overview: A group of college friends reunite for Christmas after 15 years. Starring: Monica Calhoun, Morris Chestnut Director: Malcolm D. Lee</p> 	<p>12 Years a Slave Rated: R Plot Overview: Solomon Northrop, a free black man in New York in the antebellum United States, is abducted and sold into slavery. Starring: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael K. Williams Director: Steve McQueen</p> 
<p>Homefront Rated: R Plot Overview: A retired DEA agent moves his family to a small community, but soon comes into conflict with a meth manufacturer. Starring: Jason Statham, James Franco Director: Gary Fleder</p> 	<p>Philomena Rated: PG-13 Plot Overview: A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of a woman's search for her son. Starring: Judi Dench, Steve Coogan, Sophie Kennedy Clark Director: Stephen Frears</p> 
<p>Hobbit 2 Rated: PG-13 Plot Overview: The dwarves, along with Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf the Grey, continue their quest to reclaim Erebor, their homeland, from Smaug. Bilbo Baggins is in possession of a mysterious and magical ring. Starring: Ian McKellan, Martin Freeman Director: Peter Jackson</p> 	<p>A Madea Christmas Rated: PG-13 Plot Overview: Madea dispenses her holiday spirit in a rural town when she's coaxed into helping a friend pay her daughter a surprise visit in the country for Christmas. Starring: Tyler Perry, Chad Michael Murray Director: Tyler Perry</p> 

Top Grossing Dec. 6-8

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Frozen (Week No. 3)
\$31,616,230 | 6 Homefront (Week No. 2)
\$3,428,440 |
| 2 The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (Week No. 3)
\$26,185,886 | 7 The Book Thief (Week No. 5)
\$2,625,623 |
| 3 Out of the Furnace (Week No. 1)
\$5,220,288 | 8 The Best Man Holiday (Week No. 4)
\$2,609,890 |
| 4 Thor: The Dark World (Week No. 5)
\$4,811,545 | 9 Philomena (Week No. 3)
\$2,195,341 |
| 5 Delivery Man (Week No. 3)
\$3,742,544 | 10 Dallas Buyers Club (Week No. 6)
\$1,505,669 |

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<p>THOR THE DARK WORLD SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 11:25 2:00 4:35 7:10 9:45 (PG13)</p>	<p>REGISTER AT ALLENTHEATRESINC.COM FOR EMAIL INFO AND SPECIALS TELSHOR 12 2811 TELSHOR BLVD. PLEASE BE COURTEOUS TO YOUR FOLLOW PATRONS, TURN OFF YOUR CELL BEFORE ENTERING THE AUDITORIUM.</p>
<p>DELIVERY MAN DAILY 11:45 2:15 4:40 7:05 9:30 (PG13)</p>	<p>12 YEARS A SLAVE DAILY 3:15 6:15 9:15 SAT-SUN 12:20 (R)</p>
<p>LAST VEGAS DAILY 11:25 2:00 4:35 7:10 9:40 (PG13)</p>	<p>NEBRASKA DAILY 3:15 6:15 9:15 SAT-SUN 12:20 (R) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>
<p>FROZEN SHOWING IN 3D DAILY 11:25 2:00 4:35 (PG) \$2 UPCHARGE NO PASS OF ANY KIND</p>	<p>PHILOMENA DAILY 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00 SAT-SUN 11:40 (PG13) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>
<p>THE HOBBIT THE RESOLUTION OF SMAUG SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 11:45 3:30 7:05 (PG13) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>	<p>THE BEST MAN HOLIDAY DAILY 7:00 9:45 (R)</p>
<p>THE HOBBIT THE RESOLUTION OF SMAUG SHOWING IN 3D IN DOLBY ATMOS DAILY 2:40 6:05 9:30 SAT-SUN 11:15 (PG13) \$2 UPCHARGE NO PASS OF ANY KIND</p>	<p>THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE DAILY 2:15 4:35 SAT-SUN 11:45 (PG)</p>
<p>THE HOBBIT THE RESOLUTION OF SMAUG SHOWING IN 2D DAILY 12:30 4:30 8:00 (PG13) \$2 UPCHARGE NO PASS OF ANY KIND</p>	<p>THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE DAILY 5:00 8:30 SAT-SUN 1:00 (PG13)</p>
<p>HUMP DAY Film Club WED. 12/18 2:00 & 7:00 CINEPORT 10 ALL SEATS \$5.00 THE SPECTACULAR NOW</p>	<p>VIDEO 4 1005 S. EL PASO ALL SEATS ALL TIMES \$3.00 BRING THIS COUPON TO THE VIDEO 4 AND SEE THE MOVIE OF YOUR CHOICE FOR ONLY \$1.00/PERSON GOOD FOR UP TO 5 PEOPLE WED. & THURS ONLY!! VIDEO 4 1005 S. EL PASO</p>



Back to basics

Holiday hints to help you keep things festive, yet frugal

By **David Salcido**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The times are definitely changing. Gone are the days when the holiday season was all about bigger, flashier and more expensive. Business watchdog Forbes recently kicked off the holidays with its annual trends list, noting that shoppers are spending even less this year than last, self-gifting is on the decline and conservation is the name of the game.

This extends to holiday décor, as well, but that doesn't mean people are doing without. Instead, holiday decorators are going back to basics with manageable strategies that range from time-honored classic to non-traditional craftiness.

The general rule of thumb this season is to keep it simple. When it comes to décor, it isn't how much you spend that counts. It's how you use what you've already got available, in new and innovative ways.

Ornamental flair: When it comes to decorating the tannenbaum, there's no need to buy shiny new brick-a-brack. Dust off those ornaments from bygone years, then mix it up a bit with bells, pine cones, acorns, nuts, bundled cinnamon sticks, herb sachets, dried flowers, twigs or anything else that catches

your eye. It's the way our forefathers did it, not because they were avant garde, but because they were using what was available. Sometimes the old ways are still the best ways.

Skirting the issue: Tree skirts run the gamut from simple to extravagant and can be made out of a variety of materials. Looking for something to wrap your trunk without feeling frivolous? Try an old quilt, discarded scarves, vintage ties, even an actual out of fashion skirt. Better yet, why not wrap an empty box, leaving a hole in the top for the trunk to slip into? Wicker baskets, wooden crates and metal washtubs can all be repurposed in fun and crafty ways.

Sprucing it up: Gather together baskets, clay bowls and wooden boxes, then fill them with pine branches and other greenery, colorful ribbons and pine cones. To make them pop, drop in a vintage photo, grandpa's old smoking pipe, a stuffed animal or doll, an old book, a music box, cookie cutters, old Christmas cards, costume jewelry or whatever festive doodad you can find. Place the finished product on side tables, on the fireplace mantel or even as the centerpiece on your table.

Candlelight winner: Pillar candles, tapers, votives, use them all and



A wooden bowl, pine cones and branches, candles, old books, a vintage photograph and a couple of tree ornaments come together to create a traditional mantel arrangement just in time for the holidays.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by David Salcido

put them everywhere – on the fireplace mantel and hearth, on tables, on window sills, on shelving units, any place with a flat surface. You don't have to light them all, but if you do, turning out all the lights will not only save on your electric bill, it will infuse your home with a warmth and coziness that is hard to duplicate, even with the most sophisticated lighting accessories.

Wreathed in originality: There was a time when all wreaths were handmade, usually from whatever was available. Traditional wreaths were made by twining evergreen branches into a loop, then tying it all together with ribbons and ornament-

tal decorations. These days, wreaths can be made out of almost anything.

Try tying together, with ribbon or twine, the following: olive branches, dried grape vines, yucca pods, corn husks, dried flowers, small stuffed animals, old photographs or even paper (old sheet music or pages from a dictionary are always interesting). Anything goes, really, so long as the finished product is circular and easily hung.

One final note: Don't be afraid to personalize your décor, using items that tell your story. If you're a writer by profession, like I am, using old books, then tying in pencils and vintage quill pens is a natural. Com-

puter programmers can make use of old video games, memory sticks and circuit boards. Audiophiles can find great use for old CDs and cassette tapes (the tape itself can open all kinds of doors for creativity). Foodies can make use of everything from wooden spoons and wine corks to well ... actual food.

The sky really is the limit when it comes to using what you already have at hand, either packed away in boxes or growing right outside your door. Don't let words like "austerity" and "economical" hold you back. Sometimes the best motivations for creative success are a budget and good old fashioned human ingenuity.

Happy holidays!

Raise a glass!

Get into the spirit of the season with homemade Irish Cream

Homemade treats such as cookies, cakes and pies are a gift-giving staple of the holidays. The kind of gift that says "I love you, even with all that extra weight you'll be packing on this season, in fact, let me help you with that."

It's also the one time of the year that co-workers won't give you the stink eye for bringing in a tray of sweets and leaving them in the break room.

But you're not that traditional, are you? Cookies are passé, cakes have a shelf life and pies take too long to make. Still, you want to

make an impression. In fact, you'd like to create memories that pack more of a punch.

You've come to the right place. For an original "homemade" treat that won't break the bank and will ensure your place on the annual holiday party list, consider this delightful twist on a festive favorite.

As the Irish say, "sláinte," roughly translated to mean "here's to your health!"

Give the gift that says "sláinte!"



Homemade Irish Cream

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 14 ounces can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 2/3 cups Irish whiskey
- 1 teaspoon instant coffee granules
- 2 tablespoons chocolate syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract

Now comes the fun part and by that I mean no fuss, no muss. In a blender, combine all ingredients. Blend on high for 20 to 30 seconds. You're done! Now, pour it into a carafe, a jar or a repurposed bottle and, making sure that it seals tightly, store it in the refrigerator until you're ready to make somebody's holiday that much jollier. Shake well before serving. Makes about 4 cups and should keep for about two months, if properly refrigerated. Chances are pretty good, however, that you'll have a hard time keeping it in stock.

ChileKnights

¡Muy delicioso!

New cookbook adds spice to the holidays

Sunny Conley
Chile Knights



'Tis the season to curl up by the hearth to read a good book – not just any “old” book but a cookbook, one filled with warm stories, spicy recipes and intoxicating food photos. “Muy Bueno: Three Generations of Authentic Mexican Flavor, Recipes and Stories” delivers.

Co-authored by Evangelina Soza and daughters Yvette Marquez-Sharpnack and Veronica Gonzalez-Smith, the full-color cookbook, a finalist in the Benjamin Franklin Award Independent Book Publishers Association, pays tribute to mother and grandmother Jesusita Mendidas-Soza, who lived to be 98 years old.

Inspired by “Grandma Jesusita,” the recipes shared include a brief narrative about her culinary skills, family memories and traditions, as well as other interesting tidbits, such as, “She (Grandma Jesusita) would always invite family and friends to her table with the same words: ‘Siéate a comer, esta muy bueno’ (Sit down and eat, it’s very good).”

Each recipe also sports an icon, a

silhouette of the contributor and striking photography captured by Jeanine Thurston.

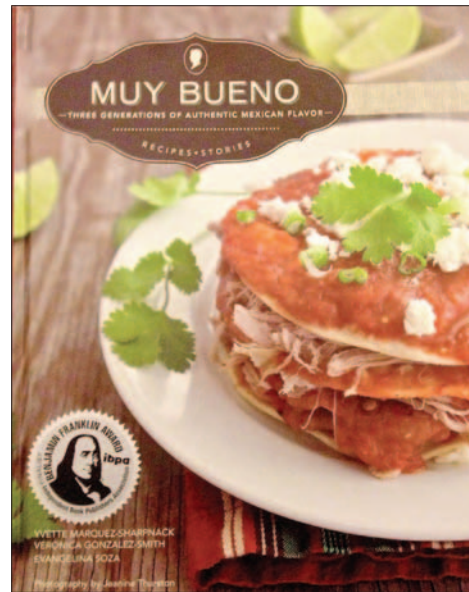
Grandma Jesusita, born in the northern Mexican state of Julimes, Chihuahua, eventually moved to El Paso with her husband, opening Soza’s Groceries, which operated for 50 years before closing in 2003. Evangelina Soza and her daughters were all born and raised in El Paso.

The cookbook was spearheaded by Marquez-Sharpnack, whose blog MuyBueno.com (now MuyBuenoCookbook.com) has enticed foodies since 2007. NPR, Latino Magazine, The Pioneer Woman and Gourmet.com, among others, have featured her blog and recipes. Follow Marquez-Sharpnack@ muybuenocookbook on Twitter.

“Muy Bueno,” a combination of old Mexico, south of the border and Nuevo Latino recipes, makes this collection a delightfully tasty adventure. Chileheads, especially, should appreciate discovering this hot item under the Christmas tree.

Available in bookstores and online, “Muy Bueno: Three Generations of Authentic Mexican Flavor, Recipes and Stories,” (Hippocrene Books, Hardcover, 296 pages, Oct. 2013), costs \$35.

“Chileheads, especially, should appreciate discovering this hot item.”



Mushroom, Jalapeño and Cilantro Salsa

(Salsa de Hongos y Jalapeños)

“Mushroom salsa? ... For those of you not crazy about mushrooms, never say never, until you’ve tried this salsa.”

1 pound fresh white mushrooms, finely chopped
1 small red onion, finely chopped
2 jalapeño peppers, stemmed and finely chopped
Handful cilantro, chopped
3/4 cup fresh lime juice
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt to taste

In a bowl, combine the mushrooms, onion, jalapeño and cilantro. Add the lime juice and olive oil and toss gently. Salt to taste. Let sit for a couple of hours, allowing the flavors to meld. This salsa is best served at room temperature. Serve as a topping for fish, chicken or grilled steak, or as an appetizer with a basket of your favorite tortilla chips. Makes 3 cups.

Corn Flour Boats with Pork in Red Chile Sauce

(Sopes de Asado)

“Sopes are like an open-face taco, except thicker. You can top sopes with anything, but this is our favorite.”

Sopes:
2 cups masa harina
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon shortening
1 1/4 cups warm water

Filling:
4 cups pork in red chile sauce*
4 cups cooked pinto beans with onions*
1 cup asadero cheese, shredded
Avocado slices (optional)

*The authors share recipes in the cookbook.

In a mixing bowl, combine the masa harina and salt. Add the shortening and rub in with fingers so that it is evenly distributed. Add warm water and knead until mixture is smooth and slightly sticky. If the dough is dry, add more water, 1 tablespoon at a time. Dough should be soft and moist like play-doh and not dry. Divide dough into eight portions. Cover with a damp cloth to keep the dough soft and moist.

Line a tortilla press with plastic wrap. Place a ball of dough on the press and cover with another piece of plastic wrap and press down to form a little 1/4-inch-thick patty. Peel off the plastic wrap. (If you don’t have a tortilla press you can use a heavy skillet or pot to make the dough patties, or use your hands to form a patty.) Repeat with remaining balls of dough.

Preheat an ungreased comal (griddle) on medium-high heat. Cook a patty on the comal for about 2 to 4 minutes on each side until dry. While the cooked patty is still warm, and as soon as you are able to handle, put the dough of the patty up and outward towards the edge, creating a little ridge of dough all the way around the circle to create a little “boat” or sopo. Repeat with the remaining patties.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place sopes in a single layer on a baking sheet. Fill each sopo with some warm asado and some frijoles, then sprinkle with cheese. Bake in oven for 10 minutes. Garnish with avocado slices (optional). Makes 8 sopes.

Mexican Chorizo and Cheese

(Queso Fundido con Chorizo)

“Who can resist warm, melted cheese? Add spicy chorizo and a splash of tequila and you have our queso fundido favorita.”

5 ounces Mexican chorizo, casings removed
1/2 cup white onion, sliced into 1/2-inch strips
1/2 cup silver/blanco tequila
12 ounces quesadilla or asadero cheese, shredded
1 tablespoon cilantro, chopped
6 corn or flour tortillas, warmed

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In an oven-safe iron skillet, cook the chorizo on your stovetop until almost done, about 15 minutes. Drain excess fat. Add the onion to chorizo and cook until browned. Remove pan from the heat. Carefully add tequila. Return to heat and simmer, uncovered, for 15 to 20 seconds or until most of the tequila has dissipated. Remove from heat. Stir in the cheese and combine well. Place skillet in the oven and bake uncovered for about 10 to 15 minutes or until cheese is completely melted and slightly golden brown on top. Sprinkle with fresh cilantro. Serve with corn or flour tortillas. Makes 6 servings.

Note: If you need to double the recipe, do not double the tequila, use only 1/2 cup.

Sunny Conley, a former Las Cruces, is an award-winning cookbook author and food columnist. If you have a chile recipe or idea to share, contact Sunny at sunny.conley@gmail.com.

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Welcoming a new board at the LCHBA Installation

Photos by
Mysti Sedillo

Members and guests attended the Las Cruces Home Builders Association Installation Banquet at the LCHBA main office Friday, Dec. 6.



LCHBA executive board members: Treasurer Ben Rawson of Rawson Building Supply; Secretary Pat Bellestri-Martinez of Soledad Canyon Earth Builders; President elect Max Bower of Red Mesa Design; and President Kimball Hakes of Hakes Brothers Construction.



Immediate Past President Jennifer Sandoval of R. Hines Construction hands over the gavel to in-coming President Kimball Hakes.



Members of the executive board for the LCHBA – Bellestri-Martinez, Rawson, Vice President Wayne Suggs of Classic New Mexico Homes, Bower, Sandoval and Hakes – are sworn in by New Mexico Home Builders Association board member Pat Casey.

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Digs!

[digz] origin: American Slang. n. residence, lodging, home, apartment, office or workplace. As in: They just moved into their new digs.

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FAST SOLUTIONS

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BrainGames



Word Salsa

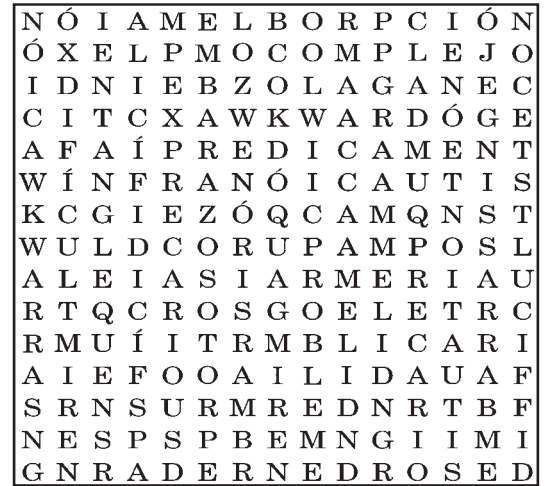
Circle these English words and their Spanish equivalents that appear in the grid horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backward. Encierre estas palabras en inglés y sus equivalentes en español que aparecen al revés, horizontal, vertical y diagonalmente.

WHAT A PREDICAMENT!

ENGLISH	SPANISH
AWKWARD	TORPE
COMPLEX	COMPLEJO
DIFFICULT	DIFÍCIL
DILEMMA	DILEMA
EMBARRASSING	EMBARAZOSO
ENTANGLE	ENREDAR
MESS	DESORDEN
PRECARIOUS	PRECARIO
PREDICAMENT	APURO
PROBLEM	PROBLEMA
QUAGMIRE	CENAGAL
SITUATION	SITUACIÓN

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11/15



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 | DOWN |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 Basketry willow | 1 Ben and Bobby |
| 6 Sets free | 2 Try to find |
| 10 Stiffening agent | 3 Ingrid in "Casablanca" |
| 16 Populate again | 4 Shoe width |
| 17 Faculty status | 5 Airhead |
| 18 Jamaican music | 7 Trend upward |
| 19 Prepared to drive | 8 Legal writ |
| 20 Announcer in the Baseball Hall of Fame | 9 Put to sleep |
| 24 Lawfulness | 10 Long narrow region |
| 26 Tree branch | 11 Saw's cutters |
| 27 Tombstone inscriptions | 12 Williams and Warhol |
| 28 Square one | 13 Use elbow grease |
| 29 Wanes | 14 Lawn invader |
| 33 French beasts | 15 Protagonists |
| 34 Tax grp. | 21 Solely |
| 35 Perfectly | 22 Easter item |
| 37 Natural hair-coloring | 23 Greek letter |
| 40 Seniors' org. | 25 Notes of scales |
| 44 Eclipse revelation | 29 List-ending abbr. |
| 45 Affected appearance | 30 Bronx cheer |
| 48 Icy sheet | 31 Tavern |
| 49 Floral loop | 32 More impassive |
| 50 Oozings | 34 Bugs |
| 51 Narrow valley | 36 Not concluded |
| 52 Rural stopover | 37 With it |
| 53 Stir the air | 38 Tooth covering |
| 54 Fella | 39 Contravene |
| 55 Definite article | 40 Hounds and coverlets |
| 56 Alan or Cheryl | 41 Homeless tom |
| 58 "Familiar Quotations" editor | 42 Lobster eggs |
| 60 Beam of light | 43 Corral |
| 61 Dueling sword | 45 Up to |
| 62 Sleeve connections | 46 Furnishes with new weapons |
| 63 Remove from a box | 47 Decimal fractions |
| 67 Inept loser | 55 Territorial administration |
| 68 Impudent | 56 Cariou or Berman |
| 69 Evaluated | 57 Simian |
| 70 ___ Plains, IL | 58 Tennis court demarcations |
| 71 Squandered | 59 Actress Myrna |
| 74 Pekoe and Earl Grey | 64 Nautical assent |
| 75 Monopoly purchase | 65 Bering or Ross |
| 78 Kiss | 66 Sullivan and Asner |
| 81 Teheran resident | 69 Insect's feeler |
| 82 Ancient Hebrew sect member | 70 Mean explicitly |
| 83 Julie Christie movie | 71 Big __, CA |
| 85 Cotton cleaners | 72 Predicament |
| 86 Small drink | 73 Not so tough |
| 89 Ripper | 75 Secreted |
| 90 Biddies' tenement | 76 Mine vein |
| 92 Will contents | 77 Highland hat |
| 93 Working out | 78 "The Bat," e.g. |
| 94 Actress Annie | 79 Thin layer |
| | 80 Military unit |
| | 84 Was left idle |
| | 86 Hearts or clubs |
| | 87 "___ It Romantic?" |
| | 88 Cribbage markers |
| | 91 Lennon's love |

FORTE

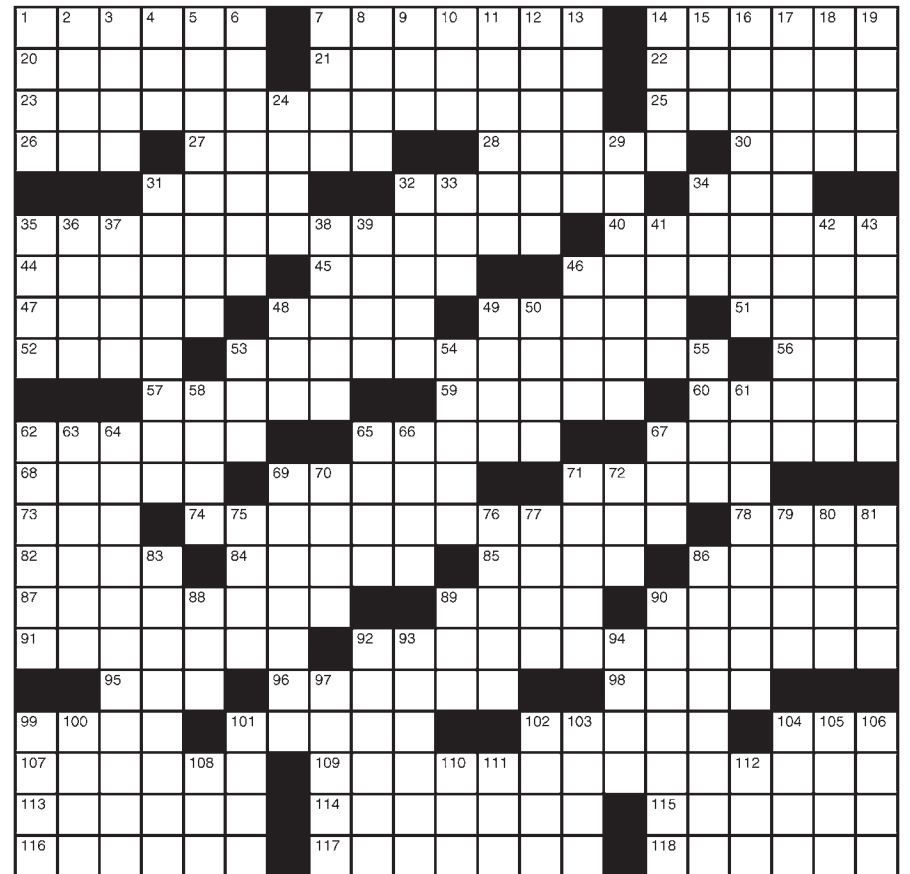
ACROSS

- 1 Dwell
- 7 Wine used in cooking
- 14 Sat idly by
- 20 Fridge
- 21 First co-ed college in the U.S.
- 22 Interval of eight diatonic degrees
- 23 Parisian designer's forte?
- 25 Christmas tree choice
- 26 Good time
- 27 Favorite hangout
- 28 Eliot's miser Marnar
- 30 Chem. chart figure
- 31 Pouting grimace
- 32 "Star Wars" army
- 34 Thunder Bay's prov.
- 35 Political boss's forte?
- 40 Get in touch with
- 44 Brunch choice
- 45 Fixative
- 46 Wake-up call
- 47 Featured passages
- 48 Not flustered
- 49 Lightly fry
- 51 External layer
- 52 Cargo space
- 53 Dr. Frankenstein's forte?
- 56 Connections
- 57 Objects of devotion
- 59 Impassive
- 60 Spanish explorer, __ de Leon
- 62 Optical disc scanners
- 65 Travel effortlessly
- 67 Snickers
- 68 Restless
- 69 "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe" writer Fannie
- 71 Pie part
- 73 Links letters
- 74 State trooper's forte?
- 78 Phooey!
- 82 Wrongful act
- 84 Poker play
- 85 Top-notch vocalist
- 86 "Le Dejeuner sur l'Herbe" painter Edouard
- 87 Satellites, e.g.
- 89 Hero purveyor
- 90 Mystical invocation
- 91 Group by twos
- 92 Harry Potter's forte?
- 95 Spike or Christopher
- 96 Fuel rating

- 98 Questions
- 99 Buddies
- 101 Sing softly
- 102 Old hat
- 104 Dist. across
- 107 Black-and-orange flier
- 109 Royal palace toady's forte?
- 113 Scribe
- 114 Salvage to use again
- 115 One of the Gershwins
- 116 Most perceptive
- 117 Maintains
- 118 Jubilant

DOWN

- 1 Repeated rhythmic phrase
- 2 Buff color
- 3 Detected
- 4 Arabic name component
- 5 Work around the house
- 6 Deplete
- 7 Forenoon
- 8 Aid in wrongdoing
- 9 Occupant: abbr.
- 10 AARP members
- 11 Singer Krauss
- 12 Jacket interior
- 13 Viewpoint
- 14 Lofting shots
- 15 Andean tuber
- 16 Legendary realm
- 17 No-cal diet guru's forte?
- 18 Author Hunter
- 19 Dealer's wheels
- 24 Piece for two
- 29 Self-denying one
- 31 Tunes
- 32 Cookie fragment
- 33 Whopper
- 34 Individual
- 35 Swank
- 36 "Typee" sequel
- 37 Healthy
- 38 Zounds!
- 39 ___ May Clampett
- 41 Stove chamber
- 42 Boxing maneuver
- 43 Becomes keyed up
- 46 Gernreich of fashion
- 48 Mountain pass
- 49 Convenes
- 50 Heaps
- 53 Diddley and Derek
- 54 Application
- 55 Univ. numbers
- 58 Prohibitionists
- 61 Has a higher standing
- 62 Portable computer
- 63 Kind of goat or cat
- 64 Talent agency accountant's forte?
- 65 Bounders
- 66 Fairy tale brute
- 67 Loutish fellow
- 69 Be very concerned about
- 70 Orchid rings
- 71 Municipal
- 72 Genetics lab study
- 75 Book sect.
- 76 One Astaire
- 77 Pickle choice
- 79 Not for
- 80 Fork-tailed seabird
- 81 Unaccompanied
- 83 Boring
- 86 Food fish
- 88 Nail obliquely
- 89 Bear's lair
- 90 Moral
- 92 Squirrels away
- 93 Takes flight
- 94 Talk (over)
- 97 Coconut pulp
- 99 Bursts open
- 100 Sector
- 101 Copper
- 102 Bombard
- 103 Deck foursome
- 104 Malicious gossip
- 105 "Picnic" playwright
- 106 Ripened
- 108 ___ Cruces, NM
- 110 Comic Louis
- 111 "Proud Mary" grp.
- 112 Extinct bird



- 49 Convenes
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- 106 Ripened
- 108 ___ Cruces, NM
- 110 Comic Louis
- 111 "Proud Mary" grp.
- 112 Extinct bird

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

Word Salsa

Diagramless

A Movie

CRYPTOGRAM

B R G K F D T X G K B

R L F F P Z G G M B R W G L B P M


B Z D B B G W D K " B W D T X P W

B Z G G B . "

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
 "Dude, lobelias are really pretty, but I'm the most intelligent plant in the garden," said the sage.

Worship Services

Anglican



ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN
The Historical Stone Church with Traditional Values

Sunday - 9 a.m. Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Adult/Child Bible Studies
Tuesday - 10 a.m. Bible Study
Rev. James Patterson, Rector
Rev. James Reeves, Vicar
7975 Doña Ana Rd., Las Cruces
on the left at the curve
523-2740 or 525-0062



SAINT PATRICK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

A fellowship of Orthodox Christians within the Anglican Communion that uses the Traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer

- 10 a.m. Sunday Worship
- Bible study after service

151 S. Solano,
Suite F, Las Cruces
2 Blocks North of Lohman
(Solano Drive & May St.)
575-647-4085
stpatricksanglican.com

Baha'i Faith


The Baha'i Information & Reading Center
All faiths welcome

Interspiritual Devotional Sundays 10:30 to 11 a.m.
Adult Spiritual Discussion 11 a.m. to Noon
World Religions Intro Class Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

"All the prophets of God proclaim the same Faith"

525 E. Lohman
575.522.0467

Baptist



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
LAS CRUCES, NM

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9 & 10:45 am
Morning Worship 9 & 10:45 am
University of Life 6 pm

WEDNESDAY
Intercessory Prayer 5:45 pm
Encounter: Corporate Prayer and Worship 6:30 pm

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524-3691
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THIS CHRISTMAS AT
calvary baptist church

Living Nativity
Dec. 19 & 20
6:30-8:30 PM

Christmas Eve
Services
Dec. 24
5:30 & 7 PM

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Catholic-Ecumenical

Holy Family Ecumenical Catholic Church
A Catholic Community Where All Are Welcome

Service Times
Sat. 5:30 pm
Sun. 8:30 & 10:30 am
Morning Prayer
Tue.-Fri. 9 am
Healing Mass
Wed. 12:15 pm

Clergy: Frs. Jim Lehman & Louie Amezaga
575-644-5025
702 Parker Road • Las Cruces, NM 88005
www.ecumenical-catholic-communion.org

Catholic - Roman



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES

VIEW ALL LISTINGS OF CATHOLIC CHURCHES ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.DIOCESEOFLASCRUCES.ORG

Christian

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Sunday: Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.
Wednesday: Testimonies 7 p.m.
All are WELCOME!

325 West Mountain Ave.
Las Cruces, NM
575-523-5063

The NEW
One Way Life Center
Ministers Ralph & Norma Molina

Engl. Worship Sun. 11 a.m.
Bible Study Wed. 7 p.m.

916 Chaparro
Las Cruces
575-233-2413
Full Gospel • Christ Centered
Everyone Welcome


Church of Christ

Panlener St. Church of Christ


1325 Panlener
Las Cruces
522-8660

(½ mile N. of University Ave. on corner of Solano & Panlener Sts.)

Times of Worship:
Sun. 9:45 a.m. Bible Study
10:45 a.m./4:00 p.m. Worship
Wed. 7:00 p.m. Bible Study



Disciples of Christ



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

An open community, now also affiliated with the United Church of Christ

1809 El Paseo
524-3245

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Nursery Provided

Episcopal

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Digging deep wells so others may drink."

Rector: The Rev. Canon Scott A. Ruthven

Weekday Services
Tuesday - 9:30 AM - Morning Prayer
Thursday - Noon - Holy Eucharist

Sunday Services
8:30 AM - Rite 1
10:30 AM - Rite 2

518 N. Alameda Blvd.
526-6333
www.SaintAndrewsLC.org



St. James' Episcopal Church

Biblically Orthodox
Traditional Anglican Worship
Sunday: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.
Nursery - 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship after each Service
Bible Study Groups - Weekly

www.saintjameslc.com

102 St. James Ave. • 526-2389
1 Blk. off University @ S. Main

Jewish

TEMPLE BETH-EL OF LAS CRUCES

OURS IS A DIVERSE AND GROWING JEWISH COMMUNITY

FRIDAY SERVICES VARY, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THIS WEEK'S TIME

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES AT 10:15 AM

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575-524-3380

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Lutheran

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2900 Elks Drive, LC
575.523.4232

Sun. Worship 9:00 am
Christmas Eve Worship Dec. 24
5:00 pm Family Friendly
8:00 pm Traditional
All are welcome!

Messianic

ETZ CHAYIM TREE OF LIFE MESSIANIC CONGREGATION

134 S. Main St.
Enter from Parking lot #10 - Off Water St.

SATURDAY
1:00 P.M. - Shabbat Service
4:00 P.M. - Open Bible Study

866-874-7250 (toll free)

treeoflife@etz-chayim.org * www.etz-chayim.org

We are a Body of Believers doing Our best to follow our Jewish Messiah Yeshua (Jesus).
Everyone is welcome!

THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin
welcomes submissions of local church events and activities.

Methodist



El Calvario United Methodist Church

Wed.: Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Bilingual Worship 11 a.m.

Where everyone is welcome.
Donde todos son bienvenidos.

elcalvarioumc@hotmail.com

Rev. William Del Valle, Pastor



300 N. Campo • 524-1230

"Changing the world, one person at a time."
"Cambiando el mundo una persona a la vez."



Morning Star
United Methodist Church
Where mercy triumphs over judgement.

521-3770
2941 Morning Star Dr. at Roadrunner Pkwy

Blended Worship - 8:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship - 9:45 a.m.
Traditional Worship - 11:15 a.m.

Please call for information about our Ministries, Sunday Schools and Small Groups or visit our web site: www.morningstarumc.org

Rev. Travis Bennett



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

225 W. Griggs Ave.
Downtown on the corner of Alameda and Griggs • 526-6689 for information

Rev. Eduardo Rivera, Senior Pastor

Traditional Worship 8:15 a.m.
Unplugged Contemporary Worship 9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship 10:45 a.m.

www.lascrucesmethodistchurch.com
e-mail: spoffice@zianet.com



UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Randall W. Partin
Sunday Worship Services:
Traditional: 8:30 a.m.
Informal: 11:00 a.m.
Classes for All: 9:45 a.m.

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New Thought



Center for Spiritual Living™
In the Heart of Las Cruces

A Science of Mind Center

Service on Sunday 10:30-11:30 am

Guest Speaker:
Reverend Bonnie Smith

575 North Main St.
Las Cruces, NM 88001
www.csllasruces.org
575-523-4847



WELLSPRING CHURCH

An Inclusive New Thought Community

140 Taylor Rd - 524-2375
Sunday Celebration 11:00 AM
Men's and Women's Discussion Groups 9:30 AM
Rev. Sam Pritchey - 647-2560
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wellspringnow.blogspot.com

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Non Denominational

Southern New Mexico Church of God

Sabbath Services
Interactive Bible Study
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1701 E. Missouri

Hear us Sunday mornings 8 a.m. on 1450 AM KOBE
See us Sunday mornings 10:30 a.m. on Comcast Cable Channel 98
We observe all of God's Holy Days and accept Jesus Christ as our savior.

650-7359
Confidential private counseling also available.

Father Scott Ruthven leads a dedication ceremony Saturday, Nov. 30, in honor of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church's centennial anniversary.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzer



Season of giving

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church ministers a wellspring of generosity for Palomas, Mexico

By **David Salcido**
Las Cruces Bulletin

For the fourth straight year, the clergy and parishioners of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church will be digging deep in the name of charity, when they make a trip across the international border Saturday, Dec. 14, to deliver clothing, school supplies and toiletries to the women and children of Palomas, Mexico.

The gifts come in the form of donations, given throughout the year by parishioners, which are then packed into gift wrapped shoe boxes for delivery to Palomas residents, many of whom have been victims in the drug wars.

"This is the parish in action," said Rev. Deacon Barbara Albers, who organizes the annual charity event. "I never know what we're going to get; school supplies, toiletries, dental supplies, socks, gloves, hats, all sorts of things. We like big things, but nothing is too small. Once we deliver, we start gathering again."

The donation drive is just one of many organized by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which is celebrating its centennial this year at 518 S. Alameda Blvd. On Saturday, Nov. 30, the church kicked off its centennial celebration with the dedication of a live oak tree and a bench dedicated in the memory of Earl McLaughlin, who served faithfully as vestry



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church secretary Missy Wortman, volunteer Susan Brown, Ruthven and Rev. Deacon Barbara Albers exhibit wrapped shoeboxes destined for the Palomas, Mexico, pilgrimage on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by David Salcido

person and junior warden at St. Andrew's for many years.

"Our mission statement is 'St. Andrew's is digging deep wells so others may drink,'" said Rev. Scott A. Ruthven, affectionately known to his parishioners as Father Scott. "We're trying to establish that digging a well is by word and by action, it's by giving money, it's by bringing boxes, it's by doing anything that will help somebody else in some way."

In doing their part for the Palomas project, parishioners are asked to wrap shoeboxes in festive wrapping paper and bring them to the church, along with bags of donations. Then, on Sunday, Dec. 9, between morning services, the donations are loaded into the boxes.

"We call it Holy Chaos Sunday," Albers

said. "Parishioners can't get out of church until they've packed a box."

On the day of delivery, a caravan of cars sets out early to the Palomas Port of Entry on the Mexican border. The New Mexico Office of Border Health assists in the mission, by passing along vital information, such as the name of the missionaries and license numbers of the cars, to the mayor of the town. When the caravan arrives, it is escorted to the distribution site. Albers estimates it takes about four hours to complete the distribution.

"It's well organized," she said. "We stay as a group going across and we leave as a group. To watch the children come in to receive the gifts is really exciting. We all come back feeling that we have done something meaningful. It's been a joyful experience."

Church News



Pentecostal

River of Life
United Pentecostal Church
1755 Buildtek Ct
Las Cruces, NM 88005
(575) 405-4269
Weds @ 7pm
Sun @ 10:30am

www.riveroflifeupc.org

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Iglesia del Pueblo
Spanish Services
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
200 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces
www.firstpreslc.com
(575) 526-5559

Interested in being on our worship services page? Call 524-8061 for details.

First Presbyterian Church
200 E. Boutz
Las Cruces, NM 88005
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP
A Praise and Worship Community
Come as You Are!
Saturdays @ 5 p.m.
Fellowship Potluck and Communion Service Every First Saturday of the Month
Nursery Available (575) 526-5559
We're not fancy - just family!

Unity

unity
of Las Cruces
"A positive path for spiritual living"
Sunday Celebration..... 10:30 am
Children's Activity 10:30 am
"Practical Christianity in action"
Rev. Terry Lund
125 Wyatt Drive
575-523-5592
www.UnityofLasCruces.org

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL CONCERT AT PHILLIPS CHAPEL

The almost completely restored Phillips Chapel, 638 N. Tornillo St., will present the third annual Christmas Gospel Concert by the New Mexico State University Gospel Choir under the direction of Bobbie Green at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13. All are invited. For more information, contact Beth O'Leary at boleary@nmsu.edu.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING ANNIVERSARY

The Center for Spiritual Living, 575 N. Main St., will celebrate its 31st birthday as a spiritual community in Las Cruces at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. Three dedicated practitioners - Geneva Collins, Doug Bailey and Tina Bailey - will be honored for serving more than 20 years as Religious Science practitioners and attaining emeritus status. The ceremony will be followed by a dinner. All are welcome. For more information, call 635-8081.

TEMPLE BETH EL PRESENTS BOOK TALK

Temple Beth El Sisterhood and the Adult Education Committee present a book talk by Patricia Gottlieb

Shapiro in the temple social hall at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15. This inspiring talk draws on the lives of 12 women from the ages of 76 to 102 in the book "Portraits of Twelve Jewish Women."

Shapiro shares what she learned writing the book as well as the women's secrets to their longevity and vitality. Las Cruces long-time resident Bea Klein, who is one of the 12 women, will participate as well.

This talk appeals to women of all ages, and the author will have signed copies of the book available for sale. Refreshments will be served and the presentation is free of charge.

For more information, call 521-1925.

PEACE LUTHERAN OFFERS TAIZÉ SERVICE

Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave., will host a Taizé Communion Service in an ecumenical partnership with Holy Family Ecumenical Catholic Church and University United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18. The service will consist of quiet, meditative songs and simple communion liturgy in the style of those exemplified in the monastic community of Taizé in eastern France,

where brothers from many different countries, speaking many different languages and, uniquely, belonging to several different Christian denominations, live and pray together. For more information, call 522-7119.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AT UNITY

Unity of Las Cruces will hold Advent services at 10:30 a.m. Sundays through Dec. 22. A shared Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held with the Center for Spiritual Living and Wellspring at the Center for Spiritual Living, 575 N. Main St., at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24. Burning Bowl at regular service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 29. White Stone Ceremony at

regular service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014. All services, except Christmas Eve, will be held at Unity Church, 125 Wyatt Drive. For more information, visit www.unityoflascruces.org or call 523-5592.

FIRST ASSEMBLY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

First Assembly of God, 5605 Bataan Memorial West, will hold a Christmas bazaar from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, in the Kid's World Auditorium. Table space is \$30. On the day of event, it is \$50 per table. For more information, contact Mary Helen at 524-0654, ext. 101.

sonomasprings
covenant church, new mexico
3940 Sonoma Springs Ave.
Las Cruces, NM
575-526-4907
www.sonomasprings.org

Worship Times:
8:30am Traditional
10:15am Contemporary

Healing Service Sun. Jan. 5th after 10:15am service

Healthy Happenings



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, contact 312-8320 or rositaad4@gmail.com.

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.

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, contact Kathy or David at 522-6404 or bridge@nmsu.edu.

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.

BRAIN INJURY GROUP MEETS EACH FRIDAY

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.

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.

FYI HOSTS NEEDLE EXCHANGE

The Families & Youth Inc. Needle Exchange Program, located at 1190 Foster Road, 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 Belle at 522-4004.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

The Alzheimer's Association New Mexico Chapter has the following support group meetings each month:

- 11:30 a.m. each Thursday at Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Road. For more information, call Jan at 522-7133 or Michael at 382-5200.
- 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Arbors of Del Rey, 3731 Del Rey Blvd. Respite care available during meeting. For more information, call Nicky or Michael at 382-5200.

- 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Village at Northrise, 2884 N. Roadrunner Parkway, in the Desert Willow Building. For more information, call Bonnie at 556-6117.

The Alzheimer's Association New Mexico Chapter has offices at 1121 Mall Drive, Suite C.

For more information on Alzheimer's disease and the Alzheimer's Association, call the organization's 24-hour hotline at 800-272-3900.

GUIDED, SIMPLE HATHA YOGA

Guided, simple Hatha Yoga classes are held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Classes are taught by Blissful Beth, 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 522-0011 or 640-7614.

YOGA CLASSES

Karen Nichols is offering 90-minute yoga classes for adults and teens at 6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at My Place Jewel, 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, call Nichols at 882-4943 or email karen_f_n@yahoo.com.

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, call Solomon at 522-5350 or email wilydoga@yahoo.com.

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.

DANCERCIZE CLASSES

Dancercize classes take place from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Cost is a \$2 to \$5 contribution. Bring a mat and water.

For more information, call Sherri at 640-2903.

BELLY DANCE YOGA

Suhaila offers a new yoga experience geared to stretching and toning muscles. Suitable for all levels of experience from 5 to 6 p.m. Fridays at My Place Jewel, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Cost is \$5.

For more information, email mail4jewell@yahoo.com or call 621-2746.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

If you drink, that's your business. If you want to stop drinking and can't, that's ours.

For more information including a schedule of meetings, call 527-1803.

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

A Parkinson's Support Group is held from 10 a.m. to noon the third Tuesday of each month at MountainView Hospital, 4311 E. Lohman Ave., in the Community Education room. For more information, call John at 702-217-0450.

COMPASSION & CHOICES MEETING

Compassion & Choices Las Cruces meets from 1:30 to 3 p.m. the third Sunday of each month at Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., in the Roadrunner Room. Meetings are open to anyone interested.

For more information, contact Judith Scott at 527-8432 or jnaomiscott@comcast.net.

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Breast Cancer Support Group of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico meets from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month at Memorial Medical Center, 2450 S. Telshor Blvd., in Annex A.

For more information, call 524 4373.

T'AI CHI CHIH

Instructor Rose Alvarez-Diosdado will teach T'ai Chi Chih: Joy Thru Movement classes at 8:30 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Sagecrest Park, 601 N. Roadrunner Parkway.

For more information, call 312-8320

CANCER CARE SUPPORT GROUP

A Cancer Care support group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Morningstar United Methodist Church, 2941 Morningstar Drive.

Designed to offer education and support, Cancer Care is facilitated by a team with experience in dealing with cancer on multiple levels – spiritual, physical, mental and emotional. Cancer survivors, those currently being treated and anyone in the community whose life has been touched by cancer are invited to attend.

For more information, call Betty Harris at 524-3994, Jackie Sledge at 915-525-2575, University United Methodist Church at 522-8220 or Morningstar United Methodist Church at 521-3770.

STROKE SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP

Stroke survivors and caregivers share their experiences at stroke survivors support group meetings at 1 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call Larry at 522-2625.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

A Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group is held from 10 a.m. to noon the second Tuesday of the month at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Grandparents raising grandchildren on a full-time basis are asked to join.

There is no cost to participate. For more information, call 528-3301.

Home Sales Scoreboard

LAS CRUCES AREA

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Closed Sales New Homes	2	3	3

Closed Sales Existing Homes	19	17	15
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Pending Home Sales (All)	168	166	181
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	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Average Days on Market (All)	118	172	104

Homes include detached single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Median Price New	\$156,000	\$173,500	\$105,000

Median Price Existing	\$156,000	\$129,500	\$81,000
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	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Total Homes on Market (All)	1,007	1,005	1,080

Real Estate Agents	374	374	375
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Source: Las Cruces Multiple Listing Service (MLS)* for the period 12/2/2013 to 12/8/2013
*MLS is wholly owned by the Las Cruces Association of Realtors
** Unknown per LCAR

Free holiday opportunities



Rorie Measure
The Reading Solution

We don't have to spend money to fill December with happy family memories.

This month, the members of the Childrens Reading Foundation of Doña Ana County (CRF-DAC) share our favorite free activities that are healthy, cause no cavities and create holiday fun for everyone in the family.

At the top of our list is talk. Filling your home with conversation relieves stress, builds young vocabularies and connects us to each other. Listening and sharing thoughts and stories is a time honored tradition in every culture. Singing and dancing the old stories has been the center of celebrations for thousands of years. In our busy modern lives, we give each other a great gift when we take some time to do the old fashioned things together.

Here's a calendar of events to make each day this month merry and bright.

Countdown to 2014

- Dec. 12 Write and hide directions for a scavenger hunt. To create a hunt for small children, try one of these sites for some very good ideas: www.pinterest.com/tiffanymoore2/scavenger-hunt-ideas-for-kids/ or <http://handsonaswegrow.com/32-ways-kids-can-go-on-scavenger>
- Dec. 13 - Sort holiday decorations by size, color, shape and talk about them
- Dec. 14 - Sing counting songs such as "Twelve Days of Christmas," or "Ants Go Marching"
- Dec. 15 - Measure ingredients in a recipe
- Dec. 16 - Form and trace shapes and letters out of play dough
- Dec. 17 - Read a book together, one chapter each night
- Dec. 18 - Assemble the pieces of a puzzle
- Dec. 19 - Tell family stories and talk about photos from your childhood
- Dec. 20 - Draw pictures and make a book for someone
- Dec. 21 - Watch TV together and talk about the show
- Dec. 22 - Share your favorite poems
- Dec. 23 - Make up a story, taking turns to add adventures
- Dec. 24 - Play Spy: Spell out clues one letter at a time. For different versions of play go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_spy
- Dec. 25 - Play Who Am I? Start with vague clues and get more specific www.gomilpitas.com/humor/164.htm
- Dec. 26 - Try tongue twisters www.kidactivities.net/category/holidays-christmas-tongue-twisters.aspx

See **List** on page C22

An 'Angel Tree' for seniors

Home Instead remembers those sometimes forgotten

By **Rachel Christiansen**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Hanging from a Christmas tree on the south side of Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., aren't ornaments, but instead the names of more than 750 senior citizens.

Caring agencies such as home health, nursing facilities or hospice identified the names as people who could use a reminder that they are not alone this holiday season.

In its ninth year, the Be a Santa to a Senior Program, organized by Home Instead Senior Care, pairs these 750 names with gifts that shoppers can pick up while they complete their holiday to do list.

"I think the most important thing is giving back to the seniors because, most of the time, they open the gift and know they aren't forgotten," said Ariel Kannady, a client care coordinator with Home Instead.

Home Instead also enlisted the help of the elementary students at Cesar E. Chavez Elementary School to help spruce up the gift bags, with students from pre-kindergarten through second grade devoting time every week to decorating and making the bags special.

"The school really wanted to help out and give back this year since the community helps them with so much," Kannady said. "They even offered to do it again next year."

Seeing seniors living in lonely and sometimes impoverished conditions on a daily basis, Home Instead Senior Care owners and client caregivers came together nearly a decade ago on an idea that would be similar to the popular Angel Tree of gifting needy children during the holidays.

"We started with a few names and it just mushroomed after that as we became more and more aware of people who really have no families or anyone to come and wish them a Merry Christmas," said Home Instead Senior Care franchise owner Jan Wimsatt.

Gifts are usually simple necessities, Wimsatt



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Rachel Christiansen

Tracy Likes, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Cesar E. Chavez Elementary School, helps Diego Sigler, 4, decorate bags that will be used to wrap gifts for the Be a Santa to a Senior program Tuesday, Dec. 3. Be a Santa to a Senior gift can be purchased by taking a tag from the tree at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., in front of Wet Seal, through Monday, Dec. 16.

said, such as mittens, sweaters, pajamas and throw blankets.

Occasionally, however, unique items are requested.

"A few years ago, there was a couple living way out in the south valley and their stove had broken, so they were using a hot plate," Wimsatt said. "Then that broke and the home health agency put a stove on their tag."

"Someone got them a stove, and arranged for the ReStore to deliver it and set it up. It really showed the generosity of our community."

Other times, the gift tags request things to help the seniors care for their pet, such as dog or cat food.

"When you are that lonely, and that isolated, that pet is your lifeline," Wimsatt said. "To help these impoverished people have that companionship is priceless."

With the convenience of the Be a Santa to a Senior tree's location inside the mall, shoppers can easily pick up a tag and buy the gift alongside their regular holiday shopping.

Jorge Lopez said he and his wife, Cindy, make a point to pick a gift every year while they do their holiday shopping, allowing their children to select the gift.

"It shows them that it's the right thing to do because Christmas isn't all about receiving, it's also about giving," Lopez said.

What they like about the program, he said, is that it allows the elderly who are sometimes overlooked to ask for things they genuinely need.

"We try to choose the things that seem like necessities, because it's a different perspective than just buying something extra that someone wants, like an iPad or a new TV," Lopez said.

The gifts will be picked up from the mall Monday, Dec. 16. A community wrapping party will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Ambercare, 3870 Foothills Road, where the generosity of the community and the work of the students will come together for the gifts to be wrapped and organized.

“Most of the time, they open the gift and know they aren't forgotten.”

ARIEL KANNADY,
client coordinator, Home
Instead Senior Care

Details

Be a Santa to a Senior community wrapping party

When
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18

Where
Ambercare, 3870 Foothills Road

Cost
Free

Contact
Jan Wimsatt at 522-7133

Holiday shopping made easy at the *La Casa Holiday Bazaar*

Photos by Rachel Christiansen

Sylvia Pelizza and Cecilia Seescholtz try on jewelry from Kumi Hims Bracelets at the annual La Casa Holiday Bazaar Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Las Cruces Convention Center.



Taylor Hamm, 9, opens a book from Usborne Books. Hundreds of vendors arrived for the weekend of shopping, in which entry proceeds benefit La Casa Inc.

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Margie Ruebush, with Southwest Wood Specialties, assists Ann Schvaneveldt as she looks over the homemade soaps.



Gary Hall, owner of Prime Thyme Gourmet, demonstrates to Jennifer Hill and her daughter, Abygail, 10, ways to use his jalapeño griller.



Julie Kennedy-Corrales, public awareness coordinator with La Casa Inc., distributed information about the services La Casa offers for domestic violence victims and offenders during the event.



Shoppers at the annual bazaar expo milled about two showrooms at the convention center.

Barnett's collects toys for the holidays



Barnett's Las Cruces Harley Davidson is a toy drop off location for donations to the Salvation Army and Toys for Tots. The toys are being collected until Monday, Dec. 16. Customers can drop off a new toy for under-privileged children over the holidays.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Rachel Christiansen

List

Continued from page C21

- Dec. 27 - Look for letters and numbers on road signs
- Dec. 28 - Play Charades www.wikihow.com/Play-Charades
- Dec. 29 - Play card games
- Dec. 30 - Recall and retell events from each month of the year
- Dec. 31 - Plan good times on the new calendar

Secret Santas abound in our community. This month, we are grateful for a couple of new ones: JoAnn Jonas arranged for General Mills to donate 1,000 books from their Cheerios reading campaign. The books are being distributed by local social service organizations.

Donald Wilson of the Sunrise Optimist Club fixes bikes to give to children in families that cannot buy new ones. The club has partnered with Children's Reading Foundation of Doña Ana County to help fulfill wishes for six children at Jardín de los Niños.

Are you looking for a thoughtful gift for a special child? Does your favorite yardman or babysitter have small children? You can give the gift of a year of books for under \$30. Dolly Parton Imagination Library serves children in Doña Ana County ages birth to 5 years old.

Your child will receive one age-appropriate book each month for 12 months. Don't have a child of your own? At the Children's Reading Foundation, we have a waiting list of families with children who would benefit greatly by having books in their homes.

Consider being a Secret Santa for one of these children and put 12 books in the hands of a child who has none.

Sign up at CRF-DAC through our website www.readingfoundation.org/dona_ana or by contacting me at roriecrf@gmail.com.

The Children's Reading Foundation of Doña Ana County (CRF-DA) is a community-driven, countywide project that promotes the message "Read with a child every day" and focuses on improving literacy throughout Doña Ana County. The column will promote literacy by offering ideas for family activities, featuring community projects and exploring local resources that help your children succeed. Rorie Measure serves on the Board of Directors of (CRF-DA) as Director of Public Awareness. She is a reading specialist and train teachers. Measure taught in Las Cruces Public Schools and the Gadsden Independent School Districts. Contact Measure at roriecrf@gmail.com.

Pet briefs

Pet of the week

Amayah is an orange and white domestic shorthair tabby. She is 7 months old and is very soft spoken. Although she doesn't talk much, she more than makes up for it with her ability to purr. She will snuggle her way into your lap, and your heart, and stay there forever if you let her.



For more information on Amayah or other animals available for adoption, call the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley at 382-0018.

Saturday pet adoption events scheduled

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley will facilitate dog, cat, puppy and kitten adoptions Saturday, Dec. 14. In addition to adoptions from the shelter site, adoptions also will take place at off-site pet adoption events.

Adoptions will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces on Main Street Downtown. Dogs available for adoption will be located at the north end of Main Street. Cats can be adopted from the offices of the Center for Spiritual Living, across from the dog adoptions.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., adoptions also will be facilitated at PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman Ave.

Adoption fees are \$75 for dogs/puppies and \$50 for cats/kittens. The fee includes the first set of vaccinations, spay/neuter and microchip.

For further information, call the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley at 382-0018, or visit the website at www.as-cmv.org.

Home 4 the Holidays campaign continues through Jan. 2, 2014

ACTion Programs for Animals (APA)/Doña Ana Pets Alive! (DAPA!) encourages local residents to experience the joy of pet adoption by participating in the Home 4 the Holidays 2013 campaign, which continues through Jan. 2, 2014.

APA/DAPA! has joined thousands of other animal shelters/groups from around the world who are participating in the holiday campaign to find loving homes for orphaned pets. Puppies, kittens, cats and dogs – all available for adoption – will put their best paw forward to encourage people to open their hearts and homes and adopt one or more of them.

So far, APA is on track to help find homes for 100+ cats/dogs this holiday season, which is the Home 4 the Holidays goal.

APA/DAPA! has weekend adoption events from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Sunday at PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman Ave., and has added new holiday adoption dates, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Tuesday Morning, 1723 E. University Ave. DAPA! also has cats available for adoption during the week at Enchanted Gardens, 270 Avenida de Mesilla.

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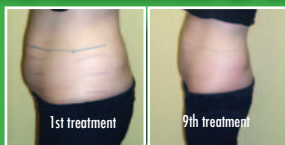


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Health Briefs

Baby expo seeking contestants and exhibitors

Helping Hands Event Planning LLC is proud to announce a new event, the Little Cuties Baby Pageant and Expo. Little Cuties is a showcase for the youngest and cutest citizens of Las Cruces. The pageant is about the wholesome, natural beauty of babies and children up to the age of 5.

This is not a modeling, acting, highly made up event, but one about the beauty of kids on their own and a showcase for products and services aimed at young families.

This event will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 10, 2014, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Attendees are encouraged to come and enjoy the pageant, browse and shop with local vendors focusing on children's products.

Registration for our cutest Las Cruces citizens is now open. You can register online or mail in your application. The registration fee is \$30 and application is online at www.littlecutieslc.com.

Exhibitors who have a product or service targeted at this age group and would like to be a part of the expo, visit the website at www.littlecutieslc.com and click on the exhibitor page. For more information or for questions, call Diane at 522-1232.

Little Cuties Baby Pageant and Expo is a fundraiser for Turning Point LLC, a local 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

For more information, visit www.littlecutieslc.com.

littlecutieslc.com or call Helping Hands Event Planning at 522-1232.

MMC earns recognition from The Joint Commission

The Joint Commission has recognized Memorial Medical Center as a 2013 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures for achieving outstanding accountability measure performance.

MMC was recognized for its achievement on the following measure sets: heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia. MMC was recognized by the Joint Commission for exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for these conditions.

MMC is one of 1,099 hospitals in the U.S. and one of seven in New Mexico earning the distinction of Top Performer on Key Quality Measures for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance. The Joint Commission is the leading accreditor of health care organizations in America.

NM insurance exchange launches SHOP site

New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange (NMHIX) announced the official launch of the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) site.

New Mexico was one of 19 states that opted to design and develop the small business-focused site on its own, in lieu of leveraging the

It's show time for Pink



Russell Allen, Kara Young and Heather Gandy of Allen Theatres recently gave a check for \$16,972 to the New Mexico State University Aggies 'Tough Enough to Wear Pink' campaign. Statewide, through special pink concessions, Allen Theatres raised more than \$24,000, which were awarded to local campaigns for breast cancer awareness, prevention and research. Accepting the check on behalf of TETWP are co-chairs Laura Conniff and Pat Sisbarro.

government version. Employers and employees can now perform all functions required to select a plan and get coverage, making New Mexico one of few states with all key components live and functional.

While a preliminary version of the New Mexico SHOP site launched on Oct. 1 to allow small businesses owners to select a benefit plan to offer their employees, the official launch offers new features and tools to simplify and streamline the research and enrollment process for all users.

Features include the connections of carriers' systems to process enrollment information, as well as a full suite of financial management tools that employers can leverage to help them budget and electronically contribute to employee health insurance costs.

Agents will also benefit from the site, having a dedicated portal with enrollment tools to help employers and carriers get information on employees that enrolled through the Exchange. Agents and employers can access the New Mexico SHOP site through www.BeWellNM.com.

Now that the SHOP site is fully functional, the NMHIX team will continue to look for ways to improve it and begin building the Individual State Exchange.

For more information on New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, please visit www.nmhix.com or www.bewellnm.com

NMDOH announces hantavirus death

The New Mexico Department of Health announced Tuesday, Dec. 10, that a 12-year-old boy from McKinley County died of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS). This is the third case of hantavirus in New Mexico this year and the second death.

Hantavirus is a deadly disease transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings or saliva.

The Department of Health urges health care workers and the general public to familiarize themselves with the symptoms of hantavirus. Early symptoms of hantavirus infection include fever and muscle aches, possibly with chills, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and cough that progresses to respiratory distress.

These symptoms develop within one to six weeks after rodent exposure. Although there is no specific treatment for HPS, chances for recovery are better if medical attention is sought early.

Send us your health briefs

The Las Cruces Bulletin encourages local nonprofit and health organizations to send brief notices, along with a photo and caption to health@lascrucesbulletin.com.

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