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**Bulletin**

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# Veterans chamber proposed

Las Cruces could be first in New Mexico

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

As part of an effort to create more work opportunities for returning veterans, a new chamber of commerce is being organized in New Mexico.

Formed in Dallas in 2009, the U.S. Veterans Chamber of Commerce (USVCC) doesn't yet have a chapter in New Mexico, and local lawyer Tim Chelpaty said he thinks Las Cruces would be ideal.

The city already has good reputation for being friendly to veterans and those serving, he said, as well as being located near Holloman Air Force Base, White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss.

Currently, there are an estimated 250,000 veterans in the Las Cruces-El Paso area, Chelpaty said, and more will be coming as the country winds down its wars. With the Iraq War over and the planned withdrawal from Afghanistan by 2014, there are more than 1 million entering the work force, he said.

Although there are some incentives for hiring veterans, many businesses are concerned about hiring veterans because of concerns about how some may be suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) or physical challenges from injuries suffered in battle, Chelpaty said.

One possible response sparked the creation of Veterans Office Solutions (VOS), a business not driven by making a profit, but instead to hire veterans, Chelpaty said. The idea would be create VOS centers where veterans would work creating remanufactured furniture with staff trained in working with veterans who may have PTSD or other conditions, he said.

One of the greatest potential markets for remanufactured furniture is government, Chelpaty said. The federal government alone spends \$40 billion replacing inventory of office furniture and equipment, he said. Remanufactured furniture such as office desks and cubicle work stations can be

See **Veterans** on page A3



Toasting in the  
**NEW YEAR**

Las Cruces residents **Monica Hoeper, Andrea Padilla, Eric Garton and Jessica Simmons** crack open champagne bottles at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Day Tuesday, Jan. 1, at a party on Snow Road in Mesilla. See pages A10 and 11 for more New Years celebration photos.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Steve MacIntyre

# Spaceport tops lawmaker goals

Long drought making water a big concern for lawmakers

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

*Editor's note: The Las Cruces Bulletin's 2013 Southwest New Mexico Legislative Guide, which will be delivered in the Jan. 18 issue, will carry in greater detail the agendas of lawmakers from Doña Ana County, as well as other southern New Mexico lawmakers and top state officials.*

If there's one legislative effort that most southern New Mexico lawmakers will be focused on

when the 60-day session begins Tuesday, Jan. 15, it's expanding liability protection for companies taking tourists into space.

As she has the past two sessions, Sen. Mary Kay Papen, D-Mesilla Park, will be sponsoring the main spaceport legislation, referred to as the expanded informed consent bill, because the original bill gave protection from lawsuits by having passengers acknowledge that taking a rocket-powered flight into space

See **Legislature** on page A8

# Gov's father dies with Alzheimer's

El Paso boxing legend also inspired daughter's politics

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

From the earliest days of her campaign for governor to her national speech at the Republican convention, Gov. Susana Martinez would talk about her father.

She told how her first job was working for her parents' private security business and how her father, Jacobo Martinez, made sure she carried a formidable gun to protect herself.

Her belief in the Second Amendment and for supporting

small businesses, such as the one run by her parents from the family kitchen, she said, is why she switched from being a Democrat to a Republican. That change would lead her to running for district attorney in Doña Ana County and the governor's office in Santa Fe.

On Monday, Dec. 31, 2012, that key figure in her life died in El Paso after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Besides being the father of

See **Martinez** on page A8

**NEXT WEEK**

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**HOMES & SOUTHWEST LIVING**

**Second casino may also gain backing**

Las Cruces City Council to consider backing Fort Sill Apache casino along with support for Jemez Anthony project.



\$1



DEFINING SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

Opinions.....	A4-6	Classifieds.....	B19
Coming Up.....	A7	Movies.....	C7,18-19
Sports.....	A13-19	Restaurant Guide.....	C10-11
Looking Back.....	A20	TV Listings.....	C13-16
Senior Activities.....	A21	Brain Games.....	C17
Obituaries.....	A23	Health & Well Being.....	D1-5,8
Business.....	B1-12	Church.....	D6-8
Legals.....	B13-18	Chile Knights.....	E7

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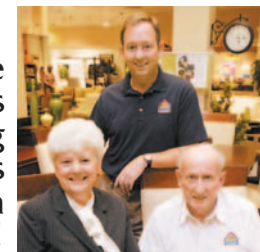
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# Veterans

Continued from page A1

made as good as new, but at a much lower cost than the new furniture, he said.

Partnering with veterans experienced in government contracting and procurement, Chelpaty said they ran into a major obstacle. Most government purchase contracts require new furniture be bought, he said, so remanufactured furniture isn't allowed, even though it is as good as new, less costly and more environmentally friendly.

"This is something where everybody wins, but we need to change this policy," Chelpaty said.

Like other chambers of commerce, the USVCC chapter would organize veteran business owners to become a large enough voice to move policymakers to make changes in procurement rules, he said.

"Our objective is to move quickly on this," Chelpaty said. "The sooner we get a chapter started the better."

The urgency, he said, is that there are new veterans returning to their communities all over the United States, and too many are committing suicide. Chelpaty said he believes one of the main stresses faced by returning veterans is the lack of employment.

"For every veteran who died on the battlefield, 25 will die on the economic battlefield," he said.

Brian Bascom, president and CEO of the U.S. Veterans Chamber of Commerce, said he strongly supports the VOS center concept and hopes to open a USVCC chapter in Las Cruces.

The USVCC does not intend to replace traditional chambers of commerce, Bascom said, and encourages its chapters to partner with local chambers. What the USVCC provides its chapters, he said, is information about programs to support their businesses, training for the successful running of their businesses and advocacy for the issues of veterans in the



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

**Tim Chelpaty, president of Veterans Office Solutions (VOS), stands next to a desk work station that could easily cost \$8,000 if bought new, but could be purchased at half the cost if it was assembled through remanufacturing. Chelpaty wants to open VOS centers to put veterans to work assembling the remanufactured furniture while saving the government money at the same time as it replaces inventory.**

workplace.

Work as envisioned by the VOS centers is critically needed because many employers do not understand the full scope of the skills that a veteran brings, Bascom said. Many only think of traditional soldiering and offer only security or police work, he said.

Bascom, who served in the infantry in Iraq, had to coordinate the shipping of materials and the safe handling of hazardous materials, while managing personnel, for example. The leadership and other training that a veteran potentially brings often isn't well known to those screen-

ing applicants for jobs, Bascom said.

Also, it's not in the nature of someone who has served their country to turn down any work made available to them, he said, so they will often take work that others won't.

"It's really a tragic waste of resources when you consider the leadership and management training and experience these veterans bring," Bascom said.

What the USVCC likes about the VOS proposal, is that it would give veterans work experience that is easily translatable to other professions in the civilian world, he said.

The USVCC has five chapters – two in Texas and chapters in Denver, Atlanta and Phoenix. Bascom said as long as veterans get on board forming the chapter in Las Cruces, USVCC will support their efforts and causes.

"But it requires for the veterans there to show us that they're really behind this," Bascom said.

To contact Chelpaty about forming a chapter of the United States Veterans Chamber of Commerce in Las Cruces, call 523-8500 or email him at [tim@veteranofficesolution.com](mailto:tim@veteranofficesolution.com). To learn more visit [www.veteranofficesolutions.com](http://www.veteranofficesolutions.com).



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## From the publisher

BY RICHARD COLTHARP

### Serving New Mexico his own way – Jeff Bingaman

His influence in the Senate will be missed

When the nation's 113th Congress was sworn in Thursday, Jan. 3, New Mexico's Senatorial tenure went from a combined 34 years to four years. At the end of 2008, that number was 60 years.

For 26 years, from 1983 to 2009, New Mexico knew only two United States Senators: Republican Pete Domenici and Democrat Jeff Bingaman.

Domenici was elected in 1972 and his last year on Capitol Hill was 2008.

Bingaman was elected in 1982 and ended his final term just days ago.

Sen. Tom Udall and freshman Sen. Martin Heinrich now represent the Land of Enchantment in the U.S. Senate.

Back in 1983, it would have been a bold statement to predict Domenici and Bingaman would serve together for nearly a generation. It would be similar folly to guess how long Udall and Heinrich might serve.

It is safe to say, however, Udall and Heinrich have a herculean task to match the successes of Domenici and Bingaman.

Despite being one of the least populous states, New Mexico maintained credible and important voices in the body of the Senate as long as Domenici and Bingaman served.

Those voices were quite different.

Domenici, the former mayor of Albuquerque and one time pitcher for the Albuquerque Dukes, was the far more outspoken and gregarious of the two. That's not to say Domenici was terribly outspoken and gregarious as much as it is to say Bingaman was the complete opposite.

A son of Silver City and a graduate of Harvard and Stanford Law School, Bingaman carried a demeanor most unusual for a politician. He was so uncomfortable and unnatural as a glad-hander or baby-kisser. It's a miracle he was ever elected in the first place, let alone re-elected four times.

Since arriving in New Mexico as a journalist in 1995, I met with Bingaman more than two dozen times. During those visits, he may have cracked a smile four times. Maybe. One time, he even made a noise that could possibly have been interpreted as a chuckle.

That said, I always found conversations with Bingaman delightful. He had a unique, apolitical way of looking at things, and he always answered questions thoughtfully. Nearly always, I learned something through discussions with Bingaman.

Likewise, I nearly always learned something through discussions with Domenici. Domenici was decidedly more political than Bingaman and, probably, was ultimately a more successful politician because of it.

One of the biggest strengths of the tandem was the fact they sat on opposite sides of the aisle. That added an extra punch on the many occasions they fought together for New Mexico. At those times, with both Domenici and Bingaman touting an issue, it was clear they were battling for their fellow New Mexicans and not their party affiliation.

In the election to fill Bingaman's seat, both candidates – Heinrich and Heather Wilson – campaigned on their first names.

It was Martin vs. Heather, which felt a little odd to me. Seemed like an attempt to be folksy and friendly to voters.

I could never see Bingaman campaigning on his first name. Not that he was above that, it just wouldn't have been him. With Bingaman, you never got anyone but him. If he had ever tried to be anyone but himself, it would not have worked.

If Bingaman has a Twitter account, I couldn't find it.

I can't picture Bingaman putting out a tweet.

Udall and Heinrich have, combined, almost 10,000 Twitter followers. It's probably important for them to be accessible in that way in today's world.

Maybe that's one reason Bingaman's getting out.

It's not that he's too old school to Tweet, or not sharp enough to get the value of marketing. It's just that he's done it his way and it worked. Now, perhaps he reasons, it's time to step aside and let some new folks do it their way.

If I were to tweet, my comment would be "Sen. Bingaman, we're glad you did it your way."

#thankyou.



## Letters to the Editor

### Impact fees

Thank you, Las Cruces City Council, for our Christmas gift. Steadily increasing taxes for declining value (24 percent to date) on homes, so developers can continue their free ride at our expense. Anything goes as long as you're a developer.

There is a glut of existing homes for sale such as our neighbor's, now over three years on the market, but who cares? The construction industry needs our bailout.

Oh, by the way, \$1,600 for a new home amortized over 30 years is less than \$4.50 per month. Get a calculator.

And about overcrowded schools and poorly paid teachers – your taxes are needed elsewhere.

Connie Potter

### Combating obesity

I have some videos of events taken around Las Cruces, Mesilla and New Mexico A&M around 1950. One thing I noticed immediately is that there were no people of any age like we would call "obese" today. A couple of people in crowd scenes appeared to be "pudgy," but no one was morbidly obese as we see everywhere today.

So what has happened to affect body

weight so drastically? I realize that people are not as active as they were then with TV, computers, video games and other electronic activities. And, back then, all students were required to take physical education.

The major difference, I feel, is in the quality of our food.

Back then, grocery stores only sold ingredients. There were no boxed or packaged meals, none that were marked "processed" or contained preservatives. Meals were prepared by combining ingredients, not by opening boxes or jars.

It is my theory that foods that have been processed or contain preservatives do not metabolize in our bodies as efficiently as natural foods do. The poorly metabolized food is retained in the body resulting in weight gain and sometimes leads to serious illnesses in time.

I believe that everyone would benefit by cooking "from scratch." That is, by combining raw ingredients to know exactly what is in the food we eat. It may be less convenient but will pay off in terms of better health, more energy and stamina and better quality of life.

With many thinking about making resolutions in the new year, maybe this approach would be one that would change lives for the better for many years to come.

Shan Nichols

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

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# Legislative session looms

## Santa Fe not as dysfunctional as Washington



**Jay Miller**  
Inside the Capitol

What can a guy believe in anymore? The world didn't end like it was supposed to 10 days ago. Now we learn the fiscal cliff is more like a slope with numerous opportunities for correction as soon as tea partiers learn the advantages of compromise.

New Mexicans can be proud, however, that despite its faults, our state Legislature really has its act together compared with Congress.

State lawmakers know that on the third Tuesday in January, they leave their day jobs and go to Santa Fe to make big decisions regarding the state. Since January begins on a Tuesday, Jan. 15 is the earliest a session can begin.

But New Mexico lawmakers will be ready. A few years ago they passed legislation allowing any legislator to pre-file a bill up to a month ahead of the Legislature's start. Fifty-nine bills, memorials and resolutions had been prefiled as of Jan. 1. Anyone can read the proposed legislation by going to [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov).

Interim legislative committees now study problems facing the state and draft legislation to correct those problems. Many of the prefiled bills are from interim committees.

In some cases, voters will approve constitutional amendments that require legislative enactment in order to make them work and to fill in the details. Three voter-

approved amendments from last November involve major changes in the always controversial Public Regulation Commission.

The powerful body never has seemed to attract the quality of individuals needed for such a complex job. It is a haven for good politicians who like the \$90,000 the job pays.

Consequently, when given the opportunity on last November's ballot, voters overwhelmingly made changes transferring authority from the commission and establishing a college degree and work experience in an area regulated by the PRC.

But remember, the Legislature is composed of 112 politicians, some of whom may have their eyes on one of the commission seats. Expect much legislative maneuvering before those qualifications are set.

What should we expect from this new Legislature? It's hard to tell. Thirty of the 112 are new this year – quite a bit more than usual. For the first time ever, the governor got publicly involved in legislative races on both sides of the aisle.

Gov. Susana Martinez's highest-level involvement was in trying to defeat Senate President Pro Tem Tim Jennings of Roswell and Democratic Floor Leader Sen. Michael Sanchez of Belen.

She defeated Jennings but Sanchez was reelected by a wide margin. The word among legislative insiders is that Gov. Martinez shot the wrong guy. Jennings is forgiving. Sanchez isn't. Expect tough times for the governor in the Senate.

Martinez will be back

with her signature issues, which include ceasing the issuance of driver's licenses to undocumented aliens and not passing third-graders on to fourth grade unless they meet minimum reading requirements. Both issues failed in past years. Did Martinez make enough legislative changes in the recent elections to improve her chances? It doesn't look good for her.

With many new lawmakers and increased animosity caused by the governor's involvement in several races, those hoping for few changes from the 2013 Legislature are whistling a happy tune. One longtime corporate lobbyist told me today the he has two new partners for this session – chaos and confusion.

The one bright spot for the governor in the Senate is that Republican lawmakers kept their same leadership. Stu Ingle, a farmer from near Portales, will keep the Republican leadership post he has held for years. Ingle is soft-talking, level-headed and tends to keep sparks from flying. Those are not qualities, however, that the governor wants to see from GOP leaders. She is reported to want Ingle out of his leadership post and out of the Senate. She didn't succeed, but Ingle likely will continue to work with her.

It doesn't sound especially good for New Mexicans, but it's a darn sight better than what's happening in Washington.

Jay Miller may be contacted at [insidethecapitol@hotmail.com](mailto:insidethecapitol@hotmail.com).

## Guest column

# Serving our seniors

## City will remain vigilant with resources

By **Brian Denmark**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Despite the continued sluggish economy we face here in Las Cruces and across the country, Las Cruces municipal government continues to provide the much-needed services our residents rely on and expect.

It is not easy, given already reduced revenues locally and more on the horizon, with legislative cost cutting that will drastically lessen financial assistance from the state.

We at the City of Las Cruces are constantly monitoring our finances and looking for ways to save with little or no detrimental impacts to the community. In our ongoing efforts to save money, we discovered that by closing the Munson Center on weekends and reducing hours of operation at the Eastside Community Center, we would save \$40,000 a year, money that will go toward purchasing food for our meal program.

With as few as four people utilizing Munson Center on weekends, it is impossible to justify the personnel and utility costs to keep the center open. Similar concerns resulted in reducing hours at the Eastside Center, which still provides lunch weekdays.

Much has been made about the end of Saturday night dances at Munson Center. It's important to know that the discontinuation of dances and the weekend closures are unrelated. Simply put, one has nothing to do with the other.

The dances were not sponsored by the city, but by a nonprofit corporation housed at the center. It was the corporation's decision to end the dances, not the city's. And the fact that the center is closed on weekends does not prohibit the

corporation, or any group, from renting Munson Center to conduct dances or other activities.

State statutes are very clear when it comes to this type of arrangement. According to the law, an organization that wishes to lease, or operate within, a municipal facility must have a valid lease with the city that reflects a fair market lease rate, as well as an operating agreement stipulating that the corporation will provide a support role function for the city. The level of the nonprofit organization's interaction and support toward essential services of the city will dictate how a lease and operating agreement is negotiated.

The City of Las Cruces is working diligently to address these issues with various organizations such as the Las Cruces Senior Citizens Corp., Senior Olympics and Friends of the Library.

Fiscal responsibility is paramount at the City of Las Cruces. We are meeting with and providing legislators our priority funding list for the 2013 session in hopes of obtaining state assistance to help retain experienced workers and emergency responders, establish a crime lab to increase the effectiveness of our law enforcement efforts, maintain roads and improve ball fields for families to enjoy, just to name a few.

We at the city take our financial health seriously and will continue to be ever vigilant with the precious resources we have, resources that come from the taxpaying public we are here to serve. As our motto states: "The City of Las Cruces, People helping People."

Brian Denmark is the assistant city manager and chief operating officer for the City of Las Cruces.

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# Schools can't fix parenting

## American system allows slackers a second chance

**Michael Swickard**  
In My Opinion



The media constantly talks about "the failing American public schools." American public schools are not failing, on average – American schools are, well, average, as they should be if we understand statistics.

There are three sources of whining about schools. First, there are the journalists who have never had an education class. All they know about plumbing is taking a shower, which is more than they have learned about education.

Second, there are the parents who think schools are in the babysitting business. Finally, there are the schools themselves. You did not think I would let them off the hook, did you?

School administrators have said for the last 30 years, if they just had enough money they could educate every child. Money has very little to do with the education of children. The variable that affects learning in school is what parents expect of their children. "Oh, you got a D, that is fine, I always got a D when I was your age" versus "You are grounded until that D becomes a B."

As a trend, the American public schools fulfill their mission fairly well. What about comparing them to Japanese schools? In Japan, in sixth grade, students are weeded out if they do not show enough academic promise. Those students are put into vocational schools.

I have a Ph.D., which would surprise Mrs. Hodgeson, my sixth-grade teacher, who was convinced I was "slow." In Japan, I would have had no chance to get a Ph.D.

The Japanese keep up the heat on their kids, sending them to cram schools. And then the Japanese wonder why many times as many Japanese children kill themselves as American kids. It is a tragedy the number of American children taking their own lives, in Japan, it is a holocaust.

The job of American schools is to educate the students who come to school wanting to learn. And, for the most part, they do that. When a parent sends a child to school with the explicit instruction to learn, they do.

What I like best about American schools is they give second chances. The Japanese system divides at a very young age and does not forgive a lack of academic performance. When I was in grade school, I came to the understanding with the educational system that if I showed no academic promise they would not require anything of me. And since both of my parents did not require effort in school, I was a slacker.

There, I said it, I was a slacker. I sat and looked "stupid" and they thought me slow. I was not because in my mind I was flying a P-51 in Europe during WWII, all the flying being done in my head. Or I was Dick Bong flying a P-38 in the Pacific war.

The schools left me alone, not realizing I was using skills of imagery and imagination, not to mention having a connection with technology and history. While I did not cause any trouble at the school, I was not stupid; rather, I had parents who did not realize they had to un-slacker me.

That I achieved a Ph.D. indicates I was a slacker in public school and was not irretrievably stupid. Further, it does not condemn the schools for my lack of achievement. They did not fail me. Sorry as I am to say this, my parents failed.

They paid their taxes, but did not get the value. The same thing is true today. Many parents pay their taxes and carp about the "lousy school system" where their kids are not learning anything. Really?

Perhaps dire consequences would change the children's learning in schools. The schools cannot do it without the parents providing the motivation.

I sometimes wonder how many other students are considered rocks when all they are doing is slacking. The good news is that if they are in America, they will be given second chances and may some day get a Ph.D. The picture is not as rosy if they are in Japan. Those slackers in Japanese schools with no second chances may be shoveling pig poop for the rest of their lives. I like the American public schools better.

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

“ I had parents who did not realize they had to un-slacker me. ”

# BaxterBlack



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

## Working mothers

Pam and I were having a deep discussion on cow psychology.

Subjects such as horn envy, chuteaphobia, the empty nest syndrome at weaning time and unsightly hair on udders. Then she brought up a subject that I have wondered about myself, even as a cross-species problem; females working together in a tight community.

We all know the tension that occurs when you put a new mare into the herd, or buy a new blue heeler bitch

and bring her home to meet the other dogs, or put six mothers of second-graders in a small room with the objective of picking out new school colors.

Then she brought up, how does a herd of ranch cows decide which one will stay back with the little calves to babysit while the rest of the mama cows go to work?

Pam has been studying on this cow behavior for years. She has never seen them drawing straws, flipping a coin or trying to guess the number of dewclaws hidden behind their back. So, she concluded it must be a more cerebral consideration.

She assumed since they have no written language that they didn't take turns. Still, the babysitters d'jour seem to be chosen at random. If we could speak "cow," we might hear a conversation like this:

"Who else is thirsty?"  
"Me! Me! My! My! Moo! Moo!"

"Well, somebody needs to stay here in the nursery."

"How 'bout you, Long Toe? It's your turn."

"What's a turn?"

Nobody knew.

"I've taken care of that little monster of yours. He doesn't mind me, just keeps stirrin' up the babies."

"Of course! That snooty little heifer of yours just keeps teasin' him! Besides, I need a break."

"From what? A break from what! All you do is sit around and graze."

"Oh, I'll do it," said Crooked Horn, "I'm just tired of your incessant mooing."

"I'm not going to leave my sweet little baby with you!"

"Me neither! You're not a good mother, you give any of them a drink that wants it!"

"If you were a better milker your scrawny runt wouldn't be hungry all the time!"

"Pipe down, you hussies! Hey? Where did everybody go?"

Pam has decided it's nature's way of separating the argumentative from the thirsty.

I asked her what she meant? "You wouldn't understand," she said.

I asked her if this has anything to do with working mothers?

"Don't even go there," she said.

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

“ ... the babysitters d'jour seem to be chosen at random. ”

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## Coming Up

### Archaeology meeting

The Doña Ana Archaeological Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, in the auditorium.

James Hester, professor emeritus at the University of Colorado, will give a slide-based presentation titled "Adventures in Archaeology." He will share the unique events he experienced while doing archaeology in the field for more than 40 years. The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information, call LeRoy Unglaub at 524-9497.

### City councillors host community meeting

Las Cruces City Councillors Gill Sorg and Sharon Thomas will host a community meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Doña Ana Community College East Mesa Campus, 2800 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd., in the auditorium.

Local state legislators – Sen. William Soules and Reps. Phillip Archuleta, Terry McMillan and Nate Cote – have been invited to the public meeting along with Doña Ana County Commissioner Wayne Hancock.

Sorg and Thomas will give a brief review of past and ongoing city projects as well as a look ahead to upcoming issues. The state and county elected officials will give brief statements and there will be a question-and-answer period.

### Tennis tournament set

The 14th annual Battle of the Clubs Team Tennis Tournament will be held Friday through Saturday, Jan. 25-27, in Las Cruces.

This annual event is the premiere team tennis tournament sponsored by the Picacho Hills Tennis Association. It draws players from all of southern New Mexico and the greater El Paso area.

A kick-off dinner for all entrants, catered by Picacho Hills Country Club, will be at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25. Team tennis matches will be played on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 26-27, at the New Mexico State University Tennis Complex.

Individual trophies will be awarded to

winning teams. All entrants will enjoy a tournament souvenir, continental breakfasts and box lunches both Saturday and Sunday. The entry fee also includes the cost of the Kick-Off Dinner.

The entry fee for a team of eight (four men and four women) is \$400. Additional team members may enter for \$50 each. Entries are due on or before Saturday, Jan. 12. NTRP ratings apply.

For entry forms and additional information, contact Emery or Jamie Borsodi at picachohillstennis@gmail.com or call Borsodi at 647-9906.

### Native plant society

The Native Plant Society will meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, in the conference room.

Nathan Small, Las Cruces city councillor and New Mexico Wilderness Alliance's wilderness protection coordinator, will present "Monumental: The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Proposal."

For more information, contact Carolyn Gressitt at 523-8413 or Al Krueger at 532-1036.

### Model airplane club

The Mesilla Valley Model Airplane Club (MVMAC) will hold its regular general meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Rawson's Self Storage, 1103 N. Solano Drive. Anyone interested in the sport of model flying is invited to attend.

MVMAC members fly electric or fuel-powered airplanes, helicopters, gliders and jets. Instruction is available. An Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) membership is required to fly with the club.

For more information, call Jim Caldwell, 680-8195.

For information concerning electric-powered model flight, call John Womack at 522-0785.

Visit [www.mvmac.org](http://www.mvmac.org), for membership, meeting, flying field and future event information. For AMA membership and additional model aeronautics information, visit [www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org).

### TEA Party meets Jan. 10

The Las Cruces TEA Party will have a general meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Mountain View Christian Church, 231 Three Crosses Ave.

Nominations for officers will take place at the meeting. Dues for 2013 will be accepted before the meeting.

For more information, write to Las Cruces TEA Party, P.O. Box 1168, Las Cruces NM 88004.

### SAR chapter meeting

The Gadsden Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will hold its next chapter meeting at noon, Saturday, Jan. 19, at Uno Chicago Grill, 2102 N. Telshor Court. New officers will be installed and some office responsibilities will be changed.

For more information, call Sam Bradley at 522-3479.

### GFWC meets in January

The GFWC Progress Club will have its annual card party fundraiser from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Belton Bridge Center, 1214 E. Madrid Ave. Tickets are \$10 each and lunch is included. Fun and prizes spice up this fundraiser for scholarship recipients at New Mexico State University.

For more information or tickets, contact Jo Banks at 532-1207 or [josiobanks@aol.com](mailto:josiobanks@aol.com).

### Harley group to meet

The Southern New Mexico Harley Owner's Group will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, at Furr's Buffet, 2340 E. Griggs Ave. The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in motorcycles. Those purchasing breakfast should arrive at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, call Deb DeMin at 301-462-7341.

### Gathering honors Marine

A gathering to honor Marine Harold Whalen of the Marine Corp League, El Paso Diablo Detachment No. 478 will be held at American Legion Post No. 10, at 1185 E. Madrid Ave., at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6.

Whalen was instrumental in establishing the honor guard at funeral services for veterans of any military service in Las Cruces.

The service, established in 1998, has provided honor guard services to more than 920 military funerals.

Whalen will be relocating to Las Vegas, Nev.

For more information or to RSVP, call Jeronimo Del Bozque at 382-5118.

### Camera club announces two meetings in January

The Doña Ana Camera Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St.

Club member Scott Caretto will provide a technical workshop on camera flashes.

A meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15, will feature a travelogue presentation by Ron Saltzman on his visits to the Armendaris Ranch.

Meetings offer technical presentations, friendly suggestions for improving member photos, travelogues, networking and other activities for a spectrum of photographers and abilities.

For more information, visit [www.dacameraclub.org](http://www.dacameraclub.org) or call 532-1919.

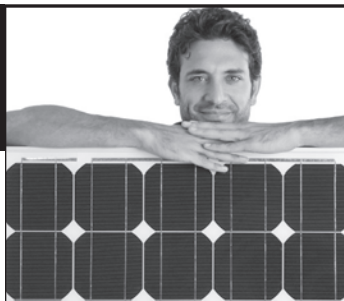
### Rocket launch set Jan. 5

The Fellowship of Las Cruces Area Rocketry Enthusiasts (FLARE) will host a sports launch at the Waterfalls Launch Site at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, weather permitting.

For more information, contact Thomas Kindig at [tokind@flare-rocketry.com](mailto:tokind@flare-rocketry.com) or 201-3336.

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# Legislature

Continued from page A1

is inherently risky.

The original informed consent bill only covered spaceflight operators such as Virgin Galactic, but not the suppliers or manufacturers of the space vehicles. As the future anchor tenant at Spaceport America, Virgin Galactic needs the liability protection extended to the companies that are making its spaceship and rocket engines.

A successful spaceport will provide better jobs and an overall healthier economy in New Mexico, Papen said, which will translate into more revenue for the state's educational system and infrastructure.

The spaceport legislation enjoys bipartisan support, such as Republican Rep. Terry McMillan of Las Cruces.

"I can't imagine a single legislator from Doña Ana County not supporting this," McMillan said. "This is too important to us. This has the potential to infuse money into our economy. A lot of it. Taking passengers to space is just the start of what could happen out there. The potential is huge. The military wants to put satellites into outer space. Many companies want to conduct research in space. The type of people who would come to work here, the type of liaisons they would make with our university – there is no excuse, if you're from Doña Ana County, for not supporting this legislation."

Because of redistricting, some lawmakers have had to put themselves on a fast learning curve for the spaceport legislation. Rep. Rudy Martinez's District 39 now includes portions of Doña Ana and Sierra counties, and both have passed increases in gross receipt taxes to help pay for the \$209 million spaceport construction.

"I have been doing some research and learning more about it," Martinez said of the spaceport legislation. "It seems to favor bringing in more business and jobs."

Job creation is biggest need for his constituents, said Martinez, a Democrat from Bayard near Silver City.

"We need to find means of bringing in businesses and helping the businesses we have survive," Martinez said. "The downturn in the economy had a huge impact on businesses, especially the small businesses, the mom-and-pop businesses."

Although a new lawmaker, Rep. Bill McCamley of Las Cruces is very familiar with the spaceport as one who helped pass the GRT increases when he was a Doña Ana County commissioner. McCamley said efforts, such as the spaceport and biofuel research by Sapphire Energy, create good-paying jobs for students educated in New Mexico.

"Without quality, decent-paying jobs, citizens cannot provide for themselves and their families and young people will take their educations and move to more populated areas with more opportunities," McCamley said.

## Returning and new lawmakers

Two Democrats returning the Legislature following two-



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year absences are Reps. Jeff Steinborn and Nate Cote.

"One particular bill I want to work on is a better funding source for emergency medical services," Cote said. "These people are saving lives every day putting their own lives at risk."

Steinborn said he will return to issues of concern to veterans and for better government accountability.

Moving from the state House to Senate is Joseph Cervantes of Las Cruces.

Like McCamley, Cervantes said he also is concerned about young people leaving the state to find good jobs

"We've got to find ways to quickly jumpstart job creation locally," he said, "and at the same time be looking for more long-term solutions to low wages and a lack of jobs."

Replacing Cervantes in the House is Doreen Gallegos, executive director of Mesilla Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates.

"Right now, I work with abused and neglected children, so I want to expand that as far as education, preventive services, health care and mental health issues," Gallegos said.

New to the Senate is Bill Soules of Las Cruces, a Democrat and longtime educator.

"The first thing I would like to see happen in education is to restore some of the funding that was cut as a result of the economic downturn," Soules said.

Though no stranger to Doña Ana County, Sen. John Arthur Smith of Deming now has parts of the county in his district. Smith, a conservative Democrat, has chaired the Senate Finance Committee for 10 years. Smith's district also includes some of Sierra County, so he also supports expanding liability protection at the spaceport.

## Water concerns growing

Many from the Doña Ana County legislative delegation said they are worried about water because of the prolonged drought and the area's economic dependence on agriculture.

Coming from a farming family, Cervantes said he plans to work hard on water-related issues.

"We're in crisis-level drought conditions that are beginning to have some significant impacts on our local economy," Cervantes said.

The community, he said, might not be fully aware of just how severe these current drought conditions are.

"It's affected the Doña Ana agriculture community in ways the public doesn't yet appreciate," Cervantes said, "but there's been an enormous impact to the local economy here, and we run the risk of dealing with what happened over on the east side of the state, where the drought has taken thousands of acres of farmland out of production. I think our economy, and our heritage here, depend heavily on agriculture."

Soules agrees and said the issue is complicated by municipalities buying water rights that were previously used for agriculture.

Adding to those pressures is the need for better water infrastructure in poor rural communities, Martinez said.

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**KGBT 104**

# Martinez

Continued from page A1

the first Hispanic woman to be elected governor, Jacobo "Jake" Martinez, 80, was a boxing icon in El Paso.

He grew up in El Paso's Segundo Barrio, according to the El Paso Times. As a teenager, he showed natural boxing talents and eventually became a three-time winner of Gold Gloves state championships in the 1950s as an amateur boxer.

He joined the Marines in 1951, served in Korea and won the All Marine Corps Boxing Championship in his weight division two years later.

After serving in the military, he returned to work as an El Paso County sheriff's deputy. Later, he became a security guard before establishing his own successful security business. His wife, Paula, died of cancer several years ago. They had three children, the governor being their youngest daughter.

As a coach and mentor for boxers, he was dubbed the "Grand Old Master of El Paso Boxing." He was elected to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. Many of those he coached went on to win titles and box in the Olympics.

During the campaign, questions about the citizenship status of his mother were raised, until the Associated Press located documents to prove he was legally admitted to America and eventually became a citizen.

Although he was afflicted with Alzheimer's when Martinez ran for governor, he was often in attendance at key rallies and election celebrations, as well as her inauguration as governor.

By 2006, Martinez told the Albuquerque Journal, her father didn't know who she was, but he would still recount boxing fights he had fought, "blow by blow." He recently had been living in a house with a full-time caregiver, according to an interview Martinez gave to the Journal.

A son, Jake Jr., had been helping to take care of him while Martinez took care of her sister, Lettie, who is developmentally disabled and lives under the governor's guardianship. Jake Jr. told the El Paso Times he believed his father's dementia was the result of blows to the head in boxing matches.

He will be buried at Fort Bliss National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Martinez suggests people make memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Association.

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# Space Task Group sets standards, procedures

## Operations eventually moved to Houston



By **Michael Shinabery**  
New Mexico Museum of Space History

The mission that would send Alan Shepard, America's first man into space, was only a year-and-a-half away when, on Jan. 1, 1960, NASA brought the Space Task Group (STG) under its auspices.

"The Space Task Group was a working group of engineers based at Langley Research Center," said the website [llanddaniel.co.uk](http://llanddaniel.co.uk). Created in 1958, members were "tasked with superintending America's manned space-flight program."

"The possibility of manned spaceflight was one of several programs that the new space agency (NASA) began to address in 1958," said [history.nasa.gov](http://history.nasa.gov). "The Space Task Group had a huge task ahead."

Robert Gilruth, who would become director of the Manned Spacecraft Center-Johnson Space Center, headed the STG. According to his obituary at [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov), members were instrumental in creating "all the basic principles of Project Mercury," including "the conical, blunt-ended capsule, qualifications for astronauts, launch criteria and mission operation procedures."

"In 1958, under the leadership of Robert R. Gilruth, the

Space Task Group had been given the responsibility of placing a man in orbit around the Earth. Those few young men who assumed this task did not have any previous experience on which to rely," [llanddaniel.co.uk](http://llanddaniel.co.uk) said. "The operational concepts that were developed by this cadre on Mercury were improved as experience was gained on each flight. As the Operations Team assumed the responsibility for flying Gemini, the concepts were further developed, expanded, and improved."

Initially, just 35 men and women made up the STG, said NASA's 1963 publication, "Project Mercury: A Chronology." [llanddaniel.co.uk](http://llanddaniel.co.uk) said the roster included "eight secretaries and 'computers' (the term for women who ran calculations on mechanical adding machines)."

Four years later, 21 of the original 35 STG members, including Gilruth, Dr. Maxime Faget and Christopher Kraft Jr., had become "members of the Manned Spacecraft Center, the successor of the Space Task Group," said "Project

Mercury: A Chronology." Faget is credited with designing the Mercury capsule. Even earlier, in April 1958, he helped "conceive the idea of using a contour couch to withstand the high g-loads" during launch and re-entry, "Project Mercury: A Chronology," said. The next month, Langley's shops fabricated "test-model contour couches," which were soon "proved feasible on July 30."

Kraft went on to become the "first human space mission flight director," a NASA press release stated, and in 1972 the agency named him

the director of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

As the STG took on more duties and responsibilities, the staff swelled. In 1959, 32 engineers joined, [llanddaniel.co.uk](http://llanddaniel.co.uk) said. When NASA assumed control in January 1961, "Project Mercury: A Chronology" said "the personnel strength" was 667.

The Space Task Group was not an assemblage of engineers content to call themselves a "think tank," and debate concepts solely at conference tables. "Project Mercury: A Chronology," detailed their proactive participation. It began virtually immediately after inception. On Oct. 7 and 8, 1958, members who were "involved in the study of reentry methods visited the



FAGET



GILRUTH



Christopher Kraft, Jr., is shown at work inside NASA. In April 2011, the agency recognized him, as the "first human space mission flight director," by naming "the legendary building as the Christopher C. Kraft Jr. Mission Control Center," a NASA press release stated.

NASA photos

Air Force Wright Air Development Center, Dayton, Ohio, for the purpose of preparing (animal) test specimens." They next went to the Chicago Midway Laboratories "to investigate various ablation methods of reentry."

On Nov. 24, 1958, the STG "placed an order for one Atlas launch vehicle with the Air Force Missile Division ... as part of a preliminary research program leading to manned space flight."

Two days later, Group personnel "presented a proposed program for Langley Research Center support in the Little Joe phase of Project Mercury."

Little Joe had several purposes. Among them, said "Project Mercury: A Chronology," was building "a solid-fuel launch vehicle design(ed) for the research and development phase of a manned satellite vehicle project"; "to propel a full-scale, full-weight developmental version of the manned spacecraft to some of the flight conditions that would be encountered"; and, "to perfect the escape maneuver in the event of an aborted

mission."

The year hadn't even ended when, in December 1958, the STG's "technical assessment teams completed the evaluation of industry proposals for design and construction of a manned spacecraft and forwarded their findings to the Source Selection Board" at NASA.

As the new decade arrived and the Cold War-era Space Race heated up, "managing the huge lunar-landing program ... posed unprecedented management challenges," said "Von Braun: Dreamer of Space/Engineer of War" (Knopf/2008). NASA's budget would "quintuple ... to over \$5 billion per year in the mid-1960s."

The growing program needed room to grow. "STG obviously was going to expand massively and go somewhere."

James Webb, NASA's second administrator (1961-68), announced "that that 'somewhere' would be a cow pasture outside Houston, an obeisance to the power of Vice President (Lyndon) Johnson and powerful Texas

congressmen who sat on appropriations committees. STG became the Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC, renamed Johnson Space Center after the ex-president's death in 1973)."

Webb made the announcement on Sept. 19, 1961. The next day, "Gilruth and other officials of the Space Task Group surveyed the Houston, Texas, area to seek temporary operational quarters while the permanent installation was being constructed," said "Project Mercury: A Chronology." "The new NASA center for manned space flight would be constructed upon a 1,000-acre site donated by Rice University."

There was, according to "Von Braun: Dreamer of Space/Engineer of War," a second, unrelated Space Task Group, which Vice President Spiro Agnew appointed to "examine NASA's post-Apollo future." A primary goal was a manned flight to Mars.

Michael Shinabery is an education specialist with the New Mexico Museum of Space History. He can be reached at [michael.shinabery@state.nm.us](mailto:michael.shinabery@state.nm.us).



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# Snow Road revelers Bid farewell to 2012

Photos by Steve MacIntyre

At a house party on Snow Road, Michele Granger, host Lori Garton and Eva Gladish pour champagne for guests before the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31, 2012.



Local musicians Audra Rodgers and Lillis Urban play at the party.



Local musician Ryan Bright plays bass with his band Squeaky Wheel.

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- If grease is spilled on the floor use kitty litter to absorb liquid spills. Then use a broom and dust pan to sweep up the kitty litter and place in the garbage.
- Empty grease containers before they get full.
- Provide employees with proper training for grease disposal and clean-up.
- Scrape food residue from dishes, pots, pans and utensils and put it in the garbage, before washing and rinsing.

**NOT THIS:**

- Hose down floors or parking areas; run-off associated with cleaning activities is a violation of the Clean Water Act and local storm water ordinances.
- Empty grease containers down the drain.
- Pour oils or fat down the drain.
- Rinse grease down the drain.

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Daniel Hermosillo, Las Cruces Utilities Pollution Prevention, 575-528-3653 or Peter Bennett, Public Works Department, Project Development 575-528-3075

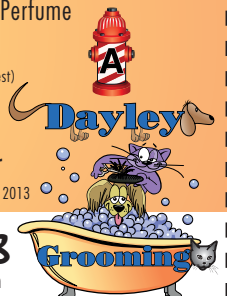


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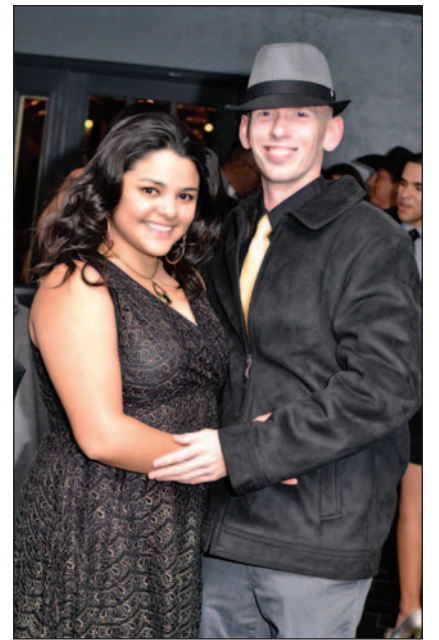
# Ring in the New Year at M Five

Photos by Eddie Güereque, wazzupcruces

Matt Morgan ushered out 2012 by entertaining the crowd with his music Monday, Dec. 31 at M Five.



Partygoers rang in the new year with a champagne toast and plenty of dancing.



Brandi Parrell and Jeremy Vaught

Justin Hodges gets ready for the countdown with champagne for everyone.




DJ Gene-E-Ous kept the music flowing and the party going.

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# Police warn against gunplay

## Holiday shots fired

Las Cruces Police are asking gun enthusiasts to use the Butterfield Shooting Range and refrain from illegally firing weapons within city limits, or within close proximity to residential areas.

Over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Las Cruces Police Department received several reports of recreational or target practice shooting within city limits on undeveloped land east of Sonoma Ranch Boulevard and Pagosa Hills Avenue.

City ordinance Sec. 19-164 prohibits the firing or discharge of any gun, pistol, rifle or other firearm – including air rifles and BB guns – within city limits. Many portions of the East Mesa, specifically undeveloped land

directly east of Sonoma Ranch Boulevard and Pagosa Hills Avenue, are within city limits and therefore off limits to hunting or recreational shooting.

In addition to the law prohibiting shooting within city limits, anyone firing a weapon outside city limits must be no less than 150 yards away from any building or residential area. Legal gunfire also must be done in a direction that has a safe trajectory away from structures and populated areas.

The Butterfield Shooting Range is off Interstate 10 on the city's West Mesa, and is free and open to the general public during daytime hours except 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays, when it is closed for regular maintenance. The Butterfield Shooting Range is accessible from Corralitos Road off Interstate 10 Exit 127.

# Congress averts fiscal cliff

## Pearce snubs last-ditch tax break deal

With a late-night vote on Tuesday, Jan. 1, Congress avoided diving the federal government off the fiscal cliff, sparing New Mexico from heavy job cuts at national laboratories and military bases as well as 7,000 out-of-work New Mexicans losing unemployment payments.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed, by a 257-167 vote, the compromise brokered by Vice President Joe Biden that had passed the Senate in the early morning hours by a 89-8 vote.

The deal will raise taxes on those with household incomes more than \$400,000 for individuals and \$450,000 for couples, but delayed across-the-board spending cuts for at least two months.

In the House vote, 85 Republicans joined 172 Democrats in voting to allow income taxes to rise for the first time in two decades. Voting no were 151 Republicans and 16 Democrats.

One of those Republicans was Steve Pearce of New Mexico's Second District, while Democrats Ben Ray Lujan and Martin Heinrich voted with the majority. Sens. Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall, both Democrats, voted for the deal in the Senate. In the new Congress, Heinrich will replace Bingaman in the Senate.

Pearce, who also voted against Speaker John Boehner's earlier "Plan B" that would have raised taxes for those making \$1 million or more, gave the same reason for opposing any proposal that didn't do more to reduce the federal government's \$16 trillion deficit.

"I cannot support this or any plan that doesn't provide a solution," Pearce said in a statement released after the vote. "Washington doesn't have a tax problem, it has a spending problem. The president has said we shouldn't raise taxes in a recession, be-

cause he understands that no matter who we tax, it will slow our economy without fixing our debt problem. Still, this is exactly what he proposes we do.

"The House has already passed numerous bills to avert the fiscal cliff. We have given the president and the Senate the opportunity to take steps toward solving our debt crisis, while making sure that the damaging impact of sequestration and tax increases are avoided. Instead of acting in the same spirit, the Senate and the president want to raise taxes and continue the federal spending spree."

Heinrich told the Albuquerque Journal he did not like all the provisions in the bill but said the bill was necessary "to take action to prevent catastrophic and irreparable harm to the nation's economy and our middle class."

"While there is still more work to do to reduce the deficit, this legislation asks millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share, and prevents automatic spending cuts that would threaten vital funding for New Mexico's national labs and harm the progress we've made in rebuilding our economy," Heinrich said.

"This plan is far from perfect and I do not support all of its elements," Lujan said in a statement, "however, it represents a compromise that protects middle-class families in New Mexico from seeing their income taxes increase and it ensures that those struggling to find work during this difficult time will continue to have support."

Udall said he voted for the bill because it was a "short-term" deal.

"None of us are happy with every provision in the legislation, but it was imperative that we take action to prevent catastrophic and irreparable harm to the nation's economy and our middle class," Udall said.

# CrimeStoppers

## School burglaries



Las Cruces Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that helps investigators determine who is responsible for burglarizing a local elementary school twice within a month.

Las Cruces Police are investigating two burglaries at Cesar E. Chavez Elementary School at 5250 Holman Road. The first burglary was reported Nov. 11 and the second was a month later, Tuesday, Dec. 11. Both burglaries appear to have been committed sometime after 11 p.m.

More than \$14,000 worth of laptop computers, projectors and iPads were taken during the burglaries and close to

\$2,000 in damages was reported at the school. Investigators have not determined whether the two burglaries are related or if they were committed by the same individuals.

Anyone with information that can help investigators determine who may have committed the two burglaries is asked to call Las Cruces Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477) or send a tip via text message to CRIMES (274637), keyword LCTIPS.

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

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<p><b>JACK REACHER</b> DAILY 12:20 3:20 6:35 9:40 (PG13)</p>	<p><b>breaking dawn</b> DAILY 11:00 1:35 4:15 7:00 9:35 (PG13)</p>	<p><b>JACK REACHER</b> DAILY 3:00 6:15 9:20 FRI-MON 12:00 (PG13)</p>	<p><b>PROMISED LAND</b> DAILY 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00 FRI-MON 12:00 (R) NO PASS OR DISCOUNT</p>
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## A good day begins with breakfast



**Jim Hilley**  
*Deflections*

What kind of food do you gorge on when you've had your jaw wired shut for weeks?

Everybody else is stuffing themselves with holiday candies, gingerbread cookies and maybe even a fruit cake, and you're putting all of your food in a blender.

Yuck.

High-flying Aggie guard Daniel Mullings had to undergo such an ordeal, and when it was over he went for a big breakfast.

"I had a big, huge breakfast, eggs – like six eggs, bacon, baloney – everything," Mullings said when asked at a press conference Wednesday, Jan. 2.

"It was great, I was very excited."

It makes sense when you think about it. The meaning of the word "breakfast" is, well "break fast."

Mullings said he had a difficult time dealing with having his jaw wired shut at first, but decided there was no point in feeling sorry for himself.

"For the first couple of days after I got surgery I was sitting there just kind of miserable," he said. "I didn't leave my room, but after I looked at it there is no point in sitting down and being miserable about something you can't help.

"You might as well look at the bright side so that's what I did."

Mullings called it a "tough stretch."

"I found out how much I really missed food and missed eating solids. You are used to eating solids and you have to go from eating solids to blending up your foods into liquids just so you can get some proteins it's really tough."

The sophomore guard said he had to learn to breathe differently in game situations.

"The first game you have to get used to it, because your mouth is closed and locked shut. I had to control my breathing in a different way."

Mullings said he lost about 10 pounds, but his energy is returning. He also said not having the jaw wired shut is taking some time to adjust to as well.

"I am still getting used to it. The more I practice, it will start coming back and I will get my full breathing back," he said.

Having the procedure didn't seem to slow Mullings down too much. He is still the Aggies' leading scorer and during his liquid diet days he averaged more than 13 points a game. In the two games he has played since the wire was removed, both losses, he has scored 21 points each time.

It seems to me Mullings may be ready to put some opponents in the blender.

The Aggies certainly need a lift, right now.

# Unfamiliar territory

## New Mexico State Aggies at bottom of WAC standings

By **Jim Hilley**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

The good news for the New Mexico State Aggies is that Daniel Mullings' jaw is no longer wired shut.

The bad news for the Aggies is that it seems like the basket is wired shut. At least from behind the three point line.

In the first two Western Athletic Conference games for NMSU, the team has managed to hit only 3 of 30 three-point shots. Yup, that's 10 percent – even a sportswriter can do the math.

That's only one of the problems coach Marvin Menzies said his team needs to fix as the Aggies play their first WAC home games Thursday, Jan. 3, and at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5.

"Rebounding is a big Achilles' heel right now for us," Menzies said. "It is something that with our size and athleticism we should be doing at a much better clip."

"We did the second half at La Tech but that was the only time we played with any urgency on the glass. Then it was too little too late."

Menzies said the Aggies are still searching for a "go-to guy" down the stretch.

"We don't have that guy. Daniel, who potentially could be that guy, has been a little bit of a shell of himself with his jaw being wired. He did play with a lot of energy and had a lot of passion this week so I am optimistic that he'll continue to play better."

Finishing games is another problem Menzies sees for his team.

"Our teams here in the past five years have all been very good at winning time, in the last few minutes of the game," he said. "When we had a two possession game at La Tech we didn't execute at all. We turned the ball over, two critical turnovers just like we did at UTEP."

Free throw shooting has also been a problem for the Aggies, Menzies said.

"We are No. 9 in the United States in free throw attempts. We are 273rd in free-throw percentage, that's a huge disparity. We are getting to the line like we've always wanted to do, but we are just not making free throws."

Menzies said he believes better free-throw shooting could have earned the Aggies two or three more wins this season.

Another area in which the Aggies are not living up to past performance is offensive rebounding.

"Last year we finished maybe third in the country, definitely top ten, and this year we are 80th in an area that we emphasize," Menzies said. "That and there are a couple of other tell-tale statistics, but I think those (free throws and offensive rebounding) are pretty cut and dried."

"That wouldn't matter if you were being blown out every game by 30, but we have games that we have lost by three or five points and it matters in those games."

Menzies knows that he is going to have to get his shooters going to compete in the WAC.



Renaldo Dixon is expected to continue to get more playing time for the Aggies as the date for center Tshildizi Nephawe's return remains uncertain.

"Offensively you have to look at who's taking threes, what types of threes are they taking and where should they be taken from," he said. "There are adjustments you can make just by saying, 'Hey, don't shoot this one, shoot this

prove our overall production," he said. "We will do that right away, immediately."

Menzies also believes the Aggies need to get the ball to the right people.

"We have guys that are shooting very high percentages from the field that have to get more touches – i.e. Sim," he said. "I'm not sure what he is overall for the year but it's pretty dog gone good."

Menzies said he also wants his players to drive and dish more and work on their midrange game.

That is one area where inexperience is hurting the Aggies.

"For all intents and purposes our point guards are freshmen experience wise," Menzies said. "They are both learning but they are both making progress."

See **Aggies** on page A16

“It's not about moral victories ... we have got to win games.”

MARVIN MENZIES,  
NMSU basketball coach

one, and don't shoot this one at all."

Menzies said he intends to impress on his players the need to choose their shots better.

"There are certain restrictions that we can put on right now that should statistically im-



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Steve MacIntyre  
**New Mexico State University guard Elena Holguin battles UT-Arlington forward Rosalyn Thorpe Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012, at the Pan American Center.**

# NMSU embarks on Texas road swing

## Aggie women split pair of conference games at home

The New Mexico State women's basketball team played well on defense, but struggled in the second half in a 62-59 loss to UT Arlington in both team's Western Athletic Conference opener Saturday, Dec. 29 at the Pan American Center, before claiming a 71-67 home win over Louisiana Tech, Monday, Dec. 31.

The Aggies are currently on their first conference road trip, playing against UT-San Antonio Thursday, Jan. 3, and at Texas State at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5.

Abby Scott led the Aggies against UT-Arlington and picked up a career-high 18 points in the loss. The freshman also tallied three rebounds on the night. Senior Stefanie Gilbreath and sophomore Danesia Williamson each collected 15 points on the evening, and Gilbreath earned the first double-double of her Aggie career with 10 rebounds.

"It was a disappointing loss, but you have to have a short memory and you have to keep playing hard and get ready for the game ahead," coach Mark Trakh said.

In the win over Louisiana Tech, four Aggies scored in double digits, with Gilbreath leading the team with 18 points, going 7-of-14 from the floor. The senior tallied 14 of those points in the first half, and was just shy of her second double-double with eight rebounds. Fellow senior Kelsie Rozendaal picked up 14 points in the evening while Williamson and Sasha Weber collected 11 and 12, respectively.

The Aggies shot 45.6 percent from the field and picked up 12 second-chance points from their 37 rebounds. Rozendaal helped the team with seven of those rebounds, while Williamson and Weber each tallied five.

"We played really well tonight," Trakh said. "It is great to see that we had that many players in the double digits. I was impressed with the team's performance tonight and it's a good team to get a win from."

The Aggies opened the night with a 9-0 scoring run against the Lady Techsters during the first minutes of play. Freshman Abby Scott led things off for the Aggies with a three pointer, marking the sixth game the Aggies have opened with points behind the three-point line. LA Tech came back with a pair of three-point shots before NMSU worked its way in with a layup from Rozendaal.

The Aggies kept their momentum as Gilbreath sank her first three balls of the night to put the Aggies up 14-8. Another couple of baskets from the senior helped the team to a 13-point lead with 10:24 on the clock. NMSU stayed in control of the half with two field goals from junior Jasmine Rutledge along with three-point shots from Scott and Weber.

Gilbreath closed the half for the Aggies with a layup, giving her 14 points in the half, while shooting 6-of-10 from the field. The Aggies shot an even 50 percent in the first period, leaving the hardwood with a 35-29 lead over LA Tech. NMSU forced 10 turnovers, and finished the half evenly matched with LA Tech at 19 rebounds.

The second half started in favor of the Lady Techsters as they quickly moved the score within two points with a pair of three's from Lulu Perry, but NMSU wasted little time before Rozendaal earned the first Aggie layup of the half and followed that up with a couple of free throws, keeping NMSU ahead 39-35 early in the second period.

Freshman Shay Young helped the Aggies along with her first basket of the game as Elena Holguin and Rutledge each collected a field goal, moving the Aggies' lead eight in the middle of the second half.

The win over LA Tech was the third all-time against LA Tech and the first since the 2007-08 season, each of those wins coming at the Pan American Center.

# AGGIE MEN'S BASKETBALL

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# Aggies battle Mavericks in the WAC Conference home opener

Photos by Steve MacIntyre

New Mexico State Aggie University forward Chrissy Fletcher fights for a rebound with UT-Arlington forward Aron Garcia Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012, at the Pan American Center. The Aggies fell to the Mavericks 62-59.



Stefanie Gilbreath puts up a shot against UT-Arlington.



NMSU coach Mark Trakh goes over a play with his team during a timeout.



Mayfield High School alum Elena Holguin drives past Garcia.

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# Texas Pan Am joins WAC

## School will play 14 sports in conference

The Western Athletic Conference announced that the University of Texas-Pan American has accepted an invitation for membership to join the conference, effective July 1, 2013.

Texas-Pan American becomes the eighth member of the conference in 2013-14, joining California State University, Bakersfield; Chicago State University; Grand Canyon University; University of Idaho; New Mexico State University; Seattle University and Utah Valley University.

"The addition of The University of Texas-Pan American adds another important piece to the rebuilding of the Western Athletic Conference," said WAC Interim Commissioner Jeff Hurd. "UTPA brings a program with 60 years of history and success, and we look forward to the Broncs competing at a high level in the WAC."

UTPA will bring all 14 of its sports – baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, and volleyball – to the WAC and will begin competition with the upcoming 2013-14 season.

"This is a defining moment in the history

of UTPA Athletics, and it has been a long time coming," UTPA Director of Athletics Chris King said. "We have been working hard for the last few years to transform this department into one that is no longer content with simply being at the Division I level, but instead has a strong group of student-athletes and coaches who can help us compete for championships while excelling in the classroom and the community. This is another step in that transformation process. Aligning ourselves with a nationally recognized and well-branded conference, such as the WAC, will allow us to gain national exposure for both UTPA and the entire Rio Grande Valley."

Located in Edinburg, Texas, in the lower Rio Grande Valley, the University of Texas-Pan American Department of Intercollegiate Athletics competes at the NCAA Division I level. UTPA, formerly known as Pan American College and Pan American University, is a part of the University of Texas system of schools. The Broncs have won six team national championships, including the 1963 NAIA Championship in men's basketball and every NAIA Championship in men's tennis from 1961 through 1965.



Lack of experience by New Mexico State's point guards, including sophomore K.C. Ross Miller, are among the contributing causes to the Aggies slow start in Western Athletic Conference play according to coach Marvin Menzies.

## Aggies

Continued from page A13

"I looked at film with them and I think they both made major defensive errors that didn't work out well for us, but that's the road and those are young guys and you show them film and they have opportunities to learn.

"They'll be at a better comfort level here at home."

"Whether that will translate to better numbers and a win we will find out," he said.

"We're at the bottom of the barrel right now. It's not about moral victories and playing a little bit better than last time, we have got to win games."

Saturday's game is an AggieVision production with Jeff Matthews and Glen Cerny tape delayed in Las Cruces until 10 p.m., and shown live on Comcast, Fox Sports-Arizona, CSN-Houston and ESPN3. The game can be heard on the Aggie Sports Network and KGRT-FM 103.9 in Las Cruces with the "Voice of the Aggies" Jack Nixon. The game is also available in Spanish with Edgar Gardell on Vista-FM 98.7.

## NMSU swim team trains for dual meet in Tucson

### Aggies face Arizona and Oregon State

The New Mexico State swimming and diving team returns from a short holiday break to train in Tucson, Ariz., prior to a dual meet with Pac-12 opponents Arizona and Oregon State, at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4.

After time off for the holiday, the Aggies resumed practice in Las Cruces Dec. 29 for three sessions prior to traveling to Tucson. The team started training in the Oro Valley Dec. 31, and is spending the week preparing for the spring semester of action.

"It will be an intense and fun week with the change of scenery," head coach Rick Pratt said. "Getting out of town relieves us of any distractions we might have. It will be a great time to work, bond and have fun. Friday's meet against one of the best teams in the nation will be another great experience."

The Aggies are competing against Arizona and Oregon State for the second consecutive season. Last year, the Wildcats finished fifth at the NCAA Championships.

**NM STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

**vs. Idaho**

**Saturday, Jan 12**

**at 6:30 p.m.**

**Kids 12 and Under Free**

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**vs. Seattle**

**Thursday, Jan. 10**

**at 6:30 p.m.**

**Ladies Night**

**Kids 12 and Under Free**

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# Onthegreen

## Are you making New Year's resolutions?

If you want to improve your golf, set specific goals and go for it



**Charlie Blanchard**  
Golf Doctor

According to historians, the tradition of making New Year's resolutions goes all the way back to the time when Janus, a mythical king of early Rome in 153 B.C., was placed at the head of the calendar.

Janus was seen as the god of beginnings and the guardian of doors and sacred openings. It was told that Janus had two faces and so he could look back on past events and look forward to the future.

Were it true for all of us, including politicians, that we are able to learn from our mistakes and change what we do in the future.

That is exactly what we should do as golfers at this festive time of year. It's a good opportunity to review our year of playing golf and decide what we would like to do differently. Of course, you can do that same thing with all the other important aspects of your life as well.

As for my own New Year's resolutions, I feel hampered. I don't do dieting. Lord knows I still need to gain some (lean) weight after losing close to 30 pounds 23 months ago – not by choice, mind you.

Chocolates are not my downfall – shiny golf shoes, maybe. I don't do drugs, so giving that up is out. I don't gamble, so I'm free from starting over again there. I don't even play fantasy anything. How boring, you say. But it saves money.

So what's left? Let me think.

A few years ago, I resolved to become a "kinder-gentler" Charlie on the golf course. I did that. I joked, laughed, patted rivals on the back and didn't have any angry explosions. Heck, at one of my favorite golf courses my nickname is "Chatty Kathy."

No more. Do you see Tiger Woods chatting

it up with pros he's paired with? I would hate to pay \$20,000 to play in a pro-am with Tiger, only to find him off with his caddy going over yardage for the tournament the following day. Tiger doesn't suffer fools.

Do you notice John Boehner chatting it up amiably with Mr. Obama? How about Ray Lewis? Is he giving high-fives to Peyton Manning in the middle of the game? Well, we have to be tough to win the game.

So I'm resolving to be less chatty and more serious this year, and hopefully win more matches. In truth, I'm exaggerating. I wouldn't pretend to play golf as an angry, distant, surly, anti-social individual. But I am determined to play better, now that I'm all healed.

One New Year's resolution that I'm definitely committed to is working out at the gym more. Every two or three days I go through a set gym routine (at Club Fitness) that covers shoulders, lats, legs, triceps, biceps, abdominals and a short cardio cool-down. It has certainly helped with strength and flexibility, but it's not enough; I'm resolved to make greater strength gains, if that's possible. So I'm resolving to spend 50 percent more time at the gym.

As I made clear in my "Christmas wishes" column a few weeks ago, a lot of folks would like to have more time to play golf.

Not me. I play enough golf. My resolution this year is to make my rounds of golf count for more. That means better preparation, better warm-up, better balance, better focus, better mental attitude, avoiding awful starts, making more birdie opportunities and closing the round in the last few holes.

For the New Year, I have promised myself to practice more. Maybe you should, too.

Of course, I'll admit I enjoy playing on the golf course as opposed to beating balls on the range. Indeed, I have been a slacker about practice for the past 18 months. But deep in my heart I realize I can't play respectable golf without a certain amount of practice.

I resolve to increase my driving distance, solidify my approach shots inside of 80 yards and have my putting absolutely secure inside of 8 feet. I'm doubling my practice efforts. Practice, practice, practice.

What does that translate to? Better time management. If you're like me, you have more to do than you have enough time to do it. It's exactly like the time versus money dilemma; when you finally have the time you don't have enough money. Still, the "secret" to good time management is being organized, establishing your priorities and making proper choices dozens times a day.

We can make long to-do lists until the cows come home, but if we don't go with our most important priorities we're lost. For example, I'm going to make actual "appointments" with myself – in my date book – for practice and workouts, while keeping my professional work as the priority.

Among some of my other New Year's resolutions for 2013 is my dedication to hitting more fairways and greens, especially at Picacho Hills County Club, where failure to hit fairways can rob you of 30 or 40 yards off the tee, and failure to hit greens in regulation can make for a long day of bogeys.

My goal is to keep my ball in the fairway, or in USGA terms the "closely mown area," some 70 percent of the time. Right now I'm at about 50 percent accuracy in hitting fairways.

In terms of greens in regulation, I'm at about 60 percent, which means a lot of up-and-down chips from awkward places. My goal is 75 percent – 3 out of 4 GIR.

As for putting, I had a pretty good year with putting, but still there's room for improvement. My 2013 resolution is to (practically) never have a three-putt. That might sound ridiculous, but it's possible. Tour players hardly ever three-putt. Three-putts are killers, plain and simple.

I usually have one per round, and I'm

determined to make it very rare for me to three-putt; or four-putt, for that matter. The solution is more attention to speed on longer uphill and downhill putts.

Here's the bottom line: If you haven't done it, I strongly recommend that you review your stats and make some determination about your most urgent challenges for improvement. Then set some specific goals and make a resolution.

...

I was truly struck by the response to last week's article on mental illness in the wake of the Newtown, Conn., mass-shooting tragedy. I heard from many more folks, who all expressed support for what I had to say, than I do about golf instruction.

That says something about how important the issues are viewed in our nation, compared to the recreational game of golf, for which I'm gratified. If you didn't have a chance to read that piece, I urge you to borrow a Las Cruces Bulletin from a friend, or stop into the Bulletin's office (840 N. Telshor Blvd., Suite E, and pick one up.

After more contemplation about the issue, I have made a resolution to donate to a charity whose goal is to fight mental illness. Alas, for every birdie I make in 2013, I'll donate \$1. I certainly plan to make more birdies than I ever have before.

Right now I'm thinking of the Treatment Advocacy Center in Arlington, Va., which has the mission of "eliminating barriers to the timely and effective treatment of severe mental illness."

For more information on the group, visit [www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org](http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org).

*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 [drblanchard@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:drblanchard@lascrucesbulletin.com).*

Mesilla Valley Christian Schools

## High School Athletes of the Week

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### Jeff Adler



Jeff Adler is a 16-year-old sophomore at Mesilla Valley Christian Schools. Adler is on the SonBlazer's basketball team and currently averages 12 points, five rebounds, and almost three steals per game. He is an outstanding shooter, positional defender and rebounder. He helped lead his team this past month against some of the top programs in the country at the Christian Cup in Phoenix, Ariz. He is also an outstanding ball handler with excellent court vision. Watch out for him as one of the centerpieces as the SonBlazers make a run for the state title. Adler is humble, honest, and shows great strength of character. He is a very good student and loves to apply himself in the classroom, with a 4.0 GPA. Adler has agreed to play for the D1 Ambassadors this next year, one of only three sophomores invited to the top-ranked AAU club. Outside of sports and school, Adler loves to play any game; he loves Rubik's Cubes and board games.

### Amber Ortiz



Amber Ortiz is a 15-year-old sophomore at Mesilla Valley Christian Schools. She is on the Lady SonBlazer's swimming team and her strongest events are the 50m freestyle and the 100m freestyle. It is Ortiz's third year on the varsity swim team and she has been a member of the LCAT for three years. She had solid performances in the first three meets of this season and placed in all events. Ortiz's best times are 31.75 in the 50m freestyle and 1:11.71 in the 100m freestyle. Her goal is to qualify for state. Ortiz has a strong work ethic in the pool and classroom, with a 3.5 GPA. She is passionate about her family and friends, is a member of FFA and enjoys horseback riding. Her future plans are to pursue a criminal justice degree and a position with the FBI.



## ATHLETE of the WEEK



### Stefanie Gilbreath

Senior, Basketball

Senior guard Stefanie Gilbreath earned her first double-double against UT Arlington Saturday, Dec. 29, when she had 15 points and 10 rebounds. She collected six points at the free-throw line. In the first half, Gilbreath had five rebounds and 10 points, including a 3-pointer and three free throws to end the period. She was responsible for 10 of NM State's season-high 50 rebounds.



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

## Centennial High School

Friday, Jan. 4.....Girls Basketball.....Carlsbad High School..... 7 p.m.  
Jan. 4-5 .....Wrestling.....at Carlsbad Wrestling Tournament. 4 p.m., 8 a.m.  
Saturday, Jan. 5.....Boys Basketball.....at Artesia High School..... 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan 8.....Boys Basketball.....at Lydia Patterson Institute..... 6:30 p.m.  
Girls Basketball.....Loretto Academy High School..... 7 p.m.



## Las Cruces High School

Friday, Jan. 4.....Boys Basketball.....at Hobbs High School .....TBA  
Jan. 4-5 .....Wrestling.....at Carlsbad Wrestling Tournament. 4 p.m., 8 a.m.  
Saturday, Jan. 5.....Swimming (coed).....LCHS Invite ..... 9 a.m.  
Boys Basketball.....at Clovis High School ..... 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 8.....Boys Basketball .....Cathedral High School..... 7 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 11 .....Wrestling.....at Oñate High School..... 6 p.m.



## Mayfield High School

Jan. 4-5 .....Wrestling.....at Carlsbad Wrestling Tournament. 4 p.m., 8 a.m.  
Saturday, Jan. 5.....Boys Basketball.....Valencia High School..... 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 8.....Girls Basketball.....Canutillo High School..... 7 p.m.  
Boys Basketball.....at Faith Christian Academy..... 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 11 .....Wrestling.....Gadsden High School..... 6 p.m.



## Oñate High School

Jan. 4-5 .....Wrestling.....at Carlsbad Wrestling Tournament. 4 p.m., 8 a.m.  
Saturday, Jan. 5.....Girls Basketball.....Carlsbad High School..... 1 p.m.  
Boys Basketball.....Carlsbad High School..... 2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 8.....Girls Basketball.....Lydia Patterson Institute ..... 7 p.m.  
Boys Basketball.....at Tornillo High School ..... 7 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 11 .....Wrestling.....Las Cruces High School..... 6 p.m.



## Mesilla Valley Christian Schools

Saturday, Jan. 5.....Boys Basketball.....Los Lunas High School ..... 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Jan. 10 .....Boys Basketball.....at Hot Springs High School..... 7 p.m.



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# Off and running at Sunland Park

Photos by Coady Photography



Jockey Oscar Rincon piloted Prospect to the Top to victory in the 12th running of the \$350,000 Grade 1 Championship at Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012. Prospect to the Top, owned by Joel Tevarez and trained by Brandon Muniz, covered the 400-yard distance in 19:03. Jess Featureme Quick finished second and First Blazin Love finished in third place. Live racing will continue at the track on most Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through April 16.

Longshot Storms Surprise came in first during the 11th running of the Red Hedeman Mile Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012, at Sunland Park Race Track & Casino with a time of 1:28.54. Storm Surprise, owned by Margaret Bloss, was trained by J. Owen Bringhurst and ridden by jockey Isaias Cardenas. Attila's Hurricane earned a second-place finish while Indication NM finished third.



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# AggieInsider



## Fan support

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**Jack Nixon**  
*Jack's Corner*

At a recent New Mexico State men's home basketball game, I noticed a series of cards hung over a railing in the northwest section with the numeral "3" on the front. Being curious, I discovered that two loyal Aggie fans have taken it upon themselves to create the cards for each contest ready to show the world when the Aggies ring up a trey.

Nate and Pierce Olsen are the originators of this augmentation to the jumbotron stat meter. The Olsens are season ticket holders for both football and basketball and often travel to road games that are close. It is a nice touch and shows that these two really are into the Aggie scene and want to share their enthusiasm with the rest of Aggie Nation.

Through the 1970s and 1980s another fan had a unique way of showing support; rallying the crowd in the Pan American Center. Her approach involved an Aggie flag, a crutch and some "bloomers." The late Betsy Meerscheidt and her husband Stuart would sit on the east side just north of the tunnel. Betsy would wave the crutch with the flag and other items attached at times of peak excitement the way fans spirit those gigantic foam fingers.

It might have brought a chuckle at first, but like the Olsens, it was her way of showing her spirit and love for the Crimson and White.

The world of Aggie sports needs as many fans like these as they can get. Creativity and fun are what sets college sports apart from professional events in my mind. A spontaneous show of support can capture the other fans imagination and can snowball into an arena wide event.

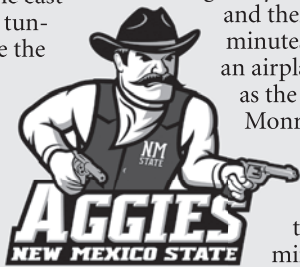
Pistol Pete now has a pre-game skit, akin to the "Mascot Massacre" of the 1990s that fans are getting used to, just prior to the teams return to the court.

Thanks to the Olsens and a fond tip of the hat to Betsy as she watches from heaven. Fans have as much a role in making an event great as the game itself.

**Travel Travail:** The Aggies waited on board a tiny plane for nearly two hours in Dallas while the ground crew tried to figure out if the weight on the plane was properly distributed. The massive presence of Sim Bhullar and Tshildzi Nephawe made the crew jumpy over weight and balance on the plane.

They initially wanted to weigh everyone but wound up just asking everyone's personal weight, and then decided after 120 minutes in the tiny tube of an airplane – which serves as the flagship for Dallas/Monroe commuters – that we could travel on.

By the way, the flight lasted 40 minutes.



## Aggie women ready to take on conference foes

Wins over UTEP, Louisiana Tech show NMSU is no longer a team to overlook



**Mark Trakh**  
*Women's Basketball Head Coach*

So far, this year's season is nothing short of exciting. Preseason is now over and conference play has started. Going into the start of conference, we were ranked No. 1 in the WAC. After analyzing the preseason schedule, we beat some very good opponents including Loyola Marymount and our I-10 – once undefeated – rivals UTEP. That was a very big milestone for the New Mexico State women's basketball program.

Going into that game, UTEP was undefeated, having defeated BCS teams such as Arizona State and Arizona. The Miners are an extremely athletic and talented basketball team. To not only be able to compete with them, but also to beat them, showed the team just how good we can be.

According to the preseason WAC statistics, we are in the top half of many statistical categories. The Aggies are second in the WAC in scoring defense, only giving up 59.5 points per game. Following Denver, we are second in 3-point field goal percentage at 30 percent.

Danesia Williamson, averaging 14.2 points per game, is ranked ninth in the WAC for scoring, and Stefanie Gilbreath follows her at No. 11, averaging 12.9 points.

Kelsie Rozendaal is ranked third in field goal percentage with an outstanding 53.7 percent, and also 11th in rebounding. With a 3-point field goal percentage of 42

percent, Sasha Weber is fifth in this category.

From day one, we have been hungry and determined to show everyone what a great basketball team we are. Going into conference with a winning record of 6-4 gave our girls a lot of confidence.

Having a good preseason is important; however, our program has our eye on the prize, winning the WAC title. On Dec. 31, 2012, we earned our first win since the 2007-08 season over Louisiana Tech, moving our overall record to 7-5, 1-1 in conference play. All of the seniors on our team had never beaten the Lady Techsters.

This was a huge win for the NM State Aggies' program. We realize that in order to be the best, you must beat the best. When our staff first arrived here, collectively we made a commitment to create tradition here at NM State. Tradition comes with winning, and beating Louisiana Tech is helping build tradition.

We continue to stress to the girls how important each and every game is. No team is to be overlooked in our conference.

As a staff, we have big goals for this young and talented team. With a lot of focus and hard work, we believe we can finish in the upper half of our conference. Each day we continue to get better and mold together as a team.

This week we play at UTSA, Jan. 3, and Texas State, Saturday, Jan. 5. Our favorite time of the year is now and we are excited to compete for the WAC title. Look forward to seeing you in the stands. Go Aggies!

## Upcoming

### In Aggie Athletics

**Friday, Jan. 4**  
**Swimming and Diving**  
Arizona/Oregon State  
Tucson, Ariz.  
2 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
**Men's Basketball**  
Texas State  
Las Cruces  
7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
Texas State  
San Marcos, Texas  
1 p.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 10**  
**Men's Basketball**  
Seattle  
Seattle  
8 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
Seattle  
Seattle  
6:30 p.m.



## Aggie student-athlete spotlight



**Sim Bhullar**  
Freshman  
Men's basketball

Freshman center Sim Bhullar posted 14 points in his first WAC game at UT Arlington, Dec. 29. He blocked a career-high five shots against the Mavericks with six rebounds. Bhullar

was also 6-of-11 from the field in 25 minutes of action.



**Daniel Mullings**  
Sophomore  
Men's basketball

Sophomore guard Daniel Mullings led the Aggies with a game-high 21 points in the WAC opener at UT Arlington, Dec. 29. It was his fourth 20-point effort of the season. Mullings was

7-of-9 from the field with five rebounds, two blocked shots, a steal and an assist.



**Abby Scott**  
Freshman  
Women's basketball

Freshman guard Abby Scott led the Aggies in the WAC opener with a career-high 18 points. She picked up three 3-point field goals and was 7-for-14 from the field. She helped the team

with three rebounds and one assist.

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THE LAS CRUCES  
**Bulletin**

# Looking Back

## This week in the history of the Mesilla Valley



**Jim Hilley**  
Reflections

### 100 years ago

#### 1913

• Prim Ames and Raymond Frenger traveled to El Paso on the Paseo by bicycle in what was reported to be the first time anyone had made the trip to El Paso by such means. They did not have to dismount their bikes for more than half a mile, and made the trip in four hours.

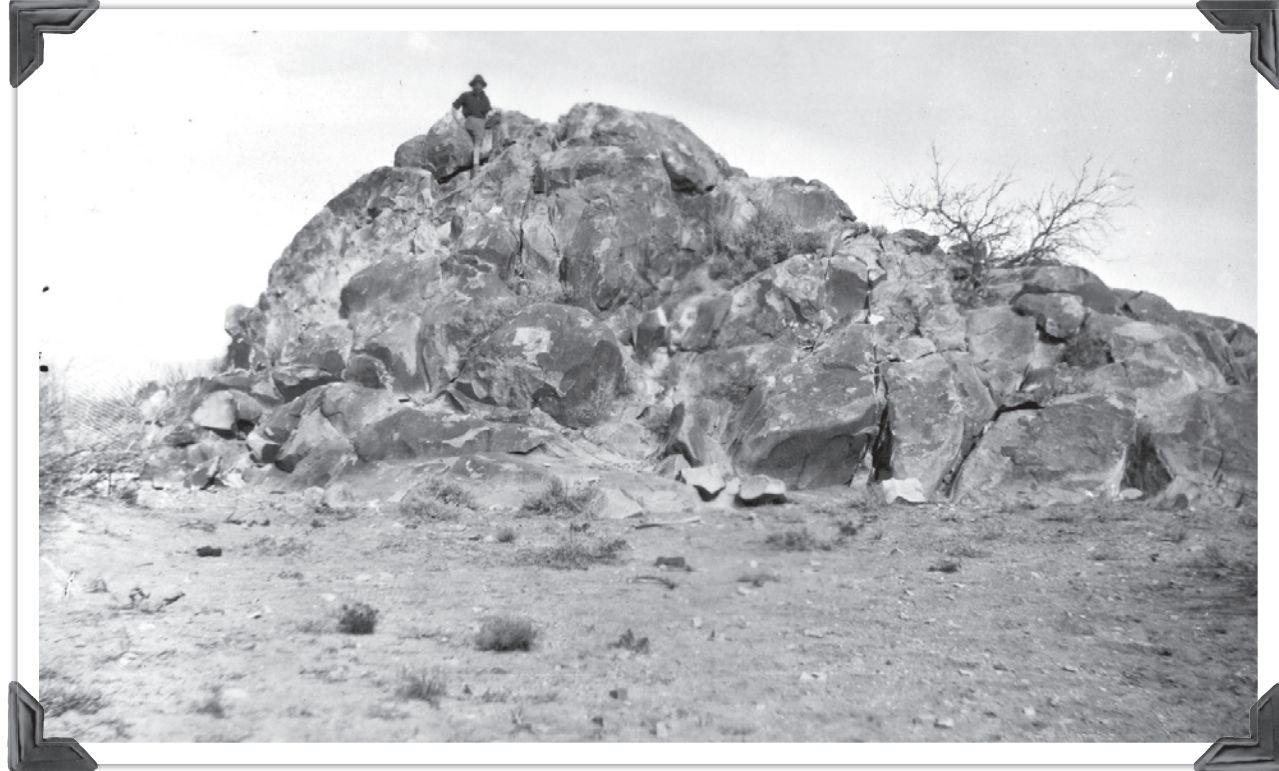
• In what many claimed was the coldest and worst storm they could remember, three inches of wind-blown snow and temperatures of zero degrees descended on the City of the Crosses. "Scarcely an auto was seen on the streets, and those in use were frozen up and had to be thawed out," the Rio Grande Republican reported. "Thirty degrees below zero would not raise such a howl in Dakota or Minnesota," the Republican observed about Las Cruces's reaction to the tempest.

### 75 years ago

#### 1938

• Mrs. R.W. Goddard, president of the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs, was preparing to attend the general federation board meeting in Washington, D.C., where she would be able to attend a reception at the White House hosted by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

• The second "rabbit drive" staged on the B.O. Burris ranch, 25 miles west of Las Cruces, was set for Jan. 9. In the previous drive, 162 rabbits were slain and given to



This photo, dated December 1912, shows a man perched atop Lone Rock, just east of Mesquite, N.M. According to notes on the photo, inscriptions on the rock dated to 1888. Today, Lone Rock is visible just west of Interstate 10.

New Mexico State University Library Rio Grande Historical Collections photo

the Good Shepherds for orphans in Mesilla Park. Rabbits killed during the second drive were also to be given to the same worthwhile organization, Burris said.

### 50 years ago

#### 1963

• Former Las Cruces chief of police Jim Flanigan withdrew his name from the race for Las Cruces City Commission.

• The Rio Grande Theatre was showing "Girls, Girls, Girls," starring Elvis Presley, plus "Reptilicus" and "Curse the Capsule," while

the State Theater offered Walt Disney's The Castaways, "The Head," ("It just won't lay down and stay dead."), as well as "Horror Hotel," ("Just ring for doom service.").

### 25 years ago

#### 1988

• Kevin McGinley, owner of McGinley Construction, was installed as the president of the Las Cruces Home Builders Association, and Garry Selby, of Garry Selby Construction, was named as president elect. Larry Tice, sales manager for E-Z TV & Appliances was selected as vice president and Dolores Rodriguez,

assistant vice president for Mutual Building and Loan, was named secretary and treasurer.

• Funeral services were set for Joseph "Josh" Enzie, a longtime faculty member of the New Mexico State University College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Enzie, who retired in 1972 after 36 years with the university, gained an international reputation for his horticultural research, including his development of the New Mexico White Grano Onion. He was head of the horticulture department at NMSU from 1945-63 and associate dean of the college from 1960-71. Enzie Drive, in southeast Las Cruces, was named in his honor in 1962.

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Contact Claire Frohs at 644-3626 for help with your marketing needs.

# Senior Activities



## SENIOR PROGRAMS

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

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

For registration information, call 528-3000.

## AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

AARP Driver Safety Program courses are open to drivers age 55 or older. A certificate issued upon successful completion of the four-hour course may qualify the participant for a discount on insurance, depending on the driver's insurance policy. Cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers, paid at the door the day of class.

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

Classes are held on a first-come, first-served basis. The next available class is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at Golden Mesa Retirement Village, 151 N. Roadrunner Parkway.

For more information, visit [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) or call 505-830-3096.

## YOGA CLASSES

Yoga encourages proper body alignment and brings balance, strength and calmness.

Classes are from 8 to 9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at the Las Cruces Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.

## THE VOYAGERS TRAVEL CLUB

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

Trips currently being booked include:

- **Laughlin/Riverside Casino:** Jan. 11-14. Four days, three nights. Cost: \$289 double, \$330 single.
  - **Australia/New Zealand cruise:** March 4. 13 days, 12 nights. Inquire at Voyagers office.
  - **San Antonio, Texas:** May 5-11. Cost: \$620 double, \$800 single.
  - **Eastern Mediterranean Cruise:** June 15-23. Nine days, eight nights. Call for details.
  - **Niagara Falls/Toronto:** Sept. 23-26. Four days, three nights. Cost: \$1,647 double.
  - **Mississippi Steamboat Cruise:** Nov. 8-16. Nine days, eight nights. Inquire at Voyagers office.
- For more information, call Helen Glover at 528-3166.

## AEROBICS

Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activity. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles and a ball are offered for resistance; a chair is used for seated and/or standing support. Classes are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Meerschiedt Recreation Center, 1600 E.

Hadley Ave.

## ZUMBA GOLD

Zumba Gold modifies Zumba moves and pacing to suit the needs of active older participants. It's a dance-fitness class that feels friendly and, most of all, fun. Classes are from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

## CARDIO, CORE & MORE

The core muscle group is often referred to as your "trunk" and involves all of the muscles surrounding the trunk. A weak core can contribute to lower back pain, poor posture and loss of balance. Basic classes are from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Intermediate classes are from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.

## ENHANCE FITNESS

Enhance fitness class is from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Madrid St., in the auditorium. The class focuses on stretching, flexibility, balance, low impact aerobics and strength training exercises. The class requires pre-registration and is available only to seniors age 60 and older. The instructor is Lisa Ortega. A \$1 donation is suggested.

## TAI CHI-BALANCE FOR BETTER HEALTH

Tai Chi-Balance for Better Health class is from 3 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Senior

Center, 975 S. Madrid St., in the auditorium. Tai Chi-Balance for Better Health was developed by Dr. Fuzhong Li of the Oregon Research Institute. The drop-in class is available only to seniors age 60 and older. The instructor is Jason Shoberg. A \$1 donation is suggested.

## ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION AQUATIC PROGRAM

Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program class 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. This drop-in program was developed for people with arthritis according to the guidelines and procedures set forth by the Arthritis Foundation. The class is available only to seniors age 60 and older. A \$1 donation is suggested.

## THE NETWORK VOLUNTEER CENTER

The Network Volunteer Center connects individuals 18 or older to volunteer positions at more than 25 Las Cruces agencies and organizations.

Individuals 55 or older may be enrolled in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and receive free, supplemental volunteer insurance while on the job.

For more information, contact 528-3035 or [thenetwork@las-cruces.org](mailto:thenetwork@las-cruces.org).

## 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.

For more information, call Judy at 373-9309, Ann at 522-7240 or Bev at 523-6106.

## 50+ SINGLES BREAKFAST CLUB

The 50+ Singles Saturday Morning Club meets at 9 a.m. the first and third Saturday of the month at Furr's Family Dining, 2340 E. Griggs Ave. Cost of the breakfast buffet is \$6.69. The club is intended as a way for singles age 50 and older to meet new people.

## BINGO AT LEGION POST 10

American Legion Post 10, 1185 E. Madrid Ave., hosts bingo on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Doors open at 3 p.m., and bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. Coverall blackout pays \$1,000. Food and sodas are available.

For more information, call Chaplain Lawrence Orvis at 526-9139.

## GOING SOLO SINGLES

Single seniors; join Going Solo Seniors. The group is a way for seniors to meet new friends and stay active. Activities include dining out, potlucks, game nights and day trips.

For more information, call Judy at 522-6543, Judy at 527-2723 or Rosalie at 527-4891.

## HEALTH & BENEFITS INFORMATION, COUNSELING

Resource Center staff provides a free information and referral service to those ages 50 and older on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, housing, food stamps and more at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

For more information, call 528-3301.

## BINGO MONTHLY AT SAGECREST NURSING CENTER

Sagecrest Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 2029 Sagecrest Court, is offering bingo from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Seniors must present their Senior Programs ID cards.

For more information, call 541-2550 or 541-2553. The TTY number is 541-2772.

## SOCIAL DANCERS

Fast Lane will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, at Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court Ave. The dance is sponsored by the Las Cruces Social Dancers. Cost is \$6 per person.

For more information, call 541-5982.



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NMSU photo

New Mexico State University Police Chief Stephen Lopez, Deputy Chief Andrew Bowen, Lt. Brandi Teixeira, Lt. Brandon Downs and Commander Jeffrey Harvey were recognized during a ceremony Dec. 19, 2012.

## NMSU police recognized

The New Mexico State University Police Department recently celebrated five promotions within the department, to recognize employees with extended service to NMSU and to bring attention to some notable achievements.

Raul Ortiz, police officer; Brandi Teixeira, police lieutenant; and Kenna Eversole, emergency dispatcher, were recognized for their roles in helping prevent a potentially violent public threat situation from occurring during the fall semester. The three each made significant contributions in identifying the threat and taking appropriate measures that helped bring the situation to a safe conclusion.

"These three people were instrumental in preventing a potentially violent situation on campus this fall," said NMSU Police Chief Stephen Lopez. "They had several run-ins with the individual and ultimately prevented him from potentially harming anyone on campus."

Alvin Johnson, emergency dispatcher, was recognized for 25 years of service to NMSU.

Paul Stinnett, police officer, was recognized for 15 years of service to NMSU and for more than 25 years of combined service to New Mexico's institutions of higher learning. He previously served for more than 10 years at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Rafael Chavarria was honored for reaching 10 years of service to NMSU.

Those promoted in 2012 include Lopez to chief, Andrew Bowen to deputy chief, Jeffrey Harvey to commander, Brandon Downs to lieutenant and Teixeira to lieutenant. All were ceremonially pinned during the celebration.

"The promotion process is arduous, especially for those promoted to lieutenant," Lopez said. "They have a vast amount of information to know, understand and be able to apply to the job. The important duty of leading people in this department falls to them. When they're on duty, they're responsible for anything major that happens at NMSU, including our other facilities around the state."

# Take a happy pill and call me in the morning

## Book explores pharmacological emotions

The holidays are not always a happy time for everyone. But what if they could be?

New Mexico State University professor Mark Walker's new book, "Happy-People-Pills For All," looks at the latest theories about what it means to be happy and envisions a future in which the rest of us might get the emotional boost some people enjoy naturally.

"It's funny, when you ask people 'What is happiness?' often there's a kind of blank stare. What is happiness? It's not always clear what it is," said Walker, an assistant professor of philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Walker's book explores the future of advanced pharmacological agents that can mimic the natural well-being of those who enjoy a happy state.

"My thesis in the book is that there's a large genetic component to happiness, almost as much as the genetic component for height," Walker said. "Part of the thesis of my book is that we should try to reverse engineer the happy giants amongst us and then put in pill form what they have through the genetic lottery."

Walker said research has shown happiness promotes achievement in areas of love, work and "higher endeavors" of humanity. What Walker means by "happy-people-pills" is not the kind of altered state of consciousness that currently available pharmaceuticals induce. Walker's research seeks a path that eventually might empower individuals to adjust their own mental state.

"What I would actually like to see is us have emotional control, rather than be a slave to whatever we are born with genetically. We would have a choice," Walker said. "We would have some say in how we emotionally cope rather than being mere victims of it."

"The technologies I look at mostly are advanced pharmacology and genetic engineering. If we could in succeeding generations tinker with genes, they wouldn't have to take pills, they would have genes built into their DNA."

Walker will teach a course at NMSU in the spring titled "Should we want to be happy?"

The idea for the course came while he was conducting research for his book. The class is supported by a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which seeks to encourage professors to create courses around these kinds of enduring questions.

Students will study writings by Plato, Aristotle, Locke, Jefferson and Mill, as well as read Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World." Then they will follow the teachings of Socrates and go out into the public and question random people about the nature of happiness.

The NEH grant ensures Walker will teach the course twice. If students are happy with it, the class may be added to the rotation of courses regularly offered through NMSU's philosophy department.

Walker teaches courses in ethics, social and political philosophy, informal logic, philosophy of science and the ethics of genetic engineering, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology. His primary research interest is in ethical issues arising out of emerging technologies.

In his book, he promotes the possibility that nanotechnology eventually might allow us to select our moods as we wish.

"Imagine your artistic hero is Edvard Munch. You're a person who is naturally happy but you think to actually make great art you need to be a depressive type," Walker said. "People might go on a few months 'unhappiness bender' for the sake of art, then return to their normal self afterward."

"Happy-People-Pills for All" will go on sale in the spring and is already listed with an online bookseller for pre-order.

Walker describes happiness giants as those being above 6-foot-6 in terms of their natural sense of wellbeing. He doesn't count himself among them: "I think I'm average or slightly above average. I think I'm average physical height and average happiness height."



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# Neighbors We've Lost

## DEATH NOTICES

### THOMPSON

Michael G. Thompson passed away Saturday, December 22, 2012 at the age of 57.

Michael lived in Las Cruces, New Mexico with his Sweetheart, Di and their furry four legged children.

Michael is survived by Di, two sons, one daughter, six sisters and one brother. He enjoyed a recent visit from his youngest son, Ian earlier this year. Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and Etta Thompson and one sister from New Jersey where Michael was born and raised. Michael was employed by Century Link and worked in Deming, New Mexico.

Cremation has taken place and a private service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are with La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home. 575-526-6891

### ALLEN

Gene P. Allen 85, of Anthony, New Mexico, died Tuesday December 18, 2012 at La Posada Mesilla Valley Hospice.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home. 575-526-2419

### PETERSON

Joan Peterson, 78, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012. She was born Aug. 6, 1934 in Okemah, Oklahoma. She is survived by her loving husband Bud Peterson of the family home and by her children and grandchildren.

Joan will be laid to rest at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery. A memorial service to celebrate her life will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013 at First Baptist Church with Dr. Maurice Hollingsworth officiating.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home. 575-526-2419

### GONZALES

Marcelino G. Gonzales, 83, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013 in his home surrounded by his family. He was born April 27, 1929.

Marcelino is survived by his loving wife Erlinda, his children and grandchildren.

Funeral Services to celebrate his life are pending with Getz Funeral Home. 575-526-2419

### TORRES

Juan R. Torres, 55, passed away on Monday, December 24, 2012.

Services have been held.

Arrangements are with La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home, 555 W. Amador, 575-526-6891.

### SUNIGA

Louisa Martinez Suniga, 65, of Hatch, New Mexico, entered eternal life on Thursday, December 27, 2012 at Memorial Medical Center. She was born February 17, 1947 in Las Vegas, New Mexico to Eulalio and Margarita Martinez Vigil.

At her request cremation will take place and no services are scheduled at this time.

Entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Sunset Crematory, 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces. 575-527-2222

### STEARSMAN

Lucy P. Stearsman, 76, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Sunday, December 23, 2012 at La Posada - Mesilla Valley Hospice.

Cremation will take place and no services are planned.

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

### MORA

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, uncle and friend, Joe "Pepe" Mora, 70, of Anthony, New Mexico, on Friday, December 28, 2012 at Sierra Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, surrounded by his loving family. He retired after 39 years of service as a principal and in administrative positions with various schools districts in New Mexico and Texas, and was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Services have been held. The Rite of Committal and Interment followed in Anthony Catholic Cemetery where he was laid to rest.

The Mora 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 logon to [www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com](http://www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com)

### GALLEGOS

Benny Gallegos, 72, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, entered eternal life Sunday, December 30, 2012 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Visitation for Mr. Gallegos will begin at 9 a.m., Friday, January 4, 2013 in Baca's Chapel of Prayer, 300 E. Boutz Road where the Funeral Service is scheduled for 11 a.m. with Pastor Hector Vega officiating. Concluding Service and Interment will follow at Masonic Cemetery, 760 S. Compress Road, where he will be laid to rest with military honors accorded by the New Mexico National Guard Honor Guard and the Marine Corps League - El Perro Diablo Detachment.

Service arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces 575-527-2222. Your exclusive providers for "Veterans and Family Memorial Care."

### MONTAÑO

Jayly Esther Montañó, one month and seventeen day baby girl was called home to God's garden of angels on December 25, 2012. Jayly was born November 7, 2012 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, to Jacob Daniel Montañó and Ambermaree Salazar.

Those left to mourn her passing include her parents, one sister, Janeigh Jaide Montañó of the family home. Other survivors include numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, paternal and maternal grandparents, as well as great-grandparents and extended family.

Services have been held.

The Montañó and Salazar families have entrusted their loved one to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Sunset Crematory 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces. 575-527-2222

### GARCIA

Jesus C. Garcia, Sr. 90, passed away Wednesday, December 26, 2012.

Funeral services have been held. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Arrangements are with La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home, 555 W. Amador, 575-526-6891.

### MUÑOZ

Ricardo Muñoz, Sr., 77, of Chamberino, New Mexico, entered eternal life Thursday, December 27, 2012 at La Posada-Mesilla Valley Hospice surrounded by his loving family. Ricardo retired in 1998 from Gadsden Independent School District, where he worked as a custodian and was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Services have been held. At his request cremation has taken place and Inurnment of cremains will be held at a later date.

Service arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Sunset Crematory, 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces. 575-527-2222.

### KILBOURN

Marie T. Kilbourn, 84, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, entered eternal life on December 24, 2012 at Mountain View Regional Medical Center. Marie retired as an accounting clerk with the Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces.

At her request, cremation has taken place and a Memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, January 4, 2013 in Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral, 1240 S. Espina with the Reverend Bill McCann officiating. Inurnment of cremains will follow in the IHM Columbarium.

Service arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Sunset Crematory, 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces 575-527-2222.

### RYKIEL

Robert J. Rykiel, 79, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, met our Lord in heaven on Friday, December 21, 2012 at Mesilla Valley Hospice La Posada after complications following many surgeries. After graduating from high school, Robert enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served his country honorably upon the USS Hamilton from 1952- 1956.

At Robert's request, cremation has taken place and Inurnment of cremains will be held in a private family ceremony at Fort Bliss National Cemetery, Fort Bliss, Texas.

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## First 2013 baby born Boy was early

Dominic Castillo is the first baby of the year for Las Cruces, arriving just after midnight on New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1, at MountainView Regional Medical Center.

He is the third child for parents Kimberly and Javier Castillo of Las Cruces. Their other children are Xander, 6, and Marcus, 5.

He weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. His due date was Jan. 4, so his parents thought there might be a chance he could be the New Year's baby.

"He was breach and Dr. (Jeremy) Johnson turned him around a little over a week ago," said mother Kimberly Castillo. "I started having contractions, so we took the kids to the park where they could play while Javier and I walked, trying to get the labor started."

"After we walked around for a while, Kimberly sat down," Javier Castillo said. "I could tell by the look on her face it was time."

Kimberly Castillo said Helen La Rose, midwife with OB/Gyn Consultants, delivered her baby boy and that all of the nurses were really excited for them.

As the first baby of the New Year at the hospital, he received a special basket of goodies from MountainView Regional Medical Center.

"We are so excited for the Castillo family and very happy that MountainView was their hospital of choice to have their baby," said Denten Park, CEO. "We wish the Castillo family health and happiness."

## MOVEMOS offers classroom experience

### NMSU program increases opportunities

Movemos – in Spanish, it means "we move." At the New Mexico State University College of Education, it is "MOVing Elementary Methods On-Site."

The college's field-based, pre-service teacher-education program, Project MOVEMOS, replaces the two semesters prior to student teaching of traditional curriculum with a faculty-supervised internship and integrated content and education courses.

Four days a week, the undergraduate teacher candidates intern in an elementary classroom. They assist the teacher, observe the students and teach both small and large groups of students while a member of the NMSU faculty is on-site supervising. The students also attend teaching seminars for their methods courses taught by two NMSU faculty members, one of whom is at the internship site.

"What I think is unique about this program – because most teacher-ed programs place students in the field – is that on-site supervisors provide immediate support in case a lesson doesn't go well," said James O'Donnell, interim associate dean of the College of Education. "They're there to help support the intern."

He said the structure of this pre-student teaching practicum allows students to apply and discuss the relationship between the academic-based instruction and their real-world experiences. He said it also provides students with multiple sources of input and counsel in order to maximize their learning experiences each day they are in the classroom.

"You learn so much about how students learn that a textbook has a hard time describing," said Haley Harper, a Project MOVEMOS student who interns at Hermosa Heights Elementary School. "You can read about something all day long, but until you are in the classroom you have no idea what to expect."

For Prairey Walkling, a MOVEMOS graduate student, it has helped her to know what to expect, what responsibilities there are, understanding the workload, support students' social and emotional learning and be aware of what's going on in the classroom.

"It's helpful in the fact that it's closer to a real teacher classroom," said Abigail Blount, a MOVEMOS intern. "You see them as they grow and learn."

Project MOVEMOS began as a solution to over-enrollment in the elementary education program with Roberto Gallegos, then head of elementary education, leading the on-site instruction. Gallegos, now retired, still serves as an on-site supervisor.

In the past 11 years, more than 300 students have completed this program. O'Donnell said he has seen first-hand how much more prepared and successful the students are during their own student teaching because the interns already have a foundation of more than 300 classroom hours. It also allows them to "easily transition into their role as a student teacher, allowing them to take an independent and proactive role in the classroom."

"I love this program. It is such a beautiful opportunity that most are not given," Harper said.

"I don't think I would be prepared for my own teaching experience had I not been in this program," said Sabrina Verdoza, a MOVEMOS student going into bilingual elementary education.

Because of the success of MOVEMOS, the College of Education also has increased the number of practicum hours in the secondary education program and developed another on-site teacher education program in bilingual/TESOL education. The program has most recently been extended to students seeking dual



NMSU photo

**New Mexico State University Project Movemos student Haley Harper reads to students in Janette Garcia's second-grade class as part of her internship at Hermosa Heights Elementary School.**

licensure in elementary and special education. The on-site programs are coordinated through both the Las Cruces and Gadsden districts.

"Our national accreditation body recently called for more field-based programs because they, too, see the importance of teacher candidates having increased experience prior to joining the workforce," said Michael Morehead, dean of the College of Education. "We at New Mexico State are proud to have an established program that helps our students be more successful, not only during their student teaching but throughout their entire careers."

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## Making a fresh start, maybe



**David Salcido**  
*On second thought ...*

I don't claim to be an expert when it comes to starting a new business.

At last count, I have started six businesses of my own in the 30 or so years that I have been "on the market." None of them failed and all but two are still in operation under new ownership, so as track records go, mine could always be worse. As I no longer really benefit from any of those businesses, you'd think I would have learned my lesson by now.

Alas, no, I am always on the lookout for new prospects, because I hate being bored and, well, because it is the American way. Right? As such, I am willing to share some of the wisdom I've gained through experience, tenacity and a whole lot of trial and error.

The first step is research. It's always best, in today's fast-paced world, to find out what the current techno-gurus have to say; whether you agree with them or not.

First, let's start with what conventional wisdom tells us are the worst small businesses to start in the coming year. The site [www.openforum.com](http://www.openforum.com) has an entire list of obvious options to avoid, such as restaurants, video rental stores, pay phone booth companies and retail clothing stores. The line of thought here is, if it can be purchased online, or there is an easy access alternative, don't do it. OK, so far so good.

The list also includes substitute ideas such as specialty ebooks, as opposed to a retail bookstore, or car sharing services instead of a limo company. Most of the suggestions are interesting enough, though I doubt I'll be running out to open a craft brewery or a computer repair shop anytime soon.

Though many of the ideas make a kind of sense, from the perspective of viability, we should definitely stick to our individual strengths. I'm still having problems using a smart phone. I doubt anybody would want me taking one apart.

The site [www.businessnewsdaily.com](http://www.businessnewsdaily.com) also has some interesting ideas for the prospective small business owner. I really got a kick out of some of these suggestions. Some make sense, like wheelchair repair for those aging baby boomers, or becoming a "multicultural marketing expert" and/or translator for a world that is becoming more and more diverse as we progress into the 21st century. Or a

See **Fresh start** on page B2

### INSIDE

#### In Good Company

Saving Bookoo bucks ..... B4

#### Profile: Philip Hernandez

Community theater scion ..... B5

#### West Mesa Industrial Park

Location is everything ..... B10

## 2013 opens with uncertainty

### Small businesses are cautiously optimistic

By **Alta LeCompte**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

In 2013, those who opt to start or stick with small business in Las Cruces will have a number of factors to weigh.

On the national scene, a 2012 report by Moody's Analytics concluded some businesses may be holding back due to lingering uncertainty about implementation of the Affordable Care Act in the next two years.

Although there is a quiet optimism in the air here, small businesses in Las Cruces say they, too, are facing uncertainties about the cost of health insurance and wages.

"Our businesses are cautiously optimistic, but they're not seeing signs that would fire people up," said Carrie Hamblen, executive director of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce. "Business is good, but not over the top. Even consumers are being cautious."

Hamblen said her recent discussions with local restaurant owners indicate they are worried about the cost of health-care insurance and possible increases in the minimum wage.

She said restaurateurs worry aloud about whether they will have to raise prices, and, if they do, whether customers will still support them.

"Before starting this job, I was all about people needing a fair wage and health care. I still feel that way, but I understand the dilemma facing business owners. They say they agree, too, but need to find a way to provide those things without putting themselves out of business," Hamblen said.

Business owners currently are looking to the New Mexico Legislature for clarification on both health-care insurance implementation



**2013 dawns in Las Cruces under clouds of uncertainty for local business owners concerned about the implementation of the Affordable Care Act but cautiously optimistic the lukewarm financial recovery will strengthen.**

and the state policy on the living wage.

New Mexico applied to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to start a state-run health insurance exchange in 2014.

The state received a \$34 million federal grant to set up an exchange and the New Mexico Health Insurance Alliance is moving ahead to award a contract for a computing system to be used by the uninsured to shop for coverage.

However, the Legislature may have to pass a law giving itself the legal authority to create an exchange, according to the Commonwealth Foundation. The issue has been under review by the state attorney general's office and may kick off a debate in the Roundhouse.

Other small business concerns stemming from passage of the federal Affordable Care Act include a .9 percent Medicare payroll tax

See **Business** on page B2

## Gyms poised for peak season

### Local facilities promote wide range of services

By **Alta LeCompte**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Pecan pie, tamales, cerveza, margaritas and prime rib all are gifts of the season.

Some of us who were overly blessed may want to unload the remnants of gifts that stuck to our thighs.

A number of businesses are warming up to help Las Cruces shed holiday pounds. For gyms and other fitness services, it's the best time of the year.

Club Fitness, 3850 E. Lohman Ave., floated a banner that says it all: "You ate it. Why wear it?"

The banner is part of a campaign to take advantage of potential client urges to reassess and resolve to live more healthfully following a period of indulgence.

The campaign developed by Club Fitness, as well as those of other local exercise facilities as they head into their peak season, includes price breaks.

A 30-day trial membership is \$29; basic membership at Club Fitness is regularly \$40 a month, which includes use of equipment,

See **Gym** on page B2



Members work off holiday indiscretions at Planet Fitness on El Paseo Road.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Alta LeCompte

# Business

Continued from page B1

scheduled to kick in Tuesday, Jan. 1, on wages and self-employment income.

Looking ahead to 2014, businesses with more than 50 full-time equivalent employees, which includes some locally owned restaurants and other businesses, would be subject to penalties for not providing employee health insurance.

A tax credit is already available to small businesses that contribute to employee coverage, but its provisions are complex. A spokesperson for the National Federation of Independent Businesses, which held a well-attended pre-legislative lunch Dec. 27, 2012, in Las Cruces, said deciding whether to seek it would require the advice of a tax accountant.

Also in 2014, a health insurance fee that will affect small business and the self-employed will go into effect. The NFIB said the fee will not affect the self-insured, i.e. large companies and labor unions. The fee would be levied on insurance companies, but the Congressional Budget Office has said it would be passed on to insurance consumers, small business owners and the self-employed.

## Trends to watch

Among 2013 national trends that could have

an impact in Las Cruces are the following:

### Greater availability of capital

A Monster.com survey of business news indicated small business lending is down, but the businesses are finding it easier to get loans.

A small business survey reported in December 2012 by the NFIB showed 19 percent of small business owners were planning on capital outlay in the next three to six months, a lower percentage than in 2012.

The NFIB findings on willingness to invest appeared linked to its finding that the optimism rate among small businesses fell in November 2012. However, Monster.com found that while sales are sluggish, optimism is growing.

An informal survey of local businesses found optimism growing, but tempered by concerns the cost of doing business might rise in 2013.

Local bankers throughout 2012 touted the availability of business loans in Las Cruces and that availability is expected to continue.

### A shortage of capable employees

New Mexico State University is a fertile source of business and technology talent for recruiters, but critics of the local educational scene advocate better workforce training to prepare both high school students and displaced workers for highly skilled positions that could open in the Santa Teresa area and would likely follow the successful establishment of a commercial space industry.

"The talent pool can be problematic," said

Minda McGonagle, state director of the NFIB. "We need to have an educated workforce and we need to connect the dots between primary education and people having what they need to go into the workforce. The business community needs to look at how we get involved in building bridges to make that happen."

### Rapidly changing social media opportunities and more widespread use of blogging as a marketing tool

According to Hamblen, some small businesses promote daily on Facebook while others find it irrelevant. Capturing the full power of the Internet could be an opportunity to build growth in 2013.

### Retirees venturing into business ownership

On this index, Las Cruces may be at the forefront of a national trend.

The City of the Crosses continues to be highly ranked as a retirement destination and continues to attract retirees.

In the case of Las Cruces, many newcomers are those who have called a halt to successful careers and opted to relocate and enjoy the freedom and challenges of building a business. Lured in part by the climate, cost of living and amenities that attract traditional retirees, boomer-age entrepreneurs find what they want in Las Cruces.

A few featured in 2012 Bulletin business sections were Gary Ebert of Zeffiro, Michel Mal of A Bite of Belgium, Helen Borchardt

of Helen's Reflexology and Mary Iadicicchio of Allstate.

### A collective brain trust among small businesses, in either virtual or actual communities, seeking to access community resources.

Las Cruces is well positioned to take advantage of this trend utilizing the information and insights made available by three local chambers of commerce. In addition, resources are available from a variety of institutions and organizations, including the Arrowhead Center at NMSU, the Small Business Development Center at Doña Ana Community College, WESST Enterprise Center, Las Cruces SCORE Chapter 397 and more.

The local green chamber intends to use the collective brain trust approach to kick-start small businesses in early 2013.

The plan is to bring together people with ideas for a new business and representatives of business information resources, such as those listed above as well as representatives of banks that can share their financial perspectives.

Hamblen said she's heard a lot of great ideas for startups, but not everyone with a great idea is aware of where they can go to get help with a business plan or a game plan for acquiring start-up funds.

A conversation that brings together potential entrepreneurs and business resources could be a catalyst for both honing concepts brought to the table and generating additional ideas for businesses of the future.

## Gym

Continued from page B1

some classes, towel service and an infrared sauna. There are five higher levels that offer personal training and additional services.

Planet Fitness, 1300 El Paseo Road, promotes pricing.

The gym's website, a sign at the front of the building, a billboard-bearing truck, a lot of radio ads and word of mouth urge potential clients to take advantage of special pricing.

"In today's economy it's nice we offer a basic \$10 a month no-commitment membership for gym use only," manager Chad Hayduk said.

For an additional \$10, members can upgrade to get more benefits, including free, customized fitness training and a free haircut at the on-site salon.

"We have a big spike for the new year," Hayduk said. "People want to burn off their holiday eating."

Also competing on price is Tom Young's Fitness Center & Racquetball Club, 306 E. Foster Road, the original for-profit Las Cruces workout facility.

Mike Clark, general manager, said the gym always offers special New Year deals.

"Holidays treat you kind of hard, so we try to work with you," he said.

This year's special is three months for \$99 plus tax, which includes classes.

"January is always our biggest month," Clark said. "Last January, we took in 170 new members. A lot of them still come in regularly."

Clark said many new clients shop around before choosing a gym. He said most come to Tom Young as a result of word-of-mouth, but the gym promotes via its website and movie theater commercials.

Just as pricing models and advertising plans vary, so do the services.

## Competing on service

"We're not in the business of leasing exercise equipment," said Minerva Diaz, marketing director for Millenium Health and Wellness and Club Fitness. "We're in the business of helping people make lifestyle improvements. We're going to give them the tools, the expertise, the personal training and the system to keep them motivated."

She said the results-driven Club Fitness is owned by Dr. Brian Hesser, who also owns Millenium Health and Wellness.

At the Club Fitness wellness and higher levels, a client starts out with a 45-minute strength and cardio assessment that forms the basis of a program written specifically for each individual.



Club Fitness photo

### Head trainer Ignacio Ochoa works with Brian Mc Cartney at Club Fitness.

The client commits to work out on specific days and receives follow-up services such as appointments with one of the facility's six personal trainers.

"All they have to do is show up," Diaz said. "We reassess them to keep it progressive."

"Planet Fitness is the judgment free zone," said Hayduk, a 2011 kinesiology graduate of New Mexico State University. "We don't just cater to body builders. We create an atmosphere in which 'everyday people' can come in and feel comfortable."

Clark said Tom Young's Fitness Center is the only full service gym in Las Cruces, with racquetball, a pool and Jacuzzi and weight-lifting equipment, as well as a hair salon and juice bar.

He said the gym, founded in the 1970s, is the oldest in the community. The fitness center is owned by a local family and is the last surviving member of what was once a chain of franchises.

He said one thing he especially likes is that Tom Young's is not just one big room, but a collection of smaller rooms that serve specific functions. There are separate workout areas for men and women.

Zumba, water aerobics, toning for women and body sculpting are among the most popular.

Trainer Sandra Valenzuela has recently introduced a new class, muscle fitness rhumba, which includes dance elements as well as work that targets specific muscles.

## Targeting new clients

Most local gyms target and attract a range of demographic groups.

Clark said clients range in age from 16 to 92.

"From 5 a.m. to noon we have a lot of seniors," he said. "In the evening we have a younger crowd."

A few gyms, including Tom Young's, participate in the SilverSneakers program packaged as a benefit with some Medicare plans.

## Fresh start

Continued from page B1

"green consultant," because let's face it, more and more people want to know what their options are when it comes to sustainability and living less wastefully. Noble suggestions, all.

Then there are the suggestions that appear to come right out of a Golden Age science fiction novel, like "smart product developer," because somebody had to create the next touch-sensitive "e-bra," which will "enable continuous, real-time monitoring to identify any pathophysiological changes" in the wearer. Or "disaster consultant," because television weathermen can't seem to figure out whether or not it's going to rain tomorrow, but a consultant somehow has the ability to look into the future and, thus, can inform big businesses when to expect a hurricane, tornado or solar flare that can knock out their computers for weeks. I'll take either of those jobs, please. Do they come with a magic decoder ring?

How about "crowdfunding consultant," because it isn't enough to live in a world in which we can pool our resources with complete strangers in order to start up a new business, we now have to hire somebody to show us how to do it. It's like investment banking for the ennuui crowd.

My favorite on this list has to be "car repair concierge," because having somebody else take my car in to be serviced, something I hate doing, while providing a rental car for me to drive around in until the servicing is completed is just brilliant. Especially if I can tip in car wash tokens.

Another interesting site is [www.workwithgordon.com](http://www.workwithgordon.com), where online marketer and coach Gordon Robinson expounds on the virtues of online digital businesses. In fact, he says it repeatedly, like a digital mantra, and even has a list of 10 reasons why an online business is the "best business to start" in bold italics.

I have to admit, after I finished reading his list, which pointed out

in detail how inexpensive, flexible, scalable, portable and trendy online businesses can be, I was ready to give up my day job and invest, yet again, in the digital freelance realm (something I've already done twice before). Then I remembered how competitive, not to mention demanding and fickle, the online market really is and went back to the open forum list.

Yep. Just as I thought, though many of the alternative suggestions there are online based, they're also highly specialized. Which means it still comes down to good old-fashioned ingenuity. Just because everybody has a YouTube channel and shops at Amazon, doesn't mean they're necessarily going to tune in to your YouTube channel or shop on your on-line store. You've got to have a unique product or service. That, at least, hasn't changed in today's small business job market.

So, I guess what it comes down to is this. If you want to start your own business in today's economy, make sure you think it out first. Just because you have a great idea, doesn't mean it will necessarily translate into a great business model. Make sure you're selling something that people will want to pay for, then be prepared for it to take a while for your business to catch on. Capital is paramount. Either have the money in reserve to keep the business alive for a couple of years, at least, or a really good day job that will pay your bills while you wait for your business to take off.

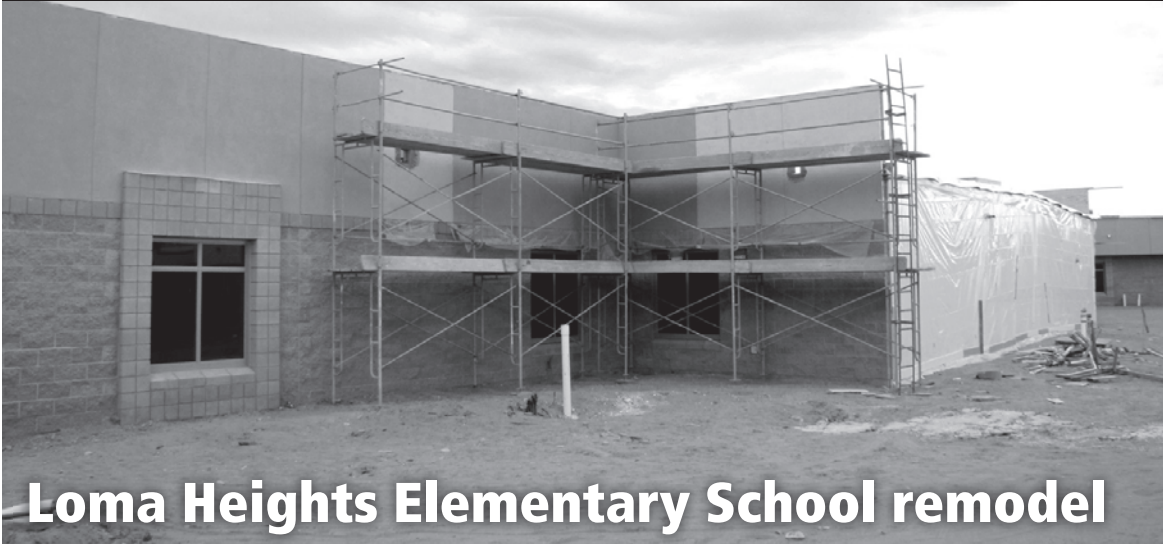
And if you do figure out how to make disaster consulting work, be prepared to have your business duplicated by people with less imagination than you, but better access to a crowdfunding consultant with a finger on the touch-sensitive techno-pulse of a hungry, attention-deficient consumer populace always looking for the next big thing.

Me, I'll take my paycheck, please, and wait until the world financial crisis is either resolved, or better managed before I resume work on my side business as an apocalypse consultant, for those dumb enough to think they need one.

# By the Numbers



## Building Las Cruces



### Loma Heights Elementary School remodel

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by David Salcido

Construction continues on Phase I of remodeling at Loma Heights Elementary School, 1600 E. Madrid Road, which includes a new multi-purpose room, kitchen, classroom wing and support spaces. Phase I is expected to be completed in May, when Phase II will begin. Phase III is expected to begin in July and be complete by March 2014.

#### Recent projects featured in Building Las Cruces

Publish date	Building	Address	Contact
Dec. 28	<b>Interstate 10 eastbound ramp construction</b>	Interstate 10-Motel Boulevard exit	525-7300
Dec. 21	<b>Conlee Elementary School renovation</b>	1701 Boston Drive	527-5800
Dec. 14	<b>Dunkin' Donuts</b>	2513 N. Main St.	781-737-5200
Dec. 7	<b>O'Reilly Auto Parts</b>	2500 W. Picacho Ave.	417-829-5727
Nov. 30	<b>White Sands Federal Credit Union</b>	2755 N. Main St.	647-4500

### Our numbers

#### New Year Resolutions

- 45**  
Percent of Americans usually make New Year resolutions
- 47**  
Percent make self-improvement or education related resolutions
- 46**  
Percent of resolutions are maintained past the six-month mark
- 8**  
Percent of people are successful in achieving their resolutions
- 14**  
Percent of people older than 50 achieve their resolutions

Source: [www.statisticbrain.com](http://www.statisticbrain.com)

### Gas update

#### Monday, Dec. 31

Average retail gasoline prices in New Mexico have increased **3.2 cents** per gallon in the past week, **averaging \$3.03** per gallon. This compares with the national average that has **increased 3 cents** per gallon in the last week to **\$3.27** per gallon.

New Mexico prices **Monday, Dec. 31**, were **11.2 cents** per gallon **higher** than the same day one year ago and are **22.8 cents** per gallon lower than a month ago. The national **average** has **decreased 13.2 cents** per gallon during the last month and stands **1.7 cents** per gallon **higher** than this day one year ago.

<b>1. Sam's Club</b>	2711 N. Telshor Blvd.	\$2.95
<b>2. Bradley's</b>	1260 El Paseo Road and 920 El Paseo Road	\$2.97
<b>3. Valero</b>	1305 El Paseo Road, 1401 E. Lohman Ave., 2695 W. Picacho Ave. and 2501 N. Main St.	\$2.99
<b>4. Alon</b>	3916 W. Picacho Ave.	\$2.99
<b>5. Circle K</b>	617 W. Picacho Ave.	\$2.99

Source: [www.newmexicogasprices.com](http://www.newmexicogasprices.com), as of Monday, Dec. 31

### Adventure Travel Airfare Watch

FROM EL PASO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	LOWEST AVERAGE ONE-WAY FARE	CARRIER
<b>Albuquerque</b>	\$129.80	Southwest
<b>Atlanta</b>	\$246.60	US Air
<b>Austin</b>	\$110.60	American
<b>Chicago</b>	\$253.60	US Air
<b>Dallas-Love</b>	\$191.80	Southwest
<b>Houston</b>	\$145.30	United
<b>Las Vegas</b>	\$102.60	American
<b>Los Angeles</b>	\$99.80	American
<b>Phoenix</b>	\$91.80	Us Air
<b>San Antonio</b>	\$108.60	American
<b>New York City</b>	\$202.60	American
<b>Orlando</b>	\$180.60	American
<b>San Diego</b>	\$132.60	American
<b>Seattle</b>	\$261.60	US Air
<b>Washington, D.C.</b>	\$182.60	American
<b>London</b>	\$1,337.70	Us Air
<b>Paris</b>	\$1,799.20	British Air
<b>Rome</b>	\$1,703.80	British Air

Source: Adventure Travel \*Prices effective Dec. 26-Jan. 02 \*Restrictions apply\* Holidays

### Money

#### Comparing the U.S. dollar

- Euro**  
\$1.32170 in U.S. dollars  
0.75660 per U.S. dollar
- Mexican Peso**  
\$0.07695 in U.S. dollars  
12.99500 per U.S. dollar
- Japanese Yen**  
\$0.01159 in U.S. dollars  
86.29997 per U.S. dollar
- Canadian Dollar**  
\$1.00549 in U.S. dollars  
0.99454 per U.S. dollar

Source: [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com) as of Monday, Dec. 31



#### Market snapshot

For the week of Dec. 14 - 28, the market reports:

Index	Started	Ended	Change	% Change	% YTD
<b>DJIA</b>	13190.84	12938.11	-252.73	-1.9	5.9
<b>Nasdaq</b>	3021.01	2960.31	-60.70	-2.0	13.6

**Strong:** Health care, consumer staples  
**Weak:** Energy, materials, telecoms

Source: <http://briefing.com>



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# In Good Company: *Las Cruces Bookoo*

## Home shopping made easy

Chicago-based company thrives in Las Cruces

By **David Salcido**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

As phenomenons go, there's really nothing new about the concept of "thrifting," or shopping thrift stores, flea markets, garage sales, etc. in the hope of finding a great deal.

What is new is the way in which people

pursue the shopping experience itself. The idea of going out on a Saturday morning in search of bargains has given way to online shopping on such sites as Craig's List and eBay.

But what if you're truly addicted to the thrifting experience, but you can't get out on the weekends and the aforementioned web-sites are too impersonal?

That's where Las Cruces Bookoo comes in. In operation since August 2012, Las Cruces Bookoo is the latest in a long line of community sites dedicated to thrifting and run by brothers Austin and Adam Allgaier, originally from Texas and now based in Oswego, Ill. It is, however, not the first such site in the area. The Alamogordo Bookoo site has been in operation since 2006 and is, according to Austin Allgaier, one of the oldest and most popular sites in the system. An El Paso Bookoo site was started in 2008, with much the same results.

So, why did it take so long for the brothers to discover Las Cruces? It all comes down to supply and demand.

"It actually all started when we lived in Texas," Austin Allgaier said. "My brother and I opened our first site eight years ago, as a hobby. We did it because our wives loved yard sales and wanted to have that experience more often. So, we decided to put something up on the computer where they could do it all the time. Since then, we've had users request it, so we've opened up sites all over the country. We actually had the request to open the site in Alamogordo because of the military base. Right now there are 12,000 items being sold on that particular site, which is quite significant. The El Paso site we started because, again, there's a military installation there."

The concept behind Bookoo is really very simple. Create a site where people in any given community can go to buy and sell items quickly and, more important, inexpensively.

"Our business philosophy, at its core, is to help people," said Allgaier. "Everyone wants to save money when they buy stuff. It's helpful if they can sell stuff that they no longer need, rather than just donating it, or having it sit in the attic or the garage or the basement. So we're really helping people de-clutter their houses and make some money at the same time. We also like to keep it more community centric, so everything on the Las Cruces Bookoo site is in Las Cruces. People just feel safer using the site, because they feel like they're buying from neighbors, people that they know, people that they can trust."

Setting up an account for any of the Bookoo sites is, as would be expected from a site that claims to value the inexpensive, very simple

### Details

#### Las Cruces Bookoo

**Website**  
[www.lascruces.bookoo.com](http://www.lascruces.bookoo.com)

and, best of all, free.

"If you've got something to sell, you just click on the link to post an item and it walks you through the steps," Allgaier said. "You fill in the title and the description, you can add a picture, then you hit submit and it's added to the site. It's very, very easy."

There is also a premium service that provides additional features, but Allgaier says it's really geared toward people who have a lot of items to sell.

"If you have a hundred items that you're trying to off-load all at once, you'll want to buy the premium membership, because it allows you to post a lot of items simultaneously," he said. "But if you have less than 10 items, or you want to sell one at a time, the free membership is perfectly sufficient for that."

Both of the brothers started out working for Fortune 500 companies, Austin in project management and Adam in information systems. Working in those environments gave them the skills to turn Bookoo into a viable and thriving company. Today, Bookoo has about 1.5 million a users, according to Allgaier, with a

couple hundred sites all across the country, run by a team of 20.

The ultimate goal of the brothers and their Bookoo team?

"World domination," Allgaier said. "We're hoping to reach anyone and everyone who doesn't have the option to buy or sell something online. The phenomenon of the yard sale or garage sale is really uniquely American. Other countries don't have that same amount of stuff that they need to get rid of. There is a demand in other cultures, but not like in America. We have talked to people in other countries who have an interest in creating something like this, so, yes, we do hope to expand eventually, but for now there's still a big market in the U.S. that is underserved, or not served at all, and we plan to help those people first."

“ Our business philosophy, at its core, is to help people. ”

AUSTIN ALLGAIER,  
owner

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Brothers, Austin and Adam Allgaier, founders of Las Cruces Bookoo

## Profile

# Philip Hernandez: Making community a priority

President of Las Cruces Community Theatre eyes expansion

By **David Salcido**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

When having a conversation with Philip Hernandez, the first thing one notices is his mind is a whirligig of information.

He talks fast and, when on a topic he is particularly passionate about, he becomes very animated. It becomes difficult at times to keep up with his train of thought, because just when you begin to suspect the train has derailed, it comes screaming back with a succinctness that makes the side trip not only necessary, but somehow important.

A good rule of thumb when speaking to Hernandez is to pay attention. One never knows when a seemingly minute detail will become significant.

At 23, Hernandez is the youngest president elected to the board of the Las Cruces Community Theatre in recent memory. Considering the organization is now celebrating its 50th year, only one of which Hernandez has been involved in, that is no small feat.

He began in December 2011 as a volunteer, quickly taking the position of vice president of development when the board recognized his worth. A year in that position saw him organizing the opening galas for each production and combining his efforts with Vice President of Public Relations Janet Mazdra to produce the hugely successful Wine & Dine event, which coincided with the opening of Mark Medoff's revival of "When You Coming Back, Red Ryder?"

Still, being nominated to the position of president was not something he had expected to happen so quickly.

"I thought about this president thing for a while," he said. "I had been asked by several of the board members and I had been nominated, but I had to accept the nomination. I'm a very non-confrontational type of person, but I've been in a lot of leadership roles. I've had to tell some people things that they didn't want to hear. That's how it goes. I don't like confrontation, but the position puts me in a great position to make some real change."

The kind of change he speaks of isn't meant to generate alarm. He's very aware of the reputation the community theater possesses and is in no way out to alienate its strong core of supporters. Instead, what he wants is to expand the horizons of the organization beyond simply producing several plays a year.

"One of the things that I hope to change is bringing more outreach and community development to LCCT," he said. "I love what Ceil Herman does at the Black Box. She not only produces and directs plays, she has so many classes and touring acts. She utilizes every available moment in her space and she does a lot of community outreach. That is something I would love to do at the community theater."

This is the type of work Hernandez is uniquely suited for and may well be the reason the board of directors nominated him in the first place. This, and the fact he has no aspirations when it comes to utilizing the stage to showcase his own ego.

"I am not an actor," he said. "I am a director and producer, but not in the theater realm. My passion is promoting, developing and sustaining the arts. That is what I do. I believe in the power of art to bring forth our humanity. I think of art as the lifeblood of culture and humanity. It connects us and brings us together. I'm a businessperson, but I think of it differently from most business people. I think of business as a way of sustaining art and, thereby, keeping our connection to one another alive. I don't believe in business for business sake."

## An Early Start

To completely understand where Hernandez is coming from, one must look back at his brief but noteworthy history as an impresario. While he was attending Las Cruces High School (LCHS), his parents founded the theater booster club, for which he served as student representative. In 2010, three years after he

graduated, he was asked to return as president by LCHS theater instructor Charles Lecocq, a role he has filled ever since.

In the interim, Hernandez has organized two successful Halloween experiences – 2011's "The Asylum" and 2012's "The Land of Enchantment" – that utilized his students' talents to combine a haunted house with such interactive elements as books, videos and the occasional flash mob. He is currently working on his third All Hallows extravaganza, entitled "The Harvesting." In addition, he owns and operates a website, Behind The Curtain, which offers, among other things, interviews, reviews and podcasts for both local theater aficionados and those outside of the Las Cruces theater scene.

In August 2012, Hernandez expanded the scope of the LCHS booster club to include other schools. The name was changed to reflect that change, becoming the Doña Ana Theatre Association (DATA), where he serves on an executive board of three, including Juli Stephenson and Jamison Mott. It is important to note none of these young pioneers have children of their own; they are simply filling a need to help teachers promote and market their productions.

Currently, four schools fall under DATA's umbrella: LCHS, Mayfield High School, the Gadsden School District and Las Montañas Charter School. For some, it serves the need as fiscal agent, thus bypassing the laborious process of securing purchase orders for any needs the instructors may have. For others, it simply offers advice on fundraising, planning

and promotion. It also helps them find volunteers from within the theater community to help with their productions.

"Our main purpose," he said, "is if the teacher needs support – because in the schools the director is not only directing the show, but has got a full-time job as well – we're there to effectively be the board that would support them otherwise, if they were directing in a real theater."

## Merging Disciplines

Becoming president of LCCT has presented a whole new set of challenges for Hernandez, but it has also opened a few doors not accessible before. In fact, he's already hard at work creating his first big project. In May, Hernandez has plans to launch the first interdisciplinary one act festival for local theater students. It will be a collaboration between DATA, LCCT and American Southwest Theatre Company (ASTC), which has its home on the campus of New Mexico State University.

"What it aims to do is allow high school students to perform, receive critiques and feedback on those performances, and to attend workshops and panels led by university professors and industry professionals," he said. "The subtext is that it brings the theater community together as a whole and it brings in young theater students and exposes them to this community



Impresario Philip Hernandez

## Details

## Philip Hernandez

President, Las Cruces Community Theatre

### Education

- Las Cruces High School
- Bachelor's degree in hotel, restaurant and tourism management from New Mexico State University, with minors in English and business administration

### Organizations

- Doña Ana Theatre Association – founder/president, 2012
- Southern New Mexico Pride – Board of Directors, 2012
- Las Cruces High School Theater Booster Club – founder/president, 2011 – present
- Las Cruces Community Theatre – Acting VP for Development, 2011 – 2012
- NMSU English Undergraduate Student Organization, 2011 – 2012
- NMSU Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management Student Organization, 2011 – 2012

### Websites

- [www.philiphernandez.com](http://www.philiphernandez.com)
- [www.datanm.org](http://www.datanm.org)
- [www.behindthecurtain.com](http://www.behindthecurtain.com)

and to the idea that there is more than one way to do things. We want them to know that when they go to college, they don't just have to perform there, they can perform at the community theater and at other venues. We really want to bridge that gap."

It's all part of the ultimate plan to create a more cohesive theater community for Las Cruces.

"I'm looking at bringing the theater community closer together and, eventually, creating the same kind of environment that we have with DATA," he said. "I try to help all theaters, through Behind the Curtain or DATA, and that isn't going to change because I'm now the president of the community theater, it's just going to be enhanced. It's going to be hard navigating these political waters, but with the board behind me, I feel very confident."



## Councillors Sorg and Thomas to Co-Host Community Meeting



District 5  
City Councillor Gill Sorg

City Councillor Gill Sorg, district 5, and Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Thomas, district 6, will co-host a community meeting to present an overview of the city and their districts. The meeting will be



District 6  
Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Thomas

**Tuesday,  
January 8th, 6:30 p.m.  
Doña Ana Community College  
East Mesa Campus, Auditorium  
2800 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd.**

Invited to attend are other elected officials including St. Sen. William Soules, dist. 37; St. Rep. Jeff Steinborn, dist. 35; St. Rep. Phillip Archuleta, dist. 36; St. Rep. Terry McMillan, dist. 37; St. Rep. Nate Cote, dist. 53 and County Commissioner Wayne Hancock, dist. 4. The state and county elected officials will give brief statements followed by Q & A.

To locate your city council district log on to:

<http://www.las-cruces.org/Government/Legislative.aspx>

[www.las-cruces.org](http://www.las-cruces.org)

## GREAT COUNTRY MORNINGS



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## Briefs

### City seeking restaurant service at East Mesa facility

The City of Las Cruces' newest public facility, the Sage Café located at 6121 Reynolds Drive, is nearing completion and the city is accepting proposals from anyone who wants to operate food service from the facility.

A facility walkthrough is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 4, at 10 a.m., and all proposals must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. Jan. 17. All interested parties are encouraged to contact Karen Medina with the City of Las Cruces Purchasing Department at 541-2527. Information is also available through the New Mexico E-Procurement Bid System at [www.govbids.com](http://www.govbids.com).

The Sage Café is conveniently located off Porter Driver next to the East Mesa Swimming Pool. Construction is in the finishing stages and programming is in the works. The city anticipates a March opening.

The facility is based on a model developed by Mather Life Ways of Chicago, which offers a gathering spot for older adults while also serving residents of all ages. In addition to activities for seniors, the facility will host public meetings and be available for all members of the public to stop by for good food and hospitality.

### Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces announces officers

The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces' new slate of officers will be introduced from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, during the first Mix 'n' Mingle of the year, hosted by US Bank, 3790 E. Lohman Ave.

The Hispano Chamber will join with the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce for a three-chamber ribbon cutting and the after hours event. The public is invited to attend.

Officers for 2013: Kirk Clifton, board of directors president; Georgia Lane, vice president; Richard Aguilar, treasurer; and Antoinette Fuentes-Knapp, secretary. Jeffrey Silva will continue serving on the board as ex-officio in an advisory role. John Muñoz will also continue on the board in an advisory role.

Clifton is a native of Las Cruces, having graduated from New Mexico State University. He is employed by El Paso Electric Co., Land Acquisitions, and also serves Gov. Susana Martinez on two state appointed boards.

### El Paso Electric announces the election of two board members

El Paso Electric's Board of Directors has announced the election of Edward Escudero and Woody L. Hunt to EPE's Board of Directors.

In making the announcement, Michael Parks, chairman of the EPE board said, "The addition of these two highly qualified directors brings vast knowledge and experience to the board and the company as we continue to invest to meet our region's growing needs. Woody and Ed are proven leaders with deep roots in the region and are welcome additions to our board."

Escudero, CPA, is president and chief executive officer of High Desert Capital LLC, a finance company that specializes in providing capital alternatives to small and mid-size companies. He is also executive vice president and chief financial officer of C&R Distributing, a major distributor of fuel and industrial lubricants and owner of numerous convenience stores in the region.

Hunt is chairman and chief executive officer of Hunt Companies Inc. and its affiliated companies. Founded in 1947, the privately owned Hunt Companies is a leading national real estate investor, manager, and developer. Hunt's focus and experience is in sectors such as public-private partnerships, community development, real asset investment management and multifamily housing.

EPE is a regional electric utility providing generation, transmission and distribution service to approximately 384,000 retail and wholesale customers in a 10,000-square-mile area of the Rio Grande valley in west Texas and southern New Mexico. EPE has a net dependable generating capability of 1,795 MW. EPE's common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol EE.

### Colvin begins term as president of state realtors association

Cathy Colvin, CRS, associate broker at Vista Encantada Realtors of Albuquerque, has begun her term as 2013 president of the Realtors Association of New Mexico (RANM).

Colvin earned her real estate license in 1993 and has sold homes, advanced her real estate education and starred in volunteer leadership roles ever since. In 2006, she served as chairman of the board of the Greater Albuquerque Association of Realtors and in 2005 was named

## Chamber announces new board



Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce photo  
The Executive Committee of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce provides direction and leadership for the organization. Pictured are At-Large Member Kelly Duke, Past Chair Richard Haas, Chair Leslie Cervantes, Chair-elect Mike Beckett, Treasurer Brandy Darden and Secretary Terra Van Winter.



COLVIN

its Sales Person of the Year and in 2008 was named their Realtor of the Year.

Colvin has also held leadership roles in the New Mexico CRS Chapter; was named New Mexico CRS Specialist of the Year in 2006 and served as president of

the New Mexico Chapter in 2009.

She's been a member of numerous National Association of Realtors (NAR) committees and is excited and honored to be recently selected as a member of the 2013 Class of NAR's Leadership Academy.

She has served as a member of the New Mexico Real Estate Commission Education Steering Committee and was a member of the NM PRC Title Insurance Task Force.

2013 RANM officers and directors will be installed Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Inn and Spa at Loretto in Santa Fe, as part of RANM's Legislative, Leadership and Business Meetings.

### Financial Peace classes offered

Sonoma Springs Church is offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University classes in English and Spanish, beginning Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. Classes will run for nine weeks, from Jan. 9-Mar. 6. Learn how to have your money work for you rather than the other way around and, in the process, find financial peace.

For additional information, visit [www.sonomasprings.org](http://www.sonomasprings.org) or call 526-4907. English language materials are available through [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com). Information in Spanish is available through [www.andresguitierrez.com](http://www.andresguitierrez.com) or through the church by contacting [j.baylor@sonomasprings.org](mailto:j.baylor@sonomasprings.org).

### Department of Transportation secretary Alvin Dominguez retires

Gov. Susana Martinez announced Dec. 19, 2012 that Department of Transportation Secretary Alvin Dominguez would be retiring from the state as of Dec. 31. Dominguez spent 28 years in transportation-related service and had worked for NMDOT for the last 18 years. He was appointed to the cabinet secretary position by Martinez in January 2011.

"Secretary Dominguez has done an outstanding job of professionalizing the Department of Transportation and reforming one of the largest agencies in state government," Martinez said.

"Given his extraordinary expertise in transportation and the deep respect that his peers throughout New Mexico have for him, I asked Alvin two years ago to put his retirement plans on hold and lead the department that he had served for a decade and a half. His service to the state came with personal sacrifice and I am grateful for his willingness to take on that challenge. I wish him the very best in his retirement."

Dominguez is a resident of Las Cruces and commuted to Santa Fe at the beginning of each workweek, returning home to southern New Mexico over the weekends.

He worked for the city of Roswell as a field engineer for a decade before joining the New Mexico Department of Transportation in 1995. After serving in a variety of engineering roles, Dominguez was named South Region Design Regional Manager in 2007, the position he held until he was appointed to the cabinet secretary position.

Dominguez graduated from New Mexico State University in 1983 with a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering technology.

Deputy Secretary Tom Church will serve as acting secretary until a permanent replacement is named.

## Save the date

### FRI. 1/4

5 p.m. Ribbon cutting at Kemp Smith, 880 S. Telshor Blvd., Suite 220. For more information, call the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce at 524-1968.

### TUE. 1/8

5 to 7 p.m. U.S. Bank grand opening open house reception, 3790 E. Lohman Ave. For more information, call 647-7310.

### WED. 1/9

2:30 p.m. Ribbon cutting at Southwest Eye Center, 2030 S. Solano Drive. For more information, call 521-1158.

### THU. 1/10

4 p.m. Ground breaking at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. For more information, call 522-4300.

### FRI. 1/11

2 p.m. Ribbon cutting at Memorial Medical Center Prompt Care, 3030 W. Picacho Ave. For more information, call the Memorial Medical Center help desk at 522-8641.

### THU. 2/21

3:30 to 5 p.m. Economic Outlook Conference, Health & Social Services Auditorium on the New Mexico State University campus. Top national and state economists present their economic forecasts for 2013. Register by Friday, Feb. 15, by calling Judy Wetzel at 521-6849.

If you have business events or meetings you'd like to publicize in the Las Cruces Bulletin Business section, email them to [business@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:business@lascrucesbulletin.com) or call the Bulletin business desk at 524-8061.

# More than farming

## Future Farmers of America also future leaders

By **Marvin Tessneer**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

High school vocational agriculture programs go beyond teaching farming skills, they also prepare students for leadership and community service, advisers said.

Las Cruces High School instructor Philip Beard called attention to the program's triangle that students follow as a guide: FFA chapters, agriculture education and supervised work experience, such as raising animals, working in agricultural businesses or working with veterinarians.

"I was involved in agricultural education classes and FFA in high school, and I still stay in touch with my agriculture teacher," Beard said about Dr. Steve Forsythe at Ysleta High School near El Paso. "He had a well-rounded program. A lot of the things I do the right way now are because I learned from him how to advise a vocational educational program."

Las Cruces High School's program has about 375 students and 125 FFA chapter members, who conducted their 12th canned food drive before Christmas.

The FFA students distributed bags and notes on Dec. 17, 2012, explaining the program in the "Mesilla Farms Area" or around Mesilla Park, and picked them up on Dec. 22, 2012 chapter reporter Tara Russell said.

"On the mornings we pick up the food, we have been greeted many times by people just

to say, 'thank you,'" she said. "We drive over to the food shelters and distribute the canned goods by splitting the food between our multiple food shelters. Our FFA chapter takes great pride in helping out the food shelters in our annual Christmas food drive, and we hope to continue this tradition for many years."

The Las Cruces High School FFA chapter also had a visit before Christmas from two national FFA staff members of Indianapolis: Dwight Armstrong, operations officer, and Tony Small, director of teachers services.

"It was pleasant visiting with them because they bring a different set of eyes and ears to bounce ideas off of," Beard said.

Las Cruces High School FFA Chapter officers are: Lauren Schlothauer, president; Alicia Castaneda, vice president; Brent Carrillo, secretary; Quintin Dean, treasurer; Tara Russell, reporter; Molly Williams, sentinel; Leticia Martinez, historian and Glen Throneberry, parliamentarian.

Las Cruces FFA Greenhand officers are: Cohen Rush, president; Kendall Anderson, vice president; Annie Stout, secretary; Everett Salopek, treasurer; Caitlyn Salopek, reporter; Dakota Tharp, sentinel and Sam Ellis, adviser.

Mayfield High School also offers a vocational agricultural program under two instructors.

Kim O'Bryne teaches agricultural science, veterinary science and wildlife and environment. Doug Cometti's classes are metal fabrication, agricultural mechanics, introduction to

agriculture and introduction to leadership.

The Mayfield program has 280 students. "I believe that our students take away from our classes a lot more than the knowledge of agriculture," Cometti said.

The Mayfield FFA chapter officers are: Emerson Morrow, president; Savannah Graves, vice president; Belle Morrow, secretary; Gary Melton, treasurer; Mikala Wolmack, reporter and Raelyn Gardner, sentinel.

The Hatch vocational agricultural program recently moved into a new 11,250-square-foot building, and students are arranging the new shop, working on welding booths and a tool cage, instructor Efen Duran said.

While explaining the Hatch program he said, "We offer two welding classes with about 20 students in each class, power and machinery

class where students learn about small engines and other agricultural equipment and an animal and plant science class."

Hatch also conducts two leadership programs.

"One is an introduction, where students learn the basics of FFA and how it can help them in the future," Duran said. "The second is FFA leadership, where students learn leadership skills and plan events that we can use to help our community."

Hatch FFA officers: Lauren Franzoy, president; Audrey Hackey vice president; Payton Winder, treasurer; Trinity Neal, secretary; Tyrel Harrison and Marshall Cahill, sentinel.

Hatch has about 25 students in its program.

“ I believe that our students take away from our classes a lot more than the knowledge of agriculture.



DOUG CORNETTI,  
teacher

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## New Business Resources

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<p><b>Doña Ana County Planning Office</b> 647-7237 <a href="http://www.donaanacounty.org/clerk/business">www.donaanacounty.org/clerk/business</a> 845 N. Motel Blvd. Las Cruces, NM 88007</p>	<p><b>NM Dept. of Taxation and Revenue</b> 524-6225 <a href="http://www.tax.state.nm.us">www.tax.state.nm.us</a> 2540 El Paseo Road, Building. 2 Las Cruces, NM 88001</p>
<p><b>Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce</b> 524-1968 <a href="http://www.lascruces.org">www.lascruces.org</a> 760 W. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88005</p>	<p><b>Small Business Administration/SCORE</b> 523-5627 <a href="http://www.zianet.com/score.397">www.zianet.com/score.397</a> 505 S. Main St., Suite 125 Las Cruces, NM 88001</p>
<p><b>Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces</b> 523-2681 <a href="http://www.hispanochamberlc.org">www.hispanochamberlc.org</a> 3530 Foothills Road Las Cruces, NM 88011</p>	<p><b>Small Business Development Center DACC</b> 527-7676 <a href="http://www.nmsbdc.org/lascruces">www.nmsbdc.org/lascruces</a> 2345 E. Nevada Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88011</p>
<p><b>Las Cruces Economic Development Business Registration and Licensing</b> Economic Development Department 541-2287 250 S. Main St. Las Cruces, NM 88001</p>	<p><b>Town of Mesilla</b> 524-3262 <a href="http://www.mesilla-nm.org">www.mesilla-nm.org</a> 2231 Avenida de Mesilla Mesilla, NM 88046</p>
<p><b>Las Cruces Downtown Partnership</b> 525-1955 <a href="http://www.lascrucesdowntown.org">www.lascrucesdowntown.org</a> 223 W. Griggs Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88005</p>	<p><b>WESST Corp Economic Team</b> 541-1583 <a href="http://www.wesst.org">www.wesst.org</a> P.O. Box 444 Las Cruces, NM 88004</p>

# Budget outlook for 60-day session positive

## Fiscal Cliff introduces uncertainty



**Chris Erickson**  
State of the Economy

*Editor's note: this article was written before Congress approved a compromise on continuing Bush era tax cuts.*

Each year, just prior to the opening of the legislative session, the consensus revenue estimating group, which consists of economists from both the legislative and executive branches, issues a consensus forecast for the upcoming fiscal year. This forecast is then used by the legislature in developing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

This year's forecast calls for a modest increase in funds available for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) of \$282 million or 5 percent of FY13 appropriations. This is money that is expected to be available to the legislature to expand existing programs or fund new programs, although, after allowing for inflation, the funds available will be very modest. Nevertheless, even this forecast may be too optimistic.

New Mexico is suffering a recession. Personal-income growth was negative in the third quarter, and year-over-year employment declined .6 of 1 percent in November 2012. The consensus forecast assumes employment growth of .8 of 1 percent in FY13, which is very modest by historical standards, but even this number may be too optimistic.

Add to this concern over the local economy uncertainty about federal government appropriations. Regardless of the outcome of fiscal cliff negotiations, there will be considerable fiscal drag on the economy.

The consensus forecast, for example, assumes that a compromise will be reached in Washington. The assumed compromise includes Bush era tax cuts remaining in place

in 2013, the 2 percent payroll tax cut and emergency unemployment benefits being extended for 2013 and then phased out slowly and, finally, automatic spending cuts being replaced by a combination of spending cuts and tax increases in FY14.

As I write this, no compromise had been reached on sequestration; it appears that all the Bush era tax cuts will be allowed to expire; and in any case, the 2 percent payroll tax cut is almost certainly not going to be renewed. Thus it appears that the assumptions underlying the consensus forecast are too optimistic.

Should we fall off the fiscal cliff, the impact on New Mexico will be more extreme than other states as we rank sixth for net revenue received from the federal government. The federal tax increases associated with the fiscal cliff are immediate, but sequestration will phase in slowly over calendar year 2013; that is, the last half of FY13 and the first half of FY14.

While the fiscal cliff means that New Mexico lawmakers face an uncertain environment as they develop the FY14 budget, there is one bit of good news. The reserve is expected to be \$805 million or 14.2 percent of recurring appropriations. This is the largest surplus in recent memory.

In fact, the governor has come under criticism for the surplus. Given the weak state economy, many believe that the reserve could be better utilized, either paying for needed programs or returned to the taxpayers in the form of a tax cut. Collecting money from taxpayers just to leave it unspent seems unproductive.

*Christopher A. Erickson, Ph.D., is a professor of economics at NMSU. He has studied the New Mexico economy for more than a quarter century. The opinions expressed may not be shared by the regents or administrators of NMSU. Erickson can be reached at cherrick@nmsu.edu.*

# Radon Action month is here

## Time to test for cancer-causing gases in the home

**Gary Sandler's**  
Real Estate Connection



For two weeks straight, Stanley Watras set off the radiation alarms as he entered his workplace at the Limerick Nuclear Power Plant in Pennsylvania.

Authorities at the plant were stunned to learn that the source of the radiation was astoundingly high levels of radon gas in the basement of the Watras family home and not from the nuclear plant itself.

That was in 1984. Since then, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Surgeon General have determined that exposure to radon gas is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the no. 1 cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Radon, which has been found in all 50 states, is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water from the natural decay of uranium. Radon typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into homes through cracks and other holes in the foundation. It can also be introduced in small amounts through water from private wells. The gas is released into the air when the water is used for showering and other household uses.

The EPA assigns one of three "zones" to each of the 3,141 counties in the U.S., rating the average short-term radon measurement that can be expected in a building without the implementation of radon control methods. Zones are assigned numerical ratings of one, two or three, indicating whether the designated areas are considered to be areas of (1) "high," (2) "low" or (3) "moderate" risk.

According to EPA's Map of Radon Zones, nearly three-quarters of New Mexico is considered to have "moderate" levels of radon emissions, while the remaining one-quarter of the state (seven counties in northern New Mexico to be exact) is coded as being at high risk of experiencing radon emissions. Although Doña Ana County is designated as having moderate levels of radon emissions, actionable levels of radon (more than four picocuries per liter of air, pCi/L) or higher have been found in Las Cruces.

As part of the EPA's National Radon Action Month's activities, homeowners and prospective purchasers are encouraged to test for radon by conducting an easy and inexpensive do-it-yourself test. The New Mexico Environmental Department has free radon test kits available for people who share their

test results with the department and participate in a statewide radon survey. Residents can also purchase those test kits for less than \$25 at local hardware and home improvement stores. The price of the test includes the cost of the mail-in laboratory analysis by an EPA-approved lab.

If elevated radon levels are present, simple abatement solutions for the average home can be employed at a cost of about \$800 to \$2,500, with \$1,200 being the nationwide average, according to the EPA. A popular remedy for preventing the gas from entering the home includes sealing cracks and other openings in foundations along with using a system with pipes and fans called "subslab depressurization."

The remedy prevents radon from entering the house by rerouting the outside atmosphere gasses that would normally radiate into the structure from beneath the slab.

If remedial work is necessary, Michael Taylor of the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) points out that it is against New Mexico law for anyone other than EPA or state-certified or qualified radon mitigation contractors to legally install radon mitigation systems that meet state requirements. If you're building a new home, radon mitigation systems can be integrated with construction at a nominal cost.

Since radon is such a hot topic across the country, there's plenty of information available on the subject. The booklets "Homebuyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon," "Reducing Radon Risks," "A Citizen's Guide to Radon" and "Radon, A Physician's Guide" are available by calling EPA's National Hotline at 800-SOS-RADON or by logging on to [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon).

State radon information and free testing kits may be obtained from the NMED by phoning Taylor at 505-476-8654. Radon test kits can be requested by New Mexico residents online (while supplies last) using the "New Mexico Radon Program" link at [www.drhomeair.com](http://www.drhomeair.com) or by calling 800-324-5928 and following the instructions for "The State of New Mexico Radon Test Kit Program" option.

Should you have your home tested? Doing so is like chicken soup ... it certainly couldn't hurt.

See you at closing!

*Gary Sandler is the president of Gary Sandler Inc., Realtors in Las Cruces and the host of Gary Sandler's Real Estate Connection, broadcast each Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. on KSNM-AM 570. Sandler is the 2007 and 2010 recipient of the New Mexico Broadcaster's Associations Talk Show Host of the Year award. Questions or comments may be directed to Gary at 525-2400 or by emailing [gary@garysandler.com](mailto:gary@garysandler.com).*

# Special fund now providing money for scholarships

## Passion for golf fuels memorial endowment

Barry Lamour McClure had a passion for golf, and he had a passion to help youth become more involved in the sport.

After his passing in 2011, friends focused on his passions while providing opportunities for the community's youth by creating the Barry McClure Memorial Golf Tournament Fund within the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM). With interest from that fund, friends are now creating the Barry McClure Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"Barry was invested in growing the game, teaching the game and playing the game of golf," said Von Weddington, a close friend of McClure. "We are doing the things he would be doing if he was still here."

The Barry McClure Memorial Foundation created the Barry McClure Memorial Golf Tournament Fund within the CFSNM to

honor McClure and to support his passion of creating opportunities for local youth to become more involved in sports. The first two tournaments were held at the Picacho Hills Country Club on Sept. 24 and Nov. 5, 2011, with money raised from the tournament going to the Las Cruces Junior Golf Association and money from the second tournament going into the scholarship fund.

McClure, who passed away on Jan. 13, 2011, was born on Dec. 3, 1951, to the late Mr. and Mrs. Willie B. McClure.

McClure was married to Gwenda and was the owner of and consultant to MAC'S Inc., a business specializing in golf outings. He was a volunteer coach for the New Mexico State University women's track team and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. for more than 30 years.

During that time, he served in the capacity of Polemarch for

chapters in Panama and Mississippi, and was a board member of the El Paso/Las Cruces Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He was also a board member of the Sun Country Amateur Golf Association.

McClure was an NCAA triple jump champion and record holder and seven-time All American University Division. He attended Carrollton High School and Middle Tennessee State University. He was inducted into his high school and college halls of fame. As an avid golfer, McClure held the title of club champion at several different golf clubs.

The new scholarship fund, created to honor McClure and his work within the community, is designated for graduating seniors entering a track, golf or golf management program at any college in New Mexico.

Any individual or organization can create a temporary special projects fund within the CFSNM, like the Barry McClure Memorial Golf Tournament Fund, which can then easily turn into a permanent fund. Special projects funds are created for groups who have a specific mission, but either do not wish to create a separate 501(c)(3) or are in the

process of becoming a 501(c)(3) but wish to start their programs in the meantime. By utilizing the CFSNM, individuals and organizations are able to leave the financial, tax and administrative issues up to the foundation so they can better focus on their mission.

*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 the establishment of permanent funds you can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. Through our planned giving programs, you can honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits the people of Southern New Mexico 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](http://www.cfsnm.org) or call Luan Wagner Burn, Ph.D., at 521-4794. To donate, mail your check to CFSNM, 301 South Church St., Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001.*





# Let it snow!

## Experts say runoff outlook uncertain

By **Marvin Tessneer**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Irrigation specialists aren't speculating on whether this winter's mountain snow packs will ease the area's irrigation water shortage.

They believe it's more helpful to wait until they see the runoff water in the reservoirs before making any predictions.

The snow year, however, got off to a poor start.

"As of now, the snow packs are well behind normal," EBID consultant Phillip King told the EBID board of directors at the Dec. 11, 2012, meeting.

"We don't make irrigation allocations on snow packs, only what's in the reservoirs. And it's a long way from the snow packs to the reservoirs."

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is expected to set the 2013 allocation in early January for the three Lower Rio Grande districts, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, El Paso Water Conservation District No. 1 and Mexico. But they are monitoring the mountain snow packs as indicators for their long-range planning.

### Weather can play tricks

Even the weather can upset the snow-melt runoff. If the snow melt starts too early, the water can be soaked up in the arroyos, which are extremely dry, before draining into the Rio Grande. High elevation winds can also sweep the snow into the atmosphere and cause evaporation.

The latest snow water equivalent report for

the Upper Rio Grande Water Shed in southern Colorado is 65 percent of normal, according to the National Weather and Climate Center.

The water shed drains into the Rio Grande Basin that supplies the EBID.

"We had a couple of snow storms the last couple of days in the higher elevations," New Mexico's state climatologist Dave DuBois said. "But we need more. The bottom line is, the snow is below normal."

Erratic weather in the past few months also has been making it difficult for agencies to make predictions. Precipitation during the fall – rain and snow – was below normal, said

Wayne Sleep, Natural Resources Conservation hydrology technician.

The snow-pack forecast last fall was 60 percent of normal.

Northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, however, have received some snow in the past two weeks, and the snow water equivalence has been adjusted to 70 to 80 percent of normal.

"That's what is on the ground now," Street said. "But we still have to build up a larger snow pack to make up for that earlier dry period."

### Water table drops

Irrigation farmers have to look beyond the reservoirs. A good snow-pack runoff is needed to recharge the water table. During the water shortage in recent years, they have been forced to pump ground water to irrigate, which has been drawing down the Mesilla Valley water table.

Currently, well drillers have to drill 20 feet

“The bottom line is, the snow is below normal.”

DAVE DUBOIS,  
State climatologist



Mesilla Valley farmers are looking to the mountains of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado for snow to augment Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs, but experts won't project runoff amounts this early in the season.

or deeper to find the water table, according to Marvin Magee of Maverick Drilling.

Excessive pumping also can cause what farmers call "salt water intrusion," which stunts plant growth. When a well is drawing large amounts of water, it can pull in salty, or mineral-laden, water from surrounding areas, King said.

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) monitors the water table at a U.S. Geological Survey well south of Las Cruces between two pecan orchards. OSE records show that the water table at that location has dropped in recent years, 18 feet since 2003 and 8 feet the past two years, Lela Hunt, OSE information officer said.

EBID farmer patrons have been operating under rough conditions the last two years. The water quota last season was 10 inches, but the district was only able to deliver about nine inches. The 2011 water allocation was 4 inches, according to EBID records.

The normal allocation with a good snow pack and runoff is 3 acre-feet.

With the low reservoirs storage, irrigation could be getting off to a poor start for the coming season. The latest Bureau of Reclamation reservoir report was 125,200 acre-feet for Elephant Butte and 7,100 for Caballo, or about 6 percent of capacity for both reservoirs.

Most irrigators in the Mesilla Valley start planting crops in the winter or spring.

# NFIB seeks support for agenda

## Legislative goals include lower corporate tax

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

Enjoying the support of Gov. Susana Martinez, the National Federation of Independent Business is hoping for a number of changes in the business community to be passed in the upcoming 60-day legislative session.

Speaking before a group of business and community leaders in Las Cruces Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, NFIB State Director Minda McGonagle said her organization concurs with the majority of southern New Mexico lawmakers' efforts to expand spaceport informed consent liability protections.

"This thing is going away if this can't be passed," McGonagle said of what the legislation means to Spaceport America.

Three years ago, the Legislature passed spaceport informed consent legislation, giving protection to operators such as Virgin Galactic against lawsuits if something happens to a passenger on one of the flights into sub-orbital space. The last two sessions, spaceport supporters have unsuccessfully tried to get those protections expanded to manufacturers and suppliers for the spaceflight operators.

In the New Century Economy Jobs Agenda Legislative, backed by the NFIB, the fourth item is for extending the informed consent law to "spacecraft manufacturers and suppliers. This will make Spaceport America more competitive with the other 12 states that have passed this type of informed consent, such as Texas, Colorado, Virginia and Florida. This is required in attracting new

“This thing is going away if this can't be passed.”

MINDA MCGONAGLE,  
State NFIB director

tenants to the spaceport and for a successful commercial space industry in New Mexico."

Other issues on the New Century Economy Jobs Agenda include:

- A single sales factor allowing companies to pay tax only on income from sales within the state. About half of states have this kind of tax system, according to the online version of the petition.
- Corporate income tax reduction because New Mexico has the second highest corporate income tax – 7.6 percent – in a 9 state region. The New Century Economy Jobs Agenda urges lowering that rate to 4.9 percent over the course of four years.
- \$10 million for the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA), which serves as a "closing fund" in recruiting companies to the state. LEDA would help local governments provide infrastructure tied to direct job creation.
- \$4.75 million for the Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP), which provides financial support for hiring and training new employees.
- The state's capital outlay money should be allocated to projects of regional and statewide importance to provide better leverage for federal matching funds.

- The New Century Economy Jobs Agenda supports increased investment to the New Mexico MainStreet program, which helps downtown communities create "an economically feasible business environment through the preservation of historical and cultural locations."

The New Century Jobs Agenda was developed by New Mexico Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela from a summit facilitated by New Mexico First in October 2012.

Other issues NFIB will be lobbying for, McGonagle said, will be reforming unemployment insurance to make it more fair, to standardize the minimum wage stateside – whereas Santa Fe and Albuquerque have higher minimum wages than the rest of the state – and to see New Mexico become a Right To Work state.

"There are a lot of misunderstandings about Right To Work. It does not mean get rid of the unions, but that a worker has the option to not join a union if they don't want to," she said. "This is really a freedom of choice issue."

McGonagle has a public relations and advocacy firm, Consulting Duo LLC, in Albuquerque, and has been the state NFIB director since 2009. NFIB describes itself as "the voice of small business" and claims that its issues are guided by input from its members. She can be reached at [minda.mcgonagle@nfib.org](mailto:minda.mcgonagle@nfib.org) or at 505-228-3755.

# West Mesa Industrial Park

## Where industries capitalize on location

Photos by Alta LeCompte

### Assets include I-10, fiber-optic Internet

Visible from almost anywhere in the City of Las Cruces, the 1,700-acre Las Cruces West Mesa Industrial Park is located on Interstate 10, eight miles west of Downtown.

The city has sold 630 acres in the park, of which more than 275 acres are currently developed.

There are 17 businesses operating in the park, employing more than 750 people. Available for purchase are 23 city-owned and 14 privately owned parcels, five of which have buildings.

Recent arrivals include Sapphire Energy's research facility and SunEdison Centennial Solar Farm, activated in May 2012 to produce electricity for El Paso Electric Co. While some companies locate in the park to be near agricultural products such as milk and pecans and others value the interstate highway access the site affords, SunEdison chose a remote 140-acre site on the mesa to help guard against damage to its 48,900 solar panels.

The park is served by fiber optic Internet, said Christine Logan, economic development director for the city. It is home to light industry, general manufacturing, aviation-Related and technology-based industries serving Dona Ana County, El Paso and the U.S./Mexico border.

A portion of Foreign Trade Zone No. 197 is within the park.



Alaska Structures at 301 Rea Drive, the largest employer in the West Mesa Industrial Park, currently has 400 workers and is expanding its \$10 million facility, according to Christine Logan, city economic development director.



Operator-driver Harold Caldwell is on duty at the city's new Fire Station No. 7. Locating a station in the industrial park improved the area's fire safety rating from 9 (10 being the worst) to 4. A larger station scheduled for construction in the park will give the park a rating of 2.

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Just as the industrial park on the West Mesa can be seen from the city, so can the city and the Organ Mountains be seen from the park. This building is being used temporarily by Alaska Structures until the company builds to add more space. Logan said some companies in the park site their offices for a mountain view.



The new Sapphire Energy research facility, valued at \$9 million, not counting its high tech equipment, has located its alternative energy research facility on the mesa. Its algae farm for production of green crude is located in Santa Teresa.



Pictured is the weigh station at Green Valley Pecan, a cold storage facility for pecans grown and sold in the Mesilla Valley.



F & A Dairy Products Inc., with 85 employees, is the second largest employer in the park. Located on Crawford Boulevard since 1995, it makes mozzarella and provolone from locally produced milk.

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*We Will Rock You... And Then Some!*

**The New Desert Harmony Singers are looking for new voices to join us for our 2013 Spring show.**

**On January 7th, 2013 The New Desert Harmony Singers will begin rehearsals for their greatest Spring show ever!** The music for this show will be the most exciting, challenging, and definitely the most entertaining we have ever performed. **And NDHS is now actively looking for men and women who love to sing and perform.**

The show will be divided into two acts. The songs in Act I will be all spiritual/gospel and have been sung for decades. Songs like "This Little Light of Mine", "Standing on the Promises", "Amazing Grace", "Swing Low Sweet Chariot", and many more. Act II is a super lineup of some of the greatest rock-n-roll hits of our time. We start with a 15-minute medley of Michael Jackson's greatest hits complete with choreography. More hits follow, including "We Will Rock You" and "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" from Queen, "Living on a Prayer" from Bon Jovi, "Forget You" by Cee Lo Green, "Come Sail Away" by Styx, "Pinball Wizard" by The Who, and "Africa" by Toto, which is the same incredible arrangement made famous by Perpetuum Jazzile.

There are many outstanding male and female solo opportunities in this show. NDHS began auditioning for this once-in-a-lifetime choral music opportunity in November at St. Paul's United Methodist Church at Alameda and Griggs, Las Cruces, NM. **Auditions will resume at St. Paul's at 6:00PM on Monday, January 7th and continue through January and into February.**

**For more information call Dave Kinkaid at 575-650-4417.** In addition, every NDHS performance is greatly enhanced by the incredible talents of the students of the New Mexico State University Contemporary Dance Theater under the direction of Dr. Debra Knapp. If you don't want to sing but would like to play a role in staging, sound, or lighting of this concert please contact Don Harlow at 575-373-1816.

# Ratios offer indicators of financial health

## Balancing assets key to evaluating stability

By **Gary Lenzo**

Las Cruces market president, Century Bank  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Operating a successful business requires attention to numbers – especially to basic financial ratios derived from the business's financial statements.

The current and quick ratios calculate a company's liquidity, while the debt ratio evaluates its long-term solvency. The gross profit margin shows if sales revenue covers the expenses incurred in making those sales.

Lenders and investors use business health assessments like these to determine if a company qualifies for a loan or is a good candidate for venture capital. Business owners should use them to regularly evaluate their business's financial standing.



LENZO

### Liquidity ratios

Liquidity ratios divulge whether a company has enough liquid assets to meet its short-term obligations.

To get the current ratio, the owner divides available assets (such as cash, inventory and accounts receivables) by immediate liabilities (such as accounts payables or bills

owed). Current assets are a balance sheet category representing cash and assets the business expects to convert into cash within a year. Current liabilities represent financial obligations that should be settled within a year.

The quick ratio is derived using the same formula but subtracting inventory from the current asset total. It acknowledges that many inventory items can't be quickly turned into cash.

A ratio of 1.5 to 1, for example, means the company has \$1.50 in assets for every dollar in liabilities. The higher the ratio, the easier it is for the company to meet its immediate financial commitments.

Creditors tend to see less risk in a company with a higher ratio, while shareholders see a lower ratio as evidence the company is putting more of its assets to work building wealth. If the ratio seems excessively high, though, the company might have too many assets in inventory or too many outstanding accounts receivable.

### More math

The debt ratio shows how much debt a company has relative to its assets, and this reveals whether the company might not be

able to pay off its loans. A business owner calculates the debt ratio by dividing total debt by total assets.

If the number is one, debt and assets are in balance. If the ratio is 1.2 to 1, though, the company has \$1.20 in debt for every dollar in assets. Ideally, the debt ratio should be less than 1.

Investors and lenders scrutinize a business's debt ratio, and they also look at gross profit margin to measure a business's profitability. This number – also used by owners – shows whether sales revenue covers the cost of materials used in sales.

To calculate the gross profit margin, net income – total sales revenue minus the cost of goods sold – is divided by total sales revenue. The margin is expressed as a percentage that represents the total sales revenue a business keeps after paying sales-

related costs.

The higher the percentage, the better, as a bigger profit margin leaves the company more money to cover other obligations or to invest.

These three ratios aren't the only ones used to evaluate a business's financial stability, but they do give business owners a basic understanding of where things stand.

Century Bank uses these tools and more when analyzing business financial records. To learn more about Century Bank, visit [www.centurynetbank.com](http://www.centurynetbank.com).

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

# Fully integrated tax and claims system launched

## NMDWS seeks to improve efficiency of existing program

The State of New Mexico announced Dec. 28, 2012 that the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) will soon launch a new Unemployment Insurance (UI) Tax & Claims system. DWS Secretary Celina Bussey said it will significantly improve the efficiency and integrity of New Mexico's UI program, enhance the level of service provided to unemployed workers and businesses and strengthen the state's ability to prevent, detect and

recover improper UI payments.

"We have made amazing strides in the past two years with our unemployment insurance system, improving the process for employers and for New Mexicans relying on unemployment benefits until they find work," Gov. Susana Martinez said.

"The new system we are launching on Jan. 6 will help New Mexico improve the timeliness and accuracy of UI payments to unemployed workers and provide convenient, online services for employers, claimants and others who do business with the Department of Workforce Solutions," she said.

"We have also included new analytical tools to help us identify and prevent fraudulent activities in the state's UI program."

Bussey and the NMDWS staff have achieved something no other state has done – simultaneously launching a fully integrated UI Tax and Claims system within a 36-month timeframe.

"We have worked very hard to implement a modern UI system that is more convenient for our customers, more efficient for our workers, and more secure for employers who fund this program," Bussey said. "Our new system will enhance the UI program for those who are eligible for benefits and will integrate automated cross-match tools with systems such as the State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) and databases such as the National Directory of New Hires."

### Conversion week

Now through Saturday, Jan. 5, NMDWS will be converting information into the new UI system. During this time, the department will be unable to respond to inquiries about claims activity. UI Customer Service Agents will be available again on Monday, Jan. 7, at 877-664-6984 to answer any questions.

### Benefits to unemployed workers

The new UI system will enable claimants to conduct routine business online without having to wait for the mail to arrive or talk to a customer service agent. This includes applying for benefits, requesting payments, maintaining account information, or responding to requests for information. These

new self-service options will help expedite UI payments to unemployed workers and more quickly resolve issues between employers and claimants.

### Benefits to New Mexico employers

The new UI system will provide a single repository of all UI business functions. It will enable employers and third-party administrators to register online and directly manage their own UI accounts without NMDWS staff assistance. This self-service functionality will speed up processing of new registrations and appeals, and allow employers to electronically file wage reports and respond to notices of claim filings. It will also automatically calculate taxable wages and amounts due and accept electronic payments. The full suite of services also includes real-time access to current and historical documents and a complete tracking of benefit charges.

### Upgrade benefits to NMDWS Staff

The new UI system streamlines state operations and replaces outdated, manual processes with modern technology. NMDWS staff will now be able to provide better and more direct service to customers.

### Unemployment Insurance program integrity

The new UI system includes what is known as "intelligent data collection and data validation" to reduce errors and increase the accuracy of UI payments. The system recognizes applicants after they have logged into their accounts

and then directs them to the appropriate task. It also includes new tools to prevent overpayments and automated cross-matches with state and federal databases, such as the National Directory of New Hires.

Additional information about the Unemployment Insurance Program, the new Unemployment Insurance Tax & Claims System launching on Sunday, Jan. 6 and the NMDWS is available at [www.dws.state.nm.us](http://www.dws.state.nm.us) For the latest announcements and updates, follow NMDWS on Twitter at ([twitter.com/NMDWS](https://twitter.com/NMDWS)) and its official YouTube channel.

"We have made amazing strides in the past two years with our unemployment system."

SUSANA MARTINEZ,  
governor



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
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# LEGAL NOTICES

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of the Judgment until paid.

The sale is subject to rights and easements of record, to unpaid property taxes and assessments, and to the one (1) month right of redemption in favor of the Defendants as specified in the Judgment filed herein.

PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS AT THE SALE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE THEIR OWN EXAMINATION OF TITLE

AND THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AND TO CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING.

/s/ John A. Darden, III  
P.O. Box 578  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-0578  
(575) 541-6655

Pub # 12611  
Dates 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that on April 27, 2012 John Tellez for John Tellez & Alex Telles, 2581 Scarlet Sage Rd., Los Lunas, NM 87031 filed application numbered LRG-15276-POD3 with the State Engineer for Permit to Change Location of Well within the Lower Rio Grande Underground Basin in Doña Ana County by discontinuing the use of well LRG-

15276-POD 1 located where Latitude and Longitude intersect at 32°7'27.3612"N and 106°42'35.6616"W and drilling a new well LRG-15276-POD3 where Latitude and Longitude intersect at 32°07'26.4894"N and 106°42'39.1485"W, in the NE1/4 NW1/4, Section 23, Township 25 South, Range 2 East, NMPM to be used with existing well LRG-15276-POD2, all on land owned by the applicants for the diver-

sion of 18.84 acre-feet per annum, of which 3.0 acre-feet per annum of groundwater only is identified under LRG-15276-A for domestic purposes and 15.84 acre-feet per annum of groundwater combined with surface water from EBID is identified under LRG-15276 for the irrigation of 3.52 acres of land owned by the applicants and located in part of the NE1/4 NW1/4 of Section 23, Township 25 South, Range

02 East, NMPM and described under subfile LRS-28-009-0050. The proposed well and land are generally described as being south of the intersection of NM Highway 28 and Victoria Street.

Any person, firm or corporation or other entity having standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (legible, signed and include the writer's complete name and

mailing address). The objection to the approval of the application: (1) if impairment, you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) if public welfare or conservation of water within the state of New Mexico, you must show you will be substantially effected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with the State Engineer, 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005 within ten (10) days after the date of the last publication of this Notice. Facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted as a valid protest as long as the hard copy is sent within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing postmark will be used to validate the 24-hour period. Protests can be faxed to 575-524-6160. If no valid protest or objection is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with Sections 72-2-16, 72-5-6 and 72-12-3 of NMSA, 1978.

Pub # 12612  
Dates 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that on December 3, 2012, Armando Lopez, 2001 E. Lohman #110-287, Las Cruces, NM 88001, filed application numbered LRG-15424-POD1 with the State Engineer for Permit to Change Location of Well within the Lower Rio Grande Water Basin in Doña Ana County by discontinuing the use of existing well LRG-12712, located within the SW1/4 NW1/4 NE1/4 of projected Section 35, T22S, R0LE, NMPM, on land owned by Monica Lopez & Mark Leisher and drilling replacement well LRG-15424-POD1 to an approximate depth of 200 feet below ground surface with 6 inch casing to be located within NE1/4 NE1/4 of said Section 35, at approximately X=1,468,652 Y=494,291 feet (N.M.S.P., Central Zone, NAD83) on land owned by the applicant for the continued diversion of up to 4.5 acre-feet per annum, or that amount later determined by the Third Judicial District Court, of shallow groundwater combined with surface water from the EBID, for the irrigation of 1.0 acre of land, owned by the applicant and located within Pt. NE1/4 of said Section 35. Proposed well LRG-15424-POD1 and existing well LRG-12712 are located approximately 50 feet and 1,700 feet west, respectively, of the intersection of Loomis Rd. and Doña Ana Rd., approximately 1.5 miles north of Las Cruces, NM. Well LRG-12712 will be retained for other water rights.

Any person, firm or corporation or other entity having standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (objection must be legible, signed and include the writer's complete name, phone number and mailing address). The objection to the approval of the application must be based on: (1) Impairment; if impairment, you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) Public Welfare/Conservation of Water; if public welfare or conservation of water within the state of New Mexico, you must show how you will be substantially and specifically affected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with the State Engineer, 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005, within ten (10) days after the date of the last publi-

cation of this Notice. Facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted as a valid protest as long as the hard copy is hand delivered or mailed and postmarked within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing postmark will be used to validate the 24-hour period. Protests can be faxed to the Office of the State Engineer, 575-524-6160. If no valid protest or objection is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 72 NMSA 1978.

Pub # 12613  
Dates 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 2013

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT**

The City Council of The City of Las Cruces, New Mexico, Hereby Gives Notice of Its Intent to Adopt The Following Ordinance at a Regular City Council Meeting to be Held on January 22, 2013:

1. Council Bill No. 13-020; Ordinance No. 2675: An Ordinance Repealing LCMC 1997 Chapter 4 Sections 4-1 Through 4-133, "Alarm Systems and Private Security Firms", and Enacting a New LCMC 1997 Chapter 4.

Copies Are Available for Inspection During Working Hours at the Office of the City Clerk. Witness My Hand and Seal of the City of Las Cruces on this the 2nd day of January 2013.

Esther Martinez-Carrillo, CMC  
City Clerk

Pub # 12614  
Dates 1/4, 2013

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF DONA ANA  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COURT**

NO. CV-2012-2661  
Judge Manuel I. Arrieta

**IN THE MATTER OF THE  
PETITION OF William  
Sheehan FOR CHANGE OF  
NAME**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO  
CHANGE NAME**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that William Sheehan, a resident of the City of Las Cruces, County of Dona Ana, State of New Mexico, and over the age of fourteen years, has filed a Petition to Change Name in the Third District Court, Dona Ana County, New Mexico, wherein he seeks to change his name from William Oliver Douglas Sheehan to William Oliver Alexander Caisido, and that this Petition will be heard before the Honorable Manuel Arrieta, District Judge, on the 18th day of January 2013, at the hour of 3:00 p.m., at the Dona Ana County Courthouse, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William Sheehan  
810 Chateau Dr.  
Las Cruces, NM 88005  
575-621-5916

Pub # 12915  
Dates 1/4, 1/11, 2013

The Las Cruces Bulletin is looking for postcards for our "Postcards from the Past" weekly feature. If you have any old postcards that feature Las Cruces and Southern New Mexico, bring them to our office at 840 N. Telshor, Suite E Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm, or call Rachel at 524-8061. We will scan your postcard and return it to you immediately. We will record your name and recognize you for your contribution when the postcard appears in our paper.

**THE LAS CRUCES  
Bulletin**

Local News  
Local Features  
Local People

# Classifieds

## LOST & FOUND

**LOST PET?** Check first at the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley at 3551 Bataan Memorial West (Sonoma Ranch exit off of Hwy. 70 East) for your furry friend. Need a furry friend? Come see us to adopt - there are many great animals that need a loving family! Open 7 days a week. 382-0018

## SPECIAL NOTICES

Drop off your frayed or worn out American flags to Ray McCorkle at the VFW Post 3242, 2001 N. Mesquite for proper disposal. Post is open weekdays at 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at noon.

## HELP WANTED

CPA firm seeking an experienced tax professional to prepare and review individual and business tax returns from February 1 through April 15, 2013. The ideal candidate will have four or more years of individual and business tax return preparation experience and the ability to prepare and be responsible for tax returns that can be filed without extensive additional review. The possibility of work outside the tax season also exists for someone with the right skills, experience and interests, and the hope is that this position will be recurring in subsequent tax seasons. Compensation is competitive and commensurate with experience. Send resume to 715 E. Idaho Ave., Bldg. 1A, Las Cruces, NM 88001

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# Arts & Entertainment

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2013

C1

**Artist works  
from the  
soul  
C3**



**'Karenina' is a miss  
C7**



**Classic cuisine on  
the Camino Real  
C11**



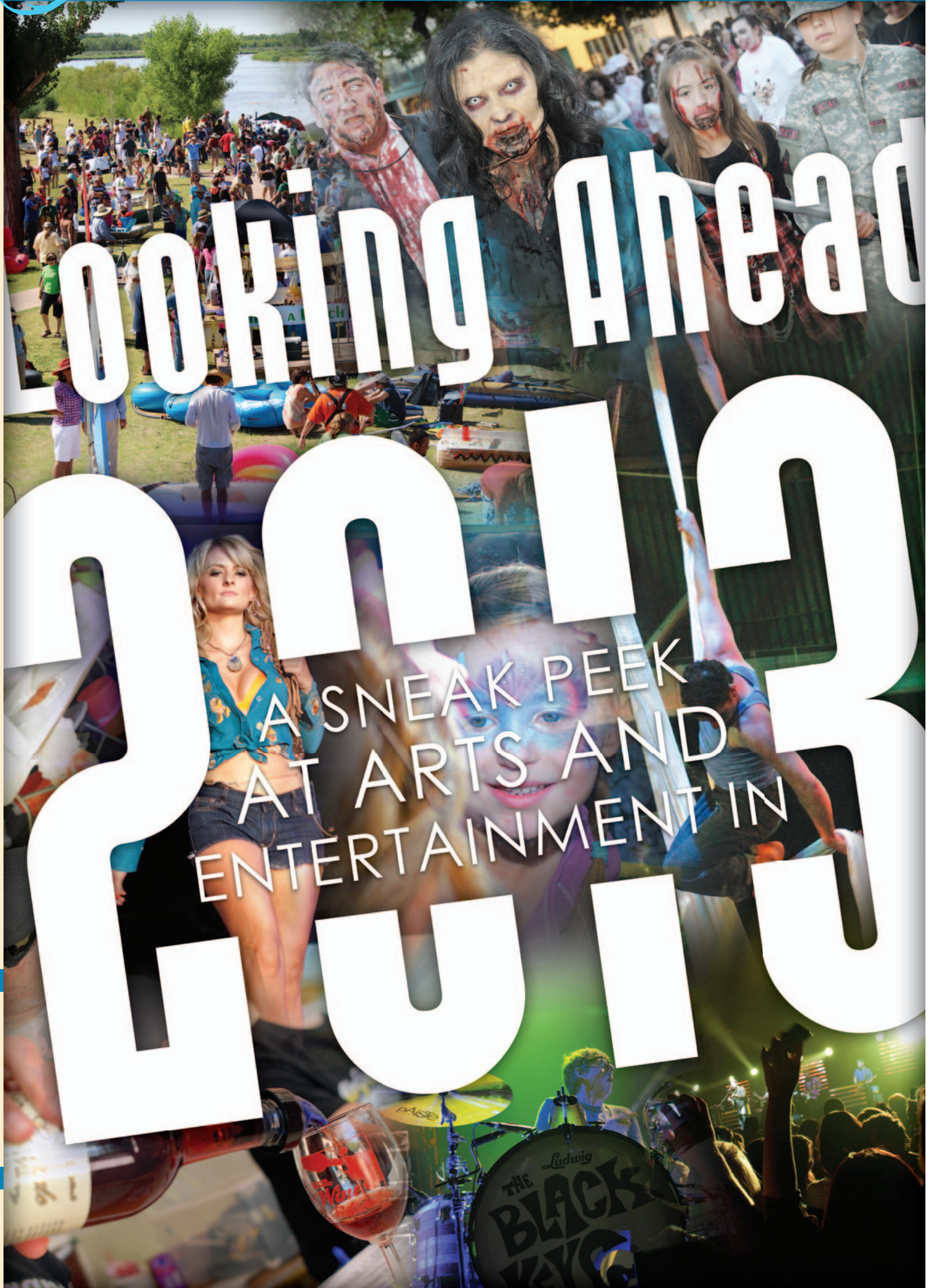
**'This is' growing up  
C18**

## INDEX

Featured Artist .....C3  
Galleries .....C5  
Calendar.....C6  
Featured Group.....C8  
Restaurant Guide .....C10-11  
TV Listings.....C13-16  
Brain Games .....C17  
Movies..... C7, 18-19

## NEXT WEEK

**'Among the  
Dust of Thieves'**  
Film premieres Friday, Jan. 11





Algernon D'Amassa plays Detective Fraser in "Among the Dust of Thieves," coming soon to the Fountain Theatre and Allen Theatres. "Among the Dust of Thieves" tells the true story of the disappearance and death of legendary lawman Col. Albert Fountain.



Tim Maloney as Col. Albert Fountain in "Among the Dust of Thieves."

# Ringling in the New Year

## The arts come alive in 2013

By **Zak Hansen**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

As we close our 100th year of statehood and open the door to 2013, we look toward the coming months, sure to be full of the best of the arts and entertainment in the Mesilla Valley – and make sure our social calendars have the space.

First, a bit of sad news: Due to a lack of funding and support, the skies above Las Cruces will be notably empty in late January – the annual Mesilla Valley Balloon Rally has been cancelled this year. Hopefully the community at large can see this one-of-a-kind

event for what it is, and take the necessary steps to ensure it returns next year. The Mesilla Valley skies dotted with shapes and colors on a cold winter morning are just too beautiful to remain bereft.

Now, on to the good news.

The Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market, voted one of the best open-air farmers markets in the nation, will take full advantage of the completed Main Street. At the beginning of the year, the newly privatized market will expand its Saturday market the length of Main Street, giving patrons even more space to browse the local food and crafts available.

The Black Box Theatre, home to the No

Strings Theatre Company, has a number of shows lined up in the coming months. "The Telephone," Gian-Carlo Menotti's one-act comedy, will take the stage Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 5 - 6. Presented by No Strings and Mesilla Valley Musical Arts, this "opera buffa" (comic opera) performance revolves around all the problems that technology, especially the titular telephone, can cause in a contemporary relationship.

Later in January, No Strings will open its production of the romantic classic "The Fantasticks." First produced in 1960 in New York's Greenwich Village, "The Fantasticks" tells the story of two fathers who devise a plan to unite their children in love and marriage – begin a fake feud. Knowing "how kids are," the fathers deign that the best way to push the son and daughter together is to keep them apart, thinking their fictional disapproval will spark a star-crossed love affair.

"The Fantasticks" is the longest continually running musical in history, and its songs, especially the famous "Try to Remember," are beloved by many.

No Strings Theatre Company's production of "The Fantasticks" opens Friday, Jan. 18, and runs through Sunday, Feb. 3, with performances on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. More information about "The Telephone," "The Fantasticks" and No Strings Theatre Company can be found at [www.no-strings.org](http://www.no-strings.org).

After the close of its extremely well received production of the holiday classic "White Christmas," the Las Cruces Community Theatre is also gearing up for the New Year. Friday, Feb. 1, will see the LCCT open its production of "The Mousetrap" by legendary mystery novelist Agatha Christie.

The plot follows a formula familiar to anyone who's read Christie's work: A group of strangers are stranded in a boarding house during a vicious snowstorm and – guess what – one of them is a murderer. Is it the newlyweds who run the house, the curious spinster with a mysterious background, the retired Army major, the strange child or one of the numerous other guests? Get down to the theater, 313 N. Main St., in February to find out. For a complete schedule and more information, visit <http://lcctnm.org>.

The brand-new, 466-seat Mark and Stephanie Medoff Theatre, located inside the recently completed New Mexico State University Center for the Arts, will hold its first

production in February as well, staging "Our Town."

"Our Town," Thornton Wilder's three-act play, is a character study of the residents of an average American town from 1901 to 1913, using a number of metatheatrical devices. Wilder won the 1938 Pulitzer Prize for drama for "Our Town," and a 1989 staging won the Tony Award for Best Revival. Let's fill up every last one of those seats.

February is also For the Love of Art Month in Las Cruces. Now in its 15th year, For the Love of Art Month, promoted by ArtForms Artists Association of New Mexico, is a month-long celebration of all things art, marked with a number of events, art gallery openings and special performances. While an exact schedule of events is not yet available, visit [www.artformsm.org](http://www.artformsm.org) to view announcements as they are released.

In January, a group of independent Las Cruces filmmakers bring a key figure in Las Cruces' history to the silver screen at Mesilla's historic Fountain Theatre. "Among the Dust of Thieves," shot entirely in New Mexico, tells the story of the mysterious disappearance and death of legendary lawman Col. Albert Jennings Fountain and his 8-year-old son Henry as they traveled from Lincoln County to Mesilla.

The story, written by locals Sean Pilcher and Matt Wilson and directed by Pilcher, will bring the legend of Col. Fountain, who was in his lifetime a Union soldier, mercenary soldier and colonel in the Mexican Army, U.S. Customs collector, state senator and a host of other things, to a new generation of Mesilla Valley residents. Set in 1896, the film follows Doña Ana County Sheriff and District Attorney Fountain as they pursue the cattle rustlers wreaking havoc across the New Mexico landscape. The investigation would lead to his death, which still remains one of the great unsolved crimes of the West.

The film opens with a VIP screening at the Fountain Theatre (which Col. Fountain founded) Thursday, Jan. 10. The public can get their first look at the film beginning Friday, Jan. 11 through Thursday, Jan. 17 at Allen Theatres. This film is a tribute to not only Las Cruces' history, but to its contemporary talent and reverence for what came before. It's surely not to be missed. Visit [www.allentheatresinc.com](http://www.allentheatresinc.com) for show times, and visit [www.albertfountain.com](http://www.albertfountain.com) for more information about the film, as well as this legendary New Mexican.

These are just a few of the more notable events coming to the City of the Crosses in the first few months of the New Year, but by no means all-inclusive. Be sure to check back often – this year, you won't want to miss a thing.



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# Featured Artist: Virginia Maria Romero

## Never stop changing

Virginia Romero embraces art in many different forms

By Zak Hansen  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Virginia Maria Romero is always creating – and changing. Romero, a Las Cruces painter, poet and musician, is “fascinated by the whole process of creating,” and puts much of her own life in her work.

“It’s happening constantly,” she said. “My work is based on my own life experiences, and attempting to express them through my work. The emotion comes from an event, a happening.”

Romero was born in 1952 in Sheffield Lake, Ohio. It was not until 1982 that she came to New Mexico; first Santa Fe, and then to Las Cruces in the early 1990s.

In 1998, after losing her mother, Romero began to make retablos – devotional paintings using iconography of the Catholic faith – and was one of the first non-Hispanic people to master the santero techniques.

Her retablo work earned her worldwide notoriety, and can be found all over the globe – with two of her works presented to Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 and 2010.

Romero is not one for easy categorization, though, and in the past several years she has begun to move away from the more traditional art forms.

For instance, Romero has shied away from the terming of her work as “retablos,” given that it is Hispanic terminology and Romero is not herself Hispanic. She has called her pieces, instead, “pigmented wood panels,” a phrasing she sees as more accurate.

Entering the New Year, Romero said her work has been focused on expanding beyond traditional forms, experimenting with material over tradition and subject and expanding beyond labels.

Romero doesn’t just stick to the visual arts, either. She has two published books of poetry, “The Turtle Called My Name” and “Under the Raven’s Wings: Voices From Two Worlds,” a collaboration with Hector Telles.

Romero got her start in poetry through a friendship, and later almost-mentorship, with one-time New Mexico State University Poet in Residence and professor Keith Wilson, who passed away in 2009, after being named Poet Laureate of the City of Las Cruces. The two collaborated on a short book, but since the poet’s death, it has not yet been published.

Romero, not content to stay in stasis, ever-evolving, has dipped her toes into yet another form. Recently, she ventured into musical territory, combining sounds with her written words and paintings to create an artistic experience that features all three media.

In 2012, Romero teamed with Las Cruces’ New World Drummers to record the audio that would accompany her poetry and artwork. Romero first came into contact with the New World Drummers after meeting the lead drummer and teacher of the group, Karuna Warren. (For more on Warren and the New World Drummers, see page C8.) The resulting multimedia experience “IKTUSHIWI: Raven Speaks ...” is a fusion of art, music and poetry.

“I had been wanting to do that for a long time,” Romero said. “My idea was to have music that complemented my work for when I had a show. It would be less to explain the work, but to speak for the work in another way – to enhance the visual. The images, words and sounds combine to create something bigger than each of them individually.”

For the coming year, Romero has new work to do and a new outlook.

“It’s now 2013,” she said. “I’m ready for expanding, getting rid of labels, freeing myself from all of that.”

This ever-changing, constantly in motion life can be difficult for some, but for Romero, it offers a chance to keep evolving.

“Really, that’s life,” she said. “It’s ongoing. It’s life – that’s what you do. You keep changing, evolving, moving, people are inspired, or they aren’t, and whatever happens, happens.”

To learn more about Romero’s work and to find out where it can currently be seen on display, visit her website [www.virginiamariaromero.com](http://www.virginiamariaromero.com).

Romero’s “St. Francis & His Wild Desert Friends” was chosen to grace the label of a Merlot produced by Santa Fe Vineyards.



Romero’s 2012 “Yuna: Wikko’o” is on display at the Liza Williams Gallery in Santa Fe.



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FRI. JAN 4	11:30 A.M.
People & Stories	Branigan Library
FRI. JAN 4	3 P.M.
Fantastic Fridays – Stories & Crafts ages 7–11	Branigan Library
SAT. JAN 5	9 A.M.
LC Farmers & Crafts Market	Downtown Main St.
SAT. JAN 5	10:30 A.M.
Storytellers of Las Cruces	COAS Bookstore
SAT. JAN 5	3 P.M.
The Best Year of Your Life	Branigan Library
SAT. JAN 5	8 P.M.
The Telephone	Black Box Theatre
SUN. JAN 6	3 P.M.
The Telephone	Black Box Theatre
TUE. JAN 8	10:30 A.M.
Read to Me – Storytime ages 3 & Up	Branigan Library
TUE. JAN 8	10:30 A.M.
Off Camera Flash Workshop	SW Environmental Center
WED. JAN 9	9 A.M.
LC Farmers & Crafts Market	Downtown Main St.
WED. +THU. JAN 9+10	10 A.M.
Toddler Time! Stories for kids 1–3	Branigan Library
WED. JAN 9	11 A.M.
Mother Goose Time	Branigan Library
WED. JAN 9	2 P.M.
DAC Genealogical Society Meeting	Branigan Library
WED. JAN 9	2 P.M.
Reading Art Book Club	LC Museum of Art
WED. JAN 9	5:30 P.M.
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# 'At the end of the day'

## 'Les Misérables' is suprisingly successful

By **Gerald M. Kane**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

It was with much anxiousness and a mandatory trip to the restroom beforehand (trust me on this one) did I settle in my comfortable seat in a moderately crowded theater in the Allen Cineport 10 complex in Mesilla Valley Mall for an early morning two-and-a-half-hour screening of the musical "Les Misérables."

My anxiousness was well founded. The film is remarkable in many ways, but it does have its flaws.

I have had a long and tempestuous relationship with Victor Hugo's epic tale of crime, punishment, atonement and redemption starting from Miss Giraldi's French class at Eastside High School in Paterson, N.J., where I struggled through chapter upon chapter of the tale.

Over the years, I viewed numerous screen and television adaptations. When the musical production opened in London to rave reviews over a quarter of a century ago, I, along with many in my generation, played the LP and later the CD over and over. I couldn't wait to see a live performance.

On June 1, 1988, I was invited to review the opening of the Los Angeles company of "Les Misérables" for the Phoenix NPR outlet. It was glamorous and amazing. I so remember Patti Lupone as Fantine singing "I Dreamed a Dream." She looked appropriately gaunt and ghostlike as she lay dying in a very large bed, and her voice rang through the theater. She received a standing ovation.

When the company finished "One Day More" to end the first act, the thunderous applause was deafening, followed by another

standing ovation.

I reviewed the show a second time in Kansas City and was even more impressed by the strong touring cast, technical details (the infamous ever spinning turntables on a dangerously raked stage) and also saw a hysterical spoof on "Les Miz" in a production of "Forbidden Broadway."

As the carefully constructed media hype for the Christmas Day release of this multi-million dollar production began to roll out, and cast names were circulated, excitement continued to grow. The biggest buzz was around the casting of Anne Hathaway as factory worker-turned-prostitute Fantine. The casting of Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe

as central characters and adversaries Jean Valjean and Javert were a curiosity for some. Jackman, not so much. His singing, acting and box office credentials were assured. Russell Crowe "crowing" was not what many had in mind. The detractors, myself included, were correct.

Crowe doesn't "crow" his lyrics – he "barks" them. By film's end, we were relieved that Javert kills himself and gets off the screen.

Speaking of barks, let us make special mention of Samantha Barks. The important role of waif-like Eponine was rumored to have been offered to Taylor Swift. Fortunately for all, that never happened. Producer Cameron Mackintosh offered the role to London musical actress Barks who played the role in London. Her voice is poignant and her acting is just fine.

One of the most significant directorial decisions by Tom Hooper (who won an Oscar for "The King's Speech") was to shoot the actors' singing live, as opposed to the customary filming technique of recording a full soundtrack and having the actors lip-synch. This

“ We witness every tear, every birthmark, every makeup smudge, every wince, every sneer, up close and personal. ”



Russell Crowe stars as the evil prison guard Javert in Tom Hooper's adaptation of the classic French novel "Les Misérables," now playing at Allen Theatres.

was a wise choice. In doing so, a more spontaneous and satisfying performance is delivered, most notably by Hathaway, who, by all movie buffs will walk away with an armful of awards.

One cannot complete a review of "Les Miz" without mentioning Hooper's decision to film most dialogue full face. We witness every tear, every birthmark, every makeup smudge, every wince, every sneer (not much laughter or smiling in this film) up close and personal. By filming so close, Hooper invades that personal space which can make many uncomfortable. On those rare occasions when we take in a wider frame of vision, we are not disappointed. The glorious scene in the monastery at the end of the Prelude, when Valjean tears up his identity paper which is carried away by the wind, we are lifted emotionally and visually to a beautiful place.

In sum, this flawed version of "Les Misérables" has much to commend. Visually it amazes. Musically it validates the melodies which have embedded themselves in fans'

minds for a quarter of a century, although most prefer hearing the original cast recordings which are on the market. The performances by and large are powerful and memorable. Hathaway's Fantine in particular will endure and seal her fame in the industry. Hopefully she will find a vehicle to showcase her vocal gifts on Broadway.

The media has stirred up an amazing amount of hype for this film, and the Christmas Day box office receipts have exceeded more than \$18 million. The addition of many awards will make this musical a mega-hit. Is it worth your time and attention? Mais oui!

"Les Misérables" is currently playing at the Allen Cineport 10 in Mesilla Valley Mall.

*Gerald Kane has reviewed theater, music, opera, film and books 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 is the Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces and teaches "Jews on Screen" at NMSU.*

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## Change is in the air

### New Year begins at Las Cruces museums

Change is in the air as 2013 begins, and the Foundation for Las Cruces Museums is happy to announce it is time again for the annual membership meeting.

We cordially invite all members of the Foundation to attend. The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, in the new Museum of Nature & Science.

In addition to mingling with other Friends and hearing reports from 2012, elections will be held for the positions of president, vice president and secretary.

There is still time for interested members to get their name on the ballot; contact the Foundation at [info@foundationlcm.com](mailto:info@foundationlcm.com).

Several fantastic exhibits at the museums have carried into the New Year, including "Pueblo to Pueblo: The Legacy of Southwest Indian Pottery" at the Branigan Cultural Center.

Events complementing the exhibit also continue this month, including the "Designing Paquimé Pottery Workshop" on Saturday, Jan. 12. Nine- to 12-year-old students will create their own pottery and homemade paintbrushes with techniques, designs and materials used in the ancient site of Paquimé,

Chihuahua.

On Thursday, Jan. 17, join archaeologist Jeffrey Romney for his lecture presentation "From Fire and Earth:

Pueblo Pottery Traditions of the Southwest". A documentary viewing will be held Saturday, Jan. 19, for "Classic Maria Martinez: Native American Pottery Maker of San Ildefonso".

Also continuing at the Branigan is "Life in Reflection: the Photographs of Mary Daniels Taylor", a beautiful and candid collection of photos by the late wife of J. Paul Taylor. An informal walk and talk through the exhibit with J. Paul Taylor will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23.

The Museum of Art continues showing "Las Cruces Collects" this month. As part of the ongoing exhibition, the museum will host a gallery talk and tour with avid art collector Ammu Devasthali on Saturday, Jan. 12.

A final gallery talk by collector David Sorensen is scheduled for the last day of "Las Cruces Collects", Saturday, Jan. 19. Sorensen will discuss his collection of Scandinavian works and its influence on his own artwork.

Registration has begun for winter/spring studio art classes at the museum. The last day to register is Friday, Jan. 11, with classes starting Tuesday, Jan. 15. New offerings this session include Glass Fusing and Fabric Printing & Dyeing.

At the Museum of Nature & Science, there are lots of fun and engaging learning opportunities this month for your

preschooler or elementary-aged child, including Fetch! at the Las Cruces Farmers' & Crafts Market and Grandma Mona's Science Story Time. Check out the Events Calendar for MoNaS at [www.las-cruces.org/museums](http://www.las-cruces.org/museums).

After wrapping up the eighth annual Old Fashioned Holiday Display with the largest turnout yet, the Railroad Museum is moving full-steam ahead into the New Year. Visit the museum at noon Tuesday, Jan. 8, when author and native Las Crucean George Hackler will present his lecture "The Butterfield Trail in New Mexico."

We hope to see all of our Friends at the annual meeting next Friday! If you are not yet a member supporting the Las Cruces Museum system, please consider joining the Foundation.

For more information, visit [www.foundationlcm.com](http://www.foundationlcm.com).

*Jennifer Perez is the communications chair for the Foundation for Las Cruces Museums. She can be reached at [info@foundationlcm.com](mailto:info@foundationlcm.com).*





# Galleries & Openings

## LAST CHANCE

**THE POTTERIES OF MESILLA** is having its annual fall exhibit and sale. New ceramic works and paintings are exhibited by Jeanne Rundell and Janice and Bill Cook.

The gallery/studio is located at 2260 Calle de Santiago, two blocks from the Mesilla Plaza, west of the Basilica of San Albino.

The Potteries' store hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 524-0538.

## NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

presents "Rematerialized." The exhibition includes a group of nine contemporary artists from the United States and Canada who challenge conventions about what art can be, what art can be made from and how one operates as an artist. Their work focuses on the use of objects, performances and spaces, recycled, reapplied, recast, recombined and re-contextualized from the everyday material world. Exhibition runs through Friday, Jan. 11.

The University Art Gallery is located in D.W. Williams Art Center at 1390 E. University Ave. Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call 646-2545 or visit [www.nmsu.edu/artgal](http://www.nmsu.edu/artgal).

## OPENING

**ROKOKO GALLERY** will host an artists reception for participants in the "Refrigerator Art Show," from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11. Art, food drink, music and a good time will be provided. The "Refrigerator Art Show"

will be held through Saturday, Feb. 23.

Rokoko Gallery is located at 1785 Avenida de Mesilla. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. For more information, call 405-8877 or visit [www.rokokoart.com](http://www.rokokoart.com).

## MESQUITE ART GALLERY

will feature a collection of White Sands photographs for the month of January.

During the fall and winter months, the low sun provides a wonderful light on the gypsum dunes – you can capture beautiful images at almost all times of the day.

An opening reception will be held 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12.

Mesquite Art Gallery is located at 340 N. Mesquite St. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 640-3502.

## ONGOING

**MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY** will feature for the month of January the work of two photographers, Ali Keyes and Alexander Erickson.

Keyes uses a wide range of subject matter, studying in Virginia schools and under the supervision of her artist mother, who also owned an art gallery. Keyes has received numerous awards, is a member of a number of local art organizations and is on the board of the City of Las Cruces Art Loan Program.

Alexander Erickson, also from Las Cruces, specializes in the use of metallic photo paper, capturing electrifying night storms.

The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is located at 2470 Calle de Guadalupe, suite A. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through

Sunday. For more information, call 522-2933 or visit [www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com](http://www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com).

## THE TOMBAUGH GALLERY

presents Micah Pearson's "Digital Dreams," a show that moves through space and time, melding the realistic and the fantastical and demonstrating the potential for artistic expression using mixed-media including photography, hand drawing and digital modeling and manipulation. The exhibit will run through Wednesday, Jan. 30.

The Tombaugh Gallery of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces is located at 2000 S. Solano Drive. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. For more information, call 522-7281.

## NEW MEXICO FARM & RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM

presents "Mesilla Valley Weavers: Threads Through Time." This diverse exhibition features 44 different woven works from the artists of the Mesilla Valley Weavers Guild. The exhibit will be in the arts corridor through March.

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum is located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 522-4100.

## BRANIGAN CULTURAL CENTER

presents "Life in Reflection: The Photography of Mary Daniels Taylor," a retrospective exhibit of Mesilla artist Mary Daniels Taylor.

Taylor was an avid historian and photographer, and "Life in Reflection" is a peek into her journeys from candid shots of her children, beautiful landscapes and mesmerizing portraits of people she found



Paho Mann's "Junk Drawer" is part of the New Mexico State University Art Gallery's show "Rematerialized." The show closes Friday, Jan. 11.

on her travels. Taylor, who passed in 2007, was the wife of state Rep. J. Paul Taylor, who retired from the legislature in 2004. The exhibit will remain up through Jan. 26.

The Cultural Center also presents "Pueblo to Pueblo: The Legacy of Southwest Indian Pottery" Pueblo pottery is a beautiful artistic tradition of the American Southwest. It serves as a form of cultural identity for the Pueblo people while reflecting on influences from outside of the communities. "Pueblo to

Pueblo" displays more than 100 years of artifacts that date from mid-19th to mid-20th centuries. The exhibition is drawn solely from the vast collections of Union Station and the Kansas City Museum.

The Branigan Cultural Center is located at 501 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 541-2154 or visit [www.las-cruces.org/museums](http://www.las-cruces.org/museums).

## THE CUTTER GALLERY

presents new works by Lyuba and Aleksander Titovets. Aleksander Titovets is Siberian born and was educated in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he earned a Master of Fine Arts from St. Petersburg University College of Fine Arts. Lyuba Titovets began painting at 5, and she earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts from the University College of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, where she worked in stage and costume design and was involved in the development of an art history program.

The 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.

## LAS CRUCES MUSEUM

OF ART presents "Las Cruces Collects," an exhibition of pieces from private art collections in the Las Cruces area. The pieces of four

collections – from David Sudimack and Phil Born, Ammu and Rama Devasthali, David Sorenson and Charles Townley – will be on display through Saturday, Jan. 19.

The Las Cruces Museum of Art is located at 491 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 541-2137 or visit [www.las-cruces.org/museums](http://www.las-cruces.org/museums).

## MOUNTAIN GALLERY

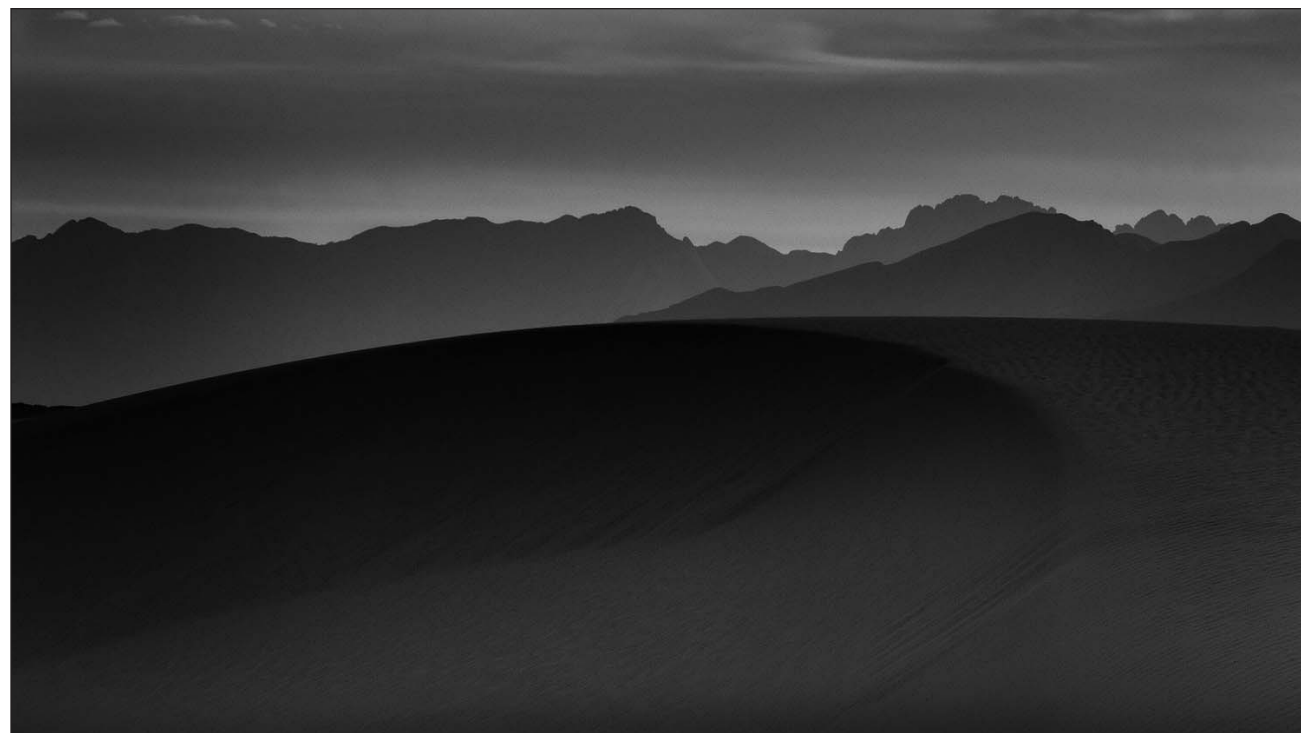
will feature the Las Cruces Arts Association's miniatures show, in addition to co-op members' work. This show will run through the end of January.

Mountain Gallery is located at 138 Mountain Ave. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. For more information, call 652-3385.

## DOÑA ANA COUNTY

GOVERNMENT CENTER will display more than 100 original pieces of student artwork from the Las Cruces and Gadsden public schools. The exhibit includes paintings, etchings, photographs and drawings. The artists range from elementary to high school students. The student art shows have been a rotating fixture of Doña Ana County's main lobby since 2000.

The Doña Ana County Government Center is located at 845 N. Motel Blvd. Galleries are located in the main lobby. For more information, call 525-5801.



"Colored Range" by photographer and gallery owner Mel Stone is one of several photographs of White Sands on display at Mesquite Art Gallery throughout the month of January.

# EventsCalendar

## SAT. 1/5

**9 a.m. to noon. Mountain View Market Co-op Farm Volunteer days,** Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculture, composting, laying hens, season extension and crop planning in our region? Come and volunteer at the Mountain View Market farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 523-0436 for directions.

**9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market,** Downtown Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art. Free. Email [fcmarket@las-cruces.org](mailto:fcmarket@las-cruces.org).

**10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces,** COAS Bookstores, 1101 S. Solano Drive and 317 S. Main St. Douglas Jackson will be the storyteller at the Downtown location, and Nancy Banks will be the storyteller at the Solano location. Free. Call 524-8471.

**3 to 4:30 p.m. Free acupuncture session,** Mountain View Market Co-Op, 1300 El Paseo Road Suite M. Never tried acupuncture but are curious about this form of therapy? Ryan Bemis, director of Crossroads Community Acupuncture and a doctor of Oriental medicine, will offer a short presentation on acupuncture and will be available to answer questions. Free, but donations are appreciated and go to clinics in Ciudad Juárez. Call 312-6569.

**8 p.m. "The Telephone,"** Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Mesilla Valley Musical Arts and No Strings Theatre Company will present a performance of Giancarlo Menotti's one-act comedy "The Telephone." Cost \$10. \$9 for students and seniors. Call 523-1223.

## SUN. 1/6

**3 p.m. "The Telephone,"** Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Mesilla Valley Musical Arts and No Strings Theatre Company will present a performance of Giancarlo Menotti's one-act comedy "The Telephone." Cost \$10. \$9 for students and seniors. Call 523-1223.

## MON. 1/7

**New Desert Harmony Singers auditions,** St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave. The New Desert Harmony Singers will begin rehearsals and auditions for its annual spring show. Auditions will continue through January and in to February. Free. To confirm a rehearsal or audition time, call Dave Kinkaid at 650-4417 or Don Harlow at 312-2194.

## TUE. 1/8

**7 p.m. Off-camera flash workshop,** Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St. Doña Ana Camera Club member Scott Caretto will provide a technical workshop of off-camera flash. Meetings offer technical presentations, friendly suggestions for improving member photos, travelogues, networking and other activities for a spectrum of photographers and abilities. Cost \$10 per year. Call 532-1919.

## WED. 1/9

**9 a.m. to noon. Mountain View Market Co-op Farm Volunteer days,** Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculture, composting, laying hens, season extension and crop planning in our region? Come and volunteer at the Mountain View Market farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 523-0436 for directions.

**9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market,** Downtown Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art. Free. Email [fcmarket@las-cruces.org](mailto:fcmarket@las-cruces.org).

**2:30 p.m. Reading Art Book Club,** Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. The book club is dedicated to exploring the connections between art and literature through reading and discussing books. This week's selection is "The Passion of Artemisia" by Susan Vreeland. In this work of historical fiction, the author focuses on the life and career of Italian Renaissance painter Artemesia Gentileschi. Free. Call 541-2137.

**3 to 5 p.m. Tarot sessions with Faye Dancing Cloud,** Mountain View Market Co-op, 1300 El Paseo Road Suite M. Faye Dancing Cloud offers predictive Tarot readings to bring harmony into your relationship with the present moment. Suggested donation of \$1 per minute. Call 523-0436.

**6 to 7:30 p.m. "Living the Life You Want to Live: An Introduction to Psychological Wellness,"** Mountain View Market Co-op, 1300 El Paseo Road Suite M. Retired psychologist Al Galves will lead this event and explain how to use all of your emotions – including the so-called negative ones – to live more the way you want to live. Free. Call 522-8371.

**7:45 to 8:45 p.m. Self mastery book club,** Mountain View Market Co-op, 1300 El Paseo Road Suite M. Join YourDay Las Cruces lifestyle coach Siddeeq



The New Desert Harmony Singers will hold open auditions for its upcoming annual spring show beginning Monday, Jan. 7, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave.

Shabazz in these ongoing discussions. January's featured book is "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen Covey. Free. Call 459-2671.

## THU. 1/10

**7 p.m. Speaker series: "Kit Carson: The Life of an American Border Man,"** New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Author David Remley will discuss his new book, "Kit Carson: The Life of an American Border Man," which strikes a balance between prevailing notions about this polarizing, quintessential Western figure. Suggested donation \$2. Call 522-4100.

## FRI. 1/11

**1 to 9 p.m. Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo,** Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. The ideal event for any outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, skydiving, camping, rock climbing and more. The event will also include tactical combat laser tag and an interactive trout pond. Cost \$8 adults, children 12 and younger are free. Call Patrick Drake at 526-0112.

## SAT. 1/12

**9 a.m. to noon. Mountain View Market Co-op Farm Volunteer days,** Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculture, composting, laying hens, season extension and crop planning in our region? Come and volunteer at the Mountain View Market farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 523-0436 for directions.

**9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market,** Downtown Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art. Free. Email [fcmarket@las-cruces.org](mailto:fcmarket@las-cruces.org).

**9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo,** Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. The ideal event for any outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, skydiving, camping, rock climbing and more. The event will also include tactical combat laser tag and an interactive trout pond. Cost \$8 adults, children 12 and younger are free. Call Patrick Drake at 526-0112.

**10 to 11 a.m. "Designing Paquimé Pottery Workshop with Explora Musuem,"** Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St. In this program, students explore the techniques, designs and materials used by potters from the ancient site of Paquimé in Chihuahua. Using a variety of materials and natural pigments, students make their own pottery and homemade paintbrushes Paquimé style. Ages 9 to 12. Free. Call 541-2154 to register.

**10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces,** COAS Bookstores, 1101 S. Solano Drive and 317 S. Main St. Loni Todoroki will be the storyteller at the Downtown location, and Gloria Hacker will be the storyteller at the Solano location. Free. Call 524-8471.

**1 p.m. Gallery talk and tour,** Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. As part of the ongoing "Las Cruces Collects" exhibition, the Las Cruces Museum of Art hosts a gallery talk and tour with Ammu Devasthali. Free. Call 541-2137.

## SUN. 1/13

**9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo,** Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. The ideal event for any outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, skydiving, camping, rock climbing and more. The event will also include tactical combat laser tag and an interactive trout pond. Cost \$8 adults, children 12 and younger are free. Call Patrick Drake at 526-0112.

## TUE. 1/15

**7 p.m. Doña Ana Camera Club January meeting,** Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St. The January meeting of the Doña Ana Camera Club will feature a presentation by Ron Saltzman. Saltzman will be providing a travelogue of his trips to the Armendaris Ranch, a 358,000-acre private ranch in central New Mexico, owned by Ted Turner and host to several wildlife research projects. Cost \$10 per year. Call 532-1919.

**8 p.m. Sofia Talvik in concert,** High Desert Brewing Co., 1201 W. Hadley Ave. Swedish folk/pop artist Sofia Talvik will perform as part of her North American tour. Free. Call 525-6752.

## WED. 1/16

**9 a.m. to noon. Mountain View Market Co-op Farm Volunteer days,** Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculture, composting, laying hens, season extension and crop planning in our region? Come and volunteer at the Mountain View Market farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 523-0436 for directions.

**9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market,** Downtown Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art. Free. Email [fcmarket@las-cruces.org](mailto:fcmarket@las-cruces.org).

**3 to 5 p.m. Tarot sessions with Faye Dancing Cloud,** Mountain View Market Co-op, 1300 El Paseo Road Suite M. Faye Dancing Cloud offers predictive Tarot readings to bring harmony into your relationship with the present moment. Suggested donation of \$1 per minute. Call 523-0436.

**6 to 7:30 p.m. "Living the Life You Want to Live: An Introduction to Psychological Wellness,"** Mountain View Market Co-op, 1300 El Paseo Road Suite M. Retired psychologist Al Galves will lead this event and explain how to use all of your emotions – including the so-called negative ones – to live more the way you want to live. Free. Call 522-8371.

**7:45 to 8:45 p.m. Self mastery book club,** Mountain View Market Co-op, 1300 El Paseo Road Suite M. Join YourDay Las Cruces lifestyle coach Siddeeq Shabazz in these ongoing discussions. January's featured book is "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen Covey. Free. Call 459-2671.

## THU. 1/17

**Noon to 3 p.m. Psychic readings,** Mountain View Market Co-op, 1300 El Paseo Road. Psychic readings will be offered by Dawn Cheney. Her work with other healing systems and knowledge of Healing Touch, Reiki, Sekhem and Shamanic tools are available as well. Donation is suggested. Call 233-1108.

# AtTheMovies



Kiera Knightley stars as Anna, a Russian aristocrat drawn into a passionate love affair, in "Anna Karenina," now showing at the Fountain Theatre.



Jude Law stars as Anna's husband Alexei Karenin.

## A captivating failure

'Anna Karenina' is unforgivable

Review by **Jeff Berg**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

I learned a new word recently. Iteration. So, here is how I will first use it.

In this 27th film iteration of Tolstoy's classic novel, "Anna Karenina," not much is right. In fact, at one point, Count Vronsky, the man who becomes Anna's lover, states, "this is unendurable." I couldn't have agreed more. He was referring to his relationship with the neurotic Anna. I'm referring to the movie.

And do note, I've never read the book and only barely suffered through earlier film versions of same, so I might have a slight prejudice here, as opposed to real reviewers, who are often out of touch with audiences, who may have heaped praise upon the film.

Keira Knightley stars Anna. Jude Law plays her husband Alexei Karenin. They are Russian aristocrats, and as it seems for most of the high born and noble of the time, they all are incredibly bored as they swish around their estates and eyeball each other at parties and gatherings. Both actors do a pretty fair job with their roles, although Knightley might be too beautiful to be an actress. The costuming is striking as well, but that's where the positive ends.

Anna falls for the Count Vronsky, their bedtime ramifications change the course of their lives and those around them, and so it carries on as do they.

The problems lie in the fact that director Joe Wright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard apparently worked together to try and make a somewhat avant garde work of the source material.

Characters are not introduced, and unless you are achingly familiar with the book, it can be pretty puzzling as to who is who.

The movie is sort of staged as a play – emphasis on "sort of" – wherein some scenes are shown to be on stage, to no audience. Train scenes, of which there are plenty, that show the outside of the train purposely show that it is a miniature and not the real thing or CGI. Dance scenes, one in particular, require the stars to swoosh by the others in the ballroom, who are frozen, and once that happens they are able to dance.

The film wanders and becomes ponderous, especially during the second half, after Anna sends Alexei a note to let him know she is dying. Hooray, I thought, the end is near! Alas, it's just an opening for the final third of the movie.

Anna is eschewed by most everyone, Alexei is bitter and unforgiving and the Count may be bedding another. Side characters appear and disappear, and the whole thing ends in a stage presentation type flourish, but by then, I was ready to go home.

To its credit, the film is a beautifully shot and a huge production, and the use of a 19th century theater stage for parts of it is quite unique. I've not seen a horse race swoop across a stage before.

As mentioned, the costuming is captivating, and 100 different sets were used for 240 scenes and there are 83 speaking parts. It can be exhausting.

In the end, none of it worked for me. The pluses were unable to overtake the minuses and I was glad when Anna jumped in front of the train.

"Forgive me", she says as she does so, and forgive me if you are a lover of such indigestible dreck.

Chastise me at [jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin.com)



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**Dulcinea Lara, Ph.D**  
*Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, NMSU*

**Race, Representation and  
Uncomfortable Truths**

We will use images, sound and visual clips to explore the concepts: race, representation and racism in interactive ways. In a society where we are guided to believe that serious issues of racism are in our past, these ideas can be challenging. We will start broadly by discussing theories and language about race and then look at how those theories hold up across different scales and landscapes. The discussion will take us from broad, global-historical conceptions to honing in our US manifestations of racial categories. We will end the series by looking close to home -- at racial representations in New Mexico and in Las Cruces. What do race and racism resemble in our own lived realities? Throughout the series, we will be asked to think critically about ways to begin unseating these power relations based on socially constructed categories called race.

**Coffee:** 10:00-10:30 a.m.

**Program:** 10:30-Noon

**Location:** Good Samaritan Auditorium,  
3011 Buena Vida Circle

**Fee:** \$4 per day - members,  
\$5 per day - non-members

**For more details, visit:**  
[www.dacc.nmsu.edu/comed/ALR](http://www.dacc.nmsu.edu/comed/ALR)  
or call Don Finke: 522-6512



# The Music Scene

## Featured group: *New World Drummers* **More than just the love of music**

### New World Drummers share love with community

By **Zak Hansen**  
 Las Cruces Bulletin

A lifelong love of music and a commitment to share the passion and power of drumming has fueled Karuna and Marie Warren's desire to not only play music for themselves, but to expand that love and dedication to members of the community, young and old.

Karuna Warren and his wife have been teaching drumming and dance in Las Cruces since the couple arrived in the Mesilla Valley in 1991.

In 1996, after years of teaching, the Warrens wanted to expand their scope and reach, so they formed an ensemble, composed primarily of former and current students. They called the group the New World Drummers.

Since 1996, the New World Drummers have performed all over New Mexico and west Texas, including performances in El Paso, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Taos, Alamogordo and, of course, Las Cruces, including several stints at the Renaissance ArtsFaire and Downtown Art Rambles.

The ensemble, now in its 16th year, combines drumming, music and dance, with Karuna Warren leading the percussionists and Marie Warren the dancers. The New World

Drummers currently consists of about eight drummers and four dancers, with some of the musicians as young as 6 years old.

For the more than 10 years, the New World Drummers met and practiced at the Mesilla Recreation Center, until city funding was cut and the hours of Las Cruces recreation centers were cut back to compensate. Soon after, though, the New World Drummers found a new home.

For the last eight months, the New World Drummers have been using a space offered to them by First Christian Church, after the group held a performance for children at the church and were invited to practice there.

Karuna Warren's love for drumming stemmed from a life that began as a child musician. Throughout the course of his life, he has played classical piano, holding his first concert at 13 years old, as well as mastering the saxophone and guitar.

It was during a five-year stay in Copenhagen, Denmark, that Warren discovered his passion for the drums.

"While I was living in Copenhagen, we were able to bring in different African groups to play with," Warren said. "From there, I started playing drums when I came back to the United States. I've been playing ever since."

Warren and his wife left their home in Chicago in 1991 and came to Las Cruces. Almost immediately, they began sharing their love for rhythm, teaching around the area and later forming the New World Drummers.

"I'm the lead drummer and teacher, and Marie does the dancing," he said of the setup.

The Warrens have been bringing their passion for drumming and dance to area schools for many years, playing at assemblies as well as working with music teachers. They've also done workshops with a number of elementary, middle and high schools, "working with everyone from toddlers to teens."

An assembly, Warren said, can number as large as 200 students. To make sure everyone gets a chance, he and his wife often take about 30 students at a time, give a short lesson and let them play, and then select another 30. The New World Drummers make their own drums, bringing up to 50 with them to each school assembly, and teach students to make their own drums.

"Just about every city in New Mexico, we've traveled to and taught at," Warren said. "That's what we've been doing since 1991."

Warren also held a residence at Court Youth Center for several years, "teaching the kids how to make drums, as well as how to play drums."

While teaching at CYC, Warren met New

Mexico artist Virginia Maria Romero, and the two banded around the idea of working together. (For a feature on Romero, see page C3)

These plans have recently come to fruition: The New World Drummers collaborated with Romero for an artistic experience unlike any other, combining visual art, poetry, rhythm, music and dance.

The result, "IKTUSHIWI: Raven Speaks ..." is described as "an eclectic mix of ethereal, soulful and powerful intuitive primal expression, complementary to Romero's visual creations." Romero's original artwork and poetry became the inspiration for the accompanying sounds created by the New World Drummers, with Romero joining the group on flute, drum and other percussion instruments.

After many decades of playing drums and passing on his knowledge and passion for percussion to younger generations, Warren sees drumming as more than just making music.

"A lot of people think you're just banging on a drum," he said, "but it's a lot more than that. You get involved and you get into a number of different studies.

"To me, drumming is a healing art. I play not only for the joy of playing music, but to communicate and heal as well. When you're drumming, you are using your hands, you are using your body, and you are using your sweat glands. It's good for the mind, body and spirit."



**Valentine's Specials**  
**\$149-249**  
 Offers valid Sunday-Thursday through 2/28. Must book by February 8.

**Superior Special - \$149**  
 Superior or Luxury room for one night, 1/2 dozen red roses and champagne.  
 (Offer not available for other room types)

**Suite Special - \$249**  
 Suite for one night, 1 dozen red roses, champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries.  
 (Offer not available for Presidential suites)

**OFFER CODE: LOVE 1**      **OFFER CODE: LOVE 2**

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The New World Drummers (front to back): Virginia Maria Romero, Tom Myers, Karuna Richard Warren, Harlan McKay, Mei Ling Po McKay, Marie W. Warren, Jesus Mendoza and Ryan Bright

# Call to artists

## ARTFORMS ARTISTS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

ArtForms Artists Association of New Mexico is calling members to participate in For the Love of Art Month 2013. The member exhibit will be held at the Branigan Cultural Center Feb. 1 through 23. One piece completed in the past two years and not previously shown allowed. Artist's statement and 300 dpi .jpg or .TIFF may be submitted for publicity purposes. The deadline is Saturday, Jan. 12. Members may also sign up for Studio Tours Feb. 9-10 or Feb. 23-24, Art Around Town and Special Event opportunities. See

www.artformsnm.org for submission and membership forms. For more information, contact Joanna Bradley at artformsfloa@gmail.com.

## ROKOKO GALLERY

Rokoko Gallery seeks artwork for a group show called "The Refrigerator Art Show." Submissions are due Sunday, Jan. 6. The basic theme of the show is small, expressive art. Size is limited to 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches and must be hangable unless a sculpture. Adult entry fee is \$10, youth is \$5. Opening reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11, at Rokoko Gallery, 1785 Avenida

de Mercado. For more information, call 405-8877.

## MESILLA VALLEY FINE ART GALLERY

The Mesilla Valley Fine Art gallery, located at 247-A Calle de Guadalupe, has an opening for fine artists to display their work. Drop by and pick up an application, or call 522-2933

## LAS CRUCES ARTS ASSOCIATION

The Las Cruces Arts Association has spaces available for artists in its cooperative gallery inside the Mountain Gallery, 138 W. Mountain Ave. Artists in all media are encouraged to apply. A three month commitment is required. Contact gallery manager Pam Bateman at lascrucesarts@gmail.

com, or come by the gallery for an application during business hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

## MARDI GRAS POSTER CONTEST

The Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce invites any artists to participate in the "Mardi Gras Poster Contest." Your ideas and artwork could become the official poster for Cloudcroft's Mardi Gras in the Clouds celebration. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winner.

Entries should be submitted to the chamber office no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10. Entry size shall be 16 inches by 20 inches. Materials can be canvas or professional grade paper; media will be full color and professional grade. Judging will be based on creative design and theme

"How Sweet it Is" interpretation. Artwork should be signed by the artist, and lettering is optional to the artist. One submission per artist will be accepted.

For more information on how to submit, contact Lisa King, Chamber Director at 682-2733, or email lisa@cloudcroft.com.

## NEW DESERT HARMONY SINGERS AUDITIONS

New Desert Harmony Singers auditions, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 225 W. Griggs Ave. The New Desert Harmony Singers will begin rehearsals and auditions for its annual spring show. Auditions will continue through January and in to February. Free. To confirm a rehearsal or audition time, call Dave Kinkaid at 650-4417 or Don Harlow at 312-2194.

Join us for art, culture, entertainment and more at this Friday's Ramble! January 4, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Downtown Las Cruces.....it's really happening

**START YOUR ART RAMBLE**  
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**NEW GALLERY HOURS**  
4-7p.m. 1st Fridays during the ART RAMBLE ONLY

The Exhibit "Small Works" continues  
Great Values - \$100 and less  
and  
New Art in the Co-op Gallery

**Ramble Friday, January 4**  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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Meet the Artists



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# 2013 schedule announced

## Branigan Cultural Center hosts exhibits

### January

Continuation of "Pueblo to Pueblo: The Legacy of Southwestern Indian Pottery" through Feb. 16

Continuation of "Life in Reflection: The Photography of Mary Daniels Taylor" through Jan. 26

### February

"ArtForms: For the Love of Art" (Feb. 1-23)

Celebrating "For the Love of Art Month" ArtForms exhibit art in all media.

### March

"Pancho Villa and the Mexican Revolution" (March 1 through April 27)

Exhibit of photographs exploring the life and the myth of Pancho Villa guest curated by Dr. James Hester.

"Masterworks: Googlepaedic Narrations and the Dysfunction of Damage" by Shaurya Kumar (March 1-30)

Works from the exhibition "Masterworks: Googlepaedic Narrations," will also address Shaurya Kumar displacement from his native environment and cultural roots, and will be virtual interpretation of his memories of ancient murals that he experienced during his travels to remote villages and temples in India.

### April

Continuation of "Pancho Villa and the Mexican Revolution" (March 1 through April 27)

Exhibit of photographs exploring the life and the myth of Pancho Villa guest curated by James Hester.

"Borderland" by Kim Shifflett (April 5-27)

Artist Kim Shifflett is drawn to the concept of portraying the socially invisible, the populace victimized by the ramifications of our world's ever changing policies in dealing with boundary lines between countries and politics. In naming her current project "Borderland," she is calling attention to not only the physical line between Mexico and the United States, but also to our corporate and political culpability in helping to create the dismal conditions south of the border.

### May

"The Art of Community: Visual Sonnets" by Bruce Barton (May 3-25)

Bruce Barton believes that we live and work in communities, play in them, love in them; they shape us . . . they give meaning to our lives. The images we create are vignettes - small, collective sonnets. Through them we see ourselves at our best, and our not so good. A great many individuals have added to "Visual Sonnets," often without knowing. We all frequently contribute in some way to incidents such as these. Consider these images as Nature/Culture dialectics, validating the existential realities of our lives. Bringing them together is a great privilege.

Spring Members Show - Watercolor Society of New Mexico - Southern Chapter (May 3 - 25)

Watercolors from the members of the Wa-

tercolor Society of New Mexico - Southern Chapter.

### June

"Peru is Beautiful" by Peter Goodman (June 7-22)

Photography exhibit of the people and landscapes of rural Peru by photographer Peter Goodman

"Coffee: The World in a Cup" (June 7 - Aug. 31)

"Coffee: The World in Your Cup" presents the story of one of the world's most widely traded commodities and how it has affected cultures, economies, and environments across the globe. Coffee explores the environmental and social impacts of the coffee industry and recommends ways for consumers to make socially and environmentally responsible coffee purchases at the grocery store or in a coffee shop. Learn about the impacts of caffeine, the world's most common-

ly-used drug, on your body, discover coffee's early controversial reputation as a "revolutionary drink," and consider the culture that surrounds coffee in the 21st century. Photos, maps, text, selected artifacts, audiovisual presentations, and hands-on demonstrations help visitors explore the fascinating world behind the coffee we drink.

### July

"Sumai: The Material Culture of a Japanese House" (July 5 - Sept. 28)

This exhibit will show the everyday items that can be found in traditional Japanese homes (sumai).

Continuation of "Coffee: The World in a Cup"

### August

Continuation of "Sumai: The Material Culture of a Japanese House"

Continuation of "Coffee: The World in a Cup"

### September

Continuation of "Sumai: The Material Culture of a Japanese House"

"Blending the Old and the New: Quilts by Paul D. Pilgrim" (Sept. 6 - Oct. 26)

Paul D. Pilgrim developed one of the foremost collections of antique quilts in the country. As he traveled around the country purchasing quilts for his business and his own collection, Pilgrim found he just couldn't just leave behind many of the stacks of "orphan blocks" he found in ships. He began making the blocks he collected into quilts, coming up with some wild and wonderful combinations of new and old. This exhibit, on loan from the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY, presents over 25 "new" quilts.

### October

Continuation of "Blending the Old and the New: Quilts by Paul D. Pilgrim"

"Concrete Currents: Along Route 66" by Stephen Bleicher (October 4 - 26)



"Concrete Currents: Along Route 66"

## MV Chorale presents gift to DAAC



Mesilla Valley Chorale Director Nancy Ritchey and Mesilla Valley Chorale Board members present \$3,435 from a Holiday Concert to Doña Ana Arts Council Board members and staff Thursday, Dec. 20, in support of the Rio Grande Theatre.

Route 66, also known as The Mother Road, may be one of the most iconic highways in American history. It was the most popular route for the exodus of the great dust bowl migration. During its heyday gas stations, restaurants, motels and roadside amusements dotted the landscape to seducing drivers to pull off the road and spend their time and money. In the 1950s, as I-40 was built, the road and all its novelties were bypassed. "Concrete Currents: Along Route 66" documents what remains of the highway. Many of the unique attractions have been abandoned, but their ruins have taken on a life of their own. Still, some businesses have survived and new ones have sprung up as a testament to the American spirit.

### November

"Descansos" by Storm Sermay (Nov. 1-30)

Las Cruces native Storm Sermay provides a photographic essay on the many roadside memorials 'descansos' found in southern New Mexico - honoring those who have lost their lives.

### December

"Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War" (Nov. 27 - Jan. 25, 2014)

"Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," a traveling exhibition that examines 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. understand why Lincoln's struggle with the Constitution still matters today." The National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office organized the traveling exhibition, which was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); great ideas brought to life. The traveling exhibition is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center.

The Branigan Cultural Center is located at 501 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information on these events, call 541-2145 or visit [www.las-cruces.org/museums](http://www.las-cruces.org/museums).



The work of Las Cruces photographer Storm Sermay, titled "Descansos," comes to the Branigan Cultural Center in November.





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Shows nightly at 7:30 p.m., Saturday Matinee at 1:30 p.m., Sunday Matinee at 2:30 p.m.

January 4 - 9

Anna Karenina

2012, 129 min., English Directed by Joe Wright Starring Keira Knightly & Jude Law

January 11 - 17

Bless Me, Ultima

2012, 105 min., In English & Spanish with English subtitles Directed by Carl Franklin

This Week on KRWG-TV 22



Sunday, January 6

8 p.m. Downton Abbey--Season Premiere

Monday, January 7

8 p.m. Market Warriors

Tuesday, January 8

8 p.m. American Experience--Abolitionists

Wednesday, January 9

7 p.m. Nature--Cuba: The Accidental Eden

Thursday, January 10

7 p.m. Valles Caldera--The Science

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SATURDAY EVENING

JANUARY 5, 2013

Table listing Saturday evening TV programs from 5:00 to 11:30 PM across various channels like PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC.

SUNDAY MORNING

JANUARY 6, 2013

Table listing Sunday morning TV programs from 5:00 to 10:30 AM across various channels like PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

JANUARY 6, 2013

Table listing Sunday afternoon TV programs from 11:00 to 4:30 PM across various channels like PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC.



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Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m.



WEDNESDAY EVENING JANUARY 9, 2013. TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for various channels (PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC).

THURSDAY EVENING JANUARY 10, 2013. TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for various channels (PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC).

Sudoku

Complete the grids below so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. It is a game of logic, not math, and there is only one solution per puzzle. Have fun and exercise the gray matter.

Tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

BEGINNER

9x9 Sudoku grid for Beginner level.

CHALLENGER

9x9 Sudoku grid for Challenger level.

EXPERT

9x9 Sudoku grid for Expert level.

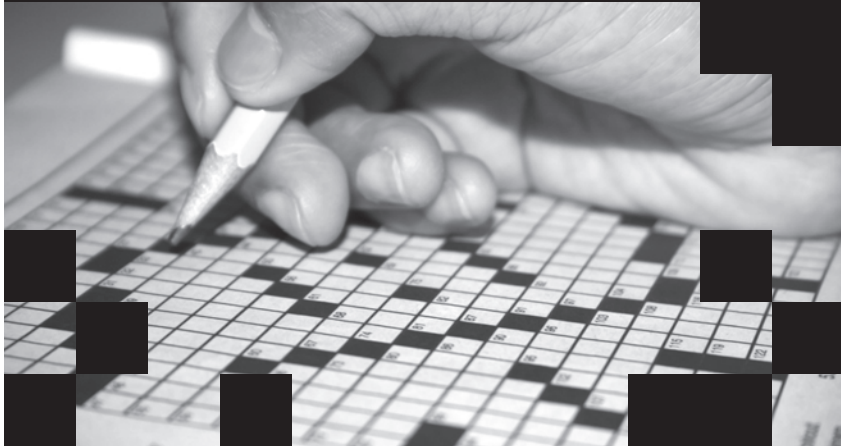
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

9x9 grid showing solutions for Beginner level.

9x9 grid showing solutions for Challenger level.

9x9 grid showing solutions for Expert level.

# 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.

### MY RELATIVES ARE ...

#### ENGLISH

AUSTRIAN  
ENGLISH  
FRENCH  
GERMAN  
GREEK  
IRISH  
ITALIAN  
JAPANESE  
POLISH  
PORTUGUESE  
SPANISH  
SWEDISH

#### SPANISH

AUSTRIACO  
INGLÉS  
FRANCÉS  
ALEMÁN  
GRIEGO  
IRLANDÉS  
ITALIANO  
JAPONÉS  
POLACO  
PORTUGUÉS  
ESPAÑOL  
SUECO

L S W E A U S T K P A J C É S  
O É H S I L G N E S I L G N É  
Ñ D S N Á M A L E M Á N H G C  
A N I K E I N A R E N Á S L L  
P A R N L É S I G T I M I I O  
E L I A U S T R I A N E N H Ñ  
S G T F O N A M R E G L A S A  
E I E R C L O H S I L O P É P  
U T H A A H C O F R É N S D S  
G A L N L C E C O L S A J N E  
U L N C O N U É S É N O P A J  
T I S É P E S E N A P A J L A  
R A U S T R I A C O G E I R G  
O N P O R F E R T S É A L I E  
P O R T U G U É S W E D I S H

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09/13

## Crossword Puzzles

### Diagramless, 21 x 21

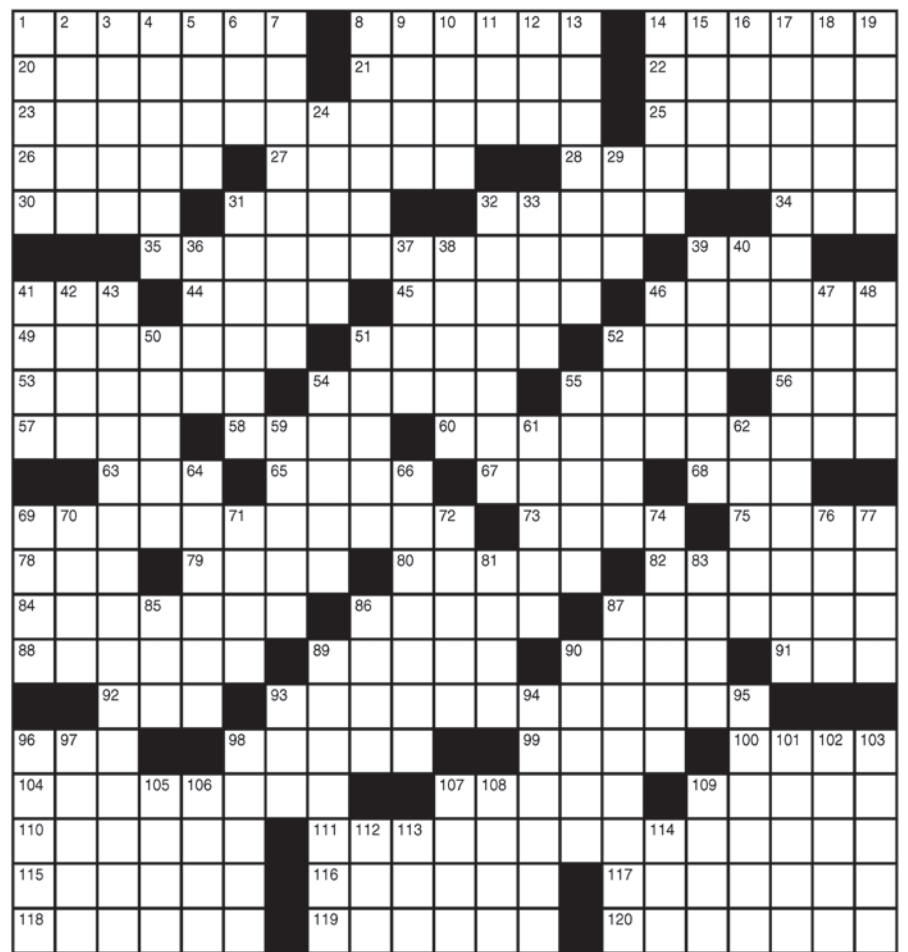
Like a regular crossword but with an added challenge. Sleuths must also create the diagram and figure out where the numbers and black squares go.

- ACROSS**
- Starlets
  - Volcanic residue
  - Natural way to grow
  - Give a bias to
  - Government appropriation
  - Carpet feature
  - Dusting powder
  - Shady trees
  - Ivey or Carvey
  - Plane trips
  - Sibilant sound
  - Tea option
  - Data structure
  - Shoulder signal
  - Cheese ingredient
  - Utopian garden
  - Impartiality
  - Los \_\_, NM
  - Oxford fellow
  - Oversupplies
  - \_\_ on (molycoddles)
  - Change players
  - Verified
  - Actor Karloff
  - Broadcast
  - Saudi Arabia's capital
  - Fixed
  - Window sticker
  - Lower than
  - Laid eyes on
  - Short cannon
  - Chart anew
  - Summits
  - \_\_ in the bag!
  - Field in Cleveland
  - Camelot king
  - Fox chaser?
  - Russian river
  - Carpenter's box
  - Boo-hoood
  - Moore of "Ghost"
  - Sketcher's need
  - Like winds and rivers
  - Assayer's samples
  - Fence entrance
  - Closing word
  - Pen points
  - Sport of sulkies
  - Richard of "Runaway Bride"
  - Hangman
  - Witnessed
  - Deposed
- DOWN**
- Long span of time
  - Is able to
  - Letters that blast
  - Endure, as a storm

- Environmental concern
- Actress Emma
- Cut dramatically
- Actor Wallach
- Like newspaper features
- Cleo's snake
- Shallow-draft boat
- Called a greeting
- Lubricates
- GOP gathering
- Oddball
- Hawke or Coen
- Groening of "The Simpsons"
- Keen perception
- Peter and a Wolfe
- Piles on
- Feds
- Seals off
- Place for a watch or a slap
- Press flat
- Spanish hero
- Worshiper
- "The Spy Who \_\_ Me"
- Ford or McRaney
- Princely
- Bamboo eaters
- Horseman
- Arm bulge
- B. Ford Clinic, e.g.
- Indistinct vocalization
- Computer key
- Razed to the ground
- Developed into
- Dull finish
- Earth tone
- More uncommon
- Showy flower
- Body shaping
- Nicks and Wonder
- Self-defense system
- Unpaid athlete's status
- Gets up for
- Leather strip
- Birdhouse nester
- Actress Winger
- Bird with fine plumage
- Southfork of "Dallas"
- Kuwaiti ruler
- Best pitcher
- Stitch up
- Guitar, to a guitarist
- Amoral deed
- Fish eggs
- In addition

### FORTUNE OF REVERSAL

- ACROSS**
- Hammer and Spade
  - Type of 7D
  - Messy quarters
  - Be relevant
  - Soul singer Keys
  - Where to find blackbirds of rhyme
  - Sitcom bloopers show-case the...
  - Arizona observatory
  - Aerial stunts
  - Trails behind vessels
  - Stable condition
  - Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
  - Kitchen extension
  - Called for
  - Best Buy buys
  - Geriatrics must incur the...
  - Part of a cheer
  - Now I get it!
  - Haughty manner
  - Professes
  - Rakish hat
  - Monitor or skink
  - Coeur d'\_\_, ID
  - Hanker after
  - Go from 2 to 6, say
  - Unyielding
  - Supplication
  - Consumer protection org.
  - Run-of-the-mill
  - Darn!
  - A parade schedule pin-points the...
  - Thunder Bay prov.
  - Fellow Bush alums
  - Burst of wind
  - Opposite of WSW
  - A reference librarian leads the...
  - Civil rights pioneer Parks
  - Gateway rival
  - Bank pymt.
  - Talkative palomino of classic TV
  - Mythical strongman
  - Shuttlecock
  - Erudite one
  - Go ga-ga
  - Hockey game starter
  - Term paper
  - Ancient keepsake
  - Chevron rival
  - Witty remark
  - Play on words
  - "Stomp" demonstrates
- DOWN**
- Hogwarts lesson
  - Playwright Jones
  - Flynn of films
  - Shangri-la
  - Jolly sailors
  - Brief greetings
  - Winter wheel
  - Uproar
  - Natural balm
  - Turns down lights
  - Rink surface
  - Give a boost to
  - Work in a hen house?
  - Stacked
  - Privy to
  - Rubberneck
  - Martin Luther King gave the...
  - Like some roofs
  - Whoops
  - Lots
  - Churchill's gesture
  - Told never to come back
  - Old German coin
  - Swiss river
  - Pin down
  - Lock maker
  - In the open
  - Christen anew
  - Cannon attachment?
  - Fine or martial follower
  - Leander's love
  - Dian Fossey studied the...
  - Feudal domain
  - Sch. mil. grp.
  - Keystone site
  - Chophouse order



- Where the toys are?
- Intrigues
- Kind of bar or bowl
- Colombia capital
- Point (to)
- Wall art
- Composer Previn
- Comic Lily
- Like clear nights
- Ship tilt
- Move slowly
- Angelico and Diavolo
- Impassive
- Manual calculator
- Accounting acronym
- Bequeathed
- Bonkers
- Symbol
- Big Ten initials
- Lucy's spouse
- At a distance
- Hasty accomplishment
- Hanna-Barbera dog
- Cal. pages
- Ruby surfaces
- Take out
- "Booknotes" ailer
- Drab color?
- Like many a window
- Fireballer Ryan
- Like Humpty
- Stitched
- Pub measure
- Venetian honcho
- In a tizzy
- Inkling
- Links shot
- Spanish article
- Homer's neighbor
- Fridays' lead-in?

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

#### Word Salsa

E J U B R O M E A R I S I T A  
N U R D N U O R A L O O F O T  
C G E K C R E R R A G U J L E  
I U I C Y A N R E T H G U A L  
M P L I A Z B T O M R G U G  
I M F C S I O R R A V P A U G G  
M O L T P T O J O K E T E H I  
O S L J O E M A R I U I T I G  
T O O F T R A C U A B M E M I  
O T T R O T J P I R E D I A I G  
T V F O L A R U S E V A R T L  
R E O L G R A E C N A H C H E  
I D T S E J N J R O O F O T Z  
C I L I R F K P R I E U C A R  
K C I R A E C N U R A O Z A R

#### Diagramless

A R C S S E A  
B O R A A L P  
R O D E M O T E L S T E P  
A R I A E L I E L L I M A  
R A P S C R I S P Y S O R E R  
I T S Y H I S S E S T W I N E  
T O O G A T H E R B R I S T L E  
A R M R I S E R F R O N T A L S  
N I A C I N S I L O I N G L E T S  
O N A N E Y I N G D A Y  
S I R R B I T N T  
A P T T I L E S B E E R  
C O R N A S S E R T S L A S S O S  
R O O T L E T S A U G U R T W O  
T U M U L T S S T A L L S H E N  
S I N U S C O E V A L T E L L  
S N I D E I D L E R S I S L E  
E A S E C A I N E L I E S  
A L T S E P E E S L A D S  
U L A R O S S  
S Y N O P T S

#### We Three Kings

B E A C O N R E S T S D I S P I R I T  
A R L E N E E X P O S A D H E S I O N  
S I G N E T S P A R E B E A R S O U T  
I C E S O P E N S T B A R S  
C A R O L E M I C K I B I L L I E J E A N  
R E V E R T S L E E S O R C A  
S E T D O G E S P U R R P R E A R M  
A X I S K A S D U E S S E E T I E  
H U M A N E F E L T S C A N O D D  
I R E N E P R I E S O P E R A S  
B B S T E P H E N M A R T I N L U T H E R  
A D O N I S T A I N T L E A V E  
A L P L O O N B I N S S T A L A G  
T A R E L M S I N G M A W L E D A  
T R I A D S P I N G S A L O N Y E N  
J I G O R P A N G S E N D O F F  
C O R E T T A S C O T T A L A N L A R R Y  
H A S T E O A S I S W H E E  
C A L L I S T O A R T I E P A N I C S  
A L O E R T E R S C U D S A V E N U E  
P L U N D E R S S H E E T W A D E R S

#### CRYPTOGRAM

V J G C O J G V J G P O H Z G I S P W W E B G S O J G  
W N X C H Z G I S N H B O G P I Z C U O J G V P O G X,  
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U X P Z C N H O X E O J Z C Z O !  
**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:**  
The big discussions about illegal sales of marijuana were referred to the higher wisdom of the joint committee.

# AtTheMovies

## Gross-out grows up Apatow ages well

By Zak Hansen  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Growing up happens to us all, it seems. Judd Apatow, director of "This is 40," now playing at Allen Theatres, cut his teeth as a director and producer of the new era of gross-out comedies, directing "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and "Knocked Up." He also acted as producer for a slew of "low" comedies including a number featuring the so-called "frat pack," a loosely-knit collective of like-minded actors and comedians (Will Ferrell, Jonah Hill, Seth Rogen, Paul Rudd) who frequent one another's films.

What's always set Apatow's films apart from the rest of his peers is a sense of truth and, dare I say, sweetness buried just beneath the foul language, crass commentary and scatological humor.

Apatow's first offerings as a director, "Virgin" and "Knocked Up," were heavy on the gross-out, but had glimmers of something more. His characters were never static, central-casting types. They were likeable and often made mistakes. They were funny, but flawed and fragile. They were, in a sense, much more like real people than had ever before come to a lowbrow comedy.

It was an interesting development in the genre, and Apatow and his cohorts set a precedent. In 2009's "Funny People," though,



Maude and Iris Apatow, Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann star in Judd Apatow's "This is 40," now playing at Allen Theatres.

Apatow really came into his own.

"Funny People" told the story of George Simmons (Adam Sandler) an aging, financially successful, alienated and self-absorbed comedian. Many elements of Simmons' life seemed to draw directly from Sandler's own back story of an early start in comedy, a quick rise to the top that predated a number of box-office missteps. Diagnosed with leukemia, Simmons returns to Los Angeles and gets back on stage.

"Funny People" surprised a lot of viewers – it was funny, at times, but much darker and more dramatic than Apatow's previous work. If you haven't seen it, I recommend it, even for those of you who dislike Sandler's work, and justifiably so.

So here we are with "This is 40," the "sort-of sequel" to "Knocked Up," released

in 2007. Taking place five years after the first film, "This is 40" follows the lives of two of "Knocked Up's" secondary characters, Debbie and Pete.

As the film opens, Pete (Paul Rudd) is making love to his wife Debbie (Leslie Mann) in the shower on the morning of her 40th birthday. He mentions that he is performing well due to the help of one small, blue pill – thinking this will make it special. Debbie disagrees. She is furious and hurt that her husband no longer finds her attractive, and that he can no longer perform as a man.

The scene is funny, but also difficult to watch. Men and women alike will laugh at very different things, relating to their put-upon gender equivalent and finding the other side patently ridiculous. Gross-out isn't just a boys' club anymore: Much like last year's "Bridesmaids," which Apatow produced, "This is 40" has plenty of nastiness for the ladies to laugh at, too, and it's likely to fly right over the heads of much of the male audience.

What's more, these are not the cutesy problems that "middle-age" films delved into before; these are the real problems, as ridiculous as they can be, that real people have.

The scene, as crass as it may be, sets up the film well. This is not just 40 – this is life, in all its best and worst.

"This is 40" is the product of actually growing up, a process that, while difficult to all, must be especially troubling to the actors, directors and comedians who have spent their successful early adulthood pandering – with mixed results – to the lowest common denominator. How do you justify making movies at 45, as Apatow is, for 20-year-old boys?

The answer: you don't. You make a movie for 40-year-old boys.

These characters are, in a sense, just grown-up 20-year-olds. These are the characters that grew up with the same movies, the same music, the same culture, as Apatow, and they react accordingly.

They worry about money. They worry about marriage. They worry about their age, their fading looks,

their disconnection from themselves and their families, the dwindling passion in their marriage. And they do these things with the sensibilities – and vocabulary – of those who grew up on the films Apatow did. Paul and Debbie, in the car on a weekend getaway, get stoned and call their daughters "selfish little a\*\*holes" – lovingly, of course – and have a conversation about killing one another (she would poison him, and he would put her in a wood-chipper, a la " Fargo").

For anyone in a long-term, emotional relationship with a spouse, child, parent or another loved one, this should be a relatable feeling: You love them so much, but on occasion they make you so angry you want to kill them.

"This is 40" is relatively unafraid to show these people for who they are – people. They are kind, caring, full of love, affection and pride for their families. They are also hurt, hurtful, confused, angry, full of doubt, questions and resentment. They are, pardon my wording, human.

Rudd and Mann do a great job as Pete and Debbie, imbuing their characters with what one could deign to call soul. Both actors are able to convey so much love and hate, so much happiness and sadness, so much maturity and so much childlike immaturity, and do so all at once.

The supporting cast is great. John Lithgow turns up as Debbie's absentee father, and Albert Brooks is hilarious as Pete's terminally mooching father who, at the age of 60, had three children through in vitro fertilization he can't tell apart. "I came from a test tube!" one of the boys squeals in delight.

Special standouts are Pete and Debbie's daughters, 8-year-old Charlotte and 13-year-old Sadie, played by Apatow's own daughters, Maude and Iris. Apatow and his cohorts have long understood the comedy in children saying things they aren't supposed to say ("Talladega Nights," anyone?), but these two really make the film. They're occasionally awful to one another – as real siblings are – but also very sweet. Isn't that life?

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"This is 40" is a raunchy  
– and real – look at  
growing up.

Grade  
B

THIS IS 40

Rated: R  
Running Time: 143 minutes

Starring: Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann  
Director: Judd Apatow



# AtTheMovies

## Picking the Flicks

*New this week*  
**on DVD**

Movie information from www.rottentomatoes.com. Thumbs-up based on a 5-point scale.

<p><b>Skyfall</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> James Bond returns to investigate an attack on Mi6 by former operative Raoul Silva, but this time the stakes are personal. <b>Starring:</b> Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem <b>Director:</b> Sam Mendes</p> 	<p><b>Monsters, Inc. 3D</b> Rated: G <b>Plot Overview:</b> Sully and Mike are followed back from their child-scaring duties by a precocious child, and then exiled to her world. <b>Starring:</b> Billy Crystal, John Goodman <b>Directors:</b> Peter Docter, Andrew Silverman</p> 
<p><b>This is 40</b> Rated: R <b>Plot Overview:</b> In this sort-of sequel to "Knocked Up," Pete and Debbie continue to make their uncertain way through the struggles of family and marriage. <b>Starring:</b> Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann <b>Director:</b> Judd Apatow</p> 	<p><b>Jack Reacher</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> A former Army officer turned drifter is recruited by a defense attorney to investigate a ruthless Russian killer. <b>Starring:</b> Tom Cruise, Robert Duvall <b>Director:</b> Christopher McQuarrie</p> 
<p><b>Wreck-It Ralph</b> Rated: PG <b>Plot Overview:</b> Ralph is a video game villain who turns his back on being the "bad guy" and tries to become a hero. <b>Starring:</b> John C. Reilly, Jack McBrayer <b>Director:</b> Rich Moore</p> 	<p><b>Rise of the Guardians</b> Rated: PG <b>Plot Overview:</b> The Nightmare King threatens to cover the world in darkness, so the Guardians join together with Jack Frost to stop him. <b>Starring:</b> Jude Law, Hugh Jackman <b>Director:</b> Peter Ramsey</p> 
<p><b>Lincoln</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> "Lincoln" depicts the president's last months in office as he attempts to end the Civil War and reunite the country. <b>Starring:</b> Daniel Day Lewis, Tommy Lee Jones <b>Director:</b> Steven Spielberg</p> 	<p><b>Red Dawn</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> When Spokane, Wash., is invaded by a foreign army, a group of young people band together to defend their hometown. <b>Starring:</b> Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck <b>Director:</b> Dan Bradley</p> 
<p><b>Guilt Trip</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> A struggling inventor brings his overbearing mother on a cross-country road trip while he tries to sell his creation. <b>Starring:</b> Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand <b>Director:</b> Anne Fletcher</p> 	<p><b>Playing for Keeps</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> A romantic comedy about a down-on-his-luck soccer star who comes home to pick up the pieces of his former life. <b>Starring:</b> Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel <b>Director:</b> Gabriele Muccino</p> 
<p><b>Breaking Dawn II</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> The final chapter in the wildly successful Twilight Saga follows Bella as she begins her life as a vampire and a mother, and an ancient clan declares war on the Cullens. <b>Starring:</b> Robert Pattison, Kristen Stewart <b>Director:</b> Bill Condon</p> 	<p><b>The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> Bilbo Baggins is sent on a quest by Gandalf the Grey to retake the Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor, long under the control of the dragon Smaug. <b>Starring:</b> Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman <b>Director:</b> Peter Jackson</p> 
<p><b>Les Misérables</b> Rated: PG-13 <b>Plot Overview:</b> A classic tale of love, passion, sacrifice and redemption set against 19th century France. <b>Starring:</b> Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe <b>Director:</b> Tom Hooper</p> 	<p><b>Django Unchained</b> Rated: R <b>Plot Overview:</b> A bounty hunter searching for a murderous band of brothers teams up with a slave bent on rescuing his wife. <b>Starring:</b> Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio <b>Director:</b> Quentin Tarantino</p> 
<p><b>Parental Guidance</b> Rated: PG <b>Plot Overview:</b> Two old-school grandparents are tasked with babysitting their three grandchildren, leading to a collision of the old and new. <b>Starring:</b> Billy Crystal, Bette Midler <b>Director:</b> Andy Fickman</p> 	<p><b>Texas Chainsaw 3D</b> Rated: R <b>Plot Overview:</b> Leatherface returns to torment a group of teens - this time in three dimensions. <b>Starring:</b> Alexandra Daddario, Trey Songz <b>Director:</b> John Luessenhop <b>OPENS FRIDAY, JAN. 4</b></p> 

**Tuesday, Jan. 8**

**House at the End of the Street**  
Rated: PG-13  
Genre: Horror  
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Elisabeth Shue  
Director: Mark Tonderai

**Stolen**  
Rated: R  
Genre: Action  
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Malin Ackerman  
Director: Simon West

**Dredd 3D**  
Rated: R  
Genre: Action  
Starring: Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby  
Director: Pete Travis

**Compliance**  
Rated: R  
Genre: Drama  
Starring: Ann Dowd, Dreama Walker  
Director: Craig Zobel

- Top Grossing Dec. 21-23**
- The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (Week No. 2) **\$36,705,000**
  - Jack Reacher** (Week No. 1) **\$15,600,000**
  - This Is 40** (Week No. 1) **\$12,031,000**
  - Rise of the Guardians** (Week No. 5) **\$5,900,000**
  - Lincoln** (Week No. 7) **\$5,633,000**
  - The Guilt Trip** (Week No. 1) **\$5,390,000**
  - Monsters, Inc. 3D** (Week No. 1) **\$5,040,000**
  - Skyfall** (Week No. 7) **\$4,700,000**
  - Life of Pi** (Week No. 5) **\$3,800,000**
  - The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part II** (Week No. 6) **\$2,600,000**

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## Develop mental health resilience



**Michael R. Hurst,**  
MS, LADAC, CEAP  
*Life and Work Solutions*

Mental health resiliency is a topic of recent significance.

The tragedy of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut has amplified the discussion about the need for mental-health services to reduce and prevent future traumatic incidents.

There will be several task force and working groups focusing on the state of the shooter's mental health. It is also necessary to address the mental-health needs of the surviving victims, first responders and others involved, as well. Mental health resiliency is the solution. It is also necessary to prepare others for any future incidents.

According to the Mayo Clinic, resiliency means adapting to adversity – when stress, life adversity and traumatic events occur, and individuals need to function.

The American Psychological Association has determined that relationships are a key element to resiliency. These relationships must form love, trust, role models, while offering encouragement and reassurance. A person needs to learn the necessary behaviors, thoughts and actions that will assist in a their ability to successfully function.

There are seven ways a person can develop resilience:

- **Make connections:** Good relationships with close family members, friends and other people who are important to you. Additionally, faith-based organizations and civic groups are important.
- **Avoid seeing crisis as an insurmountable problem:** You cannot change the facts of a traumatic or stressful incident. Look beyond the present to the future.
- **Accept change as a part of life:** Some goals or objectives are not possible in certain events. Once you accept this,

See **Mental health** on page D2

### INSIDE

**Concilio's 40th Anniversary**  
Volunteers honored at luncheon ....D4

**Temple Beth-El gives back**  
Serving breakfast at  
Community of Hope.....D8

**Health Briefs**  
Register for Cupid's 5K .....D8

# Get healthy in 2013

## Simple ways to stay on track

By **Lorena Sanchez**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

It is the most common New Year's resolution: weight loss. But rather than take a weight loss approach, why not make the focus health?

"I think people really want to lose weight, but it's important to take it a step further and see what you want to occur: is it just weight loss or do you want to get healthier?" said Judy Kolish, senior wellness analyst and registered and licensed dietician for Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico.

Making that transition from those typical, unhealthy habits to a complete lifestyle change takes commitment. It all starts with gradual change.

"The idea of balance, moderation and putting a positive spin (on getting healthy) is so important," Kolish said.

From a dietary standpoint, Kolish said rather than restrict, it's more effective to be mindful.

"It's important not to have rigid rules. You're setting yourself up for failure," Kolish said.

Rather than restrict food, eat slowly and enjoy the food. Kolish also suggests using the principles of balanced variety and moderation.

"It shouldn't be all or nothing," Kolish said. "Eat for nourishment and enjoyment."

The best habit to develop to stay on track, See **Healthy** on page D2



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Lorena Sanchez

Las Cruces Fitness and Dance co-owner and personal trainer Kristie Garcia holds a lunge with her client, Virginia Martinez during a session Monday, Dec. 31, 2012. One of the advantages of having a personal trainer is correct posture and alignment to avoid injury.

# Make a difference in a young life

## January is National Mentoring Month

By **Lorena Sanchez**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

January is National Mentoring Month, which calls attention to Las Cruces' local mentoring organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern New Mexico (BBBS).

"I'm happy to say that (more than) half of our staff are actually 'bigs' ourselves," said Stacie Christiano, CEO. "(The organization) is necessary in the community. There are so many children who need that extension. There are some facing adversities and it's good to know that they can come to us for help."

Christiano refers to BBBS as a preventative program, because those who participate in the program have been know to avoid risky behavior and develop confidence in their academic goals.

"As 'bigs' we want to give, but we get just as much out of it," Christiano said. "We're learning just as much and growing together."

For those interested in becoming a big brother or big sister to a child in the program, the screening process takes about four to six weeks, and must be 18 years or older.

There is a face-to-face interview and extensive background check. The goal is to find a good match between a "little" and a "big." The screening process gets everyone involved including the parents.

"Littles" range in age from 6 to 16 years old. There is a waiting list, but Christiano said that doesn't mean when a new big brother or sister enters the program they will automatically be matched.

"We want to make sure that we are conscious in making the right match," she said. "Mentoring is not hard to do. If you're passionate and have the time to commit, you'll be a perfect mentor."

See **Difference** on page D2



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Lorena Sanchez

One of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern New Mexico's "littles" Laura Cruz stands with her big sister Amanda Hand. The pair have been a match in the program for more than two years.



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# Difference

Continued from page D1

BBBS is currently in 13 elementary and middle schools through its school-based program, in which “bigs” go to a school location to meet with their match for one hour at least once a week and stay in touch in the summer months as a pen pal. The majority of referrals for this program come from teachers and counselors. Christiano said the school-based program works best for working professionals who have little time but want to participate and make a difference in a student’s life. A one-year commitment must be made.

The community-based program give matches the freedom to venture outside a regular school schedule and spend time with the “little” at their home, help with homework or take them out to do various activities in the community. A one-year commitment must be made. “Bigs” must commit to meeting with their match six to eight hours a month.

Expenses shouldn’t be an issue for “bigs,” so BBBS does its best to provide vouchers for meals, aggie festivities, movies, activities or host free events.

Finding the perfect match can prove to be a challenge, but sometimes, a match is a perfect fit right from the start.

Amanda Hand decided she wanted to volunteer as a big sister two years ago after the organization gave a presentation at Hand’s Pre-Dental Society meeting at New Mexico State University.

“I felt like this program had a lot of opportunity to make an impact,” Hand said.

Hand was matched with “little,” sixteen-year-old Laura Cruz.

“I use to be involved in the school-based program,” Hand said. “I would go to Lynn Middle School and we’d spend a week meeting. Then I transitioned to the community-based program.”

Now part of the community-based program, Hand takes Cruz hiking at “A” mountain, to eat at her favorite restaurants and the pair developed a close bond.

“(The experience) is really rewarding and it’s fun to hang out together,” Hand said. “We’re so similar, so it’s just a flat-out good time.”

Through this experience, Hand said she hopes Cruz gets a positive influence out of it.

“Middle school and high school were the hardest part of my life,” Hand said. “I’m hoping I’m here for her like I’d hope someone would have been there for me.”

Hand is the oldest sibling in her family, which is something she and Cruz have in common. In the program, it isn’t uncommon for children with siblings participate, looking someone outside the family to connect with.

“It’s made a real positive influences on me, too,” Hand said.

When Cruz entered the program, she was in fourth grade.

“I had found out about the program because my mom had told me about it. It sounded like fun,” Cruz said. “I had another ‘big’ and she moved.”

After her first big sister moved, Cruz was matched with Hand.

“I enjoy having a big sister because I have someone to talk to and encourage me, to be here for me and understand me,” Cruz said. “She listens and she loves to talk just like me. She’s a good person and that’s what I like about her.”

Now that Cruz is reaching the age where she will no longer be in the program as a “little” she is considering becoming a big sister in the program.

“I want to help and be there for (someone else),” Cruz said.

Cruz’s two younger siblings, Elizabeth, 10, and Marcos, 7, are also a part of the program which their father, Rene, has been grateful for.

“They help them a lot,” he said. “I’m not with them right now and they got a little off the road, now they are on track. They help more at the house, and have been doing well in school, too.”

After the couple separated the children joined BBBS,

which their father said helped through the difficult situation.

“I knew it would definitely help them a lot, especially when they go through (difficult times) and enter that age,” Rene Cruz said.

BBBS continues to have a positive impact on the community. There are 17.3 percent more people involved in the program in 2012 than 2011. There are 153 active matches. The waiting list consists of 13 boys, two girls, five male volunteers and 18 female volunteers waiting for matches. Although the majority of children come from low-income, single-parent households, anyone can join the program.

The greatest need for the organization is finding volunteers, either big brothers and big sisters, or donors, sponsors, advocates and activities of those will to joint the board of directors.

“It’s challenging, but it is so worth it,” Christiano said.

For more information, call 538-5786 or visit [www.bbbsofswnm.org](http://www.bbbsofswnm.org).

“It’s made a real positive influences on me, too.”

AMANDA HAND  
big sister

# Healthy

Continued from page D1

Kolish said, is to pay attention to your usual eating habits.

“I think if you turn to a diet, it takes away from paying attention,” she said. “Do you eat when you’re hungry? If not, then what’s triggering it?”

Another key to fitness success is planning.

“That way you have a plan, you’re not just taking it day by day,” said Kristie Garcia, Las Cruces Fitness and Dance co-owner and personal trainer. “If you plan well, and have healthy food in your refrigerator and a healthy snack for work you’re less likely to grab chips or a candy bar.”

Kolish’s approach is focusing on behavior. Too often, she said, we focus on the outcome and not the progress.

“Weight loss comes with change in behavior,” Kolish said. “It comes with gradual changes over time and changing your thinking.”

When it comes to exercise, Garcia said the best way to incorporate exercise into your life and ensure consistency is to do something you enjoy.

“Find something you enjoy because if you don’t like it you’re not going to stick with it,” Garcia said. “If you hate running or aerobics, you’re not going to enjoy doing it. If you’re better working out with a group or trainer, do that.”

Kolish also sees this as an opportunity to find out something new about one’s abilities.

“Really explore what interests you in terms of activity,” Kolish said.

Another tip Garcia suggests for sticking with a getting fit and healthy resolution is to write it in.

“Schedule in workouts,” she said. “We’re good at scheduling a meeting or dentist appointment. If we see (the workout) in writing, we’ll treat it like a scheduled appointment. Eating right and exercising will also help eliminate some of those doctor’s appointments.”

Accountability also helps with consistency. Finding a buddy, spouse, significant other or family member to workout with makes it more likely that a person will stick to their workout time.

“You’re more likely not to blow it off,” Garcia said. “Sometimes, it’s hard to keep yourself motivated and it’s more fun (to workout with someone), I think.”

Setting a fitness goal also motivates people to move forward and progress.

“Whether it’s running in 5K, or to be able to make it through a strength class, we do better when we have a goal,” Garcia said. “Set short-term and long-term goals. Set goals to feel healthy, to feel good.”

It can be as simple as riding a bike, or walking up a flight of stairs, Garcia said. Goals like that motivate – placing all the focus on weight loss can have a negative effect sometimes and people can lose motivation.

“It’s better to focus on inches,” said Garcia, because it is a better indicator of health.

It is also important to be flexible with your schedule, she added. If the weather is bad, find an indoor class to take.

“You have to be willing to adjust,” she said. “But don’t be so flexible that you don’t have a plan.”

Kolish and Garcia agree that success depends on the person knowing and understanding what works for them; and knowing whether or not they need a professional to achieve their goals.

“A person knows if they need guidance,” Garcia said. “They also need to be realistic about their goals.”

“If people tend to struggle with this process it’s always best to seek professional help,” Kolish said. “Whether it’s emotional health or physical health, if anything’s off balance it can make it difficult to achieve goals.”

Virginia Martinez, one of Garcia’s clients, has set goals for 2013. She is looking forward to participating in the March of Dimes 7-mile run in April.

“I want to run 7 miles straight,” Martinez said. “Now, I’m running 3 miles and I need to double that by April 27.”

Another long-term goal is a 13-mile run in December. Her short-term goal is to do 50 push ups in one minute – she’s up to 23.

One goal she did achieve was participating in the M.A.D.D. 5K in 2012 and another 5K for cancer awareness.

“You get a competitive edge with all these people around you,” Martinez said. “It’s been a positive thing, this goal setting.”

Martinez started personal training with Garcia in July 2012 to prepare for her participation in the High Heels for High Hope fashion show as a model and decided to stick with it after the show wrapped in November 2012.

She trains with Garcia twice a week. Martinez shares her sessions with a friend who accompanies her when her schedule permits and outside of her sessions Martinez makes it a point to run 3 miles, twice a week and go for a hike on the weekends.

“I found that compared to doing it alone, when (exercise) with someone else, I stay consistent,” Martinez said.

Through this process and now entering a new year, Martinez is prepared to take what she’s learned and make 2013 a successful and healthy year.

“I learned that I can do more than I think,” she said. “I have more motivation that I thought I did.”

# Mental health

Continued from page D1

then you can focus on what you can influence or change.

- **Move toward your goals:** You must develop realistic goals.
  - **Take decisive action:** You must act during the situation and not focus on thoughts or wishes that something else was happening.
  - **Look for opportunities for self-discovery:** This is very important, as people are more capable than they realize – the ancient phrase by Friedrich Nietzsche, “That which hurts me, but does not kill me, makes me stronger.”
  - **Nurture a positive view of yourself:** Learn to develop confidence in your abilities. This includes solving problems and trusting your instincts.
- Lastly, it is important to learn from your past. If you focus on past experiences, both

good and bad, you will find the personal strength to learn what builds resilience in you as an individual. This is a lifelong journey that will give you the ability to deal with life on life’s terms. You have the power to take control of your life if you recognize that there are some parts you have no control over.

*Michael R. Hurst is a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Captain and licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor. He is a contributing author to the recent book “Living and Surviving in Harm’s Way: A Psychological Treatment Handbook for Pre- and Post-Deployment of Military Personnel” and numerous articles addressing substance abuse, suicide, PTSD and life skills/transitions since 2002. He can be contacted at [mike@warriorcounseling.com](mailto:mike@warriorcounseling.com). The remainder of articles in the Life Warrior series will establish a blueprint to follow in order to become a life warrior. The views expressed in this column are the author’s and do not reflect the official position of any other individual, business or government entity. Please consult the services of a competent professional when attempting to solve an issue or problem.*

## January is \_\_\_\_\_ Month

Cervical Health Awareness • National Birth Defects Prevention • National Blood Donor • National Glaucoma Awareness • National Mentoring

**Week**  
6-12 National Folic Acid Awareness

**F.Y.I.**  
Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a group of viruses that infect the skin. There are more than 100 different types of HPV. Some types of genital HPV may cause genital warts, while other types of genital HPV are linked to abnormal cell changes on the cervix (detected through Pap tests) that can lead to cervical cancer. However, this cancer can almost

always be prevented through regular screening and, if needed, treatment of abnormal cell changes.

Approximately 6 million new cases of sexually transmitted HPV occur in the U.S. each year, with at least 20 million people estimated to be currently infected. Most people with HPV, though, do not know that they are infected.

It is estimated that 70 percent of women and men will come into contact with it during their life. Fortunately 80 to 90 percent of cases the human papillomavirus will be naturally eliminated.

Sources: [www.nationalwellness.org](http://www.nationalwellness.org), [www.nccc-online.org](http://www.nccc-online.org)

# Healthy Happenings



## TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 381

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 381 is open to new members of all ages at its Thursday morning meetings, which start with a private weigh-in from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Weigh-ins are followed by group discussions of weight loss, dietary help and nutrition. The group meets at Trails West Senior Community Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, in the main room.

For more information, call 523-6240.

## TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 219

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 219 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays. This support group assists members in achieving and maintaining healthy weight loss goals.

For location information, call Doris Fields at 524-7461.

## ART OF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

Art of Recovery, a support group for adults in recovery from mental illness, meets from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Mondays and Wednesdays at The Bridge, 2511 Chaparral St.

The group matches those in need of support with volunteers to help build bonds, share experiences and create arts and crafts to sell in a supportive environment.

For more information, call Kathy or David at 522-6404 or email bridge@nmsu.edu.

## OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step, spiritual program for those with a desire to stop eating compulsively. There are no fees. The program meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive. Enter through the back door.

Overeaters Anonymous is also offered at noon each Wednesday at St. James Episcopal Church, 105 Saint James St. For more information, call Wayne at 647-5684.

## GLBTQ CENTER OFFERS SUPPORT

The Las Cruces GLBTQ Center, 1210 N. Main St., provides a variety of groups and services for Las Cruces' gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning community.

For more information, call 635-4902, email info@newmexicoglbtqcenters.org or visit www.newmexicoglbtqcenters.org.

## FYI HOSTS NEEDLE EXCHANGE

The Families & Youth Inc. Needle Exchange Program, located at 1320 S. Solano Drive, seeks to reduce HIV and hepatitis C by decreasing the circulation of unclean syringes and helps drug users overcome addiction by providing information on available drug-treatment services.

The office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. The service is confidential and no appointments are needed.

For more information, call Stefano at 556-1549.

## STROKE SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP

A stroke survivors support group meets at 1 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. The facilitator is Dolores Hendricks.

For more information, call 528-3000.

## HIV SUPPORT GROUP

A Las Cruces HIV Support Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center, 1210 N. Main St. The group offers advocacy and support for those infected with or affected by the HIV virus, and focuses on the rebuilding of community, outreach, education, self-advocacy and wellness.

For more information, call Seth at 621-0681.

## BRAIN INJURY GROUP

The Brain Injury Group meets from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Friday at the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority, 926 S. San Pedro St. Each meeting features games, movies, artwork, music, books, puzzles, coffee and conversation.

For more information, call Dolores Garcia at 805-1301.

## HATHA YOGA AT PEACE LUTHERAN

Hatha Yoga classes for beginners are held at 5:30 p.m. Mondays and noon Fridays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Classes are taught by Shoshana, a certified instructor. The class is gentle and non-competitive. Donations are accepted. Attendees are asked to bring a mat or blanket. For more information, call 522-7119.

## 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 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 in the Richardson Building, 101 N. Alameda Blvd., Suite 7.

For more information on Alzheimer's disease and the Alzheimer's Association, call the organization's 24-hour hotline at 800-272-3900, or the Southwest Regional Office at 647-3868.

## T'AI CHI CHIH AT MOUNTAINVIEW

MountainView Regional Medical Center, 4311 E. Lohman Ave., offers T'ai Chi Chih sessions taught by Rose J. Alvarez-Diosdado 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.

Sessions are taught in the Women's Resource Room, and are free to Senior Circle and Healthy Women members, or a \$2 donation is requested.

Free classes are also available to Senior Circle and Healthy Women members from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at Encantada Park, 1000 Coyote Trail.

For more information, call 505-359-5256 or 312-8320, or email rositaad4@gmail.com.

## CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS

Adult Children of Alcoholics/Co-Dependents Anonymous meets at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Arid Club, 334 W. Griggs Ave. The one-hour meetings are intended to help those raised in alcoholic or dysfunctional family situations deal with their issues and move on to a healthier, happier life through a 12-step program.

For more information, call 647-5684.

## YOGA CLASSES

Karen Nichols is offering 90-minute yoga classes for adults and upper teens at 6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Donations in excess of space rental benefit Jardín de los Niños. Participants should bring a yoga mat and any props they may need. Classes are suitable for all levels of experience.

For more information, email Nichols at karen\_f\_n@yahoo.com or leave a message at 882-4943.

## YOGA CLASSES BY BETH LEBLANC

Mixed gentle yoga sessions for men and women – with

and without chairs – are taught by Beth Le Blanc from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

Laughter yoga sessions by Le Blanc are taught from 9 to 10 a.m. Thursdays.

Both classes are at MountainView Regional Medical Center, 4311 E. Lohman Ave., in the Women's Resource Room, and are free to Senior Circle and Healthy Women Members. For others, a \$2 donation is requested.

Yoga sessions are also available from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Fridays at Enchanted Park, 1000 Coyote Trail, and from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave. Donations are accepted.

For more information, call 522-0011 or 640-7614.

## YOGA CLASSES AT UU METHODIST

Olivia Solomon is offering yoga classes for all levels from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Thursdays at the University United Methodist Church, 2000 S. Locust St. For more information, contact Solomon at 522-5350 or wildyoga@yahoo.com.

## TAIJI QIGONG DANCE

Mei Ling Po McKay is offering a slow and relaxed moving meditation exercise with gentle elements of dance from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Fridays at My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Donation is \$4. Classes are suitable for all levels of experience.

For more information, email McKay at harmei@zianet.com or call 382-8978.

## 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.

## 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.

## HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION

The Hearing Loss Association of America Las Cruces Chapter meets at 1:30 p.m. the third Saturday of each month at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. For more information, call Bert Heger at 532-0413 or email hlalascruces@yahoo.com.

## PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

A Parkinson's Support Group is held from 10 a.m. to noon the third Tuesday of each month at Southwest Sport and Spine, 1181 Mall Drive.

For more information, call John at 702-217-0450.

## 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. Wednesdays and Fridays at My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Cost is \$5.

For more information, email mail4jewell@yahoo.com or call 621-2746.

## MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET EVENTS

Mountain View Market Natural Foods Cooperative, 1300 El Paseo Road, Suite M, has announced its events in January.

- Noon to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17: "Anahata Massage and Bodywork," by David Deissenberg in the Co-op Café.
- 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 9, 16 and 23: "Living the Life You want to Live: An Introduction to Psychological Wellness" in the Community Room. Retired psychologist Al Galves will lead this event and explain how to use all of your emotions to live more the way you want to live. For more information, contact Galves at 522-8371 or agalves@comcast.net.
- 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5: Free acupuncture sessions with Doctor of Oriental Medicine Ryan Bemis. Donations accepted, proceeds benefit clinics in Juárez. For more information, contact 312-6569 or crossroadscommunityacupuncture@gmail.com.
- Noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19: A community Seed Sharing event will be held in the MVM Co-op community room and café area. During this informal event, we will discuss and demonstrate the basic process of saving your own seed, including planting, selection, harvesting, cleaning, and storage. An optional potluck with fellow growers will follow. Please bring a dish to share. For more information, contact 640-4288 or jonsimmons@hotmail.com.
- 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22: "Evening with a Doctor" with Dr. Kelley Elkins in the Community Room. Elkins will focus on today's health issues and present ideas that can assist anyone interested to alter, change or correct their concerns easily and inexpensively. The class is free and open to the public. For more information, email kelley@anextstep.org.
- 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24: Gluten-free Pizza Party with Katherine and Dawna in the Co-op Café. Dawna will share tips and techniques for successfully handling gluten-free pizza dough. There will be plenty of gluten-free pizza to sample. No registration is necessary. For more information, contact 523-0436 or mvmoutreach@gmail.com.
- 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30: "Awakening to Full Potential: An experience of Matrix Energetics" with Dr. Kelley Elkins in the Community Room. For more information, email Kelley@anextstep.org. For more information on Mountain View Market events, call 523-0436.

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# Honoring volunteers at the Concilio CDS celebration luncheon

Photos by Christopher Belarde



Maria Barraca smiles as her daughter Concilio Campesino del Sudoeste Inc. (CDS) President Isela Molina hangs a volunteer medal around her neck.



New Mexico State Rep. Joni Gutierrez hugs CDS board member Manuel Leyva after receiving a medal for her involvement with CDS Wednesday, Dec. 19, for the Concilio CDS 40th anniversary and Volunteer Recognition, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.



Ladies from the Hatch CDS office share a laugh while wearing matching Santa caps and cloaks.

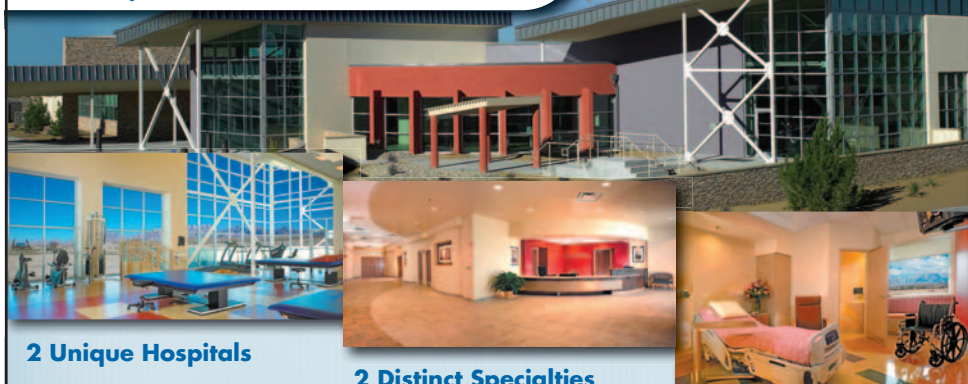


Lizbeth Mata and volunteers stand with hands full of door prizes to give out.



Las Cruces CDS Executive Director Josefina Mata speaks with Gadsden Elementary School Principal Grace Marquez.

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# Helping the county's patients at the Local cancer assistance kickoff

Photos by Steve MacIntyre



Cancer Assistance Network of Doña Ana County (CAN) Event Coordinator Leticia Soto speaks to the crowd gathered at the American Legion building on East Madrid Avenue Friday, Dec. 21.



Nancy Flores and Alen Tan, 10, listen to speakers advocating cancer assistance. The main issue for cancer patients is transportation.



Kim Hoffman, registered nurse at Memorial Medical Center's cancer center speaks about how much support is needed for low-income cancer patients. The money raised from the event and resources provided by CAN will be available to cancer patients in Doña Ana County.



Tina Fischer holds her cousin Jacob Regales.



CAN Coordinator and Fashion Show Director Joe Reyes speaks to guests. The event marked the coming together of CAN and a new cancer assistance group Southern New Mexico Cancer Patient Assistance Foundation, led by Yoli Diaz, to provide support to local cancer patients. Together the group will be known as CAN.



Seven-year breast cancer survivor Cita hugs event coordinator Yoli Diaz.




Phat Soul guitarist plays for guests at the event marking the announcement of the two groups joining together.

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523-2740 or 525-0062

**Baptist**

**East Mesa Baptist Church**



Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:15 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Children's Church Sun: 10:30 a.m.  
Wed Prayer & Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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www.holyfamilyecc.org  
702 Parker Rd. • 644-5025


**Church of Christ**

**Panlener St. Church of Christ**

1325 Panlener Las Cruces  
522-8660

(1/2 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



**Jewish**

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**Methodist**

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Wednesday:  
Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Bilingual Worship 10:30 a.m.

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**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.

2000 S. Locust  
(575) 522-8220  
www.umclascrucenes.org  
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THE LAS CRUCES  
**Bulletin**

welcomes submissions of local church events and activities.

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FRIDAY SERVICES VARY, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THIS WEEK'S TIME

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Contemporary Worship - 9:45 a.m.  
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Rev. Travis Bennett

**New Thought**

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Sunday Celebration 11:00 AM  
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Discussion Groups 9:30 AM  
Sunday Meditation 9:45-10:25 AM

Rev. Sam Ritchey - 647-2560  
140 Taylor Rd - 524-2375  
www.wellspringnow.com

# Church News

## DISCUSSION GROUP

A discussion group on "What We Talk about When We Talk about Anne Frank" will be held at 10 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31, at Temple Beth-El, 3980 Sonoma Springs Ave. These free conversations will explore the short stories in the 2012 book "What We Talk about When We Talk about Anne Frank" by Nathan Englander. For more information, email wanderingjeb@gmail.com.

## ECKANKAR EVENT

Eckankar, Religion of the Light and Sound of God, will hold a free event from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 26, at Ramada Palms de Las Cruces,

201 E. University Ave. The topic will be "Living Life as a Spiritual Exercise."

## TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive, will celebrate the Twelfth Night with a White Stone Ceremony during its 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Jan. 6. The ceremony invites member of the community to choose an area of their life to focus on for increased spiritual growth and improved quality of life. The church also will kick off its Prayer Series for January on how to effectively use Unity prayer to aid in making desired life changes. For more information, call 523-5592 or

visit [www.unityoflascruces.org](http://www.unityoflascruces.org).

## GUESTS AT WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Zach Bechtold and college students from the United Methodist Wesley Foundation will participate during the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Jan. 27, at El Calvario United Methodist Church, 300 N. Campo St. They will provide music and the message. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 524-1230 or [elcalvario@hotmail.com](mailto:elcalvario@hotmail.com).

## OPERA STUDENTS' CONCERT

New Mexico State University Bel Canto Opera

Scholarship Students will hold a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, at Temple Beth-El, 3980 Sonoma Springs Ave. For more information, email [wanderingjeb@gmail.com](mailto:wanderingjeb@gmail.com).

## EL CALVARIO STUDIES

Paul Edwards will hold a series of studies on Immigration and the Bible at 7 p.m. Wednesdays throughout January at El Calvario United Methodist Church, 300 N. Campo St. Members of the community are encouraged to attend. There is no charge. For more information, call 524-1230 and [elcalvario@hotmail.com](mailto:elcalvario@hotmail.com).

## UNITY BOOK STUDY

Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive, holds a book study group from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays. The current book discussed is "The Third Jesus," by Deepak Chopra. For more information, call 523-5592 or visit [www.unityoflascruces.org](http://www.unityoflascruces.org).

## PEACE LUTHERAN PRAYER GROUPS

Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave., offers two prayer groups. A centering prayer group meets weekly at 8 a.m. Saturdays for 20 to 30 minutes. Gathering for Prayer meets Monday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 522-7119.

## MEN'S CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Catholic men are invited to attend a men's Catholic fellowship breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. the second Saturday of the month at Delicia's del Mar, 1401 El Paseo Road. The monthly gathering is an opportunity for men to fellowship with other Catholic men and renew themselves spiritually. The time will consist of praise and worship, teaching on male spirituality, fellowship and breakfast. The fellowship is sponsored by the Cathedral of Immaculate Heart of Mary in collaboration with other Mesilla Valley Catholic parishes. The cost of the breakfast is \$5. For more information, call 524-8563.

information, call 647-1117.

## SPIRITUAL HEALING

Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Center, a Roman Catholic community, offers spiritual healing programs and ministry. Holy Mass is held weekdays at 11:15 a.m. at 5480 Lassiter Road. Also on Mondays, the Healing Prayer Team meets to pray for anyone who is interested. If you or someone you know would like to meet with the team, call 647-1117 for an appointment.

## DIVORCECARE

Sonoma Springs Church, 3940 Sonoma Springs Ave., now offers an ongoing DivorceCare support ministry from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The ministry is devoted to helping people find support, healing and becoming whole again. Child care is available. For more information, call 526-4907.

## OPEN SPIRITUAL GROUP

The Association for Research and Enlightenment (ARE) Edgar Cayce Studies holds group meetings from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday. The meetings are hosted by local chapter leader Linda Aragon and are open to the public. Anyone seeking spiritual study, knowledge and awareness is encouraged to attend. There is no fee. For more information and location, call 382-6400.

## KIDS TRIUMPHANT LEARNING CENTER

Church Triumphant, 2020 N. Valley Drive, has begun enrollment for its Kids Triumphant Learning Center. The center provides creative, social and physical programs for children in grades kindergarten to sixth. For more information, call 528-5683.

## SATURDAY VESPERS

St. Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, located at the Kendrick Chapel at 518 N. Alameda Blvd., invites visitors and inquirers to Vespers at 5 p.m. on Saturdays. This evening service of prayer and praise is a good introduction to the Biblical foundation and spirituality of Eastern Orthodox Christianity and includes a sermon, occasionally with discussion afterward. For more information, visit <http://stanthontlc.org>.

## KELP RADIO MINISTRY

Calvary Chapel Las Cruces hosts a radio ministry at 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday on local station KELP 89.3 FM. The program features the ministry of Pastor Robert "Bob" Ortega Jr., as he teaches from the Word of God. For questions, comments or prayer regarding the program, call the church fellowship at 524-0985.



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**Services:**

**Sunday 10:30 a.m.**  
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**Las Cruces, NM 88001**  
**[www.csllascruces.org](http://www.csllascruces.org)**  
**575-523-4847**

**WELCOME to a New Church in Las Cruces!**

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**Wednesdays this fall, 7pm**

- Ladies: **JAMES** bible study (Beth Moore)
- Men: **Honor Begins at Home** (Courageous)
- University: **Twisting the Truth** (Stanley)
- Youth: **Not a Fan for Teens** (Idelman)
- Kids: **God Rocks**
- PLUS** Financial Peace University Classes (Ramsey)

**1405 S. Solano Dr.**  
**Las Cruces, NM**  
**575-527-2687**  
**[cotrlc.com](http://cotrlc.com)**

**First Presbyterian Church**  
200 E. Boutz  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

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**Fellowship Potluck and Communion Service Every First Saturday of the Month**  
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**UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
Discipleship 9 a.m.  
Worship 10 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY SERVICES**  
6:30 p.m.

**KIDS FOR CHRIST**  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

2010 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
[upres.com](http://upres.com) • 575-522-0828

## 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](http://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](http://www.firstpreslc.com)  
(575) 526-5559

## Non Denominational

**Calvary Chapel Three Crosses**  
Simply Teaching the Bible... Simply

Sunday Services  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Wednesday Bible 6 p.m.

**575-642-8077**  
4301 Bataan Memorial West Hwy. 70 West 88012  
**[www.cc3c.us](http://www.cc3c.us)**

**Southern New Mexico Church of God**

Sabbath Services  
Interactive Bible Study  
Saturdays 1 p.m.  
5245 Cortez Dr.  
575-650-7359

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.*

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Private counseling also available.

**Church Triumphant**

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Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
En Español: 1 p.m.  
Wednesday/180 Youth: 6:30 p.m.

Kid's Church for all ages!  
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[churchtriumphantlc.com](http://churchtriumphantlc.com)

2020 N. Valley Dr.,  
528-LOVE(5683)

## 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](http://www.UnityofLasCruces.org)**

# Camp Hope gets a holiday breakfast

Residents and Temple Beth-El congregants come together

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

When the 50 families who occupy Camp Hope, off Amador Avenue, woke up Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012, they were greeted with the smell of sweet rolls, egg casserole and fresh coffee.

The meal was provided to the Camp Hope residents by the congregants of Temple Beth-El during what was dubbed "Jewish Christmas Breakfast."

"We at the temple thought that it was a good idea to offer this breakfast on Christmas Day," said Liz Lewis Olson, a coordinator of the breakfast. "As Jews, we don't celebrate Christmas, but the residents at Camp Hope, who are of different denominations, do."

Susan Fitzgerald, another coordinator of the breakfast, said several of the temple's congregants donate their time as cooks at El Caldito Soup Kitchen or donate funds to Casa de Peregrinos.

A board member of Casa de Peregrinos and soon-to-be Camp Hope board member, Olson said she had the idea for the breakfast after talking to those at the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, which oversees Camp Hope.

"A lot of churches do dinners or barbecues, but not breakfast," she said. "It seemed like the right fit. Many people at the temple were happy to help."

Fitzgerald said 21 families at the temple contributed to the breakfast through donations, food and volunteering their time on the morning of Dec. 25.

In addition to the sweet rolls and breakfast casserole, bagels and lox as well as hot chocolate were served.

"Everybody was very gracious to have someone there with hot food and hot coffee," Fitzgerald said. "There seemed to be a lot of good conversations going on."

Olson said she received positive feedback from not only those dining on breakfast, but also those serving the breakfast.

"Working with Camp Hope and the Community of Hope is a very positive experience for all of us affiliated with it," she said. "We feel we're really making a difference."

She said Camp Hope is a transitional living arrangement and the residents work with Community of Hope caseworkers



The residents of Camp Hope dined on a hot breakfast provided by congregants of Temple Beth-El Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2012.

on getting into affordable housing. Residents are provided with other services as well to help them get out of homelessness.

"It's a very cool organization," Olson said. "It's doing a lot of good things."

Because the breakfast went so well for all involved, it will become an annual event for temple members, Olson said.

## Build a nutritious breakfast

A few items make it easy to eat healthy

Despite good intentions to prepare a nutritious breakfast, it's often tempting to grab something on the run, only to fall flat when it comes to nutrition and energy. Yet making a nutritious breakfast is as easy as 1-2-3, according to Chef Devin Alexander, a health and wellness expert and best-selling author.

"When you start the day with coffee and a pastry, your blood sugar peaks quickly and then it crashes, which may send you for another sugary snack, adding empty calories, fat and sugar to your diet. But if you include three simple components – protein, whole grains and fruit – you'll kick-start your day and feel satisfied until lunch," Alexander said.

### Step one: protein

A key component of a better breakfast is protein. The Institute of Health's Dietary Reference Intake recommendations allow anywhere from 10 percent to 35 percent of total calories for normal healthy adults.

"Most Americans struggle to take in enough protein to make up 35 percent of their daily calories," Alexander said. "One way to stay satisfied all morning is to add

protein to your diet as part of breakfast."

A recent survey of bacon-eating consumers found that bacon is the most popular breakfast protein, with taste cited as the No. 1 factor that sets it apart from sausage and ham. Despite a love affair with bacon, however, 40 percent of respondents also listed fat content and sodium levels as their most important concerns when selecting bacon.

Eggs, another source of protein, were cited as the most popular food to eat with bacon, according to survey respondents. If you want the protein but without saturated fat and cholesterol, there are a variety of egg substitutes and egg whites available that work great in breakfast recipes.

### Step two: high fiber carbs

"It's a myth that all carbohydrates are bad," Alexander said. "Carbohydrates that deliver fiber and nutrients, like fruit and whole grains, provide energy, and the best ones also deliver high fiber to help digestion. With high-fiber choices, your body is using up 25 percent of the high-fiber food's calories just to digest it, and it's going to fill you up, too."

High-fiber choices abound for breakfast, from whole grain breads and muffins to hot or cold cereals. Jazz up these choices for added nutrition and flavor. For example, try topping oatmeal with dried fruits such as raisins or apricots, or even unsalted nuts. Top a whole wheat English muffin with chunky peanut butter and a sliced banana for a satisfying treat.

### Step three: fruits and berries

Fruit and berries pack in a host of nutrients including vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, plus fiber. And because of their high water content, you can eat more of them than denser fruits.

For instance, you can enjoy a full cup of berries versus half of a banana or half of a large apple for the same number of calories. Blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are all good choices, as the richer the color, the more antioxidants and vitamins they will have.

During the winter when it's harder to get fresh berries, buy freshly frozen berries and keep them on hand to incorporate into breakfast. So have fun. Toss them on cereal. Add them to yogurt for a flavorful parfait. Fold them into pancake batter, and flip with happiness.

## Health Briefs

### TRI Unity Conference

There will be a TRI Unity Conference held for those interested in learning about practical solutions for people who need augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at the Corbett Center Student Union Ballrooms, 1600 International Mall, on the New Mexico State University campus.

AAC is practical language and communication-based solutions and service delivery for individuals with needs in augmentative and alternative communication.

Featured speakers include Cathy Binger, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, with the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of New Mexico. Binger specializes in AAC and has nearly 20 years experience as a speech therapist.

To register, visit [www.triunityconference.net](http://www.triunityconference.net). Lunch will be provided. Registration must be received by Friday, Jan. 11.

### Fifth annual Cupids Chase 5K Run

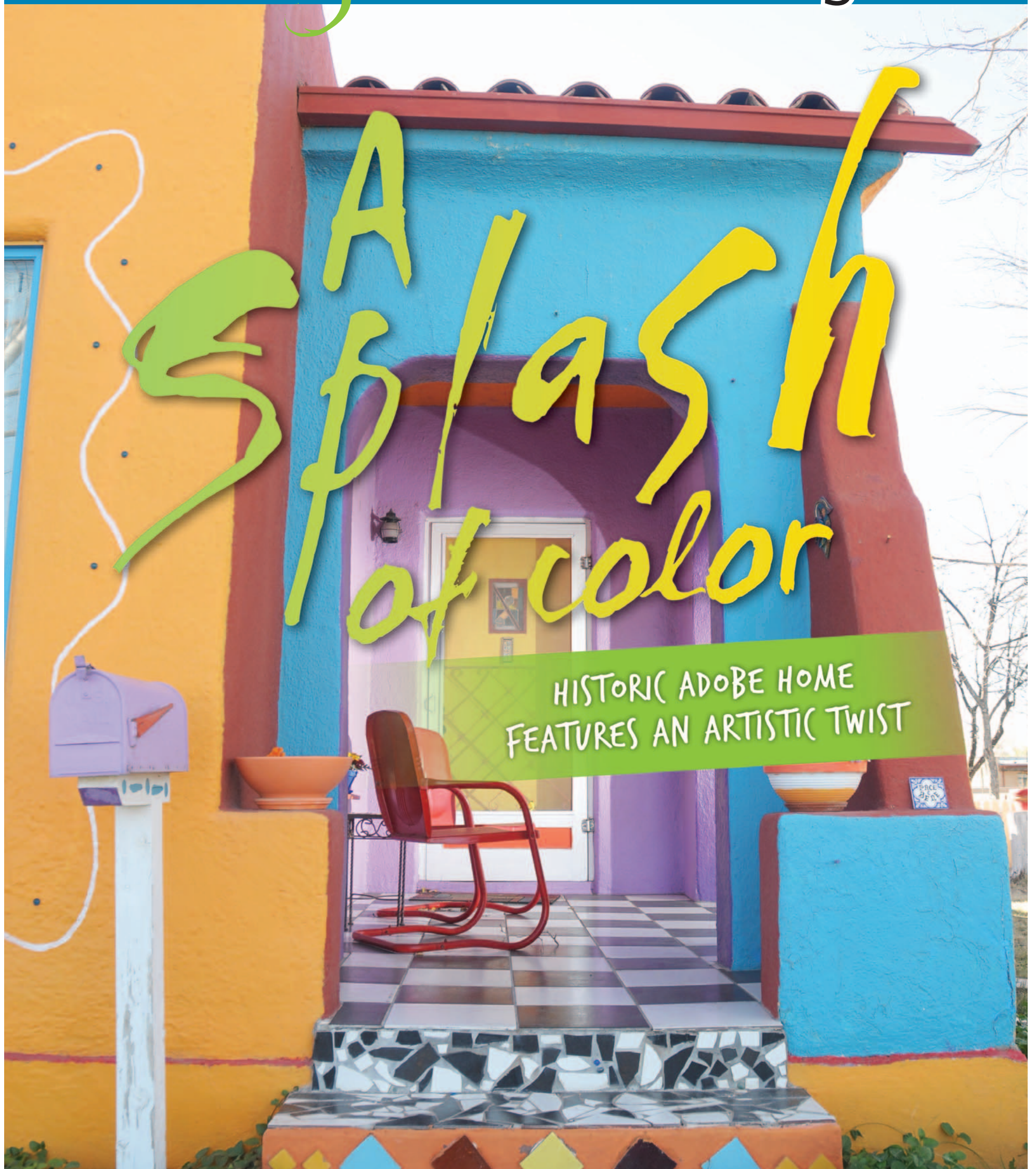
Registration for the fifth annual Cupids Chase 5K Run is now open. The run will be held Feb. 9, beginning at the Mesilla Plaza. Registration will begin at 7 a.m. and the race will start at 8 a.m. and end at 11 a.m. with an awards ceremony, folklorico dancing and Mariachi Herredero.

Funds assist people on the Developmental Disabilities Waiver program to raise awareness of this population segment. Eight hundred people are expected to participate.

To register, visit [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). For more information, call 521-2213 or visit [www.comop.org](http://www.comop.org).

### Group to audition for America's Got Talent

Overcome of Las Cruces is a band consisting of Adrian Vigil and two of two of his sons, Marcos and Domnik. The band was formed after the loss of their 11-year-old daughter and sister to brain cancer in August 2011. The group has pre-registered for the San Antonio auditions for "America's Got Talent" Saturday, Jan. 12. The group is asking for help from the community to make the trip. Any donation or assistance is appreciated. For more information on the group or to help, contact [aavigil76@gmail.com](mailto:aavigil76@gmail.com) or 505-860-1491, or visit [www.facebook.com/OvercomeBand](http://www.facebook.com/OvercomeBand)



# A splash of color

HISTORIC ADOBE HOME  
FEATURES AN ARTISTIC TWIST



# Featured home: 553 Brown Road

Photos by Steve MacIntyre



The exterior of the home at 553 Brown Road features 15 vibrant colors.



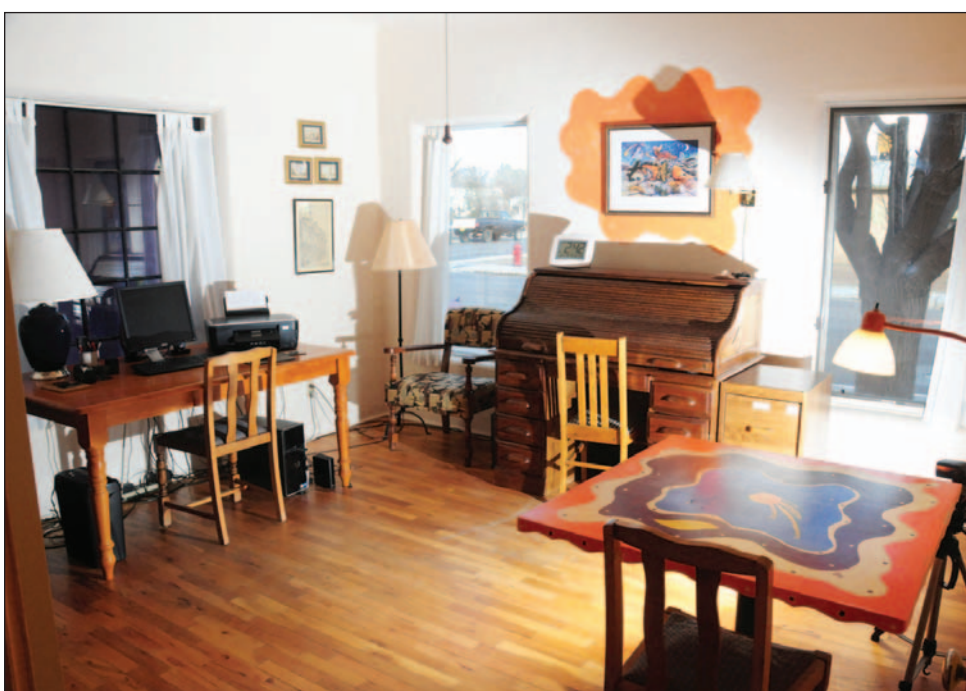
A bedroom also reflects the homeowners' creative side.



The master suite occupies the entire second floor of the partial adobe home.



Lime green walls offer contrast to the black and white floor in the dining room.



The home's original oak floors were discovered under avocado-green carpeting.



The home, built in 1939, features its original cabinetry in the brightly colored kitchen.

# Home captures the rainbow

## Personal touches make Brown Road home a standout

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

It's hard to miss the home at 553 Brown Road.

Located in the Downtown area, the adobe home originally built in 1939 isn't like the other historic homes in the neighborhood. It's not the fact that it's two stories that grabs one's attention. Or that it sits on two city blocks.

What makes the home at 553 Brown Road stand out is its bright façade painted in 15 different vibrant colors – the perfect reflection of its owners Johanna Binneweg and Godfrey Crane.

"It's a very interesting home," Binneweg said. "It has a bit of history to it."

As with many historic adobe homes, the residence at 553 Brown Road saw many changes over the decades, including the addition of a cinderblock room in the 1950s.

Binneweg's sister purchased the house several years later. When it came into her hands, it smelled of dead animal – a poor creature died under the house, Binneweg said – and had brown walls paired with avocado-green carpet.

Despite these flaws, there was potential. "I just love the comfortable feel of adobe walls," Binneweg said. "I liked the lines and the rounded, cushiony walls."

Binneweg's sister did some work on the home. She removed the unsightly carpet and discovered 70-year-old oak floors.

The couple fell in love with the house and purchased it in 1990. By 1991, renovations on the adobe began.

When the couple moved in, the home consisted of 1,100 square feet. Wanting to take advantage of the large lot, they expanded the back of the home, creating a dining room attached to the kitchen.

"We decided that while we were at it, we'd have a view of the (Organ Mountains)," said Binneweg, explaining that a second story devoted to the master suite was added to the home, increasing its square footage to approxi-

mately 2,200.

Binneweg and Crane created bookshelves, rounded arches, replaced fixtures and added their own personality throughout the house. While renovating, they discovered the house had "good bones," and was built to last – as well as withstand the 100-year flood.

"It was built like a battleship," Binneweg said. "It's very sturdy."

Through the front door, which includes a piece of stained glass created by Binneweg's sister, is the living room. The room features a tall, coved ceiling. Binneweg repeated this curved shape by creating arches throughout the home.

Down a hall are two guest rooms – one used as Crane's office. Intense red walls fill one of the bedrooms. The color is complemented by the blue and yellow found on the ceiling.

Also down the hall is a guest bathroom, which features a pedestal sink, hexagon tiles on the floor and shower stall and a swirling mosaic.

"We took it back to what it was originally," said Binneweg, who found inspiration in the clean, art deco style of the 1930s.

At the end of the hall is a staircase that leads to the blue-and-white master suite. Near the staircase is the kitchen.

White and yellow fill the kitchen, which features the home's original cabinetry.

"We had the cupboards made to look just like it," Binneweg said.

As visually striking is dining room. A room of their own creation, the couple used a passive solar design in the dining room, which can seat 24 people. As with the rest of the home, it truly is a reflection of the owners, with lime green walls, an orange border and turquoise trim around the French doors. These vivacious colors are contrasted by the black-and-white tile floor and light-colored wooden benches, created by Crane, that line a wall.

That unconventional façade came about after the renovations.

"I didn't have a vision, it just evolved,"

Binneweg said.

Originally, the home featured a pinkish-tan exterior. As the paint faded, however, it morphed into an unsightly blend of grey, pink and brown, Binneweg said.

"It looked ugly," she said. "It was depressing."

Her brother came up with the idea to repaint the home. He wanted to paint it different shades of brown, which would light up as the sun passed over the house throughout the day. She, however, wanted it to be yellow. He compromised and painted the exterior marigold.

"After a couple of days, I fell in love with it. I added the blue, purple and red," said Binneweg, adding that she liked the sound of "purple porches."

"We just made it up as we went along. We just played and had fun with it.

"It's given me such pleasure to come home to this beautiful, sunshine house."

At the back of the house is a courtyard, enclosed by an adobe wall constructed by Crane and painted in those same vibrant colors by Binneweg.

In the area is a garden designed to take care of itself with hollyhocks, sunflowers and other vegetation. From the garden, visitors can admire a small balcony that protrudes from the master suite. As with the eyebrow roof, Crane also installed tile along the edge of the balcony.

On the side of the home, accessed from the dining room, is another courtyard, this one featuring a kitchen garden with roses. Crane said he built this porch to match the one designed in 1939.

"I tried to maintain the original flavor of the house," he said.

A house truly their own, Binneweg and Crane said they would like to see someone else come in and make their own improvement to the structure.

"People look at the house and say, 'That's nice, but it's someone else's style.' But it's just paint," Binneweg said. "I hope someone comes in and makes it their own."

## Details

### Featured home

553 Brown Road

### Square footage

Approximately 2,200

### Acres

.24

### Bedrooms

Three

### Bathrooms

Two

### Price

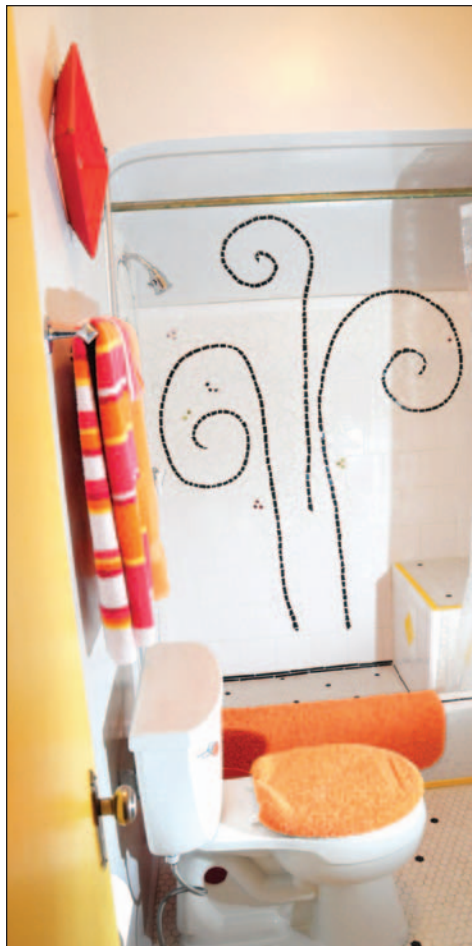
\$175,000

### Special features

Originally built in 1939, the home mainly consists of adobe and features an assortment of colors inside and out, as well as two outdoor courtyards with gardens.

### Contact

Elsie Bonfantini at 650-3680 or [elsie@zianet.com](mailto:elsie@zianet.com)



A mosaic adds flair to the bathroom.



A second story was added in the 1990s.



Arches are used inside and out.



The master bathroom has a rustic look.





A demilune – a half circle table – will take up less space for those tight areas.



Must-have furniture for the bedroom includes a dresser, left, and nightstands, above.



Nightstands don't have to be square, this round variety is also stylish.

# Another look at must-haves

## Part 2 examines wooden furniture



**Maureen Villmer**  
Practical Design

We talked about upholstery in my last article as investment pieces. I would now like to share with you the investment pieces that are important for flexibility and longevity when it comes to wood pieces or case goods as we call them in the “business.”

A three- or four-drawer dresser offers versatility. Where can you use it? Use at an entry as a dumping ground for your keys, purse and cell phone, incoming mail or next to the bed as a nightstand. Use a small dresser in the dining room to hold linens, in a hall or at the top of the stairs with a mirror.

The dimensions of this piece should be no wider than 36 to 40 inches and no deeper than 18 to 22 inches and 30 to 36 inches high. The versatility comes with size and ability for storage by having drawers.

I have a small dresser that now resides next to my bed as a nightstand. It has been in an

entry as a foyer table, in a small guest room as the only storage piece with a mirror above and in a mud room and as my “dumping ground” piece.

Every sofa needs to be served by at least one side table. Call it an end table or an occasional table. It is the table and sits next to the sofa, loveseat or chair.

Look for a table that is finished on all sides and that you can see through. Instead of only being able to use it against a wall, you'll be able to float it out in the middle of a room if it's finished all the way around. Instead of getting a matched pair, find two side tables that are different shapes (round and rectangle, for example) and invest in those. They could also be different finishes (one painted and one stained).

You will have much more flexibility if they are close to the same height, but of different shapes. Storage should be important for these pieces as well. A shelf to store books, magazines, your Kindle, remote control or a drawer to put “stuff” that you need when you are sitting and reading or watching TV is important to consider when you make this investment.

A sofa table is a great investment piece. What is a sofa table? It is usually 48 to 65 inches long, both sides finished, about 28 to 34 inches high and 14 to 18 inches deep, has legs and sometimes a stretcher bar or shelf below. If you plan on more versatility, leave the bottom open so you could slide two small ottomans under for extra seating without taking up the space of two chairs.

At this point in my life, I own three. How can you use them? Use as a console table in an entry, behind a sofa in the middle of a room to hold a lamp, in the family room to hold a flat screen TV, or on a wall to display artwork above.

A demilune table is basically a half circle table either on legs or with a drawer at the top or all drawers to the ground. Since it is half circles, it takes up less room ... no sharp corners. It can be used in an entry, bedroom (as nightstand), dining room or as a side table turned on its side.

Be sure it is finished all the way around so if used on its side you see a finished side. The size should be 30 to 36 inches wide and 16 to 18 inches at its deepest point and 26 to 36 inches high.

It could be a painted color or stained. Don't try to match everything in the same



A soft table can be used in multiple ways, such as a place to display art or hold up your TV.

color of stain. It is boring. Invest in the piece because you really like it (no matter what color it is). You will be happier with your selections over a longer period of time.

Remember, good bones in a house are the same as good bones in your furniture selections. You may not have room for all these pieces, but as your needs grow; these are basic pieces that will give you years of happiness in whatever home you live in.

Notice with most of these pieces, scale is the important factor. The bigger the piece, the less flexibility you have to move it.

Have fun finding your “must have” pieces!

Maureen Villmer is an interior designer in Las Cruces with 35 years of experience. If you have questions you would like answered in her column, email her at [maureenvillmer@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenvillmer@hotmail.com), visit *Environs Interior Design* on Facebook or call 496-7605.

# Home Sales Scoreboard

## LAS CRUCES AREA

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Closed Sales New Homes	4	2	1

Closed Sales Existing Homes	22	11	20
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Pending Home Sales (All)	143	149	156
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	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Average Days on Market (All)	124	91	105

\*Homes\* include detached single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Median Price New	\$199,849	\$170,000	\$161,000

Median Price Existing	\$169,500	\$72,000	\$151,250
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	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Total Homes on Market (All)	1,106	1,084	1,129

Real Estate Agents	399	399	366
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Source: Las Cruces Multiple Listing Service (MLS)\* for the period 12/10/12-12/16/12  
\* MLS is wholly owned by the Las Cruces Association of Realtors  
\*\* Unknown per LCAR

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# Getting to know: Jennifer Sandoval

## Continuing to make strides Sandoval takes over as LCHBA president

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Jennifer Sandoval has been busy this past year.

The Realtor of approximately 10 years and Property Consultants LLC partner started a new real estate company, JS & Associates, in 2012 to better serve R. Hines Construction, the company she owns with her husband, Robert.

"We opened a model in Metro Verde and we started a new line (The Lantana Collection)," she said. "We've been very, very busy."

Things are about to get even busier for the mother of two — she has taken on the position of 2013 Las Cruces Home Builders Association president, a role she has been gearing up for since becoming actively involved with the organization in 2010.

The Sandovals have been association members and showcase participants since beginning R. Hines Construction in 1999. By 2010, however, Sandoval said she wanted to help bring new energy to the organization. She first became involved at the committee level, but it soon grew from there.

"With this association — as with everything I do — I jumped in with two feet," she said. "I felt like I got as much out of it as I put in."

Others noticed her willingness and Sandoval was asked to be the 2011 secretary of the LCHBA Board of Directors, then move to president elect of the board before becoming president.

"It's a very rewarding association, and it's your industry. You can see the changes and the good coming out of what you do," she said. "I wasn't worried (about becoming president). I felt I could do it and it was my industry, so I had more of an incentive to do it."

In recent years, the association had fallen on hard times.

### Details

#### Jennifer Sandoval

##### Position

President, Las Cruces Home Builders Association

##### Company

JS & Associates

##### Phone

649-9963

##### Email

jennifer@rhinesconstruction.com

##### Website

www.rhinesconstruction.com

##### Education

Bachelor's degree in business, New Mexico State University

##### Family

- Husband Robert
- Sons Cameron and Tristan

With the hit to the economy and the building industry, many members were facing hardship. Also, a change in staffing left LCHBA without a director for some time, leaving the board of directors and its president responsible for the organization.

"Farrell (Thurston, 2011 president) and Jim (Reedy, 2012 president) took the brunt," Sandoval said. "I'm getting it when it's good."

"They've made very good, wise decisions. I'm lucky to get in now."

Sandoval said several strides have been made within the association and she has noticed that member morale is coming back.

"Thanks to presidents Farrell and Jim, and Steve (Chavira, LCHBA managing director) and Alesia (Dutton, with LCHBA) and all those people who worked so hard, we're starting to reach our goals," she said. "It's working. The association is in a better position now thanks to the people of the previous years."

There are, however, issues that Sandoval and the association will face in 2013, one of which being appraisals.

"It's difficult to get a deal and get it under contract and have the appraisal come in low," she said. "It's affecting the price of homes."

Another challenge the industry faces are impact fees. "Impact fees are the first order of business," she said. "Impact fees are going to be a big struggle for 2013."

It was recently decided by Las Cruces City Council that proposed impact fees for roadways and drainage would be pushed back from its Jan. 1 start date to July to allow the building industry more time to recover.

While this is a victory for LCHBA, the battle isn't over.

"Impact fees add on cost to the total price of a home," Sandoval said. "We already have impact fees when we pull a permit and they're asking for more. It adds to the price of a home and it's another expense for the homebuyer."

While some think the additional cost will not affect a potential homebuyer drastically, those in the homebuilding industry disagree.

"There is a huge impact on local homebuyers," Sandoval said. "It's the difference between being able to purchase a home and not being able to, especially for first-time homebuyers."

Sandoval said LCHBA has received support from other business organizations in the community, such as the Las Cruces Association of Realtors and the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, on the issue.

In 2013, LCHBA will continue to build its relationship with the city and county, Sandoval said.

"A goal in 2013 is to increase our political presence," she said. "We'd like to have a really good working relationship with the city and county. We want to work together in the best interest of Las Cruces."

"We want to be able to put people in homes, and by doing so, we're creating jobs."

The association helps build the community in more ways than one, including offering support through its Community Service Committee. Among the outreach conducted by the committee and members, 250 Thanksgiving dinner boxes are distributed each year to families in need.

The building industry continues to recover, and Sandoval encourages builders and those in related fields to get involved



with LCHBA.

"It's shocking, but builders underestimate the home builders association and what it can do to their business," she said.

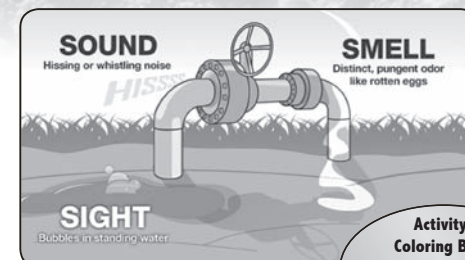
"I think it helps at two levels. No.1, it helps your industry and if you're going to be in the industry, don't you want to better your industry? So much of what it does helps. Showcase, for example, is one of the biggest marketing tools a builder can use."

"No. 2 is the networking. You don't realize what kind of networking you can get out of it. It's definitely helped me with my networking."

Sandoval said she will work throughout 2013 to bring more awareness of the benefits of being a member of the organization, which includes not just builders, but also subcontractors and affiliates.

"I want to show people what (LCHBA) does for them as members," she said. "It has a lot to offer. There are luncheons, educational opportunities and special speakers ... all really to help us learn how to better run our business."

## Suspect a Leak?



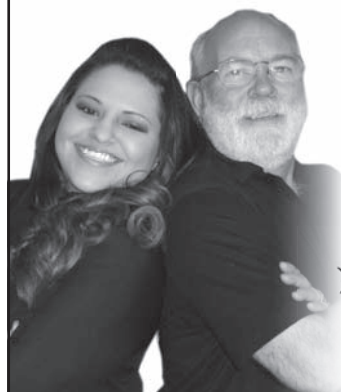
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# Sticking to your resolution

## Apple baker will be handy this New Year

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

As the ball was lowered on Monday, Dec. 31, counting down the seconds until the New Year, numerous thoughts probably swirled around in your head.

Maybe it was excitement over the seemingly endless possibilities 2013 would bring; maybe it was nerves for that New Year's kiss; maybe it was reflections of the year that was. Whatever it was, somewhere, in the back of your subconscious, arouse that sometimes-dreaded

tradition: the New Year's resolution.

The origin of the New Year's resolution dates back to ancient Babylonians, who made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans did the same, making promises at the start of each year to Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions.

Modern-day New Year's resolutions are more like promises or goals one sets for him or herself. Research shows that 40 to 45 percent of American adults make one or more resolutions every year.

In 2012, weight loss was the most common New Year's resolution, followed by getting organized, spending less or saving more, enjoying life to the fullest, learning something exciting and to quit smoking.

Unfortunately, research also shows that of those who make New Year's resolutions, 75 percent will give up after the first week. Also, the success rate for resolution makers is only 8 percent.

There are ways you can make your New Year's resolution successful, however.

If your resolution is to lose weight or become healthier, you don't have to starve yourself and spend endless hours at the gym. It's about making better decisions. Rather than gorging on fried delights, have a salad.

This is especially important for those who often fall victim to their sweet tooth, myself included. The thought of never having dessert again will make anyone give up on their weight-loss goals. In reality, all you need to do is make better eating decisions.

Pass on the chocolate cake and opt for the much healthier baked apple – a delight you can enjoy anytime when you have an apple baker on hand.

### What is it?

Baked apples may seem like an old-timey dessert, but there are many benefits it offers that will appeal to us modern-day folk.

First and foremost, it's low in calories. A 1-cup serving of baked apple is only 112 calories, a great reduction from the approximately 2,073 calories found in a piece of German chocolate cake.

Second, baked apples are full of things that are good for you, such as fiber, vitamin A, iron and calcium. Not only can you protect your eyesight and improve your skin (benefits of vitamin A), the fiber found in apples in particular has been shown to prevent

inflammation associated with metabolic diseases as well as improve the health of obese rats.

As the old adage goes, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

While there are several ways you can bake an apple, the apple baker is one of the simplest.

Essentially, an apple baker is a ceramic bowl with a spike or post in the middle designed to keep the apple upright. This is essential for cooking the apple thoroughly inside and out simultaneously.

### How does it work?

After washing and drying your apple baker, repeat the process with your fruit – leaving out the dish soap, of course.

Core your apple and place it on the bowl's post. Next, cover the apple with your desired fixings. This can be anything from melted butter mixed with water, sweet spices, raisins, nuts, honey and syrup.

The apple baker can be used in the oven or microwave. If in the oven, preheat it to 350 degrees and bake for 20 to 40 minutes. In the microwave, cook on high for 1.5 to 3 minutes.

Cook time will vary depending on the size of your apple. You'll know the apple is ready when a toothpick or fork can easily be pushed through the thickest part of the fruit.

When it is done, remove the apple from the dish and allow it to cool slightly before servings. The apple baker can then be washed by hand.

### Where can it be found?

The apple baker can be found around town at various kitchen and cookware specialty stores, or you can take a cue from my 2012 Secret Santa and purchase one from Barbara Louis Williams at the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market. Creating handmade pottery, Williams can be reached at clay\_ink@q.com. For more information, visit www.cripplecreekpottery.etsy.com.

### How much does it cost?

The price of the apple baker varies depending on the venue and whether it was made by hand or not. Typically, it will run between \$10 and \$15.



*Featured kitchen gadget:  
Apple baker*

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# ChileKnights

## A resolution you'll keep

Get ready for 2013 food trends

**Sunny Conley**  
Chile Knights



Happy New Year!

Along with resolutions come food trends and, like last year (and previous years), chile pepper-inspired dishes reign. Although Mexican and Latin American cuisine hit the list, palates will hanker more toward Asian, in particular the spicy and fresh flavors from Vietnam, Korea and Thailand.

Underscoring Vietnamese cuisine is lemon grass, cilantro, chile and fish sauce; Korean, sesame seeds and sesame oil, tofu, soy sauce, Napa cabbage, green onion and red chile peppers or red chile paste; and Thai, the juxtaposition of sweet, sour and salty ingredients heated with red hot chile.

The Asian explosion is a healthy alternative to the oft calorie-laden traditional Mexican cuisine. Once you have the main condiments on hand, whipping up an Asian meal is a snap. Give it a try.

Make it your resolution. Launch the new year with a healthy appetite for all things good.

### Vietnamese Chicken Sandwiches with Sriracha Sauce

3/4 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, sliced 1/4-inch thick  
2 tablespoons lite soy sauce  
1 tablespoon lite mayonnaise, plus a bit more for spreading  
1 large shallot, thinly sliced  
2 carrots, scrubbed well, halved crosswise and thinly sliced lengthwise  
1/2 cup pickled cocktail onions, halved, plus 1/4 cup of the pickling liquid from the jar  
1 (10-ounce) baguette, split lengthwise and toasted  
Sriracha or other hot sauce, for spreading  
1 Kirby cucumber, very thinly sliced lengthwise (or any small cucumber)  
Cilantro sprigs

In a bowl, toss the chicken with the soy sauce, 1 tablespoon of mayonnaise and the sliced shallot. Cover and let marinate in the refrigerator for 1 hour. Meanwhile, in another bowl, mix the sliced carrots with the pickled onions and their liquid and let stand at room temperature for 1 hour. Heat a grill pan. Grill the chicken and shallot slices over high heat until charred and the chicken is just cooked through, about 2 minutes per side. Spread mayonnaise on the cut sides of the baguette and then spread with Sriracha.

On the bottom half of the baguette, layer the carrots, pickled onions and sliced cucumber, then top with the grilled chicken and shallot slices. Lay cilantro sprigs over the chicken and top with the other baguette half. Cut crosswise into 6 pieces and serve. Makes 3 to 6 servings.

### Thai Chicken Stir-Fry

1 pound chicken breasts, skinless and boneless  
1/4 cup red bell peppers, diced into 1/2-inch pieces  
1/4 cup green bell peppers, diced into 1/2-inch pieces  
12 baby carrots, cut to 1-inch pieces  
1/2 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced  
1/4 cup green onions, chopped  
2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped  
1 tablespoon sesame oil  
1 tablespoon sesame seeds  
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar  
2 tablespoons brown sugar or 2 tablespoons brown sugar substitute  
5 tablespoons soy sauce



Hot and spicy Asian dishes dominate this year's food trends.

3 tablespoons chicken stock  
5 tablespoons sweet hot chile sauce or to taste  
Cilantro, optional garnish

Cut the chicken into bite size pieces. Stir-fry the cut chicken until browned, approximately 5 minutes. Add peppers, mushrooms and carrots, stir-fry for 5 minutes more over medium high heat. Add green onions, cook 1 minute. Mix together remaining ingredients and pour over chicken. Simmer 5 minutes. Serve over cooked noodles or rice. Makes 4 servings.

### Thai Basil Chicken

1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
3 Thai "bird" chiles, minced with seeds or to taste  
1/2 small onion, sliced  
1/2 pound ground chicken  
1 tablespoon fish sauce  
2 teaspoons brown sugar  
Pinch of white pepper  
3 sprigs basil, stems removed  
2 eggs

Heat a small frying pan over medium heat until hot. Add a splash of oil and crack two eggs into the pan and fry until the white part is set, but the yolk is still soft. Transfer the eggs to a plate to keep them from overcooking.

Heat a wok or a cast iron skillet over medium high heat until very hot. Add the oil, garlic and chilies and stir-fry until the garlic is very fragrant. Add the onions and continue stir-frying until the onions have wilted. Add the ground chicken and fry until the chicken is cooked.

Season with the fish sauce, sugar and white pepper. If your pan was hot enough, you should not have any liquid at the bottom of the pan, but if you do, continue cooking until the liquid is gone. Add the basil and toss a couple of times until the leaves are wilted and bright green.

Serve the basil chicken with jasmine rice and an egg on top of each plate. Makes 2 servings. (Recipe adapted from <http://norecipes.com>)

### Korean Spicy Marinated Pork

1/4 cup rice wine vinegar

2 tablespoons soy sauce  
1/2 cup gochujang (Korean hot pepper paste)  
3 tablespoons garlic, minced  
3 tablespoons fresh ginger root, minced  
2 tablespoons red pepper flakes  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
3 tablespoons white sugar  
3 green onions, cut into 2-inch pieces  
1/2 yellow onion, cut into 1/4-inch thick rings  
1 (2-pound) pork loin, cut into 1/4-inch slices  
1/4 cup canola oil

Stir together the vinegar, soy sauce, hot pepper paste, garlic, ginger, red pepper flakes, black pepper, sugar, green onions and yellow onion in a large bowl. Mix in the pork slices, mixing well until completely coated. Place into a resealable plastic bag, squeeze out any excess air, seal and marinate in the refrigerator at least 3 hours.

Heat the canola oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the pork slices in batches, and cook until no longer pink in the center, and lightly browned on the outside, about 5 minutes per batch. Makes 8 servings.

*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 Conley at [sunny.conley@gmail.com](mailto:sunny.conley@gmail.com).*

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# Tips on winter fire safety

## Red Cross looks to keep families safe during the new year

Winter is the busiest time of year for home fires, and the American Red Cross wants people in New Mexico to know what they can do to help prevent home fires and what to do if a fire occurs.

"More home fires occur in winter than any other season and having working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and a fire escape plan can help save lives in the winter months and all year long," said Rahim Balsara, CEO American Red Cross in New Mexico. "The Red Cross has a series of tips on preventing home fires and responding quickly if a fire occurs."

### Install smoke, carbon monoxide alarms

- Install smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside bed-

rooms and outside sleeping areas.

- Make sure all household members know what a smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear one.
- Test smoke alarms every month and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas. If a carbon monoxide alarm sounds, quickly move outdoors and call 9-1-1.

### Create a fire escape plan

- Create a fire escape plan and ensure that all household members know at least two ways to get out of every room if it's possible.

- Determine a meeting place a safe distance from the home where everyone will go if a fire occurs.
- Practice your plan at least twice a year.

### Other fire safety tips

- Keep lighters and matches in a secured spot out of the reach of children.
- Have fireplaces and chimneys cleaned and inspected annually.
- Keep items that can catch fire at least three feet away from fireplaces, stoves and space heaters.
- Turn off portable space heaters and extinguish candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.

"In the event of a home fire, get out, stay out and call 9-1-1," Balsara said. "Teach household members to stop, drop and roll if their clothes should catch fire."

People can find additional information on how to protect their loved ones and their property at [www.redcross.org/homefires](http://www.redcross.org/homefires). The American Red Cross in New Mexico has responded to 255 home fires across the state in 2012.

### Help your neighbors

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or join the organization's blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>

The Red Cross also is there to help those in need when fires break out. The American Red Cross in New Mexico responded to 250 home fires in 2011 all over New Mexico. The Red Cross depends on the generous support of New Mexico residents to be ready to respond and help our neighbors who are affected by home fires. People can help neighbors recover from disasters like home fires by making a tax-deductible donation today. To make a financial donation, go to [www.redcrossnewmexico.org](http://www.redcrossnewmexico.org) or call 800-RED-CROSS.

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