Council eyes water goals
Fees to encourage more conservation

By Todd G. Dickson
Las Cruces Bulletin

Because codes enforcement of wasteful water use is difficult, Las Cruces city officials are considering using water bill fees to encourage conservation.

That was the most concrete idea coming out of the Las Cruces City Council work session on water Monday, Nov. 25.

The city gets the majority of its water from the Mesilla Basin aquifer, roughly running south of U.S. Highway 70 into El Paso and northern Mexico. According to a 2007 water forum, the Mesilla Basin has about 100 million acre-feet – 52 million acre-feet in fresh water. Parts of the city are also served by water from Jornada Basin, which also has about 100 million acre-feet in southern end, according to estimates by New Mexico State University’s Water Resources Research Institute.

What’s not clear, city councillors learned, is how much the Mesilla Basin has been depleted since then, because while the city knows how much its wells are taking, no one had an answer for Councillor Miguel Silva about how much the underground aquifer has been recharged, considering the years since the estimate have been marked by the most extreme drought on record.

Further complicating the picture, residents Dan Townsend said, is that the deepest portion of Mesilla Basin crosses the New Mexico-Texas state line and belongs to El Paso. Also, he said, the City of Juarez has 29 wells drawing water from it.

“We have a lot more straws in the water than what there used to be,” Townsend said.

Councillor Olga Pedroza said there’s also the “humongous development” in Santa Teresa to consider, as well as federal lawsuits between New Mexico and Texas over groundwater supply. Pedroza said she is worried the city may end up holding too much water over groundwater supply. Pedroza said she is worried the city may end up holding too much water over groundwater supply.

The audition, however, is in Los Angeles, and Vigil is not working except for local gigs for his band Overcome – featuring his sons Marcos, 18, and Dominik, 16.

“I’m asking for help to cover the expenses getting to the audition,” Vigil said.

The group performs Saturdays for donations at the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market. Even though a light rain thwarted his intent to play Saturday, Nov. 23, Vigil said.

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Lending a hand at the Convoy of Hope

Volunteer Denise Kimbrough helps brothers Braylen Guevara, 8, and Jordan Henderson, 7, size their feet for shoes at the Convoy of Hope Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. The convoy gave free groceries and other services to more than 5,000 people.

Jessica Polanco, stylist from Armando’s Hair Salon, gives Sebastian Salazar, 3, a haircut.

Aden Lopez, 3, has his face painted in the kids zone.

Volunteers Tony Manuel, Marcie Garcia, Sylvia Olivias and Ernest Muñoz help guide lines of families to the right place.

Three semi’s filled with more than 6,000 coats for kids are ready to be taken.

Mike Ancira and Genevieve Olguin of Brooks Photography volunteer their time to do family portraits at Convoy of Hope.

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GREAT FUTURES START HERE.
WSMR

Continued from page A1

Eckles has completed “Pocketful of Rockets” – a book fittingly large at 500 pages – that he has self-published, just in time for the Christmas shopping season.

“I made a conscious decision to self-publish because I wanted to include my own thoughts about things and that would have been all cut out if I had a real publishing company produce it,” Eckles said.

To give an example of how rich WSMR’s history is, Eckles pointed out one area of the range called the Brillo Site. There a lot of the systems used in both Iraq Wars were tested, he said. Nearby are the Lake Lucero gypsum salt flats where the Space Shuttle Columbia landed in 1982. Emerging from the salt flats are the raised stumps of prehistoric animals, while back up the canyon are remarkable petroglyphs and rock wall paintings of early Indians, both before and after the Spanish brought horses to the New World. In that area is the site of the last major battle Apaches fought against U.S. Buffalo Soldiers, he said.

“Even further up the canyon is a former talc mine, he said, and not far from there is Victorio Peak, named after the Apache chief who lost that last battle. The peak has been explored several times for a legendary store of Spanish gold. Also, in the area are the remains of ranches that were taken by the range as its importance to the national defense grew, he said.

“All that is just one portion of the range,” Eckles said. “Even after completing the book, I realize that I’m only scratching the surface.”

But “Pocketful Of Rockets” makes a point to hit all of the range’s important moments, such as V-2 rockets gone astray and the first atomic bomb at Trinity Site. Eckles said he was particularly interested in the stories of the ranchers, as well as the wildlife with mountain lions and bighorn sheep roaming the range.

Eckles said his intent was to chronicle two periods – what happened in the 3,200-square-mile region before 1942 and what happened once the military moved in. Despite the ambition of the task, Eckles said “never before has so much history and so many stories about White Sands been brought together in one volume.”

WSMR is place where unexpected history keeps happening, Eckles said, such as the post-World War II German scientists reassembling V-2 rockets that would start the American space program. Consider the introduction of African oryx, in a place where ranchers raised cattle and goats in rugged and inhospitable territory. It could also be a dangerous place for people, as both Col. Albert Fountain and his investigator Sheriff Pat Garrett lost their lives in the region.

Eckles said the range’s military testing programs were also responsible for the continuing Roswell UFO phenomenon.

“The missile range’s isolation and sensitive testing mission have made it relatively invisible to most – even those living next door in the surrounding communities,” Eckles said. “Pocketful of Rockets’ reveals some of that history and provides a look at the landscape before the military moved in.”

“Pocketful of Rockets” retails for $25. The book is available in Las Cruces at Coas Bookstores and the Mesilla Book Center. It can also be ordered from www.amazon.com.
Gratitude with a twist

While giving thanks, look on the flip side, too

When thinking of thanksgiving, it’s traditional to be thankful for things you have. This year think instead, however, of thanking for things you don’t have, and are glad.

Don't have an IRS audit hanging over your head? Be thankful.

If your car is not in the shop awaiting a $1,600 repair, be thankful.

Don’t have an IBS audit hanging over your head? Be thankful.

You say your teenage son is giving you fits. On the other hand, he’s not in jail or awaiting trial, or dropping out of school. Be thankful.

If your car is not in the shop awaiting a $1,600 repair, be thankful.

Don’t have an IRS audit hanging over your head? Be thankful.

Let’s hope we don’t see any of that in Las Cruces.

There’s another motto I see recently: “Black Friday. Because only in America do people trample each other for sales exactly one day after being thankful for what we already have.”

That’s pretty hilarious, but certainly there’s nothing wrong with doing some Christmas shopping the day after Thanksgiving. For many it’s become a family tradition and a great event. Just as many others will go see a move on Thanksgivng night.

Unfortunately, we hear every year of some ugly incident taking place on Black Friday. Let’s hope we don’t see any of that in Las Cruces.

Las Crucens, as usual, have done impressive work with the less fortunate in our community, whether it’s collecting food for the hungry, dressing children or helping the homeless. If you’re able to do something to help others, it’s always a positive, and another thing to be thankful for.

This Thanksgiving, while you’re being thankful for what you have, remember to be thankful for the many burdens you don’t have, and think of those who struggle and face those burdens on a regular basis.

This Thanksgiving, while you’re being thankful for what you have, remember to be thankful for the many burdens you don’t have.

Third grade retention

A radio spot by New Mexico Competes supports Gov. Susana Martinez’s failed plan to retain third graders. The voice-over states third graders who are not reading proficiently are four times more likely to drop out.

This research is based on a report put out by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, called “Double Jeopardy.” In the study being reported, 16 percent of those who were not reading proficiently at third grade did not graduate on time, while 4 percent of those who were reading proficiently didn’t graduate – the four times more likely statement noted above.

While this is accurate, what the political commercial does not say is that 84 percent of students who were not reading proficiently did graduate on time. Are we going to retain these students who are on track for graduation? This same research found that third-grade students living in poverty are five times more likely to not graduate. Poverty was probably the cause of both the poor reading and the lower graduation rate.

The governor wants to retain poor readers at third grade when there is scant scientific evidence that it is beneficial or that it improves graduation rates, and substantial scientific research that it is detrimental. Following the same logic, maybe we should retain poor children until they become affluent, but that too is ridiculous. Call your legislators and tell them to never give up on children because they are poor.

Bill Soules
New Mexico State Senator District 37
Thanksgiving holiday not what it once was

Michael Swickard
In My Opinion

“I’m accustomed to a smooth ride or maybe I’m a dog who’s lost its bite.” – Paul Simon

Thanksgiving looks different to me with miles and age upon my eyes. The splendor of Thanksgiving is always tempered by the realization these gifts are not always deserved. For my undeserved gifts, I am thankful and mindful of my life made better.

Our nation has changed in my lifetime, from these feelings of thankfulness to the point that some people feel entitled to Thanksgiving. They forget being thankful. Rather than pleased, they are bored, since they are supposed to get everything they want.

Our nation has gone from some who look at their glass to see if it is half full to those who are stuck just looking for a glass. The majority of people who look at their glass to see if it is half full to those who are pleased, they are bored, since they are supposed to get everything they want.

Some will spend time on Thanksgiving remembering Thanksgivings past, when glasses were held by loved ones who are long gone. It is the consequence of age to live beyond people we have loved. In my lifetime, much has been gained in our society and so much lost.

Like Paul Simon, there are times when I think I am a dog who has lost his bite in today’s world. That is a common thought to those over the age of 60 in a world that worships youth. When I was young, old people were revered. No longer. Knowledge is not even revered, only political advantage.

It is Thanksgiving week and, as usual, I am thankful. However, none of what I really hold close to my heart is material. There was a time when I was younger that all I could think of was Martin guitars. Forty-some years later I still have those two guitars, a six-string and a 12-string Martin. They have traveled with me for decades and mean less to me than a grand-daughter’s smile.

While I do occasionally have a smooth ride in life, compared to others, I have never become accustomed to a smooth ride. No, this life of mine has always been stormy, just as I like it to be. Early in my life I found that a placid ride held no interest for me.

In the storms of life I am captain of my ship, though I cannot control the weather. So I must adjust to the changing weather of life. While I habitually am not much to worry, the future of this nation does worry me because of the challenges, not to me, but to the next generations.

In fact, I am worried not because of what our leaders are doing, rather, because of what my fellow citizens are not doing. This Thanksgiving is a good example of this change in America. Years ago, we got down on our knees to give thanks to Almighty God for that which we were given despite being flawed humans.

We were honestly and completely thankful. It was not just a photo opportunity, it was what we felt.

Today, many Americans rise from their Thanksgiving table saying, “I certainly deserve this and more.” Rising from the table, with the butter from the rolls still on their lips many citizens do not see the “thanks” in Thanksgiving. For these modern American citizens, the holiday does not resemble what it has been in the past.

In years gone by, Americans were humbled by the challenges and thankful for the deliverance. Today there is only the expectation that what comes our way is our entitlement.

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

In November 1621, a Thursday, I believe, the pilgrims were fixin’ to set down to a meager meal of fish sticks and boiled beets. When out of the woods marched a jovial band of Indians packin’ a bushel of roastin’ ears and two wild turkeys. Thursday, Thanksgiving, as we know it today, was born.

But, what if those generous Indians had chosen to take their bounty to the wild game feed at the VFW, instead? And in their place, the pilgrims were met by a crew of cowboys on their day off? These pre-revolutionary buckaroos would have passed around their own Wild Turkey.

They’d have barbecued a couple Spanish goats, some buzzard jerky, a side of javelina, and a bucket of quail. Not to mention a jackrabbit, they’d run over on the way into camp.

As a special treat they’d have thrown a few Rocky Mountain oysters on the hot rock for hors d’oeuvres. I can just see the young, single, upwardly mobile Pilgrim girls gigglin’ and gawnin’ on a piece of javelina haunch.

Toasts would have been made to all the greats: Christopher Columbus, John Smith, John Alden, Casey Tibbs, James Fenimore Cooper, John Elway, Bob Willa, Sir Walter Raleigh, Jerry Palen, Pocahontas and Francis Scott Key.

No cowboy gatherin’ would be complete without a fiddle. The cowboys might have taught ‘em the two-step and the cotton-eyed Joe. The Pilgrims would reciprocate with the minuet and Turkey in the Straw.

No doubt, Paul “Rawhide” Revere would have snuck Priscilla over to Sooner Rock (two hundred yards up the beach from Plymouth Rock, discovered by two Okies who stowed away on the Mayflower and jumped ship early, claiming the continent for a Pawhuska) for a little spoonin’.

By dawn they’d all be sayin’ good-bye and promising to meet again next year.

If that scenario had occurred, Thanksgiving would be different today. It would be more like a combination of New Year’s Eve and Custer’s last stand. Every November we’d be sittin’ down to a table bristlin’ with brisket and beans. The centerpiece would be the traditional cow skull, and afterwards everybody would have a piece of armadillo mince pie.

However, the turkey would not have been lost completely. It would have become the symbol of another national celebration that stops the country in its tracks and gives us pause to think – Election Day!

Black may be contacted at www.baxterblack.com.
Water disputes continue

Courts not the best option for battles over water

By Andrew Frank Walch for the Las Cruces Bulletin

In January 2013, Texas asked the Supreme Court to order New Mexico to send more Rio Grande water to Texas, arguing the Rio Grande Compact was intended to freeze all of New Mexico’s uses of the Lower Grande as of 1938. New Mexico denies the compact had a second track, the state engineers from all parties, New Mexico, Texas and likely the bureau, into the process at the outset, perhaps even before the attorneys get the case into court. In this second track, the state engineers from each party would be able to talk with one another. Assisted by their own counsel and working with their fellow state engineers, resolution could be reached fairly quickly, depending on how fast they work.

An example is one case in which I was lead counsel for the United States (Nebraska v. Wyoming). The case lasted 15 years and went to the Supreme Court three times over the course of that time for rulings on summary judgments. As I recall (I am now 80 years old), after numerous, miscellaneous motions before the Special Master, hearings and field trips along the North Platte River (the Special Master was a bird lover and particularly loved the cranes), many of our entourage of attorneys, enginees and experts would meet at 5 a.m. to join him. We did have several trips over the years. Hearings could occur in places like Salt Lake City, Utah and Pasadena, Calif. (where he owned homes).

Finally, after 15 years of prepartion, the attorneys, court reporters, witnesses and the Special Master gathered for our opening day of trial. Unfortunately, lead counsel for the states of Wyoming and Nebraska stood together to announce that they were to immediately begin settlement negotiations. No trial was ever held and the case settled in, I believe, around six to seven months. The costs, millions of dollars, were ultimately to be shared by the parties by degree of culpability.

Andrew Walch became a geologist for Conoco in 1959. He earned a law degree at South Texas School of Law in Houston, Texas, in 1971 and joined the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. He has litigated water rights cases in state and federal courts throughout the United States, including before Special Masters of the United States Supreme Court, in Nebraska v. Wyoming, Kansas v. Colorado and Wisconsin v. Illinois.

"There has to be a better way for a better outcome."

 Unspeakable acts

Animal abuse precursor to violence

By Wayne Barber, M.D.
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

After working for more than 40 years as a psychiatrist, one would think I am immune to surprise and alarm, but three recent instances of appalling animal abuse in our community compel me to alert the public of the potential consequences of these actions and, equally important, of our inaction toward such behaviors.

We should all be concerned, not only over such callous disregard for these animals’ lives, but for the dangerous implications of such behaviors to the safety of all citizens. Sadistic Mastiffs who perform such acts, and those who fail to discourage them, put the rest of us at risk. Such insensitivity to the feelings of animals not uncommonly leads to depraved acts against people.

Early in my career in child psychiatry, I became aware that animal abuse is a powerful predictor of cruel and sadistic adult behavior. In his historic early textbook (1809), the French psychiatrist Philippe Pinel postulated a linkage between animal abuse and violent tendencies.

During my professional lifetime, Margaret Mead (1964), a noteworthy anthropologist, expressed her belief that childhood animal cruelty was strongly suggestive of “a long career of episodic violence and murder.” Subsequent investigation over the past half-century has confirmed her prediction, including multiple retrospective studies of incarcerated violent offenders that demonstrate a history of childhood animal abuse in close to half of those surveyed.

As reviewed by Susan McDonald for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in October 2011, FBI records strongly suggest that “Murderers...very often start out by killing and torturing animals as kids.” McDonald reports that criminals are five times more likely to commit violent crimes against people if they have a history of abusing animals in their youth. Moreover, she notes, “the most aggressive criminals had committed the most severe acts of animal cruelty in childhood.”

Eastern New Mexico University graduate John Douglas, the highly regarded FBI profiler portrayed in the movie “Silence of the Lambs” – upon interviewing multiple serial killers of the past several decades, concluded “serial offenders’ earliest acts of violence are often the torture and/or killing of pets or wildlife.”

Thus, a childhood and/or teen-age history of animal abuse is now generally regarded by mental health professionals as a “red flag” that can help identify youth and adults at risk for perpetrating interpersonal violence.

Our community should remain alert for the signs of violence inherent in animal abuse, not just within the walls of law enforcement and mental health agencies, but also as watchful, compassionate citizens concerned with the needs of all creatures, animals and humans alike, to enjoy a humane existence.
Bingham promotion ceremony scheduled

White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) Commander Brig. Gen. Gwen Bingham will be promoted to the rank of major general Monday, Dec. 2.

The promotion ceremony will be held at WSMR’s Frontier Club and will be hosted by Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general of Army Materiel Command. Prior to taking command at White Sands, Bingham served as the 51st quartermaster general of the Army and commandant of the Army Quartermaster School from November 2010 to August 2013 at Fort Lee, Va.

School coach pleads guilty to child porn


Khan pleaded guilty to a four-count superseding indictment charging him with distribution of child pornography, receipt of child pornography, possession of child pornography and attempted production of child pornography. The guilty plea was entered under a plea agreement that permits Khan to appeal from the district court’s order denying his motion to suppress evidence obtained from a search warrant.

Khan was employed as a basketball coach at a Las Cruces middle school when he was arrested on child pornography charges in May 2012, after law enforcement officers executed an arrest warrant at Khan’s residence and seized computer and computer-related media from Khan’s bedroom that contained images and videos of child pornography. In Nov. 2012, Khan was indicted and charged with distributing, receiving and possessing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. A superseding indictment filed in July 2013 added an attempted production of child pornography charge.

In his plea agreement, Khan admitted that from May 2009 to May 2012, he knowingly distributed images and videos of child pornography images. He also admitted knowingly receiving images and videos of child pornography from March 2008 to May 2012. Khan further acknowledged that he knowingly possessed child pornography between July 2008 and May 2012. Finally, Khan admitted that from Sept. 2009 to May 2010, he attempted to persuade a person he believed to be a minor male to produce child pornography for his (Khan’s) use. Khan communicated with the person by email and sent him videos and images of child pornography to induce him to produce child pornography images of himself.

Khan has been in federal custody since his arrest in May 2012 and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. Khan faces a mandatory minimum of five years and a maximum of 20 years in prison on the indecent exposure count and receipt of child pornography charges. Khan also faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison on the possession of child pornography charge, and a mandatory minimum of 15 years and a maximum of 40 years in prison on the attempted production of child pornography charge. Khan will be required to register as a sex offender after he completes his prison sentence.

Yarbrough praised the prosecutors and investigators who worked on the case.

The case against Khan was investigated by the HSI, the Las Cruces Police Department and the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys’ offices and DOJ’s Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit www.justice.gov/psc/.

The case also received support from the New Mexico ICAC Task Force, whose mission is to locate, track, and capture Internet child predators and Internet child pornography distributors in New Mexico. There are 64 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the New Mexico ICAC Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

Alamo man sentenced for robbing Hatch bank

Kenneth Morral, 32, of Alamogordo, was sentenced Tuesday, Nov. 26, to five years in federal prison followed by five years of supervised release for robbing the First New Mexico Bank in Hatch on Oct. 19, 2012.

Court filings state that the First New Mexico Bank was robbed on Oct. 19, 2012, by two men who approached two bank tellers and verbally demanded money. After obtaining money from the bank tellers, the men drove away in a gray-colored vehicle.

On Oct. 21, 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported to the FBI the discovery of an abandoned car that matched the description of the getaway car. The FBI found evidence in the vicinity of the vehicle linking it to the bank robbery and a check of the vehicle’s VIN led investigators to Ricky J. Garcia, 49, of Los Lunas, N.M. Garcia was arrested on Oct. 22, 2012, after sources identified him as one of the men who perpetrated the bank robbery. Garcia pleaded guilty to bank robbery on Jan. 15, 2013. Morral was identified as the other bank robber by a source on Oct. 25, 2012, and was arrested in Gallup, N.M., by the McKinney County Sheriff’s Office on Nov. 26, 2012. Morral pleaded guilty to a bank robbery charge on May 13, 2013.

Jacleen Lorraine Henderson, 30, of Los Lunas, assisted Garcia and Morral in the aftermath of the bank robbery when Garcia’s vehicle broke down by arranging for them to be picked up and by using proceeds of the bank robbery to purchase a vehicle and other items. Henderson was arrested on Nov. 1, 2012, and charged with being an accessory after the fact. She pleaded guilty to that charge on Jan. 29 and was sentenced on July 23 to 15 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Luis A. Martinez and E. Garreth Williams, who are based in Las Cruces. A former federal agent and Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Las Cruces, Williams had previously served as Assistant U.S. Attorney for Las Cruces. The case was investigated by the Las Cruces Police Department and the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office.

For more information about the FBI’s efforts to combat financial crime, visit www.fbi.gov.

Mesilla Valley Hospital’s Guided Care Unit provides care for seniors who are experiencing emotional and/or behavioral difficulties.

Mesilla Valley Hospital is offering free assessments for children, adolescents & adults, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mesilla Valley Hospital is a 55-bed community hospital and part of the University of New Mexico Health Science Center.

Mesilla Valley Hospital’s Guided Care Unit provides care for seniors who are experiencing emotional and/or behavioral difficulties.

Signs a senior you know may need help:

• Depression
• Thoughts of Suicide
• Drug & Alcohol Abuse

For more information call 800.877.3500 or 575.382.3500.

Mesilla Valley Hospital has a full-service salon providing haircuts and blow-dries for men and women. For more information, call 526-8763.
RV club seeks members

The Doña Ana Peppers RV Club is holding a membership drive. The group of retired RVers enjoys fellowship, opportunities for travel, public service and great food and sponsor camp-outs from February to November. The group meets at 2 p.m. each Wednesday at the Pit Stop Café, 361 Motel Blvd.

The Peppers is a chartered member of the Good Sam Club. All RVers and recreational vehicles are welcome.

For more information, contact Terry Chappell at 526-6820 or tchapel@msn.com or Ramona Danley at 640-4100 or danleyjadrp@aol.com.

Library hosts food drive

Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave., is sponsoring a mitten tree and canned food drive through Friday, Dec. 20.

In support of National Mitten Tree Day, celebrated Friday, Dec. 6, Branigan Memorial Library will offer a mitten tree this holiday season. Las Cruces residents and library patrons are invited to donate mittens, hats, and scarves to decorate the holiday trees in the library. A canned food drive will also be offered. All items will be donated to local community organizations such as Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, La Casa Inc., Gospel Rescue Mission and Casa de Peregrinos Food Pantry.

For more information, call 528-4000.

Blankets, warm clothing drive

The Clothing Room, 1416 S. Solano Drive, is asking the public to donate warm clothing and blankets for families in need. Donations are accepted from 9 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or at the Gospel Rescue Mission, 1050 W. Amador Ave. at any time.

For more information, call 642-9619.

NMSU Lavender Graduation set

New Mexico State University’s Sexual and Gender Diversity Resource Center will host the eighth biannual Lavender Graduation at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, at the NMSU Golf Course Club House.

“At Lavender Graduation, we honor GLBTQ and ally students who are graduating that semester,” said Jessica Spohn, coordinator for the resource center.

The celebration includes a dinner, keynote speaker and the distribution of academic and leadership diversity stoles, which can be worn at commencement.

The rainbow-colored academic and leadership diversity stoles are awarded to graduating students who are in the GLBTQ and ally community and who have excelled academically or have displayed exemplary leadership qualities on campus or in the community.

Tickets to the event are $20 and are available for anyone who would like to attend the dinner or donate tickets to low-income students. Tickets can be purchased or donated by accessing the SGDRC website at shopcart.nmsu.edu/shop/sgdrc. Diversity stoles can also be donated online.

Tickets and stoles can be purchased by cash or check in the Office of Student Diversity and Outreach, Garcia Annex Room 235. To purchase tickets or stoles through an index number, visit the Office of Student Diversity and Outreach or call Carla Anaya at 646-1729.

Tickets will be available for purchase until 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29. They will not be sold the day of the event.

For more information, contact Spohn at sgdrc@nmsu.edu or 646-7031, or Carla Anaya at canaya@nmsu.edu or 646-1729.

Noche de Luminarias

More than 6,000 luminarias will illuminate the campus of New Mexico State University from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, during the 29th annual Noche de Luminarias.

One of the largest luminaria displays in New Mexico, the candle-lit paper bags will begin at the Educational Services Building, followed along the International Mall and surrounding Corbett Center Student Union. The Las Cruces High School band will set up the display and the Las Cruces High School Brass Choir will serenade visitors as they venture through the lighted path.

“I cannot think of a better way to begin the holiday season than by walking around the campus, engulfed in the warmth of the light provided by the luminarias and listening to the sounds of caroling and children laughing,” said Bruce Vandevender, director of NMSU’s Department of Campus Activities. “There is excitement everywhere.”

Visitors can enjoy trolley rides provided by Frontier Adventures along the luminaria route and free refreshments, provided by Sodexo, inside Corbett Center.

There will be about 15 NMSU student organizations set up throughout Corbett Center with activities for children, including holiday ornament making, holiday card making, a Santa Claus photo booth, a cupcake walk, a ‘pin the nose on the reindeer’ game and a cookie decorating booth.

Also, the Doña Ana Youth Choir and the student organization Dancers Unlimited will perform inside Corbett Center.

For more information, call 646-4415.

Wisconsin Club meets

The Wisconsin Club will be holding its monthly meet and greet from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, at the Ramada Palms Hotel & Conference Center, 201 E. University Ave. All former Wisconsinites are welcome.

For more information, call 312-2088.

Book launch at Nason House

New Mexico State University’s Center for Latin American and Border Studies will present a book launch and panel discussion on the comparisons between the U.S.-Mexico and Mediterranean border regions at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Nason House, 1070 University Ave.

The event will launch the book “Mediterranean Rio Bravo,” which Natalia Ribas-Mateos edited with contributions from more than 30 international authors. Speakers at the event include Ribas-Mateos, Mercedes Jimenez, Maria Christina Morales, Maria Eugenia Hernandez and Josiah Heyman.

“Mediterranean Rio Bravo” describes many of the comparisons between the Mediterranean and U.S.-Mexico border regions, such as border cultures, forms of transit, casualties near the border, vulnerability of crossing the border, emergence of an internal border and a possible solution of the problems, border activism.

This book was developed after a trans-border seminar on border regions in a time of globalization in Tangier, Morocco, in 2009, which Ribas-Mateos organized. Cynthia Bejarano, an NMSU criminal justice professor, attended the seminar and co-wrote a chapter in the book with Morales, a University of Texas at El Paso sociology and anthropology associate professor.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit clabs.nmsu.edu.

Stamp club meets Dec. 5

The Mesilla Valley Stamp Club will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, at Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. The public and stamp collectors are invited to trade, buy or sell stamps.

For more information, call 202-1937.

Celebrate winter solstice

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

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

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

Leasburg Dam State Park is located in Radium Springs...

The event is free with $5 per car park fees. For more information, contact the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces at outreach@aslcm.org or the state park at 524-4068.

Black Friday adoptions slated

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley will facilitate dog, cat, puppy and kitten adoptions Saturday, Nov. 30. In addition to adoptions from the shelter site, adoptions will also take place at several off-site locations, including special Black Friday animal adoption events.

On Friday, Nov. 29, animals will be available for adoption at Tractor Supply, 1440 W. Picacho Ave., from 8 a.m. to noon. Also on Friday, cat adoptions will be facilitated at PetCo, 3050 E. Lohman Ave., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, adoptions will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market. Dogs available for adoption will be located at the north end of Main Street Downtown. Cats can be adopted from the offices of the Center for Spiritual Living, across from the site where the dog adoptions take place.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, adoptions also will be facilitated at PetCo.

Adoption fees are $75 for dogs and puppies and $50 for cats and kittens. The fee includes spay/neuter or microchip and the first set of vaccinations.

At the PetCo event, microchipping for pets that already have homes will be available to the public for $20, and city pet licenses will be available to neutered pets for $5 each. Licenses for unneutered pets are $25 each. Proof of spay/neuter is required before a $5 license will be issued. Pet owners also must bring current proof of rabies vaccination for each animal to be licensed.

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley also offers low-cost spay/neuter operations at the rate of $35 for dogs and $25 for cats. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the shelter offices.

For more information, call the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley at 382-0018, or visit the www.ascmv.org website. People who are hearing-impaired can call 541-2182. Shelter hours are noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

You can also visit the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley’s Facebook page for information about the Pet of the Week and other services and news items. The facility is in need of donations of dog crates, towels, blankets and long-strand shredded paper. Volunteers also are needed to assist with animal care, socializing and transportation to adoption events.

Intermodal terminal to hold grand opening

Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit will have a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 6, at the Mesilla Valley Intermodal Transit Terminal, 300 W. Lohman Ave. The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Conquistadores will be on hand and light refreshments will be served.

A soft opening will take place Tuesday, Nov. 26. Transportation passes and information will be available at the Mesilla Valley Intermodal Transit Terminal, 300 W. Lohman Ave. The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Conquistadores will be on hand and light refreshments will be served.

Holiday open house at White Sands

White Sands National Monument will hold a Holiday Open House from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, with luminaries decorating the headquarters, free refreshments and New Mexican dishes, activities and door prizes. Dunes Drive will remain open until 6 p.m.

For more information, call 479-6124, Ext. 236.

Convention center helps toy drive

Due to the weather on Sunday, Nov. 24, the attendance for this year’s motorcycle ride benefitting Toys 4 Kids was much lower than expected, so the Las Cruces Convention Center has offered to be a collection point for those who wanted to attend but could not.

Through Thursday, Dec. 5, toys will be collected from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Toys can also be dropped off at Tresco, located at 2325 Nevada Ave.

For more information, contact Rebecca Bolton, Las Cruces Convention Center general manager, at 526-0101 or r Bolton@meetinlascruces.com.
Keeping traditions alive at the International Mariachi Conference

Photos by Christopher Belarde

Mesilla Mayor Nora Barraza and husband, Paul, enjoy the colorful Folklorico dancers during the 20th anniversary Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference Spectacular Concert Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Pan American Center.

An opening performance by the 600 attendees of the International Mariachi Conference wowed the audience at the Pan American Center.

“America’s Got Talent” sensation Sebastian de la Cruz, “El Charro de Oro,” entertained at the 2013 International Mariachi Conference.

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**Time:** 5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.  
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Water
Continued from page A1
it needs available.
In the upcoming legislative session, water is also going to be discussed, said Councillor Gill Sorg, which could impact Las Cruces. Regardless, Sorg said it looks like the city has enough water rights to support a population of 200,000, but Las Cruces has enough land for 300,000 residents.
The city is working on getting residents to be less wasteful and conserve water, said Leslie Kryder, city water conservation program coordinator.
The city offers educational programs such as Lush & Lean workshops and tries to “lead by example” by fixing leaks and installing smart irrigation controllers, she said.
The city’s water conservation plan is on track to meet the goal by 2030 of 180 gallons per capita per day with the city seeing “a gentle downward trend,” Kryder said. The city has started a new water waste hotline – 528-4444 – and requires residents to water yards on alternating days, she said.
Still, the city has a water wasting problem, Kryder said. She blamed “an ineffective enforcement situation” in that codes enforcement do not have enough staff and they’re not available during off hours. When residents or businesses are cited, the citations are often not upheld if challenged in court, she said.
As a result, Kryder said city utility staff are looking to go from a legal approach to administrative process with fees added to bills rather than fines from citations.
Councillors said they liked that approach, but also said more could be done to encourage people to conserve. Sorg said a lot of times all it takes is for someone to talk to a business or home owner.
Also discussed at the work session were options for handling street median landscaping. The water used for the medians comes out of the city’s parks and recreation budget, which had some councillors favoring an approach that would require no or very little water, but others said they wanted developers to have plenty of choices so the medians fit in well with the neighborhoods.

Overcome
Continued from page A1
23, regulars at the market came up to him to hand him money for the cause. The group recently announced the need for donations on Facebook and word has spread quickly.
Vigil attributes the support to the emotional story behind his music. In 2010, Vigil’s 10-year-old daughter, Monique, was diagnosed with brain cancer. Over the next nine months, she would battle the disease, but died from a hemorrhage-induced stroke after surgery to remove a tumor.
The only way for Vigil to cope with the loss, he said, was to throw himself into his music, which began in the fifth grade with the trombone, but transferred to the guitar when he was 12. His daughter’s death gave birth to three songs: “Again,” “All My Life” and “You Will See.” The first song was about how much he wishes he could feel her head sleeping against his chest again. The second was about his first moments knowing her – a tiny hand holding his finger – and how losing her broke him, Vigil said.
“You Will See” is the dialogue I imagine between her and God,” Vigil said.
The songs are so powerful that he has often had other parents come up to him with tears in their eyes, Vigil said. Overcome has performed for cancer-related charities, including Relay for Life and St. Baldrick’s.
The band’s name, Overcome, is not only about the healing power of music after such a tragedy, but about the family’s strong Christian faith. Six months ago, Vigil became a father again, with a new daughter added to his family of a surviving daughter and three sons.
Vigil had previously tried to bring the group to national attention through an audition in Austin, Texas, for “America’s Got Talent.” “There were just too many groups,” Vigil said. “There were thousands.”
Maybe, this time, with his voice and soulful lyrics, Vigil said he hopes to get noticed.
For the fundraising, friends have helped set up a PayPal donation account via his email, overcome@us@gmail.com. Information on the band’s gigs can be found on Facebook. And Overcome can be found each Saturday at a recent Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market on a Saturday morning.

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GREAT FUTURES START HERE.
Las Cruces Crime Stoppers is offering a $1,000 reward for information that helps identify the man suspected of sexually assaulting a woman in the village of Doña Ana.

Doña Ana County Sheriff’s investigators believe the sexual assault occurred just before noon Wednesday, Nov. 20, at a home on the 5200 block of Comanche Trail in Doña Ana. The victim told investigators that a man forced his way into the home when she answered the door.

The suspect knocked the woman against a wall causing her to lose consciousness. When the woman regained consciousness, she found her dog attacking the suspect.

The woman was sexually assaulted by the suspect, but her young daughter was not harmed.

The suspect is described as a dark-skinned Hispanic man, about 30 years old with dark eyes. He may have received injuries from being attacked by the woman’s dog.

Anyone with information that can help identify the suspect is asked to contact Las Cruces Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477) or send a tip via text message to CRIMES (274637), keyword LCTIPS.

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

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Welcome Marc Wilson

St. Patrick’s Anglican Church is pleased to announce the appointment of our new pastor, Marc Wilson from Albuquerque along with his wife, Salina, and their family. They have four children, Jordan, Kalista, Thomas, and Jacob. Marc and Salina have worked as educators and have spent most of their lives in New Mexico where the majority of their extended family continues to reside.

Because the culmination of the Bible’s history is revealed in the Person and work of Jesus, Marc joyfully proclaims, “Jesus died the death we deserve and lived the sinless life we cannot live, so we may forever live in Him, by the Spirit, to the Father’s glory, and for our deepest joy.” Marc desires to faithfully proclaim this Good News to the local community for the building up of God’s people in the Biblical gospel of Christ and Him crucified.

-1 Corinthians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 5:21

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A taste of winter weather

About 2 inches of snow blanketed Doña Ana County Sunday, Nov. 24, along with low clouds giving the Robledo and Doña Ana Mountains a mystical appearance. Winter weather is in the forecast for the Thanksgiving weekend after a couple of clear, warmer days.
Immigration reform efforts persist

Focus diverted by House avoidance, security concerns

By Todd G. Dickson
Las Cruces Bulletin

While House Speaker John Boehner may have declared the Senate reform bill dead in the water, setting back fixing the country’s broken immigration system, area advocates weren’t thrilled with an amendment to pour $46 billion into border security.

President Barack Obama on Monday, Nov. 25, called for Congress to pass immigration reforms during a visit to San Francisco, which included an exchange with a protester who pleaded with him to halt all immigrant deportations. Obama’s dialogue with the protester during a sold-out fundraiser in which the president again found himself in conversation with a shouting audience member urging him to bypass congressional Republicans and use executive orders to accomplish major reforms.

Obama responded by saying, “There’s no shortcut to democracy” and work on such important issues will be hard. But, as he told the fundraiser audience, “We have to keep pushing.”

Keep pushing was the energy behind two local immigration reform-related events in Las Cruces that followed Boehner’s vow to not “ever going to conference on the Senate bill.” Some conservatives had been pushing against House passage of any immigration legislation, arguing that Senate Democrats would use the conference to inject more liberal policies and then force Republicans in the House to stomach changes they say are unfair to those who came to the country legally. Immigration advocates aren’t pleased that border security in the Senate bill ballooned from $8.3 billion to $46.3 billion in the final version.

Objecting to what it characterizes as the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of New Mexico held a gathering Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Unitarian Universalist Church to send off panels of a large quilt that will be assembled in Washington, D.C.

Vicki GaubeCa of the ACLU’s Regional Center for Border Rights said 66 panels were made by organizations in New Mexico advocating for immigration reform. They included stories of families broken apart by deportation and young people seeking citizenship status through DREAM Act provisions.

“The message is that we are more than a line,” GaubeCa said. Doña Ana County Commission Chairman Billy Garrett said the $46 billion called for in border security could be better used to improved roads, water systems, flood control and health care services along the border, as well as providing support for county law enforcement.

“We need to keep our passion and focus,” Garrett said. “We will continue to push for reform until we are successful.”

Bishop Oscar Cantu of the Las Cruces Catholic Diocese said the quilt was an artistic way to illustrate what he called the ridiculousness of the current broken immigration system.

“This reminds us that this is not about politics, this is not about religion, but this about human lives,” Cantu said.

GaubeCa was also part of public television town hall broadcast by KRWG-TV Channel 22 Monday, Nov. 18, on the New Mexico State University campus. Also participating were NMSU students going to school under provisions of President Obama’s executive order to use conditions of the DREAM Act to not pursue deportation or prosecution of young people brought to the United States by their parents.

Cesar Montelongo said he had given up on dreams to study medicine when the DREAM Act wasn’t passed by Congress, but he has returned to his studies at NMSU because of Obama’s deferred action order.

Kevin Cardoza said his parents fled to the United States to escape the violence of his home country El Salvador. Under the deferred action, Cardoza is excelling in his studies at NMSU, including being a member of NMSU’s successful Model U.N. team.

“I love to say that my story could not have been possible in any other country in the world other than the United States of America,” he said.

Zachary Quintero, another student, said the immigration debate needs to look at undocumented people in the country based on their humanity, rather than their citizenship status. The country would benefit economically from giving these residents citizenship instead of pouring government resources into catching them, jailing them and deporting them, he said.

The current system, Quintero said, amounts to a “zero-sum gain” for everyone involved.
What’s in a name?

A lot, it turns out for Rio Grande Preparatory

By Tim Padilla
Rio Grande Preparatory Institute

A name change communicates great change and creates new images for old places. This was the logic behind the Rio Grande Preparatory Institute (RGPI) name change. It was a lively discussion and many names were thrown out before RGPI was born and accepted. With the new name came new colors and a new mascot. So, the Golden Eagles (not the Honey Badgers) don black and gold. RGPI is a school-to-work-and-beyond school.

“It’s a great school here,” said Brandon Lins, a senior at RGPI. “This school helps students who want to succeed. And the new internship program can really help younger students get real life experience. The new credit amount really helps catch up on credits compared to other schools.”

“The new changes include year-round summer school pacing,” said RGPI Principal Kathie Davis. “Students can earn a credit in a core area in nine weeks while only focusing on two core credits at a time. If a student doesn’t master the content, he or she stays in the class for the entire 18 weeks. This helped almost 40 of our students advance to the next grade level at the end of the first nine weeks.”

The afternoon at RGPI is driven by student choice. Students are grouped in small internships and placed in the community for real-life experience. This is the foundation for the School to Work focus of RGPI. Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent Stan Rounds said the goal is to have students cross the stage with a diploma of excellence, a job and an industry certification.

As part of the School to Work and Beyond drive, RGPI works closely with Doña Ana Community College. Many students have started college careers and are moving toward industry certification. Approximately 20 percent of RGPI students are currently enrolled in a college course for the spring semester.

A business advisory board has been established, with many prominent members from the community participating. Community leader George Ruth shared that he would like to see a young work force with strong communication skills. This was also echoed by prominent community members Laura Garcia, Stacie Allen and Bill Allen. Local business owner Dino Cervantes said he would like to see a diploma in which employers can have faith that a graduate of RGPI is ready to work and contributes to the productivity of Las Cruces.

When Olivia Carrillo, a student at RGPI, was asked about the changes, she said: “This school has really changed. It’s a friendly environment and kids are excited about going to school and succeeding. I love how the teachers care and want one-on-one time. On top of that, there is no drama!”

“We are looking at increasing our enrollment,” Davis said. Davis said she welcomes everyone to find out more or come by to see if the new mission at RGPI will help students fulfill their dreams of a high school diploma.

Looking ahead

Everyone moving toward graduation

Rio Grande Preparatory Institute students are working hard to meet the state requirements for graduation. All students need to show competency in math, reading, writing, science and social studies. Students are preparing for the end-of-course exam they will take the week before winter break.

October Graduates

Julian Fuentes
Alexandra Guerrero
Daniel Sifuentes
Valarie White

Honored students

Destiny Aguirre
Inez Atadye
Brianna Berroteran
Stephen Bustamante
Vanessa Carrillo-Saldivar
Victoria Gonzalez
Brianna Gutierrez
Andrew Herrera
Adrianna Hurtado
Bayli Kilgor
Marisela La Fuente
Andrew Mancha
Victoria Median
Ami Otero
Magda Rodriguez
Miranda Carrero
Minerva Carrillo
Nuvia Chavez
Joshua Dominguez
Daniel Enriquez
Christian Gonzalez
Arturo Lozano
Joshua Lucero
Rion Marricle
Joe Sandoval
Kiera Tilbs
Adrian Hortelano
Allen Houston
Christina Johnsey
Xenia Mata
Marcella Montoya
Joshua Morales
Araceli Reza
Jaime Rivera
Caleb Shanta
Tomas Silva
Vivian Vasquez

We’ve got spirit – yes we do!

Contests bring school’s students together

By Tim Padilla
and Katie Davis
Rio Grande Preparatory Institute

Rio Grande Preparatory Institute’s first annual Powder Puff football game was held Nov. 1 and was a hit.

The spirited activities started off with an awards assembly to honor students who had advanced grade levels, completed all requirements for a diploma of excellence and demonstrated competencies in all five areas required by the New Mexico Public Education Department. All the students who were honored and present were entered into the competition for a $100 prize. Arturo Lazano was the fortunate winner. He edged out Marisela La Fuente and Joshua Lawrence.

There were games leading up to the main event. Students dug through cream pies for gummi bears and had their faces made up; the most competitive event was the tug of war. Angel Prieto, RGPI’s resident DJ, believes he was instrumental in creating the climate for the tug of war – “the tug of war would not have been a tug of war without the music.” The music was loud and added tremendously to fun and overall climate.

Vanessa Carrillo, 18, a senior at RGPI, explained the why and how of the powder puff game: “It was to bring the students together, and it was two teams playing football. But the only difference is that girls are the ones playing, and the guys cheerlead.”

Brianna Gutierrez added, “the mind set was to bring people together with laughter and never to be forgotten.”

The game was hard fought, but the black team was victorious. Gold team members can hold their heads high; the battle was noble and the cheering was loud and proud.
The Aggie Cupboard, a service for students, staff and faculty in need of emergency food assistance, celebrated its one-year anniversary at New Mexico State University with a new location, an outpouring of support and volunteers eager to give back.

Operated through NMSU community donations and volunteers, the Aggie Cupboard, now located in Room 132 of Garcia Annex, is picking up momentum as the holidays near.

“I’m not sure necessarily what the definition of success for a food pantry is,” said Lori Haussamen, a social worker for the NMSU Counseling Center and Campus Health Center. “Ultimately, what I care about is, if someone on campus is hungry, can we help them get food.”

By simply showing a valid NMSU ID, participants can receive a free bag of food.

Since the start of the fall 2013 semester, 180 food bags, totaling to 1,116 individual food items, have been distributed to date.

“What’s been really fun for me has been seeing how different people within the NMSU community have become invested in the Aggie Cupboard,” Haussamen said.

“I don’t think people realize how much students need that extra food and how many students this can affect,” said Raven Smith, an NMSU social work services intern.

Since the pantry began, food drives have been held with many on- and off-campus organizations, including local churches and NMSU Christian Challenge.

Through St. Albert the Great Newman Center, the Aggie Cupboard has received $1,000 in donations and has found volunteers as well.

Mathew Walsh, a supporter of the Aggie Cupboard, first heard about its service through the Newman Center.

“It shows that the university actually cares about the people in it,” Walsh said. “It just reminds you that there are good people around.”

Haussamen keeps track of volunteers, donations and clients, with the exception of “a handful of guardian angels,” who donate regularly without leaving contact information.

“My job is to help connect students to resources in the hopes that they can be academically successful,” Haussamen said. “It seems that no matter what people’s belief systems are, or even their political persuasion, most people tend to agree people need food.”

The Aggie Cupboard is currently running a food drive with the Aggie men’s basketball team, offering a deal for the Nov. 25 game against Bethune-Cookman University. Donating two canned goods will result in discounted admission at $5, normally $8.

Accepting donations year round, the pantry is especially in need of proteins, such as canned chicken and tuna, peanut butter, beans, rice and vegetables.

For more information on the Aggie Cupboard, contact Haussamen at 646-2731 or mlori@nmsu.edu.

On behalf of Zia Natural Gas, We would like to wish everyone a very
Happy Thanksgiving
Our office at 3700 W. Picacho Ave., will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 & Friday, Nov. 29

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Wrestler Nick Fisk has plenty of competition this season, and it’s not just from opponents.

The Rochester Institute of Technology junior said he is competing with four teammates for the top spot in the 174-pound weight class.

“He’s in a tough weight class,” RIT head coach Scott Stever said. “He was the top dog last year.”

The Mayfield High School graduate said he wrestled in the 157-pound class as a freshman, then moved to 174 pounds last year.

“That’s where the team needed me,” he said. “I like wrestling heavier weights. It feels like it’s more my style.”

During high school, Fisk said he had three moves to use on opponents. He went back to the basics in college to build his base.

“He had good fundamentals,” Stever said. “College is a little bit more aggressive. He needed to learn more techniques. We’re still working on refining him a little bit.”

Fisk was among the team’s wrestlers to compete in the NCAA Division III regional qualifier during the spring. He went 1-2, winning his first consolation match by a 9-3 decision.

“He works very, very hard. I wish the entire team would have his fortitude,” Stever said. “He is always looking for a way to win, even when he’s not the frontrunner. Put the opponent on the defensive right away. He does that quite well.”

This season, Fisk lost two matches by points in the opening tournament. His first loss was to the eventual second-place finisher in the 174-pound class. In a recent event, he lost two bouts.

As the lead guy in the weight class, Fisk didn’t have a wrestle-off before those meets. However, he said the wrestle-off may be forthcoming because of stiff competition from teammates, including one he trains with the most.

By Jim Hilley
Las Cruces Bulletin

The New Mexico State Aggies and the Idaho Vandals have a lot in common.

They both have 1-10 records. The both have played tough, independent schedules after being marooned when the Western Athletic Conference stopped sponsoring football. They both will join the Sun Belt Conference as football-only members in 2014. They both have a player named Jerrel Brown and both desperately want to win the final game of the season at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, at Aggie Memorial Stadium.

“It’s two teams that are really on similar paths,” NMSU coach Doug Martin said. “They have played as an independent this year; we have played as an independent this year. They have played as tough of a schedule as we have. Statistically, we are just about the same in every category.

“It really comes down to what team wants to come out of here with a win.”

Senior free safety Davis Cazares said playing Idaho is like playing a rival.

“I’ve played them all four years that I’ve been here,” he said. “I’m not sure there is any other team that we’ve done that with besides UNM and UTEP. (There isn’t.)

“We’re absolutely rivals because we know See Vandals on page A22

Desiree Scott is WAC Player of the Year
NMSU volleyball coach Mike Jordan garners coach award

The 2013 Western Athletic Conference volleyball award winners, as selected by the league’s nine head coaches, have been announced.

New Mexico State University senior middle hitter Desiree Scott was named WAC Player of the Year, while Seattle University’s Iris Ivanis was named Freshman of the Year. NMSU coach Mike Jordan was named WAC Coach of the Year.

Six of the nine WAC schools were represented on the teams, led by Bakersfield and Utah Valley with two players each on the first team and one apiece on the second team. Top-seeded New Mexico State had two players on the first team.

Scott earned WAC Player of the Year honors after ranking second in the conference in WAC matches in blocks (1.38), third in hitting percentage (.401), fifth in points (3.69) and ninth in kills (2.78). She hit .300 or better in 11 of 16 WAC matches. In the most recent NCAA statistics, Scott ranks 40th nationally in blocks per set (1.29).

Ivanis earned Freshman of the Year honors after ranking third in the league in WAC play in kills (3.53), fourth in points (3.96) and ninth in service aces (0.27). She also averaged 2.06 digs per set in WAC play, had 10 or more kills in 11 of the 13 WAC matches in which she played and had four double-doubles in WAC play.

Jordan led his team to its second WAC regular-season title with a 14-2 league record, earning the No. 1 seed in the WAC Tournament.

In addition, NMSU sophomore Gwen Murphy earned first team honors.

“I’m really happy for both Desiree and Gwen and they are well deserved honors,” Jordan said.

“We knew when we recruited Desiree that she could be this caliber of player. She is one of the most difficult players to stop on any given night.”

With Gwen, we could see this coming in the off season because she was improving and started gaining more confidence,” he said. “I believe she made her own case for player of
Bulldawgs, Trojans stay alive in the New Mexico high school football playoffs

Photos by Orlando Santana

Mayfield High School's Dominic Carrasco goes up in the air for a touchdown during the Trojans' 45-24 semifinal win over Rio Rancho Friday, Nov. 22, at the Field of Dreams.

Marciano Giron runs for a 13-yard gain in the Trojans' semifinal victory. No. 2 Mayfield will travel to Albuquerque to play Cleveland High School at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30.

Las Cruces' Isaiah McIntyre scores on a 4-yard touchdown catch as the Bulldawgs top Sandia High School 56-8 at the Field of Dreams Saturday, Nov. 23.

Las Cruces' J.J. Granados runs the ball into the end zone from 13 yards out. No. 4 seeded Las Cruces High School will host No. 1 Valley High School at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Field of Dreams.

Las Cruces’ Isaiah McIntyre scores a touchdown.

Kavika Johnson of Mayfield leans forward to get a first down.

Morgan Gillis scores a touchdown.

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Sunland Park season begins Dec. 6
Sunland Derby headlines track’s 55th year of horse racing

The 55th live racing season at Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino begins Friday, Dec. 6, and continues through Tuesday, April 15, 2014.

The 76-day meet is stocked with an abundant inventory of prestigious stakes races and a purse distribution of $20 million. Average daily purses for the new meet should exceed the $260,000 level, according to a Sunland Park press release.

The meet’s highlight is the $800,000 Sunland Derby (Grade III) to be run Sunday, March 23, 2014. The 12th running of the Kentucky Derby prep race will be the culmination of a stakes filled card worth more than $1.5 million. Last year’s 1 and 1/8 mile classic was won by Governor Charlie for trainer Bob Baffert and owner Mike Pegram. Martin Garcia piloted the winner in a track record time.

The Sunland Derby remains an integral part of the point system for entry into the 2014 Kentucky Derby. The winner of Sunland Park’s biggest race will receive 50 qualifying points. The runner-up earns 20 points, followed by 10 for third and five points for fourth. 50 points will be extremely valuable for a Kentucky Derby candidate.

The $120,000 Mine That Bird Derby on Saturday, Feb. 22, is the chief local prep for the $800,000 Sunland Derby.

“We continue to strive for the very best in Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino,” Sunland Park Director of Racing Dustin Dix said. “Our excitement and attitude for the 55th live racing season is reaching a fever pitch. Last year’s Sunland Derby day was a record breaker for the second straight year. The upcoming meet looks very promising with great horses running for big purses. We are also thrilled about the Sunland Derby and the Sunland Park Oaks being important parts of the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks qualifying point system.”

The Sunland Derby day program also includes the $200,000 Sunland Park Oaks, the $85,000 La Coneja Stakes, the $75,000-added Harry Henson Handicap, the $85,000 guaranteed New Mexico Breeders’ Derby, the $85,000 guaranteed New Mexico Breeders’ Oaks and the $75,000 guaranteed Bill Thomas Memorial Stakes for open horses racing six and one-half furlongs.

The 2014 Sunland Park Oaks winner receives 50 qualifying points towards the Kentucky Oaks at Churchill Downs.

The $100,000-added Riley Allison Futurity lures top two-year-old Thoroughbred talent at one mile on Sunday, Dec. 22.

The 13th running of the $350,000 Grade 1 Championship at Sunland Park takes place on Sunday, Dec. 29. Champion Aged Stallion Prospect to the Top won last year’s Championship.
Excuses, excuses

There’s always an excuse – what’s yours?

I was born to two school teachers in Cleveland. Mom and Dad are both gone now, but just recently, I discovered some archives hidden in a cardboard box I didn’t know about. My mother saved dozens of school excuses written by parents attempting to justify their child’s absence from school. These date to the 1940s and 1950s.

I thought I would share them. Enjoy.

Dear school: please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, and also 33. “Please excuse Sarah for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.”

“Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He had very loose vowels.”

“My son is under the doctor’s care and should not take P.E. today. Please excuse Elizabeth from school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday we thought it was Sunday.”

“Please excuse Casey from school. It was Take Your Daughter to work day. I don’t have a job so I made her stay home and do housework.”

“We’ve all made excuses – sometimes funny, but most are stupid. It’s hard for us to plainly admit we blew it. It’s hard to admit we behaved badly or just failed when we wanted to do well. It’s like a drunk who blabbers, ‘I wouldn’t have to drink so much if the old lady would get a job.’

Here are the most common excuses (in no particular order) golfers make to explain bad shots and bad play, gleaned from scouring the literature and my own on-course extensive experience.

“I didn’t hit one bad shot on the range; I left all the good shots there earlier.”

“No wonder I can’t score – I haven’t played in a month (or insert your own layoff time).”

“I’ve been really busy at work (making money, getting rich). I have had absolutely no time to practice.”

“I got a bug in my eye just as my foot blew it. It’s hard to admit we behaved badly or just failed when we wanted to do well. It’s like a drunk who blabbers, ‘I wouldn’t have to drink so much if the old lady would get a job.’

Some excuses are funny, but most are stupid. It’s hard for us to plainly admit we blew it. It’s hard to admit we behaved badly or just failed when we wanted to do well. It’s like a drunk who blabbers, ‘I wouldn’t have to drink so much if the old lady would get a job.’

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Vanish the Vandals
Aggies say ‘adios’ to departing seniors

It’s the last rodeo for some Aggies Saturday, Nov. 30, and partners, Pistol Pete has an invitation you won’t want to pass up. Doug Martin’s football team is gonna lasso some Vandals in the final home game of the season.

The University of Idaho is the opponent and it’s gonna be a great way to end the season. It’s also your opportunity to thank the seniors for the great years they have given to the Crimson and White. It’s a 1:30 p.m. kick-off.

Pete mentions that so you can start the tailgate barbecue on time. The seniors you have seen and cheered for are ones whose names will be remembered for some time.

Davis Cazares has been a tackling machine for NM State. A safety who always had the tackling machine for NM State.

A safety who always had the tackling machine for NM State. One of those hard-charging runners is senior Germi Morrison. The young man from Southern California has had a couple of 100-yard rushing games, with over half a dozen touchdowns along the way. A senior who has done double duty in terms of blockin’ and pass catchin’ is tight end Perris Scoggins. He has been a major part of the offensive scheme no matter which role he has been asked to fulfill.

Andrew McDonald is the senior who has led the offense all season long and this will be his final game as well. A threat to run having scored a ton of touchdowns on the ground or through the air to the young corps of receivers, McDonald has fit the bill as the trigger man in the offense.

Get your tickets and join ‘ol Pete around the tailgate campfire this Saturday and get your fill of football after you have had your fill of turkey.

A long road ahead
Aggies thankful for continued fan support

I am writing this on Monday and the memories of the Saturday, Nov. 23, season sweep over the Miners are brightening an otherwise cloudy morning here in the Mesilla Valley.

I know how much the bragging rights mean to you, our fans, and they mean just as much to our players and our staff because we bleed crimson just like all of you do.

We will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday together before taking off to Fort Collins to play the Colorado State Rams Saturday, Nov. 30. Each of us have many things to be thankful for – health, family, friends – and, as a basketball program, we are also thankful for our loyal fans and our 6th Man Club supporters. You all really came out for the UTEP game and we are proud that we were able to give you the “W” that night.

We also had a good group of fans travel down I-10 on Saturday and we could feel your support and hear your cheers in the Haskins Center.

We need you in the Pan Am for every game. Fan support is vital to our continued success as is the continued support from the 6th Man Club. The additional funding that our 6th Man Club supporters provide is used in different ways. Now, we can choose flights with the best schedules and not settle for the flights that are the least expensive and generally have long layovers.

This may seem like a small thing, but it really does matter when it comes to being rested and ready to play on the road. The additional funding also allows us to fund summer school for players so they can stay on track for graduation and provides for additional academic resources as needed.

These investments are paying dividends. I get as much satisfaction watching our players on the stage in the Pan Am with their diplomas in hand as I do watching them on the Pan Am parquet floor on game nights, and hope you do as well.

December will be a very busy month, starting with the Lobos Wednesday, Dec. 4. We need our fans and you students in the Pan Am that night just like we were there for us against UTEP.

Starting on Saturday, Dec. 7, we have four straight road games – at Gonzaga, Arizona, Drake and UNM. You can catch these and all of our games on the radio (103.9 FM) with Jack Nixon, and on the Internet through Aggie Access at www.nmstatesports.com.

When we are playing in front of hostile crowds, it helps to know that we have so many of you following along with us – we really can feel the love. Keep the texts, emails, tweets and Facebook posts coming, too. My phone was “blowing up” on Saturday after the game with Aggie fans enjoying the victory and I loved it.

I am proud and thankful to be an Aggie and to be your coach. Aggie Up!

For information on the 6th Man Club, call 584-1447.

Aggie student-athlete spotlight

Cayle Chapman-Brown
Football
Senior
Sydney, Australia

Punter Cayle Chapman-Brown recorded nine punts against Florida Atlantic for 407 yards and an average of 45.2 yards per punt. He tallied five punts inside the 20-yard line and four punt of more than 50-yards, including a long of 65. This was the fifth game this season that Chapman-Brown averaged more than 45 yards per punt.

Elena Holguin
Women’s Basketball
Redshirt sophomore
Las Cruces

Redshirt sophomore Elena Holguin was just one point shy of matching her career high with 18 points in the game against Eastern New Mexico. Holguin was 5-of-14 from the floor and 5-of-10 from beyond the 3-point line. She also added three rebounds, four assists, a block and a steal, helping the Aggies to an 88-56 win.

Gwen Murphy
Volleyball
Sophomore
Elfrida, Ariz.

Sophomore Gwen Murphy helped the Aggies sweep Utah Valley, and helped the head coach Mike Jordan tally his 350th career win by marking a team-high nine kills on a .467 hitting percentage. She also marked one dig, one solo block and four block-assists while totaling a total of 12 points. Murphy finished the season with a WAC-high .470 hitting percentage.
them and they know us. We've seen them enough times to that that there is a rivalry there. I want to beat them more than anything this coming Saturday.”

Cazares said motivation won’t be a problem for the Aggies.

“The seniors are making sure of that,” he said.

Senior inside linebacker Trashaun Nixon said beating the Vandals would be good for the team.

“It should be a good game for us. We have to come and play,” he said.

“They’re better than their record. They just played Florida State last week and they played Ole Miss, Northern Illinois who is ranked, Fresno State is ranked.”

“We have to come and give 100 percent.”

Senior quarterback Andrew MacDonald said a win over Idaho would be special for the Aggies.

“We want to go out with a win,” he said. “It would be great for the seniors and great for the team.”

“This year’s been brutal and I think all of us really want this one bad.”

New Mexico State University softball coach Kathy Rodolph announced the 2014 softball schedule Friday, Nov. 22, featuring 14 home games including the annual Aggie-hosted Hotel Encanto Classic and Troy Cox Classic.

The NMSU Aggies begin their season Feb. 7-9, 2014, by hosting the Aggie Hotel Encanto Classic, which brings in Nebraska, UTEP, Florida St. and St. Mary’s.

Just five days later, NMSU hosts the sixth annual Troy Cox Classic, a two-day tournament beginning on Feb. 14, 2014, which includes Northern Carolina University, Texas Tech, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Iowa State.

The Aggies travel south to El Paso to oppose ICW and Houston Baptist in the UTEP Tournament on Feb. 21-23, 2014.

To complete the first month of the season, the Aggies make their way to Las Vegas, Nev., on Feb. 28-March 2, 2014, competing against Webber State, Seton Hall, Birmingham, UNLV and DePaul.

Finally, the Aggies finish off the week by traveling to El Paso to face the UTEP Miners on March 4, 2014.

The Aggies next travel to Lubbock, Texas to compete in the Texas Tech Tournament against UT Arlington, Northern Colorado and host team, Texas Tech.

NMSU takes a short break from the tournaments to face San Jose State, March 13, 2014, rekindling the 2013 Western Athletic Conference championship matchup.

Rounding out tournament play for the 2014 season, the Aggies head to Fresno Calif., to meet University of the Pacific, St. Mary’s, Colorado State, Cal Poly and host Fresno State, March 14-16, 2014.

Back home, the Aggies take on the New Mexico Lobos on March 19, 2014. The team then hosts cross-border rival UTEP at the New Mexico State Softball Complex on March 25, 2014.

After hosting Seattle University at the Aggies home field March 28-29, 2014, to open conference play, NMSU travels to Kansas City for the first time since 2005 for a two-day trip beginning April 4-5, 2014.

The Aggies finish off their home season with three games against the Bakersfield Roadrunners on April 11-12, 2014.

Finally, the Aggies have travel dates scheduled to compete against the Grand Canyon ‘Lopes on April 18-19, 2014, in Phoenix, the Arizona Wildcats on April 23, 2014, and Utah Valley in Orem, Utah on April 25-26, 2014. To conclude the regular season the NMSU Aggies travel to Albuquerque to meet in-state rival, New Mexico for the second time in the regular season.

NMSU then heads to the WAC Tournament in Seattle May 5-8, 2014. The Aggies wrapped the 2013 season with a second-place finish in the WAC after a 37-20 season performance, 18-7 during league play. NMSU set a new winning streak record with 11 straight wins.

In her sophomore season, center fielder Staci Rodriguez claimed the WAC Player of the Year title after leading the conference with 20 home runs and a .780 slugging percentage. She, along with five other Aggies picked up first- and second-team All-WAC honors.

“As far as middle hitters go, I put them (Murphy and Scott) up there with the best we have ever had,” Jordan said.

The two accounted for 505 kills during the season while posting a combined 249 total blocks.

Jordan and his No. 1 seeded team were scheduled to take on No. 4 Idaho at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26.
1913
- Jeff Isaacs returned from Kansas City where he went with a trainload of cattle. There were 19 cars in the train and about 600 mixed cattle. Isaacs said he sold the stock in the open market and received $4.50 for the “old stuff” and $8.50 for yearlings, which he considered very good prices.

- Young people at the Baptist Church were preparing a box social at the home of Rev. Vermillion. The young ladies were to trim a box or basket and fill it with lunch for two. The young men could buy the boxes at auction and enjoy the young ladies’ company at dinner.

1938
- William Web Cox of Organ was commissioned as an officer of the National Guard of the United States.

- A fire of unknown origin, believed to be caused by defective wiring in a tool box, was discovered in the basement of the Central School. The fire was confined to the manual training room and caused about $1,800 in smoke and water damage.

1963
- Las Cruces Athletic Director Rudy Camuñez explained the circumstances under which the Artesia versus Las Cruces high school football game was played as scheduled the night the president was assassinated. He said he was unable to contact the Artesia team until 4:45 p.m.

- Shenk’s Bakery offered fruit cake for 60 cents a pound and mincemeat pies for 10 and 25 cents.

- and at that time they were already suiting up. “We decided we would call Eugene Montgomery, executive secretary of the New Mexico Activities Association, for recommendation,” he said. Montgomery told Camuñez that since the state football playoff hinged on the outcome of the game, they should go ahead and play.

1988
- Geronimo “Gerry” Barerras was awarded the Vail Medal by U.S. West Communications in ceremonies held in Las Cruces. Barreras was honored for his actions in saving two children and a severely injured victim at a shooting in a church. He also helped the congregation escape and captured the gunman.

- Entertainment at the Rio Grande Theatre included “Ernest Saves Christmas,” “Cocoon – the Return” and Bill Murray in “Scrooged.”

Information gathered from New Mexico State University Library’s Microform Area and Archives and Special Collections.
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And when your day draws to a close, our work continues — so you can rest easy, ready for all the opportunities that tomorrow will bring.

This is our pledge, because we live in the community we serve.

So go ahead. POWER ON.

Foster children find new families

Family Court Judge Fernando Macias is joined at the bench by 21-month-old Francis Diamond Medina McMahan after her adoption by Martha Medina and her life partner Elizabeth McMahan, who also has a 10-year-old son Alex McMahan during a special National Adoption Day proceeding Friday, Nov. 22, in Third Judicial Court. The event celebrates adoption successes, primarily foster families making the children permanent members of their families. So far in 2013, 29 children in Doña Ana County have been adopted.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Music at St. Paul’s presents
Merry Christmas, Las Cruces
Vivaldi’s GLORIA and your Christmas favorites
“The Gift of the Magi” drama based on the O. Henry story

Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.
Dec. 1 at 2 & 7 p.m.

St. Paul’s United Methodist Church
225 W. Griggs Ave.
575.526.6689
www.lascrucesmethodistchurch.com

Don’t catch fire cooking the bird
Feast prep includes safety

Fire departments throughout the United States respond to more structure fires during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays than at any other time of year, and cooking accidents are often the source of those seasonal fires.

The Las Cruces Fire Department reminds holiday chefs to use caution when preparing their holiday feast and recommends following these and other safety tips:

• Start with a clean cooking area and keep it clean.
• Make the cooking area off-limits to children and pets.
• Limit the number of people cooking to avoid crowding.
• Avoid wearing loose clothing and jewelry that could interfere with cooking.
• Never leave stoves or ovens — indoor or outdoor — unattended. Turn off burners when leaving the cooking area.

Deep-frying a turkey is popular, but there are unique dangers that come along with this method of cooking and extra precautions should be taken:

• Never use a turkey fryer indoors, in a garage, on a porch or on any other surface that can catch fire. It is recommended you place the fryer a minimum of 10 feet away from all surfaces and structures, including walls and fences.
• Ensure the hose connecting the fryer to the propane tank is free of cracks, and long enough to keep the tank and fryer a safe distance away from each other.
• Avoid filling the pot with too much cooking oil.

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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.

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

For more information, call 528-3000.

YOGA CLASSES AT AQUATIC CENTER

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

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

AEROBICS

Move to the move through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activity. Classes are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave. Cost is $2, or $1 for registered Senior Programs members.

SENIOR CIRCLE YOGA CLASSES

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

Gentle yoga sessions take place on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Magoffin Community Center.

Stretch yoga – gentle:

8:30 a.m. Wednesdays at MountainView Regional Medical Center, 4311 E. Lohman Ave., in the Marketing & Women’s Resource Room 404.

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

AARP MEETS EACH MONTH

AARP meetings are held at 2 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at the Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Meetings offer people older than the age of 50 interesting guest speakers, light refreshments and a chance to socialize.

For more information, call Elsa Baker at 525-3990.

ZUMBA GOLD AT MUNSON CENTER

Zumba Gold is offered from 1 to 2 p.m. each Wednesday at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. The game is open to all registered members of Senior Programs. Players have a chance to win a prize and have fun with friends and neighbors. There is no charge to participate. For more information, call 528-3000.

BINGO HELD AT AMERICAN LEGION

Bingo will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays at American Legion Post 10, 1185 E. Madrid Ave. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., first game is at 6:30 p.m. Food and sodas will be available. A coverall blackout pays $1,000 to a single winner.

For more information, call 526-9139.

ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION

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

- 11:30 a.m. each Thursday at Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Road. For more information, call Jan at 522-7133.

- 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Arbors of Del Rey, 3731 Del Rey Blvd. Respite care available during meeting. For more information, call Michael at 382-5200.

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

Frequently called numbers

Munson Senior Center 975 S. Mesquite St. ....................................... 528-3000
Henry Benavidez Community Center 1045 McClure Road.......................... 541-5185
Eastside Community Center 310 N. Tornillo St. .......................... 541-2304 or 541-2305
Frank O’Brien Papen Community Center 304 W. Bell Ave ........................................ 541-2455
In-Home Services 304 W. Bell Ave. ........................................ 541-2451
Resource Center 975 S. Mesquite St. ........................................ 528-3307
Senior Nutrition Program Reservations and cancellations.................. 528-3012
From outside the city ........................................ 800-397-3544
Doña Ana County Senior Olympics 205 W. Boutz Road........................................ 386-2050
Dial-A-Ride Senior Transportation Call 24 hours in advance .................. 541-2777

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Death Notices

**Trujillo**
Tony Trujillo, 79, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away on Sunday, November 24, 2013. Arrangements are pending with Getz Funeral Home and Getz Family Crematory.

**Watson**
Debra Jo Watson, 47, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died November 14, 2013, at Memorial Medical Center. Services are pending with Baca’s Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces.

**Maples**
Ida Gail Maples, 73, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died November 20, 2013, at La Posada – Mesilla Valley Hospice. Services are pending with Baca’s Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces.

**Sanchez**
Graciela C. Sanchez, 52, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died November 24, 2013, at Memorial Medical Center. Services are pending with Baca’s Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces.

**Mendoza**
Guadalupe Mendoza, 69, of San Miguel, New Mexico, passed away Monday, November 25, 2013, at his home. Services are pending with Baca’s Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces.

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A sales person will be present with information and applications. For more information or for accommodation of persons with special needs, call 1-800-347-4766/TTY 1-888-625-6429, 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week. A Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract.

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Money Saving Tips for Winter
From your friends at Exit Realty Horizons

Preparing your home and property for cold weather conditions can prevent problems and save you money on costly heating bills and possible repairs.

Experts agree that the following measures can be effective in dealing with the effects of winter weather:
• Make sure your walls and attic are properly insulated.
• Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
• Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
• Have an ample supply of wood if you have a fireplace.
• Have safe portable space heaters available.
• Wrap water pipes in insulation or layers of old newspapers to keep from freezing.
• Let faucets drip a little to avoid freezing.
• Know how to shut off water valves.
• In case the power goes out, have supplies on hand such as a flashlight & battery-operated radio (and extra batteries), a first aid kit and extra blankets & sleeping bags.
• Have a communication plan in place in case family members are separated from one another during a winter storm or any other emergency situation.
• Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, police, or fire department, and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.

We don’t get much of it, but just in case:
• Have your snow shovel ready for action.
• Have rock salt on hand to melt ice on walkways.

Winterizing Your Vehicle
Preparing your vehicle for the winter season is one of the most important keys to safe winter driving. Have a mechanic check the following items on your car before the temperatures drop.
• Battery
• Ignition System
• Lights
• Exhaust system
• Brakes
• Oil level
• Antifreeze
• Thermostat
• Flashing hazard lights
• Heater
• Defroster
• Tires/tread
• Wipers and windshield washer fluid

Also, be sure to keep a windshield scraper in your vehicle, and maintain at least a half tank of gas at all times during the winter season.

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Making the list for 2013
Six local companies named to NM Private 100

By Alta LeCompte
Las Cruces Bulletin

The phrase “locally owned business” is more than a catchy slogan for the six Las Cruces companies recently honored at a luncheon in Albuquerque as members of the 2013 New Mexico Private 100.

Businesses from across New Mexico applied to be part of the Private 100. The list represents the top 100 revenue producers among them.

Mesilla Valley Transportation, No. 3 on the list, was the highest-ranking local awardee. Also selected were Sisbarro auto dealerships, Zia Engineering & Environmental Consulting, Steinborn & Associates Real Estate, C.D. General Contractors Inc. and Sunspot Solar Energy Systems LLC. Also on the list was Southwest Wines of Deming, parent company of St. Clair Winery in Mesilla.

For the Las Cruces honorees, locally owned means sinking their roots deep and becoming strong contributors to the community where they are headquartered.

Owners and managers of Sisbarro, a fixture in the community for decades, and newcomer Sunspot Solar share a passion for the community as well as a commitment to grow their businesses.

“Lou Sisbarro is a hands-on dealer,” sales manager Rick Nesser said. “He’s in here all the time. He interacts with the owners, his employees and the community.”

Nesser said giving back to the community is “in the company DNA.”

Recyclers, reusers recognized
Green Chamber honors six area businesses

On the nationally celebrated America Recycles Day, six businesses in Southern New Mexico were recognized by the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce for their efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Through the New Mexico Businesses Recycle program, now in its second year, 19 businesses participated statewide in the program. The Las Cruces Green Chamber recognized the businesses at an awards luncheon that took place Friday, Nov. 15, at the Community Enterprise Center. Three businesses from the Silver City area were included in the regional awards.

Of the six businesses recognized in the southern part of the state, one was deemed the regional winner and five were honorees. The three honorees in Las Cruces were the Franchise Law Team, Las Cruces Academy and Mountain View Market Co-op. In Silver City, the honorees were Café un Mundo, and Home and Garden Inspiration.

The regional winner was Our Paws’ Cause Thrift Store in Silver City for its extensive efforts and success in reducing its waste, giving back to the community and thinking creatively about how to reuse products and inventory.

Carrie Hamblen, executive director of the Las Cruces Green Chamber, said she is always surprised and proud of the efforts local businesses are taking to reduce their waste.

“The businesses recognized this year have really raised the bar in terms of their dedication to reducing their waste and recycling,” Hamblen said. “In the long run, not only are they saving money and increasing their profit but they are also giving back to their community, reducing the garbage that goes into the landfill, and giving to others.”

The Franchise Law Team, owned by Forrest Beeson and Robin Day Glenn has been a paperless law firm since 2003. The firm stores all of its documents electronically via state-of-the-art digital technology. The Franchise Law Team has been Zero Waste since 2004. Annual revenue increased from $332,000 to $490,000 since 2003.

Las Cruces Academy owns Lou Ellen Kay.
Exposure

Continued from page B1

since visitors to the city bring in more tax revenue than locals by staying in hotels and taking in the sights.

Visiting Las Crucens will pay calls on and host a reception for Albuquerque and Santa Fe-based organizations in an effort to lure those with statewide memberships to host their annual meetings here.

Not only does Las Cruces offer visitors from other parts of the state a change of scenery, it offers a variety of sites to experience.

“When someone plans a meeting, there’s two parts to it – the actual facilities, and, just as important, what happens after the meeting is over. We have a lot of different experiences we can provide,” San Filippo said.

The spaceport, the wine trail and other places to visit are attractive to planners, Bolton said.

“It’s exciting to see all the assets that are here,” the newcomer added.

We learned CVB and the convention center suggest that the groups hold at least one event at a setting other than the primary meeting site, such as a New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum dinner, so they can get better acquainted with what the Mesilla Valley has to offer.

The Albuquerque visit, by the way, is just the first step in a campaign that will enlist the participation of locals who are hooked on Las Cruces to help spread the word.

In January, 2014, the Las Cruces tourism industry is poised to launch a “Bring It Home” campaign to encourage Las Crucens to pitch the idea of meeting here to state and regional organizations in which they are active.

“I think we all belong to at least one,” San Filippo said.

He said Las Cruces shouldn’t shy away from posing the suggestion in fear they will get stuck with the work of organizing a state convention. He offered assurance the tourism professionals would do the heavy lifting, planning the event, finding hotels and attending to all the details that make a convention a success.

“When you raise your hand, we’ll support you,” he said.

In the coming year, we can look forward to seeing a lot more of San Filippo and Bolton – and to seeing them together – as they “stir up the base” so we all become part of the Las Cruces tourism initiative.

“The biggest obstacle is the community not understanding how big tourism could be,” San Filippo said. “We have to build a tourism industry.”

Private 100

Continued from page B1

He said Sisbarro has been a New Mexico State University benefactor since he first came to the City of the Crosses from Michigan in 1981 to buy a Buick-Pontiac-GM dealership. The Sisbarros support a number of arts and education organizations and other charities, including New Mexico State Aggies Are Tough Enough to Wear Pink, co-founded by Pat Sisbarro.

Sisbarro made the Private 100 the first year the list was compiled, 1988.

Sunspot Solar Energy Systems LLC, on the other hand, was founded in 2009. Owners Mellow and Janet Honek refer to Sunspot as the only locally owned solar installation company.

Asked how the company grew so fast, Janet Honek said, “It’s been a lot of hard work – hard work and no life.”

In spite of plowing their energy into growing their business, the Honeks also lead a busy life outside the office.

“We go to all the events in town, get involved in all the organizations,” Janet Honek said. “We’re involved in the community and the community has been great supporting us.”

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Alta LeCompte

President Lou Sisbarro of the Sisbarro auto dealerships, a 2013 New Mexico Private 100 business, shares with Eddie Guaderrama, Sisbarro Buick-GMC finance manager, a customer’s letter praising sales associate Harry Wagner.

Among the causes that benefit from their investment of time and money are the Bridge of Southern New Mexico, the New Mexico State University scholarship fund, the Children’s Reading Foundation of Doña Ana County, Casa de Peregrinos and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

In 2012, the Private 100 companies had a combined $4.4 billion in gross revenue and employed 10,777 people around New Mexico.

The Private 100 was revived in 2012 after an eight-year hiatus.

“We just want to recognize companies in the private sector because so much in the press in the last six months has been about the government shutdown and what that’s doing to the New Mexico economy,” said Steven Keene, Southwest regional managing partner for Moss Adams.

Gov. Susana Martinez spoke at the luncheon, thanking attendees for their contributions and stressing the importance of a diverse economy.

Most of this year’s honorees have headquarters in Albuquerque, but every corner of the state is represented. This year’s No. 1 company based on revenue – Akal Security Inc. – is headquartered in España.

Royal Jones, president and CEO of third-ranked Mesilla Valley Transportation, said he’s honored to have his Las Cruces-based trucking company make a repeat appearance on the Private 100.

“It makes us proud to be among that list of people we all think are really good,” he said.

Recyclers

Continued from page B1

and Vince Gutschick have been strong advocates for recycling and reusing materials, Hamblen said. Through the school curriculum, they incorporate teaching opportunities about recycling and waste.

All writing paper is reused as “scratch” paper, for the younger children for their drawing or construction projects. They use reusable plastic cups for drinking water, which reduces their use of water. They use plastic cutlery that is washed and re-used.

The most rewarding moments are when the students explain with pride to visitors or new kids what types of items go into which recycle bins and why.

Mountain View Market is a second-time honoree through the Recycling Recognition Program. With 43 employees, Mountain View Market asks customers if they would like a receipt, rather than printing one. Aluminum cans are recycled and the funds are donated to the Spy and Neuter Action Program, allowing them to purchase animal food for homeless animals.

The market has worked with the Las Cruces Convention Center by collecting their compostable food waste and taking it to the MVM Farm. Mountain View Market continues to collectively reduce its carbon footprint, one small step at a time.

Each business that participated in the N.M. Business Recycle competition filled out an extensive form that described various levels of recycling, efforts to reduce waste, and ways in which the business was reusing materials.

The New Mexico Businesses Recycle program is a partnership among the New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce chapters, the New Mexico Recycling Coalition, the New Mexico State University Institute for Energy and the Environment, and New Mexico Environment Department Green Zia Environmental Leadership Program.

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Las Cruces jobless rate holds steady

New Mexico’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in October, down from 6.7 percent in September and also down from 6.8 percent a year ago. The rate of over-the-year job growth, comparing October 2013 with October 2012, was 0.2 percent, representing a gain of 1,900 jobs.

In the Las Cruces SMSA, unemployment stood at 6.8 percent not seasonally adjusted, slightly higher than a year ago when the rate was 6.7 percent. There was no change during October.

Comparing neighboring counties, the rate not seasonally adjusted was 6.8 percent in Doña Ana, 5.4 percent in Sierra, 5.8 percent in Otero and 11.2 in Luna.

“Las Cruces’ jobless rate declined by 900 jobs. Of those, 29,600 were federal. The federal government jobs have declined by 2,200 jobs now that the state’s peak tourism season is over. Both the construction and retail trade industries reported a gain of 600 jobs each. The mining industry added 500 jobs, continuing the moderating trend from a previously higher growth rate that was in the thousands. The educational and health services industry lost 1,100 jobs. Manufacturing employment lost 1,100 jobs since last year, with similar-sized losses reported at the federal and local levels.

The leisure and hospitality industry have slowed down 3,000 jobs since this time last year. Gains in the leisure and hospitality industry have slowed down 2,200 jobs now that the state’s peak tourism season is over.

Both the leisure and hospitality industry have slowed down 2,200 jobs now that the state’s peak tourism season is over. Both the construction and retail trade industries reported a gain of 600 jobs each. The mining industry added 500 jobs, continuing the moderately high growth rate that was in the thousands.

The educational and health services industry lost 1,100 jobs. Manufacturing employment declined by 900 jobs. Government employment registered a net loss of 3,100 jobs since last year, with similar-sized losses reported at the federal and local levels.

Some 194,900 New Mexicans held government jobs. Of those, 29,600 were federal. Federal government jobs have declined by 1,500 for the year and 500 for the month.

Detailed analysis will be provided in the Labor Market Review scheduled for release Monday, Dec. 2.

Double Eagle employee receives national sanitation certification

Malcolm McKenzie of Double Eagle Restaurant has successfully completed the required course work, passed the Food Protection Manager Certification Examination and recently received the ServSafe Sanitation Certification from the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation.

McKenzie, who works in prep, pantry and as a line cook for the restaurant, was presented his certificate and a new electronic insertion thermometer by Double Eagle General Manager Jerry Harrell.

“It was a lot of work, but we have a responsibility to our customers to make sure our product is not only of excellent quality but also completely safe to eat,” McKenzie said.

Harrell said many restaurants don’t even have one certified employee and McKenzie is now one of four Double Eagle employees who have earned the certification. The program is sponsored by the New Mexico Restaurant Association in conjunction with the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation – Conference for Food Protection.

New Mexico home sales, prices outpacing 2012

October housing trends reported to the Realtors Association of New Mexico (RANM) continue to show improvement over numbers reported in 2012.

Both the October and year to date number of sales shows an increase over the same period in 2012. The statewide median price is also higher than that reported during same period last year.

Seasonal trends show a slight decrease in activity comparing September 2013 to October, however, the 1,451 sales reported in October, is 2 percent higher than the number reported in October 2012. The year to date number of sales is nearly 11 percent higher than 2012’s number for January through October.

The October 2013 median of $171,000 is 0.7 percent higher than the 2012 October median of $169,750. Sixteen New Mexico counties reported a decrease in median price this October compared to October 2012, while nine counties reported an increase.

According to the National Association of Realtors, a flattening trend in the market is expected, although some mortgage companies are relaxing standards slightly. NAFR attributed the dampening of home sales to erosion in buying power.

“New Mexico is still on track to 2013 with a higher number of sales and higher median prices than seen over the last few years,” said Cathy Colvin, RANM 2013 president. Sales figures represent single family residential data only. Information does not necessarily represent all activity in any market/county.

For county statistics, visit www.nmrealtor.com for county statistics.
NMSU hosts inaugural competition

Startup Weekend winners seeking Las Cruencs’ votes

By Amanda Bradford
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

After a 54-hour, weekend-long frenzy of planning, evaluating, researching and collaborating at Las Cruces’ first-ever Startup Weekend, one New Mexico State University team emerged victorious – but that’s far from the end of the competition story.

The top two teams from the local entrepreneurial battle – including the first-place team of Mykola Novak and Nancy Hastings – will now compete with winners from other Startup Weekend events in the Global Startup Battle – and online votes are key to their success.

Voting for the teams in the Global Startup Battle began Wednesday, Nov. 27, and continues through Friday, Dec. 6. To view the 60-second pitch videos and vote on a favorite, visit the Startup Weekend Las Cruces web page, http://lascruces.startupweekend.org.

“Our success in the coming round will be measured in a large part by the support we have from the larger NMSU community as well as the support of people in southern New Mexico,” Hastings said. “We would like to ask for everyone's help, because we are going up against teams from the Silicon Valley, with a tremendous support base.”

The top 15 teams in each of five circle categories will move on to the final round.

An initiative created by Startup Weekend, Global Startup Battle aims to generate a stronger global community of entrepreneurs through the largest startup competition in the world. In 2012, more than 130 cities participated in Global Startup Battle, and GSB 2013 is expected to be even larger.

Bringing pizzazz to cameras

Novak and Hastings’ business concept, Lovely Camera, is a service for people who want to customize their camera body with bold designs. Novak, an MBA student in NMSU’s College of Business and a technology commercialization associate at Arrowhead Center, said he got the idea of making cameras another reflection of personal style while on a trip.

“The idea came to me during a visit to San Francisco,” he said. “Everything is very bright and colorful there, and I wondered – why are all the photo cameras black?”

He said the target consumers for the service would be young women who are interested in photography as a hobby and are looking for something with better quality than their cell phone or point-and-shoot cameras – many of which are available in a wider variety of colors and styles. Novak, originally from the Ukraine, has a degree in industrial engineering and has also worked as a professional photographer.

Hastings is a technical communication and business writing instructor in the NMSU English Department and a Daniels Fellow for the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative in the NMSU College of Business. She serves as the project’s design communicator.

For their first-place finish in Las Cruces, the team will receive legal services from Albuquerque firm and Arrowhead Innovation Network partners Peacock Myers; incubation membership at Arrowhead Center’s Technology Incubator; and business cards from the Las Cruces-based LNG Company.

Second-place finishers Samat Jain and Steven Black also won legal services from Peacock Myers for their startup idea, GreenShare.co, a free web-based service that connects local communities so individuals can share items from books and movies to tools and lawnmowers.

Innovative teams excel in Las Cruces

Zetdi Runyan Sloan, Startup Weekend Las Cruces coordinator and program manager at the Arrowhead Technology Incubator, said the 21 startup pitches she saw during the weekend showed the high level of innovation coming out of our region.

“The ideas that were presented had real potential to power our economy going forward,” Sloan said. “We’re excited to see that the top teams have not taken a break and have jumped right into the next steps for advancing their business ideas. They’re visiting Arrowhead Center's incubators and are getting plugged into all of the vast resources and connections they will need to explore and advance their business model.”

The grand prize for the Champion’s Circle includes $20,000 in match funding for an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign, a visit to Google Headquarters in San Francisco, opportunities to chat with celebrity entrepreneurs and mentors and press and promotional support. Grand prizes in other circles also include valuable travel, mentoring and support services.

Scholarships aids local students

Optimist Clubs help now and with endowment for future

By Charlotte Tallman
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

In 2011 the Las Cruces Optimist Club celebrated its 50th anniversary and wanted to commemorate the anniversary in a special way.

To recognize both the past 50 years and the next 50 years, the club created an endowment to make a difference now and in the future.

“The community never runs out of needs for our young people. The Optimist Clubs support a large number of charitable operations for young people, but they are the best kept secret in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County,” said Jack Barclay, vice president of programs for the Las Cruces Optimist Club.

The Las Cruces Optimist Club – the breakfast club – is the oldest and largest Optimist Club in Las Cruces, gaining a charter April 1961. It awards scholarships of about $1,000 each year to four or five graduating high school seniors enrolled at New Mexico State University.

“The community never runs out of needs for our young people. The Optimist Clubs support a large number of charitable operations for young people, but they are the best kept secret in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County,” said Jack Barclay, vice president of programs for the Las Cruces Optimist Club.

The Las Cruces Optimist Club brought together the other two local clubs, the Noon Optimist Club and the Mad Hatter’s Optimist Club, and the trio began building up the Las Cruces Optimist Clubs Endowment.

The breakfast club is a 501(C)3 club, but the other two clubs are 501(C)4 clubs.

By using the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, the three clubs hoped other community members would contribute to the scholarship endowment.

An endowment is a permanent fund created through a legal agreement and then professionally managed by the CFNSM. Once an endowment is created, the principal from the fund lasts forever, and continues to produce earnings. A portion of the earnings is used for programs and specific community needs as determined by endowment organizations.

“I’d like to see the endowment grow big enough to kick off a substantial amount of scholarship money. If we get the endowment large enough to cover all of our scholarship needs then we can use the other money we raise to fund other kids projects,” Barclay said.

All of the money raised for the endowment will stay in the community and graduating seniors from local high schools attending NMSU and Doña Ana Community College will benefit from the scholarships.

TUE. 12/3
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. New Mexico Sustainable Agriculture Conference, Mimbres Valley Special Event Center, 2300 E. Pine St., Deming. Cost: free; lunch provided. Preregister at http://rsvp.nmsu.edu/rsvp/wsave2013 For more information, call 646-4398.

11:30 a.m. Business in the Borderplex forum, Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. The meeting will begin with a hot entreé buffet. Cost: $20 in advance, $25 at the door. For more information, call 525-2852.

WED. 12/4
11:35 a.m. Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Small & Minority Business Workshop on the power of email marketing for small business owners and entrepreneurs, Columbus Conference Center, 901 Avenida de Mesilla. Cost: $15, includes lunch. To RSVP, call 524-1968 or email rel@lascruces.org.

THU. 12/5

THU. 12/12
6 p.m. Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce Joint Office Holiday Party, Alameda House, 526 S. Alameda Blvd. Cost $30 per person, $500 per table. For more information, contact Carrie Hamblen at carrie@nmgreenchamber.com or 323-1575.

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President
Las Cruces

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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. 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 scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart.
NOTICE OF SALE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
No. D-307-CV-2013-02382
BRANCH BANKING & TRUST COMPANY, Plaintiff,

v.

BRENT WESTMORELAND and TRUST COMPANY, Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Special Master will on December 18, 2013, at 10:00 AM, Front entrance of the Doña Ana County District Court House, Las Cruces, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash for the sum of $136,314.63, plus outstanding amounts at the rate of 5.50% per annum from date of the Judgment filed herein, plus late charges of $457.10, plus escrow advances for property taxes and insurance in the amount of $13,158.24, plus property preservation expenses in the amount of $216.00, plus reasonable attorney’s fees incurred by Plaintiff through September 1, 2013, in the sum of $608.06, with interest due on the Note through November 1, 2013, in the amount of $1,708.00 and costs through September 1, 2013, in the sum of $586.67, plus interest on the aforesaid amounts at the rate of 5.50% per annum from the date of entry of this 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.

Further, the above-named Defendants, Thomas B. Arenas and Marie A. Arenas are hereby notified that a sale will be held on December 18, 2013, at 10:00 AM, Front entrance of the Doña Ana County District Court House, Las Cruces, NM, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, the Property to be sold, which is a mobile manufactured home, being one (1) mobile home described as follows:

Lot 11, Block 6, Unit No. 3, Loma Linda Heights, South, in the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, as the same is shown and designated on plat of said property, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments, taxes and assessments, and to the one (1) month right of redemption in favor of the Defendants as specified in the Judgment filed herein.

Lot 11, Block 6, Unit No. 3, Loma Linda Heights, South, in the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, as the same is shown and designated on plat of said property, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments, taxes and assessments, and to the one (1) month right of redemption in favor of the Defendants as specified in the Judgment filed herein.

FURTHER, the above-named Defendants, Thomas B. Arenas and Marie A. Arenas are hereby notified that a sale will be held on December 18, 2013, at 10:00 AM, Front entrance of the Doña Ana County District Court House, Las Cruces, NM, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, all the real property described as follows:

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.

LOT NUMBERED 10 IN BLOCK NUMBERED 17 OF LAS COLINAS PLAT, THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA, NEW MEXICO

PROSPECTIVE PUR- CHASERS AT THE SALE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE THEIR OWN EXAMINA- TIONS OF TITLE AND THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AND TO CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title to the above-described real property subject to rights of redemption.

Richard Meredith of the law firm of Leverick and Musselman, L.L.C., whose address and phone number is 5120 San Francisco Rd. NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109, (505) 858-3303 is the attorney for the Plaintiff.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named Plaintiff and wherein Plaintiff was adjudged to have a lien against the above-entitled real property, has scheduled a date for a sale of 3.000% per annum from date of the Judgment filed herein, plus late charges of $457.10, plus escrow advances for property taxes and insurance in the amount of $13,158.24, plus property preservation expenses in the amount of $216.00, plus reasonable attorney’s fees incurred by Plaintiff through September 1, 2013, in the sum of $608.06, with interest due on the Note through November 1, 2013, in the amount of $1,708.00 and costs through September 1, 2013, in the sum of $586.67, plus interest on the aforesaid amounts at the rate of 5.50% per annum from the date of entry of this 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.

Further, the above-named Defendants, Thomas B. Arenas and Marie A. Arenas are hereby notified that a sale will be held on December 18, 2013, at 10:00 AM, Front entrance of the Doña Ana County District Court House, Las Cruces, NM, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, the Property to be sold, which is a mobile manufactured home, being one (1) mobile home described as follows:

Lot 11, Block 6, Unit No. 3, Loma Linda Heights, South, in the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, as the same is shown and designated on plat of said property, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments, taxes and assessments, and to the one (1) month right of redemption in favor of the Defendants as specified in the Judgment filed herein.

Lot 11, Block 6, Unit No. 3, Loma Linda Heights, South, in the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, as the same is shown and designated on plat of said property, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments, taxes and assessments, and to the one (1) month right of redemption in favor of the Defendants as specified in the Judgment filed herein.

Further, the above-named Defendants, Thomas B. Arenas and Marie A. Arenas are hereby notified that a sale will be held on December 18, 2013, at 10:00 AM, Front entrance of the Doña Ana County District Court House, Las Cruces, NM, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, all the real property described as follows:

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.

LOT NUMBERED 10 IN BLOCK NUMBERED 17 OF LAS COLINAS PLAT, THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA, NEW MEXICO

PROSPECTIVE PUR- CHASERS AT THE SALE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE THEIR OWN EXAMINA- TIONS OF TITLE AND THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AND TO CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title to the above-described real property subject to rights of redemption.

Richard Meredith of the law firm of Leverick and Musselman, L.L.C., whose address and phone number is 5120 San Francisco Rd. NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109, (505) 858-3303 is the attorney for the Plaintiff.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named Plaintiff and wherein Plaintiff was adjudged to have a lien against the above-entitled real property, has scheduled a date for a sale of 3.000% per annum from date of the Judgment filed herein, plus late charges of $457.10, plus escrow advances for property taxes and insurance in the amount of $13,158.24, plus property preservation expenses in the amount of $216.00, plus reasonable attorney’s fees incurred by Plaintiff through September 1, 2013, in the amount of $1,708.00 and costs through September 1, 2013, in the sum of $586.67, plus interest on the aforesaid amounts at the rate of 5.50% per annum from the date of entry of this 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.

LOT NUMBERED 10 IN BLOCK NUMBERED 17 OF LAS COLINAS PLAT, THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA, NEW MEXICO

PROSPECTIVE PUR- CHASERS AT THE SALE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE THEIR OWN EXAMINA- TIONS OF TITLE AND THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AND TO CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title to the above-described real property subject to rights of redemption.

Richard Meredith of the law firm of Leverick and Musselman, L.L.C., whose address and phone number is 5120 San Francisco Rd. NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109, (505) 858-3303 is the attorney for the Plaintiff.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named Plaintiff and wherein Plaintiff was adjudged to have a lien against the above-entitled real property, has scheduled a date for a sale of 3.000% per annum from date of the Judgment filed herein, plus late charges of $457.10, plus escrow advances for property taxes and insurance in the amount of $13,158.24, plus property preservation expenses in the amount of $216.00, plus reasonable attorney’s fees incurred by Plaintiff through September 1, 2013, in the amount of $1,708.00 and costs through September 1, 2013, in the sum of $586.67, plus interest on the aforesaid amounts at the rate of 5.50% per annum from the date of entry of this 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.
LOT 12 IN BLOCK 8 OF AMENDED PLAT OF VALLEYSIDE SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES, DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN ON THE MAP OR DRAWING TITLED THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORDEMENT ON MAY 15, 2015, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF DONA ANA, NEW MEXICO, IN BOOK 22 PAGE(S) 3883, AND RECORDED IN BOOK 3 AT PAGES 44, PLAT RECORDS.

The sale is to begin at 11:45 a.m. on December 20, 2013, outside the front entrance to the Doña Ana County Courthouse, City of Las Cruces, County of Doña Ana, State of New Mexico, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, the Property to pay expenses of sale, and to satisfy the Judgment granted Bank of Oklahoma National Association in the Housing Authority of the City of Las Cruces.

Bank of Oklahoma, N.A. was awarded a Judgment on November 26, 2013, in the principal amount of $45,810.05, plus outstanding interest due on the Judgment as of October 1, 2013, in the amount of $3,577.15, with interest thereon from date of judgment until paid at the rate of 5.440% per annum ($6.83 per diem), plus late charges in the amount of $198.99, plus escrow advances in the amount of $267.55, plus property preservation costs in the amount of $90,00, plus reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by Plaintiff through September 20, 2013, in the sum of $959.00, with interest thereon from date of judgment until paid at the rate of 5.440% per annum; plus costs incurred by Plaintiff through September 20, 2013, in the sum of $527.15, with interest thereon from date of judgment until paid at the rate of 5.440% per annum.

Defendant Housing Authority of the City of Las Cruces was awarded a Judgment on November 14, 2013, in the principal amount of $8,638.00, plus attorney's fees and costs in the amount of $390.84 for a total judgment amount of $9,568.84 with interest thereon from the date of judgment until paid at the rate of 6.75% per annum.

The sale is subject to rights and easements of record, to unpaid property taxes and assessments, and to the right of (1) month redemp- tion in favor of the Defend- ant as specified in the judgment filed herein.

PROSPECTIVE PUR- CHASERS AT THE SALE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE THEIR OWN EXAMINA- TION OF TITLE AND THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AND TO CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING.

/s/ Faisal Sukhyani,
Special Master
5120 San Francisco Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88001
(505) 667-4767

For more information, call
(505) 647-6743.

Applications calling from out- side the Las Cruces area may call toll-free at
1-888-272-7290 and request extension 7210.


ELECTION NOTICE
ELEPHANT BUTTE CITY COUNCIL
TORA VERDE SUBDIVISION
DECEMBER 3, 2013

Notice is hereby given that there will be an election on the Tora Verde Subdivision District of Elephant Butte, New Mexico, at which time there will be elections for the following positions:

- Mayor
- Councilors

The election will be held on December 3, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. at the Elephant Butte City Hall, 78 Main Street, Elephant Butte, New Mexico. The Notice is hereby given that the property, if any, and zoning violations concerning the property, if any, and any other political office or appointment, no Board management and neutral representatives are still soliciting more applications.

APPLICANTS CONTINUE TO SEEK APPLICANTS FOR LOCAL BUDGET BOARDS

The Board of Management and labor representatives are still soliciting applications for the management and neutral board member positions. This extension is a result of the request that was to close on October 28, 2013; however, the application process has been extended in order to solicit more applications. The previously received applications do not need to be resubmitted.

The Doña Ana County Labor Relations Board is a three-member board of volunteers whose members enforce provisions of the Doña Ana County Labor Relations Ordinance and the Board’s Management Relations Rela- tions and Regulations through the imposition of appropriate administrative remedies.

Matters that historically have come before the Board’s Management relations board include designation of appropriate bargaining units, the selection, certification and decertification of exclu- sive representatives and the filing, hearing, and determina- tion of complaints of prohibited practices.

One representative managing and one member representing labor are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and the two appointees recommend the third neutral member appointed by the Board of County Commissioners for one-year appointments. During the term of appointment, each neutral member shall hold or seek any other political office or public employment. Person shall be an employee of a union, an organization representing public employees or a public employer.

Applications will be accep- ted up to 5 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2013. Applications must be postmarked on or before December 16, 2013.

Notice is hereby given that on December 4, 2013, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the undersigned Special Master, will, at the entrance of the Doña Ana County Courthouse, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, at 21 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, sell all the right, title and interest of the above-named Defendants and in the hereinafter described property for the highest and best cash bidder for cash. The property to be sold is located at 412 Carlito Road, Las Cruces, and is situated in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, commonly known as 5051 Calle Mexico, as described as follows:

LOT 4, MI TIERRA SUB- DIVISION, IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES, DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE PLAT THEREOF, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY ON APRIL 3, 2001, IN BOOK 22 PAGE(S) 258-259 OF PLAT RECORDS,

and all improvements, in- cluding, but not limited to, the hereinbefore described property thereto and more particularly described as a 2011 Redman double wide VIN No. 12537523AB, and Label Numbers PFS732028 and PFS 732029.

The foregoing sale will be made at a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above- entitled and numbered cause of 21 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, at 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, sell all the right, title and interest of the above-named Defendants and in the hereinafter described property for the highest and best cash bidder for cash. The property to be sold is located at 412 Carlito Road, Las Cruces, and is situated in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, commonly known as 5051 Calle Mexico, as described as follows:

LOT 4, MI TIERRA SUB- DIVISION, IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES, DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE PLAT THEREOF, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY ON APRIL 3, 2001, IN BOOK 22 PAGE(S) 258-259 OF PLAT RECORDS,

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The following sale will be made at a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above- entitled and numbered cause of 21 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, at 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, sell all the right, title and interest of the above-named Defendants and in the hereinafter described property for the highest and best cash bidder for cash. The property to be sold is located at 412 Carlito Road, Las Cruces, and is situated in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, commonly known as 5051 Calle Mexico, as described as follows:

LOT 4, MI TIERRA SUB- DIVISION, IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES, DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE PLAT THEREOF, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY ON APRIL 3, 2001, IN BOOK 22 PAGE(S) 258-259 OF PLAT RECORDS,

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The following sale will be made at a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above- entitled and numbered cause of 21 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, at 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, sell all the right, title and interest of the above-named Defendants and in the hereinafter described property for the highest and best cash bidder for cash. The property to be sold is located at 412 Carlito Road, Las Cruces, and is situated in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, commonly known as 5051 Calle Mexico, as described as follows:

LOT 4, MI TIERRA SUB- DIVISION, IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES, DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE PLAT THEREOF, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY ON APRIL 3, 2001, IN BOOK 22 PAGE(S) 258-259 OF PLAT RECORDS,

and all improvements, in- cluding, but not limited to, the hereinbefore described property thereto and more particularly described as a 2011 Redman double wide VIN No. 12537523AB, and Label Numbers PFS732028 and PFS 732029.
Going for glamour at Glitz Ribbon cutting

Photos by Alta LeCompte

Owner Mary Ann Hernandez shows Stefany Pickin the nail bar where Glitz Nail Technology Program students will learn from licensed instructors the skills they need for state board exams. The school held a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Friday, Nov. 22, at the school, 315 S. Telshor Blvd.

Hugo Quiñones and Michelle Lucero

Glitz instructor Trena Lopez with daughter Jeliena, a student at Oñate High School.

Promoting communication

The Indelible Enterprise team poses for a picture with members of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce. Katy Ham, marketing director, cuts the ribbon and CEO Julie Seton holds the proclamation Friday, Nov. 22. Seton told the group the consulting firm has worked with government clients, including public safety and emergency management providers, as well as corporate clients.

For tickets call 575-646-1420

1161 Mall Dr., Ste. D · Las Cruces, NM 88011
575.647.0009 · www.ncompassgroup.com
Strong chile harvest reported

Quantity, quality break no records

By Alta LeCompte
Las Cruces Bulletin

With a good 2013 green harvest in the record books, red chile picking is about 80 percent complete, according to Stephanie Walker, New Mexico State University Extension vegetable specialist.

Harvest of reds will continue at least two more weeks, she said.

Chris Biad of Biad Chili Products in Mesilla Park said his harvest of reds is right on schedule.

“We’re about halfway through and will go until the end of December,” he said.

“The weather has been great,”

“The market seems strong,” Walker said.

“New Mexico chiles are in demand. People around the country recognize the quality of our chiles.”

“The market is good,” Biad said. “There’s a slight decrease in price, but overall the volume and demand are still high.”

Walker said red chile harvest typically starts in late September or October.

“Growers who harvest for coloring want to make sure the maximum color develops,” she said.

She said large growers have their own proprietary varieties of highly pigmented paprika chiles with low pungency and good drying characteristics.

Robert Garcia of Tulia, Texas, harvests red chiles grown for pigment on land near Picacho Mountain farmed by Steve Lyles.

“Smaller processors that dry paprikas on their roof top grow New Mexico 64 or Heritage 64.”

Red chiles grown for their pigment typically end up in pepperoni, Doritos and other food products.

“There’s even a little in mayonnaise,” Walker said.

She said the green chile crop was comparable in quality and yield to 2012’s, in spite of rains that caused some disease issues for late harvesters.

Biad said the family grows all its green chilies locally.

The store adjacent to the processing plant in Mesilla Park usually sells frozen greens all year, but is almost out of the product, Biad said in late November.

“Next year we will double the amount,” he said.

The company sells a lot of green chiles online, Biad said.

The national market includes both transplants from the Mesilla Valley and a growing number of foodies everywhere who have discovered the quality of chiles grown here.

Building Las Cruces

Construction continues at Western Heritage Bank at 211 S. Alameda Ave., scheduled for completion early in 2014. Ground was broken in March for the new headquarters adjacent to the current bank building.

Western Heritage Bank

Las Cruces Bulletin photos by Alta LeCompte

Las Cruces Bulletin

Las Cruces Bulletin photo

Las Cruces Bulletin

Western Heritage Bank

Las Cruces Bulletin

Las Cruces Bulletin

Las Cruces Bulletin

Las Cruces Bulletin

Las Cruces Bulletin

Las Cruces Bulletin
NOTICE is hereby given that the application numbered LRG-956-P0D4 for a Permit to Change Location of Well within the Lower Rio Grande Underwater Basin in Doña Ana County, State of New Mexico, you must specifically identify your water right, the applicant, and the approval of the application by the State Engineer for Permit to Change Location of Well within the Lower Rio Grande Underwater Basin in Doña Ana County, State of New Mexico, will be plugged.

Any person, firm or corporation or other entity having standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (objection must be signed, legible, 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) 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 submitted to the State Engineer, 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J, Las Cruces, NM 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 hand-delivered or mailed and postmarked within 24-hour period of protest. Protests can be faxed to the Office of the State Engineer, 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J, Las Cruces, NM 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

If no valid water or object is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 72 NMSA 1978. Dates: 11/22, 12/09, 12/16, 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that Logan James Welsch, a resident of the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, State of New Mexico, and over the age of fourteen years, has filed a Petition to Change Name in the Third Judicial District Court, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, wherein he seeks to change his name from Logan James Welsch to Flagstar Bank, FSB was awarded a Judgment on September 26, 2012, in the amount of $282,707.73, to liquidate the equity in the automobile described above. The amount of $282,707.73 is due and payable by the owner, and all as set forth in the Notice of Sale. The sale is to begin at 11:00 AM on December 10, 2013, at the Fta Office, Third Judicial District Court, City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, the property and to pay expenses of sale, and to satisfy the Judgment granted to Flagstar Bank, FSB.

The amount of $282,707.73 is due and payable by the owner, and all as set forth in the Notice of Sale. The sale is to begin at 11:00 AM on December 10, 2013, at the Fta Office, Third Judicial District Court, City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, the property and to pay expenses of sale, and to satisfy the Judgment granted to Flagstar Bank, FSB.

The amount of $282,707.73 is due and payable by the owner, and all as set forth in the Notice of Sale. The sale is to begin at 11:00 AM on December 10, 2013, at the Fta Office, Third Judicial District Court, City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, the property and to pay expenses of sale, and to satisfy the Judgment granted to Flagstar Bank, FSB.

The amount of $282,707.73 is due and payable by the owner, and all as set forth in the Notice of Sale. The sale is to begin at 11:00 AM on December 10, 2013, at the Fta Office, Third Judicial District Court, City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, the property and to pay expenses of sale, and to satisfy the Judgment granted to Flagstar Bank, FSB.
STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA DISTRICT COURT

No. D-307-CV-2013-01147

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL J. DANNER AND ROSE C. DANNER, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Master will on December 10, at 11:00 AM, Front entrance to the Doña Ana County District Court, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

Lot 148, Block D, LOS ENAMORADOS ESTATES, Town of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, as shown and designated on the plat thereof filed, if filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County on June 20, 2013 in Book 21 Pages 722-727 of Plat Records.

The address of the real property is 4753 Diamante Court, Las Cruces, NM 88012. Plaintiff does not represent or warrant that the stated street address is the street address as described in any recorded deed, and it is the property owner's responsibility to verify the location and address of the property being sold. Said sale will be made pursuant to the judgment entered on October 9, 2013 in the above described subject to any and all liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due. Plaintiff and its attorneys disclaim all responsibility for, and the purchaser at the sale takes subject to, any and all liens. The address of the described real property is in the property more particularly described above, not the legal description, then the property is subject to any and all liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due. Plaintiff and its attorneys disclaim all responsibility for, and the purchaser at the sale takes subject to, any and all liens. The address of the described real property is located at the above described street address.

At the date and time stated above, the Special Master will postpone the sale to such later date and time as the Special Master may specify.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA DISTRICT COURT

No. D-307-CV-2013-01147

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL J. DANNER AND ROSE C. DANNER, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Master will on December 10, at 11:00 AM, Front entrance to the Doña Ana County District Court, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

Lot 148, Block D, LOS ENAMORADOS ESTATES, Town of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, as shown and designated on the plat thereof filed, if filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County on June 20, 2013 in Book 21 Pages 722-727 of Plat Records.

The address of the real property is 4753 Diamante Court, Las Cruces, NM 88012. Plaintiff does not represent or warrant that the stated street address is the street address as described in any recorded deed, and it is the property owner's responsibility to verify the location and address of the property being sold. Said sale will be made pursuant to the judgment entered on October 9, 2013 in the above described subject to any and all liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due. Plaintiff and its attorneys disclaim all responsibility for, and the purchaser at the sale takes subject to, any and all liens. The address of the described real property is located at the above described street address.

At the date and time stated above, the Special Master will postpone the sale to such later date and time as the Special Master may specify.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA DISTRICT COURT

No. D-307-CV-2013-01147

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL J. DANNER AND ROSE C. DANNER, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Master will on December 10, at 11:00 AM, Front entrance to the Doña Ana County District Court, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA DISTRICT COURT

No. D-307-CV-2013-01147

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL J. DANNER AND ROSE C. DANNER, Defendants.

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA DISTRICT COURT

No. D-307-CV-2013-01147

GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff,

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At the date and time stated above, the Special Master will postpone the sale to such later date and time as the Special Master may specify.
**NOTICE OF SALE**

GIVEN that the undersigned Special Master will sell on December 10, 2013 at 11:00 AM, Front entrance to the Doña Ana County District Court, 201 W. Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

Lot 2A, of SOLEDAD SUBDIVISION NUMBER THREE, in the County of Doña Ana, State of New Mexico, as shown on plat filed with the County Clerk of Doña Ana County, New Mexico on November 2, 2005 in Plat Book 21, Folio 437.

The address of the real property is 4901 Desert Walk Court, Las Cruces, NM 88011. Plaintiff does not represent or warrant that the address of the described property, if the property at the sale takes the form of a mobile or manufactured home on the property, if any.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title to the property subject to any and all environmental contamination on the property, if any, and zoning violations concerning the property, if any.

GIVEN that the undersigned Special Master will sell on December 10, 2013 at 11:00 AM, Front entrance to the Doña Ana County District Court, 201 W. Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

Lot 2A, of SOLEDAD VISTA, REPLAT NO. THREE, located in the County of Doña Ana, State of New Mexico as shown on plat filed in the County Clerk of Doña Ana County, New Mexico on May 26, 1987 in book 14 at page 350 as plat no. 1374 of Records of Doña Ana County.

The address of the real property is 4901 Desert Walk Court, Las Cruces, NM 88011. Plaintiff does not represent or warrant that the address of the described property, if the property at the sale takes the form of a mobile or manufactured home on the property, if any, environmental contamination on the property, if any, and zoning violations concerning the property, if any.

GIVEN that the undersigned Special Master will sell on December 10, 2013 at 11:00 AM, Front entrance to the Doña Ana County District Court, 201 W. Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM, sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title, and interest of the above-named defendants in and to the following described real estate located in said County and State:

Lot 2A, of SOLEDAD VISTA, REPLAT NO. THREE, located in the County of Doña Ana, State of New Mexico as shown on plat filed in the County Clerk of Doña Ana County, New Mexico on May 26, 1987 in book 14 at page 350 as plat no. 1374 of Records of Doña Ana County.

The address of the real property is 4901 Desert Walk Court, Las Cruces, NM 88011. Plaintiff does not represent or warrant that the address of the described property, if the property at the sale takes the form of a mobile or manufactured home on the property, if any, environmental contamination on the property, if any, and zoning violations concerning the property, if any.
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No. D-307-CV-2013-00088

Katherine N. Blackett
BLACKETT, P.C.
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.

NOTICE TO PENETRANTS AND FAMILIES

The Foregoing Sale was made and made by a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above-mentioned and numbered cause on October 21, 2013, being an action to foreclose a mortgage on the above-described property. The Plaintiff’s Judgment, which includes interest and costs, is $276,993.98 and the same bears interest at 5% per annum from November 1, 2013, to the date of sale. The amount of such interest to the date of sale will be $1,354.62. The Plaintiff will assign to your name the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid verbally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of its judgment to the purchase price in lieu of cash. The sale may be postponed and rescheduled at the discretion of the Special Master.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 4, 2013, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the undersigned Special Master will, at the main entrance of the Doña Ana County Judicial Complex, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, sell all the right, title and interest of the above named Defendant(s) and to the heirherein described real estate to the highest bidder for cash. The property to be sold is located at 186 Kite Court, in the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and is particularly described as follows:

A tract of land situated in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, being within Section 16, T24S., R3W., N.M.P.M. of the U.S.G.O., and the U.S.R.S. Surveys being a part of the U.S.R.S. Tract 1-9A10A, Farm of Cruz R. Sanchez and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 1/2” iron rod found at the south 40 foot line of Tract 1.21h, R3W, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, for the northeast corner of this tract; whence a U.S.G.O. brass cap found for the northeast corner of Section 24, T21S., R1W., of the N.M.P.M. of the U.S.G.O. Surveys bears N 80° 11’ 12” E., 1,162.04 feet;

THEN from the point of beginning said right-of-way, S 80° 09’ 44” E., 661.99 feet to a 1/2” iron rod set with cap marked NM 97014 for the southwest corner of this tract;

THEN S 80° 09’ 44” W., 117.19 feet to a 1/2” iron rod set with cap marked NM 97014 for the southwest corner of this tract;

THEN N 29° 14’ 42” W., 671.12 feet to a 1/2” iron rod found with cap marked NM 9490 at the south 40 foot right-of-way of Grant Road (S 88° 36’ 13” E., 329.83 feet) for the northwest corner of this tract;

THEN along said right-of-way, N 84° 49’ 16” E., 111.90 feet to a point at the beginning, containing 1,749 acres of land, more or less.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above-mentioned District Court, having appointed me, my designee, as Special Master in this matter with the power to sell, has approved the sale of the property (the “Property”) situated in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, commonly known as 6590 Coyote Road, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88012, and more particularly described as folows:

A 2.51 ACRE TRACT SITUATED IN SECTION TOWSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 9 WEST, N.M.P.M. OF THE U.S.G.O., located in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, and being more particularly described as follows:


THENCE FROM THE BEGINNING POINT N 89° 59’ 14” W., MINUTES 37 SECONDS 329.83 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF A 60 FOOT WIDE ROAD AND UTILITY EASEMENT KNOWN AS COYOTE ROAD FOR THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED:

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID ROAD 80 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 37 SECONDS 329.83 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF A 60 FOOT WIDE ROAD AND UTILITY EASEMENT KNOWN AS COYOTE ROAD FOR THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED:

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID ROAD 1793.45 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF A 60 FOOT WIDE ROAD AND UTILITY EASEMENT KNOWN AS COYOTE ROAD FOR THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED:

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID ROAD 90 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 37 SECONDS 329.83 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF A 60 FOOT WIDE ROAD AND UTILITY EASEMENT KNOWN AS COYOTE ROAD FOR THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED:

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID ROAD 90 DEGREES 06 MINUTES 37 SECONDS 329.83 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF A 60 FOOT WIDE ROAD AND UTILITY EASEMENT KNOWN AS COYOTE ROAD FOR THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED:

THENCE LEAVING THE CENTERLINE OF SAID ROAD S 01 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 26 SECONDS E

LEGAL NOTICES - Lowest rates in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County - 575-524-8061 - email: legals@lascrucesbulletin.com
You are required to llenar una pre-aplicación y trazar los siguientes documentos para cada miembro de su familia para determinar si califica para este programa:

- Licencia de Manojo/Identificación de Estado/Tarjeta de Residencia Permanente (18 años y mayor)
- Certificado de cierre original/Certificación de Nacimiento
- Tarjeta de Seguro Social/Certificación de Seguro Social
- Seguros personales por mes (Salud, TANAP, Accidentes de Tráfico, Sustento de Menores, SS/SSD, Desempleo, Contribuciones, Beneficios de Veteranos, Pension, Empleo por Cuenta Propia)
- Gastos actuales por mes (Medico, Medicamentos, Cuidados de Niños)
- Información de sus hijos (cuentas de banco, lista de propiedades)
- Nombre y información de contacto de su Propietario actual y anterior

Solamente familias MAS CERCANAS pueden estar en la aplicación. Regulaciones de HUD no permite más que dos personas por recámara. (Ver las directrices siguientes)

PRE-APLICACIONES PARA APARTAMENTOS DE 3, 4 Y 5 DORMITORIOS SERÁN ACEPTADAS.

La lista de espera abrirá a las 9:00 a.m. el 9 de Diciembre del 2013 y estará abierta hasta que se genere una considerable lista de espera.

NOTICIA PÚBLICA
La Autoridad de Viviendas Públicas de Mesilla Valley abrirá la lista de espera para el Programa de Public Housing. (Este no es el Programa de la Sección 8)

El programa al que se puede aplicar es el Programa de Public Housing. Se puede aplicar para personas que habilitan una casa proporcionada por el programa.

Sólo serán seleccionados por fecha y tiempo de la aplicación de cada categoría del tamaño de dormitorio. Cheques de historia de renta, crédito y antecedentes penales serán verificados para poder calificar para asistencia. Aplicantes que estén en listas de espera para otros programas de viviendas tendrán que aplicar por separado para este programa. Estos aplicantes no perderán su lugar en otras listas si aplican para este programa de Viviendas Públicas.

Si usted está interesado en el programa, por favor llene la solicitud y envíe un cheque o un vale de transferencia para el monto de $10.00. Si el número de su lista de espera se encuentra en un rango de 3, 4, o 5 dormitorios, se le llamará para que haga la solicitud.

NOTICIA DE VACANTE
La Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority está abriendo la espera para el Programa de Public Housing. (Este no es el Programa de la Sección 8)

El programa al que se puede aplicar es el Programa de Public Housing. Se puede aplicar para personas que habilitan una casa proporcionada por el programa.

Sólo serán seleccionados por fecha y tiempo de la aplicación de cada categoría del tamaño de dormitorio. Cheques de historia de renta, crédito y antecedentes penales serán verificados para poder calificar para asistencia. Aplicantes que estén en listas de espera para otros programas de viviendas tendrán que aplicar por separado para este programa. Estos aplicantes no perderán su lugar en otras listas si aplican para este programa de Viviendas Públicas.

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ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING

By: Jeffrey Lake, Special Master
SOUTHWEST SUPPORT GROUP, LLC
5011 Indian School Road NE,
Suite 500A
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 767-9444
1 NM-13-5465 JUD
IDSPub #005831

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

No. D-307-CV-2013-01175
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff,

vs.

BENJAMIN I. ESPINOZA,
Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
that Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., plaintiff,
thought to be the owner of certain
property situated in Doña Ana County,
New Mexico, commonly known as 1211
Gunsight Peak Ct, Las Cruces, NM
1805 Martha Drive, 3bd/2bca, refrigerated air,
1200 sq. ft., newly re-modeled inside, rent $875, dep.
915-887-0861 or email to
tobobbeltran@dnamattress
.com
on private property.

ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING

By: Jeffrey Lake, Special Master
SOUTHWEST SUPPORT GROUP, LLC
5011 Indian School Road NE,
Suite 500A
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 767-9444
1 NM-13-5465 JUD
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THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No. D-307-CV-2013-01175
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Albuquerque, NM 87110
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THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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.com
on private property.
NEW CAR & TRUCK DOOR BUSTERS!

BUY BETWEEN 8AM-10AM
GET ADDITIONAL
$500 SAVINGS!

BUY BETWEEN 10AM-NOON
GET ADDITIONAL
$250 SAVINGS!

HUGE SISBARRO SAVINGS!

GREAT SELECTION PRICED AT OR BELOW FACTORY INVOICE†

NEW CHEVY TRUCKS BELOW FACTORY INVOICE†
NEW RAM TRUCKS BELOW FACTORY INVOICE†
NEW JEEPS BELOW FACTORY INVOICE†
NEW MITSUBISHIS BELOW FACTORY INVOICE†
NEW BUICKS BELOW FACTORY INVOICE†
NEW CHEVROLETS BELOW FACTORY INVOICE†

SISBARRO WILL PAY OFF YOUR TRADE NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU OWE!**

*Term varies by make and model. **Zero down based on a closed end lease offered to highly qualified lessees on approved credit by Volkswagen Credit. Offers end December 2nd, 2013. †Factory Invoice price may not reflect the final Dealer cost of the vehicle. ††Positive or negative trade equity to be applied to new loan. Book values based on current vehicle condition at time of trade, wear, tear and excessive mileage.
Take a stroll through Winterfest

ANNUAL DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL RETURNS FRIDAY, DEC. 6
With the holiday season already in full swing, Downtown Las Cruces is beginning to look like a true winter wonderland, and from 3 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, Main Street will come alive for the eighth annual Winterfest.

Winterfest is sure to be a great kickoff to the holidays for young and old alike, with attractions including live music, caroling, food, produce and crafts vendors, including several from the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market and the Sunday Farmer’s Market at Tractor Supply Co., carriage rides, stocking stuffers for the kids and more.

Winterfest is designed to coincide with a number of events that showcase just how much Downtown Las Cruces has to offer. Rather than competing with the plethora of happenings around town, Sarvo and Kimball said their hope for Winterfest was to bring them all into the fold for one evening filled to the brim with holiday cheer. A rising tide, as they say, lifts all boats.

Four of Las Cruces’ best musical acts – Anthony Pacheco, String Awakening, The Mixx and the Casual Fridays – will take the Winterfest stage, and a traveling acoustic band will roam throughout the area, drawing visitors to take part in the fun. Roving carolers will also be on hand, singing beloved holiday classics known to one and all.

Carriage rides, which begin at La Placita, will make their way to the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., to take part in their festivities, which include choral performances, decorated trains and a visit from Santa Claus himself. From there, the carriage will make its way to West End Art Depot, 401 N. Mesilla St., for the gallery’s First Friday Art Rumble opening of “Dynamic Institution,” an exhibit of the work of New Mexico State University graduate students, which runs from 6 p.m. to midnight. High Desert Brewing Co. will be on hand with a selection of some of their best brews for those old enough to imbibe, and fast-rising indie locals Decade of the Dead Arcade will perform at 9 p.m.

From West End, the carriage will weave its way around Pioneer Women’s Park, which will be lit with hundreds of luminarias, a tradition with the plethora of happenings around town, Sarvo and Kimball said their hope for Winterfest was to bring them all into the fold for one evening filled to the brim with holiday cheer. A rising tide, as they say, lifts all boats.

From West End, the carriage will weave its way to downtown, where all the action is happening. The First Friday Art Ramble, held monthly at the numerous art galleries and studios that make their homes Downtown, will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. the same night, giving those in a festive mood one more reason to stay downtown.

At 6 p.m., the City of Las Cruces celebrates the arrival of Christmas with the lighting of the city tree, between Branigan Memorial Library and the City of Las Cruces City Hall, on Main Street. A roving acoustic band will join in the fun, ushering visitors further down into Downtown where all the action is happening.

The Following Events are included in Winterfest:

- **Arts & Entertainment**
  - **Arias, Carols & Songs**
    - **Saturday, December 7**
    - **RIO GRANDE THEATRE**
    - **211 N. MAIN ST. LAS CRUCES**
    - **7:00 PM**
    - **LOBBY DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM**
    - **SEATING AT 6:30 PM**
    - **DONA ANA ARTS COUNCIL**
    - **575-523-6403 • daarts.org**
    - **SOPRANO: Sara Heaton**
    - **TENOR: Joseph Dennis**
    - **BARITONE: Joshua Dennis**
    - **MUSIC DIRECTOR: Kirt Pavitt**
    - **Ticket holders have advance reserved seating**
    - **Free admission – first come, first seated**

- **Main Street Downtown**
  - **Where**
    - **Main Street Downtown**
  - **When**
    - **3 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6**
  - **Details**
    - **FREE Side Salad**
      - with your entrée purchase!
      - Dine-in only. Must surrender this coupon when ordering.
      - Limit ONE FREE side salad per entrée purchase. Not valid with other discounts.
      - Offer expires 12/31/13, only at Jason’s Deli-Las Cruces.
      - 3845 E. Lohman Ave.
      - 575-521-0700
      - And so much more...

In partnership with the Doña Ana Arts Council
Comedians have a ‘One Night Stand’ for charity
Ticket sales to benefit Coats for Kids

By Zak Hansen
Las Cruces Bulletin

At 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Graham Central Station, three area comedians – two from the City of the Crosses and one from El Paso – will take the stage for an evening of comedy for a cause much greater than making people laugh. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Coats for Kids, and donations of coats and money will be accepted at the show.

“One Night Stand” is the creation of Las Cruces native and comedian Sean Tower, who began his love of the stage during high school, when he performed at the Southern New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo.

“I’ve been doing comedy much longer than my success would indicate,” Towers said. “I did my first show at the fair, and as you can see, I’ve really spread my wings because I’m still here in Las Cruces.”

In preparing for the show, Towers said it was first prompted by a lull in his performing schedule.

“I hadn’t done a show in a while, and my ego was telling me I needed to do one,” he said. “Then I figured, hey, if I can use a charity and exploit these kids in the meantime, great.”

All joking aside, Towers said he’s glad to be giving back with an organization like Coats for Kids, which made it their mission to provide a warm winter coat to children in need all across the country. Nationwide, Coats for Kids has distributed nearly 40,000 new winter coats since its inception in 2004, and “One Night Stand” is a perfect way for Las Cruces to help those in need during the holiday season, as well as a great night of comedy.

Joining Towers will be Las Cruces’ Teddy Aspen, whom Towers has known since high school, when they first began acting and performing together.

“Teddy is the one who got me started and the one who got me my first radio job at Magic 105,” Towers said, before declaring with a spreading grin on his face that he’s been “proudly fired from every radio station in town.”

The evening’s third guest, known only as The Wolf, hailing from El Paso, first crossed paths with Towers at a comedy show in Las Cruces.

“I met Wolf at a show at the Code Red Cafe,” Towers said. “It was a huge show, with like 526 comics… or 10, maybe. It felt like more. From that point on, we kept in touch and any time I’ve done any shows, I like to include him.”

While the show is open to those 21 years and older, Towers said the evening’s comedy may not be everyone’s cup of tea, especially those with delicate sensibilities, but “for the easily offended, just suck it up and come anyway,” he said.

Towers, Aspen and The Wolf will also be signing posters at the show, for those interested in capturing a piece of what may be a lasting legacy, for better or for worse – much worse.

“We’ll be signing these and giving them out,” Towers said. “At face value, money-wise, they’re worth absolutely nothing. But on the off chance one, two or all three of us make it – or, the better chance, that one of us becomes a mass murderer – how awesome would it be to have that poster on your wall?”

Aside from a great evening of comedy from local talent and an opportunity to aid the less fortunate, Towers said attending the show may be in your best interest for another reason.

“It’s like I’ve been telling people,” he said. “If you don’t come out to the show, if you don’t support this cause, this Christmas, when some little kid without a jacket is throwing rocks at cars and he hits you and you go careening off the road and your car explodes, you’ve got no one to blame but yourself. It’s called karma.”

Details

One Night Stand

When
9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4

Where
Graham Central Station, 505 S. Main St. No. 85

Cost
$5

Contact
524-9131

Comedian Sean Towers
LAST CHANCE

ADOBE PATIO GALLERY presents “Continuum: Drawings, Paintings and Prints by Louis Ocepek,” a collection of works on paper from the past to the present, as part of the 2013 Pro-Artists series. The exhibit will remain on display through Saturday, Nov. 30.

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

QUILLIN STUDIO AND GALLERY presents two talented artists for the month of November. Joanna Bradley creates fine art gourds in a variety of forms, and Les Fairchild turns a variety of wood types to create bowls and other objects with contemporary and unexpected themes. The exhibit will remain on display through Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Quillin Studio and Gallery is located at 317 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday. For more information, call 312-1064.

UNSETTLED GALLERY presents “Mi Valle Vitales,” Jeri Des Rochers’ solo show and fundraiser for Casa de Peregrinos food program. Des Rochers’ new work depicts the abundance and fragility of the Mesilla Valley. The exhibit will remain on display through Saturday, Nov. 30.

Unsettled Gallery is located at 905 N. Mesquite St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and by appointment. For more information, call 635-2285.

CREATIVE HARMONY GALLERY AND GIFTS presents an exhibit of the photography of Peter Goodman. Goodman’s recent work includes both urban and natural themes, and each image is associated with a tanka poem he has written. The exhibit will remain on display through the end of November.

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

MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY features two artists for the month of November, Bert Gammill and Naída Zucker. The gallery is also pleased to welcome three new members, Sylvia A. Hendrickson, Arlene J. Tugel and Sue Ann Glenn.

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery is located at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe in Mesilla. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 522-2933.

WEST END ART DEPOT presents “The EAR! Project – Through the Portal,” an exhibit of the sculptural work of Brack Morrow. Morrow’s EAR! Project deploys remote-controlled, sculptural objects built from musical instruments that resemble the machines of science and space exploration.

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

M. PHILLIP’S GALLERY presents the Romantic Expressionist paintings of Eric Walls. The exhibit will remain on display through the end of November.

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

TOMBAUGH GALLERY presents “Bones of New Mexico,” an exhibit of the work of Deming sculptor Diana LeMarbe and Las Cruces photographer Mel Stone, based on the landscape of the Southwest. The exhibit will remain on display through November.

Tombaugh Gallery is located inside Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Drive. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and by appointment. For more information, call 522-7281.

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

New Mexico State University Art Gallery is located inside D.W. Williams Hall, at the intersection of University Avenue and Solano Drive. Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and evening hours from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call 541-9770.

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

La Casa Cupboard featuring Homemade Goodies
Raffle of Unique Items • Return of The Man Cave
La Casa Cupboard Holiday Bazaar
Fine Arts • Homemade Gifts • Over 115 Booths
La Casa Cupboard featuring Homemade Goodies
Raffle of Unique Items • Return of The Man Cave
New Desert Harmony Singers Perform Sat. at 1 p.m.
All proceeds benefit La Casa Domestic Violence Services
Thank you to our Sponsors.
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### TUESDAY EVENING

**DECEMBER 3, 2013**

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### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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### THURSDAY EVENING

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**This Week on KRWG-TV 22**

- **Sunday, Dec. 1**
  7 p.m. Great Performances - Barbara Streisand
- **Monday, Dec. 2**
  7 p.m. Celtic Woman - Home For Christmas
- **Tuesday, Dec. 3**
  7 p.m. The Chris Mann Christmas Special
- **Wednesday, Dec. 4**
  7 p.m. Classical Rewind
- **Thursday, Dec. 5**
  8:30 p.m. Elton John in Concert

Become a member anytime at www.krwg.org
FRI. 11/29
5 to 8 p.m. Open mic, New Mexico State University Barnes & Noble, University Avenue and Jordan Road. Poetry readers and musicians alternate. Organized by David Rodriguez. Free. Call 646-4431.

7 p.m. Live music with Alister M, Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Call 527-5310.

SAT. 11/30
6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Big Daddy’s Flea Market, 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. A wide variety of items will be available. Call 382-9404.

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market, Main Street Downtown. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce and unique fine art. Free. Email fcmarket@lascruces.org.

9 a.m. to noon, Mountain View Market Coop Farm Volunteer Day, Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculture, composting, laying hens, season extension and other aspects of the farm? Come and volunteer at the Mountain View Market Farm in Mesilla. Free. Call 523-0436 for directions.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seventh annual Fall Studio Tour along the Picacho Corridor. For information and map, call 635-7899 or email fallstudiotour@gmail.com.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. St. Genevieve’s Christmas Fair, St. Genevieve’s Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave. Antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts will be available from more than 40 dealers, as well as free appraisals and food and beverages. Cost $2, children 12 and younger free. Call 649-6959.

10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces, COAS Bookstores, 1101 S. Solano Drive and 317 S. Main St. This week, Terry Alvarez will be the storyteller at the Downtown location and Sonya Weiner will be the storyteller at the Solano location. COAS will give coupons for free books to all children who attend. Free. Call 5248471.

1:30 p.m. NMSU Aggie Football vs. Idaho Vandals, Aggie Memorial Stadium. Cost $10-$25. Call 646-1420.

5 to 6 p.m. Learn to play Middle Eastern rhythms, My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. No drum required but must call ahead for loaned drum. Cost $2 per lesson. Call 693-1616.

SUN. 12/1
6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Big Daddy’s Flea Market, 5580 Bataan Memorial East. Indoor and outdoor vendors on 20 acres. A wide variety of items will be available. Call 382-9404.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday Farmers Market, Tractor Supply Co., 1400 W. Picacho Ave. This is a true farmers market with produce and food as primary items, along with holiday crafts. Free. Call Monty Sarvo at 993-6521.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Genevieve’s Christmas Fair, St. Genevieve’s Parish Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave. Antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts will be available from more than 40 dealers, as well as free appraisals and food and beverages. Cost $2, children 12 and younger free. Call 649-6959.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seventh annual Fall Studio Tour along the Picacho Corridor. For information and map, call 635-7899 or email fallstudiotour@gmail.com.

WED. 12/4
8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market, Main Street Downtown. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art. Free. Email fcmarket@lascruces.org.

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mountain View Market Co-op Volunteer Day, Mountain View Market Farm, 2653 Snow Road. Interested in organic farming and local food production? Want to find out more about vermiculure, 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.

1 to 3 p.m. Life Drawing and Open Studio, My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Gesture drawing and detail portraiture taught by art educator Wayne Carl Huber. Special rates for high school students. Call 647-5684.

7 p.m. New Mexico State Aggie Basketball vs. University of New Mexico Lobos, Pan American Center. Cost $8-$31, children 12 and younger free. Call 646-1420.

THU. 12/5
1 to 3 p.m. Intermediate to Advanced Painting, My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Watercolor, acrylic and water-soluble oil painting classes taught by art educator Wayne Carl Huber. Open enrollment starting any Thursday.

Events Calendar

Playbill

Now Playing

A Christmas Carol
NMSU Center for the Arts
1000 E. University Ave.
Tickets $10-$17
646-4515
7:30 p.m. Thursdays
7:30 p.m. Fridays
7:30 p.m. Saturdays
2 p.m. Sundays
Through Sunday, Dec. 8

Nora
Black Box Theatre
430 N. Main St.
Tickets $10-$12
523-1223
8 p.m. Fridays
8 p.m. Saturdays
2:30 p.m. Sundays
Through Sunday, Dec. 15

Cost $50 for four two and a half hour sessions. Special rates for high school students. Call 647-5684.

5 to 6 p.m. Belly Dance Club, My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Join one of the longest-running dance groups in the area. Open to ages 11 and older. Great low-impact exercise. Cost $2 per lesson. Call 639-1616.

7 p.m. Big Band Dance Club, Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court Ave. The Big Band Dance Club invites you to come dance to ballroom, country, swing and Latin styles. This week, music will be provided by the Jim Helder Septet. Beginner’s group dance lesson begins at 7 p.m., dances from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost $7 members, $9 nonmembers. Call 526-6504.

FRI. 12/6
3 to 6 p.m. Winterfest, Main Street Downtown. Featuring live music and entertainment, food, arts and crafts vendors, traveling carolers, carriage rides to the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, West End Art Depot and Pioneer Women’s Park, stocking stuffers for the kids and more. Free. Call 993-6521.

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

© Puzzles by Pappocom

BEGINNER

CHALLENGER

EXPERT

LAST WEEK’S SOLUTIONS

BEGINNER

CHALLENGER

EXPERT
‘A Christmas Carol’ is a charming holiday classic

Review by Gerald M. Kane
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

When I was growing up in Paterson, N.J., our small DuMont black-and-white television, replete with magnifier in front of the small screen, would be set for one week in December (usually coinciding with our celebration of Chanukah) on Channel 9, WOR-TV.

“There I would sit, transfixed every night for a week, with a plate of potato latkes before me (I was much thinner then), watching the 1951 English film adaptation of Dickens’ immortal ‘A Christmas Carol;’ starring the inimitable Alistair Sim as the miserable, mean-spirited, wrinkled and unpleasant Ebenezer Scrooge.

The station replayed the film every night for an entire week, and I was smitten. Sim’s transformation by the movie’s end was a dramatization to behold. I still see him shouting to theurchin to fetch a turkey for the Cratchits.

Granted, this annual viewing was a small “ceremony,” but it was a way to bring a bit of Christmas into our Jewish home during Chanukah, and that was good enough for me.

So taken was I by Sim’s perfect embodiment of misery and transformation, I memorized his every line. In my research for this review, I learned he was a bit Scrooge-like in real life, never granting a single autograph to his multitude of fans.

My point is that the current, visually charming ASTC production of ‘A Christmas Carol;’ currently playing on the stage of the Medoff Theatre inside the New Mexico State University Center for the Arts through Sunday, Dec. 8, does not boast such a frightening or mean-spirited Scrooge.

Brett McClellan says all the right lines – grumbling them so rapidly at times, I had a hard time understanding him. His urchin to fetch a turkey for the Cratchits.

The embodiments of Scrooge's ghosts, all emanating from which the family gathered, and I believe it was the moment at which Scrooge's heart was changed for the better. That moment really did hit home with the true meaning of the holiday, especially when placed alongside the affected, overblown pretentiousness of the Fezziwigs and their guests – perfectly played.

My favorite moment in the entire production was not showy at all. It was the gathering of the Cratchit family around their meager holiday table, singing the cheery, prayerful “Our Family Is Where You Call Home.” I could understand and hear every one sing – even 6-year-old R.J. Sweetser, who played a darling Tiny Tim. The younger children were miked, and that was terrific, adding to the blending of all the voices.

At that moment, the holiday spirit filled the theater. There was a feeling a true love and gratitude at the table around which the family gathered, and I believe it was the moment at which Scrooge's heart was changed for the better. That moment really did hit home with the true meaning of the holiday, especially when placed alongside the affected, overblown pretentiousness of the Fezziwigs and their guests – perfectly played.

My other tiny disappointment had to do with the choreography. As a whole, it was too simplistic for my taste and for the grandeur of this lovely production. It could have used a little more imagination.

Cast standout for me were Josh Padilla as Bob Crachitt and the multi-talented Nicole Bartlett. It is still hard for me to picture Bartlett as the kindly Mrs. Cratchit in this production as well as the mysterious Vanda Jordan in lo-fi’s summer offer-

ing “Venus in Fur.”

A final bravado and raised cup of eggnog to Tom Smith, director of this production and department head of NMSU’s Theatre, Film and Dance Department. Smith is certainly one of NMSU’s and our community’s treasures, and for that we can be most grateful.

“I am most grateful to Gerald Kane who reviewed theater, film and opera for NPR stations and newspapers in New Orleans, Phoenix and Kansas City as well as for the Las Cruces Bulletin. A former member of the American Theatre Critics Association, he has taught "Jews on Screen" at NMSU. He is the rabbit emeritus of Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces.

A Christmas Carol

When
7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
2 p.m. Sundays
Through Sunday, Dec. 8

Where
New Mexico State University Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University Ave.

Cost
$10 to $17

Phone
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• 646-1420

Website
www.nmsutheatre.com

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Walking the runway under the big top at the
High Heels for High Hopes Style Show

Photos by Christopher Belarde

Pam Suarez walks the runway at the seventh annual High Heels for High Hopes style show Friday, Nov. 22, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. This year, the fundraiser set a record for the event by surpassing $185,000.

Katy Petermeier models for the Le Cirque de Freak portion of the show. She was styled by Sudio 037 Salon.

Becki Jaquez (above) and Mandy Leatherwood (right) were a part of the Transhuman Revelry of Light and were styled by The Fixx Salon.

Kelly Lopez shows how sweet Candyland Circus can be and is styled by Salon Adore.

Kristen Castillo was styled by Wildfire Salon. The salon showcased Vintage Cirque Couture.

Southern New Mexico March of Dimes Director Becky Horner and Ringmaster David Edwards announce the event raised more than $185,000.

Marci Dickerson accepts the Legacy Model Award from March of Dimes 2013 Ambassador David Johnson.

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Bernadette Garvey Tirre show the scary side of the freak show.

Petermeier, Ann DeBooy, Rainbeaux Trujillo and Theresa Montoya Basaldua take the stage in the Legacy Parade of Models.
Less smoke, more fire
‘The Hunger Games: Catching Fire’ is an improvement on its predecessor

Review by Zak Hansen
Las Cruces Bulletin

Avoiding the sophomore slump and actually improving on its predecessor, ‘The Hunger Games: Catching Fire’ delivers on the modest requirements of a middle film – advancing the narrative, expanding the universe and, ultimately, hooking the audience for a third installment – and manages to avoid many of the pitfalls of its teenagers and contemporaries, of which the Twilight saga is certainly most egregious.

Fans – or even those only casually aware of the whole phenomenon – will likely know the broad strokes. Decades after a brutal civil war, known as the “Dark Days,” Panem, once North America, has been redistricted, with the wealthy Capitol and its one-percenters living lavish off the oppression and toil of 12 poorer districts under a totalitarian regime.

So, as for the rebellion, each year each district must offer two teenage tributes, one boy and one girl, to compete in the Hunger Games, a gladiatorial-style competition leaving only one alive.

As “Catching Fire” opens, Games winners Katniss Everdeen and faux-beau Peeta Mellark (Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson) have returned to their dismal, gray community of District 12, but live a life of comfort and luxury, provided by the government. All is not well, though. The regime’s tactics have become increasingly oppressive, and insurrection by the people is stirring, although quietly.

Recognizing Katniss’ importance to the people and the threat she poses to the regime, President Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland), realizes he cannot kill her, but can only hope to sully her in the eyes of the people, to convince the citizenry that she is a “them,” not one of “us.” To that end, he forces the couple into a 12-district Victory Tour, largely a means to distract the populous from their increasingly unpleasant circumstances. To keep them in check, Snow, along with his game maker Plurath Heavenbee (an uncomfortable Phillip Seymour Hoffman), will ramp up these diversions and double-down on the public floggings and executions, keeping the people docile and afraid to act.

Soon, Snow announces the commencement of a special edition of the Hunger Games, called the Quarter Quell, in which the tributes are reaposed from the pool of living victors, and Katniss and Peeta are once again forced into the arena to battle for their lives, but this time, with insurrection brewing, much more is at stake.

I wasn’t taken with the first film. Its more than two-hour running time felt to me at once overstuffed and languid, packing in too much exposition and expanding on almost none of it. Part of it may be knee-jerk rejection of all things “tween,” but I wasn’t able to invest much in the first film. While the stakes may have been life-and-death, I never felt it carried much weight.

The dotted glasses were between its leads reminded me too much of rote, immature melodrama of the “Twilight” films, the camerawork was shaky, quick-cut and unengaging, the dialogue was stilted and the costuming of the Capitol’s bourgeoisie, especially Effie Trinket and TV host Caesar Flickerman (Elizabeth Banks and Stanley Tucci), seemed to me wrenched directly from Tim Burton’s later, worst films. My biggest issue was the way the larger, weightier implications and interests of the film – governmental oppression, the distraction of a populace through empty entertainment – seemed lost in the fray, playing second-string to teenage melodrama and yearbook gravitas.

As a sequel, “Catching Fire” isn’t forced to do much explaining of its universe, devoting more of its running time to advancing the story, rather than backfill, and makes leaps in drawing parallels between its characters’ struggles and the implications they hold for the world at large. With Panem on the brink of revolution, the stakes are higher this time, and treated as such.

AtTheMovies

Girls just want to have fun
‘Wadjda’ marks Saudi Arabia’s entry into feature films

Review by Jeff Berg
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

In the first feature film (ever) from Saudi Arabia, one of those countries that rely on tradition rather than fairness and reality, ‘Wadjda’ is a quiet but strong film that revolves around the title character, a young girl who dares to have a mind of her own.

One would think it was a comedy statement when someone tells Wadjda that ‘girls can’t ride bikes’ since that, umm, threatens their virginity. But with her firmly in place, Wadjda goes about earning the money for that bicycle, one that she can beat her friend, Abdullah, with, when they have the race they’ve been planning. Wadjda is determined and certainly has a mind of her own. She wears tennis shoes to her school, much to the chagrin of her traditional and sourpuss principal, makes and sells bracelets to other students and even briefly has a sort of courier service, delivering notes in secret for other students who pay her to do so.

However, her big chance arises when the dour principal, who is ‘on’ to Wadjda, puts together a Quran reciting contest, with the winner receiving 1000 riyal (about $250 American). Not a strong student in such things, even though she is sometimes cajoled by her somewhat conservative mom into being more into religion, Wadjda is soon learning about all things Quran, readying herself to compete against the rest of the girls in her school.

The film is a delight in many ways, but has a bit of a grim undertone as well. Wadjda’s mom is concerned her husband is going to abandon her to marry another woman. The women must be completely covered when leaving the home and they also can’t drive. I guess that must be a threat to virginity as well, since they might go to a drive-in movie theater. Oh, wait, Saudi Arabia doesn’t have movie theaters. The driving issue is an ongoing problem for Wadjda’s mom, since she has to rely on a dumpy and expressionless this time around, and Hemsworth is just there to ogle, as far as I can tell. Oh, and Lenny Kravitz shows up again.

With director Francis Lawrence – no relation to Jennifer – taking the reins, and with at least some of the first film’s $700 million gross dumped back into the budget, “Catching Fire” is a bigger, bolder, more beautiful affair this time around. The world is more realized, the characters are fleshed out and the action sequences are better crafted and more engaging, though it does take another hour of chariot rides and fashion shows to get to them.

All in all, “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” is a more-than-worthy follow up to its wildly successful predecessor, one that manages to improve and expand its world, rather than simply act as a stopgap between beginning and end. Bolstered by impressive visuals and a strong cast, “Catching Fire” may not win over those already enthralled by the series, but for fans, it’s a big step up and a thrilling promise of things to come.
AtTheMovies

Top Grossing Nov. 22-24

1 The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (Week No. 1) $158,074,286
2 Thor: The Dark World (Week No. 3) $14,196,302
3 The Best Man Holiday (Week No. 2) $12,490,920
4 Delivery Man (Week No. 1) $11,666,473
5 Free Birds (Week No. 4) $5,363,208
6 Last Vegas (Week No. 4) $4,399,075
7 Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (Week No. 5) $3,433,864
8 Gravity (Week No. 8) $3,210,155
9 12 Years a Slave (Week No. 6) $2,833,635
10 Dallas Buyers Club (Week No. 4) $2,687,157

Picking the Flicks


Argo
Rated: R
Genre: Drama
Starring: Ben Affleck, Bryan Cranston
Director: Ben Affleck

The Smurfs 2
Rated: PG
Genre: Family, comedy
Starring: Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays (voices)
Director: Raja Gosnell

The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Fantasy, drama
Starring: Lily Collins
Director: Harald Zwart

The Wolverine
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Action
Starring: Hugh Jackman, Will Yun Lee
Director: James Mangold

Catching Fire
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Action
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Natalie Portman
Director: Francis Lawrence

Delivery Man
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Drama
Starring: Ben Affleck, Bryan Cranston
Director: Ken Scott

Thor: The Dark World
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: Thor battles to save Earth and the Nine Realms from attack by a vengeful enemy out of the past. Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
Director: Alan Taylor

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: Peeta Mellark and Katniss Everdeen become enemies of the state after their Hunger Games victory sparks a revolution. Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Director: Francis Lawrence

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2
Rated: PG
Plot Overview: Flint Lockwood discovers his machine is still churning out sentient food-animal hybrids. Starring: Bill Hader, Anna Faris
Directors: Cody Cameron, Kris Pearn

Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa
Rated: R
Plot Overview: An 86-year-old man sets off on a journey across America with his 8-year-old grandson. Starring: Johnny Knoxville, Jackson Nicoll
Director: Jeff Tremaine

Free Birds
Rated: PG
Plot Overview: Two turkeys travel back in time to change the course of history and take turkey off Thanksgiving's menu for good. Starring: Woody Harrelson, Owen Wilson (voices)
Director: Jimmy Hayward

The Book Thief
Rated: PG-13
Plot Overview: A young girl is sent to live with a foster family during WWII, and learns to read with some help from a guest under the stairs. Starring: Sophie Nelisse, Geoffrey Rush
Director: Brian Percival

The Best Man Holiday
Rated: R
Plot Overview: A group of college friends reunite for Christmas after 15 years. Starring: Morris Chestnut, Monica Calhoun
Director: Malcolm D. Lee

12 Years a Slave
Rated: R
Plot Overview: Solomon Northrop, a free black man in New York in the antebellum United States, is abducted and sold into slavery. Starring: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael K. Williams
Director: Steve McQueen

The Wolverine
Rated: R
Plot Overview: After her kingdom is trapped in an eternal winter, Anna must find her sister, Elsa the Snow Queen, and break her icy spell. Starring: Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel (voices)
Directors: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

Black Nativity
Rated: PG
Plot Overview: In a retelling of Langston Hughes’ celebrated play, a streetwise teen spends the holidays with his estranged family in New York City. Starring: Forest Whitaker, Angela Bassett
Director: Kasi Lemmons

Frozen
Rated: PG
Plot Overview: After her kingdom is trapped in an eternal winter, Anna must find her sister, Elsa the Snow Queen, and break her icy spell. Starring: Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel (voices)
Directors: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

Meatballs 2
Rated: PG
Plot Overview: Four childhood friends reunite in their 60s for a bachelor party in Las Vegas. Starring: Robert DeNiro, Michael Douglas
Director: Jon Turteltaub

Meatballs
Rated: PG
Plot Overview: A middle-aged underachiever is faced with the revelation that he fathered more than 500 children via anonymous donation when 142 file a lawsuit to learn his identity. Starring: Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt
Director: Ken Scott

The Hunger Games:
Rated: PG-13
Catchings Fire
Plot Overview: Peeta Mellark and Katniss Everdeen become enemies of the state after their Hunger Games victory sparks a revolution. Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Director: Francis Lawrence
Thanksgiving is about so much more than sports, shopping and stuffing oneself beyond comfort, but then, you already knew that, right?

Want to create a new tradition that will outlast the gluttony and heartburn? Something you can do before, or in this case after, Thanksgiving to engage your visiting family and friends? What better way to continue the celebration through the Thanksgiving weekend, than by creating a Thanksgiving Tree?

Start by having your guests take a walk (because, sometimes it’s nice to get them out of the house, right, mom?), either through the neighborhood, in a park or along some trail in the great outdoors. While strolling, have them gather a few branches that aren’t too grubby and can be easily cleaned. Watch for interesting angles and unusual shapes, but make sure that each branch has tiny twigs that can be clipped to become pegs.

When you get everybody home, gather the branches together and wipe them down with a damp cloth or sponge. If you’re feeling particularly festive, branches can be painted, stained, covered in glitter or coated with spray-on shellac. Be as creative as you want to be, or just leave them in their natural state. While the branches are drying, dig out a glass jar or vase and set it aside.

Next take sheets of colorful paper and cut them up into leaf shapes, between one and two inches in length. Circles, triangles or hearts will work just as well. Once they’re all cut, use a hole punch to punch holes on one edge of the cutout. If it’s a leaf shape, the hole should be close to a point.

Now comes the fun part. Arrange the branches in the jar or vase, then have each of your friends and family members write one thing they are thankful for on the paper shapes you’ve created. Next, hang them on the tree, using the “pegs” as hangers to fit through each hole.

Obviously, the more colorful the paper and the more gnarled the branches, the more striking your Thanksgiving Tree will be. Consider, too, adding marbles, glass beads, rocks or rice to the jar that the branches are in, to provide more color and/or texture. Or, you could wrap the jar in colorful wrapping paper and tie it all together with some ribbon. Be creative!

The important thing is to provide an opportunity for friends and family members to express themselves in a manner that will last throughout the season. It’s a great way to tie Thanksgiving to the winter holidays all the way through New Year’s Eve and a constant reminder that, even in the toughest of times, we all have something, or somebody, to be thankful for.

Even in the toughest of times, we all have something or somebody to be thankful for.
An unexpected treat
Insects high in protein add value to diet

For centuries, insects have been a staple in diets of many cultures because of their high protein and low fat content. In some areas, they’re even a delicacy. Today, it is estimated that more than half of the people around the world eat a variety of flying, crawling and biting bugs.

In the United States, insects are eaten more for the shock value rather than nutrition – have you ever seen “Fear Factor”? While contestants reluctantly slurp down leeches and nibble stink beetles, viewers watch and squirm in disgust. What many viewers don’t realize is that they have more in common with these show contestants than they think.

According to Yahoo, it is estimated that the average human unintentionally eats one pound of insects each year.

For example, chocolate can have up to 60 calories can have up to 60 insect fragments per 100 grams. Tomato sauce can contain 30 fly eggs per 100 grams and peanut butter can have 30 insect fragments per 100 grams, according to the FDA.

So how much protein are you mistakenly adding to your daily diet? According to Montana State University, small grasshoppers, black crickets could add about 19.8 average about 20.6 grams of protein per 100 grams, according to the FDA.

But how much is this? According to the FDA, it is estimated that the average human unintentionally eats one pound of insects each year.

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Just in time for that unique Thanksgiving dessert, an insect recipe, such as Chocolate Chirpie Chip Cookies, is bound to please and surprise your guests.

Chocolate Chirpie Chip Cookies

2 1/4 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 cup butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cups brown sugar
1 tsp vanilla
2 eggs
1 (12-ounce) package chocolate chips
1 cup nuts, chopped
1/2 cup crickets, dry-roasted

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

In large bowl, combine butter, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla. Beat until creamy.

Beat in eggs. Gradually add flour mixture and insects, mix well. Stir in chocolate chips.

Drop small balls of dough onto greased cookie sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes.

Source: www.ent.iastate.edu/misc/insectsasfood/chirpie.html

An unexpected treat
Insects high in protein add value to diet

Scott Svenheim, an expert for Truly Nolen of America, has 27 years of experience in the pest control industry. Svenheim brings an informative as well as unique and entertaining perspective to consumers’ pest problems in the 21st century. Founded in 1938, Tucson, Ariz.-based Truly Nolen of America is one of the largest family owned pest control companies in the United States. Truly Nolen has more than 80 branch offices in Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah. The company also has independently owned and operated franchises in an ever-growing number of territories including California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah as well as Puerto Rico. For more information or to ask your local expert a question about insects and insect prevention, visit www.trulynden.com or call 915-591-9864.

Planting native pines

This is now piñon season. No, I don’t mean hunting season, but the season for planting them.

Most are harvested from ranches up in northern New Mexico and a few are actually grown in containers by wholesalers. In either case, the care is the same.

Piñons thrive in full to partial sun and well-drained soils. They are slow growing, but can attain heights of up to 15 to 20 feet or more with age. Make sure you choose a spot suited for its ultimate growth. A good rule of thumb that some forget is to “look up” right where you think you might plant something. In other words, avoid power lines, overhead structures and placing them in front of a good view.

Newly planted trees generally will need watering once per week. Use enough water to thoroughly saturate the entire root zone. Too much water or poorly drained soils will lead to root rot, so use caution in heavier soils.

Harvested trees will have a galvanized wire and burlap around the root ball. The galvanized wire must be removed. The burlap around the root ball should be left on as it will break down easily, and help keep the roots in place while you are planting it.

Little or no fertilizer should be used with newly planted trees, although you may wish to incorporate compost or peat moss in the soil to help with early root establishment. B-1 or root stimulator is always helpful with just about any new planting. Should you find later on that your piñon does need fertilizer, try using a slow release or organic product. This will ensure that your tree will not suffer from fertilizer burn.

It is not uncommon for harvested trees to come with a “guest.” Borers, or piñon needle scale, can be an issue. There are some organic and systemic products that you may need to resort to, in order to help keep these critters at bay. Carefully inspect your plant before making your selection. You may often find sap oozing out of the trunk or lower limbs that could indicate either infestation or stress.

If you are going to use a piñon as a Christmas tree, it should not be in the home for more than two weeks. Keep the lights to a minimum and keep it away from fireplace or furnace heat. Use ice cubes to keep your tree hydrated. Make sure to acclimate your piñon to the much cooler temperatures before planting it in its actual rooting spot.

When you first bring it out of its warm haven it would be best to leave it under a porch or patio for a week or more. After its initial acclimation period, place it in a more exposed area (both sun and cold) before its actual planting. If the weather does not change too much from the previous week, you should be good to go.

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

Add turkey and corn; return to a simmer 3 to 4 minutes. Add lime juice and crushed red pepper. Season with salt and pepper. Makes 6 servings. (Recipe adapted from Eating Well, November/December 1995)

Tasty Turkey Tostadas
4 (8-inch) whole-wheat tortillas
Cooking spray
1 (16-ounce) can fat-free refried black beans
3/4 cup bottled medium-hot chunky salsa, divided
1 1/2 cups shredded cooked turkey
1 cup (4 ounces) quesad fresco or farmer cheese, crumbled
1 cup tomato, chopped
1/2 cup avocado, peeled and cut into 12 slices
1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
Low-fat sour cream or yogurt, optional

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Spray both sides of each tortilla with cooking spray; arrange on large baking sheet. Bake at 425 degrees for 3 1/2 minutes on each side or until lightly toasted.

Combine beans and 1/4 cup salsa in a microwave-safe bowl; cover with plastic wrap. Microwave on high 4 minutes or until thoroughly heated, stirring after 2 minutes; set aside.

Combine turkey and 1/2 cup salsa in a microwave-safe bowl; cover with plastic wrap. Microwave on high 2 minutes or until thoroughly heated.

Divide bean mixture among tortillas; top with turkey mixture. Sprinkle with quesad fresco; top with tomato. Arrange 3 avocado slices over each tostada; sprinkle each evenly with cilantro. Top with a swirl of sour cream or yogurt, if desired. Makes 4 servings.

Apple-Banana Pepper Turkey Pita
Banana peppers deliver a mild, tangy taste that pairs well with yogurt and sour cream.

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 cup onion, sliced
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/2 pound cooked turkey, cut into chunks
1 tablespoon curry powder, or to taste
1 medium Granny Smith apple, cored and thinly sliced
1 banana chile pepper, stemmed, seeded and chopped
3 pita bread rounds, cut in half
1/2 cup plain yogurt or low fat sour cream

Heat oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Stir in onion and lemon juice. Cook until onion is tender. Mix in turkey and curry powder and continue cooking until heated through.

Remove from heat. Stir in apple and banana pepper. Stuff pitas with the mixture, adding a spoonful of yogurt. Makes 3 servings, or 6 halved.

Hot Red Enchilada Casserole
1 1/2 cups turkey, cooked and shredded
1 cup yellow onion, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
1 2/3 cups hot red enchilada sauce
1/3 cup cultured sour cream
1/2 cup black olives, sliced
2 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated
4 (8-inch) whole wheat flour tortillas

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Oil an 8-by-8-inch baking dish and add a very thin layer of enchilada sauce to bottom of dish.

In a large skillet, over medium-high heat, add about a tablespoon of oil, garlic and onions, sauté until golden brown and soft.

Add turkey, olives, beans, sour cream and remaining enchilada sauce. Reduce heat and allow to simmer for 10 minutes. Begin layering casserole in baking dish as follows: tortilla, sauce mixture, shredded cheese, ending with a layer of cheese. Cover and bake for approximately 30 minutes until heated through.

Allow to sit for 10 minutes before serving. Makes 4 or 5 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 Sunny at sunny.conley@gmail.com.
Digs!

[digz] origin: American Slang. n. residence, lodging, home, apartment, office or workplace. As in: They just moved into their new digs.

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26 Directed a weapon
27 1980's Jets' eleven
31 Villain
32 Part of the U.K.
33 Linden or Roach
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40 Brunis great Bobby
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57 Light starter?
58 Euphemisms
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61 Avant-garde French sculptor
63 Civil liberties: abbr.
65 Panache
66 Puts into motion
68 Ventilates
71 1970's Vikings' eleven
75 Those who vocalized grunt
79 Very reclusive
80 Last of Socrates?
85 College sports div.
86 FSU or UF
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93 Setting
91 Sad
105 NATO cousin
115 Cascade Range state
116 1970's Cowboys' eleven
116 Very dry
117 European eagle
118 Mare's stock
131 Spanish: "exams"
145 On deck follow-up
145 Daring feat
146 Light gas
148 South African golfer Ernie
149 Morrow letters

DOWN
13 Afghan ivy
23 Affable
32 American
40 Cattle
44 Robust
58 Tooth fairy
69 Dalmatian
83 Great Scott
86 Boults
90 Bunk
109 Hispanic
123 September
133 Harlequin
145 Gemmed
150 Sleeping beauty

80 Of days gone by
81 Demi of "Ghost"
82 Thrifty measures
83 Pinnochio's leg
84 As well
85 The Colonel
86 Player Holbein
90 McClurg and Brickell
92 Garden pests
94 Fast flier's letters
97 To the degree expected
98 Knocked for a loop
99 Ormandy and McCarthy
106 Automobile
107 "Teachers" star
108 Wait on
109 Ere
114 Loafer
115 J.R. or Jock
116 Vancourt's cohort
117 Youngsters
118 Scottish loch
120 Ostichlilke bird
121 Sushi choice
122 VIP in a will
123 U.S. defense grp.
124 TV guide abbr.
Giving thanks is a tradition steeped in history and tradition. When Thanksgiving rolls around in November of each year, peoples. I am ever mindful of these traditions, particularly and love for the traditions of Christianity among the Celtic series on Ancient Faith Radio know of my deep appreciation those areas by any means.

Here's my point at the beginning, well stated by the Anglo-Welsh poet and artist David Jones: “If poetry is praise, as prayer is, it can never coexist with any malignant and persistent criticism of the nature of things.” So when you offer gratitude and praise, the intermediate problems that beset you or others must be laid aside. You are called to offer praise beyond yourself – and that means to God. Thanksgiving is cut short unless it finds its goal in God. This is why so many events of “Thanksgiving” fall short in our age. The 20th-century Welsh poet Waldo Williams said that the purpose of praise is to recreate an unblemished world. As the Christian writer A. M. Allchin points out, however, this is a problem in our age. We have become accustomed to belittling things, to the art of the put-down, to endless grousing about this and that and the other thing, so that praise and thanksgiving have been lost. For those who grew up in the age of entitlement it may be difficult ever to achieve anything remotely like thanks. If you are entitled to everything you get, then why bother to give thanks for anything? After all you deserved it. It was your right and your privilege – nothing to give thanks for.

One of my favorite poets was Dylan Thomas, a stormy figure who crafted great things with words. He was Welsh but did not know the Welsh language, yet he was able to bring sound and meaning together in ways that seem peculiar to that tongue. In the introduction to a volume of his collected poems, he says “These poems were written for the love of man and in praise of God and I would be a damn fool if they weren’t.”

Allchin makes the point that when you demean other things in your life you really demean yourself, and when you praise others you uplift yourself. The old adage applies, “One is never so tall as when falling on the knees in prayer.” This brings us to the final point. Praise, thanksgiving and worship go together. The central act of worship in many churches is called Eucharist, a Greek word that means “thanksgiving,” in which the stuff of this world, transformed through manufacture – hand-work – is offered to God in the act of thanks. It is, in the words of the service, “a mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.” These words are said at the beginning of the great prayer that sets aside the bread and the wine to be body and blood of Christ for the faithful.

In our cynical age, we have lost the obvious meaning of this act, which is that the makings of our hands and the matter of nature, when offered up in thanks, are returned to us as signs of the presence of God in our lives. We lose sight of this, particularly when we degenerate into grousing and moaning based on the idea that the universe owes us something. Perhaps this year we may regain this perspective.

Fr. Gabriel Rochelle is pastor of St. Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, Las Cruces. For more information, visit www.stanthonylc.org.
Healthy Happenings

T’AI CHI CHIH AT MOUNTAINVIEW
T’ai Chi Chih sessions taught by Rose J. Alvarez-Bustos are from 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays at the Mountain View Medical Plaza, 4351 E. Lohman Ave., Suite 404. Classes are free to Senior Circle and Healthy Women members, or $2 for non-members.

Free classes are also available to Senior Circle and Healthy Women members from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at Encantada Park, 1000 Coyote Trail. For more information, contact Kathy or David at 522-6404 or bridge@nmsu.edu.

TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 219
Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 219 is open to new members of all ages at its Thursday morning meetings, which start with a private weigh-in from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Weigh-ins are followed by group discussions of weight loss, dietary help and nutrition. The group meets at Trails West Senior Community Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, in the main room. For more information, call 523-6240.

ART OF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP
Art of Recovery, a support group for adults in recovery from mental illness, meets from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at The Bridge, 2511 Chaparral St.

The group matches those in need of support with volunteers to help build bonds, share experiences and create arts and crafts to sell in a supportive environment.

For more information, contact Kathy or David at 522-6404 or bridge@nmsu.edu.

TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 219
Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 219 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays. This support group assists members in achieving and maintaining healthy weight-loss goals.

For location information, call Doris Fields at 524-7461.

BRAIN INJURY GROUP MEETS EACH FRIDAY
The Brain Injury Group meets from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Friday at the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority, 926 S. San Pedro St. Each meeting features games, movies, artwork, music, books, puzzles, coffee and conversation.

For more information, call Dolores Garcia at 805-1301.

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS
Adult Children of Alcoholics/Co-Dependents Anonymous meets at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Arid Club, 334 W. Griggs Ave. The one-hour meetings are intended to help those raised in alcoholic or dysfunctional family situations deal with their issues and move on to a healthier, happier life through a 12-step program.

For more information, call 647-5684.

FYI HOSTS NEEDLE EXCHANGE
The Families & Youth Inc. Needle Exchange Program, located at 1190 Foster Road, seeks to reduce HIV and Hepatitis C by decreasing the circulation of unclean syringes and helps drug users overcome addiction by providing free information on available drug-treatment services.

The office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. The service is confidential and no appointments are needed.

For more information, call Belle at 522-4404.

ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION
The Alzheimer’s Association New Mexico Chapter has the following support group meetings each month:

- 11:30 a.m. each Thursday at Sunset Grill, 1274 Golf Club Road. For more information, call Jan at 522-7133 or Michael at 382-5200.
- 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Arbor’s 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.
- 4:00 p.m. the second Thursday at The Bridge, 2511 Chaparral St.

For more information or Alzheimer’s disease and the Alzheimer’s Association, call the organization’s 24-hour hotline at 800-272-3900.

GUIDED, SIMPLE HATHA YOGA
Guided, simple Hatha Yoga classes are held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Classes are taught by Blustful Beth, a certified instructor. The class is gentle and non-competitive. Donations are accepted. Attendees are asked to bring a mat or blanket.

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GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MEETS
The Southern New Mexico Bereaved Parents Support Group meets at 2:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month, at Mesilla Valley Hospital, 410 Foster Road, in the Grief Center. Parents, grandparents and siblings are invited.

For more information, call Anna Cook at 527-1193.

YOGA CLASSES
Karen Nichols is offering 90-minute yoga classes for adults and teens at 6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at My Place Jewel, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Donations in excess of space rental, including a $5 donation for Jardín de Niños. Participants should bring a yoga mat and any props they may need. Classes are suitable for all levels of experience.

For more information, call Nichols at 882-4835 or email karen_f_r@yahoo.com.

YOGA CLASSES AT UU METHODIST
Ollivia Solomon is offering yoga classes for all levels from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Thursdays at the University United Methodist Church, 2000 S. Locust St.

For more information, call Solomon at 522-5350 or email wildyoga@yahoo.com.

HATHA YOGA AT PEACE LUTHERAN
Hatha Yoga classes for beginners are held at 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Classes are taught by Shoshana, a certified instructor. The class is gentle and non-competitive. Donations are accepted. Attendees are asked to bring a mat or blanket.

For more information, call 522-7119.

DANCERCIZE CLASSES
Dancercize classes take place from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Cost is a $2-$5 contribution.

Bring a mat and water. For more information, call Sherri at 640-2903.

BELLY DANCE YOGA
Suhalia offers a new yoga experience geared to stretching and toning muscles. Suitable for all levels of experience from 5 to 6 p.m. Fridays at My Place Jewel, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Cost is $5.

For more information, email mail4jewell@yahoo.com or call 521-2746.

STROKE SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP
Strokesurvivors and caregivers share experiences at stroke survivors support group meetings at 1 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at the My Place Jewel in the Desert Willow Building.

For more information, call Larry at 522-2625.

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. Donations are accepted. Cancer education and support, Cancer Care is facilitated by a team with expertise 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 515-227-255 or the University United Methodist Church at 522-8220 or Morningstar United Methodist Church at 521-3770.

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.

WALKING PROGRAM
The “New Year, New You” walking/jogging/0-60 program begins Friday, Jan. 3, 2014, and ends Friday, March 28, 2014. The program will be presented from 10 to 11 a.m. at the New Mexico State University track field. Every fourth week there will be a “field trip” walk at another location.

Cost is $24, and can be paid in three monthly payments of $8.

Registration will be Monday, Dec. 2, at Frank O’Brien Papen Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.

The program is designed to get participants walking or jogging up to 60 minutes per session in 12 weeks to increase stamina, strength and cardiovascular health. The program will begin with a minimum of a 20-minute walk, working up to 60 minutes per day, per week over two days per week, and work up to 60 minutes per day. Participants will be able to walk or jog at their own pace within a set time. Space and distance will be monitored in order to track individual improvement.

For more information, call Shauna Foster at 541-2454 or Phil Catanza at 541-2704.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
A Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group is held from 10 a.m. to noon the second Tuesday of the month at My Place Jewel, 975 S. Mesquite St. Grandparents raising grandchildren on a full-time basis are asked to join.

There is no cost to participate. For more information, call 528-3301.
There are certain things in life we never forget. During these times, which are usually marked with celebration or marred by tragedy, we remember details about our surroundings, feelings and emotions that otherwise would be lost.

One such moment took me by surprise recently, as I entered the home of a woman who decided she wanted to share her story with me.

As a journalist, I get the privilege of meeting many people who wish to share pieces of their lives in the hope I can put it on paper to share with others, but as this woman's story unfolded in front of me, particular details began to lock into place.

I witnessed the profound pain in her eyes as she told me about the day her dreams of enjoying the golden years of her retirement went spiraling down the drain. At an advanced age, she was the apparent victim of a heinous act of violence.

Her nightmare began the moment she woke up in a hospital bed and learned that, due to large quantities of chemicals present in her system, her kidneys were failing and memory loss was almost guaranteed.

Police found her within a half hour of her life after days of being unconscious. Her out-of-state children alerted authorities the phone lines had been disconnected.

Unable to remember the events that took her from a normal day to fighting for her life, she realized her husband and partner for many years had apparently attempted to end her life.

I have some experience reporting stories that promote the work of domestic violence organizations. I have learned that an event that transforms a person into a victim is, unfortunately, only the beginning of a long and difficult road.

The struggle for justice in a complicated legal system is only half the battle. The other half is what transpires emotionally for these victims.

For this woman, however, to say her situation is unfair is a slight to the reality.

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Turkey donation to food pantry

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Healthy Legs Happy Holidays

Dr. Tapiwa Chiwawa
Health is Wealth

Attitude of gratitude

Staying positive helps overall health

There are so many things we know are good for health.

- Eating a healthy diet, getting exercise on a daily basis, restful sleep, drinking a lot of water and getting enough sunshine are some of the more important laws or principles that encourage good health.
- An attitude of gratitude is another law that, unfortunately, does not usually make the list. In my opinion, it is actually the most important of all.
- We have so much to be thankful for if we just take the time to see how blessed we are and how better off we are here in America than most of the world.
- The following are facts about persons defined as “poor” by the Census Bureau as taken from various government reports:
  - Eighty percent of poor households have air conditioning. By contrast, in 1970, only 36 percent of the U.S. population enjoyed air conditioning.
  - Ninety-two percent of poor households have a microwave.
  - Nearly three-fourths of a vehicle, and 31 percent have two or more vehicles.
  - Nearly two-thirds have cable or satellite TV.
  - Two-thirds have at least one DVD player, and 70 percent have a VCR.
  - Half have a personal computer, and one in seven have two or more computers.
  - More than half of poor families with children have a video game system, such as an Xbox or PlayStation.
  - Forty-three percent have Internet service.
  - Forty percent have an automatic dishwasher.
  - One-third have a wide-screen plasma or LCD TV.
  - About one-fourth have a digital video recorder, such as a TiVo.
  - More than half have a cell phone.

According to these statistics, we have a lot to be thankful for, realizing that even those who consider themselves poor in America would be considered wealthy and blessed in Third World countries. Even with the economy down, and with incomes shrinking while inflation increases, we are still blessed. At its worst, it is nowhere near as bad as in most Third World countries.

Researchers have studied the impact of a positive attitude on our physical and mental health. Reports suggest that feelings of thankfulness not only encourage enjoyment of life, but also have a significant positive value in helping people cope with life's challenges.

A few years ago, researchers Robert Emmons from the University of California, Davis and Michael McCullough from the University of Miami conducted a study on the dimensions of gratitude. They considered how an attitude of thankfulness influences our emotional and physical well-being. Their report included the following observations:

In an experimental comparison, those who kept gratitude journals on a weekly basis exercised more regularly, reported fewer physical symptoms, felt better about their lives as a whole and were more optimistic about the upcoming week compared to those who recorded hassles or neutral life events.

Participants who kept gratitude lists were more likely to have made progress toward important personal goals (academic, interpersonal and health based).

Participants in the daily gratitude condition were more likely to report having helped someone with a personal problem or having offered emotional support to another.

Grateful people report higher levels of positive emotions, life satisfaction, vitality and optimism, and lower levels of depression and stress. The disposition toward gratitude appears to enhance pleasant feelings more than it diminishes unpleasant emotions. The study noted that grateful people do not deny or ignore the negative aspects of life.

Apparently, the individuals they surveyed who reflected daily on their blessings experienced a healthier sense of well-being. How different life might be, for us and for our world, if we all kept a gratitude journal? How different life would be if we took time to count our blessings and to appreciate what we have even if it is not what we would like. This Thanksgiving, take the time to give thanks for all the things and people we might take for granted, for the availability of places such as homeless shelters and soup kitchens to help us to cope when we are down and for friends and family to see us through the dark times.

Dr. Tapiwa Chiwawa is an upper cervical chiropractor in Las Cruces. For more information, visit www.chiwawachiropractic.com

Healthy Legs Happy Holidays

The Comprehensive Varicose Veins Laser Clinic offers a simple & quick procedure to eliminate varicose veins. The procedure takes 20-25 minutes. You walk in & out = no hospital fees. Our clinic utilizes the newest laser technology for a quicker & less painful recovery.

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A salesperson will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 575-571-6671, TTY 711.

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Honoring the gift of life at the
Wall of Heroes ceremony

Photos by Rachel Christiansen

Lonnie and Amber Harrison take a moment to look at the Wall of Heroes during a ceremony held Wednesday, Nov. 20, at MountainView Regional Medical Center. The Harrisons’ family member, Alvin Dale Griffith, is honored on the wall for his organ donation that saved someone’s life.

Keynote speaker of the event Jim Miyagishima, an organ recipient, shares his story with the audience.

April Cray Rhodes, center, drove from Alamogordo for the ceremony, representing her husband, Randy Lee Rhodes, who was an organ donor. She was presented a remembrance by Rebecca DiPietro with New Mexico Donor Services and Denten Park, CEO of MountainView.

Park welcomes guests who came from all over the state and region to be a part of the remembrance ceremony.

Nancy Guernsey represented her father, organ donor LaVern Wilson, who saved a life. Guernsey and her mother, Rose Wilson, drove from Arizona to receive the recognition.

Cecilia Contreras, with New Mexico Donor Services, greets guests at the ceremony and hands out information on becoming an organ donor.
Violence

Continued from page C21

She explained because certain tests were not conducted, authorities have maintained there is not enough evidence for a charge, despite the fact that, according to her, he admitted to doctors what he had done.

I realized something at that moment. This woman, in her slight frame and weary body, must fight this alone.

Unable to get the answers she deserves almost anywhere she goes, she is sent from one agency to the next. No one seems willing to admit fault, or is willing to help.

Is this what our justice system has become? I refuse to believe it, and it angers me to think it has degraded to the point that we cannot defend the elderly, the disabled or any victim under the weight of the sheer numbers who seek defense.

Here is a woman who made a good life for herself, made many friends and has many passions, yet now feels like a prisoner inside four walls.

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Is this what our justice system has become? I refuse to believe it, and it angers me to think it has degraded to the point that we cannot defend the elderly, the disabled or any victim under the weight of the sheer numbers who seek defense.

Here is a woman who made a good life for herself, made many friends and has many passions, yet now feels like a prisoner inside four walls.

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