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Storm hits crops hard

Hail hit at key growing time

By **Todd G. Dickson**,
and **Marvin Tessneer**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The storm that darkened the skies Tuesday, May 8, may have darkened the outlook for crops in the valley as hail devastated chile, alfalfa, pecans and onion fields at a critical growing time.

"We really got hammered," Hatch Mayor Judd Nordyke said.

Early reports stated the storm hit the fertile core of the northern Mesilla Valley, so much so that the fields the next morning looked as though they had received an irrigation watering, Nordyke said. But that was mostly from melted hail, which, he said, meant damage to the crops.

"We're still hearing back from the farmers," Nordyke said Wednesday morning, "but from what we've heard so far we're probably looking at heavy to moderate damage to a lot of crops."

Farmers are checking their fields in the north valley – from Garfield to Rincon – to assess the extent of damage to their crops.

Damage was reported mostly to onions, which would have been ready for harvest in about two weeks.

The main hail damage was to onion bulbs, spoiling them from harvest.

"The hail hit the onions pretty bad," said Debbie Porter, wife of Bill Porter.

The couple owns fields from Garfield to Rincon.

"It'll take us a few days to know if we're going to replant or not," she said. "We had marble-sized hail and on top of that we had about two inches of rain. We've got rain water in the furrows yet. It'll take a while before we can get into the fields and get a course of action figured out."

The hail hit the area in the mid-afternoon with two storms covering a 15-mile stretch, according to Ricardo Bejarano, Elephant Butte Irrigation District head ditch rider.

"The hail storm covered all of Garfield to Salem," Bejarano said. "With the pecans, there was a lot of damage to the flowers that develop into nuts. But we won't know

See **Storm** on page A18



APPETITE FOR KNOWLEDGE

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Nicolas Bañales
New Mexico State University students Ana Moy and Stephanie Ramirez jokingly attempt to take a bite of a large pancake at NMSU's annual finals pancake dinner, Tuesday, May 8. The oversized pancake was actually on display for students to guess its weight for the chance to win a gift card.

Las Cruces not chosen for high-tech test city

Pegasus opts for Hobbs to be home to \$1 billion mock city

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

The company planning to build a mock city for testing new technology picked Hobbs over Las Cruces for the \$1 billion project that is expected to create more than 300 permanent jobs.

Pegasus Global Holdings LLC, announced Tuesday, May 8, that it has chosen Lea County and Hobbs, N.M., as the location for the Center for Innovation, Testing and Evaluation (CITE). Pegasus claims CITE will be the first fully

integrated test, evaluation and certification facility replicating a modern city in size and scope.

Last month, Pegasus announced it was also closely looking at Doña Ana County and Las Cruces. The area being considered was on 15,000 acres of state trust land, best known now as Coralitos Ranch, west of the Las Cruces International Airport.

County and city economic development and elected officials tried to win over Pegasus by touting similar research already being

See **Pegasus** on page A19

Mother's Day mixed for Blue Star Moms

Holiday can be hard for deployed soldiers' moms

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

Deb Persinger's son Jonathan, who she hadn't heard from since September 2011, called her from Japan recently.

The reason she hadn't heard from him in so long is because he is a Navy corpsman with a Marine unit. Despite the advancements in communication technology, it's not always easy for the deployed soldier to call home, Persinger said.

That call will likely have to

stand in for the usual Mother's Day phone call.

"What some people don't understand is that when a child goes into the military, the whole family is going into the service," Persinger said. "And for a mother, you are making a sacrifice for your country. You are sacrificing that child, and you have to be ready for the possibility of that becoming the ultimate sacrifice."

That's why Persinger said becoming active in the local Blue Star Moms of America chapter

See **Moms** on page A20

NEXT WEEK

The end is near ...

Graduation season begins with the Doña Ana Community College and New Mexico State University awarding degrees.



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From the publisher

BY DAVID MCCOLLUM

Flown away

Pegasus took a serious look at Las Cruces, but landed in Hobbs

Pegasus, the winged horse from Greek mythology, was said to have been the offspring of Poseidon and Medusa, and to have flown to Mount Olympus to gather thunder and lightning as ordered by Zeus, the king of the gods.

Pegasus Global Holdings, LLC, based in Washington, D.C., recently brought its version of thunder and lightning to New Mexico, seeking an ideal location for its innovative test city concept, the Center for Innovation, Testing and Evaluation, or CITE. Pegasus plans to invest more than \$1 billion on the construction of a complete city, devoid of people, to be used exclusively for testing and product development.

Two locations were identified as finalists in the competition – Las Cruces and Hobbs.

Local business leaders were confident the Las Cruces location would be perfect for the expansive facility that would require up to 20 square miles of isolated, unimproved land where the city could be built and the testing could be done without interference from the outside world.

A seemingly perfect tract of land was located west of Las Cruces on the Corralitos Ranch. Protected by mountains on three sides with an open expanse of desert to the west, the location a few miles north of Interstate 10 provided transportation infrastructure. The City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County vowed to ensure other infrastructure could be quickly provided.

The project, with its plan for 350 fulltime CITE jobs and up to 3,500 support jobs, promised to be a panacea for the local economy. With an abundance of local scientists and engineers and the support of New Mexico State University, Las Cruces appeared to be the obvious choice.

However, the dream of this incredible opportunity was dashed Tuesday, May 8, when Pegasus announced it would build its unmanned test city on private land west of Hobbs. This decision surprised many Las Cruces business and political leaders. However, the carefully chosen words of Bob Brumley, Pegasus managing director, helped us understand why Las Cruces finished second.

"Ultimately, we determined Hobbs and Lea County was the best fit for CITE, based on the available land, infrastructure and breadth of community support," Brumley said.

In this statement, Brumley was clear about the differences between Las Cruces and Hobbs. The land of choice in Las Cruces is public land, and to be converted to private use would require legal procedures costing unknown time and money. In Hobbs, the targeted land is privately owned, unencumbered by the process required to acquire and use it for commercial purposes. Also a factor, though not stated in the press release, was the lengthy, unsettled disagreements among Las Cruces area residents and leaders about wilderness designation, an issue that could have caused delays in CITE's plans to quickly commence its project.

In Hobbs, much of the infrastructure, such as electricity, is already in place. Hobbs also has a proven record of delivering on promises to support a major project such as CITE. They have recently attracted significant other new industry, such as the massive, multi-national Urenco uranium-enrichment plant and the International Isotopes factory.

As for the breadth of community support, the difference between Las Cruces and Hobbs is virtually their entire community is in support of the commercial and economic development for their area. In the past, Hobbs has thrived or starved depending on the price and demand for oil and gas products. Hobbs residents have longed for a more diverse and stable economy, and they are moving quickly toward their dream. And, because the oil and gas business is currently thriving, they have the money and other resources to recruit opportunities like CITE.

On the other hand, Las Cruces depends on the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance (MVEDA), with an excellent record of attracting new business to our region, despite relatively limited financial resources to recruit new businesses to our region. MVEDA's work is done in the face of what many consider to be an unfriendly business environment, such as the recent implementation of construction impact fees on local contractors. Unfortunately, for those seeking economic growth and improved prosperity in Las Cruces, even a semi-friendly government can steer new business prospects away.

The good news is the CITE project will be in New Mexico and all New Mexicans will benefit. For many of us here in Doña Ana County, we would have loved to have seen the thunder and lightning from Pegasus here in Las Cruces instead of Hobbs.

There will be other projects that could come our way. Let's just hope in the future, we all can actively and proactively work together toward a common good and to bring prosperity to our communities and fellow citizens.



Letter to the Editor

Cinderella Project a delightful success

With our local high school proms now behind us, the Cinderella Prom Dress Project has put the dresses to rest until next year.

The annual event is designed to collect donated prom dresses and give them away to local high school girls in Las Cruces and surrounding areas. Hundreds of dresses have been donated and hundreds have been given away.

The Cinderella Prom Dress Project would not be possible without the generosity of many.

Gifts to the project range from small cash donations to large service donations. First and foremost, a huge thank you to La Tienda, The Unique Boutique. Madie and the volunteers at La Tienda went out of their way to assist.

Thank you also to Doña Ana Storage, Emerald Isle, Helping Hands Event Planning, Able Sign Co., Billy the Kid Hair Design, Casa Bandera Apartments, Citizens Bank, City of Las Cruces Parks & Recreation, Comet Cleaners, Garden of Eden, Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Las Cruces Biologicals, Las Cruces Bulletin, Make Believe Jewelry, MDC Computers, Mesilla Valley Insurance, New Mexico State University Housing Department, Olympian University College of Hair and Ono Grindz Restaurant. In addition, the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority who have collaborated with us the past two

years were not only fun, but were great help.

This has been our fourth event and by far the largest. The young ladies who shopped for the gown of their dreams were gracious and polite. It was delightful to see such behavior.

Anna S. Cook
Cinderella Project coordinator

A mom's thanks

My daughter and I were visiting from out of town on the morning of Saturday, May 5, at the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market.

As I was struggling with the lid on a cup of coffee I bought from a vendor, the entire cup fell onto my 8-year-old daughter who was standing right next to me.

In my moment of panic, several vendors and members of the community came to our assistance and acted immediately on her behalf.

We would like to sincerely thank them for their quick thinking and immediate action in time of an emergency. We would also like to thank the Moose Lodge for offering us a place of privacy until the ambulance could come.

Doctors have assured us that she will heal just fine, but she did suffer a first-degree burn on her face and severe second-degree burning on her arm and chest.

Though we hear about stuff like this all the time, I don't think any parent could imagine that hot coffee could cause the damage that it did. I hope that this can also serve as a reminder of carefulness on all our parts.

Christine Y. Chavez

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

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Johnson takes Libertarian reins

Nomination is unlikely to boost former governor's chances



Jay Miller
Inside the Capitol

Is Gary Johnson finally going to get some attention? The Republican establishment shut him out of the polls and debates last fall. Will being the nominee of the Libertarian Party make any difference now?

It's no slam dunk. Libertarians are seen as just short of weird. How can a political philosophy embrace both limited government and the legalization of pot? It's really quite simple, but in our current world of bipolar political beliefs, no one wants to listen.

Rep. Ron Paul tried to dish it out slowly and simply in the GOP debates, but it was too bland as Republican leaders held their breath for fear the Libertarian would say something that they would have to spend the next year defending.

Evidently, Paul wanted to speak at this year's convention and the 2008 convention, but Republicans wouldn't hear of it. Johnson didn't get that far, being closed out of the polls and the debates.

The road to getting on stage with President Obama and Mitt Romney will be even tougher. The rules say Johnson must consistently be polling 15 percent and be on enough November state ballots to have a mathematical chance of winning the presidency.

The ballot qualification isn't a problem. The Libertarian party usually gets itself on all 50 state ballots. But 15 percent in the polls would be a miracle. Johnson is at about half that right now and the trend for third-party candidates is downward as election day approaches.

Johnson does have some things going for him, however. He's a former governor, which should increase his credibility. U.S. Rep. Bob Barr was the Libertarian candidate in 2008 and got only 0.4 percent of the vote, but Barr was a loose cannon in Congress and didn't bring much credibility

with his candidacy.

Gov. Johnson should attract tea party support with his record of more than 700 vetoes in eight years. One convention supporter bragged that Johnson vetoed more bills than Barry Bonds hit home runs on steroids.

Johnson has respect within the Libertarian Party even though he is a late comer. He easily won on the first ballot with 70 percent of the vote. Four years ago, it took six ballots to choose a candidate.

Johnson could have had the nomination for the asking in 2000 when he was serving as governor and had just declared himself against the war on drugs. But Johnson hadn't

set his eye on the presidential goal at the time.

I figured any politician who planned to climb Mount Everest as soon as his term was over would set his sights on something like the presidency soon after. At the time, I wrote

“ The Libertarian message is intriguing, but few are ready to listen. ”

a column predicting that Johnson and Bill Richardson both would run for president in 2008. Johnson suggested I had been smoking something funny. Richardson offered me a job.

Johnson did the wise thing after winning his landslide nomination. He headed to New York, hoping on a slow news Sunday he could get some exposure. He has to hope he can be interesting enough to continue getting attention.

The Libertarian message is intriguing, but few are ready to listen. They prefer to hear their candidates make mountains out of molehills from some off-hand remark made by an opposing candidate.

Libertarians, on the other hand, believe in the liberty of businesses and individuals to do what they desire without government intrusion. Democrats and Republicans believe that too, except when they disagree with the issue. Then they want government to make the act illegal.

About the only places Johnson gets to talk that way is in speeches to the Johns Hopkins Center on Advanced Governmental Studies and the University of California seminar on Liberty in Governance.

Johnson is doing a much better job of presenting himself. The groups of dozens or hundreds he has been speaking to the past year have helped him fine tune a message and its presentation. He deserves a chance to demonstrate those skills.

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

An effective incentive for college graduation

Aim lottery scholarships at graduates, not incoming frosh



Michael Swickard
In My Opinion

It is college graduation weekend with all of those happy graduates ready to hit the trail.

They are the success stories, at least those who get a job. For the ones who don't, there is always another degree to pursue, forestalling entry into the job market. Many students just drift away from college without a degree.

The Lottery Scholarship pays tuition for certain New Mexico students and despite all of the hoopla, it is only a semi-good idea. For one thing, the primary idea should be to get the students to graduate. College is supposed to be an alumni mill, cranking out alumni in increasing numbers. This being graduation time, that is what we focus on. But the Lottery Scholarship is focused on attendance. The incentive is to go to college, not graduate. When you graduate, the money stops.

It is the same way that New Mexico colleges compensate for teaching – by the number of classes taught, not the number of students who graduate. If the educational leaders in New Mexico really want kids to graduate they should aim the incentives on graduation. How about a graduation lottery?

Picture this: at each graduation, before awarding the degrees, some names are drawn. There are the usual dinners and car washes, but then comes the better prizes. Several (lucky?) students get free tuition on their next degree. Even better, several get their student loans paid in full. Then will come the moment that has caused all of the media attention. One lucky graduate each graduation gets \$1 million paid over 20 years. I bet that would spice up the ceremony.

How the entry tickets are calculated is even better. Every college credit a student takes translates to one entry so

changing majors several times is not quite so bad, as long as the student eventually graduates. Further, they could even get three tickets for each A, two for each B and one for each C. Sorry, nothing for a D.

“ Songs on the radio would talk about unrequited grad points. ”

On a larger scale, perhaps the school leaders would factor more tickets for harder degrees. Electrical engineers would be envious because they earn 10 times the number of tickets for each A as someone in a “less demanding” program. At graduation, one student may have accumulated 5,000 entries while a classmate only has 1,000. Again, only those who finish get to be in the drawing. Each college would be reinforcing graduation rather than just time spent in college.

Look at some of the other benefits: Every action deemed important at college could be quantified into entries. Picking up trash, voting in student elections, being pleasant while standing in line, eating vegetables and of course, paying

parking tickets. Everything worthwhile on campus could contribute to your total number of entries. Instead of a few thousand entries, students could earn millions. We could call them “grad points,” one point equals one entry. Imagine, “How many GPs do you have?”

“Oh, I've got about 16 million. I figure 20 million is what the lucky stiff who won last year had, so I'm trying to max out above that.” And they could.

It would discourage cheating because each student is trying to get as many GPs as possible. They would not dilute the pool of entries by helping someone cheat. There would be GP lust pure and simple. There could even be a counter effect so that when students do things wrong they lose points. There could be a spitting assessment so that dippers and chewers of tobacco are fined one entry each time they spit on the sidewalk. The campus would be driven by graduation.

New Mexico colleges would also benefit because the national news media would come to graduation to see the lucky “millionaire” each graduation. Songs on the radio would talk about unrequited grad points.

Maybe there would be a movie-of-the-week about a poor starving philosophy student, holding little hope of employment after graduation. Then he or she is lifted up with the money and never has to eat ramen noodles again. It would put New Mexico on the map. Every student would graduate. This is an idea that could revolutionize higher education. All of this because we reinforce graduation instead of attendance.

Michael Swickard is co-host of radio talk show *News New Mexico* on KSNM-AM 570. Swickard may be contacted at michael@swickard.com.

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Guest Column

An enhanced experience

Visitors to spaceport will enjoy world-class facilities

By **Christine Anderson**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

There is no doubt that Spaceport America is well on its way to delivering on the promises made to the state taxpayers. I'm happy to report that 99 percent of the spaceport's phase-one construction is complete, and we should be receiving a certificate of occupancy on the Gateway to Space building and the Spaceport Operations Center shortly.

More than 1,000 New Mexicans have worked on the project so far, and more than \$12 million dollars in GRT has come back to the state and local counties since the beginning of construction. In addition, more than \$5 million has gone to spaceport-related education since 2009 and we have achieved global media coverage promoting the state of New Mexico valued at more than \$40 million since the facility's groundbreaking.

Virgin Galactic has moved into an office in Las Cruces and will begin paying lease fees to the New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA) this summer on the Gateway building. So far we've hosted 15 launches from four other customers, seven of which occurred in the past year. We have been busy.

Furthermore, the NMSA has been able to add to the original scope of the spaceport, to accommodate new requirements such as a southern access road; expanded facilities in the vertical launch area; extended safety zones on the main runway; and a substantially enhanced public tourism effort, called the spaceport's "visitor experience."

As originally promised to voters, the visitor experience consisted of two facilities along I-25, known as welcome centers, one in Hatch and one in Sierra County. The centers would be venues for tourists to learn about Spaceport America and the surrounding areas, as well as the official point of entry for all visitors to the spaceport.

The plan envisioned that welcome centers could be a catalyst for local tourism and economic development if done properly, and to that end, the NMSA committed \$500,000 toward the effort in each community.

However, we discovered that \$500,000 per welcome center was insufficient to design, construct and fit-out two facilities. We seemed to focus more on where the centers would be located rather than whether or not they actually would be worth visiting.



ANDERSON

Since that time, the NMSA has learned a great deal about what it takes to succeed in the tourism business, and the visitor-experience plan has grown into something I believe will better serve our communities.

Recent comments in the press might lead the casual observer to conclude that the NMSA is robbing the planned visitor experience budget to accommodate competing funding objectives and thereby compromising its quality. This is not the case.

Each welcome center's budget is more than three times larger than originally proposed. In fact, the budget for the visitor experience is now more than 10 times larger than it was at the outset. When state dollars are leveraged with private sector investment (per the governor's call for public-private partnerships), the total investment doubles to nearly \$20 million – and this is while staying within the original \$209 million spaceport budget.

We now have, for the first time, a credible, exciting visitor experience plan, developed by world-class experts in the field, that I believe will attract hundreds of thousands of paying guests into our communities.

We are now moving forward with implementing that plan. I appreciate the support of so many in moving this project forward, and together, we will ensure that Spaceport America is the big success we all want.

Christine Anderson is the executive director of the New Mexico Spaceport Authority.

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ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

The magic triangle

Triangles have a unique place in our world.

Engineers use them to build bridges, romance writers use them to manufacture chaos, Pythagoras used it to create his theorem, and the shortstop uses it to make a double play. Triangles strengthen structures. They take three straight lines going nowhere and form a bond that can withstand great pressure.

I see this cohesive combination in another triangle: women-horse-child. It is particularly evident when the child has Downs syndrome, multiple sclerosis or any other disability that restricts their possibilities.

In many equine therapeutic riding programs I've visited, women are the predominant hands-on helpers in the arena.

To be successful, a mutual trust must be established. It is no secret that most young kids are more at ease with a mother figure. Children innately sense the mother's compassion from her voice, her touch and her protective stance.

A woman introduces the child to the horse. This allows the child to give the horse the benefit of the doubt, because the woman trusts the horse and the child trusts the woman.

When the child is set up on the horse's back, it is still in the mother's arms, ready to be rescued if need be. Through a long progression of walks around the arena the child's faith increases in the horse. The physical mother-child contact begins to loosen. It proceeds from holding one hand,

to a hand on the back, to a hand on the saddle, to walking beside leading, and then one day, cheering from the sidelines.

The child's trust eventually expands to include the horse. The triangle is complete. We have connected woman-to-child-to-horse and back to-woman.

This third leg was there before the child was born or was even a thought. Woman-to-horse was always there. Not in all women, in all horses, or in all kids, I admit, but in many. I have given up trying to understand the relationship. I have seen it so often I no longer think it is haphazard or coincidental. I have concluded it involves some primitive instinctual behavior.

It is especially obvious at any equine therapeutic riding center. Check it out for yourself. You will see small islands of woman-horse-child. Concentrate on one of those triangles. Try and drown out the chatter, the buckets, and the racket going on around you. Then imagine the child on the horse is yours. You become hypersensitive to the slightest movement; be it protective, encouraging or loving.

Even the smallest step in this magic triangle performance going on in the arena becomes magnified. Successes are marked in the tiniest gesture, the slightest touch, the tentative smile and the skip of a heartbeat. And through the cloud that puts you in the triangle, you hear the softest of voices saying, "It's all right, he won't hurt you."

Black may be contacted at www.baxterblack.com.



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Coming Up

BLM seeks volunteers

Dripping Springs Natural Area is seeking volunteers to help in the visitors center on Mondays and Thursdays. For more information, contact Cheryl Howard at 525-4487 or choward@blm.gov.

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park announces events for May

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle del Norte, has scheduled the following events in May:

- Ranger-led nature hikes are at 6 p.m. each Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Bird tours are at 7:30 a.m. each Saturday.
- Naturalist Sylvia Hacker will present "Home 'Tweet' Home, A Closer Look at Birds as Builders," at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12, in the park classroom. Attendees will get a look at the different building styles of some Chihuahuan Desert birds.

Upcoming exhibits:

- A photo exhibit sponsored by the Friends of Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park and the Doña Ana Camera Club will open Saturday, May 19. More information will be released at a later date.

The park will host two nature camps for third- through fifth-grade children in June:

- The first nature camp will be from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, June 18, through Wednesday, June 20, and from 1 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 21. Students will learn about animal tracks and mammals of the bosque, as well as bird and invertebrate identification. Activities will include nature hikes, nature journaling, sketching and crafts. Cost is \$60 and includes snacks. Cost is \$50 through June 4.
- The second nature camp will be from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, June 25-29. Students will learn about animal tracks and mammals of the bosque, as well as bird and invertebrate identification. Students will collect insects from pitfall traps on Thursday. Other activities include making tracks, nature journaling and crafts. Cost is \$40 including snacks. Space is limited. Cost is \$30 through June 11. Make checks payable to Friends of Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. For more information, call 523-4398.

For all hikes, bring binoculars, water, sunscreen and hiking shoes.

All events except nature camps are free with a valid park pass. Daily entrance fee is \$5 per vehicle. Annual day passes are available for \$40.

Park hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call LuAnn Kilday at 523-4398.

NMSU regents meet May 11

The New Mexico State University Board of Regents will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, May 11, in the Regents Room of the Educational Services Center on the NMSU main campus.

A closed executive session will be held at 2 p.m. in Room 2 of the Educational Services Center on the Las Cruces campus to discuss personnel, real estate and legal matters in accordance with sections 10-15-1 H (2), (7), and (8) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

Copies of the agenda for the regular meeting will be available at Zuhl Library prior to the meeting and will be posted online at www.nmsu.edu/administration/regents_meeting.html.

Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. If a summary or other type of accessible format is needed, call 646-2356.

Sand volleyball league forms

The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department is holding registration for the 2012 Adult Co-Rec Sand Volleyball League through Saturday, May 19, at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave.

Individuals must be 18 years of age or older to participate. The fee is \$250 per team of six to eight players. A manager's meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 24, at Meerscheidt Recreation Center. Games will begin with a pre-season tournament Friday, June 8, and Saturday, June 9.

For more information, call the Meerscheidt Recreation Center at 541-2563 or the Parks and Recreation Section Administrative Office at 541-2550. The TTY number is 541-2772.

Fly-in demonstrates model flight

The Mesilla Valley Model Airplane Club (MVMAC) will host a free demonstration flying event for electric-powered radio controlled aircraft from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 12, at the New Mexico State University Intramural Field at Locust and Stewart streets. Flying instruction will be provided on club trainer aircraft.

The club's general meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Rawson's Self Storage, 1103 N. Solano Drive.

For more information, visit www.mvmac.org, or call Jim Caldwell at 680-8195.

Camera Club meets May 15

The Doña Ana Camera Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, at the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St. Attendees are asked to enter on the west side.

Will Keener will present "Photography at the Zoo."

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

For more information, visit www.dacameraclub.org or call 532-1919.

Memorial Day event slated

Members of the Veterans Wall Committee are planning a Memorial Day candlelight ceremony at 8 a.m. Monday, May 28, at Veterans Park, 2651 Roadrunner Parkway, to honor 192 Doña Ana County veterans who died serving the country and who are listed on the memorial wall.

The community is encouraged to identify a family member or friend on the list they would like to honor with a candle provided by the committee.

Each of the 192 veterans will be called by name as the candles are lit and placed on top of the Veterans Wall. This will be done to not only honor veterans from Doña Ana County, but all members of the armed forces who sacrificed their lives in the service of their country.

Volunteers age 18 years and older are needed to light candles for the veterans listed, especially for those who served in World War I and II who may no longer have family members or friends in the area.

For more information about participating in this ceremony as a family member, friend or volunteer, contact Dolores Archuleta no later than Monday, May 21, at 524-7873 or darchuleta611412@aol.com.

Camp Invention set June 4-8

The national Camp Invention program is coming to Desert Hills Elementary School, 280 N. Roadrunner Parkway, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, June 4, through Friday, June 8.

The cost is \$215 per child. Children of Las Cruces Public Schools staff members receive a \$30 discount. Some partial scholarships are also available.

First started in 1990, Camp Invention is a weeklong summer day program for children entering grades one through six that helps them discover their own innate creativity and inventiveness through hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) content.

In this summer's Envision program, children will experience different activities, including Inventeureka, Action and Adventure Games, Magnetropolis and I Can Invent: Balloon Burst. Children will spend their week visiting a faux island to study magnetism, taking a fantasy adventure on the Ci6000 Space Modulator Time Machine and inventing a balloon-bursting machine.

To register a child, visit www.campinvention.org or call 800-968-4332.

For more information, contact Lucy Rathgeber at 571-5090 or gilamom@comcast.net, Alan Aguayo at 644-1160 or aguayo2007@comcast.net.

Math Snacks Camp at Mesa MS

Students in fifth- through seventh-grade can register for the 2012 Math Snacks Camp at Mesa Middle School, 7225 N. Jornada Road, from 8 a.m. to noon Monday, June 4, through Friday, June 8. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Cost for the

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CRIME OF THE WEEK featured on page **A12**

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




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camp is \$40 and scholarships and sibling discounts are available. Campers will enjoy fun activities and learn with iPads and computers. Space is limited. For more information, call Karen Trujillo at 646-8141 or visit www.mathsnacks.com.

Checkpoints planned in May

The Las Cruces Police Department will conduct at least three sobriety checkpoints and four saturation patrols within city limits prior to May 28.

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

The Las Cruces Police Department encourages those who plan on consuming alcoholic beverages to plan ahead of time and use a designated driver – someone who will not be drinking alcoholic beverages – for their transportation needs.

Gym and cheer classes available

The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department is taking registration for sessions I and II of Youth Gymnastics and Youth Cheer classes at the Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. Registration will be ongoing until classes are full.

Two sessions will be held June 4-27 and July 10-Aug. 2. All sessions consist of eight classes and will be held at Meerscheidt Recreation Center. Cost is \$30 per person, per session. A parent must be present with children under the age of 6.

The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department Youth Gymnastics and Youth Cheer are basic experience classes. Classes are designed to be introductory, skill development classes for new and beginning students. Basic experience classes are designed to provide affordable programming and recreational appeal. These classes do not provide progressive experience or advanced experience instruction.

For more information, call Meerscheidt Recreation Center at 541-2563 or the Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices at 541-2550. The TTY number is 541-2772.

Art in the Park Saturday

Nature Art in the Park will be from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday May 12, at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, northeast of Las Cruces.

Visitors of all ages are welcome to explore nature and participate in hands-on art stations including helio fabric painting, poetry flags, fiber paper making, positive and negative space drawings, storytelling, songs and more at the free event. Picacho Hills Artists will also be on hand with an art display.

The project is sponsored by the Asombro Institute for Science Education, the Court Youth Center, and Public Allies.

For more information, call the Asombro Institute for Science Education at 524-3334 or visit www.asombro.org.

The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is located northeast of Las Cruces. From Interstate 25 in Las Cruces, head east on U.S. Highway 70. Take the Mesa Grande Road exit at Oñate High School. Make a U-turn under the highway to head west and stay in the right lane. Turn right (north) on Jornada Road. Follow Jornada Road for 6.4 miles and turn left at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park sign. Follow the entrance road to the parking area and trailhead.

The Asombro Institute for Science Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing scientific literacy by fostering an understanding of the Chihuahuan Desert. The Asombro Institute provides hands-on science education programs for more than 13,000 students throughout southern New Mexico and west Texas each year.

Model railroaders meet

The Roadrunner Division of the NMRA will meet at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, in the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St. All model railroaders are invited.

For more information, call Mike Weiss at 532-1051 or email mikeweiss65@gmail.com.

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Garrison flag flies Mother's Day

A garrison flag will be flown at Veteran's Memorial Park, 2651 Roadrunner Parkway, in observance of Mother's Day Sunday, May 13. The flag is flown on all traditional and patriotic holidays and the public is invited to participate in the raising of the flag at 8 a.m. and the lowering at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact James Turner at the New Mexico Department of Veteran Services at 524-6220.

Mental health training set

Doña Ana County will offer certified Mental Health First Aid Training to help the public identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse disorders. This groundbreaking public education program is offered at no cost to the public.

The interactive 12-hour course is an overview of mental illnesses and substance-abuse disorders that gives participants an opportunity to learn how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, understanding their impacts and identifying common treatments.

Anyone who takes the free 12-hour course will be certified as a Mental Health First Aider and will learn a 5-step action plan that includes skills, resources and knowledge to help those in crisis connect with the appropriate care.

Mental Health First Aid Training will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, May 14-15, at the Vado/Del Cerro Community Resource Center, 180 Le Fe Ave, in Vado.

For more information or to register in the above training, call Sabrina Tang at 303-541-0311 or email stang@wiche.edu. The registration form is available on the Doña Ana County website at www.donaanacounty.org/health.

Peace officers memorial planned

Representatives from several southern New Mexico law enforcement agencies will participate in a horse-drawn procession and memorial service at 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 15, to honor peace officers who have died in the line of duty.

The Southern New Mexico Fallen Peace Officers' Memorial Service – part of Peace Officers' Memorial Day and National Police Week – begins at 9 a.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

Family and friends of many of the officers who have died in the line of duty will be in attendance. The public is encouraged to attend the memorial service, which is a formal offer of respect and appreciation for officers from southern New Mexico who have died in the line of duty.

Active-duty military personnel from southern New Mexico who have died in the line of duty in the past year also will be honored during the memorial service.

The memorial service will be preceded by a law enforcement procession and a flag-draped casket carried on a horse-drawn carriage. The procession begins at approximately 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 15, in the parking lot of the Kmart store at 1240 El Paseo Road. The procession will travel south on El Paseo Road to the convention center in time for the 9 a.m. Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

The flag-draped casket symbolizes all officers from area federal, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies who have died in the line of duty. The procession and memorial service are hosted by all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies from throughout southern New Mexico.

In conjunction with the annual Southern New Mexico Fallen Peace Officers' Memorial Service, the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department is hosting a candlelight vigil at 8 p.m. Monday, May 14, to honor Doña Ana County's fallen officers and emergency workers.

The vigil, outside the Sheriff's Department headquarters at 845 N. Motel Blvd., will begin with the posting of the colors by the Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard.

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Sheriff Todd Garrison will deliver opening remarks and Las Cruces Police Department Chief Richard Williams will be the key note speaker.

After the candles are lit, the roll call of the fallen will be issued, followed by a bagpipe duet by Sgt. Carl McBride and Maj. Edward McBride and then "Taps" by Las Cruces Police Officer Mike Clifton and New Mexico State Police Lt. Tom Harzewski. The colors will then be retired by the Las Cruces Police Department Honor Guard, making the end of the ceremony.

Primetimers to meet May 15

The Farm Bureau Primetimers will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 15, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Drippings Springs Road, in the Ventana Room.

Deborah Dennis of the Amador Hotel Foundation will speak on the redesign refurbishment and remodeling of the historic Downtown Las Cruces building. Lunch by Dickerson's Catering costs \$10.

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

Historical society meets May 17

The Doña Ana Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, in the auditorium.

Eric Liefeld, president of Mesilla Valley Preservation Inc., will speak about the many ways historic buildings are important to a community. The presentation will cover how historic architecture adds value to the community in terms of nostalgia, culture and economic benefits.

For more information, call 521-8771.

Market vendors to move

Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market vendors will move from Las Cruces Avenue to Griggs Avenue beginning Saturday, May 19. As a result, Griggs Avenue from Water Street to Church Street will be closed to through traffic from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. Barricades will block traffic and public parking on Griggs from mid-block west of Main Street to mid-block east of Main.

Motorists are advised to proceed with caution on Las Cruces Avenue at the Main Street intersection. Market customers will have the right-of-way at that cross walk.

For more information, contact Peggy Miller, acting Farmers & Crafts Market coordinator, at 541-2288.

GOP women meet May 25

The Federated Republican Women of Doña Ana County will meet at 11:30 a.m. Friday May 25, at the Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. Paul Herzog, CEO of Memorial Medical Center, will speak on health care. Lunch is \$8.25 and reservations are required by noon Monday, May 21.

For more information, call Anna Mae Evans at 524-4232 or 635-9174.

Blessing of the Fields is May 15

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, will celebrate an old, historical tradition with the annual Blessing of the Fields at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 15.

The colorful, music-filled procession around the museum's campus to bless the animals, orchards and vineyard will be led by Bishop Ricardo Ramirez. Admission to participate in the procession is free.

The Las Cruces Catholic School Praise Band will be part of the procession and the Las Cruces Catholic School Ballet Folklórico Colores de Cristo group will perform after the procession.

A plant sale at the museum's greenhouse will also take place during the day.

For more information, call 522-4100.

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Phones were ringing after Athena streaked above Southwestern skies

Test program designed to resolve rocket re-entry issues



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

The Athena that “streaked” across New Mexico on May 12, 1966, lit up the night sky “as far west as the Tucson, Ariz., area and as far east as Las Vegas, N.M.,” The Associated Press reported in a story the Alamogordo Daily News printed the following day.

The test, which originated at Green River, Utah, ended with “a successful impact on White Sands Missile Range.” But the vehicle also “sparked numerous calls to authorities over the identity of the object.”

Early flights of the Athena, which was “used to study re-entry problems” as well as weapons’ systems, were not always as fruitful. Less than two years had passed since the Army, in

February 1964, announced intentions to “bolster its missile muscle” with the Athena, The AP reported on Feb. 2 of that year.

Subsequently, the first launch in the \$44 million program Feb. 10, failed. The ADN that day related how the first stage crashed “near Monticello, Utah,” after liftoff from Green River with the intention of reaching WSMR. The rest of the rocket, carrying cameras and other data-gathering instrumentation, hit southeast of Durango, Colo. Nine days later, the Army ordered an investigation and halted further launches.

Athena simulated an intercontinental ballistic missile. The first two stages were solid fuel; stages three and four controlled re-entry. Tests finally resumed on May 28, 1964, with similar lack of success. A document from Space Information Canada said controllers had to abort the second flight at 61 seconds when the second stage veered off course.

While the third mission, on July 8, was successful, the fourth, on Sept. 28, was aborted due to a guidance system failure. It smacked into the ground near Datil, the AP reported on Sept. 30. There were four more tests in 1964 with only one failure, on Nov. 20, after winds blew the rocket off course.

Statistically, the Athena improved the next year. Of 27 tests in 1965, 20 succeeded. The seven failures ranged from computer malfunctions to stages that failed to separate.

All 26 launches in 1966 worked. Twenty-five of 30 tests in 1967, 13 of 16 in 1968 and 10 out of 11 in 1969 succeeded.

Then, on July 11, 1970, an Athena the Air Force launched from Green River “as part of a routine testing program” began acting “abnormally,” said the webpage journals.lww.com. Air Force Lt. Col. Wayne Mattson, in a monograph, stated the goal in launching the eight ton rocket, which was 50 feet tall, was “to measure” how reentry heat dissolves material, in this case the nose cone.

The missile, carrying radiological material, was programmed to reach 200 miles altitude, Air Force Col. Len Sugerman said during an oral history on April 15, 1999, for the New Mexico Museum of Space History. Sugerman pointed out that while the first three stages fired correctly, “the 4th for some reason lit off while it was pointing up.” WSMR radar tracked the Athena until it exceeded telemetry range. Controllers couldn’t know the missile flew on 400 miles south of the United States border, plowed onto a mesa near Durango, Mexico, and ignited “an international incident,” Sugerman said.



SUGERMAN

He learned of the ramifications the next morning at 6 a.m., when his phone rang and he said a general informed him Mexico’s government was “upset” over “the radioactive payload.” The White House, the general barked, was holding on another line and President Richard Nixon was awaiting an explanation.

Radioactivity didn’t stop Durango residents from rushing out to find debris. Journals.lww.com said a “scientific team” from defense contractor Edgerton, Germeshausen and Grier Inc. “was asked to participate” in the search. The company



U.S. Army photos

An Athena rocket lifts off during the testing program designed to study re-entry problems.

used a “gamma radiation detection system,” known as an Aerial Radiological Measuring System, to help locate the missing missile.

The website said that “in a period of (three) days, the impact crater was located and the ground recovery team was directed to the site.” Subsequently, “samples were returned to the EG&G Las Vegas laboratory for analysis.” Mattson said

“The 4th (stage) for some reason lit off while it was pointing up.”

LEN SUGERMAN,
U.S. Air Force colonel

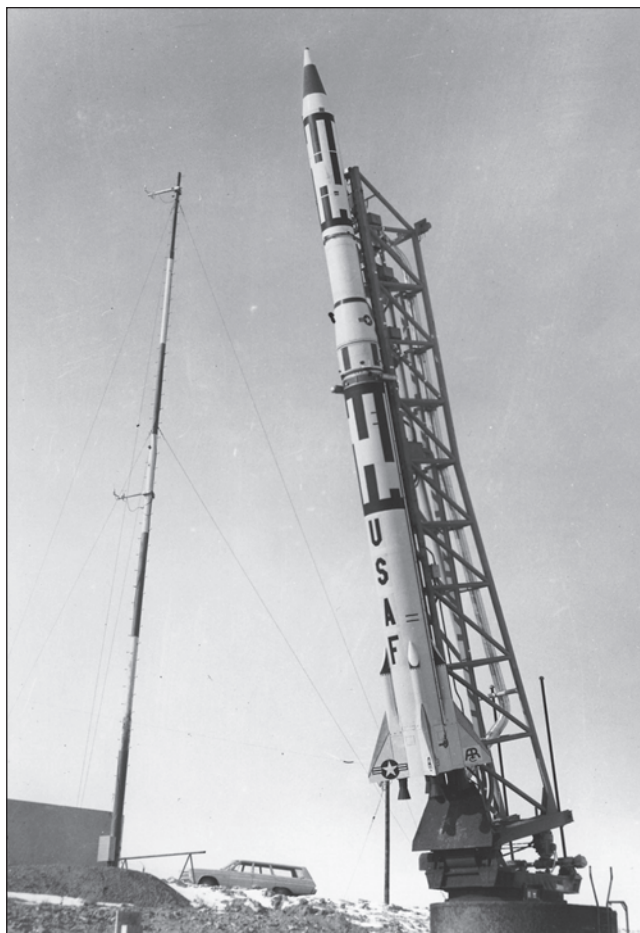
troops hauled out the refuse in 60 55-gallon drums.

Ironically, said strangemag.com: “A few years later, an upper stage from one of the Saturn boosters used on the Apollo project broke up over the very same area.”

Not for the first time in Athena’s history the program was temporarily shut down. Launches finally resumed seven months later, but this time from the Kwajalein Atoll, part of the Marshall Islands, which worldatlas.com described as being “about midway between Hawaii and Australia.” There were also new stringent regulations imposed, including, Sugerman said, a stipulation about “not firing anything that had the potential of going into a foreign country.”

By the end of 1970 there had been 141 Athena tests, according to Space Information Canada. The final 10 took place in 1971, and all succeeded.

Michael Shinabery is an education specialist and Humanities Scholar with the New Mexico Museum of Space History. Shinabery’s email is michael.shinabery@state.nm.us.



An Athena rocket sits on the pad awaiting launch.

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HOT 103

Ready for 'egg loft'



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Derek Evans, 9, gets ready to launch a model rocket Saturday, May 5, as part of an "egg loft" series of launches held by the Fellowship of Las Cruces Area Rocketry Enthusiasts (FLARE). Working with the city's natural history museum, FLARE provides local children their first experiences with model rocketry. About a dozen eggs were successfully launched in the model rockets, said FLARE member Dave Kovar. This was Evans' third launch that morning from FLARE's launch area at the East Mesa Waterfall Regional Pond off Dunn Drive.

In the news

Police investigate girl's pit bull mauling death

Las Cruces Police are investigating the death of a toddler girl mauled by the family's pit bull and what appears to be an accidental shooting of the child's grandmother by a neighbor trying to stop the attack.

Police have identified the victim as Jazilyn Mesa, who was born Jan. 26, 2011, making her only 15 months old when she died Tuesday, May 8, in the dog attack.

Jazilyn's grandmother, Leticia Mesa, was accidentally shot by a neighbor who heard cries for help and was trying to stop the pit bull from attacking the girl. Leticia Mesa was transported to University Medical Center of El Paso with a single gunshot wound to a leg and foot.

Shortly before 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 8, Las Cruces Police were called to the 800 block of Stone Canyon Drive by a neighbor who reported hearing Leticia Mesa screaming for help. The neighbor, 69-year-old Barry Snyder, saw that the dog was attacking the girl and that Leticia Mesa was trying to cover the child, according to police.

Snyder retrieved a .45 caliber handgun from his home, called 911 and went to the aid of the girl and grandmother. Police said Snyder entered the backyard and fired the first shot as the 2-year-old pit bull lunged at him. The shot appears to have missed the dog and accidentally struck Leticia Mesa's right thigh.

Snyder fired more rounds at the 85-pound dog, which killed the pit bull.

Police officers arrived to find Jazilyn and Leticia Mesa in the front yard of the home. Jazilyn was suffering from multiple injuries to her head and chest, and was rushed to MountainView Regional Medical Center where she died shortly after noon.

The girl's body was transported to the medical investigator's office in Albuquerque, as was the pit bull for a post-mortem exam.

Mayor, local business leaders invited to White House jobs forum

At the invitation of the White House, Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima has selected some of the area's business leaders to join him at a forum Friday, May 11, with senior Obama administration officials to discuss jobs and New Mexico's economy.

"The forum will allow for an interactive dialogue about what's working and how the private sector and government can collaborate more effectively to foster greater opportunity, innovation and job creation," Miyagishima said.

The forum was arranged by the White House Business Council and Business Forward, an organization that brings new business leaders into the policymaking process.

Representing the Administration will be the White House Business Council's executive director, the chief economist for the Department of Commerce, the deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and an assistant secretary for the U.S. Health and Human Services, among others.

Joining the mayor are Frank Leto, publisher of the Las Cruces Sun-News; Robert Brumley, managing director of Pegasus Global; Charles Warner, president Euromarkt LTD, chairman of Pegasus' Center for Innovation, Testing and Evaluation; John Muñoz, site director, Sitel; Rico Gonzales, New Mexico director, El Paso Electric Co.; John Christopher, director of government affairs, Comcast Cable; Mark Butler, general manager, Virgin Galactic; Robert Carter, executive director, White Sands Missile Range; Davin Lopez, CEO, Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance; and Ryan Nalty, business development, British Embassy, Washington, D.C.

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The mess meth makes



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Rochelle Ponder of Las Cruces Rotary Clubs answers Camino Real Middle School students' questions Friday, May 4, after they viewed a slide show about how regular methamphetamine use can degrade a person's appearance, causing teeth to rot and skin to break out in ugly sores. Based on a successful program in San Juan County, the "Don't Meth With Us" program warns students about how highly addictive meth is, how it's made of toxic chemicals and encourages them to focus on their life goals to avoid experimenting with the illegal drug. The Rotary Clubs want to bring the program to more students next school year.

High school transfers OK'd

Balance reached with four high schools

More than 400 Las Cruces Public Schools students who are currently in eighth through 11th grades will receive a letter from Superintendent Stan Rounds in the coming days telling them whether their transfer application to a different school has been approved.

Feb. 1 through April 16 was the open enrollment period when high school students could apply to attend a school outside of their home-attendance zone, said Director of Communications Jo Galvan.

Families who have emails on file with LCPS should have received electronic messages from the superintendent regarding his decision on their transfer applications, Galvan said. For others, a letter has been mailed.

Students whose transfers have been approved should contact their new school counselor or registrar and schedule an appointment to discuss their courses for the 2012-13 school year.

District officials said this school year, the applications were personally reviewed by the superintendent to ensure the projected 2012-13 enrollments for Las Cruces, Mayfield and Oñate high schools and the new Centennial High School, were not significantly different from

what they were last fall when the high schools were redistricted.

"The transfer requests we received show a good mixture, with the large high schools picking up some students and losing some students," Galvan said. "The superintendent kept a close watch over the process, making sure that no single school was overburdened by a huge number of either incoming or outgoing students."

“ The transfer requests we received show a good mixture ... ”

JO GALVAN,
LCPS spokeswoman

The superintendent also reviewed any fluctuation created by the transfer requests to the socio-economic balance for each school.

"It was important to strike a good balance as the process concluded," Rounds said. "I believe we accomplished that."

Parents of students who requested transfers and did not receive a letter or email from the superintendent by Tuesday,

May 1, are asked to contact the LCPS Secondary Instruction Office at 527-5889.

If a student applied for a transfer after the April 16 application deadline, the superintendent will review that student's request on an individual, case-by-case basis, and will notify the student and parents of his decision regarding the transfer request in the coming weeks.

CrimeStoppers

Knife used in robbery

Las Cruces Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that leads to the identity and arrest of the man suspected of committing an armed robbery at a convenience store on west Picacho Avenue.

At around 11:30 p.m. Sunday, May 6, a man walked into the Circle K store at 617 W. Picacho Ave., and used a large knife to threaten an employee. The suspect then took an undisclosed amount of cash and cigarettes.

The suspect is described as a white male around 5 feet 5 inches tall. He was wearing a gray hoodie with a plaid shirt covering it, brown or khaki cargo shorts and black shoes.



If you have any information on the identity of the suspect, or any information that may help solve this crime, you are asked to call Las Cruces Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477) or send a tip via text message to LCTIPS (528477).

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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Primaries: House of Representatives District 52

Name: Doreen Gallegos
Position seeking: House Representative District 52
Party: Democratic
Age: 43
Political experience: Member of the Central Committee for the Democratic Party of New Mexico
Professional background: Executive director Mesilla Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates (10 years) and social worker
Education: Master's and bachelor's degrees in social work from New Mexico State University
Family: Husband Adolfo Gallegos and son Nicolas, 8
Organizations, affiliations: Member – National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Hispanic-Latino Board, Citizens Review Advisory Committee, Childrens Foster Care Committee
Amount of time lived in District: Eight to 10 years
Amount of time lived in Las Cruces: 20 years
Hobbies: Family activities, especially supporting son's participation in karate
What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Economic opportunity (jobs)
- Access to health care
- Education



How will you approach solving these issues?

We need to continue to look for economic opportunities that are "out of the box." Access to health care has a huge impact to families. I've known many people who work full-time, but it is still too expensive to get health insurance. Schools need to be adequately funded so classroom sizes are reasonable.

Why are you the best candidate?

I want to make sure the most people are getting served. I have a true investment in the community and I've worked in the trenches for 20-plus years to make things better. I have a proven track record.

Name: Andrew Morales
Position seeking: House of Representatives District 52
Party: Democratic
Age: 41
Political experience: Constituent representative for Gov. Bill Richardson, Camino Real Regional Utility Board, past executive director for the state Border Authority, Gadsden school board, past Sunland Park city manager
Professional background: Government, sales and retail management and strategic management consultant
Education: Bachelor's degree in marketing from New Mexico State University
Family: Daughter Eileen, 14
Organizations, affiliations: Volunteer for the Gadsden High School tennis team
Amount of time lived in District: All my life, except the first three years in Oklahoma and Texas
Which community do you live in: Anthony, N.M.
Hobbies: Tennis, horseback riding



What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Water rights
- Election reform
- Resources for after school programs

How will you approach solving these issues?

I will work with the federal government and State Engineer's Office to make sure the small-tract farmer gets access to a fair share of irrigation water.

Why are you the best candidate?

I have experience with making government work for its constituents at the state and local levels. I know budgets.



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Primaries: State Senate District 36

Name: Mary Jane Garcia
Position seeking: State Senate District 36
Party: Democratic
Age: 75
Political experience: State senator almost 24 years
Professional background: Anthropologist, retired business owner
Education: Master's and bachelor's degrees in anthropology from NMSU, associate degree in psychology from City College of San Francisco
Family: Single
Organizations, affiliations: Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Association, Doña Ana Arts Council, Doña Ana County Gang Task Force, Doña Ana Historic Preservation Committee
Amount of time lived in District: Lifelong resident of the Village of Doña Ana
Hobbies: Collecting music, especially classical and flamenco; coin collecting, traveling and, when younger, mountain climbing
What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Subdivision reform
- Child abuse
- Human trafficking

How will you approach solving these issues?
 Most recently, I've been working on passage of legislation to increase the

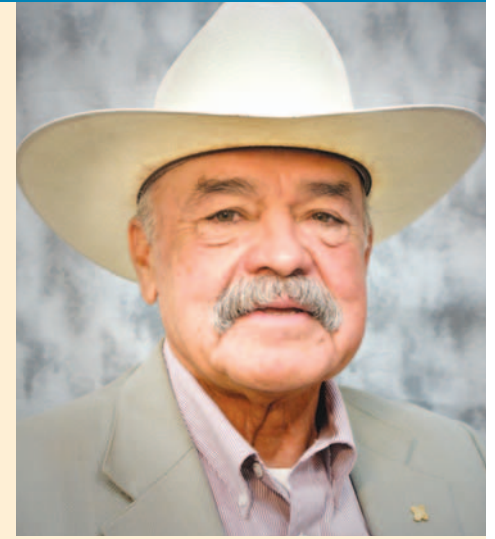


penalty for child abuse. One of my first significant pieces of legislation was to stop the practices of subdivision that led to the creation of colonias. In the area of human trafficking, I worked with Attorney General Gary King on my legislation to fight human trafficking, which isn't the same thing as smuggling. It's like when a woman is brought to this country on the promise of a hotel job and ends up in a brothel.
Why are you the best candidate?
 I bring a complete knowledge of the Legislature with 24 years behind me. I know the process, the committees and can work with the leadership of both parties. I always make sure to pass a major piece of legislation each year and my most important legislation has enjoyed bipartisan support. I get along with all people.

Name: Oscar Vasquez Butler
Position seeking: State Senate District 36
Party: Democratic
Age: 71
Political experience: Former two-term county commissioner and chairman, president of the Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Association, president of the New Mexico Association of Counties, union organizer with Cesar Chavez
Professional background: Retired pipe fitter, shop steward, public section human relations
Education: Master's and bachelor's degrees in public administration from the University of Southern California
Family: Wife Rose Marie, three grown children, 12 grandchildren
Organizations, affiliations: Doña Ana County AVANCE vice chair, Colonias Infrastructure Board vice chair, LULAC
Amount of time lived in District: Resident of Doña Ana County since 1995
Hobbies: Farming, fishing, reading
What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Water
- Education
- Economic development

How will you approach solving these issues?
 We have to come up with a water



conservation plan. We have limited amount of water here, so we must look at its sustainability and encourage its conservation, both in the areas of agriculture and residential use. We need to revisit the Rio Grande Compact. I want to attract business, but we're not going to do that if we don't have enough water and if our schools still have a high dropout rate. We need to reach the parents, who are a child's greatest teacher.
Why are you the best candidate?
 I will work on a broad spectrum of real concerns for our communities. I come to the Legislature with issues, not just proposals. I work from the ground up, such as I did with community meetings in the colonias. I will put things in place for the long term and not just one piece of legislation each year.



Editor's note: Early voting started Tuesday, May 8. The Las Cruces Bulletin has approached all candidates in contested primary races that Doña Ana County voters will see on the ballot for a series of short profiles to run in last week's edition and this week. Those who did not respond to requests for participation in the series included: Doña Ana County Commission – District 2 Democratic candidate Alfredo Garza, District 4 Democratic candidate David Bonner and District 5 incumbent Leticia Duarte Benavidez; and Larry Martinez, Democratic challenger in the state Senate District 35 race. If contacted, the Bulletin will consider running their profiles prior to the primary election June 3.

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Primaries: County Commission District 2

Name: Alex Cotoia
Position seeking: Doña Ana County Commission District 2
Party: Democratic
Age: 26
Political experience: Democratic Party Central Committee, previously sought District 7 State Board of Education in 2010
Professional background: Paralegal for commercial litigation and insurance defense
Education: RHAM High School in Hebron, Conn., completed coursework at Doña Ana Community College



Family: Daughter Juliana, 4 months old
Organizations, affiliations: None
Amount of time lived in District: From 2008-2010, then moved back in 2012
Amount of time lived in Las Cruces: Moved here in 2008
Hobbies: Walking, hiking, playing chess, reading non-fiction and biography
What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Economic development
- Combating gang violence
- Accountability and transparency of government

How will you approach solving these issues?
 By being an advocate for my district, by having an active voice and being more visible in the community to be able to voice their concerns on the commission. To also work collaboratively and establish good rapport with other legislators.

Why are you the best candidate?
 I bring an outside perspective by not being tied to current political establishments. I'm an average, working guy who knows what it's like to go to work every day and pay bills and taxes. I'm more interested in policy that politics. I'm a workhorse and a problem solver who doesn't just do things because of political standpoints.

Name: David J. Garcia
Position seeking: Doña Ana County Commission District 2
Party: Democratic
Age: 60
Political experience: President of a Political Action Group to RECALL elected officials, president of the Gadsden school board, president of the Chaparral Community Development Association, chairman of Sangre de Cristo Mental Health Inc.
Professional background: Public School administration for 36 years, including superintendent, Head Start director, elementary, middle and high school principal



Education: Double bachelor's degree in special education and elementary education with a minor in reading and language arts, master's degree in severe and profound disabilities, and an educational degree specialist in public school administration
Family: Wife Ida and three children – Rachel, Sarah and John
Organizations, affiliations: Southern New Mexico Human Development Inc. and Spirit Mission and the Catholic Church
Amount of time lived in District: 22 years
Amount of time lived in Las Cruces: One year

Hobbies: Volunteer for church and community service, reading and outdoor work with farm equipment
What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Having a connecting relationship with people of each community
- Representing the people by being their "voice"

How will you approach solving these issues?
 Using my leadership, being trustworthy and working with other commissioners.

Why are you the best candidate?
 I connect with the people and the culture. I am well educated, bilingual, hard working and a problem solver who doesn't do things for just politics.



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County Commission District 4

Name: Wayne Hancock
Position seeking: Doña Ana County Commission District 4
Party: Democratic
Age: 64
Political experience: Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, vice president of Miramar/Maricopa Neighborhood Association
Professional background: Telecommunications business owner, entrepreneur, CEO
Education: Attended Long Beach College of Commerce



Family: Wife of 26 years, two grown daughters, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter

Organizations, affiliations: Miramar/Maricopa Neighborhood Association, Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, principal organizer of the Las Cruces Neighborhoods Summit, active in food distribution at the Butterfield Community Center, IBEW past chief steward

Amount of time lived in District: One year

Amount of time lived in Las Cruces: One year

Hobbies: Computer programming, oil painting, travel

What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Improved executive leadership

- Greater cooperation between the city and county
- Opportunities in the county

How will you approach solving these issues?

I will bring creativity, entrepreneurial skills and respect for others to solve all problems brought before me. I will strive to bring a culture of excitement about our strengths and opportunities back to the residents of the county.

Why are you the best candidate?

I am a combat veteran and an experienced entrepreneur. I speak Spanish and lived in Mexico for six years. I have a deep understanding and appreciation for the Mexican culture. I am healthy, energetic and ready for exciting challenges every day.

State Senate District 35

Name: John Arthur Smith
Position seeking: State Senate District 35
Party: Democratic
Age: 75
Political experience: 22 years as state senator, Luna County Democratic Party chairman 1981-82
Professional background: Real estate appraiser
Education: Bachelor's degree in biology from the University of New Mexico
Family: Wife Janette and two grown sons who both live in Las Cruces



Organizations, affiliations: None

Amount of time lived in District: Deming resident 36 years

Hobbies: Golf

What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Jobs
- Education
- Fiscal responsibility

How will you approach solving these issues?

The state needs to prepare for the federal government reducing its defense spending. Regulations need to be balanced so we don't lose out on job opportunities. The tax base should

be broad-based, but with low rates. Some progress has been made on gross receipts taxes "pyramiding," but more needs to be done and there are too many tax exemptions for businesses without proof they create jobs. Reading is key to a good education, but teaching reading shouldn't be limited to whether or not you hold a student back in the third grade.

Why are you the best candidate?

Whether or not you agree with me, I will always be fair and honest. I'm willing to stand up the governor of my own party or the opposition party.

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Primaries: County Commission District 5

Name: Scott Krahling
Position seeking: Doña Ana County Commission District 5
Party: Democratic
Age: 34
Political experience: Three and a half years representing District 4 on Board of County Commissioners
Professional background: Online marketing consultant
Education: Bachelor of Arts with double major in government and journalism and mass communications from New Mexico State University
Family: Wife Robin, 1-year-old son Parker and 4-year-old daughter Kaitlin
Organizations, affiliations: None
Amount of time lived in District? Not applicable because of redistricting, but lived six years at current house
Amount of time lived in Las Cruces? 16 years
Hobbies? Playing with my kids, gardening, hiking, cooking
What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- Incorporating public input into comprehensive planning
- Institutional improvement
- Passing an economic development plan



How will you approach solving these issues?
 Hold public meetings to get complete buy-in on how residents see their neighborhoods growing. We must complete our strategic plan and continue mandatory ethics training. We need to develop a new code of conduct. As for economic development planning, we need to identify areas of critical concern and find resources for an economic development fund.
Why are you the best candidate?
 I think I'm the most effective candidate in this race. I have a long list of accomplishments and have shown the ability to work with staff to accomplish difficult tasks.

Name: Benjamin Luchini
Position seeking: Doña Ana County Commission District 5
Party: Democratic
Age: 60
Political experience: None
Professional background: Truck driving, towing and auto salvage, fingerprints technician
Education: Las Cruces High School graduate, took some criminal justice classes at New Mexico State University
Family: Single
Organizations, affiliations: Gold Prospectors Association of America, National Hot Rod Association, International Motor Contest Association of the Southern New Mexico Speedway, PGA Tour Partners
Amount of time lived in District? Lifelong resident
Amount of time lived in Las Cruces? Not applicable – resides north of Las Cruces
Hobbies? Auto racing fan
What do you believe are the key issues in this race?

- County hiring
- Youth activities
- Jobs

How will you approach solving these issues?
 When the county is hiring, they ask



for people with experience, but those with experience often don't even get interviewed. Youth activities: Where there is something for them to do, we can try to get out more volunteers to help with the activities. Jobs: We have the potential to bring in more industry. I am a supporter of the Jemez Pueblo's casino project in Anthony, N.M. I will look into ways we can promote more positive growth and economic development.
Why are you the best candidate?
 My knowledge and experience. I want to serve the public. My father, Ray Luchini, was a longtime county commissioner. I want to follow in his footsteps and do him proud.

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- 3rd Session: June 25 to July 6 (Closed July 4; Add Fri. July 6)
- 4th Session: July 9 to July 19
- 5th Session: July 23 to August 2

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Storm

Continued from page A1

how much damage there was until the growers check out their orchards.”

Chris Biad of Biad Chili Products said one of his fields near Garfield was hit by the hail and, from what a worker reported, the 27 acres of green chile was “wiped out.” In may be too late to replant chile, except to get in a crop of late season green chile, he said.

“But it would be too late now to grow the red chile,” Biad said.

By early Wednesday afternoon, Nordyke said he was still getting reports, which seemed to show that some farms got hit harder than others, but that it was still a very damaging storm.

If there was any “silver lining” to the storm clouds, it was that the water coming down as hail kept the Placitas Arroyo from getting too full – which was the source of the village being flooded in 2006.

In Las Cruces, the storm brought welcome rain and cooler temperatures, causing only minor street flooding. The weather system that brought in the storm continued Wednesday, May 9.

Nordyke said he wasn't as concerned about possible flooding as he was about the crop damage.

Hatch's main economy centers on agriculture. Chile grown in Hatch has a high market appeal – from consumers to restaurants. New Mexico has even proclaimed the village as the “Chile capital of the world” and its annual chile festival in September attracts hot-food enthusiasts from near and far.

Grant awarded to care for Court school history

The Court Youth Center (CYC) has received a grant of \$4,182 from the New Mexico Humanities Council for “The 402 West Court Living History Project.”

The project focuses on the 129-year history of the property located at 402 W. Court Ave. with interviews with individuals who remember the original Doña Ana County Court House, students and faculty of Court Junior High, artists, participants, and past board members of CYC, and the first graduating class of Alma d'arte Charter High School.

The project will include a series of “platicas” (talks). Historian Clarence Fielder will speak about race in southern New Mexico at 6 p.m. Friday, May 11, at CYC. Daniel Villa, Spanish linguistics professor will speak Friday, May 18, and members of Las Esperanzas will speak Friday, June 8.

The public is encouraged to bring memorabilia to Memory Gathering Days from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 5, 19 and 26.

For more information, contact Lauren Light at 323-0628 or laurenmlight@gmail.com.

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Wild debate

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Jeff Steinborn of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance makes his case for a more expansive national monument proposal in Doña Ana County at U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce's forum on his Organ Mountains National Monument bill Friday, May 4, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.

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Pegasus

Continued from page A1

done in the area by New Mexico State University and White Sands Missile Range, as well as the easy access to interstate freeways and rail lines.

The Hobbs site is roughly the same size, but is on mostly private land, except for about 1,000 acres of state trust land. Despite supportive interest by State Land Commissioner Ray Powell, Robert Brumley, CITE's managing director, said his board was concerned about the uncertainty of the process to get its state land lease. During that same visit to Las Cruces, Brumley said the project's investors wanted to start building as soon as possible, with a target date of June to begin construction, which is expected to take two years to complete.

"I am very pleased to announce that Lea County and Hobbs will be the future home of CITE," Brumley in his announcement. "We have always known that the state of New Mexico is the perfect place for CITE, and we have spent a considerable amount of time searching for and evaluating the right location within the state. Ultimately, we determined Hobbs and Lea County was the best fit for CITE based on the available land, infrastructure and breadth of community support that is required for this type of project."

“... I commend Pegasus for bringing jobs to New Mexico.”

STEVE PEARCE,
U.S. representative

Gov. Susana Martinez praised the project after Pegasus made its announcement. "I'm proud that New Mexico is able to provide a home for a state-of-the-art project like CITE," Martinez said. "We have worked closely with Pegasus Global Holdings to see the selection process through in order to bring jobs and innovation to our state, and I'm pleased that they are moving forward in New Mexico. This is a great opportunity for growth and job creation and I'm excited to see the impact that CITE will have on the region and the state."

State Economic Development Secretary John Barela said CITE is a big win for New Mexico.

"Pegasus' decision to locate its ground-breaking center in Lea County provides evidence that New Mexico remains a leader in research, development, testing and evaluation activities," Barela said. "We are very pleased by the sizable capital investment which will occur, along with the jobs that will be created in New Mexico."

In December, the New Mexico Partnership, on behalf Pegasus Global Holdings, solicited proposals from communities across the state of New Mexico interested in becoming home to CITE. Sixteen communities responded with proposals.

CITE will have urban, suburban and rural environments and include a mix of new and aging infrastructure. Clients will be able to test and evaluate their technologies in a facility that closely simulates real-world applications and challenges. Because the city will be unpopulated, new technology and systems can be tested safely.

CITE is anticipated to create at least 350 direct jobs and

3,500 indirect jobs in its design, development, construction and ongoing operational phases.

"It is a testament to our district that the two final locations under consideration were both in southern New Mexico," said U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce. "With the selection of either site, New Mexicans benefit. I congratulate Doña Ana County for being chosen as a finalist, and I thank them for the hard work that they have done. Additionally, I congratulate Lea County on being selected, and I commend Pegasus for bringing jobs to New Mexico."

Some have speculated there were other reasons that Pegasus didn't pick the Doña Ana County location, such as local elected officials not being pro-business, the possibility of Coralitos Ranch getting wilderness protections and the quality of local schools.

"Although great for the state, this was a real loss for Las Cruces," said John Hummer, president of Steinborn & Associates Real Estate. "Losing something of this magnitude should serve as a wake-up call for our entire community to assess just how much more work is needed in order for us to be viewed as a

true pro-business community. This will not just happen by itself, rather it will take some serious commitment and actions by all parts of our community.

"At a time when our local citizens are yearning for more jobs, more prosperity, and our kids continue to leave us in droves, it is simply a shame that this community is becoming known more for its devotion to radical environmental positions versus pro-business activities and focus."

Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima – who lobbied to attract the CITE project – disagreed that anti-business perceptions soured Pegasus on Las Cruces.

During a recent visit to Virginia in which Pegasus gave a presentation on CITE, Miyagishima said it became clear to him that key to the project's business plan was selling excess generated utilities, such as water and electricity. The Hobbs site had better access to water and electrical transmission lines, he said.

"As for us, our site is basically open desert," Miyagishima said. "They would have had to put in a lot of infrastructure."

Still, Miyagishima said he had hoped Las Cruces would have been selected. "Optimism is my middle name."

Where will YOU vote? A donde vas a votar?

Voting Information

In 2011, the State of New Mexico and Doña Ana County were required by law to redistrict. This process resulted in numerous changes, including the renumbering of precincts, creation of new precincts, adjustments to precinct boundaries and changes in state house, senate, county commission, municipal and local school district boundaries, as well.

Beginning with the June 5, 2012 Primary Election Doña Ana County will change from precinct based voting on Election Day to Voting Convenience Centers. As a registered voter in Doña Ana County you will be able to cast your ballot on Election Day at any one of the locations listed to the right.

Información de Votación

En 2011, el Estado de Nuevo México y el Condado de Doña Ana fueron obligados por ley hacer nuevos distritos. Este proceso dio lugar a numerosos cambios, incluyendo la nueva numeración de los precinctos, la creación de nuevos recintos, los ajustes a los límites del recinto y cambios en la Cámara del Estado, El Senado, la comisión del condado, municipales y locales y en los límites del distrito escolar, también. Comenzando con las elecciones primarias el 5 de Junio 2012 el Condado de Doña Ana cambiara el sistema de votación. En ves de tener zonas de votación el Condado de Doña Ana usara centros de votación de conveniencia. Como votante registrado en el Condado, usted podrá emitir su voto el día de elecciones en cualquiera de los lugares indicados a la derecha.

Important Dates (Fechas Importantes)

- May 19 -** Early In Person Voting begins
- June 2** at 6 locations around the county
Votacion temprana en persona comienza en 6 lugares en el condado
- June 5 -** Primary Voting begins
at Voter Convenience Centers
Elecciones primarias comienzan en centros de votacion conveniencia

For further information including May 19 early in person voting locations, please visit our website donaanacounty.org and click on "Elections" or call us at (575) 647-7428.


Para más información, incluyendo los lugares de votación temprana en persona comenzando el 19 de mayo, visite donaanacounty.org y haga clic en "Elections" o llámenos en (575) 647-7428.



Lynn Ellins
Doña Ana County Clerk

VCC (Vote at ANY Voting Convenience Center)

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609 Church St • Anthony
- BERINO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
92 Shrode Road • Berino
- BRANIGAN LIBRARY
200 E Picacho Ave • Las Cruces
- CAMINO REAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
2961 Roadrunner Pkwy • Las Cruces
- CHAPARRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
290 Lisa Dr • Chaparral
- CORBETT CENTER - NMSU
NMSU 2nd Floor Gallery • Las Cruces
- DAC GOVERNMENT CENTER
845 N Motel Blvd • Las Cruces
- DEL CERRO COMMUNITY CENTER
180 La Fe Ave • Mesquite
- DESERT HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
280 Roadrunner Pkwy • Las Cruces
- DESERT VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Jackye Meinecke, Owner, Enchanted Gardens

Creating raised beds for a water-wise vegetable garden. Will discuss various types of vegetables that grow best in our desert conditions.

For more information contact Water Conservation at 528-3549.

CLCTV.com www.las-cruces.org 

Deb Persinger and Cyndy Clark visit at Milagro Coffee y Espresso Wednesday, May 9, about their sons, who are both in the military and won't be home for Mother's Day Sunday, May 13. Persinger and Clark are active in the local chapter of Blue Star Moms, a group that offers support to family members of active-duty men and women in the armed forces.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson



Moms

Continued from page A1

has helped her deal with the separation and worries any caring mom has for a child who could potentially be in harm's way.

Although the Iraq War is over, the Afghanistan War continues and the post 9/11 world remains a dangerous place for the men and women of the armed services. This Mother's Day Sunday, May 13, across the country, there are many moms like Persinger.

No one really understands what those feelings are like other than other mothers of deployed soldiers, Persinger said.

"You deal with those feelings on a daily basis," she said. "I'm a person of strong faith ... I know that my son will be fine, but I know there's a chance something could happen, and if that turns out to be, then I'll know he'll be with the Lord."

At the local Blue Star Moms group – officially Doña Ana Moms Chapter 8 – Persinger has a special bond with one of its founding members Cyndy Clark, whose son Benjamin will be graduating from the Naval Academy at the end of this month. Their sons were friends at Las Cruces High School in the Junior Army ROTC unit.

Clark said her son joked that basic training wasn't as hard as summer practice under Las Cruces High School football coach Jim Miller. Likewise, Persinger's son said his father, Edward, had prepared him for strict discipline.

Clark brings previous Blue Star Mom experience to the group. Her oldest son, Richard, served in the National Guard, which paid for his college education.

Benjamin will go into Naval intelligence and is graduating from the Naval Academy with a fluency in Chinese. As part of his training, her son spent a summer in China, during which she rarely heard from him.

For Persinger, her son's service has taken him to such places as South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and now Japan. This latest time at sea has been so prolonged, her son told her during the recent phone call, he can't wait to touch the ground, she said.

The local Blue Star Moms – who number about 25 – meet at 9 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month at the American Legion Post 10 hall, 1185 E. Madrid Ave. They meet to plan such things as sending care packages to deployed soldiers. Recently, a returning soldier made a point to visit the group and thank them, saying how much they mean – especially when they included homemade cookies and other baked goods.

The local group has recently received national attention for sending quilts to the family members of the Navy SEALs helicopter unit that crashed August 2011 in Afghanistan.

Persinger said the Blue Star Moms meetings aren't all business. Sometimes, they are just a time for sharing mutual worries and concerns their children face, such as spouses having difficulties during the often lengthy deployments.

For more information about the local Blue Star Moms, Clark can be contacted by calling 649-9715.

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Silver linings



Jim Hilley
Deflections

"Sometimes you eat the bear. Well, sometimes it eats you."

I wonder if that line from "The Big Lebowski" has popped into Kathy Rodolph's head recently.

Last year at this time, the Aggie softball team was having its greatest year ever, winning the Western Athletic Conference tournament and advancing to the NCAAs, where New Mexico State University won its first game ever.

This season, after showing every indication of being just as good – splitting two games at No. 14 Arizona on March 21 – the Aggies suffered a series of devastating injuries at the beginning of conference play and limped to the end of the season, finishing seventh in the WAC standings.

It must be gut wrenching for the girls to have to sit and watch the WAC tournament May 9-12 at the NMSU Softball Complex.

If it's any consolation, it's no secret around Las Cruces that Rodolph has the team headed in the right direction.

That bear better watch its back.

...

Local golf fans are a little disappointed that Hobbs High School took home the 5-A New Mexico Boys Golf Tournament title Tuesday, May 8, at the NMSU Golf Course. The tournament showed, however, that there is some great young talent in the City of the Crosses.

Isaac Merry of Oñate High School, who finished fourth, still has his senior year ahead of him.

Davis Chung, competing for Las Cruces High School, tied for second, two strokes behind two-time champion (and NMSU signee) Kenneth Fadke of Hobbs. He was listed as a ninth-grader this year – yes, you read that correctly, he is only a freshman.

Chung looks like a ninth grader, but he sure doesn't golf like one.

...

Sunland Derby winner Daddy Nose Best wasn't a factor in the 2012 Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 5, but it was a great race to watch.

One of the pre-race favorites, Bob Baffert's Bodemiester, took an early lead and set a blistering pace through the first six furlongs and had a three-length lead after a mile. A very determined I'll Have Another wasn't going to throw in the towel though. The 15-1 long shot reeled in the leader and powered past for the win. Daddy Nose Best pegged at 14-1 odds finished 10th.

The next race in the fabled Triple Crown will be the Preakness, Saturday, May 19. I'll Have Another is already at the Pimlico Race Track.

With a win there, I'll Have Another would have a shot to become the first

See **Silver linings** on page A24

Vaqueros open third season

Pupfish visit Apodaca Park for pair of weekend games

By **Jim Hilley**
 Las Cruces Bulletin

With a young, enthusiastic manager, an imposing pitcher who soon may be headed to the big leagues and a renovated ball park, this may be the year the Las Cruces Vaqueros make some noise in Las Cruces and in Pecos League baseball.

New field manager Casey Dill has worked hard to put a winning team on the field.

"I've spent the last six months trying to recruit the best team I possibly could, that I think will help us win a championship here in Las Cruces," Dill said.

"I think we have the guys to do it.

"We've got guys from all over the country and all over the world, we have a couple of Japanese players, we have a Korean player, we actually have a player from Juárez in addition to guys from all over the U.S."

Dill said one player Vaquero fans will definitely want to see on the field is Blake Cull.

"He's going to be our opening

day starter, he's a 6-foot-7, left-handed pitcher who was briefly in the Arizona Diamondbacks organization," Dill said. "He took the year off because they found bone spurs in his elbow. He's using this as a comeback and hopefully, he can make it back to major league organization."

"He throws in the low 90s, has a really good curve ball, really good command and really good mound presence. Cull is a person who will make a big impact on the team."

Dill said he also expects good production from third baseman Randy Wells from Pittsburg, Calif.

"He can hit to all parts of the field, he's gap to gap, plays a tremendous third

base," Dill said. "For a big guy, he actually moves really well, he's a leader."

"He actually reminds me a lot of Pete Rose, how he played, he's 100 percent baseball, he's hard-nosed, he's in the dirt, he's hustling and running hard because he loves it. Randy Wells is going to have a big year for us."

Randy Wells said he was glad to be in Las Cruces.

“... this is probably the best offensive team I’ve ever been part of.”

CASEY DILL,
 Vaqueros field manager



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jim Hilley

Third baseman Randy Wells was singled out by field manager Casey Dill as a player to watch as the Vaqueros begin their third season in Las Cruces.

"I am loving it so far, it's a great town, great weather," he said. "I'm getting used to the elevation, but I like the town."

The third baseman is optimistic about the Vaqueros chances to win the Pecos League this year.

"We have a team, we got some good pitching, we are really good on defense," he said. "I think it's going to be a great season."

Dill said fans can expect his

teams to play opportunistic baseball.

"I was mentored by Tim Johnson, who managed in the big leagues for a few years," Dill said. "I was taught to let the guys play the first six innings of the ball game – that's their part of the game – if we get around to the sixth inning of the game and we have a tight ball game I have to try to manufacture

See **Vaqueros** on page A24

Trojan girls win 5-A tennis title

Champions' roots run deep at Mayfield High School

By **Craig Massey**
 Las Cruces Bulletin

It's back to the future for the Mayfield High School girls tennis team.

The squad had a look reminiscent of the past and also gave a glimpse of the future when it captured the Class 5-A state championship May 4-5, at Albuquerque.

It's Mayfield's first girls team tennis title in 21 years (the MHS boys won it all in 2010), and with the team made up mostly of freshmen and sophomores, more championships could be on the way.

Mayfield's girls entered the state championships as the No. 2 seed, while the Mayfield boys were No. 1. The Trojan boys finished third.

"This group of boys and girls set their sights on state at the beginning of the year," said MHS coach Judy Harlas. "They practiced hard and ran hard. They showed up early in the morning and many of them practiced twice a day."

See **Mayfield** on page A24

Victoria Smith, Brooke Coffeen, Laura Carbajal, Kelli Duran, Molly Olson, Rebeca Boyd, Lindsay Harlas and Ellie Williamson display the coveted blue trophy after winning the New Mexico Class 5-A girls tennis team championship in Albuquerque.

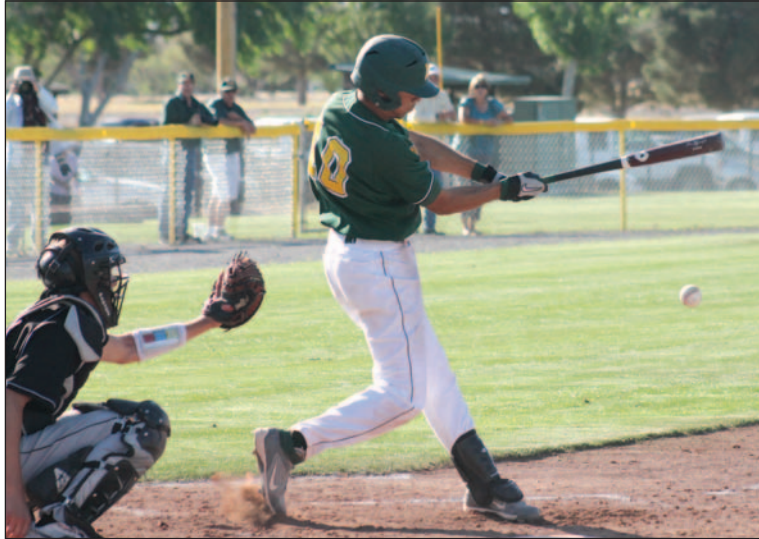
Photo by Michael Shemwell



Early exits in the High School playoffs

Photos by Zak Hansen

Mayfield High School's Jordan Lunsford hits a foul ball during a first round game in the New Mexico 5-A State Baseball Tournament Friday, May 4, at Apodaca Park. The Trojans lost the game and the series to the Hobbs Eagles 3-7 and 3-5.



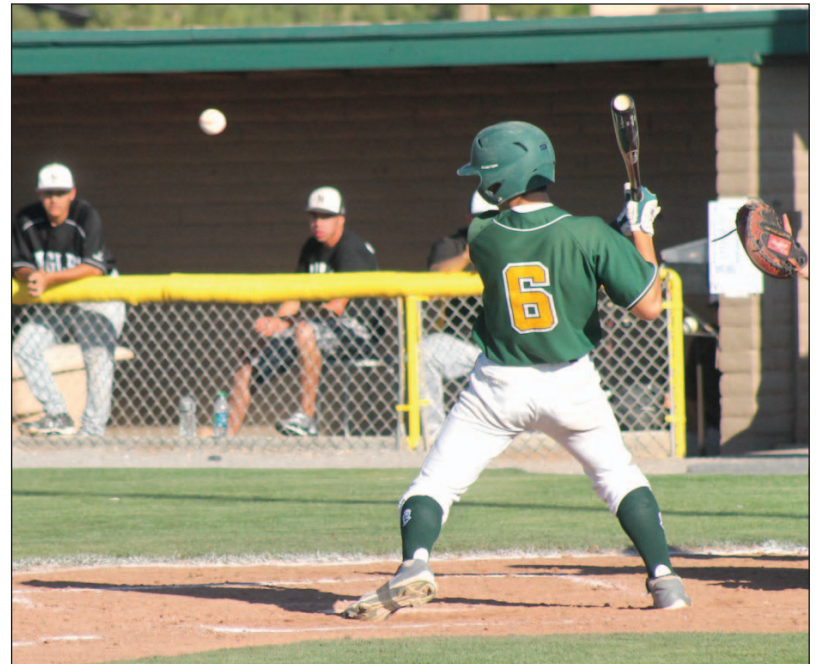
Mayfield players take a moment to raise team spirit during a game against the Hobbs Eagles. All three Las Cruces public high schools were eliminated in the first round of the state tournament Friday and Saturday, May 4-5. Las Cruces High School fell at Volcano Vista 4-3 and 12-2, while Oñate High School lost at Carlsbad 7-1 and 9-2.



Miguel Mesa safely slides into third base.



David Gamboa winds up a pitch against the Eagles.



David Montoya leans away from an inside pitch.

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Young guns



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jim Hilley

Oñate High School's junior Isaac Merry begins second round play in the New Mexico 5-A State Golf Championship Tuesday, May 8, at the New Mexico State University Golf Course. The tournament was won by Hobbs High School (304, 310 - 614) with Kenneth Fadke of Hobbs (68, 75 - 143) taking the individual title for the second straight year. Merry finished fourth in the tournament individually (70, 77 - 177) and Oñate finished second in team standings (303, 326 - 629). Davis Chung (69, 76 - 145), a freshman at Las Cruces High School, tied for second in the individual standings as the Bulldawgs finished in fifth place (304, 339 - 643).

Aggie rodeo highly ranked

NMSU qualifies 11 team members for national finals

By **Marvin Tessneer**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The women's Aggie Rodeo Team won first place and the men's took second in the Aggie Spring Rodeo held in a temporary arena in the New Mexico State University football stadium parking lot April 27-28.

The women scored 635 points for the lead and the men earned 1,020 to place second behind Mesa Community College with 1,025 points.

"We had a good crowd," coach Jim Dewey Brown said of the spring rodeo. "We held the rodeo in the parking lot to bring rodeos closer to the students."

The temporary arena also provided more parking spaces and access to vendors.

The Aggies earned its high ranking by winning or placing in several events.

Dixie Lea won the women's all-around title with 265 points, and Cody Mirabal earned third in the men's all-around with 225 points.

Cooper DeWitt won first place in saddle-bronc riding with 138 points. Trenton Montero won the bull riding

contest and earned 139 points in bareback riding for second.

The Aggie team ropers were outstanding during the spring rodeo. In the headers division, they placed from second to fifth: Rodee Walraven, 14.1 seconds; Mirabal, 14.4; Bo Simpson, 14.5; and Wade Baize, 14.8. The heelers took third to fifth, Thomas Eddy, 14.4; Kurtis Barry, 14.5; and Tyrel Jensen, 14.8.

The Aggies also scored well in the spring rodeo tie-down roping, Mirabal, third, 20.2 seconds; Bo Simpson, fourth, 22.2; and Rusty VanSoelen, 26.1.

The Aggie women won first and second in goat-tying: Dixie Richards, 13.1 seconds; Kendra Stineman, 14; and Brandi Pfeifer, fourth, at 14.9 seconds.

In break-away roping, Shelby Montano placed second, 4.9 seconds, and Nicole Sweazea and Dixie Richards shared third, 5.3 and 5.2.

The Aggie rodeo athletes also ended their 2012 Grand Canyon Region season with high rankings, the women in first place with 5,087 points and the men in second with 8,837. Nationally, the NMSU women are in first place while the men are second.

In all-around ratings, Montero placed second with 1,945 points and DeWitt third with 1,615. Pfeifer placed second in the women's all-around division with 1,120.

High Aggie individual region rankings and their point totals were:

Saddle-bronc, DeWitt, first 1,277; bareback riding, Montero, first, 1,105; Buckman, second, 1,014; bull riding, Montero, second, 690; tie-down roping, Simpson, fourth, 438; team roping header, Mirabal, second, 600; heeler, Eddy, second, 600; breakaway roping, Jessica Silva, first, 556; Sweazea, second, 446; and goat-tying, Pfeifer, first, 792.

NMSU is sending 11 Aggies to the College National Finals Rodeo slated for June 10-16 in Casper, Wyo., who qualified during the season, Brown said, DeWitt, Montero, Anthony Buckman, Reno Eddy, Mirabal, Walraven, Simpson, Sweazea, Silva, Pfeifer and Dixie Richardson.

Results from the earlier Frank DuBois Calf-Roping and Saddle Bronc Contests, Pacen Marez won the calf roping with an 8.9 in the showdown and Jeb Loney won the saddle bronc with a 76 in the short round, Brown said.

Ags host Fresno in final home series

Saturday is Senior Day for New Mexico State

The New Mexico State baseball team is playing its final home series of the season, taking on Fresno State in a three-game conference series, Thursday, May 10-12, at Presley Askew Field.

The game Friday, May 11, starts at 6:05 p.m. and Saturday's game begins at 1 p.m. Saturday is also Senior Day with 10 seniors on the team being honored.

As of Wednesday, May 9, the Ag-

gies had lost six straight games and were currently 30-17 on the year. They dropped out of the polls after falling in two consecutive games to top-ranked Baylor in Waco, Texas, April 27-28. They lost in Las Cruces to Texas Tech May 1, before traveling to Honolulu to be swept by the University of Hawai'i, which took first-place in the WAC from the Aggies.

Before the six-game slide, NMSU was ranked in at least one poll for four

consecutive weeks.

NMSU is currently 7-5 in league play and sits in a tie for second with Nevada in the WAC standings. The Aggies are hitting .308 on the year and .270 in WAC games. Their batting average at home stands at .341 with 32 home runs at Presley Askew Field.

The Aggies have gone 11-9 in the last 20 games with a .284 batting average during that time span.

Friday's and Saturday's games are scheduled to air over the radio waves in Las Cruces on KSNM AM 570.

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For more information contact Cori Johnson at 575-521-6454 or johnsonco@ernesthealth.com



Photo by Michael Shemwell
Jeremy Harlas displays his third-place singles medal.

Mayfield

Continued from page A21

The Mayfield boys and girls came into the tournament as district champions. The Las Cruces High girls and the Oñate boys finished second in district.

At the state tournament, Mayfield's girls beat Albuquerque High, 6-3, La Cueva, 5-4, and then Eldorado, 5-4, in the finals.

Sophomore Brooke Coffeen and freshman Lindsay Harlas joined forces to win the state doubles title.

"For Brooke and I, there was never any doubt in our minds that we would be there at the end," said Lindsay Harlas, the coach's daughter.

Las Cruces Bulletin

"We worked super hard. We wouldn't leave practice if it was less than perfect."

“ This is just a group of kids that worked hard to get better. ”

JUDY HARLAS,
MHS tennis coach

Lindsay said her playing style is a perfect fit with Brooke's.

"We have such different games," Lindsay said. "Brooke is awesome at the net, and I'm good at the baseline. She's more consistent, and I go after

it more. We both set each other up well, and we imagine every strategy. We've worked very hard at our phys-

ical and mental game."

The rest of the girls team includes freshmen Kelli Duran, Molly Olson and Jordan Gass; sophomores Ellie Williamson, Victoria Smith and Rebecca Boyd; and senior Laura Carbajal.

Friday, May 11, 2012

On the boys side, Mayfield's Jeremy Harlas (Lindsay's brother) took third in singles at state, and Wesley Seaton and Ryan Maki took third in doubles.

Judy Harlas was a standout for Mayfield in the early 1980s, and the last time the Mayfield girls won state, Harlas' sister, Chrissy Ross, was on the team along with Becca Galves and Tom Easterling.

Judy Harlas' niece, Chloe Lee of Albuquerque High, won the singles title this year.

"This was just a group of kids that worked hard to get better," Harlas said. "I would try to leave at the end of practice and they would want to hit more balls. Everything fell into place. It's been pretty awesome."

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Saturday, May 12 at 1PM
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Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jim Hilley
Vaqueros field manager Casey Dill tells his team to be mentally prepared for the upcoming season during practice at Oñate High School Wednesday, May 9.

Vaqueros

Continued from page A21

runs. That's when we'll bunt, we'll run, we'll steal.

"It's definitely an old-school type of baseball we'll play. I always build my teams around pitching and defense. With that being said this is probably the best offensive team I've ever been a part of."

The Vaqueros open the season at 7 p.m. Friday, May 11, in Alamogordo at the White Sands Pupfish. The teams will meet again for 7 p.m. games at Apodaca Park Saturday, May 12, and Sunday, May 13, before returning to Alamogordo for another game at 7 p.m. Monday, May 14. Tickets are \$6.

For more information, visit www.lascrucesvaqueros.com.

Silver linings

Continued from page A21

Triple Crown Winner since Affirmed in 1978 at the Belmont Stakes on June 9.

Wouldn't that be fun.

Though the NMSU baseball team has been on a losing streak lately, dropping two games at No. 4 Baylor, taking a loss at home to Texas Tech and falling in three games at Hawai'i, Aggie fans shouldn't be too concerned. Baylor is 27-3 at home and Hawai'i is 24-11.

The Aggies host Fresno State this weekend before traveling to Albuquerque for a non-conference game at the University of New Mexico Tuesday, May 15, and heading on the Bakersfield, Calif., for a game against UC-Bakersfield the next night. After that, they play their final regular season WAC series at San Jose May 18-20.

The WAC tournament will be in Mesa, Ariz., May 23-27.

Aggies earn WAC awards

Conference tourney is at NMSU Softball Complex

Two New Mexico State softball players, senior Shaleese Javillo and freshman Briana Tovio-Asato, earned All-WAC second team honors at the 2012 Western Athletic Conference softball awards banquet hosted by the Aggies Wednesday, May 9.

Javillo earned her first All-WAC honor as a member of the second team. Javillo transitioned from primarily a pinch runner and outfielder over the past two seasons to a middle infield starter midway through her senior year. She only committed one error on defense despite not playing infield since her high school career.

The Kohala, Hawaii, native's game blossomed this season as she started 19 games and led the Aggies with a .343 batting average in WAC play. Her on-base percentage of .423 is second on the team in WAC games this season.

She finished the year as the active leader in the WAC with 35 career stolen bases. In four seasons, Javillo boasts a career on-base percentage of more than .300, 15 RBI and 24 hits with five going for extra bases including two home runs.

"We are happy that the league recognized Shaleese and Briana for their hard work in WAC play," coach Kathy Rodolph said. "Shaleese really stepped up and excelled for us when we really needed her this season. She showed a lot of heart by playing out of position in her senior year."

Tovio-Asato joined Javillo as a member of the All-WAC second team. She led the Aggies in several offensive categories in conference play including doubles (5), total bases (26), walks (11), slugging percentage (.481) and on-base percentage (.455).

Tovio-Asato was second on the team with a .333 average behind only Javillo in WAC games. The third baseman led the Aggies with 35 assists on defense in league action.

For the year, Tovio-Asato started 51 games and played in 52 contests. She led NMSU with 11 doubles and 74 assists on defense. The Kapolei, Hawaii, native ranked second on the team with a .336 batting average, 45 hits, 25 walks and a .458 on-base percentage.

The freshman ended the year on a 13-game streak in which she reached base. Tovio-Asato led the Aggies with a 21-game streak earlier in the season in which she became a base runner in each contest. She also ranked second on the team with 13 multiple-hit games this season.

Tovio-Asato is the third NMSU freshman in four seasons to earn All-WAC honors, joining teammates sophomore Valerie Swedberg and senior Tiare Jennings.

New Mexico State is hosting the WAC Softball Tournament this week for the second time in three years, last hosting in 2010. The tournament began Wednesday, May 9, at the NMSU Softball Complex.

Although the Aggies will not participate in this year's tournament, fans can come out to the complex to enjoy games over four days ending with the WAC Championship game at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 12.

Fans may purchase tickets at the gate or call the NMSU Ticket Office at 646-1420.

Bulldawgs advance at the High school softball tourney

Photos by Nicolas Bañales



The Las Cruces High School Bulldawgs celebrate their 4-3 victory over Hobbs High School, Friday, May 4, at the Field of Dreams Softball Complex in the first round of the 5-A New Mexico High School Softball Tournament.

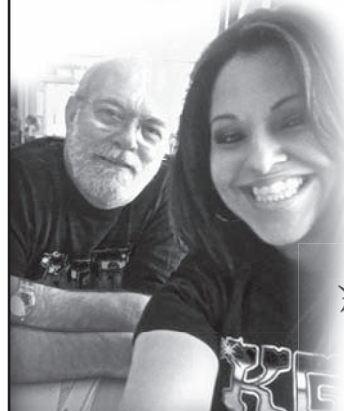
A.J. Lopez, 3, roots for his sister Tayler Lopez with Graizon Alaniz, 14.



Alyssa Montoya caught the strike out pitched by Erica Polanco.



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Mayfield High School

High School Athlete of the Week

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Myranda Willis

Myranda Willis is a 15-year-old freshman at Mayfield High School. She is a hitter on the Lady Trojan volleyball team, a post player on the basketball team, a left forward on the club soccer team and runs the 100m dash, 200m dash, the 4x100 relay and the 4x200 relay on the track team. She scored in every game during the basketball season as the freshman team went undefeated. Willis qualified for state in the 100m dash and the 4x100m relay. Her coaches state that she has a great attitude and work ethic. She gets along well with classmates and other team members. Most of Willis's time is spent in one sporting event or another. She enjoys spending time with family and friends outside of sports. She is a dedicated student, with a 3.50 GPA.



Manny Lopez

Manny Lopez is a 17-year-old junior at Mayfield High School. He is a pitcher and plays center field on the Trojan baseball team. Lopez has a pitching record of 4-1 this season and a batting average of .425. The current team record is 18-5. He is an excellent team leader. Lopez leads his team by setting a good example in practice and games. He makes good decisions on and off the field and is a dedicated student in the classroom. His interests outside of school are spending time with friends, camping, and working on his skills in baseball.

Onthegreen

Practice to learn; learn to practice

Either way practice makes permanent; so make yours intelligent practice for high-yield results



Charlie Blanchard
Golf Doctor

As promised, here is the fourth in the four-part series on how you can re-vamp your whole golf game. (I must add that you can also step up your game by coming to Performance Golf School on June 23-24 at Sonoma Ranch Golf Course.)

As any professional golf teacher will tell you, very few recreational golfers actually practice. I mean truly practice in terms of having a plan and going to the range in a disciplined fashion, preparing to play golf. They hit a few range balls and roll a couple of putts before stepping on the first tee, but they don't really spend time practicing.

Folks usually explain that it's a matter of time pressures.

"Look, I'm gone for about six hours playing my one round a week. I'd like to go to the range and practice, but I can't spare an extra few hours," a golfing doctor told me.

One partial answer is what I call "high-yield practice," an accelerated process that helps you get the most out of your limited time – and gives your game a boost. Even practicing for 45 minutes at a time, two times a week, will provide surprising – even dramatic – results.

The very first thing you need to do is practice with a purpose. Go to the range with a plan and a map of what you want to do – don't just beat out balls like a robot. Establish your goals and your game-improvement plan

and plan your shot sequence according to that plan.

If one of your weak areas is long iron shots, practice lining up 160- to-190 yard shots with long irons or hybrid clubs. Get comfortable with how you hit each club and decide which you would hit when the chips are down.

Have a pattern of clubs to go through in a disciplined manner.

Perhaps you like to start out with a pitching wedge. Well, then move to an 8 iron, then a 6 iron, then a hybrid, then with a fairway wood and then with a driver. Go through a progression, just like the pros do. Hit three balls with each club; and then start over again, if there's time.

Visualize the shots you would hit on the golf course, and swing the club like you mean it; like you would in competition. Estimate your distances and understand how far you hit each club under the conditions you are facing, such as wind and dry heat.

Without a rangefinder, estimate your distances and learn to play with a sense of feel. Most importantly, pick specific targets to hit at. Aim is critical on the golf course, so pay attention to aim in the practice area.

As you pay attention to aim and ball position, consciously notice your grip, posture and balance as you hit practice shots. Always

visit one basic fundamental each time you practice. Golf is all about fundamentals. Be aware of your fundamentals as you practice.

Next, make your short game a priority. After spending no more than 30 minutes on the range, go to the putting green and short-game area and practice short pitches, chips and longer putts.

If you watch tour professionals (LPGA and PGA) they tend to have a lot of confidence on short chips and pitches. That's because they practice those short shots endlessly;

they know they will have such shots in the tournament, from both tight and gnarly lies.

You need to do the same thing. Spend at least 10 minutes on short chips and pitches, until you get comfortable with what club you do the best with, and how to hit the shot with good results.

When you practice, whether it's on the range or on the putting green, use your customary pre-shot routine on your practice shots. Why? It will get your timing and movements so habitual

that they will seem second nature on the golf course. The whole idea of practicing is to create productive, natural and repeatable habits.

Don't beat out balls on the range and don't hit the same putt over and over again on the green; rather, go through your routine, hit the shot and assess the results as you would on the course. Dial in your various wedges. Know exactly the distance, in windless conditions, that you hit each of the clubs in your bag.

The real secret of practice is to groove a confident golf swing and eliminate mistakes.

I recommend using practice devices, such as alignment sticks, attachments to arms and knees and warm-up clubs like a Speed-stick and Orange-whip. Herb Wimberly and I urge our golfers to work on trouble shots so that you would be able to play shots from uphill, down hill, side hill and desert lies, as well as balls found in divots, behind trees or bushes and highly awkward lies like pine straw or rocks.

High-yield practice includes spending time on the putting green.

When I was in rehab following my injury and surgeries, I went to the practice green as soon as I was able, to get the feel of my putting stroke and to get back to golf. We played putting games for a few bucks, and that was the most helpful of all.

When there is money on the line, you take more time and pay greater attention to what you are doing. If you lose money, you spend time correcting the mistakes you made the last time. I enjoy games and putting competitions.

I think putting for "real" replicates the on-course conditions you probably will face and mostly makes you prepared for the mental challenges of having to make a six-footer.

As much as I believe in games on the putting green I also believe in training aids for a way to groove your putting stroke. Of course, my

favorites are the string line and the chalk line. I also like hitting a ball between two tees, the Eyeline putting mirror and especially putting drills.

Phil Mickelson got into putting drills when coach Dave Pelz urged him to make 100 consecutive three-foot putts. It took Phil several tries, but eventually he got it. That's why Phil rarely misses short putts.

At Performance Golf Schools we believe in the "80-20 Principle." That's where 80 percent of your mistakes and lost strokes happen because of the 20 percent of the shots you haven't practiced.

The 80/20 Principle applies on many areas of our life. Companies can trace 80 percent of their revenue to 20 percent of their customers. If you look at your investments, 80 percent of your monetary gains come from only 20 percent of your holdings. If you go to the gym, 80 percent of your progress is accountable from 20 percent of the machines you use.

Not that you should eliminate the other 80 percent of what you do, but only that you should realize where your greatest gains (and losses) are coming from.

In golf, you are wise to assess where most of your scoring shots are made and where most of your failures occur. Work on your trouble shots, and turn them into strengths. One of the ways you can make strengths out of weaknesses is to know where your weaknesses really are. Keep a small notebook and write down your common mistakes, what you need to work on and reminders of things to be aware of.

Whether it's practicing the piano, going to swimming practice or practicing golf, the essential purpose for practicing is to perform better when it counts the most. We practice to ingrain good habits to become proficient in techniques that should become automatic, while gaining confidence.


When we mention "habits" with the golf swing, we're talking about tempo, weight shift, release, balance and swing plane, to mention a few.

You can't (and shouldn't) keep track of those things when you're on the golf course with a scorecard and pencil.


And, of course, ideally, we should have a coach; but most casual golfers eschew coaching in favor of doing it themselves by trial and error. Error tends to get the upper hand.

Think about it. Wouldn't you want to get much-needed professional feedback about your swing and your putting from a reliable source? Not only will lessons (and golf school) save you a lot of time, your game is guaranteed to improve.

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




ATHLETE of the WEEK



Alex Newman

Junior, Softball

Junior right-handed pitcher Alex Newman pitched eight shutout innings at San Jose State, and she earned both a win and a save in two appearances. Her save tied NM State's single-season record of four. Newman allowed only five hits, struck out six and held SJSU to a .172 batting average.



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AggieInsider

Congratulations

Four graduates worthy of a special note



Jack Nixon
Jack's Corner

The semester is now at an end, and two commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 12, mark the academic achievements of thousands of Aggies, including four graduates from athletics I want to tell you about.

David Niumatalolo will receive a bachelor's degree in biology, but that is the tip of the Hawaiian iceberg. Niumatalolo from Kahuku, Hawaii, was named to the first team CoSIDA/Capital One Football Academic All-America Team.

His academic prowess is equaled by his gridiron contributions, as he led the Aggies in sacks with 12-1/2 big stops.

I think it is important to remind you that NM State student athletes graduate at a higher level than the average enrollee. From first class to last final, student athletes at NM State earn degrees at a 20 percent higher rate than the rest of the student body.

Kelli Goodan from Des Moines, N.M., is a name you recall from the Aggies' volleyball NCAA teams of this decade. Goodan will accept her advanced-degree diploma Saturday.

Her studies were in agriculture, and she also has completed her student teaching.

She was one of the most consistent players to toil for Mike Jordan. That farm life teaches perseverance and hard work. While hitting the books

for her master's degree, she also helped Jordan with coaching duties that put her on the road just like her days as an undergrad, but she stayed the course and will be on her way to a classroom of her own.

The other two athletic department grads come from men's basketball. Wendell McKines will have his degree in hand after a kaleidoscope of experiences in Las Cruces. A foot surgery, a wife, two NCAA trips and numerous awards for his on-court performances were some of the highlights for McKines in his stay in the Mesilla Valley.

I doubt those awards will be as treasured as the degree McKines has earned. His growth in his five years here tells me the degree will be put to good use when his double-double producing playing days are over.

The final grad I want to discuss is men's basketball associate head coach Paul Weir. He is getting his MBA to go with his "basketball Ph.D."

Weir has added classes here and there as he could through his run as Marvin Menzies' "doctor of defense," and the reward will be passed along Saturday.

The road for student athletes toward a degree is steeper than for the regular student. Mandatory practice time and travel that takes athletes away from classroom lectures makes the journey more difficult, but no less worth it.

Congratulations to all the grads this spring.

Life's lessons learned

Aggies didn't pack it in during a tough season



Kathy Rodolph
Softball Head Coach

This time of year, Aggie softball is usually preparing for a championship run in our conference tournament.

The chance to advance to postseason is what all competitive athletes, coaches and fans dream about – a dream we realized in 2011 with WAC regular season and WAC Tournament Championships.

While NM State is hosting the 2012 WAC Softball Tournament here in sunny Las Cruces this week, our Aggies will not compete for a repeat title. Unfortunately, we did not compete well enough in the early part of our conference schedule to earn the right to be there.

There are numerous reasons why. In fact, in my 25 years of coaching, I have never seen a team besieged by more injuries or illness at a worse time in the season.

On March 20, these Aggies were 18-12 and receiving votes in major polls when they rode into Tucson, Ariz., and upset No. 14 Arizona, a feat NM State softball had not accomplished since 2000.

When we arrived in Provo, Utah, to begin WAC play against BYU on March 23, we had lost both starting middle infielders to ACL tears so our pregame practice was a tryout session for new middle infielders. We had five starters and three reserve players struggling to recover from illness.

In a matter of days, the fate of our 2012 season changed.

One of the many reasons I love college athletics is because it is often a microcosm of life's greatest lessons. Our lessons this year were painful and yet curiously out of our control.

Everyone associated with Aggie softball could have packed it in and most would have understood that the circumstances that befell us were too steep a hill to climb.

We were swept in the first three conference series we played. Reeling from our fate and grappling with what to do next, we made a collective decision: We would accept our circumstances, face the wind together and keep swinging.

I am proud of the way these Aggies fought. The Aggies swept both rivalry series with UTEP and New Mexico for the first time in my tenure. No easy feat as UNM was ranked No. 23 at the time.

They recovered to win their last two WAC series against Utah State and San Jose State. They played for nothing but the pride of their jersey and the community they represent. I wish this was an account of a comeback journey to repeat as WAC Champions, but that is not the lesson of 2012.

Aggie Pride will take you places.

This year, it was not a place of championships rather lessons in unity and circumstance.

We are still hosting the WAC Softball Championships. We hope you'll join us for some of the finest softball in the country. Here is a peek at what you can expect at the WAC Softball Championships this week in Las Cruces:

Fresno State softball is the only college softball team to make it to every NCAA postseason. Head coach Margie Wright, one of the winningest coaches in all of college softball, will coach her final season at the helm of Fresno State softball.

The Rainbow Wahine from Hawai'i will attempt another championship run as they did in 2010 when they reached the Women's College World Series. The BYU Cougars are competing for another run at the NCAA postseason. Nevada will also compete for the last time under the WAC umbrella.

This Week

In Aggie Athletics

Friday, May 11

Baseball
Fresno State
Las Cruces
6 p.m.

Track and Field

WAC Championships
Moscow, Idaho
All day

Women's Golf

NCAA West Regional
Erie, Colo.
All day

Saturday, May 12

Baseball
Fresno State
Las Cruces
1 p.m.

Women's Golf

NCAA West Regional
Erie, Colo.
All day

Tuesday, May 15

Baseball
New Mexico
Albuquerque
6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16

Baseball
CSU Bakersfield
Bakersfield, Calif.
7 p.m.

Aggie student-athlete spotlight



Kelsey Dodd
Freshman
Softball

Freshman infielder Kelsey Dodd led the Aggies at the plate at San Jose State. She hit .571 with a pair of doubles and a pair of singles and batted in a team-high three runs. Dodd also led the

Aggies in on-base percentage at .700.



Michael Ormseth
Junior
Baseball

Junior Michael Ormseth only allowed one run in the series finale at Hawai'i, May 5. He suffered his first loss of the season (7-1) after recording four strike outs in seven innings

of action in the Aggies' 1-0 loss.



Justin Shin
Junior
Men's golf

Junior Justin Shin finished second at the 2012 WAC Championships after a final round score of 1-over par, 73. At the end of the final round, Shin was tied for the lead but fell on the first

playoff hole. He was named a first team All-WAC selection.



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A hearty farewell at *Charley Johnson's retirement*

Photos by Nicolas Bañales

Joe Creed, Charley Johnson and George Mulholland celebrate at Johnson's retirement party at the Klipsch Museum, Tuesday, May 8. Johnson was a chemical engineering professor at New Mexico State University. Johnson's storied sports career included being an award-winning NMSU and National Football League quarterback.



Johnson is presented by Carol Dyer, with an autographed football signed by fellow classmates, teammates and faculty.



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SportsBriefs

'Blazers bow out

The Mesilla Valley Christian Schools SonBlazers were eliminated from the New Mexico 2-A Baseball Championships with a 5-0 loss to Loving, N.M., Wednesday, May 9, at Cleveland High School in Rio Rancho. The SonBlazers had advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Santa Fe Prep 7-3 last week at Apodaca Park.

Shin and Fullerton selected for tournament

New Mexico State University men's golfers junior Justin Shin and senior Zachery Fullerton were selected to compete in the 2012 NCAA Regional Tournament at the Stanford Golf Course, May 17-19.

Shin competed in 12 tournaments for the Aggies in 2011-12, averaging 70.8 strokes per round, and recorded 23 rounds of even or under par golf during the season. Shin finished in second place three times in 2011-12 and recorded seven top-five finishes. He finished second at the 2012 WAC Championships April 30-May 2, with a three-round score of 5-under par, earning first team All-WAC honors.

Fullerton competed in 10 tournaments for the Aggies in 2011-12, averaging 73.3 strokes per round, with a low round of 62. He carded 12 rounds of even or under par golf for the season. Fullerton had two top-five and four top-10 finishes, including two tournament victories.

Ag softball signs catcher

New Mexico State University softball head coach Kathy Rodolph announced that Tatum Reedy, a talented catcher from Goodyear, Ariz., signed a National Letter of Intent this week to play at NMSU beginning the 2012-13 season.

Reedy is a four-year starter from Estrella Foothills High School in Goodyear. Primarily playing behind the plate on defense, she has also seen time at third base. Reedy is both a right-handed thrower and batter.

With a grade point average of more than 4.0, Reedy is also accomplished in the classroom. She currently ranks sixth in her class. She is a peer mediator and was selected as a member of the superintendent student advisory council (SSAC) at Estrella Foothills. Reedy

has also volunteered with the Special Olympics in her free time. She is the daughter of Robert and Sheri Reedy.

Reedy is the third player Rodolph signed to next year's recruiting class joining fall signees Emma Adams, a senior utility from Cibola High School in Albuquerque, and Makayla McAdams, a senior pitcher from Ironwood Ridge High School in Tucson, Ariz.

NMSU Equestrian signees announced

New Mexico State Equestrian head coach Audrey Buck announced the signing of three additional student-athletes to National Letters of Intent. Julianna Ball will join the Hunter Seat squad, while Courtney Cruse and Rianna Storey joins the Western line up.

Primarily focusing her attention in the jumper arena, Ball, a native of Malibu, Calif., has been competing nationally and internationally for the past nine years. Under the tutelage of Karen Healey, Ball has won numerous championships on the west coast.

Cruse hails from Pilot Point, Texas and has multiple top awards with the Appaloosa Horse Club. She was the 2011 National High Point All-Around Non Pro rider for the Appaloosa Horse Club while also securing high point titles in Western Horsemanship, Trail, Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle. Cruse is the daughter of Steve Cruse and Karen Scarberry.

Storey, a native of Cambridge, Ontario, has been a very successful rider at the top level of the AQHA show circuit in the all-around events. She was the 2010 AQHA Youth World Cup Silver Medalist in Horsemanship and placed sixth in the Hunt Seat Equitation while riding for the Canadian team. A regular participant at the All American Quarter Horse Congress, Storey has multiple top 10 placings and one Congress Champion title in Showmanship. Storey is the three time All-Around Youth for the Ontario Quarter Horse Association and has earned the AQHA Youth Performance Champion award on two different horses. She is a multiple qualifier to the AQHYA World Championship Show and earned the prestigious AQHA Youth Supreme Champion title. She is the daughter of Randy and Robyn Storey.



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Rachel Christiansen

Doug Parten, operations manager of the Pan American Center, forklifts equipment to the stage Wednesday, May 9, in preparation for graduation ceremonies for Doña Ana Community College and New Mexico State University.

NMSU to graduate 2,215

About 1,500 expected at commencement

New Mexico State University's spring 2012 commencement ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at the Pan American Center.

Of 2,215 students who filed bachelor's and graduate degree applications this semester, approximately 1,500 are expected to participate in the ceremony. They will be joined by family, friends and the NMSU community.

The university will recognize Judy Gray Johnson and Bill Sheriff with honorary doctorates during the ceremonies.

The morning graduation ceremony will

include undergraduate and graduate degree candidates from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and the College of Health and Social Services.

The afternoon ceremony will include candidates from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business and the College of Extended Learning.

For full information, including a map with designated parking areas, visit the NMSU commencement website at www.nmsu.edu/commencement.

Pan Am crew gets ready

Center abuzz in graduation preparations

By Rachel Christiansen
Las Cruces Bulletin

The day parents, family and friends get to see their loved ones grace the stage to accept a degree proving years of hard work finally paid off is worth a thousand memories to all those involved.

But that day would not be as memorable without those who work behind the scenes to make it so – planning, cleaning, organizing and working their tails off to make everything go off without a hitch.

"Graduation day is sometimes the first time these families have seen NMSU, so we want to make sure everything is perfect," said Shacoy Parra, guest services manager at New Mexico State University's Pan American Center.

Parra and her crew began preparing the Pan Am two weeks before the commencement ceremonies of Doña Ana Community College, NMSU and Gadsden, Las Cruces, Mayfield and Oñate high schools.

With a total of seven graduations to accommodate, all chairs, floors and stage set up must be up to par for each one – a difficult task with back-to-back graduations scheduled for both the NMSU ceremonies Saturday, May 12, and the high school graduations Saturday, May 19.

"We will probably be working overnight to make sure all the floors are waxed and ready to go," said custodial supervisor Loretta Ramirez.

The 50-member crew holding down the Pan Am will be awaiting arrival of the expected 9,000 guests for the NMSU graduations alone.

"A lot of our crew members are also students who have their own schedules and finals to work around as well," Parra said.

With this year's first set of NMSU graduates set to take the stage at 9 a.m., an hour earlier

than years past, the crew will start morning-of preparations at a bright and early 6 a.m.

As a full-service event center, the Pan Am not only hosts graduations, but Aggie sports games, concerts and other events as well.

Over the years, the crew has learned some important lessons on what it takes to make graduation day go as smoothly as possible.

"A few years ago, we had a circus in here right before the graduations," Parra said. "It's not easy to get rid of the smell of elephant."

In December 2009, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra made an appearance at the Pan Am two days prior to the graduations, causing a bit of panic over the smoke that still lingered from the show.

According to Parra, the few days before the graduations are now blocked off so as to not have any of those previous issues.

When the doors finally open to accept the incoming crowd waiting to see their graduates, the guest service crew will be there to help everyone navigate their way to a seat with a smile on their faces.

"That's probably the hardest part is just making sure everyone is happy and knows where they are going," said Brittany Burlbaw of guest services.

In order to have a pleasant ceremony for everyone involved, the Pan Am does prohibit certain items from being used while graduation is in progress. Any type of noisemakers, silly string or beach balls are not allowed.

"It would be a shame for someone to miss their graduate's name being called because of the noise," Parra said.

Although the crew is in for some days filled with long hours to ensure everyone's graduation experience is memorable, they all know it's worth it to the parents and family of the hard-working graduates.

Septic tank help available

More than 50 homes already modernized

The Office of the Natural Resource Trustee (ONRT) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) have an ongoing project to assist indigent households within the Middle Rio Grande Basin eliminate illegal cesspools or substandard household septic systems that threaten water quality and public health.

ONRT has funded the project with \$230,000 from natural resource damage settlements from hazardous substance contamination sites.

NMED administers the project by recruiting and screening indigent households, and permitting, overseeing and inspecting the work done by a licensed

construction contractor.

A pilot project in Doña Ana County funded by an appropriation from the Legislature has already been completed. More than 50 indigent households have had modern septic systems installed on their property, or have been connected to public sewer.

The 2009 Legislature created the Liquid Waste Disposal System Assistance Fund in the state treasury to provide assistance to indigent households statewide. Unfortunately, money has not been available to appropriate into the fund since its creation.

More information on the program is available by calling the NMED offices in Santa Fe at 800-219-6157.

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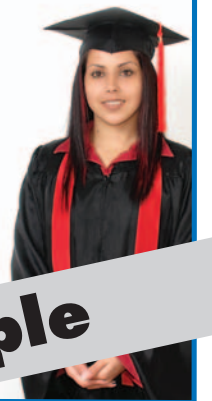
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Looking Back



This week in the history of the Mesilla Valley



Jim Hilley
Reflections

100 years ago

1912

• In the Rio Grande Republican: "Found: Ladies handbag containing the following articles: seven Superenos cigarettes; package of Bull Durham; box safety matches; two corkscrews; gold breast pin; two packages of cigarette papers; one door key; handful of matches; two purses, one containing \$0, and the other containing \$0 bill. Owner can have same by proving property and paying this notice."

• A meeting of residents of Mesilla Park, the state college and other neighborhoods approved an opinion that it was useless to appeal the recent 33-percent increase in telephone rates, and the formation of an independent telephone company should commence, first to serve the small communities and farmers in the valley and eventually Las Cruces.

75 years ago

1937

• Shenk's Bakery advertised Mother's Day Cakes "decorated just for mother" for 30 and 75 cents. Ideal Dog Food was 3 for 25 cents and bologna was 20 cents.

• A baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Ritter of Mesilla Park at Southwestern General Hospital in El Paso.

• Extension Director George Quesenberry returned from the Socorro area, reporting the area was likely to have good crops due to plenty of moisture. He also reported the San Marcial and Val Verde areas were badly damaged by flooding.

• Visiting and local dignitaries were planning to attend the grand opening of the new Mission Theatre in Mesilla Park. Many socially prominent families had requested reservations. E. Carl Holmes would be master of ceremonies for the fireworks display, variety show and musical gala planned for the event.

50 years ago

1962

• Maj. Gen. John Shinkle, commanding general at White Sands Missile Range, said the future looked bright for the facility. Besides expanded testing at the range, Shinkle said two probable construction projects included a \$1.8 million Army health facility and a \$1.4 million nuclear effects laboratory. The base was also expecting a budget increase of around \$8.5 million in fiscal year 1963.

• Capt. Donald Campbell, a speech and drama specialist, jet fighter pilot and New Mexico State University Air Force ROTC instructor was chosen to narrate the Las Cruces Symphony's performance of "Peter and the Wolf."



Photo reproduced courtesy of the New Mexico State University Library Rio Grande Historical Collection.

Floods along the middle Rio Grande Valley in April and May of 1937 were the final blow to the once bustling community of San Marcial, between Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences) and Socorro. This view is of the inundated railroad section headquarters near the small community, looking west. These section crew dwellings were damaged by flooding in 1929, but the second stories were occupied until the 1937 flood.

25 years ago

1987

• The Doña Ana Arts Council's second annual Mesilla Valley Treasure Award was given to Opal Lee Priestley, a local author and advocate for Branigan Memorial Library, where she was a trustee.

• Technicians at White Sand Missile Range were preparing an 88-foot diameter dome to house 4,800 tons of ammonium-nitrate and fuel oil that would be exploded in a test of how military hardware, vehicles and structures would react to an air-blast and ground-shock environment.

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

The New Mexico State University Library Archives & Special Collections Department needs your help!

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Rep visits early college high school

Low dropout rate impresses Pearce

By Adam R. Baca
for the Las Cruces Bulletin

Arrowhead Park Early College High School welcomed Rep. Steve Pearce on Friday, May 4, for a tour of the young school located on the New Mexico State University campus.

Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent Stan Rounds led the tour that allowed Pearce to see the students at work and get an idea of what APECHS is all about.

"It's a pretty exciting thing as a policy maker," Pearce said.

Pearce walked into multiple classrooms to see what the students and teachers were up to. He even offered help to students busy at work and gave them the chance to ask questions.

The school first opened its doors in August 2011 with 118 freshmen. There are currently 232 students at the school, comprising only freshman and sophomores.

"I've been adding about 120," APECHS principal Jennifer Amis said about the number of students added each semester. She said she already has another 120 students confirmed for the next semester.

This is the first early college high school in New Mexico and could be used as a model for places around the state as it has proven to reduce dropout rates. According to the communications director for LCPS, Jo Galván, early college high schools typically have a dropout rate of 5 percent or less.

Pearce said New Mexico currently has a dropout rate of about 30 to 40 percent and something needs to be done to bring down the number.

"We can't do that anymore," Pearce said. "Dropouts are very expensive."

Currently, APECHS has not had one single dropout, Amis said. The national dropout rate for early college high schools is significantly lower than that of normal high schools.

Galván said when students dropout it can be costly. If dropouts decide to come back to school, they have to be re-taught alongside other incoming students.

"That has a big impact on having to re teach," Galván said. "It all trickles back."

"Our thesis was to cut dropout rates to zero," Rounds said.

Another positive aspect of APECHS is students are able to earn college credit while working toward their high school diploma, at no cost, since it is funded by the state. It is even possible for some students to leave APECHS with a high school diploma as well as an associate's degree.

“ Dropouts are very expensive. ”

STEVE PEARCE,
U.S. representative

"I think it's a really good opportunity for me," said Breeze Duran, a freshman at APECHS. "It saves money on college."

The reason some students may walk away with an associate's degree along with their high school diploma is because of dual-credit classes.

If a student takes a biology class at APECHS, not only do they get a standard biology credit, but also college credit for biology 101G, Amis said.

"Whenever I graduate, I'll have my associate's degree in applied science, and in two more years I can get my bachelor in mechanical engineering," Duran said while her classmates were trickling into the classroom and finding seats.

"They are achieving excellence beyond our expectations," Amis said. "The kids are really doing well."

Not only does APECHS give students

the opportunity to receive college credit at no cost, students are given the opportunity to be even more prepared for the workforce once they are graduates.

"These kids have chosen to focus on a strict academic program," Galván said. "They have a goal before they even arrive."

Galván said sometimes, if a graduate is not properly trained for the workforce, then the workforce has to pay for training the student could have received at APECHS. This is another way the program helps to save money.

Students must apply in order to be accepted into the APECHS, Amis said. She said she always sits down with applicants and their parents to make sure it is what the students want. It does not cost anything to attend the school.

At APECHS, there are no athletic or music programs that traditional schools would offer, Amis said. Instead, students can focus on a certain career path to help better prepare them for college or the workforce.

"The students graduating have to be ready to go," Pearce said.

APECHS may be the first early college high school in New Mexico, but Pearce said he would like to see more of them built throughout the state.

"This is becoming a model for the state of New Mexico," Galván said. "There has been a lot of interest in Arrowhead Park."

"We should be converting more of our schools," Pearce said.

APECHS classes have a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"We want to be able to replicate another one in another year or two," Galván said.

She said a second early college high school would be near the current school and would focus on preparing students for health-related jobs such as nursing and medical technologies.

"The more options we have for students, the better off they are," Amis said.



Photo for the Las Cruces Bulletin by Adam Baca
U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce talks to Douglas Laird and Mario Alderete during engineering class Friday, May 4, at Arrowhead Park Early College High School on the New Mexico State University campus. With a strong academic focus in a collegiate setting, the school has yet to have a student drop out.

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Mesilla Valley Hospital is celebrating! First, we would like to congratulate our staff and physicians on a successful accreditation survey from the Joint Commission. We are also celebrating National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week, May 6-12.

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Army photo

Gilbert Sanchez, a computer technician with Advanced Systems Development on White Sands Missile Range, readies new tablets for use by data collectors during the Network Integration Evaluation exercises being held this month.

Tablet PC to replace paper NIE brings technology to the battlefield

The Army Test and Evaluation Command is beginning to replace paper with digital data collection options in preparation for the next Network Integration Evaluation (NIE) at White Sands Missile Range.

NIEs are large scale evaluation events designed to mature the Army's tactical network, a wireless computer network that provides the soldier with new and improved methods of communication.

Part of the Army's agile acquisition process, the evaluation takes systems, devices and other equipment under consideration and places them in the hands of soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, under the Brigade Modernization Command.

Over the course of the evaluation, which is the largest of its kind, soldiers take the systems and attempt to use them as they would during actual operations in theater. Data collected from the systems' performances can then be given to Army leaders, allowing decision makers to more rapidly determine if a system is ready for use, in need of further development or in need of cancellation.

One of the challenges of this data collection process is accurate test officer observations and timely soldier feedback. NIE evaluations can easily fill an entire day with soldiers and test officers conducting missions, troubleshooting systems under evaluation and coordinating solutions with system developers.

Under the previous system, soldiers and test officers would have to write their observations and notes by hand in the field and then transcribe them into a computerized database at the end of the day.

"The idea behind the tablets is saving time for the user," said Maj. Bradley Stremlau, an evaluation officer with ATEC's Army Evaluation Center. "In the old days, we just had pen and paper and the soldiers and test officers were just writing their observations down, and they'd still have to go to a network kiosk and input all this data. So you would have 20, 30 or 40 pages of notes you'd have to input."

After a long summer day of operations in the New Mexico desert, sitting down at a computer late at night to accurately copy over notes can be daunting. Using the tablets, data collectors can instead just visit the nearest network kiosk and upload their day's notes.

"There are going to be eight kiosks, or data collection sites, up range through the NIE, all throughout the range, and the object of the game is, the soldiers or data collectors will take their tablet to this kiosk, hook it up to the

network and then download their day's work," said Fil Macias, chief of the networks and control division of the Systems Integration Directorate.

As WSMR is currently installing a wireless test network for the range, it's expected that eventually the kiosks will be able to be reduced in number or eliminated as well, replaced with the wireless network and data collection apps.

"Hopefully in the future as our wireless capabilities come up they'll be able to drive by and the tablet will pick up the signal and download the information automatically," Macias said.

While the tablets aren't a system being formally tested as part of the NIE, WSMR engineers are going to be looking at the tablets' performance to see where else on the range they could apply similar technology.

"When we started, engineers being engineers, we wanted an Android app or an Apple app. We're not there yet," Macias said. "But as we progress eventually we'll make those services; eventually we'll have those on our cloud. The exciting thing about this program is it provides an actual application and provides a trajectory for the future."

It's expected that eventually the tablets could become standard issue for many of WSMR's data collectors, even those not working on NIE projects.

The tablets will be taking this summer's NIE by storm, having already been issued to the NIE's other major players at Army Materiel Command, the System of Systems Integration Directorate and ATEC's Operational Test Command.

"We're working with a lot of different communities," Macias said. "We're working with Army Materiel Command, Brigade Modernization Command, Information Technology Engineering Directorate, System of Systems Integration, White Sands Missile Range Materiel Test, and we proved that ATEC as an enterprise can function."

To ensure that all the personnel from the different NIE organizations are prepared to use the new devices, more than 150 of them were shipped out of White Sands to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Fort Bliss, Texas, for training operations being conducted this month.

"I think the data collectors are excited to finally have some technology in their hands to help them collect data at NIE. They see this as a tool that will make their jobs easier and more efficient," Stremlau said.

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SeniorActivities

Programs at Munson Senior Center are for those age 50 and over. Membership is free and required to participate in classes and activities.

Call the Munson Senior Center at 528-3000 or check postings at the facility, 975 S. Mesquite St., for information on ongoing programs.

AQUATICS CLASS

Aquatics class is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.

Classes are walk in, but registration with Senior Programs is required. Donation suggested.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

A registered nurse provides blood pressure checks at the following times and locations. Donation suggested.

- 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.
- 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays at the Benavidez Community Center, 1045 McClure Road
- 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo St.
- 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Thursdays at Frank O. Papen Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.

THE VOYAGERS TRAVEL CLUB

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

Trips currently being booked include:

- **Ruidoso, Lincoln, Billy the Kid:** Wednesday through Friday, May 30-June 1. Cost: \$240 single, \$274 double
- **High Rolls Day Trip:** Monday, June 18. Cost is \$35 per person, lunch included.
- **Colorado Springs/Pikes Peak Cog Train:** June 25-29, Cost: \$475 double, \$500 single.
- **New Orleans:** Nov. 10-18.

Motor coach. Cost: \$1,080 single, \$810 double

- **Canada/New England cruise:** Oct. 10-20
- **Australia/New Zealand cruise:** March 4, 2013
- **Niagara Falls/Toronto:** Sept. 23-26, 2013. Cost: \$1,647 double, includes air and motor coach. For more information, call Helen Glover at 528-3166.

STAINED GLASS

Beginning and advanced stained-glass classes meet at 8:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Intermediate stained-glass class meets at 1 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Center. Registration is required.

LINE DANCING CLASSES

Beginning line dance classes for anyone over 50 are held from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. each Monday and intermediate line dance classes are held from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. each Friday at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Donations are accepted. For more information, call 528-3000.

T'AI CHI CLASSES AT MUNSON CENTER

T'ai chi classes are from 3 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Classes are drop in. Donation suggested.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

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

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

the discount.

Classes are held on a first-come, first-served basis. The next available class is from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, at Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle.

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

CITY RECREATION SCHEDULE

The City of Las Cruces offers recreation and fitness classes at city recreation and community centers.

The following classes are held at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave.

- **Aerobics:** 9:20 to 10:20 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Yoga:** 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Pilates:** 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Pickleball:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Paddles may be rented for \$1.
- **Indoor Cycling:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The following class is held at Benavidez Community Center, 1045 McClure Road:
 - **Zumba:** 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. For more information, call 541-5185.

The following classes are held at the Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.

- **Aquatic Fitness:** 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Safe Strength Gentle Cardio Water Workout:** 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays
- **Water Fitness for Non-Swimmers:** 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays
- **Senior Aquatics Class:** 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Classes are drop-in, but seniors must be registered with Las Cruces Senior Services.
- **Aqua Fit:** 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays
- **Aqua Zumba:** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays
- **Relax and Stretch:** 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays

For more information, call 541-2782.

The following class is held at the East Mesa Recreation Center, 5589 Porter Drive:

- **Zumba:** 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 382-1662.

All classes are \$2. For more information, call 541-2550.

SWINGING DANCERS

The Swinging Dancers of Munson Center will meet at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Couples, individuals and guests are welcome. Entertainment will be provided by Jim Corrons.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., dancing begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$6.

For more information, call 528-3000.

QUILTERS MEET

The Munson Quilters meet from 9 to 11 a.m. each Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Quilters over age 50 of all levels are encouraged to participate. On Fridays, work is done on quilts donated to local organizations.

SENIOR GAMES MEETING IS MAY 12

The Doña Ana County Senior Game's annual meeting and registration for the July

25-29 games will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. All athletes who participated in the 2012 local games are encouraged to attend. Ice cream will be served. For information, call the games office at 541-5171.

50+ WALKING GROUP

The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department invites individuals age 50 and older to join the 50 Plus Walking Group each Tuesday and Thursday during May. The group will meet at 9 a.m. for walks at the following locations:

- Tuesday, May 15: Veterans Memorial Park, 2651 N. Roadrunner Parkway
- Thursday, May 17: Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, under the pavilion
- Tuesday, May 22: The Bean Café, 2011 Avenida De Mesilla
- Thursday, May 24: Tony Gomez Park, 2010 S. Espina St.
- Tuesday, May 29: Las Cruces Dam, behind Albertsons and Office Max off Lohman Avenue
- Thursday, May 31: Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave., at the old swimming pool. No walks will be held during June and July, but

the program will resume in August. The walks are free of charge and less than two miles in distance. Walkers also can meet at Meerscheidt Recreation Center at 8:30 a.m. and follow city staff in their own vehicles to the sites.

For more information, call Meerscheidt Recreation Center at 541-2563 or the Parks and Recreation Administrative Office at 541-2550. The TTY number is 541-2772.

SENIOR ART SHOW

The annual Senior Art Show will be from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 16, at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

Senior amateur artists can submit up to three pieces for display at the show and for one month in Las Cruces City Hall.

The show is open to artists age 50 and older who engage in an art solely for personal enjoyment.

Artists must complete an entry form and a signed liability disclaimer. Artists must provide all display materials and easels

Entry forms are available at: Munson Center; Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo St.; Benavidez Community Center, 1045 McClure Road; and the Frank O'Brien Papen Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.

For more information, call 528-3000.



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Bible Read-a-thon a success



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Martha Beltran reads from the Letters of Peter, Monday, May 7, at Albert Johnson Park as a Bible Read-a-thon nears completion after more than four days of reading the Bible aloud. Following along is Las Cruces Civitan President Charles Wendler, who brought the Bible Read-a-thon idea to the National Day of Prayer events after learning of an Alamogordo Bible Read-a-thon. Wendler and his wife Isela began the Read-a-thon the evening of Thursday, May 3, with less than 20 readers signed up. But readers began showing up Friday, May 4, and a steady stream of readers continued around the clock over the weekend, Wendler said. Beltran said she learned of the Read-a-thon through her church's newsletter. The Civitan group sponsored the Read-a-thon as an exercise of religious and speech freedoms. The Las Cruces Civitan group's next meeting is at 6 p.m. Monday, May 14, at the Los Compas Restaurant, 1120 Commerce Drive, where it meets the second and fourth Monday of each month.



The former Saturn dealership at 860 N. Telshor Blvd., will be opened as Lithia Dodge.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Richard Coltharp

Dodge dealership returns Lithia to open in former Saturn location

Bulletin Staff Report

By Independence Day, Las Cruces looking to buy a Dodge Ram truck or a Dodge automobile will no longer have to leave town.

The new Lithia Dodge dealership will open its doors by mid to late June at 860 N. Telshor Blvd., in the building previously occupied by a Saturn dealership.

"We're going to hire 20 to 25 people just to get started," said Mary Ann Mason, Lithia's regional personnel manager in Medford, Ore.

Those positions – which will include jobs in finance, sales, technical service, parts, repair, office work and more – could be filled at a job fair Lithia will host from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, May 22-23, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 S. Don Roser Drive.

"We're going to need quite a few people to get the doors open," Mason said. "We hope for them to be all local. We really work very hard across our company to hire local whenever possible."

This will be the second Lithia dealership in New Mexico. Lithia opened a Chrysler Jeep Dodge dealership in Santa Fe several years ago, and operates a repair center in Las Vegas, N.M.

"These are great jobs for people who are looking for something long term," said Aaron Hamilton, Lithia's personnel advertising account manager. "Lithia is a place you can grow. We have a lot of avenues."

Those avenues include nearly 90 dealerships in the United States, stretching from Alaska to Corpus Christi, Texas. Lithia has more than 4,300 team members nationwide, Hamilton said. The company was founded in 1946 in Ashland, Ore., and its headquarters are now in Medford, Ore.

Las Cruces has been without a Dodge dealership since 2009, when the company eliminated its line at Sandoval Dodge during Chrysler's financial restructuring.

For more information about the job fair, visit www.lithiacareers.com or contact Mason at 720-381-6256 or mamason@lithia.com.

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For more information, call 524-1968

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LaToya Johnson, Miss Native American NMSU 2012-13, discusses the importance of a Navajo cradle board during American Indian Week, April 9-14, New Mexico State University.

Miss Native American NMSU sees title as leadership path

Student also find contests as way to share Navajo culture, history and values

Contests involving crowns are often thought of as being filled with glittering evening gowns and fancy swimsuits, but the Miss Native American New Mexico State University competition is one that values cultural knowledge, communication skills and academic achievement above all else.

A winner was crowned last month and she will help support the events, recruitment and outreach efforts of the Native American student organizations at NMSU and its American Indian Program.

LaToya Johnson impressed the judges and won the competition in part due to her demonstration of cultural competency. During the competition, Johnson discussed the different elements of the traditional Navajo cradle board, sang a lullaby in Navajo and recited a poem in Navajo.

"She carried herself in a poised and dignified manner and had a cool confidence," said Justin McHorse, director of NMSU's American Indian Program (AIP). "I commend all of the contestants because they were willing to step up to the leadership role that Miss Native American NMSU must take on."

Johnson is a freshman from Crownpoint, N.M., who is majoring in kinesiology and athletic training. After completing her undergraduate coursework she plans to attend graduate school to become a physical therapist. Johnson

said she wants to set a good academic and cultural example for other students and credits her parents and traditional upbringing with giving her the inspiration to take on the challenge.

"I'm so appreciative and thankful for my parents and family support," Johnson said. "Without them, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish anything."

McHorse said it wasn't until after the competition that he found out Johnson has participated in several Navajo pageants, and at the age of 19, counts this as her eighth title. That being said, Johnson still considers this one of her greatest accomplishments because she gets to represent Native American students and NMSU.

The pageant was coordinated by the Native American Business Students Association as part of American Indian Week. McHorse said all of the student organizations in the AIP did a great job coming together to organize the events, and those participating in these type of activities get a chance to work on their leadership, organization and management skills.

Johnson said that being involved in organizations like the kinesiology club and the AIP's Peer Mentor Program helped her have a sense of community while in school. Johnson's mentor, Aileen Cruz, happened to be a former Miss Native American NMSU winner.

"I think we're going to have a good year and I look forward to working with LaToya and working together to represent the AIP, student organizations and NMSU," McHorse said. "Hopefully down the road she may want to serve as a mentor as well."

Neighbors We've Lost

DEATH NOTICES

GARCIA

Estella C. Garcia, 64, passed away on May 6, 2012. At Estella's request cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service will be held Friday, May 11, 2012 at 5 p.m. in Baca's Chapel of Prayer, 300 E. Boutz Road with Pastor Florencio Vigil officiating. Inurnment of cremains will take place at a later date.

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

SAENZ

Regina G. Saenz, 83, of Mesquite, New Mexico, entered eternal rest Sunday, May 6, 2012 at her home.

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

MARTINEZ

Benjamin M. Martinez, 72, of La Mesa, New Mexico, passed away, Friday, May 4, 2012 at his home.

At Mr. Martinez' request, cremation has taken place, services have been held and inurnment of cremains will take place at a later date.

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

FIELDER

Charles Henry Fielder, 63, of Las Cruces, New Mexico passed away on May 5, 2012.

Visitation for Mr. Fielder will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 10, 2012 in Baca's Chapel of Prayer, 300 E. Boutz Road, where the Evening Service is scheduled for 7 p.m. with Pastor Gregory Arthur officiating. Cremation will follow and inurnment of cremains will take place at a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Sunset Crematory of Las Cruces. 575-527-2222

HERNANDEZ

Ofelia R. Hernandez, 63, of Vado, New Mexico, entered eternal life Sunday, May 6, 2012 at UNM Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

At her request, cremation has taken place and inurnment of cremains will be held at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Sunset Crematory. 575-527-2222

ALANIZ

Magdalena "Maggie" Alaniz, 60, entered eternal life Saturday, May 5, 2012 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

At her request cremation has taken place and inurnment of cremains will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to your favorite charity.

Service arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels and Sunset Crematory. 575-527-2222

PENA

Daniel Lucero Pena, Jr., 72, passed away on Saturday, May 5, 2012.

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

YARBROUGH

Lucille M. Yarbrough, 91, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away on May 2, 2012.

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

SIGALA

Evarista Sigala, 85, passed away on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at La Posada - Mesilla Valley Hospice. Services have been held.

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

ESPARZA

Ginger Lee Esparza, 63, passed away on Sunday, May 6, 2012 at La Posada Mesilla Valley Hospice.

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

The Las Cruces Bulletin will publish paid obituaries, which may include up to two photographs. Brief death notices are published at no charge. Memorials and remembrances are also available. For more information, call Sid Graft at the Las Cruces Bulletin, 575-524-8061, or email obits@lascrucesbulletin.com.

Go to www.lascrucesbulletin.com and click on the Daily Bulletin and Obituaries for current information.



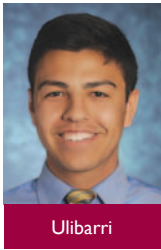
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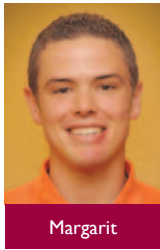
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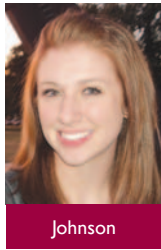
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Margarit



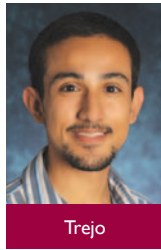
Johnson



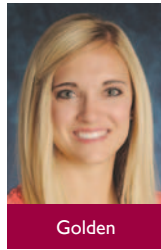
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Benally



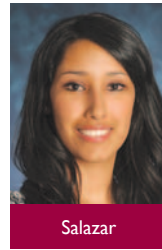
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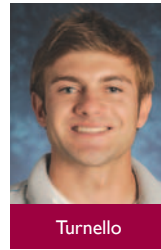
Golden



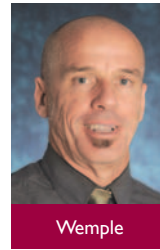
Billingsley-Garay



Salazar



Turnello



Wemple



Jin



Coto



Sevostianova



Dyche



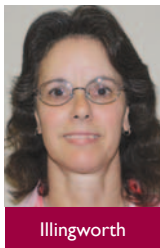
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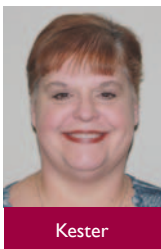
Taylor



Garcia



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Outstanding Bachelor's Degree Recipients

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Roxanne Benally

College of Arts and Sciences
Adam Trejo

College of Business
Jenae Golden

College of Education
Valerian Billingsley-Garay

College of Engineering
Alicia Salazar

College of Extended Learning
Alex C. Turnello

College of Health and Social Services
Charles Wemple

International and Border Programs
Luer Jin

Outstanding Master's Degree Recipient

Amauri Gutierrez Coto
College of Arts and Sciences

Outstanding Ph.D. Degree Recipient

Elena Sevostianova
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Outstanding Associates Degree Recipients

Alamogordo
Mark Dyche
Hannah McCurdy
Daniel Taylor

Carlsbad
Eric Garcia
Suzanne Illingworth
Natalie Kester
Shannel Stacy
Thelma Villa

Doña Ana
Caralyn R. Contreras
Kysandra Proper Couch
Rosalie Ortega-Gose
Kathleen Hawkins

Grants
Louis Bear Eagle
Stacy Madrid
Emilio Peña



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Let's tour Las Cruces: You'll love it



Richard Coltharp
*That's the Way
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It's National Tourism Week. So here's how I want to celebrate: Let's make it Local Tourism Week. Traveling anywhere is wonderful. Traveling in New Mexico is enchantingly exquisite. From mysterious Chaco Canyon to the caverns of Carlsbad. From the other-worldly dunes of White Sands National Monument to getting your kicks on Route 66 on Central Avenue in Albuquerque. From a pilgrimage to El Santuario de Chimayo to watching the full moon rise at City of Rocks State Park.

Some of the most enchanting things in all of New Mexico are right here in the Mesilla Valley. All too often, however, we take them for granted, overlook them or, worse, adopt an attitude of "there's nothing to do here."

This point was driven home earlier this month when Stahmanns Farms announced it was closing its retail stores.

Las Cruces were up in arms, asking, "Why?"

Everyone said they loved the tasty local pecan treats and found them to be great gifts to send to friends and family across the globe. They talked about the beautiful drive down New Mexico Highway 28, the Lou Henson Highway, on the way to the Stahmanns Country Store. It's a rite of passage for those living in the Mesilla Valley.

Unfortunately, for too many of us, it never became a ritual.

Their business couldn't weather the recession as traffic to the stores and on-line sales plummeted below profitability.

Walmart and McDonalds will survive if you and I only go there once a year. A local retailer like Stahmanns? It needs our regular business.

Saturday, May 12, is graduation day at New Mexico State University. Those who have guests coming in may likely take them to some of those places that make Las Cruces unique.

Do that, please.

Also do that when your company's gone.

Need some tips? Here are some of

See **Tourism** on page B2



The Triviz Plaza shopping center, featuring Kohl's, could become Las Cruces' third "power center" if all goes according to plan. Commercial real estate broker NAI 1st Valley has received three letters of intent from smaller retailers interested in developing there.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo illustration by Rafael Torres

Anatomy of a shopping mall

How deals get done

By **Jerome Littlejohn**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Drive around Las Cruces, and you will see a variety of retail developments, from large shopping centers with national retailers to small strip malls with a few "mom and pop" shops.

Retail development projects have made recent news in Las Cruces, including the closure

of Sportsman's Warehouse, the impending arrival of Dick's Sporting Goods and the retention of Best Buy.

What does it take to build a shopping center? How do retailers decide where to locate their stores?

Jake Redfearn, commercial real estate broker at NAI 1st Valley, described the lifecycle of a retail shopping center.

First, a developer identifies a potential site and solicits interest in the location from retailers, Redfearn said.

Interested retailers then analyze the demographics of the site's surrounding area, and create cost and sales estimates to determine the rent they would be willing to pay, he said. The developer then combines the rent estimates to determine the amount they will bid to purchase the property.

"Usually two or three tenants are signed on to move in to a development before land is purchased," Redfearn said. "Banks are not interested in financing speculative dirt."

See **Kohl's** on page B2

Pearce job fair attracts 500

VOLT plans to hire 320 people through August

Bulletin Staff Report

VOLT Workforce Solutions had a lot to gain at the 2012 Steve Pearce Job Fair.

"We're looking for 80 people every month through August," said Cynthia Chavez, of VOLT, one of 70 businesses and organizations represented at the job fair Friday, May 4, at the Las Cruces Convention Center.

By the end of the summer, VOLT will have added 320 new employees, more than doubling the current staff of 287 it houses in the Wells Fargo tower in Downtown Las Cruces.

Perhaps some of those employees will come from the approximately 500 people who attended the fair.

"I was very pleased with the number of businesses and job seekers," said U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, who presented the fair and presided over a ribbon cutting to open the event. "Our staff has produced half a dozen job fairs in the past year, and every time we can help someone in our community better themselves and their families, we believe it is successful. We will continue to help those in the community find jobs and create opportunity."

The jobs at VOLT are for people providing inbound technical support for a "leading technology company," said Chavez, adding that qualified applicants should have at least a year of customer service experience, along with a high school diploma or equivalent.

VOLT has been open in Las Cruces nearly five years. Bilingual skills are another asset.

"We're the only call center in the U.S. that is now managing a bilingual program," Chavez



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Richard Coltharp

Megan Hildebrand and Victoria Tarin talk with Leslie Luna about opportunities at VOLT, a Las Cruces technical support center that expects to hire 320 people over the next four months. VOLT was one of about 70 businesses and organizations presenting at the 2012 Steve Pearce Job Fair Friday, May 4, at the Las Cruces Convention Center. See more photos from the event on pages B14-15.

said. "We have excellent retention. Nearly 65 percent of our employees have been with us since day one."

The VOLT positions start at \$9 per hour, and customer service providers are eligible for monthly bonuses based on attendance and performance.

Another Las Cruces business actively seeking new people at the job fair was Allstate.

"We've already hired 120 people during 2012 and we're looking to hire 80 more," said Jessica Valdez, a team lead at Allstate's call center.

The Las Cruces Bulletin was a sponsor of the job fair, and provided free seminars on interview techniques and resumé writing.

Pearce's office will track the businesses that presented at the fair to try to determine the number of hirings tied directly to the event.

INSIDE

Hunner versus Hummer
What's in a Las Cruces name? . . . B4-5

Targeting tourists
CVB leads city-wide push B8

In step with national trend
Regional home sales climb B10

Kohl's

Continued from page B1

Shopping centers generally fall into one of three categories: neighborhood strip malls, shadow centers and power centers, Redfearn said.

"Neighborhood strip malls are comprised of a large grocery store and smaller tenants," he said. "Shadow centers are developments that are built near a discount superstore such as Walmart or Target. Power centers are comprised of one to two national big box retailers, such as Best Buy or Home Depot, and smaller national stores."

Power centers are the only types of retail developments that attract customers from outside the shopping center's pre-existing traffic flow, he said.

One NAI 1st project will become Las Cruces's third power center if all goes according to plan. The Triviz Plaza shopping center already houses the 68,000-square-foot Kohl's store. NAI 1st has received three letters of intent from smaller retailers interested in development as well, Redfearn said.

These letters of intent are contingent upon another national retailer locating in the planned development, Redfearn said.

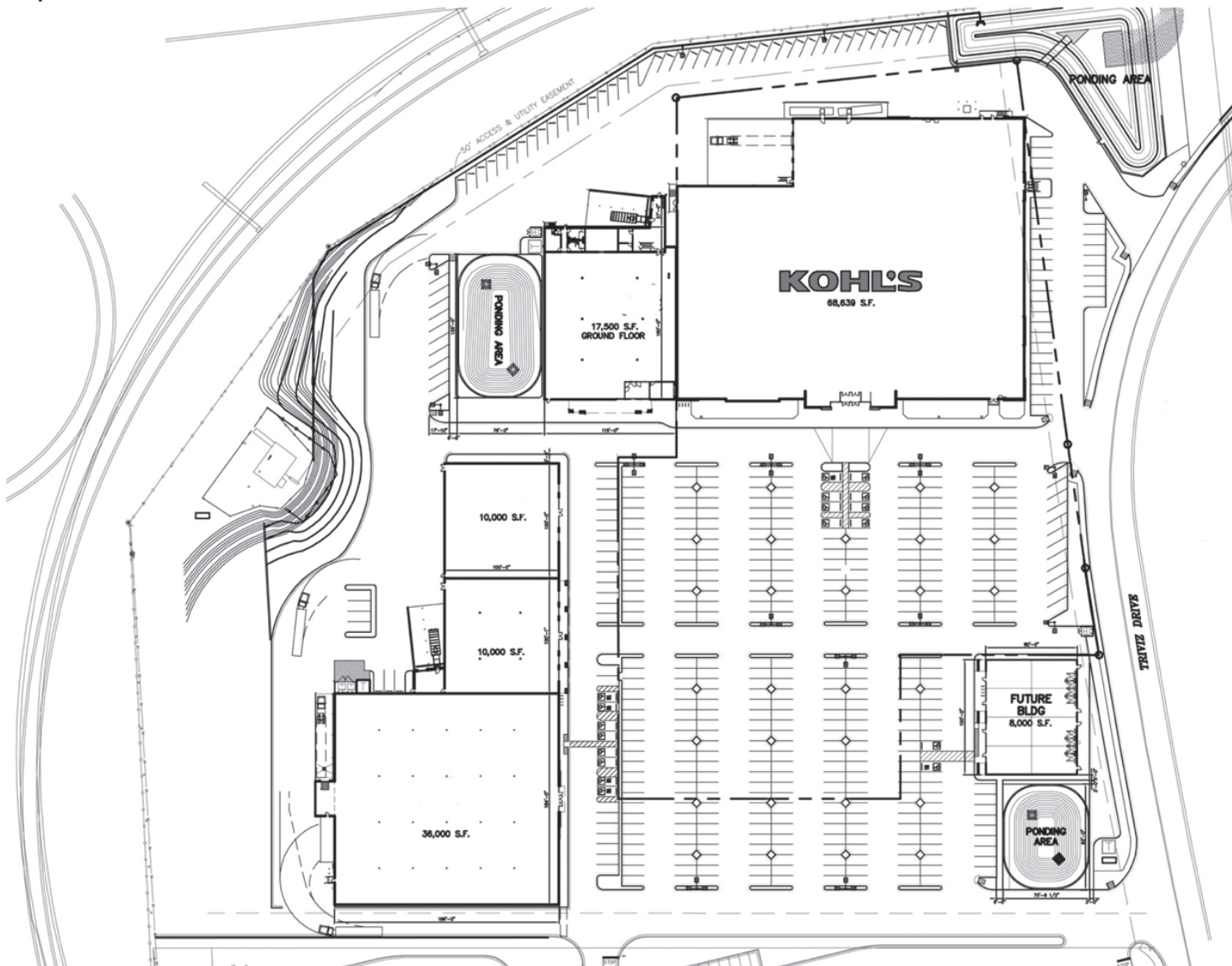
Many retailers find Las Cruces attractive because of the city's demographics and relatively stable economy.

"We attract retailers that specifically target retirees and college students," Redfearn said.

As for employers, "Las Cruces is not a one-horse town. We don't rely on one major employer. Having White Sands Missile Range, NASA and (New Mexico State University) gives us a relatively stable local economy," he said.

While large shopping center developments tend to attract headlines, a significant amount of commercial real estate is owned by small investors, he said.

"There are lots of smaller developers and investors out there with lots of skin in the game," Redfearn said. "They are local people investing in their own communities."



Drawing provided by NAI 1st Valley

This drawing shows the way the Triviz Plaza shopping center, anchored by Kohl's, could build out.

Snippin' for Success

The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces held a ribbon cutting Thursday, May 3, at the opening of Master Barbers, 1570 W. Picacho Ave. The shop is owned by Roger Browning and Jeremi Melendrez.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Richard Coltharp



Tourism

Continued from page B1

Rich's Picks.

- Thinking La Posta will be packed on Graduation Day? You're right. Remember though, they're now open for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Get there at 8 a.m. and you can enjoy the parrots and chile (not together, I hope) and avoid some of the wait.
- While you're there, explore the entire Mesilla Plaza, and patronize the businesses. This is perhaps our greatest historical and cultural treasure, yet it's facing the same dangers Stahmanns did. Check out a film at the Fountain Theatre. Buy some gifts. Go to Mass.
- Stahmanns Country Store may be closed, but the Lou Henson Highway is not. Head south to the Rio Grande Winery: a beautiful setting and amazing wines. Go farther south to Chope's. My old Alamogordo friend and NMSU graduate Ron Keller educated me in 1995, when I first moved to New Mexico: If you want the complete green chile dining experience, you've got to go to Chope's. Truer words were never spoken. Go farther south still, and you'll find another great winery, La Viña, New Mexico's oldest.
- COAS Bookstore. This is a must for me. Thankfully, I've never taken COAS for granted. Whenever I need a mental break or am looking for some great reading material, this is where I head. If you time it right (like Saturday morning or on a Downtown Art Ramble), you can combine a lot of other stuff with a Downtown COAS visit, including the museums, galleries and the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market. Top it off with a meal at Ono Grindz, Zeffiro New York Pizzeria or the outstanding Great Day with green chile and cheese at Day's Hamburgers.
- Get outside! Hike at Aguirre Spring or Dripping Springs. Go to White Sands National Monument. Visit Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Go to Blake's Lotaburger and sit on one of the outside benches, or take your lunch to one of Las Cruces' dozens of great parks. Just the other day, I ate my Corner Deli pastrami and turkey at Albert Johnson Park, finishing a book I'd checked out from the nearby Thomas Branigan Memorial Library.
- See something live. The possibilities are almost endless: the Rio Grande Theatre, the Hershel Zohn Theatre, the Las Cruces Community Theatre, the Black Box Theatre, a local high school production, a local ballet performance, Aggie athletics, high school sports, a band at High Desert Brewery, a concert or comedy show. My point is this: Take advantage of my self-proclaimed Local Tourism Week and remind yourself of just some of the many reasons we like to say "Life is Good in Las Cruces."

Can you think of more great things to do in Las Cruces? Email me at richard@lascrucesbulletin.com

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By the Numbers



Building Las Cruces



Dick's Sporting Goods

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Richard Coltharp

The facelift continues on the building at 200 N. Telshor Blvd. that will become Dick's Sporting Goods. The City of Las Cruces recently issued a permit to Robertson Olson Construction, valued at nearly \$1.17 million, for alterations on the property.

Recent projects featured in Building Las Cruces

Publish date	Building	Address	Contact
May 4	CVS Pharmacy	Northwest corner of Main Street and Elks Drive	www.cvs.com
April 27	NMSU Satellite Plant	Stewart Street at Breland Drive	646-1957
April 20	LCPS Baseball Complex	Field of Dreams on Tashiro Road	527-6677
April 13	The Power Center	2000 N. Telshor Blvd.	522-1050
April 6	NMSU Center of the Arts	University Avenue	http://artsci.nmsu.edu

Our numbers

87

percent of adults who celebrate Mother's Day

\$1.6 billion

amount consumers expect to spend on consumer electronics for Mother's Day

\$1.8 billion

amount consumers expect to spend on greeting cards for Mother's Day

\$2.2 billion

amount consumers expect to spend on flowers for Mother's Day

Source: BIGInsight April 2012 Consumer Survey, www.nrf.com

Gas update

Monday, May 7

Average retail gasoline prices in New Mexico have **fallen 0.2 cents** per gallon in the past week, averaging **\$3.69** per gallon. This compares with the national average that has **fallen 2.9 cents** per gallon in the last week to **\$3.77** per gallon.

Including the change in gas prices in New Mexico during the past week, prices **Monday, May 7**, were **7 cents** per gallon **lower** than the same day one year ago and are **6.3 cents** per gallon **lower** than a month ago. The national average has **decreased 13.4 cents** per gallon during the last month and stands **15.9 cents** per gallon **lower** than this day one year ago.

1. Sam's Club	2711 N. Telshor Blvd.	\$3.37
2. Valero	1401 E. Lohman Ave.	\$3.38
3. Giant	2210 E. Lohman Ave.	\$3.39
4. Dylan's	1900 N. Main St.	\$3.39
5. Bradley's	920 El Paseo Road	\$3.40

Source: www.newmexicogasprices.com, as of Monday, May 7

Adventure Travel Airfare Watch

FROM EL PASO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	LOWEST AVERAGE ONE-WAY FARE	CARRIER
Albuquerque	\$106.80	Southwest
Atlanta	\$235.10	Southwest
Austin	\$133.80	Southwest
Chicago	\$195.60	US Airways
Dallas/Fort Worth	\$122.80	American
Houston	\$161.80	Southwest
Las Vegas	\$139.60	US Airways
Los Angeles	\$130.80	United Air
Phoenix	\$69.80	US Airways
San Antonio	\$112.10	United Air
New York City	\$179.60	American
Washington, D.C.	\$160.60	American
San Diego	\$124.60	US Airways
London	\$821.70	American
Paris	\$803.50	American
Rome	\$761.30	Delta/Alitalia

Source: Adventure Travel *Prices effective through May 1-3 *Restrictions apply

Money

Comparing the U.S. dollar

Euro
\$1.30463 in U.S. dollars
0.7665 per U.S. dollar

Mexican Peso
\$0.07597 in U.S. dollars
13.163 per U.S. dollar

Japanese Yen
\$0.01250 in U.S. dollars
80.03 per U.S. dollar

Source: www.msn.com



Market snapshot

For the week of April 30- May 4, the market reports:

Index	Started	Ended	Change	% Change	% YTD
DJIA	13228.31	13038.27	-190.04	-1.4	6.7
Nasdaq	3069.2	2956.34	-112.86	-2.4	13.5

Strong: airlines; internet software and services; regional banks; mortgage finance and thrifts; specialty chemicals; office electronics; property and casualty insurance

Weak: multi-line insurance; construction materials; consumer electronics; casinos and gaming; info tech consulting; real estate services; oil and gas refining; electronic manufacturing

Source: http://briefing.com



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THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

Dueling Profiles: Jon vs. John

Jon Hunner: Turning history from avocation to vocation

Department head travels area, telling the state's story

By **Richard Coltharp**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Editor's note: Their names are strikingly similar, off by just a letter or two here and there. Their backgrounds and careers, however, are quite different. So, to educate any Las Cruces who may have in the past confused these two individuals, dueling profiles illustrate their differences, as well as similarities.

No one becomes a history professor expecting to become a rock star.

This year, however, the academic head of New Mexico State University's history department could print up those classic black concert T-shirts with the dates and locations on the back of all the venues he's played during his Centennial Tour.

Jon Hunner has criss-crossed New Mexico during 2012, telling the story of statehood.

This is, after all, New Mexico's centennial. For Hunner, the more accurate term is centenary.

"When you've been married 25 years, you call it an anniversary, you don't call it an anniversary," Hunner said, admitting that's a battle he'll likely lose.

Since arriving in Las Cruces in 1995, much of Hunner's work has led up to this point. In preparation, he created a speech that would last about a half hour, perfect for a Rotary presentation or holding the attention of a school class.

"I've given the speech of the centenary all over the state," Hunner said. "Roswell, Farmington, Silver City, from second-graders on up."

Among many speeches he's given in Las Cruces was to the Sunrise Optimist Club, whose meetings start at 7 a.m.

Hunner questioned the earliness of the hour.

The club consists of several older gentlemen, one of whom said, "We've got to start early. For most of us, that's our peak. It's downhill after that."

Hunner arrived at history not in the usual way.

He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1974 from St. John's College in Santa Fe. He operated a business in Santa Fe and worked at the Fine Arts Museum in the late 1980s, when he decided to go back to school. However, Hunner wasn't quite sure what he wanted to study.

"My wife said, 'All you're doing is reading history,'" he said.

It was true. In particular, he was reading anything he could get his hands on about the Santa Fe Trail.

"It was a case of 'Do what you love and the

Details

Jon Hunner

Academic head of history department

Affiliation

New Mexico State University

Education

- Bachelor's degree in philosophy, St. John's College, Santa Fe
- Master's and Ph.D. in history, University of New Mexico

Family

- Wife Mary Ellen
- Son Harley

Hobbies

Juggling, bicycling



job will follow," Hunner said. "So I went to graduate school to study history."

He earned his master's, then a Ph.D. in history from the University of New Mexico, finishing in 1995. Shortly after he graduated, he headed south to Las Cruces and took the job at NMSU as director of the public history program.

Hunner's tours across New Mexico have enhanced and, in some cases, enlightened his fascination and understanding of the state's history.

"Every presentation is tweaked a little bit, for the audience I'm speaking to," Hunner said. "I like to engage the public on different levels. Humor is one."

At a recent presentation to the Las Cruces Soroptimists, that was quite evident. At times the audience was rolling with laughter.

"And there's a serious part of the presentation about racism," Hunner said of the way New Mexico was perceived by much of the United States. "It's not quite celebratory."

There have been celebrations on Hunner's tour.

"I was speaking to some second-graders in Alamogordo and they sang 'Happy Birthday' to New Mexico," Hunner said.

No matter how versed someone is in New Mexico history, there is something to learn from the presentation.

For instance, some may think of Santa Fe's nickname, "The City Different," as a relatively recent, trendy moniker, perhaps from the 1980s. But the name has been applied to our capital for about 100 years.

"What does it mean to be a New Mexican?" Hunner asked a recent audience.

"To make fun of Texas," he answered.

Hunner uses a map to illustrate one of the things that irritate New Mexicans about Texas. In New Mexico's northeast corner, the state shares a border with Oklahoma. Thirty-six miles south, New Mexico begins sharing its

eastern border with Texas. However, it's not a straight line from the Oklahoma border. The Texas border juts four miles west.

"So Texas made a four-mile grab along our eastern border," Hunner said. "That may not sound like much, but multiply 4 miles by 300 miles and that adds up."

Among the many positive things New Mexico brought to the United States, diversity may be the most important, Hunner said.

"We think of the cowboys, the Indians and the Spanish, but New Mexico is not just tri-cultural, but multi-cultural," he said.

New Mexico has been a leader in electing minority politicians right up to today, as Gov. Susana Martinez is the first Hispanic female governor in U.S. history.

"We helped open the way to the great movement of civil rights in this country," Hunner said.

Hunner said he is periodically mistaken for Las Cruces businessman John Hummer.

"He works a lot in economic development, but what I do, I call it heritage development," said Hunner, who cited the many jobs in our community that are tied to history, such as the local museums and the tourism they help create.

"I think I have the better gig, because with history, you can go back hundreds of years."

“Do what you love and the job will follow.”

JON HUNNER,
Academic head of history department, NMSU

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Dueling Profiles: Hunner vs. Hummer

John Hummer: Lure of Las Cruces spurs career change

From health care to real estate, broker builds a relationship with community

By **Richard Coltharp**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Editor's note: Their names are strikingly similar, off by just a letter or two here and there. Their backgrounds and careers, however, are quite different. So, to educate any Las Cruces who may have in the past confused these two individuals, dueling profiles illustrate their differences, as well as similarities.

Everything was set for John Hummer. A long career in hospital administration lay before him.

He had proven his skills. At age 24, he was already an assistant hospital administrator. He took his first CEO job at age 28, leading the Las Vegas (Nev.) Desert Springs Hospital.

Hummer arrived in Las Cruces in July 2000 to help get a new hospital off the ground. By August 2002, MountainView Regional Medical Center had opened, with Hummer at the helm.

In 2006, however, Hummer – who has a military background – did an about face.

He left the hospital business to join forces with David Steinborn at Steinborn GMAC Real Estate, now Steinborn & Associates Real Estate, and a year later became the company's owner, broker and president.

Why the change?

"It wasn't money," he said. "Health care is much more lucrative."

Staying in health care, though, meant moving periodically from one part of the country to the next. At the time of the switch, in fact, Hummer was considering offers in Tucson, Ariz., and Tulsa, Okla.

"My wife, Amy, and I decided we didn't want to move," Hummer said.

The decision boiled down to quality of life, being independent and making Las Cruces home.

"I was at an event and David Steinborn asked me, 'What do you want to do?'" Hummer said.

"I said, 'I don't know.'"

Steinborn said, "I mean with your life."

"And I said, 'Oh, that,'" Hummer said.

"He asked me if I wanted to buy his business. I just laughed.

"But two months later, I came back and asked, 'David, were you serious?'"

They worked out the agreement. Steinborn stayed on for a year to help with the transition. In 2007, Hummer took the reins.

Some may not see many parallels between running a hospital and selling real estate. For Hummer, though, the change was not dramatic.

"Business is business – relationships, decision making," Hummer said. "I like to

think all the good management training in the health care world was transferable. Either way, it was my business now and I had to get up every morning and make it work."

A big advantage, Hummer said, was getting to work with his wife.

"Amy's a partner," he said. "I'm proud that, with Amy, we've done it together. We balance each other well. I do the business development, Amy does the banking.

"And we've been blessed with a great group of people. I consider them great co-workers and also friends."

Unfortunately, not long after Hummer took over, the recession arrived, spurred by the national mortgage crisis and its massive impact on real estate.

"In the fourth quarter 2008, cash flow stopped," Hummer said.

So what did he do?

"The best time to grow is when the market is at a standstill," Hummer said.

So on March 17, 2009, Hummer merged with another real estate company in Las Cruces, Emerick Real Estate.

When Hummer purchased Steinborn, the company had 23 percent of the real estate market share in Las Cruces.

Despite the economy, Hummer was pleased with the direction of his new company. The merger

enhanced that, he said, because of the quality of individuals at Emerick.

"You bring on great people and share the momentum," he said. "We grew 10 market points from 23 to 33. Last year we had 40 percent of market share.

"Our greatest satisfaction is surviving the real estate bubble."

Does he ever look back and wonder?

"My purpose (in changing careers) was to be more entrepreneurial, to be at risk," he said. "But also it was about freedom. If you live your entire life being held captive, no amount of money is worth it."

Today, if he wants to take an afternoon off to watch his son Alex play in a Las Cruces High School baseball game, he can do that. If he and Amy need to do something for their other son, Sam, they can do that.

Hummer remains active in many local organizations, and also devotes time to those as needed.

"I enjoy those civic obligations, but I also see it as a duty," he said. "This community has done so much for me and my family, and it's a way to give back."

Before this article, Hummer had never met his near namesake, New Mexico State University professor Jon Hunner, but he already feels a bond.

"My brother Hans is at Wayne State University in Detroit," Hummer said. "He's a full history professor, teaching medieval history."

Details

John Hummer

Owner/broker/president

Company

- Steinborn & Associates Real Estate
- Steinborn TCN Commercial Real Estate

Education

- Bachelor's degree, economics, Kansas State University
- Master's degree, hospital administration, University of Kansas
- Officer basic course, U.S. Army, Adjutant General Branch

Organizations

- Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance
- Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
- Department of Transportation Commission
- Rio Grande Rotary Club
- Las Cruces Association of Realtors

Family

- Wife Amy
- Sons Alex, 15; Sam, 13

Hobbies

Travel, politics

“ Business is business – relationships, decision making. ”

JOHN HUMMER,
owner/broker/president



Are there any free markets?

Many regulations cost businesses billions of dollars

Jim Spence
Business Matters



Every year, American businesses are forced to divert billions of hard-earned dollars to stay in compliance with countless federal laws, rules and regulations.

Politically speaking, anyone with credibility would not dare to suggest all government regulations be abolished.

Still, those who realize government has

become fat and bloated in many ways are often characterized as being in favor of eliminating all government regulations and safeguards.

This is a ruse.

Tens of thousands of government mandates and \$3.6 trillion in annual federal spending have dramatic effects on virtually all aspects of our markets. Here are four quick examples:

1. American savers are dissatisfied with the current "market" rates of return on interest bearing instruments. They need to look no further than government intervention

that has intervened to lower the Treasury Department's borrowing costs.

2. Americans emptying their bank accounts to fill up at gas stations can thank a plethora of rules and regulations that restrict domestic oil production for high prices.

3. U.S. government guarantees loans for non-competitive companies like Solyndra. The result is the absurd production of useless products that are neither wanted nor needed, with billions in accompanying taxpayer losses when they fail.

4. Man-made climate change research grants are made available by governments around the world, but only to scientists with a pre-disposition to bolster the theory. Exposure of anti-scientific methods associated with the recent "Climategate" scandal reveal how grant-receiving scientists, desperate to keep government research dollars flowing in their direction, have been hiding temperature data and suppressing the publishing of scientific papers by other scientists whose findings contradict their own.

To be fair, not all scientists respond to the incentives created by the billions of dollars worth of grants that back the political effort to transform man-caused climate change from theory to fact.

However, recent defections from the American Physicists Society by former 1973 Physics Nobel Prize winner Dr. Ivar Giaever and noted University of California at Santa Barbara scientist Harold Lewis over the shockingly anti-scientific behavior of the organization are quite extraordinary.

The scathing resignation letter written by Dr. Lewis, which was sent to APS President Curtis G. Callan, should be read by all fact seekers. You can read the Lewis letter verbatim

on the Internet.

The letter includes a chilling account of a petition submitted by Lewis calling for an open debate on man-made climate change by APS. It was signed by more than 200 scientists. The petition was ignored by APS and efforts for open debate were squelched.

Is this science at work or politically driven economics?

Would members of our scientific community actually suppress scientific inquiry and debate?

The short answer is yes.

The Lewis episode is an eerie reminder of how eminent physicist Ludwig Boltzmann was silenced near the end of the 19th century. Boltzmann was ostracized for his non-conformist views on atomic physics. Later his findings were proven correct.

Tragically, Boltzmann was so disillusioned and despondent over the systematic blockade of scientific inquiry and squelching of debate within his profession, he eventually committed suicide.

Government actions and interventions have an overwhelming influence on the incentive structures affecting all 21st century markets.

It is a complete waste of time to pretend if traditional free market fundamentalists have their way America could become a society where there would be no environmental or public safety regulations whatsoever.

Big government intervention proponents drive most markets and the four examples listed above are the tip of an iceberg.

Jim Spence is the portfolio manager at Spence Asset Management Inc., a federally registered investment advisory firm in Las Cruces. He has been involved in the investment business since 1983.

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Taking a cue from Hollywood

Possible social media strategies for small business



Jerome Littlejohn
Lunchtime MBA

Alien invasions, latex clad superheroes and Abraham Lincoln killing vampires with a wood axe. Yup, we are entering the summer movie season.

According to movie industry tracking firm Box Office, the 2012 movie season has the potential to top the industry's 2009 summer movie ticket sales record of \$4.2 billion. Along with traditional sales forecast methods, Box Office also monitors how consumers interact with a movie's social media and websites to help forecast ticket sales.

Box Office uses both qualitative and quantitative metrics for social media and web interactions. The company measures the number of Facebook friends a movie's page has and the number of times a movie's trailer is viewed on its official website.

Box Office also creates a "positive to negative" comment ratio for comments on a movie's official website and tweets that mention the movie.

The data can yield intriguing insights. As of the writing of this column, Marvel's "The Avengers" was the subject of more than 36,000 tweets with a 10-to-1 positive to negative comment ratio. Box Office projected the movie's opening weekend sales to be \$170 million. (The actual number turned out to be higher, \$207.4 million.)

In comparison, "Battleship," which is set to open Friday, May 18, was the subject of roughly 3,500 tweets with a 7-to-1 positive to negative comment ratio. Box Office projects its opening weekend sales to be \$48 million.

Social media metrics aren't just for Hollywood moguls. Smaller businesses can also use

social media to augment their market research efforts. Generally, a company's social media interactions are with its most emotionally involved customers.

Monitoring these interactions can lead to clues about customer loyalty, the effectiveness of sales promotions, and if a business is generating positive word of mouth.

Two of my favorite local watering holes have rather a ctive Facebook accounts. De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery has more than 1,200 followers, and posts updates almost daily. Amaro Winery has close to 500 followers and a core group of people who are friends both on and offline.

One need not invent sophisticated algorithms to analyze social media interactions. Taking a few minutes to review a social media account and answer a few key questions can be insightful.

Are customers recommending the business? Do customers share or retweet promotional messages? Are customers following each other on Twitter and friending each other on Facebook? Is there a difference between the customers on social media and the businesses's target customer? How many new followers or subscribers does the business average per month?

A "one-size fits all" online social media strategy does not exist. The flexibility of online social media has led to a number of creative business uses.

However, regardless of the strategy employed, businesses must monitor and analyze how customers interact with the company online to ensure their efforts are effective.

Jerome Littlejohn, a recent transplant to Las Cruces, earned his MBA at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Read his blog, Lunchtime MBA, www.lunchtimemba.com. Email him at jeromejlittlejohn@gmail.com.

Setting the course beyond high school graduation

Rite of passage ceremony bittersweet for parents



Tracey Bryan
*Bridging the
workforce*

Graduation. It's a word that inspires a lot of emotion.

For college students, it's the end of education and the beginning of application – literally. For high school students, it's bittersweet.

It's the realization that one long chapter in life is closing. All that they've really known over the past 13 years is ending. Possibly saying good-bye to lifelong friends. While at the same time, it's the anticipation and excitement of starting a new chapter, possibly in a new place, and all the unknowns of change that lie before them – in college or at the start of a career.

As a parent of a graduating senior, it's bittersweet for me, too.

I find myself second-guessing so much – is he ready? Did his father and I give him the skill sets he'll need to live on his own hundreds of miles away?

Will he leave our home with a strong set

of values, an understanding of who he is and who he can be, and will he have the self-confidence and strength to make the right choices even if he must stand alone?

What I do know, is the key to his life and livelihood and plans for a family in the future are dependent upon his educational plans today.

Thanks to the vast research I do in the context of my work to connect education, workforce and economic development, I can offer him some very real and relevant advice about making not just the commitment to earn a post-secondary degree, but to make sure it lines up with career fields that are hiring and will be hiring for the long-term.

So, if you will indulge me in my melancholy mood, I'd like to share, parent-to-parent, what I'm learning to help you steer your kids toward the best future for themselves and their families.

Our young men and women are graduating in uncertain times. Skyrocketing jobless rates today may not be the case after two or four or more years of college. Right now, there are an estimated 3 million jobs going unfilled simply because they don't match the

qualifications of the more than 10 million currently unemployed.

There is specifically a crisis in our country in the scientific fields, as many of the generation that entered their careers during the heady days of the space race are coming upon retirement, and we simply don't have enough young people ready and prepared to replace them.

The students that choose not to pursue any education beyond high school will place themselves in a limiting position in a 21st century economy that demands proficiency in technical skills.

The number of jobs that can be filled by those with a high school diploma or GED are dwindling, and the income levels in those career fields are becoming less and less sufficient to support strong, healthy, thriving families.

So no matter how "done"

they may feel with school, they will never be sorry if they just commit to spending the next year or two earning a certification or associate's degree from the community college.

In the state of New Mexico, jobs that require that level of post-secondary education make up most of the job market, and we, as a state, just don't produce enough of those qualified candidates.

Students who have the resolve to earn their bachelor's degree need to be very intentional about their plan of attack.

The longer it takes to graduate, the less likely they will.

So help them make a solid and doable four-year plan and stick to it. Without the

golden ticket of a diploma, they can find themselves with a lot of student debt and not a lot of opportunity to apply a half-finished education to a well-paid career. The studies do show that of all unemployed, the least likely to be unemployed are those holding post-secondary degrees.

And, of course, the higher the degree, the more your earning potential.

However, it is important to pursue a bachelor's degree in a career field that is not dwindling. Demand for the liberal arts degrees that were so plentiful back in the Stone Age when I was in school is not keeping pace with the demand for the STEM-related degrees (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Parents, walk alongside your young adults to do the research now. Check out websites like www.payscale.com to review the College Salary Report and review online articles about pay scales and workforce projections in the career fields in which your children are interested.

Find out income levels and make sure that the investment you make as parents in time and resources today provides the greatest return on investment for you and your children for the rest of their lives.

Tracey Bryan is president and CEO of The Bridge, a nonprofit organization that brings together business, economic development, government and education to create a stronger, well-qualified workforce in Doña Ana County. The Bridge's top priority is to increase the high school graduation rate in the county and the nonprofit's work has led to the creation of the state's first Early College High School on the Arrowhead Center campus at New Mexico State University. To contact Bryan, email tbryan@dacc.nmsu.edu.



Legacy carries on Van Pelt's life work

Two MHS students tabbed for scholarships

Two students will receive a scholarship to New Mexico State University through a fund that honors the life of one extraordinary man.

Longtime community resident Raymond "Rusty" Van Pelt spent most of his life helping young adults until his death Jan. 4, 2010. His wife, Betty, and daughters are doing what they can to keep his memory alive while continuing the impact he cared so much about.

"Our father dedicated his adult life to helping young adults succeed by becoming passionate about education," said Sandy Medina, Van Pelt's daughter, shortly after opening the R.W. Van Pelt Educational Fund with the help of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM), who professionally manages the fund. "He knew by getting young adults interested in school and sports, it would be a motivation for them to meet the goals they set for themselves and that those lessons learned would continue into their adult lives."

Van Pelt attended NMSU on a football scholarship. He pursued teaching, earning a bachelor's degree in 1949. Following graduation he worked as a teacher and a coach at Las Cruces High School before serving in the Korean War. When he returned to Las Cruces, he was a teacher and coach at Court Junior High before moving to LCHS.

In 1954, he earned a master's degree in educational administration and, in 1965, Van Pelt became the first assistant principal and athletic director at Mayfield High School. Two years later, he was named principal where he stayed until his retirement in 1985.

The R.W. Van Pelt Educational Fund will

award two scholarships each year to graduating seniors from Mayfield High School who will major in education at NMSU.

The students must have maintained a 3.0 grade point average or better; however there are no limitations on parent or guardian income.

Caitlin Scott was recommended by Alice Comer, an English teacher at the school. "I recommend Caitlin Scott with all the integrity and enthusiasm she brings to her own life," Comer said. "Future instructors, I am sure, will find their work with her to be equally rewarded."

Derek Brown was recommended by Donna Hansen, an English teacher at the school.

"Prepared academically and socially, Derek is ready for the academic challenges of college and career," she said.

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the Southern New Mexico community now, and in the future. Founded in 2000, the Community Foundation offers opportunities for local people who want to give back locally. The beauty of the Foundation is that you need not be wealthy to make a positive difference in the lives of people throughout our area. Through the establishment of permanent funds you can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. Through our planned giving programs, you can honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits the people of Southern New Mexico for generations to come. The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico can advise you on how best to maximize contributions, no matter what size. For more information see our website at www.cfsnm.org or call Luan Wagner Burn, Ph.D., at 521-4794. To donate, mail your check to CFSNM, 301 South Church St., Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001.



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"Our Southwest options are the most popular," Lane said. "We ship all over the place, and sometimes people want to send out a little piece of New Mexico."

Profile

Philip San Filippo:

Newcomer excited to bring others to Las Cruces

Key players organized to realize city's potential

By **Alta LeCompte**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Buoyed by the belief that Las Cruces in the next three to five years will become “a very serious player in the tourism and meetings business,” Philip San Filippo has accepted the challenge to make that happen.

A veteran of the industry, he is the new executive director of the Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Spaceport America is one reason he is optimistic about the future of tourism in the City of the Crosses. The commercial space travel facility will give the area national visibility in the coming years, he said.

“A lot of elements are already in place – the convention center, hotels, a variety of attractions,” he said. “I see the most important part of my job as pulling that all together. We all have to bring our game up to a higher level.”

He said to get to the next level, tourism must be well organized and coordinated as an industry.

“We shouldn’t be competing against each other; we should be competing with other destinations,” he said.

Partnering with hotels

For starters, he is meeting once a month with representatives of the local hotel industry, which he believes is the bureau’s most important “client.” Restaurants and attractions soon will be invited to participate, he said.

He also has met with representatives of the convention center.

“I laid out a plan for which markets we should go after, which they can tap into. We obviously want to tap into their international database,” he said, referring to Global Spectrum Inc., which manages the local convention center and 112 venues worldwide.

San Filippo anticipates joint efforts with the convention center and “our hotel partners” to target key players in associations, government and small corporations that could bring conventions to town.

The goal, he said, is to bring in visitors who will stay overnight.

San Filippo said he currently is trying to “get a handle” on the seasonal fluctuations in travel to Las Cruces.

“The overall general pattern seems to be that December through February – and July and August – are slower, although this August is going to be very, very busy due to sporting events and some meetings,” he said.

Courting New Mexico tourists

Meanwhile, San Filippo plans to target prospective customers closer to home.

“We will concentrate initially on a radius of about 300 miles – Tucson, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Santa Fe,” he said.

“We know our business is coming from within the state of New Mexico. I want to focus first on close markets, do a good job in those markets, and then move on from there.”

Promoting events such as the upcoming wine festival and

Details



Philip San Filippo

Executive Director

Affiliation

Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau

Education

- Bachelor of Business Administration, Lamar University, Texas
- Master of Business Administration, Anna Maria College, Massachusetts

Career highlights

- Vice president of sales and marketing, Places to Go, named top wholesaler by Cayman Islands and Jamaica Tourism Board for 400 percent sales increase
- Director, marketing and sales for U.S. and Latin America, Cayman Islands Department of Tourism
- Director of promotions and media events, Aladdin Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, where he overcame a post- 9/11 tourism decline

Family

- Wife, Marsha, fashion marketer
- Sons Jonathan, Louisiana State University graduate; and Daniel, University of Colorado senior

Organizations

- American Marketing Association
- Kids in Crisis co-founder, raised \$2 million to sustain Kids in Distress, which serves abused and neglected Florida children

Website

www.lascrucescvb.org

Contact

- psfilippo@las-cruces.org
- 541-2444

film festival that draw overnight visitors will be an important focus of CVB’s efforts.

San Filippo said promoting events requires a minimum lead time of four to six months.

He said organizations that want CVB to help promote an event should allow that much time.

“We need to look at their marketing plan, make sure hotels are available, and make certain it’s something we think we could help with,” he said.

Marketing paradise in the Caribbean

San Filippo made a name for himself helping to even out the seasonal ups and downs in Cayman Island tourism while

working for the Ministry of Tourism from 1997 to 2001.

Although his current employer is the City of Las Cruces, the challenges are similar to those of working for a national government, he said.

“When I first got there, the problem we faced was that the Cayman Islands were known as a scuba diving and banking destination,” San Filippo said.

The summer season historically was very slow, so he targeted families, putting together off-season vacation packages that would appeal to them.

“The other market we went after was the romance market,” he said. “We started building and growing those markets.”

Traveling for business and pleasure

As a youngster growing up in New Jersey, San Filippo went on family vacations close to home.

“I was the one who really got the travel bug,” he said.

Several years after he earned an MBA, his passion for travel led him to focus on the travel industry as a career. Starting out as a travel agent, he soon was recruited by a major tourism company that collaborated with Delta and Continental Airlines to offer packages. He later became their international product development director for Europe and Asia.

His personal favorite destinations include Italy, France and Estonia – where he has a lot of friends – the Cayman Islands and Aruba.

He and his wife, Marsha, enjoy a Broadway Blitz each year, seeing four plays in three days.

On his bucket list? An Alaskan cruise (not for the cruising, but for the best view of the scenery), Scandinavia beyond Sweden, and Australia (first for scuba diving and then to see the major cities).



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Fiscal cliff looms over U.S. economy, New Mexico

UK provides lesson on how not to balance a budget



Chris Erickson
State of the Economy

The United States faces a looming fiscal cliff come Jan. 1, 2013. That is when a series of tax increases and across-the-board spending cuts take effect.

The extension of the Bush tax cuts expires at the end of the year, as does a temporary cut in the payroll tax. The Alternative Minimum Tax also needs to be fixed by year's end to avoid a tax increase for many taxpayers. Meanwhile, \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts take effect at the end of the year as part of the debt-ceiling compromise from last summer.

Common sense, as well as economic theory, tells one that such draconian fiscal austerity can't be good for the economy.

Nevertheless, some – often of the tea party variety – argue that the scheduled tax increases and spending cuts should be allowed to go forward, even welcomed. They take the position that the top priority should be deficit reduction.

Those who think that way should rethink their position, especially in light of the news out of Europe. Eight out of 17 Euro-zone economies are in recession – Belgium, Portugal, the Netherlands, Greece, Ireland,

Spain, Italy and Slovenia. Outside the Euro block, the United Kingdom, Denmark and the Czech Republic are also suffering downturns. There is no doubt that austerity budgets are a major cause of the economic problems in Europe.

The case of the United Kingdom is particularly instructive. Austerity budgets can make sense as the lesser of evils when a country faces a loss of confidence among borrowers. Countries, such as Italy and Spain, that can borrow only at a premium, must choose between continued high interest rates and deficit reduction. Greece really had no choice at all as financial markets were refusing further loans.

But the United Kingdom did not face this tradeoff. The UK was not paying an interest rate premium, but rather faced rather modest interest rates, reflecting the perceived strength of its economy relative to those of other European nations. Nevertheless, David Cameron's government chose to enact an austerity budget. His government's actions have pushed the UK into recession, reinforcing the global slowdown already affecting Europe. The wrong policy enacted at the wrong time, just making matters worse for the UK and for Europe.

The recession in Britain is a cautionary tale for the United States. Like the United Kingdom, the United States is not facing interest rate premiums; indeed, the United

States continues to be viewed as a safe haven by international investors, and as a consequence, U.S. government debt continues to enjoy near record low interest rates. The United States does not currently have a debt problem. Rather the main issue facing us is sluggish growth.

Should the United States jump off the fiscal cliff come Jan. 1, New Mexico will be particularly hard hit.

Among the 50 states, as of 2009, we rank fourth in largest net benefit from federal spending, with each of us receiving on average \$9,475 more back from the federal government than we paid. Cuts to military spending, the national labs and in social programs will

all adversely affect our economy.

We do need to address the federal deficit, but we don't need to do it right now, not in the middle of a weak recovery, not at a time when the U.S. economy continues to suffer from 8.1 percent unemployment.

Once the economy is back in full growth mode again, that will be the time to address deficits.

Christopher A. Erickson, Ph.D., is an associate professor of economics at NMSU. He teaches economic growth theory in the NMSU doctor of economic development program. The opinions expressed here may not be shared by the regents or administration of NMSU. Erickson can be reached at chrerick@nmsu.edu.

Save the date

FRI. 5/11

4 to 6 p.m. Open House for the new offices of the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces, at the US Bank building, 277 E. Amador Ave., Suite 305. Ribbon cutting is at 5 p.m. For more information, call 524-8900.

TUE. 5/15

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Farm Bureau Primetimers meeting will be in the Ventanas Room of the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Deb Dennis of the Amador Hotel Foundation will speak. For more information, call 233-4820.

WED. 5/16

1 to 3 p.m. Economic Update Forum, presented by the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce at KRWG-TV studio, Milton Hall, New Mexico State University. For information, call 524-1968.

THU. 5/17

7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. MVEDA's annual Regional Economic Development Forum

will be at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.. This year's event will focus on the resources necessary to build a stronger technology-based economy. For more information, call 525-2852.

THU. 5/24

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, Springhill Suites, 1611 Hickory Loop. Join the chamber for free food and drinks and a chance to network with other chamber members. For more information, call 524-1968.

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces May Mix 'n' Mingle, Vista College, 850 N. Telshor Blvd. For more information, call 524-8900.

Send us your agenda items

Local organizations and businesses are encouraged to send calendar items to the Business section of the Las Cruces Bulletin. Send general information to business@lascrucesbulletin.com.

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Farmers prepare information for State Engineer

June 30 deadline looms for irrigation data

By **Marvin Tessneer**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Irrigation groups are urging members to get their irrigation records in order to demonstrate need and protect their water rights for the current New Mexico Office of the State Engineer adjudication.

Active parties in the adjudication are the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, Southern Rio Grande Diversified Crop Farmers Association and the New Mexico Pecan Growers, which are advising members that June 30 is the deadline to "prove up" their water rights.

"We're working with the farmer members to get their information in to the State Engineer to prove up their water rights," Bill Gomez, diversified farmers executive director, said.

"We're advising farmers of their responsibility to prove up their water rights for groundwater limits," said Gary Esslinger, EBID treasurer-manager.

In August 2011, then Third Judicial District

Judge pro tem Jerald Valentine issued the final judgment on the adjudication. The judgment granted farmers with surface river water 3 acre-feet.

Farmers who have combined surface water and groundwater rights – or only groundwater rights – were adjudicated the right of farm delivery of 4.5 acre-feet, according to the judgment.

"Farmers with combined surface water and groundwater rights as well as groundwater-only rights who choose to prove rights to a larger amount need to file notice," the judgment ruled.

Farmers who apply for extra water are required to submit data records, acreage values and affidavits of water use on the land.

Under terms of the adjudication, the OSE is monitoring the groundwater pumping with meters to determine how it is changing the aquifer.

Currently, the region has 1,700 metered irrigation wells and a total of 2,700 metered wells.

That total includes dairy, commercial, domestic, industrial, subdivision, mutual domestic, municipal, livestock, schools, mobile home parks, mining, construction and utilities, the OSE reported.

The EBID controls water rights for 90,640 acre-feet within its district. The bureau is granting the EBID 6 inches for the 2012 season, not much improvement over last season's 4 inches. Delivery for a normal snow pack runoff is 3 acre-feet.

The OSE's interest is not limited to the basin aquifer.

The agency and farmers' groups also are watching reservoir levels, which the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reported were: Elephant Butte, 364,300 acre-feet, 18 percent of a full reservoir; and Caballo, 29,700 acre-feet, 13 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, the storage at Elephant Butte was 376,000 acre-feet, the bureau reported.

"The year 2012 is a difficult year for New Mexico farmers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley," State Engineer Scott Verhines said. "Rio Grande Project surface water supplies are low, and the 2008 Project Operating Agreement

compounds the hardship by allocating less surface water to our EBID farmers. We recognize that limiting over-diversion or groundwater may look unfair during such dry times. However, over diversions in one area can impact neighbors in another. Our team is working to protect the sustainability of our water resources, protect our farmers for the long term and follow the decisions determined by the court. We encourage any and all questions and will work with the irrigators to help them survive this dry year."

The final judgment also allows EBID farmers to continue transporting groundwater that has been pumped under one groundwater right to other farms in the district.

"This water transportation must be done through EBID and will continue to be subject to EBID's rules and policies," according to the State Engineer.

The snow pack runoff is not encouraging, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The snow pack in the Rio Grande Basin is rapidly melting, with only 18 percent remaining, compared with 54 percent recorded at this time last year.

Briefs

Primetimers to hear update on Amador Hotel

Deb Dennis of the Amador Hotel Foundation will speak at the Farm Bureau Primetimers meeting 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 15, in the Ventanas Room of the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road.

Dennis will discuss the redesign and remodeling of the historic Las Cruces building, which may become a city museum.

Lunch will be \$10. For more information, call 233-4820.

County seeks applicants for airport board

Applications are available for residents of Doña Ana County willing to serve on the Airport Advisory Board for the Doña Ana County Airport at Santa Teresa.

The Airport Advisory Board comprises seven members serving staggered three-year terms. The board meets monthly, or as needed, to identify issues of airport importance related to safety, growth, development and administration. Members work closely with the airport manager, county engineer and planning

director, as well as a representative of the Doña Ana County Attorney's Office.

The Airport Advisory Board is charged with periodically reporting to the Board of County Commissioners about issues of concern and then making recommendations for future operations.

All meetings of the Airport Advisory Board comply with the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

The application form seeks information related to interest in serving, knowledge of aviation and/or airport issues and other general information about the applicant's qualifications to serve. Licensed pilots are encouraged to apply. Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, May 25.

To request an application, contact Doña Ana County Airport Manager Vernon Wilson at 644-2358 or vernonw@donaanacounty.org.

Local women receive Daniels scholarships

Three Las Cruces are among 38 New Mexico residents named Daniels Scholars.

They are Jennifer Hu of Las Cruces High School, Stefanie Renee Romo of Oñate High School and Dominique Rashelle Ybarra of Mayfield High School.

As Daniels Scholars, they will

receive funding to attend the college or university of their choice, according to Linda Childers, president and CEO of the Daniels Fund.

In a news release, she said cable pioneer Bill Daniels established the scholarship program to assist promising students who demonstrate strength of character, leadership and a record of accomplishment in giving back to the community.

The Daniels Scholarship is not "full ride," but is supplemental to all other financial aid resources, including Pell Grants, available to the student. After other financial resources have been applied, the Daniels Scholarship covers all required tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies and a variety of other miscellaneous expenses.

Local commercial realtor joins Henry S. Miller group

Rick Stoes of the Las Cruces firm Stoes Real Estate Advisors is opening Henry S. Miller Brokerage - El Paso as an independently owned and operated licensee of Henry S. Miller Brokerage LLC.

The new office will give the Dallas-based Henry S. Miller a presence in El Paso and southern New Mexico, according to a press release.

The Stoes team will retain all active exclusive listings, which will be fully integrated into the Miller property portfolio.

Stoes has been active in commercial real estate for about 16 years in both New Mexico and the El Paso area.

He was managing director/principal of Grubb & Ellis - New Mexico.

Stoes is chairman of the Doña Ana County Council of Lions Clubs and a member of the Downtown Las Cruces Partnership.

"We feel this move is essential in our efforts to capture a large portion of the growing El Paso and New Mexico real estate markets," Stoes stated in a press release.

"These markets are thriving as is Texas, and with the Henry S. Miller Brokerage name we have the support to align our brokerage services with the growth and pursue property management business."

"We are proud to have Rick Stoes' team join forces with us," Sam Kartalis, president and COO of Henry S. Miller Brokerage said.

"His experience and market presence in El Paso and New Mexico will enhance our statewide and regional coverage, the El Paso, Texas and New Mexico commercial real estate markets.

State fast-tracks drinking water funding

The New Mexico Finance Authority Board of Directors has agreed to fund four drinking water projects from its Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, including one in Doña Ana County.

Lower Rio Grande Power, Water and Wastewater Association will receive a loan for the installation and replacement of some 3,400 manual-read meters with radio-read meters in the county.

Funding for the four projects totals almost \$3.5 million.

The largest – more than \$1.5 million – was approved for the city of Tucsucari to replace a 70-year-old water storage tank and install new water meters.

"The state is undertaking a comprehensive effort to promote funding for projects that improve water quality up and down the value chain – from the water source to its use," said Denise Baker, chair of the Finance Authority Board. "As more people learn about these programs, we find there is more and more interest in applying."

The revolving loan fund program provides low-cost financial assistance to public water systems to fund the cost of repair and replacement of drinking water infrastructure, maintain or achieve compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act

requirements and protect drinking water quality and public health.

The Finance Authority partners with the New Mexico Environment Department to carry out Environmental Protection Agency Capitalization Grants under the SDWA.

Virgin Galactic hiring

Officials with Virgin Galactic and The Spaceship Company are seeking to fill a combined 18 key positions with engineers, systems designers and more.

Virgin Galactic is accepting applications for the following six positions: operations engineer, seat mechanism designer, design engineer, IT manager, regulatory compliance manager and embedded systems software developer. In addition, the company's space systems development division seeks a mechanical designer, mechanical lead, guidance/navigation/control (GNC) lead and chief engineer.

Although the majority of these positions are based in Pasadena and Mojave, Calif., a few are located at Spaceport America and at Virgin Galactic's future headquarters in Las Cruces, a press release stated.

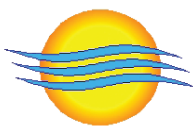
The Spaceship Company, which is building the world's first fleet of commercial spaceships and carrier aircraft for Virgin Galactic, has eight open positions at its Mojave location.

"Through both companies, we offer people to be a part of something that has never been done before – building and operating the world's first commercial spaceline," said George Whitesides, president and CEO of Virgin Galactic and The Spaceship Company. "This requires passionate people with inventive minds dedicated to opening space up to all."

Interested applicants should visit the careers section of both companies' websites – www.virgingalactic.com/careers/ and www.thespaceshipcompany.com/careers/ – to learn more and submit applications. Both sites are regularly updated.

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In Good Company: *PoolTech Plus*

Consumers once again looking at pools, spas

PoolTech presents wares at Outdoor Living Expo

By **Jerome Littlejohn**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

For Las Cruces native Jay Jarden, a summer job led to a business opportunity.

Jarden began working in the pool service and spa industry in 1992. In 2000, Jarden and his business partner Bryan Taylor opened PoolTech Plus.

"I was really excited by the retail and service side of the business," Jarden said.

Originally located on Valley Drive, Pool Tech Plus's showroom and headquarters are now at 2331 E. Lohman Ave.

PoolTech Plus sells and services hot tubs, swim spas and saunas. The company also services and repairs in-ground pools. Some of the brands PoolTech carries include Master Spas, Caldera and Sunbelt.

One of PoolTech's most popular items is the Michael Phelps Signature Swim Spa, Jarden said.

A swim spa is an elongated hot tub that creates a water current a person can swim against. One reason swim spas have become popular is they combine the fitness and therapy options of a pool at a much lower cost, Jarden said.

"Swim spas can be installed in one day, can move with you to a new house, and can be used year round," he said.

Most consumers are unfamiliar with the

advances in hot tub technology, Jarden said. Hot tubs do not require extensive plumbing and construction costs, he said, adding that newer units use ecologically friendly purification systems that disinfect water naturally.

"All units are self-contained and chlorine free," Jarden said. "Instead of taking a chemical bath, you are taking a mineral bath."

The average operating cost of a hot tub is \$25 per month, Jarden said.

If you are considering shopping for a hot tub, you are not alone.

"We are in the beginning of our busy season," said Tom Gumuski, PoolTech Plus's showroom manager.

The showroom is open seven days a week in the spring, and year-to-date sales for the company are far exceeding sales from the same period last year, he said.

The dramatic increase in sales is partly due to PoolTech Plus's increased advertising efforts and participation in trade shows.

"We can not just sit in the showroom and wait for people to show up," Gumuski said.

PoolTech's latest endeavor is the upcoming Pool, Spa and Outdoor Living Expo Friday through Sunday, May 11-13, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

The expo will feature exhibits from hot tub, above-ground and in-ground pool, patio,

“ People are starting to spend some of the cash they kept in savings during the downturn. ”

JAY JARDEN,
Owner, PoolTech Plus



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Alta LeCompte

PoolTech Plus crews install a Michael Phelps Signature Swim Spa at a home in Las Cruces. The spas create a current strong enough for person to swim against.

watercraft and recreational vehicle dealers, Jarden said.

"We've seen dealers in larger markets hold events like this, and some of our vendors recommended we try it here," Jarden said.

Some of the challenges PoolTech will face in the near future include rising fuel and petroleum prices.

"All of our products are petroleum based," Jarden said, referring to the plastics that are used to construct hot tubs.

Still, Jarden remains optimistic about his business overall.

"People are starting to spend some of the cash they kept in savings during the downturn," he said.

Details

PoolTech Plus Pool & Spa

Address

2331 E. Lohman Ave.

Phone

524-4633

Website

www.pooltechplus.com

Hours

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Sales up, prices down in southwestern U.S. states

Las Cruces consistent with regional trend

Gary Sandler's
Real Estate
Connection



The number of homes sold in the Las Cruces area during the first quarter of this year outpaced the number of sales booked during the first quarter of 2011 by 10 percent as prices fell by slightly more than 3 percent, according to statistics from the Las Cruces Association of Realtors.

Las Cruces isn't the only Southwestern city experiencing higher sales and lower prices. Most other markets west of the Rockies are in the same boat, according to their respective multiple listing systems.

Take Albuquerque, for example, where first-quarter 2012 sales were up 13 percent over last year's sales pace. During the same period, Duke City prices fell 7 percent. The same scenario is true for El Paso, where sales were up 5 percent and prices were down 1 percent.

Las Vegas, Nev., and Los Angeles both experienced higher sales, posting gains of 8 percent and 5 percent respectively. Both cities reported values fell by 5 percent year over year. Home sales increased by 16 percent in Santa Fe, with prices falling a mere 1 percent over the past 12 months.

In San Francisco, sales increased by 11 percent as prices declined 2 percent from last year's level. Prices in San Diego fell by one percent, driving sales up 9 percent. Tucson, Ariz., Realtors reported sales rose 18 percent as prices fell by 5 percent.

Exceptions to the rule: Durango, Colo., posted the largest sales gain, exceeding 2011's numbers by a whopping 65 percent. Prices there rose 3 percent over the past year. Prices were also up in Phoenix, rising 10 percent above last year's level. Even so, production there fell 5 percent from year-ago levels.

And then there's Denver, where this year's prices were the same as last year, with sales increasing by 9 percent.

There's no doubt lower prices are enticing homebuyers and investors to take advantage of greater affordability and

higher investment returns, but will the trend continue?

The experts are mixed on the issue.

Some say housing won't recover until the job market improves. Others worry about the impending arrival of an estimated 2 million new foreclosures this summer, which will keep a lid on price appreciation.

Statistics aside, buyers and investors who intend to own a home for five years or more should take advantage of today's low interest rates (3.5 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage and 2.125 percent for a 5/1 adjustable loan) and lock in their purchase.

There may never be another time when affordability and returns on investment will be higher than they are now.

See you at closing.

Gary Sandler is the president of Gary Sandler Inc. Realtors in Las Cruces and the host of Gary Sandler's Real Estate Connection, broadcast from 4 to 6 p.m. each Monday on KSNM-AM 570. Sandler is the 2007 and 2010 recipient of the New Mexico Broadcaster's Association's Talk Show Host of the Year award. Questions or comments may be directed to Sandler at 525-2400 or by emailing gary@garysandler.com

Southwestern U.S. Sales & Prices 1st quarter 2012 vs 1st quarter 2011

Area	Sales	Prices
Albuquerque	13%	7%
Denver	9%	0%
Durango	65%	3%
El Paso	5%	1%
Las Cruces	10%	2%
Las Vegas (NV)	8%	5%
Los Angeles	5%	5%
Phoenix	5%	10%
Salt Lake City	30%	10%
San Diego	9%	1%
San Francisco	11%	2%
Santa Fe	16%	1%
Tucson	18%	5%

Opportunities at the 2012 Pearce Job Fair

Photos by Richard Coltharp

Christina Martinez receives a business card from Jessica Valdez, a team lead at Allstate, Friday, May 4, at a job fair presented by U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce. Allstate has already hired 120 people during 2012 and is looking to hire 80 more.



Mary Anne Lopez visits with Stephen Godinez of Options Home Care at the job fair. The event took place at the Las Cruces Convention Center.



Franklin Gilbert fills out forms for Primerica, represented by Will Davis.

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Las Cruces Bulletin publisher David McCollum presents a seminar on job interviewing techniques at the job fair.



U.S. Army Sgt. Stephanie Brown visits with Barbie Garcia about health care opportunities in the Army.

Alvin Rabsatt talks with Gilberto Olivas of New Mexico Workforce.



Michelle Woodman of David Dean and Associates direct sales marketing company shares information with Stephen Walter.



Carol Roybal listens to Evelyn Nguyen of the City of Las Cruces human resources department.

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Guild paints with eggs C3



Meet the Rubins C7



Great food is just around the corner C11



'Avengers' smashes box-office records C18

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NEXT WEEK

SNM Wine Festival
Celebrate 20 years of good music and great wine starting May 26.



Priscilla lights up the screen and the stage May 18

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People's Choice BEST Checkpoint Award – FirstLight FCU/ SunTech Services
Best Company T-Shirt Design – TRESKO
Best Family Team T-Shirt Design – The Babysavers

TOP TEN LOCAL FUNDRAISING TEAMS

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Team Zane Silva - \$24,344 | 4. First New Mexico Bank - \$8,563 | 7. The Babysavers - \$7,204 |
| 2. The Hakes Cupcakes - \$17,466 | 5. El Paso Electric Company - \$7,801 | 8. Memorial Medical Center - \$7,061 |
| 3. MountainView Regional Medical Center - \$12,354 | 6. White Sands Federal Credit Union - \$7,372 | 9. Pioneer Bank - \$6,840 |
| | | 10. Tresco - \$5,557 |

\$2000 CLUB – Individuals raising \$2000 or more

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Francisca Hakes • Melissa Pacheco • Maria Rodriguez • Angie Heidler • Jennifer Danielson

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Molly Schroeder • Dianne Sage & La Buena Vida Jazzercise • Americorps/FYI Volunteers
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Desert queens

Priscilla benefits GLBTQ center

By **Amanda Green**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Many nonprofit organizations find themselves at odds when needs and services do not match up.

Most of the donations, grants and other financial contributions made to the New Mexico GLBTQ Community Center go directly into programs, support groups and education for the community of Las Cruces. Many of these programs are invaluable to the community, serving individuals of all walks of life, regardless of age, social status or sexual orientation.

The center offers support groups for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, as well as an open mic poetry night that encourages gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning youth to share their voice.

However, when the building, located at 1210 N. Main St., began to need repair, the center was faced with a dilemma: cut back on existing programs in order to make the repairs or work with the building crumbling around them.

"A part of the building's front façade, near the roof, was damaged during one of the winter storms," said Robert Young, a supporter of the center. "The center was flooded, and the owner was beginning to think that the only way to fix the building and to make the space usable again, was to take out a second mortgage.

"There was no way I was going to let that happen," Young said. "I knew there had to be something we could do."

Young and Tony Frazure, an organizer with the center, began to explore ways of fundraising to help with much needed repairs. This isn't the first time the center has had to deal with structural damage – last year one of the front windows was broken – and the center had to reach out for help to fix it.

"As an entertainer, I knew it made sense to do a show of some kind," Young said.

Young, who has been a regular on the Las Cruces drag scene, said he and a few other performers began to think of a way to reach out to the younger generation, to share some of the history and culture of drag and self-acceptance with a new audience.

"We decided to hold a filming of 'The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert,'" Young said. "Many haven't had the opportunity to see the film, which has a heavy message on diversity, unity and self-acceptance.

The film, released in 1994, is a comedy that follows the story of two drag queens and a transsexual who get a cabaret gig in the middle of the desert. Hugo Weaving ("V for Vendetta" "Lord of the Rings") stars in the film as Anthony Belroze, whose drag persona Mitzi Del Bra, is a struggling performer.

He receives an invitation to perform at a remote resort in the Australian outback and recruits some of his closest friends to join him. The group heads west from progressive Sydney aboard their lavender bus, Priscilla. En route, it is discovered that the woman they've

contracted with is Belroze's wife, and to make matters worse, the bus breaks down, leaving them stranded and fabulous.

"It's a fun, campy film," Young said. "It's one of those gay icon movies that really helps explain the diversity of the GLBTQ community."

Young's stage persona, Bobcat, will take the stage with Las Cruces drag diva Ivonna Bump, and the multi-talented El Paso sensation Jordan Matthews.

"There will be an intermission during the film," Young said. "During that time, we'll have a little performance, a silent auction, door prizes and a costume contest."

Young encourages all attendees to dress up, though it doesn't have to be in drag.

"We just want people to have fun with it, dress like a super hero or as Elvis," Young said. "We're just out to have a blast and raise some money to help a cornerstone of the community."

Edward Gutierrez, Ivonna Bump's daytime diva, said the center hopes this screening will be the first of many community-centered events to help fund the GLBTQ center.

"We're promoting awareness of the community, as well as educating people who are looking for more information on what it is we do," Gutierrez said. "The film really has a wonderful message about a lot of diversity issues being currently debated in this country."

"Priscilla' really brings that message of unity and compassion home," he said. "We want to have events where you are able to come as you are, and still have an amazing time."

The film screening of "The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert" begins at 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 18, in the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St.

Refreshments will be provided, and the event will be catered. All of the proceeds will benefit the GLBTQ center and go toward repairing the building to create a safe space for the organization's outreach programs.

Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased at the door, or online at <https://co.clickandpledge.com/?wid=51018>. For more information, visit www.newmexicoglbtqcenters.org.

Details

"The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert"

Fundraiser for the New Mexico GLBTQ Community Center

When

6:30 p.m. Friday, May 18

Where

Rio Grande Theatre
211 N. Main St.

Cost

\$8-\$15

Website

www.newmexicoglbtqcenters.org



Featured artist: *Artist Guild of SNM*

Painters Guild gets cracking

Group makes art using ancient process

By **Christine Peterson**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Egg yolks strewn on canvases will be displayed at the Main Street Gallery.

The Artist Guild of Southern New Mexico will hold an artist reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12, to celebrate the opening of the show during the May Downtown Art Ramble.

Egg tempera is an ancient medium that uses the yolk of an egg instead of the oil binder used in oil paints or gum of Arabic used in watercolor to mix in powdered pigments. While the colors in an oil work will darken and crack, egg tempera has a lasting effect.

"Egg tempera offers the challenge of learning how to make our own paint using egg yolk, distilled water and powdered pigments," said guild member Holly Goettelmann. "Although powdered pigments are used to make most paint colors, egg tempera affords the richness and depth of color that no other medium has to offer."

"Every two years we do a show," said artist and guild mentor Julie Ford Oliver. "The artist needs time to get good pieces together; it requires more than a few months."

"I never use the word student in art, everyone's a student."

Guilds have been utilized for centuries in Europe to help artisans learn their craft, Goettelmann explained.

"Working in our guild with the expert guidance and instruction of Julie Ford Oliver continues to help us learn and improve our skills," she said. "The medium is not like anything else, and offers the challenge of mixing our own color combinations."

"New Mexico State University does not offer classes in egg tempera, so we are very fortunate to have Julie."

Members of the guild include professionals and emerging artists, the difference being the way professionals show-



An egg tempera painting by Holly Goettelmann



The Artist Guild of Southern New Mexico is currently displaying paintings created by the ancient art of egg tempera at Main Street Gallery.

case their work.

"I never tell them what to paint, but tell them to use their personal style," Oliver said.

She said most of the guild members are realist painters, with one painter focusing on abstract works.

"You'll see a lot of birds and flowers in their work," said Oliver, the guild's founder.

Oliver studied art in England before coming to the United States. Her two marriages led her to the Southwest. She lived in El Paso for 11 years before coming to Las Cruces and running the Patio Art Gallery with Carolyn Bunch.

She said she started the guild five years ago as a way for artists to learn to improve their work and as a way to impart her knowledge to them.

"It is rare to find an exhibit of egg tempera locally, it is a must see," Goettelmann said. "Egg tempera painting colors are jewel-like with a depth not seen in many other painting mediums. Egg tempera paintings were found in the tombs of Egypt painted on wooden board."

"Today's artist uses clayboard to preserve the surface of the (egg tempera) painting whereas oil paintings use

fabric such as linen and canvas, which limit their survival and preservation when in contact with the elements."

Oliver said the El Paso Museum of Art has "an incredible collection" of egg tempera paintings that date back to the 11th and 12th centuries.

"There is a resurgence of egg tempera," Oliver said.

She also said two giants of the art form, Paul Cadmus and Andrew Wyeth, passed away recently.

"Contemporary-age tempera use has a strong following of artists that have dedicated their life and work to explore its endless possibilities," she said.

Nature is the heart of the subject of Goettelmann's pieces. Her source material stems from photographs she takes. This exhibit will feature ginkgo tree leaves, morning glory flowers, poppy flowers and woodland thistle.

"My hope is these talented artists will continue to pursue the medium or at least it will provide them a greater appreciate for this obscure and often misunderstood jewel of the arts," Oliver said.

For more information, call the Main Street Gallery at 647-0508.



"Cactus Wrens" by Margaret Pedreny



DOWNTOWN
It's Really
happening

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRI. MAY 11	10:30 A.M.
Rhythm Roundup: Music, Song & Dance ages 2-5	Branigan Library
FRI. MAY 11	11:15 A.M.
People & Stories: Read/discuss a short story	Branigan Library
FRI. MAY 11	3 P.M.
Fantastic Fridays! Stories & Crafts for ages 7-11	Branigan Library
FRI.+SAT. MAY 11+12	7 P.M.
Annie Get Your Gun	Rio Grande Theatre
FRI.+SAT. MAY 11+12	8 P.M.
Tick, Tick...BOOM!	Black Box Theatre
SAT. MAY 12	8 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
LC Farmers & Craft Market	Downtown Main St
SAT. MAY 12	10 A.M.
Family Game Day	LC Railroad Museum
SAT. MAY 12	10:30 A.M.
Storytellers of Las Cruces	COAS Bookstores
SAT. MAY 12	11:30 A.M.
Magic Carpet StoryTime	Branigan Cultural Center
SUN. MAY 13	2:30 P.M.
Tick, Tick...BOOM!	Black Box Theatre
TUE. MAY 15	10:30 A.M.
Read To Me - stories for ages 3 and up	Branigan Library
TUE. MAY 15	6:30 P.M.
Primavera: Mesilla Valley Teen Singers	Rio Grande Theatre
TUE. MAY 15	7 P.M.
Photography at the Zoo	Southwest Environmental Center
WED. MAY 16	9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
LC Farmers & Craft Market	Downtown Main St
WED.+THU. MAY 16+17	10 A.M.
Toddler Time! Stories for kids 1-3	Branigan Library
THU. MAY 17	7 P.M.
Dance Recital: Academy of Music & Dance	Rio Grande Theatre
THU. MAY 17	7 P.M.
Introduction to Improv	Black Box Theatre
FRI. MAY 18	6:30 P.M.
The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert	Rio Grande Theatre



ONGOING EVENTS:

- Downtown Arts RAMBLE - 1st Friday of the Month 5-7pm
- Camino del Arte - 2nd Saturday of the Month 11am-3pm
- Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market - Wed. and Sat. Morn.

SPONSORED BY:



Details

Artists Guild of Southern New Mexico

The Ancient Art of Egg Tempera

Where

Main Street Gallery, 311 N. Main St.

When

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday,
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday

Contact

647-0508

Summer is all about community

Get ready for some fun in the desert sun



David Salcido
Art Happens

May is here and the temperatures are rising, but if you're one of those people who still think there's nothing to do during the summer months, I've got news for you: the times have definitely changed.

Not only is there a full slate of events taking place throughout the Mesilla Valley but

here at the Doña Ana Arts Council offices we've never been busier.

In addition to all of the various events taking place in the Rio Grande Theatre, there are also plans underway for one of the biggest social events of the season, as well as preparations for two of the more popular programs for youth.

I'm speaking, of course, about the 26th Annual Community Art Awards, which take place this year Thursday, May 31, and the Career Art Path program for Middle School students and Missoula Children's Theatre for kids of all ages,

both of which take place in June.

Every year, the Arts Council honors people in the community who have given significantly of their time, talents and/or financial contributions to the community.

That's what the Community Arts Awards are all about. But it's more than just an awards ceremony. We try to make it fun for both the recipients and those who come to honor them.

This year, the theme will be Havana Nights and will kick off at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 31, with libations, appetizers, door prizes and dancing in the streets to the Latin grooves of DJ Checo. Find out more by visiting www.las-cruces-arts.org.

As for our two programs, the annual Career Arts Path program (CAP) is an ongoing, two-week camp for middle school students interested in exploring the arts. This year, CAP will take place June 11-22. Get all the information by visiting the arts council website to download the registration forms and scholarship applications.

The Missoula Children's Theatre is another fun camp for kids that has returned to the Mesilla Valley for more than 20 years, bringing family friendly fare that involves more than 60 kids, ranging in age from 5 to 18.

This year, the production will be "Beauty Lou And The Country Beast." Yep, you read that correctly.

Auditions will take place June 25, with performances running June 29 and 30.

Moving on to other news, our featured artist this month in the El Paso Electric Gallery is Luis Navarro, who has very graciously donated one of his brushed metal paintings to us so that we can raffle it to raise money for the Rio Grande Theatre.

If you have never seen Luis' bright, colorful, acrylic on metal work, I encourage you to drop by the gallery and check it out. He is quickly making a name for himself in the art world and his work goes for three or four times the prices he's asking here up in Santa Fe.

The raffle tickets for his donated piece, titled "Sakura of Cinder," are available at the arts council offices and can be purchased one for \$5 or five for \$20 through May 31, when the raffle will take place during the 26th annual Arts Awards ceremony.

Speaking of outstanding art, we are very excited about our next exhibit, which will open on Friday, June 1, during the next Downtown Art Ramble.

Timed to coincide with Nunset Boulevard – the first official in-house theatrical production at the Rio Grande Theatre – both the El Paso Electric Gallery and the Clute-Muggenburg Gallery will feature memorabilia spanning 40 years of theatrical productions under the direction of the late Art Haggerton.

Featured in this exhibit will be costumes, props, posters, programs, photos and much more from the four decades of musical stage-work Haggerton created.

We feel that it is both a fitting tribute to the man and the perfect way to kick off what we hope will be another creative chapter in the continued success of the theater troupe he inspired. Tickets are on sale now for Nunset Boulevard.

To wrap things up this month, it is my happy duty to inform everybody that the Arts Council has finally stepped into the 21st century. We now have an automated receptionist to field the hundreds of calls that come in every week.

When you hear it, don't hang up. Listen to the menu and pick your extensions, which will take you directly to the person you want to talk to, or allow you to leave a message so they can get back to you.

It's all part of our continued effort to provide the best customer service we can in a timely and cost-effective manner, while at the same time actually getting some work done.

As always, thank you for your support in everything we do. We always look forward to seeing your smiling faces.

David Salcido is the manager of the Rio Grande Theatre. Contact him at 524-6403 or theatregr@daarts.com.

NEW MEXICO FARM & RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM Summer Camps 2012

<p>Music To My Ears June 6 - 7, 10:00-2:00 Open to children ages 7-14 Cost: Non-members = \$20/ Members = \$15 Literature, history, fun and even science come to us in musical form, and this class will explore a little of each. Our musical adventure will take us through Spanish Nuevo Mexico, into the Wild West, and back again to modern country music. We'll do some experiments, sing, and make our own instruments. Parents are invited to attend a mini-concert at the conclusion. Please bring lunch both days. Pre-registration and a non-refundable* class deposit of \$5 are required. Deadline for class deposit is May 31.</p>	<p>Barnyard Friends July 10 - 12, 10:00-12:00 Open to children ages 4-7 Cost: Non-members = \$20/ Members = \$15 Chickens, goats, and bunny rabbits! This is a class for any child who has ever wanted to meet the animals from the pages of a book. Children will encounter animals through stories and crafts, and then have the opportunity to meet the real thing! The class will include a presentation on being a responsible pet owner. The Museum's animals (and a few furry and feathered guests!) will be active participants. Pre-registration and a non-refundable* class deposit of \$5 are required. Deadline for class deposit is June 28.</p>
<p>Storybook Cooks June 12 - 14, 10:00-12:00 Open to children ages 4-6 Cost: Non-members = \$35/ Members = \$30 This class is full of food and fun for your favorite little chef! Children will learn to eat healthy and imagine big, as they create tasty treats inspired by classic stories. Local kindergarten teacher Amber Gonzalez will introduce students to new math, science, literacy, health, social and fine motor skills through the art of cooking. Pre-registration and a non-refundable* class deposit of \$5 are required. Deadline for class deposit is June 7.</p>	<p>Ralph's Spinning Wheel July 18 - 19, 10:00-2:00 Open to children ages 8 to 14 Cost: Non-members = \$20/ Members = \$15 Given in memory of long-time museum volunteer and fiber artist Ralph Dunlap, fiber experts will be on hand as children learn to comb, felt, spin, and dye wool sheared off the Museum's sheep. They will also create some basic weaving projects, and learn how the humble sheep has changed world history. Included are trips to visit the Museum's animals. Please bring lunch both days. Pre-registration and a non-refundable* class deposit of \$5 are required. Deadline for class deposit is July 12.</p>
<p>O Fair New Mexico! June 19 - 21, 10:00- 2:00 Open to children ages 8-14 Cost: Non-members = \$25/ Members = \$20 Happy Birthday! As New Mexico turns 100, this class will explore exactly what makes the Land of Enchantment so special. Students will make some traditional New Mexico crafts, cook up some tasty New Mexican food in a Dutch oven, and learn some of the essential skills of cowboys and ranchers. They will also encounter a few characters from our state's colorful history (who have some incredible stories to tell!) Please bring lunch for Tuesday and Wednesday. Pre-registration and a non-refundable* class deposit of \$5 are required. Deadline for class deposit is June 14.</p>	<p>Life in 1912: A Time Travel Experience July 24 - 26, 10:00-2:30 Open to children ages 9-14 Cost: Non-members = \$30/ Members = \$25 Have you ever wondered what your home looked like 100 years ago? If you enjoy imagining time travel or just love history, this is the class for you! Students will learn the basics of living history and improvisational performance by portraying a historic character of their choice, including costumes and props. The class will culminate with an outdoor time travel performance that transports visitors to 1912 New Mexico. Parents are invited to attend the event on Thursday. Please bring lunch each day. Pre-registration and a non-refundable* class deposit of \$10 are required. Deadline for class deposit is July 19.</p>
<p>From Sprout to Spoon June 26 - 28, 10:00-2:00 Open to Children ages 7-14 Cost: Non-members = \$25/ Members = \$20 Dirty hands are the sign of a great gardener! Agriculture has always been an important part of life in New Mexico, and this class will teach students how farming and food both define our past and shape our future. Hands-on gardening activities will culminate with students using vegetables from our greenhouse to make pizza in the Museum's adobe-brick oven. Please bring lunch for Tuesday and Wednesday. Pre-registration and a non-refundable* class deposit of \$5 are required. Deadline for class deposit is June 21.</p>	<p>Paints, Pots and Portraits July 31, August 1 - 2, 10:00-2:30 Open to children ages 10-16 Cost: Non-members = \$40/ Members = \$35 Crayons are grand, but are you ready for the next step? Students will learn the basics of charcoal drawing, photography and pottery through hands-on projects, while gaining an understanding of composition, lighting, and aesthetics. Experts in each field will be on hand to help them, and the Museum's collections will provide examples of what dedication can achieve! Please bring lunch each day. Pre-registration and a non-refundable* class deposit of \$15 are required. Deadline for class deposit is July 19.</p>

Special packages and discounts available
For more information: (575) 522-4100 • www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org
4100 Dripping Springs Road • Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011

Biography wins Latino Books into Movies award Blind artist refuses to let disability limit him

Bulletin Staff Report

The biography based on Las Cruces artist George Mendoza, "Running Toward the Light: The George Mendoza Story," written by William Buchanan, won first place in the biography category at the Latino Books into Movies Awards held in Los Angeles, April 21.

The book tells the remarkable story of Mendoza, a world-class optimist and athlete, who, at the age of 15, lost all of his central vision and 80 percent of his peripheral vision.

After months of research, Mendoza's mother learned bright light could sometimes help those with vision problems similar to his. In 1972, hoping to help her son, she moved them both from New York to Las Cruces.

Enrolled at the New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped, an embittered Mendoza faced ridicule and frustrations, but renewed an earlier passion for running track.

Shortly after his high school graduation, Mendoza heard of the curative powers of El Santuario de Chimayó in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains north of Santa Fe.

He hitchhiked to the small village, skeptical of a miracle cure. His vision was not restored, but Mendoza underwent a transformation in the Chimayó chapel.

He realized he was not handicapped; he was a person with a handicap.

"I've got bad eyes, sure," Mendoza wrote of his journey. "But there's nothing wrong with my heart or my lungs or my legs."

Thus began a new chapter in Mendoza's life. He joined the track team at New Mexico State University, entered marathons, and, in 1980, ran in the International Olympiad for the Physically Handicapped in the Netherlands.

Today, Mendoza has perfected another hidden talent: he is an exceptional artist and his one-man shows are continual reminders that having a handicap does not diminish an individual's abilities in other areas.

Latino Literacy Now is dedicated to advancing the cause of reading and promoting literacy in the Latino community and by the end of 2011 had produced 64 festivals, book awards, and folklorico dance competitions around the United States, drawing more than 875,000 participants and attendees.

The Latino Books into Movies Awards were established to encourage the production of movies featuring Latino actors and themes. Judges for the awards include screenwriters, playwrights, producers and other entertainment industry professionals.

For more information, call 505-277-3291 or visit www.lbff.us.

AtTheMovies

A witness to brutal murder Parks' coming-of-age tale

The CineMatinee for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, is "The Learning Tree" (1969, 107 minutes, rated PG).

Numerous pieces of art have come out of the struggle for African American civil rights, and they can be grouped broadly into two categories: those that assert a separate identity for the African race, and those that try to show a common humanity between blacks and whites.

"The Learning Tree" sits strongly in the latter camp as a coming-of-age tale of a young black boy in Kansas of the 1920s.

It's the first film from Gordon Parks ("Shaft"), and, more significantly, the first Hollywood studio film directed by an African-American."

Released during the racial tensions of the late 1960s, "The Learning Tree" is a landmark of American cinema.

Newt is a teenager who spends his free time bumming around with his friend Marcus. Though Newt is a level-headed kid with no time for hate, Marcus is a firecracker who can't leave well enough alone.

Things come to a head when Newt accidentally witnesses Marcus' father committing a murder. His struggle with the decision about whether to testify or not could break his friendship and tear his small town apart.

This is a film that doesn't sugarcoat racism, but it also doesn't show it as the lone defining characteristic of its characters. The fact of Parks as writer/director/composer/producer is also striking, and almost certainly contributed to the Library of Congress choosing "The Learning Tree" for preservation in the National Film Archive.

All that would be immaterial if "The Learning Tree" wasn't a good film.

Luckily, Parks steps behind the camera and immediately hits one out of the park. From the film's opening with a portentous tornado (symbolizing the storm about enter young Newt's life) to the final moments of violence that Newt is powerless to change, the film is beautifully done. This is a coming-of-age story that plays as an honest look at what it means to grow up and assume the responsibilities of adulthood (which always seems to come too early).

According to www.dvdverdict.com, "The Learning Tree" belongs in the upper tier of coming-of-age tales. With a strong, well acted story and compelling characters, the film deserves a larger audience."

Special guest, Kyle Johnson – who stars in the film – will attend the screening.

CineMatinee is a unique blend of movies presented by the Mesilla Valley Film Society, which showcases unique films, past and present, often with an emphasis on life in the West – the new West, Old West or anything in between – and "movies that missed us," notable films that never had a lot of publicity.

The series is designed to show area residents that film is a form of art and education as well as entertainment. At least one film a month for this series has a New Mexico "connection," drawing from the vast pool of movies made in the state – nearly 500 – or perhaps featuring a star/story from New Mexico talent.

Unless otherwise noted, screening time is 1:30 p.m., and admission is \$4 for everyone except film society members who are admitted for \$1.

The Fountain Theatre is located at 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, one-half block south of the Mesilla Plaza. For more information, call 524-8287.

Putting the fun in dysfunctional

'Rubins' is a likable comedy about family

Review by **Jeff Berg**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

This is not a film about sandwich making, but rather a silly little comedy about family reunions, religion and fatherhood.

English actor Timothy Sprawl is Lenny, the lead here, recently retired and ready to enjoy the good life by taking a long awaited cruise.

However, his snarky mother, who is a Holocaust survivor, played in fine, although brief form by Honor Blackman, causes him to postpone his trip and to help reunite the family, which includes his four very diverse offspring, for one final Passover Seder before she passes.

This helps create a bit of dark comedy – not involving the Holocaust – to temper the other comedy, which often becomes a bit predictable.

The four siblings are an annoying capitalist businessman, a very laid back Buddhist monk, a very green lesbian daughter and a stiff-as-a-board rabbi.

Take these four and mix them with Sprawl, their father, and toss in a bit of mom and grandma, and what comes out? A dysfunctional family that has been at-odds for years.

The plot is pretty familiar, but it has some fun high points if you don't mind disconnecting your brain for the entire running time.

The senior Rubin summons the kids from all corners of the world ranging from the Congo to Jerusalem in order to fulfill grandma's wish. Of course all of the old at odds things ensue between brothers and sisters, with Dad trying to



Timothy Sprawl stars in "Reuniting the Rubins," a comedy about the trials and triumphs of a family on the fritz.

make peace while Grandmama always seems to need to have something to add to the chaos.

Once they're together, however, things don't change much as each individual of the family simply carries on doing what they were doing prior to the gathering.

Sprawl is the best actor of the bunch here, and he works hard to hold the sometimes overly sentimental film together. He is a great comic actor and puts his all into it.

The problems with the film exist mostly because it is such a familiar tale, and offers nothing fresh to a story we've seen many times before. The addition of extra religions as part of a Jewish

household does add a bit of "oomph" to the film.

But sometimes things seem forced and off-kilter, as first-time director Yoav Factor misplaces some pieces while working to keep things going smoothly.

All in all, the Rubins are a likable bunch, albeit predictable, and the movie certainly won't be mentioned in any of next year's awards ceremonies.

However, for what it offers, a, 85-minute lark, it works quite well.



*I recently reunited with my ex-wife's lawyer....
jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin.com
Jeff Berg is a board member of the Mesilla Valley Film Society and freelance writer for several publications. His reviews reflect his own opinion, not of the film society or the board.*

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"The Las Cruces Bulletin's advertising and coverage of the Las Cruces Arts Fair, through the Doña Ana Arts Council, contributed to the show's success. Some 3,000 people visited the event on March 16-18. About 150 children took part in activities designed especially for youngsters. It gives us great confidence to know that the Bulletin is behind community events like this one, which gives us the momentum to plan the Las Cruces Arts Fair again next spring. We always know we can count on the Las Cruces Bulletin to promote the arts in the Las Cruces community."

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Philip Alvarez and Matt Esqueda star in "Tick, tick ... BOOM!" the musical inspired by the life of Jonathan Larson, now playing at the Black Box Theatre.

'Tick, tick ... BOOM!' ends theater season with a bang

Larson's musical continues to inspire

Review by **Gerald M. Kane**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

What a pleasant evening of theater.

The No Strings Theatre Company under the guidance of Ceil and Peter Herman, has wisely chosen to end its 11th season on an upbeat.

"Tick, tick ... BOOM!" is a delightful, intimate, often poignant, well-produced musical by Jonathan Larson, the Tony and Pulitzer prize winning composer of "Rent."

This is a show that hugs you all around and will more than likely put a smile on your face.

"Tick, tick ... BOOM!" is your basic "feel good" show, with an all too predictable plot, a mellow, soft-rock beat, clever lyrics and a trio of likable characters.

If you're like me, you'll leave the theater feeling warm and fuzzy all over. If you are a Stephen Sondheim lover, you'll think you've gone to Broadway heaven.

Sondheim had a profound influence on Larson, and we see flashes from "Company," "Sunday in the Park with George" and "West Side Story" subtly included in the plot, music and lyrics.

"Tick, tick ... BOOM!" contains far less tension, angst and fascination than the real life events of Larson's life.

Larson often subsisted on the brink of poverty, with a persistent dream of "making it" as a Broadway composer. His story is softened considerably in its present form.

In its original incarnation, the show was presented by Larson as a "rock monologue" titled "Boho Days" in the clubs of New York City in the years prior to writing "Rent."

After Larson's tragic death from an aortic aneurysm about a week before his 36th birthday, and one night before the first preview performance of "Rent," an updated, drug- and sex-filled re-write of Puccini's "La Boheme."

"Rent" went on to become a critical and popular success, with productions of the musical cast around the globe and a successful film adaptation as well.

Five years after his death, Larson's parents – who had just moved to Albuquerque at the time of Larson's passing – asked Tony and Pulitzer winning playwright David Auburn ("Proof") and Stephen Oremus, conductor and orchestrator of "The Book of Mormon," "Wicked" and "Avenue Q," to expand the "Boho Days" material into a play.

In doing so, two additional characters were added, and more depth, angst and tension

were developed.

The cast of the Black Box production, while capable enough, doesn't necessarily coalesce.

There is much needed chemistry missing, most especially between the central character, Jon, and his girlfriend Susan, portrayed by Philip Alvarez and Alex Wheeler respectively.

Matthew Esqueda is cast as Jon's childhood friend Michael who becomes an advertising executive. Esqueda epitomizes "up tight" in his portrayal. We can almost taste the tension under which he is living and competing.

In all, the cast interacts intensely, sincerely and diligently under the capable direction of Dale Pawley.

Peter Herman's set is simple and to the point. The musical direction by Alvarez and Sharon Nelson is excellent.

It should be noted that Alvarez injured his foot a few weeks before the opening of the show. This necessitated a complete restaging of the show with Alvarez performing his role entirely in a swivel chair.

So powerful is his performance, and so carefully and naturally do the other cast members assist him that this bump in the directorial road seems most natural.

Even knowing about the re-staging before the show, one couldn't help but believe this was the way in which the part was originally written and staged.

I left the opening night performance at the Black Box with a smile on the inside and out, which is far too rare these days. If you are in need of a big hug, I urge you to call and make a reservation to see this very lovely production.

"Tick, tick ... BOOM!" runs through Sunday, May 20, at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St.

Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 13 and 20. A 7 p.m. performance is scheduled for Thursday, May 17.

Tickets are \$10 regular admission, \$9 for students and seniors over 65 and \$7 for all seats at the Thursday performance.

For more information, or to make reservations, call 523-1223.

Gerald Kane has reviewed theater, music, opera, film and books for NPR stations and newspapers in New Orleans, Phoenix and Kansas City as well as for the Las Cruces Bulletin. A former member of the American Theatre Critics Association, he is the Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces and has taught "Jews on Screen" at New Mexico State University.

Celebrating history at the *Cinco de Mayo* fiesta

Photos by Zak Hansen

Members of Tierra del Encanto dance on the plaza at Mesilla's Cinco de Mayo fiesta Saturday, May 5.



Mariachi Aguilas performs for the crowd on the plaza.



Karen Miller, of The Soda Wagon, pours a cup of old-fashioned soda for a customer.



Marco Antonio, Brigette and Juan Carlos Becerra enjoy their afternoon in Mesilla.



A dancer from Ballet Folklorico Amanecer looks to the crowd during the performance.



Las Perlitas del Pueblo, the senior dance group of Ballet Folklorico, performs a traditional Mexican dance.

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Mayor Ken Gallegos Miyagishima is extending an invitation for you to join him Sunday May 20th from 11am to 4pm for Food, Entertainment and Refreshments at this annual Fund Raiser

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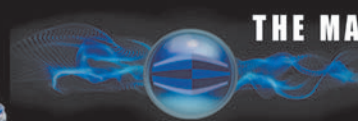
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The Music Scene

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Gotye
- 2 **We Are Young**
Fun.
- 3 **Payphone**
Maroon 5
- 4 **Glad You Came**
The Wanted
- 5 **Call Me Maybe**
Carly Rae Jepsen
- 6 **Wild Ones**
Flo Rida
- 7 **Boyfriend**
Justin Bieber
- 8 **Starships**
Nicki Minaj
- 9 **What Makes You Beautiful**
One Direction
- 10 **Stronger**
Kelly Clarkson



Top 5 albums

- 1 **Blunderbuss**
Jack White
- 2 **21**
Adele
- 3 **Tuskegee**
Lionel Richie
- 4 **Up All Night**
One Direction
- 5 **Hard 2 Love**
Lee Brice



Source: www.billboard.com

Featured musician: *Play Me* Boba Café brings classic tunes to life

Play Me pays tribute to Neil Diamond

By **Christine Peterson**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Sequined shirts and leather pants are only part of what is to be experienced in the time warp cover band Play Me provides.

Listening to Play Me, it is hard to imagine that the lead singer's voice is not Neil Diamond's. This is good thing though, as Play Me is a Neil Diamond cover band.

Karaoke favorites such as "Sweet Caroline" and "Cracklin' Rosie" are part of Play Me's set list while the forgotten favorites, including "Song Sung Blue" and "Forever in Blue Jeans," are, too.

"We try to play as many songs as we can," Play Me lead singer and Boba Café and Cabaret owner Chris Waggoner said. "We try to cover everyone's favorites."

In May 2011 Waggoner and other musicians were thinking of different cover bands they could form. The creation of Play Me came about in 2012 when singers wanted to start covering iconic groups.

The first cover band Boba Café hosted was a Simon and Garfunkel show, which sold out. A show then focused on covering the Mamas and the Papas. Earth Angels, a show that focused on girl groups of the 1950s and '60s, followed.

"We wanted to do a show covering iconic men, such as Neil, James Taylor and Bob Seger," Waggoner said.

While Play Me formed to cover Diamond exclusively, local singer James Gier did a show covering James Taylor.

Waggoner said his group of 10 musicians and four backup singers tries to keep its shows from going over more than one hour.

"There's just so much stuff to cover, so many iconic songs," Waggoner said.

In addition to entertaining, Play Me has aided the community by playing a benefit show for La Casa at the Rio Grande Theatre.

Waggoner said Boba Café is looking to host a Walt Disney-centered show in August. Portland-based group Wandering Willows will perform at the cabaret July 14.

The shows at Boba Café always feature a dinner performance and a cocktail performance.

The time warp hits you right as you walk through the curtains separating the café from the cabaret section. The full-house seating and modest stage prove to be an evening in close proximity with the band, which will go to all lengths to please an audience.

"People should come out to see the leather pants and sequin shirts, and Chris, because he sounds just like Neil Diamond," Boba Café employee Jourdyn Finlay said.

For more information on Play Me or other bands Waggoner is working to bring to Boba Café, call 647-5900.

Details

Play Me

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1900 S. Espina St.

Contact

- 647-5900
- www.bobacafelc.com



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AtTheMovies

Box-office success for 'The Avengers'

Superhero flick smashes opening records

Review by Amanda Green
Las Cruces Bulletin

'The Avengers' thundered its way to box-office history, rolling up \$200.3 million for the biggest three-day U.S. opening weekend ever. I can't remember the last time I showed up to a movie 45 minutes early on a Sunday morning only to be told the next few showings were sold out. I'd hoped people were still eating their post-church breakfast at the International House of Pancakes. Instead, they were bright-eyed and bushy-tailed in line for the newest film in Marvel's empire.

Over the last few years, many superhero films - mostly from heavy-hitters Marvel and DC Comics - have been hit and miss. The casting had a lot to do with the success of the films, nearly as much as the script.

Some of the winners of this battle for the box office screen, were

'Iron Man,' portrayed by the charismatic Robert Downey Jr., 'Spiderman,' with a surprisingly buff Tobey McGuire, and a power-packed 'Thor,' played by a hunky Chris Hemsworth.

The losers, which I'm sure no one remembers, were both of the previous 'Hulk' movies, cast poorly with Edward Norton and Eric Bana, and the mixed reviews of Chris Evans as Captain America.

Marvel's 'The Avengers' took a little from both camps, and under the sci-fi genius of Joss Whedon, hit the screen with a bang.

The Avengers was originally a team of comic book superheroes, which debuted in 1963. Marvel Comics writer-editor Stan Lee and artist/co-plotter Jack Kirby, following the success of DC Comics' Justice League of America, created the team.

Marketed as 'Earth's Mightiest Heroes,' the Avengers originally consisted of Iron Man (Tony Stark), Ant-Man (Henry Pym), Wasp (Janet Van Dyne), Thor and the Hulk (Bruce Banner).

The original Captain America was discovered by the team in issue No. 4, trapped in ice, and he joined the group when they revived him. The team, famous for its battle cry of 'Avengers Assemble!' has featured humans, mutants, robots, gods, aliens, supernatural beings and former villains of the character's solo comic series.



Chris Evans returns to reprise his role of Captain America in Marvel's 'The Avengers' alongside the incredible talent of Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye) and the stunning, wicked beauty of Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow).

The film takes those characters, and while it assumes audiences have at least heard of one or more of the heroes, does well to stay away from being too restrictive.

I personally, have seen many of Marvel's previous flicks, and was familiar with many, if not all, the characters before watching 'The Avengers.' The film, however, was created in such a way even those who had minimal knowledge of the super heroes could follow along in delight.

The film was packed with action from the very beginning when Loki - Thor's brother and the antagonist - steps through a portal connecting two opposite ends of space and time, to the hilarious post-credit snippets.

At 142 minutes, the film has the capability of a sagging middle, while it ramps up for the final ultimate-battle scene. Instead, it left me with a thoughtful reflection on each of the characters as unique as they were similar.

The filmmakers did an incredible job of giving each puzzle piece its own heart, soul and role to play, while still allowing the team to coalesce into a single, working machine.

There is no place this is seen more than during the final fire fight, where each superhero, using their skill-set and strengths, does what they can to help the others defeat the villainous Loki and his alien army. Whedon is marvelous at leading us from hero to hero

within a single frame, following the stream of action.

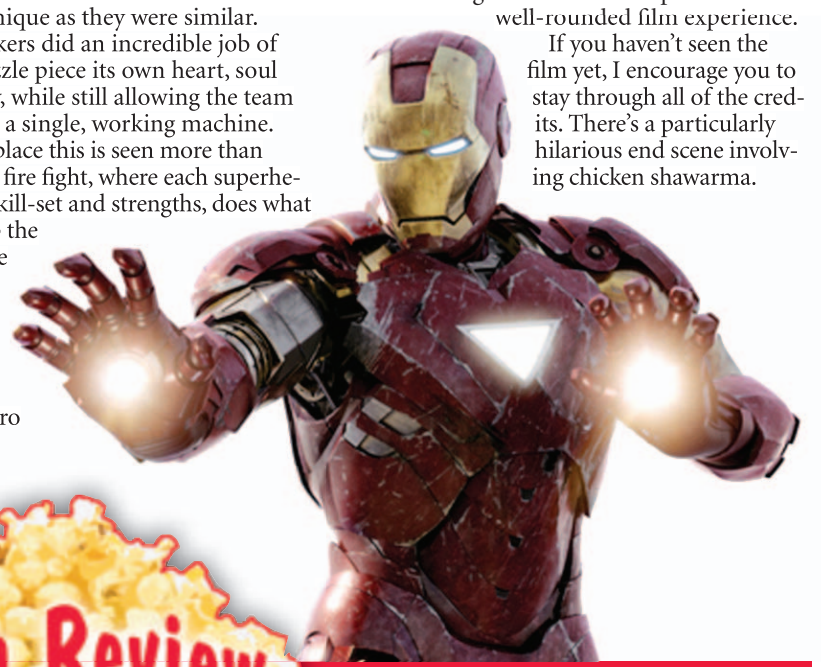
Ultimately, what audiences experience is the best of each hero all together in a tidy, exciting package.

Much of the humor sits squarely on the shoulders of Downey Jr. and Hulk (played by Mark Ruffalo, a much appreciated casting change) who have some of the funniest one-liners I've heard in a very long time. On screen they are charming and unforgettable.

Much of the support from lesser-known heroes, such as the Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), add depth and feeling. Meanwhile, your traditional hunky heroes, Thor and Captain America, add shine.

I do believe I'll revisit each of the heroes' film debuts, and re-watch 'The Avengers' just to tie it all together in what I expect to be a well-rounded film experience.

If you haven't seen the film yet, I encourage you to stay through all of the credits. There's a particularly hilarious end scene involving chicken shawarma.



Advertisement for Allen Theatres showing movie listings for 'The Avengers' and other titles like 'The Pirates', 'Dark Shadows', 'The Cabin in the Woods', and 'The Lucky One'.

Advertisement for a 'Film Review' featuring popcorn and a 'Grade A+' rating for 'The Avengers'.

Advertisement for 'MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS' listing the stars (Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth) and director (Joss Whedon).




AtTheMovies


Picking the Flicks

Movie information from www.rottentomatoes.com. Thumbs-up based on a 5-point scale.


The Lorax
 Ratings: PG
Plot Overview: A young boy searches for the one thing that will enable him to win the affection of the girl of his dreams.
Starring: Zac Efron, Danny DeVito
Director: Chris Renaud




The Lucky One
 Ratings: PG-13
Plot Overview: A U.S. Marine sergeant returns from his third tour of duty in Iraq to find a woman he doesn't know.
Starring: Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Directors: Scott Hicks




The Hunger Games
 Ratings: PG-13
Plot Overview: The nation of Panem forces each of its 12 districts to send a teenage boy and girl to compete in the Hunger Games.
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth
Director: Gary Ross



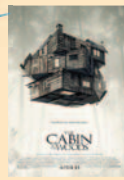
Marvel's The Avengers
 Ratings: PG-13
Plot Overview: Marvel superheroes Iron Man, the Incredible Hulk and Captain America pull the world back from the brink of disaster.
Starring: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr.
Director: Joss Whedon




Mirror Mirror
 Ratings: PG
Plot Overview: Seven courageous rebel dwarfs join forces with Snow White as she fights to reclaim her birthright and win her prince.
Starring: Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Director: Tarsem Singh




The Cabin in the Woods
 Ratings: R
Plot Overview: Five friends go to a remote cabin in the woods. Bad things happen.
Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Kristen Connolly
Director: Drew Goddard




Think Like a Man
 Ratings: PG-13
Plot Overview: Four men have their love lives shaken up after the women they are pursuing take dating advice from a book.
Starring: Michael Ealy, Meagan Good
Director: Tim Story




Chimpanzee
 Ratings: G
Plot Overview: A baby chimp must fend for himself with a little help from an unexpected ally.
Starring: Tim Allen
Director: Alastair Fothergill




American Reunion
 Ratings: R
Plot Overview: All the "American Pie" characters return to East Great Falls for their high-school reunion.
Starring: Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan
Director: John Hurwitz




The Raven
 Ratings: R
Plot Overview: A madman begins committing horrific murders inspired by Edgar Allen Poe's darkest works.
Starring: John Cusack, Luke Evans
Directors: James McTeigue




The Five-Year Engagement
 Ratings: R
Plot Overview: An engaged couple keeps getting tripped up on the long walk down the aisle.
Starring: Jason Segel, Emily Blunt
Director: Nicholas Stoller




Wrath of the Titans
 Ratings: PG-13
Plot Overview: Dangerously weakened by humanity's lack of devotion, the gods are losing control of the imprisoned Titans.
Starring: Sam Worthington
Director: Jonathan Liebesman




The Pirates! Band of Misfits
 Ratings: PG
Plot Overview: A pirate captain tries to beat his bitter rivals to the much coveted Pirate of the Year award.
Starring: Hugh Grant, Brendan Gleeson
Director: Peter Lord



Safe
 Ratings: R
Plot Overview: Luke Wright lives a numbing life of routine beatings and chump change until the day he blows a rigged fight.
Starring: Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Director: Boaz Yakin



Bully
 Ratings: PG-13
Plot Overview: A documentary that offers insight into the often cruel world of the lives of bullied children.
Starring: Ja'Meya Jackson, Kelby Johnson
Directors: Lee Hirsch
OPENS FRIDAY, MAY 11



Dark Shadows
 Ratings: PG-13
Plot Overview: Barnabas, a vampire, discovers the dysfunctional remnants of his family two centuries later.
Starring: Johnny Depp, Eva Green
Director: Tim Burton
OPENS FRIDAY, MAY 11



New this week on DVD

- Tuesday, May 15**
- Chronicle**
 Rated: PG-13
 Genre: Suspense
 Starring: Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell
 Director: Josh Trank
 - The Grey**
 Rated: R
 Genre: Action
 Starring: Liam Neeson
 Director: Joe Carnahan
 - Albert Nobbs**
 Rated: R
 Genre: Drama
 Starring: Glenn Close, Mia Wasikowska
 Director: Rodrigo Garcia
 - One For the Money**
 Rated: PG-13
 Genre: Romance
 Starring: Katherine Heigl, Jason O'Mara
 Director: Julie Anne Robinson

Top Grossing May 4-6

- Marvel's The Avengers** (Week No. 1)
 \$207,400,000
- Think Like a Man** (Week No. 3)
 \$8,100,000
- The Hunger Games** (Week No. 7)
 \$5,600,000
- The Pirates! Band of Misfits** (Week No. 2)
 \$5,500,000
- The Lucky One** (Week No. 3)
 \$5,400,000
- The Five-Year Engagement** (Week No. 2)
 \$5,000,000
- Safe** (Week No. 2)
 \$2,700,000
- The Raven** (Week No. 2)
 \$2,600,000
- Chimpanzee** (Week No. 3)
 \$2,500,000
- The Three Stooges** (Week No. 4)
 \$1,800,000



Life is Good

in Las Cruces

2012-2013 COMMUNITY GUIDE

The Centennial Edition

"Life is Good in Las Cruces," an annual community guide, is a showcase piece for businesses and residents of Las Cruces and also serves as a guide to area newcomers. 25,000 copies of "Life is Good in Las Cruces" the magazine will be delivered to 12,000 Bulletin home delivery customers, and additional copies will be available throughout Las Cruces.

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THE LAS CRUCES

Bulletin

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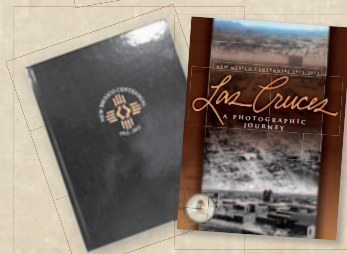
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\$29.95 plus tax



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Call 575-524-8061 or visit the Las Cruces Bulletin at 840 North Telshor by May 31, 2012 to place your order. Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Three tips to keep fit



Gabriel Rochelle
Cycling the Mesilla Valley

There are three key things to keep in mind as you grab your gear and head out for a ride.

According to experts, you should drink water before you begin cycling, and then take sips every 15 minutes while riding. I forget to drink water on rides. I tend to be a camel, so I think I'm good without hydration. It's a mistake. I have occasionally hit a wall that would not have occurred had I drunk steadily while riding.

Some advisors will also suggest a sport drink before riding and again afterward. Sport drinks contain electrolytes and carbs, but they do not minimize your need for liquid.

Pay attention to the time of day and make the necessary adjustments. You need water on hot afternoons than in the cool mornings. This is common sense, but important to remember.

When you finish your ride, continue to drink more water – or another sports drink. Three cups should be adequate to replace lost fluids.

Caffeine and alcohol affect your need for liquids. Most of us adjust to the amount of caffeine we take in. If you drink a lot of caffeine, you will need to compensate by increasing the water you drink.

The same rule of thumb applies for alcohol. Red wine is considered good, but you need to add to your water intake if you're drinking it regularly – more so if you hit the hard stuff.

Stretching is an important part of riding, as well. As we get older, we tend to lose flexibility and motion, so it's important to counter that atrophy with stretching exercises. Particularly if you're afflicted with rheumatism or arthritis, stretching helps to combat problems that come with minimized muscle flexion.

Bob Anderson has been the guru of stretching for decades, and recommends stretching even if you do a lot of cycling. Joe Friel said if you can touch your fingers or your palms to the ground when you bend, and do it without flexing your knees, you need less stretch work than if you can't – but you still need to stretch those muscles in your legs and calves. Find exercises suitable for cycling online through a web search for "stretching cycling."

Resting is important, especially if you are into competition cycling. But it's still important for those of us who ride regularly for distance. The old rule of thumb is: if you want to increase your speed, you'll do it through calculated rests after riding.

Hard resting pays off in harder riding, so to speak. Your body makes adjustments that you don't recognize mentally, but will feel, if you rest after a hard ride. Elevate your feet on a wall for 15 to 20 minutes.

See **Tips** on page D2

Pampered pets for charity

Dog Daze is fun for dogs, owners

By **Lorena Sanchez**
Las Cruces Bulletin

"Dogs get groomed and humans get groomed," said Ronna Conner, a cosmetologist at the Carriage House Salon and Boutique.

That was the thought behind the Carriage House's first charity event, Dog Daze.

"We wanted to give back to the community," said Lori Hathway, owner of the salon.

Dog Daze will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 20, at the Alameda House, 526 S. Alameda Blvd.

The event is meant to provide a much-needed outing for pet and owner. Several organizations, including the shelter, the Spay & Neuter Action Program, the ACTION Program for Animals, Horse 'N Hound Feed 'N Supply and Blue Ribbon Pet Sitting. Other organizations will be on hand to help educate guests on the responsibilities of pet ownership and get some shelter dogs adopted.

There will be a \$5 entrance fee or a donation of a bag of dog food. The donation will go to the APA's food bank, which helps owners who are unable to afford food for their pet.

While dogs in attendance can munch on treats available at a snack bar reserved just for dogs, owners can indulge in food donated by Roadrunner Pizza free of charge and listen to music.

The grounds surrounding the Alameda House were donated as the location for the event.

"They are an event center," Hathway said. "It's a beautiful place and we'd like to thank them."

Because it is an outdoor event, guests are asked to bring lawn chairs, blankets, etc. as



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Lorena Sanchez

The Carriage House staff – Jessika Jim with Buster, Emilie Gibson with Trooper, Lori Hathway holding Maximus with Mattie, Ronna Conner with Hannah and Winston and Aarika Rubio holding Pepper – will hold their first fundraiser, Dog Daze, Sunday, May 20, at the Alameda House. The staff and their families will help at the event.

seating is limited.

"A big part of it is local (contributions). The music, food and participating organizations," Conner said.

During the event, dogs can get a dog wash, mutt cut, nail trimming and dog accessories. Each service is \$5, and will be performed by professionals.

There is also a \$5 charge for entrance into the Doggie Fashion Show, which will start at noon. Dogs and their owners can compete in a

variety of categories including best smile, most owner/dog look-a-like, most creative, best dog-owner theme and best in show.

Dogs must be leashed during the event.

There also will be a raffle at 1:30 p.m. with prizes donated by local businesses. The grand prize is a full grooming for owner and dog. The Carriage House will provide a haircut, style, makeup, manicure and pedicure for the owner. Their dog will receive grooming courtesy of

See **Dog Daze** on page D2

Camp dedicated to autistic kids

Deadline extended for applications

By **Lorena Sanchez**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Camp New Amigos has extended its application deadline for children and young adults with autism interested in having a traditional camp experience.

The deadline has been extended to Tuesday, May 15. Families interested in enrolling children and young adults ages 5 to 18, applications can be picked up at Aprendamos Intervention Team, 301 Perkins Drive, Suite B. There is a \$25 registration fee. The Hearts for Autism Fund will cover all additional expenses.

"It gives them an opportunity to have a safe, structured environment, to have a typical camp experience," said Kathleen Cronin, camp director and assistant professor of special education at New Mexico State University. "The whole point of the camp is for kids to have fun."

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, June 4 through, Friday, June 8, at NMSU. Due to dietary restrictions for some children and young adults, parents will have to send lunch with their child.

See **Camp** on page D2



Camper Jesus Solis rides a horse at the New Mexico State University Equestrian Center, during the 2011 Camp New Amigos. Horseback riding is just one of many activities campers who enroll in the 2012 camp will participate in.

Middle school athletes to attend sports clinic

Exams, education, health tips discussed

By **Jim Hilley**
Las Cruces Bulletin

More than 80 local students took advantage of a special sports medicine clinic designed for middle school athletes Saturday, May 5, at Southwest Sport & Spine, 1181 Mall Drive.

"We gave the kids concussion tests, EKGs, computerized baseline tests and orthotic screenings in addition to the standard physical," said David Gallegos, the southern representative for the New Mexico Athletic Association's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and a local athletic trainer. "We also had a great education component where we taught the kids and parents about proper diet, supplements and healthy lifestyles."

The clinic lasted about four hours and was put on with the help of numerous volunteers from organizations such as Memorial Medical Center resident physicians, medical students,

the Ben Archer Clinic, the University of Texas-El Paso Concussion Research Laboratory and New Mexico State University Sports Medicine.

"We reached a lot of kids who don't have coverage," Gallegos said. "It was as close to a NFL physical as you could get without being invasive."

While the clinic only cost students \$10, Gallegos said the package could be worth \$500 to \$1,000 if purchased individually.

This was the fifth year the clinic has been held, with additional tests added each year, with this year's clinic being the first to offer EKGs.

This will be the last year the clinic will be run as a pilot program.

"We are trying to find out how we can do it with a decent number of kids," Gallegos said "Our goal is to get to where all the students come together, 1,000 kids or so."

and recreation, horseback riding, swimming, music, rock-wall climbing, archery, kayaking and more. Activities will be held at the NMSU activity center, natatorium and equestrian center.

The ratio of campers to staff is 2-to-1, which allows each camper to receive individual attention from counselors trained to work with children and young adults with autism.

"It's not just fun for the campers, it's fun for the counselors as well," Cronin said.

Families are also encouraged to take part in the experience by attending a special barbecue night held for campers, their families and counselors.

Anyone interested in volunteering or for additional information, call Cronin at 646-7831 or Missy Wortman at 526-6682.

Camp

Continued from page D1

"Kids with autism really don't initiate conversations or immediately engage in activities with others," Cronin said. "The camp and their peers help them develop their social skills."

Cronin, who specializes in autism spectrum disorders, said parallel camps are run for the younger and the older campers.

"It's a great opportunity for children that are within the autism spectrum to participate in activities they normally wouldn't and interact with other children," said Missy Wortman, operations manager at Apendamos.

Activities include arts and crafts, sports

Tips

Continued from page D1

My yoga teacher's daughter gave me that tip when I had troubles with vein issues in my lower legs. Reversing the blood flow helps, and the resting is worthwhile.

There is a cycle of resting to be observed, as well. For a while, I rode seven days a week, but now I take off one day for rest. If you are into racing, you should rest a week for every month of racing. But that's for others. At my

age I'm happy to be able to put in 150 to 200 miles a week without racing. I just want to stay upright, happy and riding as long as I am able.

You also need to keep your stress level low and your sleep adequate. But then again, aren't those among the reasons many of us older folks ride? Stay safe out there, but get out there.

Father Gabriel Rochelle is priest of St. Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, Las Cruces, and an avid cyclist. Visit the church website at <http://stanthonylc.org>.

Dog Daze

Continued from page D1

Central Bark.

The Carriage House also will provide a discount to guests who book an appointment at a later date, during the event.

Proceeds from the event will benefit SNAP.

"SNAP runs on donations from the

community, so when those funds run out, they have to turn people away," said Aarika Rubio, cosmetologist at the salon.

The mission of the organization is to help reduce and eventually stop dogs and cats from being euthanized due to overpopulation. SNAP provides low-cost spay and neuter for qualifying low-income households that can't afford the procedure for their pet.

For more information, call the salon at 556-9209.

Support after suicide

Program, groups help ease the pain of loss



Bob Nosbisch

Getting the Word Out

Support groups for adult family members and friends who have lost loved ones to suicide have begun in Las Cruces.

These support groups are for those who have been confronted with the loss of someone they care about to suicide. Those who have left us are our wives, husbands, partners, mothers, fathers, children, grandchildren, grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends and coworkers.

The loss at times feels incomprehensible, the grief almost unbearable. Yet we wake up every morning, take care of those who have been left behind, go to work and often reflect on the "what ifs." We want to understand why our loved ones chose suicide, what was going on in their minds and hearts, and what or if we could have done something to prevent it. There are a lot of questions but few answers. We will never really know. By attending these support groups, talking to those who care about us, and seeking professional help, friends and family members can embark on a healing path and a long journey toward better understanding and inner peace.

Individuals who have experienced the trauma and impact of losing a loved one to suicide facilitate the support groups. These facilitators walk along with other group participants and are there to support one another while embarking on their own unique healing journey for inner peace, understanding and comfort.

The facilitators and group members are not people with magical powers who can fix

all that is going on in each of our lives. They are people who are there to support one another in the healing process.

The support groups are aimed to help those in attendance to learn, share, engage, question, reflect, support and rejoice in each other's experiences. The groups are based on a recognition that we are not alone; that there is a place such as the support group to talk about our loved ones and address the shame, guilt, hurt, anger, fear and anxiety that is felt; that it is time for rigorous honesty, respect and generosity, a time for openness to face our own vulnerabilities, a willingness to ask for help and lean on others, to start challenging our own assumptions, beliefs, interactions, relationships and to listen and trust one another without judgment.

The support group process is based on simple truths: our healing will not happen overnight; our ability to trust ourselves and others and rely on our own abilities and that of others will not happen quickly; our sense of connection with everything and everyone around us will take time; and re-learning to do the things that were joyful once will happen little by little.

The support group experience that connects us with others in similar circumstances has the potential to give us a chance to learn, reflect and aspire to become more whole persons, despite the difficult experience of suicide of our loved ones.

The support groups will be held every other week in an open-ended format so new participants can join at any time. The next meeting is scheduled from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, at The Center for Grief Services, Mesilla Valley Hospice, 299 Montana Ave.

For additional information, call 635-6265 or email phdsatya@aol.com.

May is _____ Month

Arthritis Awareness • Better Hearing and Speech • Global Employee Health and Fitness • Healthy Vision • Hepatitis Awareness • Lupus Awareness • Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention • Mental Health • National Asthma and Allergy Awareness • National Celiac Disease Awareness • National High Blood Pressure Education • National Mediterranean Diet • National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention • National Physical Fitness and Sports • National Toxic Encephalopathy and Chemical Injury Awareness • Ultraviolet Awareness • Better Sleep • Correct Posture • Huntington's Disease Awareness • National Bike • National Stroke Awareness • National Teen Pregnancy Awareness • Older Americans

Week

13-19 Food Allergy Awareness
13-19 National Alcohol and Other Drug Related Birth Defects Awareness
13-19 National Women's Health Week
14-18 National Neuropathy Awareness
14-18 Bike to Work

Day

12 Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Awareness
14 National Women's Check-up
16 National Employee Health and Fitness Day
18 HIV Vaccine Awareness

Sources: www.nationalwellness.org,
<http://healthfinder.gov>

Robert C. Woody, MD, MPH

Adult and Child Neurology

*Univ. Texas Southwestern
Med. School, Dallas, M.D., 1977*

*American Board of Pediatrics, 1983
American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, 1984*

Special Competency in Child Neurology, 1984

*Masters in Public Health, Johns Hopkins, 1991
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Healthy Happenings



TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 381

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 381 is open to new members of all ages at its Thursday morning meetings, which start with a private weigh-in from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Weigh-ins are followed by group discussions of weight loss, dietary help and nutrition. The group meets at Trails West Senior Community Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, in the main room. For more information, call 523-6240.

TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 219

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 219 meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursdays. This support group assists members in achieving and maintaining healthy weight loss goals. For location information, call Doris Fields at 524-7461.

CARING BRIDGE SUPPORT GROUP

Caring Bridge, an activity support group for adults in recovery from mental illness, meets from 4 to 6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Bridge, 2511 Chaparral St.

The group matches those in need of support with volunteers to help build bonds, share experiences and create arts and crafts to sell in a supportive environment. For more information, call Kathy or David at 522-6404 or email bridge@nmsu.edu.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step, spiritual program for those with a desire to stop eating compulsively. There are no fees. The program meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive. Enter through the back door.

Overeaters Anonymous is also offered at noon each Wednesday at St. James Episcopal Church, 105 Saint James St. For more information, call Wayne at 647-5684.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

A family caregiver support group meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays at Café España in the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. Co-facilitators with many years of experience in senior-care issues will be on hand.

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.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP

A Las Cruces HIV Support Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center, 1210 N. Main St. The group offers advocacy and support for those infected with or affected by the HIV virus, and focuses on the rebuilding of community, outreach, education, self-advocacy and wellness. For more information, call Seth at 621-0681.

BRAIN INJURY GROUP

The Brain Injury Group meets from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Friday at the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority, 926 S. San Pedro

St. Each meeting features games, movies, artwork, music, books, puzzles, coffee and conversation. For more information, call Dolores Garcia at 805-1301.

RED CROSS CPR, FIRST-AID CLASSES

The American Red Cross will offer CPR and first-aid classes at its Las Cruces location, 1301 E. Griggs Ave., the first and third Saturday of each month. Participants are asked to register by the Tuesday before the class. For more information or to register, call 800-733-2767.

CITY RECREATION SCHEDULE

The City of Las Cruces offers recreation and fitness classes at city recreation and community centers.

The following classes are held at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave.:

- **Yoga:** 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - **Pilates:** 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - **Aerobics:** 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
 - **Zumba:** 7 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.
 - **Pickleball:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Paddles may be rented for \$1.
 - **Indoor Cycling:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- The following class is held at Benavidez Community Center, 1045 McClure Road:
- **Zumba:** 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. For more information, call 541-5185.

The following class is held at Club Fusion Teen Center, 101 E. Union Ave.:

- **Zumba:** 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, call 541-5181.

The following classes are held at the Regional Aquatic Center, 1401 E. Hadley Ave.:

- **Aquatic Fitness:** 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
 - **Safe Strength Gentle Cardio Water Workout:** 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays.
 - **Water Fitness for Non-Swimmers:** 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays.
 - **Seniors Aquatics Class:** 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Classes are drop in.
 - **Aqua Fit:** 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.
 - **Aqua Zumba:** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays.
 - **Relax and Stretch:** 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays.
- For more information, call 541-2782.

The following class is held at the East Mesa Recreation Center, 5589 Porter Drive:

- **Zumba:** 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. All classes are \$2.
- For more information, call 382-1662.

T'AI CHI CHIH AT MOUNTAINVIEW

MountainView Regional Medical Center, 4311 E. Lohman Ave., offers T'ai Chi Chih sessions taught by instructor Rose J. Alvarez-Diosdado from 9 to 10 a.m. and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. each Monday and from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays.

Sessions are taught in the Women's Resource Room, and are free to Senior Circle and

Healthy Women members, or a \$2 donation is requested. For more information, call 505-359-5256 or 312-8320, or email rositaad@aol.com.

FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENING

A free skin cancer screening will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at the Memorial Medical Center Family Medicine Clinic, 2450 S. Telshor Blvd. Appointments are required. For more information or to make an appointment, call 521-2294.

CANCER CARE SUPPORT GROUP

A Cancer Care support group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Morningstar United Methodist Church, 2941 Morningstar Drive.

Designed to offer education and support, Cancer Care is facilitated by a team with experience in dealing with cancer on multiple levels – spiritual, physical, mental and emotional. Cancer survivors, those currently being treated and anyone in the community whose life has been touched by cancer are invited to attend. For more information, call Betty Harris at 524-3994, Jackie Sledge at 915-525-2575, University United Methodist Church at 522-8220 or Morningstar United Methodist Church at 521-3770.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

Doña Ana County will offer free certified Mental Health First Aid Training to help the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance

abuse disorders.

The interactive 12-hour course is an overview of mental illnesses and substance-abuse disorders that gives participants an opportunity to learn how to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems.

Anyone who takes the free 12-hour course will be certified as a Mental Health First Aider.

Mental Health First Aid Training will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, May 14-15, at the Vado/Del Cerro Community Resource Center, 180 Le Fe Ave, in Vado. For more information or to register in the above training, call Sabrina Tang at 303-541-0311 or email stang@wiche.edu. The registration form is available on the Doña Ana County website at www.donaanacounty.org/health.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MUTT SHOW

The sixth annual mutt show will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Young Park, 1955 E. Nevada Ave. \$5 entry fee, \$25 for unlimited participation. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Categories include sweetest smile, biggest paws, most obedient, shortest tail, trickiest dog and more. For more information, call 382-0018.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sagecrest Nursing & Rehabilitation Center will host a blood drive from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, May 25, at the center, 2029 Sagecrest Ave.

The blood drive is open to the public and will aid in decreasing the shortage of blood donations. For more information, call 522-7000.

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March for Babies sets a fundraising record

Teams surpass \$200,000 goal for Southern NM

It was a feel good moment in Las Cruces when approximately 1,100 residents joined together in support of the smallest citizens of Doña Ana County babies by participating in the March of Dimes March for Babies, presented by MountainView Regional Medical Center and Southwest Dairy Farmers.

On April 28, Young Park, the Triviz Walking Trail and Las Cruces streets were packed with strollers, families and teams hoping to raise \$200,000 to help babies be born healthy – and now the results are in.

Participants in the event are expected to beat the goal and succeeded in doing so, setting a new record for Las Cruces, raising more than \$219,000. The Top Family Team for 2012 is Team Zane Silva for the second straight year, raising more than \$24,300, followed by the Hakes Cupcakes Family team that raised more than \$17,400.

“We’ve seen how important it is to help our babies,” said 2012 March for Babies Chairman Denten Park, CEO of Mountain-View Regional Medical Center.

“This has been an incredible experience, and I’m so proud to be from a community where people can come together for such a great cause.”

Other top-10 fundraising teams were

MountainView Regional Medical Center, \$12,354; First New Mexico Bank, \$8,563; El Paso Electric Co., \$7,801; White Sands Federal Credit Union, \$7,372; The Babysavers, \$7,204; and Memorial Medical Center, \$7,061.

The Best Checkpoint Award went to FirstLight Federal Credit Union/SunTech Services. The best T-shirt contest winners were Tresco and The Babysavers. Top Fundraising Individuals raising more than \$2,000 each were Jeffrey Silva and Francisca Hakes.

Money raised from the event funds research, awareness, and education programs to prevent premature birth and birth defects as well as providing local community grants for programs such as Neonatal Intensive Care Unit family support programs to provide resources and comfort to families with premature or sick babies.

The March of Dimes is the leading non-profit organization for pregnancy and baby health. With chapters nationwide and its premier event, March for Babies, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

For more information, visit www.marchofdimes.com or www.nacersano.org.



Strength, accuracy at the Senior Games field event

Photos by Nicolas Bañales



Ray Nieto competes in the long jump, jumping 9 ft. 6 in. Saturday, May 5, during the Doña Ana County Senior Games field event, at the New Mexico State University track.



Dennis Diaz practices with a medicine ball to prepare for the discus throw.



Pastor Ruben Ortega competes in the javelin throw.



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Marking 50 years of service at the Edgar R. Garrett speech center

Photos by Lorena Sanchez

The Edgar R. Garrett Speech and Hearing Center celebrated 50 years of service Friday, May 4, at the center across from the Barnes & Noble at New Mexico State University bookstore.

"The Garrett Legacy of Excellence: 50 Years of Service!" celebration included a live jazz band, free Mexican food, a silent auction to help fund scholarships for the special education and communication disorders department's students and a scavenger hunt/tour of the center's therapy rooms.

Since 1962, the speech and hearing center has brought the community to the campus to for "large-scale medical service provision." Clinical services are open to those with a cleft palate, autism, hearing disorders, articulation problems, Down syndrome and learning disabilities. Treatments and evaluations also are available to stroke and head injury victims. Individuals suffering communication problems such as stuttering or dyslexia can also receive evaluation and treatment at the center.



Victoria Flores, Gloria Valenzuela, Meghan Sotelo and Diana Uribe pose for a picture. All four are graduate students in the SPED and communication disorders program and will graduate Saturday, May 12.



John and Diane Maki debate whether to bid on a basketball signed by the NMSU men's basketball team. The Makis were at the event to support their daughter-in-law, who works at the speech lab.

Lisa Sullivan, Sue Fitzmaurice, Tana Pool and Margo Reid man the '60s room for the scavenger hunt, during the Edgar R. Garrett Speech and Hearing Center's 50th anniversary celebration Friday, May 4, at NMSU. The hunt took guests through the clinic with the therapy rooms decorated in different decades.



Samir Kharbouch, 4, gets help from Yuridia Mendoza, an undergraduate communication disorders student, to make a colorful pinwheel. Kharbouch attended the event with his grandmother, who said it's rare to find an event the whole family can attend.



Speech and language pathologists Lil Grijalva, Marie Vigil-Castillo and Cynthia Sanchez were in the communication disorders graduate program when the department moved from Kent Hall to its current location, across from the NMSU bookstore. The three alumni helped with the move and worked in the clinic providing therapy during their time in the graduate program.



Tom Lindsay, chairman of the advisory board for the department of special education and communication disorders, speaks with Marlene Salas-Provance, interim department head, and Wendy Wilkins, executive vice president and provost of the university at the event. Wilkins said the center "exemplifies the mission of a land grant university" by providing education, excellent research and services to the community and students.

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Loretta Silva, a graduate of the program, and Paul Spencer enjoy the food and music at the celebration.

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Worship and praise during National Day of Prayer

Photos by Beth Sitzler

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Esther Frietze blows the shofar at the beginning of the proclamation reading honoring National Day of Prayer in Las Cruces Thursday, May 3, on the steps of City Hall.



Pastor Jeff Allen of Grace Bible Church is joined by other area pastors and clergymen during a prayer for churches. The group also prayed for the homeless, repentance, the government, businesses and families.



Chuck Wendler, who organized the city's first Bible read-a-thon to coincide with National Day of Prayer, and Ralph Emerson bow their heads in prayer.



Community members honor the flag during the singing of the National Anthem at City Hall.



Rev. Maurice Hollingsworth of First Baptist Church of Las Cruces participates in the National Day of Prayer breakfast Thursday, May 3, at the Las Cruces Home Builders Association office.

Church News

SPECIAL SERIES AT UNITY

Each Sunday in May, Unity of Las Cruces will hold a free series on opening your heart, forgiving and letting go of old resentments and past regrets. The events include "Heart Attack" on May 13;

"What becomes of the Broken Hearted?" on May 20 and "Follow Your Heart" on May 27. For more information, call 523-5592 or visit www.unityoflascruces.org.

GUEST SPEAKER

Deirde Price will be the guest speaker at the Center

for Spiritual Living, 575 N. Main St., at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 13. Topic will be "The Journey of My Soul." For more information, call 382-8227.

BSF REGISTERING

Bible Study Fellowship will hold registration for next

fall's classes on the book of Genesis at 6:55 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, at University Church of Christ, 1555 E. University Ave., for men and University Presbyterian Church, 2010 E. Wisconsin Ave., for women. Classes meet on Tuesday evenings. For more information, call 526-8208.

MOTHER'S DAY

El Calvario United Methodist Church, 300 N. Campo St., invites the public to participate in remembering and honoring mothers during the bilingual worship service at 11 a.m. on Mother's Day Sunday, May 21. Those wishing to participate may

place a flower in a vase in front of the altar so each mother's name can be said. Please bring a white rose or carnation to remember a mother who has passed. Red flowers will be used to honor those who are living. Flowers aren't required. For more information, call 647-3155.

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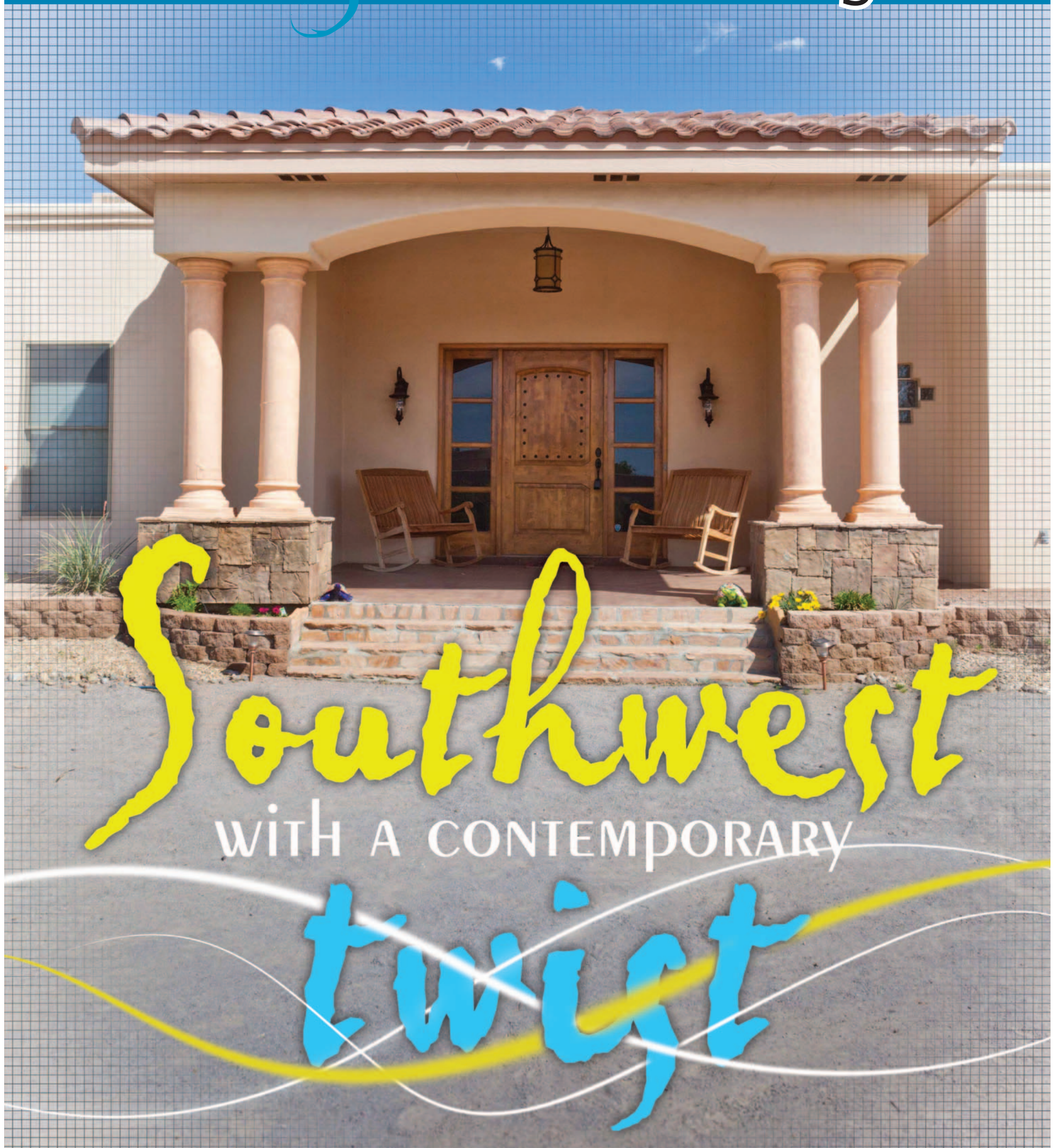
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Southwest WITH A CONTEMPORARY twist

SUPERSTITION DRIVE HOME BLENDS THE TRADITIONAL AND MODERN

Featured home: 4242 Superstition Drive

Photos by Teague Williams



The 3,400-square-foot home at 4242 Superstition Drive, in the Las Alturas area, was built in 2006 and reflects a contemporary-Southwest style.



The home features an indoor swimming pool.



A patio was enclosed to become a game room.



Glass blocks and granite surround a jetted bathtub.



The large kitchen is great for entertaining guests.

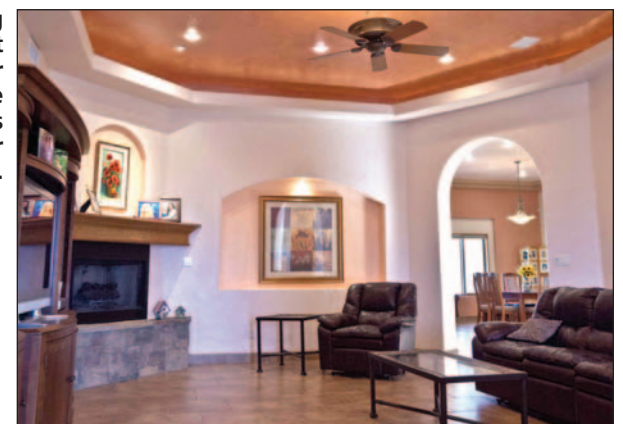


A neutral color scheme was used throughout the home to create a comforting, relaxed environment.



The living room sits at the center of the home and includes a corner fireplace.

The large master suite includes space for a seating area.



Entertaining meets family living

Open floor plan allows open, private spaces to mingle

By **Beth Sitzler**

Las Cruces Bulletin

When Carol Hillger decided to move out of the valley and into the city, she had certain criteria her new family home had to meet.

Wanting to relocate to an area with less vegetation because of her daughter's allergies, Hillger said she searched for a home that offered enough space to accommodate three teenagers while maintaining an elegant style.

"I was driving around and I found this house," she said of the home at 4242 Superstition Drive in the Las Alturas area. "It was just in the framing stage."

The home was being built by James Evans and although it had yet to fully take shape, Hillger said she was drawn to the open floor plan and purchased the home in 2006.

"I liked the openness of the home," she said. "It had defined rooms, but it felt open because of the tall ceilings and walk throughs."

She worked with Evans, tweaking the design of the home to better suit her family's needs. When completed, the finished result was a 3,400-square-foot residence with a contemporary Southwest architectural style.

A gravel, half-circle driveway leads to the front of the home. Set behind large, statement-making columns is the front door. Also designed to grab your attention, the front door measures 8 feet tall and 4 feet wide. Pieces of ironwork grace the front of the door, while blocks of etched glass surround the entrance, allowing for both natural light and privacy.

The tile floor features a neutral, sandy color and sets the tone of the home's color palette.

"The tile makes it feel really clean," Hillger said.

A large, lit nicho greets guests as they walk through the door leading them to the left or right. To the right is a powder room, featuring vibrant terracotta-colored, hand-troweled walls.

"I wanted color," she said, adding that desert colors of various hues were used throughout the home. "All of the different colors give the home character."

Complementing the wall color are the white and yellow speckled granite countertops and contemporary orange sink bowl. The cabinet was designed to resemble furniture, adding to the modern feel of the space.

Down the nicho-lined hall from the powder room are three of the abode's four bedrooms. The rooms measure about 10 by 11 feet and include finished closets, tray ceilings and window seats, an architectural detail Hillger said her children enjoyed.

Also located in this area is a full bathroom with double sinks and the same speckled granite countertops found in the powder room. Intricate tile work lines the arched bathtub of the butter cream-tinted room.

A laundry room sits in this wing of the home and circles back to the kitchen. It also is adjacent to the three-car garage. The garage was placed on the side of the home as to not detract from the residence's elegant façade.

Attached to the garage is an office area with shelves as well

as a workshop, which can fit one car, Hillger said. Countertops and light-colored cabinets fill the space, offering plenty of room for projects.

One feature not on the original floor plan that Hillger had to have was the indoor swimming pool, located next to the workshop.

"It's my favorite part of the house," she said. "It's fun."

An avid swimmer, Hillger said she wanted the indoor swimming pool so she could take a dip and exercise every day, no matter the weather.

"I like to swim year-round, but I don't like the sun or the cold," she said. "This way I can swim – even if it is windy outside."

The 32-foot-long swimming pool varies from 4 to 6 feet deep. The skylights overhead can be opened to give the impression of being outdoors. A surround-sound system in the house and patio is also piped into the room.

Hefty arches surround the kitchen, which opens to the dining room. A large island occupies the center of the kitchen. A darker granite was selected for the space. The deep tone plays off the rich, stacked cabinets, which include crown molding for added style.

Next to the dining room is a space that was to be a patio, but was enclosed to create a room for the family's pool table. The game room features stained-concrete flooring, which accents the vibrant walls.

At the center of the home is the living room. Constructed in an octagon shape with a 12-foot-tall tray ceiling, the living room is the center of entertaining, Hillger said. A fireplace, lined in tile, is placed in a corner.

To the left of the entrance is a home office as well as the master suite.

"I like the bigness of (the master bedroom). You can have furniture in it and not feel crowded," said Hillger, adding that she frequently can be found reading in the room's sitting area.

The bathroom of the master suite includes a relaxing jetted bathtub, set in granite and resting against a wall of glass blocks. The space also includes a large, walk-in shower. Rather than having a door, the shower entrance is blocked by glass squares, maintaining that sense of privacy.

The master suite also includes a door to one of the two covered patio areas, one of which includes a fireplace. The patios look out to the grassy backyard. Various plants can be found in the yard, including honeysuckle and rosemary.

"The upkeep is really easy," Hillger said. "There is a built-in sprinkler system in the front and the back."



The patio includes an outdoor fireplace.



Granite covers the bathroom countertops.

Details

Featured home

4242 Superstition Drive

Square footage

3,400

Acres

Under 1

Bedrooms

Four

Bathrooms

Two and a half

Fireplaces

Two

Price

\$560,000

Special features

Surround sound inside and on the patio, water softener system, recirculating hot water system, contemporary-Southwest style, granite countertops, tiled features, hand-troweled walls and an indoor swimming pool

Contact

Laura Conniff 522-4224



Lit nichos can be found throughout the home.

Welcome family home

Ways to make transition smoother for everyone



Maureen Villmer
Practical Design

In the last three weeks, I have had five conversations with clients about either adult children moving back home or aging parents moving in.

Let me first relate to adult children moving back home. It could be the college grad coming back home because they can't find a job or the older, more established adult child who has lost a job and needs a place to live that they can afford. Whatever the scenario, you may want to think about your space (or lack of space) and how it might best be used to keep peace in the family.

In the worst-case scenario, you've already transformed their old bedroom into your new craft room or home office.

Perhaps the makeover is as simple as updating the décor from teenage to adult in their existing old room. We should be so lucky.

I remember the commercial with the parents being so sad as they were sending their child off; turning around and jumping for joy in converting their newly regained room into a home gym.

What are the odds that your adult child will be moving home? About 22 percent fewer graduates will get jobs this year compared to 2008.

AARP recently surveyed more than 1,000 adults over the age of 18 and found that 33 percent of respondents age 18 to 49 live with their parents or in-laws. The most common reasons cited were loss of income, followed by a change in job status. So, here are some things you need to do to make this an easier transition.

Create a separate work area for them. If the bedroom they're sleeping in is too small, create a work area by partitioning off part of the living room, the kitchen or any area you can find with a screen to give privacy.

Finding a job will be the most important thing that leads to independence once again for your adult child. Don't put them where your latest phone bill and their résumé can get mixed up.

If a small desk is already in their sleeping room, then offer a bulletin board, a file drawer, a separate printer, computer or even a laptop.

You may have to give up some of your own space. Go through your home with a critical eye before your adult child moves in and figure out what you need to keep, what can be stored, what needs to be tossed and what you need to buy new. You will avoid many "bumps in the road" if you do it all before they get there.

Be prepared to convert that office or craft room into a temporary bedroom. You may have to make some tough decisions.

When an adult child returns to live with you, a struggle for space might just show up. A few space-saving techniques that won't create emotional battles or pricey home remodels can help smooth the transition for all.

How about a Murphy bed? How about a platform bed with storage, short bookcases or drawers under the bed to control the clutter?

The key to making best use of small spaces is to add multi-functional storage pieces in the room.

End tables with drawers or shelves can hold underwear or socks while still supporting a table lamp. The less clutter in the room the more open and airy the space will feel.

If you have a basement, loft or casita, consider the best options for your family. Some possibilities are: converting a basement into a makeshift apartment; repurposing a home office into a bedroom; or adding on a small apartment or private casita or guesthouse. What does the budget allow and how long will temporary really be?

It is important to head off potential culture clashes by discussing schedules, routines, money obligations, groceries, utilities, household tasks, meals, TV shows, laundry and last but not least decorating their space so they are happy and you are happy.

Selecting a color palette that everyone can live with will make the space more welcoming. A fresh coat of paint gives any space new life.

Next time, we will talk about the aging parent moving in and how to prepare yourself.

*Maureen Villmer is an interior designer in Las Cruces with 35 years of experience. If you have questions you would like answered in her column, email her at maureenvillmer@hotmail.com, visit *Environs Interior Design* on Facebook or call 496-7605.*

“ The key to making best use of small spaces is to add multi-functional storage pieces in the room. ”



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Theresa Montoya Basaldua

The neighbors of Majestic Shadow Loop celebrated the Kentucky Derby with a friendly derby hat competition on Saturday, May 5. The winners were Lisa Garmon for best themed, Anne O'Brien for most creative, Beverly Morales for the funniest, Jeanne Charpentier for most elegant/traditional and Chris Mitchell, had the funniest.

A complete photo finish

Hat competitors give each other a run for the money

By **Theresa Montoya Basaldua**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The residents and neighbors of the Majestic Shadow Loop community know how to have a darn good time.

Chris Mitchell, a board member of the Majestic Shadow Loop Association, threw a party to celebrate the Kentucky Derby with her neighborhood friends on Saturday, May 5. What makes a Kentucky Derby party different from Mitchells' other parties? Fabulous hats.

As art director at the Las Cruces Bulletin, I was asked to judge these fabulous hats and I was raring to go.

I took my husband, Daniel, along with me to help with the judging, but mostly because Mitchell told me "we may be old, but we know how to have a good time!"

Four titles were up for grabs in the categories of most creative, funniest, most elegant/traditional and best themed.

The award for the most creative hat went to Anne O'Brien. The hat carried traditional flowers, but also had spunky accents of green tulle and shamrocks. O'Brien had been visiting from Ireland.

There was a two-way tie for the funniest hat. Beverly Morales, who brought a hat in on a stick horse, and Chris Mitchell, whose hat carried red roses, Jim Beam and Jack Daniels' shooters, along with some other fun trinkets attached.

Jeanne Charpentier had the most elegant hat. Charpentier decorated her black hat with beautiful black-and-white ribbons, sparkly tulle and feathers.

The best-themed hat was awarded to Lisa Garmon. The "Run for the Roses" theme blossomed with Garmon's purple hat, embellished with three large peace roses and feathers.

"I sewed peace roses on my Kentucky Derby hat to be a reminder that peace reigns here," Garmon said. "That we are still a community of caring neighbors and that is important to me, to us all."

It is always fantastic to see fellow Las Cruces getting together and showing others why Las Cruces is truly a wonderful place to live.

"People give extravagantly of themselves on our loop," Garmon said. "We often look for opportunities to express kindness and gratitude."

It is that kind of attitude that makes life good in Las Cruces.

After my judging duties were finished, I sat down to visit with my new friends, enjoyed the view of the Organs and ate like a horse.

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A future Tree City?

City seeks to meet national program standards

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

On a hot summer day, those enjoying the outdoors are most likely doing so from the comfort of a shady area under the foliage of a tree.

Not only do trees provide needed shade, they also can improve the microclimate of an area, making it feel cooler than what the temperature actually is.

"Take an asphalt parking lot," said Mark Johnston, director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department. "On a day that reaches 90 degrees, the parking lot can reach 120 degrees.

"In the shade of a tree canopy, the temperature can drop 25 degrees. That makes the 90-degree temperature feel cooler."

Large cities in the Southwest, such as Phoenix and Las Vegas, Nev., contain large amounts of concrete and man-made water, which create high humidity and a "blast of heat" feeling.

To prevent Las Cruces from becoming a concrete jungle, the city will pursue becoming a certified Tree City USA community.

"The benefit to a Tree City, at the forefront,

is the educational opportunities to inform citizens of the importance of trees and the importance of planting the right trees," Johnston said.

In addition to providing shade, trees can add a slight amount of moisture to the air and help with wind and rain erosion. Trees also can save homeowners 15 to 20 percent on their heating and cooling utility bills when strategically placed around a home.

"We have the opportunity now, before the city grows, to plant trees," Johnston said.

The city introduced its 2-for-1 tree policy about seven years ago – which requires two trees to be planted for every one tree removed from city property – and now the decision by City Council to join Tree City USA within two years will further the long-term health of trees in the city.

"Several issues have come up," Johnston said. "There is more interest in the environment, clean air and saving our natural resources."

To qualify as a Tree City USA community, the area must meet four standards set by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

This includes creating a tree board or department, making someone legally responsible for the care and management of the community's trees, such as a professional forester or arborist or a volunteer board; a tree care ordinance, which is an opportunity to set good policies that can be enforced; a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita; and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation, which the city already does.

These standards were formed to ensure every qualifying community has a viable tree management plan and program. These standards also are designed to allow all communities, no matter their size, become certified.

A board has been formed, which includes Johnston and Craig Fenske, coordinator of Keep Las Cruces Beautiful.

Venturing to the Southwest from Bellingham, Wash., a Tree City USA community, Fenske said he was already familiar with the program and the significant role trees play in the health of an area.

"There are different challenges here," he said. "Here, you have to be intentional when planting trees. There is a different level of care."

"Education is going to be a key topic," Johnston said. "It's important as we move forward on what (Tree City USA) is and why people should support it and care."

The city currently participates in seedling giveaways through its Arbor Day activities – which distributed 500 this year – but will ramp up its outreach by providing homeowners with information and products, Johnston said.

"We're also looking at partnering with local growers and large businesses," he said.

By creating more awareness, Fenske said he hopes more community members will be willing to plant their own trees.

"(New Mexico State University Cooperative) Extension has information on trees to get," he said.

Another effort Fenske is working on is creating a volunteer "tree steward" program. Through a \$5,000 Lowe's Community Improvement grant, the program will train volunteers to help in the city's nursery located off Hadley Avenue.

Recruitment for the 20 volunteer positions has begun and training will start July 1, he said. Volunteers will nurture the 400 trees from seedling until they're 2 inches in diameter, at which time they will be planted around the city.

The tree board currently is fine-tuning its recommended-tree list as well as the



Verity Summers, 9, holds a lace bark elm and Cheyenne Salem, 10, holds a piñon seedling during a seedling distribution event held by Keep Las Cruces Beautiful in honor of Arbor Day, April 7. The city is working on becoming a Trees City USA community by promoting and planting trees.

tree ordinances, which will include care, maintenance, policies and goals.

"I'd like to have a canopy goal – a goal of how much square feet of the city will be covered by trees," Johnston said.

Although New Mexico is a desert, there are 12 Tree City USA communities in the state, proving that it can also happen in Las Cruces.

"I'd tell naysayers to go to Apodaca Park or Young Park and look at where people are under – they're under trees," Fenske said.

"With the correct species and with the right amount of water, trees can grow very well here," said Johnston, adding that the initial

water usage required to care for a seedling is worth the long-term benefits.

Of the 12 New Mexico communities, which includes Albuquerque, Clovis, Carlsbad, Santa Fe, Taos and San Jon, Roswell has maintained the certification the longest with 21 years.

"Roswell has a tremendous tree program," Johnston said. "They have an arborist, and if you look at their parks, it reflects that."

For more information about becoming a tree steward, contact Fenske at 528-4723 or cfenske@las-cruces.org.

For more information on Tree City USA, visit www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa.

Details

Low water-use trees

There are plenty of trees that can thrive in the Mesilla Valley. Below is a sampling of the varieties. For more information, visit <http://desertblooms.nmsu.edu> and click on the "Plant Selector" link.

Afghan or Mondel pine
Alligator juniper
Anachacho orchid tree
Arizona white oak
Black locust
Blackbrush acacia
Blue palo-verde
California fan palm
Catclaw acacia
Chilean mesquite
Desert willow
Escarpment live oak
Faxon palm or giant yucca
Foothills palo-verde
Fragrant ash
Goldenball leadtree
Honey mesquite
Italian cypress
Littleleaf ash
Mediterranean fan palm
Mexican blue oak
Mexican blue palm or blue hesper palm
Mexican elder
Mexican fan palm
Mexican palo-verde, Retama or Jerusalem thorn
Mexican plum
Mexican redbud
Mount Atlas pistache
Netleaf or canyon hackberry
One-seeded juniper
Palo-verde "desert museum"
Schott's or mountain yucca
Screwbean mesquite or tornillo
Sweet acacia
Texas persimmon
Texas pistache
Texas white ash
Torry or shaggy yucca
Western soapberry
Windmill palm

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Taking in plants, views at the Las Cruces Tour of Gardens

Photos by Rafael Torres

David Field stands in front of his hacienda courtyard during the 17th annual Las Cruces Tour of Gardens Saturday, May 5.



A waterfall circles around a planting bed, adding to the relaxation of the outdoors.



Multi-colored roses bloom and fill the inside edge of this garden.



A fountain spills into a pool surrounded by lush plantings on the Organ Mesa Loop. A stunning view of the Organ Mountains fills the sky.



Paul and Mary Curry's Tuscan-style-villa courtyard welcomes garden tour guests with color and refreshing nature.

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A fountain statue overlooks a stream in the Curry courtyard.



Steps from the Curry courtyard lead to a tower dining room with a panoramic view of the Mesilla Valley.



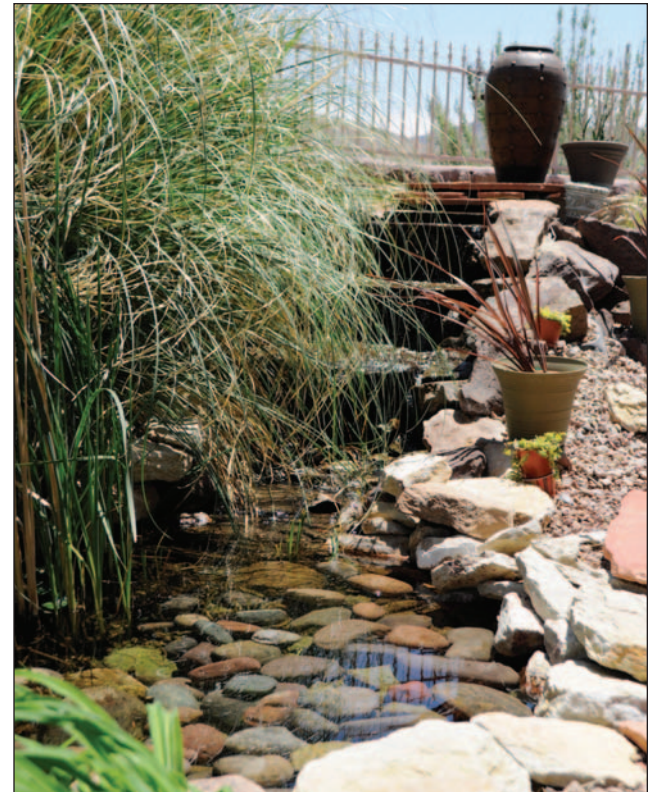
A formal, traditional English garden on Soledad Canyon Court uses beds lined with boxwood hedges. The hedges shelter a variety of flowers and vegetables.



Paul Curry welcomes guests to his garden and courtyard, with 100-year-old bricks from an El Paso school.



A flower and vegetable garden outlines the perimeter of the Curry property.



Water cascades down a waterfall into a small courtyard pond on Red Yucca Court.



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Home Sales Scoreboard

LAS CRUCES AREA

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Homes Sold New	2	4	0
Homes Sold Existing	16	24	12
Pending Home Sales (All)	204	203	181

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Median Price New	\$145,745	\$185,310	N/A
Median Price Existing	\$194,164	\$165,062	\$148,750

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Total Homes on Market (All)	1,124	1,137	1,152
Real Estate Agents	385	385	405

Average Days on Market (All): This Week **83**, Last Week **103**, Same Week Last Year **81**

"Homes" include detached single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums

Source: Las Cruces Multiple Listing Service (MLS)* for the period 04/30/12-05/06/12
* MLS is wholly owned by the Las Cruces Association of Realtors
** Unknown per LCAR

Getting to know: Oscar Padilla

Hard work goes a long way

Builder finds career passion, new roots in Las Cruces

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

As a child, Oscar Padilla saw through his mother, Rosario Correll, and grandfather, Jose Ruiz, firsthand what hard work and dedication could accomplish.

"I learned that you have to work hard to get things in life – things aren't just handed to you," he said. "My mother instilled that in me at a young age, and she got it from her father."

During his younger years, Padilla said he spent time working at his mother's printing business in El Paso.

"She made a living from her hard work," he said. "I owe my attitude and education to my mother."

After pursuing his baseball passion at a junior college, Padilla returned to El Paso to attend the University of Texas-El Paso. A short time later, he wanted a change and ventured up Interstate 10 to Las Cruces, where he attended New Mexico State University and earned a degree in civil engineering.

"I had to adjust to living in a smaller city," he said. "But I realized, by the time I was finished with my education, that this was where I wanted to stay."

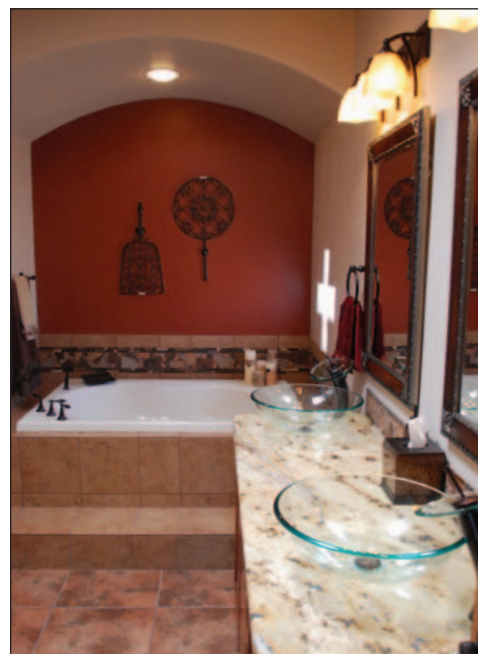
Although he was establishing roots in Las Cruces and had started a family with his wife, Melissa, Padilla had to move north when a job opportunity took him and his family to Albuquerque.

As luck would have it, the day he began, he learned the company had been sold to national engineering firm Parsons Brinckerhoff. In his first meeting, the firm leaders discussed pursuing the U.S. Highway 70 redesign from Interstate 25 to NASA, which would be mobilized in Las Cruces.

"They were looking for volunteers to be on the team and I raised my hand," he said. "Within eight months after I had started, the firm was awarded the project ... and I was able to come right back home."

"I counted my blessings because Las Cruces is my home."

Padilla continued working for the company and earned his engineering license, a feat of which he is proud.



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzler

The bathroom of the model home includes fine detailing.



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzler

The Spirit View Homes model home at 2021 Villa Napoli was featured during the 2012 Spring Showcase of Homes.

"Getting a degree is one thing, getting your (professional engineering) license is another," he said, adding that it required passing an eight-hour exam.

Following "a career path to corporate America," Padilla said in 2002 he thought it would be fun to build his own house.

"I didn't intend on being a builder," he said. "I built my own house and I thought it was fun. I liked it. It was fun to see your creation come to life."

Outside watering his plants, Padilla said he met a man who was interested in having a home built. Padilla asked to build it and within months the project was completed.

"From there, with word of mouth, things just boomed," he said, adding that he left the engineering firm and formed Spirit View Homes. "Ten years later, I'm still in construction."

During his early years, Padilla said he learned several valuable lessons, such as the importance of monitoring every aspect of a business, from the books and budget to the job site and design.

"The most important thing is having a proper design before you build," he said. "Going back to fix things is not the way to build a house."

His engineering background gave him an advantage, he said, because it allowed him to understand how things are put together and to become a proficient problem solver.

"After that, all you need is experience," he said. "I learned a lot along the way."

Padilla said when he first began, he built larger homes, but after seeing the market begin to change, he transitioned to smaller homes in a more affordable price range.

"I made the switch before the crash," he said.

Having built about 200 houses, as well as doing countless remodels, Padilla said he does all of the design work for Spirit View Homes.

"There is a thought process behind each house," he said. "Seeing it go from my mind, or one of my client's napkins ... to being actually built and people enjoying the product, that gives me the most satisfaction."

"The two big things I have going for me are, one, my background – it helps me be more involved with the design of a house – and two, I include everything in the price. I try to maintain a fair price while giving out a good product."

Over the past two years, Padilla said Spirit View Homes has built, on average, 10 custom

houses, strictly by word of mouth, referrals and return clients. This year, however, Padilla said he plans to grow the company and has a goal of constructing 40 to 50 homes.

"I've always stayed under the radar," he said. "The opportunity is now for me to show Las Cruces what I can do and introduce my type of construction into the competition."

"I'm trying to provide houses at a great price, in a great location and give homeowners the ability to change things to better fit them."

While he can build anywhere in Las Cruces in any style, Padilla said he has focused much

Details

Oscar Padilla

Builder

Company

Spirit View Homes

Phone

496-9372

Email

oscar@spiritviewhomes.net

Website

<http://spiritviewhomes.com>

Education

Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, New Mexico State University

Organizations

American Society of Civil Engineers

Family

- Wife Melissa
- Son Isaac, 14
- Daughters Genevieve, 12, and Savannah, 6 weeks

of his attention on Mission Santa Clara and Dove Crossing.

Busy growing Spirit View Homes and keeping his clients happy, Padilla devotes plenty of time to his greatest passion – his family, which includes son Isaac, 14, daughter Genevieve, 12, and newborn daughter Savannah, 6 weeks.

"You forget after a while how amazing it is to be blessed with a baby in your life," he said.

Although he still makes time for his athletic interests, most of his weekends are occupied watching Genevieve play sports or Isaac perform in the Oñate High School band.

"My biggest interest is my family," he said. "I want to make sure they are well taken care of."



Oscar Padilla, pictured with wife Melissa, began Spirit View Homes in 2002 after time in civil engineering.



The couple has three children – Isaac, 14, Genevieve, 12, and Savannah, 6 weeks.

One organizer, multiple uses

Shoe holder can help just about every area of the home

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

How often do you clean your house?

If you're like 54 percent of people surveyed by Soap and Detergent Association, you prefer to clean on a daily or weekly basis.

The survey was conducted to get an inside look into Americans' cleaning habits and feelings about spring cleaning. A whopping 60 percent of participants said spring is the best time to clean their house and get rid of clutter.

Another interesting statistic from the survey is that 98 percent feel good about themselves when their home is clean. Sadly, 18 percent said they find they always have a lot of clutter around the house.

There are several ways and tools you can use to cut down on your household clutter. One such tool is a hanging shoe holder. Sure the shoe organizer will help keep your closet mess free, but that's not all. It also can be used throughout the home to keep things in order.

1. Keep your hobbies organized: Whether you're a craft enthusiast or a grade-school teacher, chances are you've had trouble keeping your markers, scissors, tape, glue and glitter neatly organized. Get some help from a hanging shoe organizer. Simply fill the pockets with your craft items, identifying each sleeve with piece of tape. No longer will you have to scour your drawers for your favorite calligraphy pen or spool of ribbon. This is great for those small hobby areas that don't offer room for shelves and cabinetry or your part-time guest room.

2. Stop bathroom clutter: The only thing worse than a small bathroom is having to share a small bathroom. If you blink, countertop space

will be gone and you'll be left with no place to put your toothbrush, face soap or contact solution. Smartly use your space and reduce bathroom clutter by storing your toiletries in a plastic shoe hanger. Drape it over the back of the door and fill it with your shampoos, soaps, lotions and potions.

3. Give toys a home: Learning to pick up after yourself is an important lesson for a child to learn. Keeping those toys organized is equally important. Give your kids a hand by providing them with a hanging shoe caddy. Now they'll have a special place for crayons, action figures, dolls, building blocks and other playtime friends – eliminating those search party cries. This trick also works for organizing bathtub toys.

4. Help your pantry: Don't let your small apartment kitchen stifle your inner cooking master. You don't need a lot of space to whip up tasty delights, especially if you have a plastic shoe organizer for storage. Slip it over your pantry door and fill the pockets with your spices, rice, gravy packs, snacks and other small packages. This will take up a minimal amount of space while allowing you to easily find those items that tend to get lost in the back.

5. Master your mail: Does your at-home office look like a disaster zone? Get those piles of mail under control with the help of a

hanging shoe caddy. Place the caddy on the wall and label the various pockets to help designate your mail. Include a pocket for unpaid and paid bills, personal letters and mail to be sent.

6. Don't forget the garage: Your garage can also be clutter free thanks to the hanging shoe holder. Store your tools, gadgets, bungee cords, washers, nails, gardening gear, spray paint and polymer in the plastic pockets and everything you'll need will be a short reach away.

7. Plant an herb garden: If your rock yard doesn't allow for you to plant a garden, you can still have some green around your house. Take a plastic hanging shoe organizer and transform it into an herb or small vegetable garden. Hang it on your shed or a wall. Fill the pockets with soil and a seedling. Because the pockets don't have holes for drainage, most of the moisture will be retained. Be sure to watch out for overwatering.

Helpful hint

In whichever room you use the hanging shoe organizer, it is a good idea to anchor it to the bottom of the door so it won't swing around. Keeping it fastened to the door at the bottom will increase the life of your caddy since slinging it rips the grommets at the top. Simply use stick-on Velcro to affix the shoe organizer to the door.



Around-the-house item: Shoe holder

Spring to it

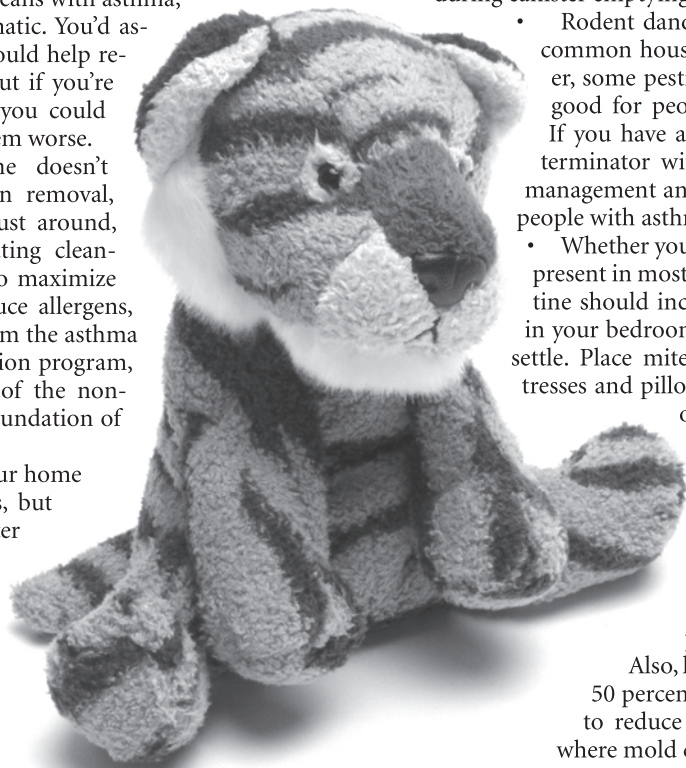
Easy cleaning tips create a healthy family home

Allergens lurk inside and outside your home, causing more than 40 million Americans with allergies to cough, sneeze and have itchy eyes all year long, especially in springtime.

Also, for 25 million Americans with asthma, it can be even more problematic. You'd assume cleaning your home would help reduce these allergy triggers, but if you're not cleaning the right way, you could actually be making the problem worse.

If your cleaning routine doesn't specifically focus on allergen removal, you may be only moving dust around, sending allergens and irritating cleaning chemicals into the air. To maximize your cleaning efforts to reduce allergens, consider these simple tips from the asthma and allergy friendly certification program, the healthy home initiative of the non-profit Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA):

- You may think dusting your home will help reduce allergens, but if you use a feather duster that simply lifts the dust off surfaces and into the air, you will actually increase airborne dust particles. Instead, use moist cloths or special dry dusters designed to trap and lock dust from



hard and soft surfaces.

- Certain cleaning products also can contribute to airborne irritants, especially if they contain harsh chemicals, strong odors or volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Choose products that contain none of these irritants, but also beware of "green" labels, as some of these solutions may be made with natural allergenic ingredients, such as lemon, coconut or tea-tree oils.
- Use a vacuum that has a HEPA filter with tight seams and seals to prevent particles from leaking out while you vacuum. Also, choose a style that requires minimal exposure during canister emptying or bag changes.
 - Rodent dander and cockroach particles are common household asthma triggers. However, some pesticides may do more harm than good for people with asthma and allergies. If you have a pest problem, look for an exterminator with expertise in integrated pest management and experience treating homes of people with asthma.
 - Whether you have a cat or dog, pet dander is present in most U.S. homes. Your cleaning routine should include frequently washing linens in your bedroom, where cat or dog dander can settle. Place mite-proof bedding on your mattresses and pillows. Wash your bedding at least once a week in 130-degree hot water to kill mites and their eggs.
 - Mold, a common allergy trigger, can grow anywhere in your home where moisture is present. Look for cleaning products that help kill and prevent mold from returning. Also, keep household humidity below 50 percent and fix leaky pipes and cracks to reduce standing puddles of moisture where mold can prosper.

- Gather stuffed toys, where dust mites, mold and pet dander can accumulate, and wash them in hot water and dry completely before using again. Place stuffed toys that can't be washed in the freezer for 24 hours, then rinse in cold water to remove dead mites, and dry completely. Do this monthly.
- Lots of air passes through window areas, and airborne dust and allergens accumulate on all types of window treatments – which are rarely cleaned. In the family room and throughout the home, replace big, heavy linen drapes with more sensible window treatments such as wood blinds or flat screens that are easy to wipe and keep clean.

Keep in mind that while consumers spend nearly \$18 billion annually on asthma and allergy medications, they also spend more than \$20 billion on nonmedical consumer products marketed for people with asthma and allergies such as room air cleaners, bedding, vacuums and more, according to AAFA. While demand for such products continues to grow, there is little regulation governing product claims, the foundation said.

AAFA's asthma and allergy friendly certification program helps consumers evaluate and verify the allergen-reducing effectiveness of a variety of products, including cleaning supplies, air cleaning devices and vacuums, toys, bedding, home-improvement products, paints, clothes washers and more. For more information, visit www.aafa.org/certified.

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Sauce Master makes cooking easy

Creating applesauce, purée at home is a breeze

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Whether it's in an effort to save a buck, skip calories or savor time as a family, more people are going back to sitting around the dining

room table and enjoying a home-cooked meal.

There are several benefits of eating at home. In addition to avoiding the restaurant crowds and preserving your checking account, creating your own meal allows you to know exactly

what is going into your family's food.

Trying to cut down on salt – add less to your meal. Want to eat more vegetables – slip them into your sauces or stir fry. Trying to watch your portions – use smaller serving dishes.

While many complain that cooking at home requires too much effort and preparation, there are plenty of gadgets available to help reduce that. One such contraption is the Sauce Master.

What is it?

The Sauce Master, a Norpro product, is an easy-to-use gadget that eliminates much of the prep work required when fabricating your favorite sauces.

It's a hand-cranked tool clamped to your countertop that automatically separates the juice and pulp of fruits and vegetables from the seeds and skin. Similar in design to a meat grinder or sausage machine, the Sauce Master allows you to create sauce, purée, fruit juice, fruit butter, fruit leather, applesauce, baby food, pie filling, jams and jellies in one continuous motion, all without having to pre-cook your ingredients.

The Sauce Master is ideal for canning, freezing and dehydrating and cuts prep time in half.

How does it work?

After the Sauce Master has been assembled according to the accompanying instructions, all you'll need is your fruit or vegetables.

Place the items into the strainer and use the plunger to push them through the spiral screen as you turn the crank clockwise. When you're cranking the Sauce Master, don't use force, but rather guide the ingredients into the body of the strainer using the plunger. This will prevent jamming and squirting.

You will need two bowls – a large one to catch the sauce and another, smaller bowl to catch the seeds, stems and skins.

The Sauce Master features three chrome-plated-steel screens for perfectly separated fruits and vegetables every time. The berry screen features the smallest teeth to catch those tiny seeds. The pumpkin screen has larger teeth, and is perfect for straining pumpkin and squash for pies, purées and preserving. The salsa screen has large teeth for creating dips and sauces from tomatoes and other vegetables.

The gadget also features a grape spiral. Created from durable plastic auger, the grape spiral is used with the berry screen to seamlessly peel and strain grapes for juice, purée, jams and jellies.

After your sauce is made, diligently wash the Sauce Master. Before storing, spray the screen with a small amount of cooking oil. This will prevent rusting.

Where can it be found?

The Sauce Master can be found online at websites including www.norpro.com and www.amazon.com.

How much does it cost?

The Sauce Master, on average, costs \$50. The price tag can vary depending on the location, so do a little research before making your purchase.

Helpful hints

- Be sure to thoroughly wash your fruits and vegetables before processing them.
- If creating food or sauces that will be canned, frozen or dehydrated, be sure to reference a guide for home preserving.
- If the handle becomes hard to operate, turn it counterclockwise a few times.

Tomato Purée

Cut tomatoes into quarters and fill the Sauce Master's hopper. Use the plunger to guide them through as you turn the crank in a clockwise direction.

Basic Tomato Sauce

1 onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 1/2 cups tomato purée
1 cup beef broth
1/2 teaspoon oregano
1/2 teaspoon basil
1/2 teaspoon sugar
Salt and pepper, to taste

Sauté onion and garlic in butter and oil until soft. Add tomato purée, broth, herbs and spices. Boil until reduced to 2 cups. Serve over vegetables or pasta. May be refrigerated or frozen for later use.

Applesauce

Cut apples into quarters and simmer in boiling water until tender. No need to remove the skins or core. Place into the hopper and turn away. If jamming occurs, the apples need to be boiled longer. For a thicker, chunky-style sauce, use the pumpkin screen rather than the berry screen.

Danish Apple Cake

2 cups zwieback crumbs, finely crushed
1 cup melted butter
3/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
3 cups unsweetened applesauce
Whipped cream

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix the crumbs and melted butter. In a separate bowl, mix the sugar and spices. Put a thin layer of crumbs on the bottom of a buttered 9-inch tube pan. Sprinkle with sugar mixture. Add a thin layer of applesauce. Repeat layers until ingredients are gone. Bake for 1 hour. Cool and turn out. Frost with whipped cream.



- The squirt guard can be removed when processing dry foods, such as beans and potatoes.
- When straining harder items, such as firm apples or potatoes, they should be boiled first before putting them through the machine.
- When making at-home baby food, use the different screens on your fruits, vegetables, cooked meats and poultry to create a variety of textures.



Featured kitchen gadget:
Sauce Master

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May is National Hamburger Month. Pay tribute to this mouthwatering celebration by experimenting with out-of-the-ordinary recipes.

To learn what fellow chile pepper burger lovers were fixing for the fête, I conducted Bing and Google searches and came up with a roster of recipes – too many to include in one column, although I share three.

To give clues as to what's been grilling in backyards, I bullet recipe ingredients and toppings – ideas to help home chefs build the best burger in the neighborhood. Time to fire up the grill and get cookin'!

- Seven-ounce burger topped with crumbled bacon, hard-boiled egg, diced avocado, crumbled bleu cheese, Thousand Island dressing, lettuce and tomato
- Blackened four-ounce patties, Monterey Jack cheese, Cajun Remoulade, pickled jalapeño rings, pineapple-mango salsa, tomato and lettuce on a toasted sesame seed bun
- Seven-ounce burger topped with Tabasco fried onions, roasted poblano peppers, Monterey Jack cheese, Sambal Olek chili paste, chipotle ketchup with shredded lettuce on a toasted bun
- Seven-ounce burger brushed with sweet tea reduction topped with seared peaches, cheddar cheese, fried collard greens and chipotle mayo served on a toasted sesame seed bun
- Ground beef, salt, cheddar cheese, beer, pickle relish, minced garlic, pretzels, chipotle chile and onions.
- Burgers with cheddar cheese, mayonnaise, Anaheim chile, extra-virgin olive oil, melted butter, kosher salt, black pepper, kosher salt, juice, hamburger buns, heirloom tomatoes, Vidalia onion, brisket, canola oil, butter lettuce, ground cumin, black pepper, serrano chiles and poblano chiles
- Ground pork, kosher salt, avocado, fresh cilantro, Mexican chorizo, Anaheim chile, garlic cloves, black pepper, vegetable oil and lime juice
- Ground beef, cream cheese, jalapeño pepper, onion soup mix and minced garlic
- Seven-ounce burger topped with spicy shredded buffalo chicken, bleu cheese dressing and shredded lettuce served on a toasted bun
- Four-ounce ground beef burger with minced garlic, Worcestershire sauce, breadcrumbs, green bell pepper, egg, green onions, vegetable oil, hot pepper sauce, salt, sun-dried tomatoes and pepper
- Burgers prepared with goat cheese, breadcrumbs, chopped garlic, cider vinegar, fresh lemon juice, salt, dry mustard, onions, red peppers, olive oil, dried thyme, cayenne pepper, lemon peel, sugar and black pepper
- Ground beef burgers stuffed with black beans and seasoned with green bell pepper, black pepper, dried basil, chopped celery, dried oregano, jalapeno peppers, Worcestershire sauce, ground cumin, eggs, salt, carrots and onion
- Ground sirloin mixed with black pepper,

sweet onion, cooked bacon, olive oil, sea salt, garlic powder, buffalo wing sauce, asiago cheese, barbecue sauce, Worcestershire sauce and ketchup

- Lean ground beef, onions, American cheese, lettuce leaves, ketchup, sugar, sweet onions, pepper, hot pepper sauce, salt, Worcestershire sauce, pickles, steak sauce, garlic clove, tomatoes and cooking oil

Cream Cheese Stuffed Burgers with Roasted Pepper Catsup

7 1/2-ounce jar roasted red peppers, drained
1 tablespoon sugar
1 1/4 teaspoon salt, divided
1 1/2 pounds ground beef
3 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 to 2 jalapeño peppers, minced or 2 tablespoons chopped green chiles
4 hamburger buns

To make pepper ketchup, process peppers, sugar and 1 teaspoon salt in a blender. Pour into a small saucepan and cook over medium heat 4 minutes or until thickened. Combine ground beef and remaining 1/4 teaspoons salt and shape into 8 thin patties.

Combine cream cheese and jalapeño pepper (or green chiles) and divide evenly in the center of 4 patties (do not spread to edges).

Top with remaining patties and press edges to seal. Grill covered with grill lid over medium-high heat 4 to 5 minutes per side or until done. Serve on buns with pepper ketchup and desired toppings. Makes 4 servings.

Serrano Burgers

1 pound ground beef
4 serrano peppers, diced
4 tablespoons taco seasoning
3 teaspoons garlic, minced
1/2 cup bread crumbs
1 egg, beaten
1/2 cup shredded Mexican cheese
Hot sauce of your choice
Buns

In a mixing bowl, combine ground beef, serrano peppers, taco seasoning, garlic, bread crumbs and egg. Mix well. Divide meat mixture into 4 pieces and flattened to form patties. Preheat grill to medium heat.

Grill burger patties for 5 minutes, then flip and grill another 2 to 3 minutes, or until cooked to your desired doneness. Top each burger with a good pinch of Mexican cheese and close grill lid. Allow cheese to melt. Serve over buns and dash with hot sauce. Makes 2 to 4 servings. (Recipe adapted from <http://chilipeppermadness.com>.)

Chile Pepper Burgers With Lime Mayonnaise

This recipe includes how to use hickory chips when cooking on a charcoal grill. If you're using propane, see note below.

1/3 cup mayonnaise
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon lime juice
1/2 teaspoon grated lime peel
2 pounds lean ground sirloin
1/3 cup green onions, sliced
3 tablespoons plain yogurt
2 tablespoons jalapeño pepper, finely chopped



Rustle up a chubby burger made gooey with melted white cheese, fried onions and strips of peppered bacon.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Sunny Conley

1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
8 ounces hot pepper cheese cut into 8 slices
8 Kaiser rolls
2 cups hickory chips

Place wood chips in large mixing bowl then cover with water and soak for 1 hour.

In small mixing bowl combine mayonnaise, mustard, lime juice and lime peel.

Cover with plastic wrap and chill.

Combine beef, onions, yogurt, jalapenos, salt and pepper the shape into 8 patties.

Drain hickory chips and sprinkle over hot coals then arrange patties on cooking grate. Grill covered for 15 minutes turning half way

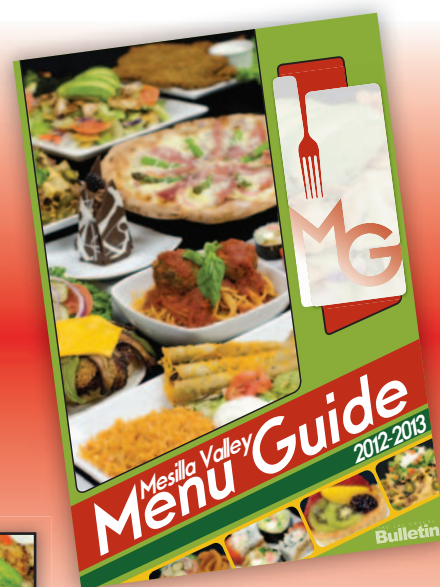
through cooking. Top each burger with 1 slice cheese then grill 2 minutes longer. Serve on rolls with your favorite condiments. Makes 8 servings. (Recipe adapted from <http://grouprecipes.com>.)

Note: Wrap your chips in aluminum foil and punch lots of holes in it. Put the foil down near the flame under the grill (faster smoke) or on top of the grill next to the food. Either way you will get smoke! (Tip from <http://antoinehardwoods.com>.)

Sunny Conley, a former Las Cruces, is an award-winning cookbook author and food columnist. If you have a chile recipe or idea to share, contact Conley at sunny.conley@gmail.com.

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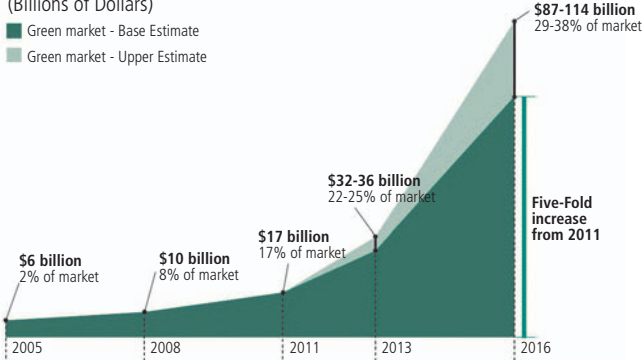
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Single Family Housing Green Residential Market

(Billions of Dollars)

■ Green market - Base Estimate
■ Green market - Upper Estimate



Source: Green Market Size: calculation McGraw-Hill Construction; base value of construction market from McGraw-Hill Construction Market Forecasting Service, as of February 2012

MHC defines a Green Home as one that is either built to a recognized green building standard or an energy- and water-efficient home that also addresses indoor air quality and/or resource efficiency.

1. Green Outlook 2011: Green Trends Driving Growth, McGraw-Hill Construction, 2010. 2. Ibid. 3. McGraw-Hill Construction, Construction Market Five-Year Forecast, through March 2012. 4. Ibid. 5. Ibid. 6. McGraw-Hill Construction, greensizing derived from market research data, market conditions and Construction Market Five-Year Forecast, March 2012. 7. Ibid. 8. Ibid. 9. A New Decade of Growth for Remodeling: Improving America's Housing, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, 2011. 10. Ibid. 11. Ibid. 12. Ibid.

Green is a bigger part of pie

Energy efficiency is leading green practice consumers seek

Miles Dyson
Living Green



It is no secret that new home construction and sales have suffered over the last few years.

Residential construction has borne more than its fair share of the nation's economic sacrifice. Locally, we see some easing of the malaise, our ever resilient Las Cruces slow and steady economy is providing limited opportunity for the best and most adaptive home builders.

Educated, recession-era consumers demand a lot for their home buying dollar. Nationally and regionally, homes with features identified as "green" are equated with better quality and better value.

Of new homes being built, an ever increasing percentage are identifiable as green. According to a new report from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and McGraw Hill Construction (MHC), 17 percent of all new homes built in 2011 were green homes. This percent of green homes is up from only 2 percent during the peak of the 2005 building bubble.

The NAHB and MHC report estimates that in four years, green homes will make up more than 30 percent of the new home market.

Green homes can be identified or classified by a wide range of features and attributes. The MHC report surveyed contractors all over the country to determine what green features were most important to their customers.

With all the news on increasing energy prices it is no surprise energy efficiency was the leading green practice requested by customers. About half of all homebuyers are looking for low maintenance and durability as well as water efficiency. Indoor air quality and waste management were important to about one-third of new homeowners. Smart development with easy access to services and open spaces rounded out the most requested green home attributes.

The trend toward more green features and comparatively more green homes is seen in New Mexico and Las Cruces, too. Paul Allen Homes in Albuquerque completed 130 NAHB Green and Build Green New Mexico certified homes in 2011. This New Mexico builder received the NAHB Research Center Green Partner Award for building more NAHB Green certified homes than any other builder in the nation in 2011.

Our recent Las Cruces Home Builders Association Spring Showcase of Homes featured a number of green home offerings. Veloz Homes and Soledad Canyon Earth Builders each displayed beautiful and efficient Energy Star program homes. Gary Rogers' entry from Planet Development was a double certified – Build Green New Mexico and Energy Star home with an impressive 47 Home Energy Rating Index.

Eighty percent of the builders responding to the MHC report survey said energy efficiency is making today's homes greener compared with two years ago. The use of energy-efficient features was the top practice indicated by nearly all surveyed builders, regardless of their level of green building activity.

Odds are your next home will, in some way, be a green home.

Miles Dyson is the owner of Inspection Connection LC - Professional Home Energy Rating and Home Inspection Services in Mesilla Park and can be reached at 202-2457. Dyson is a RESNET certified Home Energy Rater and ASHI certified Home Inspector. For more information, visit www.icenergyrate.com.



The home at 9320 Soledad Canyon, built by Planet Development and featured during the 2012 Spring Showcase of Homes, is Build Green New Mexico and Energy Star certified.

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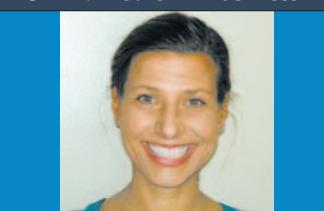
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