



Local hero
Kelsey
Crooks dies
Sports
A21

THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

Restaurants
thrive in
Las Cruces,
Business



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Classes set to resume

New campuses prep for opening

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

This coming week, Las Cruces Public Schools will open in two age groups for schools on the traditional calendar.

On Monday, Aug. 13, classes begin for the district's high schools, including the new, fourth comprehensive high school, Centennial. Students in middle and elementary schools get a couple more days of summer break before classes start Wednesday, Aug. 15.

Schools on balanced calendars resumed classes July 25.

At LCPS, more than 24,500 students are expected this fall, with more than 11,000 in the elementary schools, almost 5,700 in middle schools and more than 7,600 filling the high schools.

In LCPS, there is one exception to those starting this week at the high school level. Arrowhead Park Early College High School on the New Mexico State University campus ended its second summer session Tuesday, Aug. 7, and classes won't resume until Monday, Aug. 20, several days before fall classes start at NMSU Thursday, Aug. 23.

The newest state chartered high school, the New America School, has set a tentative start date of Monday, Aug. 20. More than 170 students have enrolled in the school focused on English mastery for both high schoolers and their family members.

Located at a remodeled, long-vacant furniture store building on the last section of Downtown Main Street to be re-opened, the New America School will teach high school classes in the day and offer night classes for adult family members to improve their English.

Meanwhile, a private school located on the other side of Main Street from the New America School will move into a former high-end art gallery in Mesilla. Las Cruces Academy, which aims to meet the needs of gifted children, recently received permission to begin occupying the Preston Contemporary Art Center building in the Mercado de Mesilla, 1755 Avenida de Mercado.

Las Cruces Academy Director Lou Ellen Kay said the school expects to

See **School** on page A13



Marisa Romero, 6, leads the jump roping race ahead of Aaron Grajeda, 6, Wednesday, Aug. 8, at Mesilla Park Elementary School during the Family Olympics. The children have been attending summer classes in the K-3+ program to improve reading of young students before the start of regular classes this coming week. See more photos on page A13.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Nicolas Bañales

Aspiring Olympians

Higher ed students to get free bus rides

Program will see if Aggies will want to use city buses

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

Students attending New Mexico State University and Doña Ana Community College get a free ride on the city's bus system over the new academic year to test an idea to provide group rates for bus rides.

Michael Bartholomew, transit administrator at the City of Las Cruces, said the year's worth of free bus rides for college students will collect data on usage to

support a new group rate option called Universal Pass, or U-Pass.

At the Las Cruces City Council meeting Monday, Aug. 6, Bartholomew said student interest in public transit will help determine how much to charge them in the future for a U-Pass, which can run as low as \$5.

"It's an extremely common program, especially in university communities," Bartholomew said.

To work, the program has to charge a fee to all students, which

See **Universal Pass** on page A10

Businesses work on water conservation

Panel covers private sector efforts to reduce water use

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

While the region is facing one of the worst droughts since the 1950s, businesses and industry were already working to reduce water use and waste.

In a presentation to the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, speakers from southern New Mexico businesses gave examples of their effort.

Although the Olive Garden restaurant is a new addition to Las Cruces, manager Russ Hernandez said its parent company, Darden, owns some 2,000 restaurants nationwide and has all onboard with its sustainability plan developed in 2008.

The plan's goal is to reduce water and energy consumption by 15 percent, with zero waste going into the landfill by 2015, he said.

Restaurants use "tons and tons of water" for food handling and

See **MVEDA** on page A10

NEXT WEEK

WHAT'S INSIDE

HEALTH & WELL BEING

Tea party tells story to NAACP

Civil rights organization hears from creators of controversial Fourth of July float that included Confederate flag



Opinions.....	A4-6	Classifieds.....	B23
Coming Up.....	A8	Movies.....	C7,18-19
Sports.....	A19-23	Restaurant Guide.....	C10-11
Looking Back.....	A25	TV Listings.....	C13-16
Senior Activities.....	A27	Brain Games.....	C17
Obituaries.....	A31	Health & Well Being....	D1-5, 8
Business.....	B1-13	Church.....	D6-7
Legals.....	B14-22	Chile Knights.....	E11

Hitting the Mudd for charity

D8





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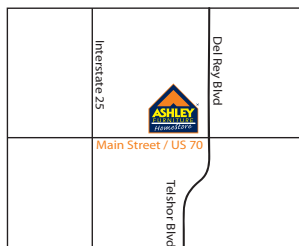
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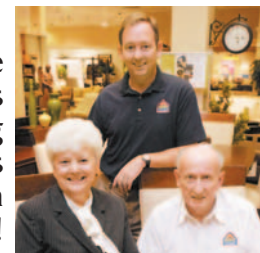
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Local heroes are honored

Red Cross recognizes three SNM residents

Southwestern New Mexico Red Cross held its Real Heroes Awards Breakfast at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum Thursday, Aug. 9, honoring three residents from southern New Mexico who are making a difference in their communities.

Michel Meunier was recognized for her work with ACTION Programs for Animals (APA).

Chris Wollard's actions to save a life was recounted. The licensed respiratory therapist at Memorial Medical Center was out with his dogs one morning when he heard gun shots and helped a woman who had been shot in the leg.

The third hero, Dr. Juan Lucero, has spent countless hours, professional services and personal income raising money to train youth in Juárez. Using Las Cruces as a base, Lucero has assisted a number of orphans and children in acute and chronic need of basic living supplies, as well as providing educational opportunities. He is the current president of Juárez Orphans.



Real Hero award recipient Michel Meunier is joined by her husband Eddie Stephenson, at left, during the Red Cross Real Heroes Awards Breakfast Thursday, Aug. 9, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. Chris Wollard, bottom left, and Dr. Juan Lucero, bottom right, were also recognized at the breakfast as Real Heroes.

Las Cruces Bulletin photos by Todd Dickson



Farmers to apply for drought help

Senators say immediate federal relief available

U.S. Sens. Tom Udall and Jeff Bingaman announced Wednesday, Aug. 8, that in light of historic drought conditions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking steps to immediately help crop and livestock producers across New Mexico.

First, New Mexico will receive \$628,588 from the USDA's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for prescribed grazing, livestock watering facilities and water conservation practices. Second, USDA will transfer \$14 million into the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) for eligible farmers and ranchers in drought-impacted states for assistance in moving water to livestock in need, emergency forage for livestock and efforts to rehabilitate lands severely impacted by the drought.

"Throughout New Mexico, we have been hearing from farmers and ranchers on the terrible conditions they face due to fires and drought," Udall said. "Farmers are suffering from depleted crops due to lack of moisture; ranchers are having to rely on feed, causing production costs to skyrocket and forcing them to reduce their herds. This is welcome news for rural communities across our state, and I appreciate Secretary (Tom) Vilsack's swift action in providing much needed relief."

"Farmers and ranchers in our state and across the country are suffering terribly because of this devastating drought. With this funding for New Mexico, it is clear to me that USDA is hard at work trying to assist farmers and ranchers in their time of need," Bingaman said.

Producers throughout New Mexico have suffered significant production losses due to high temperatures, high winds and extended lack of precipitation. As a result of the drought, extreme fire danger exists across most of the state with more than 345,000 acres already burned.

Currently, farmers and ranchers in all 33 of New Mexico's counties are eligible for federal assistance with primary or contiguous designations due to moderate to extreme drought conditions – designations Udall and Bingaman urged in a June 29 letter to Vilsack following Gov. Susana Martinez's June 27 request.

USDA also declared Sandoval County as a primary natural disaster area. Sandoval County was previously eligible to receive assistance as a contiguous disaster designation, but due to severe drought for eight or more consecutive weeks during the growing season, USDA moved Sandoval County to primary designation status.

With a disaster designation, farm operators in these counties are eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) assistance, including emergency loans. Farmers in these counties will have eight months from the date of the disaster declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance.

Honor Flight seeks guardians

Next veterans D.C. memorial trip is Oct. 3

In October, Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico is preparing to take its fifth group of veterans back to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials that were built in their honor.

A total of 189 World War II veterans have made this trip in the past four years, thanks to the generosity of the community. An additional 20 WWII and 22 Korean War veterans have signed up so far this year, hoping for the opportunity to see the memorials that were built in their honor.

The veterans will depart from New Mexico State University Wednesday Oct. 3, and after a visit to the memorials Thursday, Oct. 4, and a banquet held in their honor, they will return to Las Cruces Friday, Oct. 5.

Guardian volunteers are needed to accompany the veterans on this trip.

Guardians with medical backgrounds are especially welcome. Guardians must be physically able to assist the veterans and must cover some of their travel and accommodation expenses – \$900.

Guardian applications can be downloaded from the Honor Flight website at www.honorflightnm.com.

Donations continue to be sought to make this trip a reality for the Veterans. Donations can be sent to the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico: 300 S. Church St., Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001. Please mark the donation is for "Honor Flight."

If you have any questions, or need an application, call David Melcher at 202-8102.



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From the publisher

BY DAVID MCCOLLUM

Las Cruces comes alive in August

As schools begin and NMSU students return to campus, our calendars will be eventful until the end of the year

For those who complain about Las Cruces being a boring place where there's never anything to do, they just may not be looking very hard.

Let's take a look at some of the key upcoming events and activities in the Las Cruces area starting in August.

For event-goers, our city will be hosting the White Sands International Film Festival Wednesday through Sunday, Aug. 22-26, at Allen Theatres Cineport 10, with a gala awards ceremony at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Rio Grande Theatre. Movie lovers can choose from a variety of ticket options, some of which include admission to special evening receptions following the screening.

The popular one-day SalsaFest! celebration will be held in Downtown Las Cruces immediately following WSIFF on Sunday, Aug. 26. SalsaFest! is free to the public and for a nominal fee, participants can sample a variety of salsas and cast votes for their favorites.

Other major regional events include The Whole Enchilada Fiesta, Sept. 28-30, the Southern New Mexico State Fair & Rodeo, Oct. 3-7 and the Doña Ana Arts Council's Renaissance ArtsFaire Nov. 3-4.

Significant charitable fundraisers are set for this fall.

The premier Cowboys for Cancer Research golf scramble is scheduled at the New Mexico State University Golf Course on Friday, Aug. 31. C4CR also has planned its annual dinner-dance at the Las Cruces Convention Center Friday, Oct. 12. The dinner-dance, which typically sells out and features one of the largest silent auctions in the area, will be followed by two days of ridin' and ropin' at the 30th annual team roping competition where more than 1,000 teams are expected to compete.

The record-setting NMSU Aggies Are Tough Enough to Wear Pink campaign is scheduled to run from the end of September through October with numerous events, as the entire community turns pink to raise money to support research and awareness for breast cancer.

On Thursday, Nov. 23, the March of Dimes is expanding its High Heels for High Hopes fashion gala at the convention center, where last year's event set records for contributions to the nonprofit to support issues and research for premature births.

Sports fans will have a busy time keeping up with all the fall contests. High school football begins on Friday, Aug. 31, as all five Las Cruces high schools, including the new Centennial High School Hawks, expect to compete for a coveted state championship.

NMSU Aggie football begins the season at Aggie Memorial Stadium on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 30, against new foe Sacramento State. On Sept. 22, the Aggies host their upstate rival, the Lobos of the University of New Mexico. Many experts are expecting 2012 to be a breakout year for the Aggies, with good possibilities of their finally achieving the opportunity to play in a bowl game in December.

Mike Jordan's Aggie Volleyball team will host the First-Serve Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22. The Aggies begin play at home Saturday, Aug. 18, against the alumni. This year's team is powerful and confident and is certain to be nationally ranked.

Arts lovers have a terrific array of events including the monthly Downtown Art Ramble and the exciting lineup of performances at the Rio Grande Theatre. The NMSU Performing Arts Center is scheduled for a gala opening in December, a venue sure to strengthen Las Cruces' position as a premier arts center in the Southwest.

The above-mentioned events are just a sampling of what Las Cruces will have to choose from over the next five months. The Bulletin staff will do their best to keep readers informed of everything happening in and around Las Cruces.

We are proud to serve our community, and look forward to all the upcoming events and activities.

Just another reason why "Life is Good in Las Cruces."



Letters to the Editor

Scant warming evidence

I was dismayed to read yet another story about alleged human-caused global warming. Chris Erickson is certainly entitled to his opinion, but to state theories as facts and skewed numbers as conclusive evidence is at least disingenuous, but more probably irresponsible manipulation.

Erickson made the following three assertions: "Global warming is real, it is caused by human-made greenhouse gas emissions and we need to do something about it."

There is scant evidence, at best, that the Earth is actually warming. The fact that many people claim it is warming does not make it so, and in spite of a concerted effort to silence skeptics, the truth about poor temperature measurement techniques, doctored data and long-term cosmic cycles is out there if one is willing to look objectively.

Second, even if we assume the Earth is warming, there is no provable link between human activity and temperature changes. It is curious that the same people who demand scientific evidence for most other things demand that others take their word on faith.

Third, still assuming the Earth is warming, Erickson himself says any solution must be global, and two countries that contain more than one-third of the Earth's population will never agree to limits. If shooting yourself in the foot is supposed to solve a problem; what sense

is there if we shoot ourselves without even accomplishing the ends?

Getting back to reality, Erickson might be right that some "alternative energies ... are on the edge of cost effectiveness." The problem is that, if true, it is only because governments have artificially and purposely increased the cost of oil, coal and any other energy source they don't like.

The day will surely come when oil, coal and other such energy sources become more expensive for market-related reasons. It is foolish to shoot one's self in the foot; it is equally foolish to self-inflict pain 150 years before it's necessary.

David Reber

Thank you for coverage

We at La Tienda de Jardin want to thank the Bulletin for its the coverage of our recent Christmas in July event.

We were able to sell many Christmas items as well as gently-used women's clothing and accessories. All of our money goes to support Jardín de los Niños.

With your help we were able to attract many new and old customers who made our event so exciting and successful that we have decided that we will make it an annual event.

Annie Kramer, Heather Pollard, Judy Lujan,

Priscilla Creed and Anna Cook
Steering committee

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

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

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State computer glitches may bug current administration

Lack of training after system upgrade leads to problems

Jay Miller
Inside the Capitol



During the administration of Gov. Bill Richardson, a crisis erupted over the underpayment or non-payment of state bills to its suppliers and contractors.

Some small businesses reported having to close because of not being able to collect from the state. Other businesses cut off the state's credit.

Later, the state ran into trouble collecting federal funds because the data in its claims for reimbursement was incorrect or in an unsuitable form.

The first evidence of this crisis occurred several months earlier when state employees began receiving incorrect paychecks or no paycheck at all.

Since state payrollers were closer to the problem, they knew where to go to get it solved quickly. But businesses throughout the state didn't have the quick access to Santa Fe decision makers, so their problems festered.

Could we be seeing the same sequence beginning again? Are any companies doing business with our state government receiving incorrect or delayed payments?

If it is happening, no evidence has surfaced publicly, so far. But during the Richardson administration, several months passed after state employee problems were solved before the public became aware it also was

happening to many businesses.

If you, dear reader, know of such examples, please contact me, contact your local newspaper and contact your legislators. Let's not let the problem fester again this time.

Here's what happened last time and what may be occurring today. When Richardson took office in 2003, he had dozens of bold ideas to try. At the time, New Mexico was rolling in money so the governor was able to implement many of them.

One of those great ideas was to replace 70 different antiquated computer systems with one big, powerful system. Peoplesoft, a respected company, was awarded the business.

But since Richardson had many new projects to fund, he wanted to do this one with the least amount of money possible. So instead of buying a computer system tailored to our needs, he bought an off-the-shelf model and hired another company to teach state employees how to adapt it and use it.

Wait, there's more. He didn't have all employees trained. The top employees were trained to go back and train everyone else. Such complex conversions were taking other states in the neighborhood of 28 months. Richardson wanted it completed in half the time at half the cost.

It was far too much to ask of anyone's employees. The problems that resulted took years to remedy. The last to be fixed were the federal reports for reimbursement. The state lost many millions because of

See **Miller** on page A6

“ One of those great ideas was to replace 70 different antiquated computer systems with one big, powerful system. ”

BaxterBlack



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Play like I'm not here

Ranch hands and cowboys often get put in the position of playing host to all manner of guests: reporters, owners' grandchildren and bank vice presidents.

Dave works on a ranch in south Florida. In the right season Florida looks like the Garden of Eden. He had been asked to guide a notable photographer around. He was shooting pictures for a book of Florida ranches.

I have had much experience with camera crews and photographers. Why they don't get hurt more often is beyond me. They treat animals like furniture, crawling under them, trying to feed them, touching, pushing, pulling, petting, all to get a good shot.

The photographer, named Simington, discussed with Dave what he was hoping to capture on film, "You guys just do what you normally do, play like I'm not here."

Well, no self-respecting cowboy with any vanity at all is gonna "Play like he's not there."

He's not gonna kick off in a long trot for two miles and leave the photog behind - no. He's more likely to pause a little longer when he stops on a ridge to scan the horizon ... striking a hero pose. None of the cowboy crew will be wearing their Tommy Hilfiger sweatshirt, or

Dolphin's baseball caps, either.

Dave took all precautions to protect their guest. He picked the gentlest horse in the string. He adjusted the stirrups so Simington's size 13 tennis shoes would fit. He cinched him tight, put a roping rein on the bridle and gave basic steering instructions. Once mounted, Simington was top heavy. He was a tall man, wore no cap and had two cameras hanging around his neck. The biggest one looked like a bazooka!

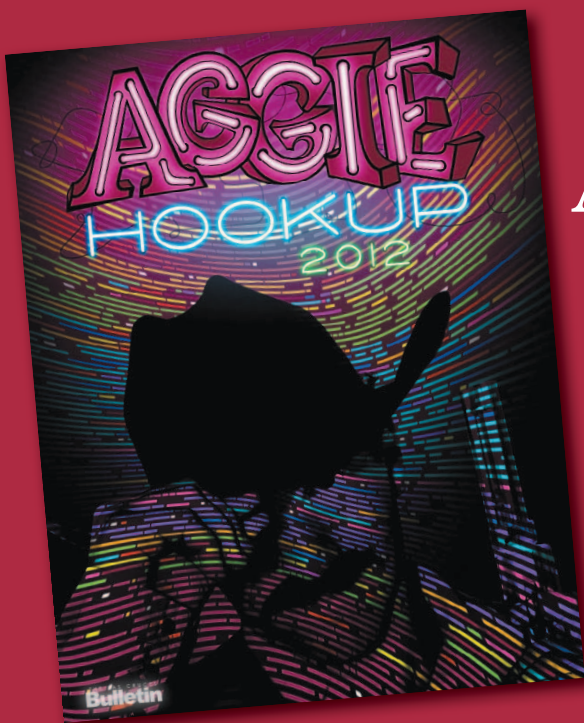
The crew wended through the Bahia and Bermuda grass, around the palm tree hammocks, down country roads and into the palmetto obstacle course. Somewhere along the way of Gray Dog, Simington's horse, had enough of the off-balance, jaw-jerkin', foot slappin', click-clackin', snip-snappin', slow-stoppin', jerk-jabbin' contraption on his back.

Dave said it was painful to watch. Gray Dog bucked through the palmetto like a ping-pong ball in a pinball machine. Simington dropped the rein ... he was tryin' to grab the saddle horn, two cameras swingin' around his neck, the saddle horn, a nylon camera bag big as a hound dog, the saddle horn, a fanny pack full of fruits and

See **Black** on page A6

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Forget time for students

Summer breaks allow unused skills to be forgotten

Michael Swickard
In My Opinion



Three related questions about the academic skills:

First, if we know that allowing academic skills to go unused typically causes said skills to atrophy, then why do we have summer vacations in our public schools? Obviously, three months of not using academic skills does result in some of their loss.

Second, why do students go for long periods of time during the school year without using all of their essential skills?

Third, why is there the notion that after high school graduation, people do not have to use their academic skills to be able to retain them? Why indeed.

It is my contention that the reason some high school graduates cannot read, write coherently or do math at an adequate level is not because they have not been taught these skills. Rather, students have allowed these academic skills to degenerate.

The students are victims of "forget time," the gap between being able to use a skill and the subsequent loss of the skill. The measure of forget time presumes that if a skill is not used in a certain amount of time it will be lost. Naturally forget time is not the same for every student, some lose their skills in days, some in months. Everyone on planet Earth will lose their skills if enough time passes without the skills being used.

Summer vacations are harmful to students since most do not continue to use their academic skills. When the students come back to school, the first two months are really just getting back

to where the students were before the summer vacation. What a waste of academic time.

Year-round school, which only gives three weeks of vacation at a time has a better chance to avoid forget time. The benefits of three months off are: janitors can leisurely wax the floors, teachers get summer jobs or return to college and parents can send kids to relatives. Many students work on their tans and sleep to noon.

“ High school skills have a shelf life, like bread has a shelf life. ”

Producing academic ability in students is said to be the main reason for public school and yet we let the student's academic ability erode each year. Likewise, a common complaint against the public schools is that students graduate without any academic skills.

Students are taught to read, write and do math by sixth grade but then, little by little, they are allowed to go for long periods of time in the next six years without using those skills. During some semesters the students are not required to read in depth, write on a weekly basis or perform any mathematical calculations.

The reason for letting students go without writing in depth each week

is said to be that teachers feel they do not have time to grade all of those essays. Perhaps they are right, but what is important is that the students find themselves years later without much writing ability.

At the time, the students are glad to slack off these tasks, since writing, reading and math are uncomfortable subjects. But how much fun is it to be turned away by employer after employer because you had too much fun in public school and not enough time was spent holding on to academic skills?

Finally, at graduation, students are told in glowing terms that since they have graduated they have achieved great wisdom. The implication is they are finished developing their skills and no longer have to use these skills regularly. Many high school graduates believe those graduation speeches and feel they have all of the wisdom they will need.

The truth is, they will achieve wisdom when their kids graduate from high school and not before. Their high school skills have a shelf life, like bread has a shelf life. They must use the skill regularly to retain those skills. If, at age 25, the former students lack skills, most often these skills were lost from lack of use rather than never having been developed.

When that happens people ask, "Why didn't those darn schools teach them anything?" The answer does not matter. Whether they had those academic skills and then lost them for lack of use or never had those skills, it is all the same in the end.

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

Letter to the Editor

Food and climate

Chris Erickson's column (Las Cruces Bulletin, July 27) refers to global warming (the common term for what might more appropriately be called climate change or climate instability) as a "secondary problem" falling "... behind hunger, education and the general mitigation of poverty..."

If the choice were his, he tells us, he would choose improving nutrition over limiting carbon emissions. However, he does not consider the question of whether it will ultimately be possible to improve nutritional status of the poor without first addressing food production concerns. Nor does he consider whether addressing food production concerns will require limiting carbon emissions.

Hunger, poverty and anything that limits food production – and that includes having a stable climate that is conducive to food production – are not separate or independent problems.

The current situation with the corn crop is one example of the influence of climate instability. In this case, a drought in an area that has typically had a fairly stable climate conducive to corn production has decimated much of the U.S. corn crop. Current news (ABC, CBS, others) reports are now predicting 5 percent increases in the price of dairy, eggs and beef – basically nearly all sources of complete protein that are staples in most Americans' diets – due to the massive failure of this year's U.S. corn crop.

Corn reserves were already low at the outset of this year's season, so the U.S. had already taken a gamble that this year would be a bumper year for a crop that is integral to much of the food production system. If, as many scientists predict, this is just the beginning of a longer term trend, then food production will be a primary problem that must be solved first.

It may not be possible to solve the food production problem without first addressing climate change.

Dawn M. VanLeeuwen

Miller

Continued from page A5

inadequate training and testing of the new system.

By the end of the Richardson administration, most departments had their act together. Some departments that had the good luck or foresight to hire at least a few people with exceptional talent and experience adapted quickly and are running smoothly.

A few still are recovering from mistakes of the past. At this time last year, Medicaid was looking at having to replace federal money with state money because it couldn't justify up to \$100 million of reimbursements it already had received.

But now we have another problem. Some new department and agency heads appointed by Gov. Susana Martinez are not pleased with their information technology staff so they are transferring them elsewhere.

One of those agencies handles the state employees' payroll. The new employees who took over didn't understand the system. The state has hired two different private contractors to fix the problems and to train the new staff. The employees who were transferred out of that division have not been asked to come back and help train their replacements. Consultants are being contracted to do that.

Word is that other divisions and agencies are finding ways to shed unwanted employees. Could those that handle the computers also be a part of that action? The state could be on the hook for some expensive fixes.

Jay Miller may be contacted at insidethecapitol@hotmail.com

Black

Continued from page A5

nuts, the saddle horn, his canteen full of papaya juice and ... the saddle horn.

Like a loose cannon on the deck of the Titanic, he rocked and rolled, heaved and hauled, swerved and swayed, gee'ed and hawed, then, in a perfect example of an ancient Grecian two-step catapult, Simington went straight up, feet still in the stirrups, seemed to pause standing on the pommel, then was ejected out into space. With all his accoutrements, in mid air he looked a satellite spreading its solar panels!

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well," said Dave, "wasn't much I could do. He crashed, rolled over and went to pickin' up the pieces of his stuff. So, I just played like he wasn't there."

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USDA official to visit Las Cruces farmers market

Under secretary to see market Saturday

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Ed Avalos will visit the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market Saturday, Aug. 11, to see the impact of farmers markets in the local community and to celebrate National Farmers Market Week.

Farmers markets support business development and increase consumer access to fresh, local foods. Farmers markets provide valuable marketing opportunities and low barriers of

entry for new and beginning farmers; allow smaller-scale farmers to enjoy a profitable local outlet for their production and receive instant customer feedback; and allow communities to come together around local and regional food systems.

Avalos will visit the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market to highlight success stories that demonstrate the positive impact of farmers markets within the local community.

Bode-Hempton, Nusom die

Director championed museums, writer shared many food recipes with readers

Sharon Bode-Hempton, who set the stage for the city's system of museums, and Lynn Nusom, a award-winning cookbook author and food columnist, both died Wednesday, Aug. 1

Bode-Hempton was the longtime head of city museums, as well as an artist and arts advocate. She died at Mesilla Valley Hospice after a long battle with cancer. She was 69.

Bode-Hempton led efforts to improve the quality of area museums. For 17 years, she served as director of the city museum system that then included the Branigan Cultural Center, the Las Cruces Natural History Museum and the former Log Cabin Museum.

She led efforts to refurbish Downtown buildings to house additional museums, including the Las Cruces Museum of Art in a building next to the Branigan Cultural Center, and the Las Cruces Railroad Museum in old Santa Fe Depot. She was also director of the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History.

Under her leadership, city museums expanded venues for regional artists, increased the number of exhibitions and added interactive educational experiences, classes, lectures

and other special events.

She was born April 2, 1943 in Toledo, Ohio. She received her degrees in art from the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma where she was an adjunct professor of art history. She supervised the Museum School at the Minnesota Museum of Art in St. Paul, Minn., before moving to Las Cruces in 1987.

Memorial service arrangements are pending at Unitarian Universalist Church in Las Cruces and in Tulsa, Okla.

Nusom, who was also a chef, restaurateur, travel writer and food columnist, died at his home in Hillsboro. He was 74.

Nusom is remembered for promoting Southwest food. He wrote so many cookbooks, he was uncertain of the total. One of his most popular was "The New Mexico Cookbook," which has sold more than 100,000 copies since it was first published in 1990. His last book was "Authentic Southwest Cooking" for Southwest Parks & Monuments of the National Park Service. He also wrote food and travel articles for national magazines and was a weekly food newspaper columnist for the Las Cruces Bulletin for 13 years.

Heinrich appears at rally



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

U.S. Rep. Martin Heinrich speaks at a rally Saturday, Aug. 4, held at Pioneer Park in Las Cruces by the Democratic Women of Doña Ana County. Heinrich noted the latest polls showing it will be a close race for the open U.S. Senate seat being vacated by U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, who is retiring. Heinrich is the Democratic candidate for the seat and the Republican candidate is Heather Wilson, a former congresswoman. Heinrich told supporters his race against Wilson will be decided by 4 to 5 percent of the voters. He urged them to work hard for the state and national races. "This is an election that is going to stick around for a long time," he said.

It's still not too late to register.



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Coming Up

Model railroaders meet Aug. 11

The Roadrunner Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) will meet at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St. All model railroaders are invited. Eric Hansmann will present a program titled "Model a Mile or Maybe a Little More," which will cover possible small space model opportunities.

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

Dragonfly program Aug. 11

Professor emeritus David B. Richman will present "Flying Gems in the Land of Enchantment: Dragonflies and Damselflies in the Southwestern Environment," at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, 5000 Calle del Norte, west of Mesilla.

More than 100 dragonflies and damselflies have been recorded in New Mexico – more than 90 at the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Roswell alone. This short talk is an introduction to these gem-like flying predators of the wetlands. The event is free with a valid park pass.

For more information, call 523-4398.

Bookfair benefits Tresco TOTS

Tresco TOTS is working with Barnes & Noble Booksellers by hosting a bookfair at the Barnes & Noble Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Ave., Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 11-12. Barnes & Noble will contribute a percentage of every sale made with a special bookfair voucher to Tresco TOTS. Vouchers will be available at Tresco TOTS, 2325 E. Nevada Ave. Shoppers can also support of Tresco TOTS by buying online at www.bn.com/bookfairs and including the bookfair voucher ID 10810174 on the payment page during checkout.



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www.holycrossretreat.org

www.franciscanfestival.org

Tresco TOTS will have a special storytime and Spanish storytime from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Barnes & Noble Mesilla Valley Mall. A percentage of bookfair sales will underwrite their Birth – Age 3 services. Their library will also be able to create a wish list for titles to enhance its collection.

For more information, contact Michael Armendariz of Tresco TOTS at marmendariz@trescomail.org or 405-0083.

Old-fashioned games at museum

The Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., will have a hands-on display of 20th century games such as jacks, cup and ball toss, dominos, wooden puzzles and more from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 11, during the monthly Family Game Day event at the museum.

For more information, contact Joanne Beer at 647-4480 or jobeer@las-cruces.org.

American Flyer items requested

The Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St., is planning its Old Fashioned Holiday display in December. The museum is requesting anyone with American Flyer trains or artifacts to loan them to the museum for the display. Items of interest include model trains, posters, catalogs and toys produced by the A.C. Gilbert Company, makers of American Flyer trains.

These items will be on display at the museum from late November through the end of the year, and will be returned to the owners in January 2013.

For more information, call museum manager Garland Courts at 647-4480.

Pickleball offered at Meerscheidt

The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department will be offering drop-in pickleball at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings through Aug. 29. The cost to participate is \$2 per person per event. A limited number of rental racquets are available for \$1.

Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. The sport is played on a court with the same dimensions as a doubles badminton court. The game is played with a wood paddle and a polymer wiffle ball. The sessions are designed to introduce more people to the sport and help determine the interest level. A pickleball league is currently under consideration, depending on the interest.



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— PUBLIC NOTICE —

Members Sought For Capital Improvements Advisory Committee

The City of Las Cruces is currently accepting applications for an opening on the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee. Interested applicants must be representatives of the real estate, development or building industries, including businesses that finance, underwrite or lend money for real estate, development or building purposes, and cannot be an employee or official of the City, County or other governmental entity.

The Capital Improvements Advisory Committee serves in an advisory capacity in accordance with the Las Cruces Development Impact Fee Ordinance and shall:

- Advise and assist the City in adopting land use assumptions, which include a description of the service area and projection of changes and land uses, densities, intensities and population in the service area over at least a five-year period;
- Review the capital improvements plan that identifies capital improvements or facility expansion for which impact fees may be assessed, and file written comments;
- Monitor and evaluate implementation of the capital improvements plan;
- File annual reports with respect to the progress of the capital improvements plan and report to the City through its city manager any perceived inequities in implementing the plan or imposing impact fees;
- Advise the City of the need to update or revise the land use assumptions, capital improvements plan and impact fees; and
- Advise the City regarding growth management strategies.

Applications can be picked up at the city clerk's office inside City Hall at 700 N. Main St. For more information, contact the city clerk's office at 541-2115.

The TTY number is (575) 541-2182.

www.las-cruces.org

For more information, call the Parks & Recreation Department at 541-2563. The TTY number is 541-2772.

Planning meeting set in Rincon

The Doña Ana County Community Development Department will host a community meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, at the Rincon Community Center to present the final draft of the Rincon Master Plan. Public input is encouraged.

A letter from Doña Ana County Senior Planner Daniel Hortert announcing the meeting was mailed out July 31 to 126 property owners in the community.

The meeting begins the 30-day public review and comment period for the plan. Copies of the plan will be available for review beginning Thursday, Aug. 16, at the Rincon Water Consumers' Cooperative, the Rincon Post Office and the Doña Ana County Government Center. The document also will be available for review online at www.donaanacounty.org/development/master_planning.

Subsequent to the meeting, comments may be emailed to susang@donaanacounty.org, mailed to the Doña Ana County Community Development Department, 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88007 (attention Susan Gelvin) or phoned in to 525-6169.

After the 30-day input period, a final community meeting will be scheduled to present the finalized plan.

Butterfly Flutterby is Aug. 18

The Asombro Institute for Science Education will host the 10th annual Butterfly Flutterby at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 18. Park visitors can learn about butterflies and participate in activities such as "monarch migration" and face painting. Doña Ana County Extension Service Master Gardeners will be in attendance to answer questions about attracting butterflies to yards and gardens. Admission is \$2.

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 and continue straight for 6.4 miles. Turn left at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park sign and follow the entrance road to the parking area and trailhead.

For more information, call 524-3334 or visit www.asombro.org.

Chilaquile fundraiser set Aug. 18

VFW Post 3242 will be having a "Legacy Life" fundraiser from 2 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at 2001 N. Mesquite St.

The post will be serving chilaquiles, rice and beans. Donation is \$6.

For more information, call 527-0443.

Hearing examines border issues

Congressman Steve Pearce will attend a hearing from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 18, at the Cineport 10 Theatre in Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. The featured speaker will be Zack Taylor, vice-chairman of the National Association of Former Border Agents. Other speakers include Doña Ana County Sheriff Todd Garrison, Manion Long and rancher Dudley Williams.

For more information, call 373-5689.



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Establishing Sac Peak

Multi-talented expert on the sun, Menzel witnessed many eclipses during lifetime



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

The world's first artificial satellite had yet to orbit Earth when Dr. Donald Menzel declared man would travel to other planets.

"I am quite sure that existing technology, supplemented by the experience of putting out satellites into space, will make possible interplanetary travel within the next decade," The Associated Press quoted Menzel, in a story the Alamogordo Daily News published on Aug. 14, 1956.

Menzel, then 55, had been director of the Harvard Observatory for three years. He would hold that position until 1966, when he became Paine Professor of Practical Astronomy. According to his biography, in his 1970 book "Astronomy" Menzel had "combined teaching with research at Harvard since 1932"; and, "as an authority on the sun," had "observed 13 total eclipses between 1930 and 1970" in such places as "the U.S.S.R., Mexico and Canada." (He would observe three more before his death.)

Fifteen months after Menzel's 1956 pronouncement, the Soviet Union launched Sputniks I and II, the latter orbiting the first living creature, the canine Laika. The United States followed in early 1958 with Explorer I, and then Vanguard.

Space entranced the public. "Are you aware that you have a personal stake in all the big missile shots, moon probes, satellite launchings, (and) earth-bound space tests being made today?" a subscription advertisement for Space Age magazine asked. Published on the back of the November 1959 Worlds of IF Science Fiction, the ad described how "the age of space is exploding all around us. Government and industry are spending billions in

research and exploration so that generations to come will find a new kind of life — in space! Yes, we have already crossed the threshold of the greatest age in the history of Man!"

“Menzel published regularly in science fiction magazines, using assumed names ... respectable astronomers didn't speculate in public about extraterrestrial life.”

SKY AND TELESCOPE

"Biographical Memoir," which the National Academy of Sciences published in 1991, described how Menzel was reading "Gulliver's Travels" at age 5. By then, his father had taught him rudimentary Morse code. At the same age he was "attracted by the sight of brightly colored ores that had spilled from railway cars near Leadville," his home in Colorado. He "peddled ore samples to tourists on the trains, once giving a choice sample to President William Howard Taft." Ten years later his collection had grown to two tons.

Menzel built a radio

transmitter at age 9, and a chemistry lab at age 11. "He and his pals performed many experiments ... some prompted by ideas gained from the library chemistry books he read so voraciously, others inspired simply by the urge to mix chemicals and see what happened."

In 1943, the government called Menzel "to active duty as a commander in the U.S. Navy," said the August 1949 Popular Science, in a review of Menzel's just-published book, "Our Sun."

"As a naval officer," said "Biographical Memoir," Menzel "showed how solar observations could be used to anticipate large changes in conditions of long-distance radio wave propagation." At the time, Popular Science said, World War II-era "censorship had prevented him from reporting many further advances in men's knowledge of the sun."

The review touted "gee-whizzy facts" — such as "a single sunspot, in April 1947, was so big it could have contained a hundred earths" — that readers would "enjoy pondering while basking in the sun's rays this summer."

For solar study, Menzel "was instrumental in establishing observatories at Climax, Colorado, on Sacramento Peak in (Otero County) New Mexico, and near Fort Davis, Texas," the "Astronomy" bio documented.

In 1947, Menzel convinced the Air Force to sponsor Sac Peak as an associate facility to the Climax observatory. Winter clouds often blanketed that 11,500-foot altitude, which stymied viewing. Sac Peak construction began in 1948, the Alamogordo Daily News reported on June 1, 1950, around the time reports about the observatory were first "made public."

The most visible structure at the site is the Vacuum Tower Telescope, completed in 1971. In 1988, the facility was renamed the Richard B. Dunn Solar Telescope for the astronomer emeritus ... recognized as "one of the foremost experimental solar physicists,"

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said Dunn's 2005 obituary at adsabs.harvard.edu.

"Astronomy" described the tower as a "turret with mirrors that rotate and incline at a controlled rate (that) directs a beam of sunlight 132 feet to the foot of the tower, and then down to other mirrors capable of spectroscopic analysis."

However, early editions of "Astronomy" not only incorrectly credit Dunn with working "at the Sacramento Peak Observatory in Arizona," but also show a photograph of the facility identifying it in Arizona.

Menzel died on Dec. 14, 1976. A life retrospective in the April 1977 Sky and Telescope talked about his many other talents.

"In his younger days," the magazine said, "Menzel published regularly in science fiction magazines, using assumed names, for at that time respectable astronomers didn't speculate in public about extraterrestrial life."

Ironically, he would become a well-known UFO debunker. In the June 9, 1952, Time magazine, Menzel stated UFOs were "as real as rainbows," but that "seeing flying saucers is not the same thing as believing that they are space ships manned by intelligent

beings from another planet. This science-fiction approach is like 'explaining' lightning by calling it a weapon of Zeus: it merely supplants one mystery by another mystery."

In a "favorite" photograph, Sky and Telescope said, Menzel posed with Albert Einstein. Menzel was also a musician — he "played the piano, zither (a stringed instrument featured on the theme to the Third Man film, and radio program) — guitar, and electric organ." He invented, too. One co-patent "used acoustic waves to obtain pictures of under-

ground formations." A chronic doodler "at dull committee meetings," Sky and Telescope said that "around 1960 (Menzel's) doodles began to take the form of fantastic Martian creatures which have delighted his friends. There are presently many proud owners of 'original Menzels.'"

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

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Universal Pass

Continued from page A1

the university pays to the city transit system in one lump sum, he said. For example, if students are charged \$5 a semester, then NMSU and DACC would pay the city transit system an estimated \$180,000 a year based on a combined student enrollment of 18,000 students.

In some programs, university U-Pass also includes staff, he said.

The attraction for universities and colleges, Bartholomew said, is that it frees up parking, increases student access to work and housing and attracts more students to the community, especially "green students" who are choosing not to use cars. Buses also offer a safe transportation option for students, he said.

For the city, the program's attraction is that it increases ridership on city buses – which helps the city get more federal support for its public transit

system – and provides a predictable source of revenue, Bartholomew said.

To make students aware of the pilot program, the city will be assisted by the NMSU and DACC student body governments, as well as the university and college administration, he said.

Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Thomas praised the idea as a "great first step" to increase ridership on the city's bus system.

Councillor Nathan Small said he believed the program would help connect more students to Downtown.

Breana Sylvas, the new president of the NMSU student government, said she has already been a user of the city's public bus system as she came from California, where public transportation is more common.

"I think the U-Pass is a great idea, and from a student perspective this will be

a benefit for all," said Michael Franco, student government director of services.

Ophelia Watkins, NMSU director of transportation and parking services, said the program fits in well with the university's desire to provide more sustainable transportation options.

The council approved the program, which will begin this fall semester.

Rezoning fight

In other business, the council postponed making a decision on rezoning a 1.56-acre parcel at 3830 Lohman Ave.

An unnamed company is interested in opening an organic grocery store at the location, but it is zoned for office space, not commercial retail. The company is asking for a zoning change, but residents in the neighborhood south of Lohman Avenue and Indian Hollow Road object to the zoning change.

Residents complained that Indian Hollow Road already is seeing too much traffic.

Armena Taylor said she

and her husband Herb moved into the area because it was supposed to be low density and the promised enclosed street became an open road over time.

"We have bedroom windows that overlook that property," Armena Taylor said. "We're in our 70s now, but this is going to affect our quality of life."

"Indian Hollow is a race track," Herb Taylor said. "We don't need any more traffic, period."

Councillors decided to table the proposal because they said they wanted more information about the business proposal.

Thomas said she was intrigued by the idea of the store contributing to making Lohman more pedestrian friendly.

"My goal is to make that whole area more accessible to all modes of transportation," Thomas said.

Councillor Greg Smith said he was intrigued by the possibility of a specialty retailer moving into that area, but the developer didn't do a good job of explaining what the project is to neighboring residents.

Representatives of several neighborhood associations said they couldn't support any zone change there, because the original office zoning was meant to buffer the residential neighborhood

Councillor Olga Pedroza said that while it would be good to have a friendly and attractive store in the area, there is no trust from the residents.

Small agreed that the problem was more a lack of trust than the concept for a store there.

"When we come back, I want more details on everything," Councillor Gill Sorg said.

The council also could not come to agreement on the police department proposal to sell excess firearms it has in storage. Although all the guns are legal and would be sold through a federal brokers, councillors said they were concerned about the weapons falling into the wrong hands, especially in light of recent mass shootings and the ill-fated federal gun-smuggling operation, Fast and Furious.

MVEDA

Continued from page A1

cleanliness, Hernandez said, and it is even a greater challenge for a restaurant such as the Olive Garden that specializes in fresh pasta, which requires boiling water.

Nevertheless, Darden already has been able to reduce its water consumption by 17 percent, he said.

At Olive Garden, the kitchen uses low-flow sprayers and hand washers, he said. Pans for functions such as cooking pasta have been converted to those requiring less water, he said, and floor cleaning is no longer done by mopping, but by an enzymatic cleaner.

The restaurant is inspected monthly for leaks and there are regular meetings of a "green team" of employees to review efforts and strategies, he said.

To succeed in creating these kinds of conservations and savings, it's important to get everyone at the business behind the effort, he said.

Terry Mount, who heads Doña Ana Community College's water technology program, said DACC's EPA State Environmental Training Center was created by federal clean water standards, but now the need for water treatment expertise has gone beyond traditional utility water and wastewater treatment.

For example, some of the program's graduates now work at Intel in Rio Rancho because the process of making microchips requires ultra-pure water.

The biggest challenge facing water consumption, Mount said, is not the sensitivity to water usage by business as much as by the general public. Even in a drought, water currently is relatively inexpensive, so people take its supply and affordability for granted, she said.

"People turn on their water faucet and expect clean, fresh drinking water, as if by magic," Mount said.

Miriam Kotkowski, president of the Border Industrial Association, said there is great progress being made at the Santa Teresa border crossing, but that increase in trade and industry also requires improvements in water utilities.

The area needs to plan for water supply to coincide with desired development, she said.

Josh Orozco, board member of the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority, agreed that supply of basic needs such as water and electricity are "the unsung heroes of development."

If there is a problem of people questioning the purity of the water or its availability, even that perception can squash economic development projects, he said.

Santa Teresa is now the second largest industrial region in New Mexico and area leaders need to make sure the water and wastewater capacity is in front of that growth, Orozco said.

“ People turn on their water faucet and expect clean, fresh drinking water, as if by magic. ”

JOSH OROZCO,
Camino Real Regional Utility
Authority board member



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In the news

EBID closing irrigation season

The Elephant Butte Irrigation District is running out of surface water and will shut down deliveries to farmers next week, the board of directors decided Tuesday, Aug. 7.

The last order date for farmers will be Friday, Aug. 10.

The reservoirs' storage figures, as of Aug. 6, were, Elephant Butte, 161,400 acre-feet, and Caballo, 13,780 acre-feet, the Bureau of Reclamation reported.

No big enchilada at fiesta

The Whole Enchilada Fiesta will be without one enchilada this year – the big one.

Roberto Estrada, Guinness Book of World Records holder of the record for the world's largest, three-layer, flat enchilada, announced through event coordinators that he will not be making the "big enchilada" at the 2012 Whole Enchilada Fiesta, Sept. 28-30.

"Roberto stated that the burner equipment that he has used for the past 31 years no longer meets the state standards for safety and operation," said TWEF spokesperson Erlinda Portillo.

"We will need to replace the old equipment with new, state-of-the-art equipment in order to continue making the enchilada in a safe environment. I do not want to compromise the safety of our volunteers nor the public at large by continuing to use old equipment," Estrada said. He estimates it will cost about \$40,000 to replace the old equipment.

In the meantime, Estrada said he will take the time scheduled for making the enchilada and replace it with an "Enchilada Eating Competition."

"We plan to make this event bigger and more exciting and attract competitors from throughout New Mexico and surrounding states," Estrada stated.

The Enchilada Eating Competition was initiated last year and attracted nearly 50 competitors.

Estrada said he hopes to publicize and market the event to attract another 50 participants. Registration and rules for competing in the event will be posted on The Whole Enchilada Fiesta website within the next few days. Prospective competitors should register early, and before the deadline, as the number of participants will be limited.

Estrada said he hopes the community will continue to support The Whole Enchilada Fiesta and expressed his thanks and gratitude for the support of sponsors, volunteers and community for the past 31 years.

"I know our sponsors, volunteers, vendors, entertainers, tourists and our local community look forward to the fiesta every year. Let's make the 2012 fiesta another successful one," Estrada said.

TWEF's board of directors, who plan and organize the fiesta, support Estrada's decision and stated that they will make every effort to highlight the Enchilada Eating Competition. The committee said entertainment for the fiesta has been secured and they are busy adding some new elements to the various venues within the fiesta. Fiesta information can be followed on www.enchiladafiesta.com.

Martinez to address national GOP convention in Florida

Gov. Susana Martinez is among a group of national Republican women addressing the Republican National Convention that starts Monday, Aug. 27.

Martinez is not only the first Latina governor of New Mexico, but the first Hispanic woman governor in the United States. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, the first female governor of her state, will also speak.

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the first black female to hold that position, is also scheduled to speak.

The GOP national convention will be held in Tampa Bay, Fla. Martinez and others will speak ahead of Mitt Romney's formal acceptance of his party's presidential nomination. The keynote speaker, however, has not yet been announced.

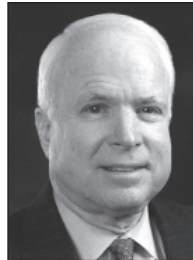
Part of the reason the keynote speaker has not been announced is that Romney is still making his decision on a vice presidential running mate. Political pundits say that Martinez, Rice and Haley are out of the running for the vice presidential candidate spot by being scheduled as convention speakers.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin are believed to be among those Romney is weighing for the vice presidential slot or for the keynote address. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio also were "noticeably absent" from the slate of announced speakers and may be contenders for running mate, according to Fox News.

The Republican convention's schedule's outlines were first reported by The Tampa Bay Times late Sunday, Aug. 5., and were confirmed to The Associated Press by Republican officials. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because convention officials had not yet announced the schedule.

Others set to speak, but not in the running to be on Romney's presidential ticket, are U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who briefly ran for the GOP nomination in 2000, also was set to speak at the convention, as was Florida Gov. Rick Scott.

"They are some of our party's brightest stars, who have governed and led effectively and admirably in their respective roles," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in prepared remarks. "These speakers – and those that will be announced later – will help make it a truly memorable and momentous event."



MCCAIN

Border travel change proposed

The Border Trade Alliance (BTA) announced Wednesday, Aug. 8, its support for a Department of Homeland Security proposal to extend from 25 miles to 55 miles the zone in New Mexico that Mexican Border Crossing Card holders can enter without having to obtain form I-94.

"This is a tremendous victory for southern New Mexico and especially the communities of Lordsburg, Deming and Las Cruces that can now more fully participate in the opportunities for legitimate commerce that their close proximity to the Mexican border offers," BTA President Nelson Balido said. "The Department of Homeland Security should be applauded for proposing to install a cross-border travel policy that is reflective of the unique nature of the southern New Mexico border region while ensuring that security is not compromised. The BTA will be giving the proposal our full endorsement during the comment period and we will be urging stakeholders from across New Mexico to do the same."

Under existing rules, Mexican nationals possessing a Border Crossing Card are required to obtain form I-94 before traveling north into New Mexico beyond 25 miles. Obtaining the card requires secondary screening by Customs and Border Protection officers at the port of entry, resulting in costs and delays to Mexican travelers while diverting CBP resources away from more pressing inspections.

Las Cruces' Erin Ward, a previous BTA chair, credited New Mexico's congressional delegation and community and business leaders for the DHS proposal.

"This change is a long time coming," Ward said. "Leaders from the local, county and state level have been urging federal officials for over a decade to expand the cross-border travel and shopping zone in southern New Mexico. Our members of Congress deserve tremendous credit for working in a bipartisan fashion to make this happen."

The rule change would bring southern New Mexico into parity with Arizona. In 1999, the federal government allowed Mexican nationals with a Border Crossing Card entering at certain ports of entry to travel as far north as Tucson without obtaining the I-94.

Luna County Commissioner Jay Spivey said the proposed rule change "will mean that our friends in Mexico can now sleep in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, shop in our stores and visit friends and family in our area with fewer hassles than they've previously encountered at our border. This is great news for Luna County."

Andres Silva, a BTA board member and the mayor of Deming, hailed the plan.

"It has become increasingly rare, unfortunately, for good news to come from Washington, especially when it has to do with the border. But today's announcement is evidence that with a united voice, border-area communities can be heard at the highest levels of government," Silva said. "I am especially pleased that Democrats and Republicans have come together to develop a policy that will boost southern New Mexico's retail and tourism business."

The BTA's Balido also commended retiring U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman for his work: "Sen. Bingaman deserves special recognition for making this issue and southern New Mexico economic development a priority in his last year in the Senate."

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School

Continued from page A1

open Wednesday, Aug. 15, on the same schedule as LCPS. Kay said enrollment at the new location has grown to 35, which she described as the school's "magic number" for breaking even.

Monday, Aug. 13, is the first day of classes for all grade levels of Mesilla Valley Christian Schools and for St. Mary's High School in the Las Cruces Catholic Schools, with elementary and middle school students starting Wednesday, Aug. 15, following the

LCPS calendar.

There have been changes in schools times, as well.

In the LCPS system, elementary school hours are 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (with White Sands Elementary School hours from 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.). New middle school hours are from 8:35 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (with the exception of White Sands Middle School, which is still 8:15 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.). High school hours remain 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Parents who need more information about school times or other start-of-school questions can call the LCPS Department of Instruction at 527-6628.

Playing games at Mesilla Park Elementary

Photos by Nicolas Bañales



Second-graders volley a huge ball back over the net to the third-graders Wednesday, Aug. 8, at Mesilla Park Elementary School during the Family Olympics day that wrapped up a summer reading program.



Ana Flores, 7, Evelyn Adame, 7, and Morgan Serna, 7, participate in the jump rope competition.



Second-graders prepared to hit the ball back to their rivals.



Las Cruces Bulletin photos by Lorena Sanchez

Of the 408 backpacks stuffed with supplies Monday, Aug. 6, 384 went to Las Cruces Public School students and the rest went to Memorial Medical Center employees who needed the help at the hospital's annual school backpack drive. "Everyone is working to ensure student success," said Community Relations Coordinator Leslie Cervantes.



Jimmy Flores, engineering director for Memorial Medical Center, tosses backpacks filled with school supplies into a second truck for Las Cruces Public School kindergarten to fifth-grade students from low-income families.



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Election 2012: House of Representatives District 33

Name: Bill McCamley
Position seeking: House Representative District 33
Party: Democratic

Age: 33
Political experience: Former Doña Ana County Commissioner, served as chairman
Professional background: Small business owner, works for a nonprofit, ROJO Ink, as well as working with the New Mexico Rural Development Council; Navy veteran



MCCAMLEY

Education: Bachelor's degree in history from New Mexico State University and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University

Family: Single

Organizations, affiliations: None

Original hometown or where born: Las Cruces

Amount of time lived in Las Cruces: Since my family moved here when I was 14

Hobbies: Soccer, cooking

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

- Job creation
- New economic opportunities
- Ethics reform

How will you approach solving these issues?

It's important to attract new ventures to southern New Mexico, such as Sapphire Energy and Virgin Galactic, while supporting efforts by NMSU and White Sands Missile Range. We need to have targeted tax incentives to attract new businesses. As for ethics, we need to get money out of the election process and increase transparency.

Why are you the best candidate?

I will work my tail off. I will listen and keep an open mind. I will make decisions based on the best interests of everyone, not just myself.

Name: Angelina "Angie" Paz Carver
Position seeking: House Representative District 33
Party: Republican

Age: 57
Political experience: First run for elected office

Professional background: Local business owner, professional family nurse practitioner with experience as a clinical instructor



CARVER

Education: Bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Texas at Arlington and master's degrees in nursing and nurse education from the University of Texas at El Paso and post-master's studies at the University of Virginia

Family: Husband Keith and four grown children

Organizations, affiliations: New Mexico Pediatric Society, Sigma Theta Tau

Current residence: Las Cruces

Original hometown or where born: Las Cruces

Hobbies: Working with at-risk youth

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

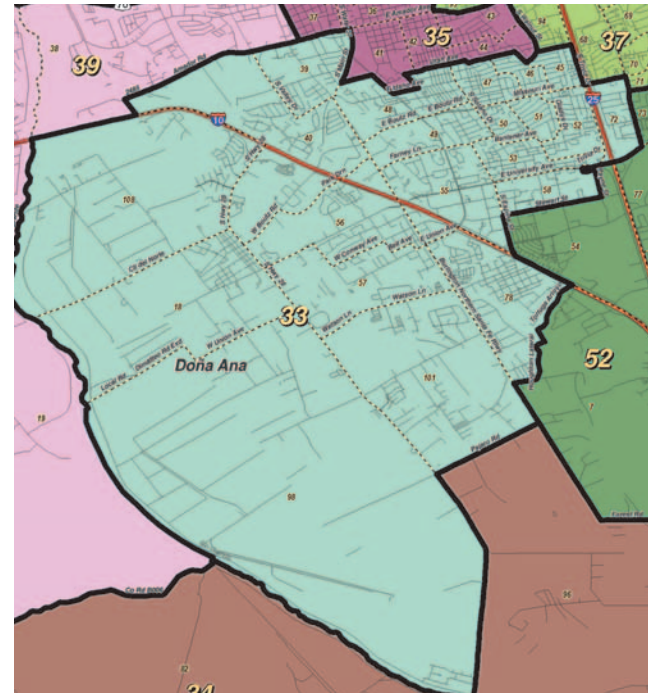
- Education
- Health care
- Small business

How will you approach solving these issues?

Identify learning problems with children before they enter school. I am tired of seeing the state ranked 49th in child poverty. We have to work for the future of our children. Medicaid coverage needs be extended to age 22 for poor students going to college. Tax incentives should be targeted for small businesses.

Why are you the best candidate?

I am an entrepreneur and a small business owner, I am in health care, and I can do it. I am working to help families succeed.



These are the new boundaries for District 33 in the New Mexico House of Representatives. The district has been represented by Joni Gutierrez, who is not seeking re-election to the House, but will be the new state Democratic Party national chairwoman.

State eliminates registration fee

Gov. Susana Martinez announced Monday, Aug. 6, that the State Purchasing Division has eliminated a vendor registration fee of \$100 per year for any company seeking to do business with the state.

The announcement follows a recent roll-out of a new online system that allows New Mexico contractors, architects and others to submit construction plans online to the state for approval or revisions, as opposed to having to drive to Santa Fe or spend a large amount of money on back-and-forth postage costs. The state also recently announced that it will be implementing a new e-procurement system to streamline the interaction of businesses with state government.

The decision to eliminate vendor registration fees for contractors and other companies looking to do business with state government brings the division in line with business practices used by school districts and local governments in New Mexico. The vendor registration fund was an enterprise fund that generated \$158,000 in Fiscal Year 2012, but the division is shifting to online and automated functions that will no longer require small businesses to pay a \$100 registration fee each year.



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CrimeStoppers



Las Cruces Fire Department photo

Playground equipment at Lions Park, 701 W. Picacho Ave., was damaged by an intentional fire last weekend. The damage was discovered Sunday, Aug. 5, and Crime Stoppers is offering a reward for tips on those responsible.

Playground damaged

Las Cruces Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for setting fire to playground equipment at an area park.

At around 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5, Las Cruces firefighters were dispatched to Lions Park, 701 W. Picacho Ave., where playground equipment was burning on the southwest corner of the facility. Firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze, but not before it caused



roughly \$15,000 in damage.

No injuries were reported.

If you have any information as to who may have started this fire you are asked to call Las Cruces Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477) or send a tip via text message to CRIMES (274637), keyword LCTIPS.

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

Food safety tips offered

Training aimed for fundraising

The Las Cruces Public Schools Nutrition Services Department will conduct a total of six food fundraising training sessions Wednesday, Aug. 15 and Thursday, Aug. 24, in Conference Room A of the LCPS Administration Building, 505 S. Main St., Loretto Towne Centre, Suite 249, said LCPS Health and Nutrition Specialist Barbara Berger.

Trainings will be held at 10 a.m. and again at 4 and 5:30 p.m. on each of those days. The workshop lasts approximately 40 minutes.

"A representative from any group wishing to sell food to raise funds in a school or in the name of the school district must attend one of these (LCPS School) Board-mandated sessions and sign a memorandum of understanding at-testing to their willingness to follow the regulations," Berger said.

There is no need to pre-register to attend any of the trainings, she said.

For more information, call the LCPS Nutrition Services Department at 527-5996.



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See page C20 for more information

Saving bucks at the Tax-free weekend

Photos by Zak Hansen

Gary Madrid pushes his youngest son, Gabriel, through Target Sunday, Aug. 5, the last day of New Mexico's tax-free weekend for back-to-school items.



Israel Sandoval shows off his new school supplies. Sandoval will be attending Valley View Elementary as a fifth-grader.



Mark Morris and his two children, Kylie and Cole



Mary Curtis helps her grandson Kolt Bennett pick out index cards.

Carleen Clemente restocks pens at Walmart on Valley Drive Sunday evening, after the weekend crowds started to slow.

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Rifles and raffles at the Friends of the NRA Banquet & Auction

Photos by Jane Fukui

Gabby Martinez, a committee member of the Friends of the NRA stands next to the guns and rifles being raffled during the Friends of the NRA Banquet & Auction on Friday, Aug. 3, at the Las Cruces Convention Center.



Martinez explains one of the raffles to Susan Riedel.



Denise Welsh-Pirtle stops by the ladies' raffle table, where women attendees could purchase a carnation and a chance to win a Pink Bersa .380 pistol.

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Jim Hilley
Deflections

When I lived in Port Isabel, Texas, for a few months in early 1978, one of my favorite places to eat was the Port Isabel Café, where they served an item called a “contodo,” meaning “with everything.”

The dish was basically like a burrito that was folded in half instead of rolled. You could order anything in it you wanted, from chorizo to scrambled eggs to beans – all the usual Mexican food staples, except green chile – and it was cheap.

My favorite had beans, ground beef, cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and salsa – sort of like a big flour tortilla taco.

Here is my column, with a little bit of everything.

Las Cruces Vaqueros' field manager Casey Dill deserves a lot of credit for what he did with his Las Cruces professional baseball team this year.

He went out and recruited a team he thought could win the league, and he came very close to doing just that, losing 1-2 in the championship series to the Alpine Cowboys Tuesday, Aug. 7.

It should be noted that the Cowboys have been a fixture of that Texas community for quite a few years, while the Vaqueros are still somewhat new to Las Cruces.

Dill's hard work, professionalism, skill and enthusiasm helped put the Las Cruces team on equal footing with the Cowboys and raised the Vaqueros' credibility with Las Cruces sports fans.

One result of Dill's success with the Vaqueros is that he has already received some job offers that will make it difficult for him to remain in Las Cruces. If Dill does stay in the City of the Crosses, the Vaqueros will be tough to beat next year.

August is the quiet before the storm for sports in Las Cruces. First out of the gate will be Aggie soccer. A scrimmage at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, will be at the new Soccer Athletic Complex, before the team opens the season in Boise, Idaho, Friday, Aug. 17.

The Aggies were a little disrespected when the WAC preseason poll came out, with NMSU being picked eighth in a nine-team league. Coach Blair Quinn said that isn't going to happen.

High school volleyball teams begin play Tuesday, Aug. 21, with the first ever event for a Centennial High School team being a home volleyball game against Anthony, Texas, at 6 p.m. that evening. With a fourth public high school athletic program, Las Cruces high school sports will never be the same.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Kelsey Crooks. His untimely death Monday, Aug. 6, has brought sadness to all Las Cruces and NMSU sports fans. As a senior at Oñate High School, his play was something to behold, and his courage as he battled a serious illness was an inspiration to many. He'll be missed.

Soccer gets a complex

Crimson & White scrimmage Friday

By **Jim Hilley**
 Las Cruces Bulletin

New Mexico State University soccer fans will get their first look at the Aggies fourth-season team and the new Soccer Athletic Complex at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, when the team plays the annual Crimson & White Scrimmage.

Coach Blair Quinn said Tuesday, Aug. 7, the coaching staff would use the scrimmage to evaluate how players perform together in a game-like setting.

“The coaches will sit down on Thursday night and probably again on Friday morning and try to figure out who we think has been performing the best, but also who plays the best with those around them,” he said.

“Some kids are very good, but maybe they don't mesh as well with another player – because maybe they are too similar – so we are trying to figure out what we think will be the best lineup for the first part of the scrimmage. We will try to do our starting group against the next group.

“The second half will be much more intermixed, where we are looking at other people coming into the game.”

Quinn said having the scrimmage and practice at the new Soccer Athletic Complex should prove to be an advantage for his team this season.

“Any time you can train in the same place
 See **Soccer** on page A21



Defender Elise Nordin is one of seven seniors who have been with the New Mexico State University soccer program since its inaugural season in 2009.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jim Hilley

Centennial ready to make its mark

Las Cruces' new high school will open competition at 4-A level

By **Craig Massey**
 Las Cruces Bulletin

The darkness of the night was still lingering when the Centennial football players began their trek to the top of “A” Mountain on July 26.

A cluster of athletes could be seen jogging

at the base of the mountain, which is across the road from their school. White T-shirts were seen bouncing in unison as the group weaved through the desert.

What couldn't be seen from a distance in the early morning darkness was the rock each player was carrying. Centennial, which officially opens its doors next week for the first

time to its students, already is building an annual tradition – the Rock Challenge.

“It's a test of mental and physical toughness,” coach Aaron Ocampo said. “We want to overcome any perceived boundaries and push past what people say we can't do.”

Ocampo said each athlete carried a 20-to-30-pound rock up the mountain. The players stopped occasionally to do squats, sit-ups and lunges with their rocks.

The Rock Challenge will return next year and so will the players. The Hawks, who will compete in Class 4A this year, have no seniors on their roster.

Ocampo is expecting 102 players Monday, Aug. 13, when practice begins and they will be divided between a varsity squad and a freshman team. There will be no junior varsity.

“I'm very happy with the numbers,” Ocampo said. “Early on, I was a little worried, but they've come out in droves to play.”

Ocampo said it's too early for him and the rest of the coaches to know exactly what they have in terms of talent. They've never seen any of the players in pads and haven't watched any of them on film.

“It's hard to say,” he said. “My only comparison would be the teams I coached at Manzano and those were good 5A teams with mostly seniors.”

Ocampo, who spent 11 years as head coach at Manzano before taking the Centennial



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Craig Massey

Centennial High School football players conduct blocking drills in June at New Mexico's newest high school.

See **Centennial** on page A21

Vaqueros oust Invaders in the Pecos League playoffs

Photos by Zak Hansen



Kevin Wager slides into third base after a hit by teammate Will Stramp, who dashes for first base in a Pecos League playoff game Friday, Aug. 3, at Apodaca Park. The Vaqueros advanced to the league championship by defeating the Roswell Invaders 8-5 and 7-5.



Patsy Wallace, Regina Enciso and Gabriela Estrada take a break from cheering on the Vaqueros for a photo.



Las Cruces' Logan Lotti knocks away a pitch.

Vaqueros players huddle around field manager Casey Dill after clinching the win over Roswell.



Players, staff and fans rush the field after the final play, giving Las Cruces the series win over the Invaders. The Vaqueros advanced to the championship series against the regular season champion Alpine Cowboys in Alpine, Texas. Las Cruces split the first two games of that series, but fell in the final game 13-7, Tuesday, Aug. 7.



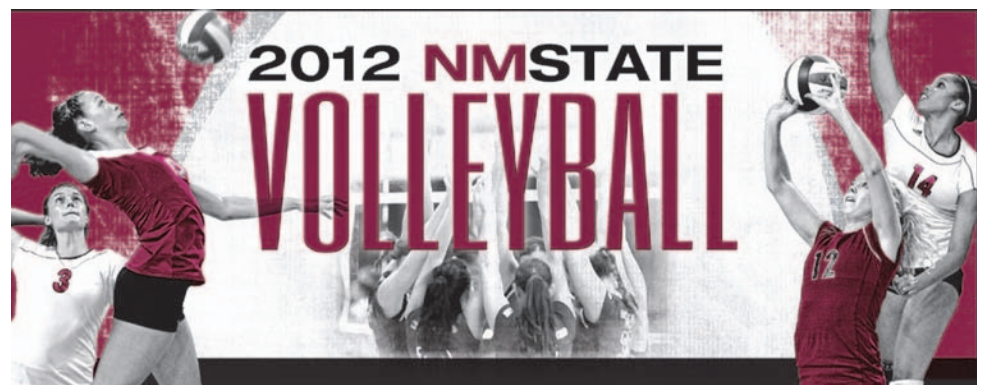
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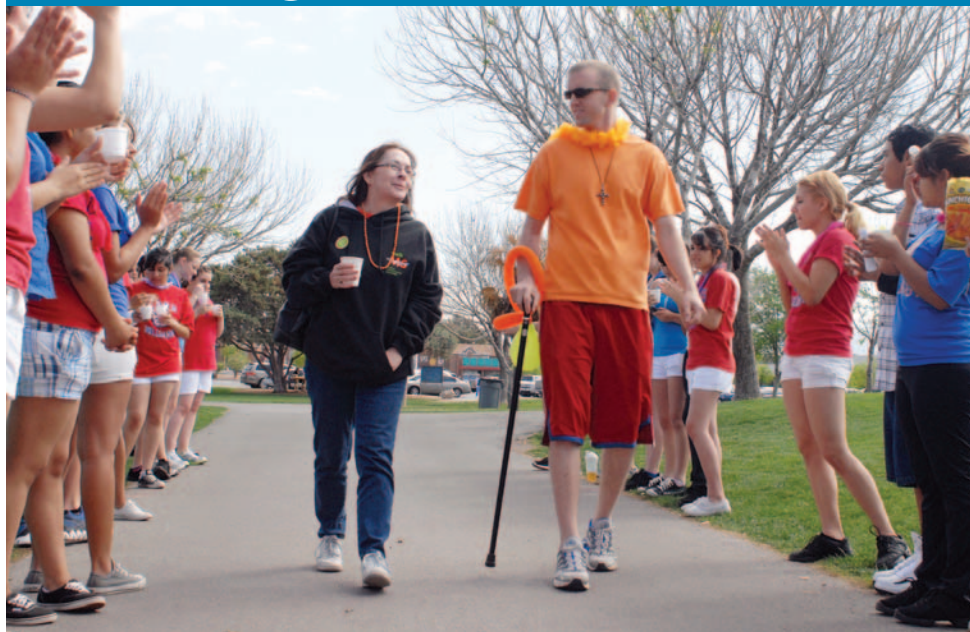
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Walking tall



Former New Mexico State Aggie and Oñate High School basketball great Kelsey Crooks participated in the 2011 Muscular Dystrophy Walk in April 2011.

Kelsey Crooks dead at 31

Courageous battle with illness an inspiration to many

Former New Mexico State University and Oñate High School basketball player Kelsey Crooks died Monday, Aug. 6, at age 31 from undetermined causes.

Crooks played for the NMSU Aggies from 1999-2004, averaging 8.4 points per game as a senior. Crooks was a 1999 graduate of Oñate High School, where he averaged more than 30 points a game in his final season.

"We are greatly saddened by news of his passing," former NMSU coach Lou Henson said. "He was a tremendous high school player and we were fortunate enough to recruit him.

"Kelsey was one of the sharpest kids I ever coached and a pleasure to coach."

Crooks was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2009, and became actively involved with the Multiple Sclerosis Society, inspiring those around him with his determination and positive attitude.

Reports from family members indicated that his diagnosis was changed to metal poisoning, perhaps related to a job the young man held in Arizona.

Crook's body was sent to Albuquerque to be autopsied, reports said, and services are pending the autopsy's completion.

Centennial

Continued from page A19

job last spring, said the Hawks feature about 40 sophomores and juniors and about 62 freshmen.

"I think our running game has a chance to be strong," he said. "We have some decent athletes who can carry the ball. And our linebackers should be strong. We haven't seen them hit with pads. It's just a unique situation. They're all transfers from all different places coming here for an opportunity to play."

Ocampo said the effort the players have had during the summer and the numbers have

been more than he could have hoped for.

"It has far surpassed what my thoughts were coming in to the summer," he said. "I have a feeling we'll have some success. Of course, we'll have some bumps and bruises along the way, too."

Ocampo led Manzano to the 5A championship game in 2010, when his squad lost in a shootout to Mayfield. The Monarchs made the playoffs in all but four seasons under Ocampo and reached the semifinals three times.

Ocampo's offensive coordinator is Quevin Redding, who was at Chaparral the past two seasons. Before that, he was the head coach at Pojoaque. The defensive coordinator is Louie Laborin, who comes to Centennial from Socorro High School, where he was head coach.

Volleyball banquet Aug. 22

Kyle Doperalski will emcee First Serve Banquet

The New Mexico State University volleyball team will have its First Serve Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs road. Tickets are \$45 for an individual or a table near the front seating six guests and two Aggie volleyball

players is \$400.

Kyle Doperalski will be the emcee and coach Mike Jordan will talk about the upcoming season and introduce the Aggies' new players.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 646-7714.

Soccer

Continued from page A19

you play, in the same environment, it should be a little bit of an advantage just in the comfort level," he said.

Entering his second year as coach, Quinn said his own comfort level has increased since last year.

"Last year was kind of high stress for me because it was such a big change from where I was as first assistant to being head coach," Quinn said. "Everything at this point now is repetitive, it's seeing it again, which is good.

"It will make things a little bit easier but it is still a challenge to build your team the way you want it."

Quinn said his team will hit the field ahead of where they were at this time last year.

"We are definitely ahead," he said. "When you are only teaching five new players as opposed to teaching 27 players, things tend to go a little bit faster, especially when the returning players can help teach."

Among the new players, Quinn said Samantha Sandoval, a 5-3 freshman forward out of Volcano Vista High School in Albuquerque, has caught his attention.

"She has got herself positioned right now as one of the top three or four forwards," Quinn said. "She has done some very good things,

she's quick, she's good with both feet, she's definitely competing to start."

Quinn said the Aggies won't change their style of play this season, but their speed of play should improve.

"With us understanding what we are doing better this year we should be faster, that's the goal," he said.

The Aggies return nine starters from a squad that won a program-record 10 games last season. Seven seniors on the roster have been with the program since its inception in 2009.

The Aggies open the 2012 regular season at a pair of tournaments on the road. The first game is at Boise State, Friday, Aug. 17, in the Holiday Inn Classic in Boise, Idaho, followed by a matchup with Idaho State on Aug. 19. NMSU then travels to the UC Riverside Tournament in Riverside, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

NMSU's home opening weekend begins at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, as they host Sam Houston State. The Aggies also host Weber State at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9.

The soccer facility is located between the Coca-Cola Weight Center and the NMSU Softball Complex on Stewart Street. For home games, seating in the grandstand is on a first-come, first-served basis and may be limited. Fans are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to sit around the field. Parking is available in the softball/soccer parking lot and fans can enter through the shared entrance.

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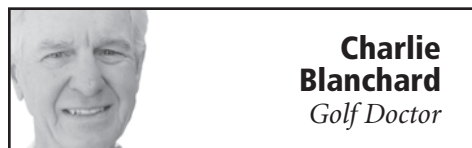
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Onthegreen

Practice like you mean it

Read 'The Game Before The Game' to learn how



Charlie Blanchard
Golf Doctor

Every time we talk about practice, it seems that golfers attach an emotionally negative connotation to the whole idea.

Some folks think back to when they were children and were forced, under the threat of "no outside play," to practice the piano for what seemed like endless hours.

The whole idea of practicing golf seems to evoke images of Ben Hogan "digging it out of the dirt" until dark, exhausted and with his hands bleeding. Hogan was the Vijay Singh of his day, spending nearly all his non-competing waking hours practicing golf.

Yes, practice can be overdone. Old-time pro golfer Jerry Barber once remarked, "They might be able to beat me, but they can't out-practice me."

But practice doesn't need to be drudgery. A few years ago, game-improvement experts Lynn Marriott and Pia Nilsson came out with a book titled "The Game Before The Game," which tells us everything about practice we need to know, including the fact that there are several versions or patterns of practice. Marriott and Nilsson are Phoenix-based instructors and are on everybody's top 100 golf teachers list. They are the authors of "Every Shot Must Have a Purpose," reviewed in this column earlier. They have coached LPGA Hall-of-Fame legend Annika Sorenstam, multiple LPGA winner Suzann Pettersen and dozens of other touring pros.

Marriott and Nilsson base their entire concept of practice on the premise that playing golf and practicing golf are inseparable: "The joy is found not in the destination, but rather in the pursuit. Practice is part of the process, it is part of golf."

That same notion applies as well to every other performance endeavor where competition and the quest for excellence is involved. Actually, there is so much that is quotable in the book, I can't do it justice here. But maybe I

can whet your appetite.

In keeping with their original "purpose" theme, Marriott and Nilsson tell us that every practice must have a purpose. Makes sense doesn't it? Golf great Gary Player once said, "The more I practice, the luckier I get."

In reality, there are three types of practice, according to our LPGA experts. These are warm-up practice, maintenance practice and preparation practice, and each does have a different place in our golf game repertoire.

Warm-up is what you do before the round, no matter whether it's a fun round with friends or a competitive round that counts.

"The main objective of the warm-up (practice) round," they say, "is to warm up the muscles, engage the mind, and create confidence. It is an overture for the fun to follow."

Don't we wish.

Warm-up means getting ready for the game of golf on this particular day. Our pros tell us that the perfect warm-up is a 30-minute session where you hit a limited variety of shots, including drivers, medium irons, and 50-yard pitches, while paying very close attention to tempo. And here's something we all should keep in mind: "It's usually not wise to try to add something new right before a round."

And what else to avoid? At our golf schools, Herb Wimberly and I see so many players of all abilities working themselves into a state of anxiety during warm-up.

"They are excellent at preparing themselves not to be confident," note Marriott and Nilsson; "the problem is, they worry too much about the result rather than the (process)."

A second type of practice is what our intrepid instructors from Arizona call "maintenance" practice.

"This is the kind of practice you do to keep your swing and your game performing efficiently," they advise.

Maintenance practice brings into play all of the five dimensions of playing golf: physical, technical, mental, emotional and social. (We'll reserve exploring the five elements of golf in detail for another

week.) In other words, we need to practice everything.

In a recent column, we looked at how difficult it is to take our game from the practice tee to the first tee. We observed that few golfers actually practice the things they will do on the golf course, along with the emotions they will feel.

Marriott and Nilsson offer these quick tips (slightly paraphrased here). Think of your golf swing as a fine machine that needs careful and continual maintenance. Strive for a reliably repeatable swing; and through practice you can bring a greater measure of repeatability to your play.

Always give attention to what Wimberly calls your "positions" – stance, grip, posture, ball placement and proper alignment. Notice which few specific swing keys and fault areas you tend to get stuck in. Practice isn't about 50 maintenance things, but about identifying a handful of important ones that will give you the greatest return on effort.

What I see when I go to the range, either for a golf school or for my own practice, is golfers – even accomplished golfers – tipping over a bucket of balls, and then swinging seemingly at random, with no definite plan or intention. We need a plan and a purpose, just like in business and in life.

Last, there is "preparation" type practice. This can encompass fusing the practice area together with the golf course. You do this either by creative and disciplined practice (simulating actual conditions) or by playing actual on-course practice rounds and holes. It includes developing new skills – new shots, different variations (like a low knockdown half wedge with no spin), or perhaps making a swing change.

Golf swings are like politics and the economy: things change, sometimes when you least expect them. One day we think we have it, the next day we shake our heads in disbelief. Marriott and Nilsson call preparation "evolution with a purpose."

"While change is inevitable," they advise, "growth is optional. Practice is intentional growth."

Preparation also involves getting ready for a specific event in the future. This type of practice may not mean spending gobs of

hours on the range or the green. It may mean working to become stronger or more flexible and perhaps more mentally tough.

"The point of practice is to play better, not to hit the most balls," our teachers counsel.

The practice ground is also the perfect place to work on your mental game. If you don't have a solid and secure pre-shot routine that you use every single time on the golf course, identify a comfortable rehearsal and pre-swing method and practice it until it becomes habit. Executing your pre-shot routine is really the only sure way to overcome nervous jitters during competition.

According to Marriott and Nilsson, you can do your mental planning and thinking in what they call the "think zone," which is a space three yards or so behind the ball. But

when you step into the "play zone" as you take your stance and address the ball, then you have to turn your brain and your thinking off.

On the practice tee, try to work on separating the think zone from the play zone so that it's a natural thing in the golf course.

From my point of view, I see two main issues with recreational golfers.

One is a matter of extremes: too little practice or too much practice. Most golfers

don't practice. Some other golfers definitely need to play more on the golf course, and under circumstances that will create pressure, such as friendly competition.

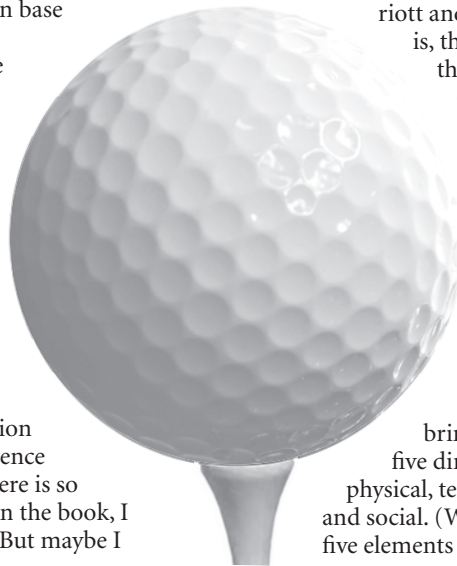
The other issue concerns the hordes of golfers who go to the range to hit balls, and simply repeat and reinforce bad technique. Their faulty swing moves become more rigid habits. Learning is part of practice. All play, no practice; all practice, no play? Neither is good.

I do like the wit of the late Babe Didrikson Zaharias, one of the most celebrated woman golfers of her time, when she said, "A couple of hours of practice is worth 10 sloppy rounds." Marriott and Nilsson would certainly agree.

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.

“ The joy is found not in the destination, but rather in the pursuit. Practice is part of the process, it is part of golf. ”

LYNN MARRIOTT AND PIA NILSSON,
"The Game Before the Game"



CRIME OF THE WEEK featured on page **A15**

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First game at home is an advantage for the Aggies

La Tech getting notice before season starts



Jack Nixon
Jack's Corner

The opening week of the football season starts early for five WAC teams, including the Aggies. The match-up for New Mexico State is the Hornets from Sacramento State. The game is a great one to start a bowl season.

The Hornets are opponents that will give NM State a test, but also an opportunity to work out the kinks and jitters at home. Not having to travel is a huge plus, since it allows the team to focus on the game plan. The timing also gives head coach DeWayne Walker and his staff extra time to prepare for week two's trip to Ohio.

Other WAC games on Aug. 30 send Eastern Washington to Idaho, Southern Utah faces Utah State in Logan, Utah, and UTSA travels to Mobile, Ala., to take on the Jaguars from South Alabama.

The two best matchups of the WAC's first week involve Louisiana Tech and Texas A&M meeting in Shreveport, La., and the Spartans of San Jose State driving up the freeway to Stanford.

Louisiana Tech is getting some votes for national rankings in the preseason and has the depth and talent to make those predictions a reality. The Bulldogs return eight starters on offense, six on defense and both kickers. They do not have their starting quarterback returning, freshman

Nick Isham who played in 10 games last year. His place will be taken by Colby Cameron. Cameron started some last year and the year before and was the starter in the Bulldogs bowl game last year as well.

A&M is playing for a new coach, Kevin Sumlin, with a freshman quarterback named Johnny Manziel. They return 13 starters on both sides of the ball as well. The game is a great opportunity to make those national rankings closer to reality for La. Tech.

San Jose State was a surprise success story last year doing it with defense. Stanford has a new quarterback in the offense with the departure of Andrew Luck, but do return 1,300-yard rusher in Stepfan Taylor. The Spartans appear to be the underdog but their head coach Mike MacIntyre has shown he can do a lot with what has been on hand in the past.

Viva Los Aggies: New Mexico State Spanish broadcasters Martin Cortez and Bob Sherman are hosting a get together at 9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at Paisano Cafe in Mesilla. Their presentation is for football fans that are more conversant with Spanish than English, but all are welcome. There are few people in the Mesilla Valley who know more about football than Sherman in any language.

If you want to gain a better knowledge of the overall football game, drop in Saturday. Aggie football games are carried in Spanish on 98.7-FM "La Grande."

Swim schedule announced

Aggies host Air Force for season opener Oct. 13

New Mexico State swimming and diving head coach Rick Pratt has announced the 2012-13 schedule. The slate for the season includes a fall invitational and a meet with two Pac-12 schools.

The Aggies prepare for the year with the annual Crimson and White meet Oct. 3, before hosting Air Force in the regular season opener Oct. 13. NMSU hosts an alumni meet Oct. 27.

"Our schedule next season is very balanced and gives us some great challenges," Pratt said. "We will have a young team, and I think our schedule will prepare us well for the ultimate success at the end of the season."

The Aggies venture to Albuquerque for

their first road trip of the season, when they meet New Mexico, Colorado State and San Diego State in a two-day meet Nov. 2-3. NMSU makes its second consecutive trip to the Houston Invitational, Nov. 15-17, in Houston.

The Aggies end the fall semester at Northern Arizona Dec. 1, in Flagstaff, Ariz. NMSU travels to Tucson, Ariz., to face Arizona and Oregon State Jan. 4, 2013.

The Aggies meet Idaho Jan. 18, 2013, in Moscow, Idaho, before hosting in-state rival New Mexico in the regular season finale Feb. 2, 2013. NMSU then travels to San Antonio, Texas, for the WAC Championships Feb. 27-March 2, 2013.



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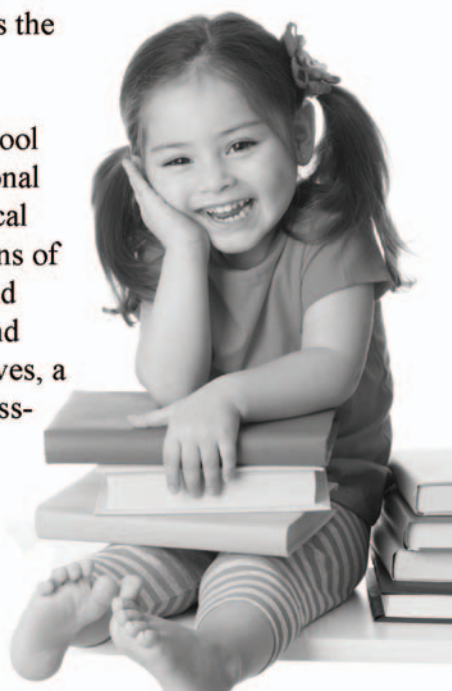
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Conference looks at water, drought

Experts to gather at NMSU

While much attention has been paid to the serious short-term drought situation facing farmers in the Midwest, New Mexico continues to be immersed in the worst two-year drought period in decades.

In this context, it is timely that the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) will present the 57th annual New Mexico Water Conference, "Hard Choices: Adapting Policy and Management to Water Scarcity."

The day long event, co-hosted by U.S. Sen. Tom Udall and New Mexico State University President Barbara Couture, will be Tuesday, Aug. 28, at the Corbett Center Student Union on the NMSU campus.

"The scarcity of water is a concern we all share in New Mexico, and it is an area of particular focus for researchers here at New Mexico State University," Couture said. "I am pleased to welcome the participants to campus, and I look forward to the important discussions the conference will generate surrounding these critical challenges."

"Water is crucial to our economy and to our way of life," Udall said. "Unfortunately, New Mexico communities, farms and industry are not getting the water they need to thrive due to drought and infrastructure issues. This is a shared problem, and I'm proud to be co-hosting this policy conference to collaborate on shared solutions."

The formal program will begin at 8:30 a.m. with remarks from WRRI Interim Director Sam Fernald, Couture and Udall.

The focus of the conference is the growing scarcity of water in the West, and New Mexico especially.

It will emphasize the relationship among agricultural, urban and rural water users in the context of both current demands and projected future needs. Other topics include the current state water budget, deteriorating infrastructure, water markets and rights, basin hydrology, watershed restoration, floodwater capture and salinity control.

The approach to this year's conference is a bit different from years past, when it was primarily by and for the "experts" – academics, representatives from governmental and private water agencies and companies, lawyers involved in water and natural resources issues, and environmental and other organizations.

This year, farmers, ranchers and the general public are invited to hear the presentations and take part in the discussions.

"When it comes to water policy issues, there are many stakeholders whose voices need to be heard," said Fernald, who is coordinating the conference. "We are not only inviting all interested parties to attend, we are working to include representatives of various constituencies on our panels."

The conference will employ an "open forum" approach, akin to a Senate hearing, where short presentations by panelists will be followed by questions from the panel moderator and audience members. The intent, according to the WRRI, is to encourage more citizen input and dialogue between the audience and the presenters.

There are four sessions planned, two in the morning and two in the afternoon:

- Overview of where our water is



New Mexico State University photo

A flood control gate regulates water flow into an irrigation canal off New Mexico Highway 28 near Berino. Adapting to scarce water supplies will be a focus of the 57th annual New Mexico Water Conference Tuesday, Aug. 28, at New Mexico State University.

- Perspectives of water users, including Native American, agricultural, municipal, energy and environmental
- Current best practices as New Mexicans approach the future
- Ideas for stretching the available water through conservation, watershed restoration, desalinization and infrastructure re-engineering

In addition, Udall will moderate a discussion with retired state officials, who will provide their perspectives on the state's pressing water issues as viewed through their experience.

The program will also include Michael Connor, commissioner in the Bureau of Reclamation and an NMSU alumnus, as well as an update by recently appointed New Mexico State Engineer Scott Verhines.

The conference will conclude with a 5 p.m. reception, presentations of research posters by students and other researchers and exhibits from organizations and agencies involved in water issues.

Following the conference, organizers will meet to evaluate and compile policy recommendations. A conference report will then be disseminated among local, state and

federal legislators.

Sponsors include WRRI, NMSU, Udall's office, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, Sandia National Laboratories, the Rio Grande Basin Initiative and the McElyea Foundation.

Those interested in attending can register online at <http://2012.wrri.nmsu.edu/register>.

The regular registration fee is \$25. Students with ID are free. The fee includes luncheon.

For more information, visit the conference website at <http://2012.wrri.nmsu.edu> or call the WRRI at 646-4337.

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## Faith Formation Start Times:

Sun., Sept. 9:  
Pre K-5th Grade  
9:30-11 a.m.

6th-8th Grade  
2:30-4 p.m.

9th-12th Grade  
4:45-6 p.m.

Wed., Sept. 5:  
Pre K-5th Grade  
3:45-4:45 p.m.  
5:15-6:30 p.m.  
7-8:15 p.m.



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# Looking Back

## This week in the history of the Mesilla Valley



**Jim Hilley**  
Reflections

### 100 years ago

#### 1912

• After giving birth to two girls and one boy, Mrs. Trinklena Treste of Brazito died at 8 a.m. the same morning. The little boy died soon after, but the girls were doing well. Treste was survived by her husband and six additional children.

• Professor J.H. Wagner announced his intention to take the position of superintendent of Santa Fe schools, contrary to a notice in the Rio Grande Republican a week earlier. The school board subsequently sent a telegram to Prof. R. W. Twining, who wired back his acceptance of the position.

• The basement of the new Methodist church would not be ready for Sunday services as previously announced. Instead, services would be held at the armory. Evening services were cancelled.

### 75 years ago

#### 1937

• Drs. R.E. McBride and Leland S. Evens opened a clinic and hospital on the corner of Water and Hadley streets. The hospital occupied 10 rooms and had two baths. The hospital was described as well equipped and modern, with an X-ray room and an operating room. McBride said he was in favor of efforts to build a larger facility in Las Cruces, but he felt he owed it to any Las Cruces patients in need of care to be ready to handle anything that came up.

• F.K. Mitry of Mitry Brothers Construction said the new Caballo Dam was 50 percent complete, with the Percha Arroyo Dam finished. One-hundred-eighty men were employed in two shifts on the \$2.5 million project.

• T.J. Mayfield, seriously injured in a car crash, was reported to be improving at the McBride-Owens Hospital. The boy had a

fractured skull, numerous cuts about the head and face and an injured arm.

### 50 years ago

#### 1962

• Safety features for the Apollo moon landing craft were set to undergo testing at White Sands Missile Range in January. The vehicle for the test would be Little Joe, a solid-fuel vehicle 30 feet long. The announcement confirmed indications by New Mexico and west Texas congressmen that White Sands would be the center of several phases of testing for the Apollo program.

• J. Frederick Thorlin, commanding general at WSMR since July 1, was promoted to major general effective Aug. 1

• July was an unusual month in Las Cruces, with an average temperature of 78.8 with a high of 99, and a low of 57 – both on July 16. Precipitation for the month was 1.19 inches.

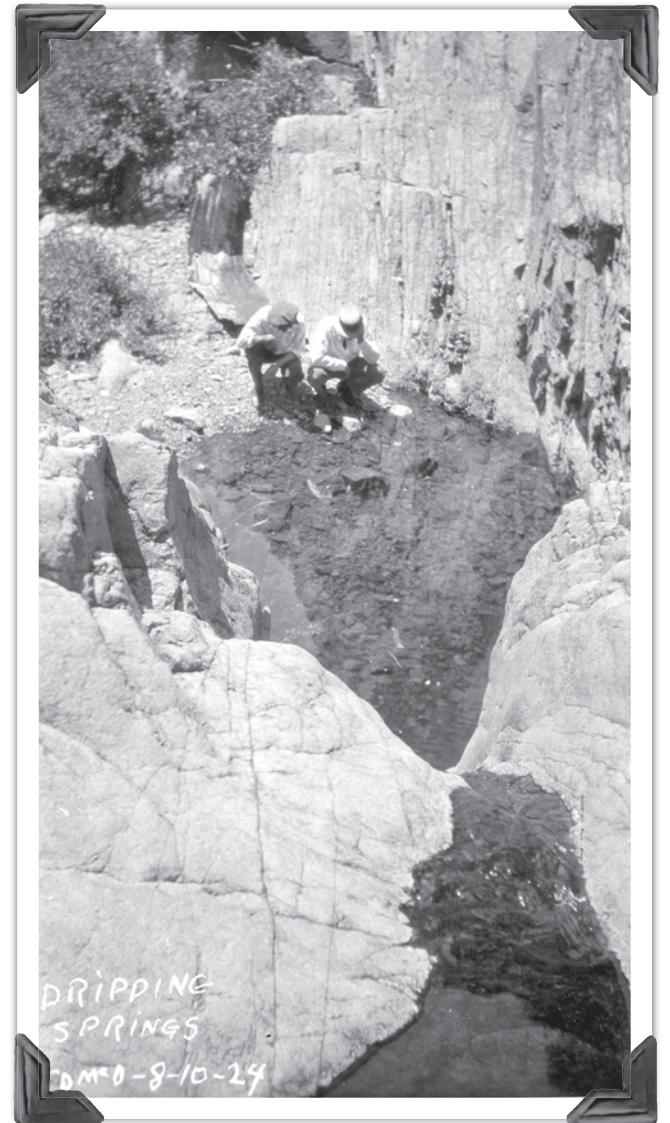
### 25 years ago

#### 1987

• Doña Ana County commissioners went on record as opposing a Bureau of Land Management plan to create wilderness designations within the county. A resolution opposing the designation cited the hardship such a move would cause the ranching community and its detrimental impact of wildlife management. Commissioner Diana “Punkie” Garretson said a wilderness would “provide a haven for criminals and make it impossible for law enforcement because of a lack of mechanized vehicles.” She also said Las Cruces’ large retirement community “can’t backpack.”

• A fire at the Pan American Center damaged about 1,000 square feet of the building. The fire was confined to the roof and several offices.

• Parts of Las Cruces experienced up 1.5 inches of rain, while Holloman Air Force Base reported a funnel cloud on radar in the vicinity of the Organ Mountains.



New Mexico State University Library  
Rio Grande Archives and Special Collections photo

A pair of visitors ponder the water at Dripping Springs in the Organ Mountains Aug. 10, 1924.

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## Centennial Spotlight

1912 - 2012



# Library archivist sheds light on early developer

## Amador helped make Las Cruces grow

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

Many people in Las Cruces recognize the name Amador from the main thoroughfare in the city or the historic hotel building, but they probably know little about the family behind the name.

Through a series of lectures and a book she is working on, retired New Mexico State University archivist Terry Reynolds is trying to change that – especially the place in local history that Don Jose Martin Amador should hold.

In some ways, his legacy was tarnished by an unfortunate testimony he gave to a 1902 congressional committee that delayed New Mexico's statehood by 10 years, Reynolds said.

A Senate subcommittee formed by Indiana Sen. Albert Beverage came to the New Mexico territory in a poorly announced "fact-finding mission" and Amador – who was then well into his 60s – gave testimony, during which he offered his opinion that statehood should be delayed until the people were better educated.

The subcommittee used that testimony to squash the attempt for statehood, Reynolds said, using language in its report that she sees as racist.

Damning to Amador – who by then was a well-established businessman in Las Cruces – he was described in the report as "a simple Mexican farmer," she said.

Supporters for statehood vilified Amador, and some believe the strain of the criticism led to his death from a stroke in 1903, she said.

The working title for Reynolds' book on Amador is "Not a Simple Man." In going through many papers from the Amador collection in the NMSU archives, Reynolds said she has learned that Amador and his life was anything but simple.

"He was very bright and his life was very complicated," Reynolds said.

Born in Juárez in 1836, Amador would eventually follow his widowed mother, Gregoria Rodela de Amador, to Las Cruces. He worked at Fort Fillmore for \$6 a month and later became paymaster at the Bennett mine near Organ.

Reynolds said she believes it was misnomer in local lore that Martin took over general store in his mother's home. She said she has found records indicating he opened the small store out of the family home.

Besides the store, she said Amador was heavily involved in transportation services – which would lead to his successes in freighting. He started off by providing animals and wagons.

When the Civil War broke out and Confederate forces came into the area, Amador went to Juárez. It was during this time Amador had the good fortune to meet Refugio Ruiz, who came from a prominent and prosperous family in El Paso.

By marrying into this family, Reynolds said Amador enjoyed the financial support and connections to become a successful entrepreneur.

"You couldn't have done much better in those days than to have married a Ruiz girl," she said. "He definitely married up."

After the Civil War ended, Amador returned to Las Cruces and, in 1866, built the original structure of the Amador Hotel as one-story house.

He began hauling freight between Santa Fe and Chihuahua and Amador added sleeping rooms for teamsters to the building. Reynolds said contrary to some accounts, Amador didn't live in the building that would become the Amador Hotel, but his in mother's house.

As his business grew, so did his prominence in the community, Reynolds said. He also bought a lot of land, including a number of farms and ranches.

Many give credit for Las Cruces' eventual growth as the second largest city in the state to the presence of the railroad. One of the reasons the railroad came through Las Cruces and not Mesilla was that Amador and a partner provided the land for the train depot, Reynolds said.

"One of the things he always did was see into the future – to what's coming," Reynolds said.

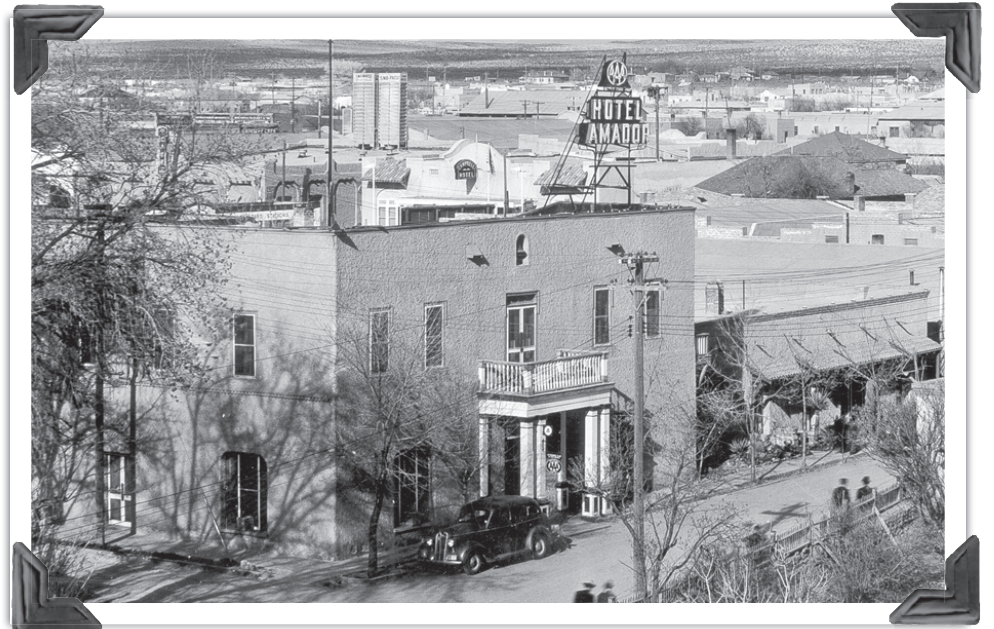
As Las Cruces established itself as a major crossroads and a railroad town, the livery building across the road from the newer Amador family home became a hotel. In 1885, a second floor, balcony and lobby were added to enhance the hotel operation. The interior lobby accommodated theatrical performances and social dances.

When the county seat moved from Mesilla to Las Cruces in the early 1880s, Amador remodeled the adobe building to provide temporary space as a county courthouse, post office and jail. Amador himself would become the county treasurer, later a U.S. deputy and a probate judge.

During the growth of Las Cruces, Amador was a big supporter of public schools, often to the ire of the private Catholic Schools, Reynolds said. It was his interest in getting public education established, she said, that was the foundation for his ill-fated statements to the Beverage subcommittee.



New Mexico State University Library archives photo  
This is the best known portrait of Don Jose Martin Amador, whose enterprising efforts helped make Las Cruces a hub of transportation in southern New Mexico.



New Mexico State University Library archives photo  
Catering to the more affluent crowd in the 1940s, the Amador Hotel was successful as the social center of the town, competing only with the Las Cruces Country Club.

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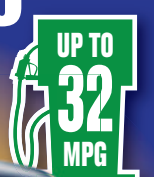


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# Treating visiting students at the Mid-year Labo Exchange picnic

Photos by Jane Fukui

Mary Diven, a four-time host parent for foreign exchange students, greets her Labo delegate, Natsumi Ymmodo, 13, of Yamaguchi, Japan, at the LABO International Exchange Foundation's midway luncheon at Veteran's Memorial Park Sunday, Aug. 5.



Tsumori Yuko, Labo tutor and chaperon, chats with host families.



LABO delegates enjoy the food and festivities.



Akari Migita, 12, of Kagoshima, Japan, enjoys the food and fun with her host family, the Karpacs.

Yuko chats with first-time host parent Nancy Libby.



## Doña Ana County Legislative Roundtable

presented by



Tuesday, Aug. 21

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. All attendees must be pre-registered

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# Giving life at the Judy Price Memorial Blood Drive

Photos by Todd Dickson

Adrian Ballesteros of the Doña Ana County Assessors' Office checks his Facebook messages while giving blood Friday, Aug. 3, at the 12th annual Judy Price Memorial Blood Drive, held at the Doña Ana County Government Center. Ballesteros is giving what's called a "double," in which the red blood cells are condensed, a preferred form of blood for surgery.



Cyndy Farmer, a resident who read about the drive in the paper, prepares to give blood as phlebotomist Christine Rodriguez readies the donation equipment.



Since 2001, more than 720 pints of blood have been donated through the annual blood drive honoring a longtime county administrator who died of cancer.

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# Neighbors We've Lost

## OBITUARIES

### ROBERT DAVID ERES

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, Robert David Eres, 71, lifelong resident of Las Cruces, New Mexico, on Friday, August 3, 2012 at University Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, surrounded by his loving family. He was born February 25, 1941 to Luis and Magdalena Armijo Eres. Robert served his country honorably in the United State Air Force during the Vietnam War; retired as an auto mechanic from Fort Bliss. He was a member of the American Legion Post # 10 and the Roman Catholic Church.

Those left to mourn his passing include one son, Robert David Eres, Jr.; two daughters, Kristina Garcia and Marie Eres; two brothers, Luis and Antonio Eres; two sisters, Otilia Garcia and Ramona Ferrales. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a nephew Jason Garcia.

Visitation for Mr. Eres will be from 8:30



a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Saturday, August 11, 2012 in Baca's Chapel of Prayer, 300 E. Boutz Road. The Recitation of the Rosary will begin at noon, Saturday, August 11, 2012 in St. Genevieve's Catholic Church, 100 S. Espina Street where the Funeral Liturgy will follow immediately thereafter. At his request cremation will take place and inurnment of cremains will be held at a later date. Military Honors will be

accorded by Holloman Air Force Base Steel Talons Honor Guard and the Marine Corps League- El Perro Diablo Detachment.

The Eres family has entrusted their loved one to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces and Sunset Crematory. 575-527-2222. Your exclusive providers for "Veterans and Family Memorial Care." For online condolences logon to [www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com](http://www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com)



### JAY SIDNEY DRUXMAN

Jay Sidney Druxman, a resident of Albuquerque since 2009, passed on Saturday, August 4, 2012 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Jay was born in Winnipeg, Canada on October 7, 1922 to Louis and Eve Druxman.

He spent his youth in Huntington Beach, California, enjoying surfing and beach life until he joined the Coast Guard. He attended the University of Southern California, where he met Sis. He spent most of his adult life in Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he was an active business and civic leader, serving as a state officer for the National Junior Chamber of Commerce. Jay was a founding member of Temple Beth El and served as its president for two terms. For many years, Jay owned Jay Druxman Men's Apparel, which later became Jay's Clothes Rack.

In 1975 Jay and Sis moved to El Paso, Texas where he managed the Union Fashion. In El Paso, he was a member of Temple Mt. Sinai and served on the board of the Jewish Federation of El Paso.

Jay was an accomplished watercolor artist and received recognition in numerous juried art shows. He continued painting through the



last days of his life. He was an avid storyteller and never ran out of jokes.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Sis Druxman; children, Janet Levine, Louis Druxman and wife Barbara, and Michael Druxman and wife Jana; grandchildren, Joel Druxman and wife Vlad; Eric Druxman and wife Melissa, Lee Druxman, Jessica Druxman, and Molly Levine; great-grandchildren, Naomi and Jonathan Druxman and Logan Druxman. He is also survived by sister-in-law, Bea Klein, and brother-in-law, Sonny Klein, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held on Monday, August 6, 10:30 at Masonic Cemetery in Las Cruces, with Rabbi Larry Bach officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jewish Federation of El Paso Texas.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home and Getz Family Crematory corner of Solano and Bowman Ave., Las Cruces, NM 575-526-2419. To sign the local online guest book, go to [www.GetzCares.com](http://www.GetzCares.com)



## DEATH NOTICES

### POWELL

Elwood M. Powell, 88, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012. He was a veteran of the United States Army and retired from the United States Postal Service. He is survived by his wife Dorothy of the family home.

Memorial Services to celebrate his life have been held. His cremains will be laid to rest at a later date at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.

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

### SHARPLESS

Norma Jean Sharpless, 78, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away on August 1, 2012. Services are pending with La Paz-Graham's Funeral Home. 575-526-6891.

### SALCEDO

Hermilo Salcedo, 57, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Sunday August 5, 2012. A visitation has been scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2012 from 5 to 7 p.m. with a prayer service to follow at 7 p.m. in the Getz Funeral Home Chapel. The Funeral Service will be on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at 10 a.m. in the Getz Funeral Home Chapel, burial will follow at Doña Ana Cemetery.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home, corner of Solano and Bowman Ave. 575-526-2419.

### SALINAS

Jesus B. Salinas, 74, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away on Tuesday, August 7, 2012. Services are pending with Getz Funeral Home. 575-526-2419.

### DUKE

Patricia E. (O'Hair) Duke went home to be with her Lord on August 4, 2012 in the comfort of her home in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Local services have been held. Visitation and Funeral Services will also be held in Eggleston Meinert Pavley Funeral Home, 440 S. Coy Road, Oregon, Ohio 43616 (419-698-4301). Visitation will be held Friday, August 10, 2012 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, August 11, 2012 at 10 a.m. in the same chapel followed by a Graveside Burial Service at Ottawa Hills Cemetery in Toledo, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, 8100 Mountain Road NE, Suite 102, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

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

### RUEDAS

Jesus N. Ruedas, 92, passed away Monday, August 6, 2012. Services are pending with La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home. 575-526-6891.

### ESTRADA

Miguel Estrada, 83, of Anthony, New Mexico, left his dwelling place on earth and entered eternal life to be with his heavenly Father, Thursday, August 2, 2012 at Providence Memorial Hospital in El Paso, Texas.

Services were held at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 224 Lincoln Avenue. The Rite of Committal and Interment followed in the Anthony Catholic Cemetery where he was laid to rest. Entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces. 575-527-2222.

### DOLAN

Daniel A. Dolan, 61, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away on August 2, 2012 at MountainView Regional Medical Center. Services are pending with Getz Funeral Home. 575-526-2419.

### SMITH

Rita L. Smith, 87, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Monday, August 6, 2012. She is survived by her son Tim Smith and by a host of other family as well as by many friends. Services to celebrate her life are pending with Getz Funeral Home. 575-526-2419.

### GREENE

Janet A. Greene, 84, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, entered eternal life Friday, August 3, 2012 at MountainView Regional Medical Center. Mrs. Greene served her country in the United State Air Force and was a homemaker.

Cremation has taken place and Inurnment of cremains will take place at a late date. Entrusted to the care of Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces and Sunset Crematory. 575-527-2222.

### CADENA

Hortensia "Tencha" Cadena went to her heavenly reward to be in the arms of our Father whom she loved and prayed to daily, on August 5, 2012.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary will begin at 7 p.m., Friday, August 10, 2012 in the Basilica of San Albino, Mesilla, New Mexico. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m., Saturday, August 11, 2012 in the Basilica of San Albino with the Most Reverend Bishop Ricardo Ramirez officiating.

Per our parent's wishes, Tencha's cremains will be placed in our father's casket and they both will be interred following the mass at San Albino's Cemetery. At this time Tito's military honors will be recognized for his years of service, as well. Military honors will be accorded by the New Mexico National Guard Honor Guard and the Marine Corps League - El Perro Diablo Detachment.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Ambercare Hospice. 850 N. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces, NM 88011

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# Giving inspiration at Gym Magic Olympics

Photos by Jane Fukui

Terry Parrish, gymnastics coach, helps Faith Guzman, 9, try out rings during Gym Magic's Olympics on Saturday, Aug. 4, hosted by Gym Magic, 2341 Entrada Del Sol, in honor of the 2012 Summer Olympics to promote youth fitness.



Students of Austin Parrish's Kinderbugs class prepare to show of their skills.

Jackie Alford, aka Ms. Jackie, helps Rachel Hakes, 2, and her classmates Alexis Weaver, 4 (middle), and Olivia Ullman, 3, into the correct ballet position.



Luke Jordan, 8 months, gets help from his mom, Yvonne, during swim class.



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Memorial Medical Center and General Surgery Associates are proud to welcome Dr. Dale E. Gillan, Jr., Surgeon. Dr. Gillan will join the General Surgery Associates practice alongside Drs. Collins, Halsted and Gilliam. Dr. Gillan is board certified in surgery and was most recently practicing at CIGNA Medical Group in Sun City, AZ. He received his medical degree from University Of Kansas and completed his residency at St. Francis Medical Center (Branch, University of Kansas), Wichita, KS. He has also been a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons since 1987. Dr. Gillan's medical interests include the areas of laparoscopic hernia repair, breast cancer, and dermatologic surgery (skin cancers).

Dr. Dale Gillan is now accepting new patients.  
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Dr. Charles Collins



Dr. Maria Halsted



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## Waiting: tougher than you think



**Richard Coltharp**  
*That's the Way of the World*

We've all been there.

You're at a restaurant and your waiter or waitress does something (or fails to do something) that drives you crazy.

Either they're not friendly enough, or they're too friendly.

Either they never check on you, or they check on you incessantly.

Either they get your order wrong, or they get your bill wrong.

I always tried to give servers a break, especially after my friend Ellis Neel told me once, "You can tell a lot about people by the way they treat waitresses and dogs."

Many of you out there have spent a lot of time waiting tables and understand the pros and cons. I never really did until I worked as a server at this year's March of Dimes Celebrity Waiter event in April.

Now, first of all, there are two things wrong with that.

For one, I'm no celebrity.

For two, I'm dang sure no waiter.

Waiting tables that night, however, gave me a new appreciation for those who wait.

I have cleared tables all my life, but that's at home, when everyone has already left the table. On Celebrity Waiter night, I tried clearing tables when the diners were still seated. It sounds like an incredibly simple task, but it's just the opposite. You're trying not to impede the person or their conversation. You're typically using just one hand. And you're hyper-conscious of every little thing that could go wrong.

As I removed a plate, I saw knife and fork start to slide. As I tilted the plate to stop the slide, I overcompensated, and they slid back the other way, headed for the diner's lap. Then I tilted it a different way and the roll started to fly off the plate. I quickly pulled it into my body so the mishaps would avoid the people and the table. Of course, then I had a mess all over my shirt.

Have you ever asked a waiter for a beverage and then wondered why it seemed to take forever for it to get to you?

Now I know at least one reason.

Every time a waiter leaves your table, whether it's for the kitchen or the bar

See **Waiting** on page B2

## Restaurant sales top \$200m

### Owners look to social media to add traffic

By **Alta LeCompte**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Following a couple of years that were as bland as flan without the caramel, local restaurateurs may be getting a taste of something different: rising sales.

Jerry Harrell, general manager of the elegant Mesilla steak and seafood restaurant Double Eagle, said the customer count is up this year following two flat years.

"There's been a little tick up in activity," he said. "People are a little freer with their cash."

Tom Hutchinson of neighboring restaurant La Posta de Mesilla, however, said business has been flat since early 2008.

Ashley Springer, director of operations at De La Vega's Pecan Grill & Brewery said the three-year-old restaurant has grown its business every year, in spite of opening its doors during a recession.

Even if the economy is improving, restaurant owners face challenges, including the upward pressure of commodity prices and increasing competition.

They have spent the past few years perfecting their approaches to cuisine, customer service and marketing.

The old recipes – word-of-mouth marketing and service with a smile – remain essential, according to an informal survey of local owners.

Some restaurateurs, however, have developed new marketing approaches – such as social media marketing – during the downturn.

The results of their experiments appear mixed.



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Zak Hansen  
**Mary Jaramillo, a server at Zeffiro Pizzeria Napoletana, 136 S. Water St., slices a fresh-baked pizza Tuesday, Aug. 7.**

### Restaurants are big Las Cruces business

Although it's not clear whether the restaurant business has turned a corner, it is clear that eating out is big business. Locals spend more than \$194 million a year. Restaurant income from visitors is \$51 million, according

to the city's Office of Economic Development and Business Assistance.

Inside the city limits are 335 food service establishments, 81.5 percent of them locally owned, according to the economic development office.

Las Cruces restaurants compete with one  
See **Restaurants** on page B2

## Diner's guide to easy tipping

### Insiders say servers depend on customers' generosity to survive

By **Alta LeCompte**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Here's a tip on restaurant tipping in the Mesilla Valley: Although most local consumers use a formula to calculate a tip, servers may expect – and desperately need – 20 percent.

The U.S. standard is 20 percent for excellent service, 15 percent for solid service and 10 percent for bad service, according to www.wikihow.com.

The formula is straightforward, but the decision-making process for restaurant patrons is not.

One Las Cruces resident said she doubled the sales tax of 7 percent for a 14 percent tip. Others said they doubled 10 percent of the bill. Some of the twice-10-percent persuasion debated among themselves whether to take 20 percent of the food and beverage total or ante up 20 percent of the total bill.

Technically, the tip should be computed on the pre-tax amount, Wikihow recommended,

See **Tipping** on page B2



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Alta LeCompte  
**Mayfield High School student Elisa Hidalgo and New Mexico State University student Lesley Gallegos prepare sandwiches for customers Monday, Aug. 6, in spite of a less-than-full tip jar on the counter at Subway on North Valley Drive.**

### INSIDE

#### Profile

Marci Dickerson..... B5

#### In Good Company

La Posta de Mesilla..... B6

#### Las Cruces likes to dine

A photo tour..... B12-13



# By the Numbers



## Building Las Cruces



### Target Expansion

Activity outside of Target, 2451 E. Lohman Ave., is related to the coming addition and expansion of grocery products at the store. The expansion is scheduled for completion in October.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Richard Coltharp

#### Recent projects featured in Building Las Cruces

| Publish date | Building                          | Address                | Contact  |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Aug. 3       | Las Cruces Orthopaedic Associates | 675 Avenida de Mesilla | 525-3535 |
| July 27      | Museum of Nature & Science        | 411 N. Main St.        | 532-3369 |
| July 20      | The Haciendas At Grace Village    | 2802 Corte Dios        | 647-4752 |
| July 13      | Loma Heights Elementary           | 1600 E. Madrid Ave.    | 527-5934 |
| July 6       | Fleet Maintenance Facility        | 2033 E. Griggs Ave.    | 647-7200 |

### Our numbers

As of 12:18 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6

**\$1.7 billion**

Restaurant-industry sales on a typical day in 2012

**93**

Percent of eating-and-drinking businesses that have fewer than 50 employees

**50**

Percent of all adults have worked in the restaurant industry at some point in their lives

**\$2,505**

Average household expenditure on food away from home in 2010

Source: National Restaurant Association

### Gas update

Monday, Aug. 6

Average retail gasoline prices in New Mexico have risen **3.1 cents** per gallon in the past week, averaging **\$3.26** per gallon. This compares with the national average that has increased **9.3 cents** per gallon in the last week and stands at **\$3.60** per gallon.

New Mexico prices **Monday, Aug. 6**, were **23.3 cents** per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are **0.6 cents** per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased **19.1 cents** per gallon during the last month and stands **6.5 cents** per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

|                     |                                          |        |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Diamond Shamrock | 1900 N. Main St.                         | \$3.03 |
| 2. Bradley's        | 920 El Paseo Road and 1260 El Paseo Road | \$3.05 |
| 3. Sam's Club       | 2711 N. Telshor Blvd.                    | \$3.09 |
| 4. Shell            | 1998 Bataan Memorial E.                  | \$3.15 |
| 5. Shorty's         | 5580 Bataan Memorial E.                  | \$3.17 |

Source: www.newmexicogasprices.com, as of Monday, Aug. 6

### Adventure Travel Airfare Watch

| FROM EL PASO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | LOWEST AVERAGE ONE-WAY FARE | CARRIER     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Albuquerque                        | \$89.80                     | Southwest   |
| Atlanta                            | \$199.80                    | US Airways  |
| Austin                             | \$176.80                    | Southwest   |
| Chicago                            | \$240.60                    | Frontier/UA |
| Dallas-Love                        | \$188.80                    | Southwest   |
| Houston                            | \$183.30                    | Southwest   |
| Las Vegas                          | \$190.60                    | US Airways  |
| Los Angeles                        | \$164.60                    | American    |
| Phoenix                            | \$104.60                    | United      |
| San Antonio                        | \$168.10                    | United      |
| New York City                      | \$198.60                    | United      |
| Washington, D.C.                   | \$157.10                    | United      |
| San Diego                          | \$193.80                    | Southwest   |
| London                             | \$1,410.74                  | United      |
| Paris                              | \$1,726.90                  | British Air |
| Rome                               | \$1,604.29                  | British Air |

Source: Adventure Travel \*Prices effective through Aug. 15-22 \*Restrictions apply

### Money

#### Comparing the U.S. dollar

**Euro**

\$1.24147 in U.S. dollars  
0.8055 per U.S. dollar

**Mexican Peso**

\$0.07643 in U.S. dollars  
13.084 per U.S. dollar

**Japanese Yen**

\$0.01279 in U.S. dollars  
78.17001 per U.S. dollar

**Canadian Dollar**

\$1.0011 in U.S. dollars  
0.9989 per U.S. dollar

Source: www.msn.com, as of Aug. 6



#### Market snapshot

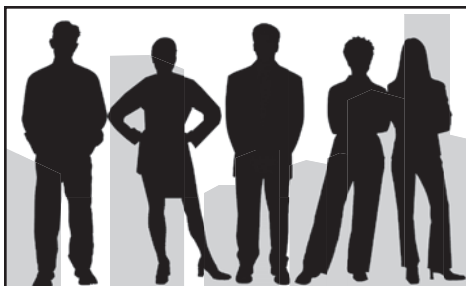
For the week of July 30-Aug. 1, the market reports:

| Index  | Started   | Ended     | Change | % Change | % YTD |
|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|-------|
| DJIA   | 13,075.66 | 13,096.17 | 20.51  | 0.2      | 7.2   |
| Nasdaq | 2,958.09  | 2,967.90  | 9.81   | 0.3      | 13.9  |

**Strong:** Materials, technology, telecommunications, financials

**Weak:** Utilities

Source: http://briefing.com



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THE LAS CRUCES  
**Bulletin**

# WorkKeys designed to help employers, prospects

## Objective testing helps create better matches

By **Richard Coltharp**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

As an employer, do your interviews with prospective employees ever go like this?

**You:** Are you good at math?

**Prospect:** Sure. Yeah!

**You:** Are you a team player?

**Prospect:** Team player? You bet!

Sounds good, but how do you verify that?

"Employers like objective data," said Tom Kilijanek, a workforce and education consultant and one of the creators of the WorkKeys job profile system.

Kilijanek addressed Las Cruces employers at the kickoff of Skills Ready Community Doña Ana County Wednesday, Aug. 1 at the Ramada Palms.

The kickoff was hosted by the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, which is implementing the Skills Ready program.

"How can we change the paradigm?" chamber president/CEO Bill Allen asked in regard to helping employers find more qualified employees. The answer, he said, is a skills-based model.

The skills-based model Allen is talking about uses information from testing and scoring from the WorkKeys job profile system.

"Got any skills here?" Kilijanek asked. "The hiring process is a risk-taking venture, like going to the casino a little bit."

The risk comes, Kilijanek said, because there's a gap between what employers need in an employee and what they know about prospects.

"We want to fill the gap," Allen said.

When employers create job profiles through WorkKeys, prospects can take WorkKeys tests suited to those exact jobs. That gives employers empirical, objective data.

"Employers have not had a mechanism to be real clear about their needs," Kilijanek said. "WorkKeys creates a common language between (prospects and schools) and the employers. If a prospect shows results of WorkKeys testing, the employer goes, 'OK, I believe what you're showing me.' With skills-based hiring, everyone's on the same page."

To help the chamber implement WorkKeys and the Skills Ready Community Doña Ana County, the W.W. Kellogg Foundation presented a \$50,000 grant on May 18. The chamber has also hired Outreach Coordinator James Clifford, a Las Cruces native and New Mexico State University graduate, to be the liaison between local employers and the WorkKeys program.

Lois Johnson of New Options New Mexico, who is the director of workforce for Innovate+Educate, is helping implement the WorkKeys program statewide. She said Las Cruces is the first community statewide to launch the Skills Ready initiative.

"Las Cruces works together in ways I've not seen in a lot of other communities," Johnson said.

A top priority now, Allen said, is for local employers to create job profiles specific to their companies with WorkKeys. WorkKeys testing is already available at Workforce Solutions in Las Cruces and at Doña Ana Community College. DACC is even requiring all of its graduates in technical areas to be tested in WorkKeys.

Employers looking to learn more about the program can contact Clifford at the chamber at 524-1968 or 649-1182 or [jlclifford@lascruces.org](mailto:jlclifford@lascruces.org).

## Valley water table drops

### Decline affects farmers, well diggers

By **Marvin Tessneer**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Most farmers in the Mesilla Valley are pumping irrigation water from the basin, and the strain on the groundwater supply is beginning to show with a declining water table and need for deeper well pumping.

The shortage of water is forcing farmers to depend on their groundwater pumps to lift water for their field irrigation.

"The water table is going down, in some places as much as 40 to 50 feet, depending on the location," said Chet Heil of Heil Pumping and Sales.

"The farther south you go, the deeper you have to lower your pumps to get water because there's no water in the Elephant Butte Irrigation District ditches."

"Now farmers have to lower their pumps to 60 feet to reach water," Heil said.

Constant pumping increases farming expenses because it takes more energy – diesel or natural gas – to lift the water to the crop fields.

In recent years, well service companies drilled several wells 300 feet deep.

Terry Herring of Anthony Pumping and Drilling said when he puts in new wells or repairs old ones in the Mesilla Basin underground aquifer, he takes precautions not to deplete neighboring wells.

"The Mesilla Basin is like a huge bowl," he said. "Every time you draw some water out, it goes down at another place."

"The last couple of years I've been helping people maintain water patterns in the Mesilla Basin without hurting others. 'It's a tough

job being in the water well business during a drought."

The water table seems to keep changing, Herring added.

"It could be 60 feet below the surface in one place or 3 feet below in another," he said. "And a month later it would be impossible to see the effects of pumping."

"The big difficulty is, there's no water seeping into the basin now," Herring said.

The basin is feeling the effects of a poor mountain snow pack runoff, which was 120,000 acre-feet, compared with the long-time average of 530,000 acre-feet, according to a National Weather Service review.

Another reason for a dropping water table in the southern valley is El Paso and Ciudad Juárez are pumping more water for their residents, according to Phillip King, New Mexico State University civil engineer professor and Elephant Butte Irrigation District consultant.

The two cities also are above the Mesilla Basin.

"Everyone needs water, and they're going after the same ground water to get it," he

said.

El Paso is pumping water from its Canutillo well field just across the state line, where it drew 20,000 acre-feet last year. This year the Texas city is expected to pump 30,000 acre-feet of water for its residents.

Juarez is pumping from its own well field, called the Conejos Avedanos, across the international border. The well field includes the Mesilla Basin, where it reportedly will draw 40,000 acre-feet of water out of the ground for its city dwellers.

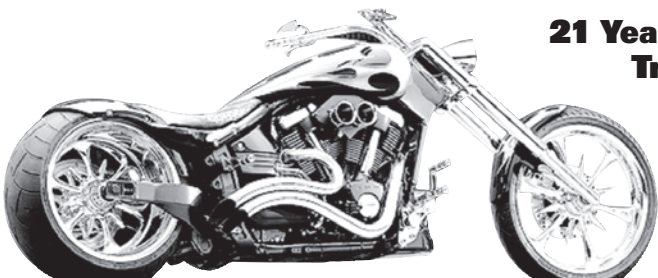
The constant pumping for crop irrigation is creating what King called "cones of depression," which offset well water supplies.

When water is pumped from the vicinity of a well, water moves toward the well by gravity flow into the cone of depression. That flow depletes water in the well and slow pumping, King explained.

"As the regional groundwater level drops, the flow is slower," King said. "Last year, a farmer may have been pumping 2,000 gallons a minute. This year he's probably getting 1,500 or 1,000 gallons a minute."

*Law offices of Kenneth G. Egan*

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or register online at [www.lascruces.org](http://www.lascruces.org)

## Profile

# Marci Dickerson: More than a Game

## Entrepreneur's projects continue to expand

By **Richard Coltharp**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

It has been suggested Marci Dickerson has been cloned. For those active in the Las Cruces community, it would be easy to believe.

It is not uncommon to see Dickerson in multiple places, doing multiple chores, in any given week – even any given day.

The Dickerson Group, a collection of catering and hospitality enterprises, is owned by Dickerson and her mother, Jeanette Dickerson.

Here's how a light week might look for Marci Dickerson: Monday: setting tables for an event at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum; Tuesday: planning with staff for a banquet at the Las Cruces Convention Center; Wednesday: crunching numbers at The Game Sports Bar & Grill; later Wednesday: serving food at Josefina's Old Gate in Mesilla; Thursday: working on a dinner at the Red Hawk Golf Course; Friday: checking in with colleagues at the Dickerson's Event Center; Saturday: handling a wedding reception at Staybridge Suites; Sunday: taking the day off. No, not really; she's probably at one of several other venues where she regularly caters.

Of course, Dickerson is not actually cloned, but she has enough confidence in her staff she can comfortably bounce from location to location, knowing the work is competently handled.

"I am so fortunate to have a very talented team of managers that take great care of each division," Dickerson said. "The talent of those teams is what helps our customers have positive experiences time and time again."

The various efforts of the Dickerson Group earned it the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year for 2011.

The different entities within the Dickerson Group combine to employ about 100 people. By this time next year, however, Dickerson could employ as many as twice that number.

"We are expanding all of our departments in the next 12 months," she said.



**Cody Marr and his wife, Marci Dickerson, with their sons Saxon and Weston**

Extra staff will be needed, as Dickerson plans to add three significant operations: a new facility at Red Hawk Golf Course, a new bar and facility at America's Best Value Inn and a second location for The Game.

Red Hawk is building a new venue to handle outdoor events.

"The facility at Red Hawk will be the premier outdoor facility in Las Cruces," Dickerson said. "The views out there are amazing. You have perfect, unobstructed views of both the Organ and Doña Ana mountains. The facility is going to be the best of both worlds, a great outdoor venue with shelter from the elements."

The second new facility is the Columbus Conference Center at America's Best Value Inn, 901 Avenida de Mesilla.

"This facility is currently being remodeled and refreshed to bring it back to its previous popularity," Dickerson said.

Formerly known as Days Inn and Best Western Mesilla

## Details

### Marci Dickerson

The Dickerson Group

#### Family

- Husband Cody Marr
- Sons Saxon Marr, 9, and Weston Marr, 3

#### Education

- Las Cruces High School
- Bachelor's degree, history, Southeast Louisiana University
- Master's degree, business administration, New Mexico State University, 2000

#### Appointments

Commissioner, New Mexico Tourism Commission

#### Awards

Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year, 2011

Valley, the hotel is now under new ownership.

"They are remodeling the hotel and called upon us to handle the food and beverage aspect," Dickerson said. "We are very excited to be working on this project. The Columbus Conference Center was once one of the top three banquet facilities in Las Cruces and we intend for it to be again."

Dickerson's bar and nightclub team – which previously revamped Hurricane Alley – is working on the space that used to house Eddie's Bar and Grill.

The new bar will be called M5, with an extensive martini and craft beer selection.

"I want a bar concept that my friends and clients will enjoy," Dickerson said. "We are creating a great, comfortable atmosphere where everyone will feel welcome."

M5 will feature an appetizer menu, live music on Fridays and Saturdays, a humidor and wine collection.

"We are also putting a lot of emphasis on the patio area," Dickerson said. "You will be able to bring your friends, have a great drink and sit on our patio and enjoy your evening."

The second location for The Game Sports Bar & Grill will be on Sonoma Ranch Boulevard across from Fitness One.

"We are very excited about this location," Dickerson said. "It gives us access to the opposite side of town. The new restaurant will have the same great food and comfortable atmosphere. We will have 60 draft beers and a fabulous patio."

Plans are for the newest Game in town to be open in time for football season in 2013.

In 2012, Dickerson ventured away from the food and beverage business with a new enterprise, Sports Skills Institute. The institute is an indoor baseball facility at the Dickerson Events Center that features batting cages, an infield and leagues for glow-in-the-dark kickball, youth baseball and Wiffle ball.

In addition to her business pursuits, Dickerson also serves as a commissioner on the New Mexico Tourism Commission, a post to which she was appointed by Gov. Susana Martinez.

She's proud of that position, and said it illustrates her interest not only in her own projects, but how the state as a whole succeeds.

"Helping develop a city that my husband and I are proud to raise our boys in is very important to both of us," she said. "Las Cruces is an amazing city and we are proud to be a part of it."



With Las Cruces' climate, guests can patronize The Game's patio almost year-round. Dickerson plans on opening a second The Game Sports Bar & Grill location as early as next year.

## GREAT COUNTRY MORNINGS



# In Good Company: *La Posta de Mesilla*

## Restaurant draws diners into 19th century

Local artisans add to ambience of historic Mesilla 'chile joint'

By **Alta LeCompte**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

When asked recently if it took courage to dive into a major expansion in September 2011 during an economic slowdown, Jerean Camuñez Hutchinson of La Posta smiled and said, "We're courageous."

Her husband and co-owner Tom "Hutch" Hutchinson III, echoed the sentiment: "It took courage," he said. "And stupidity."

"The economy is slow and not as predictable as it was, but the financing climate has never been better," he added.

Although their restaurant is not immune to tough times, they stick to a business model proven effective throughout the Mesilla restaurant's 70-year history.

The Hutchinsons said it's important to keep revisiting the model, which calls for the two-pronged approach of containing costs while growing the number of customers.

The expansion will enable them to serve more customers, as well as offer the option of outdoor dining and banquets for as many as 100 guests.

"We like to think, 'If we build it they will come,'" Jerean Hutchinson said.

### Tile and tequila

The couple is putting touching the finishing touches on the remodeling, their third since acquiring the compound from her uncle in 1996. They are the second owners of La Posta, founded in 1939 by Katy Griggs Camuñez.

She started with four tables, a dirt floor and no running water.

"This is one of the most historic businesses in the Southwest, Jerean Hutchinson said. "How many can claim to be that old and commercially viable?"

La Posta, a Registered National Historic Landmark, was pieced together from a collection of 1840s adobe buildings at 2410 Calle de Albino.

After the Civil War, the Butterfield Stage had an important stop at the compound.

The compound encompasses what in the 1870s was the Corn Exchange Hotel, which in-



Las Cruces Bulletin photos by Alta LeCompte

**Tom and Jerean Camunez Hutchinson have expanded La Posta de Mesilla to 19,000 square feet while preserving the territorial style of the 1840s adobe compound.**

cluded a restaurant that served seafood from the Pacific Ocean.

In the process of remodeling, the Hutchinsons added La Posta Historic Adobe Cantina & Tequileria, the Pecan Tree Courtyard that wraps around a very old tree and the Fiesta Room with banquet space for as many as 100 guests at private parties.

The Fiesta Room – and others created during the remodeling – are enhanced with art-filled nichos, tilework by local artisans and antique architectural elements the couple brought back from San Miguel d'Allende 12 years ago.

Tom Hutchinson pushed a button on the wall of the Fiesta Room and a huge screen slid down from its concealed compartment in the ceiling.

"This is my toy," he said, pointing to a projector that simultaneously descended from its compartment in the ceiling.

The room, of course, is equipped for computers to run PowerPoint presentations.

Hutchinson, a naval academy graduate and engineer by training, said they rearranged the space to make it function more efficiently.

During the Hutchinsons' tenure the restaurant has grown from 1,000 to 19,000 square feet, she said.

La Posta can now accommodate 350, including on the patio, which seats 50.

Jerean Hutchinson said one of the objectives of expanding the space was to minimize wait time for customers during peak weekend hours. As always, calling for reservations is recommended.

### Fostering community connections

One of the tenets of the business is to support other local businesses.

La Posta buys local pecans, onions, honey and other commodities.

The peppers come from nearby Chavez Farms, La Posta's supplier for more than 45 years.

Ron Nims of Studio D designed the renovation to preserve the buildings' territorial style historic structure and showcase the beauty of its ceilings, vigas and adobe walls. All sub-contractors on the project were local, Tom Hutchinson said.

The Hutchinsons also believe in giving back to the community, a concept espoused by founder Katy Griggs Camuñez.

"Katy was a very philanthropic, colorful lady with a heart of gold," Jerean Hutchinson said. "That translates into a wonderful business model and a wonderful environment."

"I was born and raised here, which built a very significant desire to give the community."

The Hutchinsons give of their treasure, supporting high school athletics and other school programs and local causes.

They also give time. She serves on the New Mexico State University Business Advisory Council and is a former board member for Jardin

“ Katy was a very philanthropic lady with a heart of gold. ”

JEREAN CAMUÑEZ HUTCHINSON,  
co-owner

## Details

### La Posta de Mesilla

#### Address

2410 Calle de Albino

#### Contact

laposta-de-mesilla.com  
laposta@zianet.com  
524-3524

#### Hours

11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday

de Los Ninos and former president/director of Las Cruces Catholics Schools Board and member of the board of directors of Leadership New Mexico. He is chairman of board of Citizens Bank, past chair Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and a member of the National Restaurant Association Board of Directors and the New Mexico Association Board of Directors, as well as former chair of the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance.

### Managing La Posta

Tom Hutchinson said that while their responsibilities overlap, his wife is primarily responsible for administration, bookkeeping, and marketing, while he manages hands-on operations to keep La Posta serving food and beverages seven days a week.

He said their division of labor reflects the background they bring to the business.

"I am a retired Navy captain and was a squadron commander, so I'm accustomed to having structure in my environment," he said.

"My work in real estate in Dallas led us to believe we could acquire this historic property. Her background added enthusiasm and attractiveness to the purchase," he said referring to Jerean Hutchinson's family ties to La Posta.

Jerean Hutchinson graduated from NMSU with a degree in business systems and has a background in marketing.

Their staff of 95 to 100 is family, she said. Panchita Flores cooked at La Posta for more than 40 years, until she was 90. During those years she and other senior members of the staff taught the next generation how to make red chile the way it should be – with no chili powder.

## Details

### La Posta firsts and factoids

- Founder Katy Camuñez invented the tostada compuesta.
- She also is believed to have originated the chips and salsa appetizer, which she called tostados and chile.
- Camuñez loved glitz, and a little gilded chest that belonged to her is used for serving in the new Katy's Blue Room, a popular private room for small parties.
- The last of her piranhas – and the only one in the state – is still a La Posta mascot.
- A great green chile cheeseburger has been on the menu 18 years.
- Fajitas are new.
- As a result of a statewide culinary competition, the USS New Mexico was named after La Posta.
- Customers can choose from 100 tequilas, including aged varieties kept under glass and costing as much as \$400 a bottle.
- La Posta's biggest night is Christmas Eve.
- President Bill Clinton ordered flautas when he was in town.
- La Posta's signature drink is the Chile 'Rita, with locally made Besito Caliente blackberry habanero sauce.



Established in 1939 by Katy Griggs Camuñez, La Posta de Mesilla now serves breakfast on weekends and holidays.

# Bridge relocates offices to APECHS

## DACC provided initial opportunity for space



**Tracey Bryan**  
*Bridging the workforce*

The work of The Bridge of Southern New Mexico takes place all over Doña Ana County – in offices, conference rooms, over lunch or coffee.

We meet with students, businessmen and women, teachers, parents, government officials, education leaders and nonprofit organizations, as well as local and national funders. The Bridge has become a connecting point for innovation and partnership, as well as a catalyst for change that supports strong students and a vibrant future workforce.

Thanks to Doña Ana Community College, The Bridge has always had a place to call home. DACC has provided the much-needed infrastructure to get this community collaborative up and running since 2009. The DACC Workforce Center donated space for The Bridge to have an office, communications support, and (perhaps most important) meeting space.

From Bridge board and committee meetings to parallel initiatives such as the Hispanic Education Initiative and Innovate+Educate, DACC has been the setting for many conversations on educational excellence in the county, and the place where those conversations are put to action. It has literally been at the epicenter of much of the dynamic transformation taking place in and around education in Las Cruces and the county.

This month, The Bridge will be moving its office to Arrowhead Park Early College High School – the school that exists because business and education linked arms and identified an innovative solution for our youth. How-

ever, I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the amazing support and contributions of DACC that gave us a place to get planted and grow.

Across the country, community colleges are being heralded for their vital connections between business and education. Nowhere is that more evident than in the supporting role of DACC and its leadership in placing The Bridge in a great position for success.

I want to publicly thank DACC President Margie Huerta and her committed and caring staff at the Workforce Center for their assistance and kindness at all times: Meg Haines, Audrey Collins, Marina Atma, Tracy Wilborn, Felicia Castillo, Dave Cabrera and Pavla Paiz for all of their help from meeting scheduling and set up to technical support. We are so grateful for all you've done to give us such a great space for this amazing work.

Additionally, we want to thank all of our educational partners who have invested financially in our collaborative work: Las Cruces Public Schools, DACC and New Mexico State University. NMSU and DACC are extending their financial support for The Bridge with \$20,000 commitments each for a year.

This investment continues the hand-off approach envisioned all along. Support is transferring from the public sector into the private sector now that The Bridge has become well established, has measurable impacts, and can demonstrate a positive effect on the environment in which business does business.

Private-sector support has increased greatly during the past two years, both through three-year partnerships with local businesses and the investment from private foundations like the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the BNSF Foundation.



## Tudor named chamber development VP

Troy Tudor has joined the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce staff and will serve as the vice president of development for the organization.

Tudor is a former member of the chamber's board of directors and a long-time member of the Conquistadores, the chamber's goodwill ambassadors.

The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce is the third largest in the state of New Mexico with nearly 1,000 members. The chamber focuses on business advocacy with state and local elected officials, business education and networking for members.



**TUDOR**

"I'm very happy to be a part of this great organization and look forward

to the great things ahead for the chamber of commerce," Tudor said. "The chamber nurtures a pro-jobs environment in the community, and I bring a passion for that mission. I feel like the Chamber provides many services and I can tell that story."

Tudor brings 20 years of marketing and sales experience to the chamber from a wide variety of industries, from banking to technology. He also serves as an independent marketing consultant to numerous businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Tudor will start work on the chamber staff Tuesday, Aug. 13. For more information on the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, call 524-1968 or visit [www.lascruces.org](http://www.lascruces.org).

Pioneering local businesses and groups have invested more than \$40,000 to date, including El Paso Electric Co., US Bank, Pioneer Bank, Las Cruces Machines, Sitel, CenturyLink, GenCon Construction, Citizens Bank of Las Cruces, Advanced Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico, TRAX, NMSU's College of Education, Jacobs Technologies, Sunspot Solar, Adventure Travel, Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance, Northrise Ventures, the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces and Digital Solutions.

There is such momentum in our county. The Kellogg Foundation, during its recent visit to southern New Mexico, recognized we are a county on the move. Last week, it launched a statewide initiative called "Together for New Mexico's Children" to elevate visibility for the needs of children and youth in our state.

It's exciting to have the group as a partner that shares our vision and has the resources to impact the state for this and, hopefully, future generations.

There's much to celebrate and be grateful for, and yet there is still much to do.

We look forward to making our new home at Arrowhead Park ECHS. As we move into a school full of Trailblazers, we'll continue to be inspired to work with a sense of urgency to build bridges to the future for our students, their families and our community.

*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](mailto:tbryan@dacc.nmsu.edu).*



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## NONPROFIT OF THE MONTH



**Southern New Mexico**  
**Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.**

### 2012 NONPROFITS OF THE MONTH

|                       |                                                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>January</b> .....  | Child Crisis Center of Southern NM                         |
| <b>February</b> ..... | Community Foundation of Southern NM                        |
| <b>March</b> .....    | Salvation Army                                             |
| <b>April</b> .....    | Doña Ana Arts Council                                      |
| <b>May</b> .....      | Asombro Institute for Science Education                    |
| <b>June</b> .....     | Las Cruces Home Builders Association                       |
| <b>July</b> .....     | DACC Customized Training and Workforce Development Program |
| <b>August</b> .....   | Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.                   |

### HOW TO NOMINATE A NONPROFIT BUSINESS

Tell the Chamber about a great local nonprofit. Go to [www.lascruces.org/downloads.php](http://www.lascruces.org/downloads.php), scroll down to 2012 Member Spotlight Form and download a form. For more information, call the Chamber at 524-1968.

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THE LAS CRUCES

# Bulletin

# Who funds the building of roads, bridges, schools?

## Businesses pay a disproportionate share

**Jim Spence**  
Business Matters



A number of local business people shared their thoughts on a statement made by President Obama last month when he took the now infamously dismissive swipe at the value of entrepreneurs in a speech in Roanoke, Va.

"You didn't build that," the president said.

After the statement sparked almost universal outrage in the business community, the White House suggested the remarks were taken out of context and tried to set the record straight.

It seems the president wasn't talking about entrepreneurs building their businesses. He was talking about the building of bridges, roads and schools.

After this follow-up explanation, a question immediately surfaced. Where does the funding for building of bridges, roads and schools come from?

Sometimes it is easier to figure out who doesn't pay. The relentless political efforts to diminish the average American's sense of the contributions of the business community tends to hide the glaring fact that half of all

U.S. households pay zero in federal income taxes.

Of those who do pay, the top quarter of all taxpayers, which includes most successful businesspeople, pay 87 percent of all federal income taxes. The income tax math is pretty simple. The remaining 75 percent of all American households pay only 13 percent of all federal income taxes.

Everyone who drives a car or truck contributes to the flow of fuel excise taxes that help build roads and bridges.

Entrepreneurs pay billions in fuel excise taxes for their personal vehicle use. Businesses with car and truck fleets pay billions of dollars in fuel excise taxes.

The essence of the very progressive U.S. income tax code should be taught repeatedly to every citizen to prevent widespread ignorance. It isn't.

The implications of being ignorant about tax sources are even more daunting than simply identifying how public roads and bridges are funded. Households that don't pay federal income taxes are far less likely to provide support for school fundraisers or thousands of other charitable events.

One business person in southern New Mexico spoke to me about how schools are funded in our state.

He said when he first got into business he borrowed money against his house to build a modest-sized commercial building that was

“Everyone who drives a car or truck contributes to the flow of excise fuel taxes that help build roads and bridges.”

not in a very good location. He said though his first building was a bit smaller than his house, he still paid substantially higher property taxes than he did on his home, because business property is taxed at a much higher rate.

As his business prospered, he looked at a better location.

"All of the property located closer to busier roads with access to a bridge or major highway was a lot more expensive, but we wanted a better location," he explained.

Again he took the risk of borrowing heavily to obtain a larger building and better road access. His property taxes went up five-fold in the new business location.

The reality is, all business owners pay substantially higher costs for property if they want to locate their businesses near better roads.

The good news for New Mexico is the property taxes on businesses help fill the coffers that support our public schools.

Let's return to the president's statement and put it back into proper context.

President Obama would have us believe business owners don't build roads, bridges, and schools. Not true. Business owners actually pay a vastly disproportionate share of all the costs associated with building roads, bridges and schools.

The lesson here is simple. A realistic view of the contributions of businesses towards the funding of bridges, roads, schools and anything else governments do, requires a thorough understanding of the idea that when businesses succeed, multiple tax structures in place make sure that everyone in society benefits from that success.

Businesses contribute mightily to the building of everything.

*Jim Spence is the portfolio manager at federally registered investment advisory firm Spence Asset Management Inc. Based in Las Cruces, the firm was named national Midcap Manager of the Year by Emerging Manager Monthly for 2011.*

## Recession in Europe is mixed bag for economy

### Both customers and competition suffer



**Chris Erickson**  
State of the Economy

A number of commentators believe the Eurozone has entered a recession.

France, Germany and the UK are all expected to grow at less than one percent during 2012, while the International Monetary Fund expects growth for the Eurozone overall to be negative.

A natural question to ask is, what is the implication of a European recession for the United States? As it turns out, both history and economic theory say a recession in Europe is unlikely to drag the U.S. into recession, although a strong European economy is better for the United States than a weak one.

In fact, looking back over the past 40 years, it appears Europe follows the United States, if anything. U.S. recessions seem to precede problems in Europe, not the other way around. But even this relationship is weak, as the United States has had six recessions and Europe four.

Taken as a whole, Europe is the United States' largest trading partner by far. During recession, Europeans buy less from American exporters. Indeed, one of the primary indicators that the Eurozone is in recession is the declining imports from the United States.

A recession also pushes down European prices, making European exports more competitive with U.S. exports. U.S. business loses market share to Europeans. Both these effects – declining exports to Europe and increased competition for third-country customers – reduce U.S. exports, thereby putting downward pressure on the U.S. economy.

Europe's woes aren't all bad news for us, however.

Europe competes with the United States for raw materials, particularly Middle East oil. Recession in Europe means less global demand for oil, lower oil prices. And oil prices have fallen, down 17 percent since March. Lower commodity prices are good news as lower raw material costs mean higher profits, providing businesses with an incentive to hire and expand.

What is good news for the rest of the country may not be such good news for New Mexico, as we are a commodity exporting state.

We are particularly sensitive to natural gas, oil and copper prices. Of these, natural gas prices are determined by local demand and are not affected by Europe directly, but all oil and copper prices are sensitive to overall global demand. A European recession could push prices down.

Taken in total, Europe's recession is not likely to have much effect on the United States. It's an "on the one hand/on the other hand" type of phenomenon. Demand is down, but so are raw material prices. Still, a growing Europe is better than a shrinking Europe. European recession is a drag on the United States.

It's the silly season in politics and much has been made of the recent slowdown in the U.S. economy. Second quarter GDP increased only 1.5 percent, about 1 percent less than the long-term average.

This sluggish growth is what you would expect, given conditions in Europe.

*Christopher A. Erickson, Ph.D., is an associate professor of economics at NMSU. He is libertarian in his views, but recognizes that there are practical limits to libertarianism. The views expressed here may not be shared by the regents and administration of NMSU.*

“U.S. recessions seem to precede problems in Europe, not the other way around.”

## After School Program

By *Gym Magic*



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# Lunches help businesswomen make contacts

## Networking can broaden client base

By **Jennifer Craig**  
Regional Manager, WESST

Networking is a form of marketing that exponentially increases the influence a professional or business owner can have when searching for new markets or clients.

WESST, a nonprofit that helps build small businesses in New Mexico, used Women's History Month in March to teach women entrepreneurs how to use this powerful tool. The organization's Las Cruces enterprise center started an Empowering Women in Business Networking lunch meeting so clients and other women could mingle, share ideas, get acquainted and help one another.

The gatherings started small – about three dozen women – but that number nearly doubled by June, suggesting that WESST had tapped into an unmet need.

### From client to caterer

One WESST client took the networking message to heart and catered low-cost meals for two monthly gatherings. Olga Nuñez, owner of Chihuahua's Restaurant in Las Cruces, provided Mexican food one month and Italian the next to benefit directly from the interaction with other women.

Nuñez's business has been open for 11 years – first in the center of town and now in the food court at New Mexico State University. While the move to NMSU broadened Nuñez's customer base during school sessions, her traffic slows during summer and winter breaks, and that's when she misses being part of the Downtown economy.

As the result of catering the meetings, Nuñez has acquired new customers and requests for additional menus. She has also gained more confidence about her ability to transfer the networking skills she polished in

Mexico to her life in the United States, even though she said she doesn't speak English as well as she'd like to.

### Investment of time that pays off

Since networking is relatively inexpensive, it would seem obvious that this is an area where business owners – whether women or men – should spend time and attention.

Yet many entrepreneurs are so overwhelmed by the daily demands of running a business that they forgo events that offer networking opportunities. This mistake could cost them financially in a fast-paced world where who you know is often as important as what you know.

There's more to networking than arriving 15 minutes early to pass out cards and meet people before activities begin. It's more than listening for leads and tips or talking to others.


Networking is relationship building –

investing in the future – where contacts are made that can be beneficial later, if not immediately. It is a place to connect with a lot of people at one time who could be potential customers or whose own friends and acquaintances might like a business's services or products.

"We started out with instructions on writing and presenting a 30-second elevator speech," said Jo Ann Garay, WESST program coordinator and trainer. "During one meeting, we had women introduce each other, which required them to carefully think and write out their speeches. Another month we had people draw seat numbers so they would not be sitting with friends."

For more information about WESST, visit [www.wesst.org](http://www.wesst.org). For information about the Las Cruces Empowering Women in Business Networking lunches, call 541-1583.

*Finance New Mexico is a public service initiative to assist individuals and businesses with obtaining skills and funding resources for their business or idea. To learn more, visit [www.financenewmexico.org](http://www.financenewmexico.org).*

|  <b>City of Las Cruces Building Permit Report July 30 - Aug. 3</b> |                                     |                                    |          |                             |           |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Las Cruces Home Builders Association                                                                                                                |                                     |                                    |          |                             |           |         |
| Permit #                                                                                                                                            | Permittee                           | Owner                              | Project  | Address                     | Value     | Permit  |
| 20124261                                                                                                                                            | Irma Salas                          | Irma Salas                         | Reroof   | 1712 Valencia Drive         | \$2,500   | \$42    |
| 20124262                                                                                                                                            | Pinetop Construction                | Robin L. Rice                      | Reroof   | 2132 Stone Pine Drive       | \$900     | \$34    |
| 20124268                                                                                                                                            | G Bishop Roofing LLC                | Vat Inc.                           | Reroof   | 1535 Corbett Drive          | \$13,000  | \$104   |
| 20124271                                                                                                                                            | Desert Song LLC                     | Modestina Medina                   | Reroof   | 5075 Moon Shadow Place      | \$6,000   | \$63    |
| 20124274                                                                                                                                            | Gilbert & Sons Roofing & Plastering | Carroll Ann Curtis                 | Reroof   | 609 Turner Ave.             | \$12,997  | \$104   |
| 20124292                                                                                                                                            | DJ Walker Construction LLC          | Brian S. Cury                      | Reroof   | 1820 Apollo Drive           | \$13,448  | \$107   |
| 20124293                                                                                                                                            | Milagro Maintenance and Repair LLC  | Antonio M. and Virginia M. Morales | Reroof   | 427 Augustus Road           | \$5,292   | \$59    |
| 20124304                                                                                                                                            | GS Roofing                          | Alejandro L. Hernandez             | Reroof   | 1020 Juniper Ave.           | \$3,500   | \$48    |
| 20124314                                                                                                                                            | De La Paz Construction              | Stella and Manuel S. Frias III     | Reroof   | 5083 Avenida Del Sol        | \$5,250   | \$59    |
| 20124319                                                                                                                                            | Stryco Inc.                         | Oceloa LLC                         | Reroof   | 2919 Majestic Ridge         | \$8,321   | \$77    |
| 20124333                                                                                                                                            | B and L Roofing Inc.                | Priscilla A. Provencio             | Reroof   | 628 Cindy Place             | \$3,500   | \$48    |
| 20124334                                                                                                                                            | Fort Seldon Builders                | Martin Hoffmeister                 | Reroof   | 1525 Candlelight Drive      | \$9,867   | \$86    |
| 20124431                                                                                                                                            | Nissi Construction LLC              | John F. Yardas Trust               | Reroof   | 2212 Bright Star Ave.       | \$7,500   | \$72    |
| 20124275                                                                                                                                            | Alonzo Ruiz                         | Alonzo Ruiz                        | New/Res  | 4247 Cymbeline Court        | \$248,624 | \$4,841 |
| 20124278                                                                                                                                            | GL Green & Associates               | GL Green & Associates LLC          | New/Res  | 1044 Calle Griega           | \$198,850 | \$4,757 |
| 20124279                                                                                                                                            | GL Green & Associates               | GL Green & Associates LLC          | New/Res  | 4062 Bella Sierra Court     | \$191,388 | \$4,744 |
| 20124280                                                                                                                                            | GL Green & Associates               | GL Green & Associates LLC          | New/Res  | 4066 Bella Sierra Court     | \$166,460 | \$4,701 |
| 20124303                                                                                                                                            | Spirit View Homes                   | Mission Santa Clara LLC            | New/Res  | 2037 Villa Napoli Loop East | \$176,218 | \$4,718 |
| 20124320                                                                                                                                            | Summit Development                  | Hunt Los Pueblos LLC               | New/Res  | 4228 Lyra Court             | \$213,528 | \$4,782 |
| 20124339                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | G. Sandoval Construction Inc.      | New/Res  | 1140 Old West Way           | \$181,056 | \$4,034 |
| 20124330                                                                                                                                            | Larry Dee Smith                     | Larry Dee Smith                    | Res/Add  | 5135 Inspiration Lane       | \$5,000   | \$57    |
| 20124380                                                                                                                                            | Chris M. and Elizabeth E. Hoxworth  | Chris M. and Elizabeth E. Hoxworth | Res/Add  | 3105 Sundown Road           | \$45,000  | \$265   |
| 20124413                                                                                                                                            | S and S Quality Builders LLC        | Lowell J. and Phyllis I. Long      | Res/Add  | 1510 Pebble Beach Road      | \$7,000   | \$69    |
| 20124260                                                                                                                                            | Watson Jay B & Debbie J             | Jay B. and Debbie J. Watson        | Rockwall | 3762 Piedras Negras         | \$2,000   | \$100   |
| 20124264                                                                                                                                            | E and R Contractors                 | Rickardo and Blanca Rasura         | Rockwall | 4140 La Purisma Drive       | \$509     | \$30    |
| 20124265                                                                                                                                            | E and R Contractors                 | Gall Properties & Development Inc. | Rockwall | 4367 Nambe Arc              | \$509     | \$30    |
| 20124297                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | Sunwest Homes Inc.                 | Rockwall | 4123 Santiago Way           | \$3,675   | \$299   |
| 20124298                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | Hunt Dos Lados LLC                 | Rockwall | 3946 Agua De Vida           | \$2,372   | \$119   |
| 20124299                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | K. B. and Elizabeth J. Chang       | Rockwall | 4269 Ceres Court            | \$5,684   | \$284   |
| 20124306                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | Sonoma Ranch Construction Co.      | Rockwall | 4237 Sommerset Arc          | \$5,409   | \$270   |
| 20124307                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | Grant County Ventures LLC          | Rockwall | 6317 Wolf Creek Drive       | \$2,989   | \$149   |
| 20124308                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | Logos Development Inc.             | Rockwall | 4003 Monte Luna Court       | \$1,029   | \$51    |
| 20124309                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | K. B. and Elizabeth J. Chang       | Rockwall | 4265 Ceres Court            | \$4,773   | \$238   |
| 20124310                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | Sonoma Ranch Construction Co.      | Rockwall | 4229 Sommerset Arc          | \$2,940   | \$147   |
| 20124311                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | GL Green & Associates LLC          | Rockwall | 4079 Demos                  | \$8,232   | \$411   |
| 20124313                                                                                                                                            | E and R Contractors                 | D & B Harmony Inc.                 | Rockwall | 4497 Miramar Arc            | \$1,274   | \$63    |
| 20124433                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | Evans Realty Holdings LLC          | Rockwall | 4316 Hopi Court             | \$1,568   | \$78    |
| 20124434                                                                                                                                            | Southern Comfort Builders           | GL Green & Associates LLC          | Rockwall | 4066 Bella Sierra Court     | \$2,695   | \$134   |

\* Information provided by LCHBA from information provided by City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County permit offices

# Taking a look at the Restaurants of Las Cruces

Photos by Richard Coltharp, Alta LeCompte and Zak Hansen



La Nueva Casita Café, 195 N. Mesquite St., has been in Las Cruces since 1957.



Anna Medina, owner of Hiebert's Fine Foods, 525 E. Madrid Ave., displays a plate of the restaurant's world-famous green chile steak fingers and dinner rolls. The restaurant opened in Las Cruces in 1958, and has been owned by the Medina family since 1977. Hiebert's moved to its present location in 1997.



Mary Winkles and Angela Villalobos dive into the chips and salsa at Los Tios Restaurant at 525 E. Madrid Ave.



Athena Stephens of Corner Deli, 2139 N. Main St., prepares a 2-foot turkey, beef and ham sub sandwich.

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Owner-cook Dennis Louie and server Connor Sanders pose at Chinese Phoenix, which has been family owned for more than 40 years. The restaurant is located at 1202 E. Madrid Ave.



The historic atmosphere of La Posta de Mesilla, 2410 Calle de San Albino, has been drawing tourists since 1939.



At Katana Teppanyaki Grill, 1001 E. University Ave., fresh vegetables and meat are prepared in front of your eyes.



Ruby Lara prepares a Big Time hamburger at the It's Burger Time at 1190 N. Solano Drive.

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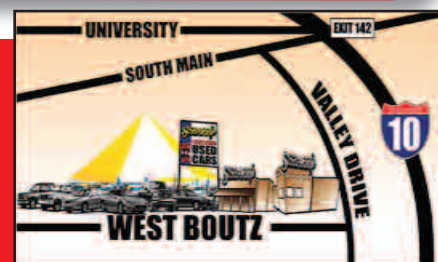
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# Arts & Entertainment

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2012

C1

**Zika's zany characters**  
**C3**



**Clever kitten caper**  
**C7**



**Mexican restaurant gets it right**  
**C11**



**'Recall' remake full of action, special effects**  
**C18**

## INDEX

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Featured Artist .....  | C3        |
| Galleries .....        | C5        |
| Calendar.....          | C6        |
| Featured Musician..... | C9        |
| Restaurant Guide ..... | C10-11    |
| TV Listings.....       | C13-16    |
| Brain Games .....      | C17       |
| Movies.....            | C7, 18-19 |

## NEXT WEEK

**White Sands International Film Festival**  
New flicks & special guests



# 'Blood, Sweat and Tears' at Rio Grande Theatre

## Las Cruces native returns to screen short films

By Isabel A. Rodriguez  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

"Blood, Sweat and Tears" isn't just the name of the short film series taking place at the Rio Grande Theatre Saturday, Aug. 18.

It literally describes the efforts filmmaker and New York University graduate film student Aimée Schaefer puts into creating her short films.

Las Cruces-born and raised, Schaefer will present four of her films at the theater.

Although she currently lives in New York, Schaefer said she frequently returns to the area and is working locally on another film project.

"My heart resides in New Mexico," she said. "I went to New York to specialize in film directing. I had to leave New Mexico for that. New York has beautiful skylines, New Mexico has amazing sunsets."

Schaefer began her film studies at the University of New Mexico. "Gone" is her award winning thesis from UNM's media arts program. The film premiered at the Fountain Theatre in 2006, to what Schaefer described as a great audience reception.

Many of her films were initially class assignments. "Prehistory" is an observational documentary starring Sonny, a local celebrity from the town of Mesilla.

"In an observational documentary, nothing is pre-meditated. You don't ask questions, and you don't interfere. You let the truth of the situation speak for itself," Schaefer said. "Sonny is a fixture of Mesilla. If you're driving through town, you see him saluting

and whistling to people. (For the film), we followed him on his route sweeping, dumping ash trays and doing odd jobs."

Schaefer said it was an uncle of hers who once reminded her not to forget where she came from. This is one of the reasons she picked the Rio Grande Theatre as the setting for her film premieres.

"My uncle told me, 'Don't forget where your roots are,'" she said. "That is absolutely true. In my darkest hours, I think of New Mexico and its beautiful sunsets."

"I'm excited about bringing feature projects to New Mexico. This event is a celebration of filmmaking, itself. It's not necessarily just about me."

Rounding up the event will be the world premiere of "Soul in the Sun," a feature-length documentary and collaborative project with Doña Ana Community College's Central New Mexico and New Mexico State University Creative Media Institute students. The project was coordinated and produced by Schaefer, and directed by NMSU CMI senior Miguel Silva.

Schaefer said her film production experiences have varied. She's worked with small and large crews, and managed budgets as low as \$1,700.

"That was really a stretch," she said. "For the most part, the

budget is for feeding and transporting the crew. (Money for equipment and location is secondary.)"

"We (at the Rio Grande Theatre) jumped at the chance to host the event," said David Salcido, general manager. "The fact that Schaefer incorporates Las Cruces and its residents into her films is very telling. It recognizes that, not only is this a great place to shoot, but we also have the manpower and resources (to shoot movies). There's a lot more going on here than meets the eye."

"Blood, Sweat and Tears" is a fundraiser for Schaefer's second-year film project, as she completes her studies at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts graduate film program, the Maurice Kanbar Institute of Film and Television.

"The proceeds will go toward making another movie for everybody to come see again," Schaefer said. "I'm grateful for what the city's given me, and I'm going to keep going forward."

She also described New Mexico as a "diamond in the rough" and said it is unfortunate that shooting more movies in the state has become convoluted with politics.

The theater will also screen "Gemini," a four-minute film recently accepted to the shorts at this year's Cannes Film Festival in France, and "The Matinee," Schaefer's film noir set in the 1950s and shot at the Lafayette Theatre in Harlem, N.Y.

**Details**

**"Blood Sweat and Tears"**

**When**

- 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18

**Where**

- Rio Grande Theatre, 211 Main St.

**Cost**

- \$15, \$10 for students and seniors

**Contact**

- 523-6403



Schaefer and her crew set up a scene for her short film "Gemini."

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A scene from Schaefer's award winning UNM thesis, "Gone."



The movie poster of Schaefer's locally-shot documentary, "Prehistory."

# Featured artist: Gene Zika

## Zika creates humorous situations Cartoonist is attempting to get his series syndicated

By Isabel A. Rodriguez  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

When he graduated from New Mexico State University with a music degree in 1963, Gene Zika said he never imagined he'd eventually be writing and illustrating three daily cartoons for email distribution.

Growing up in Boulder, Co., his life centered mainly on music, Zika said. He played trumpet throughout grade school and junior high, and majored in music at the University of Colorado.

A stint in the military led him to Las Cruces, where he continued his musical studies. From there, he went on to work as an orchestra teacher.

Thirteen years ago, Zika and his wife, Shirley, returned to the City of the Crosses.

"We really liked the area," he said. "We both enjoy the desert, and this is a very friendly and artistic community. I've (sometimes gotten) the impression that some people don't think cartooning is very artistic. I hope I'm wrong."

Zika explained the inception of his three cartoons.

"I've been drawing cartoons for about 25 years," he said. "I started when I was 50 years old. I've been doing my series for about three years.

"I haven't got a clue (where I got the idea for my characters); they started coming out of the blue. I enjoy reading the funnies in the paper."

Zika named "Zits" and "Peanuts" as two of his favorite comic strips.

He is currently trying to syndicate his three cartoons, although he acknowledged that one is probably too risqué for some audiences.

"La Bella" is a humorous depiction of what every senior person should not be," he said. "She's a morally loose woman. I don't think that would ever get syndicated.

"Miss Fit" is her identical twin, and just the opposite, in that she is a complete health, exercise and fitness fanatic. My final cartoon series is "Padre," which features a somewhat disorientated priest (non-denominational) in charge of a flock of semi-dedicated churchgoers. It's just about funny things that happen in church settings."

When he began the cartoons, Zika said, his main focus was on the illustrations. He soon learned, though, that when it comes to cartoons, writing is most important and drawing is secondary.

"As a young boy, I spent many Saturdays looking at the cartoons I found in the newspapers," he said. "The artwork in some was absolutely wonderful, and I wished I could draw like the artists in the paper. (Then) I realized the best cartoons are not only drawn well, but also written well."

Zika initially used pencil and paper for his series, and worked his way up to a brush and ink.

"The end product was nicer," he said.

After several years, Zika found he could produce higher-quality illustrations on his computer.

Still, he spends two to four hours on a single cartoon.

"It's a good thing I'm retired," he joked. "The time depends on how detailed I make them."

Zika is currently developing the idea for a fourth character, but said he's hesitant about moving forward with it, since he's already busy with "La Bella," "Miss Fit" and "Padre."

The hardest part of producing the cartoons, Zika said, is coming up with humorous situations for the characters.

"I don't think it's really that challenging, though," he said. "Cartooning is something I do at my own pace. It's always interested me. I haven't tried any other art forms.

Asked what the most rewarding part of his passion is, Zika said it is the positive feedback from his audience.

"I get comments from people on my email list. That's a good motivator. But even if people didn't say anything, I'd still probably be drawing them," he said, laughing.

To be placed on Zika's emailing list—which at the currently includes almost 30 recipients – email zikamusic@comcast.net.

"It's free," he said. "No strings attached."

Zika holds a master's degree in computers and environmental policy and management.

He was honored as Artist of the Month by the Munson Senior Center last year, which, he said, led to his producing a special cartoon for the mayor of Las Cruces.



Gene Zika is a Las Cruces artist who writes and illustrates three daily cartoon series.



Of his three cartoon series, Zika said "La Bella" probably has the fewest chances of becoming syndicated.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

|                                                      |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| FRI. AUG 10                                          | 10:30 A.M.                             |
| Rhythm Roundup: Music, Song & Dance ages 2-5         | Branigan Library                       |
| FRI. AUG 10                                          | 11:15 A.M.                             |
| People & Stories                                     | Branigan Library                       |
| FRI.+SAT. AUG 10+11                                  | 8 P.M.                                 |
| Shirley Valentine                                    | LC Community Theatre                   |
| SAT. AUG 11                                          | 10 A.M.                                |
| Family Game Day                                      | LC Railroad Museum                     |
| SAT. AUG 11                                          | 10:30 A.M.                             |
| Storytellers of Las Cruces                           | COAS Bookstores                        |
| SAT. AUG 11                                          | 11:30 A.M.                             |
| Magic Carpet StoryTime                               | Branigan Cultural Center               |
| SAT. AUG 11                                          | 2 P.M.                                 |
| Significance of the Buffalo in Plains Indian Culture | Branigan Cultural Center               |
| MON. AUG 13                                          | 5 P.M.                                 |
| Competitor Deadline to Enter SALSAFEST               | Downtown Las Cruces Partnership Office |
| TUE. AUG 14                                          | 10:30 A.M.                             |
| Read to Me – stories for ages 3-5                    | Branigan Library                       |
| WED. & THU. JUNE 15 & 16                             | 10 A.M.                                |
| Toddler Time! Stories for kids 1-3                   | Branigan Library                       |
| WED. AUG 15                                          | 11 A.M.                                |
| Mother Goose Time! Stories for birth – 13 mos        | Branigan Library                       |
| SUN. AUG 26                                          | 11 A.M.                                |
| 4th Annual SALSAFEST                                 | Downtown Las Cruces                    |



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

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# A 'Valentine' of some sort

## One-woman play kicks off theater season

"Shirley Valentine," an entertaining comedy by Willy Russell, directed by No String Theatre Company's artistic director Ceil Herman and starring Janet Mazdra is the first play of the company's 2012-13 season.

"Shirley Valentine" opens Friday, August 10 and runs through Sunday, Aug. 26, at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St.

In this one-woman play, Shirley ruminates on her life – her husband, her children and her past.

Shirley is a 42-year-old Liverpool housewife in a bad marriage. The marriage was once fine, but over the years, her husband, Joe, has become abusive and Shirley feels trapped. On vacation in Greece, she develops as a person, and ultimately is able to face her life on her own terms.

"The play is an exploration about choices we make in life and the results of those choices," Herman said. "I think our audience will identify with Shirley and love the show. It is very different from the movie, because it is a one-woman show, and the actor needs to play all the parts, leaving the physical characteristics to the audience's imagination."

Mazdra, who is well-known to Las Cruces theater enthusiasts for singing, dancing and choreographing numerous musicals at Las Cruces Community Theatre and the Boba Caberet.

"When Ceil Herman first gave me the 'Shirley Valentine' script to read a few years ago, I knew that I had to be part of this amazing project," she said. "The character of Shirley is rich and funny ... and deeply moving. To me, Shirley represents the thoughts and feelings that we all experience as we progress through life.

"She also represents the human experience of relationships, growing older, self-sacrifice and self discovery. Creating Shirley Valentine on stage has certainly been my most challenging theatrical project yet, but is, by far, my



**Janet Mazdra stars as 'Shirley Valentine' in the one-woman play. Mazdra described the role as her most challenging project yet in her theatrical career.**

most rewarding."

Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinees on Aug. 19 and 26 and a 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23. Tickets are \$10, \$9 for students and seniors over 65. All seats for Thursday's show are \$7. For more information, call 523-1223.

# ArtsBriefs

## Upcoming WSIFF workshops announced

The 2012 White Sands International Film Festival will feature four unique workshop presented by film industry professionals, along with Emmy nominated actor Jeffery Tambor.

This year's festival will be held Wednesday through Sunday, Aug. 22-26 at Cineport 10 at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd.

Workshops will cover independent filmmaking, the history of film in New Mexico, screenwriting, and the art of performance.

Workshops include "Independent Filmmaking," "100 Years of Movie Making in New Mexico" and "Screenwriting: the Hero's Journey."

The final workshop will be presented by Tambor at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25 at the Rio Grande Theater, 211 N. Main St.

The seminar will explore the art and process of performance with insight into human nature and Tambor's professional experience. It is expected to be both entertaining and informative.

Those with VIP Passes have complimentary admission to all workshops but are still required to reserve a space. For non-VIP Pass holders, tickets for "Performing Your Life" are \$45. Students are \$25. All other workshops are \$25 and \$15 for students.

Those wishing to attend any of the above workshops must register by Friday, Aug. 10.

For more information, visit [www.wsiff.com](http://www.wsiff.com).

## Science Café at Las Cruces Railroad Museum

Join the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History for an evening lecture by Floyd Adams, mechanical engineer, leading a discussion on steam power and the science behind today's

interest in it at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30 at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St.

Steam brought in the railroads, made possible the grand Santa Fe depot in Las Cruces, and was the power that propelled transportation in the area for half a century.

The steam automobile was championed by many a century ago, so where is steam in the scheme of today's technology?

Sigma Xi's Science Café is presented by the Scientific Research Society, in cooperation with the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History.

Recent research is presented to advance greater public understanding and encourage use of available science.

Students and those seeking greater knowledge of current science are encouraged to be at the Science Café. For more information call 522-3120.

## A decade of butterflies at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

Many people look at the desert and think "how boring."

But upon closer examination, one can see many wondrous creatures including numerous species of butterflies. These delicate creatures grace our world and delight people of all ages.

Join the Asombro Institute for Science Education as it hosts the 10th annual Butterfly Flutterby at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 18.

There will be new activities such as "Monarch Migration" and the return of many favorites like face painting.

The Doña Ana County Master Gardeners will be in attendance to answer questions about how to attract butterflies to your yard. Admission is \$2.

# Setting the stage for an exciting year

## Zombies and special deals all part of new season



**David Salcido**  
Art Happens

Last month, I announced the line-up for the Doña Ana Arts Council's 2012-13 performance series. This month, I've got even more news.

To begin with, as of Aug. 1, patrons are being offered the opportunity to catch all six performances in the series for one very low price just by purchasing a season pass.

How low, you ask? How's 40 percent off the individual ticket price for each show? That's right, for a limited time only, season passes will be made available for \$99, a savings of \$70 were you to buy each ticket individually.

Because we know this offer will be very popular, a limited number of passes will be made available and once they're gone, they're gone.

The first event in the series will be the Man In Black show on Sept. 8, so you still have time to log on to [www.riograndetheatre.com](http://www.riograndetheatre.com) and toggle the calendar page for more information. Just remember, you heard it here first.

In other related news, the Arts Council

is thrilled to announce that its partnership with ticketing service Hold My Ticket has stepped up to the next level. As of the beginning of August, all of our ticket sales are being handled directly through the service. Even better for those who may have used the service in the past, there will no longer be fees attached to any particular sale. What you see will be what you get when you go online to purchase tickets. Though general admission tickets will still be made available for many of our events within the Rio Grande Theatre, some, including the shows in the performance series, will have assigned seating. It's a deal that has been a long time coming, but one we feel confident will appeal to our patrons and enrich their theater-going experience.

All of that administrative work aside, the Arts Council is already hard at work putting together the biggest event of the season, the 41st annual Renaissance ArtsFaire, which will take place Nov. 3 - 4 this year. Yes, it's still a few months away, but there's a lot that goes into that event, and getting an early start is the only way to ensure that it is the best it can possibly be.

As a matter of fact, applications are still being taken for artists and vendors in all areas of the park. If you've been thinking about it, but haven't yet applied, do it now

by visiting [www.las-cruces-arts.org](http://www.las-cruces-arts.org) and downloading your application forms. Don't wait until it's too late, and don't say I didn't warn you.

Another event that is a little more near and dear to my Gothic heart is the annual Zombie Walk, which will be celebrating its third year this October as an official Arts Council-sponsored event.

What started out as a publicity stunt organized by me to draw people Downtown for a Halloween-themed dance show in 2010 has grown to become one of the most anticipated and popular downtown events of the season.

In 2011, we saw our numbers grow from a few hundred zombies and spectators to more than 2,000 people crammed onto the street in front of the Rio Grande Theatre.

What can I say? We give good dead. This year, we'll be adding more music and vendors to the mix. If you have any interest in becoming involved, call the Arts Council offices at 523-6403 and ask for either myself, or our Events Coordinator Summer Irvin.

Oh, but that's not all. In addition to that annual paean to all things dead and walking, this year we are also working on a theater experience unlike any other. Directly following the Zombie Walk, and running every night after that until Halloween, the Rio Grande Theatre will be converted into a special kind of thrill

ride. Not your typical haunted house – or haunted theater, as the case may be – this event will be more interactive and will put attendees right into the middle of the action as it unfolds around them. Ever wondered what the zombie apocalypse will be like? We have a few ideas ...

I can't really say more just now, but believe me, I will be making announcements as they develop.

Right now, we're still in the planning stages, but we'll be looking for actors and volunteers to help create a worthy follow-up to the Zombie Walk. If this sounds like something you might enjoy, give me a call at 523-6403 and I'll happily walk you through the details and, if you're interested, add you to our committee of dead heads working on the event.

In the meantime, check out some of the many events we have taking place within the Rio Grande Theatre this coming month. Among those are the White Sands International Film Festival Awards Ceremony, taking place Saturday, Aug. 25, and an appearance earlier that day by Emmy Award-winning actor Jeffrey Tambor at a workshop titled, "Performing Your Life." There's more, much more, but not a lot of room left to tell you about them. You can find out all about our line-up of events at [www.riograndetheatre.com](http://www.riograndetheatre.com) and see for yourself that when it comes to quality entertainment, it's all happening at the Rio Grande Theatre. 'Nuff said.





# AtTheMovies

## Feline fun at the Fountain

Animated film is likable and entertaining

Review by **Jeff Berg**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Slim, trim and delightful to look at, "A Cat in Paris" – an Oscar finalist for best animated film – is a clever little caper flick that doesn't allow for animals to take human form.

The animation, which avoids the latest trends and is a homage to the old-fashioned stuff, also allows for things to be out of proportion (feet too big? So what!). Magical things begin to happen, such as acrobatic rooftop chases that don't include warnings of "don't try this at home" or some other idiotic thing embedded on the screen for certain commercials and such, and a delightful sense of whimsy, somewhat tempered by a light tension.

Zoe lives with her mom, Jeanne, a very busy detective. She doesn't speak and is often tended by a dubious nanny while Mom is off chasing bad guys. The shooting death of her father, also a police officer, has rendered Zoe silent, and given her mother uncomfortable dreams, especially while she is on the trail of the guy who did it, Costa, who often appears in her dreams as an outsized red octopus.

Dino is Zoe's part-time cat companion. During the day, he hangs around her in her apartment, but at night, he accompanies Nico, an, ahem, cat burglar, as he makes his rounds, bounding from building to building. Nico has a passion for jewels and is about to make a big score when Costa, the bad guy, comes into the picture.

Not content with being just an ordinary bad guy, Nico is determined to make headlines by swiping a huge art piece on loan to the city. Jeanne has knowledge of this, but is unable to cash in on it to arrest Costa and his dunderheaded accomplices.

A believable plot twist and an attempted kidnapping of Zoe put all things into a different light, although much of the film takes place at night, and soon the chases are on, and, as you'll see, they include Dino and his delightfully sharp claws.

"A Cat in Paris" is fun to watch and easy to like. It offers no cranial challenges, but does amuse and enlighten nonetheless, and only leaves the question, how did Costa's accomplices become so stupid?

Included with "A Cat in Paris," is a short animated piece, "How the Saber Toothed House Cat



The Fountain Theatre will screen "A Cat in Paris," a French animated film.

Became Extinct," which proves not all cats are as smart as we think.

Jackye Meinecke, a Tabby Team member of the Community Coalition for Pets and People, will be the Fountain Theatre's special guest speaker at 7 p.m. before the Saturday, Aug. 11, screening of "A Cat in Paris." CCPP is work-

ing to achieve zero euthanasia of healthy and adoptable pets in Doña Ana County within seven years or less.

Guess my cat's name and win a prize. [jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin.com). Berg is a freelance writer based in Santa Fe.

## Brincadores and junior sluths invade cinema

Theater features two hilarious '20s flicks

The CineMatinee for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, is old fashioned movie house day featuring "Big Stakes" (1922, 61 minutes) and "Sherlock, Jr." (1924, 45 minutes).

"Big Stakes" is an entertaining, exciting, hilarious and, yes, strange addition to cinema history and Latino studies.

What else can you call a film that involves a lovely señorita, a hell-bent buckaroo, a dangerous Mexican captain, a poisonous Gila monster, the KKK ... and everybody's fate, the big stakes, decided on by two "brincadores," Mexican jumping beans.

Mercedes Aloyez, the daughter of a wealthy Mexican rancher, is betrothed to Captain Montoya. The rootin' tootin' buckaroo, Jim Gregory (complete with a comic sidekick) is in love with the ladies, but with a special eye towards bareep Mary Moore. While out riding, Gregory saves Mercedes from a fate worse than death.

The cowboy falls for the señorita, earning the Captain's displeasure. When Mercedes and Gregory meet for a rendezvous, they are captured by the Mexican soldiers.

The Captain threatens them with the infamous and deadly Gila monster, but the cowboy bets his life against the captain's with a race between brincadores. "Big Stakes" is a fun and rip-roarin' ride across the plains of Western cinema.

Buster Keaton's comic masterpiece "Sherlock Jr." is one of the funniest movies of all time and a fascinating, complex look at Mexican and American stereotypes full of staggering stunts, amazing sight gags and mind-boggling cinematic tricks, but also a brilliant meditation on the nature of the

film medium itself, perhaps the best ever made.

Keaton plays a cinema projectionist who dreams of being a famous detective, like Sherlock Holmes.

In love with a beautiful girl (Kathryn McGuire), he presents her with chocolates and a ring, but another suitor (Ward Crane) also vies for her affections. The projectionist unsuccessfully tails his romantic rival, a deceitful sort who has stolen a watch from the girl's home and pawned it to buy her a larger box of candy.

Falsely accused of the crime by his girlfriend's family, the heartbroken young man falls asleep at work while exhibiting a movie. He dreams that he walks into the screen and interacts with the film's characters – now the players in the stolen watch imbroglio.

*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 \$5 for everyone except film society members who are admitted for \$2.*

*The Fountain Theatre is located at 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, one-half block south of the Mesilla Plaza. For more information, call 524-8287.*

## Ramble founder honored



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Isabel Rodriguez

The Downtown Las Cruces Partnership presented Blue Gate Gallery Studio owner Flo Hosa Dougherty with a special award Thursday, Aug. 2. Dougherty is a local artist responsible for organizing the Downtown Art Ramble. Pictured with her are partnership President Hal Henthorne and son Bobby Hosa.

# Supporting artists at WE.AD.'s new exhibit

Photos by Isabel Rodriguez



Becky King took some time to browse the silent auction items.



Teresa Angel and Janet Mcaulay



Jarred Dial and Arianna Parsons of Southwest Environmental Center perused the gallery and shared a laugh as they mingled with the artists.



Artist Sean Carpentier sketches a drawing at the event.



Saba, one of the featured artists at West End Art Depot's "Open Invitational," proudly poses next to one of his paintings at the gallery's reception Friday, Aug. 3.



Artists Matt Begin and Saba pose with Saba's daughter, Patience Saabaque, and wife, Shawna Dayish.

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# The Music Scene

## Featured musician: *Matt Morgan*

### Up-and-coming artist shows tenacity

Matt Morgan goes from the military to full-time music

By **Suzanna Lester**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

With a stage presence similar to that of John Mayer, Jason Mraz and the like, Matt Morgan has only recently begun to take music seriously, which may surprise audiences. Now, it's full steam ahead.

"I have been playing music, singing and writing songs since I was 8 years old, but hadn't started really performing live until late December 2011," Morgan said in his biography at [www.reverbnation.com](http://www.reverbnation.com).

"I am still new to the experience, but I have a passion and a desire to improve."

December 2011, in fact, was when Morgan returned from deployment in Kosovo with the National Guard. Morgan is still enlisted in the infantry.

"I knew halfway through my deployment that I owed it to myself to come home and try music full time," Morgan said. "I had been playing guitar every day up until my training started, and it felt so weird not to be able to pick up a guitar and play – I was literally craving



Morgan recently returned from a deployment to Kosovo and is now pursuing a musical dream.

playing guitar."

Prior to enlisting, Morgan was studying government at New Mexico State University.

One might think, by observing this pale, sweet-faced young man with a Welsh last name, that the states have always been his home.

While Morgan was born in Las

Cruces, his formative years were spent in a much more southern city.

"Something not many people would assume ... is that I am fluent in Spanish, but I did live in Puebla, Mexico, from the age of 5 to 17," Morgan said.

Just ask him to play "La Bamba" sometime – it may not be his usual forte, but the guy doesn't miss a beat.

Puebla is southeast of Mexico City, more than 1,200 miles from Las Cruces.

"I loved living in Mexico. I loved the people and the culture," Morgan said. "Some people imagine I lived in a small town with donkeys and dirt roads, but (Puebla) was much more developed."

Puebla currently is home to almost 6 million people. Its geography includes two volcanoes that residents where perform ancient fertility rituals twice a year.

"My parents work with Campus Crusade for Christ, so, they (moved to Mexico) as missionaries and worked almost 20 years down there," Morgan said. "They just moved back to the states this year, actually."

Morgan points to his father, Steve Morgan, who plays guitar and sings, as the first influential musician in his life. Today, his other biggest supporters are of a more brotherly nature.

"My brother, John Morgan, may have been one of the main reasons I had the courage to even consider doing music full time," Morgan said. "He believed in me and continues to support my musical endeavors, for which I am so grateful."

"Taking that first step was a bit

of a challenge. However, having Rein Garcia, Chris Baker and Daniel Park (also full-time, local musicians) there to support me, and especially believe in me, helped me to get started doing what I really wanted to do."

"One thing you notice about Matt is that everything he does with music, he does with passion," Chris Baker said. "He has a fire for what he does, and that is a rare quality."

His melodic, Mayer-influenced guitar riffs combined with thoughtful, catchy lyrics are a terrific recipe for happy ears. Not to mention happy eyes, taking in the beauty of his guitar collection.

After coming back from deployment, this treasure chest of instrument choices began to accumulate. Striking up a conversation with him about his guitars is like asking a car-enthusiast, "Hey, what's under the hood?"

"Guitars, for me, are like cars or guns for other people," Morgan said.

"I analyze every detail of a guitar before I buy it. I also love having something that looks unique. My guitar I use now is a semi-hollow electric Taylor T5 made out of beautiful Hawaiian Koa wood. I get excited about my guitar and that makes me even more excited about music."

Morgan's song-writing skills are inspiring, with a couple chiseled pieces he's recently been playing called "Cigarette" and "White Walls," causing nothing less than swooning.

“Guitars, for me, are like cars or guns for other people.”

MATT MORGAN,  
musician

His ambition and discipline is shown in the progress he's made, such as the personal goals he has far-surpassed in the past year – a symbol of his mental constitution.

"My goal for music when I started attending open mics at the beginning of this year was to open a show for one person by December of this year," Morgan said.

Yet, within the past eight months, Morgan has opened for multiple bands such as The Liars, The Caitie Taylor Band from Austin, Josh Grider and Bri Bagwell.

"I have been completely blown out of the water and been able to do way more than I ever thought was possible, and I'm super grateful for that," Morgan said.

Morgan's next goal is to release an EP by Spring of 2013. He then hopes to do some traveling in order to share his music with as many people as possible.

Morgan can be found almost every Monday at the De La Vega's Pecan Grill & Brewery open mic

### Top 10 singles Tuesday, Aug. 7



- 1 Call Me Maybe**  
Carly Rae Jepsen
- 2 Wide Awake**  
Katy Perry
- 3 Payphone**  
Maroon 5
- 4 Whistle**  
Flo Rida
- 5 Lights**  
Ellie Goulding
- 6 Somebody That I Used to Know**  
Gotye
- 7 Where Have You Been**  
Rihanna
- 8 Titanium**  
David Guetta featuring Sia
- 9 Scream**  
Usher
- 10 Blow Me (One Last Kiss)**  
Pink

### Top 5 albums



- 1 Gossamer**  
Passion Pit
- 2 Channel Orange**  
Frank Ocean
- 3 Handwritten**  
The Gaslight Anthem
- 4 Life is Good**  
Nas
- 5 Uncaged**  
Zac Brown Band

Source: [www.billboard.com](http://www.billboard.com) and iTunes

nights, as well as his many gigs around the area at local restaurants, bars, wineries and major events.

"The experience as a whole has been incredible. I have found a place in this town amongst some great musicians where I have the opportunity to be a part of the music scene," Morgan said. "At this point in my life, I haven't ever wanted anything more than I want to pursue music."

Morgan will be opening for Bagwell – Las Cruces native, and singer of the latest hit, "I Wanna Be Your Whiskey" – with Baker and The Littlestbirds on Thursday, Aug. 30, at Hurricane Alley, 1490 Missouri Ave. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, Aug. 14.

### Details

#### Matt Morgan

Pop/acoustic/country musician  
Opening for Bri Bagwell

#### When

• 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30

#### Where

• Hurricane Alley Pub, 1490 Missouri Ave.

#### Website

• [www.facebook.com/mattmorganmusician](http://www.facebook.com/mattmorganmusician)  
• [www.reverbnation.com/mattmorganmusic](http://www.reverbnation.com/mattmorganmusic)



At just 4-years-old, Morgan was already entertaining crowds with his guitar and game face.



# Getting your art on at the Art Ramble

Photos by Isabel A. Rodriguez



Art student Jamie Bulger shows off two of her pieces of the "From the HeART!" exhibit. The art show premiered at Mountain Gallery Studios during the Downtown Art Ramble Friday, Aug. 3.



Artist and art instructor Irma Lee poses with two of her students, Aaron and Derek Hyman, whose work will be displayed at Mountain Gallery Studios through Friday, Aug. 31.



Artists Joyce Macrorie and Michael Ponce pose in front of her work at MVS Studios.



Sherry Doil-Carter and Padma Mott-Valdevit served water, wine and desserts at MVS Studios.

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 Sat. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Cassandra Lockwood, curator of education, and Rebecca M. Slaughter, director of Branigan Cultural Center, pose in front of Ponce's "beautiful" exhibit.



Mary Lacy, president of the Las Cruces Arts Association, and Dana Gallegos keep cool with snacks and refreshments at Mountain Gallery Studios. Gallegos' granddaughter, Aliyah, was one of the artists of the "From the HeART!" exhibit.



Mariachis entertain art lovers outside MVS Studios Friday, Aug. 3 during the Downtown Art Ramble.

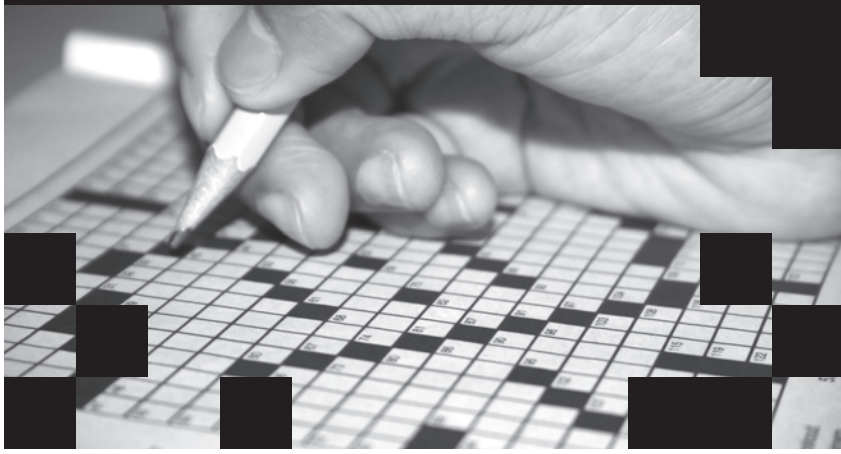








# BrainGames



## Word Salsa

Circle these English words and their Spanish equivalents that appear in the grid horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backward. Encierre estas palabras en inglés y sus equivalentes en español que aparecen al revés, horizontal, vertical y diagonalmente.

### JEWELRY

#### ENGLISH

- BANGLE
- BAUBLE
- BRACELET
- BROOCH
- CAMEO
- CHOKER
- EARRING
- NECKLACE
- PENDANT
- PIN
- TASSEL
- TIARA

#### SPANISH

- AJORCA
- CHUCHERÍA
- PULSERA
- BROCHE
- CAMAFEO
- GARGANTILLA
- ZARCILLO
- COLLAR
- COLGANTE
- ALFILER
- BORLA
- DIADEMA

O L L I C R A Z C A L K C E N  
 B A C H U C H E R Í A L R O B  
 A Í R A R E S L U P I C R A Z  
 N E O O E F A M A C H E R Í A  
 G C J O R C P E A M E D A I D  
 L A N D T N A D N E P E L T I  
 R L E L E S S A T E L P F A A  
 E K N E L K A B L C I E I S B  
 K C T L E A R R I N G T L A R  
 O E M A C B A O C H U N E T N  
 H N F L A Í I C O L L A R I A  
 C H O N R A T H N R C G L L G  
 L E G R B R B E Z A R L O L R  
 A L L I T N A G R A G O C Í A  
 E L B U A B R O O C H C R A G

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## Crossword Puzzles

### Diagramless, 21 x 21

Like a regular crossword but with an added challenge. Sleuths must also create the diagram and figure out where the numbers and black squares go.

#### ACROSS

- Refuse
- Brings into play
- Book of the Bible before Joel
- Impassive
- Alter a skirt's length
- Acute infectious disease
- Rubberneck
- Linguine or ziti
- Tourist's guide
- Hautboy
- Small porch
- Naughty child
- Guinness of "The Bridge on the River Kwai"
- Singer Lena
- Stretch the truth
- Business publications
- Coupled in space
- Possessed
- Makes the current current
- Statuesque
- Devoured
- Heavy curtains
- Raw
- Rough tear
- Besmirch
- Irrational dread
- St. Patrick's Day prop
- Roofs
- Noises
- Globe
- Unused
- Sword handles
- Flower part
- PGA prop
- Cosmo competitor
- Spanish marauder
- Gardner of "The Barefoot Contessa"
- Quagmire
- Snap
- Mimic
- Ray in the ocean
- Rabbit relative
- Little barrel
- Anaheim player
- Cornelia \_\_\_ Skinner
- Period
- Singer Colter
- Acorn droppers
- Sicilian city
- Young pig
- Artist's workshop
- \_\_\_ Haute, IN
- Gives notice
- Curl one's lip

#### DOWN

- Street hustler's game
- Canape spread
- Fire flakes
- Behold
- New state?
- Get away
- Utmost extent
- Also
- Feel lousy
- Frozen dessert
- Wyoming city
- Hit with one's fingers
- Prod
- Up to the task
- Verse
- Does penance
- Skin irritations
- Heavy weights
- Choreographer Twyla
- Mathematical relationship
- Skillful
- Ford and McRaney
- Prizes
- P.O. code
- Mud smears
- Popular hit from the past
- Shoe grip
- Problem solver
- Girl in a Broadway line
- Unit of retinal illumination
- Actor Milo
- Thwarts
- Coastal birds
- Standing by
- Annoy
- Take an oath
- Smooth, creamy masses
- Utopians
- Sell-out letters
- Nia and Shelley
- Avoid bogey
- Run
- Wines and dines
- Country road
- See ya!
- Satie or Estrada
- Army meal
- Academic specialties
- New Haven alum
- Oil-well device
- Game pieces
- Coop parent
- Mine yield
- Metric square measure

### GOLFER'S VACATION

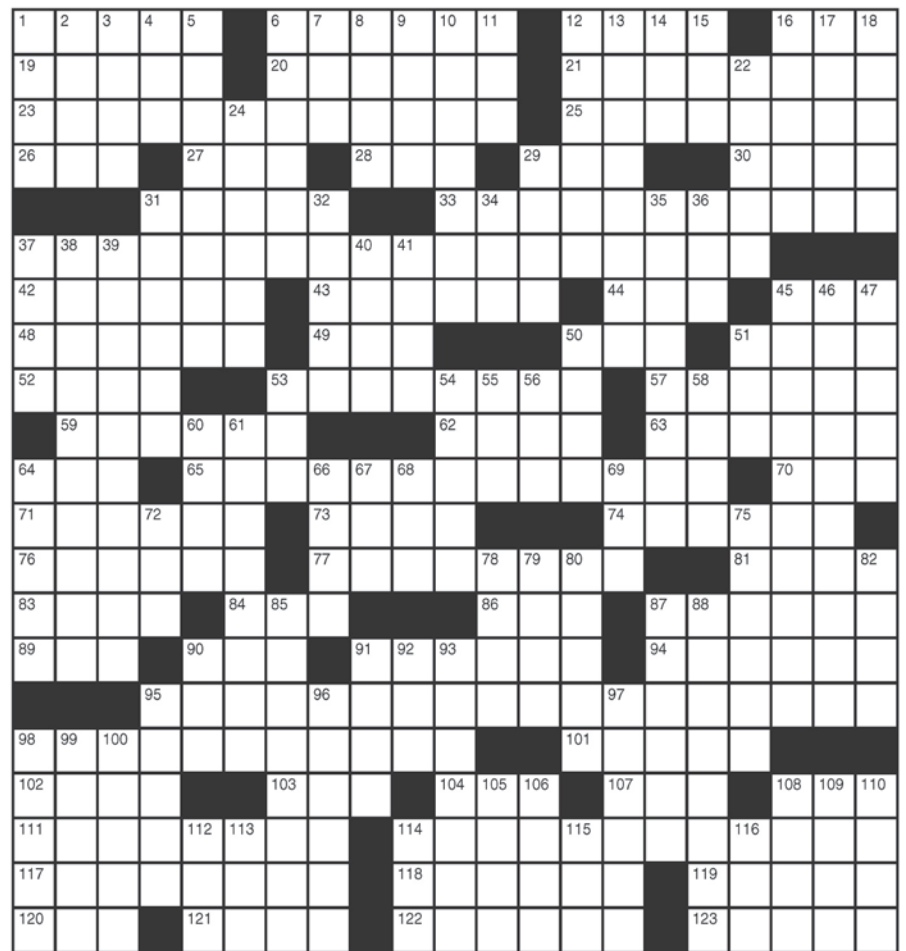
#### ACROSS

- Do another land survey
- Aromatic woods
- Stratford-\_\_\_-Avon
- Radicals of the '60s
- Satellite of Jupiter
- Unfertilized seeds
- Samples
- The golfer on vacation...
- The Velvet Fog
- Lowest bill
- Great Lakes locks
- Mrs. in Madrid
- "\_\_\_ 'til You Drop"
- Jet-set jet
- Chicago team
- The golfer on vacation...
- The golfer on vacation...
- Hit the road
- Anxiety
- South African golfer Ernie
- Actress Dawber
- Tramples
- Weep
- Botanist Gray
- Site of Christ's first miracle
- Phone or port opener
- The golfer on vacation...
- \_\_\_ of honor
- Got up for
- Gobi's continent
- Routinized
- Make holes
- The golfer on vacation...
- Volga tributary
- Electric companies corp.
- "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- Old Madrid money
- "City Hall" star
- The golfer on vacation...
- Dismounted
- QED part
- Civil libs.
- \_\_\_-la-la
- Punctual
- Part of a wd.
- Wear and tear
- Simpson and Astaire
- Real stinker
- The golfer on vacation...
- The golfer on vacation...
- Defile
- Concert halls

- Goddess of the dawn
- Holy smokes!
- Compass reading
- Taro paste
- 1969 Nobel Prize winning physicist Murray
- The golfer on vacation...
- Pimento
- Small-minded person
- Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"
- For example
- Stone and Stallone
- Belgian seaport
- Sticks it out

#### DOWN

- Finance company take-back
- Spirited style
- Mugger stopper
- Noah's vessel
- Rejected
- Accomplice
- "All About \_\_\_"
- Localizes a soundtrack
- Banned spray
- Decorations of office
- Old draft org.
- To the max
- Makes ready
- Lubricant
- Court divider
- More ticked off
- Three Musketeers' creator
- Cubic meter
- Alone, on stage
- L'chaim and prosit
- Memory unit
- Desert and rain forest
- The March King
- Pompous fool
- Lotion ingredient
- Harvest goddess
- Off. underling
- Part of D.V.M.
- Of the ear
- \_\_\_ cuantos (a few)
- Sitcom on the WB
- Similar to mimicry
- "A Man and a Woman" star



- Type of ray
- Dear me!
- El regulators
- Clod buster
- Stuffing materials
- Fire remnant
- Untruth
- "No ifs, \_\_\_ or..."
- North Carolina campus
- Arm of the Indian Ocean
- Patsies
- Bro's bros
- Hosp. section
- One of Bonaparte's marshals
- Simian

- U.S. voter
- Diner
- Gudrun's victim
- Waste allowance
- Bridge seats
- Gull relative
- Inclination
- Ultimatum words
- Fails to attend to
- FedEx rival
- Buyer's caution
- War casualties grp.
- Mournful poems
- Elite Navy group
- Pilotless planes

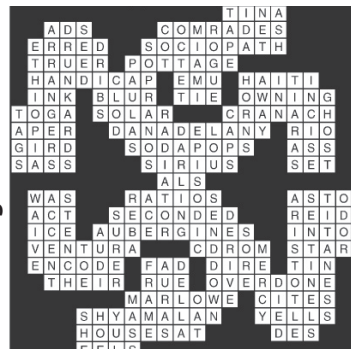
- Drank to excess
- Forum garb
- Ms. Rogers St. Johns
- Gene or Grace
- Coup d'\_\_\_
- Slave of the past
- Mountain lion
- Comply
- Goddess of fertility
- AUS cops
- Not feel well
- Med. care plan
- Sardine container
- Sodom survivor

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

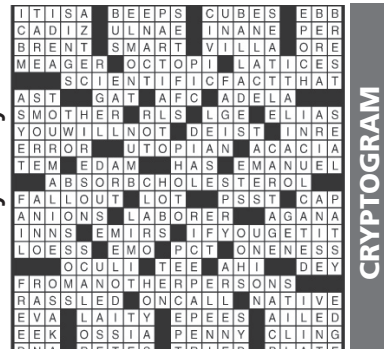
### Word Salsa



### Diagramless



### Barry Funny



### CRYPTOGRAM

R X L A C R Z D N A A L Q N R M A K J K G N K B A Y N  
 R M O N J A G N M A J P N Q K G G N M S N S C H G H  
 J E O O H Z E P S N M N P : J N N S G K M N H , Y N S Z N  
 B L M S J E M S Y R Z Y - H R N D S X D E M A J .

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

"This is a rueful gardener's song and an edger's refrain: I fought the lawn and the lawn won."





# AtTheMovies

## ‘Total Recall’ offers faint memories of thrilling action

### Colin Farrell stars in forgettable sci-fi remake

Review by Isabel A. Rodriguez  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Going in to watch Len Wiseman's version of "Total Recall," I don't know if my choice to skip the original was smart or not. Hence, I have nothing to compare it to.

I'm not sure if audiences are generally fond of the 1990 film starring former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. I do know, however, that remakes of classic 1980s and '90s are generally frowned upon.

I would certainly roll my eyes at any remake of "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" or "The Breakfast Club" – two of my favorite retro movies.

But back to "Total Recall."

Colin Farrell plays Douglas Quaid, a factory worker living in the United Federation of Britain, one of two remaining nations after a world war. He travels to The Colony for work via The Fall, an elevator-type structure that transports him to the other side of Earth in a matter of minutes – and I thought my work commute was intense.

Quaid has been having recurring dreams in which he is chased and separated from a mysterious woman. He describes his dreams to his beautiful wife, Lori (Kate Beckinsale, Wiseman's real-life wife), but curiously leaves out the part about his companion.

Bored with his mundane life, Douglas visits Rekall, a company that implants memories in individuals. As Douglas is about to begin the procedure, something goes wrong and the

Rekall operator accuses him of being a spy. Soon Douglas is on the run, unsure of whom he can trust. He learns Lori is not actually his wife and has no problem shooting him dead.

He also meets Melina (Jessica Biel), the woman from his dreams, who informs him that those so-called dreams are actually memories.

The film has some twisted political overtones that I won't go into here, for the sake of space.

Long story short, though, the action in his futuristic sci-fi thriller is fantastic. I actually saw parallels to other movies in costumes, plot development and scenery, including "Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith," "The Bourne Identity" and "Children of Men."

My mom, who watched the film with me, pointed out one oddity in the plot: if there are flying cars in UFB, why would they need helicopters?

Farrell is terrific in his role as Douglas – confused, determined and fast-thinking. I think he's more than proven what a talented and versatile actor he is (think "Crazy Heart" and his impressive country singing), but "Total Recall" once again brings out his strength as an action star.

Beckinsale is perfect as Lori, and the best part of her role is that she isn't just a pretty face. Some of her other great moments are when she's kicking butt while also delivering snide, cutting remarks to her enemy, Douglas.

At one point, she mocks him for falling so



Colin Farrell stars as Douglas Quaid, a factory worker confused by reality and Rekall, in Len Wiseman's remake of the 1990 action, sci-fi thriller.

easily for her ruse as his faithful wife.

I was a bit surprised that Biel's character could be so important in the film, and yet do so little. She does have one fight scene, but beyond that, she's spends most of her time being clumsy and staring dreamily at Douglas.

Bryan Cranston is part of what made "Total Recall" entertaining. His portrayal of the ruthless Chancellor Coahaagen was right on target. Conniving and demanding, he prefers to bark out orders at Lori, and only gets his hands dirty when he really has to.

Despite all of these positive factors, there's

still something missing in "Total Recall." I enjoyed the plot and mostly the action as it played out, but I doubt I'll ever watch the movie again. Maybe my mind's been implanted with faint memories of an enjoyable 100-or-so minutes that will soon be forgotten.

One thing's for sure, though. I'd much rather see this storyline carried out by Farrell and Beckinsale than Schwarzenegger and Sharon Stone.



|                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>TOTAL RECALL</b><br>IS IT REAL. IS IT RECALL.<br>SHOWING IN 3D<br>DAILY 12:30 2:45 5:00<br>7:30 9:45 (PG)<br>\$2 UPCHARGE<br>NO PASS OR ANY KIND                           | <b>TOTAL RECALL</b><br>IS IT REAL. IS IT RECALL.<br>DAILY 11:20 2:00 4:40<br>7:20 10:00 (PG13)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT | <b>ICE AGE CONTINENTAL DRIFT</b><br>SHOWING IN 3D<br>DAILY 2:15 4:30<br>7:00 9:15 FRI-SUN 12:00<br>(PG) \$2 UPCHARGE<br>NO PASS OR ANY KIND                                                              | <b>STEP UP REVOLUTION</b><br>SHOWING IN 2D<br>DAILY 2:25 7:20 (PG13)                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>CAMPAIGN</b><br>***** THE *****<br>DAILY 2:10 4:30 7:15 9:50<br>FRI-SUN 11:40 (R)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                                                                   |
| <b>THE DARK KNIGHT RISES</b><br>DAILY 11:30 3:00 6:30<br>10:00 (PG13)                                                                                                         | <b>TOTAL RECALL</b><br>IS IT REAL. IS IT RECALL.<br>DAILY 12:20 3:00 6:20<br>9:00 (PG13)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT       | <b>THE BOURNE LEGACY</b><br>DAILY 3:15 6:10 9:00<br>FRI-SUN 12:20 (PG13)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                                                                                                          | <b>THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN</b><br>DAILY 4:00 7:00 10:00<br>FRI-SUN 1:00 (PG13)                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>DIARY OF A WIMPY KID DOG DAYS</b><br>DAILY 2:15 4:40 6:55 9:10<br>FRI-SUN 12:00 (PG)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                                                                |
| <b>THE BOURNE LEGACY</b><br>DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:05<br>9:05 (PG13)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                                                                                       | <b>DIARY OF A WIMPY KID DOG DAYS</b><br>DAILY 12:10 2:35 4:50<br>7:05 9:20 (PG)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                | <b>Hope Springs</b><br>DAILY 2:05 4:30 7:05 9:30<br>FRI-SUN 11:30 (PG13)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                                                                                                          | <b>BRAVE</b><br>DAILY 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00<br>FRI-SUN 12:20 (PG)                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>DIARY OF A WIMPY KID DOG DAYS</b><br>DAILY 2:45 5:10 7:25 9:40<br>FRI-SUN 12:30 (PG)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                                                                |
| <b>ted</b><br>DAILY 11:50 2:25 4:55<br>7:25 9:50 (R)                                                                                                                          | <b>THE BOURNE LEGACY</b><br>DAILY 12:30 3:20 6:40<br>9:40 (PG13)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                               | <b>ICE AGE CONTINENTAL DRIFT</b><br>SHOWING IN 2D<br>DAILY 2:40 4:55 7:25 9:40<br>FRI-SUN 12:25 (PG)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                                                                              | <b>THE DARK KNIGHT RISES</b><br>DAILY 3:00 6:30 10:00<br>FRI-SUN 11:30 (PG13)                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>STEP UP REVOLUTION</b><br>SHOWING IN 3D<br>DAILY 4:45 9:40<br>FRI-SUN 12:05 (PG13)<br>\$2 UPCHARGE<br>NO PASS OR ANY KIND                                                  |
| <b>CAMPAIGN</b><br>***** THE *****<br>DAILY 12:00 2:40 5:15<br>7:30 9:50 (R)<br>NO PASS OR DISCOUNT                                                                           | <b>THE WATCH</b><br>DAILY 12:20 2:50 5:15<br>7:40 10:00 (R)                                                           | <b>VIDEO 4</b><br>1005 S. EL PASO<br>ALL SEATS ALL TIMES \$3.00                                                                                                                                          | <b>SNOW WHITE</b><br>DAILY 5:20 8:20<br>FRI-SUN 2:20 (PG13)<br><b>MEN IN BLACK 3</b><br>DAILY 4:50 7:20 9:50<br>FRI-SUN 2:20 (PG13)<br><b>HUNGER GAMES</b><br>DAILY 5:40 9:00<br>FRI-SUN 2:30 (PG13)<br><b>SAVAGES</b><br>DAILY 5:30 8:30<br>FRI-SUN 2:30 (R) | BRING THIS COUPON TO THE VIDEO 4 AND SEE THE MOVIE OF YOUR CHOICE FOR ONLY \$1.00/PER PERSON GOOD FOR UP TO 5 PEOPLE WED. & THURS ONLY!!<br><b>VIDEO 4</b><br>1005 S. EL PASO |

### TOTAL RECALL

**Starring:** Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel

**Rated:** PG-13

**Running time:** 118 minutes

**Director:** Len Wiseman

**Grade**  
**B-**

The 1990 original was a huge fan favorite, but this reboot probably won't fare as well with movie-goers.



# FOCUS

## ON INDEPENDENT FILM IN LAS CRUCES!

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## Small center, big outreach



**Bob Nosbisch**  
*Getting the Word Out*

People who visit New Mexico State University's main campus usually can locate the Pan Am Center, Aggie Memorial Stadium and Corbett Center with little difficulty.

In recent years, such additions as the Barnes & Noble campus bookstore have become easy to spot. The same holds true for the colleges.

If you tell a visitor trying to find the College of Health and Social Services to look for "the long building off Jordan Street with the tower sticking up in the middle," they will usually find it easily.

However, if someone is looking for the Southern Area Health Education Center (SoAHEC), a key part of the college, the visitor will have to leave the main campus and travel to 4003 Geothermal Drive.

Established in 1986, SoAHEC's mission is to improve access to primary care in southern New Mexico by serving as a culturally competent regional resource and training center for youth, the health workforce and communities of New Mexico. The center specifically focuses on covering the 17 counties between Albuquerque and the New Mexico-Mexico border. The staff is knowledgeable about the border area, understands the area's culture and community needs, and is bilingual.

This desirable combination helps SoAHEC identify community partners, deliver services through promotoras (health education promoters), and share lessons learned. SoAHEC also is a wonderful resource that can help faculty looking for research opportunities.

### So, what is SoAHEC?

- Provides clinical training for students in medical school as well as those training to be physician assistants, pharmacists, family nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, physical therapists, occupational therapists, dental hygienists, medical lab scientists, interdisciplinary program students and family practice and dental residents, working closely with Memorial Medical Center and the University of New Mexico.
- Provides health career preparation opportunities for rural, underrepresented and disadvantaged minority students

See **SoAHEC** on page D2

### INSIDE

#### Sleep is essential

Back to school preparation .....D4

#### Vacation Bible School

End of summer religious education.....D7

#### Getting down and dirty

Mud volleyball heats up.....D8

# Relay readies to battle cancer

## All-night event determined to raise \$150,000

By **Lorena Sanchez**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

For the past 14 years, the Relay for Life of Doña Ana County/Las Cruces has been a part of the community, serving as an outlet for those determined to fight cancer.

Already, organizers for the 2012 event are predicting this year will be bigger and better.

With an event goal of \$150,000, participants are expected to meet the challenge, said Yoli Diaz, event chair.

"Everyone has the same goal – to eliminate cancer," Diaz said. "It's unfortunate, but everyone knows someone who is (or is directly) affected by cancer. And when you're close to the cancer patient, life is devastating, and that's what we want to change."

Relay for Life is the biggest fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. The all-night event runs from 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, to 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, in line with the event's concept, "cancer never sleeps and neither do we."

The event's theme this year is "Dream it, Hope it, Cure it." The purpose of the relay is to celebrate the lives of cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and to fight back against the disease.

"What we're asking everyone to do is create a world with less cancer and more birthdays," Diaz said.

Relay for Life is made up of teams that have a group fundraising goal, and the members have an individual goal. In the months leading up to the event, teams are encouraged to collect donations and hold fundraisers to meet their goal.

During the event teams can sell items, food or drinks to raise additional money.

Nearly \$100,000 was raised at the 2011 event. So far, \$65,000 of this year's \$150,000 goal has been raised.

Last year, between 600 and 700 people took part in the all-night event, during which



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Nicolas Bañales

**Cancer survivors who participated a fashion show benefitting Relay for Life, each held a white candle in memory of people who have passed away from cancer. The fashion show honoring cancer survivors was held at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces Saturday, Aug. 4 to raise funds for the Aug. 24-25 relay.**

different team members will walk the track in honor of cancer survivors and those who have lost their lives.

Live music and entertainment will occur throughout the night to help keep participants awake and excited about the event.

This year's relay will kick-off with a special military ceremony, survivor's lap around the track, caretaker lap, all-participants lap, team lap and luminaria lap.

"The main event is very touching, but we also

like to make it fun," Diaz said. "The focus is that it's a celebration of life, so get your tennis shoes on and join us."

There will be baile folklórico dancers, live music, food, drinks, games, silent auction, drawings and more.

The drawing include prizes such as a year of free milk courtesy of Price's Creamery; a one-night stay at the Inn of the Mountain Gods; gift cards; movie passes and more.

See **Relay for Life** on page D2



**Steven Luhan, 11, does his part to help by filling luminarias with sand and candles during the 2011 Relay for Life of Doña Ana County/Las Cruces. The luminarias are dedicated to loved ones who lost their fight with cancer or to honor those who have survived the battle.**

## Relay for Life Events

### 5K Run/Walk

**When**  
6:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11

**Where**  
Triviz Path next to the Kohl's parking lot

**Cost**  
\$20 registration fee

**Contact**  
• 649-0598  
• [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org)

### Zumbathon

**When**  
6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11

**Where**  
Young Park pavilion  
1905 E. Nevada Ave.

**Cost**  
• \$15  
• \$5 children 12 and under

**Contact**  
• 640-7609  
• [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org)

### Overnight Relay

**When**  
6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24 to 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25

**Where**  
Ron Galla T-Ball Field, across from Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1800 E. Hadley Ave.

**Cost**  
• \$10 registration fee  
• Free for cancer survivors

**Contact**  
• 649-0598  
• [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org)

# MMC staff helps students



Memorial Medical Center and Las Cruces Public Schools staff members gather together Monday, Aug. 6, at MMC to load nearly 400 backpacks into three trucks for kindergarten to fifth-grade students in need of a little help this school year. MMC staff purchased supplies to fill the backpacks for pre-selected students in each grade level.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Lorena Sanchez

## Relay for Life

Continued from page D1

“One day we’ll find a cure for cancer,” said Leticia Soto, youth development chair for the event. “That is my mission, to continue to raise money to find a cure.”

Soto and Diaz are both part of The Can Clan, a team that has been active in the community for several months, raising money for the cause. There are more than 10 members of the team who have been an active part of the fundraising.

“We wanted to make a point and let people know it can be done,” Diaz said. “There’s a big difference in saying something can be done and actually doing it.”

The team’s goal was to raise \$10,000 for the event, but through 5K walk/runs, bingo nights and a recent fashion show in honor of cancer survivors, the team has far surpassed its initial goal, raising more than \$28,000. The team’s motto is, “A group of united people who can fight cancer.”

“If you are going to do something like this, you have to be passionate about the cause,” Diaz said.

This is the first year Soto has taken part in Relay for Life, and her commitment to the cause is a personal one.

“The reason I got involved is because my sister is a two-time breast cancer survivor, and my dad is a prostate cancer survivor,” Soto said.

In addition to her father and sister, Soto said several of her relatives are battling or have passed away from cancer, which opened her eyes to the importance of the cause and gave her the push to join in the fight.

Soto and Diaz will join the 49 teams participating in the relay at the end of the month, but more teams or individuals are welcome to join the cause.

There is a \$10 registration fee. The fee is waived for cancer survivors who want to participate.

For more information, to join or make a donation, visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org).

## August is \_\_\_\_ Month

Children’s Eye Health and Safety • National Breastfeeding • National Immunization Awareness • Psoriasis Awareness • Cataract Awareness

### F.Y.I.

In moms, breastfeeding is linked to a lower risk of type 2 diabetes, breast cancer, ovarian cancer and postpartum depression. Infant formula cannot match the exact chemical makeup of human milk, especially the cells, hormones and antibodies that fight disease. For most babies, breast milk is easier to digest than formula. It takes time for their stomachs to adjust to digesting proteins in formula because they are made from cow’s milk.

Many leading health organizations recommend that most infants breastfeed for at least 12 months, with exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months. This means that babies are not given any foods or liquids other than breast milk for the first 6 months. National Breastfeeding Month is supported by the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC), an independent nonprofit organization that was formed in 1998 in response to the Innocenti Declaration of 1990.

Sources: [www.nationalwellness.org](http://www.nationalwellness.org), <http://healthfinder.gov>, [www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/breastfeeding.cfm#a](http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/breastfeeding.cfm#a), [www.usbreastfeeding.org](http://www.usbreastfeeding.org)

## SoAHEC

Continued from page D1

in southern New Mexico and for students from health professions working shortages, providing information about colleges, financial aid and health careers through classroom presentations and participation in career days.

- Provides the state’s health professionals the opportunity to secure and main-

tain professional licensing through continuing education opportunities. SoAHEC’s instructors recently were certified on the Mental Health First Aid curriculum and will host training on this curriculum in the near future. Today, SoAHEC is collaborating with the School of Social Work in a presentation on “Traumatic Brain Injury-- Invisible Wounds of War.” Furthermore, the Alzheimer’s Association has asked SoAHEC to pilot the Spanish curriculum for

caregivers in southern New Mexico.

In the future, SoAHEC will continue to help build bridges and networks between the College of Health and Social Services and local communities through its professional development workshops and training.

*Bob Nosbisch is a senior program specialist with the College of Health and Social Services at New Mexico State University.*

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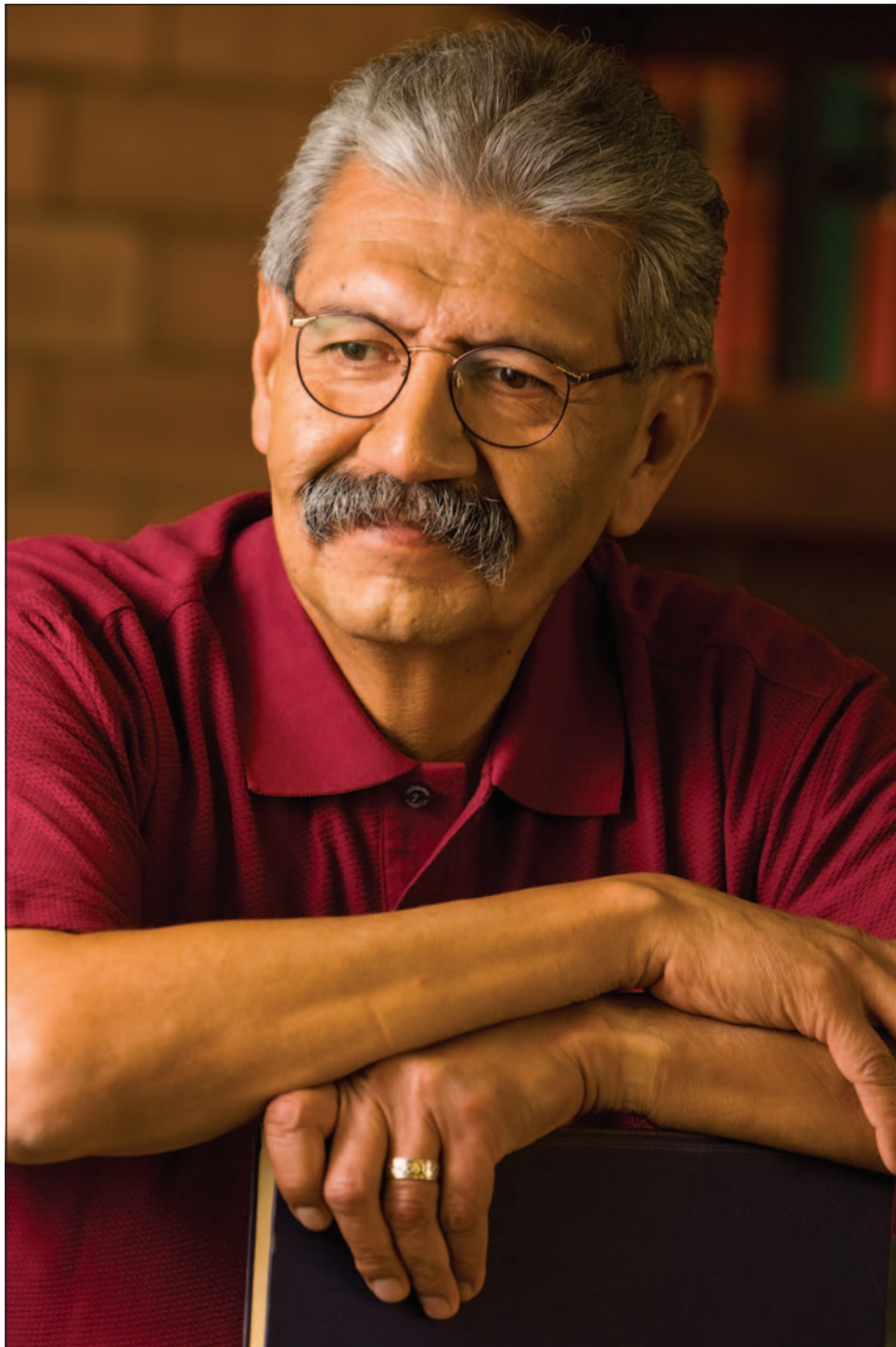
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# Sleep essential part of back to school prep

## Teens need at least nine hours of sleep

Does your list of school supplies include sleep?

Studies say it should, especially for teens. Only 8 percent of American teenagers are getting the required nine or more hours of sleep needed, according to the National Sleep Foundation. In fact, a recent study published in the "Journal of Adolescent Health" found that more than 60 percent of high school students get less than seven hours of sleep per night.

The situation does not improve in college, either. A 2010 study conducted at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota revealed that 70 percent of college students get less than the eight recommended hours of sleep.

While most people have, at times, battled sleep issues, poor sleep habits plague college campuses. Let's face it – most college kids do not place a premium on a good night's rest. In addition to sleep falling low on the priority list, most students are sleeping on cheap dorm mattresses and worn out pillows – which can affect sleep quality.

Perhaps reminding your student that there is a proven relationship between healthy sleep habits and academic success might help encourage healthier habits. In 2010, a University of Minnesota study found a significant positive correlation between the amount of sleep per night and GPA. Additionally, as the average number of days per week a student got less than five hours of sleep increased, their GPA decreased.

Once a pattern of bad sleep has developed, is it possible for teens and college students to "reset" their internal clocks? Researchers at the American Academy of Sleep Medicine say it is. Researchers suggest that your students try following these tips, a little bit at a time, over

several weeks:

- Try your best to avoid caffeine, smoking, alcohol, heavy exercise and heavy snacking (pizza included) at least three hours before bedtime.
- Don't pull all-nighters or cram for exams late at night. Schedule studying for when you're most alert so your performance won't be affected.
- Be as consistent as possible with your sleep habits, ideally aiming to go to bed at the same time each evening and get at least eight hours of sleep per night.
- Wake up at the same time every morning and head outside. Sunlight helps reset circadian rhythms, the body's internal biological process that rotates around a 24-hour schedule.
- Turn off your cell phone and laptop at night. Besides being a distraction, exposure to light can suppress the production of melatonin, a hormone that aids sleep.
- Make sure your bedroom is set up for sleep. If you are a light sleeper or your dorm is noisy, try wearing earplugs or noise-canceling headphones. Keep the room cool and dark. Make your bed as comfortable as possible. Consider investing in a foam mattress pad and a quality pillow. For example, for around \$100, you can purchase a mattress topper and a waterbase pillow, both of which greatly improve head, neck and back support while you sleep.

Countless studies have shown that people who get the right amount of sleep are physically and emotionally healthier – which is, of course, something we all want for our children. Getting better grades is just the icing on the cake.

## Kiwanis honors leadership



Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces photo

Katy Sayre of Lynn Middle School receives a Builders Club International Leadership award by Kiwanis International from Mike Dallago, president of the Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces. There are 45,000 Builders Club members. Sayre is one of seven winners internationally. The Lynn Middle School Builders Club is a three-time winner of Distinguished Club Status, and has had three members win the International Leadership Award. Current Las Cruces High School students Tawanda Suessbrich-Joaquim and Nathalie Mata have won in the past.

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# Healthy at any age at the NM Senior Games Expo

Photos by Nicolas Bañales



Dick Griffith and Gloria Analla talk with Ramiro and Linda Morales of Cubero, N.M., Friday, July 29, during the NM Senior Olympic Expo at New Mexico State University's Corbett Center.



Marcy Shoberg, "The Self Defense Lady," gives a lecture to seniors on the importance of protecting themselves.



Sue Lundgren and Elsa Baker from AARP



Betty Burgess, an independent business owner, shows Imgean Vasquez a bottle of Go Y, which she said helps with energy and has various health benefits.



Elanor Garcia from Acoma, N.M., listens to Lisa Reynolds discuss products from Sore No More.

Veronica Castillo, of Massage Envy Spa, gave 10 to 12 minute massages.

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L-M-V 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
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# Praise and joy at VBS



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzler

Pastor Doug Cowan of Cornerstone Baptist Church leads a group of children in a song about the Bible during the church's Vacation Bible School Tuesday, Aug. 7. The VBS was held for children ages 4 through sixth grade. The congregation's teen members also took part in the event, volunteering their time and performing skits for the children.



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Interested in being on our worship services page? Call 524-8061 for details.

# Church News

## SUCCESS AT UNITY

The theme for August at Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive, is success and will be the basis for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday celebrations. One Aug. 12, Jerry Lund will speak on "Born Free and Successful." On Aug. 19, Rev. Terry Lund's lesson will be titled "You Are Successful." That day will also be a celebration of the group that began the church. Aug. 26 will include a talk that paints the picture of "The Successful Life." For more information, call 523-5592 or visit [www.unityoflascruces.org](http://www.unityoflascruces.org).

## INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY

The Southern New Mexico Church of God will hold an interactive Bible study at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at its new, permanent location, 5245 Cortez Drive. For more information, call 650-7359.

## BACKPACK BLESSING

First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Boutz Road, will hold a Blessing of the Backpacks during the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, Aug. 12. For more information, call 526-5559.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATED

On Monday, Aug. 13, the staff of Jardín de los Niños will pick up a second offering of backpacks, clothes and school supplies donated by members of Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive. For more information, call 523-5592 or visit [www.unityoflascruces.org](http://www.unityoflascruces.org).

## EASTERN STAR RESUMES

The Las Cruces Chapter No. 20, Order of the Eastern Star, will resume meetings at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 21 in the Aztec Masonic Lodge, 180 E. Boutz Road.

## ECKANKAR EVENT

Eckankar, Religion of the Light and Sound of God, will hold a free presentation from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 25, at Ramada Palms de Las Cruces, 201 E. University Ave. The topic will be "Animals are Souls, too."

## CAFE EVENT

Comunidades en Accion y de Fe (CAFÉ) will host its inaugural assembly of leaders and clergy from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, at First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo Road. The event will include voting on the CAFÉ bylaws, voicing priorities for the organization and nominating board members. For more information, call 520-1624.

## WOMEN RETREAT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces presents a women spirit retreat Friday through Sunday, Sept. 7-9, at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly grounds near Cloudcroft. Come engage in community building, art, music, dance, crafts, spirituality and fun. There is a small discount for those who register before Monday, Aug. 13. Registrations must be postmarked by Aug. 27. For registration material, contact Teri Gillen at

terigillen@yahoo.com Or Jo Ingle at 523-0442 and leave a message.

## MEN RETREAT

Men ages 21 and older are invited to an ACTS Retreat held Sept. 6-9 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral, 1240 S. Espina St. The retreat is an opportunity for men to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, renew themselves spiritually, build lasting relationships and become more active in their church. Cost is \$60 and scholarships are available. For more information, call 524-8563.

## PEACE LUTHERAN PRAYER GROUPS

Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave., offers two prayer groups. A centering prayer group meets weekly at 8 a.m. Saturdays for 20 to 30 minutes. Gathering for Prayer meets Monday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 522-7119.

## MEN'S CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Catholic men are invited to attend a men's Catholic fellowship breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. the second Saturday of the month at Delicia's del Mar, 1401 El Paseo Road. The monthly gathering is an opportunity for men to fellowship with other Catholic men and renew themselves spiritually. The cost of the breakfast is \$5. For more information, call 524-8563.

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# A little mud goes a long way at the Mudd Volleyball Tournament

Photos by Zak Hansen



Members of team Just the Tip pose for a picture after being knocked out of the competition Saturday, Aug. 4, during the third annual Mudd Volleyball Tournament at the Southern New Mexico Fairgrounds. Their loss didn't dampen any of the fun, however.



Aadarsh Prasad gives the thumbs up to a teammate during the tournament. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern New Mexico.



Members of I'd Hit That, winners of the best team name, pose for a picture.



Dysfunctional's Allison Murdock leaps for the ball during her team's match against Sky's the Limit.



Matt Baker of the Fuddy Muckers jumps for the ball as his teammates look on.

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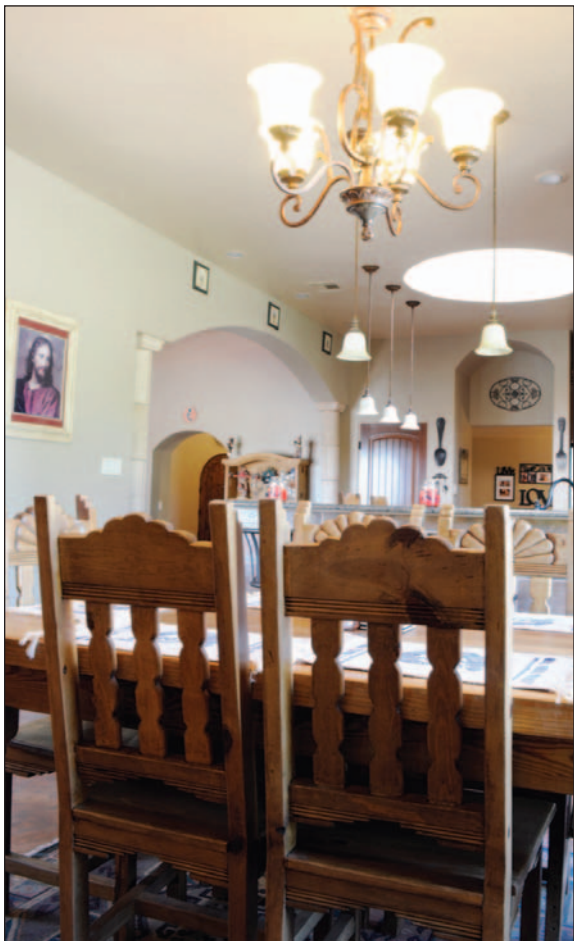
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*La hacienda,  
Tuscan style*

# Featured home: 5570 Redfox Road

Photos by Rafael Torres



Arches close off the kitchen-dining room area.



Built in 2008, the home at 5570 Redfox Road features 3,250 square feet on 1.13 acres.



Steps lead from the living room to the kitchen, which includes robust colors and fine detailing.



The brightly lit kitchen showcases tile accents throughout.



Up lighting helps make the master bedroom a relaxing getaway.

# More than a grand entrance

## Stylish façade contains an abundance of relaxing details

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

A drive down Redfox Road in the Greyfox Subdivision reveals a bevy of unique homes, one of which incorporates the characteristics of two far-distant styles.

When Tommy Montoya built his family home at 5570 Redfox Road in 2008, he took inspiration from Tuscan and hacienda architecture, two seemingly different styles that were meld into one cohesive look.

"The whole house has this Tuscan-hacienda design," Montoya said. "There are rounded walls and rich color. I love that style."

Montoya said he built two homes previously – one that featured a traditional style and another that was strictly South-west.

"This style is different," he said. "I knew exactly what I wanted with this home. We put so much thought into it. We picked out all of the fixtures and coloring. Everything just seemed to flow."

Before he and his wife, Holly, started to build their home, they had to find the perfect lot.

"I was looking for a gated community area for the security," Montoya said. "I found this area and thought it was beautiful. There was so much privacy."

After finding the area, Montoya said he selected the 1.13-acre lot because of its north-south orientation.

"That way you have shade in the back. That was important because I knew we were going to spend a lot of time outdoors," he said. "Plus, this lot had a great view of the Organ Mountains."

When completed, the home was a 3,250-square-foot retreat for the entire family.

"I consider this place to be a haven, like a spa," Montoya said. "There is so much extra detail placed in this house, you just have to appreciate it."

Two regal lion statues mark the entrance into a front courtyard. This is just a portion of "the grand entrance" Montoya created for the home.

"The whole property is landscaped," Montoya said.

The porch features a 16-foot-high ceiling with a large iron chandelier. The arched front door was custom made from 3-inch-thick oak and weighs 400 pounds, Montoya said. In addition to a speakeasy, the door features unique iron detailing with Zia symbols imprinted on them.

The Zia symbol comes into play again inside the home – this time marking the floor and ceiling of the entrance.

"It's exactly mirrored on the floor and ceiling," said Montoya, adding that the ceiling, also measuring 16 feet tall, features another grand chandelier.

Using 2-by-6 construction, Montoya said there aren't any 90-degree angles in the home, adding that this gives it a softer look. While the Tuscan influence can be seen in the deep colors of brown and plum, the hacienda inspiration is reflected in the various lighted nichos scattered throughout the home.

Located to the left of the entrance is a guest suite. In addition to a walk-in closet, the bedroom also features a private bathroom. A similar bedroom, which the family uses as an office, is placed on the other side of the entrance.

Beyond the guest suite is the oversized four-car garage. Thanks to a 16-by-16-foot separate storage unit with a carport for RV parking, the finished garage "is just for the toys," Montoya said.

At the center of the home is the living room, accessed by numerous arches. Again reflecting the hacienda style used in the home, the living room includes a kiva-inspired fireplace in the corner. A recessed wall houses the entertainment center as the opposing wall features large windows to admire the backyard.

Steps with custom tiles that read "Love," "Live" and "Strength" take residents into the kitchen.

"We built this home for entertainment," said Montoya, adding that the kitchen showcases several custom features, including concrete and foam columns that divide the space from the living room.

The custom cherry cabinets have spoon and fork handles as well as detailed crown molding. The rich color complements the speckled granite countertop.

Montoya said he added natural light to the area by creating circular skylight measuring 7 feet in diameter. At the top is an ornate of ironwork.

The kitchen opens to the dining room. Picture windows were placed on both walls of the dining room to bring in the exterior view, Montoya said.

Past a Jack Daniel's tile boarder on the floor is a game room, which features a bar, half bathroom and space for a pool table.

"This is my favorite room," Montoya said. "You have the TV on the wall, the bar in the corner. You can play pool. ... The game room makes it very unique."

On the other side of the home, down a hall that features a barrel ceiling are the three remaining bedrooms, including the master suite.

A light tray ceiling helps set the mood in the master bedroom, Montoya said.

"This room is just a really nice, peaceful getaway," he said.

That soothing feeling and comfort continues into the bathroom. At the center of the room – the "relaxation focal point," Montoya said – is the Jacuzzi bathtub. Beside the bathtub are double sinks as well as a tiled shower with two showerheads.

The master suite includes one of three points of access to the backyard and covered patio area.

"The backyard is the hacienda style with a U-shape," Montoya said.

Large concrete pillars, mimicking the home's Tuscan style, line the covered patio. At the center of the space is a water fountain surrounded by roses. Potted plants line the perimeter.

Beyond the covered patio is a 15-by-30-foot, square Fiberglass swimming pool, which measures 3 to 7.5 feet deep. Behind the pool are raised flowerbeds. Montoya said the three-tiered design of the beds mirrors the tiered shape of the back of the home.

Beside the pool is a gazebo, which covers a built-in charcoal and gas barbecue accented in stacked cultured stone.

Montoya said the property features three yards: the center yard that contains the pool; a side yard with grass and globe willow trees, perfect for children and pets; and a rock yard next to the storage unit and RV carport.

## Details

### Featured home

5570 Redfox Road

### Square footage

3,250

### Acres

1.13

### Bedrooms

Three

### Bathrooms

Three and a half

### Fireplaces

One

### Price

\$575,000

### Special features

Combination of Tuscan and hacienda styles; various tile, rock and cultured rock detailing; surround sound in the backyard; custom concrete pillars; a game room with dry bar and access to a half bathroom; and located within a gated community

### Contact

Tom Whatley at 649-2256 or tom@steinborn.com



The pool of the hacienda-style home is the place to cool off as burgers grill in the gazebo area.



The entry features the Zia symbol on the floor as well as the 16-foot-high ceiling.

# Put a lid on it

## Bag Cap keeps contents fresh

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

While New York City is known as The Big Apple, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., can boast being the birthplace of the potato chip.

Allegedly invented by chef George Crum in 1853, the potato chip broke out of the formal restaurant atmosphere in the 20th century to become one of America's favorite snack foods. The thinly sliced and fried pieces of potato are so loved that March 14 has been declared National Potato Chip Day.

Peruse any modern-day grocery store and you'll find an entire aisle dedicated to the starch. From those simply seasoned with a sprinkling of sea salt to batches doused in ranch, nacho or barbecue flavoring, there is a potato chip for every taste.

With the evolution of the potato chip came the advancement of its container. Originally, the chips were stored in large barrels or tins, which left the pieces at the bottom stale and crumbled.

Later, potato chips were placed in bags created from wax paper. The slice sheets were ironed or stapled together to prevent the contents from spilling out. It was also discovered that these bags stopped the chips from crumbling and helped them stay fresh longer.

Deciding bags were the way to go, potato chip manufacturers later used cellophane to package their product. Today, the bags are made from plastic. Often times, nitrogen gas is blown into the bag prior to sealing to increase shelf life and protect against crushing.

Nowadays, just about any snack food – from pretzels to

party mix – is packaged using this same method. A downside to storing food in bags is it's hard to keep the contents fresh after it has been opened. This is where the Bag Cap comes into play.

### What is it?

Thanks to Copco, a kitchen gadget company with a history spanning more than 40 years, you'll never have to search for another twist tie or clip to keep your snack bags closed again. Also, you can kiss those food-storage jars and zipper plastic bags goodbye.

The Bag Cap is a gadget that slides over the top of your snack bags, creating a lid for your open bags. This will allow you to not only keep food fresh longer, it also makes the bag easier to pour. Plus, you can now take your bags on the go without the fear of the contents spilling out.

Not just for those food containers in your pantry, the Bag Cap can also be used for your bags of vegetables to prevent freezer burn. No worry about getting it dirty – the Bag Cap is top-shelf dishwasher safe.

The Bag Cap, which is made from a durable, soft-grip plastic, comes in a variety of sizes to fit every bag in your kitchen.

### How does it work?

Designed to attach to any bag, the Bag Cap is easy to use. Simply remove the two pieces of the gadget and place the hard plastic, inner ring on the bag. Cut open the bag and fold the top over the ring. Place the outer ring, or cap, on top, pressing down firmly to ensure it's on tight.

According to manufacturers, the hard plastic ring is designed to fit tightly with the cap. However, over time, the cap will slightly stretch. While this will make separating the two pieces easier, it will not affect the performance of the Bag Cap.

### Where can it be found?

The Bag Cap can be found in the kitchen department of stores around town, including Kmart, Walmart and Ace Hardware.

### How much does it cost?

The Bag Cap costs around \$6.



Featured kitchen gadget: Bag Cap

### Homemade Potato Chips

**Peanut oil, for frying**  
**2 potatoes, thinly sliced**  
**Salt**

In a large heavy saucepan, fill oil no more than halfway and heat the oil to 350 degrees.

Add the potato slices in batches. Fry until light golden brown, about 2 to 3 minutes. Drain on paper towels, season with salt and serve. (Recipe adapted from www.foodnetwork.com.)

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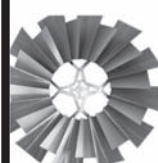
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# There is no nut like the coconut

## Nutrient oil can be used in countless ways

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Almost as mind boggling as the question “What came first, the chicken or the egg?” is the riddle of the coconut – is it fruit, seed or nut?

Technically speaking, the coconut is a fibrous one-seeded drupe known as a dry drupe. For those who don't know, a drupe is ... drum roll, please ... a fruit. Yes, the coconut isn't a nut, but come on, cocodrupe would just sound weird.

A plant found in tropic and subtropic climates, the coconut is a versatile fruit that has numerous culinary applications. Just about every part of the coconut – from its white fleshy seed to its sweet nectar – is used in one way or another.

One of its byproducts is coconut oil. Unfamiliar with coconut oil, I did a Google search on the goop, which led me in all sorts of directions.

I discovered that the byproduct is created using either a dry or wet process. The dry procedure includes peeling out the meat, drying it and pressing it into a mash. The wet method involves boiling raw coconut.

What I found overwhelming about my Google search was all of its uses. One website, [www.hybridrastamama.com](http://www.hybridrastamama.com), had an article titled “160 Uses for Coconut Oil.” I've barely become familiar with the stuff and yet someone has already discovered more than a 100 ways to use it? Geez, talk about showing up late to the party.

The uses in the article were conveniently arranged alphabetically and into categories, such as health problems, cooking, animals and general wellness. The health problem category – topically and ingested – had the most uses with more than 70. Beauty and personal hygiene section had the second most entries with 36.

Because coconut oil has such a magnitude of uses, here is just a sampling of the ways it can help you in your everyday life.

**1. Make shaving better:** Shaving isn't on the top of anyone's list of fun activities. You can make the experience slightly more tolerable, however, with coconut oil. Before you shave, slather on the oil to help prepare your skin for the blade. Shaving with the oil will help reduce nicks and razor burn. After shaving, apply a layer of the oil to help your skin heal, without clogging your pores. This will help relieve any razor burn you might get.

**2. Lessen the appearance of those spots:** Age spots, scars, wrinkles and stretch marks – no one's skin is perfect. These blemishes can be especially annoying because it can seem as though they have no cure. That's where coconut oil comes in. Applying the oil to these marks has been shown to make them fade. Not only will it reduce the appearance of stretch marks and age spots, if

used as an eye cream, it will get rid of puffiness, bags and wrinkles. Also, coconut oil can be used to aid in the healing of a birthmark that has been removed.

**3. Replace your lotions and potions:** Coconut oil can be used in place of several of your store-bought beauty products. For example, because the goop melts at very low temperatures, it can be used as a massage oil. It also can be used to remove makeup or as a lip balm. Replenish rough, cracked heels with a heap of the oil. Or, if you're looking to strengthen your nails, rub the byproduct into your cuticles. And don't forget about baby – a light layer of coconut oil can help with diaper rash and cradle cap.

**4. Nourish your hair:** An unexpected hair treatment that not only adds gloss and softness, but also helps promote hair growth can be created

from simple coconut oil. Scoop out a handful of the organic virgin variety and spread it throughout your hair. After your hair is completely saturated, twist it into a bun or ponytail and cover it with a shower cap. Let the oil sit for 30 minutes before washing out. You can also apply heat to your hair, which will open the stands' cuticles and allow the oil to penetrate faster. If you go over your hair with a blow dryer, you only need to leave it wrapped up for 15 minutes. Wash and condition as normal, concentrating on your roots and your ends as little as possible.

**5. Save your hair from chewing gum:** How it happens always is a mystery. It's not like that piece of gum leaped out of your mouth, sprouted wings, flew into your hair and rolled around a few time until it was good and matted. No matter how it happened, gum in hair can

cause a panic. Before shedding those tears as you reach for the scissors, get your coconut oil. Rub the oil over the gum and leave it for 30 minutes. Roll the gum between your fingers and it will slide out.

**6. Relieve stress:** Dealing with stress can be difficult. Some cry, others curl up in a ball. Rather than having a breakdown, relieve your stress with a soothing coconut oil temple massage. Apply a dab of coconut oil on the sides of your head in a circular motion. The aroma of the coconut is soothing, which will lower your stress level and help vanquish mental fatigue.

**7. Get fit and active:** If you've decided to get svelte this summer, think about adding coconut oil to your regimen. Coconut oil has been shown to boost energy and endurance, making it a great pick me up. The byproduct has also been shown to stimulate metabolism and improve thyroid function. It is also believed to help control cravings – just another reason to add a spoonful to your protein shake.

**8. Use it in cooking:** While coconut oil is high in saturated fats, they are medium-chain triglycerides, which quickly metabolize and are less likely to be stored as body fat. There are arguments for and against using coconut oil while cooking, but in the end, most can agree that saturated fats are better than trans

fats, which are found in butter and animal fats. Substitute coconut oil for butter in your recipes using a 1-cup-to-1-cup ratio. It can also be used as an alternative to lard when greasing pans or for backing.

**9. Remove glue:** If you're having difficulty getting the residue of that price tag off your picture frame or other piece of glass, make your own “goo be gone.” Mix equal parts coconut oil and baking soda into a paste. Apply it to the sticky area and let it sit for a minute. Use a toothbrush to scrub off the glue and wipe away.

**10. Repel insects:** An all-natural alternative to chemically filled insect repellents is coconut oil. Mix the goop with peppermint oil extract and rub it on exposed skin. It will keep bugs away and is gentler on your skin.

**11. Care for leather products:** Your skin isn't the only thing that will benefit from the nutrients of coconut oil. Coconut oil can be used to moisturize and clean leather products. Be sure to test a small area first – the last thing you want it for your leather couch to have an adverse reaction.

**12. Oil wood utensils:** In addition to your household leather, your wooden utensils will benefit from a coconut oil rub down. After being repeatedly washed, your wood items, such as cutting boards and bowls, dry out. This can lead to splitting and a short lifespan for your tool. Keep your wooden utensils moist with a thin layer of coconut oil.



### Coconut body scrub

**1/2 cup turbinado sugar**  
**1/4 cup coconut oil**  
**1/4 cup almond oil**  
**2 to 3 drops essential oil, optional**

Mix the sugar and oils together and place in a container with a tight-sealing lid. Use in the shower to exfoliate dry, itchy skin.

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

### Super Moist Banana Bread

**1/2 cup virgin coconut oil**  
**1 cup yogurt cheese, or cream cheese**  
**1 cup brown sugar**  
**1 egg**  
**2 medium-sized bananas**  
**1 1/2 cups flour**  
**1 teaspoon soda**  
**1 teaspoon baking powder**  
**Pinch of salt**

Preheat oven to 350. Line a loaf pan with parchment paper. Sift the dry ingredients together in a large mixing bowl; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat the coconut oil on medium speed until soft, about 7 minutes. Add the yogurt cheese, and continue beating on medium speed, for 3 minutes. Add the sugar, and beat on medium speed, until fluffy, 5 minutes. Add the egg and bananas, mix until combined. Add the dry ingredients, mix on medium speed, until combined, about 3 minutes.

Pour into the loaf pan. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes. You want the bread to be golden brown, and a knife will come out clean, when you slide stick it into the middle of the loaf. (Recipe adapted from <http://chezus.com>.)

*Around-the-house item: Coconut oil*



# What it means to be green

## Subdivisions meet standards for sustainability

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

With green building practices and materials becoming the norm throughout the country, the green movement is going strong.

Sustainability is going a step further, beyond the walls of a building to the area on which it is built. In Las Cruces, two subdivisions boast green certification: Picacho Mountain and Metro Verde Phase 1A.

But what does it mean to make a subdivision "green"?

There are two certification programs available: Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) certification created by the U.S. Green Building Council, and the National Green Land Development Certification provided by the National Association of Home Builders. While these programs have different requirements, both focus on creating an area that is sustainable for both residents and the environment.

### What is a green subdivision?

When Bob and Karen Pofahl began developing Picacho Mountain, they followed Build Green New Mexico standards, a predecessor to the NAHB green subdivision certification.

"You can't get certified under that standard anymore because the NAHB has replaced it," said Miles Dyson of Inspection Connection, a professional home inspector and energy rater.

Dyson became involved with the Metro Verde subdivision project as a third-party rater in early 2010, after developers had worked with land planner Harold Denton of DVI.

John Moscato of Bright View Land Development said he and his partners – Royal Jones and Dean Rigg of Mesilla Valley Transportation – knew they wanted to create a green subdivision when Metro Verde was in its beginning stages in 2007.

"MVT is a national leader in fuel efficiency in its trucking fleet," Moscato said. "This is an offshoot of that."

Using NAHB standards, the group discovered that a green subdivision isn't "open green spaces," Moscato said.

"One of the most sought-after elements is high density," he said, explaining that having a higher density of people and services on few acres will actually preserve the natural landscape.

"Essentially, what we're looking for is a



Las Cruces Bulletin photos by Beth Sitzler  
**Model homes of three builders are near completion in the Metro Verde Phase 1A. Two more builders will soon begin construction in the neighborhood.**

subdivision that is a destination," Dyson said. "So, once a family is there, they don't have to leave a lot. It's a comprehensive place that satisfies a lot of their needs right there."

This includes having restaurants, shopping, other services and multiple types of housing available in the area, Dyson said.

"Picacho Mountain and Metro Verde both have this," Dyson said. "If you're a homeowner, you want to live in a place where, if you have to pick up some groceries or go to the cleaners or go to the doctor, you have all that nearby."

A master-planned community containing 2,000 acres, Metro Verde will encompass a variety of uses, such as commercial retail, office and a significant amount of acreage devoted to a high-tech industrial park, Moscato said.

"I see this area as a complement to the West Mesa Industrial Park," he said, adding that this partly is thanks to Metro Verde's close proximity to White Sands Missile Range,

NASA and Spaceport America.

In addition to services, a comprehensive green subdivision includes access to open spaces and recreation, Dyson said.

Moscato said in addition to Red Hawk Golf Course, Metro Verde Phase 1A already includes a sports park with tennis and basketball courts, as well as a toddler park. Other types of parks and recreational opportunities – such as a junior soccer field and a linear park with exercise stations – will be included.

"There is a lot more planned," he said. "We're committed to having a park within one-third of a mile to every residence."

"The way it's laid out, there are a lot of walking areas and planted areas," Dyson said. "It looks nice."

"Also, the way they lined the roads, they're shared roads. Bikes, pedestrians and vehicles can all be on."

In addition to what is going into the subdivision, how it is built greatly impacts its green certification. With Metro Verde, a detailed storm water analysis and environmental assessment was conducted before work began, Dyson said. When development began, a phase approach was used to impact as little of the natural landscape as possible.

"They disturbed only what they had to," Dyson said. "This cut down on the dust and had a low impact on the critters."

"There is a huge amount of wildlife in the desert," said Realtor Renee Frank, who is also president of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce and is involved with the Metro Verde project. "Communities like Metro Verde and Picacho Mountain have guidelines to minimize the impact on the natural landscape and preserve the natural arroyos and green spaces."

When brush was cleared out, it was then incorporated into the storm water system to save on trips to the dump.

"It's a very young subdivision, but what's most visible are the storm water features with areas for walking and biking," Dyson said. "They've planted and seeded (the arroyos) to

prevent erosion. They're also lined with native, low-water plants."

Another green element, Dyson said, is that the subdivision is laid out with good north-south access, making it ideal for solar use.

Dyson said Picacho Mountain, designed using a different set of green standards, did its landscaping another way, but still maintained the natural arroyos and desert features.

"It's flexible how these subdivisions can be certified," he said. "They can be different, but still meet green criteria."

### What about the homes?

Receiving a green certification also affects the homes built within a subdivision.

"They do have specific requirements for the homes, like more efficient heating and cooling for example," Dyson said. "They also have to be HERs rated, so they know the efficiency level of each home."

Franks said a HERs rating is like the mpg of a home, used to inform homeowners of what to expect when purchasing that particular home.

"HERs is very extensive and will tell you how much it will cost you to live in that home," she said. "This is information people really need to have."

She said that performance testing a home is another way the home builder – and developers – of a green subdivision are living up to the standards set through green certification.

"In my opinion, any green certified home, building or subdivision means it's built to a higher standard and means it's verified by a third party," Frank said. "The builders who are attracted to subdivisions like Metro Verde are interested in building to a higher standard."

Despite these requirements set in place by NAHB, Moscato ensures builders coming into Metro Verde that they aren't "the green police."

"It's important to understand that we're providing, as developers, a platform to facilitate green or highly efficient building by home builders," he said. "We're providing the platform for a wide range of different building types."

Dyson added that the requirements in place shouldn't discourage builders from constructing in green subdivisions.

"It does make it a lot easier for a builder to qualify for green home certification when in a green subdivision," Dyson said. "(Requirements) aren't too stringent. They shouldn't hinder a builder, but help those who want to go to the next level."

Dyson and Moscato both said that for those builders who want to construct green certified homes, it's easier to do so in a green subdivision.

"A big advantage is that a builder who wants to do green or LEED is there are points available for just building in a green development," Moscato said. "It's a head start."

### The community impact of going green

While creating a green subdivision may just seem like bragging rights for a developer, it does in fact have an impact on not only those living in the area, but also the community as a whole.

"I believe (Metro Verde) will change the way Las Cruces views living," Frank said. "Because this standard has been set, I think it will be emulated here on out. Developers will think about how (a neighborhood) affects people once they're living there."

Moscato said green subdivision development, as with any sort of development, spurs economic growth in an area.

"We're involved physically and economically in the development of a city," he said.

"Another benefit to having these green subdivisions is they're attractive to people around the country looking to live in Las Cruces or the Southwest," Frank said.

Continued on following page

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See page C20 for more information



As part of the requirements to earn National Association of Home Builders green subdivision certification, the storm water system of Metro Verde was seeded and planted to prevent erosion. Also, discarded plant material from the area was incorporated into the arroyos.

Continued from previous page

There are several benefits to green subdivisions, one of the most obvious being lower energy consumption, Frank said. This will not only save homeowners on their electrical bills, but will also reduce the load utility companies, such as El Paso Electric Co., have to handle.

“Nationwide, there has been an emphasis placed on greener, more sustainable development,” Moscato said. “There is a growing percentage of the home-buying public seeking energy-efficient homes as utility expenses keep increasing.”

Moscato said a challenge for any developer or builder doing something “new,” is educating the public/customer about the process and its advantages.

“It’s the same thing that builders face,” he said, adding that often times people are reluctant to do something seemingly out of the norm. “But I tell (builders) that so much of what they’re already doing in their normal course of business meets some of these requirements.”

“I think Bob Pofahl and John Moscato are definitely visionaries and leaders in our

community,” Frank said. “I do think once you have that precedence set, others will naturally follow.”

### Metro Verde update

With Phase 1A receiving the NAHB green subdivision certification, becoming a three-star green development, the next step is to submit the next two phases – 1B and 1D – for green certification as well, Moscato said.

Moscato said the certification is for an individual neighborhood and is separate from the large concept of the master-planned community.

“There might be some neighborhoods that don’t seek green certification, but that doesn’t mean they still won’t adhere to sustainable certification (standards),” he said.

Homes can already be seen in the first phase of Metro Verde, with builders Enchanted Desert Homes, Veloz Homes and R. Hines Construction in the final stages of completing model homes.

Two more builders – NetSolar Construction and Hakes Brothers – will soon begin work on their model homes and a sixth builder is in

talks to join the subdivision, Frank said.

“These builders have made a commitment to go above and beyond,” she said, adding that NetSolar Construction, which has 10 lots in the subdivision, plans to build to LEED Platinum certification.

“The houses are a little over 2,000 square feet and are single-family homes,” said Dyson, adding that there are areas in Metro Verde designed for town homes, multi-family homes, high-end homes and affordable homes.

With builders setting up their model homes, more attention from customers has come to Metro Verde, Moscato said.

“It’s just now beginning,” he said of the master-planned community. “Over the next year or two, there will be a significant evolution of these neighborhoods.”

After completion, which will take 15 to 20 years, depending on the housing market, Metro Verde will feature 7,000 to 8,000 single-family homes and 6,000 to 8,000 multi-family units, in addition to the bevy of commercial applications, Moscato said.

“The builders we have are very positive about Metro Verde,” he said. “They’re excited about the quality of the development and the range of products it will have. And the golf course is a major amenity.”

Beginning development on the south end of Metro Verde, the next phase of work will take place at the north end, near Red Hawk Golf Course.

“We’ll work at both ends and meet in the middle,” Moscato said. “I can’t wait to develop near the golf course. That’s a year or two away.”

More information on Metro Verde can be found at [www.metroverdenm.com](http://www.metroverdenm.com).



Another requirement to be a green subdivision is to create a “destination” for residents. Amenities such as Red Hawk Golf Course fill this requirement and allow residents to stay within their neighborhood.



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# Three years of improvement

## Part 2 looks at numbers behind the changes made

**Miles Dyson**  
Living Green



Last month, we talked about some effective changes that Anna and I have made in our own home over the last three years to be more comfortable and to save on utility use.

Our areas of focus included reduction of propane and electricity costs and better summer and winter comfort. The improved comfort goal has been successfully achieved. Our weatherization work and installation of the ductless mini-split air conditioning system has provided room-by-room zoned refrigerated air conditioning comfort.

Next, I want to show the numbers behind this improved comfort and efficiency.

Our Home Energy Rating Index now stands at 63, a 24-point improvement over the original index of 87. Remember, the HERs index is similar to the mpg rating you see on cars and trucks and gives a quick look at the overall efficiency of a home.

The 24-point index improvement translates to a 27 percent reduction in overall utility use (Btu and/or kWh). With the current high cost of propane (more than \$2.50 per gallon this year) the actual dollar cost savings in a year will be over 46 percent!

This is the fuel cost savings estimate as calculated by our energy modeling software, as seen in details box 1.

The total energy dollars after all of these upgrades is a fraction of what we were paying. Even with the bump up in electric cost due to use of the mini-splits for winter heating, the larger reduction in propane use more than makes up the difference.

We made other changes in addition to the ductless heating and cooling system. How those costs broke out can be seen in details box 2.

You may remember from last month, my wife Anna is quite a handywoman and is also a certified Home Energy Rater. Together, we were able to complete most of the projects above with limited outside labor.

The exceptions were the licensed contractors that completed the insulation installation, the electrical and the refrigerant connections for the heat pump system. Those labor costs are included in the categories listed above.

The El Paso Electric Co. Saver program ([www.epesaver.com](http://www.epesaver.com)) offers rebates and incentives for a variety of home improvements. We were able to take advantage of the \$500 per unit rebate on high-efficiency air conditioning on our two units.

The tale of the tape for any good efficiency upgrade is determining whether the utility savings exceeds the costs of the upgrades installed to achieve those savings.

To keep it simple, I rounded the total upgrade costs up to \$10,000. In just the first year following the upgrades described above, our utility dollar savings will be \$1,690. At this rate of utility cost savings, the upgrade will pay for themselves in only six years.

With an estimated service life of only 10 years on these upgrades (this is mostly for the heat pump system – the other changes, such as insulation and weatherization, should have a life of more than 30 years) have a net present value of \$18,877. This assumes no interest payments (we paid cash) and a fuel escalation rate of about 2 percent.

For most efficiency upgrades, a savings-to-investment ratio of 1.0 is a green light to go forward with the project. In our case the SIR is 1.89, almost twice the rule of thumb figure recommended. Our projected utility savings will yield a positive return on investment putting nearly \$9,000 additional in our checking account over the next 10 years in addition to paying for the cost of the upgrades. A good efficiency upgrade should be win-win – providing lower costs and better comfort.

I am very excited with our progress to date, but a few more projects are lurking on the horizon.

Zia Natural Gas is aggressively increasing natural gas services in the county. Our pending natural gas connection will decrease fuel costs even further – we should see another \$300 savings per year in water heating alone – not to mention guilt free use of the fire pit and grill.

Our water heater will likely have to be replaced as part of the natural gas transition and installation of a tankless unit may make sense, especially at the time when a replacement is required. That change can plummet the HERs index to a 55.

Win-win efficiency improvements are possible on most every home. Hopefully, sharing our experiences can encourage some homeowners to go forward with cost-effective improvements of their own.

*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](http://www.icenergyrate.com).*

### Details box 1

|                                    | Original Home  | Upgraded 8/12  | Diff            | %Diff        |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>Annual Energy Costs (\$/yr)</b> |                |                |                 |              |
| Propane.....                       | \$2,834        | \$713          | -\$1,921        | 72.9%        |
| Electric.....                      | \$892          | \$1,123        | +\$231          | -25.9%       |
| <b>Annual End-Use Cost (\$/yr)</b> |                |                |                 |              |
| Heating.....                       | \$1,875        | \$407          | -\$1,468        | 78.3%        |
| Cooling.....                       | \$307          | \$185          | -\$141          | 46.1%        |
| Water heating.....                 | \$564          | \$530          | -\$34           | 6.1%         |
| Lights & Appliances.....           | \$780          | \$734          | -\$46           | 5.9%         |
| Photovoltaics.....                 | \$0            | \$0            | \$0             | 0%           |
| Service Charges.....               | \$132          | \$132          | \$0             | 0%           |
| <b>Total.....</b>                  | <b>\$3,658</b> | <b>\$1,968</b> | <b>-\$1,690</b> | <b>46.2%</b> |

## Home Sales Scoreboard

LAS CRUCES AREA

|                                 | This Week  | Last Week  | Same Week Last Year |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| <b>Homes Sold New</b>           | <b>1</b>   | <b>4</b>   | <b>2</b>            |
| <b>Homes Sold Existing</b>      | <b>31</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>14</b>           |
| <b>Pending Home Sales (All)</b> | <b>229</b> | <b>230</b> | <b>170</b>          |

|                              | This Week        | Last Week        | Same Week Last Year |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Median Price New</b>      | <b>\$308,000</b> | <b>\$218,917</b> | <b>\$173,315</b>    |
| <b>Median Price Existing</b> | <b>\$147,750</b> | <b>\$134,456</b> | <b>\$136,500</b>    |

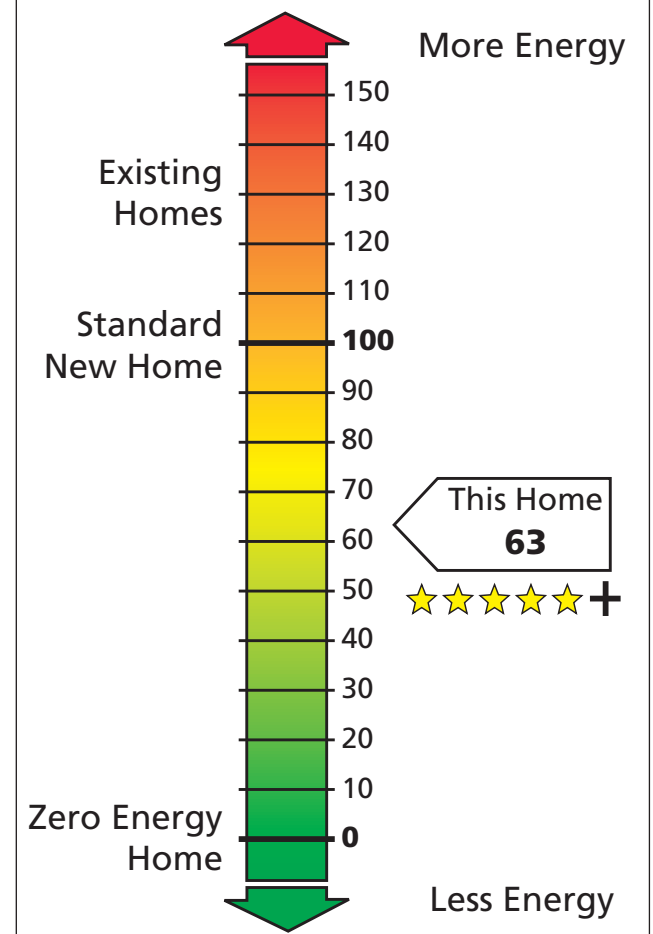
|                                     | This Week | Last Week | Same Week Last Year |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| <b>Average Days on Market (All)</b> | <b>98</b> | <b>73</b> | <b>85</b>           |

|                                    | This Week    | Last Week    | Same Week Last Year |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Homes on Market (All)</b> | <b>1,142</b> | <b>1,142</b> | <b>1,130</b>        |
| <b>Real Estate Agents</b>          | <b>386</b>   | <b>385</b>   | <b>419</b>          |

\*Homes include detached single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums

Source: Las Cruces Multiple Listing Service (MLS)\* for the period 07/30/12-08/06/12  
\*MLS is wholly owned by the Las Cruces Association of Realtors  
\*\* Unknown per LCAR

## HERS® Index



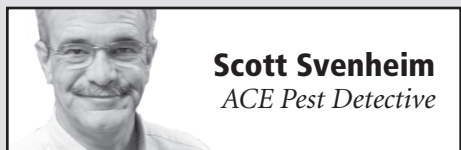
### Details box 2

#### Ductless heating and cooling system costs

|                                                     |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| LG Mini-Split Heat Pump System (installed).....     | \$8,705        |
| (less El Paso Electric rebate).....                 | (\$1,000)      |
| Additional 8-10 inches attic insulation.....        | \$1,391        |
| LED recessed lights - 9 total.....                  | \$450          |
| Poly-Iso Insulation board (to seal AC registers)... | \$100          |
| Caulk, Seal & Weather-strip.....                    | \$150          |
| Solar Screens at 3 windows.....                     | \$200          |
| <b>Total Upgrade Costs.....</b>                     | <b>\$9,996</b> |

# Of mice and men

Pack rats remain troublesome pest for New Mexico residents



**Scott Svenheim**  
ACE Pest Detective

It's true: pack rats, also known as the wood rats, are scurrying into homes across New Mexico as changing weather conditions, including the onset of monsoon season, lead to rising numbers of rodent sightings.

Measuring in at about 8 inches long, with the tail carrying another 5 to 7 inches, pack rats remain prevalent in the deserts and highlands of the western U.S.

The population of rodents, whether up or down, highly depends on what resources are available to them – mainly their food supply and shelter.

In the summer months, pack rats will usually build a nest outdoors and feed on backyard gardens and fruit trees. However, when temperatures drop or are coupled with rain from our annual phenomenon known as monsoon season, our attics and crawl spaces become even more enticing for rodents to take refuge in.

Once these pesky critters are stationed in the comforts of your home, they pose serious health and property risks.

On the health front, they contaminate food and spread diseases such as hantavirus, a viral disease that can be contracted through direct contact of infected rodent urine, saliva or fecal droppings.

Pack rats can also cause serious damage to your property because they have a tendency to sneak into the walls of a house,

eat insulation in attics and gnaw on wiring, causing up to 25 percent of house fires in the U.S. They also are to blame for lots of damage to less-driven automobiles parked outside by chewing on wiring and hoses, and making nests in engine compartments.

Pack rats are active on a nocturnal level, which means they will be foraging for food and nest materials as soon as the lights go out. Even more surprisingly, they can travel up to a mile in a single night.

Building complex nests is the name of the game for pack rats, known for their characteristic of searching for materials to bring back to their nests, creating an ever-growing collection known as "middens" for its messiness. Usually, middens are composed of twigs and other scraps within the pack rats environment. Pack rats urinate in the midden and wait for the urine to crystallize as it dries out in order to cement these loose items together.

Of course, the best way to deal with pack rats is to avoid attracting them and preventing their entry into your home. At all costs, avoid leaving human and pet foods out and eliminate any brush, rock or junk piles that may have accumulated in and around your home. Also, be sure cracks and crevices of all kinds are sealed, just knowing that rats have the capacity to squeeze through any opening they can fit their head through.

If you are dealing with an infestation, even a small one, typically you want to get your neighbors involved since the infestation can quickly spread to neighboring homes. Just because you eliminate the rodent issue on your home turf, doesn't mean these guys won't move in next door.

Your first action should be to contact a licensed pest professional who will be able to determine what types of rodent infestations your neighborhood is most at risk for.



Pack rats, lower right, will make homes out of vegetation around your yard, above.

Scott Svenheim, an expert for Truly Nolen of America, has 25 years of experience in the pest control industry. Svenheim brings an informative as well as unique and entertaining perspective to consumers' pest problems in the 21st century. Founded in 1938, Tucson, Ariz.-based Truly Nolen of America is one of the largest family owned pest control companies in the United States. Truly Nolen has more than 80 branch offices in Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah. The company also has independently owned and operated franchises in an ever-growing number of territories including California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah as well as Puerto Rico. For more information or to ask your local expert a question about insects and insect prevention, visit [www.trulynolen.com](http://www.trulynolen.com) or call 915-591-9864.



## There's a kit for that change DIY projects refresh your space within one weekend

Home and style magazines, social media and interior designers on TV are inspiring more homeowners to transform their spaces into places they love.

Projects range from renewing your bathtub to refreshing your backyard deck, and can be completed in just one weekend.

With the help of Rust-Oleum Project Solution Kits, it is now easier for novice do-it-yourselfers to achieve professional-looking results on a limited budget.

"With only a few hours and the right materials, you can dramatically update a room and create a beautiful space that reflects your style," said Ann Gearty, senior brand manager for Rust-Oleum, a more than 90-year-old coatings company.

Gearty recommends four guidelines before starting any DIY project:

- **Imagine.** Picture your room finished and determine what improvements will create the greatest visual impact. Instead

of giving your garage a complete makeover all at once, start with revitalizing your floor with a stain- and fade-resistant coating. A clean and updated floor will help you see which areas should be tackled next.

- **Prioritize.** Starting with one project at a time will help you see results more quickly. Once your first project is complete, it will provide motivation for other items on your to-do list. Flooring is a great starting point for many homeowners as it sets the tone for a space. Use products that can remove scuffs and scratches from your indoor floors, as well as those that can beautify and protect your deck for outdoor entertaining.

- **Identify.** Stretch your remodeling dollars by identifying areas

in your home that can be improved using limited resources. For example, bathrooms are smaller spaces that allow you to maximize your budget and enjoy the results every day. For less than \$50, the Rust-Oleum Tub and Tile Kit includes all of the cleaning and etching tools needed to update the look of your bathroom by changing the tub or tile color – and it saves the cost and mess of buying and installing a new tub or tile.

- **Schedule.** Time-intensive projects can create disorder and take over your entire living space for weeks. All-inclusive kits save you time at the home improvement store and help you accomplish projects, from start to finish, in one weekend or less. An unused spare bedroom with water spots on the ceiling and outdated wallpaper can turn into an inviting space for guests.

Indoors or outdoors, home improvement project kits can help you fix common household problems and extend the life of your favorite features. Many projects can be completed for less than \$100, providing budget-friendly options to refresh your home from floor to ceiling.

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# Getting to know: *Overhead Door Co. of Las Cruces Inc.*

## Company's reputation opens doors

Overhead finds success throughout southern New Mexico

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

One element of a home that might get overlooked is the garage door. Much more than sheets of metal connected to springs, hanging and rolling doors have an entire industry dedicated to their function.

As one of 450 distributors countrywide, the local Overhead Door company operated by Lou Goodpasture and his wife, Jenny Minter, has provided hanging door expertise to Las Cruces and all of southern New Mexico for more than 25 years.

"His dad bought an Overhead Door franchise in Roswell in 1962," Minter said. "He's been in the door business, on and off, since then. He started in the door business when he was 8."

In 1986, Goodpasture had the opportunity to bring the Overhead Door franchise to the City of the Crosses, creating the Overhead Door Co. of Las Cruces Inc.

"When he moved here, he only had a couple of ladders, a truck and four to five doors, and built it into what it is today," Minter said. "We have many more trucks and doors and ladders now."

Minter, a library director at Doña Ana Community College, joined her husband at the company in 1997, when Goodpasture asked her to help the Las Cruces location become



Overhead Door Co. of Las Cruces Inc. has a 3,500-square-foot warehouse off 17th Street filled with stacks of doors.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzler

computerized and get organized.

"I figured there is not much difference between managing doors than books," she said, adding that she is now the company's bookkeeper and accountant, among other responsibilities.

"We have 14 employees. We're the largest door company in southern New Mexico."

Covering Las Cruces, Silver City, Truth or Consequences, Deming, Lordsburg and Alamogordo, Overhead Door installs and repairs all makes and models of residential garage doors and openers, Minter said.

"In our business, you can't hire someone off

the street and they hang doors the next day," she said. "There is an investment in time and training to make sure they meet the quality we prefer."

The company takes care of everything from broken springs to annual maintenance check ups to ensure a door is properly balanced and lubed.

"We try to walk the customer through easy fixes on the phone, but sometimes we have to send someone over," Minter said.

At the company's 17th Street location is a 35,000-square-foot warehouse "full of doors," Minter said. She added there are two types of doors: sectional doors, commonly seen in residential applications, and rolling doors that curl into a coil rather than lying flat overhead.

"We have done steel doors that were designed to look like old, wooden carriage doors with handles on the front and everything," Minter said.

The warehouse has a variety of each type to select and can order more, if needed. They also can cut out windows at the warehouse.

A door is bought in components, with each section, track and spring loaded and taken to the job site, where it is then assembled.

"That way they can build a different size door, if needed, by taking away and adding sections," Minter said.

While a normal residential installation will take one employee three hours to complete, that isn't always the case.

"Typically, it's not 'one size fits all,'" Minter said. "But we like a challenge. Some of those jobs are more interesting."

In addition to its residential work, the company also takes on commercial projects, a side of business Goodpasture handles, Minter said. The commercial work includes everything from rolling gates like those found covering stores at the mall to warehouse and freezer doors.

"The whole commercial side of business is quite different," said Minter, adding that a large amount of engineering is required to make sure the door system doesn't interfere with sprinklers or lighting. "(A commercial door) can be any size and any application."

Clients of the company include Holloman Air Force Base, White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss, some of which have commissioned explosion-proof doors.

"The largest door we've done was 66 feet wide and 24 feet tall," Minter said. "It was an aircraft hanger door at Holloman."

Other projects include doors for a floating boat storage on Elephant Butte Lake and doors that surround a telescope at Apache Point. They are also working on sound-proof doors for the

### Details

#### Overhead Door Co. of Las Cruces Inc.

##### Owners

- Lou Goodpasture, president
- Jenny Minter, vice president

##### Address

755 N. 17th St.

##### Phone

- 524-5979
- 800-924-2377

##### Email

overheaddoor@zianet.com

##### Website

www.overheaddoor-lascruces.com

##### Organizations

- Las Cruces Home Builders Association
- Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
- International Door Association

New Mexico State University Center for the Arts, which is still under construction on the corner of Espina Street and University Avenue.

The company also meets with local architects and works with them on their plans and educates them on doors and safety issues, such as fire doors and reversing features.

"New technology and safety issues with garage doors come along all the time," said Minter, adding that Overhead Door is certified to work on houses that could possibly have lead paint. The industry is continuously trying to improve safety.

"Overhead Door has ongoing safety training and product improvements. They pass the information on to us and we pass it on to (the architects)."

Minter said the company's commercial projects kept them busy after the economic downturn. Recently, however, she said she has seen more activity on the residential side of business.

"We've got a very good track record," said Minter of the company's success. "Word of mouth has really helped us be here for a long time. We're now established in the community."

"Las Cruces has been very good to us. We appreciate that, and give back to the community when we can."

In addition to supporting the Las Cruces Home Builders Association and its annual Home & Garden Show, the company also supports the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and Aggie Athletics. Minter also served on the New Mexico Centennial Committee.



Dennise Stone and Preston Bowen of Overhead Door Co. honor Jenny Minter and Lou Goodpasture in 2011 for their franchise success in New Mexico.

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# ChileKnights

## Stovetop to tabletop meals School-night dinners can be a breeze

**Sunny Conley**  
Chile Knights



When a parent, such as myself, no longer has kids in school, it's easy to lose track of when summer vacation ends. But the "Back to School" newspaper inserts are reminders.

The first few weeks are hectic as family members adjust to new schedules. At the end of a long day, it's always "What's for dinner?" Skillet meals – dinner in a pan – come to mind. They're a snap to prepare, less expensive and more nutritious than fast food take-out, plus cleanup is a breeze.

More than 15 years ago, a couple of moms, Beverly Mills and Alicia Ross, authored a cookbook, "Desperation Dinners! Home-Cooked Meals for Frantic Families in 20 Minutes" (Workman Publishing, January 1997). Deciding what to add to the pan, they write, can be "helped along" with one simple step, fry an onion.

The aroma is stimulating and before you know it, the skillet sizzles with an entire meal. Good advice if you don't have a recipe on hand. But to help busy families along, I share a raft of recipes to usher in the school year.

### Raspberry "Red" Ginger Chicken

- 1 1/4 pound chicken breast tenders
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 2 cups baby carrots, sliced
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 tablespoon seedless raspberry jam
- 1 teaspoon medium-hot red chile powder
- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger

Season chicken tenders with salt and pepper. In a large, nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium for 30 seconds. Add onion and carrots and sauté for 5 minutes. Add broccoli and chicken and sauté for 8 minutes, turning occasionally, until chicken is fully cooked. Remove vegetables and chicken to a large plate. In the same skillet, combine jam, red chile powder, vinegar, water, soy sauce and ginger. Whisk over low heat for 2 minutes. Add chicken and vegetables and stir. Cook on low until chicken is browned and cooked to desired doneness. Makes 4 servings.

### Lone Star Pasta Skillet

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 3/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1 (15.5-ounce) can red kidney beans, black beans, or red beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 (8-ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup uncooked elbow macaroni
- 4 to 5 roasted medium-hot green chile peppers, peeled, stemmed, seeded and diced
- 2 to 3 teaspoons chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack or cheddar cheese (2 ounces)

In a large skillet cook meat and onion until meat is brown and onion is tender. Drain off

fat. Stir in beans, undrained tomatoes, tomato sauce, uncooked macaroni, chile peppers, chili powder and garlic salt. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, about 20 minutes or until macaroni is tender, stirring often. Remove skillet from heat; sprinkle mixture with cheese. Cover and let stand about 2 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with toasted garlic bread. Makes 6 servings.

### Green Chile Garden Skillet Sauté

Serve over pasta, couscous or mashed potatoes.

- 1 tablespoon pure olive or canola oil
- 3/4 pound zucchini, sliced into rounds
- 3/4 pound yellow squash, sliced into rounds
- 1 medium red onion, halved crosswise, cut edge laid on counter and sliced vertically into slivers
- 2 Anaheim or poblano chiles, stemmed, seeded and sliced into rounds
- 1 red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and julienned
- 1 ripe tomato, chopped
- Kernels from 1 ear of corn or 1/2 cup frozen
- 1/2 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed well
- 1 tablespoon (6 sprigs) cilantro, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse salt

Heat oil in a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add zucchini, yellow squash, onions, chiles and green peppers. Sauté 2 to 3 minutes or until vegetables begin to soften. Add tomatoes, sweet corn, black beans and cilantro. Sauté 1 minute; add salt and stir to combine. Makes 6 servings.

### Mexican Hat Skillet

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 packet store-bought or homemade taco seasoning mix
- 6 burrito-size flour tortillas
- 2 cups puréed canned or fresh tomatoes
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup medium-hot 505 brand salsa or other favorite salsa
- 1 poblano pepper, stemmed, seeded and chopped

Heat a large skillet over high heat until hot. Add ground beef, garlic and taco seasoning. Cook until beef is browned, breaking it into small pieces with the side of a spoon and mixing everything together.

While beef is browning, slice tortillas into 1-inch squares. Add tomatoes, salsa and cut-up tortillas to skillet and cook for 5 minutes over medium heat. If it seems dry, add a little water. Once heated through, sprinkle cheese over top and cover for a few minutes. Once cheese is melted, it is ready to serve. Sprinkle with chopped poblano for added crunch. Serve with tortilla chips, salsa and sour cream, if desired. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

### Hot Cod Skillet

- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 cup green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 serrano pepper, stemmed, seeded and chopped
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons olive or canola oil
- 4 plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Black pepper to taste
- 1 pound cod, haddock or



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Sunny Conley

Easy to prepare and nutritious, hot and sassy skillet meals help out busy parents.

- orange roughy fillets
- 1/2 teaspoon seafood seasoning
- Hot cooked rice
- Hot pepper sauce (optional)

In a skillet, sauté the celery, green bell and serrano peppers and onion in oil until almost tender. Add tomatoes; cook and stir for 1 to 2 minutes. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Top with fish fillets and sprinkle with seafood sea-

soning. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 6 minutes. Break fish into chunks. Cook about 3 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Serve over rice. Serve with hot pepper sauce if desired. Makes 4 servings.

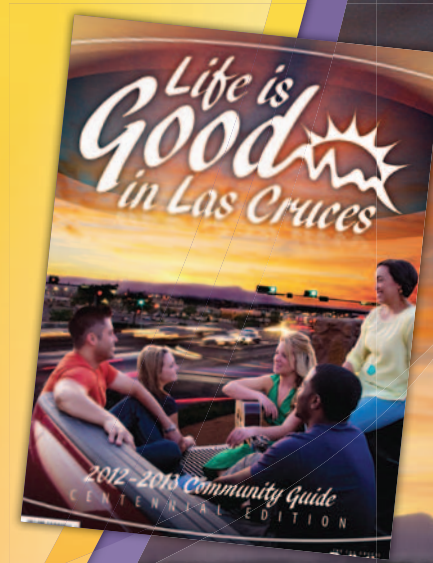
Sunny Conley, a former Las Cruces, is an award-winning cookbook author and food columnist. If you have a chile recipe or idea to share, contact Conley at sunny.conley@gmail.com.

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# A cheery way to add color

## Bright bougainvilleas thrive in desert climate

**Gary Guzman**  
Gardening Guru



These brightly colored beauties just don't seem like they would like our dry desert heat, but the fact is, bougainvilleas thrive in this climate – at least for the spring, summer and fall months anyway.

Bougainvilleas come from semitropical areas that do not have a frost, so needless to say, they generally do not overwinter here.

They will have to be brought in, typically around Halloween.

Bougainvilleas need full sun in order to bloom properly. If growing indoors, place them in a very sunny window. If you are placing them outdoors, try to locate them in an area that is free from very strong winds (yeah, right). Regular feeding with an all-purpose fertilizer should work just fine. Iron chelate will help with excessive yellowing leaves.

Water only when the top of the soil feels a bit dry. Too much water will result in poor blooming and light colored leaves. It is best to use a soil that is very light weight. It should drain freely without being too heavy even after the soil is wet. If you use a saucer, be sure to discard the water a few minutes after

irrigating it. This will prevent subsequent root rot.

Leaf cutter bees love this plant. You may notice half neatly cut out circles on both the bracts (often mistaken for the flower) and the leaves. These are important pollinating creatures, so please resist the temptation to kill these gray colored insects.

Try using a garlic spray when bee activity is nonexistent. This is a repellent and not an insecticide, which can be used on just about any type of plant you wish to keep insects off of.

These vines or shrubs have very delicate root systems, so it is best to re-plant only when they are completely root bound. Spring and summer is usually best to take this action. Be sure to use only a slightly larger container when repotting.

Do not be afraid to cut these back, as they will make a quick recovery, especially during late spring and summer. This action will keep them from getting too leggy.

Remember, have a reason for every cut that you make. This will ensure you have a balanced plant.

If you are having trouble getting your plant to bloom, try using a fertilizer high in phosphorous. This should be the key ingredient to help get color back. You may also want to wait until the plant shows signs of wilting to water it. This may also help encourage new blossoms. When I say blossoms, I really mean the bracts – the actual flowers (such as the poinsettia) will follow the bracts.

So if you are looking for that splash of color in your sunny patio, courtyards or "hot" window, look no further than the bright and cheerful bougainvillea.

Gary Guzman, owner of Guzman's Color Your World Gardening Centers, can be reached at [gary@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:gary@lascrucesbulletin.com).



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzler

Bougainvilleas make a great addition to any patio, courtyard or bare window. Just remember that they need to be protected for winter conditions.

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