



2011 Southwest  
New Mexico  
Legislative  
Guide  
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# THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin

Las Cruces Day  
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LOCAL NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SINCE 1969 • FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

VOLUME 43 • NUMBER 3

## Cervantes speaker coup fails

GOP tactic leaves  
Lujan in charge

By **Steve Terrell**  
The New Mexican

Democrat Ben Lujan survived what appeared to be a growing movement to dump him as speaker of the House Tuesday, Jan. 18 and he did it with the help of very unlikely allies – the tea party.

Rep. Joseph Cervantes, D-Las Cruces, aborted his bid for speaker and, in the end, he wasn't even nominated – in fact, Cervantes voted for Lujan.



**CERVANTES**

Lujan, who has been speaker since 2001, was re-elected with 36 votes. House Republican Leader Tom Taylor, nominated symbolically as is the usual practice for the minority party, got 33 votes. Rep. Andy Nuñez, D-Hatch, a vocal Cervantes supporter, voted “present.”

The Nambe representative's re-election assures that Santa Fe lawmakers retained some power during the session. Last week, Rep. Jim Trujillo, D-Santa Fe, said he feared that a coalition could mean that Rep. Luciano “Lucky” Varela would lose his chairmanship of the Legislative Finance Committee and that Trujillo himself could lose his position as chairman of the subcommittee that oversees capital outlay spending.

Many, as recently as two days ago, were predicting that Cervantes would have enough votes from Republicans and southern Democrats to win the speakership. Most of that talk stopped Monday when news broke that several tea party organizations were urging Republicans not to back a coalition effort to make Cervantes speaker.

See **Speaker** on page A22

## Martinez preaches change



Republican Gov. Susana Martinez is congratulated after her State of the State address on the opening day of the 60-day legislative session Tuesday, Jan. 18. Reinstating the death penalty, not raising taxes, cutting spending on school administration costs and reducing film production incentives were some of the goals she detailed to lawmakers.

The New Mexican  
photo by Jane Phillips

## Governor calls for progress on budget, business

By **Trip Jennings**  
The New Mexican

Gov. Susana Martinez's first State of the State speech Tuesday, Jan. 18, carried a simple, clear message: Bill Richardson has left the building, and I'm in charge.

Wearing a black dress and a corsage of baby pink roses and one white orchid, Martinez stood before the packed room in the chamber of the House of Representatives to declare her intention to re-instate the death penalty and to revoke drivers' licenses given to illegal immigrants. Both acts were passed during Richardson's eight-year tenure as governor and would have to be repealed by the Legislature.

Also making cameos in her speech was skepticism of state environmental rules promulgated during Richardson's administration and the idea of giving bonus pay to teachers.

Another priority listed in her 38-minute speech was a long-sought Republican goal: Requiring New Mexicans to produce photo IDs at the voting booth.

Most of all, though, Martinez spent a lot of time talking about small businesses.

“It's the small businesses – the mom and pop shops – the small start-ups that get lost in the layers of red tape,” Martinez said. “We will help them and in doing so, send a loud message and a clear message that New Mexico is open for business.”

Martinez's emphasis on business-friendliness was even evident in the names given to new proposals that were highlighted in Tuesday's speech, such as the Red Tape Reduction Act.

As much as Martinez's speech provided her a chance to define the legislative priorities, it also served as a reminder of the shift in power

in Santa Fe.

Applause stopped Martinez's speech more than 35 times Tuesday. And usually, the clapping hands – and the occasional hoots and whistles – came from GOP lawmakers and their supporters while many Democrats sat silent.

The question now is whether Martinez, a Republican former prosecutor, can work easily with a Democratically controlled Legislature. The Democrats' hold on power is much diminished, but they are still in charge. In

See **Governor** on page A22

### For more info

To read the State of the State address in full, visit  
[www.lascrucesbulletin.com](http://www.lascrucesbulletin.com).

### NEXT WEEK

#### Chamber looks ahead to 2011

Renowned journalist Sam Donaldson headlines GLCCC evening at convention center



\$1



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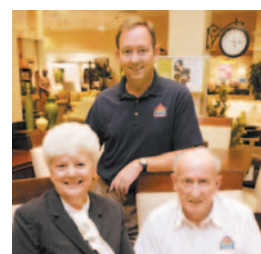


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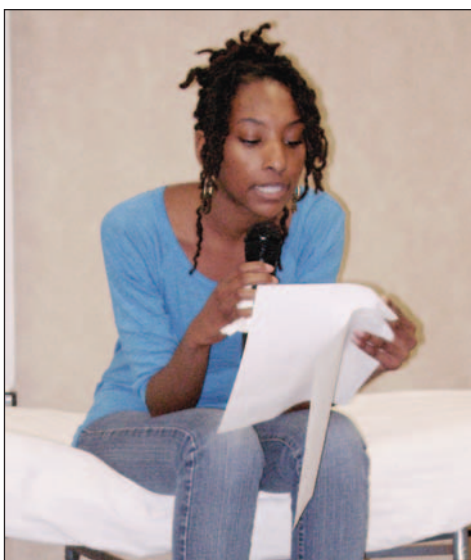


# 'Reflections of a Legacy' at the NAACP Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Photos by Richard Coltharp and Todd Dickson



Monica Soto, center, attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration with her daughters Jackie and Ani.



Crystal Bolden reads from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" at the Doña Ana County Branch MLK NAACP Celebration Monday, Jan. 17.



David Lyons, education chair of the Doña Ana County Branch NAACP, stands with the winners of this year's essay contest, "Reflections of a Legacy." The winners are Steven Trujillo of Vista Middle School and Flora Abudushalamu and Samantha Nold of Lynn Middle School.



The NMSU Gospel Choir, including Lucy Ortiz, Lakeisha Haynes and Lisa Miranda, sang at the Doña Ana County Branch NAACP MLK Celebration.



Loretta and Pastor Gregory Arthur of Bethel Second Baptist Church joined the NAACP breakfast in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.



Liliana Richer, 5, reads from a list of "dreams" following her performance as Rosa Parks at Las Cruces Academy recreating the historic incident when Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus because of her color.

HE ASKED.  
YOU SAID YES.  
NOW WHAT?

*Yes, of course!*  
*I have to find the perfect dress.*  
*I have to call my mom!*  
*I am so excited!*

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# Opinions



## From the publisher

BY DAVID MCCOLLUM

## Your Roundhouse guide

Bulletin's seventh annual NM Legislative Guide has expanded and is bigger and better than ever

Seven years ago, about one week before the opening of the 2005 New Mexico legislative session, a group of key community leaders here in Las Cruces met with our Bulletin news team and asked if there was anything we could do through our newspaper to help bring our legislators, business community and local residents closer together. There was concern that our citizenry knew little about their legislators and positions on issues. There were further worries that an ideological chasm existed between the businesses and our elected officials.

Out of that meeting, the concept of the first New Mexico Legislative Guide was born. The general idea was that we would develop a news profile for each of our Las Cruces area state senators and representatives, and that we would assemble these profiles into a single publication. The guide would be delivered to area residents through the Bulletin's home-delivery operations and more than 300 single-copy outlets throughout the Las Cruces area. The project would be funded through advertising from civic-minded local institutions.

Because our time to produce this premiere issue was so limited, we had just a few days to format and design the first magazine and obtain commitments and copy for the ads. Also, the news team was challenged to locate each local state legislator, explain our concept and get an interview and a photograph. To some, this may seem like a simple task. However, our time was shortened because we had a relatively small staff, who also still had to put out our weekly newspaper. Additionally, when we made the decision to produce this new magazine, we thought we had three workdays to accomplish our mission. However, no one at the planning meeting had noticed that the following Monday was a holiday, and many of our contacts were unavailable. Consequently, we had to develop and produce the first 16-page legislative guide within a 48-hour time frame.

That first guide, which contained just enough advertising to allow us to afford to print and deliver to Las Cruces residents and our legislators in Santa Fe, has now evolved into an important annual magazine that is now distributed to cities, counties, businesses, government offices and chambers of commerce throughout New Mexico. Readers can now find photos and contact information for all state senators and representatives.

In addition to the legislative information and profiles, we also strive to tell the rest of the state about all the great things that are happening here in the southern part of the state. This year's Legislative Guide has been expanded from 116 pages last year to 164 full-color pages in the 2011 edition. This additional space allows us to include the eight counties in southwest New Mexico. In addition to Doña Ana, we now feature Hidalgo, Grant, Luna, Catron, Sierra, Otero and Lincoln counties. Our writers have profiled the 10 senators and 16 representatives who represent this eight-county region. A profile of our new governor, Susana Martinez, is featured in a three-page layout early in the magazine.

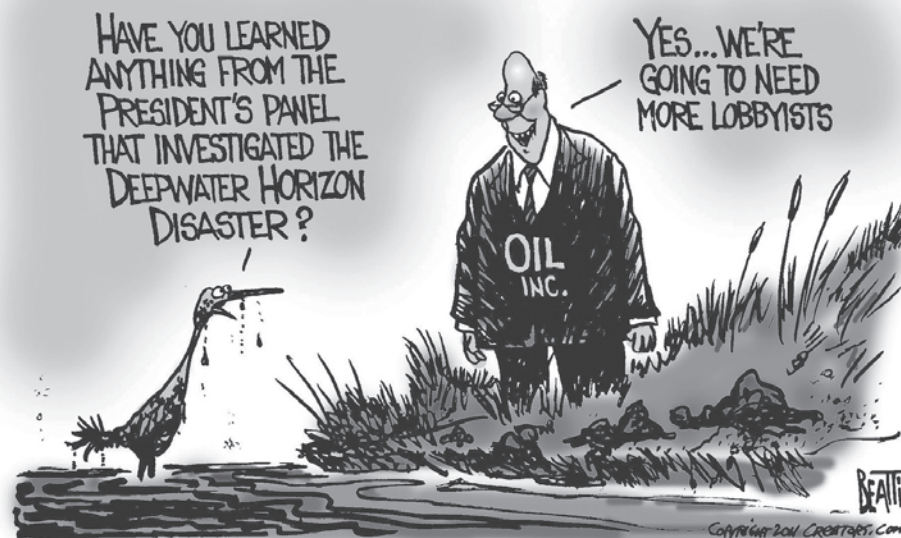
The Bulletin's legislative guide for New Mexico has received acclaim both locally and nationally. In fact, the 2006 edition was named the "Best New Idea" in the newspaper industry by the National Newspaper Association.

The 2011 Legislative Guide is being delivered this week to Bulletin home-delivery customers. The magazine can also be picked up separately at most of the Bulletin's 300-plus retail locations and at many of our business customer locations throughout Las Cruces. This year we are also delivering copies throughout the eight featured counties in southwest New Mexico.

Never has there been a better time to know your legislators and what their plans may be. We hope readers will find the Legislative Guide to be informative, entertaining and useful as we, together, work our way out of this uncertain economy.

Please enjoy your complimentary copy of the 2011 Legislative Guide, and let us know how we might make it better for you next year.

Meanwhile we pray for strength and wisdom for all of our state leaders as they deal with the difficult decisions they will be facing over the next 60 days.



## Letters to the Editor

### El Caldito full of gratitude

El Caldito Soup Kitchen was packed on Christmas Day. Many local people who wouldn't have had a Christmas meal gathered together in our dining room for the holiday celebration. The meal was delicious and Santa made his annual visit. Without you, Las Cruces, we could not have done it.

Many thanks go out to the businesses, organizations, churches, individuals and families who generously donated food, time and money. Thanks also to the people who wrapped gifts, prepared the food, served the food and stayed after to clean our dining room and kitchen. We also thank the local papers for covering this event.

The people of Las Cruces can be proud, knowing that we live in a community which truly demonstrates the spirit of giving.

*Rebecca McNair and Valerie Endruweit*  
El Caldito Board Members

### Hispanic representation

Ralph Arellanes, the chairman of the Hispano Round Table of New Mexico commented that Bill Richardson "did not represent our views, our values or our voices, and now we don't want him to try to be the national representative for the Hispanic community." This strikes me as erratic and more like "kick him in the teeth while he is still down."

Arellanes was referring to Bill Richardson and the veto in creating a cabinet level department for Hispanics.

My question to Arellanes is, "Just who is representing the Hispanic communities now?" Where was he and the "50-plus coalition Hispano groups" when Bill Richardson was taking the heat all by himself coming from Republicans, hate groups and the anti-Hispanic community in the public and private sectors? Did I miss something, because I didn't see or hear of any Hispanic groups supporting Bill Richardson, in or outside the halls of the New Mexico Legislature.

In short, what is he talking about?

Bill Richardson is the only national and international leader who is qualified to represent not only Hispanics, but America as well.

Without Richardson, the nation has limited entry to Latin America, politically, economically and much less, culturally. But whether Arellanes agrees or not, Richardson's qualifications to represent Hispanics is unquestionable, and the least the chairman can do is support him, in which obviously, he failed to do when Richardson was governor.

The chairman must bear in mind that Hispanics are still being kicked in the teeth all over the country, especially in racist states like Texas and Arizona. What U.S. Hispanics need is a national cabinet-level department in view of the institutionalized bigotry and racism going on in the nation now.

Action is what counts, not mere words or kicking someone in the teeth when he's down.

*Fermin-Fermon Torres*

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

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New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau

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# Do incoming governors heed advice?

## Letters from ex-govs probably better than getting the bird



**Jay Miller**  
Inside the Capitol

Some governors on their last day in office will leave a letter for the new governor, ostensibly wishing good luck and offering sage advice on how to handle the rigors of officialdom.

Usually we don't hear about such happenings because outgoing governors don't mention it. But Gov. Bill Richardson did bring up the subject, at a news conference, no less.

That prompted reporters to ask new Gov. Susana Martinez what she thought of the letter. Evidently it seemed to her a little preachy and maybe tinged with leftover hard feelings from the campaign.

We can assume that one governor who didn't leave a letter for his successor was former Gov. Dave Cargo. When Gov. Bruce King walked into the office for the first time in 1971, he remarked to a reporter that Cargo had cleaned every single item out of the office except "that

darned woodpecker" over on a corner table.

The following morning, the reporter noted that the woodpecker actually was a roadrunner, New Mexico's official state bird. King acknowledged that having lived all his life on a ranch, he was well aware of the difference between a woodpecker and a roadrunner.

King explained that he called it a woodpecker out of frustration that Cargo had cleaned everything out of the governor's office and the mansion.

Country folks have a very low opinion of woodpeckers, which can destroy a wooden structure. My father-in-law kept a shotgun by the door of his ranch house near Nogal in order to go on the attack whenever he heard that drilling sound.

One governor back in the 1930s didn't clean out the governor's mansion before he left, but he locked the doors and took all the keys with him. The next governor had to stay in a hotel overnight until a locksmith could

come change all the locks. Evidently the oversight was not accidental.

When Gov. Ed Mechem took office for the first time, he vowed to solve the Cricket Coogler murder case. Coogler was an 18-year-old Las Cruces waitress who was chummy with Santa Fe politicians and Cleveland mobsters.

The mob wanted to expand its gambling operations out West. Nevada already had been tried. All the necessary laws had been passed, but Las Vegas was still a dusty little town with not much action.

Bugsy Siegel had tried opening a lavish hotel called the Flamingo to attract the Los Angeles crowd, but that wasn't working, so the mob began looking for locations that already were popular with tourists.

Santa Fe was a logical choice. The mob moved in and started getting friendly with politicians. At that point, the place to have illegal fun in New Mexico was around the edges of the state, especially south of Las Cruces, where big crowds flocked from El Paso, which had some strict drinking laws.

So it became a popular hangout for the mob and the politicians who followed them. One Easter Sunday afternoon, three boys out

rabbit hunting came across Coogler's body. Everyone was a suspect. Many arrests, trials and convictions followed, but all had to do with a horrendously botched investigation of the case. Cricket's murderer(s) were never brought to justice.

Former Las Cruces District Attorney Ed Mechem vowed to crack the case if he became governor. One of his first acts in office was to assign the same state police officers to investigate the case who had investigated it before. Again, they found nothing.

Four years later, when John Simms took office as governor, he found one item on his desk when entered the governor's office. It was a file labeled "Cricket Coogler." Nothing more was ever heard about that file.

An interesting sidelight of the situation is that all the politicians and appointed officials involved in the case were Democrats. Mechem was the first Republican governor in 20 years. If anyone were going to blow the whistle, it was Mechem.

His advice to Simms must have been fascinating.

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

“ One governor ... locked the doors and took all the keys ... ”

# Finding the best priorities in money wars

## What should be the last thing to cut in New Mexico's budget?

Consider the manual typewriter. This fine technology did not need electricity to function and was "portable." Newsrooms were full of the clatter of the typewriters when I just starting in the news business. Some newspaper workers talked about getting to work on the "clackers" because of the sound that surrounded them. These seemingly old men all smoked, cursed, had a bottle of stimulant they consulted in the desk drawer and were at times cranky while pounding out a story on deadline.

When I broke into newspapers, I started as a photographer and back-up typesetter on an old hot type system. Yep, I think I could still set type on it even though the last time I did Johnson was the U.S. president.

I was thinking of this technology in the midst of the current budget debates in Santa Fe about what is needed and what is merely wanted. I suspect in the coming weeks the debate will be: how much money does it take to run the state of New Mexico at the minimum?

When I talk about the "old days" with manual typewriters there may be a temptation to ask, "why did we replace the manual typewriter?" Simply, it was nothing compared to a computer.

On a manual typewriter you had to listen for a bell to know when to hit the return and type on the next line. Typewriters were slow but very dependable. You rolled the paper into it, sometimes putting two pieces of paper with a carbon layer. No, the carbon used did not cause global warming then or now. Mistakes were quite a problem so the advice was not to make typing mistakes. Yeah, sure.

Compared to the computers I use today to research and

type my column, my old typewriter is ever so very primitive. My mother bought this old Underwood Typewriter I have in 1940 and it still works today, but I find myself only mildly amused looking at it. At one time I could not do without it and now it is more a decoration than anything else. Perhaps we can call it a conversation piece since so many people have asked me why I do not just throw it away.

“ There is no amount of money these people cannot spend. ”

Many years ago in New Mexico, what I might be tempted to call the "old days," there was not all that much technology to buy. Typewriters would last at least a decade or two without further budget support other than ribbons and an occasional cleaning. Today there is a quiet vicious battle shaping up in New Mexico government about government workers who "need" smart phones to be able to do their jobs. They need big fancy offices, new cars, smart phones and must attend conferences in famous resort areas.

Before anyone gets in a thither, I do use a smart phone and would lose about 99 percent of my effectiveness if I found



**Michael Swickard**  
In My Opinion

myself back on the old manual typewriter. But if I was in the shape that New Mexico is in, I might pull in my horns a bit and do without the latest and greatest of all things.

Bet I could do without a jet for sure.

There is most of \$5.5 billion for the New Mexico budget, but according to some people there is no way to spend less than — um, er, let's see — everything we have and at least \$1 billion more. There is no amount of money that these people cannot spend. And the mantra is: We deserve this tax money and more.

The issue is not if New Mexico has the money for all that is wanted, it is where does New Mexico have its priority? Despite the doom and gloom from Santa Fe, I see that New Mexico is still watering the grass and paving parking lots. I will know that there are true budget problems when parking lots revert to dirt in Santa Fe and the lawns are not watered.

The question becomes, what should be the last thing to be cut in New Mexico? That establishes the priority of the state. If the answer is nothing can be cut, it shows there is no priority, only raw desire for taxpayer money.

Michael Swickard may be contacted at [michael@swickard.com](mailto:michael@swickard.com).



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# Letter to the Editor

## Immigration: It's the fault of all those liberals

For ever and ever I have tried to figure out the difference between liberals and conservatives. A definition so to speak that could be used in everyday conversation, it has to be true and accurate.

Well, in conversation with my uber-liberal friend Roberto D. a few years back, I told him that I think liberals tend to choose which

laws they want to obey, and conservatives tend to obey laws as written. Conservatives tend to change laws within the system, whereas liberals just ignore laws they don't like, which does incite angst within the general population.

This becomes important when we think about things like immigration, health care and other laws. Instead of a general deportation, a deal was cut in the '80s that President Reagan would pardon all of the illegals in America with the understanding that the Democratic

Congress would in turn write legislation to seal the border and stop the illegal immigration coming through Mexico.

Well, Mr. Reagan kept his end of the bargain, but the sitting Congress – well now, that is a whole new story.

Now the issue is more closely brought into focus. Why do we pay these bills when we have perfectly good border, criminal and alien statutes on the books?

I submit to you that we do not have a broken immigration policy.

No, we have a broken enforcement policy. In essence, a series of governments that were and are selective as to which laws they will enforce.

Is it any wonder that a tea party was formed, and I submit to you that any government that willingly allows its own laws to be violated as political ploys is flirting with fire. I mean, holy smokes, we have nationally 19 percent unemployed, and this current bunch still holds up the welcome sign. How many jobs are taken up

by these economic refugees?

Our tragedy is that our elected governments legislate by whim and whimsy, so yes they might want to read that Constitution more often and even have the Supreme Court sit in once in a while.

In closing, I would only add that this is America, you pay now, or you pay later, and if it is later it is always a lot more to pay. If you are on welfare, get off of it. If you collect food stamps get off of them. If you have free housing, leave it.

*Terry Higgins*



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## Upstairs amenities

Say you were climbing Mount Everest with your co-ed bowling team. You cover the last hundred yards to the summit. It takes five hours.

After everyone has touched the flag pole they begin looking around and finally spot the official Tibetan Parks & Recreation A-One chemical toilet!

"Whew!" says one of the climbers, "I never thought we'd get here!" As she raced down the well-worn path, shoving a sherpa out of her way.

All of us know the feeling. At the county fair, tractor show, outdoor concert, rodeo, or construction work-site, it's one of the first things we scout-out when on location.

I was visiting a friend in Texas who had built a beautiful log home. When they moved in 15 years ago, they designed a lavish master bedroom on a second story hand-hewn loft. The peaked roof made it look like the lobby of a ski resort. It reminds one of a Paul Bunyan blueprint decorated by Martha Stewart! Lip Gloss on Babe the Blue Ox.

My hostess said that at the time (in their youth) it didn't occur to them to put a bathroom in their bedroom. She said now days they often wake in the middle of the night, come downstairs to do their business and fall asleep on the living room sofa.

I remembered Grandma's chamber pot but suggested to her that they put a full-sized Porta-John upstairs in the corner of the bedroom. Install an I-beam out over the loft with a block and tackle like a hay barn. Bolt a big eye-hook on the unit to get it up there.

Or, how 'bout building a ledge outside on the upstairs wall beside the stained glass window. Cut a door in the wall for easy nightly access! One might even be able to drain the unit through a spigot that runs to the garden.

I could tell she was impressed by my suggestions the way she kept squinting her eyes and grimacing. I pointed to the success of chemical toilets in submarines, Boeing 737s, space shuttles and protest rallies. Can you imagine the presidential inauguration or the Battle of San Juan Hill without porta-pots? I mean how many legislative bills might have been passed or battles lost for the lack of a good chemical toilet.

I was losing her attention.

"Wait," I said, "how 'bout a compromise somewhere between rubber sheets and a major house renovation? We'll cut a hole in the bedroom floor ..."

She gasped!

"And," I said, "put in a fireman's pole!"

She was speechless. I like it when I can be helpful.

Baxter Black may be contacted through is website at [www.baxterblack.com](http://www.baxterblack.com).

## Letters to the Editor

### Superintendent: Thank you Las Cruces for supporting children

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to our entire community for its support of some of our neediest children and families during the 2010 holiday season. We are still in the grips of a difficult economy, but that did not stop people throughout Doña Ana County from generously supporting some very important programs.

There are three programs in particular that I would like to highlight:

The annual Dress the Child program, which began 24 years ago in Las Cruces, is now supported by the Las Cruces Rio Grande Rotary Foundation and a number of sponsoring organizations and individuals, including Sears, J.C. Penney, Kohl's and the Walmart on Walton Drive. With their support, 293 Las Cruces Public Schools students received new clothes in December. Several hundred students in the Gadsden Independent School district also received new clothes.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots of Las Cruces program provided toys to more than 3,500 needy children throughout Doña Ana County. This was the 15th year that Jack and Peggy Petrowsky served as lead volunteers for the project. When they took over the program in the mid-1990s, fewer than 100 children were receiving toys. The Petrowskys work with all LCPS elementary schools and some schools in the Gadsden district as well.

The 16th annual Las Cruces Coats for Kids program provided warm coats for 3,000 children in LCPS and Gadsden this year. Major sponsors are First Community Bank (thank you, Karen Bailey!), Comet Cleaners, 101 Gold Radio and the Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico, along with other businesses and individuals. The program has provided coats to more than 19,000 children since it began in 1995.

All these programs are so important to our community and our school district. We are very grateful for the programs and for all the businesses, organizations and individuals who support them and our children.

Stan Rounds  
Superintendent  
Las Cruces Public Schools

### New convention center is the latest Las Cruces success story

The recent grand opening of the Las Cruces Convention Center was an historic step for our community. From the La Casa Bazaar to the opening public ceremonies to the fabulous banquet, David Hicks with Global Spectrum and Ken Mompeier with the City of Las Cruces, should be proud of themselves and their wonderful staff. Everyone was so helpful and energetic, and the service was flawless.

So many great leaders and elected officials have worked so

hard far so many years to make this dream come true. After the events of last week, one wonders what we did before we had the center. The building itself is attractive and user-friendly and the access to parking is very easy. Already the convention center has future bookings, and it is obvious that this is one of the latest success stories for Las Cruces.

Heather W. Pollard

### Santas for Seniors appreciate community's generosity

You've done it again Doña Ana County! For six years we have sponsored Be a Santa to a Senior, and this is the sixth year we have been absolutely overwhelmed at the caring generosity of the people in this area in providing gifts and help in wrapping them.

Thanks to about 25 municipal, county and state agencies, long-term care facilities and other senior providers for supplying names of lonely and less-fortunate seniors. Huge thanks to Mesilla Valley Mall for once again putting up the tree and allowing the gifts to be cycled through their Customer Service Center. We so appreciate our landlord at 880 S. Telshor Blvd., Ty Murphy of L & G Mortgagebank, for allowing us the use of one of the suites to store and wrap the gifts.

We are overcome with gratitude to the hundreds of thoughtful citizens of the community that provided more than 500 much-needed gifts like robes, slippers, gift cards and even pet food to lonely seniors. Be assured that each gift was received with joy, smiles and even a few happy tears. And, many, many thanks to those community volunteers who came to help wrap all those presents, too. The wrapping was in itself a delight to the senior recipients so we extend appreciation to the students from Hermosa Heights Elementary School who decorated the bags – and of course to the administration staff there that made it all possible.

Plus, we don't want to forget a big thank you to our caregivers and staff. The success of Be a Santa to a Senior would not be possible without their donation of time and energy in coordinating the program and wrapping and delivering gifts.

So, again thank you to all who participated in helping provide a practical and emotional boost to many deserving seniors. We'll be back with the program next year and look forward to serving even more of Doña Ana County's elderly.

Jan Wimsatt  
Home Instead Senior Care

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**CRIME OF THE WEEK** featured on page **A14**

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## Coming Up

### Pro-life rally Saturday

A "Stand Up For Life!" rally sponsored by the Doña Ana County Chapter of the Right to Life Committee of New Mexico will be from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at Albert Johnson Park, on the corner of Main Street and Picacho Avenue.

For more information, email [donaana.rtl@gmail.com](mailto:donaana.rtl@gmail.com).

### History society to hold awards banquet Jan. 29

The Doña Ana County Historical Society will hold its annual awards banquet from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. The banquet includes a social hour and dinner, followed by the presentation of awards. Cost for the banquet is \$32 for members and \$35 for non-members.

The deadline to buy tickets is Friday, Jan. 21. For more information, call Xandy at 526-9774.

### Free-throw contests set

The Local Knights of Columbus councils will hold its annual free-throw competition for boys and girls ages 10 to 14 the last two Saturdays in January. Contest winners will receive prizes and become eligible to advance to regional and national competitions.

Council No. 1226 will host a competition from 9 to

11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. For more information, call Mannie Morales at 522-0437.

Council No. 9527 will host a competition from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Holy Cross School gymnasium, 1331 N. Miranda St. For more information, call Eric Conrad at 524-0755.

St. Genevieve Council No. 13969 will host a competition from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. For more information, call Jaime Flores at 523-7158.

### Sierra Club hikes slated

The Sierra Club will host a series of hikes in the coming months. Nonmembers are welcome.

An easy to moderate day hike to Red Canyon near Truth or Consequences will be Saturday, Jan. 22. Nonmembers are welcome. For more information, call 430-4839.

A day outing to view petroglyphs in the Three Rivers area north of Alamogordo will be Saturday, Jan. 29. For more information, call 744-5860.

An easy to moderate day hike in the national forest north of Hillsboro will be Saturday, Feb. 5. Participants should meet at the U.S. Forest Service parking lot in Truth or Consequences at 8 a.m. For more information, call Kass Akers at 430-1834.

An exploratory hike in the Cuchillo Mountains north of Winston will be Saturday, Feb. 12. Nonmembers are wel-

come. For more information, call 772-5655.

A moderate day hike to Percha Creek Box near Hillsboro will be Saturday, Feb. 19. Participants should meet at the U.S. Forest Service parking lot in Truth or Consequences at 8 a.m. For more information, call Kass Akers at 430-1834.

The Sierra Club will have a day hike in the Nutt Grasslands south of Hillsboro on Saturday, Feb. 26. Participants should meet at the U.S. Forest Service parking lot in Truth or Consequences at 8 a.m. For more information, call 744-5860.

A 6- to 7-mile moderate day hike to Goat Mountain near Truth or Consequences will be Saturday, March 5. Participants should meet at the U.S. Forest Service parking lot in Truth or Consequences at 8 a.m. For more information, call Kass Akers at 430-1834.

A day hike to Indian Creek in the San Mateo Mountains will be Saturday, March 26. Nonmembers are welcome and participants should meet at the U.S. Forest Service parking lot in Truth or Consequences at 8 a.m. For more information, call 744-5860.

### GOP women meet Jan. 28

The Federated Republican Women of Doña Ana County will meet at the Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3100 Buena Vida Circle at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 28. The program will be a pictorial presentation by Carol Richardson related to the Wilderness Bill S-1089. Cost of the buffet luncheon is \$8.

Reservation must be received not later than noon Monday, Jan. 24. For more information or to make a reservation, call 527-5574 or email [cat.fuller@comcast.net](mailto:cat.fuller@comcast.net).

### Science Café set Thursday

"The Science of Wild Lobos" will be discussed in a lecture at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, at the Science Café at the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History at Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd.

Kevin Bixby, executive director of the Southwest Environmental Center, will discuss his call for a new science-based recovery plan for the Mexican gray wolf. Bixby will discuss the principles of conservation biology and their application in the Southwest.

Sigma Xi's Science Café is presented by the Scientific Research Society, in cooperation with the Las Cruces Museum of Natural History. The free café discussions present explanations of recent research to advance greater public understanding and use of available science. Students and all those seeking greater knowledge of current science are encouraged to be at the Science Café.

### Tip-A-Cop at Applebee's

The annual Tip-A-Cop benefit for Special Olympics will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at both Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill restaurants. Las Cruces Police will serve food, fill drinks and collect donations for Special Olympics at the Applebee's restaurant at 2501 E. Lohman Ave. Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office deputies and officers from other area law enforcement agencies will be doing the same at the Applebee's at 1601 Hickory Loop.

Several local Special Olympians also will be on hand during the evening to wait tables and help answer questions about Special Olympics.

Proceeds from the Tip-A-Cop evening event are donated to New Mexico Special Olympics.

For more information, call 528-4112.

### DAAC holds Grammy raffle

The Doña Ana Arts Council, in partnership with The Recording Academy, will be sending a lucky raffle winner and guest to the 53rd annual Grammy Awards on Feb. 13 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. The awards package includes airfare and hotel for two, along with two Bronze tickets to attend the ceremony. Tickets for this event are available by invitation only and are not for sale to the public. Raffle tickets are \$10. The drawing will be held on Friday, Feb. 4. Purchasers need not be present to win.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the DAAC offices at 523-6403.

### City offers kids swim workshop

The Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a SWIM STEPS aquatic workshop for children 8 years old or younger who can swim without flotation devices or adult support in the water.

Participants and their parents will receive instruction on how to correctly complete the swimming skills required to pass the City of Las Cruces Water Safety Swim Test. Swim Test Evaluation Process participants will review the front crawl (20 yards), swimming on the back (20 yards) and treading water. Currently, all children 8 years old or younger must have an adult in the water with them at all times at any city aquatic facility unless the child can successfully pass the swim test.

SWIM STEPS sessions will be offered from 5 to 5:30 p.m. the last Friday of each month at the Regional Aquatic Center through May. The workshops are 25 minutes long and are on a first-come, first-served basis,

with a six child maximum. A parental consent form, available at the service desk, must be filled out prior to participation. Children must have a responsible adult with them on deck during the session.

Cost is \$1 per participant, payable at time of admission. The fee does not cover additional swim time in the pool after the workshop.

Participation in a workshop does not guarantee passing the swim test. Participants who pass the test after the workshop will be recorded in the Swim Test book at the service desk. All participants must wear regulation swimwear. Goggles are allowed, but not provided.

For more information, call the Las Cruces Regional Aquatic Center at 541-2782. The TTY number is 541-2661.

### VFW awards banquet set

VFW Post No. 10124 of Las Cruces has selected Zia Middle School teacher Marvid Charlson to receive its 2010-11 VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top classroom teachers who teach citizenship education topics and promote America's history, traditions and institutions.

Charlson will be honored at the post's annual recognition banquet, which will be held Saturday, Feb. 26, at the VFW Post No. 10124, 709 S. Valley Drive. Dinner will begin at 5 p.m., and the awards ceremony will follow at 6 p.m. The Mayfield High School Army JROTC unit will post the colors.

During the banquet, VFW Post No. 10124 will also recognize LCPS middle and high school students who won the VFW's 2010-11 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests. The students who won and their families and teachers have been invited to the banquet. Winners will receive certificates, medals and cash awards.

For more information, contact Lawton at 522-2056 or [dlawton1@q.com](mailto:dlawton1@q.com).

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Residents are invited to a public meeting, hosted by the City of Las Cruces to view conceptual plans for a park to be located in the medians of Engler Road. The City's landscape architect will present the conceptual park plan. Residents will also be able to provide input for the concept and final design.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26**  
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# Viking 11 sets altitude record

## Early rocket launches plagued with numerous flaws

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

*Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part story.*

The engine that would propel the rocket to a record-breaking height "was powered by roughly the equivalent of 2,300 average 1954 automobiles," The Associated Press reported in a story in the Alamogordo Daily News published on Jan. 20, 1955.

"The Defense Department last night announced that a Navy Viking single-stage rocket soared 158 miles above the earth, a new record for rockets of that type," AP reported. The story detailed the successful flight of the Viking No. 11, launched from White Sands Proving Ground. The information had not been made public when the rocket lifted off eight months earlier on May 24, 1954.

The Viking program began at the end of World War II, according to Peter Alway in "Rockets of the World: A Modeler's Guide."

"The Naval Research Laboratory's guided missile group was searching for a new mission. A significant contingent of scientists-turned-engineers were eager to leave weapons engineering and return to scientific work, carrying on (Dr. Robert Goddard's sounding rocket idea," Alway said.

A sounding rocket carries experiments and equipment into the upper atmosphere.

"Sounding rockets' got their name from an old naval practice," said New Mexico Museum of Space History Curator George House. "It's analogous to maritime sounding, when the old sailors used to drop stone on a rope and they could gauge depth from the water they were in. It's an old maritime term. It makes sense for space; it just goes the other way – up instead of down."

"Webster's New World Dictionary: Third College Edition" defines sounding as "the act of measuring the depth or examining the bottom of a body of water." Conversely, the dictionary defined sounding as "an examination of the atmosphere at or to a given height ... measurements learned of data acquired by sounding."

The scientists-turned-engineers, Alway said, were "unimpressed by the limited capabilities of the simple unguided, pressure-fed WAC (Without Attitude Control) Corporal and Aerobee," rockets, both of which had been launched from White Sands. So they "settled on a large, guided rocket modeled after the German V-2." The engineers set about making changes, such as designing a more slender shape to improve stability, and incorporating the fuel tank with the fuselage to

save weight.

"The Viking was roughly half the size, in terms of mass and power, of the German V-2," the website worldlingo.com said.

The project was first named Neptune. However, by 1949, when the first of the 12 rockets began flying, the name had been changed to Viking "to avoid confusion with the Lockheed P2V Neptune aircraft," Alway said.

The Glenn L. Martin Co. built the Viking frame, and AP reported that Reaction Motors Inc., of Rockaway, N.J., "designed and produced the engine."

According to Alway, Reaction engineers were "a group of American Rocket Society alumni." Wordiq.com states the ARS was founded in 1930 as the American Interplanetary Society, became the ARS in 1934, and in 1963 "was absorbed into the

Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics." In the late 1930s, the organization "did pioneering work ... testing the design requirements of liquid-fueled rockets, with a number of successful test launches occurring in this period pointing the way to the United States space program."

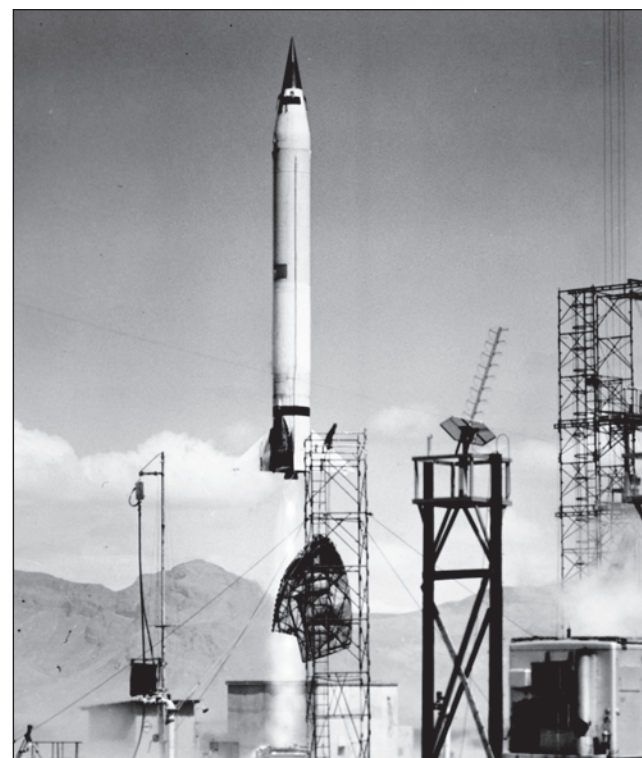
Before each launch, Alway said, the Viking engine was test fired. "This led to a couple of heartbreaking disasters before launch, but the close-up observation of fires and explosions on the ground gave the Viking team (the) chance to work out flaws in each rocket before flight. The team of young, enthusiastic and innovative – but inexperienced – engineers Martin assigned to design Viking provided plenty of flaws."

The first test took place on March 11, 1949, "after countless delays," Alway said. "A leaky turbine had started a fire in the tail. After heroic attempts to fix the leaks in the inaccessible pump, the Viking crew at White Sands launched Viking 1 on May 3, 1949."

"Star Throwers of the Tularosa" (Human Systems Research/1997) said the rocket lifted off from the White Sands Launch Complex 33 and reached 50 miles in altitude. The goal had been twice that, said Alway, but "after 50 seconds of a planned 65-second burn, the engine shut down. The fix was inadequate."

Viking 2 lifted off on Sept. 6, 1949, but only reached 32 miles, Alway said. Viking 3, launched on Feb. 9, 1950, reached just 50 miles after the "engine was cut off by the range safety officer" because of "a control system malfunction."

The only Viking not to launch from White Sands was No. 4, which "took off from the USS Norton Sound, the Navy's missile test ship," in May 1950, Alway said. "For the first time, a Viking functioned flawlessly, reaching an altitude of 105 miles." However, the data from the payload's experiments was



New Mexico Museum of Space History archives

**Viking 11 lifts off from the Launch Complex 33 pad at White Sands Proving Ground on its way to a record-breaking flight on May 24, 1954.**

considered "useless."

Viking 5 – launched on Nov. 21, 1950 – carried instrumentation "to study solar radiation, cosmic rays and the ionosphere," Alway said. The rocket "reached an altitude of 108 miles, successfully transmitting radio signals ... that allowed scientists to measure the electron density in the ionosphere. While the engine performance was below normal, this was the first of the series to return good scientific data."

Viking 6, in December 1950, carried a smaller payload, with weight "further reduced by replacing the steel clad fins with an all aluminum design. The light payload resulted in an unusually fast boost, resulting in unprecedented aerodynamic heating and stress. At an altitude of 25 miles, the fins crumpled, sending Viking 6 tumbling end-over-end" back to earth, Alway said.

Viking 7 launched on Aug. 7, 1951, carrying solar experiments and "strengthened" fins. "This time," said Alway, "the Viking rocket performed flawlessly and its fins survived." While "the X-ray and cosmic ray plates were damaged beyond use, good atmospheric data was received to an altitude of 136 miles."

*Michael Shinabery is an educational specialist and Humanities Scholar with the New Mexico Museum of Space History. He may be contacted by email at michael.shinabery@state.nm.us.*



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Dr. Jennifer Ganz

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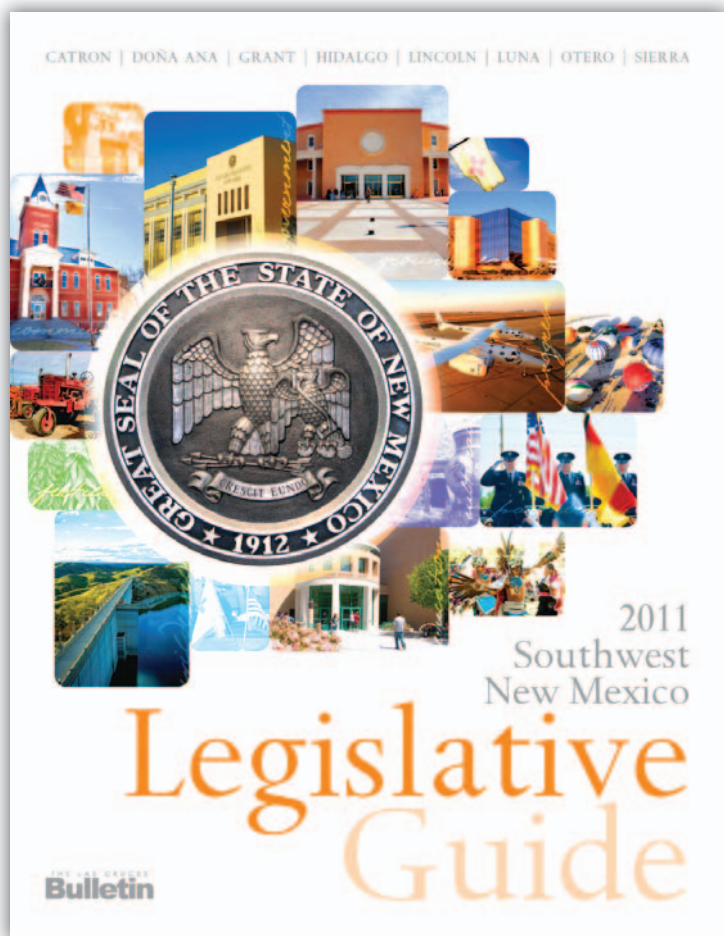
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## Trackways kiosk unveiled



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Jerry MacDonald, who discovered Paleozoic trackways in the Robledo Mountains, joins Bureau of Land Management park ranger McKinney Briske and planner Lori Allen at an informational kiosk set up at the entrance to the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument. MacDonald and the BLM officials said the kiosk gives visitors detailed information about the fossilized records of early terrestrial life at the area, which was a section of sea shore more than 200 million years ago. The area also is often used by mountain bicyclists and off-road enthusiasts.

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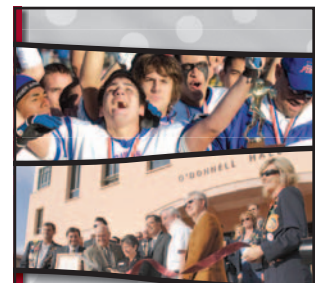
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# Visiting new future for the De la O building in Doña Ana

Photos by Todd Dickson

At the grand opening Saturday, Jan. 15, of the restored De la O Saloon – now to be a community center in Doña Ana – Senate Majority Whip Mary Jane Garcia, right, greets New Mexico State University professor Jeff Brown, who was part of the review team for her master's thesis on the history of Doña Ana. Garcia said it was her love for the community and its history that drove her efforts to secure funding to restore the adobe building on what was once the Camino Real de la Tierra Adentro, the principal Spanish colonial trade route into New Mexico. See page B16 for a photo of the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Emilio Tapia visits the "bar" with Mariano Martinez, who is serving sodas and other refreshments.



Doña Ana residents and a host of officials gather in the plaza after visiting the restored adobe building that housed families into the 1990s.



District Judge Mannie Arrieta and Las Cruces City Councillor Gill Sorg visit with Public Education Commissioner Gene Gant.

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THE LAS CRUCES  
**Bulletin**

# Most farmers comply to OSE well metering order

## Tracking water supply is aim of program

By **Marvin Tessneer**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

The New Mexico State Engineer John D'Antonio has reported a favorable response to his well meter order that he needs to learn how much water is available in the state and how it can be properly managed for the public.

In December 2004, D'Antonio issued the metering order for the Lower Rio Grande, and since then there has been 90 percent compliance by well owners, the OSE reported.

Sheldon Dorman, a water master for District 4, said there are about 11,000 wells in this district, mostly for agriculture. His crews check the wells to see if they have meters and meet the legal definition of agriculture or domestic.

District 4 extends from the Elephant Butte Reservoir to the Texas state line.

"We work with the people to help them into compliance," Dorman said. "Most people understand the importance of having well meters so that we can measure how much water is being pumped out of the ground."

The information that is obtained from the meters is important in order to know what is happening hydrologically in the basin, allowing

the state engineer to better manage the water resource, according to a press release.

"Metering is an important tool to put in place by the state engineer in order to effectively manage the state's water resources," a press release said. "Once it is known exactly how much water is available for use and how much is being put to use, the resource can be properly managed, especially in times of drought or variable supply."

OSE approval is required for every use of groundwater in New Mexico.

The office is charged by state statute to supervise the use of state water resources through measurement, appropriation and distribution of all ground and surface water in New Mexico, including streams and rivers, Karin Stangl, communication director, said.

OSE approval is required to obtain new appropriations, drill a well, divert surface water or change the place or purpose of use of and existing water rights.

The OSE also acts on water rights applications, evaluates existing water rights, measures and documents water use and the source promotes conservation and performs the scientific, historical and legal research for adjudication that is needed to support its activities.

## Briefs

### AG warns of health inspector scam

The state Environmental Health Division has reported to the New Mexico Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division that the latest version of a health inspector scam is making its way into restaurants statewide.

Posing as health inspectors from the "State Health Department" and the "United States Department of Agriculture," scammers are calling restaurant employees in Alamogordo, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Clovis and Deming, stating they have "had a complaint" and will be visiting their establishment "today."

During the discussion, the scammer instructs the restaurant employee to "hang up the phone" so as to receive another call that will "provide ID numbers of the inspectors."

The subsequent call is automated and provides a "Craigslist password" while another reported call requests credit card machine numbers. Though it is not clear the specific intent of the calls, the "health inspector" scammers appear to be phishing for credit card numbers and personal information.

Restaurants receiving this type of call are

asked to report the activity to their local law enforcement agency and the AG's office at [communications@nmag.gov](mailto:communications@nmag.gov).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and State of New Mexico health inspectors will never ask for any type of payment or credit card information, according to a press release about the scam.

### Registration deadline set for Tri-Unity event

The deadline to pre-register for the Feb. 18 Tri-Unity Conference at New Mexico State University's Corbett Center is Tuesday, Feb. 1.

The conference is an annual event offered by the College of Education, Aprendamos Intervention Team and Direct Therapy Services.

This year's conference will talk about "Supporting Treatment for Autism with Evidence-Based Practice." The keynote speaker is Jennifer Ganz, Ph.D., BCBA-D, a professor of special education at Texas A&M.

The registration form can be downloaded online at [www.triunityconference.com](http://www.triunityconference.com).

Call Felicia Olivas at 526-6682 for more information.



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# Checking out the new Las Cruces Convention Center

Photos by Todd Dickson and Nikki Rhynes

Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Ken Mompellier welcomes guests to the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the Las Cruces Convention Center Thursday, Jan. 13.



Jack Nolen, 6, practices his dance moves after getting his face painted at one of the many booths during the open house of the Las Cruces Convention Center, Saturday, Jan. 15. The event allowed residents to tour the new facility as well as meet with community organizations and check out emergency-response vehicles that were parked in the exhibition hall.



Kennedy Hicks, 8, gets acquainted with Libby, who works with Keep Las Cruces Beautiful to get children in the community excited about recycling.



Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima welcomes visitors to the center.

Las Cruces firefighter Cody Haver sings the national anthem during the posting of the colors by the New Mexico State University Air Force ROTC unit.



Josiah Nanez, 13, gets a closer look at a police car.

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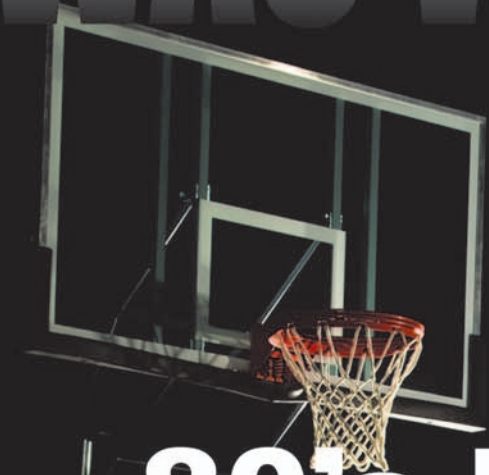
# Newspaper storage building catches fire



Fire crews finish extinguishing a fire Sunday, Jan. 16, that gutted a building owned by the Las Cruces Sun-News. The building was primarily used for storage, but damage to the electrical and phone systems from water and fire forced the staff to temporarily work out of a local hotel. Fire Investigator James VonSchriltz reported that the area of origin had been found inside an adobe brick building located approximately 30 feet east of the Las Cruces Sun-News front doors. There is a 1-foot breezeway separating the adobe building and the red brick main Sun-News building.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

# WAC WEEKEND



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## Reward remains for legion arson

Fire investigators are still pursuing leads on an arson Wednesday, Jan. 5, at the American Legion Post 10, 1185 E. Madrid Ave.

Smoke was detected at about 8:40 p.m. as people were leaving the legion hall after a night of bingo. Though the fire was put out quickly, it damaged the wall and other items in the back of the hall that serves as a small museum for the post.

A reward of \$1,000 is being offered for the arrest and conviction of those responsible. To give tips, call Post Commander Clint Dozier at 915-7217 or Vice Commander John Flores at 915-7340. These are better contact phone numbers than had been previously announced.

## CrimeStoppers

### Missing man

Las Cruces Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that helps locate a Hatch, N.M., man who has been missing for more than two months.

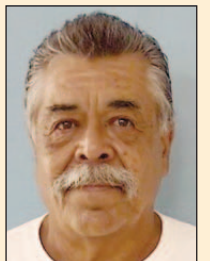
Henry Apodaca, 56, was last seen at his Hatch home in late October 2010. Apodaca's family reported him missing and believes his disappearance is unusual. Apodaca's Ford pickup is accounted for, leading investigators to believe he left on foot or with someone else.

The Doña Ana County Sheriff's Office is investigating Apodaca's disappearance.

Apodaca is Hispanic, 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs approximately 180 pounds. He has salt-and-pepper hair and brown eyes.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of Henry Apodaca you are asked to call Las Cruces Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477) or send a tip via text message to LCTIPS (528477).

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



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## Don't leave those ears unguarded



**Jim Hilley**  
*Bulletin in the Zone*

One of my favorite moves in basketball is the pump fake. Not only does a good fake usually lead to an easy basket, it also makes the opposing player look like an idiot.

One of the all-time best Aggies at the pump fake was Gilbert Wilburn, who played from 1984-86 and was all-Big West Conference in his senior season.

Wilburn was only about 6-5 and built a lot like current Aggie Tyrone Watson. He was a great scorer, averaging 23.6 points his junior year and 19.1 as a senior.

A lot of his scoring prowess was due to his faking ability.

One fake – out of their shoes.

Two fakes – out of their socks.

Three fakes? You bet – maybe four sometimes.

Sadly, during his time at NMSU, Wilburn lost his mother, and after traveling home to California, he struggled through his first few games back in Las Cruces. It seemed to me that the pump fake was missing from his game.

Wilburn didn't know me from Adam, but one evening at a restaurant on El Paseo we passed by each other.

"Gilbert," I said, "don't forget the extra fake," hoping to plant a little bug in his ear.

The next game he was back in form, leaving opponents' sneakers all over the court – figuratively speaking. I'll probably never know if our chance encounter actually made a difference, but as an Aggie fan, it's a memory I'll always cherish.

One current Aggie who has the knack for pump faking is Troy Gillenwater, but since his recent injuries I haven't seen as much of it.

I asked him about it at the Aggies' press conference on Tuesday, abandoning my role as a journalist in favor of a shameless bug planter.

"The ankle has kind of slowed me down from jumping the way I want to jump, I'm not as explosive as I can be," Gillenwater said. "I think the more games that we play it will get better."

"You'll start seeing some more up fakes and finishes," he said with a grin.

The Aggies faced Nevada at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, and travel on to play league-leading Utah State at 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22. The games in on ESPNU.

You can bet that during both games, I'll be listening to Jack Nixon's call and hoping to hear the sound of Wolfpack and Utah sneakers hitting the floor.

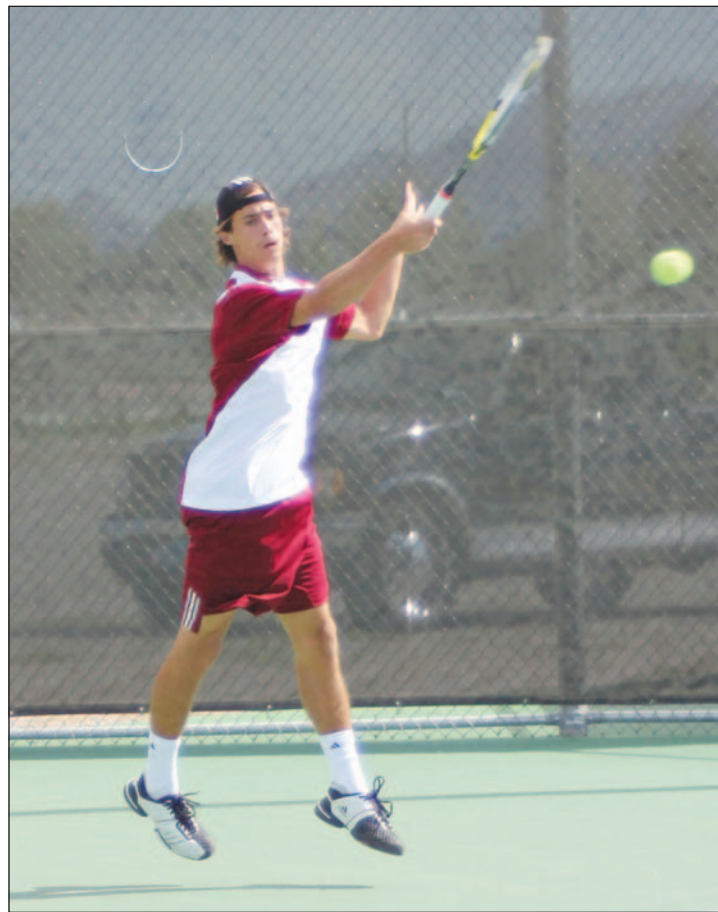
Oh how I love those pump fakes – excuse me "up fakes."

Now, if I can just get Watson and Wendell McKines to watch some old film of Wilburn ...

Oh well, I guess that's enough bug planting for now.

# Optimism on serve

## Aggie tennis program begins spring play with new energy



**Arthur Surreaux is one of several Aggie tennis players hoping to follow up outstanding fall seasons with spring success.**

**By Jim Hilley**  
 Las Cruces Bulletin

There is an air of optimism at New Mexico State University's Tennis Center.

With several men and women on the Aggies' team coming off of outstanding fall seasons, coaches Carlos Vargas and Ivan Fernandez are eager to begin play.

"I had several players that had good results, but obviously there were at least two that had extremely good results and now are being recognized at least in the pre-season in the national rankings," Vargas said.

Vargas is referring to senior Arthur Surreaux, who will start the spring season in the national rankings at No. 74, and Matej Stakne, who played deep in to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) regional tournament in the fall.

Surreaux led the Aggies with a 17-2 tournament record in the

fall season. Upon qualifying for the ITA All-American Championships, Surreaux was undefeated in tournaments, winning the singles title in the Aggie Invitational and the Baylor HEB Invitational. In the Baylor HEB Invitational during September 2010, Surreaux defeated Jeff Dadamo of Texas A&M, who was ranked No. 22 in the nation at the time.

NMSU also has the doubles team of Surreaux and fellow senior Jim Brouleau in the national rankings at No. 34, making them the second highest doubles pair in the WAC. The pair had a 10-2 in the fall,

including the doubles title in the Aggie Invite.

"We are coming off the best fall season I feel we ever had," Vargas said.

The ITA ranked the Aggie men's tennis team as No. 67 in the nation to open up the spring season.

The men's tennis team played

See **Optimism** on page A19

“ We are coming off the best fall season I feel we ever had. ”

CARLOS VARGAS,  
 NMSU men's tennis coach

## Elena Holguin: Embracing challenge

### Mayfield point guard makes comeback

**By Craig Massey**  
 Las Cruces Bulletin

Elena Holguin was only a third-grader when she became a regular at the basketball practices in the Mayfield High School gym.

When her older sister, Sophia, joined Mayfield's freshman team, Elena would sometimes tag along. During the practices, she would get a spare basketball and repeatedly heave it skyward at one of goals on the side of the court.

"I would even put on (Sophia's) jersey," Elena recalls. "She was my role model."

Now, Elena is in the gym, standing under the same basketball goal at which she used to aim. Nine years later, the goal is much closer to the 5-foot-9 athlete ... in more ways than one.

She is a senior at Mayfield now and one of the top players in the state. A team captain, Holguin leads MHS with 16.7 points per game and also grabs 4.7 rebounds per game from her shooting-guard position. She and the Trojans enter the district portion of the schedule with a 14-3 record.

"This is the year everything is coming together," Holguin said. "We have experience, and we need to use it on the court. We're sort of in a slump right now. If we really want to be state champions, we have to make sacrifices. We need to stay home and rest instead of going out with our friends. It takes dedication."

The goal for Holguin and the third-ranked Trojans is a state championship. Sophia went on to win a state title on the 2004 team, and the girls' brother, Alex, was a standout member of two Mayfield state championship football teams.

"I've always looked up to them," Elena said. "They're leaders and winners. I come from a very competitive family and they want me to get a ring to complete the trio."

Mayfield coach George Maya has had several outstanding, wise, dedicated players come through his program during the past 16 years and Elena Holguin is in the same class with the best of them.

Physically, she is a tall, lean, talented guard who can shoot, jump, pass and defend. But it's

“ I want them to say ‘Hey, if she can do it, I can do it.’ ”

ELENA HOLGUIN,  
 Mayfield point guard



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Craig Massey  
**Mayfield High School point guard Elena Holguin has come back from a leg injury to lead the Trojans basketball team.**

See **Holguin** on page A19

# Onthegreen

## Golfers mourn the loss of Barry McClure

### Champion athlete was humble, meticulous, and will be missed

Last week our golfing community suffered a great loss with the untimely passing of Barry McClure. Barry was my friend, and he was a friend of everyone who knew him.

To say that Barry loved his golf would be a gross understatement. As a middle-aged fellow, he nearly lived for golf. But "back in the day" Barry's athletic prowess was in track and field, something he talked very little about. Make no mistake, Barry was a talker – but not a bragger.

As a star performer at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn., Barry was a two-time NCAA national champion in the triple jump. The triple jump, at one time referred to as the "hop, step and jump" or the "hop, skip and jump," has its origins in the ancient Olympics and has been a modern Olympic event since the games' inception in 1896.

Barry was an American national record holder in triple jump from 1970 through 1973, putting Middle Tennessee State on the map in becoming an internationally famous program for triple and long jumpers. He was also an important figure in the integration of the university's athletic program.

Even though his cabinets and drawers at home were stuffed with medals, trophies and plaques, Barry didn't go around telling folks about the glory days. But glorious they were.

Consider this. Barry McClure was a seven-time All-American, eventually ending his career having scored more NCAA championship points, both indoors and outdoors, than any other triple jumper in history. Most of his friends knew Barry was an elite athlete but never heard much about the level on which he competed or the details.

As fellow golfer George Ruth, senior vice president with Citizens Bank, recalled, Barry just humbly summed up his career with, "I had game."

As a golfer, Barry was my kind of player. A near-scratch golfer, Barry asked no quarter and gave no quarter, but he was a comfortable playing with a high-handicapper as well as a "stick." He worked continually on his game. He was very serious about getting the most he could out of his talent for golf.

I suspect he approached the triple jump in much the same way. He wasn't bothered by losing a match or losing money. He wanted most to play excellent shots and execute his golfing skills just the way he knew how. He only became upset when he knew he wasn't playing up to his true potential.

If he missed a putt he felt he should have made, he would gently chide himself aloud with, "Ah, Barry, you didn't trust it." When he made a difficult shot he might declare, "That's what I'm talkin' about."

I always thought Barry approached his golf with the same passion, methodical behavior and level of commitment that a tour player would.

One of Barry's endearing quirks was that he loved training devices and new things that would help him practice better. He became affectionately known as the "gadget man."

One of his playing partners at Picacho remarked, "Barry had every golf gadget you could find, for practicing putting or for alignment on the range. He had it all. He even had a special device to clip his range finder on the cover post of the cart. He had a special locking humidifier case for his cigars that looked like it was made for James Bond."

Anyone who ever played golf with Barry knows he kept his scorecard in a fastidious manner. He printed special multi-colored cards on his computer to keep track of the games and bets in an orderly manner, using markers of different colors, with red for birdies. One of our friends described his scoring as "a colorful visual display that looked like a

small TV set."

To give an idea of how much of a gentleman and what kind of sportsmanship Barry demonstrated, let me share a story from Mike Anderson, one of the regular players in Barry's Wednesday Picacho group.

"We were both competing in the 2006 Sun Country match play championships in Albuquerque, and I was to play my match against Barry on the second day, which turned out to be very cold. Well, Barry shows up with a cart cover, which he had brought with him, as well as a propane heater for inside the cart. We rode together, and shared the heater even though I was the opponent, and we both stayed warm and toasty. I forget who won," Mike added with his voice trailing off.

Everyone knew that Barry was deliberate and meticulous. Not just about golf, but about how he dressed – always sharp, with matching shirt, slacks, cap – how he practiced, how he selected a bottle of wine, fine cigars, top-of-the-line golf clubs and everything else.

He was most wise in his choice of mates, marrying the warm and gracious Gwen. I have known Gwen McClure professionally for several years, since she is the senior head of nursing at the Mimbres Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home in Deming, which is one of my contract facilities for geriatric care.

We all offer our heartfelt sympathies to you, Gwen.

Often the hard work on the range and the putting green paid off. Barry won the Match Play Championship twice at Picacho Hills County Club, his home course, and won one Senior Championship at the White Sands Missile Range Golf Course. He has played in every North-South

**Charlie Blanchard**  
Golf Doctor



Senior Challenge match in the past four years and has been instrumental in two of the wins for the South team. He also played a key role in organizing the North-South events all four years.

And there are many other ways that Barry McClure gave of himself. He served on the board of the Men's Golf Association at Picacho and served as a director of the Sun Country Amateur Golf Association, which is the New Mexico arm of the USGA. He selflessly worked to improve conditions and tournaments for all golfers and cared little about personal rewards.

During the last few years he volunteered as an assistant coach for the track and field teams at New Mexico State University, working long hours with the jumpers. They just knew him as "Coach Mac." As George Ruth put it, "Barry was a personality that dynamically impacted our community."

From my saddened heart, all I have to say to you, Barry my friend, as you make your way over that rainbow bridge to the Promised Land, is ... "Thank you."


*Dr. Charlie Blanchard is a licensed psychologist specializing in sports and leadership who works with PGA professionals and young golfers. Email Blanchard at drblanchard@lascrucesbulletin.com.*



Oñate High School

## High School

### Athlete of the Week



**Jasmine Barnes**

Jasmine Barnes is a 17-year-old senior at Oñate High School. She plays forward on the Lady Knight's basketball team and has averaged 14 points, two assists and 10 rebounds the past three games. Barnes is a hard worker and serves as an excellent role model for all the younger girls in the Lady Knight program. She is also a dedicated student with a 3.85 GPA.


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**Jaren Foote**

Jaren Foote is an 18-year-old senior at Oñate High School. He plays forward/post on the Knights basketball team. This season, he has averaged five points, nine blocked shots and five rebounds per game. Foote has had a significant impact in defending and playing hard – both have contributed to the team's success. He is a dedicated student with a 4.0 GPA and enjoys extreme sports when not on the court or in the classroom.



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# Aggie Insider



## Wood bats won't slow Aggies' baseball show

### NCAA rule tosses aluminum bats

New Mexico State's baseball season is just around the corner, and there will be a new wrinkle added this year.

The NCAA has ruled that the old metallic bats are taboo. The "sticks" this year will be more like wood. Many are predicting a reduction in the number of home runs, but don't expect much of a let down in offense from head coach Rocky Ward's Aggies.

Already, senior outfielder Chace Perkins has been tabbed for big things. Collegebaseball lineup.com put Perkins on its third team preseason honors list for all Division I college baseball teams. Perkins led the team in home runs with 17 of the 104 round trippers the Aggies hit last year. The season starts in about a month when NM State hosts Houston Baptist starting Feb. 18.

The week before on Feb. 12, the annual alumni game begins at 2 p.m. The Lobos will be at Presley Askew Field, for a 6 a.m. March 8 start, and NM State visits the Lobos Feb. 22 for an afternoon game. There will be 31 home games with 12 WAC contests in the mix.

Ward will also take his squad to tournaments at Lamar and Oregon State in the first and second weekends of March. They will face San Francisco, Cal State Northridge and Lamar in Beaumont, Texas.

In Corvallis, Ore., the Aggies meet the host Beavers and Virginia Military in double headers.



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

The Aggies had a smooth run through last season totaling up 36 wins with a 60 percent winning percentage. They wound up in second in the conference in 2010 taking Fresno State down to the wire in the regular season race. The WAC has earned a reputation as a national power in college baseball and NM State again looks to be a part of the title race this year.

Ward will make an extended trip to the West Coast the third week of April when the Aggies travel on from Reno, Nev., to Seattle for two weeks. NM State will meet Nevada the weekend of April 22 and the following weekend faces Seattle in a four-game series.

This is Ward's 13th year as the Aggies' boss with a pair of NCAA appearances and a consistent winning record on his résumé.

The new rules on bats will open an entirely new area of debate in college baseball. The Aggies have been able to adapt their approach in the past and likely will be able to do likewise this season.

Aggie baseball is an adventure every spring. Games that have big run totals and last minute heroics are always a regular part of the game story. The Aggies are ready to play the latest brand of college baseball, it should be fun.

## Formula for success

### NMSU softball team brings back experienced group for '11 season

The 2011 softball season is just around the corner and your Aggies are fired up to get the first pitch underway on Feb. 11.

Every year, we have a team slogan that guides us through our season. For 2011, we formulated an equation that employs all of the key behavioral tenets in our program: E 3 = OKC.

We believe that engaged, enthusiastic, effort has the potential to lead our team to Oklahoma City, home of the NCAA Division I Women's College World Series. It also has the power to change the course of our lives in the classroom and in the Las Cruces community.

On the diamond, we expect the very best from our Aggies and they hold themselves to the same standard. This year, we have a veteran hitting squad that has rewritten every offensive statistic as a team or individual. We finished in the top 20 of all NCAA Division I universities for the majority of team offense statistics in 2010 and we return eight of our nine starting hitters for 2011.

Our pitching staff gained valuable experience last year and is looking forward to putting that experience to work in 2011. We have five returning pitchers who will compete for different roles this season. We also have a talented newcomer who should step up and earn time as a true freshman.

Defensively, we return eight starters from a defense that was ranked No. 2 amongst WAC teams and earned a top-10 ranking in



**Kathy Rodolph**  
*Softball*  
*Head Coach*

NCAA Division I for double plays turned.

Our excellence on the diamond is just one factor in our total E3 equation. New Mexico State softball also earned a top-40 ranking amongst NCAA Division I for team grade point average at 3.26.

In 2010, softball led all NM State sports teams in community service involvement for the third year in a row. Each team member averaged 25 hours of service in the Las Cruces community and one young lady finished with a university-leading 47 hours. All of this while maintaining the rigorous schedule of full-time student athletes.

We hope you will join us this season and hold us to the high standards we set for ourselves. Help us battle the Arizona Wildcats (2010 College World Series runner up) in a double header, the Nebraska Cornhuskers (2010 NCAA regional appearance) in a four-game series and the Oklahoma Sooners (2010 NCAA regional appearance) in our Troy Cox Classic. Help us conquer the WAC as Fresno State, San Jose State, Louisiana Tech and Boise State come to town this year.

We promise engaged, enthusiastic effort in all we do and we ask to be your Aggies.

See you at the ball park.

## This Week

### In Aggie Athletics

**Friday, Jan. 21**  
**Track and Field**  
UNM Cherry and Silver  
Albuquerque  
5 p.m.

**Swimming and Diving**  
Northern Colorado  
Greeley, Colo.  
5 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 22**  
**Track and Field**  
UNM Cherry and Silver  
Albuquerque  
9 a.m.

**Men's Tennis**  
Utah State  
Las Cruces  
10 a.m.

**Swimming and Diving**  
Colorado State  
Fort Collins, Colo.  
11:30 a.m.

**Women's Tennis**  
UNLV  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
11 a.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
Utah State  
Las Cruces  
7 p.m.

**Men's Basketball**  
Utah State  
Logan, Utah  
9 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 23**  
**Women's Tennis**  
Pacific  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
11 a.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 27**  
**Men's Basketball**  
Boise State  
Las Cruces  
7 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**  
Boise State  
Boise, Idaho  
7 p.m.

## Aggie student-athlete spotlight



**Troy Gillenwater,**  
Junior  
Men's Basketball

Junior forward Troy Gillenwater led the Aggies to a pair of wins over Hawai'i, Jan. 13, and San Jose State, Jan. 15. Against Hawai'i, he recorded his fourth double-double of

the season with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Versus San Jose State, Gillenwater scored a team-high 18 points and grabbed six rebounds.



**Jasmine Lowe**  
Senior  
Women's Basketball

Senior guard Jasmine Lowe extended her streak of double-digit scoring games to 10 with 14 and 13 points, respectively, against Nevada and at Fresno State. She recorded

four steals to maintain her 3.1 average that leads the WAC and ranks No. 22 in the nation.



**Jasmine Rutledge,**  
Freshman  
Women's Basketball

Freshman guard Jasmine Rutledge grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds at Fresno State, Jan. 15. She achieved career highs with four assists, two steals and 31 minutes

of playing time against the Bulldogs. Versus Nevada, Rutledge swatted away two balls for a career high in blocked shots.



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- Your vote has been cast!

Voting runs from 9/1/10 to 5/31/11

**Voting as of Jan. 18**  
**NMSU Aggies** 64.5%  
**UTEP Miners** 35.5%

## Trojans dominate



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Niki Rhynes  
 Mayfield High School's Avron Garcia shoots over a defender during the Trojans' 78-45 district-opening victory against Deming High School Tuesday, Jan. 18. The Trojans continue district play at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at Gadsden High School.

# SportsBriefs

## Aggies do well at Lobo Invite

The New Mexico State track and field squad did well this past weekend in Albuquerque at the University of New Mexico Lobo Open Invite.

The Aggies had superb individual efforts from sophomore Lasasha Aldredge and freshman Zoe Meade. Aldredge placed first in the 400 meter with a time of 57.27 and fifth in the 200 meter with a time of 25.50. Aldredge was also a member of the 4-by-400-meter relay team that placed first after finishing with a time of 3:53.50. Meade was also a member of the 4-by-400 meter relay team that placed first while also placing second in the high jump with a jump of 5-7 and fourth in the 200 meter with a time of 25.22.

"We had a pretty good opener," coach Orin Richburg said. "The younger kids did a real nice job for us, and it now gives us options for meets down the road."

Also doing well for the Aggies were freshmen Alishia Perkins and sophomore Courtney Schultz. Perkins finished third in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.78 and sixth in the 200 meter with a time of 25.62. Schultz finished third in the mile run in a time of 5:14.45 and third in the 3,000 meter with a time of 10:27.43.

"With the emergence of the young runners, the coaching staff can make decisions about who should run when now," Richburg said. "It gives us options."

NMSU competes again at 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at the UNM Cherry and Silver Invite. The action continues at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22.

## NMSU hoopsters visit USU

The Aggie men's basketball team played Nevada at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, in Reno, Nev., and meet Utah State, at 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, in Logan, Utah. The game is available on KGRT-FM 103.9 with the "Voice of the Aggies" Jack Nixon calling the action. The pre-game show starts 30 minutes prior to tip off. The game at Utah State is also nationally televised on ESPNU.

The Aggies improved to 10-9 overall and 4-1 in the WAC following a 78-53 win over San Jose State Saturday, Jan. 15. Junior forward Troy Gillenwater leads the Aggies with a team-high 18.7 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Junior guard Hernst Laroche is averaging 11.1 points and 4.6 assists per contest. Freshman guard Christian Kabongo adds 10.4 points per game.

The USU Aggies are currently 16-2 overall and 5-0 in WAC play after a 52-39 win at Fresno State, Jan. 15. Utah

State hosted Louisiana Tech, Jan. 20, before NMSU arrived in Logan. Senior forward Tai Wesley posts a team-best 14.5 points per game. Junior guard Brockeith Pane and senior guard Brian Green add 11.2 and 10.7 points per contest, respectively.

Utah State has a 33-27 lead in the series with NMSU. New Mexico State won 2-of-3 meetings last season, including a 69-63 win in the WAC Tournament Championship, March 13, 2010, in Reno, Nev.

## Needham leaves NMSU soccer program for URI

New Mexico State soccer coach Michael Needham has stepped down from his position with the Aggies to return to his alma mater, the University of Rhode Island, as head coach.

"We are certainly disappointed as a department and as a community that coach Needham is leaving, but recognize that he is returning home both to the University of Rhode Island and back to New England where both he and his wife are from," NMSU Athletics Director McKinley Boston said. "I know they are excited for the opportunity to raise their daughter in the environment where they can receive more support from family."



NEEDHAM

In his time in Las Cruces, Needham guided the Aggies to 16 wins in the program's first two seasons. NMSU has also had three All-WAC honorees in that span. In 2010, sophomore forward/midfielder Crystal Burns was named to the second team. In 2009, senior goalkeeper Katie Graul garnered first team accolades, while freshman midfielder Jazmin Cardoso collected second team honors.

In the team's inaugural season in 2009, the Aggies earned a berth to the WAC Tournament and finished with a 9-9-1 record. NMSU also ranked No. 15 in the NCAA in home attendance. In 2010, the Aggies were 7-8-3 and broke myriad school records.

The Aggies also achieved success in the classroom under Needham. They earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Team Academic Award in 2010. In the inaugural season, NMSU had one Academic All-WAC selection and nine Academic All-WAC Freshman/Transfer list honorees.

# MILITARY NIGHT

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 Saturday, Jan. 29 at 7:30PM

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 Online: TicketMaster.com

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
 2010-2011

NM State vs. Utah State  
 Saturday, Jan. 22 at 7PM  
 Call: 646-1420 • Visit: Pan Am Center Ticket Office

WE ARE ALL CRIMSON

# Optimism

Continued from page A15

host to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, and hosts Utah State at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22.

The optimism is also apparent on the women's team as well.

Fernandez said his team was also coming off a great fall season.

"I have really high hopes for this coming semester, I have one senior, Isabela Kulaif, who's from Brazil, she's my No. 1 player, and she's coming off of a great year, hopefully she can lead the team to a lot of wins," he said.

Fernandez said he is also high on freshman

Annemieke Witte.

"She's been a great surprise this year, she's a freshman from Holland, and she's played extremely well for us so far."



FERNANDEZ

Kulaif and Witte played together in the regional tournament and made it to the third round, losing to the eventual tournament winners.

"For a freshman to be paired up with a senior in doubles and starting to have an impact on the team immediately says a lot about her," Fernandez said.

The Aggie women open their spring season in Las Vegas Saturday, Jan. 22. The Aggies will play UNLV and Pacific in that tournament before traveling to Albuquerque to play the Lobos Feb. 11 and Montana State of Feb. 12.

# Holguin

Continued from page A15

the intangible qualities that Maya likes most to talk about.

"She knows the game," Maya said. "She's been around it a long time, playing with her sister. She knows why we do certain things. She has a knack for it. There are a lot of good basketball players that don't really know the game, but she is very smart and that's a big advantage for her."

Maya also raves about Holguin's work ethic and dedication, which was especially important when she battled back from a serious knee injury last year. Holguin suffered an anterior-cruciate ligament tear in one of her knees playing in a Gus Macker tournament during the summer after her sophomore year.

She returned to the court late in her junior season, but wasn't 100 percent. As usual, Holguin used the setback as a way to improve herself. She said the injury occurred at a time in her basketball development when she was beginning to level off and take it easy.

"I think everything happens for a reason, and that was a wake-up call for me," she said. "It taught me a lot."

The renewed passion is evident this year as she approaches her final semester as a high school basketball player and student. She is enthusiastically embracing every challenge in the classroom as well as on the court.

Holguin has a 3.8 grade-point average and

has received numerous academic scholarship offers. Some college basketball coaches have also taken notice and several have made offers, but not enough to suit Maya.

"She's the type that may get overlooked because she's not 6-2 or 6-3," he said. "Any school would benefit from having her. That's the type of kid Elena is."

Maya compared Elena to her sister, Sophia, who was somewhat overshadowed by Mayfield's all-star lineup headed by current New Mexico State standout Madison Spence. Sophia went on to attend St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, and made all-conference for the basketball team there while developing into a top scorer.

St. Edward's, who struck it rich with Sophia, is one of the schools pursuing Elena. She has a strong academic offer from North Texas State, where she would like to play basketball, and a couple of junior colleges have made basketball offers. She said NMSU and UNM have made contact with her, but no offers yet.

"I've got more academic offers than basketball offers," she said. "I really want to try to play basketball in college, but school is my first priority. I realize school will get me farther."

That kind of wisdom was cultivated by various strong role models in Elena's life, including Sophia, and she is determined to help those that follow her.

"I'm not saying I'm better than anyone else, but I want to be a role model," she said. "I want them to say, 'Hey, if she can do it, I can do it.'"

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

## Las Cruces High School

Friday, Jan. 21	Girls Basketball	at Oñate High School	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	Oñate High School	7 p.m.
Jan. 21-22	Wrestling	at Ruidoso Invite	TBA
Saturday, Jan. 22	Swimming	at Rio Rancho Invitational	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Girls Basketball	Mayfield High School	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	at Mayfield High School	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 27	Wrestling	Deming High School	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 28	Girls Basketball	at Gadsden High School	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	Gadsden High School	7 p.m.



## Mayfield High School

Friday, Jan. 21	Girls Basketball	Gadsden High School	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	at Gadsden High School	7 p.m.
Jan. 21-22	Wrestling	at Ruidoso Invite	TBA
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Girls Basketball	at Las Cruces High School	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	Las Cruces High School	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 27	Wrestling	Oñate High School	6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 28	Girls Basketball	Alamogordo High School	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	at Alamogordo High School	7 p.m.



## Oñate High School

Friday, Jan. 21	Girls Basketball	Las Cruces High School	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	at Las Cruces High School	7 p.m.
Jan. 21-22	Wrestling	at Bowie Tournament	TBA
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Girls Basketball	at Alamogordo High School	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	Alamogordo High School	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 27	Wrestling	at Mayfield High School	6 p.m.



## Mesilla Valley Christian Schools

Friday, Jan. 21	Boys Basketball	at Texico High School	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 22	Swimming	at Artesia Invitational	9 a.m.
	Boys Basketball	at Portales	3:30 p.m.
	Girls Basketball	Chaparral	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Girls Basketball	at Lydia Patterson Institute	6:30 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	Chaparral	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 28	Girls Basketball	at Chaparral	7 p.m.
	Boys Basketball	New Mexico Military Institute	7 p.m.



# ATHLETE of the WEEK



## Lasasha Aldredge Sophomore, Track and Field

Sophomore Lasasha Aldredge led the Aggie track and field team at the season-opening meet Jan. 15. She won the 400-meter with a time of 57.27 and was also a member of the winning 4x400 meter relay (3:53.50) at the UNM Lobo Invite. Additionally, Aldredge finished fifth in the 200-meter dash (25.50).



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# Looking Back

## This week in the history of the Mesilla Valley

**Marvin Tessneer**  
*Out of the Past*



### 100 years ago

#### 1911

• An amendment to the U.S. House Apportionment Bill would allocate one representative out of 433 to the territories of Arizona and New Mexico when they became states.

• More than 100 Doña Ana County good road boosters visited El Paso and formed a parade down the city's main streets. A subscription list was passed among El Pasoans, and \$1,000 was raised for a highway from Anthony to northern Doña Ana County.

• Heavy snows in northern New Mexico forced statehood boosters to campaign in sleighs.

### 75 years ago

#### 1936

• Elephant Butte Irrigation District Manager N.B. Phillips was notified the advertising for

bids for the construction of Caballo Dam would be made on Jan. 29, and contracts would be let by Feb. 28. Cost of the dam would be \$2.5 million and construction was expected to take about two years and employ 300 men.

• The Aggies were set to play two return games against the Miners after two losses to Flagstaff. The Aggies had defeated the Miners in El Paso the week before.

• Funeral services were held for farmer Kenneth Funkhouser, 39, who died in Fort Lyons, Colo. He was survived by his wife Lucille and two children, Kenneth, Jr., and Barbara.

• B&M Construction was awarded a contract to build the Las Cruces Municipal Gas System. The system would consist of 15 miles of primary line and 30 miles of subsidiary line. More than 400 households in Las Cruces had signed up for the gas service.

### 50 years ago

#### 1961

• The Las Cruces High School Bulldogs defeated Cobre 60-58 in their toughest district battle yet. The Bulldogs were led by Junior Dave Olson, who scored 19 points. The game was tied 10 different times.

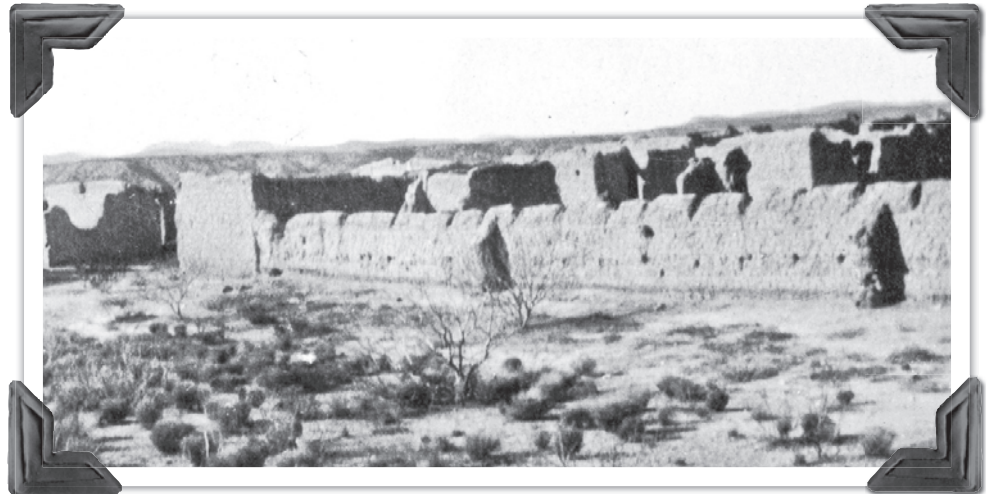


Photo reproduced courtesy of the New Mexico State Library Rio Grande Historical Collection  
**This photograph shows the remains of Fort Selden in 1911, 20 years after the fort was decommissioned in 1891. The fort was established in 1865 to protect settlers and travelers from Indian attacks.**

• Carolyn Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Scott, was selected as "The Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow," for LCHS by the General Mills Corp., allowing the young woman a chance to compete for the state title.

### 25 years ago

#### 1986

• Seventy Las Cruces residents were preparing to travel to Santa Fe for Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe. Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce President Hotch Manning said the event was designed to let legislators know what issues were important to Las Cruces. Topping the list of concerns were workman's comp cost increases and the

U.S. Highway 70 Corridor proposal.

• Two New Mexico State University Aggies were selected Pacific Coast Athletic Association players of the week during the first two weeks of conference basketball action. First, Gilbert Wilburn garnered the award the first week, while Kenny Travis got the nod in week two. The Aggies posted wins over Pacific and Fresno State to bring their conference record to 5-0. The University of Nevada-Las Vegas – 10th ranked nationally – was going to be the next visitor to the Pan American Center.

*Information gathered from NMSU Library's Microform Area and Archives and Special Collections. Edited by Jim Hilley.*

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# Is Martinez the GOP's new Palin?

## National observers notice 'tough and sassy' governor

By **Kate Nash**  
The New Mexican

The audience for Gov. Susana Martinez's first State of the State address Tuesday, Jan. 18, likely included some Republicans around the country who are starting to get to know a political figure who one day could be giving a bigger speech.

While in past years the former Las Cruces prosecutor focused on the local political scene, observers say Martinez – the nation's first female Hispanic governor – could eventually be headed for something larger, a suggestion backed up by her ties with national leaders and consultants.

Already, her possible role in national politics has been mentioned in publications as diverse as the Washington Post, the Huffington Post and Politics Daily.

Some political scientists have compared her to Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor who became the Republican vice-presidential nominee.

High school friends have recalled Martinez as a teen in El Paso, saying she'd be the first female president.

But Martinez is just days into her new job as New Mexico state government's top executive, and political scientists around the country say her trip to a higher office could take a while.

"If I were a betting woman, I'd say the Republican Party is going to be looking to bring her in a more active role," said Victoria DeFrancesco Soto, an assistant political science professor at Northwestern University who is studying Republican women. "But she still has to make a name for herself because she really was politically unknown."

Still, there are indicators that Martinez – largely unknown outside of Las

Cruces a year ago – is becoming connected beyond New Mexico.

Her choice for education secretary, Hanna Skandera, for example, has worked for big-state former Republican governors Jeb Bush of Florida and Arnold Schwarzenegger of California.

Her pick for the Human Services Department, Sidonie Squier, was once a director at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Richard May, selected by Martinez to head the Department of Finance and Administration, worked for the U.S. House Budget Committee.

The administration's choice for the Children, Youth and Families Department, Yolanda Berumen-Deines, worked in the Texas Department of Human Services.

And Danny Diaz, her transition spokesman, is a one-time communications director for the Republican National Committee.

Her campaign contributors, as well, are from well beyond New Mexico, or even Texas, where she was born.

Records show she received almost as much money from Washington, D.C., as she did from donors in Albuquerque, including \$1.3 million from the Republican Governor's Association and large contributions from well-known Republicans Bob Perry and Foster Friess.

To the speculation about her political future, Martinez says she's focused on New Mexico and the daunting tasks at hand.

"The governor has been very clear that she's focused on fixing the budget crisis in New Mexico and improving the quality of education for New Mexico's children," spokesman Scott Darnell said Wednesday, Jan. 19. "These are her priorities."

Still, as she focuses on those tasks, others are noticing Martinez, although in

the context of a tide of new Latino leaders, said Louis DeSipio, a political science professor at the University of California-Irvine who chairs the university's Chicano/Latino Studies.

"She's often mentioned as part of a one- or two-sentence summary of the Latino victories in the 2010 election, often paired with (Nevada Governor) Brian Sandoval and (Florida U.S. Senator) Marco Rubio," he said.

Overall, though, DeSipio said, Martinez isn't yet well-known, and sometimes her ethnicity seems to be mentioned before her political party, if the fact that she's a Republican is mentioned at all.

To gain more national notoriety, University of New Mexico political science professor Gabriel Sanchez said, Martinez would need to shine in her job, and in particular her handling of the state's financial crunch.

"If she can do something about the budget, being able to tackle it without raising taxes, it will go a long way," he said. "It's like when (former Gov. Bill) Richardson ran for president, he was able to say, 'Look what I've done in New Mexico.'"

Soto said Martinez also might make a name for herself if she can make improvements to New Mexico's education system, which was a theme of her campaign. Soto said Martinez in Tuesday's address at the Capitol came across as "tough and sassy."

"She's kind of Sarah Palin-esque, saying, 'We're selling the jet, and my husband is doing the cooking,'" Soto said.

Beyond what she does in office, Martinez could be what the Republicans are looking for on other levels, Sanchez said. "A Latina face is very unique. It gives you two voting blocks, Latinos and women, and that's the unique value she brings."

# Committee changes are possible

## Social conservatives may be able to make progress

By **Steve Terrell**  
The New Mexican

Social conservatives may find it easier moving bills through the state Senate to bring back the death penalty and restrict gay rights if an anticipated change in the chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee comes to pass.

State Sen. Richard Martinez, D-Española, said Wednesday, Jan. 19, that Senate President Pro-tem Tim Jennings, D-Roswell, had asked him to take over the top position on Judiciary, which for the past six years has been chaired by Sen. Cisco McSorley, D-Albuquerque – one of the most outspoken liberals in the Legislature.

McSorley, interviewed in his office Wednesday afternoon, said, "Right now, I don't know if I'm going to remain as Judiciary Committee chairman."

Jennings said Wednesday, "I can't respond now."

He said the decision on committee chairmanships and committee assignments will be decided Thursday, Jan. 20, at the scheduled meeting of the Senate Committee on Committees.

Unlike the state House of Representatives, where one person – the speaker – determines who will chair and who will sit on each committee, in the Senate the Committee on Committees decides.

Both McSorley and Martinez, who has been deputy chairman of Senate Judiciary since McSorley became chairman, spoke no ill of one another.

But the two have dramatically different voting records on issues such as the death penalty and gay rights. McSorley, a lawyer by profession, has been a champion of domestic partnership legislation and other bills affecting homosexuals. Martinez has been on the opposite side on these issues.

Gov. Susana Martinez, a former Las Cruces prosecutor, has been a vocal advocate of bringing back the death penalty, which in 2009 was repealed by close votes in both chambers. She mentioned

the issue as a priority in her State of the State address.

While she has not stressed gay-related issues, Gov. Martinez has said she opposes a domestic partnership law and that she would sign a bill that would legally define marriage in New Mexico as the union of one man and one woman.



**City of Las Cruces**  
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

## Free Internet Classes

The City of Las Cruces Branigan Library is hosting free internet classes, part of Fast Forward New Mexico, a program from the state of New Mexico and the Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico. A launch celebration will be held:

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22**  
**11 am - 1 pm**  
**Branigan Library**  
**200 E. Picacho**

The free courses will be held from February to March. Instructors will be available at the celebration and residents can sign up for classes. For more information contact Branigan Library at 575/528-4000. The TTY number is 575/528-4008.

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# Film group says loophole closed

## Jet travel no longer part of support, lobbyist says

By **Trip Jennings**  
The New Mexican

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, during her State of the State speech, Gov. Susana Martinez took aim at the state's controversial film production tax credit program as one reason to trim the rebates New Mexico gives qualifying film production companies.

"It's been taken advantage of. One film company spent \$100,000 chartering an actor's private jet and New Mexico taxpayers, they paid \$25,000 of it," Martinez told a standing-room-only crowd at the Capitol in Santa Fe.

She was referring to a 2006 incident when a \$25,000 payment was made to producers of "The Flock" for a charter flight on star Richard Gere's private jet. What was lost in the speech was that the next year, in 2007, the Legislature closed the loophole that called for the state to consider a chartered flight a qualified film production expense, said Eric Witt, president of the Motion Picture Association of New Mexico.

Witt worked as ex-Gov. Bill Richardson's deputy chief of staff and legislative liaison and kept close tabs on the program during his time at the Capitol.

Under the state's film production tax credit program, the state reimburses a portion of the money – 25 percent of expenses that qualify – that production companies already have spent here in New Mexico. A wrap party, for example, isn't a qualified expense. Lumber purchased in New Mexico to help build a set, meals bought from a local caterer or receipts from a local car rental company for vehicles used by producers, on the other hand, are.

Over the past three and a half years, more than 115 film and TV productions that were shot in New Mexico have been paid more than \$180 million in refunds through the tax-credit program. Because that refund represents 25 percent of qualified expenses, a refund of \$180 million to film and TV production companies means that those firms have spent at least \$724 million in New Mexico.

Legislation will be introduced this year to tighten up the program even further, Witt said. The bill in question would clarify that businesses must have a store in New Mexico with people working there for their invoices to be considered "qualified expenses" under the film production tax credit program.

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## Speaker

Continued from page A1

Shortly after the vote, Cervantes was asked by a reporter what had happened. "Tea party," he said.

Appearing on the website of the Albuquerque tea party was a message:

"We, the citizen members of the following tea parties, strongly recommend that the New Mexico Republican legislators nominate from within their own caucus, a candidate for speaker of the House and vote in unison for that candidate. We do not support any coalition with progressives nor with those with a voting record which contradicts our conservative values."

Below were the names of nine New Mexico tea party organizations.

Although he'd been predicting that Cervantes would be the next speaker, by Tuesday morning Nuñez wasn't sounding nearly as optimistic as he has in recent weeks. He told reporters he was afraid the tea party opposition would frighten Republicans, especially the 12 new Republican House members.

Taylor, talking to reporters after the vote, downplayed the tea party opposition as the main reason for the failure of the coalition. "We just didn't have enough votes," he said.

But Taylor, who acknowledged that he had been leaning toward supporting Cervantes, said the main reason for coming up with enough votes was that more Republicans were thinking of the political advantage of keeping Lujan in the position rather than the "policy" advantages.

"He's the status quo," Taylor said of Lujan. "There was a risk with Cervantes that we could have passed some great legislation and there'd be a love fest in the Legislature.

... It would be harder to run a negative campaign."

New House Republican Don Bratton agreed with Taylor's analysis. "I look at things from a policy standpoint," he said.

Former Gov. Gary Johnson, who spoke at the tea party rally outside the Roundhouse Tuesday, told reporters he thought Republicans should back Cervantes because it would be good for "change."

Johnson recalled how in 2001 Senate Republicans united with a handful of Democrats to oust Manny Aragon as Senate president pro tem. Aragon was replaced by a Democrat, Sen. Richard Romero of Albuquerque. But that was good for the state, Johnson argued.

Jerry Clark of the Las Cruces Sons of Liberty, a group that split off from the Las Cruces tea party last year, said his group agreed with the tea party opposition to Cervantes.

"We're from Las Cruces and we know Jose (sic) as a progressive," he said of Cervantes. "We thought Republicans should stand their ground. Even if Jose is an improvement over Ben Lujan, he's not really an improvement."

Clark, who was at the Capitol to attend the tea party rally, noted that Cervantes has voted for the "motor voter" law, which makes it easier to get driver's licenses and is against requiring photo identification for voting.

"We want Republicans to draw a line in the sand," he said.

Lujan, in his speech after the winning reelection, mentioned fallen military members, the victims of the Tucson shootings and Martin Luther King Jr. Lujan didn't mention the Cervantes challenge and the speaker couldn't be reached for comment after.

## Governor

Continued from page A1

the Senate, Democrats and Republicans have worked together for years, often blocking some of Richardson's priorities in recent years. In the House of Representatives Democrats hold a 37 to 33 majority, which could alter the day-to-day activities in that chamber and give Martinez a wider opening to influence key legislative votes.

"Obviously the complexion has changed," said Rep. Rhonda King, D-Stanley. "Some legislation that didn't pass in the past will pass. Some legislation that might have passed probably won't pass."

State lawmakers were on their best behavior Tuesday when rating Martinez's first speech to the Legislature. Most said Tuesday was the first day of a 60-day legislative session and there was plenty of time to talk about the legislative battles that are sure to come.

Sen. John Arthur Smith, D-Deming, however, sounded as if he were an admirer.

"I think she sent the message, 'Folks, I'm pretty darn tough,'" said Smith, who is the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "Some people might say she's mean. I just think she's determined."

At the same time, Smith said the governor's decision to try to re-instate the death penalty might create some obstacles for Martinez.

"I have supported the death penalty," the Deming Democrat said. "I don't know what's going to happen to the death penalty. Death penalty is not high on my radar screen on Senate Finance."

### The budget albatross

The reason the death penalty is not high on Smith's radar is that, as in previous sessions, the state budget woes will dominate this year's legislative session.

At issue is how the state will close a budget gap estimated between \$200 million and \$450 million.

Both the governor and the Legislative Finance Committee – the Legislature's budget arm – have recommended cutting spending by around 3 percent and recommend spending levels of \$5.4 billion.

Both plans rely heavily on asking state workers to pay more into their retirement plans.

"We applaud the governor's call for shared sacrifice," Carter Bundy of the American Federation of State County Municipal Employees said after Martinez's speech. "We just hope she's sincere about truly making the sacrifice shared instead of putting it on the back of a few thousand people."

Martinez took a firm stand again Tuesday, saying that she is not open to raising taxes or closing exemptions or deductions.

"Unfortunately, some are still pushing tax hikes," Martinez said during her speech. "Doubling the tax when you buy a car. Taxing job creators. Even taxing the Internet. To make them sound better, some call them 'revenue enhancements.' They can be called many things, but they will all be vetoed."




While there's no concerted push for increasing the state's broad-based taxes, several Democratic lawmakers are advocating reducing or eliminating some tax credits, exemptions or deductions in hopes of finding much-needed revenue.

The only exception to Martinez's no-tax-increase mantra is her proposal to reduce the state's controversial film production tax credit and save \$25 million. Martinez reiterated her stand in her speech Tuesday, which provoked a response from supporters of the program.

"We agree that we must do more with less, which is why we believe that every incentive the state currently offers should be reviewed closely," said Eric Witt, executive director of the Motion Picture Association of New Mexico, who worked for Richardson as legislative liaison and deputy chief of staff. "Ninety-five percent of state incentive programs cover industries as diverse as oil and gas, farming, mining, and ranching and other industries."


“Some people might say she’s mean. I just think she’s determined.”

JOHN ARTHUR SMITH,  
senator

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**Who:** Anyone interested in running for office or becoming a more effective activist

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# Tax credits, deductions get second look

## Martinez only targeting film support

By **Trip Jennings**  
The New Mexican

New Mexico loses \$1.3 billion in revenue each year through the hundreds of credits, exemptions and deductions in the state's tax code.

Reduce a tax credit here, eliminate a tax deduction there and the dollars generated just might help solve New Mexico's budgetary crisis, some state lawmakers are saying.

The state is trying to close a projected shortfall of between \$200 million and \$450 million for the year that starts July 1, and so far the emphasis has been on cost-saving measures. But some lawmakers argue that foraging for unexpected dollars in the tax code is a no-brainer.

"Conceptually, a lot of people agree with it. We just have to get the political courage to do it," Sen. Tim Keller, D-Albuquerque, a supporter, said.

Credits, exemptions and deductions are a fixture of any tax code, and they are everywhere.

For example, think of when you buy milk. The purchase isn't taxed in New Mexico because the state exempts food from the gross receipts tax, a decision that cost the state more than \$200 million in tax dollars last year.

Many policy makers say the food exemption makes economic sense. But other credits, deductions and exemptions on the books might not stand up to the same scrutiny and an unlikely coalition – liberal to moderate Democrats, libertarian conservatives and good government types – is pushing to scrutinize the tax code for various, sometimes competing, reasons.

It's still an open question as to whether a serious tax discussion will earn a seat at the grown-up table during the 60-day legislative session that started Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Neither the governor's nor the Legislature's budget proposals contemplate closing tax loopholes to address the state's budget troubles. Both recommend a mixture of cost-saving measures.

The only exception has been Martinez's taking aim at the state's controversial film tax credit, which refunded \$65 million to qualifying movie and TV productions last year.

Supporters of tax-side solutions say the governor has opened the door for the broader tax policy discussion, a notion Martinez tried to swat down last week.

"We are not raising taxes," the governor said, referring to the fact that reducing or eliminat-

ing a tax credit, deduction or exemption means those affected would pay more in taxes.

"That is not the way we recover economically in the state of New Mexico," Martinez said. "We have to allow people to get back to work and to raise taxes on families and small businesses allows less people to get to work."

Sen. John Arthur Smith, D-Deming, the powerful chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, agreed with the governor.

While saying he is supportive of examining the tax code, now is not the time, especially if the governor "sees that as a tax increase," he said.

One tax expert is skeptical that the tax code could produce hundreds of millions of dollars in unexpected dollars. Contrary to the rhetoric that some of these so-called tax expenditures are the result of sweetheart deals for an elite few, many serve a legitimate purpose, said Richard Anklam, who heads up the New Mexico Tax Research Institute and is a former tax policy director for the

New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department.

"Most of the special interest stuff tends to be the narrowly focused," Anklam said. "The political drumbeat is, 'Let's look at these; there's billions of dollars.' It's a populist thing to do. The upside is that there's not much money."

That said, Anklam, like Smith, supports scrutinizing the state's tax code for ill-thought-out tax expenditures. But eliminating or reducing them should come only after a thorough discussion that includes discovering why they are on the books in the first place.

Otherwise, the battle over tax expenditures easily could morph into a political "witch hunt," he said. "Enviros pointing out an oil and gas deduction and oil and gas pointing to a green deduction," he added.

Advocates behind the push to scour the tax code come at the issue for varying reasons.

Janice Arnold Jones, a Republican representative who gave up her seat in a failed run for governor, said a thorough scrubbing of the tax code could lead to a simpler tax code, but also a reduction in the amount of work state government must do to oversee such items.

Sen. Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe, another advocate, envisions the potential for the Holy Grail of tax reform: lowering tax rates.

Eliminate enough credits, exemptions and deductions and you dramatically increase the flow of revenue into the state coffers, allowing policy makers to lower the overall rate of broad-based taxes.



“The political drumbeat is, ‘Let’s look at these; there’s billions of dollars.’ It’s a populist thing to do.”

RICHARD ANKLAM,  
New Mexico Tax Research Institute

That was done in Washington 25 years ago, when the U.S. Congress passed the Tax Reform Act of 1986, resulting in a lower federal income tax rate for many through its elimination of various tax shelters and some deductions.

"We have folks sitting on the sidelines not paying a tax while those who do pay the tax are paying higher rates," Wirth said of New Mexico's gross receipts tax, which is, by far, the largest revenue generator for New Mexico.

Keller, meanwhile, thinks enough people are paying attention to tax policy this year that New Mexico will take its first steps toward tax reform.

"This year there has been a complete shift in people's attitudes," said Keller, who has sponsored tax-related legislation in previous years. "People were blown away by the biggest tax expenditures. Even industry advocates didn't know their industries were getting these tax expenditures."

## Tax dodgers?

Below is a short list of notable credits, exemptions and deductions and how much they cost New Mexico for the budget year that ended June 30, 2010:

- Food deduction from the gross receipts tax (GRT) – 3,184 claims for \$205 million
- New Mexico film production tax credit program – More than 70 claims for \$65.9 million
- Health care practitioners deduction against the GRT – 19,281 claims for \$64 million
- New Mexico high wage job credit – More than 200 claims for \$4.59 million
- Coal: Exemption from the severance tax – five claims for \$13.2 million
- Processing cost deductions from oil and gas severance tax, which comes from oil, natural gas or liquid hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide and helium and nonhydrocarbon gases – 145 claims for \$14.6 million
- Processing cost deductions from emergency school tax, which comes from oil, natural gas or liquid hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide and helium and nonhydrocarbon gases – 145 claims for \$15.3 million

Source: New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department

## The Doña Ana County Assessor

Invites you to our first community meeting for business, livestock and property owners on:

**February 9, 2011**  
**from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**  
**at the Government Center located at**  
**845 N. Motel Blvd.**

My commitment to our community will begin with this first meeting to convey my goals for the 2011 tax year. I will also provide an introduction to understanding your property assessment and the process for protesting your property valuation. I will be available to answer any questions or concerns regarding your property valuations.

**Community Meeting for Property Owners**

Questions?  
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County Assessor  
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[www.DonaAnaCounty.org/assessor](http://www.DonaAnaCounty.org/assessor)



*Neighbors We've Lost*

## DEATH NOTICE

**BHATTI**

Waqar H. Bhatti, 79, passed away on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at Mountain View Regional Medical Center. Services are with La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home.

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



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# LIGHTS

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## Heading up north?

**Gabriel Vasquez**  
Business Editor



Every year, hundreds of Las Cruces gather in Santa Fe in late January to make their concerns known and show support to the elected officials from our region.

Business people, politicians, students and nonprofit leaders represent our fair city not as Republicans or Democrats, but as a united voice that seeks the best possible legislative outcomes for all Las Cruces.

If you've been on the fence in previous years about attending Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe, I can assure you it's well worth your time, money and effort, especially if you've never seen the New Mexico Legislature at work.

Bills being run from committee meetings to the House and Senate floors. Legislators from around the state making strategic "pacts" and discussing legislation openly in the Rotunda (it's hard not to eavesdrop). Hordes of lobbyists and special interest groups running from office to office speaking with House and Senate leaders, or anyone who is willing to lend an ear. Then there are the protesters, picketers and naysayers, who occasionally stream into the Rotunda preaching their doomsday agenda. Quite a sight to see.

Here are a few of my own memorable moments from last year's Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe:

- The hospitality room at the hotel. Great service and good people.
- Having an in-depth conversation about the spaceport with former NMSA director Steve Landeene.
- The winding, after-hours conversations with local business leaders about what Las Cruces "really" needs (avoid these if you want to go to bed early).
- Helplessly pedaling my feet in 4 inches of snow trying to get former Gov. Garrey Carruther's car out of the hotel parking lot.
- The mysteriously delicious ice cream "baked potato" offered at Cowgirl BBQ. It looks like a real baked potato, not kidding you.
- Exploring the Governor's Mansion at will.
- Speaking with former Gov. Bill Richardson and getting a photo to send to mom and dad.

See **Santa Fe** on page B2

### INSIDE

**How much will NMSU be cut?**  
Economist Chris Erickson looks at the scenarios .....B4

**Southwest meets bling**  
Local housemom takes on a new challenge .....B8

**Meet a local secret agent**  
More on Jeff Elmore .....B9

## Las Cruces get ready to lobby

Locals will travel to get their say in Santa Fe Jan. 29-31



Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson addresses attendees as part of Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe during the Governor's Reception portion of the event in January 2010. The 2011 LCDSF events begin Saturday, Jan. 29.

By **Gabriel Vasquez**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

The time has come again for Las Cruces to get their say in Santa Fe.

Each year, the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce organizes the weekend event, which brings business and civic leaders together for a weekend of lobbying in the state's capital. The 2011 Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe (LCDSF) events begin Saturday, Jan. 29.

"LCDSF is not only a great way to network your business with community leaders, but it is the only event that showcases the business community's importance to the Legislature," said Joel Courtney, communications and leadership director for the chamber.

Given that Gov. Susana Martinez, a former district attorney from Las Cruces, is trudging through her first legislative session as the state's chief officer, Courtney said the chamber is pushing to get as large a gathering as possible.

"This year is especially exciting because we have a new governor from Doña Ana County in office, and we will be able to show our support for Gov. Martinez and her new position," Courtney said.

Starting in February every year, the chamber's Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe Committee

See **LCDSF** on page B2

## Gearing up for Career Connections

Sixth annual job fair provides national opportunities



Mechanical engineering major Al Hussein discusses job opportunities with Exxon Mobil recruiter Richard Madrid during a job fair hosted by New Mexico State University in September 2010.

By **Gabriel Vasquez**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

More than 75 employers interested in hiring local students will converge at the Las Cruces Convention Center as part of the Career Connections job expo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 1 and 2.

Representing a wide gamut of the national workforce, employers scheduled to attend include Geico, Halliburton, Hertz Corp., Johnson & Johnson – even the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

"We're looking at about 50 employers each day," said job fair organizer Roseanne Bensley. "Not all employers are going to be local, so individuals interested in relocating have a great opportunity to meet with a variety of companies."

Although the fair is geared toward students, any job-seeking member of the public can attend, Bensley said. Tuesday, Feb. 1, is reserved for students or members of the public who are looking for careers in business, agriculture, liberal arts and allied health. Wednesday, Feb. 2, is targeted for those in the engineering, science and technology fields.

Bensley said students attending the expo should prepare well

if they want to be successful.

"Anytime you're interacting with an employer, treat it like any interview," she said. "Wear interview attire – a suit and tie for a gentleman and a skirt-jacket-suit combo for the ladies. Your first impression is a lasting impression."

Part of that preparation also involves doing plenty of preliminary research.

"Once you start your conversation, show that you've done your homework," Bensley said. "Read an employer's website, investigate what they do and what positions they may have available."

Although many recruiters may not be open to accepting résumés at the expo, students should bring several copies just in case.

"It's a good way to start the conversation," Bensley said. "Employers can at least look at it and get a quick overview of who you are. However, we don't want candidates to be surprised if employers are not excited to grab that résumé."

Al Hussein, a mechanical engineering major at New Mexico State University, said during a similar job expo last year he visited several potential employers, and he's confident he will secure a

See **Career** on page B2

**Surefire Promotional Products Owner Sarah Stegall, the 2010 chair of the chamber's Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe Committee, prepares to welcome guests at La Fonda on the Plaza in Santa Fe last year.**



## LCDSF

Continued from page B1

begins to organize next year's event, a long and challenging process, but worthwhile, Courtney added.

"LCDSF is an event that meets all three tenets of the chamber's mission," he said. "We provide educational presentations for attendees to learn more about the Legislature and their own community, we provide networking opportunities for businesses to market themselves and we lobby for legislation that will help the business community and the community as a whole prosper."

This year, the LCDSF committee has added a Legislator's Recognition Reception to the traditional Legislative Breakfast and Brunch as well as the visit to the Governor's Mansion.

"We are always working to make the event bigger and better every year," said Sarah Stegall, LCDSF committee co-chair.

The Legislative Recognition Reception will invite all of the Doña Ana County legislators to meet and network with Mesilla Valley business leaders on the first evening of the weekend of events.

An event that's been put on hold is the business expo, traditionally held inside the Roundhouse. Instead, "we replaced it with time to actually lobby the legislators," Courtney said.

"We will distribute the legislative priorities set up by the Doña Ana County Legislative Coalition and encourage every attendee to help us support these key issues," he added.

Among those key issues is a request for state funding for a triage center in Las Cruces and a new 911 dispatch center.

"The Conquistadores and staff of the Chamber have worked very hard all year to ensure the greatest event possible," said chamber president and CEO Bill Allen. "We will work diligently in Santa Fe toward the legislative priorities of the Doña Ana County Legislative Coalition, including a new crisis triage center, new regional dispatch authority 911 center

## Santa Fe

Continued from page B1

- Taking in the spectacular display of luminarias and pueblo architecture in Downtown Santa Fe.
- Immediately getting lost in the spectacular display of luminarias and Pueblo architecture in Downtown Santa Fe.
- Reuniting with old friends who have moved up north. There you have it, certainly not a broad

## LCDSF schedule

### Saturday, Jan. 29

5:30 to 7 p.m. Legislators  
Recognition Reception at La Fonda  
7 to 10 p.m. Networking Suite at La Fonda

### Sunday, Jan. 30

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Legislative  
Brunch at La Fonda  
4 to 6 p.m. Reception at the  
Governor's Mansion  
7 to 10 p.m. Networking Suite at La Fonda

### Monday, Jan. 31

7:30 to 9 a.m. Legislative Issues  
Breakfast at La Fonda  
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lobbying at the  
Rotunda of the State Capitol

and new roads for the newest schools in the Las Cruces Public Schools system."

The host hotel for 2011 will be La Fonda on the Plaza, 100 E. San Francisco St., in Santa Fe.

"We have been very pleased with the service and location of La Fonda in the past and are very excited to return to them as our host hotel," Stegall added.

Reservations can be made at La Fonda by calling 800-523-5002, and registrants should mention the event by name when registering.

La Fonda is offering complimentary parking. Complimentary shuttle service to the Governor's Mansion Reception on Sunday and the Capitol Roundhouse on Monday will also be provided. All other events will be held in the La Terraza Room at La Fonda. Registration for LCDSF is \$125 per person. The fee includes admission to the Governor's Mansion Reception.

For more information or to register for LCDSF, call the chamber at 524-1968 or visit [www.lcdsf.com](http://www.lcdsf.com).

picture of the activities that take place during the weekend, but some of the most memorable that I've had.

Whether you own a business, work for a nonprofit, are concerned about the future of Las Cruces or you're just curious to see how state government works, I encourage you to call the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce at 524-1968, and sign up while there's still time. The event takes place Saturday, Jan. 29 and continues until Monday, Jan. 31.

Hope to see you in Santa Fe!

## Career

Continued from page B1

"good-paying job" after college.

"I'm focusing on my grades at school because I still have a full load of classes I have to pay attention to," said Hussein, who hopes to find a job in the oil and gas industry. "But at the same time, I know I can't just sit there. The jobs won't come to me. I have to really push it – I have to make sure I do my part."

Bensley said the national recession hasn't resulted in a drastic drop of employer participation at NMSU's job fairs, rather "just a few" in the past two years have not returned.

"It's been pretty steady," she said. "We don't have the same number of employers we had a few years ago, but we're talking just a small percentage in reduction."

She added that students who are serious about finding a job, internship opportunity or co-op at the expo should be prepared to move, be it temporarily or for a permanent position.

"The key for the ideal candidate is flexibility," she said. "Being able to travel to where the job is located."

Bensley gave one last piece of advice to students looking for a career in their field post-graduation.

"Students can't wait until their senior year to invest in their job search," she said. "They really have to begin that process a lot sooner."

"Employers hire interns and co-ops as a way to introduce those candidates to that employer's way of doing business. I wouldn't say that's exclusive, but that's becoming a larger trend – it's looked at as a stronger investment between candidate and employer."

For the first time, the annual job fair, in its sixth year, will be held at the new Las Cruces Convention Center.

"In cooperation with the relationship the university has with the city, we wanted to utilize this venue," Bensley said. "It's very near to campus and not far for our students to travel. We wanted to give this new venue an opportunity."

Typically, campus job fairs are held at Corbett Center Student Union.

The job fair is being organized by the Career services Department at NMSU, which employs 23, including several full- and part-time student employees. Located in Room 224 inside Garcia Annex, Career Services offers students career planning services that include résumé building, cooperative education, internship and co-op opportunities, and administers the university's AggieCAREER program, an online service for students to research employers and schedule on-campus interviews.

"A couple of thousand students at NMSU are touched by Career Services every semester in some way," Bensley said. "Through our career fairs, private appointments, class presentations and workshops, several thousand students get involved here."

Career Services programs are also available to registered NMSU alumni.

For more information on the upcoming job fair or to learn more about Career Services, call 646-1631.

## Details

The following employers will be represented at the NMSU Career Connections job fair. The designation (1) indicates an employer's participation on Tuesday, Feb. 1, and (2) represents participation on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

ARGO (1, 2)  
Arizona Public Service (2)  
AXA Advisors LLC (1, 2)  
Baker Concrete Construction (2)  
C.H. Robinson Worldwide Inc. (1)  
Citizen Schools (1)  
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center - NAF (1)  
Consolidated Electrical Distributors Inc. (1)  
Crescent Electric Supply Co. (1)  
Crop Quest Inc. (1)  
Drury Hotels (1)  
Exponential Engineering Co. (2)  
Exxon Mobil Corp. (2)  
Farm Credit (1)  
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold (2)  
Freese and Nichols Inc. (2)  
GEICO - Government employees (1)  
General Dynamics C4 Systems (2)  
Granite Construction Co. (2)  
Halliburton (2)  
Healthcare Services Group Inc. (1)  
Hensel Phelps Construction Co. (2)  
Hertz Corp. (1)  
Hewlett Packard (1, 2)  
J.D. Abrams Inc. (2)  
JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding LLC (1)  
Johnson & Johnson (1, 2)  
Kohl's Department Stores (1)  
Lockheed Martin (2)  
MIT Lincoln Laboratory (2)  
Navair (1, 2)  
Nestle USA Inc. (2)  
New York Life Insurance Co. (1)  
Newtec (2)  
North Star Resource Group (1)  
Northrop Grumman Corp. (2)  
Oncor Electric Delivery (2)  
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & IMF (2)  
Progressive (1, 2)  
Raytheon Co. (2)  
Salt River Project (2)  
Sherwin-Williams (1)  
Southwestern Co. (1, 2)  
State Farm Insurance Co. (1)  
Target (1)  
Texas Department of Public Safety (2)  
Texas Department of Transportation (2)  
The Industrial Co. (2)  
University of Phoenix (1, 2)  
URS Corp. (2)  
U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (1, 2)  
U.S. Coast Guard (1)  
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (1, 2)  
U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (1, 2)  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (1)  
U.S. Forest Service - Region 6 (1, 2)  
USA Electronic Proving Ground (2)  
USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (1)  
The Vanguard Group (1, 2)  
Verizon Wireless (1)  
Waddell & Reed (1)  
Walgreens (1)  
Walmart Inc. (1)  
White Sands Federal Credit Union (1)

Source: New Mexico State University Career Services

## Snippin' for success

### Upcoming ribbon cuttings

#### Accuquest Hearing Center

Date: Monday, Jan. 24  
Time: 9:30 a.m.  
Location: 400 N. Telshor Blvd., Suite E

#### Sol Med Spa

Date: Thursday, Jan. 27  
Time: 5:30 p.m.  
Location: 141 S. Roadrunner Parkway

#### Hurricane Alley

Date: Friday, Jan. 28  
Time: 5 p.m.  
Location: 1490 E. Missouri Ave.

#### Fast Forward (Branigan Library)

Date: Saturday, Jan. 22  
Time: 11 a.m.  
Location: 200 E. Picacho Ave.

# Mortgages still cheap and plentiful

## A bevy of financing options are available

If you've kept up with the latest real estate buzzwords and phrases that have become part of our everyday vernacular over the past couple of years, you've undoubtedly heard that "all real estate is local."

Originally designed to point out that national real estate trends are nothing more than an overview or "average" of what's going on in different areas of the country, the phrase also rings true when it comes to the availability of mortgage money.

According to data from First American CoreLogic's Quarterly Core Mortgage Risk Monitor Report ([www.corelogic.com](http://www.corelogic.com)), Doña Ana County is considered a low-risk area when it comes to future mortgage defaults. CoreLogic provides to its subscribers predictive analysis of numerous real estate trends that are unfolding around the country. A low-risk rating translates to increased loan activity and lower interest rates for states and counties.

So, just how available and inexpensive is mortgage money for Las Cruces area homebuyers?

"Readily available and extremely inexpensive," said Mortgage Loan Originator Christopher Sanders of 1st American Bank in Las Cruces.

Sanders points out that the latest trend in mortgage lending is to curtail making mortgages to people who can't afford them and, instead, make the mortgage money available to those who can fully qualify for the loans. As a result, mortgages requiring little or nothing down are still available to creditworthy Las Cruces area homebuyers, they're just a little harder to obtain. Here are a few basic examples of locally available loan products:

**FHA Loans.** These carry a 30-year fixed-rate with mortgage interest rates in the mid 4-percent range and are readily available to qualified borrowers in the Las Cruces area, subject only to the maximum loan limits set by HUD. In Doña Ana County, the maximum mortgage amount of a conforming FHA loan is \$271,050. Larger loans are available, but

### Las Cruces area basic mortgage information

Type of mortgage	Maximum loan amount	Minimum down payment	Maximum sales price
FHA	\$271,050	3%	\$279,433
VA	\$417,000	None Required	\$417,000
CONVENTIONAL	\$417,000	5%	\$438,950
MFA (1st Time Buyer)	\$237,031	1%	N/A

with different terms and costs. Conforming FHA loans can be obtained with as little as 3.5 percent down, and down payment funds can be a gift to the buyer by the buyer's family, employer or a qualified nonprofit.

Sellers may opt to pay the buyer's closing costs, making it possible for a buyer to purchase without using any of their own funds. In addition to making a principal and interest payment each month, FHA buyers also pay a mortgage insurance premium to cover the cost of FHA insuring the lender against a default by the borrower.

**VA Loans.** These have a 30-year fixed rate priced in the mid 4-percent range and are available to all qualified Armed Forces and National Guard veterans, and in some cases, their spouses. While there is no maximum loan amount associated with VA financing in Doña Ana County, veterans who purchase a home for \$417,000 or less can purchase with no downpayment required. More than \$417,000 and up to \$560,000, a down payment of 25 percent of the amount over \$417,000 is needed to meet VA loan guidelines. VA loans are also assumable by veterans and non-veterans alike, which could prove valuable if mortgage rates at the time the veteran sells his or her home are higher than the mortgage rate on the assumable loan.

Sellers are allowed to pay the veteran buyer's closing costs, making the zero-down purchase a true reality. VA borrowers pay a one-time "funding fee" at the time the loan originated, which is normally rolled into their loan. The fee is deposited into a fund that backs VA's guarantee to our nation's lenders that it will buy back the house from the lender in the event of a default by the buyer.

**Conventional Loans.** At 97.5 percent loan-to-value and 95 percent loan-to-value 30-year

fixed rate, these loans are readily available in the high 4-percent range to creditworthy Las Cruces area buyers, but they are more costly to obtain and service than government backed loans. Conventional loans with less than 20 percent down must be insured against the buyer defaulting and/or walking away from the loan - which can easily add the equivalent of 1 to 1.5 percent annually to the high-four-percent cost of the mortgage itself.

Gift funds are allowed with conventional loans, but rules governing their use are more complicated than those of their government siblings. Sellers are still allowed to pay the buyer's closing costs, however, so the buyer's cash investment can usually be held to the amount of the minimum required downpayment.

**MFA First-Time Buyer Programs.** MFA is an acronym for the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority. MFA provides subsidies and downpayment assistance to so-called first-time buyers and others who qualify under their program guidelines. I say so-called, because first-time buyers are defined as persons who have not lived in a home that they have owned during the past three years. One could have owned six homes during the past three years and still be considered a first-time buyer as long as he or she didn't live in any of them.

Programs such as those offered by MFA are to mortgage loans what ski racks are to automobiles, said Teri Baca, MFA homeownership representative. In the case of the MFA

**Gary Sandler's**  
Real Estate  
Connection



programs, the automobiles (in our case, FHA, VA and Conventional loans) already exist in great numbers. The first-time buyer programs (aka the ski racks) can be mixed and matched before being strapped to the roof of one of the automobiles.

The end result is that FHA, VA and Conventional borrowers who meet MFA program guidelines may be eligible to purchase at below-market rates with subsidies that result in the buyer obtaining a 30-year fixed loan with little or no money down. MFA even has special ski racks for active duty military, school employees, law enforcement workers, fire department workers and accredited health care workers. MFA is not a direct lender, so all inquires for this type of financing should be made through local MFA-approved lending institutions.

Keep in mind that it pays to shop around before obtaining a mortgage. Mortgage lenders are like shoe stores because they're both retailers. Just as the various shoe stores carry hundreds of different shoe products, the various mortgage lenders carry hundreds of different loan products. And even if two shoe stores carry the same shoes, they may not offer them at the same price.

For more information on the workings of the types of loans outlined above, visit: [www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov), [www.hud.gov/buying](http://www.hud.gov/buying) or [www.housingnm.org](http://www.housingnm.org). If you follow the guidelines correctly, I'm sure that it won't be long until I ...

See you at closing.

Gary Sandler is the president of Gary Sandler Inc., Realtors in Las Cruces and the host of Gary Sandler's Real Estate Connection, broadcast each Monday from 4 to 6 p.m. on KSNM-AM 570. Questions or comments may be directed to Sandler at 525-2400 or by emailing [gary@garysandler.com](mailto:gary@garysandler.com).

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# Childhood obesity tops foundation's funding list

## Health care committee to tackle growing epidemic

Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

In a final move before merging with the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM), the Healthcare Foundation of Southern New Mexico (HFSNM) awarded more than \$35,000 to local non-profits to help combat childhood obesity.

Every year since its inception, the HFSNM has awarded distributable income to nonprofits that effectively meet health care needs in the community. This year, the HFSNM, which merged with the CFSNM on Jan. 1, decided to approach childhood obesity as a specific health care need.

"This year we wanted to focus our initiative on what we were seeing in the community," said Diana Seward, HFSNM president. "We realized a lot of organizations were focusing on childhood obesity, and we wanted to support that initiative."

In total, \$37,649 was awarded to area nonprofits, including \$11,875 to the Hidalgo County Health Consortium in Lordsburg, \$10,774.87 to the La Semilla Food Center in Mesilla and \$15,000 to the Colonias Development Council in Las Cruces.

"It's amazing how many organizations out there are providing unique health care," Seward said. "Unfortunately, we always get more proposals than we can fund, and I really wish we could fund them all."

The Hidalgo County Health Consortium was founded in 1997 with the philosophy of bringing a consistent system of health care to the border. The consortium has membership representing a broad spectrum of age, ethnicity, expertise, geographic locale and interest.

The La Semilla Food Center is working to build border food security by reshaping the production, distribution and consumption of food. The project intends to grow and sell organic food and expose youth to new careers, inspire value-added industries, get locally grown produce into large institutions, spin-off small businesses and encourage nutritional awareness.

The Colonias Development Council became a nonprofit in 1994 with a focus on farm workers and began to develop multi-issue, self-help community-based organizations to respond to common needs in colonia communities. The work is characterized by a long-term commitment to facilitate the processes for community organizing and leadership development in order to achieve social change.

As part of the merge, the CFSNM created a health care foundation committee that will determine where there is the most need during each granting session. Seward will serve on that committee, helping

### Details

Contact one of the following organizations for more information on childhood obesity prevention:

**Hidalgo County Health Consortium**  
524 DeMoss St.  
Lordsburg, NM 88045  
313-3348  
hidalgohealth@gmail.com

**La Semilla Food Center**  
PO Box 1533  
Mesilla, NM 88046  
642-1818  
aaronsharratt@gmail.com

**Colonias Development Council**  
1050 Monte Vista Ave.  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
647-2744  
dbustamante@zianet.com

find the best areas to make a positive impact.

"The endowments that we created grow each year, and we use a percentage of the money for distributable income," Seward said. "The intent is to not give all the money away at once, but to keep giving so we can help make a difference."

In southern New Mexico, the need is always there. "The interesting and exciting thing about looking at the proposals we received is that we got a bird's eye view of all the organizations and programs out there that are focusing on health care," Seward said. "There is a lot to be done in the community, but a lot of worthy organizations that are doing what they can."

*The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the Southern New Mexico community now, and in the future. Founded in 2000, the CFSNM offers opportunities for local people who want to give back locally. The beauty of the foundation is that donors need not be wealthy to make a positive difference in the lives of people in our area. Through the establishment of permanent funds, donors can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to their heart. Through our planned giving programs, donors can honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits the people of southern New Mexico for generations to come. The CFSNM can advise donors on how best to maximize contributions, no matter what size. For more information, visit www.cfsnm.org or call Luan Wagner Burn at 521-4794.*



# Legislature, gov face a tough budget year

## Significant funding reduction likely to affect university



**Chris Erickson**  
State of the Economy

Reduced oil and gas revenue, a nasty recession and the end of the federal stimulus program have combined to create a budget shortfall of between \$250 and \$450 million in New Mexico.

Covering the shortfall won't be easy, but the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and Gov. Susana Martinez have separately released budget proposals that balance the state budget without imposing new taxes. The result will be sharp reductions in some government programs.

The budget has important implications for the Las Cruces economy via state-funded programs. Especially important are K-12 education, Medicaid and New Mexico State University. K-12 and NMSU are major local employers; Medicaid is a major source of funding for local health care.

Of these three major programs, K-12 does best in both the LFC and governor's budget. The LFC would increase public school support by 1.8 percent, which includes replacing \$89 million in federal stimulus money plus a little bit more.

The governor's budget provides less detail, but would reduce funding to local school districts by 1.5 percent. The governor would mandate funding reductions come from back-room operations, leaving classroom funding unaffected. Enforcing such a mandate is difficult. What is and isn't classroom funding is difficult to distinguish. The Department of Finance Administration (DFA) proposes an additional \$3 million reduction in funding for the Public Education Department's operating budget.

Also coming off fairly well is Medicaid. Enrollment in that program has increased dramatically during the economic downturn, up 20 percent in New Mexico. Much of the increased cost of covering these additional

beneficiaries was previously funded by the federal government.

Making up for reduced federal support is a major challenge for the budget. The LFC is proposing a 1.5 percent increase in funding for the Human Services Department, which administers Medicaid. The DFA proposal replaces \$300 million lost from reduced federal reimbursements and adds an additional \$10 million on top.

Higher education does not fare as well as K-12 or Medicaid. NMSU faces budget reductions. This on top of budget cuts in the previous two fiscal years. The Legislative Finance Committee recommends a 3.8 percent cut to main campus instruction and general funding, and a 22 percent

“The DFA recommendation is less detailed, but cuts university funding by 5.2 percent.”

reduction to athletics. Funding for Doña Ana Community College would be cut 2.3 percent. The overall reduction in funding for the NMSU system would be 4.5 percent, slightly more than the recommended cut to the budget overall. The DFA recommendation is less detailed, but cuts university funding by 5.2 percent.

Balancing the budget will adversely affect major employers in Las Cruces. Of course, the alternative to program cutbacks is higher taxes. These also have a negative impact on our local economy although the impact would likely be less than program cuts.

The good news is the local economy is doing quite well, thank you, with employment growth exceeding 2 percent. State cutbacks will be a drag on our local economy, reducing local growth by one-half percent, but local fundamentals remain strong.

*Christopher A. Erickson, Ph.D., is an associate professor of economics at NMSU. The views expressed here are his own and may not reflect the views of the Regents or administration of NMSU.*

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# City of Las Cruces Building Permit Report Jan. 7-14

Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico

Permit #	Permittee	Owner	Project	Address	Value	Permit
20110095	Tim Curry Construction LLC	Malibu Road I LLC	Comm/Alt	1219 El Paseo Road	\$30,000	\$188
20110126	B & L Roofing Inc.	Garrison Properties LLC	Reroof	2125 Garrison Road	\$4,600	\$55
20110120	Baker Industries	Renee M. and Bob R. Allison	Res/Add	4677 Mesa Rico Road	\$12,000	\$98
20110134	Energreen	G. Sandoval Construction Inc.	Res/New	1130 Old West Way	\$118,080	\$3,980
20110136	Energreen	G. Sandoval Construction Inc.	Res/New	1161 Fort Sumner Way	\$118,080	\$3,980
20110111	Artesan Construction LLC	First American Bank	Res/New	5140 San Carlos Court	\$244,032	\$3,363
20110109	DRH Southwest Construction Inc.	BPS LLC	Res/New	4680 Salado Creek St.	\$164,410	\$5,259
20110103	Radium Springs Construction	Rebecca Manzo and Antonio A. Villegas	Reroof	1937 Mahogany Drive	\$4,500	\$54
20110129	B & L Roofing Inc.	Garrison Properties LLC	Reroof	2129 Garrison Road	\$4,800	\$56
20110137	JC Roofing Inc.	Helen E. Stanley Living Trust	Reroof	2201 Idaho Ave.	\$5,582	\$61
20110131	B & L Roofing Inc.	Garrison Properties LLC	Reroof	2135 Garrison Road	\$4,800	\$56
20110139	Hakes Brothers Construction LLC	Ornithes Inc.	Res/New	7562 Sierra De Luna Place	\$186,960	\$1,787
20110144	Gilbert & Sons Roofing & Plastering	Nils R. and Bonnie Allen	Reroof	2803 Cloudcroft Circle	\$9,455	\$83
20110151	P & S Construction	Bryan C. Leonard and Patricia A. Garcia	Reroof	861 Jana Court	\$8,640	\$79
20110080	Enchanted Desert Homes LLC	First American Bank	Res/New	4334 Tewa Court	\$231,486	\$3,341
20110100	Edward Reyes Construction	Michael P. Lindsay	Res/Add	4302 Camino Dos Vidas	\$2,500	\$42
20110108	DRH Southwest Construction Inc.	BPS LLC	Res/New	4693 Salado Creek St.	\$174,168	\$3,275
20110107	DRH Southwest Construction Inc.	BPS LLC	Res/New	4688 Salado Creek St.	\$186,386	\$3,296
20110155	B & L Roofing Inc.	Eldrine K. Engler	Reroof	2744 Crown Point Court	\$7,000	\$69
20110169	Affinity Group LLC	Robert D. and Joy L. Akers	Res/New	2902 Lookout Ridge Drive	\$284,540	\$4,264
20110160	Gulfstream Roofing & Construction	Gail A. Martinez	Reroof	2707 Winston Ave.	\$9,228	\$82
20110185	The Q Residential & General Contractor	Cathy Y. Miller and Jose Jimenez	Reroof	962 Ivydale Drive	\$8,350	\$77
20110189	Summit Development	P I Holdings #1 Inc.	Res/New	4244 Lyra Court	\$230,174	\$4,171
20110205	De La Peña Roofing	David R. and Shirley A. Walker	Reroof	690 Frank Maes Ave.	\$6,884	\$68
20110217	JC Roofing Inc.	John N. and Ninfa S. Jaramillo Trust	Reroof	861 Chateau Drive	\$4,100	\$52
20110212	G. Sandoval Construction Inc.	Bethel Second Baptist Church of Las Cruces	Reroof	405 E. Hadley Ave.	\$12,692	\$103
20110182	Progreen Superior Coating & Roofing Inc.	Sidney W. and Mary L. Williamson	Reroof	826 Cedardale Drive	\$8,600	\$78
20110184	Erasmus's Roofing LLC	Carmen Valdez	Reroof	2978 Majestic Terrace Drive	\$7,800	\$74
20110222	Arei LLC	David F. Mansfield	Reroof	2032 Camelot Drive	\$5,586	\$61

\* Information from the BIA is provided by City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County permit offices

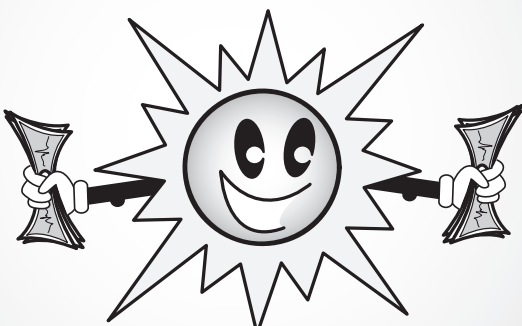


# Doña Ana County Building Permit Report Jan. 7-14

Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico

Permit #	Contractor	Owner	Project	Address	Subdivision	Permit
36225	Self	Alan and Michelle Shawala	Swimming pool	1232 Titania Court	Coronado Ridge Phase I	\$57
36227	Self	Alan and Michelle Shawala	Res/New	1232 Titania Court	Coronado Ridge Phase I	\$869
36241	R. Hines Construction	Thomas and Valerie Redington	Res/New	5638 Camino Escondida	Tierra Escondida Phase II	\$929


\* Information from the BIA is provided by City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County permit offices



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Nicole Segura  
Agency Manager

Gilda Dorbandt-Jurney  
Broker, 30 years experience

Rosemary Reynaud  
Benefit Specialist

# Briefs

## Lowe's donates to elementary school

Booker T. Washington Elementary School has received a 2010-11 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation in the amount of \$4,220 for a reading garden and outdoor classroom. Booker T. Washington Principal Teresa Romano said the money will be used by students to start a garden at the school, 755 E. Chestnut Ave. For more information, contact Romano at 527-9595 or [tromano@lcpk.k12.nm.us](mailto:tromano@lcpk.k12.nm.us).

## Teriyaki Bowl now open

The Teriyaki Bowl, a new Japanese and Chinese food restaurant, has opened at the former Pepe's Chicken location, 2300 N. Main St., behind Burger King. The new eatery, owned by Trinh Ngo, the former owner of the Teriyaki Chicken House on El Paseo Road, is "an upscale, fast-food restaurant," that offers sit-down dining and drive-thru service. Ngo sold the Teriyaki Chicken House last year and said many of the dishes available there during her ownership will now be available at the Teriyaki Chicken Bowl. The restaurant is open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. The restaurant is closed on Sundays. For more information, call Ngo at 621-4493.

## Anchor Blue announces nationwide closings

After more than 30 years as a retailer of casual apparel and accessories for the teenage and young adult markets, Anchor Blue has announced it is closing all 117 stores, including its store in Mesilla Valley Mall. Store-closing sales began Jan. 7 and will continue until all merchandise is sold.

"As a way of expressing our appreciation for their years of patronage, we encourage all of our loyal customers to take advantage of the tremendous savings across all locations," said Tom Shaw, CEO at Anchor Blue Retail Group.

All Anchor Blue stores will honor gift cards through Jan. 21. Returns on purchases made before Jan. 7 with a receipt and in compliance with Anchor Blue's return and price-adjustment policy will be accepted through Jan. 21. After Jan. 21, no returns or exchanges will be accepted on any merchandise. It has been reported in national media outlets that Anchor Blue, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2009, had not met its financial standards and goals. No firm closing date has been set for the Las Cruces store.

## El Paso sushi bar expands to Las Cruces

A new "floating" sushi bar is coming to Las Cruces. Okazuri Sushi Bar, with two locations in El Paso, will open a new location at 1715 E. University Ave., next to Milagro Coffee in the Pan Am Plaza. The restaurant will feature fish, rice, teriyaki and other dishes in addition to the floating sushi bar that will serve customers on small, floating boats. The owners plan to open sometime in March. The restaurant plans to hire about 15 employees.

## Taos offers green 'to-go' program

In one day, customers at Taos Restaurant at New Mexico State University use enough cardboard "to-go" containers to equal the length of seven tour busses at 48 feet long, according to university officials. On Jan. 9, NMSU Campus Dining unveiled new, reusable to-go containers that will "significantly reduce the amount of daily waste generated by Taos Restaurant visitors." Every student with an NMSU meal plan will receive one free "Eco To-Go" shell container that may be used at Taos Restaurant for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Students need only to rinse the container and return it to Taos Restaurant, Java City, the College Canteen or the Aggie Snack Bar, and a card will be issued for a new and professionally cleaned "Eco To-Go" container to be redeemed at Taos Restaurant for the student's next on-the-go meal. A replacement for a lost container may be purchased at Taos Restaurant for \$5. Anyone not enrolled in a Taos restaurant meal plan may also purchase a to-go container for \$5 to participate in the new to-go program. For more information, visit [www.nmsu.campusdish.com](http://www.nmsu.campusdish.com).

# On the Agenda

## HTC meeting

The High Tech Consortium (HTC) of Southern New Mexico will host its monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at the Sunset Grill, 2010 Golf Club Road, in Sonoma Ranch. The HTC board will outline its projects and objectives for 2011 and complete the election for open HTC board positions. Irv Weinberg, owner of LED Southwest, will give a presentation on energy savings and the efficiency of LED lights. For more information, call Richard Majestic at 521-0018.

**Date:** Friday, Jan. 21  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Sunset Grill  
2010 Golf Club Road  
**Contact:** 521-0018

## Las Cruces Business Network meeting

The Las Cruces Business network will have its next meeting from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at the Las Cruces Events Center, 522 E. Idaho Ave. Bill Allen, the newly appointed CEO of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, will be the guest speaker. The business lunch starts at 11:45 a.m. Allen's presentation will start at 12:15 p.m. Allen will outline the future direction of the chamber and its effect on businesses in the area. Cost for Las Cruces Business Network members is \$10 and includes lunch. Cost for nonmembers is \$15. For more information, email George Pintar at [ratnip7@yahoo.com](mailto:ratnip7@yahoo.com).

**Date:** Friday, Jan. 21  
**Time:** 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Location:** Las Cruces Events Center  
522 E. Idaho Ave.  
**Contact:** [ratnip7@yahoo.com](mailto:ratnip7@yahoo.com)

## GLCCC banquet

The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce (GLCCC) will host its 2011 Annual Banquet at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. The event will feature dinner, dancing

and an awards ceremony. Music for the dinner will be provided by Los Guapos, and dance music immediately following the dinner will be performed by funk and disco band Phat Soul. Former TV anchorman Sam Donaldson will serve as the keynote speaker. Awards will be presented to businesses and volunteers in the following categories: Business of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Nonprofit of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Conquistadore of the Year and Crystal Apple Awards for the Teacher, Administrator and Rookie of the Year. Cost is \$75 per person or \$750 per corporate table of 10. Premium seating is also available. RSVP to the chamber office by calling 524-1968 or visit [www.lascruces.org](http://www.lascruces.org).

**Date:** Friday, Jan. 21  
**Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Location:** Las Cruces Convention Center  
680 E. University Ave.  
**Contact:** 524-1968


## Chamber offers candidates' college

American Majority and the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce will host a Candidate Training School and Activist Training starting at 8:45 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at Ramada Palms de Las Cruces, 201 E. University Ave. Regardless of campaign experience, the American Majority's Candidate Training Program invites any member of the public interested in running for public office. American Majority's Candidate Training Seminars are designed specifically to educate candidates of every level on how to run effective and victorious campaigns and prepare them to become successful elected officials. Candidates are encouraged to bring their campaign staff or volunteers. The course will end at noon. Registration is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information, call the chamber office at 524-1968.

**Date:** Thursday, Feb. 10  
**Time:** 8:45 a.m. to noon  
**Location:** Ramada Palms de Las Cruces  
201 E. University Ave.  
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# Good customer service can kick-start a business

## Turn loyal customers into marketing opportunities

By **Betsy Gillette**

Director of Market Research and Planning,  
Technology Ventures Corp.

Article courtesy of *Finance New Mexico*

Mistakes happen, but good customer service is one way to set a business apart. Owners need to build and maintain a stellar perception of their companies so conversation about it is always positive. This is especially important for startup companies, which are more likely to experience stiff competition from entrenched organizations in the marketplace.

A savvy owner of a startup business will do research before launching any project, including what customers want from it and how to price it. Similarly, industry customer-service practices should be researched to determine the extent or types of support typically provided, whether it's in the form of after-hours help or replacing a component. Considering

customer service during product development will ensure the extra cost of providing it won't take the company down. It may also illuminate new markets that aren't being served.

Knowing how the competition handles blunders is critical; some of this may appear on a competitor's website or elsewhere on the Internet. Blogs, for instance, can provide a good source of information about customer service – both good and bad – and [www.trendpedia.com](http://www.trendpedia.com) can sometimes help narrow a search to specific problems, industries or companies. Online reviews of various products and businesses abound, and customers are an excellent source of information on what they want, need and expect. Simply Googling the competition is an easy way to start.

A focus group set in a controlled environment where group members are encouraged to openly voice opinions will provide even more information about customers' expecta-

tions. Focus groups held at various stages of product development can determine if customers prefer a product that includes limited repairs on high-quality materials or planned replacement of cheaper goods.

Customers' expectations of product delivery are often overlooked by startups during the planning process. A survey of typical delivery methods compared to preferences voiced by customers will determine the level of assembly that should be provided.

Most customers are realistic when problems crop up and appreciate a staff that goes

out of its way to correct mistakes immediately. This shows the customer that the business is committed to getting it right.

And an unhappy customer made happy by problem resolution can be a loyal business advocate and a good reference, whether by word of mouth or more formally. Good customer service will resonate within and outside any industry.

*Finance New Mexico is an initiative of the New Mexico Small Business Investment Corporation (NMSBIC) and its partners to assist individuals and businesses in obtaining skills and funding-resources for their business or idea. To learn more, visit [www.financenewmexico.org](http://www.financenewmexico.org).*

## The Loan Fund marks 20 years of serving NM

More than \$41.5 million distributed statewide

Leroy Pacheco, president and CEO of The Loan Fund, announced significant 20-year milestones for the nonprofit lender.

In 2010, The Loan Fund, a New Mexico nonprofit alternative lender to small businesses and nonprofits statewide, topped \$41.5 million in cumulative loans over 20 years to small businesses, nonprofit organizations and Native American enterprises.

"The exact figure was \$41,573,689," Pacheco said. "We disbursed over \$12.5 million in the past two years alone – 30 percent of the overall total – because banks are not lending and the need for business financing has been so great."

Pacheco said The Loan Fund's two decades of lending have helped create or preserve 6,000 living-wage jobs.

"Despite a difficult economy, we enjoy a 97.5 percent repayment rate from the 1,200 clients we have served," Pacheco said. "These are people who are starting or expanding sustainable businesses and nonprofit organizations that enrich their communities."

Since 1989, The Loan Fund has grown from a fledgling nonprofit, with an initial \$70,000 investment from the Michigan-based Adrian Dominican Sisters, to a leading lending organization with \$16 million in assets. The Loan Fund has made loans

from as small as \$2,000 to a home-based coffin maker to as large as \$750,000 for a chile processing plant.

"We focus our services on hard-working, low-to-middle income people whose financing needs may not fit a bank's traditional lending guidelines," Pacheco said.

The Loan Fund was founded in 1989 by individuals affiliated with the New Mexico Conference of Churches to improve the economic and social conditions of New Mexicans.

"In addition to providing loans and credit, we offer technical assistance and mentoring – and we are the only alternative lender in the state willing to provide financing to nonprofits," Pacheco said.

The Loan Fund's pool of financing comes from diverse sources that include state and federal agencies, banks, foundations, individual donors and faith-based organizations.

"We want to express deep gratitude to our clients, funders, partners and our board of directors," Pacheco said. "Without their continued support and dedication to our mission, we could not have achieved the milestones we enjoy today."

Las Cruces Loan Fund clients in Las Cruces include The Hobby Horse, Wet Dog Mobile Pet Grooming, Gonzales Nursery and Los Mariachis Restaurant.

For more information, call The Loan Fund at 505-294-1976.

## Donaldson visits Friday

Longtime ABC anchor to speak at Chamber banquet

A west Texas native who gained national acclaim as an ABC newsmen will return to Las Cruces Friday, Jan. 21.

Sam Donaldson will serve as the keynote speaker for the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, which begins at 6 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

Donaldson, born in El Paso, was a reporter and news anchor for ABC News from 1979 through the late 1990s.



**DONALDSON**

Although he was born in Texas, Donaldson grew up in Chamberino, a small farming community in southern Doña Ana County. He attended the University of Texas-El Paso, where he served as manager for the campus radio station, KTEP.

Today, Donaldson occasionally serves as a panelist on "This Week" alongside Cokie Roberts and George Will and co-hosts "Politics Live" on

ABC News Now.

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# In Good Company: Steel Magnolia Boutique & Company

## Details

### Company

Steel Magnolia Boutique & Company

### Address

2521 Avenida de Mesilla  
(Caballero Plaza)

### Phone:

915-7753

### Hours:

11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday through Saturday



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Gabriel Vasquez

**New business owner Jessica Tharp has opened Steel Magnolia Boutique & Company in the Caballero Plaza in Mesilla, 2521 Avenida de Mesilla.**

# A new, fun place to shop local

## Mesilla boutique offers contemporary Western wear for women

By **Gabriel Vasquez**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

It's not rustic, not truly Western, but a boutique more aptly described as "Southwestern contemporary meets bling."

The new Mesilla retail store is called Steel Magnolia Boutique & Company, and new business owner Jessica Tharp said it's everything she hoped for when she envisioned owning a business more than a year ago.

"I've always loved all the products and styles that I now carry in my store," Tharp said. "It's always been so hard to find them in Las Cruces. Many of these items you can only find online."

Opened in December 2010 and located in the Caballero Plaza, 2521 Avenida de Mesilla, the new specialty retail shop offers a variety of clothing and apparel for women, including brands such as Gypsy Soule, which makes custom jewelry, hats and handmade Italian leather flip-flops with Swarovski crystals; Raviani, which makes handmade leather bags in a variety of styles ranging from \$100 to \$1,000; and jewelry from local artisan David DeVari, who specializes in handmade, custom crosses.

"We also carry lots of rhinestone belts, baby boutique items, baby shower items and a lot more," Tharp said. "Right now I'm working on getting a variety of sizes and more kids' clothes."

Although the shop exudes the ambiance of

an upscale boutique, a majority of the store's apparel is "college kid" affordable, Tharp said.

"I was always the broke college kid that couldn't afford anything, and just because this is a boutique, it doesn't mean you have to come in and spend thousands of dollars," she said.

Tharp was born in Oklahoma, but was raised in Animas, N.M., a small ranching community south of Lordsburg. She attended high school in Aztec, N.M., and came to Las Cruces to pursue a degree at New Mexico State University. In Las Cruces, she met her husband Preston, a local farmer who grows lettuce, cabbage, pecans and chile.

"My husband is the one who had the idea to open the store," Tharp said. "We have a 3-year-old little boy and a soon-to-be 5-month-old little girl, Payton and Kyler Ann."

"Having kids, I just wanted something that I could have for myself and not have to work under someone. I've had jobs where your kid is sick, and they don't care. I've always wanted my family to come first and I think can do that with this business."

Tharp will continuously update the boutique's clothing and apparel as the year progresses, she said. She hopes to add boots and jeans in the near future.

"I want to offer items for everyone from infants, moms to grandmas – just anyone,"

“ ... I want this to be a fun place for people to visit. I want the music loud and a really great atmosphere. ”

JESSICA THARP,  
owner, Steel Magnolia  
Boutique & Company

## Q&A

### Talking business with owner Jessica Tharp

#### What inspired you to become an entrepreneur?

I've always wanted to work for myself and not work under someone.

#### Who are your customers?

Mostly women – everyone from moms to grandmas

#### Where do you see your business in five years?

I see it as a big name in Las Cruces. Hopefully five to 10 years down the road, I can open another store somewhere else.

#### What are your thoughts on the local economy?

Well, it's not the best time for retailers after Christmas. Everybody's got new stuff and has spent a lot of money, but there's a lot of people in Las Cruces who still want nice things.

#### What business would you like to see in Las Cruces?

A fun place to eat that's quick, like a Johnny Rockets.

Tharp said. "And I want this to be a fun place for people to visit. I want the music loud and a really great atmosphere."

For more information, call Steel Magnolia Boutique & Company at 915-7753.



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Profile

# Jeff Elmore: Former secret agent helping area farmers

Elmore reflects on times past: 'I did it because it was a challenge'

By **Gabriel Vasquez**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

What's a former Secret Service agent doing selling fertilizer in a small farming community in the Mesilla Valley?

Coincidentally put, he's returned to a simpler way of life.

Jeff Elmore, branch manager for Helena Chemical Co. in Mesquite – an agricultural town just south of Vado – is happy living life at a slower pace, helping area farmers fertilize their fields and control pests and disease.

"When I first arrived here, I was amazed at the terrain, the mountains, the desert," he said. "Very few people leave the Secret Service, the retention is just tremendous – but it was a family decision, and that's why I did it."

Born in Corsicana, Texas, and raised and schooled in Decatur, Ala., Elmore grew up on a farm and decided early in his life he would make farm and ranch work his calling. After graduating in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University, Elmore began working for Helena Chemical as a salesman before moving up to branch manager in 1992. In 1997, Elmore decided to give a lifetime career opportunity a shot in the dark, one that would ultimately define him for the rest of his life.

"I left (Helena) to join the Secret Service for the experience – because it was a challenge," he said. "Nobody was pulling me in that direction. Out of more than 20,000 applicants who applied (to the Secret Service) that year, I was one of 200 who got accepted."

After some training, Elmore moved right into the service's temporary protective detail,

where he was tasked with protecting foreign dignitaries in the states. He also began working as an investigator for the agency's various criminal squads. Aside from protecting the president of the United States, the Secret Service prevents and investigates cases of major fraud and counterfeiting of U.S. currency. It also ensures the safety of national political leaders and their families, including presidents, past presidents and presidential candidates.

"I was dealing with federal crimes, wire fraud, counterfeit money, credit card fraud and identity theft," Elmore said. "I had no previous law enforcement experience, so it was a huge learning curve for me."

Stationed out of Dallas, Elmore worked with the Secret Service for about six years, "although I was never really in Dallas," he said.

"That's just the base," he said. "You go everywhere. You may get orders to go to Miami one day and Macedonia the next. You never knew."

"I've been to just about every state in the nation and more than eight countries."

It was that uncertainty that prompted Elmore to reconsider the effect his career was having on his family life.

"Honestly, it was a little bit tough on my family," Elmore said.

His last two years in the service were spent primarily in Crawford, Texas, where Elmore was assigned to protective duty for former President George W. Bush.

"You never knew what you were going to do the next day," he said, "but I

especially enjoyed the campaigns because you really were all over the place all the time."

In 2003, Elmore quit the service and re-joined Helena to become the manager of its Mesquite branch.

"It was a little different here than I anticipated," he said. "There were a lot of challenges with state regulatory issues, but it has become one of my favorite places I've ever lived. I like the people, the customer base – it's a great place to live."

Founded in 1957, Helena is a national company with a presence in almost every state. It sells crop-protection products and fertilizers and offers its service to the agricultural, turf and ornamental, forestry, aquatics and vegetation management industries. Nationwide, the company employs 3,000 and about 40 at its Mesquite branch.

"This is a pretty important place for jobs in Mesquite," Elmore said. "I manage the overall operations there."

It's been somewhat of a bumpy ride for Helena since Elmore first arrived. In December 2008, Helena sued a Mesquite resident, Arturo Uribe, for defamation after Uribe contended publicly the company's presence was making children in the town sick.

"There has been a lot of misinformation about Helena here," Elmore said. "But we are moving forward, and we are going to be here for the long-term in this community."

Helena won the suit against Uribe in April 2010. Uribe was forced to pay Helena \$75,000 in punitive damages. Also in April 2010, Helena won a \$23,500 lawsuit against the New Mexico Environmental

Department (NMED) after state courts determined that NMED did not adhere to the Inspection of Public Records Act when it denied Helena access to public documents in 2009. Shortly after the court decision, Elmore donated the money paid by NMED to Las Cruces Public Schools. He donated \$11,750 each to the Mayfield and Las Cruces high schools' Future Farmers of America chapters.

"There was nobody in (the corporate offices) who said, 'We need to donate this or do that,'" Elmore said. "It's been my decision to donate to the local schools, the county fair, local baseball teams and the FFA. I believe strongly in supporting this community."

To further hone his leadership skills, Elmore, a 2009 graduate of the chamber's Leadership Las Cruces program, has enrolled in Leadership New Mexico, a nonprofit leadership institute that offers yearlong leadership courses to state business and civic leaders.

"The leadership classes are big for me," Elmore said. "You're able to meet different people throughout the city and county, and now the state. They have helped me learn more things than I thought I ever could about this community."

For leisure, Elmore spends time with his family and is an avid outdoorsman. He hikes, hunts, fishes – you name it.

"Some of my favorite places are the Gila, Las Floridas and Cloudcroft," he said. "I love the outdoors."

And for those who still may be wondering what's going on at the Helena warehouse in Mesquite, "We don't manufacture anything. We're just a distributor, and we're here to help our farmers," he said.

For more information or to contact Elmore, call Helena's Mesquite branch at 323-3171.

Details

**Jeff Elmore**

Mesquite branch manager, Helena Chemical Co.

**Education**

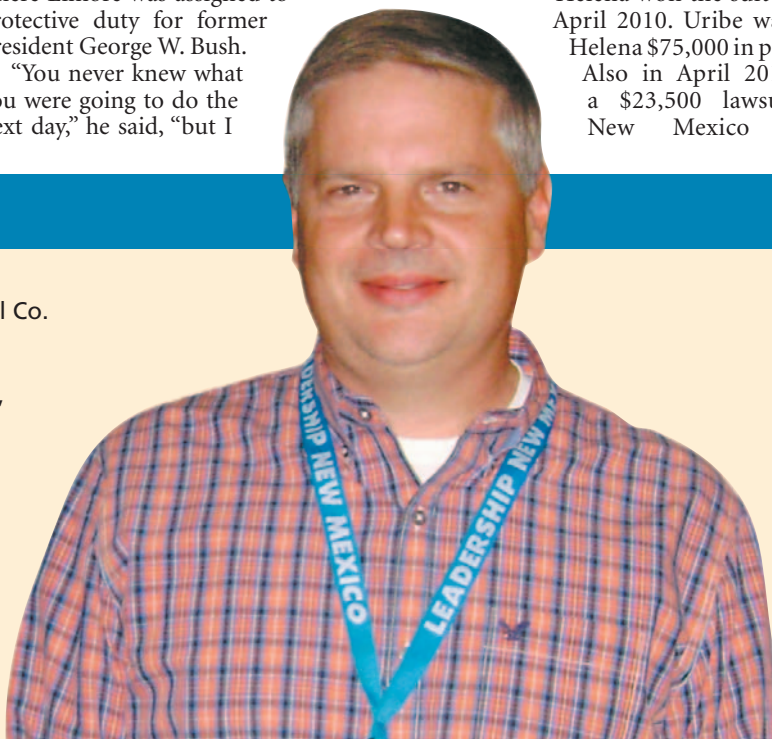
Bachelor's degree in agricultural economics, Texas A&M University

**Organizations**

- Future Farmers of America
- Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
- Leadership New Mexico
- U.S. Secret Service

**Contact**

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# Ribbon Cuttings

## Las Cruces Convention Center



Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce photo

Las Cruces City Manager Robert Garza, City Councillor Miguel Silva, Mayor Ken Miyagishima, City Councillor Dolores Connor, Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Thomas and City Councillor Nathan Small cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially declare the Las Cruces Convention Center open for business during a grand-opening ceremony held Thursday, Jan. 13. The convention center held its first public event Dec. 3, 2010.

## De La O Visitors Center



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

State Sen. Mary Jane Garcia and John Muñoz, president of the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces, prepare to cut the ribbon celebrating the opening of the De La O Visitors Center in Doña Ana village Saturday, Jan. 15, at the corner of Joe Gutierrez and Cristo Rey streets. Holding the proclamations of goodwill are Margie Huerta, Doña Ana Community College president and board chair for the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, and Troy Tudor, chair of the Greater Las Cruces chamber's Conquistadores. The ribbon cutting, held by both the Hispano and Greater Las Cruces chambers of commerce, celebrated years of hard work by Garcia and residents of the village of Doña Ana to renovate a historic building for tourists, travelers and locals alike.



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## Keep the jazz coming C3



## Another teriyaki success C9



## Film offers simple elegance during a harsh life C17



## Identity crisis in 'The Dilemma' C18

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### NEXT WEEK

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# Crime and Punishment

Dostoevsky classic comes to life  
Jan. 21-Feb. 6 at the  
Black Box Theatre



# 'Crime and Punishment' now playing

## New adaptation explores killer's mind

By David Edwards  
Las Cruces Bulletin

I was supposed to have read "Crime and Punishment" in Honors English during my senior year of high school. I didn't. Sorry Mrs. Roberge. Come to think of it, I was supposed to have read "The Scarlet Letter" and "Moby Dick" during my sophomore year. Didn't do that either. I have managed to avoid quite an impressive list of classic literature during my academic career. I'm sure I'm not the only one.

So what's a slacker like me supposed to do in order to get the necessary exposure to the classics? How does one go about filling those gaps? There's CliffNotes, I guess, or how about Wikipedia? Or I just might wander down to the No Strings Theatre Company and see its production of "Crime and Punishment," which starts Friday, Jan. 21, at the Black Box Theatre.

Take comfort in the fact that the director and at least two of the actors have actually read the novel, so when it comes to having the proper background to present a Dostoevsky-appropriate interpretation, these guys should be able to pull it off.

You may be at least slightly familiar with the story. But if you aren't, and don't want to know, skip the next two paragraphs.

Raskolnikov, a poor student, decides to murder an unscrupulous old pawnbroker for her money. He reasons that not only will he be ridding the world of an evil person, but he will be able to do good things with her money. He carries out the plan, but unfortunately kills the pawnbroker's innocent sister as well when she blunders onto the scene.

Raskolnikov suffers much mental anguish over his act and begins behaving strangely, which draws the attention of detective Porfiry Petrovich. Petrovich is convinced of Raskolnikov's guilt even though another man has confessed to the crime. Meanwhile, the saintly Sonya becomes Raskolnikov's confessor and

spiritual guide, even following him to prison in Siberia.

This stage adaptation is by Marilyn Campbell and Curt Columbus, and it focuses more on the inner workings of Raskolnikov's mind, eliminating a number of characters and subplots. It was something that first-time Black Box director Shaun Hadfield had been searching for.

"It's a story I took interest in since high school," Hadfield said. "You have a man who does such a despicable thing, but ultimately can be sympathized with and is redeemed by the end of the story."

"When people started hinting at me that I should direct something, I really didn't know what I wanted to do, I couldn't really think of anything traditional. It popped into my head that it would be really cool to try and stage 'Crime and Punishment' in a way that people would enjoy."

The enjoyment factor probably included not having the show run for three hours and not be "drudgy," as Hadfield said.

He discovered this 90-minute adaptation about two years ago; he liked it and waited for a time when he not only had the experience, but an opportunity to direct it.

"I had directed at last year's Las Cruces Community Theatre's one-act festival an original script by an NMSU student and did another performance piece with a friend of mine," Hadfield said. "Ceil (Herman, No Strings Theatre Company artistic director) was looking for submissions, and I offered this to her. It is a bit of a daring piece for them (the Black Box Theatre) to take on. A bit of a risk. After she and Peter (Herman) saw the one-acts, we began talking about actually putting it on the schedule."

Hadfield promises the show is going to be "a classic piece of literature, a classic story being told in a way that is new and engaging. It will make you want to read the book to see how the rest of the angles play out."



Director of "Crime and Punishment" Shaun Hadfield poses with cast members Robert Senecal, Cyndi Cross, William Zimmerman, Algernon D'Amassa and Natasha Sanchez. The play will run at the Black Box Theatre Friday, Jan. 21-Sunday, Feb. 6.

The play version only tells one part of the story, but those who are familiar with the novel should be very satisfied with the relationships between Raskolnikov and Sonya, as well as with that of the criminal and detective. There are situations and characters that are absent, and while those may be missed by some, "the meat of the story is there," Hadfield said.

"It does cover the themes and theories that are covered in the book such as that of the 'extraordinary man.' Do certain people in society have the right to kill if it is for the betterment of the world?" he said.

Hadfield and his cast face the challenge of keeping an audience not familiar with the novel interested as well as satisfying those who are well-versed in the literature.

"In order to take a story as large as 'Crime and Punishment' and put it on a stage in a way that's interesting, especially for those who haven't read the book before, there are certain

liberties that have to be taken," Hadfield said. "I believe we have tried to approach the material in a way that stays in the spirit of Dostoevsky's work."

New Mexico State University theater student William Zimmerman plays Raskolnikov. Deming High School theater teacher Algernon D'Amassa portrays the detective Porfiry Petrovich. Natasha Sanchez is Sonya while Cyndi Cross plays the pawnbroker Alyona and her sister Lizaveta. Robert Senecal plays Sonya's drunken father Marmeladov and various other characters.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29 and Feb. 4 and 5. Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. A Thursday performance is at 7 p.m. Feb. 3. Tickets are \$10 regular admission, \$9 students and seniors 65 and over, and all seats on Thursday are \$7. For reservations or more information, call 523-1223.

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### Details

#### Crime and Punishment

##### Where

Black Box Theatre  
430 N. Downtown Mall

##### When

Friday, Jan. 21- Sunday, Feb. 6

##### Call

523-1223

##### Cost

\$10 general admission, \$9 students and seniors 65 and over, all seats \$7 on Thursday

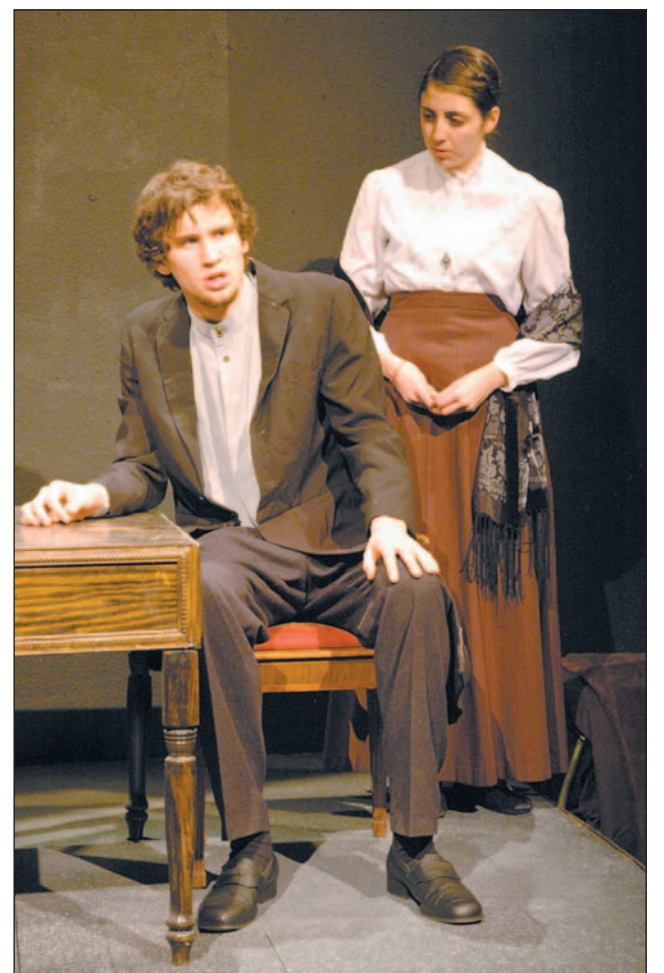
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William Zimmerman and Natasha Sanchez star in "Crime and Punishment" at the Black Box Theatre.

# Featured Artist: *Howard Elkins*

## Turning a passion into a career

Banjo player strums sweet tunes in the Jim Cullum Jazz Band

By **Samantha Roberts**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Growing up, Howard Elkins never knew his hobby would one day become his career and considers himself lucky to love his work.

Elkins was born in Oklahoma and moved to El Paso, in high school. There, he attended the University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP) and graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing. Elkins said he picked up the banjo because he liked the sound of it and has been playing ever since.

"I was always interested in music," Elkins said. "I started playing the banjo because I loved the way it sounded. It was unique."

Elkins began playing at a place called Turn of the Century in El Paso and attributes these gigs as well as influential mentors to the starting point of his music career.

"Other players mentored me," he said. "(Trombone player Bob Foskett) and I would go to his house and listen to his record collection. We listened to a lot of jazz."

After college, El Paso pianist Mike Francis became another mentor to Elkins, and the two began playing together. However, the music gigs weren't enough to support a full-time career, and Elkins had to get a "day job," until he met Jim Cullum.



The Jim Cullum Jazz Band will play Sunday, Jan. 23, at the Atkinson Recital Hall on the NMSU campus. Band members include Jim Cullum, Jr., David Holt, Ron Hockett, Kenny Rupp, Jim Turner, Howard Elkins, Steve Pikal and Hal Smith.

"I was playing a concert at UTEP, and Jim was there," Elkins said. "He needed a banjo player. I have been playing with them for more than 32 years."

With the new job also came a new city. Elkins packed his bags and moved to San Antonio, where the Jim Cullum Jazz Band plays every weekend at The Landing nightclub.

"We play for groups or individuals," he said. "We play five nights a week anywhere from San Antonio to across the world, but mainly in the United States. We play for anyone that will hire us, including specific dates and festivals. But if we're not traveling, then we're playing at home on the River Walk."

Elkins has successfully turned a hobby into a career and said he feels blessed.

"Not many people get to do what I'm doing other than orchestra performers. I have a passion for music," he said, adding that having passion is a key attribute to any music career.

The Jim Cullum Jazz Band has also hosted

the radio show "River Walk Jazz" for more than 20 years. Like the band, "River Walk Jazz" plays jazz in the classic manner, in the style of small,

hot ensembles prior to World War II.

"The radio show is pretty cool," he said. "We've had some big-name guests on the show, and I've had the privilege to play with some of them."

The Jim Cullum Jazz Band includes: Cullum, co-host of "River Walk Jazz," bandleader and

“Not many people get to do what I’m doing.”

HOWARD ELKINS,  
banjo and guitar player

### Who is Jim Cullum?

**Co-host Jim Cullum Jr., bandleader, cornet**

In the 1950s, when everyone else his age was listening to Elvis Presley and Connie Francis, Jim Cullum Jr. locked onto the sounds of early jazz greats Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke, King Oliver and Jelly Roll Morton.

At first he thought he might want to play trombone, but one day while helping his dad in the grocery business, Cullum Jr. caught sight of an antique cornet in a store window and fell in love.

While attending Trinity University in San Antonio, he formed a seven-piece traditional jazz group known as the Happy Jazz Band, with his father the late Jim Cullum Sr., who had played professionally with Jack Teagarden and others in the '40s. In 1963, a group of San Antonio business leaders established The Landing, a jazz club on the San Antonio River Walk, as a showcase for the Happy Jazz Band. Under Cullum Jr.'s direction, the band evolved into a nationally acclaimed professional company known as the Jim Cullum Jazz Band. His lifelong passion has been researching, preserving and presenting jazz and popular song from the turn of the 20th century to the mid-'40s.

cornet player; co-host of "River Walk Jazz" David Holt, a four-time Grammy Award-winning musician and storyteller; clarinet player Ron Hockett; trombone player Kenny Rupp; piano player Jim Turner; banjo and guitar player Elkins, who also provides vocals; bass player Steve Pikal; and on the drums is Hal Smith.

The Jim Cullum Jazz Band will play at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23, at the Atkinson Recital Hall on the New Mexico State University campus. The performance is part of Jam Session and tickets are \$30. For more information, call 646-2222.

### Details

#### Jim Cullum Jazz Band

**Where**  
Atkinson Recital Hall on the NMSU campus

**When**  
7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23

**Cost**  
\$30

**Call**  
646-2222

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# Librarian's book scores big

## NMSU archivist's book makes list of New Mexico's best

The book "The Whole Damned World: New Mexico Aggies at War 1941-1945" by New Mexico State University library archivist Martha Shipman Andrews is now among the titles listed as the 100 Best New Mexico Books.

The New Mexico Book Co-op announced the list in January, in time for the New Mexico Centennial in 2012. Authors, librarians and the public voted books on, which included classic books as well as relatively new books.

Andrews edited "The Whole Damned World," with an introduction by Richard Melzer of the University of New Mexico-Valencia. The NMSU Library, in collaboration with Rio Grande Books, published it in 2008. The book

appears on the list with classics, such as "Bless Me, Ultima" by Rudolfo Anaya, "A Thief of Time" by Tony Hillerman and "Death Comes for the Archbishop" by Willa Cather.

"The Whole Damned World" consists of approximately 250 letters written to NMSU Dean of Engineering Daniel B. Jett by former students serving in all branches of the services and every theater of World War II. The entire collection of 5,000 letters is held by the Archives and Special Collections Department of the NMSU Library.

"I can't quite get my head around being on a list with Willa Cather and Tony Hillerman," Andrews said. "My dad would be proud, and

that gives me a lot of satisfaction. I wish I could let all the letter writers know they have a sort of immortality."

"The Whole Damned World" was previously awarded the New Mexico History Book Award, the first-ever Best New Mexico Book Award and the Caliente Award from Reading New Mexico.

Information about the 100 Best New Mexico Books is available at [nmbookcoop.com/Projects/Best-Books/Best-Books.html](http://nmbookcoop.com/Projects/Best-Books/Best-Books.html). "The Whole Damned World" is available at local bookstores and online. For more information, contact Andrews at 646-5028 or [mandrews@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:mandrews@lib.nmsu.edu).



Martha Shipman Andrews celebrates the inclusion of her book in 100 Best New Mexico Books.

## Call to Artists

### MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY

The Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe in Mesilla, has openings for interested artists and digital photographers to display their work. For more information, call 522-2933, stop by the gallery for an application or visit [www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com](http://www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com).

### NEW MEXICO ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

The 50th annual New Mexico Arts and Crafts Fair, which will feature 220 of New Mexico's most talented artisans, invites artists to submit their work. Artwork will be displayed at the Manuel Lujan building at Expo New Mexico, the state fairgrounds in Albuquerque. The New Mexico Arts and Crafts Fair is the longest-running art show in New Mexico and features New Mexico artists exclusively. The deadline to register is Monday, Jan. 31. Apply online at [www.zapplication.org](http://www.zapplication.org). For more information, visit, [www.nmartsandcraftsfair.org](http://www.nmartsandcraftsfair.org), email [info@nmartsandcraftsfair.org](mailto:info@nmartsandcraftsfair.org) or call 505-884-9043. Event dates are June 24-26.

### AUDITIONS FOR 'THE SPITFIRE GRILL'

No Strings Theatre Company will hold auditions for "The Spitfire Grill," a play based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff, with music and book by James Valcq, and lyrics and book by Fred Alley at 7 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Feb. 6-7, at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall.

Performances will be April 8-24, with a possible extension to a fourth weekend.

In "The Spitfire Grill," a feisty parolee follows her dreams, based on a page from an old travel book, to a small town in Wisconsin and finds a place for herself working at Hannah's Spitfire Grill. The grill is for sale, but

there are no takers for the only eatery in the depressed town, so newcomer Percy suggests to Hannah that she raffle it off. Entry fees are \$100 and the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon, mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow and things are definitely cookin' at the Spitfire Grill.

Available roles include: one female to play a character in her 20s with range to D, some head voice; one female to play a character in her 70s with mezzo/alto range; one female to play a character in her 30s with a folk soprano to D; one female to play a character in her 50s with a strong mezzo/alto chest range and ability to harmonize; one male to play a character in his 40s with tenor to G; one male to play a character in his 40s with no singing or speaking part, but in need of strong stage presence; and one male to play a character in his mid-late 20s tenor with strong range to G.

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script and the performance of a prepared piece of music. A perusal script is on reserve at Branigan Library Reservation Desk. All music is in the folk/country genre and the audition piece should be appropriate. For more information, email the director Nikka Ziemer at [nziemer@hotmail.com](mailto:nziemer@hotmail.com).

### THE MINI ART GALLERY SHOW

Senior Programs will be participating in The Love of Art, with a show at the Munson Senior Center. This show highlights artwork by senior artists – people 50 years of age or older – and crafters from the Las Cruces area.

The Love of Art Show has been set for Tuesday through Friday, Feb. 15-18. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to noon Friday. Artists 50 and older who wish to show their work can bring it to the Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., Friday, Feb. 11.

An artist reception will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15. The show is open to the public.

Submitted work may include paintings,

drawings, china paintings, stained glass, pottery, woodcarving, jewelry, quilts, embroidery, crochet and knit items and other crafts. There is a limit of two items, with only one being a painting. Stained glass items may also be limited. If you are only showing jewelry and greeting cards, four items will be allowed. For more information, call the Munson Center at 528-3000.

### ART MUSEUM SEEKS SOLO AND GROUP EXHIBITS

The Las Cruces Museum of Art seeks submissions of utilitarian and sculptural ceramics for the 2011 exhibition "From the Ground Up XXV." The submission deadline is April 8. This call for submissions is open to ceramic artists from the Rocky Mountain region of the United States – New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. Artists may submit up to four entries that were completed within the past three years. The submission fee for one to four entries is \$30 and is payable to Potters' Guild of Las Cruces. Submission forms can be downloaded from the Las Cruces Museum of Art website [www.lascruces.org/museums](http://www.lascruces.org/museums). Mail entries to Museum of Art, Attn: From the Ground Up, P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004. For more information, call 541-2137.

### AVANCE, CORAZONES DE FAMILIA

An auction of heart art by regional artists and friends of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave. AVANCE will supply wooden hearts to decorate for the fundraising event at no cost to the artist, and hearts will be available for pick-up at 424 N. Downtown Mall, Suite 100. Enter through the parking lot next to the Black Box Theatre. The deadline for the return of all hearts is April 1, and hearts

received by March 15, may be used for advance publicity and media opportunities at the discretion of AVANCE. For more information, call 526-6666 or 532-9330.

### CENTENNIAL ART WANTED

New Mexico-based artists and artisans are invited to submit proposals for special commemorative pieces for the upcoming statehood centennial. A wide range of artistic media will be considered, including glassware, jewelry, basketry, pottery and fiber arts (both wearable and decorative). The work should be inspired by the New Mexico Centennial, but will not include the Centennial logo, nor be a souvenir or promotional in nature.

New Mexico Creates, a program of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, is working in partnership with the New Mexico Centennial Foundation to promote the "New Mexico Creates/Centennial Commemorative Art" line. The 16-month commemoration period begins fall 2011.

For more information, visit [www.nmcentennial.org](http://www.nmcentennial.org), call 505-984-2012 or email [nmcentennial@gmail.com](mailto:nmcentennial@gmail.com).

### NMSU CHOIRS SEEKS SINGERS

The new NMSU men's and women's choirs are currently open for registration for the spring semester. No auditions are required.

For more information, email director David Klement at [dklement@nmsu.edu](mailto:dklement@nmsu.edu).

### OPEN STUDIO TOUR

Artists residing in the Alameda Area that would be interested in participating in our one day fifth annual Open Studio Tour must reside in the area and be willing to open their studio to the public for an event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 21. For more information, contact Georjeanna Feltha at 704 El Prado Ave. or email [gfelthathartist@gmail.com](mailto:gfelthathartist@gmail.com). Deadline for entries is Monday, Feb. 14.

# Las Cruces Arts Fair attracts artists nationwide

## More than 100 artists applied to showcase work

The Doña Ana Arts Council and a cadre of volunteers are producing the first fine art show in Las Cruces by reaching out to area artists as well those from across the nation.

When the application period closed Dec. 15, 2010, 115 artists hoped for the art fair jury's approval to show their work in the Las Cruces Arts Fair, which will be held March 25-27 at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

The Arts Fair jury examined work by artists and fine artisans from as far away as California and Oregon on the West Coast and from Iowa and Washington, D.C., east of the

Mississippi River.

Eighty visual artists and fine artisans will be selected to expand the Las Cruces art market. Proceeds from the Arts Fair will benefit the Doña Ana Arts Council, the 40-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting southern New Mexico arts and culture.

From 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 25, a separately ticketed VIP Preview Gala will bring artists participating in the Arts Fair together with art collectors and aficionados. The general public can attend the Las Cruces Arts Fair in the Convention Center Exhibition Hall during the three-day event from noon to

6 p.m. Friday, March 25. On Saturday, March 26, the art show is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 27.

Each day, special art experiences for children ages 6 to 12 are planned where youngsters will create their own art using a variety of media. Youngsters will be able to frame their artwork, display it and take it home when the art fair closes. Daily demonstrations by various artists executing their work will also enliven the Arts Fair. General admission public tickets for the art fair will cost \$5 each day. Children under 12 will be admitted free.

The Doña Ana Arts Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the performing, visual and literary arts and cultural

life of Las Cruces and southern New Mexico. The region's arts and culture are integral to economic growth and community development. The arts council offers a range of programs for children, art education in the public schools and at-risk youth and professional training for teachers and students. The arts council also sponsors the annual Renaissance ArtsFaire, Color Las Cruces, a monthly Downtown Ramble and a broad range of performances in the historic Rio Grande Theatre.

Tickets for the VIP event are \$75, and proceeds will benefit the Rio Grande Theatre. For tickets to the VIP event and additional information, call the Doña Ana Arts Council at 523-6403 or visit [www.daarts.org](http://www.daarts.org).

# ArtsBriefs

## Doña Ana County Historical Society's annual awards banquet

The deadline to buy tickets to the Doña Ana County Historical Society's annual awards banquet is Friday, Jan. 21. The banquet will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

A social hour and dinner will precede a presentation of awards, such as the Building of Historical Significance to the Las Cruces Railroad Depot, the Heritage Award to Keith Humphries and the Old Timers Award for the lion statues at City Hall/Branigan Library.

Tickets are \$32 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. For more information, call Xandy at 526-9774.

## Grammy Awards raffle

The Doña Ana Arts Council, in partnership with The Recording Academy, will send a winner and guest to the 53rd annual Grammy Awards Feb. 13. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the glamour and excitement of the world's premier music awards ceremony. The Grammy Awards Package includes airfare and hotel for two nights at the Bonaventure Westin, along with two bronze tickets to attend the ceremony at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. This is a trip worth \$1,200. Tickets for the award ceremony are available by invitation only and are not for sale to the public. Raffle tickets are now available for purchase at \$10 per ticket. The drawing will be held Friday, Feb. 4. Purchasers don't need to be present to win.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the DAAC offices at 523-6403.

## University library announces tours

The library staff will hold 40-minute tours of both New Mexico State University library buildings. No advanced signup is necessary. Tours will begin at the information desk in Zuhl Library at the following dates and times:

10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 24  
1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25  
3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27  
9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 28



"Mother and Child" by Romare Bearden is on display at the Las Cruces Museum of Art. The exhibition will be concluded with a Poetry Slam Saturday, Jan. 22.

## Playbill

### Opening

**Crime and Punishment**  
Black Box Theatre  
430 N. Downtown Mall  
523-1223  
Tickets \$7-\$10  
Friday, Jan. 21

### Coming Soon

**Amazing Magical Musical Adventure**  
Black Box Theatre  
430 N. Downtown Mall  
523-1223  
Tickets \$5  
Saturday, Jan. 29

### The Crucible

Las Cruces High School  
1755 El Paseo Road  
527-9400  
Tickets \$5-\$7  
Thursday, Feb. 3

Individual tours may also be arranged, and students can get a certificate of attendance that instructors may count toward extra credit.

For more information, call Wendy Simpson at 646-4129, the information desk at 646-5792 or visit [lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/tours.shtml](http://lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/tours.shtml).

## Contemporary Art Festival

During the Contemporary Art Festival, world-renowned artists will come together to share their talents and vision for three days. The first Contemporary Art Festival in Las Cruces will take place Monday through Wednesday, Feb. 7-9, at the Atkinson Recital Hall on the New Mexico State University campus. This festival will focus on contemporary music compositions and their multi-media interaction with other art disciplines.

Monday, Feb. 7, will feature the works of transformative contemporary masters Joan Tower, Louis Andriessen, Gerard Grisey and Sam Shepard.

Tuesday, Feb. 8, will feature the works of inspirational New Mexico composers Warner Hutchison and Scott Wilkinson.

Wednesday, Feb. 9, will feature the music of the iconic American composer John Cage. Audiences will delight in performances



"Condoleeza" by Peter Williams will be on display at the Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., through Jan. 29.



The Contemporary Art Festival will be held Monday through Wednesday, Feb. 7-9, at the Atkinson Recital Hall.

featuring NMSU faculty members Rhonda Taylor, Fred Bugbee, Laura Spitzer, Martha Rowe and Nancy Joy as well as the La Catrina string quartet, actress Monika Mojica and choreography by Deb Knapp.

All shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded by performances on Brack Morrow's installation piece "Partum Sanus." In this pre-concert treat, artists improvise on Morrow's massive, metallic sculpture. Pre-concert performances will begin at 6:45 p.m.

All performances are free, but donations will be gladly accepted at the door for the Warner Hutchinson Music Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Fred Bugbee at 646-2901 or Rhonda Taylor at 646-4814.

## Students need your Oscar votes

Brandi Parrell and Angela Hardenburg of New Mexico State University are semi-finalists in the third annual MTVU Oscars Correspondent Contest, a joint-promotion from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and MTVU, MTV's 24-hour college network.

Parrell and Hardenburg have beaten out college students from across the country to become one of 10 semi-finalist teams in the running to win a spot on the red carpet at this year's Academy Awards. Currently, their video entries, along with the other nine semifinalist videos, are posted online at [oscars.mtvu.com](http://oscars.mtvu.com) for the public to view and vote on until 2 p.m. (PT) Friday, Jan. 28.

The three teams whose videos receive the most votes will be announced Wednesday, Feb. 2, and will advance to the final round of the contest. Those three teams will be flown to Los Angeles to participate in various events leading up to the 83rd annual Academy Awards Sunday, Feb. 27.

## Poetry Slam at the Las Cruces Museum of Art

Hakim Bellamy is a two-time National Champion in the Poetry Slam scene, musician, journalist and playwright. Bellamy will host a poetry slam at the Las Cruces Museum of Art from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22. The event features performance poetry by Jasmine and Aaron Cuffee, Roberto Santos and Ahmit Ghosh. Students from Alma d'arte Charter High School will also perform.

Slam Poetry is the competitive art of performance poetry. Poets present their work and are judged by members of the audience. Anyone

interested in participating in the slam should register the day of the event at 12:30 pm.

The event takes place on the final day of the "Looking Ahead: Portraits from the Mott-Warsh Collection" exhibition. The exhibition includes 30 portraits of people of African descent, in a variety of media by artists, including Robert Mapplethorpe, Elizabeth Catlett and Romare Bearden.

The Las Cruces Museum of Art is located at 491 N. Main St. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 541-2137 or visit [www.las-cruces.org/museums](http://www.las-cruces.org/museums).

## Amazing Magical Musical Adventure

The next Amazing Magical Musical Adventure we will celebrate Chinese New Year and usher in the Year of the Rabbit. Festivities will include songs, stories and other traditional Chinese activities. Come join the fun while experiencing meaningful aspects of the Chinese culture and look forward to a year filled with luck and happiness. This event is fun for the entire family and will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. All tickets are \$5. For reservations or more information, call 523-1223.

## New Mexico Women's Choir



The New Mexico Women's Choir will perform at the Good Samaritan Auditorium.

The New Mexico Women's Choir will perform at the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, in a concert sponsored by the GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) Center. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10, or at the door for \$15. Senior and student admission is \$8. Advanced tickets may be purchased at the GLBTQ Center, 1210 N. Main St. For more information, call 635-4902.

# EventsCalendar

## FRI. 1/21

**10 a.m. Storytime,** Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. "It's All About Olivia" will be read. Free. Call 522-4499.

**6 to 9 p.m. Live music,** Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Call 527-5310.

**6 to 9 p.m. Live music by Ted Scanlon from The Desperados,** Mix Pacific Rim Cuisine and Katana Teppanyaki Grill, 1001 E. University Ave. No cover. Call 532-2042.

**6:30 p.m. Howling Coyote,** First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo Road. Open to acoustic musicians, singers, poets and storytellers. A full stage, sound and lights are provided by Skip Connelley. Free. Call 525-9333 or 915-799-5684.

**6:30 to 9:30 p.m. La Cella Bella cello quartet,** St. Clair Winery & Bistro, 1800 Avenida de Mesilla. Pop/rock genre. No cover. Call 524-0390.

**8 to 10:30 p.m. Community Contra Dance featuring the Deming Fusiliers,** Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago. Newcomer instruction is at 7:30 p.m. and the dance caller is Lonnie Ludeman. Cost \$4-\$5. Call 522-1691.

**7 to 9 p.m. Speed dating event,** Las Cruces Event Center, 522 E. Idaho Ave. The event is sponsored by Mimbres-Paguime Connection. A mixer will follow. Cost \$10. Call 680-6515.

## SAT. 1/22

**9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market,** Downtown Mall, along Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art and much more. Free. Email staff@lascrucesfarmersmarket.org.

**10 a.m. to noon, Cooking class,** Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo Road, Suite M. Balancing your body with raw cultured veggies with Connie Knudson. Free. Call 523-0436.

**10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces,** COAS Bookstores, 317 N. Main St. and 1101 S. Solano Drive. Gloria Hacker will be the storyteller at the Downtown location, and Pat Gill will be the storyteller at the Solano COAS store. COAS will give coupons for free books to all children who attend. Free. Call 526-8377.

**11:30 a.m. to noon, Magic Carpet StoryTime,** Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St. Free. Call 541-2154.

**5 to 6 p.m. Beginning drum class,** My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Learn the basic Middle Eastern rhythms. Cost \$2. Call 526-9509.

**6 to 9 p.m. Live music,** Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Call 527-5310.

**7 to 9 p.m. Swinging Dancers of Munson Center,** Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Couples, singles and guests are welcome to dance to the music

of Jim Corrons. Cost \$6. Call 528-3000.

## SUN 1/23

**Noon to 4 p.m. Uptown Craft and Growers Market,** Mesilla Valley Mall in front of Sears in the parking lot. Shop for local arts, crafts and produce. Free. Call 650-7414.

**1 p.m. Bingo,** Las Cruces Event Center, 522 E. Idaho Ave. Doors open one hour before the games begin, with early-bird sessions beginning before the regular games start. There is a snack bar available. \$10. Call 680-6515.

**2 p.m. Fourth Sunday Movie,** Thomas Branigan Library Roadrunner Room, 200 E. Picacho Ave. The Pope's Toilet (El Baño del Papa) is in Spanish with English subtitles. Free. Call 528-4014.

**3 to 7 p.m. Open Mic,** Blue Moon Bar, 13060 N. Highway 185. Free. Call 647-9524.

**7 p.m. Jim Cullum Jazz Band,** Atkinson Recital Hall on the NMSU campus. The Jim Cullum Jazz Band is a seven-piece traditional jazz ensemble led by Jim Cullum Jr. Since 1989, the band has been featured nationally on its own weekly public radio series "River Walk Jazz." Cost \$30. Call 646-2222.

## MON. 1/24

**10 a.m. Yarn Junkies,** Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Meet in the café for fun and exchange knitting ideas. Free. Call 522-4499.

**1:30 p.m. Bingo,** Las Cruces Event Center, 522 E. Idaho Ave. Doors open one hour before the games begin, with early-bird sessions beginning before the regular games start. There is a snack bar available. \$10. Call 680-6515.

**7:30 p.m. Graduate voice recital,** Atkinson Recital Hall on the NMSU campus. The recital will feature Guo Ying. Free. Call 646-2421.

## TUE. 1/25

**5 p.m. Jazz Film Series: "Bird,"** Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. As part of the Jam Session, the Doña Ana Arts Council and Rio Grande Theatre present a classic jazz-themed film from the Hollywood vaults. The screening is preceded by a mini-concert by a jazz group. This week's performance will be by Roman Chip and the screening will be "Bird," starring Forest Whitaker, Diane Venora and Samuel E. Wright and directed by Clint Eastwood. Free. Call 523-6404.

**5 to 6 p.m. Beginning belly dance class,** My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Learn to dance and use props. Great exercise for the body and mind. Cost \$2. Call 526-9509.



**Don't forget about the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Wednesday and Saturday in Main Street Downtown.**

**6 p.m. Lecture by James Elkins,** College of Health and Social Services Annex Building Auditorium, Room 101, on the NMSU campus. From the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, James Elkins will present the lecture "How to Use Your Eyes and How Some Animals Use Their Eyes." Free. Call 646-3329.

**7 to 9:30 p.m. Argentine Tango Group,** Las Cruces Country Club, 2350 N. Main St. Beginners, singles and couples over 21 are welcome to join the Big Band Dance Club. Cost \$5-10. Call 642-1699.

## WED. 1/26

**8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market,** Downtown Mall, along Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art and much more. Free. Email staff@lascrucesfarmersmarket.org.

**6:30 p.m. Stitch & Visit meeting,** Hastings, 2350 E. Lohman Ave. Creative ideas and good conversation are shared. To participate, bring a portable craft. Free. Call 525-1625, email meadows@zianet.com or visit lascrucessitches.multiply.com.

**7:30 p.m. Graduate voice recital,** Atkinson Recital Hall on the NMSU campus. The recital will feature Ryan Allais. Free. Call 646-2421.

## THU. 1/27

**9 a.m. to noon, Fiber Club,** My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Cost \$2. Call 526-9509.

**5 to 6 p.m. Beginning belly dance class,** My Place Jewell 140-A Wyatt Drive. Learn to dance and use props. Great exercise for the body and mind. Cost \$2. Call 526-9509.

**5 to 6 p.m. How to Make Your Own Gluten Free**

**Baking Mix class,** Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo Road, Suite M. Katherine Teksten will teach the class, sign up is required. Free to member, \$5 for nonmembers. Call 523-0436.

**6 to 9 p.m. Live music,** Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Call 527-5310.

**6:30 p.m. Friends of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library annual membership meeting,** Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. Elections of new officers will be held, and the winner of the quilt raffle will be drawn. The Young at Heart Chorus will perform musical favorites. Free. Call 528-9891.

**7 p.m. NMSU vs. Boise State men's basketball game,** Pan Am Center on the NMSU campus. Cost \$8-\$31. Call 646-1420.

**7 p.m. Bingo,** Las Cruces Event Center, 522 E. Idaho Ave. Doors open one hour before the games begin, with early-bird sessions beginning before the regular games start. There is a snack bar available. \$10. Call 680-6515.

## FRI. 1/28

**10 a.m. Storytime,** Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Special guest Spot will be visiting. Free. Call 522-4499.

**6 to 9 p.m. Live music,** Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Call 527-5310.

**6 to 9 p.m. Live music by Ted Scanlon from The Desperados,** Mix Pacific Rim Cuisine and Katana Teppanyaki Grill, 1001 E. University Ave. No cover. Call 532-2042.

## SAT. 1/29

**9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market,** Downtown Mall, along Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art and much more. Free. Email staff@lascrucesfarmersmarket.org.

**10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces,** COAS Bookstores, 317 N. Main St. and 1101 S. Solano Drive. Sharlene Wittern and Sarah Addison will be the storytellers at the Downtown location, and Loni Todoroki will be the storyteller at the Solano COAS store. COAS will give coupons for free books to all children who attend. Free. Call 526-8377.

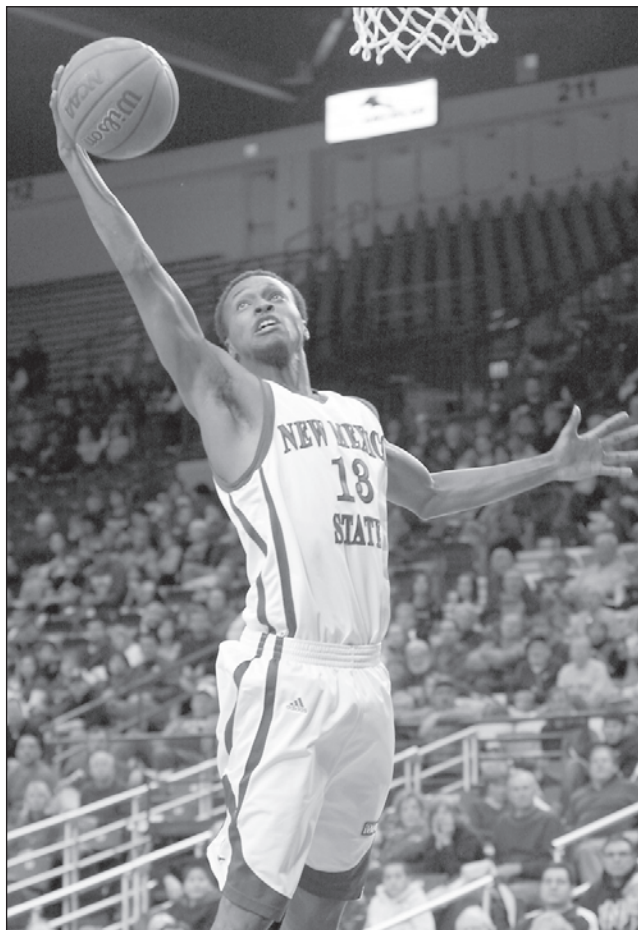
**11:30 a.m. to noon, Magic Carpet StoryTime,** Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St. Free. Call 541-2154.

**5 to 6 p.m. Beginning drum class,** My Place Jewell, 140-A Wyatt Drive. Learn the basic Middle Eastern rhythms. Cost \$2. Call 526-9509.

**6 to 9 p.m. Live music,** Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Call 527-5310.

**7 to 9 p.m. Swinging Dancers of Munson Center,** Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Couples, singles and guests are welcome to dance to the music of Mark Coker. Cost \$6. Call 528-3000.

**7 p.m. NMSU vs. Idaho men's basketball game,** Pan Am Center on the NMSU campus. Cost \$8-\$31. Call 646-1420.



**The NMSU men's basketball team will play Thursday and Saturday, Jan. 27 and 29, at the Pan American Center.**

# Galleries & Openings

## LAST CHANCE

**BRANIGAN CULTURAL CENTER** will host "Tea and Friendship," an exhibition that celebrates the intimate relationship between tea and friendship. The exhibit will remain open through Saturday, Jan. 29. "Tea and Friendship" is a juried invitational show comprised of 21 new works in a variety of media by 15 members of the Teacup Garden Studio Group and Friends. The center is at 501 N. Main St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 541-2154.

## OPENING

**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY** will present the 2011 Art Faculty Biennial exhibition. The exhibition showcases current work by NMSU studio art faculty in a wide variety of media, including photography, sculpture, metalwork, painting, ceramics and drawing. The exhibit will open Friday, Jan. 21, and remain on display through Wednesday, Feb. 23. An opening reception will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21. The gallery is at 1390 E. University Ave. on the NMSU campus. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 646-2545.

## ONGOING

**THE ADOBE PATIO GALLERY & STUDIO** will host an exhibition focusing on regional excellence, featuring the works of local and area artists. The exhibition includes the vinyl tile murals of Tony Pennock; Joseph Ireland, a long recognized regional artist; the powerful watercolor and pastels of Glenda Bucci; and many more. The building contains spaces that were designed to show off a variety of paintings and sculptures. The gallery is at 1765 Avenida de Mercado. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and by appointment. Call 523-0573.

**PRESTON CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER** will present the first of six exhibitions of 2011, including Craig Cully, painting; Fernando Delgado, photography; Ed Freeman, photography; Charlotte Segull, drawing; and Leandra Spangler, hand-made paper sculpture. The gallery is at 1755 Avenida de Mercado. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and by appointment. Call 523-8713.

**MVS STUDIOS** presents an exhibit by Michael Ponce through January. The gallery is at 535 N. Main St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Call 524-3636.

## Coming soon

**For the Love of Art month**  
Participating galleries during the Month of February

**Carol Lopez and Karin Bradshaw exhibits**  
Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery, call 522-2933  
Tuesday, Feb. 1

**By George!**  
Branigan Cultural Center, call 541-2154  
Friday, Feb. 4

**I See Red**  
Branigan Cultural Center, call 541-2154  
Friday, Feb. 4

**Colored**  
Tombaugh Gallery, call 522-7281  
Sunday, Feb. 6

**For the Love of Toys**  
Nopalito's Galería, call 524-0003  
Saturday, Feb. 12

**TOMBAUGH GALLERY** of the Unitarian Universalist Church will host a showing of abstract paintings by J. Carey Crane and Deborah Welch. The exhibit continues through Feb. 4. Crane is currently the curator of exhibits for Las Cruces City Museums. Welch's abstract paintings are full of color, reflecting the theory of hue contrast. Welch's artistic goal is to push and pull the parameters of hue contrast to the extent of invoking fresh new images. The gallery is at 2000 Solano Drive. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call 522-7281.

**M. PHILLIP'S FINE ART GALLERY** announces a one-man show, "Self Portraits in Three Dimensions" by mixed-media artist Michael Flynn Moffatt through January. The gallery is at 221 N. Main St. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday or by appointment. Call 525-1367.

**THE MAIN STREET GALLERY** features Material Girls Judy Licht, Lynn Unangst and Ann Angel during the month of January. Fiber artworks include hand-dyed silk, quilted constructs and hand weavings. Other artists exhibiting at the gallery include Winfrey Hearst, Daphne Wirthlin, Lois Wilson, Margaret Berrier, Joanna Bradley, Rudy Lucero, Paula Gonzalez, Jan Severson and Annette Paajanen, Robert "Shoo-fly" Shufelt and Woody Hoffman. The gallery is at 311 N. Main St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call 647-0508.

**NOPALITO'S GALERÍA** hosts "Old and New Paths" by the Las Cruces Art Association with artwork in a variety of media, and "Impressions, Impressions," a new exhibit of

photographs by Tony Martinez and Richard Davis. "Little Pictures" by Irma Lee will also be on display. The gallery is at 326 S. Mesquite St. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday or by appointment. Call 524-0003.

**MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY** will feature Nina Cobb Walker and Yvonne Postelle during the month of January. Walker is a lifelong art enthusiast and native Texan who utilizes the impasto technique of rich color to create texture in her paintings. Postelle works primarily in oils as a landscape painter pursuing the love of art through her paintings. She loves to depict how God and nature inspire one with vibrant and dancing colors. In addition, the 30 artists of the gallery offer art in many media, including original paintings, encaustic, fused glass art jewelry, handmade cards, stained glass, photography, creative gourds, affordable prints and miniature paintings. The gallery is at 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe in Mesilla. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 522-2933.

**UNSETTLED GALLERY** will host a second exhibit by Las Cruces artist Wendy Blackwell. Blackwell's realistic colored pencil compositions explore light and shadow on inanimate objects and create

a conversation between color and texture. Her skills, including use of color, allow her to depict the essence of her subject. New to the gallery is longtime photographer John Gustinis. His image series remind viewers of the diversity and ethereal beauty of the Southwest desert. Unsettled Gallery is at 905 N. Mesquite St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Call 635-2285.

**GALERÍA TEPÍN** will host an exhibition "Carnaval Social" featuring the work of César Iván, a visual artist and musician, through Feb. 28. He works in various media including oil-acrylic painting, metal, wood, mosaic, murals, computer graphics and handmade calaca (skeleton) marionettes. Galería Tepín is located at 2220 Calle de Parian. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 523-3988.

**RIO GRANDE THEATRE GALLERIES** will feature jazz art and memorabilia with Southwestern flavor through January. The El Paso Electric Gallery will host historical artifacts detailing the rich jazz history of Las Cruces and El Paso. The Doña Ana Arts Council Bistro Gallery will feature jazz photography by Albuquerque artist Jim Gale. The exhibit will run in conjunction with the "Jam Session in Las Cruces" exhibit at the Branigan Cultural Center. The galleries are at 211 N. Main St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 523-6403.

**BLACK BOX THEATRE** will present "Kicking Nature up a Notch," an exhibit by Karen Currier and the Mesilla Valley Musical Arts Chamber, through Jan. 31. Currier is a Las Cruces artist specializing in uniquely handcrafted gourds and creative walking sticks. The theater is at 430 N. Main St. Viewings are one hour before performances or by appointment. Call 523-1223.

**BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO** presents "Winter Gifts of Art," an exhibition of abstract to traditional pieces presented by the City of Artists Promotional Association. Featured artists are Pat Bonneau-White, Rebecca Courtney, Joe Dominick, Penny Duncklee, Les Fairchild, Susan Frary, Jan Kosnick, JoAnn Alcalá Milam, Hetty Smith, Kurt Van Wagner and Roberta Widner. The gallery is at 2825 N. Main St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Handmade-paper sculptures by Leandra Spangler are on display at the Preston Contemporary Art Center.

Monday through Thursday. Call 526-6126.

**NEW MEXICO FARM & RANCH HERITAGE MUSEUM** is showing "The Dust Bowl: Dark Times in New Mexico" through August. The exhibit revisits the dramatic Dust Bowl and sheds light on the causes, effects and aftermath in New Mexico in the 1930s.

"Red or Green? The Origins and Cultural Significance of the Chile Pepper in New Mexico" is on display through September. Chile is the subject of this educational exhibit that focuses on New Mexico chile varieties, their history and evolution and how they came to have such a central place in the state's culture. The exhibit traces the origins of the chile, the emergence of regional production centers and how the Spanish brought the plant to the American Southwest in the early 1600s.

"Vintage Views of Rural Women," a fall exhibit by the Southern Chapter of the New Mexico Watercolor Society that

focuses on the different roles women play in agriculture and rural life. The show will be on display through April 3.

The museum is at 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 522-4100.

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER** exhibits more than 100 pieces of original artwork from Las Cruces and Gadsden public schools. The exhibit includes photography, paintings, etchings, drawings and sculpture. Artists range from elementary to high school students. The gallery is at 845 N. Motel Blvd. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday through Friday. Call 525-5801.

**THE STUDIO** features the work of Robert Carlson, Tracy Jamison and Susan Loverin. The Studio is at 665 E. University Ave. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturdays by appointment. Call 523-1809.

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# Galleries double the fun on Avenida de Mercado

Photos by David Edwards

Luminarias glow outside The Adobe Patio Gallery & Studio during its gala opening reception Friday, Jan. 14.



The Preston Contemporary Art Center, next door to the Adobe Patio, also had a large crowd Friday night.



Sally Story and Annette Slater were intrigued by Leandra Spangler's sculpture "Cybelle" at the Preston.

Mark Medoff and Irene Oliver-Lewis were among the attendees at The Adobe Patio Gallery reception.



Charlie Scholz, Joel and Peggy Brown admire a contemporary sculpture at Preston.



"Little Dancer" by Kelley Hestir is on display at The Adobe Patio Gallery.

Contemporary sculptures light up the night sky in the Preston's outdoor sculpture garden.





# Bulletin Restaurant Guide

## Restaurant owners go two-for-two New teriyaki restaurant lives up to its predecessor

By **Samantha Roberts**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

The former Teriyaki Chicken House owners have returned to Las Cruces, and their arrival has been welcomed by all.

Trinh Ngo and Xeng Thach originally moved to Las Cruces and opened Teriyaki Chicken House in 1996, but closed the doors Jan. 1, 2010, because the couple felt over-worked and wanted to enjoy life.

"After working 14-, 15-hour days, you get tired of it all," Ngo said. "We wanted to discover more, to travel more."

Ngo and Thach traveled to California, where Ngo's family resides, and Thach visited Vietnam to vacation with his dad, whom he hadn't seen in more than 30 years.

Although the traveling was nice, and Ngo said she loved being around her family, her husband missed New Mexico's clear skies, clean air and being in a kitchen.

"(Thach) has been working in a kitchen since he was 14," Ngo said. "He lived in Albuquerque for 15 years and Las Cruces for 14 years, so after seeing the blue skies for that long, you can't enjoy California like New Mexico."

So with that desire for openness, Ngo and Thach moved back to Las Cruces to open another teriyaki restaurant – Teriyaki Bowl.

"I called my landlord and asked him if he had any spaces available," she said. "He told me (the old Pepe's Chicken) building was free, and we fixed the



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by David Edwards

**Owners of Teriyaki Bowl Xeng Thach and Trinh Ngo have moved back to Las Cruces and are excited to open another Teriyaki restaurant that serves good, healthy food.**

place in 49 days."

Teriyaki Bowl is located at 2300 N. Main St., behind the Burger King at the corner of Madrid Avenue and Main Street.

Although Teriyaki Bowl offers similar items to the former Teriyaki Chicken House, Ngo and Thach have added some new options.

"A lot of my old customers used to ask for healthy options, and our kitchen was just too small to keep up with the requests," Thach said. "Now, instead of one grill, I have two grills. I have been able to add some of the old favorites back to the menu that the other kitchen couldn't do."

Mimicking a traditional Japanese fast-food menu, the Teriyaki Bowl offers chicken, pork and beef entrées in a variety of flavors, and each with a choice of steamed rice, fried rice or chow mein. The menu also includes a section titled "Healthy Choice." This section was especially great for my co-worker and I, because we are trying to follow a strict diet. Although we stuck closely to our "eat-right rules" by ordering H1 (grilled chicken with brown rice) and H2 (veggie plate with brown rice), we cheated with one green chile egg roll each – a little on the spicy side, but worth every calorie.

If you were a fan of the Teriyaki Chicken House, then you will be pleased to know the sweet and sour pork, chicken kabobs and pork spare ribs are all back on the menu.

"(These items) were favorites, but we had to take them off our old menu," Ngo

said. "We just didn't have the room. Our kitchen was also too backed up."

My co-worker and I also had to try each of the sauces – the teriyaki sauce and sweet and sour sauce were great on everything, and the spicy mustard was a small kick for the chicken.

Other unique menu items include Thai milk tea and iced milk coffee. Ngo is especially proud of these two additions.

Even though Ngo has schooling in fashion, she said she made the compromise to come back into the restaurant business because it's her husband's passion.

"I never thought I would come back to Las Cruces," she said. "I wanted to open a little boutique that didn't require a large amount of work, or maybe an international snack shop, but the competition in those companies is high and my husband belongs in a kitchen. It's what he likes."

Thach's passion is apparent in his cooking and loyal fans of the Teriyaki Chicken House have slowly made their way to the Teriyaki Bowl.

"I am so grateful for all of my loyal customers," Ngo said, adding that she is also thankful for the passion and care the city of Las Cruces has shown her and her husband. "From the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone. Their support has come as a shock. I am so happy."

Teriyaki Bowl is open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and is closed on Sunday.

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## Details

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**Phone**  
524-2055

**Hours**  
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Monday through Friday  
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Closed on Sunday

# Bulletin Restaurant Guide

**70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



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**Food:** New Mexican

**Pricing:** Reasonable

**Crowd:** Regulars, families, tourists, locals

**La Posta de Mesilla**  
One of their most famous dishes, the "Tostada Compuesta," originated at La Posta in 1939. This dish consists of a toasted corn tortilla cup filled with frijoles, red chile con carne, topped with chopped lettuce, diced tomatoes and grated cheddar cheese. If you prefer green chile, the "local" favorite is the sour cream enchilada. This dish consists of corn tortillas smothered with green chile sauce, topped with grated cheddar cheese or monterey jack cheese and sour cream, and includes refritos, rice and our very tasty Mexican slaw. Other La Posta favorites include their compuesta salad, red enchiladas, folded and rolled tacos, beef or chicken flautas, chile rellenos, as well as a wonderful selection of desserts including their very delicious homemade flan and empanadas. Perhaps one of their best kept secrets is their tasty succulent steaks, served with your choice of baked potato, red enchilada, or steak fries, and includes a side of their green chile (of course!).

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SATURDAY EVENING JANUARY 22, 2011. Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for various TV channels (PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC) listing programs.

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SUNDAY MORNING JANUARY 23, 2011. Table with columns for time slots (5:00-10:30) and rows for various TV channels (PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC) listing programs.

This week on KRWG-TV 22. Sunday, January 23 7 p.m. Nature: Birds of Gods. Monday, January 24 8 p.m. American Experience: Panama Canal. Tuesday, January 25 7 p.m. Pioneers of Television. Wednesday, January 26 7 p.m. NOVA: Can We Live Forever? Thursday, January 27 7:30 p.m. Field Trip! Cotton. Become a member anytime at www.krwg.org.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON JANUARY 23, 2011. Table with columns for time slots (11:00-4:30) and rows for various TV channels (PBS, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, CW, WGN, ESPN, ESPN2, USA, TNT, TBS, COM, LIFE, FOOD, HGTV, A&E, HIST, TLC, DISC, ANPL, FAM, DISN, NICK, AMC, SYFY, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC) listing programs.

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# AtTheMovies

## 'Samson and Delilah' shows no weaknesses

Film gives harsh, yet tender look at life

Review by **Jeff Berg**  
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

No, this is neither the original nor a rehash of the old biblical story of the same name, but rather it is the tale of two young native Australians who hit the road, on foot and by any means necessary, to try their luck in the big city.

Their quest starts in a vaguely similar way to those taken by some of the folks who risk their lives to cross into the U.S. – dreams based on false stories, magazine pictures of wealth and luxury for all and, in this case, a picture postcard of the Sydney Opera House.

Brooding and real, Samson's days usually start with a good "huff" (snorting gasoline fumes) while playing a few very off-key chords on an electric guitar that is in his room in the shack he calls home. Wandering outside, there is the never-ending sound of a "band" that is practicing on the porch of the house, playing the same riff over and over again, which later drives him to distraction.

Not a bad lad, Samson is bored and trapped in this un-named ramshackle village that offers nothing to anyone. He has a quiet sense of humor and at times participates in solo races in an abandoned wheelchair to help pass the time, the only thing that there is plenty of in this "town."

Delilah's day usually begins with her waking up on a pile of blankets outside her stifling home and immediately tending to a disabled grandmother, breaking this routine only with trips to the nearby clinic with granny. Delilah also occupies her time by producing native Australian "dot" paintings,

for unknowing but art-grubbing Anglo customers in faraway places. She also enjoys listening to flamenco music on the radio of an old truck.

Oddly, one would think that these two would have known each other for a long time, but it is not until a chance meeting at the local general store that things start to blossom, albeit silently.

Words are few, but actions are meaningful. Their relationship grows slowly and really takes off when they are both beaten by peers or family and soon hit the road.

It is here that the tone of the film goes from light and airy to serious and complex. As directed by Warwick Thornton, it works marvelously, the transition from bored village life to scrapping by using any means necessary while living under a bridge with a kindly alcoholic fellow native Australian is moving and frustrating at the same time.

Shoplifting becomes routine, and sadly, Samson is not willing or able to give up his huffing addiction. Delilah on the other hand, occasionally tries to make a go of it, but in one of the film's most gripping scenes, she finally sees the truth after trying to sell one of her paintings at a sidewalk café.

I had the good fortune to live on or near several of this country's tribal nations in Montana, and the similarities between life in some of those communities and those depicted in Australia are eerily similar, as are the results of those who move to the city to escape the never-ending despair and poverty of their native lands.

"Samson and Delilah" is simple, intelligent and elegant in its portrayal of our two



Samson (Rowan McNamara) and Delilah (Marissa Gibson) embark on an adventure to the big city, Sydney, Australia.



prognosticates, both of whom do a superb job, offering a harsh but sometimes tender look at life, not often rendered on the big screen.

*Australia is on my list of most wanted places to visit ... send me away, please! jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin. Jeff Berg is a board member of the Mesilla Valley Film Society. These reviews reflect his opinion of the movie, not that of anyone else connected with the film society.*

## 'Blood Simple' is complicated

Coens create a low-budget masterpiece

The CineMatinee for Saturday, Jan. 22, is "Blood Simple" (1984, 99 minutes, rated R).

"Blood Simple" stands as a high watermark in American independent cinema, a brilliantly plotted and scabrous funny thriller that tweaked the noir genre for a more knowing modern sensibility. With few characters and limited means, the Coens crafted a model of low-budget efficiency and ingenuity. What makes "Blood Simple" so enduring is how it mingles the messy business of crime with ordinary, desperate people who don't have a knack for it.

Lifted straight from the most elementary of noir novels, James M. Cain's "The Postman Always Rings Twice," the basic premise concerns a passionate affair between a business owner's bored wife and one of his employees. With a face that looks like it's absorbed years of Texas sweat and grime, the memorably sleazy Dan Hedaya plays a bar owner who finds out about wife Frances McDormand's affair with barkeeper John Getz and hires lowlife M. Emmet Walsh to kill them.

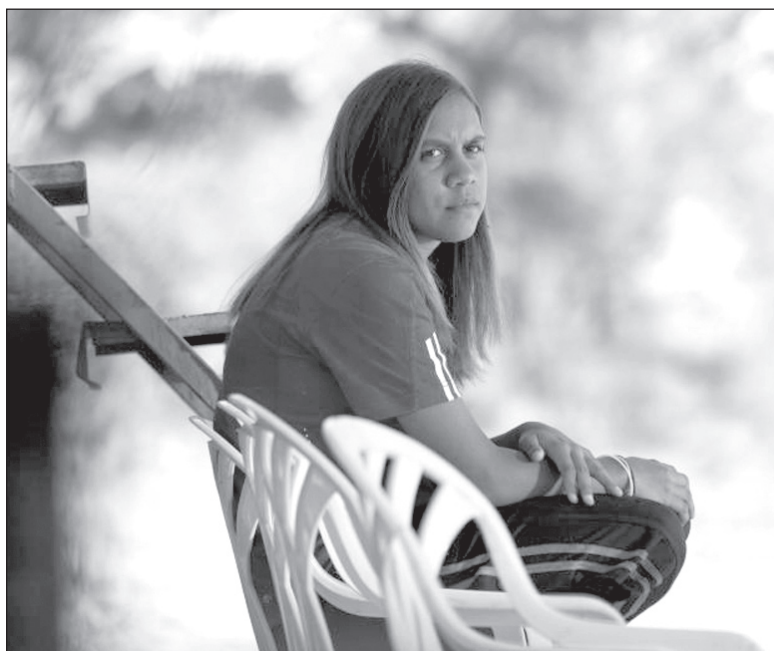
Due in small part to greed and in large part to human error, it gets infinitely more complicated from there – at the height of absurdity, a man unwittingly frames himself for a murder another committed. Such screw-ups are littered throughout "Blood Simple" – Walsh's repeated attempts to creep across hardwood floors in cowboy boots is an especially funny running gag – but it's a stretch to claim, as some have, that the plot is staked entirely on the characters' stupidity.

As they would explore with more austerity in "Fargo," the Coens are interested in how normal people respond when a scheme unravels and cannot be reversed. There's never been a purer metaphor for crime than a blood stain that will never wipe clean.

*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 - which could mean the new west, the old west, or anything in between- and 'movies that missed us'- films that are notable but 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 in 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 or story from New Mexico talent...film festival quality movies in an old adobe theatre!*

*Unless otherwise noted, screening time is 1:30 p.m., and admission is \$4 for everyone except film society members who are admitted for \$1. The theatre is located one-half block south of the Mesilla Plaza. For more information, call 524-8287, and leave a message.*



Yearning for something more, Delilah is ready to leave her mundane life.



Delilah breaks the monotony of caring for her sick grandmother by creating native Australian "dot" paintings during "Samson and Delilah," now playing at the Fountain Theatre.





# At The Movies

## 'Dilemma' is a problem Unexpected result from buddy comedy

Review by **David Edwards**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

I didn't have much hope going into "The Dilemma." And let me just say that while I try to go into a movie without preconceptions – I avoid reading or listening to other reviews beforehand – I can't help but want a film to be great. I want it to blow me away. I want to be thrilled, be swept up with emotion, laugh my butt off. I want to escape and enjoy myself. I try very hard to take a positive approach and not go into the theater thinking, "I'm going to hate this." But I am also human, and try as I might, those little prejudices sneak in.

I have come to expect certain things from certain directors – very few, if any, consistently surprise me. So, I admit when I saw Ron Howard had directed "The Dilemma," I tried to remember when he had directed anything really funny. I guess that "Grinch" movie with Jim Carrey, but that wasn't really a comedy as much as a family fantasy with wild visuals and, well, Jim Carrey.

Was it "Splash"? That was really funny. It was Howard's first association with Tom Hanks (a funny guy), and it also featured the late great John Candy (a very funny guy). But that was 1984. Cynicism started to rear its ugly head.

But "The Dilemma" has Vince Vaughn, and I always enjoy him – at least the "Dodgeball" or "Wedding Crashers" version of him. I have avoided "The Break Up" and "Couples Retreat" Vince as well as anything with Claus or Christmas in the title. So, was I taking a big risk here with old Vincey?

I am not completely sold on Kevin James. I saw his TV show "The King of Queens" a few times and thought it wasn't bad. That "Chuck and Larry" thing with Adam Sandler was tolerable, but those two owe me big time after "Grown Ups."

The trailer shows Vaughn and James as business partners in a car engine company – with Queen Latifah in there as some sort of sexed up car exec. And Vaughn discovers James' wife (Winona Ryder, I've missed you) is having an affair during a crucial time for their business. There are some "funny" scenarios involving Vaughn spying on the cheaters, including him falling into some poisonous plants and talking to himself on the street trying to decide if he should tell his business partner and best friend about Ryder's infidelity. Hence the "dilemma" of the title.

One thing not mentioned in the trailer is the pressure Vaughn feels about his relationship with his own girlfriend (the always luminous Jennifer Connelly). Does he ask her to marry him or not?

Now, here is my dilemma with the



Vince Vaughn and Kevin James sit with girlfriends Jennifer Connelly and Winona Ryder during an awkward meal in "The Dilemma."

movie. The trailer seems to promise a rather dumb-looking comedy with some typically ridiculous situations, such as see Vince fall in the poisonous plants, see Vince with a rash, hear Vince have trouble urinating. Ha-ha. It's possible the people in the audience who were laughing hysterically at the trailer for the newest Adam Sandler movie were expecting some more broad humor. But I was very surprised at how unfunny it was – and I don't mean that in a necessarily bad way.

Infidelity is not a funny thing, in fact, I find it rather sad – lives are destroyed by it. Watching Vaughn struggle with hurting his buddy during a critical time in their professional lives is not humorous, it's painful. And while there are some amusing moments – not in the trailer – for the most part, the film didn't have much comedy.

A speech about honesty that Vaughn gives at Connelly's parents' 40th anniversary party while casting an eye Ryder's way is vintage Vince, but it is funny in more of a biting way. He has rather perfected the smooth-talking salesman routine, and it plays well against James' hard-working shop geek as the other member of the team.

There are some violent moments also – lots of punching, baseball bats and hairspray

flamethrowers – with Vaughn usually on the receiving end of it. The fact that Vaughn's character is a recovering gambler is another thing that gives the film a little darker tone. There is nothing funny about addiction of any kind, at least not to me.

I had no complaints about the cast and their performances. I really enjoyed the very prevalent atmosphere of Chicago. There was even a Blackhawks hockey game, which provides a slightly predictable ending. An odd plot point involved our heroes' automobile company developing real hot rod sounds for electric cars – if you say so. There was also a rather pointless "intervention" scene near the end, which rather ridiculously includes Ryder's boyfriend. All these things are fairly minor quibbles.

During a particular down time, Vaughn has a scene in which he thinks he is sitting on a bench in the middle of the night. He has a little conversation with God, which comes out of the blue having never before shown any sort of a spiritual side. He asks for some help from above. The whole thing struck me as rather odd, but I wondered if maybe the filmmakers might have asked for some much-needed divine intervention when it came to promoting what "The Dilemma" was really all about.

### DILEMMA

**Starring:** Vince Vaughn, Kevin James

**Director:** Ron Howard

**Running time:** 112 minutes

**Rating:** PG-13



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*Yes, of course!*  
*I have to find the perfect dress!*  
*I have to call my mom!*  
*I am so excited!*




# At The Movies


## Picking the Flicks

Movie information from [www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com). Thumbs-up based on a 5-point scale.

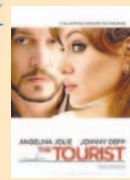
**Tron Legacy** 


**Rating:** PG  
**Plot Overview:** Sam Flynn looks into his father's disappearance and finds himself pulled into the digital world of Tron, where his father has been living for 25 years.  
**Starring:** Jeff Bridges  
**Director:** Joseph Kosinski




**The Tourist** 


**Rating:** PG-13  
**Plot Overview:** An American tourist's playful dalliance with a stranger leads to a web of intrigue, romance and danger.  
**Starring:** Angelina Jolie, Johnny Depp  
**Director:** Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck



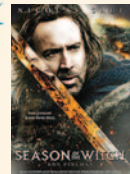
**Fair Game** 


**Rating:** PG-13  
**Plot Overview:** Valerie Plame's status as a CIA agent was revealed by White House officials allegedly out to discredit her husband Ambassador Joe Wilson.  
**Starring:** Naomi Watts  
**Director:** Doug Liman




**Season of the Witch** 


**Rating:** PG-13  
**Plot Overview:** A heroic Crusader and his fellow soldier must transport a woman accused of being a witch to a remote monastery.  
**Starring:** Nicolas Cage  
**Director:** Dominic Sena



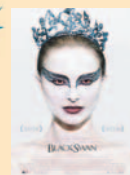
**Tangled** 


**Rating:** PG  
**Plot Overview:** When the kingdom's most wanted – and most charming – bandit hides out in a mysterious tower, he's taken hostage by Rapunzel.  
**Starring:** Mandy Moore  
**Directors:** Nathan Greno, Byron Howard




**Black Swan** 


**Rating:** R  
**Plot Overview:** A psychological thriller set in the world of ballet. Nina, a featured dancer, finds herself locked in a web of competitive intrigue with a new rival at the company.  
**Starring:** Natalie Portman  
**Director:** Darren Aronofsky



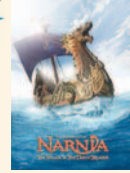
**Gulliver's Travels** 


**Rating:** PG  
**Plot Overview:** Travel writer Lemuel Gulliver takes an assignment in Bermuda, but ends up on the island of Liliput, where he towers over its tiny citizens.  
**Starring:** Jack Black, Jason Segel  
**Director:** Rob Letterman




**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** 


**Rating:** PG  
**Plot Overview:** Lucy and Edmund Pevensie return to Narnia where they take a trip aboard the royal ship The Dawn Treader.  
**Starring:** Ben Barnes  
**Director:** Michael Apted




**The Fighter** 


**Rating:** R  
**Plot Overview:** A look at the early years of boxer "Irish" Micky Ward and his brother who helped train him before going pro in the mid-'80s.  
**Starring:** Mark Wahlberg, Amy Adams  
**Director:** David Russell




**Yogi B** 


**Rating:** PG  
**Plot Overview:** Yogi, everyone's favorite pic-a-nic basket-stealing bear, must prove he really is "smarter than the average bear," to find a way to save Jellystone Park from closing forever.  
**Starring:** Dan Akroyd  
**Director:** Eric Brevig




**The Dilemma** 


**Rating:** PG-13  
**Plot Overview:** A comedy about a man who finds out that what you don't say to a friend is just as important as what you do and how far you can bend a brotherly bond before it snaps.  
**Starring:** Vince Vaughn, Kevin James  
**Director:** Ron Howard




**True Grit** 


**Rating:** PG-13  
**Plot Overview:** A tough U.S. Marshal helps a stubborn young woman track down her father's murderer.  
**Starring:** Jeff Bridges, Josh Brolin  
**Directors:** Joel and Ethan Coen




**The Green Hornet** 

**Rating:** PG-13  
**Plot Overview:** Britt Reid, aka the Green Hornet, and his human weapon Kato, jump into action to rid the city of the mob once and for all.  
**Starring:** Seth Rogen, Cameron Diaz  
**Director:** Michel Gondry



**Country Strong** 

**Rating:** PG-13  
**Plot Overview:** A rising young singer-songwriter gets involved with a fallen, emotionally unstable country star and the pair embarks on a career resurrection tour.  
**Starring:** Gwyneth Paltrow  
**Director:** Shana Feste



**No Strings Attached**

**Rating:** R  
**Plot Overview:** In this comedy, Emma and Adam are lifelong friends who almost ruin everything by having sex one morning.  
**Starring:** Natalie Portman, Ashton Kutcher  
**Director:** Ivan Reitman  
**OPENING JAN. 21**



**The King's Speech**

**Rating:** R  
**Plot Overview:** The story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it.  
**Starring:** Michael Gambon, Colin Firth  
**Director:** Tom Hooper  
**OPENING JAN. 21**



## New this week on DVD

Tuesday, Jan. 25

- The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest**  
**Rating:** R  
**Genre:** Action, Mystery  
**Starring:** Noomi Rapace  
**Director:** Daniel Alfredson
- Like Dandelion Dust**  
**Rating:** PG-13  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Starring:** Mira Sorvino, Barry Pepper  
**Director:** Jon Gunn
- Red**  
**Rating:** PG-13  
**Genre:** Action, Comedy  
**Starring:** Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren  
**Director:** Robert Schwentke
- Secretariat**  
**Rating:** PG  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Starring:** Diane Lane  
**Director:** Randall Wallace
- Saw: The Final Chapter**  
**Rating:** R  
**Genre:** Horror  
**Starring:** Cary Elwes, Tobin Bell  
**Director:** David Hackl

## Top Grossing Jan. 14-17

- 1 The Green Hornet** (Week No. 1)  
\$40,000,000
- 2 The Dilemma** (Week No. 1)  
\$21,109,000
- 3 True Grit** (Week No. 4)  
\$13,100,000
- 4 The King's Speech** (Week No. 8)  
\$11,182,000
- 5 Black Swan** (Week No. 7)  
\$10,350,000
- 6 Little Fockers** (Week No. 4)  
\$8,400,000
- 7 Yogi Bear** (Week No. 5)  
\$7,400,000
- 8 Tron Legacy** (Week No. 5)  
\$6,829,000
- 9 The Fighter** (Week No. 6)  
\$6,200,000
- 10 Tangled** (Week No. 8)  
\$5,463,000

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Shows nightly at 7:30, Sunday Matinee at 2:30  
 Saturday CineMatinee at 1:30 only

Jan. 21 - Jan. 27 <b>Samson and Delilah</b> 2009, 101 min., Rowan McNamara and Marissa Gibson star in this Australian drama directed by Warwick Thornton.	Jan. 28 - Feb. 3 <b>Nora's Will</b> 2008, 92 min., English subtitles, directed by Marianna Chenillo. Winner of 7 major Mexican film awards.	Jan. 22 only <b>Blood Simple</b> 1984, 99 min., rated R, directed by Joel Coen and Ethan Coen.
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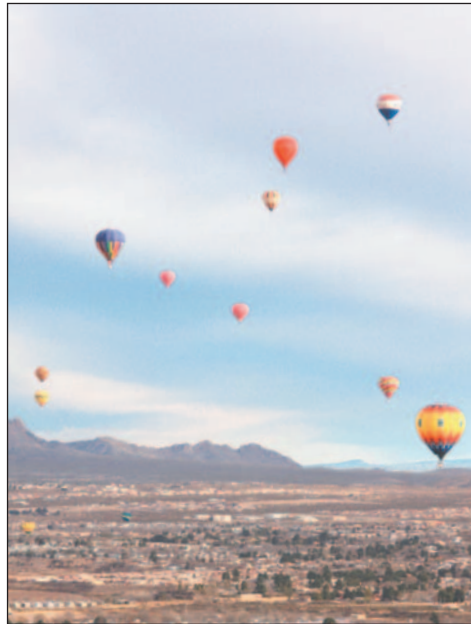
# Balloons fill the skies at Mesilla Valley Balloon Rally

Photos by Derek Brandt

The first balloons take off with clear blue skies as the perfect backdrop during the Mesilla Valley Balloon Rally held Jan. 14-16.



A balloon glow Saturday night filled the evening sky.



With Las Cruces in the background, balloons lift into southern New Mexico skies.



Balloonmeister John Kemp gives a thumbs up during the rally.



The Smokey Bear balloon begins preparation for the Saturday morning ascension during the Mesilla Valley Balloon Rally at Brown Field.

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## Getting back in the groove

**Natisha Hales**  
*Adventures in Dieting*



It was a hard week for everyone. Coming off a nearly 80-hour workweek, keeping track of diet and exercise was pretty much at the bottom of my long list of things to do. You could even say I had a relapse – somewhat.

I didn't eat any Mexican food, which is my weakness, other than the tortillas I have at home. I didn't actively eat out, unless it was to pick up a sandwich. I did have a moment where, instead of just ordering the coffee from McDonald's because I ran out of time to make my own, I impulsively ordered the Egg McMuffin meal. I felt guilty as soon as I bought it, but I was going to eat it anyway (I couldn't let that money go to waste) until I unwrapped it. Instead of Canadian bacon, they messed up my order and gave me sausage – I hate sausage. So I ended up giving it away to a co-worker and was able to stay on track.

But when the boss brought in delicious barbecue for lunch one day last week – and pizza two or three times – I indulged, and I conveniently didn't have time to write down all of the unhealthy decisions I was making.

I also failed both challenges from the experts. I couldn't give up my artificial sweetener completely, but I did decrease it to just one packet each morning with my coffee. My mission was to switch coffee with tea, but I couldn't do without it. Also, I was unable to designate time to work out an additional two more times in the week, and my normal workout routine was completely messed up.

I didn't get to work out until Sunday morning, but I was back on track with my eating habits by Monday and back to my Zumba workout. The end result on Tuesday's weigh-in? A gain of 0.6 pounds. Not too bad. The best reward – the fact that I was able to get back in the swing of things.

The rest of the challengers seemed to struggle during week two as well, especially those who work with me. We all worked hard on finishing our Legislative Guide, and it's beautiful.

For Alan Riehl, who gained 3.2 pounds, it was a weekend filled with NFL playoff games that kept him snacking.

"When football's on, it's easy to sit and pig out," he said. "Just wait until Super Bowl."

But he said he's actively working on eating only when he's hungry.

Lou Holguin has continued to lose the most weight – 5.4 pounds this week and 15.8 pounds overall – but she admits that she hasn't changed her diet as much as her exercise routine.

Alyssa Davila also stepped up her exercise routine. She's taken advantage of the Jazzercise opportunities at La Buena Vida Women's Center and the fact that our personal trainer, Bill Davila, is her

See **Challenge** on page D2

## Lifting lives

### Local Free Wheelchair Mission raises funds for Latin America

By **Natisha Hales**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Free Wheelchair Mission advocate Dennis Prickett is still aiming toward the same goal he's had since 2007, but this year, he's going about it in a different way.

After learning of the Free Wheelchair Mission, which provides inexpensive wheelchairs to the immobile of developing countries, Prickett and others decided Las Cruces' proximity to Mexico put the community in an ideal position to not only raise funds for wheelchairs, but distribute them as well.

Many rallied behind those efforts, and 500 wheelchairs have been distributed to Mexico since. A remaining 50 wheelchairs still need to be distributed, but Prickett said the local mission has been presented with many challenges.

"Last year, we had spread our wings a bit, but it has been challenging because of border issues," Prickett said. "We weren't able to have direct involvement in distribution, and it was challenging that we don't have our hands on it directly."

"Practically, it doesn't work to receive the chairs and send them with those issues. There are just so many barriers to overcome, and it is all related to issues of violence. If we could be a part of (the distribution process), we could go over with chairs and so on, but very few people want to go."

Instead of being discouraged and abandoning the mission completely, Prickett has reorganized the efforts of the local mission. They will no longer take on the distribution aspect, and all of the local mission's focus will be put toward fundraising. The remaining 50 chairs, however, are still designated to go into Mexico, but will be distributed through a different organization.

Once those chairs are distributed, the focus will expand. All fundraising dollars from then on will be combined with other funds for wheelchairs distributed throughout Latin America.

Fundraising continues with the second annual Dancing with Heart to Lift Lives Valentine's Dinner Dance from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Ramada Palms de Las Cruces, 201 E. University Ave.

The event has also been tweaked to better serve donors to the mission. Last year, the event was held on a Saturday night with a live band. This year, in addition to being moved to a Sunday evening, there will be a more upscale feel.

With a black-tie optional dress code, partygoers will be entertained by Bob Burns and The Mike Caranda Big Band Orchestra. The orchestra will play a mix of styles – ranging from the waltz to the foxtrot – and there will be a dance contest, complete with judges and prizes.

Prickett said several volunteers will be needed for the event, but volunteers are always welcome year-round.

"I'm always looking for people who want to join us in whatever capacity they want, even it's helping to set up speaking opportunities with groups who are interested in the Free Wheelchair Mission," he said. "Some people may want to take on their own project and do their own fundraising, or designate their funds for somewhere else in the world. I'm perfectly fine with that – there's a lot of things available from the Free Wheelchair Mission."

For more information about the local Free Wheelchair Mission, contact Prickett at 525-2450 or [dennis@liftinglives-nm.org](mailto:dennis@liftinglives-nm.org). To purchase tickets to the dance, email [tickets@liftinglives-nm.org](mailto:tickets@liftinglives-nm.org).



After successfully distributing 500 wheelchairs to Mexico in 2009 and 2010, local Free Wheelchair Mission advocates have been presented with challenges related to violence in Mexico. Although the local Free Wheelchair Mission will no longer be distributing wheelchairs, the fundraising will continue.

## Details

### Dancing with Heart to Lift Lives Valentine's Dinner Dance

#### When

5 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13

#### Where

Ramada Palms de Las Cruces  
201 E. University Ave.

#### Cost

\$35 per person

#### Contact

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## What's the future of Medicaid? Lawmakers must make difficult decisions this session

By **Trip Jennings**  
The New Mexican

New Mexico is expected to spend more than \$2.3 million a day next year on Medicaid.

That is the amount of money it will take to cover the 573,000 state residents – 25 percent of the population – who are expected to be part of the government health care program for low-income people.

Now imagine you are a New Mexico policymaker. More people than ever are using Medicaid at a time of great economic need. Costs are rising. At the same time, federal stimulus money is disappearing – dollars that buffered New Mexico against the worst con-

sequences of a sagging economy, including a massive infusion for Medicaid.

As if that weren't enough, New Mexico's tax revenues haven't rebounded to pre-recession levels.

Welcome to the world of difficult choices.

The Legislature convened its 60-day session in Santa Fe Jan. 18, and one of the big questions policy makers must answer is what to do with Medicaid. The debate over the Medicaid budget might not produce the loudest shouting or attract a bank of TV

cameras every time there is a legislative hearing.

"Those who receive Medicaid cannot put up a big fight," said Sen. Dede Feldman, D-Albuquerque. "Most of them are children. They don't have lobbyists."

But decisions made concerning Medicaid this session have the potential of affecting more New Mexicans than most other programs as state lawmakers try to close a budget gap estimated at between \$200 million and \$452 million.

See **Medicaid** on page D4



# The Pet Review



## Protect your pets from the cold

### Harsher temperatures can lead to harsh medical problems

Bulletin Staff Report

Although the Mesilla Valley has been experiencing unusually warm weather this winter, once the sun goes down, temperatures can drop below freezing.

There are many precautions people take when the cold weather rushes in for the winter. Pets can also be heavily affected by the drop in temperatures, so it is important to take note of these precautions.

If you haven't already done so, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian for a checkup. You need to be aware of existing illnesses your pet has – some chronic illnesses can worsen in the winter.

If you have small pets, it is best to keep them in a warm shelter – such as your house – for nights below freezing. As a precaution, it is important to do a home inspection, if you haven't already done so, because your furnace can leak carbon monoxide, which can be a silent killer for you and your pets. It is also necessary to check windows and door panes for drafts, which can suck out the warm air and let in the cold.

If your pet does stay outside during the winter, check its paws for sharp ice, which can lead to frostbite and further damage.

If your animals cannot be brought inside due to their size, Dr. Leslie Easterwood, clinical assistant professor in equine medicine at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), said there are ways your animal can be protected from the cold temperatures.

"Herd animals tend to congregate together to conserve body heat, and will generally protect the young ones in the center," Easterwood said. "If it is not wet, and merely cold, then all they should need is a wind break.

"Their natural winter coat traps air against the skin when it fluffs up, and this insulates



With pets that are too large to come in the house during the winter, make sure they are provided with some shelter from the cold, wet winter months.

them. Their natural fat cover also helps to add insulation as well."

Despite animals' winter coats, extra precautions should be taken during wet winter months.

"Cold, wet weather calls for some type of covered protection if at all possible," Easterwood said. "They will also need additional roughage or hay in order to produce their own body heat."

When providing extra hay for your animals to stay warm, make sure the hay is fresh. According to Easterwood, "using old hay for bedding can pose problems with varminths, mold,

inhaled allergens, parasites and many more."

Most large animals should stay outside, unless they are newborns or debilitated. Most other large animals can withstand the coldest of temperatures.

"Babies are most adapted to being born in the spring, when temperatures are milder," Easterwood said. "Again, as long as they have a wind break and some cover from the rain (even if it is a shed with no sides), then they will be fine."

When the temperature drops, it is vital to keep your animals hydrated. Proper hydration helps animals regulate their body temperature.

## Pet briefs

### Bow Wows and Meows Bowl Benefit

The Bow Wows and Meows Bowl Benefit, a fundraiser to support the Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP) and the New Mexico State University Feral Cat Management Program (FCaMP), is being held from 5 to 8 p.m. each Thursday in January at Ceramics Plus, 901 S. Main St., Suite 1. Create a personalized, one-of-a-kind bowl for your favorite canine and/or feline companion. The cost is \$15 for a dog bowl and \$13 for a cat bowl. Three dollars will go to SNAP or FCaMP. All supplies are included in the price. For more information, call 526-9331.

Dehydration can cause major health problems for animals in the cold.

"One of the most frequently encountered medical problems for horses related to the cold weather is impaction colic due to a decreased consumption of water," Easterwood said. "Horses do not like to drink cold water, and we have studies to prove that they will drink more water if it is warmed. For this reason they use bucket warmers up north in order to prevent the water from freezing and to keep it warm and encourage increased consumption. In most cases we do not have to go to those measures here in Texas, but some individual horses who are very opposed to cold water would benefit from those extra measures."

During the winter months, keep a cautious eye on your animals, because with your help they will be able to withstand the cold.

"Watching your pets and getting to know their individual behaviors, body conditions, and intake habits can be very helpful in maintaining a healthy animal through the winter," Easterwood said. "Also, it is extremely important to maintain a good relationship with your veterinarians so that they can help with any problems along the way."

## Health briefs

### Health department data influences national flu recommendations

The New Mexico Department of Health's data from the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic showed a disproportionate number of deaths among American Indian and Alaska Natives that helped lead to changes in the national recommendations of high risk populations that should be vaccinated against the flu, according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

All American Indian and Alaska Natives are now

considered a high-risk group for flu complications and are advised to get a flu shot every year and receive antiviral treatment should they develop influenza. According to the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report for the week of Dec. 11, 2010, the reasons for the disparity in death and hospitalization rates are not completely known, however, a high prevalence of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and asthma, poverty rates and access to health care could be contributing factors. Eleven other states also contributed data to the investigation.

To avoid catching the flu or passing it on to others, people should frequently wash their hands, cover their mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing and stay home when ill.

While everyone should get a flu vaccine, it's especially important that people in the following groups get vaccinated, either because they are at high risk of having serious flu-related complications or because they are around high-risk people:

- Pregnant women
- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- People age 65 and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes and lung or heart disease
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including health care workers and caregivers of babies younger than 6 months
- American Indians and Alaskan Natives
- People who are morbidly obese

For more information about the flu and flu clinics, call 866-681-5872 or visit [www.immunizenm.org/flu.shtml](http://www.immunizenm.org/flu.shtml).

## Challenge

Continued from page D1

husband. She passed the exercise challenge with flying colors by adding a variety of mix throughout the entire week.

Daniel Basaldua, who has become probably more conscious of his workouts and eating habits than any other challenger, was rewarded greatly by losing 3.8 pounds this week. He even surprised himself.

Now that we've gone back to the dark side and know it's not a place we want to be ever again, we're ready for the week's challenge.

Bill has asked us to increase our workouts to five times per week and to slowly increase the intensity of each workout. If we're doing a cardio exercise such as Zumba, he asked us to stick with it for an hour instead of the original 35 minutes. If it's weight training, add more reps or weight to the mix.

Laura Smart has challenged us with not adding salt to prepared foods and getting salads with dressing only on the side. I can handle that.

In order to get to know us better and what our challenges are, she's also tasked us with writing down our personal food addictions and what the greatest challenge is for us. I hope she's ready to read because I have a lot to say.

What's your biggest weakness when it comes to diet and exercise? Email me at [natisha@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:natisha@lascrucesbulletin.com).

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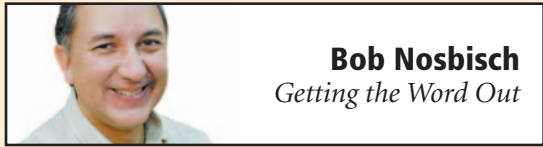
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# Gerontology expert joins NMSU

## Wagner is Health and Social Services associate dean



**Bob Nosbisch**  
*Getting the Word Out*

Americans are living longer than ever. In 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the average life expectancy of an American was 78 years.

At the time of that report, the U.S. lagged behind Japan, Italy and Andorra, three nations with life expectancies exceeding 80 years. Zimbabwe occupied the other end of the spectrum. In that country, the average life expectancy was 36 years, according to the World Health Organization.

From 1955 to 2005, the average life expectancy in the U.S. steadily rose. The CDC report says, on the average, Americans lived 69 years in 1955 and 76 years in 1995.

Statistics show that the 2005 death rate, which was adjusted for age, fell to an all-time low. Fewer than 800 deaths per 100,000 people were reported that year.

"This report highlights the continued reduction in deaths from the three leading killers in the United States – heart disease, cancer and stroke – which is most likely due to better prevention efforts and medical advances in the treatments of these diseases," said Hsiang-Ching Kung, a survey statistician at the CDC and one of the report's authors.

The death rate from heart disease was 217 per 100,000 people in 2004. The following year, it was 210.3 per 100,000 people. Cancer deaths fell from 185.8 per 100,000 people in 2004 to 183.8 per 100,000 people in 2005. Deaths from stroke dropped from 50 per 100,000 people in 2004 to 47 per 100,000 people in 2005.

"If death rates from certain leading causes of death continue to decline, we should continue to see improvements in life expectancy," Kung said.

As people live longer, interest in the field of gerontology grows. Dictionary.com defines gerontology as "the branch of science that deals with aging and the problems of aged persons."

“My next project is a text on planning for healthy, aging communities.”

**DONNA WAGNER,**  
NMSU College of Health and Social Services

The New Mexico State University College of Health and Social Services recently hired Dr. Donna Wagner, a gerontology expert with years of experience in the field, to serve as associate dean of academic affairs. Wagner also will stay involved with social work teaching and research.

Wagner comes to NMSU from Towson University in Maryland. As the founding director of that university's gerontology program and as a tenured professor of health science and gerontology, Wagner also directed an undergraduate and a master's degree program in applied gerontology.

"My ongoing research agenda has focused on the intersection of caregiving and work, community-residing elders, aging policy and community planning," Wagner said. "Currently, I am completing, with a co-author, a textbook for undergraduates about the Aging Network and developing a policy paper relating to older family caregivers. After the textbook is complete, my next project is a text on planning for healthy, aging communities."

Wagner's three most recent co-authored publications are "The Aging Network: Programs and Services," "Informal Caregiving by and for Older Adults," and "Living Well in Maryland: An Evaluation Report."

Outside of academia, Wagner has served as vice president for

Research and Development of the National Council of the Aging, working with such agencies as the Veterans Administration, National Association for Area Agencies on Aging, and American Society on Aging. Through this collaborative effort, the National Alliance for Caregiving was designed and developed.

Wagner also has conducted advocacy research in partnerships with nonprofit advocacy organizations. Because of her extensive experience, she has been asked to give testimony to the U.S. Senate, speak at Congressional briefings and develop publications to teach social service professionals about issues in their practice.

Wagner earned her Ph.D. in urban affairs at Portland State University in Oregon.

*Bob Nosbisch is a senior program specialist in the College of Health and Social Services at NMSU.*

# Medicaid

Continued from page D1

## Medicaid basics

The facts are these. The program's costs have been rising for years, with New Mexico's spending on the program expected to increase to more than \$850 million for the year that starts July 1, or slightly above this year's funding levels. That's because both Gov. Susana Martinez and the Legislature's budget arm, the Legislative Finance Committee, have recommended replacing the \$300 million or so of federal Medicaid aid that is disappearing for next year.

Medicaid spending will represent nearly 16 percent of the \$5.4 billion state budget.

In some ways, Medicaid is a catchall program for the poor.

Children make up more than half of the individuals covered by the program – 332,000 in June 2010, according to the LFC. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of the state's low-income adults have their prescription drugs costs paid, their vision and hearing checked and some – parents of young children at risk for development disabilities – are notified of potential developmental problems after their children are tested.

"When very young children don't get the support they need, they don't realize their potential," said Susannah Burke, executive director of PB&J Family Services, whose agency worked with 1,400 families last year thanks in part to Medicaid funding.

Burke worries about what cuts to Medicaid would mean for the families her agency serves.

Without the needed support, "They are on track for poor physical outcomes, for poor emotional outcomes, on track for poor educational outcomes. These are things we can prevent," she said.

## Adult services come up for possible cuts

So far, it appears no one is proposing cuts to Medicaid funding for children. The LFC has

Friday, January 21, 2011

recommended eliminating several adult services – vision care, physical and occupational therapy and hearing services.

Also up for discussion is charging premiums to certain low-income adults participating in New Mexico's State Coverage Insurance program, which is funded by Medicaid.

The LFC budget proposal also assumes additional savings by Martinez's administration once they identify other efficiencies.

The proposed cost-saving measures have led to concerned murmurings among advocates and some state lawmakers who worry about how the cuts will play out in people's day-to-day lives.

"I guess you could call them optional," Sireesha Manne, a staff attorney at Albuquerque-based New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, said of the LFC's proposed budget cuts. "But from our perspective they are medically necessary."

Vision care, physical therapy and hearing services aren't on a list of mandatory services the federal government requires states to cover.

Neither is dental care. They are "optional," Feldman said.

"We have a lot of optional benefits that we provide that are optional in name only."

Dental care, for example, "is the canary in the coal mine. It is an indicator of premature birth," the Albuquerque senator said.

"Is that penny wise and pound foolish" to cut dental care, Feldman asked, although dental care doesn't appear to be targeted. "Or is that a valid cut?"

Sen. Gay Kernan, R-Hobbs, seemed to capture the dilemma that state lawmakers might find themselves in starting today.

"We expanded, and now it's very difficult to pull back after people have been on these services," Kernan said of previous years when New Mexico was flush with money and expanded Medicaid. "I appreciate that there's great need out there. We want to protect Medicaid as well as education. That's the general consensus. But if there's no money ..."

Kernan didn't finish the sentence. It's up to the Legislature to finish that thought.

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María Pacheco administers a diabetes screening test at an August 2010 session of the Keep Moving, Keep Healthy with Diabetes program in Deming. The program, to be offered in several New Mexico counties during spring 2011, helps diabetics and those at risk develop appropriate exercise regimens.



## NMSU diabetes programs focus on healthy lifestyle

### Free initiatives launching statewide

Bulletin Staff Report

For many people, January is the month for renewed resolve to be healthy following a holiday season of too much eating and not enough exercise.

A return to a healthy routine is particularly critical for people suffering from diabetes, a condition that is among the top five causes of death in several regions of New Mexico, according to 2007 data analyzed in the New Mexico Department of Health's "NM State of Health 2009" report.

Two programs offered by New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service can help: Kitchen Creations and Keep Moving, Keep Healthy with Diabetes. One or both of these programs are offered in the spring in several New Mexico counties.

Karen Halderson in NMSU's Department of Extension Family and Consumer Sciences is the Extension diabetes coordinator and the statewide coordinator of the Kitchen Creations program. She is based at the NMSU Albuquerque Center. The free program, which is funded by the New Mexico Department of Health, is a four-session hands-on cooking school.

The purpose of Kitchen Creations is to introduce people with diabetes and their families to healthy foods and how to prepare them. The program also includes information about diabetes, its effects on metabolism and the roles of sugar and other carbohydrates, fiber, salt and fat in the diet.

"One of the things that is unique about Kitchen Creations and that the participants really like is the hands-on cooking," Halderson said.

And they eat the meals they cook.

"Class by class, participants move outside their comfort zones and discover that they actually like some of the healthy foods they have avoided in the past — as well as some new foods they were unaware of," Halderson said.

The value of the program's hands-on approach was the focus of one student, who said, "I liked it when we sat down and tried to plan

our meals. We can listen all day, but if we cannot put it into practice, it does us no good."

Halderson expects 25 classes will be offered around the state sometime during spring, more than double the number offered this past fall.

Healthier eating is only one element for keeping the effects of diabetes under control. Appropriate exercise is another.

Keep Moving, Keep Healthy with Diabetes is an Extension program designed to help diabetics and those at risk overcome sedentary habits or physical impediments to exercise.

Lourdes Olivas is a program coordinator in Extension Family and Consumer Sciences based in Las Cruces. She said the free program spans a 12-week period and includes diabetes screening, information about the relationship between exercise and diabetes medication, and exercise ideas for both mobile individuals and those with mobility problems.

"Fancy equipment is not essential to an effective exercise regime," Olivas said. "That allows us to offer our program in a variety of community locations."

Program participants are supplied with exercise bands and pedometers and are encouraged to incorporate them into their personal exercise programs.

Olivas said she is pleased with her current class that began in Las Cruces.

"The participants are all eager to get as much information as possible to help manage their diabetes or postpone onset," Olivas said. "Many have been told by their doctors that they have pre-diabetes, so they are really eager to make changes in their lifestyle."

For more information about the above programs and upcoming classes, contact your local county Extension office or email Karen Halderson at [khalders@nmsu.edu](mailto:khalders@nmsu.edu). Information is also available at [ehc.nmsu.edu/diabetes.html](http://ehc.nmsu.edu/diabetes.html).

NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service also offers helpful publications about diabetes. See information about the CES Diabetes Series at [aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_i](http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_i).

# Use the 'magic formula'

## Verbal strategy replaces unwanted behaviors

Previously, we learned about making sure you have no trigger words or trigger concepts that can cause you to have a knee-jerk reaction if you don't choose your words and actions carefully. This is important because if someone can push your "trigger button," they take control of you and may cause you to turn a disagreement into a fight.

This week, we'll talk about a verbal strategy specifically for people with whom you already have a relationship called "the magic formula." It is used when someone upsets you, but isn't dangerous. It is great to use with family members and coworkers.

Imagine something your family member or coworker does that hurts your feelings. Your first instinct might be to just put up with it, or it might be to tell them they are being mean. Neither of these will solve the problem. Using the magic formula, you should tell them how you feel, tell them what they do that gives you this feeling and give them an idea of something else to do.

The simplest example I use when teaching this in self-defense classes is an unwanted hug. A kid should feel comfortable saying, "Grandma, I feel embarrassed when you hug me. Can we just shake hands?" An adult may have a use to say, "Neighbor, I need to talk to you about something. It's not you — it's me — but I've been wanting to let you know, I'm just not a huggy person. I know you are, and I appreciate that about you. But, I feel uncomfortable with such a close physical touch, and it would mean a lot to me if we could speak from about this distance instead."

In self-defense classes, people often have trouble naming the feeling, and kids especially always want to ask the other person to "stop it" instead of giving them a replacement behavior. In real life, however, you are usually using this

**Marcy Shoberg**  
*The Art of Self-Defense*



"magic formula" about a pattern of behavior, so you can rehearse what you will say in advance.

Think of a person who does something that bothers you. Does it make you feel uncomfortable, creeped out, angry, frustrated or used? What exactly is it they are doing? What do you wish they would do instead?

Realize that if you choose to speak to this person about it, they may take it well or they may take it hard. Remember to stick to your message and, even though you feel like their actions are the problem, make it sound like your feelings are the problem and you are asking for their help.

Also practice this verbal self-defense strategy with your children. By "practice," I mean help them understand it, but it would be great if you could use it when your children upset you, also.

Explain to your children how to talk about their feelings, make it clear what the unwanted behavior is and suggest a replacement behavior. With a bit of practice, you can even learn to use this the first time someone upsets you instead of waiting for the actions to become a pattern.

Next week, we'll review how to use words in self-defense and take a look at whether you should consider taking a class.

*Marcy Shoberg is owner of Gold Medal Taekwondo, 519 Boutz Road, which teaches sport and traditional taekwondo, as well as self-defense, to pre-schoolers, kids, teens and adults. She is also director of Las Cruces Self Defense, which specializes in teaching no-nonsense, reality-based self-defense to women, children and men. Shoberg can be reached at 526-4429 or [gmktd@zianet.com](mailto:gmktd@zianet.com).*

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\*Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation, Program Evaluation Model, 2009



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# U.S. consulate officer discusses Juárez

## Borderland violence is real, but hope still exists

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Members of the community heard firsthand about the current conditions of Ciudad Juárez Sunday, Jan. 16, during a roundtable discussion at Unitarian Universalist Church.

During the roundtable, U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juárez Public Affairs Officer Olga Bashbush explained the mission of the consulate and discussed the real-life dangers and beacons of hope found in the border town.

"I noticed, since my short time on the border, how much misunderstanding and miscommunication there is on both sides of the border about what's happening," she said.

Bashbush, who grew up in a bilingual and bi-national household, said there are approximately 11,000 U.S. diplomats stationed throughout the world by the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service.

"No. 1, our job is to serve our citizens in that country," she said, which includes passport renewals among other services.

Next, she said the consulate issues visas to foreigners.

"Our immigration system obviously isn't perfect, but compared to other countries, we're more open and flexible," she said. "We take into account family unification when other countries don't."

While the U.S. consulate has several responsibilities, Bashbush said they operate on very little resources, which can make the difficult situation in Juárez even more challenging.

"The violence, you can't deny the violence," she said. "It's there and it's real."

Bashbush said 3,111 murders took place last year, with robbery, extortion and kidnapping also prevalent in the urban city. She added that only four out of every 100 crimes are solved.

"We don't know what really happened without a full investigation," she said, adding that sometimes, even when an investigation is conducted, it hasn't been carried out to U.S. standards.

With so much violence taking place, Bashbush said the city, which was once a destination for tourists and visiting soldiers from Fort Bliss thanks to its bustling nightlife, is now empty by 9 p.m. with select homes and businesses boarded up.

While she said the U.S. consulate is a driving force in the city, with several economic activities taking place around the facility, outside that center, the city is dead.

"The people there really are suffering economically," she said.

Because the number of U.S. citizens who work in each consulate office is small, Bashbush said the staff mainly consists of locals. In Bashbush's office alone, she has had several employees whose family and friends have been victimized by the

violence.

"Last week, my cultural assistant's friend was killed," she said, adding that another of her staff members has an uncle who fled south because of extortionists. "It's a hard reality. It can be difficult to face it as a supervisor and make sure they're OK. It does affect you in a very real way."

Since the spike of violence, Bashbush said the Mexican government has reached out to the U.S. to work together to reduce cartels as well as human and drug trafficking.

"Fighting guns with guns is not the solution," she said. "We have to give the people their dignity back."

Despite the violence, Bashbush, who also lives in the border town, said there are many positive things.

"The best employees I have ever had are there," she said. "The community is strong and supportive."

With a goal to unify both countries, Bashbush said the U.S. consulate has conducted more outreach to the citizens of Juárez in the form of

community events and activities.

Bashbush said Juárez was an economic city that grew so quickly that it is lacking on several social aspects, such as paved roads, schools, libraries, community centers and parks.

"We need to focus on Juárez," she said. "We're working on cultural and economic programs. We realized we needed to get creative."

Bashbush said the U.S. consulate has brought in several artists from the United States to work with various communities. This includes the painting of a mural as well as a hip-hop concert that focused on the importance of education.

"I really feel our policy in Ciudad Juárez and Mexico is really focused," she said. "We're doing the right thing, but people want to see progress overnight."

Filling the role as mentor, Bashbush said the consulate knows it will take time for the situation to get better, but it isn't going to give up.

"The news always focuses on the murders, but I do see hope," she said.

## Church News

Continued from previous page

"Fillmore for Today," a class about Unity co-founder Charles Fillmore. For more information, call 523-5592 or visit [www.unityoflascruces.org](http://www.unityoflascruces.org).

### LEADING AS A SERVANT CONFERENCE

Calvary Chapel Las Cruces Men's Conference "Leading as a Servant" will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. There is no charge for the conference, but attendees will be responsible for their own lunch. Speakers will include Pastors Bruce Konkle, Martin Arriola, Xavier Silva and Jim Suttle. For more information, call 524-0985.

### THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Boutz Road, will host "The Gospel of John," a one-man show by Brad Sherrill, at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13. Child care is available on request. For more information, call 526-5559 or visit [www.gospelofjohn.com](http://www.gospelofjohn.com).

### FREE WEDDINGS

Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive, will once again hold free weddings on Valentine's Day, Monday, Feb. 14. For more information and times, call 526-5592.

### UNITY NONPROFIT STORE

Unity of Las Cruces has opened a nonprofit store at its location, 125 Wyatt Drive. The store will feature handcrafted jewelry, home décor, gifts and more made by artisans in developing countries. Proceeds will benefit the countries.

Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 523-5592 or visit [www.unityoflascruces.org](http://www.unityoflascruces.org).

### PEACE LUTHERAN PRAYER GROUPS

Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 E. Missouri Ave., is providing two prayer groups. A centering prayer group will meet weekly at 9:30 a.m. Saturdays and will include 20 minutes of meditation. A prayer group focused on support, healing and gratitude will be held at 4:30 p.m. Mondays in Classroom 107. For more information, call 522-7119.

### SPIRITUAL HEALING

Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Center, a Roman Catholic community, offers spiritual healing programs and ministry. Holy Mass is held weekdays at 11:15 a.m. at 5480 Lassiter Road. Also on Mondays, the Healing Prayer Team meets to pray for anyone who is interested. If you or someone you know would like to meet with the team, call 647-1117 for an appointment.

### EASTERN STAR MEETINGS

The Las Cruces Chapter No. 20, Order of the Eastern Star, will hold monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Aztec Masonic Lodge, 180 E. Boutz Road. A potluck dinner will be held prior to the meeting at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month. All OES members in good standing are invited to attend.

### ALPHA COURSE

The public is invited to a 10-week, video-based small group study course on the

Christian faith at Morning Star United Methodist Church, 2941 Morning Star Drive. The sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, and a potluck supper will be held beforehand at 5:30 p.m. Child care is provided. For more information, call 521-3770.

### DIVORCE CARE

Morning Star United Methodist Church, 2941 Morning Star Drive, will hold a 13-week, video-based discussion and support group for those suffering from the pain

of separation or divorce at 6:30 p.m. Mondays. Participants can enroll at anytime for the free group, and child care will be provided. For more information, call 521-3770.

### CALVARY GROUPS

El Calvario United Methodist Church is starting a group approach to empower Christian believers to become better disciples. Calvary Groups, to be led by Rev. Raul Dominguez, are planned for various areas in Las Cruces. Anyone interested in participating, whether they're

a member of the congregation or not, should call the church office at 524-1230.

### BOOK STUDY AND PROSPERITY DISCUSSION

Unity Church of Mesilla Valley, 125 Wyatt Drive, will hold a book study group for "Atom Smashing Power of Mind" by Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, at 10 a.m. Tuesdays. New members are welcomed to come explore another facet of Practical Christianity in action. The

church will also hold prosperity discussions at 9 a.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 523-5592 or visit [www.unityoflascruces.org](http://www.unityoflascruces.org).

### DIVORCECARE

Sonoma Springs Church, 3940 Sonoma Springs Ave., offers an ongoing DivorceCare support ministry from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The ministry is devoted to helping people find support, healing and becoming whole. Child care is available. For more information, call 526-4907.



## Mesilla Valley Hospice

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# SeniorActivities



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

## AEROBICS CLASS

Aerobics class with Luis Ortega is at 9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo St. Donation suggested.

## AQUATICS CLASS

Aquatics class (senior exercise class) with Nora Bailey is offered on a first-come, first-served basis from 11:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at Frenger Pool, 800 Parkview Drive. Donation suggested.

## HATHA YOGA

Yoga classes are held at the Benavidez Community Center, 1045 McClure Road. Nora Bailey, a certified instructor, leads Hatha yoga classes beginning at 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Donation suggested.

## BLOOD PRESSURE AND GLUCOSE CLINICS

Blood pressure and glucose clinics by Alpha Nurses are:

- 10 a.m. to noon, Monday, Benavidez Community Center, 1045 McClure Road
- 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday,

Mesilla Park Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.

- 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.
- 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, East Side Center, 310 N. Tornillo St. Donation suggested.

## CORE-FLOOR EXERCISE CLASS

Core-floor exercise classes with Lucille Garcia are held from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., and from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Thursday at Mesilla Park Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave. Donation suggested.

## T'AI CHI CLASSES

T'ai Chi classes with instructor Jason Shoberg are held from 3 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Donation suggested.

## CHINA PAINTERS

China painters class is from 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

## CHESS

Chess games are played from 8:30 a.m. to noon Fridays at the Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

All are welcome. Participants are asked to bring chess sets, boards and clocks, if available.

## MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg is played from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

## JEWELRY MAKING

Jewelry-making classes are from 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays, and Jewelry Lab is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

## BINGO MANIA

Bingo Mania is from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays at the Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo St. No money is involved. Donations of old and/or new knickknacks for prizes are welcome. Call 541-2305 or 541-2304 for more information.

## PINOCHLE

Pinochle players meet from noon to 5 p.m. Fridays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

## HORSESHOE PITCHING

Horseshoe-pitching practice is held from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday behind Munson Center. For more information, call Burt Trujillo at 522-4849.

## CANASTA

Canasta is played from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesdays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. All are welcome.

## WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASS

Watercolor painting class is held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

## STAINED-GLASS

Beginning and advance stained-glass class meets at 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and intermediate stained-glass class meets at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

## WOODCARVING

Woodcarving class meets from 9 a.m. to noon Fridays at the Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo St.

## HANDS 'N' FEET CARD GAME

Hands 'n' Feet card game is from noon to 4 p.m. Thursdays at Eastside Community Center.

## TRAVEL CLUB

The Voyagers Travel Club is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at Munson Center and is currently booking the following trips:

- Sunland Park and War

**Eagle Museum:** Day trip Tuesday, Jan. 25, day trip. Cost is \$25.

- **Indian Cliff Ranch and Cattleman's Steakhouse in Fabens, Texas:** Feb. 25 \$75 per person includes dinner
- **Las Vegas and Hoover Dam:** April 11-15. \$385 double, \$410 single.
- **Mount Rushmore and Black Hills of South Dakota:** May 14-22. \$760 double, \$1,019 single.
- **Alaska Cruise and Tour:** Sept. 7, 11 days/10 nights. Call for details.
- **Hawaii Cruise:** Oct. 22. Call for details.
- **Branson Show:** Nov. 12-20. \$869 double, \$1,109 single. For more information, call Helen Glover at 528-3166.

Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., at 9 a.m. and return by approximately 11 a.m. For more information, call 528-3000 from 8:15 to 8:30 a.m.

## MYSTERY TOURS

A mystery tour will depart from Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., at 9:30 a.m. the last Friday of the month. All trips will be within the surrounding area and will return by 11:30 a.m. Trips may be for sightseeing, visiting a museum or touring new buildings. Trips are limited to the first 14 participants. Some trips have fees. Sign up begins the first Monday of each month at the center or by calling 528-3000.

## SWINGING DANCERS

The Swinging Dancers of Munson Center meet at 7 p.m. Saturdays at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Couples, individuals and guests are welcome. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$6. For more information, call 523-1871.

## THE THURSDAY BRIDGE CLUB

The Thursday Bridge Club meets for lunch and bridge at 11 a.m. the first, third and fifth Thursday of each month at the Las Cruces Country Club, 2350 N. Main St. Cost for lunch is \$9, including tax and gratuity. Cost for bridge is 60 cents. All are welcome.



Christopher Hogg, D.O.  
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

## WE WELCOME DR. HOGG

We are proud to welcome Dr. Christopher T. Hogg to our experienced medical staff. Dr. Hogg was most recently an Orthopedic Surgeon at East Central Illinois Orthopedics and Sports Medicine and is board-eligible by the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery. In 2000, he received his medical degree from Nova Southeastern University, graduating with its highest honors. And he completed his Orthopedic Surgical residency at Midwestern University in 2005. Dr. Hogg has also completed prestigious fellowships in adult reconstruction and sports medicine for a variety of organizations—ranging from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation to the Cincinnati Bengals.

Dr. Hogg is now welcoming new patients at the Bone + Joint Center of Southern New Mexico. Call 556-6440 for your appointment or consultation.

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Pueblos at Alameda Ranch home features unobstructed view and custom details

See featured home on pages E2-3

# Featured home: 4356 Isleta Court

Photos by Francisco Tafoya

Rock accents in the landscape and along the façade decorate the home at 4356 Isleta Court.



Ceramic tile lines the floor of the great room, which includes a fireplace.



A recessed wall can be found in the dining area.



Each bedroom comes with a ceiling fan.



The large great room is the center of the 2,054-square-foot home.



The 6-foot-long jetted bathtub in the master suite is encased in tile.

# A new product, the same quality

## Copper Canyon Homes creates a detailed abode in the Pueblos

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

After successfully constructing custom abodes throughout Las Cruces for more than eight years, Maxine and William Webber of Copper Canyon Homes decided to take another path when the housing market took a dive.

Now focusing on the midrange market, the Webbers said they still wanted to create homes that weren't cookie cutter and would still offer those fine details for which the company was known.

"We added a lot of custom touches," Maxine Webber said. "We included arches and nichos.

"We feel that we want the quality of the home to speak for itself," William Webber said. "Making midrange homes allowed us to still keep that quality."

The couple said they decided to build in the Pueblos at Alameda Ranch because of its short distance to town, including to hospitals and schools, as well as the amenities of the community.

"It's a gated community with a swimming pool, and someday there will be a park," said Maxine Webber, adding that there are also plans for a Walmart to be built in the area.

Next, the couple searched for the ideal lot, which they found at 4356 Isleta Court. Completed in October 2010, the Webbers said the home includes an unobstructed view, thanks to the green belt – a portion of land designated to be undeveloped – behind the home.

"It's one of the few lots in here with an unobstructed view," William Webber said.

The couple said when building the 2,054-square-foot abode, they stuck to the Mediterranean style for which they are known, combining Old World flair with a comfortable layout.

"I like the floor plan to flow for things to be conveniently located," said Maxine Webber, who has drawn floor plans through Custom Home Design by Max for 15 years. "I like the homes to have a feeling of space."

In keeping with the neighborhood's guidelines, the front of the home includes rock landscaping with a few bushes and small trees surrounding the walkway that leads past the two-car garage to the front courtyard.

Wanting to make a statement, the Webbers included an 8-foot hand-carved alder door to welcome guests.

"We always do oversized, carved, custom front doors," Maxine Webber said. "We feel the introduction to the house should be spectacular."

Through the front door, the home's foyer features a chandelier as well as a decorative mosaic of ceramic tile with granite inserts on the floor.

At the center of the home are the shared living spaces. Wanting to capture natural light and the surrounding view, the great room includes stacked windows that frame the Organ Mountains.

"When people are walking in, we want them to think, 'Wow,'" she said. "The view of the mountains is the most important thing."

William Webber said he included stone around the fireplace as well as another wall in the room to tie in the front façade of the home to the interior.

"I just like the natural feel of stone and wood rather than plaster," he said. "It's warmer."

"We like to play with textures and put different things together," Maxine Webber said.

The kitchen, attached to a dining space that includes a recessed wall for a hutch, was also designed to evoke a feeling of openness. Maple cabinets with crown molding cover the walls that surround the brown and gold granite countertops. Hand-carved corbels along the bar accent the earthy colors. The room is completed with a glass and ceramic tile mosaic backsplash.

Designed with a split floor plan, a hall leads past the front of the home to the master suite.

"My favorite feature is this little sitting area (in the hall) that looks out onto the courtyard," Maxine Webber said.

Wanting the space to feel inviting yet

grand, the couple included a 10-foot ceiling in the master bedroom. The bathroom features a 6-foot-long jetted bathtub showered in tile and nestled against a wall with glass blocks in a step pattern.

The bathroom also includes square sinks encased in granite atop maple cabinets as well as a walk-in shower. The shower is drenched in ceramic tile, which was laid in a variety of directions to create a pattern with dimension, Maxine Webber said.

The other side of the home includes two guest bedrooms, each of which include closets tucked behind double doors for a cleaner look, Maxine Webber said. The bedrooms also share a bathroom that showcases more granite countertops and a tile-covered shower.

"We wanted to let the buyer decide what they wanted to do in the back," William Webber said. "With past homes, no matter what kind of landscaping we put in, the buyer would tear it out and start all over. It's hard to know what someone will want."

While the product itself has changed, the Webbers said the signature details have not.

"The process and the quality are the same," William Webber said.

## Details

### Featured home

4356 Isleta Court

### Square footage

2,054

### Acres

.2

### Bedrooms

Three

### Bathrooms

Two

### Fireplaces

One

### Price

\$325,000

### Special features

Unobstructed view of the Organ Mountains; located in the Pueblos at Alameda Ranch subdivision; and Mediterranean style with stone

### For more information:

Contact Kevin Wilson at 635-0685 or kevin@steinborn.com, or visit [www.coppercanyonhomes.net](http://www.coppercanyonhomes.net)



A glass and ceramic tile backsplash adds an artistic touch to the kitchen, which also includes maple cabinets with crown molding.

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# How bugs survive the winter

## Nature has antifreeze to guard against the cold

Now that the weather is cold, it's time to talk about bugs and antifreeze. Let me clarify – I'm not talking about winterizing your Volkswagen Beetle.

Other bugs need winter protection too, and many insects adapt to the harshest of seasons thanks to a compound in their bodies that essentially acts as antifreeze does in automobiles.

Winter may have many downsides – whitewashing the summer greenery, boosting home-heating bills and gouging roadways with potholes. However, immobilizing armies of insects isn't one of them. About mid-winter, when cabin fever sets in and we start to long for spring, you're not likely to hear, "I sure do miss those mosquitoes!"

We tend to view winter as ending insect lives, but it doesn't always. Bugs have evolved in ways that enable them to live through winter to pick up their life cycles come spring, whether it's dormancy, migration or burrowing in. Diapause is the cold-blooded insect's version of hibernation when a deep sleep helps them survive until reawakened by the warmth of spring.

In diapause, insects reduce the amount of water in their body and produce glycerol,

a cryoprotectant that acts like antifreeze, by eating glucose. They often overwinter as eggs and pupae.

Other insects migrate to warmer climates in the winter – just like birds – or deeper into the insulated earth. The monarch and painted lady butterflies are examples of those that head as far south as Mexico when the weather starts to cool down. However, migration doesn't have to be that distant. Ants and termites move to tunnels lower in the earth where they've stockpiled winter stores.

Another way insects have adapted to surviving the winter is by forming plant galls, or growths, where they find protection and nourishment. And motion keeps others from succumbing to the elements.

Whether insects hide, are motionless or relocate, their populations are far less visible during the cold months in most areas – and that gives us relief from swatting and plotting to keep them at bay.

Tips and preventive precautions you can take this winter include:

- Schedule an annual inspection before it gets super cold
- Make sure all vents are properly sealed with the appropriate wire as well as sealed

- around the sides
- Make sure all food is put away in the refrigerator and/or pantry
- Use air-tight seals to prevent spoiling and attracting unwanted pests like cockroaches and rodents
- If the home has an attic keep it clean and an eye out for fresh rodent droppings
- Don't leave pet food bowls out all day
- Keep trash contained to decrease the smell and attraction

**Barry Murray**  
The Bug Guy



- Wash out garbage bins periodically with a bleach mix to kill bacteria and provide a smell unattractive to insects and rodents

As national spokesperson for Truly Nolen of America, Barry "The Bug Guy" Murray has more than 20 years of experience in the pest control industry. Murray brings an informative and uniquely entertaining perspective pest problems of 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. For more information, to ask the expert a question or to see the brand-new "Insect Inquirer" blog, visit [www.trulynolen.com](http://www.trulynolen.com).

## Give your flowers some backbone

### Plant prop adds support to weak vegetation

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Visually stimulating and pleasant to the nose – most of the time – flowers have enriched the lives of humans since the beginning of time.

While an elaborate vase of cut flowers makes a decorative statement on a desk, table, well pretty much anywhere, many believe it is more humane to preserve the lives of the flowers by enjoying potted plants instead.

Requiring a bit more care, a potted plant has the potential to last several times longer than its cut counterpart. To better enjoy the colorful vegetation, it is important to know a bit about the anatomy of a flower.

Although most are familiar with the petals and stamen, there are several other parts of the gentle plant, which include the:

- **Pistil** – The collection of carpel, this section, located in the center of the flower, houses the female reproductive organs.
- **Sepal** – The green leaves located at the bottom of the bud for protection.
- **Peduncle** – The stem of the flower that supports the fruit of the flower, also known as the bud.

Important to the life of a plant, sometimes a peduncle can become weak or damaged, causing it to droop. To better serve your potted or in-ground plants, use a plant prop to give the fragile feature extra support.

#### What is it?

The plant prop is a simple, yet handy gadget used to support the delicate stem of your plants. Whether it's a droopy peduncle or a damaged stem caused by the area's high winds, a flower can't survive with a "broken neck."

Created from plated steel, the plant prop acts like a backbone, enhancing the strength of the stem. A simple stick with a curved hook, the tool can be used on a variety of plants.

#### How does it work?

Whether repairing a bent stem or

preventing any future peduncle damage, the plant prop is very easy to use.

Simply drive the slightly pointed end into the soil next to the plant. Next, carefully loop the plant's stem through the gadget's hook.

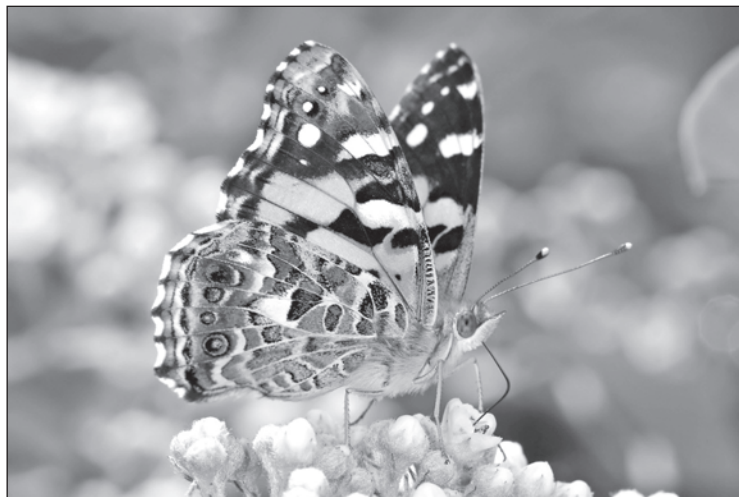
Available in a variety of colors – typically green and silver – and numerous sizes – from 18 to 30 inches – the plant prop can be used with potted plants or out in the garden. Plus, it can support any plant with a long stem, from flowers to rhubarb.

#### Where can it be found?

The plant prop can be found around town at stores such as Sears, Ace Hardware and Home Depot. Also be sure to check out your local nursery for this and other useful garden tools.

#### How much does it cost?

Extremely inexpensive, the plant prop costs as little as 72 cents and as much as \$1 a piece. It can also be purchased for \$3.99 for a set of six.



The painted lady butterfly deals with harsh winter weather by flying south to warmer climates.

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Featured garden gadget:  
Plant prop

# Organizing healthy meals

## Budget, preparation not a problem when you have a plan

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

As many Las Cruces rang in the New Year with vows of cooking more and dining out less, Mountain View Market held a food budgeting class to prove that shopping on a budget can include tasty and healthful meals.

"Budgeting Healthy Meals," held Saturday, Jan. 15, in the co-op's community education room, featured tips, recipes and words of wisdom from two of the organization's outreach coordinators.

"We decided to have this class because we make less than \$10 an hour and we can still shop here," said Ellie Lanphier,

outgoing outreach coordinator for the co-op. "We wanted to prove that the co-op isn't expensive to shop at."

Included in the class was a grocery list as well as several recipes.

"These aren't necessarily the cheapest or the healthiest or the fastest things out there," said co-op incoming outreach coordinator Mo Valko. "These are things that we like to make."

While the price of groceries and produce is always subject to change, Lanphier said there are plenty of things customers can do to pinch that extra penny.

"For things like dressing, the price increase for homemade versus packaged is huge," she said. "It's cheaper to have those essentials around than to buy things already packaged."

These essentials include oil, vinegar, herbs and spices, such as chile flakes, garlic and basil.

Valko said creating a batch of dressing to fit your taste will also be more healthful, since you know what you're adding, plus "the flavors will mature over time as it sits in the refrigerator."

Another tip is to be a "perimeter shopper," which means shopping along the outside aisles because the inner shelves are generally more expensive and contain packaged foods.

"It's cheaper to buy bulk herbs and produce," said Lanphier, adding that the price for packaged meals is more because you're also paying for labor. "You just need to take the extra time to plan ahead."

Lanphier said she devotes about four hours every Sunday to preparing and freezing meals for the week, which can be anything from soup to homemade pasta.

"Cereal is so expensive," she said, explaining that making your own breakfast, such as oatmeal or granola-based cereal, can cost as little as \$2.

Valko said she often incorporates beans – dried and canned – into her meals by creating large batches at a time.

"They're one of the cheapest things, and they're so good for you," she said. "You can use them to jazz up anything. You can make them taste completely different. They're a good staple."

Another do-it-yourself cooking staple Valko uses is homemade vegetable stock created from boiled water and leftover vegetables, such as broccoli stems, potato and apple peels and garlic skins.

"You toss the scraps in with twice as much water, let it boil, then simmer and strain it," she said, adding that the broth can then be frozen.

While not vegetarians, Valko and Lanphier said they consume a diet high in vegetables.

"I don't eat a lot of meat, but when I do, I go for a good quality meat over quantity," said Valko, adding that grass-fed beef from local farmers markets are not only good for the environment, but are also better for you.



**Columbus Elementary garden coordinator Helena Myers holds apricot seeds during the 2010 Mountain View Market Seed Share. This year, the co-op event will take place from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30.**

## Co-op holds Seed Share

### Mountain View Market event promotes locally grown plants

Promote local biodiversity, meet with other local growers and collect seeds for your garden when Mountain View Market hosts its annual Seed Share from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at the co-op, 1300 El Paseo Road, Suite M, in the Community Room.

Everyone is welcome to this free community event. Come enjoy live music and bring a dish for the optional potluck.

Locally grown seeds are adapted to the Las Cruces growing climate and are an invaluable resource. By placing collective seeds in a bank, a community protects unique vegetable and flower varieties that may be otherwise discontinued by commercial seed companies.

If you have some leftover or collected seeds to share, package them (bulk bags, envelopes or jars) and label with useful details. Small envelopes will also be available for packaging your seeds. Leftover seeds will be banked and donated to community and school garden projects. The co-op is also seeking donations of half-pint and pint mason jars and lids, new or used, for storing seeds and small seed/coin/stamp envelopes.

There will be a match-up to help gardeners connect with people who have land available. You can also adopt a melon to assist with a local melon breeding project.

If you want to participate, but cannot attend, contact Jon Simmons. Donations of seed or garden supplies will be accepted at Mountain View Market (leave for Mo) any time before the event.

For more information about volunteering or donating, or for other questions, call Simmons at 640-4288 or email [jonsimmons@hotmail.com](mailto:jonsimmons@hotmail.com) or visit [www.localsolutionslascruces.org](http://www.localsolutionslascruces.org).

## 20-Minute Black Bean Soup

**2 tablespoons olive oil**  
**1 onion, chopped**  
**4 garlic cloves, minced**  
**2 teaspoons ground cumin**  
**1 teaspoon chili powder**  
**1 (15.5-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed\***  
**1 (15-ounce) can diced tomatoes in juice**  
**1 1/2 cups vegetable broth**  
**1 teaspoon salt**  
**1 handful cilantro, chopped**  
**1/4 cup feta cheese**  
**10 chives, chopped**

In a large pan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions and garlic, and cook 6 to 8 minutes, until beginning to brown. Stir in cumin and chili powder. Add black beans, diced tomatoes, vegetable broth, salt and cilantro. Bring to a boil, and allow to cook for 2 minutes. Transfer 1 cup to a blender and process until smooth. Stir back into soup. Remove from heat and serve topped with feta and chives.

\* If using dried beans rather than canned, start with 1 1/4 cups dried beans. Soak them overnight, then drain, rinse and cook in a lot of water until tender, about 2 to 3 hours. You can then use the bean cooking liquid for the soup broth.

In addition to cooking meals in bulk to freeze, Lanphier said she also enjoys experimenting with recipes.

"You don't have to follow a recipe to a 'T,'" she said. "You can substitute things and use what you have. A lot of vegetables are interchangeable."

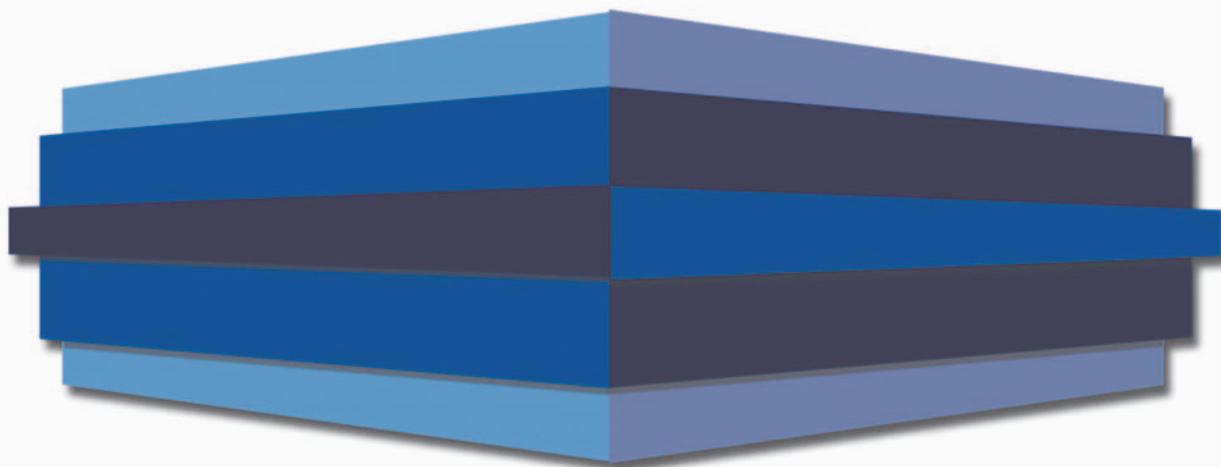
An item Lanphier said she is always willing to splurge on are organic dairy products.

"You're consuming an animal product, so the health of the animal is important," she said, adding that non-organic dairy items can contain antibiotics or growth hormones injected into the cow.

The duo said consuming a well-balanced diet of vegetables, fruit and whole foods is good for your wallet as well as your body.

"Your diet affects your mental and physical health," Valko said.

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# Featured supplier: Rob Atchley

## Carrying on the tradition

L & P president focuses on customer relations, serving the community

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

After taking over as L & P Building Supply and Components president in 2009, Rob Atchley has used his many years of industry experience to help the local company succeed during the challenging economy.



**ATCHLEY**

Originally from Albuquerque, Atchley said he grew up around the family's lumber business.

"I've been in the lumber business all of my life," he said. "In high school, I worked for my dad."

After high school, Atchley ventured down to Las Cruces to attend New Mexico State University, where he studied business. He left school, however, and moved to Denver. He broke away from the family trade and entered the tire industry, although the experience didn't last long.

A year later, he came back to his roots, which include New Mexico and the lumber industry. Deciding the time was right, in 1989 he began his first company, Atchley New Mexico, which is currently based in Albuquerque

"I started my own company, I guess really for the freedom," he said. "I had a certain idea of how I wanted to do things."

Focusing on the wholesale distribution of lumber, Atchley said he began working with L & P.

"It's kind of strange, I've known a lot of these people for 25 or 30 years," he said.

After growing the one-man operation into a successful company, Atchley then established New Mexico Timber and Viga in 1998, also still in existence. This company,



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzler  
**Josh Hernandez, L & P Building Supply and Components' go-to "tint and color guy," waters a mixing batch of custom-colored stucco at the company's facility.**

he said, focuses on selling Southwest-style lumber, including hand-carved and hand-peeled items.

"It's a specialized part of the lumber business," he said. "We did all the wood in the Sandia Casino (in Albuquerque)."

While operating two successful businesses, Atchley said he was spending more time in Las Cruces working with L & P, and in 2003, he was asked to become a partner.

"I always liked L & P," he said. "There was

something magical about L & P. It's an old company with a great reputation. It's known throughout New Mexico, and a lot of the times, throughout the Southwest region."

### Taking over the ship

When the economy started to go down and construction projects became increasingly sparse, the company decided to reorganize and asked Atchley to take over the reins.

Now the CEO and president of the supply

## Details

### Featured supplier

Rob Atchley

### Company

L & P Building Supply and Components

### Address

101 N. Archuleta Road

### Phone

527-8000

### Email

rba@lpbuilding.com

### Website

www.lpbuilding.com

### Organizations

- Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico
- Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
- New Mexico Horse Council
- New Mexico Amigos

### Family

- Wife Dee
- Son Denny, 10
- Daughter Rylee, 7

company, which has been in business for more than 50 years and serves New Mexico and parts of Arizona and Texas, Atchley said it has been his job to allow the company to "weather the storm."

"When the economy went down, we wanted to be sure that we would live to fight another day," he said.

While business has been down since the building boom took place not too long ago, the company has only made cuts to "fat" and not its "heart" – the employees.

"We tried to make sure we had the right people in the right place, doing the right thing," said Atchley, who runs the business with partner Richard Williams.

Continued on following page

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Floor trusses for the second story of an apartment building are loaded and ready to be hauled off the 7-acre property.



Jack Herndon of L & P explains how all of the trusses are created at the facility.



The company also has its own silo to mix and bag concrete products.

Continued from previous page

"I get to be around people I enjoy being around every single day. I don't believe people work for me. We work together – and the customers, too, we've got great customers. At L & P, our greatest asset is never seen on a balance sheet. It's our people. I'm extremely proud of the people that work here and the customers we work with."

Atchley said his team of 45 employees does everything from work in the truss plant and lumberyard to delivering materials and managing the administrative and sales end of the business.

"We provide everything to build a home, or an apartment complex or a hotel," he said.

Materials provided by the company include gypsum wallboard products, drywall supplies, framing steel, lumber, stucco, trusses, roofing and concrete. Atchley said they provide a variety of options, including green products, such as elastomeric roofing.

In addition to the truss plant, which cuts and assembles the building necessity at the facility, L & P also mixes custom paint colors and bags

its own concrete on its 7-acre property.

By providing all the needed materials to build just about anything, Atchley said the greatest joy of running the business is helping the customers make their dreams come true.

"The most rewarding part is being with and working with all these great people," he said. "We never lose focus of who our customers are. Every day, we just give the best and give all we can."

**Success in community service**

In addition to serving the needs of the building industry, L & P also focuses on reaching out to the community, whether it's through volunteering with youth-focused organizations or helping those in need.

For the past several years, the company has donated the use of its trucks and employees to help distribute Thanksgiving meals collected by the Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico in November.

"It's really a great thing that the BIA does, and we're proud to be a part of it, not just as a sponsor of the dinners, but with people and

equipment to make sure they're distributed," Atchley said. "It's always been important to the company."

Also, he said L & P lends its assistance to other nonprofit organizations in Las Cruces.

"If it's got children in it and it betters the community, we try to support it," he said. "I think to some degree it's our responsibility to try to help the community we all live and work in. We do our part to make sure it becomes a better community for generations to follow."

While some are leery of the economic downturn, Atchley said he believes the "good, hard-working" people of the country, state and city can look forward to much.

"I believe the worst is behind us," he said.

"I think the future is bright for New Mexico and Las Cruces. It's a great part of the world to live."

Atchley said the building industry is usually the first in and first out of a recession, and he has seen an increase in construction activities as of late.

"For the country to get healthy again, we need to start pounding some nails," he said. "There are so many things attached to the building industry. It has so many tentacles."

With such a fulfilling professional life, Atchley said he owes much of his success to his supportive family, which includes wife Dee and children Denny, 10, and Rylee, 7.

"At the end of the day, they're certainly my greatest joy," he said.

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# Design trends for baby boomers

## Creating a home that fits your current, future rooms

I admit it, I am a part of the baby boomer generation – those born between 1946 and 1964. As a “Boomer” designing for other boomers, one of the newest home design trends is “aging in place.”

Boomers make up 76 million people in this country, some of whom are already caring for an elderly parent in their home and are now preparing for their own retirement. I meet many of you as you move into Las Cruces and need to make a decision about your new home; as you remodel your home to make it better as you age; or as you look for a new home that will better serve your needs as you grow older.

As I work with clients, not only do I think about their design needs today, but also their design needs 10 to 20 years from now. Boomers want homes that combine luxury and innovation with

comfort and safety. Design your home to maximize your future level of comfort and safety, without compromising aesthetics. It's a smart investment and more cost effective for anyone.

More than 77 percent of baby boomer homeowners want to stay in their homes (assuming you are already in the retirement city of your choice). Here are some things you need to consider as you are planning either the selection of new home or renovations of your current home. Your goal will be to facilitate successful aging without detracting from harmonious interior design.

First, the master bedroom and bathroom should be located on the main level with no steps to go up or down. Guest bedrooms for visiting children and grandchildren or a future caregiver could be located on the second floor or at the other end of the house. Next, make sure you have wide-open traffic

**Maureen Villmer**  
Practical Design



flow with wider halls and doorways. Your doorways should be at least 36 inches wide, and don't forget the shower door.

Whether it's a new home or a remodeling of your existing home, reduce the amount of furniture that you have. Keep your spaces open and wide so you're not tripping over extra pieces. One of the hardest things my mother had to do was move from her “big house” into a smaller home and keep all her prized possessions. There is a common problem of filling the new home with too much furniture.

After my mother's initial selection, I had to suggest “sky-hooks” to accommodate the amount of furniture she felt she could keep. It's always a difficult decision, but looking at the floor plan would be in order to prove how much furniture will actually fit. Furniture that's easy to get in and out of and has some rounded corners will be a better “fit” as you age.

Be careful when selecting carpets or area rugs. Eliminate soft plush padding under the carpet – it will make your steps more sure-footed. The use of very short-pile carpet, or no carpet at all, is frequently a safer choice.

Avoid slippery flooring choices, such as a tile that has a very slick finish. A rough finish will not become slippery in the kitchen or bath when it's wet. You could also do some decorative tile work with color contrast, so you can see areas better and avoid tripping. Make sure you allow for blocking behind the shower area in new construction to be able to add grab bars to make baths and showers safer. Eliminate a step in the shower entry, so if a walker or wheelchair is needed, you're ready.

Kitchens are the heart of your home. People are eating out less and spending more time at home. This is not only a function of the economy, but also of aging. Usually, this also includes an increase in home entertaining for meals. If that fits who you are or who you will be, then planning your kitchen for entertaining will be important. Again, wider paths and more rounded corners are appropriate.

Generous amounts of lighting are always welcomed in any area, but more so as you age. Be sure you don't leave any dark halls, stairways, thresholds, etc.

Not implementing every craze into your home renovation or design project is important. The goal is to incorporate only those design trends that have staying power. You're creating new lifestyle standards, and you don't want it to ever become outdated. Whether you're building new, renovating or adding space, homes are becoming smaller, smarter and more easily maintained.

We'll talk more next time about technology and aging in the home. I look forward to sharing with you some of the greatest new products that can make your life easier and safer as you age.

*Maureen Villmer is an interior designer in Las Cruces with 35 years of experience. If you have questions you would like answered in her column, email her at [maureenvillmer@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenvillmer@hotmail.com), visit [www.environsonline.com](http://www.environsonline.com) or call 496-7605.*

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When designing your home for aging, be sure to examine your furniture. Along with reducing the amount you have in a room, it's important to make sure your items aren't too large or have pointed edges that can be dangerous.

# Carpet, tile, laminate, oh my!

## Renovating your floor begins with reviewing your lifestyle

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series of three articles that examine different remodeling options for a home.*

With the housing market currently a challenge to navigate through, more people are remodeling and renovating their homes instead of purchasing a new one.

Of the many things that can be done to change and update a home, one of the most common is installing new flooring.

"In the remodeling process, flooring is one of the easiest things you can do, and you get a big bang for your buck," said Gina Hoffman Schweinbraten of Casey Carpet of Las Cruces. "A new floor has a dramatic effect on your home."

In recent years, Hoffman Schweinbraten said Casey Carpet has seen an increase in customers looking to give their current home a facelift.

"They can't make money on their home now, so they're deciding to stay and improve it," she said.

Whether carpet, tile, laminate or wood, Las Cruces carpet dealers have a wide variety of flooring options to satisfy any desire – from stainless and pet odor-resistant to outlandish and traditional.

"There is a floor for every need," said Nancy Nuñez, Casey Carpet of Las Cruces sales associate.

### Types of flooring

While many homes include traditional plush carpet, there is a shift moving toward another type of surface.

"The trend nationwide is going toward hard surfaces versus carpet," said Georgette Malooly of Malooly's Flooring.

Of the various hard surfaces, many are choosing laminate flooring, which is a synthetic substance attached to a wood core by the lamination process, making it as visually appealing as wood without the hefty price tag.

"It's great from a price perspective," Hoffman Schweinbraten said. "You don't have to give up quality and style."

In addition to its look and cost, laminate is also more durable than wood and isn't easily scratched, said Nuñez. Also, the floating flooring can be installed over several existing surfaces.

A disadvantage to laminate, however, is its sensitivity to water.

"If the room floods and the core gets wet, it's over," Nuñez said. "You can't reuse it if it expands."

While most laminate flooring is sealed at the edges to block out water, the surface isn't recommended for laundry rooms or bathrooms.

"You can use it in the kitchen, but you have to get it sealed," Nuñez said.

A staple of many starter homes, carpet is an inexpensive material that is always popular with the masses.

"Carpet is always a choice after laminate," Nuñez said.

Softer, warmer and more insulated than the harder surfaces – making it great for those with small children – Malooly said carpet is also quieter.

Nowadays, Hoffman Schweinbraten said carpet is designed to make a statement and comes in a variety of colors, textures and patterns.

"Customers want something different," Nuñez said of the growing popularity of shags and newer, bolder tones, such as golds and deep greens.

The disadvantage of carpet, however, is the maintenance.

"Spills on carpet aren't as easy to clean up," Nuñez said.

"Plus those people with allergies tend to choose a harder surface," Hoffman Schweinbraten added.

Nuñez added that many people are considering dual surfaces, with carpet located in the bedrooms and a hard surface with a runner or rug in the hall and shared living spaces.

"It's easier to change the look of a room with an area rug," said Malooly, adding that this option is great for those who like to re-design the interior of their home often.

There are several types of tile available, however, one of the most common, and least expensive, is ceramic, which Malooly said is easy to clean, making it pet friendly.

"Often times, younger people who are replacing the carpet of their starter home buy tile," Hoffman Schweinbraten said. "It's a do-it-yourself kind of job."

Although inexpensive, ceramic tile does have a few disadvantages. In addition to being cold and hard, if dropped, it can break or crack, and the grout can discolor overtime.

"But it doesn't wear out like carpet," Nuñez said.

While more expensive, porcelain tile is more durable and stronger than its ceramic counterpart, allowing it to be used outdoors. Glass tile, however, is mainly a decorative accent used on pools and walls.

Soft on the feet, like laminate, wood floors are more common in homes on the East Coast and are typically the most expensive flooring option.

"It's a natural product," Hoffman Schweinbraten said. "It makes a bold statement and it's just beautiful. Nothing beats a wood floor."

Despite its aesthetic appeal, wood floors can be easily damaged and require a lot of upkeep.

"You have to be careful what shoes you wear and what chairs and furniture you have on it," Nuñez said. "You have to be careful not to scratch it."

While there are topical cleaners and waxes available, Nuñez warns that once applied, they will have to be reapplied frequently.

“ In the remodeling process, flooring is one of the easiest things you can do, and you get a big bang for your buck. ”

GINA HOFFMAN SCHWEINBRATEN, Casey Carpet



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzler  
**Whether carpet, tile or wood, it is important to consider your lifestyle and budget before selecting a new flooring option.**

### Selecting what is best

When selecting the ideal flooring, it is important to consider a number of factors, the most prominent being how one lives.

"They should really consider their lifestyle," said Malooly, adding that this includes the amount of foot traffic in the home. "They probably should go for a hard surface if they have two kids and five pets, versus two people in a home with very little traffic."

"Their lifestyle is a bigger factor than price," said Hoffman Schweinbraten, adding that there are options in a variety of price brackets and most distributors are willing to work with a customer's budget.

Hoffman Schweinbraten and Nuñez said a professional can look at a home and determine what sort of flooring best suits the homeowner.

"We can get an idea of how they live and what colors they like," Nuñez said.

In addition to lifestyle, Malooly said it's important to consider personal style and habits.

"If they like to change their mind often, they should probably go less expensive, but still good," she said. "If you don't change often, then choose something more expensive."

Lastly, Malooly said to consider the length of time one plans to spend in their home.

"If they don't plan to be in their home in the next five years, then they should still get something nice, but maybe less expensive," she said.

Malooly, Hoffman Schweinbraten and Nuñez all agree that when it comes to new flooring, it is important to consult a professional who has the experience and knowledge to work with customers and meet any need.

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# A pot for every plant, use

## Take your flowerpots out of the garden with these tips

By **Beth Sitzler**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

With colder weather taking over the Mesilla Valley, you may have to say goodbye to your outside garden for a while and focus on your indoor plants housed in flowerpots.

The flowerpot is a container specially designed for flowers and other plants. A simple cylinder with a lip and hole in the

bottom, flowerpots have helped botanical items thrive for centuries. The ancient Egyptians are believed to be the first to incorporate the vessels into their daily lives.

While traditional flowerpots are created from terracotta, today the containers come in a variety of materials, including plastic, wood, stone, ceramic and even biodegradable substances.

Even if your green thumb is more of a brown thumb – meaning your plants tend to die – you can still use flowerpots in some fun and inventive ways around the house.

**1. Make a bread container:** An ancient culinary trick is to cook meals in a clay pot, and a medium-sized one is the perfect container to bake bread in. Soak the pot in water for about 20 minutes, let it dry overnight and then lightly grease the interior. After mixing and kneading your desired bread recipe as usual, place the dough in the pot and bake. The clay pot will give the

bread a crusty outside while keeping the inside moist. When it comes time to clean your clay pot, don't use soap or dish detergent because the porous clay will absorb it. Instead, wash it with warm water and use a brush and baking soda to help removed baked-on messes.

**2. Create a firewood holder:** When the weather gets dreary, it's nice to have an indoor storage facility conveniently located near the fireplace for your firewood. Instead of purchasing a specially designed container, create your own from an extra-large ceramic or clay pot. While any flowerpot will do, a more artistic item will add a decorative flair to your hearth.

**3. Keep yarn from becoming tangled:** Is your knitting project taking twice as long because the yarn becomes tangled? Stop this from happening with the help of a flowerpot. Place the ball of yarn under an overturned flowerpot and thread the end through the drain hole. Set the pot and yarn next to where you're working, and your knitting project will go by a lot faster.

**4. Give your fish a cave:** Are your aquatic creatures becoming bored of their linear habitat? Add another dimension to it with a flowerpot. The next time you clean the aquarium, place a small clay pot on its side and fill the container with the rocks and plants as usual. Your fish will enjoy their new hiding place.

**5. Nurture other plants:** Not just for flowers, pots can be used to help grow other plants. Use a medium-sized pot to grow a tree. Once the tree outgrows the pot and reaches a size at which it can thrive on its own, remove it from the container and plant it outside. Or, if you're an apartment dweller and don't have the space for a garden, plant herbs and small vegetables in larger pots.

**6. Contain an onion plant:** Even if you don't live in an apartment, a flowerpot can still help. Use the container to plant onions, which often spread their overpowering taste to their fellow garden items. The small garden container will keep the strong-smelling vegetable away from your other, more delicate plants.

**7. Keep your soil in place:** Soil from your houseplants can slide out of its container when watered. Help keep it in its place by placing the pieces of a broken clay pot in the bottom of the vessel the next time you replant. The large shards will allow the water to still drain – just without the soil.

**8. Protect other plants:** When the cold weather sets in, empty flowerpots are good to have around. Use upsidedown pots, in a variety of sizes, to cover outside plants. The pot will still allow the plant to breathe, but will keep the frost away.

**9. Create decorative pavers:** If that large, decorative flowerpot breaks, don't throw away the remaining pieces – reuse them around your garden. Larger pieces of a clay, ceramic or terracotta pot can be used to create mosaic paving stones around your property.

**10. Make your own wind chimes:** Another use for that broken flowerpot is to create your own wind chimes. Simply wrap the shards of the pot in heavy crafting wire, creating a loop at the top of each. You can select broken pieces in any size you wish, although a diverse selection will give your wind chime visual appeal and create a variety of sounds. After the slivers have been secured, tie fishing line to the loops and attach it to a board so they hang down. Place the chime on the back porch or near your front door and enjoy the soothing sounds.

### Flowerpot Bread

- 2 1/2 cups warm water
- 2 packages yeast
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 6 cup flour

Mix ingredients well and knead. Let rise, then knead again.

Soak and scrub an unpainted, unglazed clay pot, letting it dry overnight. The size of the pot will determine the amount of bread that can be placed in it. Grease the interior and the lip of the pot with vegetable oil. Keep oiling until the pot can't absorb anymore.

Place the pot on a cookie sheet covered in aluminum foil and set in a cold oven. Heat the oven to 400 degrees and turn off heat and allow the pot to cool. Oil and heat the pot once more.

Place a ball of the dough in the pot so the dough has enough room to rise. It should fill half the pot. Don't worry about the hole in the bottom, the dough will rise to the top. Bake time depends on the size of the pot and the type of bread. As a rule of thumb, the bread is done when thumping it on top creates a hollow sound. Cook this bread recipe at 350 degrees.

Let the bread cool in the pot for five minutes then remove and place on a cooling rack. (Recipe adapted from [www.cooks.com](http://www.cooks.com) and [www.abigslice.com](http://www.abigslice.com).)



*Around-the-home item: Flowerpots*

## Home Sales Scoreboard

LAS CRUCES AREA

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Closed Sales New Homes	1	2	0

Closed Sales Existing Homes	9	4	8
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Pending Home Sales (All)	151	141	147
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	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Average Days on Market (All)	146	178	123

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Median Price New	\$129,000	\$166,450	n/a

Median Price Existing	\$158,500	\$297,950	\$184,500
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	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Total Homes on Market (All)	1,028	1,033	1,195

Real Estate Agents	406	426	462
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"Homes" include detached single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums

Source: Las Cruces Multiple Listing Service (MLS)\* for the period 1/10/11 - 1/16/11  
\* MLS is wholly owned by the Las Cruces Association of Realtors  
\*\* Unknown per LCAR

### Flour clarification

A concerned reader brought it to our attention that throwing flour on a grease fire could be dangerous. The dust particles that can hang in the area are flammable. Instead, use baking soda or a fire extinguisher and, as always, call 911 if the fire isn't easily extinguished.

### Unplanned Pregnancy?

- Options Counseling
- Adoption Services
- Education & Support in Las Cruces

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# ChileKnights

## Just dump and go!

### Try an easy, spicy Crock Pot recipe

**Sunny Conley**  
Chile Knights



Are you weary from holiday baking and cooking? If so, then it's time to give yourself a much-deserved break. Time to haul out Old Faithful – the time-honored Crock Pot, the much-acclaimed slow cooker. Simply dump recipe ingredients into the pot and go!

The slow cooker has been a favorite cooking appliance of mine for nearly 40 years. It was introduced at an ideal time in my life – the same year my daughter was born in 1970.

Most of us associate the Crock Pot with the Rival company. Indeed, they were the originators. Over the years, the slow cooker has been tweaked and accessories added. Two years ago, my niece gave me one that came with a nifty insulator travel case. Last year, I gifted myself the Little Dipper, a miniature Crock Pot – almost doll size, made specifically for sauces. It's ideal for keeping dips warm, in particular, my favorite hot sauce spinach.

Aside from convenience and time, the Crock Pot has another delicious perk: The escaping aroma as the food cooks all day long, especially food that's been richly spiced with chile pepper!

### Crock Pot Mexicali Rice

- 1 (15 1/4-ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (4-ounce) can diced green chile
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 2 cups brown rice
- 3 1/2 cups boiling water
- 1/2 cup thawed frozen orange juice concentrate
- 6 tablespoons fresh lime juice (about 3 limes)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1/3 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

In your Crock Pot, mix together the corn, black beans, green chiles, onion, bell pepper, rice, boiling water, orange juice concentrate, tablespoons of the lime juice, the cumin and the chili powder. Cover and cook on the low-heat setting for 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

Stir in the remaining 2 tablespoons lime juice, the cilantro and salt. Mix well and serve hot. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

### Spicy Citrus Chicken

- 1 to 1-1/2 pounds of chicken (4 to 8 pieces of chicken, any pieces will do – wings, thighs, drumsticks, bone-in, skin-on, boneless, skinless)
- Use boneless and skinless chicken breasts to keep it healthier.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 1 teaspoon cayenne
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Place all ingredients in the Crock Pot and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours. Serve on a bed of brown rice with a side of mixed vegetables.

### Zesty Turkey Tenderloins

This dish gets its spice from diced tomatoes with green chile, green peppers, chili powder and lime juice. The flavor is quite scrumptious. It's not too spicy, but it has a pleasantly zesty taste to it. I recommend serving the turkey over rice, with perhaps a green veggie on the side.

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 1/2 pounds turkey breast tenderloins, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 can (14 1/2-ounce) diced tomatoes with green chile, undrained
- 1 small green bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook turkey in oil about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until browned. Place turkey in a slow cooker. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over turkey. Cover and cook on low heat for about 6 hours or until turkey is no longer pink in center. Makes 6 servings.

### Southwest Flank Steak

This steak is extremely tasty, tender and juicy. The chili powder gives the meat a slightly kicked-up flavor, but it's not too spicy. Add more powder or hot green chile, if desired. Serve it up with a baked potato and a vegetable to complete the dinner. Scrumptious!

- 1 flank steak (about 1 1/2 pounds), cut in half if you have a small crock pot
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 large white onion, sliced
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 (4-ounce) can chopped green chile
- 2 tablespoons vinegar



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Sunny Conley

Pot meals are easy-to-prepare. Try the lip-smacking Spicy Citrus Chicken on a bed of brown rice.

- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, brown steak in oil. Transfer to Crock Pot. In the same skillet, sauté onion for a minute or two. Gradually add the water. Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Pour over the flank steak. Cover and cook on low for about 8 hours or until the meat is tender. Slice meat and serve with the onion and pan juices. Makes 4 to 6 servings

### Beefy Cheesy Enchiladas

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 to 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 6 corn tortillas
- 2 cups fresh or frozen corn (or 15-ounce can)
- 1 (19-ounce) can enchilada sauce
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 (2 1/2-ounce) can sliced ripe olives, drained
- 1 cup sour cream

Brown ground beef and drain. Add onion and garlic; cook over medium heat until tender and transparent. Add salt and pepper. Place 2 tortillas in bottom of Crock Pot. Place a third of the following in layers over the tortillas: meat, corn, sauce, cheese and olives. Repeat tortillas and other layers two times. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours. Serve with sour

cream. Adapted from a recipe by Allison Huller McAlister. Makes 4 to 6 servings

### The Best Pulled Pork Crock-Pot Tacos

- 2 1/2 pounds pork tenderloin, shredded
- 2 cups salsa
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 1/2 tablespoons oregano
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

Place the pork in Crock Pot. Add the salsa, chili powder, oregano, cocoa powder and salt, stirring to combine. Turn the roast so it is coated in the salsa mixture. Cook on low for 8 hours. Add the end of cook time the shredded pork and serve on soft tortilla shells with your favorite fixings.

### Dump and Go Sassy Salsa Chicken

- 1 1/2 pounds chicken breasts (about 2 or 3 breasts, depending on size)
- 1 (12-ounce) jar favorite salsa
- 1 (8-ounce) jar apricot jam
- 1 packet taco seasoning

Dump all ingredients in Crock Pot. Cook on low for 6 to 8 hours. Shred chicken and serve over rice or roll into flour tortillas and top with favorite toppings.

Sunny Conley, a former Las Cruces, is an award-winning cookbook author and food columnist. Contact Sunny at sunny.conley@gmail.com.

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