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Research at NMSU nears \$200 million

Officials say CHE story missed picture

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

Despite more competition for research grants, New Mexico State University officials said they are enjoying tremendous growth in awards, approaching almost \$200 million.



This is a more than \$40 million increase in research dollars to NMSU since last year, but a recent article in a news publication widely read in academic circles is painting a different picture.

A recent edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education (CHE) conducted an analysis of the 100 universities receiving the most federal research dollars in 1999. Of those, 27 of them at least doubled their own spending on research over the following decade while falling in the federal ranking.

"Among those taking a dive were the State University of New York at Stony Brook, the University of Utah, and the New Mexico State University system, which together jacked up their own research spending by a combined \$156.8 million compared with inflation-adjusted 1999 levels," the article reported. "The closely watched ranking of federal dollars for scientific and engineering research, compiled annually by the National Science Foundation (NSF), is a marker of institutional research prowess and prestige and can help the highest-scoring universities attract the best professors and graduate students."

NMSU Vice President for Research Vimal Chaitanya described CHE's analysis as "comparing apples to oranges."

NMSU research does depend heavily on federal dollars – accounting for more than 80 percent of its total research grants – but the CHE article only looked at research evaluated in the fields of science and engineering, Chaitanya said.

See **NMSU** on page A15

Keeping the code alive

Code Talkers share their amazing story on Memorial Day

By **Jimmy Currier**
Las Cruces Bulletin

In 1945, Keith Little returned from the Pacific and was being honorably discharged from the Marines. He had done his duty serving in the Marshall Islands, Saipan and Iwo Jima, and was ready to go back home to the Navajo Indian Reservation in Crystal, N.M.

Upon leaving his officer's headquarters, the officer told him, "Thank you, Mr. Little for what you did." Little, puzzled, asked, "What did I do?"

That question would riddle Little for 23 more years. He never fired his rifle at the enemy, but little did he know, he played an integral part in the United States defeating Japan in the Pacific and ultimately winning World War II.

On Memorial Day – Monday, May 30 – in Las Cruces, Little, Bill Toledo and Frank Chee Willetto – all Code Talkers and members of the Navajo Code Talkers Association – were the guests of honor at Veterans Memorial Park, off Roadrunner Parkway. Little relayed the story of the Code Talkers to the patriotic crowd, which included veterans of each of America's wars since World War II.

From 1945 to 1968, Little's and more than 400 Navajos' mission as Code Talkers was classified. They were instructed to tell others they were radiomen. However, the Japanese discovered these weren't your ordinary communication specialists.



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Niki Rhynes

Lawrence and Amanda Apodaca look for family members' names listed at Veteran's Park on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30. Their family has served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and currently serving in Afghanistan.

"It was a top secret project, and no one told us why we were doing it," Little said.

The Code Talkers constructed an entirely new alphabet based on their native language, and because the language was never written, it couldn't be traced.

The Code Talkers were commended for their skill, speed and accuracy throughout the war.

"The first 29 really developed something that's cleverly devised," Little said about the original Code Talkers. "It was schemed in such a way that it would confuse the enemy, and that's never been broken."

Iwo Jima, a pivotal battle won by the Marines, couldn't have been won without the Code Talkers, Maj. Howard Connor said. These

See **Code Talkers** on page A13

Jemez casino picks up support

Both chambers of commerce endorse Anthony, N.M., project

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

Just as the deadline for public comment approached Wednesday, June 1, the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces voted in favor of the Jemez Pueblo's proposal for an off-reservation casino in Anthony, N.M.

In a formal position paper, the Greater Las

Cruces Chamber of Commerce stated its conclusions were based on the "long-term greater good of the Anthony community, Doña Ana County and the expanded impact of the business to our state."

The position paper cited not only the construction jobs resulting from the \$55 million casino, but also the 950 permanent jobs it would bring. If approved by the Interior Department and Gov. Susana Martinez, the casino developers will provide health insurance,

on-the-job training, opportunity for advancement and other benefits. The chamber's position adds that the projected average annual income for the casino workers is \$29,200, with a total annual payroll of \$28 million.

The casino also would spend \$30 million each year on locally obtained maintenance supplies, food and beverages, computers, technical services, financial services, Mesilla Valley agricultural products, marketing and promotions.

See **Jemez** on page A14

NEXT WEEK

Post office shake-up ahead?

USPS again considers consolidating mail services to El Paso to save money



\$1



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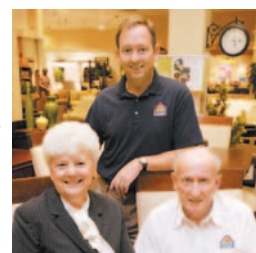
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National release



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Charlie Minn checks out a display of his documentary "A Nightmare in Las Cruces" on sale in Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Mesilla Valley Mall Wednesday, June 1. Minn's documentary is about the 1990 unsolved slaying of four in what is commonly referred to as the Bowling Alley Massacre. The documentary was released on the 20th anniversary of the crime and did well enough in theaters to be distributed nationally by Lionsgate.

NM soldier earns Medal of Honor

President to give medal to courageous Santa Fe native

President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor to an Army sergeant from New Mexico for courage on the battlefield in Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry will receive the nation's highest military decoration in a ceremony July 12, according to the White House.

The 31-year-old native of Santa Fe is being recognized for courageous actions during combat operations against an armed enemy in the eastern Afghan province of Paktia in May 2008.

Petry will be the second living, active-duty service member to receive a Medal of Honor for actions in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. Last year, Obama awarded a Medal of Honor to Staff Sgt. Sal Giunta, also for actions in Afghanistan.

Petry has completed multiple combat tours to Afghanistan and Iraq totaling 28 months of deployment.

His military decorations include: two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, National Defense Service Medal, three Army Good Conduct Medals, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Combat Star and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, to name a few.

U.S. Sen. Tom Udall congratulated Petry.

"Petry and his Army Rangers were deployed to capture a high value target in Afghanistan," Udall said. "During their raid, they were engaged in a firefight with the enemy when several in their regiment were pinned down by grenades. Wounded by bullet fire and with no thought to his personal safety, SFC Petry grabbed one of the grenades and attempted to toss it away. He would lose his right hand and continue to fight. It was this immense act of bravery that saved the lives of his brothers-in-arms – and illustrated once again to a grateful nation the immense courage and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform."

EBID begins releasing water

Drought limits allocation

By **Marvin Tessneer**

Las Cruces Bulletin

Ditch riders opened up irrigation water to Mesilla Valley fields late Wednesday, June 1, as the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) opened its 2011 season with one of the shortest allocations of water on record – four acre-inches.

The USDA Bureau of Reclamation opened the gates at Caballo Reservoir, the lower reservoir, Tuesday, May 31, and farmers started irrigating in Arrey and Hatch, the upper part of the irrigation district. Water reached the Leasburg Diversion Dam early Wednesday.

The irrigation season outlook for EBID farmers is not good. EBID has a 2011 water allocation of 54,000 acre-feet, plus

20,000 acre-feet of carry-over, or "credit water," which it had preserved from previous seasons.

The board of directors is watching to see if the summer rains, or "monsoons," will develop and benefit farmers with runoff. In March, the EBID board also petitioned the Office of the State Engineer for a release of 100,000 acre-feet. The OSE has denied the request, and the board is working on alternatives.

The Elephant Butte Reservoir storage, as of late May, was 359,000 acre-feet, 18 percent of capacity, which is 1.97 million acre-feet. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services reported its forecast for the Rio Grande Basin snow pack runoff is 155,000 acre-feet, 35 percent of the long-time average.

The El Paso Water Conservation District No. 1, which has a large water carry-over, was able to start out the season in March with 3.5 acre-feet. It's allocation this year is 27,652 acre-feet and benefits with a hefty carry-over of 224,000 acre-feet.

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Opinions



From the publisher

BY DAVID MCCOLLUM

Visiting New York

One week's trip to the East Coast lets us remember why we love the people and lifestyle of New Mexico

Last week, Jaki and I traveled to New York with our 7-year-old Las Cruces granddaughter Audrie to visit our other granddaughters, Emilee, 13, and Ivy, 5.

The Northeast, especially New York, is a terrific place to visit. Our daughter and her husband live just west of the Hudson River near West Point. For those who have never had the opportunity to visit the Hudson River Valley, the river is framed on either side by towering, tree-covered cliffs, offering spectacular vistas in any direction.

During the Revolutionary War, the mighty Hudson was among the most important strategic military sites in the New World. George Washington spent the last year of the war at his headquarters in New Windsor, N.Y., located about 50 miles north of New York City. Various forts and fortresses are dotted along the river. There are some locations with massive concrete and granite foundations where the Americans controlled ship traffic up and down the Hudson by stretching giant iron chains across the river. The chains were so large, each link weighed as much as half a ton.

When a person wanders through one of the state parks, among the thick trees, granite boulders and gnarly undergrowth, including prolific stands of poison ivy, one cannot help but gain respect for the early Americans who had to live and do battle in such a difficult environment. And, of course, this time of year, with ideal weather conditions life is much easier than in the dead of winter, sub-freezing temperatures and two feet of snow. How these early soldiers not only survived, but managed to win a great war, is simply amazing.

Today, the region is dotted with homes and contiguous cities, towns and boroughs. In fact, there are more than 50 communities within 10 miles of my daughter's home in Mountainville, which is situated in a relatively rural and heavily wooded area. Century-old homesteads still stand today among sprawling retail stores and new homes. It is easy to wonder how many local residents take the time to reflect on the historical significance of the area in which they now reside.

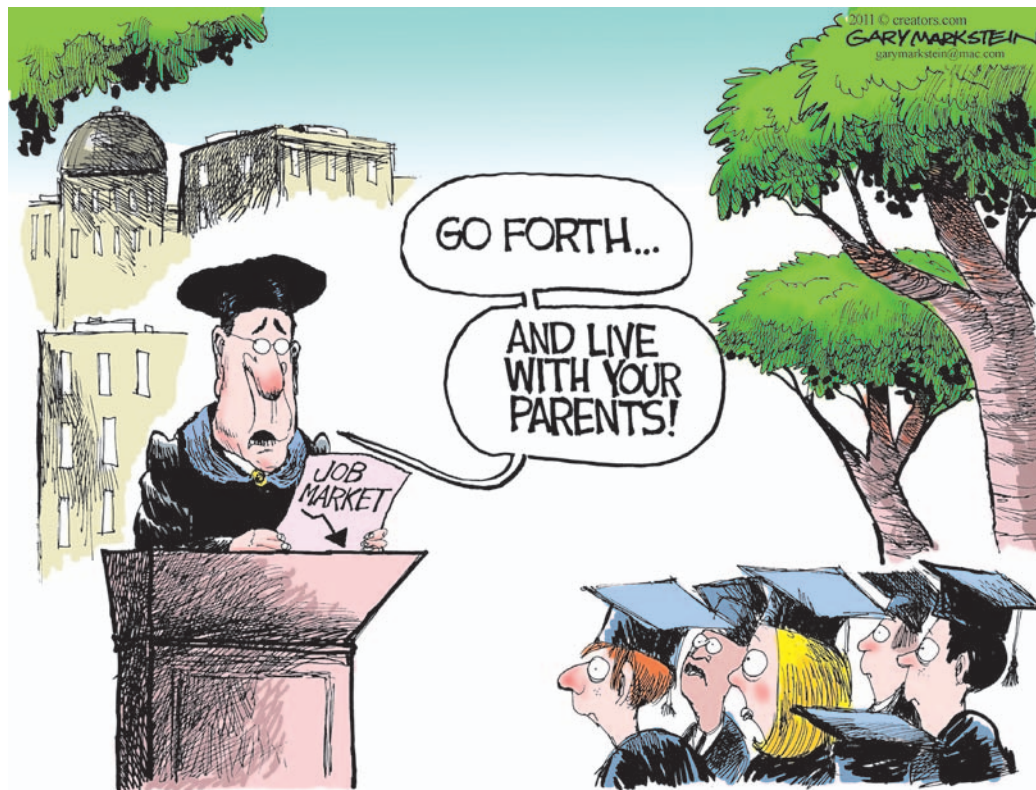
Memorial Day was a big holiday with many communities hosting local parades and picnics. The holiday is a much-appreciated break for schools, almost like an extra spring break, because most schools do not end classes until the end of June.

Of course you cannot visit this area without a trip to the iconic Big Apple – New York City. Our trip this year included visits to the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Times Square, Broadway and Central Park. That's about all a visitor can accomplish in a day. Next trip we will try to add a Broadway play, the Museum of Modern Art and a baseball game at the new Yankee Stadium.

Like other areas of the country, the economy is difficult. Real estate is in the drink and jobs are hard to find. Taxes and costs of government services are escalating. Unemployed folks are not happy about their situation. On the other hand, the people who do have jobs aren't particularly happy either. This is especially true in retail stores, where it is almost impossible to find assistance with any question, or even a sale. When you get someone's attention, they are likely to give you an attitude, probably hoping that you will just go away.

It's nice to spend time with the family, and to have the opportunity to visit some of our nation's most historic sites. However, it will be good to get back to our home, the sunshine and the friendly atmosphere in our city of smiles in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

“ ... the sunshine and the friendly atmosphere in our city of smiles in Las Cruces, New Mexico. ”



Letter to the Editor

Concerns about SWEC's La Mancha wetlands project are unfounded

Thank you for your coverage of the Southwest Environmental Center's La Mancha Project. The article (Pond project raises concerns, Friday, May 27) contained a few errors that I would like to address.

The La Mancha Project is a wetland restoration project. Wetlands – the places where water meets land – are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. They provide essential habitat for a great variety of fish and wildlife.

Wetlands were once common along the Rio Grande in southern New Mexico, but have mostly disappeared over the past century. SWEC is committed to protecting our wildlife heritage by restoring these habitats wherever possible. Readers may be familiar with an earlier project – the Picacho Wetlands, the ponds that now form the core of the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

The La Mancha Project is designed to replicate one particular type of wetland that is especially important for fish and other aquatic creatures, and is especially rare these days – a permanent, slow-velocity water feature that

is connected to the river at least some of the time.

The project consists of a 2- to 3-acre pond and a channel to the river. At certain times of year, depending on flows in the river, water and fish will move between the pond and the river. At other times, they won't. The amount of water flowing into the pond can be controlled by a gate. The pond will be deep enough to support fish year-round and prevent anaerobic (stagnant) conditions from developing.

Regarding the water rights situation, the article got the facts a bit confused. SWEC owns surface water rights administered by the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID). We pay an annual assessment just like other EBID constituents and receive an annual allocation of water. Right now, we're not using our water because the project has not been built. Just as farmers divert water from the river for irrigation, our plan is to divert water for the project, but only after we obtain the necessary permits from the appropriate agencies and only up to the amount allowed by our water rights.

Contrary to what was stated in the article, SWEC does not own any groundwater rights, which the Office of State Engineer (OSE) says are needed to offset the loss of water from our

See **La Mancha** on page A5

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

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Senate races may be nasty

Is Wilson Martinez's pick?

Jay Miller
Inside the Capitol



The Democratic U.S. Senate primary is likely to be as hard fought and negative as the GOP primary. The two races have much in common.

Both contests feature a member or former member of the U.S. House representing Albuquerque, against an opponent who has won statewide election.

In the GOP primary, former U.S. Rep. Heather Wilson and Lt. Gov. John Sanchez do battle. In the Democratic primary, U.S. Rep. Martin Heinrich and state Auditor Hector Balderas face each other.

Wilson represented Albuquerque for more than 10 years, never losing an election. She left her seat and unsuccessfully ran statewide in the 2008 GOP Senate primary to replace Sen. Pete Domenici.

Sanchez won the GOP primary for governor in 2002 and then lost the general election by a big margin to Bill Richardson. He won the 2010 GOP primary election for lieutenant governor and went on to win the position in the general election running on a ticket with Susana Martinez.

On the Democratic side, Heinrich has been elected twice to the U.S. House from Albuquerque. In the U.S. Senate primary, he is squaring off with Balderas, who is serving his second term as state auditor.

The big question for the coming election is whether it is better to have represented Albuquerque in Congress or to have been elected to statewide office.

Both Sanchez and Balderas have traveled the state extensively. They already have political contacts in every county. Is that more important than having a big, loyal base in Albuquerque and not be known well among the other two-thirds of New Mexico's population?

The pundits disagree. In 2008, Wilson beat Pearce in Albuquerque by about a 2-1 margin. But Pearce won his southern constituency by a 3-1 margin.

Wilson should do well again in Albuquerque. Sanchez probably will be stronger in the north. Southern New Mexico could decide that race.

Among the Democrats, Heinrich should do well in Albuquerque and Balderas in the north. One advantage for Balderas is that he can boast of being from Wagon Mound when he is in the rest of the state, but talk about his days going to law school and being an assistant district attorney in Albuquerque.

Neither Balderas nor Sanchez has established much of a record for a congressional candidate. Both served one two-year term in the state House of Representatives. Balderas is in his fifth year as state auditor. Sanchez is in his first year as lieutenant governor and hasn't been allowed to do anything except preside over the Senate.

Wilson is pounding on Sanchez's lack of a record. She says he claims to be a tea party conservative but his record to back that up is invented. He's not who he says he is, Wilson claims.

Recent developments since Sanchez announced indicate that Martinez may have unofficially come down on Wilson's side. The day after Sanchez's announcement, Martinez announced she will not be assigning him any duties since he might be distracted by running for the U.S. Senate.

For the life of me, I can't recall an elected official ever resigning an office in order to run for a higher office. That includes the governor herself who held onto her district attorney's job until days before she was sworn in as governor. It also includes Wilson when she ran for the Senate.

The day after the governor's disapproving remarks about Sanchez, she appeared at a meeting at which Wilson was speaking and seemed to make a point to talk with Wilson and have their picture taken.

Besides presiding over the state Senate, statutes also provide that the lieutenant governor serve on several boards and commissions. The governor can't legally remove Sanchez from them but past practice suggests she might try again.

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

La Mancha

Continued from page A4

pond through evaporation. Fortunately, the City of Las Cruces has become a partner in the project and has agreed to dedicate up to 15 acre-feet of its groundwater rights for the project. The city has filed an application with the OSE to do this. Whether the city's water rights are valid or sufficient will be a matter for the OSE to determine. There is no violation of New Mexico's anti-donation clause because nothing is being donated to SWEC.

We understand the concern about mosquitoes, but would like to reassure your readers on this score. Our wetland will support mosquitofish, dragonflies, bats and other natural predators of mosquitoes. Compared to the hundreds of miles of irrigation ditches and drains, the thousands of acres of irrigated farmland and the countless backyard ponds in the Mesilla Valley, our small wetland should not be a significant

contributor of mosquitoes.

The article may have given readers the impression that we are at odds with EBID and the Office of State Engineer over this project. To the contrary, SWEC has made an effort since planning for the project began to keep all stakeholders in the loop. We have met with EBID and OSE staff on numerous occasions to discuss technical and legal issues related to the project, and will continue to do so.

Change is never easy. The current system of water management in the lower Rio Grande has developed over the past century. It works well and we are committed to working within it to achieve a balance between thriving farms and a healthy river.

We understand that a project like ours might raise concerns, which makes it important that people know the facts before jumping to conclusions. I invite your readers to learn more about our project at www.wildmesquite.org.

Kevin Bixby
 SWEC executive director



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Las Cruces



Creating the American police state

Authorities now demand instant obedience from citizens

Michael Swickard
In My Opinion



What bothers me most about illegal drugs and terrorists is they are causing the American police state.

With these perceived needs, the police authorities can abuse citizens with impunity. For example, leaving Boston's Logan International Airport several years ago, I went problem-free through the screening until I handed my itinerary to the last agent who said, "Your itinerary is incorrect, go back and correct it."

"What do I need to correct?"

His eyes narrowed.

"Your itinerary is incorrect, go back and correct it."

At the airline's counter the agent looked carefully at my itinerary and ticket. "No, this is correct. Go back and tell that TSA guy he is full of crap."

I blurted, "Not in this lifetime or the next am I telling a TSA official he is full of crap."

So I wandered back to the security checkpoint. The official who screened me was busy with someone else so I presented my itinerary to another screener.

"Go ahead," he said.

In the last few years, I have been inconvenienced, menaced and intimidated by the very American authorities who are fighting to protect us. This is the product of the war on illegal drugs and the war on terror.

Consider the Border Patrol

checkpoints in southern New Mexico. There are three checkpoints near Las Cruces. For decades, each time I drive through one, I am asked my citizenship, even though I am inside my own country a hundred miles. Day after day what they are really looking for are illegal drugs. That is why a drug sniffing-dog circles my car pronouncing it uninteresting.

Recently, in a column I made a reference to the "Andy Griffith Show" with easy going Andy Taylor and excitable Barney Fife as law enforcement officers. Andy does not regularly carry a weapon. Barney does and has his one bullet in his shirt pocket. He puts his hand on his pistol to emphasize his authority while Andy looks for ways to defuse conflict.

On my radio talk show, "News New Mexico," we have been talking about the conflict of authorities and regular citizens. Then it happened to me.

Last week, I noticed a lifeguard helicopter taking off and stopped to take a picture. I love anything that flies, especially helicopters. I was behind the helicopter so could not see either the patient nor the pilots.

Two members of the authorities hustled over to me and told me that taking a picture of a Lifeguard Helicopter violates the Federal HIPAA Privacy Rule because there might be a patient onboard. They said I was violating a federal law. They commanded me to stop right then and obey their commands.

I reasoned that this did not seem correct because people take pictures of ambulances and helicopters often. So I asserted that it was my legal right to shoot

a picture of a helicopter. I pointed out no one could see the patient from where I was, if they were worried about that.

Rather than them saying, "Oh," and walking away, this cranked them into overdrive. They stepped menacingly in front of me and ordered, "Put the camera away now."

We then had a brisk conversation, where I successfully resisted calling the more aggressive one Barney, but stood my ground.

Then it appeared to me that I was about to be arrested for not following a command if I did not back down. So, I apologized profusely and removed the offending picture from my camera phone. They let me go with the warning to follow orders.

My offense was not doing instantly what a person of authority told me to do. That is the police-state mentality.

Incidentally, I had so much on my plate at that moment that I could not do the "good fight" right then. So I backed down, but it bothered me quite a bit.

The war on illegal drugs and terrorists has created a police state that requires Americans to be instantly obedient to the authorities or they will be crushed by the full force of our government. The illegal drugs and terrorists are not harming our country as much we Americans are harming ourselves by creating an American police state.

Michael Swickard is co-host of radio talk show News New Mexico from 6 to 9 a.m. Monday-Friday on KSNM-AM 570. Swickard may be contacted at michael@swickard.com.

Letter to the editor

Price of education?

"Education doesn't make somebody better or even necessarily more qualified."

Such was the disparaging verdict uttered in a March 18 column in the local daily press.

I can't recall throughout more than nine decades on this planet a more cynical indictment of the value of schooling. There's enough blame to go around to rest on several shoulders.

For openers, a generation that grew up in an atmosphere laced with "entitlements," education pundits with competing sure-fire curricula and a social climate with some overly indulgent parents turning a blind eye to "anything goes" behavior.

In today's setting, possibly no one ever explained a fundamental tenet to the above young writer – that what you get out of learning is directly in proportion to how much you put into that effort.

Perhaps the above columnist may never read about any of the following prime examples of the value of learning.

For starters, take one of this country's well-known icons. His insatiable appetite for knowledge started with self-learning that paid off in becoming one of this country's greatest presidents, as related in a fascinating book, "How Abraham Lincoln Learned To Read."

Then there's the example of one of America's most renowned composer-conductors, the late Leonard Bernstein of "Westside Story" fame. During a TV spectacular honoring him as long-time leader of the famed Philharmonic Orchestra, Bernstein paid tribute to those who early on helped shape his career.

In particular he cited Harvard professor D.W. Prall, whose course on the philosophy of aesthetics left an indelible mark on that young musician.

Margaret Markham

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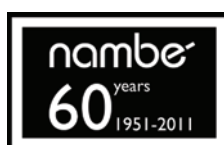
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Letters to the Editor

Torch run gratitude

The members of the law enforcement torch run, which consists of law enforcement officers with the support of athletes, Special Olympics children and adults with intellectual disabilities, wishes to thank the many individuals and organizations, businesses – too many to mention names – for their wonderful support.

We have had a great 2011 that netted more than \$15,000 from all your generosity.

A special thanks goes to Oscar Andrade for the \$1,500 sponsor donation and for giving permission to locate donation bottles at his local Pic Quik stores. The bottles netted more than an additional \$800 to date.

All funds raised go to the Special Olympics.

Michelle Ulgalde
assistant torch run director

Mike Miyagishima
guardian of the flame

SNAP in need of support

The Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP) is not going to receive funding from the City of Las Cruces or Doña Ana County in 2011 and needs support from the citizens of Doña Ana County. SNAP is applying for grants to keep the program running; however, due to economic times, funding from these sources is very difficult to obtain.

SNAP is not only asking major donors to step forward and be willing to give us their support, but is also asking each and every pet lover and pet owner in Doña Ana County to contribute to keep this program running.

In an effort to help with the overpopulation of dogs and cats within Doña Ana County, SNAP has assisted in paying for more than 8,800 spays or neuters (fixes) since the organization was started in 1999. Please donate whatever you can afford. Even small donations of \$5 or \$10 add up and will help SNAP to continue providing services.

Donations may be made at or mailed to SNAP, 2405 W. Picacho Ave., Suite 103, Las Cruces NM 88007.

SNAP wants to publicly thank each and every person who has donated funds and supported SNAP in the past. We also want to thank the 11 veterinarians who have provided their services to SNAP. Unless we receive financial support from the community, SNAP will be forced to either set up quotas on the number of applications and approvals issued each month or accept no applications each month depending on funding available.

Fewer spays and neuters done by SNAP will result in

more puppies and kittens at the shelter and more deaths.

Sherry Gara
Spay and Neuter Action Program

Pearce listens

I have heard Congressman Steve Pearce speak in person twice. He is not what I'd refer to as a book report candidate. In other words, he just doesn't tell us what we probably already know and isn't redundant about issues we've come to discover through the Internet.

He has responded to us with his agenda, what he is fighting for, what he has accomplished and what he believes we his fellow citizens and constituents want. He has been tirelessly visiting many cities and scheduling many town hall meetings to communicate these platforms to us.

I have sat in front of this congressman at dinner. As one of his constituent's, I was interested in observing how he would present himself out of the spotlight, and not in front of dozens of people. I perceived him as an interested listener, and he truly relayed his keen interest regarding what someone had to say.

As New Mexican's we're also U.S. citizens with a big government that is trying to take over our freedoms and rights. He believes that the government should be working with each individual state and not promise the solve all and end all for all our needs at our sacrifice.

Each of us can have our own perception of a political figure and usually to see if we are listening to rhetoric and will he fulfill what he says vis-a-vis "by proof in the pudding" ... is he acting on what he says? As far as the green chamber goes, what do they know what New Mexicans need ... they haven't sent a representative to my town to raise my consciousness.

Angie Long
Silver City

Common sense

Driving while intoxicated will always be a problem until New Mexicans are taught to read the New Mexico Constitution and pay attention. There are two entities involved here: the schools and every citizen. Getting them together is the problem, but I keep trying.

The New Mexico Constitution has an unusual declaration of rights and the section needs to be stated and studied:

"All persons are born equally free and have certain natural, inherent and inalienable rights, among which are the rights of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of

seeking and obtaining safety and happiness."

It would take a six-hour course to study this section properly, but for DWI a few short observations are proper. The key is to understand that each of us has a right to happiness.

But what is happiness? Unfortunately, dictionaries are of little help. The solution is philosophical because the happiness we have a right to is simply a good life. A good life is one marked by good habits where a person's potential is realized.

So how is this accomplished? The good habits fall into four groups: prudence, temperance, justice and fortitude.

Use your common sense, think before you act, clearly identify where you are headed in any undertaking. You keep yourself always in charge of you, human desires of every kind are recognized and kept under control.

Whatever you do, you look out for others who may be affected because they all have the same rights as you. Then you prove to yourself that you are in charge, you make meaningful decisions and stand firm.

Apply all this to drinking alcohol or taking drugs. If you have any sense at all you will stop and ponder.

If all this hits you as something new, you're in for a surprise. This was all worked out by the philosophical Greeks 300 years before the Christian era.

If you never learned this in school, you have been short changed. If your parents never taught you, tell them.

Whatever, you will have only yourself to blame if you ignore all this and get drunk, go driving and kill someone or yourself.

Anthony Avallone

BaxterBlack

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE



A confusing spring

I'm sitting here reading the newspaper about farms in Missouri and Louisiana being deliberately flooded to prevent inundation of towns on the Mississippi River.

Alabama and Tennessee have been ripped with tornados, there's snow on the ground in Wyoming, it's too wet to plow some places, Texas is burning up and, at my place in Arizona, we haven't seen rain since October.

I guess it's just another run-of-the-mill springtime in the land outside the city limits. Farmers have a right to be confused. Is it good times? Or bad?

Looks like the price of dairy products is stabilizing, but alfalfa hay costs more than a salad at Ruth's Chris Steak House. The price of gas is \$4 a gallon, but it's 30 percent ethanol made from \$7.50 corn.

Am I making money, or losing it?

Your pasture is droughted out. Should you sell off a hundred cow-calf pairs for enough to clear your debt, remodel the house and buy a new pickup? Or, ship them 150 miles away to lease pasture for \$16 per month per pair for six months, then ship them back just in time to start feeding them hay this fall?

Even horse traders are in a quandary. Unwanted horses are now up to \$80 a head, from \$40 last year, which is great, but down from \$500 five years ago. Should they be happy or sad?

It seems like we in agriculture are sitting on

a bubble. There is good demand for what we sell but all around us we see things that make us squirm.

“There has never been any confusion about the status of farmers, in the eyes of the ruling class ... we are peasants.”

The economy in general continues to lag. The federal government, as well as many state governments, seem to resemble Nero fiddling while Rome burns. They manipulate figures like magicians doing card tricks. “The Wizard of Oz” rolls and thunders and people yawn.

Government, through the Farm Bill, the EPA and the media, has always been

able to maintain a “cheap food policy.”

Politicians can get vicious when their constituents complain about the high price of food. They take retribution by threatening cuts to the Ag Extension Service, county fairs, Vo-Ag in rural schools and food animal medicine studies in vet schools.

We are at the top of their lists when belt tightening begins.

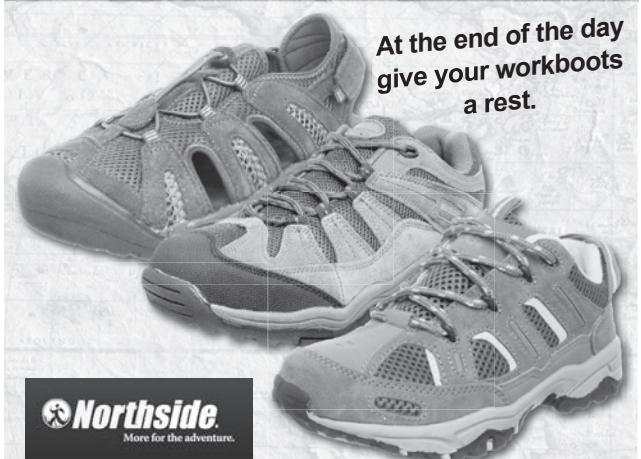
At this moment they are looking greedily at that rare opportunity, a resilient productive agriculture, to pillage. All it would take will be an expression of indignant outrage from Nero, the magicians, the wizard, or their entitlement cronies, accusing farmers of making – heaven forbid – a profit.

But there has never been any confusion of our status as farmers, in the eyes of the ruling class – the politiks, barons, dictators and pundits – we are peasants. And as such must never be allowed to have the power over a commodity as essential as food.

So enjoy your success while you can, my friends. They are already sharpening their legislative knives.

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

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— PUBLIC NOTICE — REDISTRICTING PLANS GO BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

The Las Cruces City Council will begin the formal process of selecting a new redistricting plan for the six council districts at two separate meetings on

MONDAY, JUNE 6TH

The council will hold a special work session at 10 a.m. followed by its regular meeting at 1 p.m. City Hall, 700 North Main

Redrawing city council district boundaries is required by New Mexico state law and the Las Cruces City Charter to coincide with the federal census every ten years, to ensure that residents in each councillor district are fairly and equally represented.

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The spacecraft that revealed the surface of Venus

Landing a probe on the mysterious planet proved to be difficult



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

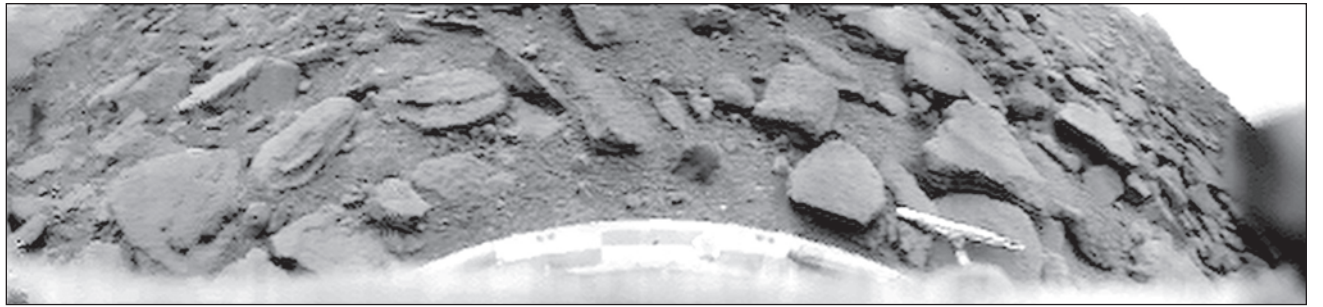
The most recent of 27 missions to Venus, the European Space Agency's Venus Express, entered planetary orbit on April 11, 2006. The ESA launched Venus Express on a Soyuz-Fregat rocket, from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome, in November 2005.

Today, according to the website <http://sci.esa.int>, studies of the atmosphere, cloud layer and surface geology continue. A Jan. 7, 2011, ESA report said data gathered in conjunction with ESA Cluster satellites orbiting Earth have improved models of the interaction of Earth and Venus with the solar wind. The result is a better understanding of the effects of charged particles on orbiting spacecraft.

The Soviet Union launched the first Venus mission, Venera 1, on Feb. 12, 1961. While communications failed en route, the craft did achieve the first-ever flyby.

Next, the United States' Mariner 2 lifted off in August 1962. Solarviews.com said the world's first successful interplanetary spacecraft weighed 450 pounds and carried six scientific instruments including a two-way radio. On Dec. 14, Mariner 2 arrived and began scanning the surface with infrared and microwave radiometers, capturing data that showed Venus' surface to be about 800 degrees Fahrenheit. Three weeks later, Mariner 2 went off the air.

If man ever did step onto Venus, he would find ... no liquid water, probably no oxygen, and of course not even plant life, said The View From Planet Earth. He would suffer agonies as sulphuric acid droplets burned his flesh, and he would be



NASA photo
The Venera 9 lander shot this photograph on Venus on Oct. 22, 1975. The Babylonians believed "Astarte, which we call Venus, was the goddess of love," said "The View From Planet Earth." St. Isidore, the Bishop of Seville, equated the cosmos to Biblical scripture and called Venus both "an emblem of Christ" and "an emblem of Satan." Galileo, in the early 1600s, "discovered the Venus had phases."

crushed by atmospheric pressure.

"The Venusian atmosphere is about one hundred times as massive as that of the Earth," said "New Worlds: Discoveries from Our Solar System" (Anchor Press/Doubleday/1979). "While Earth's atmosphere contains only about 0.03 percent carbon dioxide, that of Venus is almost all carbon dioxide."

The second Soviet probe, Zond 1, left April 2, 1964, but lost contact, solarviews.com reported. The next year, on Nov. 12, Venera 2 lifted off carrying television broadcast equipment, but communications failed just before arrival. Four days later, the Soviets launched Venera 3, hoping for a controlled surface landing. Yet again contact failed, and on March 1, 1966, the craft crashed, becoming the first to impact on the surface of another planet.

Venera 4 arrived Oct. 18, 1967. Solarviews.com reports the payload included thermometers, a barometer, radio transmitters, and cosmic ray detectors. This was the first probe to be placed directly into the atmosphere and to return atmospheric data. Parachuting to the surface, atmospheric pressure crushed the spacecraft. Such pressure also destroyed the Venera 5 and 6 missions in May 1969.

One day after Venera 4 arrived, Mariner 5 entered orbit. Nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov reports Mariner 5 was "a refurbished backup spacecraft for the Mariner 4 (Mars) mission." Its instrumentation measured both interplanetary and Venusian magnetic fields, charged particles, and plasmas, as well as the radio refractivity and UV emissions of the Venusian atmosphere.

The Soviets launched 16 Venera probes; of them, Venera 7, in December 1970, was "the first successful landing of a spacecraft on another planet," solarviews.com reports. The craft used an external cooling device which allowed it to send back 23 minutes of data. Venera 8, after landing in July 1972, returned data for 50 minutes. Subsequent craft managed to survive even longer.

The Venera 9 and 10 landers, in October 1975, transmitted the first photographs, which were black-and-white, revealing a rocky, eroded terrain.

Dmitryi Gregoryev, chairman of an international space mineralogy commission, commented: "It looks ... (like) some unknown force has scattered the rocks over the planet's surface," reported New Worlds: Discoveries from Our Solar System.

"It could also be that these are outbursts from giant meteorite craters," Gregoryev said.

Prior to the Venera 9 and 10 landings, New Worlds: Discoveries from Our Solar System reports astronomers believed only about 1 percent of sunlight could penetrate through the thick

cloud cover and reach the ground. The surface of Venus would be extremely gloomy, hardly the place to take photographs. For this reason, both were equipped with powerful floodlights.

Venera 12 recorded electrical discharges, probably from lightning, in December 1978, solarviews.com reports. Following the final Venera mission in 1983, the Soviets launched Vegas 1 and 2 in 1984. Upon delivering landers, both aimed for a Halley's Comet flyby.

The U.S. sent Pioneer Venus 1, aka the Pioneer 12 orbiter, in May 1978. Arriving on Dec. 4, solarviews.com reports it transmitted for 14 years, becoming the first spacecraft to use radar in mapping the planet's surface.

"Radar tells us that Venus is cratered, that it possesses a mountain higher than Everest, and the largest canyon known," said The View From Planet Earth.

In 1992, fuel ran out and atmospheric entry destroyed the spacecraft, reported nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov.

Pioneer Venus 2 or Pioneer 13, launched in August 1978, was also known as the Pioneer Venus Multiprobe. After parachuting four probes that distinctly defined atmospheric layers, the craft burned up.

Galileo, launched in May 1989, was a U.S.-European effort to study Jupiter's atmosphere, but used gravity assist techniques to pick up speed by flying past Venus. The Space Shuttle Atlantis launched the final U.S. mission, Magellan, in May 1989. Magellan radar-mapped 99 percent of the planet's surface through thick clouds of carbon dioxide that makes the surface invisible to optical instruments. In 1994, controllers directed the orbiter into the atmosphere, where it burned up.

"What went wrong that Venus is so unlike Earth?" New Worlds: Discoveries from Our Solar System, asked. "Perhaps, being closer to the sun, any water vapor released by volcanism failed to condense into droplets of water, so there was nothing to stop the atmosphere of carbon dioxide growing and growing. ... Decidedly the name-givers erred. Mars the "fiery" turns out to be freezing, and the planet associated with a nude goddess rising from the Mediterranean is hidden in cloud, dry and blazingly hot."

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



— PUBLIC NOTICE — LAS CRUCES UTILITIES BOARD VACANCY

Qualified applicants are being sought to fill a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners for the City of Las Cruces Utilities.

TO QUALIFY FOR APPOINTMENT AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD, A RESIDENT MUST:

Be a registered voter and a Las Cruces utilities customer for at least a year.

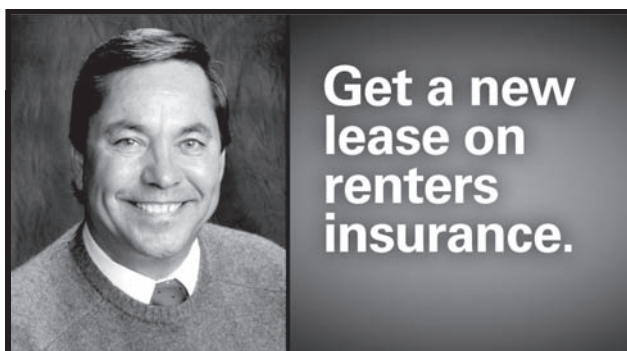
- THE APPLICANT CANNOT BE:
 - An elected official,
 - Have been appointed to public office,
 - Be a current city employee,
 - Be a contractor or consultant, or
 - Have a contractual relationship with the City for the benefit of the Las Cruces utilities.

Applicants must also have technical expertise in one or more of the following fields: banking and finance, business, economics, engineering and related utility management.

The objectives of the board include providing greater public access and participation in utility issues; ensuring more independent oversight and accountability for utility policy decisions; allowing for more time to focus on utility matters and less political influence in business-decision making; setting City utility rates based on a utility cost-of-service methodology; setting water and wastewater development impact fees in compliance with the City's Development Impact Fee ordinance; and developing long-range and strategic policy recommendations to the city council.

People interested in applying for the City's Utilities Board should call the City Clerk's Office at (575) 541-2115. People who are hearing impaired can call (575) 541-2182.

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In the news

Fireworks safety urged

The Las Cruces Fire Department reminds citizens to safely and legally use fireworks this season. With the Fourth of July holiday a month away, special precaution should be taken this year during this extreme drought situation.

Due to the drought, the City of Las Cruces has banned the use of all fireworks within areas that are covered wholly or in part by timber, brush or native grass. The city has authorized limited use of permissible fireworks, as listed below, to areas within city boundaries that are paved, barren or have a readily accessible water source.

Permissible fireworks allowed to be purchased and discharged are ground and hand-held sparkling, and smoking devices, such as cone fountains, crackling devices, cylindrical fountains, illuminating torches, toy smoke devices and wheels.

Fireworks prohibited for possession, sale or use in the city limits are aerial and ground audible devices such as: aerial spinners, helicopters, mines, missile-type rockets, Roman candles, shells, stick-type rockets, chasers and firecrackers.

Fireworks purchased outside of Las Cruces may be prohibited within the city, and if possessed or discharged within the city limits, may result in citations or fines. The Las Cruces Fire Department wants the citizens to have a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday by following a few firework safety guidelines. They include:

- Keep a water supply – a garden hose and a bucket – handy in case of fire.
 - Fireworks may not be sold to anyone under 16 years old.
 - Fireworks may not be sold to anyone who is intoxicated.
 - Be aware that extreme drought conditions have left grasses and weeds susceptible to fire.
 - Keep in mind the hour of usage and be considerate of your neighbors.
 - Never let children light fireworks.
 - Use fireworks outdoors only and keep them away from combustibles and busy areas.
 - Light only one item at a time and move away from it.
 - Purchase fireworks only from a licensed vendor.
 - Follow all label directions carefully and use common sense.
- Help keep Las Cruces beautiful by cleaning up debris from fireworks.

For more information on fireworks, and fireworks safety, call the Las Cruces Fire Department at 528-4150. The TTY number is 28-4211.

WSMR to host network testing

Beginning Monday, June 26, the U.S. Army will begin large-scale testing of 30 different systems and networks at White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss. The Network Integration Evaluation (NIE), as it is known, will bring together 3,800 soldiers from Fort Bliss' 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored

Division with 2,000 soldiers, government employees and contract personnel from WSMR, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood and other installations.

Army agencies will test and evaluate the 30 different systems while the soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division use the systems in various tactical scenarios throughout WSMR and Fort Bliss. The testing operations will take place 24 hours per day Monday through Friday each week. During the weekend, Fort Bliss soldiers will return home, however, the majority of the 2,000 testers and evaluators will remain in area hotels.

Because of the influx of military and contract personnel, the communities of Las Cruces, El Paso and Alamogordo can expect increased business in area hotels, rental car companies, restaurants, grocery stores and convenience stores as well as an increase in business to businesses, such as FedEx Office and copy centers, around the WSMR area. The testing and evaluation will also cause an increase in military vehicle traffic on the roads between WSMR and Fort Bliss and an increase in regular vehicle traffic around the WSMR entrance points and Las Cruces.

The NIE will run through July 15. The Department of Defense plans to host the NIE on a semi-annual basis in the future. For more information about the NIE, call the WSMR Public Affairs Office at 678-1134.

Groundwater cleanup to begin

Construction is set to begin on a facility to extract the chemical perchloroethylene, commonly referred to as PCE, from groundwater in the area of Griggs Avenue and Walnut Street in central Las Cruces known as the Griggs and Walnut Ground Water Plume Superfund Site.

In separate actions, both the Las Cruces City Council and the Doña Ana Board of County Commissioners gave approval for construction of a tray aerator. The system exposes the impacted water from two off-line municipal wells to oxygen, which dissipates the PCE. The cleansed water is then suitable for drinking. The project, jointly funded by the city and county, is expected to cost \$3.5 to \$4 million. The funding will come in the form of a New Mexico Finance Authority Drinking Water Loan. Construction is scheduled to be completed in May 2012.

"This is proven technology," said City of Las Cruces Utilities Director Jorge Garcia. "We are not designing or constructing a new form of remediation. This technology has been around a long time and has proven its effectiveness time and time again. It's the ideal solution for this situation."

Besides beginning construction, the action by both bodies will allow time to develop a consent decree between the city, county, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state and federal National Guards for additional funding to finance project operation and maintenance costs for the project's duration, which could be up to 15 years and \$20 million.

"We're anxious to get going on cleaning up the groundwater from the impacted area. It's been a long process to get us to this point and we're eager to proceed," said City Manager Robert Garza.

A joint city-county investigation determined that the National Guard was the source of the contamination for using PCE as a metal degreaser between the 1950s and 1970s at a former armory site near the intersection of Solano Drive and Hadley Avenue. The chemical was disposed of directly on to the ground and found its way into the groundwater. The contamination was first detected through routine water sampling in 1996. The PCE was discovered in wells 18 and 27. Both wells were immediately taken off line and have remained off line ever since.

State warns of scam by fake health inspectors

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received multiple reports from food establishments across the state of individuals impersonating health inspectors.


The individuals often call the food establishment and utilize multiple techniques to convince owners of the validity of the call including providing names and inspector ID numbers.

The callers often state a new inspector has been assigned to the establishment and then attempt to set up an inspection time that may require food establishment owners to call a number and enter a pin to confirm the inspection time.

Food establishment owners should never give business or personal information to callers or visitors claiming to be health inspectors. NMED would like to make food establishments aware of the following criteria, which will help identify legitimate inspectors:

- Inspectors must present a state-issued photo identification before conducting an inspection.
 - Inspectors never accept cash payment for inspections. Permit fees must be paid by a check or money order made payable to the "New Mexico Environment Department."
 - Inspectors do not charge for grade emblems, permits, or food safety signs. When in doubt, NMED encourages food establishments to verify the identity of health inspectors by calling the nearest environment department field office.
- Food establishment owners are also encouraged to call their local law enforcement agency if the validity of a call or visit is in doubt.

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— PUBLIC NOTICE —

Members Sought For Capital Improvements Advisory Committee

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

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

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

Applications can be picked up at the City Clerk's Office inside City Hall at 700 N. Main Street. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 541-2115. The TTY number is (575) 541-2182.

www.las-cruces.org

Coming Up

Mariachi to hold Tardeada

The Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference is sponsoring a Tardeada from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 5, at Palacio's Bar, 2600 Avenida de Mesilla.

Entertainment will be provided by Gene Pettes and the Starliners.

Admission is \$5 and dinner plates will be available for \$10.

Wisconsin Club meets June 6

The Wisconsin Club will hold its monthly meet and greet from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, June 6, at the Ramada Palms de Las Cruces, 201 E. University Ave. There won't be a meeting in July due to the Fourth of July holiday.

For more information, call 312-2088.

Web series seeks actors in Las Cruces

A locally produced web series filming in Las Cruces June 14-23 is looking to cast local actors. Hispanic men in their mid-20s are needed to play tough guys and men of any race are needed for CIA agents. Hispanic girls and women are also needed – one age 7 to 11 and one at least 18 years old who can play younger. Another young girl age 7 to 18 who looks Afghani is also being sought as well as an attractive Hispanic woman in her mid-20s to mid-30s. Attractive "party" girls of any

age are needed and a loveable Hispanic father in his 50s or 60s are also being cast.

Assistance is also needed securing vehicles for the production. Unmarked cars, such as Crown Victorias or SUVs such as Suburbans, or Yukons to be used as government-issue vehicles are needed. Many prop or non-working guns are required as well and help is needed with those items.

The casting call will be at the CMI Theater on the New Mexico State University campus from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, June 4.

For more information email casting@arcane-themovie.com, email rajeev at Raj@slant.tv or call 636-2358.

DACSAR meets

Doña Ana County Search & Rescue Inc., a volunteer search and rescue team, will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, June 6, at Doña Ana Community College, 3400 S. Espina St., in Conference Room No. 114. The group welcomes visitors and is currently accepting and training new members. For more information, visit www.dacsar.org or call 526-4918.

Visibility ride

A Share the Road Las Cruces Visibility Ride will be held at 7:05 a.m. Monday, June 6, starting at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum, 351 N. Mesilla St. Riders may meet at Starbucks, 945 E. University Ave., at 7:45 a.m.

The Share the Road Visibility Ride was developed to help build awareness that cyclist and motorist can share the road safely

and that commuting to work on a bicycle is a viable transportation choice. Commuting by bicycle has multiple benefits for the cyclists by saving money, cutting down on carbon dioxide emissions, burning calories and helping riders keep fit and stress free.

The ride is a real-life, real-time demonstration of how bicyclists can safely ride with traffic. Additionally, it has begun to raise awareness among motorists of the presence of cyclists, of motorists' ability to safely share the road with cyclists, and of how cyclists behave while riding among vehicles while following traffic laws.

All participants must wear helmets.

For more information, send email to visibilityride@gmail.com or visit http://visibilityride.blogspot.com or www.mvbike.org.

Native plant society events

The Las Cruces Native Plant Society has announced its schedule for June.

Jeff Anderson of the Doña Ana County Extension Service will give a talk on the causes and impacts of the February freeze and related gardening advice at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, at the Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, in the conference room

The society will host a field trip to the BLM's Three Rivers Petroglyph Site, as well as nearby Lincoln National Forest beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 11. The trip will

involve an easy-to-medium hike on a rough and rocky trail. There is a \$3-per-car fee. Anyone interested should meet at east parking lot of Kmart on U.S. Highway 70.

For more information, call Carolyn Gressitt at 523-8413.

Veterans dinner

El Caldito Soup Kitchen will have its annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 11, at 999 W. Amador Ave., on the campus of the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. All veterans are welcome.

The Oñate High School Junior Naval ROTC cadets will perform the flag ceremony and will help serve the brisket dinner.

For more information, call Donna Wood at 525-8704.

ASCMV holds yard sale

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley will have a large-scale garage sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 3-4, at 2292 Divot Ave. Early birds will not be permitted. For more information, call the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley at 382-0018, or visit the website at www.ascmv.org.

People who are hearing impaired can call 541-2182.

LCHS reunion

Las Cruces High School will have its Oldies But Goodies Reunion for the classes of 1956-60 Saturday, June 18, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2655 E. Idaho Ave.,

off of Telshor Boulevard. All LCHS alumni are welcome. A barbecue dinner will be from 6 to 8 p.m. and a dance will be from 8 p.m. to midnight with entertainment by Little Mike and the Blue Kings. Cost is \$25 per person

For more information, call Dan Rivera at 932-8237, Tina Padilla King at 523-5023, Sammy Vargas at 915-253-9186, or Molly Gamboa Barth at 524-8101.

Registration for city leagues

The City of Las Cruces is holding ongoing registration at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave., for the following adult leagues:

- **Adult Racquetball League.** Divisions are for those 18 years of age and older. Fee is \$12 per player. League will run Monday through Friday evenings June 13-Aug. 6.
- **Adult Summer Basketball League.** Participants can sign up for one of several divisions which include: women, ages 18 and over; men, 18 years and over; men, women ages 29 and over; men, ages 29 and over; and men ages 49 and over. Fee is \$395 per team for up to 15 participants (which is eight games plus play-off). The league runs from 6 to 10 p.m. weekdays, July-September.

For more information, call Meerscheidt Recreation Center at 541-2563 or Parks & Recreation at 541-2550. The TTY number is 541-2661.

T-ball league

The City of Las Cruces is holding ongoing registration at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave., for the Lil' Sluggers T-Ball League. Registration will be held until Friday, June 17. League will be for children ages 4 to 7 years old. The fee is \$35 per player (includes game T-shirt). Games will begin Monday, July 11.

For more information, call the Meerscheidt Recreation Center at 541-2563 or Parks & Recreation at 541-2550.


Walk in Doña Ana Mountains

The Asombro Institute for Science Education will have a free sunset nature walk starting at 7 p.m. Friday, June 3. Visitors should bring water and a flashlight and wear comfortable walking shoes.

The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is located northeast of Las Cruces. From Interstate 25 in Las Cruces, head east on U.S. Highway 70 and take the Mesa Grande Road exit (at Oñate High School). Make a U-turn under the highway to head west and stay in the right lane onto the frontage road. Turn right (north) on Jornada Road. Follow Jornada Road for 6.4 miles and turn left at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park sign. Follow the entrance road to the parking area. The Nature Park is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

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

LAS CRUCES HIGH SCHOOL
OLDIES BUT GOODIES REUNION
 Classes of 1956-1960 (All alumni are welcome!)
Saturday, June 18
 BBQ Dinner 6-8 p.m. • Dance 8 p.m.-midnight
 Music by Little Mike & the Blue Kings
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 2655 E. Idaho, off of Telshor
 For more info contact:
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CRIME OF THE WEEK featured on page **A28**

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An inspiring graduation for Las Montañas Charter High School

New Mexico State University men's basketball head coach Marvin Menzies was the featured speaker at Las Montañas Charter High School's commencement. The class of 2011 included his daughter Andreanna Jacques-Menzies.

Photos by Niki Rhynes

Revae King is all smiles at the 2011 Las Montañas Charter High School graduation held at the Las Cruces Convention Center Friday, May 27.



Valedictorian Sara Samaniego gives a speech to a packed convention center.



Graduation's the first step at Mesilla Valley Christian Schools

Photos by Niki Rhynes

Co-valedictorian Kristina Krohn sings at the 2011 Mesilla Valley Christian Schools graduation held in the school's gym Friday, May 27.



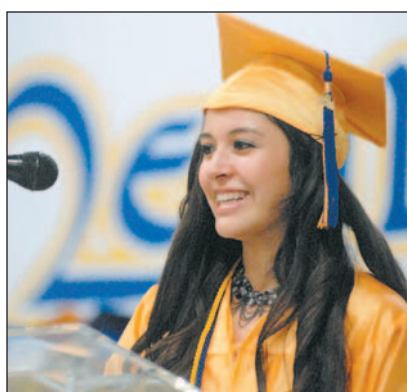
Garrett Autry gives his father a hug.



Geneva Hernandez speaks to family and friends.



Christian Apodaca gives an emotional hug to his mom after handing her a rose.



Salutatorian Lindsey Howard gave a speech detailing the origins of graduation traditions that have held up throughout time.

Honoring sacrifices on Memorial Day

Photos by Niki Rhynes



American Legion Post No. 10 member William Daly places a flag to honor a veteran at St. Joseph's Cemetery near St. Genevieve's Catholic Church Sunday, May 29.



Pfc. Michael Apodaca of the New Mexico National Guard places a flag at a veteran's headstone after a wreath ceremony held by American Legion Post No. 10.



American Legion Post No. 10 member Edward Kriner places a flag at the headstone of a veteran.



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Joe Montoya, Victor Eres, Joe Mendiola, Ruben Telles and Felipe Hernandez of the Marine Corps League started the dedication ceremony with a traditional color guard.

Code Talkers

Continued from page A1

men worked around the clock during the first two days of battle, sending and receiving more than 800 messages perfectly.

Little said he and his fellow Marines were just doing their duty.

"When you sign up, they make you swear an oath that they will be the boss, telling you what to do, and there will be obedience and duty," he said. "That's all we did. We just did our duty."

As one of an estimated 50 Code Talkers still living, Little wants the valor of his people's sacrifice and work during the war to be remembered forever.

"This is a special day to express our remembrance for our loved ones that have passed on," Little said.

Las Cruces Danny Montoya recognizes the significance the Code Talkers played in winning the war and bought 29 bricks on The Walk of Honor at Veterans Memorial Park to memorialize the original 29 Code Talkers.

"Since we don't have any monuments in the southern part of the state honoring them, this is a good way to remember the great contributions they made during WWII and the lives they saved with their unique communication skills as Code Talkers," Montoya said.

Chester Nez is the only living original code talker, but he was unable to attend the ceremony because of his ailing health.

U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce, a decorated Air Force veteran, was on hand to show his respect for the service members that gave their lives defending this country as well as to honor the Code Talkers.

"New Mexico has played two huge roles, single-handedly," he said. "One was Bataan and the other was the Code Talkers that affected the outcome of the war. They (Japan) just never could break the code. This is a really good start, and Las Cruces is leading the way saying, 'Let's remember this unique New Mexico achievement.' I think it's very special."

Pearce said he will talk to leaders in not only his hometown of Hobbs, but also all communities in his congressional district in southern New Mexico to have the Code Talkers honored.

The Code Talkers want their legacy to live on and wish to educate the public on their important mission. To accomplish this, they have planned to build a museum and veterans center, which will be located 17 miles northwest of Gallup and two miles east of Window Rock, Ariz. — the capital of the Navajo nation.

It's not just the mission they want carried forward, but also the language, which for a long time was not allowed to be spoken in boarding schools for Navajos.

"It's sacred and we don't want to lose it,"

Little said. "We do this because we don't want Navajo code to fade away. We want to preserve it and want this to be educational to our younger generation. Patriotism. To keep America free. It's what we fought for. Our land, freedom. They say freedom does not come free."

Little, Toledo and Willetto were honored for their service by Mayor Ken Miyagishima with medallions from the City of Las Cruces. Little said they were glad to be in Las Cruces and thanked the city leaders for their wonderful hospitality.

While they were honored on Memorial Day and have been commended and recognized throughout the country, that hasn't always been the case.

The brave men didn't receive honors from the U.S. government until 2000, when the survivors of the original 29 Code Talkers were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal and the remainder decorated with silver medals.

Opinions of American Indians weren't very high with a lot of people back East, who questioned whether they were civilized, sanitary or wild, according to Little. He said most Navajos had a difficult time being hired, but the recruiters wanted them because of their physical fitness and, of course, knowledge and capacity to learn the language.

"We did what we could to survive," Little said. "It wasn't uncommon to live without electricity, phone or vehicles. There were no magazines or reading material. Nearly all of our activities were physical."



Don Risinger of the Marine Corps League stands ready to honor three Navajo Code Talkers.



Frank Willetto and Bill Toledo sign autographs before the dedication of bricks along the Walk of Honor to honor the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers.

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Jemez

Continued from page A1

“The chamber feels that many of the casino’s jobs and outside needs will be filled by Las Cruces residents and businesses,” according to the position paper.

The casino would attract more tourists to southern New Mexico, which the chamber’s position states will offset any business the casino may draw from Las Cruces.

“Due to the positive impact of the City of Anthony, (N.M.,) and Doña Ana County combined with permanent job creation in an area that has a 50 percent unemployment rate, the chamber voted to support this initiative,” the position paper states.

Recently, local government entities, such as the Town of Mesilla trustees and the Doña Ana County Commission, have endorsed the proposal. Not surprisingly, both Anthony cities – the newly formed municipal government on the New Mexico side of the state line and the Texas municipality – have endorsed the proposal.

The public comments are related to the casino’s draft environmental impact statement. A final environmental impact statement will be issued by the Interior once responses are given to concerns and mitigation strategies are detailed.

Opposition to the proposal has been primarily from those connected to the horseracing industry with nearby Sunland Park Race-track & Casino enjoying profitability.



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Jemez casino supporters

Current and former elected officials from Doña Ana County, Las Cruces and Anthony, N.M., who support the project.

- Ramon Gonzalez, Mayor, Anthony, New Mexico
- James Scott, City Trustee, Anthony, New Mexico
- Betty Gonzalez, City Trustee, Anthony, New Mexico
- Resolution of Continued Support, Mayor and City Council, Anthony, Texas
- Resolution of Continued Support, Anthony Water and Sanitation Board
- Letter of Support, Anthony Chamber of Commerce, November 2010
- Billy Garrett, Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners, elected November 2010
- Leticia Duarte-Benavidez Chairwoman, Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners, 2009
- Scott A. Krahling, Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners, 2009
- D. Kent Evans, former Chairman, Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners, 2008
- William J. McCamley, former Chairman Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners 2006
- Resolution Supporting the Pueblo of Jemez Application to Construct and Operate a Tribal Gaming Casino in Doña Ana County supported by Chairman Bill McCamley, Kent Evans and Dolores Saldana-Caviness, members of the Board of County Commissioners, Doña Ana County 2005
- Karen G. Perez, Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners
- Gilbert T. Apodaca, former Chairman Doña Ana Board of Commissioners, Chairman 2004
- Arturo C. Terrazas, former Doña Ana Board of County Commissioners, 2004
- Sal Gonzales, former Chairman Doña Ana County Commission
- Ken Miyagishima, Mayor, City of Las Cruces and former Chairman Doña Ana County Commission
- Gil Jones, former Las Cruces City Councilor, District 5
- Miguel G. Silva, Las Cruces City Councilor, District 1
- Dolores C. Archuleta, former Las Cruces City Councilor
- Jose V. Friez, former Las Cruces City Councilor
- Ruben Smith, former Mayor Las Cruces and former State Representative
- Joseph Cervantes, member of New Mexico House of Representatives, District 52
- Joni M. Gutierrez, member of New Mexico House of Representatives, District 33
- James Roger Madalena, member of New Mexico House of Representatives, District 65
- Ben D. Altamirano, former New Mexico State Senator and Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee
- Town of Anthony, Texas, Resolution Reaffirming Support for the Pueblo of Jemez' Application to obtain Land in Doña Ana County, New Mexico for a Proposed Casino Development in the Community of Anthony 2009
- Anthony-Berino Economic Development Resolution of Support 2004

- Anthony-Berino Economic Development Letter of Support signed by Pat Banegas, president 2005
- Anthony New Mexico/Texas Chamber of Commerce letter of support, 2004
- Letter of support from adjacent landowners, Ron Gillett, Burl Donaldson and Jonathan Boldt and Lewis Kennedy 2008
- Sanderoff Poll showing 74 percent of the people in Anthony supporting the casino and 68 percent of the Hispanics in the county supporting the casino
- 760 individual Letters of Support from residents of southern Doña Ana County
- During the comment period many more letters of support being sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs

Major petition drive

- 11,000 petitions gathered in support primarily in the Anthony and surrounding area

Recent poll

- An Anthony Day, Oct. 29, 2010, poll showed 305 in favor of the casino project 3 votes against.

Most recent support

- Town of Mesilla Board of Trustees resolution of support (Unanimous) May 2011
- Anthony, New Mexico Board of Trustees resolution of support April 2011
- Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce resolution of support May 2011
- The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces resolution of support May

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NMSU

Continued from page A1

The CHE article also looked at 10-year period of time, he said. Between 1999 and 2009, NMSU went from receiving about \$106 million in research awards to \$154 million in 2009, which was a drop of about \$9 million from the year before. Throughout the 10-year period, Chaitanya said there were similar increases.

2010's leap to \$198 million in research contracts is partially the result of federal stimulus spending, but even with that money taken out of the picture, he said, it is still significant growth, in excess of \$180 million.

"To say we are not successful is not true," Chaitanya said. "You have to look at total research dollars."

More than a quarter of NMSU's research funding comes from the Department of Defense, with grants out of the Department of Health and Human Services gaining in its share of the NMSU research pie. (See related story on NMSU's Physical Science Laboratory on page A25.)

NASA also contributes a large share of research awards to NMSU, a little more than 17 percent in the most

recent breakdown. Other federal agencies include the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, the Interior Department and the National Science Foundation.

The CHE article cite scholars who say many institutions have gambled on expanding research to boost rankings at the expense of other campus priorities, such as instruction.

NMSU President Barbara Couture said the university's students have benefited greatly from the research, because the "cutting-edge" research being conducted at NMSU attracts quality professors, who also teach.

Not only do students get to learn from those conducting the actual research, Couture said, but they often get firsthand exposure to the research by being made lab and research assistants.

Most of the research grants are self-funded in that support costs are part of awards, Couture said. The university does have to carry the cost of some indirect support services, she said, but the expense is worth the investment.

"For an institution our size, we're bringing in a significantly large amount of research," Couture said. "That helps make us a great university because we do have faculty doing this kind of basic research."

“For an institution our size, we’re bringing in a significantly large amount of research.”

BARBARA COUTURE,
NMSU president

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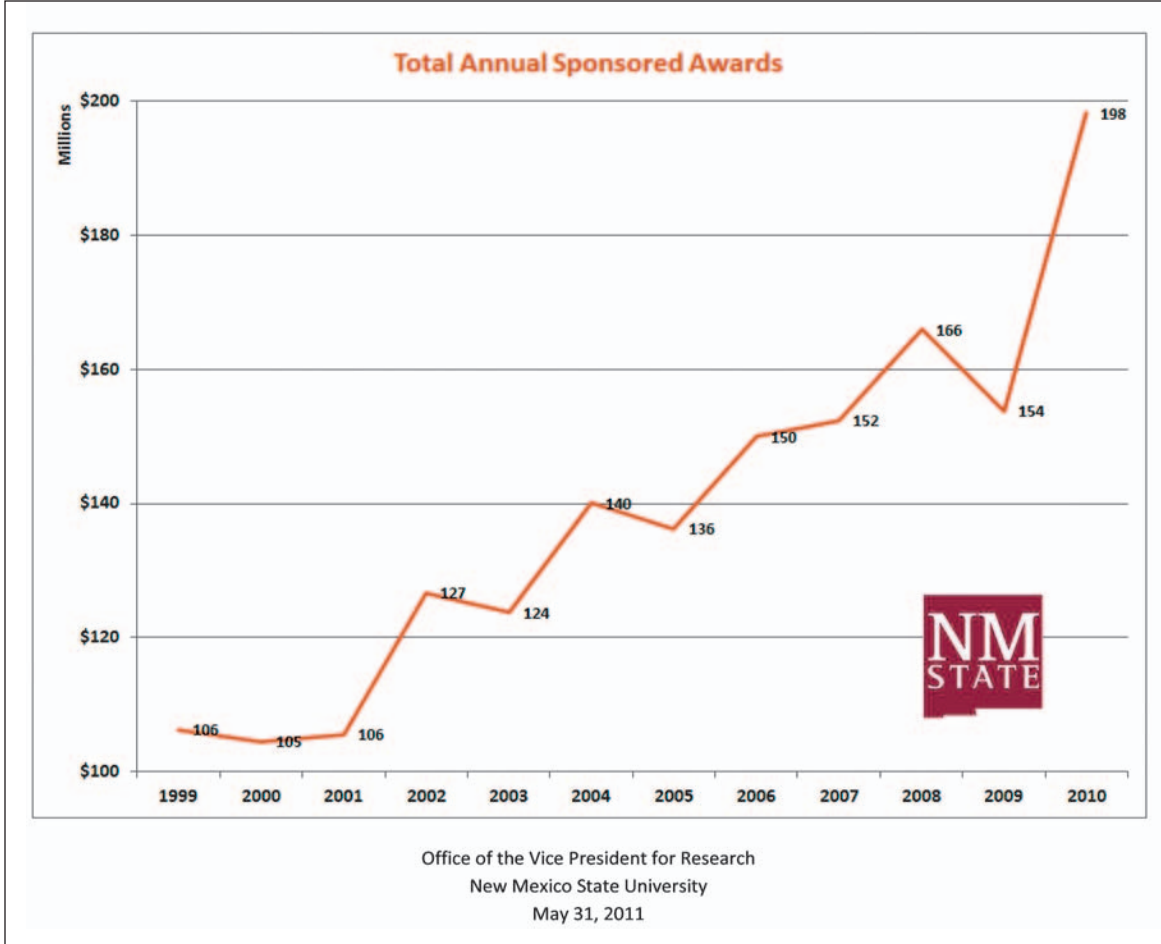
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The CHE's analysis is a bit narrow in light of the growing complexity of research grant funding, said Judy Bosland, assistant vice president for institutional analysis. The trend in grant funding is the requirement for more inter-departmental and inter-institutional collaboration in the research, she said.

High-profile research at NMSU

exemplifying collaboration includes work on bio-fuels – with research conducted at the agriculture, business and engineering colleges – and cancer research that has NMSU biology faculty working with medical researchers at the University of New Mexico Cancer Center.

Couture said she foresees only continued growth in research because

NMSU is working on areas seeking answers to pressing issues, such as energy and water supply. Also, the total growth in research awards will be noticed in the increase need for institutions to seek funding outside of government support, she said.

"Everybody wants to go with a winner, it's like any other business," Couture said.

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Making dance magic at the Dance Extravaganza 2011

Photos by Steven Parra

Michele's Dance Academy class of 2011 celebrates the end of a successful show to "Get Up Off That Thang" at the annual Dance Extravaganza Friday, May 27 at the New Mexico State University Recital Hall.



The beginning tap dance class shows off their jazz with some "Boogie Shoes."

NM STATE FOOTBALL

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2011 Home Schedule

- Sept. 3 vs. Ohio (Beach Party)
- Sept. 17 vs. UTEP (I-10 Rivalry)
- Oct. 15 vs. Idaho (Tough Enough to Wear Pink)
- Oct. 29 vs. Nevada (Homecoming/Halloween Theme)
- Nov. 12 vs. Fresno State (Military Night)
- Dec. 3 vs. Utah State (Country Music Night)

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■ \$ 72.00 (Saves \$92 off single-game prices)	■ \$ 29.00	■ \$ 27.00
■ \$ 49.00 (Saves \$67 off single-game prices)	■ \$ 21.00	■ \$ 19.00
■ \$ 46.00 (Saves \$58 off single-game prices)	■ \$ 19.00	■ \$ 17.00
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Talkin' Sports

A troubling sports trend



Jim Hilley
Bulletin in the Zone

In talking to the new Aggie soccer coach Blair Quinn, he touched on something that I think all fans of college sports should be concerned about.

Quinn noted that some of the big-time girls soccer programs are beginning to verbally commit high-school sophomores.

We are talking 14-, 15- and 16-year old girls being contacted and recruited by college coaches.

"Typically, we are evaluating sophomores and committing juniors, and to be honest, it's starting to go even faster than that," Quinn said. "The very top programs – the ACC and PAC 10 types – and even some others now are verbally committing sophomores."

The new Aggie coach said he found that kind of disheartening.

"The general consensus among us coaches is that it is entirely too fast, too early, for women's soccer recruiting," Quinn said.

I'll bet the consensus among some of the parents out there is the same.

"There are a lot of things that can happen in two and a half years before a kid gets to your school," Quinn said.

Of course, it's not just a problem in soccer. If anything it has to be much worse in the "money" sports of football and basketball.

And where is the NCAA on this?

Last year, a ban was proposed on verbal scholarship offers before July 1 in the summer before a student's senior year in high school.

Sounds reasonable, doesn't it?

The NCAA voted it down.

Opponents called the ban another "inane" NCAA rule. They said by signing early, youngsters could avoid years of being contacted by recruiters over the phone, by mail and at camps. They said signing early encourages kids to focus on going to college. They said it was interference in a decision that should be made by the student and their family.

I have a feeling most of those opponents aren't entirely disinterested spectators.

If being contacted by recruiters is a distraction for kids, isn't limiting that contact the thing to do instead of letting it begin earlier? If telling kids that their ticket to college is punched, does that make them study harder in high school?

Do most parents really like the idea of their 15-year-old children making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives?

I'm sure there are parents out there who don't mind at all. I just doubt if the best interests of their children is behind it.

...

Speaking of early, last week I listed Aggie basketball players Erica Sanchez, Tabytha Wampler and Kaitlyn Soto as having used up their eligibility. I was mistaken. My apologies to the young ladies.

Beating the heat and traffic

Ditchrunners take advantage of local irrigation canals

By **Jimmy Currier**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Running is a great way to stay in shape, but with unfriendly drivers and an equally unfriendly pavement, getting your kicks on the road can be harsh.

John LeRoy and his friends have a solution. Run the ditches. Every Sunday morning, LeRoy and the Ditchrunners can be seen jogging along the soft dirt surfaces that are much more accommodating than cruel blacktop.

"It's firm enough so it's not as difficult as the loose stuff, but it's softer," said LeRoy, 74. "It's easier on your limbs and as you get older, you can tell the difference."

The Ditchrunners meet at Jason Jiron Park, 355 Three Crosses Ave., and usually run north for three miles and then trek back. There are looped trails, but LeRoy said running one way and coming back allows them to pick up the slower runners for the return trip.

Usually, six to 10 runners take advantage of the ditches, but sometimes there are as many as 15 runners hitting the trails.

"The group is big enough that when you show up, you'll find somebody there that is running your pace or close to your pace,"



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jimmy Currier

A group of dedicated runners known as the Ditchrunners hit the trails at 7:30 a.m. every Sunday near Jason Jiron Park, 355 Three Crosses Ave.

LeRoy said.

Talking and running in groups makes the miles fly by, LeRoy said. The trail goes as far north as Elephant Butte, and while LeRoy is an accomplished runner, he hasn't made that 60-plus mile trek. The group, however, has gone as far out as 10 miles and back.

Don't be intimidated by the distance, LeRoy

said. The runner said he's seen some people go out just a mile and gradually build up each week to where they keep up with the group.

LeRoy has been an avid runner for the past 30 years and has competed in triathlons for 11 years.

"I like the competition," he said. "You go
See **Ditchrunners** on page A19

Niehoff: In her father's tire marks

Oñate point guard living in the fast lanes

By **Craig Massey**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The basketball goal stands tall on the south side of the Niehoffs' shop, near their home on the East Mesa.

It represents a well-known part of Kelsie Niehoff's sporting life. The point guard has been a member of the Oñate High School varsity basketball team since her freshman year,

and she is expected to be one of the top players in the city next season.

But behind the basketball goal, inside the shop, is Kelsie Niehoff's other world. With rows of tools, auto parts and work tables on each side, a purple 1970 Plymouth Barracuda sits in the middle. Decals and artwork decorate the car, and there, painted on the side windows, is her name.

With a race-car-driving father and a

basketball-playing mother, Kelsie was destined to do both, it seems.

"I grew up around it," Kelsie said of racing. "Since I was little, it was what I wanted to do and now I have my chance. I like how it brings my family together."

Kelsie's mother Tanya also did some racing. It was 17 years ago, to be exact.

"I didn't know I was pregnant with her when I was in an enduro race," Tanya said. "(Racing) was born in her."

"Maybe that's why I like to go around in circles," added Kelsie, who has to be one of the few people on the planet who was along for the ride in a race before she was born.

While Kelsie has competed in enduro races at Southern New Mexico Speedway's oval dirt track, she spends most of her time racing in a straight line.

The Barracuda is used for drag racing, first by her father Jerry (Lurch) years ago, and now by her. Two weeks ago at the Arroyo Seco Raceway near Deming, Kelsie finished fifth in races featuring about 17 cars from throughout the area.

Sitting in the raceway stands that day was Kelsie's basketball coach Ben Trujillo, whom she invited.

"It was exciting to watch, but at the same time, it was kind of scary," Trujillo said.

The coach sent Kelsie a text minutes after the race, congratulating her, but adding that it was scary witnessing his point guard flying down the track.

This is Kelsie's second year of drag racing and she said she loves the "adrenaline rush" it delivers. She said the first time she felt the immense power of the 440 engine in the Barracuda, "my



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Craig Massey

Kelsie Niehoff has taken over the driving duties in the Plum Nuts 1970 Barracuda.

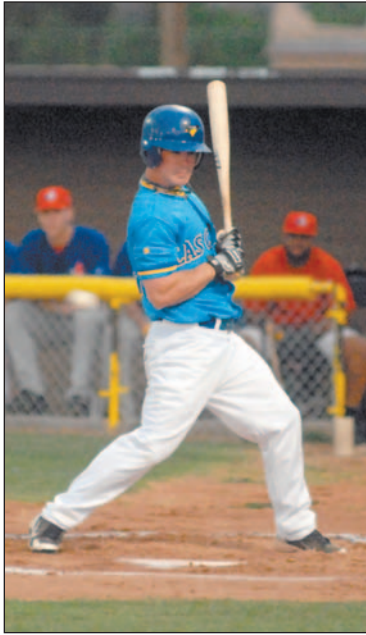
See **Niehoff** on page A19

Home team wins as Vaqueros host Carlsbad

Photos by Niki Rhynes

Outfielder Bo Bell was hit by a pitch and sent to first base during the Vaqueros' 13-8 win over the Carlsbad Bats, Wednesday, June 1, at Apodaca Park.

Right, second baseman Clint Stroud throws the ball into play.



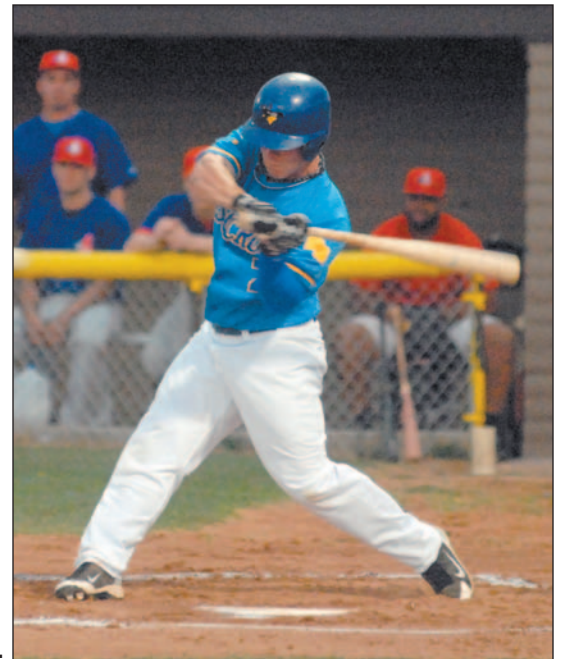
Evan Jachno slides back to first base safely.



Left-handed pitcher Kyle Boggio fist bumps Catcher Rob Herrmann after Herrmann scored a run for the Vaqueros. The Vaqueros will play at home at 7 p.m. Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4, before heading on a road trip to Alpine, Texas, and Ruidoso.



Raphael Anzola runs the bases.



Harry Williams Jr. at the bat.

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Kelsie Niehoff was exposed to racing as a young girl when her father Jerry was a drag racer.



Niehoff

Continued from page A17

heart just dropped.”

“Now, I’m used to it,” she said. “Dad said he can tell I’m way more calm now.”

Kelsie’s best time in a quarter-mile drag race is 11.66 seconds. There are four divisions of drag racing at the raceway – pro, modified, street, and motorcycle. Kelsie competes in the modified division – when she has time.

Basketball comes first, Kelsie admits. As many hours as she spends under the hood of the Barracuda with her father and with family friend and sponsor, David Rodriguez, she’s more likely to be seen shooting baskets on the goal outside the shop or running up and down the floor at Oñate’s gym.

The same hands that grip the steering wheel tightly during a burst of outrageous speed on the drag strip, gently swish jump shots and deliver passes to teammates on the court.

Kelsie, who will be a senior next season at Oñate, said the biggest parallel she sees between the two sports is “a drive to win and do your best.”

“I’m a big competitor,” she said.

That competitiveness was critical as Kelsie battled back last season after breaking her ankle playing basketball during the summer. The setback may have cost her a starting job, but she came on strong as the season progressed and was the first player off the bench as Oñate had its best season in many years.

“She’ll be one of the key components for the upcoming season,” Trujillo said of the 5-6 guard. “She has great leadership, she’s a hard, hard worker and she’s a very good basketball player. She has aspirations to play basketball after high school. If it doesn’t happen, it won’t be for a lack of effort.”

Kelsie doesn’t plan on parking her drag racer anytime soon, either.

“I would love to do it big time, but right now it’s just a hobby,” she said.

Athletes do double duty

Some talented Aggies have ability to multi task



Jack Nixon
Jack's Corner

I would title this column “Who knew?” as it recalls notable two-sport athletes at New Mexico State that had success in a sport other than the one that brought them to the Mesilla Valley.

The most recent example is volleyball coach Mike Jordan’s recruit Kelsey Brennan. The All-WAC middle hitter became a conference champ in the javelin in May. Brennan had competed in only one event before the conference finals. Her throw of 46.15 meters was the best in the WAC and second best in school history. She is studying athletic training with a year of eligibility left in both sports.

A name you might not know or remember is Lamar Hill. Lamar was 6-8 and transferred from South Alabama to men’s basketball coach Lou Henson’s program in 2001.

He was a part-time role player for two seasons and was given a chance to finish his degree by playing football for Tony Samuel in the fall of 2002.

On the basketball court, he scored a few points and blocked two shots. Hill’s role on the football team was on special teams. He would enter on the field goal

defense team with the intent of blocking the opponents’ kick.

As irony would have it, he blocked two field goal attempts on the football field as well, that made two in each sport.

Mark Acre signed a letter of intent for Neil McCarthy in 1990, joining Randy Brown and Reggie Jordan as incoming juniors. Acre’s hoop skills were suited for a different style than the up-tempo pressing style the team adopted. He didn’t get much court time, but Acre’s 6-8 frame was suited to throwing fastballs as well.

Elliott Avent was in charge of the baseball program then and figured it wouldn’t hurt anything to give Acre a try out. He passed, and it led to a four-year career in the Major Leagues with Oakland.

The best example, of course, is dual sport Hall of Fame member Gary Ward. Before he became legendary at Oklahoma State, Ward played two sports, earning Hall of Fame status in the process. Ward played basketball and baseball for Presley Askew.

His contributions were significant in both sports at a time when New Mexico State was emerging in the Golden Era of the early 1960s. The existence of athletes competitive in two sports is not rare, but Ward’s achievements are uncommon at any university.

All of these athletes were versatile in their athletic abilities. Having not just skills, but also the drive to work at two sports with equal commitment.

Ditchrunners

Continued from page A17

places and compete with people. It’s good and it keeps you motivated to train.”

Contrary to the myth of runners being able to eat whatever they want, whenever they want, LeRoy is cognizant of his caloric intake.

“There’s always that five pounds you can

get rid of,” he said. “So, you can run so much faster.”

After discovering the trail by accident five years ago, LeRoy and his friends have made it a weekly tradition.

“A few people joined and we evolved into a group,” he said.

Friendships have been made and some of the runners even go to races and triathlons together.

Nohara signs with Akron

NMSU’s all-time leading home-run hitter will play professional softball

The New Mexico State softball team’s career home-run leader, Hoku Nohara, recently signed a contract to play professional softball with the Akron Racers of the National Fastpitch Professional (NPF) League.

Nohara led the nation in home runs in 2011, hitting 24 pitches out of the ballpark. She becomes the first Aggie to play professional softball in the NPF.

Nohara is the most recent Western Athletic Conference (WAC) player to join the league, most recently following in the footsteps of Amberly Waits (LA Tech, 2010) and Kate Robinson (Hawai’i, 2008).

“We are extremely excited for Hoku,” said Aggie head coach Kathy Rodolph. “We look forward to watching her achieve success on the professional level after a great Aggie career.”

As an Aggie first baseman and designated player in 2011, Nohara recorded a prolific senior season at the plate. She led the nation with 24 home runs en route to setting new NMSU single-season and career marks as



NOHARA

well as breaking the WAC career record with 64 home runs in four seasons. She also led the nation with a 1.007 slugging percentage that smashed the Aggies’ single-season and career marks.

Nohara now claims multiple career records at NMSU, including slugging percentage, home runs (64), RBI (209), walks (128) and total bases (450). She also notched single-season records

in each of those categories this season in addition to setting a new mark in on-base percentage.

A two-time Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division I All-Region honoree, Nohara earned first team recognition for the second straight season. Earlier this year, Nohara earned her third All-WAC selection as a first team member.

After leaving an indelible mark on the Aggie softball

program, Nohara begins her professional career in short order. The Racers begin exhibition play this week leading up to the season opener against the NPF Diamonds Thursday, June 9.

“We look forward to watching her achieve success ...”

KATHY RODOLPH,
NMSU coach

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When it's breezy, swing easy

Golf wisdom to get past those gales and gusts

Charlie Blanchard
Golf Doctor



Wind. Will it ever end? It all started in February, when I was in the rehab hospital. I'd look out my window, and every other day the wind was blowing dust so I couldn't see the Organ Mountains.

Of course, at the time, I figured it would be 2012 before I could swing a golf club, so the fierce winds were only an image out my window. Now, I'm back practicing and playing a few holes – not with my old form, but able to make a some full swings without pain. Wind is a concern again.

Most of the tour pros will tell you that the courses played in the British Open rank as the most demanding in terms of wind play. Links golf, like St. Andrews, requires low-running shots. The next trickiest hole on tour is the par-3 12th at Augusta in the Masters – a short hole with Rae's Creek below the green, and a confusing breeze coming from several directions, causing plenty of misery for players in contention.

But my favorite wind hole is the 137-yard 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass, the island green, at the Players' Championship.

At the 2007 Championship, with thousands of spectators ringing the hole, more than 100 of the best players in the world, battling 35-mph winds coming in from the Atlantic, put 50

balls in the water in one day. Two years earlier, veteran Bob Tway was sitting in 10th place when he came to the windy island green.

"The green is plenty big," Tway recalls, "but when the wind starts blowing, well, the green becomes a lot smaller."

Tway put four balls in the water that day and carded a 12 – still the highest score recorded by a pro at No. 17.

Last weekend I was in Dallas, where they played the HP Byron Nelson, won by rookie Keegan Bradley, who beat Ryan Palmer in a playoff. Wind played a factor in that playoff hole, as Palmer had to hit a hook from under a tree, where his wind-blown driver landed, and hooked it into the water. On a windy Saturday, four players shot an 80 or more, and on a windier Sunday four more shot at least 80. Sergio Garcia was one shot out of the lead as he teed off on Sunday, and ballooned to a 77. These are PGA Tour players, and the breeze moved their balls around like kites.

As we head into our rainy season, it may not rain like it's supposed to, but dry and windy days will persist. Your awareness and adjustment to these conditions will make all the difference in the world in your ability to score. Here's how to do it.

The very first thing to realize is that you need to keep the ball low when hitting into the wind. If you're a high-ball hitter, you'll need to develop the skill to keep the ball down and out of the wind.

Hitting a driver into a stiff breeze, your best bet is to have the ball run hard on the ground in the short grass. To do that you need to de-loft the club by keeping the angle of attack close to the ground (not steep) and somewhat to the inside, and the old saying, "When it's breezy swing easy" is basically true. All too often high-handicappers are lured into the tendency to take a vicious cut at the shot into a stiff wind, thinking they need to flail all-out, only to watch the ball spin too high and sail way to the right.

Generally, a ball that spins too much into the wind will get you in trouble. Air moving into you at 20 to 30 mph will take

a left-to-right spinning ball and send it off line as much as 100 yards. A launch monitor will tell you whether your ball is going too high.

It's also really important to pick the right ball for your game. These days golf ball fitting has come into its own as a must. See your pro about the next demo day, complete with launch monitor and ball fitting.

Modifying your swing to lower the trajectory and reduce the spin means plenty of practice. Go to a practice range that is set up for you to hit into the prevailing wind. Hit enough balls, aiming at a very specific target, so that you're confident in making a solid shot into a strong wind.

Essentially the same technique goes for iron shots as it does with the driver and fairway woods. In order to keep the ball down with irons you can't take a full follow-through; rather, it is somewhat a "punch" shot with a limited release of the wrists. Hit your irons to exact targets so that you gauge how much more club you need to take into a heavy breeze. It could be two or three clubs more than a regular shot. Again, the tendency for players who aren't prepared for windy conditions is to come up short. Don't get caught under-clubbing yourself.

Wind will often affect putts. The faster the greens are the more the ball will move as influenced by the wind. Most of all you should beware of putts that run downhill, down-grain and down-wind; they're the scariest. The key here is practice on a sloping putting surface so that you're prepared to factor in the wind speed and direction as needed on every putt.

I think the biggest challenge of all when it's really windy is decision making. And the first decision is whether to play at all. I don't play in brown-out conditions or even 35 to 40 mph and blowing dust. It's just not fun.

With holes that go down wind, you have to decide if you want to bomb it with a driver, or play it safe with a shorter shot. Super long drives with the wind can wind up rolling and landing in some terrible places. Consider your 3-wood to be your friend when it's blustery for almost every hole, regardless of the wind direction. Your chances of controlling a straight shot with a 3-wood should be better than any other club in your bag. Still, you have to go to the range and practice.

For par-3 holes, your decision where to aim your tee shot is critical. I say aim for the middle of the green – that way a miss slightly right or left won't get you in trouble. If you aim at a sucker pin you risk a buried lie in a bunker if you hit a sky ball and it falls straight down. Or, you risk splashing in the water from an errant ball off line, like some unfortunate souls on the 17th at Sawgrass.

Sometimes you're faced with the choice about going for the green in two on a par-5, or playing for a lay up shot. It's a risk versus reward decision. If you're faced with a long carry over water to the green, consider playing the shot only if you're truly capable of making the shot 7-out-of-10 times. Take your ego out of the equation and be honest with yourself.

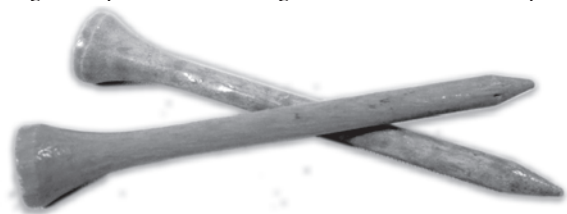
As the late Bob Goalby once said, "Reckless gambles add needless strokes."

Sometimes a great shot will get knocked down by a strong wind that you figured would help get the shot going. For most of us, the best play is to lay up to a yardage – such as 100 yards – that will put our favorite club in our hands, like a pitching wedge.

There is no doubt wind will separate the skilled and smart golfers from all the other pretenders.

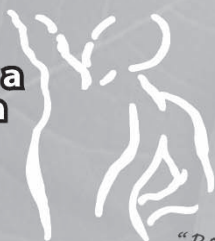
Dr. Charlie Blanchard is a licensed psychologist specializing in sports and leadership who works with PGA professionals and young golfers to enhance their performance. He partners with coach Herb Wimberly as the principal instructors at Performance Golf Schools. Contact Blanchard at drblanchard@lascrucesbulletin.com.

“The very first thing you need to realize is hit the ball low when hitting into the wind.”



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Sports Briefs

Kandis Jones nets first-team academic all-American honors

New Mexico State softball senior center fielder Kandis Jones was just one of 11 Division I athletes to be named to the 2011 Capital One Academic All-America Softball First Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), the organization announced recently.



JONES

A community health major with a 3.88 grade point average, Jones is a two-time All-Western Athletic Conference (WAC) outfielder who earned first team conference honors in 2011. She helped lead New Mexico State to a program-best 44-17 record, its first WAC regular season and tournament championships as well as the Aggies' first NCAA tournament selection.

A native of La Mirada, Calif., Jones set new NMSU single-season records in 2011 with 82 hits and 61 runs scored. Primarily hitting in the second position of the batting order, Jones posted a .387 average at the plate while driving in 34 runs this season.

Jones was one of two Aggie players to earn CoSIDA All-District honors, as sophomore Teresa Conrad was a 2011 Second Team All-District honoree.

Jones is just the ninth NMSU State softball player to earn Academic All-America honors and only the fourth to claim first-team accolades. The last Aggie softball player to attain the honor was former home-run leader Christine Stephens who acquired first team recognition in 2003.

Jones is the first Aggie female to claim Academic All-America status since former NMSU swimmer Carolyn Bohm earned third team honors in 2008. The last NMSU female athlete to claim first-team recognition was former volleyball player Jackie Choi in 2006.

After four years, Jones played in 222 career games and made 209 starts. This season, Jones set a pair of Aggie career records with 260 hits and 175 runs scored to go with new single-season records in both statistical categories.

NMSU instructs junior golfers

The New Mexico State University Golf Course will host Junior Golf Camps throughout the summer, beginning Monday, June 6. Instructional programming will be age and ability specific. Junior golfers of all abilities are encouraged to sign up for the camps. Instruction will be lead by Jason White, PGA Head Golf Professional, with the assistance of NMSU PGA Golf Management students. Maximum student-to-instructor ratio will be 6-to-1.

Instruction will cover all facets of the game, rules and etiquette. Golf camps will run Monday-Thursday and will last two hours. The cost per session is \$50 and will include professional instruction, range balls and prizes.

The NMSU Golf Course has also launched the NMSU Golf Course Youth Academy, which includes access to Sunday clinics throughout the year, discounts on range balls and junior golf passes, in addition to access to one summer camp. Juniors signing up for the Youth Academy will also receive a hat, bag tag and a towel.

For more information or to register, call the golf shop at 646-3219, or contact Jason White at jaw@nmsu.edu or 646-4867.

Aggies track season ends

The New Mexico State track and field team finished its outdoor season after five members competed at the NCAA West Prelims in Eugene, Ore., May 26-28.

NMSU competed in the 400 meter, 400-meter hurdles, 10,000 meter, long jump and javelin throw while at the prelims.

Competing in the 400-meter hurdles and long jump for the Aggies was junior India Cleveland. Cleveland finished the hurdles with a time of one-minute, 2.55 seconds, finishing 46th and had a leap of 5.45 meters in the long jump placing her 44th.

Sophomore LaSasha Aldredge ran the 400 meter for NMSU finishing 42nd in a time of 56.40 seconds.

In the javelin throw senior Kelsey Brennan, who is also a volleyball standout for the Aggies, placed 36th with a throw of 41.17 meters (135-01).

Rounding out the events for NMSU was the sister duo of Courtney and Camille Schultz. The Schultz sisters competed in the 10,000-meter run placing 36th and 37th with times of 35:21.41 and 35:24.46 respectively.

Blair Quinn is a travellin' man

New coach looks to add depth to Aggie soccer program

By **Jim Hilley**
Las Cruces Bulletin

New Aggie soccer coach Blair Quinn has had to hit the ground running.

All over the country that is. "I spent three and a half days in New Jersey; I'll be in Houston for three or four days. I'm gone pretty much every weekend for the next five or six weeks," Quinn said.

What he is doing, of course, is recruiting, trying to beef up the roster of New Mexico State University's two-going-on-three year-old soccer program.

One thing he can tell potential Aggies is they will probably have a chance to play right away.

"The opportunity to play right away is a big one (selling point). When you have a program this young, I think you are trying to build the depth that we need to have," he said. "I think for anybody coming in the opportunity to play right away is there. When you have a more established program, typically your freshmen are walking into a situation where they aren't needed to play as much."

Quinn said he is going for the players who have soccer skills, instead of girls who are athletic.

"I'd much rather have speed of play and ball handling," he said. "Everybody needs the big, strong fast athletes, but when it comes down to it, if I have two kids to choose from, I'll take



QUINN

“I think for anybody coming in the opportunity to play right away is there.”

the kid that's maybe 5-5 or 5-6 that's really good on the ball as opposed to a kid that's 5-10 and is just really, really fast and athletic.

"If they are not much of a player it is a lot harder – especially at this age – to teach them to be more technically proficient."

Quinn admitted that recruiting for skill probably means he is recruiting for offense, but said it would be a mistake not to consider him a defensive-minded coach.

"I played goalkeeper all through college and professionally," he said. "I know where I came from at Arizona State with Kevin Boyd, defense was one of the things we were really, really good at."

Quinn said the attention to detail on the defensive side of the ball is important.

"Attacking is creative and flair and fun," he said. If you pay attention to detail and work hard at defense, you will in effect play defense less, and that's the whole idea."

Quinn doesn't have a lot of time to work with, as fall practice begins Aug. 3.

He is looking forward to getting more work in with his returning players.

"I know a little bit about the players from what I saw in April, they are the core of the program obviously, the junior class came in at the start of the program as freshmen and have been leading the way regardless of their age," he said.

NMSU soccer schedule announced

Aggies host the University of New Mexico Lobos for first time

New Mexico State soccer head coach Blair Quinn has announced the schedule for the 2011 season that features nine home matches. The fall campaign is highlighted with a pair of rivalry games and two NCAA Tournament teams.

For the third consecutive year, the Aggies have scheduled their season-opener against Interstate-10 rival UTEP, this year in El Paso. The Miners hold a 1-0 series lead after the 2010 match was cancelled due to weather.

New Mexico State meets six teams for the first time in school history when the Aggies face Texas Tech Aug. 21 in Lubbock, Texas; Houston Baptist Aug. 28 in Las Cruces; Tennessee Tech Sept. 4 in Jacksonville, Ala.; Arkansas-Little Rock Sept. 11 in Las Cruces; Weber State Sept. 18 in Ogden, Utah; and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Sept. 23 in Las Cruces.

"The opening weekend is really good," Quinn said. "It's something we're looking forward to. Obviously, everyone always wants to get started and play that first game. UTEP is a rivalry game, and Texas Tech is a very good team out of the Big 12. It will be a very challenging opening weekend on the road for us to get started, and we'll find out right away where we are at, how good we are and how much we need to improve."

The Aggies host Prairie View A&M in the Aug. 26 home opener. NMSU has a 1-0 advantage over the Panthers, following an 8-0 victory in 2010. The Crimson and White travels to Jacksonville State on Sept 2 in Jacksonville, Ala., for a rematch after the Aggies won the first meeting, 2-1, last season.

NMSU hosts Northern Colorado Sept. 9 and look to even the series after a tough 1-0 overtime loss in 2010. The Aggies travel to Idaho State Sept. 16 in Pocatello, Idaho, for a return trip after falling to the Tigers in double overtime, 2-1, in the inaugural season home opener.

In the final non-conference match, the Aggies host in-state rival New Mexico for the first time Sept. 25. UNM was a NCAA Tournament participant in 2010. NMSU fell to the Lobos in Albuquerque, 1-0, last year.

"We have some good home games in September with Northern Colorado and New Mexico, which is another big rivalry game," Quinn said. "That should be an entertaining game."

"That leads us into conference play, which is always challenging. Every conference game is a one- or two-goal game. It's a good schedule. It's certainly a schedule we can be successful in, but we'll have to play well to do it. We're looking forward to it."

NMSU opens its third season in the WAC with a pair of road matches at Louisiana Tech Oct. 2 in Ruston, La., and Utah State Oct. 7 in Logan, Utah. The Aggies are looking for their first win against the Lady Techsters and Aggies.

The Aggie squad hosts Nevada Oct. 9 and Idaho Oct. 14. Last season, NMSU fell to the Wolf Pack, 2-1, in double overtime in the conference opener. The series with the Vandals is tied at 1,

following Idaho's 4-1 win in Moscow, Idaho, in 2010.

NMSU travels to California for its final road trip of the regular season with matches at San Jose State Oct. 21 in San Jose, Calif., and Fresno State Oct. 23 in Fresno, Calif. The Aggies have a 0-1-1 record against the Spartans after a tough 2-1 loss last year, and a 2-0 record versus the Bulldogs following a 2-0 win in 2010. Fresno State played in the NCAA Tournament last season after winning the WAC Tournament.

The Aggies host Hawai'i Oct. 28 for the 2011 season finale. NMSU owns a 1-0-1 record against the Rainbow Wahine after a 2-2 overtime draw last year.

The WAC Tournament will be Nov. 3-6 in Fresno, Calif. Only the top six teams in the conference qualify.

Kickin' it

2011 New Mexico State soccer schedule

Date.....	Opponent
Aug. 19.....	at UTEP
Aug. 21.....	at Texas Tech
Aug. 26.....	Prairie View A&M
Aug. 28.....	Houston Baptist
Sept. 2.....	at Jacksonville State
Sept. 4.....	vs. Tennessee Tech
Sept. 9.....	Northern Colorado
Sept. 11.....	Arkansas-Little Rock
Sept. 16.....	at Idaho State
Sept. 18.....	at Weber State
Sept. 23.....	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
Sept. 25.....	New Mexico
Oct. 2.....	at Louisiana Tech*
Oct. 7.....	at Utah State*
Oct. 9.....	Nevada*
Oct. 14.....	Idaho*
Oct. 21.....	at San Jose State*
Oct. 23.....	at Fresno State*
Oct. 28.....	Hawai'i*
Nov. 3-6.....	WAC Tournament (Fresno, Calif.)

Home matches in bold
* denotes WAC matches
All dates are subject to change, match times will be announced at a later date.

School Briefs

Mayfield graduate to hold recital

As a compilation of his studies and showcase of his repertoire, 2011 Mayfield High School (MHS) graduate James Jones will perform in a senior recital, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, June 5, in Atkinson Recital Hall, located on the horseshoe on the New Mexico State University campus.

Jones is the featured solo performer and will sing one duet. The program includes 13 songs. The recital is free.

Throughout his high school career, Jones was very active in the MHS choral program, directed by Beth Borchert-Thomas and Paul Hallsted.

He was a member of the Youth All-State Choir in 2008; the New Mexico Music Educators Association Mixed Choir 2009-11; and the 2010 MHS Madrigal Singers, chosen as the 2010 New Mexico All-State Honor Choir.

Jones consistently received superior ratings in solo and ensembles since his freshman year at MHS. In addition to choral activities and achievements, he has studied privately with Amanda DeRycke in both voice and piano.

"James is a very talented young singer who has the ability to go far with his music," Borchert-Thomas said. "He received the top vocal scholarship from Eastern New Mexico University."

UHES plans 'legacy rock'

The University Hills Elementary School Student Council was able to conclude the year by sponsoring a "legacy rock" to display in front of the school, said University Hills Elementary School Student Council parent representative and UHES Parent Teacher Organization member Luisa Lopez.

"Handcrafted by Bruce Lee's Curb Painting and Design of Las Cruces, this beautiful addition, made of flagstone, leaves something to be proud of," Lopez said.

The rock is inscribed, "University Hills. Soaring to New Heights (the school motto). Student Council. 2010-2011."

Lopez said student council raised funds to pay for the stone mostly through recycling fundraisers.

"We earned money by collecting and shipping off mostly inkjet and laser printer cartridges and cell phones," she said. "We also sell Valentine Grams on Valentine's Day."

Shade structure dedicated at MES

Thanks to an \$8,000 grant from the American Academy of Dermatology Shade Structure (AADSS) program and assistance from Las Cruces dermatologist Dr. Andrew L. Ondo and the Las Cruces Public Schools Physical Plant Department, MacArthur Elementary School has a new shade structure on its playground.

The structure was dedicated during a May 31 ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by MacArthur Elementary staff; Ondo; Superintendent Stan Rounds; Associate Superintendent for Operations Herb Torres; Health Services Director Beverly Hine; Nutrition Services Director Nancy Cathey; Transportation Director Larry Altamirano; Title I Coordinator Maria Artiaga; and Energy Education Specialist Jim Mulhauser.

"I'm just so proud of you," said Ondo, who helped the school write the AADSS grant request. "You guys have no idea what you've accomplished here."

Ondo said the AADSS approves only 20 to 30 such grants nationwide each year, and the shade structures they pay for are so important to students and staff.

"The rates of skin cancer are higher here (in New Mexico) than probably anywhere else in the country," Ondo said.

He said providing the shade structure for students and educating them about the dangers of skin cancer and how to prevent it are "so important."

"I would like to add is a big thank you to our physical education teacher Ashley Britt and school nurse Joyce Anglin, who wrote the grant and worked so hard making sure we met all the requirements and deadlines of the grant," said MacArthur Elementary Principal Carla Rodriguez.

The LCPS Physical Plant Department moved two existing shade structures to other parts of the MacArthur Elementary playground to make room for the new, larger one.

Munchies make for good luck

Friday, May 13, turned out to be a lucky day for mothers of students during an event called "Munchies for Mom."

Coffee and goodies were served to students' mothers, who then went to the library, cafeteria, outside and to classrooms throughout the school to read to their children, said Title I teacher Kathy Adams.

"Reading to a child is such an important time, Adams said. "Our students always look forward to this special treat as moms, aunts, grandmas and even a few dads took time from their busy day to read to us after enjoying their special 'munchies.' We want to thank the more than 120 volunteers who came forward to read to their kids. We also enjoyed volunteers from the Doña Ana County Literacy Foundation joining us to read to our children."



Recent graduates of the Las Cruces Graduate New Mexico program honored by the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education are Ronald "Rusty" Poe, Cambria Marshall and Tammy Perez.

Las Cruces Public Schools photo by Jo Galván

Three honored by LCPS board

Adult education program helps drop-outs earn diplomas

The Las Cruces school board honored three recent graduates of the Graduate New Mexico program at its May 17, meeting. Cambria Marshall, Tammy Perez and Ronald "Rusty" Row received their diplomas earlier this month.

Former Gov. Bill Richardson kicked off the Graduate New Mexico program July 30, 2010, in Las Cruces and Santa Fe, announcing a goal of recruiting 10,000 New Mexico dropouts back to adult-education programs across the state to earn their high school diplomas.

In partnership with the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department and the Doña Ana County Juvenile Probation Office, Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) got a jump on every other school district in the state in its implementation of the program in Las Cruces, opening its Drop-Back-In adult education center in September 2010. Pedro Gonzalez of Las Cruces was the first Graduate New Mexico graduate in the state. He was honored by the board last December.

Through Graduate New Mexico, students earn credits through online coursework and/or work-based experiences. Online courses can be taken from any location where there is Internet access.

Marshall plans to attend New Mexico State University this fall and study pharmaceuticals. She currently works at the Las Cruces Convention Center as the banquet captain.

Perez plans to attend Doña Ana Community College this fall and then will transition to NMSU to study biology. She currently works for Sitel of Las Cruces.

Poe plans to attend NMSU this fall and study business administration. He currently works for the Storage Group and coaches youth soccer.

For more information about the LCPS Graduate New Mexico program, contact LCPS Technology Integration Specialist Marcy Oxford at 527-6054, ext. 6622, or marcy@lcp.k12.nm.us.

Immerse in Camp Invention

Annual program will be at Desert Hills Elementary

The nationally acclaimed Camp Invention program returns to Las Cruces Public Schools this summer. It will be held Monday through Friday, June 6-10, at Desert Hills Elementary School, 280 N. Roadrunner Parkway, said camp coordinator Lucy Rathgeber.

Created for children entering grades one through six, the exciting Camp Invention program is a weeklong adventure in creativity that immerses its participants in engaging, hands-on activities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as well as history and the arts.

Each day, children rotate through five integrated modules that employ creative thinking to solve real-world challenges. Children learn vital 21st century life skills, such as problem solving and teamwork, through imaginative play.

New to the 2011 Camp Invention lineup is the SPARK program, in which children will construct life-sized clubhouses made of PVC piping to crack puzzling codes and solve a mystery in

The Curious Cypher Club module, investigate polymer science and create their own bouncy balls to take home in the Bounce! An Atomic Journey module, and explore innovative survival traits of the planet's WILDest animals in the WILD: Wondrous and Living Designs module.

All Camp Invention programs include a module, in which children participate in high-energy games that challenge their minds and bodies as well as a renowned invention module, in which children upcycle pieces and parts of discarded household appliances and other donated materials to create new machines.

Since its inception in 1990, non-profit Invent Now programming has grown to include nearly 1,500 school partnerships in 49 states. In 2010, more than 70,000 children participated nationwide. The Camp Invention program was created in partnership with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, which continues to support Invent Now's noble mission to inspire

creativity and inventive thinking in children of all ages.

The Camp Invention program has been featured in Child, Principal and Better Homes and Gardens magazines as well as dozens of other educational journals and general publications. The program has also been the focus of National Public Radio's Science Friday and studied by Harvard's Graduate School of Education. In a recent survey, 90 percent of parents said the Camp Invention program helped their children to enjoy science.

Every program participant receives a coveted Camp Invention T-shirt that features clever, new artwork each year. Early registration and alumni discounts are available.

To register a child for the program or to learn more about Invent Now programming, call 800-968-4332 or visit www.campinvention.org.

For more information on the Las Cruces Camp Invention program, call Lucy Rathgeber at 522-7680 or Allen Aguayo at 644-1160.

SeniorActivities



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

AQUATICS CLASS

Aquatics class is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Aquatic Center, 1401 Hadley Ave. Pre-registration is required. Donation suggested.

AEROBICS CLASS

Aerobics class is from 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Classes are drop in. Donation suggested.

HATHA YOGA

Yoga classes are from 8 to 9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Classes are drop in. Donation suggested.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

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

- 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.
- 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at East Side Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo St.
- 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Thursdays at Mesilla Park Recreation Center, 304 W. Bell Ave.
- 10 a.m. to noon at Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo St.

CORE EXERCISE CLASS

Core exercise classes are from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Meerscheidt Recreation Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. Classes are drop in. Donation suggested.

T'AI CHI CLASSES

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

BINGO MANIA

Bingo Mania is from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. Wednesdays at Eastside Community Center, 310 N. Tornillo St. There is no cost to play.

STAINED GLASS

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

DAY TRIPS

Day trips depart from and return to Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

- **Keystone Heritage Park:** Sunday, June 26. Check in at 9:30 a.m., trip departs at 10 a.m. and returns around 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$8, plus lunch. For more information, call 528-3005.

THE THURSDAY BRIDGE CLUB

The Thursday Bridge Club meets for lunch and bridge at 11 a.m. Thursdays at the Las Cruces Country Club, 2350 N. Main St. Anyone who plays bridge is welcome. For more

information, call Beverly Nelson at 523-6106.

MEN'S 8-BALL TOURNAMENT

An 8-ball tournament for men ages 50 and over is held the last Wednesday of every month at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Sign up is from 8 to 9 a.m. and play begins at 9:15 a.m. Cost is \$3 per person. Gift cards are awarded to first- and second-place winners.

WOMEN'S 8-BALL TOURNAMENT

An 8-ball tournament for women ages 50 and over is held the first Monday of each month at Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St. Sign up is at 8 a.m. and play begins 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$3 per person. Gift cards are awarded to first- and second-place winners.

WALKING GROUP

All walks depart from Munson Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., at 9 a.m. and return at 10:45 a.m.

- Weeks of June 13 and 20, Pioneer Park, .4 mile loop.
- Week of June 27, Triviz Multi-Purpose Trail at Walton Boulevard.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

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

- Noon the second Thursday of the month, potluck lunch at the Mira Vista Apartments, 2141 N. Solano Drive, in the Community Room. For more information, call

- Nicky at 647-3868.
 - 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Village at Northrise, 2884 N. Roadrunner Parkway, in the Desert Willow Building. For more information, call Donna at 556-6117.
 - 11 a.m. the third Saturday of the month, potluck lunch at Casa de Oro, 1005 Lujan Hill Road. For more information, call Tim at 650-0241.
 - The last Friday of the month at Villa del Sol Senior Center, 575 S. Mesquite St., in the Computer Room. For meeting times or more information, call Maria at 915-637-9337 or 589-0821.
- The Alzheimer's Association – New Mexico Chapter, has offices in the Richardson Building, 101 N. Alameda Blvd., Suite 7. For more information on Alzheimer's disease and the Alzheimer's Association, call the organization's 24-hour hotline at 800-272-3900, or at the Southwest Regional Office at 647-3868.

SWING DANCE

The Swinging Dancers of Munson Center meet at 7 p.m. Saturdays at Munson 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.

TRAVEL CLUB

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

- **Hubbard Museum of the American West**

- in Ruidoso day trip:** Wednesday, June 8. \$30 per person, includes museum fee.
- **Sky City/Acoma/Grants:** June 21-23, three days/two nights, \$195 double, \$225 single.
- **Taos/Enchanted Circle:** July 12-15, four days/three nights, \$345 double, \$375 single.

- **Cielo Vista Shopping Mall/Helen of Troy:** Tuesday, July 19, day trip, \$16 per person.
- **Hawaii Cruise:** Nov. 5. Call for details.
- **Branson Show Extravaganza:** Nov. 12-20. \$869 double, \$1,109 single. For more information, call Helen Glover at 528-3166.

Frequently called numbers

MUNSON SENIOR CENTER

975 S. Mesquite St. 528-3000

BENAVIDEZ COMMUNITY CENTER

1045 McClure Road..... 541-5185

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

310 N. Tornillo St.....541-2304 or 541-2305

MESILLA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

304 W. Bell Ave. 541-2455

IN-HOME SERVICES

304 W. Bell Ave. 541-2451

RESOURCE CENTER

975 S. Mesquite St. 528-3307

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

Reservations and cancellations..... 528-3012
From outside the city 800-397-3544

SENIOR OLYMPICS

Mesilla Park Center..... 541-5171

DIAL-A-RIDE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

Call 24 hours in advance 541-2777

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

101 N. Alameda Blvd..... 647-3868
From outside the city 888-588-0005

LEGAL NOTICE

Las Cruces Bulletin - your legal publication for Las Cruces and Doña Ana County, New Mexico



A pre-proposal conference will be held in the New Mexico Department of Agricultural conference room, on Espina & Gregg Street on the main campus of NMSU, Las Cruces, NM on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 1:30 PM local time. A site visit will be held immediately following. Requests for interpretation must be submitted in writing.

Proposal documents will be available on Friday, June 3, 2011 from the

Office of Project Design of the Office of Facilities & Services (OFS) of New Mexico State University. Tel: 575-646-1016. Complete sets may be obtained without deposit by licensed contractors.

Pub # 10748
Dates 6/3, 2011

New Mexico State University, an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, will receive Proposals until 2 p.m. local time in the office of the Director of Purchasing of the following:

Proposal Invitation:
10104483-P NMSU - AGRICULTURAL CENTER

Proposal Due Date:
07/07/2011

LEGAL NOTICES - Lowest rates in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County - 575-524-8061 - email: legals@lascrucesbulletin.com

Summer program reaches out High schoolers get to visit NMSU campus

For 16 years, New Mexico State University's Reaching the Pinnacle program and its predecessors have been trail blazers in reaching out to students with disabilities.

The program's Regional Alliance Summer Science Institute (RASSI) has played a major role in this outreach.

Since 2006, Reaching the Pinnacle has sponsored RASSI in New Mexico and west Texas, with the mission to provide opportunities to high school students that will help encourage them to consider careers in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) fields.

This year's institute is June 13-17 on NMSU's Las Cruces campus, and attendees will get firsthand experience with the "Mean Green Science Machine" – RASSI's 2011 theme.

Students attending RASSI 2011 will focus on going green. This year, activities such as recycling and chemistry in the community will be featured as well as activities pertaining to the interests of young men and women.

Also planned is a trip to the City of Las Cruces' Waste Water Treatment Plant and the NMSU Recycling Center.

Students will learn how to purify water, make fashion accessories out of duct tape and recyclable materials, design an herb garden using compost and worms from personal worm farms and construct a solar-powered oven.

RASSI activities align with National Science Foundation goals and the Reaching the Pinnacle mission to recruit individuals with disabilities and increase awareness in STEM fields.

The schedule is developed to help students focus on recycling, reusing and renewing in order to do their part to maintain a healthy environment for today and tomorrow.

A total of 30 slots are reserved for students for this year's southern New Mexico institute. The institute takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

RASSI institutes are conducted each summer and offer high school students an opportunity to explore STEM fields through hands-on, engaging activities.

Themes vary annually and reflect current areas of interest in STEM education and research, including science field work, mathematics applied to biology, hot-air balloon physics, satellite design, robot building, programming and design and prototyping of canoes, bridges and rockets.

Reaching the Pinnacle is primarily funded through a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation, but RASSI largely relies on the generosity of volunteers to lead the programs and donate needed supplies and materials.

Employees from Waste Management Industries will come to campus to speak to the RASSI participants at no charge, and volunteer NMSU faculty and local high-school teachers will lead the sessions.

For those interested in supporting RASSI, call Randy Larry at 646-6051.

For applications and additional information on RASSI 2011, visit <http://rtp.nmsu.edu/rassisummer-projects.html> or call the RTP office at 646-6051.

Looking Back

This week in the history of the Mesilla Valley

Marvin Tessneer's
Out of the Past



100yearsago

1911

- The Masons were preparing to lay the cornerstone for a new temple, a two-story building at Griggs and Church streets.
- Griggs Street was to be widened by 10 feet between Main and Church streets.

• Work at Elephant Butte was described as “steady” with several new cottages almost ready for occupancy and the new mess hall nearing completion. Several other buildings, including a mercantile building and a blacksmith’s shop, were also under construction.

• A big picnic was held at the Shalem Colony by Lodge No. 22 of the Alianza Hispana Americana. It was described as a “merry, happy crowd with well-filled baskets.” Carriages met the train at the Doña Ana station and carried the picnickers to the site.

75yearsago

1936

• Elephant Butte Irrigation District expressed appreciation to Sens. Carl A. Hatch and Dennis Chaves and Rep. John Dempsey for canalization of the Rio Grande.

• Doña Ana County was one of 12 New Mexico counties in which the State Game & Fish Commission declared cottontail rabbits a game animal. The proposal needed approval from the State Attorney General as to its legality. Rabbit hunters would need a license and would be limited to five animals. The season would be Sept. 1 to March 1.

• Margaret Davis took the lead in the Isaac Walton pretty girl contest, overtaking Zola Walton.

50yearsago

1961

• The Post Office displayed its new fleet of mailer scooters that were intended to “save the sore feet” of mailmen and help to handle the increased mail load.



Photo reproduced courtesy of the New Mexico State Library Rio Grande Historical Collection. **This comfortable-looking abode is identified as the home of Edward C. Wade in Las Cruces and dated 1894.**

• Patty Johnson was crowned Doña Ana County’s Senior Maid of Cotton by Mrs. Clyde Simpson, contest chairman.

• The Women’s Improvement Association installed new officers at its annual amateur art exhibit. Mrs. Dennis Romney was given the gavel by outgoing President Mrs. Robert Lytle.

raised \$40,441 for the Aggie Horde, a fundraiser for the Aggie Sports Association. McGrath and other volunteers brought in \$91,462, the most ever collected during the fund drive. McGrath credited his success to the basketball and golf teams’ success. “The Aggies have something to give in return,” he said.

• More than 100 members of the Las Cruces Civic Center Foundation signed the organization’s charter at the home of Heather Pollard on North Valley Drive. The organization was founded to promote the construction of a multi-purpose community center, to raise community interest and begin raising funds for the project. The City of Las Cruces sold a \$7.5 million bond and another \$7.5 was expected to be financed by general obligation bonds.

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

25yearsago

1986

• A program by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reduce dairy production caused local dairies to sell 950 cows, among 10,000 statewide scheduled to be cut back. The ripple effect caused wholesale beef prices to fall from \$67 per hundredweight to \$54. In an effort to halt the glut of beef, the National Cattlemen’s Association took the USDA to court.

• Local business owner Kevin McGrath



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6PM - 8:30PM



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Psalm 139

Come!
Explore a bamboo forest, and learn about God’s love!

Vacation Bible School

for ages 4 - 11

Morning Star United Methodist Church
2941 Morning Star Drive @ Roadrunner
For more information, please call 575-521-3770



The flight crew testing AAI Corp.'s Shadow 200 tactical unmanned aerial system performs final checks on the vehicle before it goes airborne in the skies over Hatch in early May.

Unmanned air systems hold promise

Beside military uses, PSL explores civilian capacities

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

Early last month, people in Hatch could see modern unmanned air systems (UAS) flying overhead.

UAS – formerly known as unmanned air vehicles, or UAVs – are a more familiar sight in foreign battlefields, such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

But the tests in Hatch, supported by New Mexico State University's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Flight Test Center, were conducted by AAI Corp.'s Shadow 200 Tactical UAS for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Tech Center to further UAS flights in the National Airspace System (NAS).

Although the military will continue to use UAS more to protect troops, the FAA is seeking to open the technology to private sector uses, said Physical Science Laboratory (PSL) Director Jay Jordan.

In many ways, PSL's long history of testing UAS over southern New Mexico is helping to establish the kind of safety record the FAA requires to allow the technology to become more commonplace, Jordan said.

NMSU's UAS Flight Test Center (FTC), housed in a large hangar at the Las Cruces International Airport, is the only FAA-approved FTC in the nation. The FAA and NMSU developed the center to provide a place for manufacturers, government agencies and other developers or operators to safely test fly,

demonstrate and train their UAS.

During the Hatch flight tests, the FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Program Office had several representatives on-site to observe and review NMSU procedures and view the chase plane operations to assist them with moving forward on developing safe procedures that will enable UAS more access to the NAS in the future. A chase plane accompanied the UAS flights to ensure their proper actions.

Dennis "Zak" Zaklan, the center's coordinator, said NMSU has been working with UAS since 1998 and began its partnership with the FAA in 2004.

Those in the industry, such as AAI Corp., have come to NMSU to develop the flight systems and technology, while the FAA gives guidance for establishing necessary safety procedures, Zaklan said.

Some of the potential UAS civilian uses include paramilitary functions, such as border security and police protection, Jordan said. But even shipping companies, such as United Parcel Service and Federal Express, also are eyeing UAS as a cost-effective option for shipping by air, he said.

"UAS is the next generation of jet aircraft," Jordan said.

The most typical UAS has a wingspan of about 24 feet – the best known vehicle is the Aerostar B, which is used primarily for reconnaissance, Zaklan said.

That capability can come in handy for ranching and farming, he said, because these operations are so spread out in the Southwest. Sending a UAS out to check

on remote flood dams, for example, saves on the time and cost of having to drive out to them in person, he said.

Other potential agriculture uses including aerial imaging to check the hydration and nitrogen levels in crops, Jordan said.

UAS can also save lives in observing hazardous situations, such as forest fires, he added.

The work being done by PSL aims to make UAS flight safe and efficient for these kinds of uses, he said.

At the Hatch flights, the systems and procedures testing were successful, according to reports.

The tests being performed by the AAI Shadow TUAV, with software developed by General Electric Co. on board and in the ground control station, proved the vehicle could perform maneuvers when receiving input from another source. The main flight demonstration was conducted May 4. Representatives from the FAA Tech Center, the UAPO and Hatch Mayor Judd Nordyke viewed the demonstration.

Discussions are ongoing to further the relationship and perform additional UAS flights in the UAS center's 15,000 square miles of FAA-approved airspace.

Founded in response to the nation's space and rocket programs, NMSU's PSL has been a standard of engineering and research since 1946 and continues to support a variety of scientific and technological projects.

Scholarship winner



Lion's Club President Eli Estrada presents a check for the Harvey Wilke Scholarship, which is awarded to outstanding seniors each spring, to John Gariano, a 2011 graduate of Oñate High School and the recipient of the Lions Club Student of the Month honor. Gariano will be attending New Mexico State University this fall and is the son of Jeff and Patty Gariano.

Pearce honored by Boy Scouts

The Yucca Council, Boy Scouts of America, will honor Congressman Steve Pearce at the inaugural Prepared for Life "Good Scout" Dinner on Thursday, June 30, at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

The "Good Scout Award" has been designated by the Yucca Council as an award to be presented to a civic, community or business leader who has demonstrated patriotism, leadership and service at a local, state or national level.

The candidate must also have provided service and support to the character development of youth within the Yucca Council and represent the values found in the Scout Oath and Law.

Pearce has been a long supporter of numerous youth programs in New Mexico.

Funds raised at the dinner supports the Yucca Council.

For more information, call Ernie Gonzalez at 915-772-2292.

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Vision 2040 meetings set

Regional plan will shape future growth

Area residents are invited to attend meetings and provide comments on the One Valley, One Vision 2040 Regional Plan.

The plan is a long-range comprehensive project that looks at growth in Doña Ana County in terms of transportation, water, housing, economic development, the environment and much more. It evaluates the needs of the region for the next 30 years and ways to meet those needs.

Meetings in Sunland Park and Anthony, N.M., already have been held as well as the first of three meetings at the Doña Ana County Government Center in Las Cruces.

- Future meetings are:
- 6 p.m. Monday, June 13 – Mesilla Town Hall, 2231 Avenida de Mesilla
 - 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 14 – Hatch Village Hall, 133 N. Franklin St.
 - 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 21 – Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main St.

- 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 22 – Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd.

- 9 a.m. Thursday, June 23 – Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd.

Staff involved in the plan will be available to meet with individuals or groups through Friday, July 15, by contacting Paul Michaud at 528-3271 or by email at pmichaud@las-cruces.org.

Written comments are accepted at anytime by emailing Paul Michaud at pmichaud@las-cruces.org, or mailed to his attention at the City of Las Cruces, P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

This plan and upcoming meetings are available online at www.las-cruces.org/code/vision_2040/index.html and at the Community Development Departments of the City of Las Cruces and the Doña Ana County Government Center.

Pride Weekend scheduled

Events supports annual gay pride fest

Southern New Mexico Pride invites everyone to this year's GLBTQ Pride Weekend Saturday and Sunday, June 17-18.

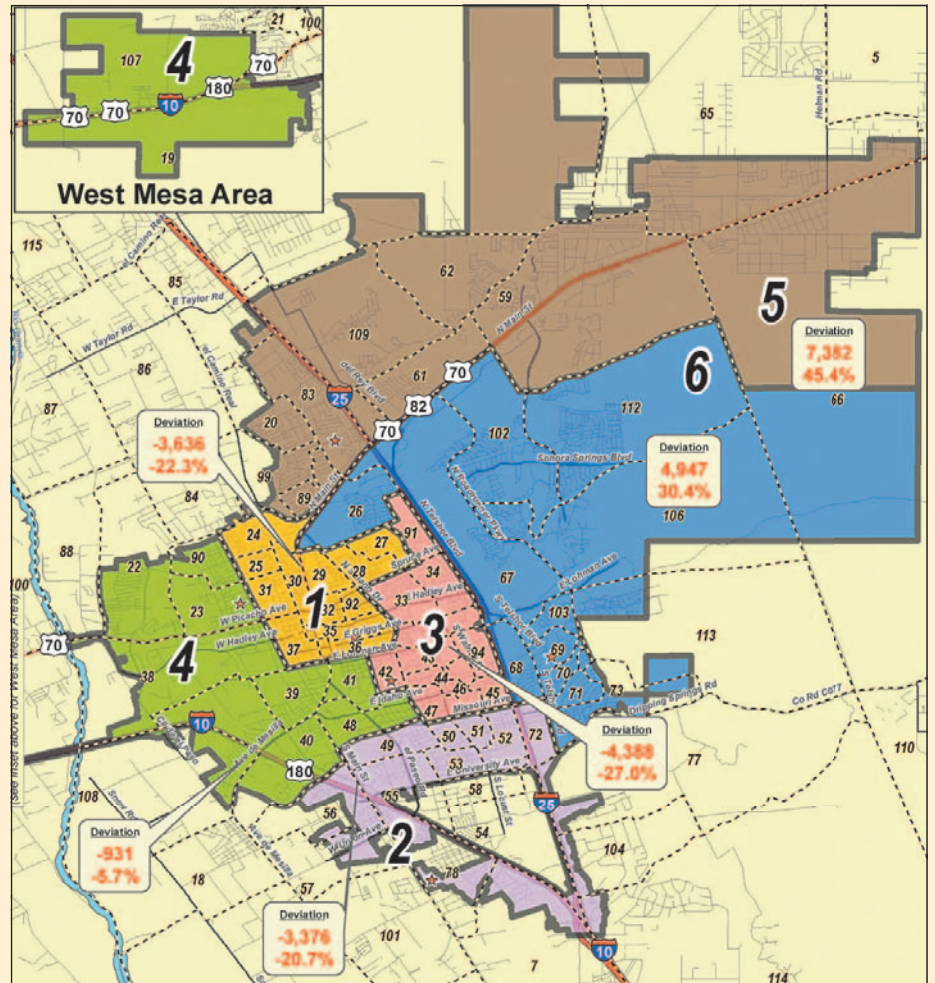
The theme for this year's event is "Diversity Creates Community."

Events scheduled to take place include a parade, a juried art show, pet blessings, a queer bake-off and performances by local entertainers Nicole Martinez, Randy Granger and Mari & Belle. The Pride Festival itself will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 18, at Pioneer Women's Park, 500 W. Las Cruces Ave.

Other events coinciding with that weekend

will include Drag Bingo, sponsored by Southern New Mexico Pride and the Sexual and Gender Diversity Resource Center at New Mexico State University on the evening of June 17 and a Pride Dance Party, featuring DJ Sandra Ware, sponsored by Triple Threat Productions on the evening of June 18. Both evening events will take place at the Ramada Palms de Las Cruces, 201 E. University Ave.

For more information on these and other Pride-related events, interested parties are encouraged to visit the website at www.southernmnpide.org.



Current Las Cruces Council districts are represented by: District 1 – Miguel Silva, District 2 – Dolores Connor, District 3 – Olga Pedroza, District 4 – Nathan Small, District 5 – Gill Sorg and District 6 – Sharon Thomas, who also is mayor pro tem. Mayor Ken Miyagishima was elected by a citywide vote. The different options for redistricting being considered are on display in the lobby of City Hall, 700 N. Main St.

Council to decide districts

Work session to precede action Monday

The Las Cruces City Council will begin the formal process of selecting a new redistricting plan for the six council districts at two separate meetings Monday, June 6.

The council will hold a special work session at 10 a.m. with representatives from the Albuquerque-based firm Research & Polling Inc., the company engaged by City Council to provide redistricting options.

At 1 p.m., the City Council will meet in regular session to decide on a plan for the formal adoption on June 20. At a previous work session, the City Council gave consensus to further review plan F. Both meetings are at City Hall, 700 N. Main St.

Redrawing City Council district boundaries is required by New Mexico state law and

the city charter to coincide with the federal census every 10 years to ensure residents in each district are equally represented.

District 1 is represented by Miguel Silva and his term expires this year. District 2 is represented by Dolores Connor whose term expires this year, but is vacating her seat to run for mayor. District 3 is represented by Olga Pedroza and her term expires in 2013. District 4 is represented by Nathan Small and his term expires this year. District 5 is represented by Gill Sorg and his term expires 2013. District 6 is represented by Sharon Thomas and her term expires in 2013.

Mayor Ken Miyagishima is elected at large and his term expires this year.

Schools honor volunteer

Retired teacher can't stop helping kids

The Las Cruces school board honored retired teacher, assistant librarian and current classroom volunteer Sue Fletcher with the 2011 New Mexico School Boards Association Excellence in Student Achievement Award.

The award, which recognizes the contributions individuals make in improving the lives of students, was presented at the board's May 17, regular meeting.

Fletcher began her career with Las Cruces Public Schools in 1995 at Desert Hills Elementary School, where she spent many years working in the classroom and the library.

"While working as an assistant librarian, Mrs. Fletcher began pairing volunteers

with struggling readers," Superintendent Stan Rounds said. "Often, when she wasn't working in her role as assistant librarian, she herself was volunteering to help students. It didn't matter the age or grade level of the student. If help was needed, she was always there to lend a hand."

After Fletcher retired from LCPS, she began volunteering several times a week, working with struggling first-grade readers.

"Her goal has always been to instill within each student a lasting love of reading," Rounds said. "To accomplish this, her students often received a book from her so that they could continue to practice their reading skills at home."

Education Update Luncheon

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 16

at the New Mexico State University Golf Course Clubhouse

3000 Herb Wimberly Drive

Speakers include:

- Stan Rounds**
Las Cruces Public Schools
- Barbara Couture**
New Mexico State University
- Margie Huerta**
Dona Ana Community College

Tickets are \$20 for Chamber members or \$40 for non-members.

To register, contact the Chamber at 524-1968 or relo@lascruces.org

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FLORA (FLO) G. CASTILLO

August 28, 1939 – May 27, 2011

Flora (Flo) G. Castillo, 71, born in Phoenix, AZ August 28, 1939 to Ricardo and Luisa Garcia peacefully passed into eternal life on May 27, 2011. Flora moved with her parents to Las Cruces where she resided for the remainder of her life.



her parents, Ricardo and Luisa Garcia; grandparents, Vicente and Guadalupe Lopez; son Victor (Vicki Boy) Castillo; and brothers, Richard L. Garcia and Eddie L. Garcia. Flo was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

who devoted her time to her family. She retired after 18 years as dispatch supervisor at Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority. Flo enjoyed spending time with her family, cooking, and loved her house plants. She had a loving heart and will greatly be missed. Entrusted to the care of La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home of Las Cruces, 555 W. Amador Ave. Phone 575-526-4328. Services will be held on Saturday June 4, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel. To sign the guest book log on to www.lapaz-grahams.com.

Flora is survived by her brothers, Reynaldo L. Garcia and wife Ana of El Paso, TX and Johnny L. Garcia; daughter, Yvonne T. Fierro; sons, Emilio Castillo and wife, Karen of Long Beach, MS, and Vince Castillo and fiancé, Patsy Silva; grandson, Sonny L. Fierro and fiancé, Angelica Ruelas; and granddaughters, Vanessa N. Fierro and fiancé, Fernando San Mames, and Crystal Silva; numerous great-grandchildren, Mariah L. Fierro, Dante L. Fierro, Joselyn L. Fierro, and Neriya N. San Mames; and numerous nieces and nephews. Flora was preceded in death by

CODY RAE DIAZ

Passed away May 30, 2011



Cody Rae Diaz, 20, "Tootie" passed away Monday, May 30, 2011. He is survived by his parents, Enrique R. Diaz and Donna M. Saiz; his paternal grandmother; Soledad Diaz; maternal grandmother; Lydia Rodriguez; his step-mom, Cindy Diaz; his brothers, Christian, Benjamin, Adrian Diaz; his sisters, Ambrosia Apodaca and Amaya Gutierrez; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. A service for Cody Diaz is scheduled for Friday, June 3, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. at La Paz

- Graham's Funeral Home Chapel officiated by Victor Villalobos of Las Cruces First Assembly of God. Family has requested that donations be sent to the Ronald McDonald House in Albuquerque, NM, 1011 Yale Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. www.rmhc-nm.org in Cody Diaz's name. To sign the guest book log on to www.lapaz-grahams.com. Arrangements are with La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home, 555 W. Amador, Las Cruces, NM 88005. 575-526-6891.

DEATH NOTICES

CANO

Alfred Cano, 50, passed away in Glendale, Arizona on Saturday, May 28, 2011. Services are pending with La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home. 575-526-6891.

MERAZ

Maria Meraz, 40, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, passed away on Monday, May 23, 2011, visitation and services were Monday, May 30, 2011 at La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home Chapel. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of La Paz-Graham's Funeral Home. 575-526-6891.

VALENZUELA

Maria Guadalupe Valenzuela, 69, of La Mesa, New Mexico, passed away on Thursday, May 26, 2011. Services were at Templo Roca de Salvacion in Anthony on Tuesday, May 31, 2011. Services by La Paz - Graham's Funeral Home. 575-526-6891.

DORMANN

James Dormann, 79, of Las Cruces, New Mexico died Monday, May 30, 2011 at La Posada - Mesilla Valley Hospice. Services are pending at Baca's Funeral Chapels. 575-527-2222

CARSON

Patricia Carson, 69, of Las Cruces, New Mexico died Monday, May 30, 2011 at her home. Services are pending at Baca's Funeral Chapels. 575-527-2222

BUCHANAN

Steve Buchanan, 61, of Las Cruces, New Mexico died Monday, May 30, 2011 at Mountain View Regional Medical Center. Services are pending at Baca's Funeral Chapels. 575-527-2222

BARKER

David Barker, 68, of Las Cruces, New Mexico died Friday, May 27, 2011 at Memorial Medical Center. Services are pending at Baca's Funeral Chapels. 575-527-2222

CONTRERAS

Manuel Mendoza Contreras, 81, of Mesilla Park entered eternal life Sunday, May 29, 2011 at La Posada - Mesilla Valley Hospice surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Maria de Jesus Contreras; three brothers, three sons, two daughters, fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Visitation for Manuel will begin at 6 P.M. Thursday, June 2, 2011 in Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine and Parish, 3600 Parroquia Street in Tortugas where the Prayer Vigil is scheduled for 7 P.M. Memorial Mass is at 2 PM Friday, June 3, 2011 in the same church with Reverend Donald Adamski officiating. The Rite of Committal and Inurnment of remains will follow in Masonic Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

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

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

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

ROMELIA O. MARQUEZ

Passed away May 30, 2011

Romelia O. Marquez, 71, of Anthony entered eternal life Monday, May 30, 2011 in El Paso Texas. She was a homemaker and a member of the Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Gonzalo Marquez of Anthony; a son, Juan Marquez of Phoenix, Arizona; three daughters, Zeelica Marquez, Yolanda and Susana Holguin. Other survivors include two brothers, Francisco and Guadalupe Ontiveros and a sister, Rosa Hilda Baquera, as well as five grandchildren all of Anthony. She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Delia Holguin and Alicia Flores.

Visitation for Mrs. Marquez will begin at 6:30 PM, Thursday, June 2, 2011 in St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Anthony where the Prayer Vigil is scheduled for 7 PM. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated immediately thereafter. Cremation will follow and inurnment of remains will take place at a later date.

Services entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels and Baca's Sunset Crematory, 300 E. Boutz Road, Las Cruces. 575-527-2222 Exclusive providers for "Veteran's and Family Memorial Care" To send condolences online log on to www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com

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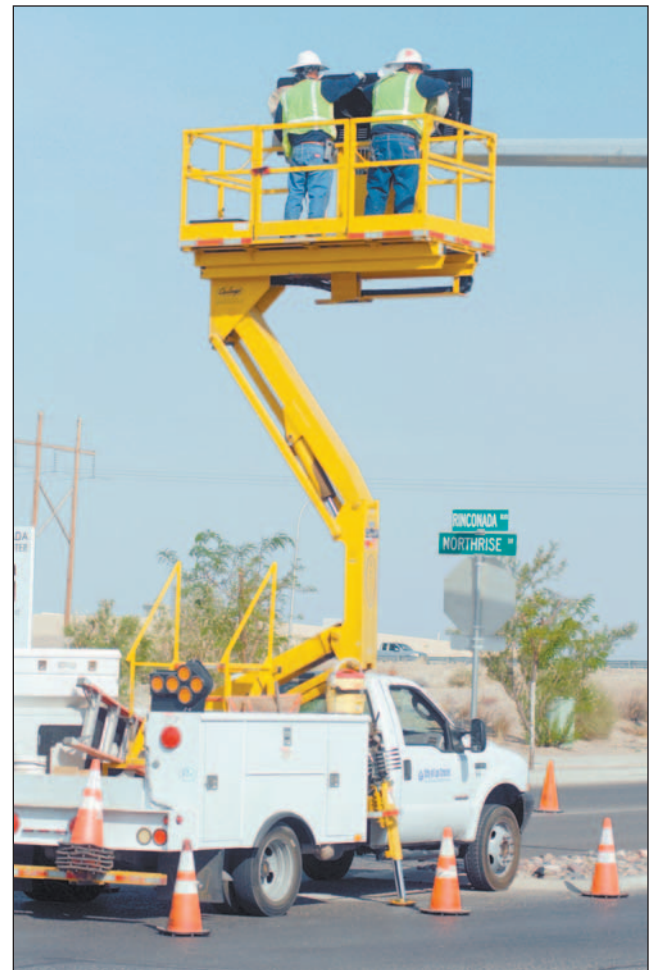
Rosemary Reynaud
Benefit Specialist

Lights go up at Northrise Drive and Rinconada Boulevard

Photos by Niki Rhynes



Gilbert Gamboa takes the cover off the stoplight signal.



City of Las Cruces workers Manny Balderrama and Gamboa work on a new stoplight at the intersection of Rinconada Boulevard and Northrise Drive Wednesday, June 1.



Ryan Chandler checks electrical wiring of a new stoplight.



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CrimeStoppers

Home invasion

Las Cruces Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest of the suspects involved in a home invasion armed robbery.

Las Cruces Police are investigating the incident that occurred Thursday, May 12, at a home on the 1200 block of Mormon Drive. At around 11 p.m., someone knocked on the door and the homeowner opened it to find four armed men, who forced their way inside.

The suspects ransacked the home and took a wallet, a laptop computer and an Xbox gaming console.

The four suspects were believed to be Hispanic in their late teens or early 20s. The suspects were all described as around 5 feet 6 inches or shorter. Three of the suspects have a thin



build while one was of medium build. All four suspects were said to be wearing hooded sweatshirts with bandanas covering their faces.

One of the suspects was armed with a double-barrel shotgun, while the other three displayed handguns.

If you have any information on who may have committed this crime, 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.

Care for more vino?



Samantha Roberts
Business Editor

You have a bucket of red wine and a bucket of white wine. You take a cup of red wine and pour it into the bucket of white wine. After thoroughly mixing, you then take a cup of this mixture and pour it back into the red wine bucket.

Is there more red wine in the white wine, or is there more white wine in the red wine?

If you didn't get enough wine at the Southern New Mexico Wine Festival, join the Young Philanthropists for the nonprofit's first-ever wine tasting fundraiser from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 5, at De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd.

Young Philanthropists, an organization designed to foster philanthropy by bringing together young people in the community, will hold the event to raise money for the charity of their choice, which is voted on by members throughout the year.

At the wine tasting, attendees will get to taste wines selected by De La Vega's and enjoy light, after-lunch snacks as well as great door prizes.

This event is open to the public, and the cost is \$15 per person; however, if an active member brings a guest, the duo receives a two-for-one deal. Two people for \$15 is not a bad trade for some vino, snacks, door prizes and networking.

To get on my soapbox, Young Philanthropists has been dear to my heart because I am new to the area and being involved in this group has been a great way to meet young people (members range from 21 to 44 years old) that share similar business and philanthropy goals.

For young people in Las Cruces, the business world of rotary, chambers and networking can be intimidating, but Young Philanthropists provides a casual networking atmosphere, hosting three to four social events a year plus special activities such as the wine tasting.

Young Philanthropists make a \$125 donation – 75 percent of the donation goes into a permanent endowment with the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico and 25 percent of the donation goes into a grant-making fund.

Being just two years old, this is an

See **YP fundraiser** on page B2

INSIDE

Are we in for another real estate recession?

Chris Erickson takes a lookB4

Local solar guy speaks up

More on Mark Westbrook.....B9

Pioneer Bank treats customers right

More on Pioneer BankB11

Dairies deal with drought

Lack of rain sends ripples through farming economy

By **Jimmy Currier**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

For almost four months, the Mesilla Valley went without a drop of rain, and while that's great news if you're planning a picnic, farmers aren't breaking out the blanket and basket.

Alfalfa farmers are having a lower yield, reducing their revenue and ultimately their income. Dairy farmers aren't having a picnic either, paying higher prices for the alfalfa while not receiving an increase in the prices paid for their milk.

Over the past 12 months, Las Cruces has received about .5 inches of precipitation, which is 2.87 inches below average. Las Cruces hasn't received rain since early February with the exception of Wednesday, June 1.

Alfalfa is a water-intensive crop and when it doesn't rain, farmers have to rely more on irrigation. With reservoir levels low, that option isn't much better. Elephant Butte, which can hold 2.5 million acre-feet of water, is only 16 percent full, forcing farmers to use wells and aquifers.

"If you don't have a well, you don't have water," said Jerry Hawkes, an agricultural economist at New Mexico State University. "EBID (Elephant Butte Irrigation District) doesn't have the ability to distribute water like they would like to, and the hay crop is drying if you



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Rachel Courtney

A lack of rain has altered what farmers are planting this year, changing the game for dairy farms and the agriculture business in southern New Mexico.

don't have a supplemental irrigation system."

With a lower supply of alfalfa and demand not dropping, it's only natural that the price increases, but alfalfa farmers aren't getting rich because their quantity sold is decreasing.

In dry times such as these, Hawkes said farmers are looking at alternative crops, such as cotton, vegetables and grains. He stressed the

importance of having alternative irrigation.

"The drought does have an impact," Hawkes said. "It affects the ability to plan. If you're strictly a dryland farm you don't have any flexibility. If you're an irrigated farm, you can take one crop out and plant another crop."

Dairy farmers are also feeling the pinch. Joe

See **Drought** on page B2

Come and taste Las Cruces

Restaurants flock to the convention center for annual event



Mesilla Valley Rotary members John Bacon and Hue McCoy at the 2010 Taste of Las Cruces. Las Cruces can enjoy a variety of signature dishes local restaurants have to offer at the third annual Taste of Las Cruces held Thursday, June 9, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

By **Samantha Roberts**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The Las Cruces rotary clubs of southern New Mexico – Las Cruces Rotary, Mesilla Valley Rotary and Rio Grande Rotary – are sponsoring Taste of Las Cruces from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave.

Come taste a wide bevy of flavors and cuisines from restaurants in the Mesilla Valley.

The event will include a cash bar, live music, gift certificate drawings, cash, prizes and more. The cost is \$35 and proceeds from the event will benefit Jardín de Los Niños and Casa de Perigrinos.

"This is our second year to put on Taste of Las Cruces, and it is really a great event because all of the proceeds are going to local food banks," said Barbara Rose Farber, a Taste of Las Cruces committee member.

"It's sad, but there is great need this year in regards to hunger; therefore, all the donations are staying locally."

With a new venue – the Las Cruces Convention Center – the event has been able to expand from 19 restaurants to 24.

"I am really excited about the new additions, and I think they are, too," Farber said. "I am particularly looking forward to Caliche's, they will be serving their frozen custards."

See **Taste** on page B2

Sunspot makes first Solar panels at dairy

Photos by
Samantha Roberts

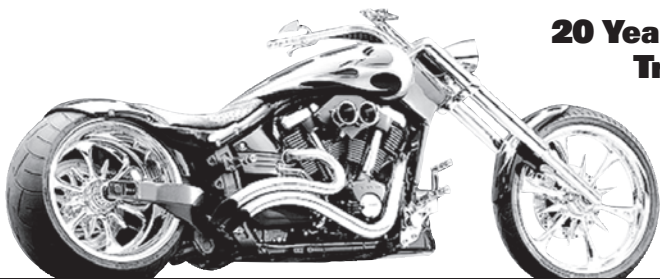
Mellow Honek, a partner of Sunspot Solar Energy, talks about solar panels installed at F & A Dairy Thursday, May 26. The panels will reduce the dairy's electric bill by about 30 percent annually.

State Rep. Joni Gutierrez, Las Cruces City Councillor Nathan Small and Sunspot partner Manny Garcia listen to questions and answers from the crowd.



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YP fundraiser

Continued from page B1

exciting time for the group, but participation from the community and Las Cruces is vital to keep the organization strong and growing.

Supporting the organization can come in

many forms from, becoming a member and making the \$125 donation, which can be paid in installments, to participating in the wine tasting or sponsoring an event.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this nonprofit or want more information, email me at samantha@lascrucesbulletin.com or come to the event. I will have the wine trivia answer waiting for you.

Drought

Continued from page B1

Gonzalez, proprietor of Gonzalez Dairy in Mesquite, is one such farmer.

He uses alfalfa to feed his Holstein cows, which eat 14 pounds a day per cow. With 2,000 milking cows, eating 14 pounds a day, Gonzalez needs 14 tons of alfalfa a day. The price has increased from \$155 a ton to \$255 a ton, thus adding \$42,583 of expenses per month to Gonzalez' bill.

Overall, Gonzalez said he makes \$8 million a year in revenue. The increased price of hay alone is taking 6.4 cents of every dollar produced.

Gonzalez is assured that his raw milk, which is picked up every 12 hours, will be sold, but the guaranteed government minimum of \$9 a hundredweight doesn't cover his expenses.

"It doesn't do any good when you need \$18 to \$20 a hundredweight to break even," he said. "You just hope the co-op does that for you."

Because milk producers are price takers, Gonzalez can't just pass the extra costs on to the consumer. He has a fixed contract and

sells to the Dairy Farmers of America, a co-op that markets his and other dairy farmers' milk. That contract is currently \$16.50 to \$17 a hundredweight – 100 pounds.

To make ends meet, he said he borrows money using collateral and equity.

"I still have to pay utilities, repairs, labor, the bank and interest," he said. "The money runs out pretty quick."

While times are still lean for dairy farmers, Gonzalez said it's better than things were in 2009 when they only received \$9 a hundredweight for milk and the state's minimum wage increased to \$7.50 an hour.

Gonzalez' cows are in dry lots, meaning they aren't dependent upon grazing and pastures. In addition to alfalfa, he also feeds the cows raw corn, canola meal, soy whole pellets, corn germ meal, corn silage, sorghum silage, beet pulp, vitamin and mineral packs and molasses mixed with the feed.

He pointed out that the cost of corn has increased from \$3.25 a bushel to \$7.60 a bushel, causing further cost headaches and profit reduction for not only him but also dairy farmers across the country.

Gonzalez said that using corn for ethanol, limiting imports and the lack of rain have also caused the increase in prices.

Taste

Continued from page B1

Though all of the restaurants will only be offering bite-size serving, Farber said there will be more than enough to appease hungry appetites.

"We can't have everyone offering two-course meals, people wouldn't be able to try everything," she said. "But I can promise people will be more than satisfied."

In addition to all of the food, the event will also have a silent auction, including jewelry, gift baskets, original art and more.

"I really think this is going to be a fun event," Farber said. "People are encouraged to dress casual and have a good time trying all the food."

"Andele is another restaurant joining us for the first time and they told me they are going to set up a great salsa bar, with salsas from mild to give me a fire extinguisher."

Taste of Las Cruces offers a unique dining experience, and participating restaurants have been encouraged to offer their signature dishes, ensuring guest satisfaction.

"My favorite part is that although I have lived in Las Cruces for some time, I have yet to go to every restaurant in town," Farber said. "This event allows people to try many, many places and sample their best dishes. Restaurants enjoy participating because many of the people who come to the event give them try and then go back to their restaurant for more."

"The community response so far has been great, and I encourage everyone to attend this event, after all, it is for a great cause."

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased early at American Classifieds, 580 S. Valley Drive, Suite 100, or at the door the day of the event.

Sponsor tables are still available and include eight tickets. Farber said she is taking silent auction items through Tuesday, June 7. For more information, call 526-1702.

Details

Taste of Las Cruces

When

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 9

Where

Las Cruces Convention Center
680 E. University Ave.

Cost

\$35

Call

526-1702

Participating restaurants

Aqua Reef
Andele Restaurant
Café Espana
Caliche's Frozen Custard
Cattleman's Steakhouse
De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery
Dublin's Street Pub
Feroz
Josefina's Old Gate Restaurant
Katana Teppanyaki Grill
La Posta de Mesilla
Las Cruces Convention Center
Le Rendez-vous
Lemongrass
Lorenzo's de Mesilla
Meson de Mesilla
Milagro's Coffee Y Espresso
Mix Pacific Rim
Paola's Bakery and Café
Picacho Hills Country Club
Si Italian Bistro and Bakery
St. Clair Winery & Bistro
Sunset Grill
Ump 88

By the Numbers



Building Las Cruces



Hooters

Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Samantha Roberts

Hooters restaurant, 3530 Foothills Road, recently refinished the outside of the building to comply with new corporate rules, "incorporating new colors and walls that stand out," said Andy Anzures, Hooters assistant manager. For more information, call 521-9898.

Recent projects featured in Building Las Cruces

Publish date	Building	Address	Contact
May 27	Country Crest Apartments	1804 Wyoming Ave.	522-1309
May 20	Las Cruces Orthopaedic Associates	675 Avenida de Mesilla	525-3535
May 13	Denco Inc.	U.S. Highway 70 on the East Mesa	524-8316
May 6	Pic Quik	1501 E. Amador Ave.	523-5611
April 29	Centennial High School	Dripping Springs Road	527-5800

Our numbers

600 jobs were lost in the Las Cruces economy throughout April

500 of the lost jobs were in the private sector

100 jobs were added to the construction sector, which was the only entity to add jobs in April

200 jobs were removed from the professional and business service sector, which was the biggest loss

For the complete unemployment progress report, see page B8.

Gas update

For the week of May 31

Average retail gasoline prices in New Mexico have fallen **3.2 cents** per gallon in the past week, averaging **\$3.62** per gallon. This compares with the national average that has fallen **3.2 cents** per gallon in the last week to **\$3.77** per gallon.

Including the change in gas prices in New Mexico during the past week, prices Monday, May 30, were **97.2 cents** per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are **14.3 cents** per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has increased **0.1 cents** per gallon during the last month and stands **\$1.04** per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

1. Sam's Club	2711 N. Telshor Blvd.	\$3.50
2. Bradley's	1260 El Paseo Road	\$3.51
3. Bradley's	920 El Paseo Road	\$3.51
4. Valero	1252 El Paseo Road	\$3.53
5. Pilot	2681 W. Amador Ave.	\$3.55

Source: www.newmexicogasprices.com.

Airfare watch

FROM EL PASO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	LOWEST AVERAGE ONE-WAY FARE	AVERAGE MILES	AVERAGE PASSENGERS
Albuquerque	\$82.98 (Southwest Airlines)	223	141
Atlanta	\$241.61 (Delta Airlines)	1,282	106
Austin	\$115.37 (Southwest Airlines)	528	299
Chicago	\$185.98 (Southwest Airlines)	1,237	218
Dallas/Fort Worth	\$109.20 (Southwest Airlines)	562	766
Denver	\$138.63 (Frontier Airlines)	563	95
Houston	\$132.27 (Southwest Airlines)	677	356
Las Vegas	\$117.05 (Southwest Airlines)	584	364
Los Angeles	\$148.16 (America West Airlines)	714	238
Phoenix	\$73.78 (Southwest Airlines)	347	456
San Antonio	\$115.55 (Southwest Airlines)	496	300
San Diego	\$143.63 (America West Airlines)	636	138

Source: FareWatch

Money

Comparing the U.S. dollar

Euro
\$1.44092 in U.S. dollar
0.694 per U.S. dollar

Mexican Peso
\$0.08641 in U.S. dollar
11.573 per U.S. dollar

Japanese Yen
0.01228 in U.S. dollar
81.44 per U.S. dollar

Source: www.msn.com



Market Snapshot

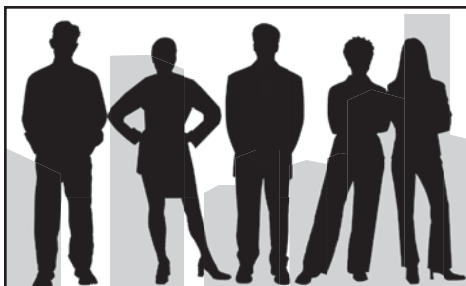
As of Wednesday, June 1, the market reports:

Dow	12380.24	-189.55	(-1.51 percent)
Nasdaq	2798.97	-36.33	(-1.45 percent)

Strong: homebuilding; construction and engineering; oil and gas equipment, drilling, and refining; diversified metals and miners; home entertainment software; auto parts and equipment

Weak: apparel and accessories, personal products, department stores, specialty stores, household products, computer and electronics, office electronics, consumer finance

Source: <http://briefing.com>



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THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

Home prices to decline

Things could get worse before they start to get better

Gary Sandler's
Real Estate
Connection



Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics and one-of-three presenters at the recent National Association of Home Builders (NAHB's) spring 2011 Construction Forecast conference, predicted that home prices will decline another 5 percent over the next 12 to 18 months. If he's correct, the average value of a U.S. home will have declined by 35 percent since 2006. Moody's helps credit markets and credit risk managers measure and manage risk.

What factors are keeping downward pressure on home values?

"The most pervasive is the swamp of distressed properties that builders are forced to compete with in virtually every area of the country," said NAHB chief economist David Crowe.

The estimated 3.7 million homes in which homeowners are at least 90-days delinquent on their loans are pushing prices down, creating negative equity among homeowners. The vast majority of these "upside down" properties will, in turn, be added to the estimated 2.25 million homes currently in foreclosure.

Other factors affecting home prices are "low consumer sentiment and employment rates that are barely off the bottom," according to Crowe. The silver lining in this dark economic cloud is the fact that households are continuing to form at an annual rate of about 750,000 per year. A healthy economy creates about 1.2 million households annually, which

indicates that there's a large shadow inventory of households waiting on the sideline to purchase homes as more jobs become available.

How long will it take until a balance is reached between supply and demand? About three or four years, according to Moody's Zandi. In an interview with Builder Magazine, Zandi noted that he "expects the household formation rate to be even higher than the normal 1.2 million, as pent-up demand emerges."

So what does this all mean to Las Cruces area homeowners?

"They" say that New Mexico in general and Las Cruces in particular are doing better than the U.S. as a whole. In a nutshell, "they" are right, albeit to a point. While nationwide home prices have declined about 30 percent since 2006, Las Cruces area prices declined by about 22 percent. Nationwide, approximately 30 percent of sales are of distressed properties. The same is true for Las Cruces. Las Cruces' unemployment rate in April was 7.9 percent. Nationally, April's rate was 9 percent.

While we are indeed a bit better off than the nation as a whole, local indicators continue to point to a slow and lengthy recovery that will mirror the pace of our national housing recovery - meaning it could easily take another year to 18 months before local prices stabilize.

See you at closing.

Gary Sandler is the president of Gary Sandler Inc, Realtors in Las Cruces and the host of Gary Sandler's Real Estate Connection, broadcast from 4 to 6 p.m. each Monday on KSNM-AM 570. Sandler is a member of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Las Cruces Partnership, and is the 2007 and 2010 recipient of the NM Broadcaster's Associations Talk Show Host of the Year award. Questions or comments may be directed to Sandler at 525-2400 or by emailing gary@garysandler.com.

Las Cruces may be in a double-dip recession

Real estate puts a drag on economy



Chris Erickson
State of the Economy

Las Cruces has hit a slow patch since the beginning of the year. Employment was down in both March and April compared to the previous year. The decline is mild - about a thousand jobs - but troubling as usually at this point in a recovery, rapid growth is expected.

A common definition of a recession when dealing with local data is a 12-month decline in employment. By this definition, Las Cruces is in a double dip. While, I'm hesitant to declare a new recession, the local economy is in a rough spot.

So what is the cause of the current slowdown?

Without hesitation, a major problem is real estate. Having resisted the initial downturn in housing prices back in 2007, our local market is now feeling the full effects of the housing bust. Home prices are down 5.7 percent in the last year, according to Real Estate website Zillow.com. Distressed real estate sales are up, by some measures, running 30 percent of closings. In April, 1-in-every-646 properties was in foreclosure - about twice the statewide rate - but slightly less than the national rate.

The housing bust is also putting downward pressure on retail sales as homeowners seek to make up and rebuild assets by saving more and spending less. Consumers are also finding it hard to borrow against real estate as more and more find themselves upside-down on their mortgage or nearly so.

The state doesn't break out construction employment for Las Cruces, so we can't say

by how much this sector is pulling down employment, but building permits issued by the city are down 18 percent year-to-date.

Military has been a source of local growth, but that has now pretty much played out. In 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission designated Fort Bliss as a major recipient of military units. White Sands Missile Range did well in the BRAC process also. Between 2006 and 2010, the consequence of BRAC has been an increase in local economic growth by about 1 percent per year over what it would have been. The BRAC is now completed. Indeed, the recently announced deployment of 3200 Bliss troops to Afghanistan is a negative.

State funding for both New Mexico State University and Las Cruces Public Schools is down this year and is expected to fall farther next year. NMSU faculty face salary cuts as the state increases the employee contribution for retirement. LCPS indicates that it will cover the increased retirement contribution but has canceled scheduled salary steps and is cutting positions.

The legislature failed to pass the \$240 million capital outlay budget, so state funded construction is down. Several projects at NMSU, for example, were delayed by the failure of the Legislature to act.

Overall government, which accounts for about a third of the Las Cruces economy, has been flat or down since September of last year. This slowdown has been a major drag on the private sector, and the private sector is now in negative territory.

The slowdown in the local economy is likely to be short lived as the construction at the \$400 million Union Pacific diesel refueling station ramps up.

Christopher A. Erickson, Ph.D., is an associate professor of economics at New Mexico State University. He has studied the state New Mexico economy for nearly a quarter century. The opinions expressed here may not be shared by the Regents or Administration of NMSU.

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City of Las Cruces Building Permit Report May 20-27

Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico

Permit #	Permittee	Owner	Project	Address	Value	Permit
20112820	Vista Del Valle	Uma LLC	Com/Alt	1605 El Paseo Road	\$8,000	\$75
20112836	Lucas Robert Roofing	Quinton A. and Kimberly A. Hare	Reroof	4086 Powers Drive	\$7,486	\$72
20112788	Flair Homes Inc.	View Point Acreage LLC	Res/New	5519 Kalahari Lane	\$142,762	\$2,263
20112818	Hakes Brothers Construction LLC	Sonoma Ranch East II LLC	Res/New	4337 Del Prado Way	\$186,960	\$4,097
20112835	Salas Homes	Robert R. and Evangelina C. Carrillo	Res/Add	2359 Terrace Court	\$15,580	\$120
20112829	Hakes Brothers Construction LLC	Sonoma Ranch East II LLC	Res/New	4391 Calle Amarilla Arc	\$175,972	\$4,078
20112848	Scott Wagner Construction	James S. and Rene S. Beck	Res/Add	4807 Calle de Numbes	\$5,000	\$57
20112859	Desert View Homes	NM Lots LLC	Res/New	2820 San Lorenzo Court	\$172,364	\$1,513
20112875	Hakes Brothers Construction LLC	Hakes Brothers LLC	Res/New	7554 Sierra de Luna Place	\$186,960	\$2,338
20112867	GS Roofing	Ming Zhou and Nghi Trieu	Reroof	1210 El Paseo Road	\$24,000	\$169
20112880	DRH Southwest Construction Inc.	Name not required	Res/New	5871 Organ Peak Drive	\$234,602	\$4,179
20112893	GMJ Enterprises	Garry Garcia	Reroof	2606 Crestview Drive	\$3,500	\$48
20112857	Thurston Equity Corporation	P I Holdings No. 1 Inc.	Res/New	4200 Franzia Road	\$160,802	\$4,053
20112858	Desert View Homes	NM Lots LLC	Res/New	4009 Monte Sombra Ave.	\$172,364	\$2,313
20112886	GS Roofing	Guadalupe and Olivia Gardea	Reroof	3699 Calcite St.	\$2,259	\$41
20112881	DRH Southwest Construction Inc.	Ken Thurston Development Corp.	Res/New	4975 Kenmore Road	\$135,956	\$4,010
20112869	Chief Cornerstone Builders LLC	Mark E. and Peggy E. Wiatt	Res/Add	131 Mimosa Lane	\$29,703	\$187
20112868	B & L Roofing Inc.	Jean S. Roberts	Reroof	2208 San Felipe Ave.	\$2,000	\$46
20112897	Hakes Brothers Construction LLC	P I Holdings No. 1 Inc.	Res/New	4246 Cymbaline Court	\$280,030	\$4,256
20112929	Progreen Superior Coating & Roofing Inc.	Roger R. and Estella Apodaca	Reroof	1014 Heather Circle	\$5,800	\$62
20112930	R B Jaquess Construction	Rebecca Frausta	Reroof	1230 Plain St.	\$3,000	\$45
20112885	Sweetwater Homes LLC	P I Holdings No. 1 Inc.	Res/New	4242 Ceres Court	\$245,836	\$4,198
20112882	DRH Southwest Construction Inc.	Ken Thurston Development Corp.	Res/New	4967 Kenmore Road	\$135,956	\$4,010
20112957	Jose Olivares	Jose M. and Bertha A. Olivares	Res/Add	670 Del Monte St.	\$500	\$60

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



Doña Ana County Building Permit Report May 20-27

Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico

Permit #	Contractor	Owner	Project	Address	Permit
36597	Self	Jesus Martinez Jr. and Leticia Weiss	Reroof	5825 Dunlin Drive	\$110
36599	Gilbert & Sons	Robert Santistevan	Reroof	4845 Lamar Road	\$140
36600	Self	Miguel Villalobos	Res/Add	115 Rancho La Mesa Court	\$130
36601	Future-Tech	Robert A. Kirschner	Reroof	4940 Ocotillo Road	\$280
36602	Riviera Homes	Mesilla Bolson Properties	Res/New	101 Apache Brass Circle	\$590
36603	Self	Duane Riggs	Res/Add	226 Rio Viejo Road	\$210
36605	Reyes Construction	Mark and Barbara Quigg	Res/Add	4701 Campbell Road	\$1,086
36607	Self	Gloria and Alfonso Salas	Reroof	5799 Sanderling Drive	\$100

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

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'Farm-to-Table' Dinner and a Movie

Chambers join De La Vega's to host local foods and outdoor fun

Bulletin Staff Report

The Las Cruces Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces and Las Cruces Green Chambers of Commerce will join with De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery to produce a dinner of entirely local foods at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at the restaurant, 500 S. Telshor Blvd. Interested parties are asked to RSVP with the green or Hispano chambers.

Farm-fresh ingredients provided by Maynard Cattle Co. and Los Poblanos Organics will be prepared by De La Vega's Executive Chef Bob Brainard. Entrées will be paired with wines from Rio Grande Winery. The dinner service includes a showing of "Wild Waters," an extreme sports film presented by New Mexico State University's Outdoor Recreation department.

"Diners will have the opportunity to fully experience a meal of fresh, local, seasonal food, knowing that every dollar they spend is staying in our local community," said Renee Frank, president of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce.

The event fulfills the green chamber's dedication to its "Think Local First" campaign and the Hispano chamber's commitment to strengthening rural agricultural communities. Both chambers have been advocates for outdoor tourism activities and sponsors of the NMSU Outdoor Recreation program, and this event is a celebration of the unique elements that make Las Cruces a wonderful place to work, live and eat.

"Guests will get to eat along with the Maynard family, who raised and produced the beef as well as two organic farmers from Mesilla, Charlie Ryland and Emily Detrick, as well as the vineyard owners," said Gabe

Vasquez, executive director of the Hispano Chamber. "This is a unique event designed to showcase local food producers and the Hispano chamber is proud to support local business at every level. Local restaurants and producers keep more money in our local economy, support the families that make up our community and ensure healthier produce on our tables."

The "Farm-to-Table" Dinner and a Movie event will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery. The dinner is \$35 for non-members and \$30 for members of either chamber. To learn more or to RSVP, call the green chamber at 649-7694 or the Hispano chamber at 532-9255. The event is sponsored by the Green Chamber of

Commerce, the Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces, De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery, NMSU Outdoor Adventure, Los Poblanos Organics, Maynard Cattle and Co., the Las Cruces Bulletin and Rio Grande Winery.

The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces, through its diverse membership, advocates for business growth in the community and promotes Las Cruces and Hispanic business owners

through economic development, education, community service and cultural awareness. The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces was initiated in 1992 as the Hispano Chamber of Doña Ana County, and in 1994 incorporated as The Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces. The original founders consisted of a group of businesspersons interested in developing a support organization for small, Hispanic businesses.

The Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, a chapter of the New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce, is a network of businesses dedicated to building a healthy, vibrant and diverse local economy in Las Cruces and the surrounding areas. The mission of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce is to foster the success of the local economy and to promote businesses committed to environmental and social responsibility.

“ Local restaurants and producers keep more money in our local economy, support the families that make up our community and ensure healthier produce on our tables. ”

GABE VASQUEZ,
Hispano Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces executive director

Studies show that vegetables can lose up to 45 percent of their nutritional value by the time they land on the grocery store shelf. This loss is simply the length of time it takes for the vegetables to arrive. Embracing and supporting the agricultural community, not only strengthens the local economy, but it decreases the amount of time that it takes to get fresh produce onto tables.

"De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery believes in the Think Local First slogan and keeping business within our town as much as possible," said Ashley Springer, marketing director for the Pecan Grill and Brewery. "Chef Bob Brainard will be carefully preparing this special menu to showcase each company's locally grown products. We are incredibly excited to work with such wonderful and unique organizations and the opportunity to host something fun, tasty and original in Las Cruces."

Teaming up with Sandia

National labs encourage small business collaboration

By **Monica Abeita**

Regional Development Corporation for Northern New Mexico Connect

Members of Española Valley's Santa Cruz Irrigation District (SCID) believed they needed to invest in an expensive sediment trap to maintain the capacity of their reservoir.

Sedimentation had filled more than a third of the reservoir, resulting in water rationing and a shorter growing season for the more than 3,000 farms that depend on its water. With help from a leveraged project through the New Mexico Small Business Assistance Program, the district learned that sediment was coming from multiple sources rather than just one. It is now pursuing plans to build several smaller, less expensive traps.

"NMSBA prevented us from making a costly investment that would not be effective and offered better alternatives to benefit the farmers," said Kenny Salazar, orchard owner and board chairman of SCID.

The New Mexico Small Business Assistance Program – a joint project of Los Alamos and Sandia national laboratories and the State of New Mexico – provides free technical assistance and expertise from scientists and engineers to New Mexico small businesses facing challenges with testing, design and access to equipment or facilities. While individual businesses can request assistance anytime, the program annually considers leveraged projects involving multiple businesses with a shared problem that is too large or complex to solve in an individual project.

Small businesses can submit a pre-proposal for leveraged projects through Friday, July 8. The proposal should explain the problem, identify what expertise NMSBA offers that can't be found in the private sector at reasonable cost and the expected economic benefit to the businesses.

Building a better airplane

In 2010, under the leadership of Vibrant Corporation, four Albuquerque aviation companies used a NMSBA leveraged project to adapt a testing process used in the automotive industry. The team suspected that Process Compensated Resonance Testing (PCRT), traditionally used to test the strength of metal car components, would provide better stress detection for airplanes at lower cost.

Sandia National Laboratories compared known good and bad engine turbine blades using the aviation standard and PCRT. David Piotrowski from Delta Airlines and Sandia's Kirk Rackow, Mike Bode and Justin Newcomer reported the results to the Federal Aviation Administration and applied for an "Alternative Means of Compliance" to allow all airlines to use PCRT.

Vibrant now inspects turbine blades with PCRT, and Delta Airlines' TechOps – the nation's largest commercial aircraft maintenance company – is implementing the process for stress detection. The FAA recognized TechOps and Vibrant with an award for helping to develop a sensitive, reliable and cost-effective model for inspection and testing.

As a result of the NMSBA project, Vibrant has expanded its market, and partner companies Mechtronic Solutions Inc., Firore Industries and ZTEC Instruments are realizing commercial benefits.

"The ability to work directly with Sandia's aerospace experts has helped us to better understand our market and the opportunities it holds," said Len Hunter of Vibrant.

Businesses interested in applying for a leveraged project should visit the NMSBA website at www.nmsbaprogram.com and follow application instructions. For more information, contact Lisa Henne at 505-667-1710 or henne@lanl.gov, or Jenni Degreiff at 505-844-9623 or jldegre@sandia.gov.

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, go to www.finance.newmexico.org.

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Community members honored for building a better Las Cruces

Nonprofits continue to serve southern New Mexico and are rewarded for hard work

Courtesy of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM) recognized those who are making a difference in the community at their annual meeting, appropriately titled Building Community by Building Philanthropy.

The Community Foundation Rio Grande Awards honored individuals and nonprofits making a difference in the lives of others in southern New Mexico. Seven nonprofits, individuals and businesses were honored at the June 2 event.

Of the 34 nonprofits the CFSNM works with and supports, Mesilla Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) received the Rio Grande Award for Excellence in Youth Advocacy.

"This award recognizes excellence among all nonprofit agencies that speak out and up for children when children need a special advocate to protect their interests," said Karen Bailey, vice president of the CFSNM Board of Directors. "The recipient of this award has demonstrated leadership in growing an organization to provide resources, ensuring every child in foster care has a safe, supportive and permanent home."

The Spay and Neuter Action Program (SNAP) received the Rio Grande Award for Excellence in Sustainability. The organization has been successful in planning for the future while providing quality services that are accessible and affordable to people who need it now.

"This award recognizes those nonprofits that have endured and grown during economically hard times. They have a message that resonates with the public in a way that supports their growth," Bailey said.

The Rio Grande Professional Advisor of the Year award recognized a professional advisor who has made a significant impact on the CFSNM. Alan Gluth of Gluth Law was honored for the guidance he provided the Healthcare Foundation of Southern New Mexico (HFSNM) as they went through January's merger with the CFSNM. In addition, Gluth helped the

CFSNM set up the new Family Foundation Fund and provided in-kind expertise to the CFSNM.

The Rio Grande Award for Excellence in Human Services award was presented to Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village for excellence in human services by supporting peace, comfort and compassion. The organization is a leader in the commitment to make all stages of life as meaningful as possible.

The Rio Grande Award for Volunteer of the Year went to Donna Tate for her lifetime achievements that have made a significant impact on the CFSNM. Tate, as well as her husband Tom, has been instrumental in raising funds for the CFSNM and SpringBoard!, a fund for women by women in the CFSNM. She has also worked as chair of the CFSNM Development Committee.

"Anything Donna is involved in she takes on as a serious task and puts her full attention to it. We are fortunate in Las Cruces to have an individual like Donna to help make our community a better place," Bailey said.

In addition to the Rio Grande Award, the CFSNM presented the Salud Award and Mountain Fund Award for volunteer of the year.

The Salud Award was created to honor an individual who has demonstrated significant and outstanding concern for health care in the community. Abel Covarrubias, who was unable to attend the meeting because he was on a humanitarian mission in Nicaragua, was honored with the award. In November 2005, Covarrubias founded a local organization that provides comprehensive speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy services. His efforts have led to increased awareness of autism and services

available to parents that help their children attain their highest potential.

John Hilton Lyman created an endowment to recognize an outstanding volunteer at the annual meeting of the CFSNM, and this year's Mountains Fund Award was presented to Diana Seward for her generous gifts of time. Seward was the HFSNM's president and spearheaded the merger with the CFSNM. She now

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is dedicated to helping the southern New Mexico community now, and in the future. Founded in 2000, the Community Foundation offers opportunities for local people who want to give back locally. The beauty of the foundation is that you need not be wealthy to make a positive difference in the lives of people throughout our area. Through the establishment of permanent funds you can sustain local charitable organizations, provide scholarships to area students and fulfill wishes that are close to your heart. Through our planned giving programs, you can honor loved ones or leave a legacy that benefits the people of Southern New Mexico for generations to come. The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico can advise you on how best to maximize contributions, no matter what size. For more information see our website at www.cfsnm.org or call Luan Wagner Burn, Ph.D., at 521-4794. To donate, mail your check to CFSNM, 301 South Church St., Suite H, Las Cruces, NM 88001.



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On the Agenda

First Friday with the green chamber

Share your thoughts with the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce Membership Services Committee from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 3, at The Bean, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla. The membership services team wants to hear from the community. For more information, call 649-7694.

Date: Friday, June 3
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: The Bean
 2011 Avenida de Mesilla
Contact: 649-7694

LCAR discounts class for students

The Las Cruces Association of Realtors Education Committee is offering an "Intro to Green Building" class to any student in the Las Cruces area. This class is being held from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, June 3, at LCAR, 150 E. Idaho Ave. and will be taught by Bob Treece. For more information, call 524-0658.

Date: Friday, June 3
Time: 1 to 5 p.m.
Location: LCAR office
 150 E. Idaho Ave.
Contact: 524-0658

Redistricting advisory committee meeting

The Doña Ana County Redistricting Advisory Committee has scheduled a public meeting to solicit public input on proposed redistricting maps for all five Doña Ana County commission districts.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 3, in the Commission Chambers of the Doña Ana County Government Center, 845 N. Motel Blvd.

Residents who are unable to attend the meeting can view the proposed maps online at www.donaanacounty.org/development/redistricting. Public comment can be made in person at the meeting or by email prior to the meeting at input@donaanacounty.org.

Redistricting is the process of redrawing commission boundaries after a decennial U.S. Census to ensure equal commission representation.

The committee will work with the county's consultant to develop redistricting proposals for consideration by the Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners.

The Redistricting Advisory Committee is comprised of two registered Democrats (Jo Galvan and Peter Ossorio), two registered Republicans (Harold Foreman and Philip Banks)

and one representative of a minor party (Independent John Smith).

For more information, call 525-5801.

Date: Friday, June 3
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Doña Ana County Government Center
 845 N. Motel Blvd.
Contact: 525-5801

Wine tasting for philanthropy

The Young Philanthropists of Southern New Mexico invite the community to a wine-tasting event from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 5, at De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery, 500 S. Telshor Blvd. Cost is \$15 per person, and Young Philanthropists members who bring a guest get in two-for-one. For more information, visit www.cfsnm.org.

Date: Sunday, June 5
Time: 1 to 3 p.m.
Location: De La Vega's Pecan Grill and Brewery
 500 S. Telshor Blvd.
Contact: www.cfsnm.org

Gen M Summer Science and Art Institute

The Court Youth Center invites incoming sixth through eighth graders to a two-week, hands-on exploration of the integration of science and art from 8:30 a.m. to noon June 6-10 and 13-17. There is a \$5 materials fee and optional aftercare until 5:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces for an additional registration/membership fee. For more information, call 541-0145.

Date: June 6-10, 13-17
Time: 8:30 a.m. to noon
Location: Court Youth Center
 402 W. Court Ave.
Contact: 541-0145

June Business on the Border

NASA test and Evaluation Contract (NTEC) Program Manager Keith Beck of Jacobs Technology Inc., will be the featured speaker at the June Business on the Border Luncheon held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. The meeting will begin with a hot entrée buffet followed by a brief update by MVEDA staff. Luncheon cost is \$20 per person, payable by cash, check or major credit card. Due to space limitations, reservations are required. Please confirm your attendance no later than Friday, June 3, by sending an email to rspv@mveda.com or calling the office at 525-2852. The meeting is open to the public.

Date: Tuesday, June 7
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces
 705 S. Telshor Blvd.
Contact: 522-2852

Rotary's Taste of Las Cruces

If you are looking for a new place to dine, come to the annual Taste of Las Cruces hosted by the Rotary clubs of Las Cruces. This year's event will take place from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. The cost is \$35 per person, which includes an admission fee and samples from 24 local restaurants. Proceeds of the event will go to local food programs at Jardín de los Niños and Casa de Peregrinos. Tickets are available in advance at American Classifieds, 580 S. Valley Drive, Suite 100, or at the door. For more information, call 524-1022.

Date: Thursday, June 9
Time: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Las Cruces Convention Center
 680 E. University Ave.
Contact: 524-1022

Healthy Woman

Join the women of Las Cruces to celebrate "Real Women, Real Lives," for the third anniversary of Healthy Woman with Keynote Speaker Dale Smith Thomas from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road. For more information, call 556-7665.

Date: Thursday, June 9
Time: 4 to 8 p.m.
Location: New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum
 4100 Dripping Springs Road
Contact: 556-7665

Vista College Career Fair

Computer Career Center, a division of Vista College, will host its Spring Career Fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at Vista College-Las Cruces, 850 N. Telshor Blvd. Vista College is looking for interested employers looking to hire part- and full-time positions to participate in their career fair, at no cost.

Fore more information, call 556-1083 or email ejeffries@vistacollege.edu.

Date: Thursday, June 9
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.
Location: Vista College-Las Cruces
 850 N. Telshor Blvd.
Contact: 556-1083

Briefs

WSMR to host 2,000 testers and evaluators

Beginning Monday, June 26, the U.S. Army will begin large-scale testing of 30 different systems and networks at White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss. The Network Integration Evaluation (NIE) will bring together 3,800 soldiers from Fort Bliss' 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division with 2,000 soldiers, government employees and contract personnel from WSMR, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood and other installations.

Army agencies will test and evaluate the 30 different systems while the soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division use the systems in various tactical scenarios throughout WSMR and Fort Bliss. The testing operations will take place 24 hours a day Monday through Friday each week. During the weekend, Fort Bliss soldiers will return home, however, the majority of the 2,000 testers and evaluators will remain in area hotels.

Because of the influx of military and contract personnel, the communities of Las Cruces, El Paso and Alamogordo can expect increased business in area hotels, rental car companies, restaurants, grocery stores and convenience stores, as well as an increase in business to businesses, such as FedEx Office and copy centers around the WSMR area. The testing and evaluation will also cause an increase in military vehicle traffic on the roads between WSMR and Fort Bliss and an increase in regular vehicle traffic around the WSMR entrance points and Las Cruces.

The NIE will run through July 15. The Department of Defense plans to host the NIE on a semi-annual basis in the future. For more information about the NIE, contact the WSMR Public Affairs Office at 678-1134.

Unemployment report card

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Las Cruces MSA was 7.9 percent in April - little changed from April 2010 level of 7.8 percent, but down 0.4 points from last month's 8.3 percent. Over the month, the Las Cruces economy lost 600 jobs, of which 500 were in the private sector and 100 were in the government sector.

Preliminary April data showed construction, up 100, as the only private-sector industry to add jobs, while five others lost

a combined 600 jobs and five reported no change. The largest loss came in professional and business services, which was down 200 from its March level. Retail trade, financial activities, educational and health services and miscellaneous other services each lost 100 jobs. Manufacturing; wholesale trade; transportation, warehousing and utilities; information; and leisure and hospitality each remained unchanged over the month. Among public-sector components, state government posted a 100-job decline, while federal and local government employment remained at their March levels. Over the year, the Las Cruces MSA recorded a loss of 1,100 jobs, much of which was due to a large and atypical March to April decline of 600 jobs. The private sector registered a loss of 900 jobs, while government totaled a decline of 200. State government was flat over the year, but the local and federal levels were each down 100 jobs. The decline in federal government was likely due, at least in part, to the completion of census activities last year. Similarly, local government employment was likely impacted by the expiration of stimulus funding.

Spaceport America issues Visitor Experience RFP

The New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA) has issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Visitor Experience for Spaceport America, announced Christine Anderson, Executive Director of the NMSA.

The RFP calls for services in the following areas: attraction and exhibit development, visitor facilities design, marketing and branding, fundraising/sponsorship development and

Continued on following page

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Profile

Mark Westbrook: Giving solar incentives a voice

Las Cruces speaks up for solar and Positive Energy customers

By **Samantha Roberts**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Solar in New Mexico is booming. Tax incentives, rebates from electric providers and other aspects are motivating businesses and residents to install solar panels, reducing their carbon footprint and putting a few extra bucks in the bank, but why are El Paso Electric Co. customers rewarded to a greater extent in New Mexico than Texas?

Some would say it's because southern New Mexico has 350 days of sunshine a year, but one of the reasons is because someone has worked for these incentives and his name is Mark Westbrook.

Westbrook is a partial owner of Positive Energy Solar, a New Mexico-based solar company that allows employees to buy into the company after one year of employment. The company, founded in 1997, currently has three principal owners and twelve employee owners.

"I have a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of California Santa Barbara and master's degree in biology from Wake Forest University, but in graduate school I really started to get interested in climate change and the effects it has on the world," Westbrook said.

While in college, Westbrook said he worked with his wife Theresa to make a diesel truck run on vegetable oil and has been hooked on sustainability ever since.

"I decided I wanted to work on the solutions instead of just documenting the effects," he said.

To pursue this new career path, Westbrook started taking night classes to learn more about electricity and residential wiring, while working in a lab studying the carbon cycle at the University of Michigan. Wanting to continue his education, Westbrook researched schools that provide solar-related degrees and said he discovered the best school was in Farmington, N.M., providing an associate's degree in renewable energy.

In 2006, Westbrook moved to Las Cruces with the goal of working for a solar company.

"There were zero solar companies in Las Cruces at the time," he said, "so I decided to talk with Randy Sadewic (a co-owner of Positive Energy Solar) and see if he was interested

in bringing the company to Las Cruces. As it turns out, they had been talking about opening something up here so it worked out well."

The original Las Cruces office was out of Westbrook's house, and he said he was still working in Santa Fe one week out of the month to get all the proper training.

"Selling solar was more difficult at the time," he said. "There were only 12 grid-tied systems in El Paso Electric's territory and no (Renewable Energy Certificate) incentives, which meant payback on a new system was about 23 years."

With this lengthy payback time, Westbrook said the only people buying solar were the ones who were very enthusiastic about environmental benefits. Despite the limited incentives, Westbrook said the company installed 12 new systems in its first year, doubling the amount of solar systems in EPE's territory.

"We still found people and managed to be

successful," he said. "We moved into our new office (2050 W. Hadley Ave.) in July 2009, and now have eight full-time employees in the Las Cruces office. Positive Energy has also grown with us; they went from six to 42 employees."

Today, there are more than 300 solar systems in the area and several solar companies provide service to the region.

"Now, people are not just motivated by the environment, but also other incentives," said Westbrook, adding that he has worked to make those enticements a reality. "The incentives got better, but things really changed in 2008."

In July 2008, PNM, the largest electric provider in New Mexico, was giving solar customers 13 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Also in July 2008, EPE proposed a 3 cents per kWh "incentive" to solar clients.

"When I heard about the proposal, I thought, 'What can I do to change this?' I knew I wanted

to intervene," Westbrook said. "I studied (Public Regulations Commission) protocols, and because I didn't have the funds to intervene as a business because you legally have to have an attorney, I represented myself as a citizen."

Westbrook said he presented a payback analysis to the courts that requested 15 cents per kWh. After cross-examinations and arguments from lawyers, Westbrook said the judge ruled in his favor on the basis "Westbrook was the only person to use logical quantitative methods in his argument."

Later, a committee set the rate at 13 cents per kWh, which Westbrook said he saw as a huge victory.

"That alone cut payback time on solar in half," he said. "It made solar an even more viable resource, and things started to shift."

Westbrook went back to Santa Fe on behalf of solar consumers in New Mexico in 2009 and 2010 to lobby for a higher rate.

"This is going to go on for a while," he said. "El Paso Electric is going to propose a lower rate, and if no one intervenes, then they get what they want. In 2009 and 2010, I was the only one to intervene."

In 2009, EPE asked to lower the rate from 13 cents per kWh to 10 cents per kWh. Westbrook was again successful in his attempts and a compromise was made at 12 cents per kWh. In 2010, EPE proposed lowering the rate again to .098 cents. They were unsuccessful, and the rate remained 12 cents per kWh.

Westbrook said the next solar boost New Mexico received was additional tax credits in 2010, lifting a previous cap the government had set on solar incentives.

"Some people still get that warm fuzzy feeling from using solar, but I have had some clients that also see it as purely a good financial investment," he said. "The payback is less than 10 years, and the panels are under warranty for 25 years."

Following the same philosophy in both life and business, Westbrook said one of his favorite aspects of working with solar is working for Positive Energy.

"They are what I believe in," he said. "One of the most important things we need to be concerned about is climate change. It is nice to work for a company where I can provide a tangible solution to that problem."

"Positive Energy Solar focuses on the triple bottom line – people, planet and profit. It feels really good to have those values as your business foundation. I gravitated to Positive Energy because of those standards among other things."

Details

Mark Westbrook

Solar PV System Designer & Installer,
ER1J Manager-Las Cruces branch

Family

Wife Theresa



Education

- Bachelor's degree in zoology, University of California Santa Barbara
- Master's degree in biology, Wake Forest University
- Associate's degree in renewable energy, San Juan College

Organizations

- NABCEP Certified Solar PV Installer
- Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce board member

Website

www.positiveenergysolar.com

Contact

- 524-2030
- mw@positiveenergysolar.com

Briefs

Continued from previous page

market research services. Complete details are contained in the RFP issued and posted on the Spaceport America website, under the "Proposals" tab, at www.spaceportamerica.com/proposals/spaceport-rfps/visitor-experience.html.

An optional pre-proposal meeting and a site visit to Spaceport America have been scheduled for this RFP for Thursday, June 9. Details can be found in the RFP.

For more information, visit www.spaceportamerica.com.

Business owners encouraged to follow sign code

The Las Cruces Codes Enforcement office is reminding business owners that the display or flying of more than one

corporate flag at any one address is prohibited pursuant to the municipal sign code. The city's sign code, which includes ordinances for advertising signs, flags and pennants for businesses, states that only one corporate flag can be displayed per business. A display of more than one flag with logos or advertising messages is not allowed. The American flag, decorative flags and banners may be displayed on private property as long as they follow accepted flag protocol and do not interfere with public safety.

For more information, call 528-3222.

Save the Date

The 2011 Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Classic Golf Tournament sponsored by Farm Bureau Financial Services will be held Friday, Oct. 7, at the new Las Cruces

Country Club. Morning and afternoon flights are available as are sponsorship opportunities. The cost is \$450 per team. For more information, contact Alesia Dutton at 541-9444 or adutton@lascruces.org.

Vote Las Cruces No. 1

The Las Cruces Farmers & Craft Market ranked No. 9 in 2010's top farmers markets in the nation. The market missed a tie for eighth place in the nation by one vote and the No. 7 spot by two votes. Make sure this doesn't happen again. Help make Las Cruces No. 1 by voting for the Las Cruces Farmers & Craft Market at http://action.farmland.org/site/PageServer?pagename=best_local_farmers_market_vote. Voting begins at 10 a.m. For more information, call Eric Montgomery at 541-2288.

Business After Hours at the Las Cruces Convention Center

Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce photos

Becky Horner of March of Dimes talks with David Hicks, general manager of the Las Cruces Convention Center, at Business After Hours hosted at the Las Cruces Convention Center Thursday, May 27.



Dr. Bobbie Wallin of Healing Source Chiropractic, Laura Szalay of Keller Williams Real Estate and Elke Wunderlich of TopView Leadership discuss local businesses.



Davin Lopez of the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance and Sonya Rue of Memorial Medical Center catch up.



Glen Cerny of KRWG-TV/FM and Ken Hoeksema of LifeSupport Medical get a taste of the taco buffet.

Sasha Ogas of Farm Bureau Financial Services and Eric Montgomery of the City of Las Cruces network.



Mike Stolp of SunTech Services, Mellow Honek of Sunspot Solar Energy Services and Tracy Reed of RT Electric discuss the Chamber programs.



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In Good Company: Pioneer Bank

Leading banking with a smile

Pioneer Bank works toward customer service

By **Samantha Roberts**
Las Cruces Bulletin

How many companies can say they have celebrated a 110th birthday? Pioneer Bank is in this exclusive group, and Market President Kiel Hoffman said the company has devoted its 110 years to southern New Mexico, expanding to parts of Colorado and Texas.

“Customers for Life” is the bank’s philosophy, and Hoffman said he encourages all of his employees to implement this attitude by greeting every single customer who walks through the door with “hello” and a friendly smile.

“All of our employees are so personable, and someone will always say ‘hello,’” Hoffman said. “We also encourage people to remember people’s names, but we really push the greeting.”

Though Pioneer Bank has kept the small-town feel, the

company continues to expand and has 17 retail branches as well as three mortgage loan offices. The bank employs 212 people companywide, and 29 people work at the location on East Lohman Avenue.

In addition to the pleasant greetings, Hoffman also said his employees are involved in the community and believes that is a vital asset to a business.

“Almost everyone that works here is involved or sits on some board in Las Cruces,” he said. “Pioneer Bank also sponsors several events, with March of Dimes being our biggest.”

Hoffman said the Pioneer Bank team holds traditional fundraisers, such as bake sales, car washes and setting personal goals for the organization.

“This year, every employee set a goal of \$100, and I think it’s safe to say we had a 92 percent success rate within our group and raised almost \$9,000,” he said.

Hoffman has been with Pioneer Bank since July 2004 and said last year, despite the hard economic times, was one of the bank’s most successful years.

“I don’t think it’s because how we reacted to the recession, I think it’s because what we did before the recession,” Hoffman said. “We are a local bank, and we know our community. We made smart decisions about lending, so we were able to avoid the giant problems by not creating giant problems.”

While smaller banks have their benefits, they also have their drawbacks, but Hoffman said technology has helped even the playing field.

“To break that stereotype, I think we need to embrace the stereotype. No, we can’t do everything a big bank can, but we offer 90 percent of what they can offer and more,” Hoffman said. “The big guys work great, until there is a problem and a customer wants to talk to someone. Here, you can always talk to

“We are a local bank, and we know our community.”

KIEL HOFFMAN,
market president,
Pioneer Bank



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Samantha Roberts

Pioneer Bank stands on customer-service values and Market President Kiel Hoffman said employees greet clients with a smile and a warm welcome.

someone about a problem.

“Technology has been great, and we are about to implement online banking from your phone, which is pretty cool. The (caveat) is that you have to be willing to adapt to technology and change with it, which can be expensive for smaller businesses who have to work harder to keep up.”

In the future, Hoffman said he sees prosperity for Pioneer Bank because the company vows to keep things free that should be free.

“New laws and fees are being implemented that have caused big banks to increase prices,” Hoffman said. “For example, I have a friend that has online checking with a big bank and she was charged \$9 just to cash a check at the teller even though she banks with them. We believe those kinds of things should be free, and we make a profit in enough ways to not charge. That’s our competitive advantage.”

Pioneer Bank has locations at 3831 E. Lohman Ave.; 705 E. University Ave., Suite A; and 2900 Roadrunner Parkway. For more information, call 532-7500.

Details

Pioneer Bank

Address

3831 E. Lohman Ave.
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday

705 E. University Ave.

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday

2900 Roadrunner Parkway

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Phone

532-7500

Website

www.pioneerbnk.com

Ag secretary announces goals

Jeff Witte is ready to start working for agricultural



Bulletin Staff Report

Jeff M. Witte, who took over his duties as the director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture May 16, started out by announcing his goals.

“One of my goals is to enhance our connections with our agriculture industry and consumers around the state to let them know what NMDA is doing, what we have to do,” Witte said. “Currently, we are dealing with a water challenge from an agricultural stand point. I can’t make it rain, but, hopefully, by working with our agencies we can make sure we have sound water policies in place to get adequate water to farmers so they can produce their crops.”

Witte was raised on a ranch in northern New Mexico and has been active with agriculture producers throughout the state.

“I have also worked in the regulatory environment here at NMDA, so I am hitting the ground running,” he said.

Witte also serves as an agricultural cabinet secretary with Gov. Susana Martinez.

“I will be the voice for New Mexico agriculture, so working with the governor and our congressional delegation is going to be important for the success of our agriculture sector,” he said. “Agriculture in New Mexico is big business. The

agricultural economic revenue in the state is an estimated \$6 billion annually.

“We have a staff dedicated to serving the citizens of New Mexico, whether it’s through consumer protection consumer protection or programs, we offer to support our state’s growers, producers and processors. Many of our marketing programs have already helped introduce New Mexico food products into hundreds of markets throughout the United States and internationally.”

Witte is a graduate of New Mexico State University with a bachelor’s degree in agricultural business management and a master’s degree in agricultural economics and economics.



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	<p>2004 Pontiac Grand Am V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AC, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, Dual Air Bags, Anti-Lock Brakes, All Power, Alloy Wheels! (Used #G374A. \$5,565, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	<p>2006 Chrysler Sebring V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, Dual Air Bags, Anti-Lock Brakes, Alloy Wheels, All Power! (Used #P10210A. \$6,450, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	<p>2003 Chrysler Town & Country V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, Dual Air Bags, Anti-Lock Brakes, Alloy Wheels, All Power! (Used #P10359A. \$6,450, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	<p>2003 Buick Regal V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, Dual Air Bags, Anti-Lock Brakes, Alloy Wheels, All Power! (Used #G374A. \$7,250, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	<p>2006 Kia Sportage V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, Dual Air Bags, Anti-Lock Brakes, Alloy Wheels, All Power! (Used #P103835A. \$8,950, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>
<p>2005 Chevrolet Malibu V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, Dual Air Bags, Anti-Lock Brakes, Alloy Wheels! (Used #P10435. \$9,950, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	<p>2007 Chrysler Sebring Best Test Certified, V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AC, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, All Power, Alloy Wheels! (Used #P104725. \$8,850, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	<p>2009 Hyundai Accent Best Test Certified, 4Dr, Automatic, AC, AM/FM Stereo, Cassette, CD Player, Tilt Wheel, Cruise Control, Alloy Wheels! (Used #P102485. \$10,050, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	<p>2005 Dodge 1500 V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AC, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, All Power, Alloy Wheels! (Used #P1299A. \$10,350, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	<p>2003 Chevrolet Tahoe V6, 4Dr, Automatic, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Tilt Wheel, Dual Air Bags, Anti-Lock Brakes, All Power, Alloy Wheels! (Used #P10428. \$10,750, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>	
<p>2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer Best Test Certified, 4Dr, Automatic, AC, AM/FM Stereo, CD Player, Cruise Control, Anti-Lock Brakes, Tilt Wheel, All Power, Alloy Wheels! (Used #B10288. \$10,750, \$30 Down, 72 months @ 3.5% APR, OAC. Tax, title license & dealer transfer service fee additional)</p>					

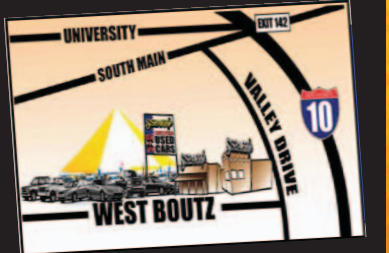


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Artist makes the old new again
C3



Not just another predictable flick
C7



KCK adds flair to traditional dishes
C8



A kung-fu hangover
C18

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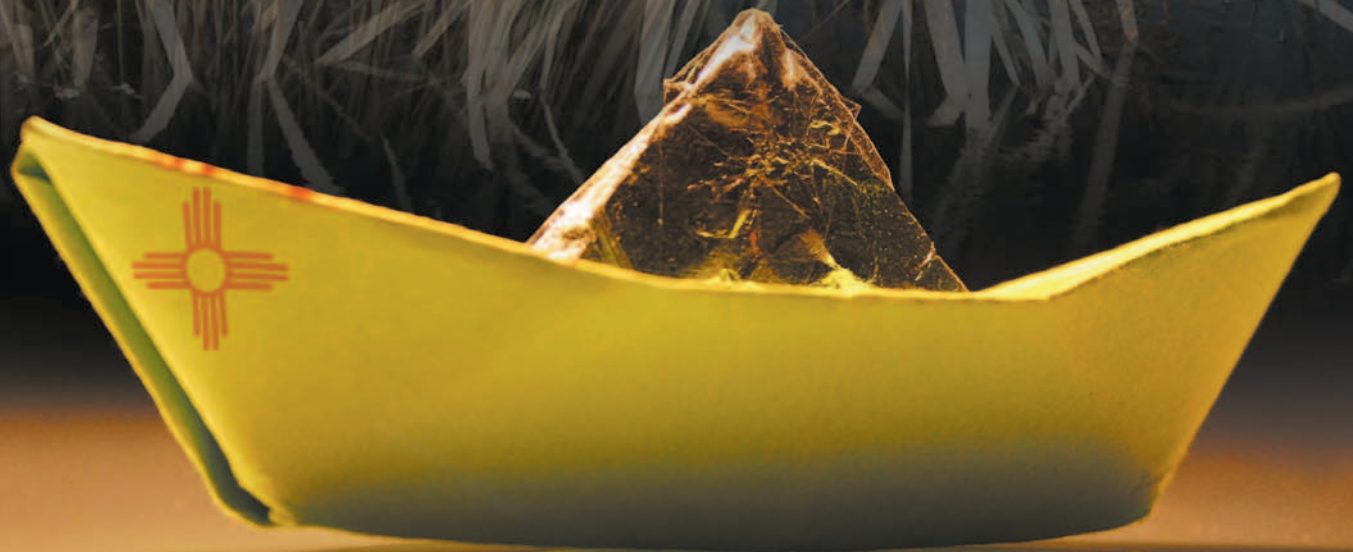
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NEXT WEEK

Girls Night Out

Ladies, leave the boys at home for the third annual La Casa fundraiser Friday, June 24

Raft THE Río



ANNUAL HOMEMADE-BOATING
EVENT SHIPS OFF JUNE 11

Conquering the 'Big River'

Rafters to craft some crafty raft crafts

By **David Edwards**
Las Cruces Bulletin

There is something romantic – childhood fantasy fulfilling – about rafts and water.

Maybe it was Huck and Jim floating down the mighty Mississippi that caught our fancy. Or perhaps it was the Swiss Family Robinson – lashing barrels together in order to make it to the island where they would survive for years – whose story we read over and over as children. It could have been a castaway FedEx executive, who along with his trusty volleyball companion, finally builds a raft and makes for the open ocean.

What chance do we have in Las Cruces to satisfy that primitive urge to build and float on a watercraft created from discarded materials?

For the 14th year, the Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) will be providing all you down-the-lazy-river dreamers with a chance to do just that at the annual Raft the Rio Saturday, June 11.

While the crews of the expected 160-plus rafts will be having a great time, the real purpose of the SWEC program is to promote the river itself.

"We want to get people out on the river itself," said Lauren McDowell, Raft the Rio coordinator. "We want to bring about an awareness that not only is the river a valuable source of fun, but there are so many ecosystems there. We want people to appreciate the Rio Grande

as a valuable resource for the community other than agricultural water."

Rafters are encouraged to use discarded or recycled materials in constructing their rafts, minimizing the purchase of new materials for construction. At its core, Raft the Rio has an environmental spirit.

A fairly high percentage – around 60 percent – are repeat rafters and approximately 500 individuals will be on the river. While everyone gets excited about the event, McDowell said she is surprised that many don't know SWEC sponsors the event and aren't very attuned to the group's mission.

"One of our biggest struggles is spreading the word about our mission – who SWEC is and what we do – while people are out there having a blast," she said.

SWEC is taking care to emphasize there should be plenty of water. The river is expected to be full as irrigation water is being released from Caballo Reservoir between June 1 and June 5.

The family-friendly event is open to individuals and teams of all ages. There are two divisions – kids and open. Prizes will be awarded in both divisions. To be eligible for the kids division, at least half the sailors on a boat must be under 13 years of age.

In previous years, children 12 and under were required to wear personal flotation devices as per New Mexico law. But since there are no motorized craft – they are not permitted in the contest – all participants are being required

“One of our biggest struggles is spreading the word about our mission ...”

LAUREN MCDOWELL,
Raft the Rio coordinator

Raft the Rio

When

8 a.m. registration begins
10 a.m. Kids division race begins
10:15 a.m. Open division race begins
Saturday, June 11

Where

On the Rio Grande beginning at La Llorona Park beneath the Picacho Avenue bridge
Crews may register at the starting line or in advance at Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main St.

Cost

\$10 per crew in advance
\$20 per crew on race day
\$5 per crewmember (after the first two) 13 years of age and up

Call

522-5552



to wear life jackets. Jackets will be available to rent for a reasonable fee on site in case rafters don't have access to one.

The safety of rafters is a prime concern. So a number of entities coordinated by Fire and Emergency Management services, which has brought together 15 groups from the Mounted Patrol to the Doña Ana Sheriff's Office will be on hand to assist the SWEC safety volunteers if needed.

"It really is a communitywide event," McDowell said. "It starts in the city, goes into Fairacres, then the county and ends up in the town of Mesilla. It is a great opportunity to those organizations to work together."

The course is three miles in length and finishes just upstream from the Calle del Norte "Mesilla" Bridge. There will be refreshments, food vendors and live music provided by the Robyn Rivas Band at the finish line.

Prizes will be awarded around 2 p.m. to homemade boats in the following categories:

- First to finish
- Least likely to finish (must be floating at

start of race)

- Best use of recycled materials
- Most spirited (most enthusiastic crew)
- Best theme (most thorough application of a theme to vessel and crew)
- Champion of the river (best promotes appreciation for the Rio Grande)

"While we do give a prize to the raft that finishes first, it's not really about winning the race," McDowell said. "It's more about creativity and the spirit of the event. Most people's favorite category is 'least likely to finish.'"

"The program isn't to make money – we just want to break even. We still couldn't do this without the help of our sponsors."

As a final reminder, McDowell re-emphasized that Raft the Rio is a program of the Southwest Environmental Center whose mission it is to protect wildlife and wild places in the Southwest borderlands.

Drifting back into romantic imaginings, drifting along on a self-made raft – I'm wondering if I attached a sail to my blue recycling container, do you think I could get it to float?

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Featured artist: Meredith Loring

Her art is pure 'fabric-ation'

Creativity is cut from usually recycled cloths

By David Edwards
Las Cruces Bulletin

Meredith Loring has been sewing since age 6, but stopped making her own clothes when she discovered thrift stores. Now she takes extra large blouses she buys at Goodwill, or the material or craft supplies she comes across while working as a volunteer at the Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and uses them to create her art.

In the collages and mixed-media pieces she does, one might find – in addition to cloth – wallpaper, a shoulder pad or a stick scavenged from a window blind.

"I try to use recycled or re-purposed materials whenever possible," she said. "There may have been two occasions when I have specifically gone out and bought a piece of material for a specific piece."

Loring never expected to be a visual artist, despite creating eye-pleasing clothes and costumes over the years.

"I always thought I would be a writer or a musician," she said.

She came to Las Cruces in 1977 to attend graduate school at New Mexico State University – in biochemistry. She ended up with a career as a technical writer, from which she is now retired.

According to Loring, "Being retired is a lot more work than working. You have to decide what to do at every moment."

There was a time when what she decided to do was sell craft items at the Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market – things she made using items such as dried flowers and yucca pods. She also created something she called a totem wand from sticks, feathers, leather and stones. At one point she also had an antiques business, with a spot at Small Mall Antiques on West Picacho Avenue.

"That's one of the things I do over at the ReStore, is keep an eye out for antiques that might come in," she said.

One of Loring's first opportunities connect her sewing abilities with art came a little more than 10 years ago when she designed costumes for the No Strings Theatre Company's production of "Angel Street." The Victorian-era dress she created for the main character out of thrift store finds was a show-stopper.

"Ceil Herman (No Strings Theatre's artistic director) gave me my first opportunity to exhibit my art work in the theater gallery at the Black Box Theatre," Loring said. "It actually sold, so I thought I must be doing something right."

Loring began focusing more on her art – which she refers to as "free range" – about five years ago and really does it just for fun.

"I had heard about using a sewing machine as a freehand 'painting' device. Then I saw a show at a gallery in Arizona that was devoted entirely to that," she said. "I told myself, 'I can do that.'"

She started doing appliqué, extremely detailed work for a first attempt, and while she still uses that form her techniques – everything from fabric "restructuring" to freehand machine embroidery – are in constant flux. She said, "nothing is ever the same. Every single piece is an experiment of some kind." Using fabrics and other materials in new and different ways, she "coaxes" them into the desired form.

One of her newest ventures involves using a crepe pan. She creates a design on the fabric using colored wax – essentially crayons – secures it using an embroidery hoop and applies the heated pan to fuse the design to the cloth. She can then embroider around the design or add other materials as desired.

Loring occasionally uses the real world for inspiration – trips she and her husband have taken to Russia or Alaska for example – but she prefers to create a still life from her imagination. Flowers and plants are some of her favorite subjects. Sometimes she bases her work on a piece of "fun" fabric that she comes across in her stockpile.

She enjoys developing pieces based upon themes that are requested for local shows. One recent show asked for work based on a weather theme. What popped into Loring's mind was a colorful weather "map" with a frontal system moving through it.

While she does sell her work, making money from her art is not the ultimate goal.

"I show stuff because it's a part of the process – a communication," she said. "There are artists who hide their stuff behind

Details

Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery

Where
2470A Calle de Guadalupe
Mesilla

Phone
522-2933

Hours
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Saturday
Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday



the refrigerator and never show it to anyone. To me, the process isn't complete until somebody sees it.

"One thing I have been thinking about lately," she continued, "is that throughout my life I've been drawing, sketching and so forth. And while I never expected to be a visual artist, when I look back I've always been doing things like that just for my own pleasure. Why I decided to 'go public,' I don't know."

Her "audience" is glad she did. Meredith Loring exhibits at the Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery and is a member of the Las Cruces Arts Association.

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DOWNTOWN
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UPCOMING EVENTS	
FRI.+SAT. JUNE 3+4	9+10 A.M. Rhythm Roundup – Music/Movement for 1-3 Branigan Library
FRI. JUNE 3	11 A.M. People & Stories. Short story reading/discussion Branigan Library
FRI. JUNE 3	5-7 P.M. Downtown Arts RAMBLE Downtown
FRI. JUNE 3	5-7 P.M. Sandi Ciaramitaro, exhibit through June EP Electric Gallery
FRI. JUNE 3	530-7 P.M. Literary Open Mic, Auditorium, followed by Comedy Improv by the Ad-Liberaces Rio Grande Theatre
FRI. JUNE 3	8 P.M. LCCT Gala Night: A Touch of Spring, Avanti! Las Cruces Community Theatre
FRI.+SAT JUNE 3+4 (SUN JUNE 5 @ 230PM)	8 P.M. No Strings Theatre Co presents "Boom" Black Box Theatre
SAT. JUNE 4	130-330 P.M. Fetch! LC Museum of Natural History
MON. JUNE 6	All Day Registration for Summer Reading Programs for kids through 5th grade & kids in 6th-12th Branigan Library
MON. JUNE 6	1 P.M. "Teas from Around the World" First of the special programs to go with Adult Summer Reading Branigan Library
MON. JUNE 6	7 P.M. Library Game Night Branigan Library
TUE. JUNE 7	1030 A.M. Read to Me! Storytime for children ages 3 & Up Branigan Library
TUE. JUNE 7	2 P.M. Babysitting Know How: 1st of 4 pts (12-18 yrs) Branigan Library
WED.+THU. JUNE 8+9	10 A.M. Toddler Time – Storytime for ages 1-3 Branigan Library
WED. JUNE 8	11 A.M. Mother Goose Time – program for babies (birth-13 mos) & their caregivers Branigan Library
WED. JUNE 8	2 P.M. Read Around the World stories & crafts ages 7-11 Branigan Library
WED. JUNE 8	11 A.M. Books to Movie–shows movies made from books Branigan Library, Roadrunner Room
THU. JUNE 9	2 P.M. Summer Screen. Movies for kids. Branigan Library

ONGOING EVENTS:

- Downtown Arts RAMBLE - 1st Friday of the Month 5-7pm
- Camino del Arte - 2nd Saturday of the Month 11am-3pm
- Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market - Wed. and Sat. Morn.

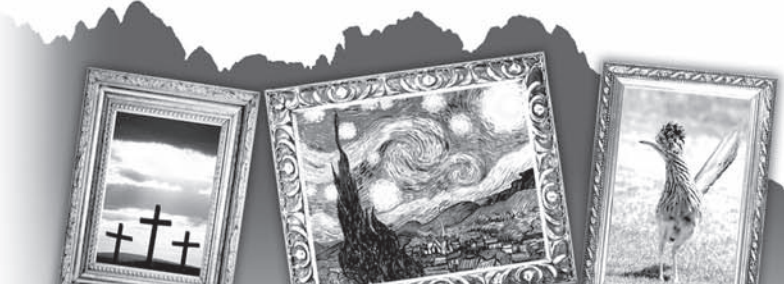
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Staying busy this summer

City's museums offer an array of actives for all ages



**Cheryl
Fallstead**
Foundation for
Las Cruces Museums

While the calendar doesn't say so quite yet, school's out and Memorial Day has passed, so in my book, that means summer's here.

Summer is a great time to enjoy the many offerings of the four museums operated by the City of Las Cruces. Come out of the afternoon heat and enjoy exhibits, talks, workshops, camps and more.

June brings "Cuentos del Camino Real," the works of Roberto Salas, and "Recovered," an exhibit of photographs by Yanick D'Hooge, to the Branigan Cultural Center on the north end of the Downtown Mall. They will open during the Downtown Ramble from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 3.

Three exhibits will also open during the Downtown Ramble at the Museum of Art, right across the courtyard from the Branigan. Come see "Lost Connections" by Monique Janssen-Belitz; "lived:living" by Jordan Schranz and Isadora Stowe; and "Clay and Smoke" by Sandria Hu. All three exhibits run

through Aug. 6.

Both museums offer visitors more than their exhibits. The Museum of Art has summer studio programs, a monthly Reading Art Book Club that meets at 2:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month, and free Family Art Adventures for kids ages 6 to 12 at 10 a.m. Saturday morning.

At the Branigan, enjoy a talk about famed-artist Georgia O'Keeffe at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 9, presented by Stacy Schultz as part of the monthly History Notes Lecture Series. Kids can enjoy the free Magic Carpet Story Time at 11:30 a.m. Saturday mornings.

Families will want to sign up for the June 15-16 piñata workshop, which is \$8 per person with pre-registration required. These two museums are open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Kids will especially enjoy the city's other two museums: Natural History and Railroad. If you haven't seen "Disease Detectives" at the Museum of Natural History in Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd., hurry over this

“ Families will want to sign up for the June 15-16 piñata workshop. ”

weekend, as it ends June 5 for installation of the new traveling exhibit, "A Forest Journey," a hands-on exploration of the forest biome, which open June 18. This museum offers a very wide range of additional activities for people of all ages. The Natural History Museum is open daily.

Back Downtown, explore the Railroad Museum with its Centennial Caboose at Las Cruces Avenue and Mesilla Street. It is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and features many interesting exhibits on railroading history. It also offers a book club with a railroad theme at 11 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month, plus numerous family activities and a monthly Brown Bag lecture series at noon the second Tuesday of the month.

All the city museums are supported by the nonprofit Foundation for Las Cruces Museums. For more information about being a member of the Friends of the Las Cruces Museums or to consider applying to become a member of our board, visit www.flcm.blogspot.com.

For more information on the four city museums, visit www.las-cruces.org/museums.



"Recovered," an exhibit of photographs by Yanick D'Hooge, will open at the Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St., as part of the Downtown Arts Ramble. An artist reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. where guests can view her paintings, such as this one titled "Naked 13," and meet the artist.

The Music Scene

Featured venue: *Cattleman's Steak House*

Local restaurant has people singing

Cattleman's Steakhouse provides undiscovered entertainment

By **David Edwards**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The "back room," otherwise known as the banquet room, at Cattleman's Steakhouse has a history.

It has at times been a disco, dinner theater and even a venue for touring artists. I saw Keith Carradine there back in the 1970s. For those who don't remember or are not familiar with Carradine's work, the actor — a member of the Carradine acting clan — is also a singer and songwriter. His song "I'm Easy" was performed in the 1976 film "Nashville." He won a Golden Globe and Oscar for "Best Original Song" for the tune.

The room is a great performing space and has been dolled up in the past few years and is a part of Cowboy Jim's (owner Jim McMullan) Saloon and Grill. It is also the scene for a growing open mic night every Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. Acoustic musicians can sign up beginning at 6:30 p.m. and can perform up to three songs.

The open mic night is the brain-

child of Jerry Phillips of Mountain Music, which co-sponsors the weekly free event. Phillips, along with McMullan and his wife Mary and manager Sallie Clifford, decided to give it a try for six weeks. It has extended well beyond that and its popularity continues to grow.

The evening begins with a highlighted player, selected by Phillips, who does a half-hour set. Then those who have signed up have their turn in the spotlight. Musicians range from those with professional experience to amateurs who may have never been in front of an audience before. But even if they miss a few notes or forget the words, the crowd is very supportive and encouraging.

The fact that the room is separate from the bar also helps create a space without the normally distracting noise that comes from a place busy serving drinks and food. While there is no cover charge to listen, the servers at Cattleman's take care of the open mic room as well as the audience.

Phillips runs the professional set-up with its stage lighting and sound system, microphones and PA. He often conducts some small giveaways to participants. The Cattleman's experience is a bit different than some of the other open mics in town because it eliminates the white noise found in other venues — people are there to hear the music not talk to each other.

Cattleman's also has a live band in the banquet room every other

“ Cattleman's also has a live band in the banquet room every other Friday night. ”

Details

Cattleman's Steak House Cowboy Jim's Saloon and Grill

Address
3375 Bataan Memorial West

Phone
382-9051

What
• Acoustic open mic
6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Wednesdays
• Live music
7 to 11 p.m.
Every other Friday night

Friday night from 7 to 11 p.m. Lately the band has been Larry Knight and the Spur Ride Band. There is ample room dancing.

Top 10 singles Tuesday, May 31

- Rolling in the Deep**
Adele
- Give Me Everything**
Pitbull featuring Ne-Yo, Afrojack and Nayer
- The Edge of Glory**
Lady GaGa
- Party Rock Anthem**
LMFAO featuring Lauren Bennett and GoonRock
- I Love You This Big**
Scotty McCreery
- The Lazy Song**
Bruno Mars
- On the Floor**
Jennifer Lopez featuring Pitbull
- I'm On One**
DJ Khaled featuring Drake, Rick Ross and Lil Wayne
- Super Bass**
Nicki Minaj
- Born This Way**
Lady GaGa

Top 5 albums

- Born This Way (Bonus Track Version)**
Lady GaGa
- 21**
Adele
- This is Country Music**
Brad Paisley
- American Idol Season 10: Scott McCreery**
Scott McCreery
- Torched**
Foster the People

Source: iTunes

Galleries & Openings

LAST CHANCE

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY will host "Disease Detectives" through Sunday, June 5. "Disease Detectives" is an interactive exhibit that explores infectious diseases. Visitors can study three cases of illnesses represented by mannequins. They can learn how to examine each patient by taking temperatures, listening to hearts, lungs and other internal organs, and assessing symptoms in order to determine what's making them sick. Then, visitors can analyze test results and try to trace the origins of the microbes at the root of their patients' illnesses.

The Las Cruces Museum of Natural History is next to JC Penney inside Mesilla Valley Mall. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 522-3120.

OPENING

LAS CRUCES MUSEUM OF ART presents three summer exhibitions from Friday, June 3-Aug. 6. An artists' reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 3, during the monthly Downtown Art Ramble. Music will be provided by the Dan Lambert Trio.

"Lived:living" is a collaborative exhibition by Las Cruces artists Isadora Stowe and Jordon Schranz, and features intimately scaled paintings. Monique Janssen-Belitz's "Lost Connections" is comprised of paintings and drawings of swirling color. "Clay and Smoke" is an exhibition of Sandria Hu's paintings and prints that were inspired by her travels both in the United States and abroad. The Las Cruces Museum of Art is located at 491 N. Main St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 541-2137.

THE MAIN STREET GALLERY presents new works by Linda Gendall, Fred Chilton, Nancy Frost Begin, Margaret Berrier, Kelley Hestir, Tomi LaPierre and Marie Siegrist through the month of June. All works are for sale, and the gallery will be participating in the Downtown Art Ramble Friday, June 3. The gallery is located 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.

QUILLIN STUDIO AND GALLERY features one of its own for the month of June. Sally Quillin will be exhibiting her sunflowers, complete with waves of brilliant and vibrant color. The gallery is located at 317 N. Main St. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call 312-1064.

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

presents "Summer Dreaming," a new show provided by the members of the City of Artists Promotional Association through September. The show features works in glass, wood, metal, photography and fine painting that evoke the beauty of summer. Artists showing are Pat Bonneau-White, Greta Burger, Rebecca Courtney, Joe Dominick, Penny Duncklee, Les Fairchild, Susan Frary, George Matthews, Sandra L. Marshall, Hetty Smith and Kurt Van Wagner. The gallery is at 2825 N. Main St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call 526-6126.

UNSETTLED GALLERY will host Bob Buggert and OR-DiMa's exhibits with an artists' reception at from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 4. Buggert's exhibit "What About Bob?" is the result of a body of work produced over the past year as he worked with Las Cruces artist OR-DiMa. OR-DiMa's exhibit "Drawings Inspired by a Percussionist Named Bob" consists of his traditional washes on paper incorporating subtle variations in the wash and ink that hint at his subject matter. Unsettled Gallery and Studio is located at 905 N. Mesquite St. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Call 635-2285 or email unsettledgallery@aol.com.

BRANIGAN CULTURAL CENTER presents "Recovered," an exhibit of photographs by Yanick D'Hooge. The exhibition opens Friday, June 3, and concludes Saturday, June 30. An opening reception with D'Hooge will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 3.

The Brangian will also host "Cuentos del Camino Real," the works of Roberto Salas. The exhibition opens Friday, June 3, and concludes July 30. An opening reception with Salas will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 3. The Branigan Cultural Center is located at 501 N. Main St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 541-2155.

TOMBAUGH GALLERY hosts Mesilla Valley Fractal Artists during the month of June. The show will begin Sunday, June 5, with an artists' reception from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Mesilla Valley Fractal Artists are a group of women artists who enjoy making and showing the magical art of the fractal universe. Current members of the Mesilla Valley Fractal Artists are Liz King, Maria Kruse, Kathy Logan, Katja Mayfield, Jan Thune, Teri Van Huss and Alice Ward. A selection of the work of Sherrill Patterson, an honored member who passed away this year, will also be included. The gallery is located

at 2000 S. Solano Drive. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Call 522-7281.

MESILLA VALLEY FINE ARTS GALLERY

will feature two local artists during the month of June. Joyce Ann Key is a versatile artist who works in watercolor, oil, acrylics and pastels. She has been labeled a "prolific" artist, having the ability to switch from one media to another. The gallery also announces the most recent member, photographer Lydia Gentile. In addition, the 30 artists of the gallery offer art in many media which include original paintings, fused glass art jewelry, photography, handmade cards, decorative gourds, stained glass, 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.

RIO GRANDE THEATRE GALLERIES

will display Arizona artist Sandi Ciaramitaro in the El Paso Electric Gallery during June. Ciaramitaro works in several different media, including pastel, acrylic and watercolor. An artist reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 3. Also included that evening will be the regular Literary Open Mic in the Rio Grande Theatre auditorium from 5:30 to 7 p.m., followed by comedy improv by the Ad-Liberaces. The Rio Grande Theatre galleries are located in the lobby of the historic Rio Grande Theatre at 211 N. Main St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 523-6403.

ONGOING

THE CUTTER GALLERY presents "21 - The Border Artists Come of Age," a Border Artists and KRWG FM benefit show. The duo will collaborate in their fourth fundraiser art exhibition for southern New Mexico's National Public Radio Station. The gallery is located at 2640 El Paseo Road. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Call 541-0658.

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

will present "Milford Zornes: California Watercolorist" exhibition, featuring works from the collection of Robert and Mary Culpepper through July 22. The gallery is located in D.W. Williams Hall on the NMSU campus. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 646-2545.

PRESTON CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

hosts an international photography exhibition through Aug. 27. A total of 28 photographs from 23 photographers are included in the show.

Gallery Spotlight



"Tile and Djon" by Julie Ford Oliver is on display at the M. Phillip's Gallery.

M. Phillips Fine Art Gallery

M. Phillip's Fine Art Gallery offers contemporary Russian and older European art. Patrons can peruse and purchase sculptures, antiques and paintings.

When Max and Gail Bleiweiss opened the gallery in 1996, they wanted to offer high-quality art at a competitive price and make it readily available to the public. The art offered at M. Phillips is usually only found in major art markets, such as London, New York or Santa Fe. Most of the artists exhibited are represented in European and Russian museums.

If you're curious about the name of the gallery, Phillip is Max's middle name.

In addition to offering some of the finest art in southern New Mexico, Gail Bleiweiss also teaches music in the same building at Studio A-440, where students learn violin, piano, cello, trumpet and voice.

Her son Mark Bleiweiss spends countless hours scouring the globe and making deals to buy the art at a discount. His day job is related with art, crafting gilded wood name plates and lettering by hand for art galleries all over the world.

While the gallery does feature some Southwestern art, the Bleiweiss' wanted to offer something a little different. Mark Bleiweiss explained that most of the collection has a personal taste and unlike most galleries, they own the majority of the work - it's not on consignment.

The gallery brings another exhibit through Aug. 27, featuring works by Dan Olfe, textile; Nolan Preece, camera-less photography; Jeffrey Turner, metal sculpture; John Westmark, painting; and an outdoor sculptural installation created by the Desert Fish Collaborative.

An additional gallery exhibit features works by Kevin Box, metal sculpture; Craig Dongoski, drawing;

Fran Hardy, painting; and Suzanne Kane, ceramic sculpture. The art will be exhibited through Saturday, June 25. The Preston Contemporary Art Center is located at 1755 Avenida de Mercado. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 523-8713.

DOÑA ANA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER is hosting a new student art

Address

221 N. Main St.

Contact

Mark Bleiweiss 525-1367

Hours

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday;
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesday;
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Now Showing

F. Luis Mora, Albert Lorey Groll, Michael Stack, Richard Satava, Henri Chapu

Website

mphilipsgallery.com

show with more than 50 pieces of original student artwork from the Las Cruces Public Schools installed in the first-floor corridors. The exhibit includes paintings, etchings and drawings. The artists range from elementary students to high schoolers. The Doña Ana County Government Center is located at 845 N. Motel Blvd. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

When?
June 6 - June 10
6PM - 8:30PM

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Vacation Bible School

for ages 4 - 11

Morning Star United Methodist Church
2941 Morning Star Drive @ Roadrunner

For more information, please call **575-521-3770**

EventsCalendar

FRI. 6/3

10 a.m. Storytime, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Free. Call 522-4499.

5 to 7 p.m. Downtown Arts Ramble, along Downtown Main Street. Area galleries host receptions and open new exhibits. Free.

5 to 7 p.m. Artist reception, Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St. Free. Call 541-2154.

5 to 7 p.m. Artist reception, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. Free. Call 541-2137.

6 to 9 p.m. Live music, Amaro Winery, 402 S. Melendres St. No cover. Call 527-5310.

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.

7 to 10 p.m. Live classic country music by Larry Knight and The Spur Ride Band, Cattleman's Steakhouse, 3375 Bataan Memorial West. Cost \$5. Call 649-6175.

7 p.m. Mimbres-Paquime Connection, Las Cruces Event Center, 522 E. Idaho Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The mixer is for singles over 45 years old and is non-alcoholic. Cost \$5. Call 680-6515.

7 p.m. Fundraiser performance, Mikey's Place,

3100 Harrelson St. Folk singer Patricia Morrison will be performing as part of a fundraiser for the Taskforce for Immigrant Advocacy and Services for Southern New Mexico. Cost \$10-\$50. Call 640-3869.

SAT. 6/4

8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Las Cruces Farmers & Crafts Market, Downtown Main Street. Wide variety of arts and crafts, food, fresh produce, unique fine art and much more. Free. Email fcmarket@las-cruces.org.

10:30 a.m. Storytellers of Las Cruces, COAS Bookstores, 317 N. Main St. and 1101 S. Solano Drive. Loni Todoroki will be the storytellers at the Downtown location, and Jean Gilbert 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.

1:30 p.m. CineMatinee "Elvis Has Left the Building," The Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle De Guadalupe. Cost \$1-\$4. Call 524-8287.

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. 6/5

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday Growers Market, Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo Road. Featuring local vendors. Free. Call 523-0436.

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. Cost \$10. Call 680-6515.

3 to 7 p.m. Open Mic, Blue Moon Bar, 13060 N. Highway 185. Free. Call 647-9524.

MON. 6/6

9 to 10 a.m. Coffee and networking, Las Cruces Event Center, 522 E. Idaho Ave. Every Monday morning the coffee pot or tea is ready. Help get your business off to a good start for the week. Free. Call 680-6515.

10 a.m. Yarn Junkies meeting, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Meet to 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. Snack bar available. Cost \$10. Call 680-6515.

5:45 p.m. Project in Motion ballet class, The Gin, 430 N.



This painting by Jordan Shranz will be on display at the Las Cruces Museum of Art. An artist's reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 3, at the museum, featuring Shranz and other local artists. Music will be provided by the Dan Lambert Trio.

Compress Road. Cost \$35. Call 208-4413.

6 p.m. Music in the Park, Apodaca Park, 801 E. Madrid Ave. La Cella Bella and Sounds of Brazil will be playing. Free. Call 541-2200.

7:15 p.m. Project in Motion aerial fabric class, The Gin, 430 N. Compress Road. Cost \$65. Call 208-4413.

TUE. 6/7

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.

shared. To participate, bring a portable craft. Free. Call 525-1625.

THU. 6/9

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.

6:30 p.m. Living it up in Las Cruces, LCAR Building, 150 E. Idaho Ave. Learn how to look and feel great with Arbonne's vegan, soy-free and gluten-free nutritional products. National VP Jammi Sivadon from Tulsa, Okla., will present. Call 425-233-9082 or email lauralsmart@comcast.net.

7 p.m. Bingo, Las Cruces Event Center, 522 E. Idaho Ave. Doors open one hour before the games begin. Cost \$10. Call 680-6515.

7 p.m. Lecture Series: The Story of the New Mexico Pecan Industry, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Richard Heerema, an extension pecan specialist at New Mexico State University, will talk about how pecans have made their way from the forests of Texas and Oklahoma to the Mesilla Valley, and how New Mexico became a leading producer of pecans today. Cost \$2. Call 522-4100.

8 to 10 p.m. Big Band Dance Club, Las Cruces Country Club, 2700 N. Main St. Dance ballroom, swing and Latin style. Beginners, singles and couples are welcome. Must be 21 years or older. Dress code. Cost \$7-\$9. Call 526-6504.

Playbill

Opening

A Touch of Spring, Avanti!
Las Cruces Community Theatre
313 N. Main St.
523-1200
\$7-\$10
Opens Friday, June 3

Continuing

Boom
No Strings Theatre Company
Black Box Theatre
430 N. Main St.
523-1223
\$7-\$10
Through Sunday, June 5

Play Me

Boba Cabaret
1900 S. Espina St.
647-5900
\$10-\$27.50
Select dates through Saturday, June 11

Coming Soon

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
No Strings Theatre Company
Black Box Theatre
430 N. Main St.
523-1223
\$7-\$10
Opens Friday, June 24

Temple Beth-El of Las Cruces
invites you to a very special event:
The Southwest Jewish Art Festival



Sunday, June 12
3 to 7 p.m.
3920 Sonoma Springs Ave.

Enjoy a wide selection of paintings, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry and fiber art. Plus champagne and a selection of traditional Jewish foods for your "noshing" pleasure.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling 524-3380 or 521-7311.

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AtTheMovies

New spin on 'loser returning home' story

'The First Beautiful Thing' director leads audiences through winding tale

Review by **Jeff Berg**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

The first beautiful thing you may notice about "The First Beautiful Thing," a superb comedy-drama, is that it is not your typical "loser-comes-home-to-see-dying-parent" movie.

No, it's not like that at all. Rather, it is a finite look at a man who is wondering if his somewhat tawdry lifestyle is really all that bad and if it is due to his upbringing.

The film opens with a long flashback – much of the rest of the film is also done this way, but to great effect, which is unusual – to a bucolic summer fair, where young Bruno, his father and sister watch as his mother wins a low-budget beauty contest. His joy is hidden, since his father is jealous and furious – for reasons that we learn later – and his sister is somewhat indifferent.

Through other flashbacks and flash forwards, director Paolo Virzi leads the audience through this arty, sometimes funny, sometimes serious and warm film, allowing for the fact that it might be hard for Bruno to be a likable fellow.

In fact, he is not, at least not at first. Soon we are privy to the grown up Bruno, a wayward adult, a teacher at a local school and a man who is in denial about his drug problem. He's not down and out, but he is certainly close to the breaking point with his bad habits, which help create tense relationships.

Back to the past again, and we learn that Bruno's dad is an abusive lout, one who respects no one and nothing, and it is not long before Anna (the mom) is fleeing for a better life with Bruno and his sister Valeria in tow. And good riddance to the local smarmy villagers as well.

The film moves carefully and gently back to the present again, as Valeria has come to inform Bruno that their mother, now in an attended care home, is not going to live much longer. He needs to come see her – now.

From here, the story easily skips back and forth, following Anna and her fry on their new life and adventures, some good, some bad, occasionally blending in an often uncomfortable



"The First Beautiful Thing," now playing at the Fountain Theatre in Mesilla, isn't a typical reunion movie.

scene with their father. Anna herself grows stronger in her new life, sealing herself off from the past, but advancing to the future, and always keeping her fresh and independent spirit alive and available to her kids. But is she really there for them emotionally?

The memories for Bruno become more vivid and frequent as he arrives at the home.

Although ill, Anna is still up and about, and certainly not above giving orders to anyone who gets in her way. She is strong and determined, and men still pursue her, even though she has just had her 10th dose of chemotherapy. Nothing seems to keep her down.

Bruno remains

another story. Sour and cynical, it is not until the last part of the film that he becomes a character that is somewhat likable. As with most of those who are in denial about substance abuse of any kind, they also "use" everyone around them in one way or another.

"The First Beautiful Thing" manages to skip past most of the normal clichés of a "reunion"

movie. It is refreshingly honest in its presentation, not to mention well photographed and acted.

It is also a movie you should definitely see, and not just because it was Italy's entry for the 2010 Best Foreign Language film.

Jeff Berg, jeffberg@lascrucesbulletin.com, is a movie reviewer, not a critic.



CalltoArtists

AUDITIONS FOR "THE 39 STEPS"

No Strings Theatre company announces auditions for "The 39 Steps" at 7 p.m. Sunday, July 31, at the Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Main St. Needed are three men (ages mid-20s and up) and one woman (mid-20s to mid-40s). Two of the men and the woman will be playing multiple roles. Auditions will be cold readings from the script. A perusal copy of the script is on reserve at the Branigan Library. The scheduled production dates for "The 39 Steps" are Sept. 16-Oct. 2 with the possibility of extending a fourth weekend to Oct. 9 if audience response warrants. For more information, call 523-1223.

LOS ARTESANOS GALERÍA ART SHOW

Los Artesanos Galería is hosting its third annual Benefit Art Show to benefit Relay for Life of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County June 11-12. All artists are welcome. For more information, email Greta Burger at

gburger321@gmail.com or Jan Escalante at janesc248@gmail.com.

SET ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Assistant director/stage manager, lighting technician, sound technician and stagecraft volunteers are needed to assist the director for "Online" by Alan Riehl to be performed at Mikey's Place. All proceeds will benefit Mikey's Place. For more information, email melissachambers1111@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL ACTORS

An audition will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Black Box Too, 717-A N. Mesquite St. for The Actors Showcase & Music Too. Showcase dates are 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 26. For more information, call 521-6261.

RENAISSANCE ARTSFAIRE

The Doña Ana Arts Council's 40th annual Renaissance ArtsFaire, featuring approximately 180 artist booths is a juried arts show and the jurors select participants exhibiting only the

highest quality arts and crafts. Artists are wanted in all categories and applications must be received no later than Friday, July 15. For more information, call the Doña Ana Arts Council at 523-6403. For more information, email infodaac@daarts.org or apply online at www.las-cruces-arts.org.

NEW HORIZONS SYMPHONY

The New Horizons Symphony Orchestra is seeking musicians, particularly strings and brass players. For more information, contact manager Millie Conrad at 522-5571 or millieconrad@aol.com.

INK WRITER'S FESTIVAL

The 2011 Creator's Ink Writer's Festival is coming to the Court Youth Center Saturday, Nov. 19. The festival showcases published and non-published writers to get them connected. It's open to authors, poets, songwriters, playwrights, screenwriters and comedians who write their own material, etc. There will also be workshops throughout the year and support

'Elvis Has Left the Building' returns to the movie theater

Live show by Elvis tribute artists to take place following flick

The CineMatinee for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4, is "Elvis Has Left the Building" (2004, 90 minutes, rated PG-13 made in New Mexico). After the screening, Elvis tribute artist Bud Sanders will give a live performance. This is a special event and will have a different admission price.

Harmony Jones (Kim Basinger) saw Elvis Presley in concert when she was a child, and the event had a profound impact on her, as she communicates with the youthful spirit of the "King of Rock 'n' Roll" on a regular basis. However, Harmony has notoriously bad luck with Elvis impersonators, who tend to drop dead when she's around. After accidentally running into a carload of Elvis tribute performers, Harmony abandons her career selling cosmetics door to door and hits the road, hoping to outrun the lawmen who are now on her trail. As Harmony roams the highways, she meets Miles Taylor (John Corbett), a lawyer from New York City trying to escape some troubles of his own. Directed by Joel Zwick, who made the surprise hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," "Elvis Has Left the Building" also stars Annie Potts, Sean Astin and Billy Ray Cyrus (www.allmovie.com).

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 for this series has a New Mexico "connection," drawing from the vast pool of movies made in the state or perhaps featuring a star or story from New Mexico talent.

Unless otherwise noted, screening time is 1:30 p.m., and admission is \$4 for everyone except film society members who are admitted for \$1. The theater is located at 2469 Calle de Guadalupe. For more information, call 524-8287 and leave a message.

groups. Experts are needed in each field to volunteer their time for a one-hour workshop on the day of the event. All proceeds will benefit the Court Youth Center and Mesilla Valley CASA. For more information, email Alan Rieh at alanriehl@hotmail.com.

EL CAMINO REAL PAINTOUT

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association and the New Mexico Watercolor Society are hosting "Paintout!" where artists are asked to photograph or portray art in El Camino Real. Selected works submitted to the Southern Chapter of the New Mexico Watercolor Society will be part of a juried centennial exhibition slated for May 2012.

For more information, contact Jean Fulton at 528-8267 or jeanfulton@earthlink.net.

Cheers all around at the SNM Wine Festival

La Viña Winery winemaker Guillermo Contador pours a taste of black cat Muscat at the 2011 Southern New Mexico Wine Festival held at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds Monday, May 30.

Photos by Niki Rhynes

Anna Ochoa pours cherry sangria at the Rio Grande Vineyards & Winery booth.



Sandra Henderson grabs a sample of HENDY'S Salsa.

Rudy and Sarah Lopez try to decide which wine to try next.



Marketing Representative Brittny Arnold poses in front of the many varieties offered from Wines of the San Juan. The winery owned and operated by the family is located east of Farmington.



Join us for art, culture, entertainment and more at this Friday's Ramble! June 3, from 5 to 7 p.m.

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RestaurantGuide

Flour gorditas, I presume Put KCK Family Kitchen on your map

By **David Edwards**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Once in a while, one gets a chance, as a writer, to let folks know about something new – or at least something to which one has not previously been exposed.

The sign along Solano Drive by the Krystal Kar Wash – an unlikely place for a restaurant – had intrigued me from the first time I noticed it some months ago.

I read, “Flour Gorditas.”

How could that be? A gordita is a little, fat, deep-fried corn patty stuffed with meats, cheese, lettuce and tomato. What’s the deal with a “flour” gordita?

I found out when I ventured into KCK Family Kitchen – and I “discovered” a couple of other things as well.

KCK has been open just since January 2011, and it was a dream come true for owner and chief cook Patricia Estrada, who was laid off from her previous job and started selling food out of her home to help make ends meet.

She found out about the location’s availability and relatively inexpensive rent, and decided to take a leap of faith. The name KCK comes from the initials of each of her three daughters’ first names – Karla, Claudia and Karina – and it is a

family-operated business to be sure.

Claudia – who really wants to be a speech therapist – recalled coming home from school and having her mom break the news that she was going to open a restaurant.

“I asked her if she was serious. When? Where? How?” Claudia (The “Big C” of KCK) said. “But we got the loan and here we are.”

KCK is starting to get a reputation for freshly made homestyle Mexican food, and they try to have some items that no one else has – those flour gorditas for example.

They consist of a 4- or 5-inch-long, one-half-inch-thick, homemade (could it be anything else?) gordita stuffed with green or red chile meat, chicharron, brisket or beans and cheese. Absolutely terrific, and the chile of either denomination has a great flavor and kick.

The flour gordita plate comes with three of the delicious devils and rice and beans – you can mix it up with different stuffings. That’s exactly what I did during that first outing. Girlfriend got the brisket flautas ahogadas – a tomato-ish sauce that is slightly sweet.

My mom’s cousin and his wife from San Angelo, Texas, were here for a visit, so the next day included a trip to KCK. A party of

seven descended on KCK around noon-time, and since they don’t use a microwave, there has to be some thought and organization to assure dishes come out at the same time. More gorditas, tacos, enchiladas were had and enjoyed by all. Uncle Bill even had a plain old hamburger.

I say “plain old” because there is a Mexican burger option on the menu, which I ordered the following Monday when lunch buddy and I invaded. Urged to serve them by one of the daughters, it is a third-pound of fresh ground beef, American cheese, avocado, mayo, mustard and – get this – ham and a weenie. Outstanding. It came with hand-cut French fries and a grilled jalapeño that set me free.

In addition to the burger, I got to sample lunch buddy’s chile rellenos and it was the best I have had in a while. This leads up to my trying something from the breakfast menu – served until 10 a.m.

I have had huevos rancheros many times, but never like the ones at KCK. The two eggs go on top of the three fried corn tortillas but instead of salsa, they are smothered with an asadero cheese and green chile sauce. One more of those “I-ain’t-seen-nothing-like-that” items I was feeling good about “discovering.”

Who knows? There may be some other surprises hidden among the other traditional Mexican dishes – menudo (Saturdays only), caldo, shrimp cocktail, Mexican hot dogs, tortas and homemade horchata.

Details

KCK Family Kitchen

Address
150 S. Solano Drive

Phone
526-4525

Hours
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday



Las Cruces Bulletin photos by David Edwards

Patricia Estrada of KCK Family Kitchen and daughter Claudia

it's really happening.....



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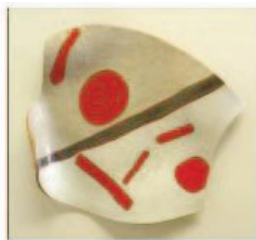
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www.las-cruces.org/museums City of Las Cruces



Las Cruces Community Theater
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Food, wine & beverages with the cast and your fellow theatregoers included in the price of your ticket!

AVANTI!

Written by Samuel Taylor

June 3 - 19

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RestaurantGuide

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Tuesday: All day \$3 beers
Wednesday: Sakeinis \$4

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(Inside Hotel Encanto)
532-4277
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Friday: Live sushi station and live entertainment martinis and sushi roll specials

Cattleman's Steak House
3375 Bataan Memorial West
382-3375
Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Food and drink specials
Live entertainment every other week
Every Wednesday night is Open Mic Night

Cattle Baron
790 S. Telshor Blvd.
522-7533
Monday through Friday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Discounted drink specials and complimentary food bar.

Chilitos
3850 Foothills Road
532-0141
2405 S. Valley Drive
526-4184
Monday through Friday, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., \$2 Domestic Beers

Dublin's Street Pub
1745 E. University Blvd.
522-0931
Monday through Friday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., \$1 off domestic pints & well drinks
1/2 off select beer of the day

High Desert Brewing Co.
1201 W. Hadley Ave.
525-6752
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Different lunch specials available daily

Hooters
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521-9898
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Monday: Military Monday: 10% off with ID, 20% off in uniform with ID
Tuesday: \$2 you-call-it drafts all day.
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SUNDAY EVENING JUNE 5, 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 their respective programs.

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BrainGames



Word Salsa

Circle these English words and their Spanish equivalents that appear in the grid horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backward. Encierre estas palabras en inglés y sus equivalentes en español que aparecen al revés, horizontal, vertical y diagonalmente.

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CREATIVE	CREATIVO
ETHICAL	ÉTICO
HARDWORKING	TRABAJADOR
INFORMAL	INFORMAL
MINDFUL	CUIDADOSA
MOTIVATION	MOTIVACIÓN
REALISTIC	REALISTA
RESPONSIBLE	RESPONSABLE
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Crossword Puzzles

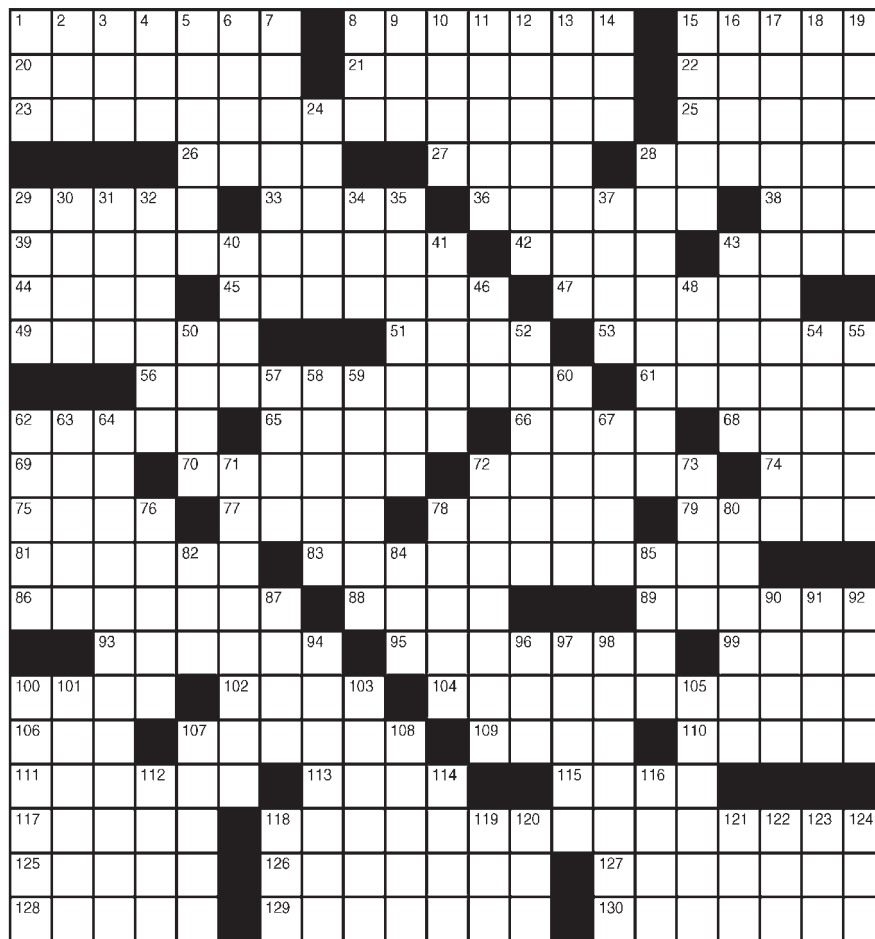
Diagramless, 21 x 21

Like a regular crossword but with an added challenge. Sleuths must also create the diagram and figure out where the numbers and black squares go.

- ACROSS**
- Slender
 - Coal bucket
 - A smoke, for short
 - Top class
 - Spoonbender, Geller
 - Bed-in celeb
 - Country singer, Loretta
 - Women's ____
 - Close friend
 - Federer stroke
 - Finale
 - Hit a fly
 - ____ Along the Watchtower" Bob Dylan song
 - Times Square locale, abbr.
 - Clown
 - Bumble or queen
 - "Death Becomes ____" '92 Hawn film
 - Little bit
 - Burro
 - 1600 Pennsylvania, for example
 - Paired
 - Ways through
 - Coin of Afghanistan
 - Seeming
 - Covered walkway
 - Substance used in chemical reactions to detect, measure or produce other substances
 - Lanolin
 - Rhythmic motion of the heart
 - Goes with Romeo on the racetrack
 - A Boston and Cambridge college
 - "Evan Almighty" boat
 - Ghostly
 - Christmas carol
 - Word play specialty
 - Male child
 - Segments of a circle
 - Would contraction
 - Rock
 - Swimming bird
 - Cylinder with reciprocating motion
 - Wire diameter measurement, for short
 - Trendy
 - Dined
 - East North East
- DOWN**
- Container
 - Very popular
 - Doubtful
 - Land area
 - Halloween Mo.
 - Painful wound
 - Ensign (abbr.)
 - Deep distress
 - Boat used for spearing fish
 - Short for Salvatore
 - Long narrow spade for stony ground
 - Place to stay
 - Crescent-shaped bodies
 - Uproar
 - Baltimore's birds
 - Small tools for planting seedlings
 - Danish capital
 - At any rate
 - British birds with yellow patches on their heads
 - Take on a date
 - It gets passed into law
 - Frog kin
 - Rise up
 - Car
 - Participate
 - Monkey
 - Place for a mud bath
 - Weaken
 - Exist
 - Comes before carte
 - Warm cotton fabric
 - Hairstyle
 - Much hated
 - Action of attributing something
 - Changes to a bill
 - Fluid holder
 - Building demolition material
 - "____ Man Flint" movie
 - Green field
 - Add a little brandy to the coffee?
 - In an undetermined way
 - South American river
 - "Maggie May" singer, first name
 - Toothed wheel
 - Hair care specialist
 - Favoring
 - To and ____
 - Hardwood tree

END IT

- ACROSS**
- Challenging situation
 - Auditory range
 - Third-baseman Wade
 - One-horse carriage
 - Car color combo
 - First name in talk shows
 - End it
 - Chess side
 - Cold feet
 - Roman 103
 - Net fisherman
 - Brightest star in Virgo
 - Math fig.
 - Wine storage location
 - Man of the house
 - End it
 - Bowl over
 - A/C figure
 - Bear of the night sky
 - Of iris rings
 - One-room apartment
 - Close at hand
 - Newspaper nickname
 - Groups of nine
 - End it
 - Drive-in worker
 - Sub-Saharan region
 - Tropical plant with brilliant flowers
 - Hale and hardy
 - Kind of palm
 - Ration group of WWII
 - Froths
 - More bloodstained
 - Pot top
 - Vesuvian discharge
 - Both: pref.
 - Dressler or Osmond
 - Lauder of cosmetics
 - Vinegary
 - End it
 - Certain nut trees
 - French weapon
 - Show up
 - Surfing the Internet
 - Kettledrums
 - Johnson of "Laugh-In"
 - Leibman and Howard
 - Tony Musante's TV series
 - End it
 - Top shot
 - Leg bone
 - Russian veto
 - Full of: suff.
 - Neal's "Hud" co-star
- DOWN**
- Kissers
 - 4th-century date
 - Carbon-arc lamp
 - End it
 - Old-time singer Lenya
 - Stars in the French sky
 - Slope
 - Edith Wharton classic, "____ Frome"
 - Binges
 - "Gone with the Wind" composer
 - %
 - College cheer
 - Defensive hockey great Bobby
 - Short life story
 - Dieter's watchword
 - Nobel Prize winner Wiesel
 - Stalker
 - Afr. nation
 - Feeling of wonder
 - Campus mil. org.
 - Marcus Aurelius, e.g.
 - Mandel and Long
 - Eugene and Ed
 - ____ Aviv-Jaffa
 - Arbor
 - Serpentine: pref.
 - End it
 - French cake
 - Pottery fragments
 - Figure of speech
 - End it
 - Moved like a top
 - Unadulterated
 - "Casablanca" role
 - Arthur C. ____
 - "Xanadu" band
 - ____ folly
 - Behind schedule
 - "Airplane!" star
 - Irish police
 - Coffin stands
 - Chest bone
 - Forensic sampling
 - Baird and Keane
 - Proverb
 - Stray calf
 - Fine porcelain
 - Smeltery refuse
 - Viola da ____ (bass viol)
 - New York lake
 - Spooky
 - Battery type
 - In haste
 - End it
 - Willingly, old-style
 - End it
 - Entrance guard
 - Harvest
 - Egyptian symbols
 - Ape
 - Twin city
 - Adjective-forming suffix
 - A-Team member
 - Point to the right?
 - Elitist
 - Pennsylvania port
 - Memo abbr.
 - Remainder
 - Rival with some success
 - Old-time journalist Nellie
 - Guinness and Waugh
 - Chinese treats
 - Cause bitter resentment
 - Spotted wildcat
 - Elliott of "The Spitfire Grill"
 - Pear-shaped fruit
 - Dickens character
 - Plant pest
 - Physical start?
 - Cobbler's concern
 - Inclination
 - Network
 - Saul's uncle
 - First of several?
 - MCII halved
 - Misdeed
 - "____ Day at a Time"
 - ____-de-lance

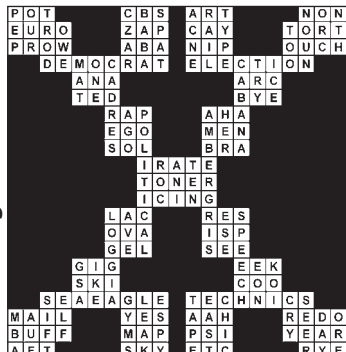


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

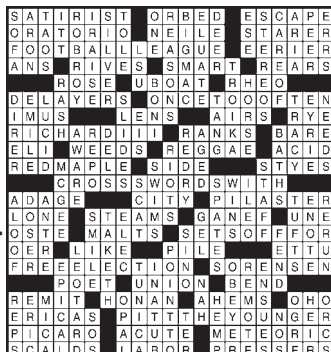
Word Salsa



Diagramless



Triple Letters



CRYPTOGRAM

A K W M B J O Y K L Z M O :
 Y Z I H K H U O J Q -
 O Y Z M L U Q H - I Z B H C J W U C
 H Z T M E J Q O T Z E J O Z G J
 T U C C J H U G B K J A ?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
 I find auctioneers are quite friendly and very gregarious. They certainly have a lot of nodding acquaintances.

AtTheMovies



Kung Fu Hangover 1.75

Neither new sequel measures up to the first

Review by **David Edwards**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The top three grossing films of this past record-setting box office weekend were all sequels – “The Hangover 2,” “Kung Fu Panda 2” and “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides” or “POTC 4,” if you want to think of it that way. Having seen the latter and giving it a generous (perhaps “B”) last week, I was faced with the dilemma of which of these two other sequels to see.

One was the all-time box office champ among R-rated comedies and the other was one of my favorite animated films of the past few years. Was there any hope that

either follow-up would measure up? No. In fact, I can’t think of too many – if any – film sequels that equaled or bettered the original. It’s one of those axioms, such as “the movie wasn’t as good as the book.” Sequels or prequels set up expectations that are nearly impossible to meet.

It’s a little different when the source material already comes in multiple parts – take “The Lord of the Rings” or the “Harry Potter” series for example. You know there is going to be a part two or more from the get-go – unless it really stinks. Think “The Last Airbender” or “The Golden Compass.” Sometimes even that doesn’t stop studios from making a crappy sequel or even two. Are you listening Disney and 20th Century Fox? Please let the “Chronicles of Narnia” die a peaceful but highly deserved death.

It doesn’t take a genius to see what starts out as a good idea and makes a good, maybe even great film, just can’t carry the weight of a sequel. I suppose studio executives who love the smell of money think because a film did much better than expected, they can catch lightning in a bottle a second or third time by recreating the same formula, even though the material can’t be stretched that far.

I am not the first to suggest they should leave well enough alone – but then opening weekend paydays of \$280 million are hard to blow off. That speaks much louder than the voices of critics or fans. It’s just too bad that we fall for their old trick: “if you loved the first one, you’ll love the second one.”

I went to “The Hangover 2” and “KFP 2” back-to-back and came away from the experience wondering why they weren’t better. Now, don’t get me wrong, they are both better than a number of the so-called summer blockbusters released so far, but neither approaches the satisfaction I had watching the originals.

“The Hangover” pushed the limits of “that-is-so-wrong-on-so-many-levels” comedy and its beginning bachelor-party-gone-wrong plot complication – “We lost Doug.” – was

unique in allowing the audience to solve the mystery along with

the “Wolf Pack.” Throw in Mike Tyson, a missing tiger, an unknown baby, rohypnol-induced amnesia and a crazy, initially naked Asian gangster and everyone who loves insane, adult gross-out comedy comes out a winner.

Do I really need to re-hash the plot of “Hangover 2?”

This time it’s Stu (Ed Helms) getting married in Thailand. There is more drug-induced amnesia, a face tattoo a la Mike Tyson, a missing brother of the bride, a drug mule monkey – and this monkey not only makes drug deals but he also has other talents that I can’t even really begin to discuss – and the same Asian gangster (played by Ken Jeong, who apparently is happy to inspire laughter by exploiting his underwhelming nudity). Will they find the brother and get Stu to the wedding on time? You are welcome to take a guess but I really didn’t care too much.

This is more pushing the envelope. “wrong-on-so-many-levels” comedy in almost exactly the same format and it just isn’t as funny this time around. There are a few “laugh-out-loud” moments, but not nearly as many as in the original. We will, perhaps, get a sense of the lasting popularity when we see the drop off in box office from the first to second weekend.

I found myself laughing and smiling much more at “Kung Fu Panda 2” – just in 2-D, thank you very much. I was even touched at various points during this continuation of overweight panda Po who became the legendary Dragon Warrior in the first movie.

The Kung Fu team, The Furious Five – Tigress, Monkey, Mantis, Viper and Crane – led by the wise Shifu are back. Along with Po, they must face a new villain – the peacock Shen who threatens to take over China and destroy kung fu with his gunpowder-fueled weapons.

We learn along with Po about his past. His “father” is a goose (one of my favorite characters – voiced by James Hong) so the panda must have been adopted. It is foretold that Shen will be defeated by a “black-and-white” warrior, so years ago our villain tried to make sure no pandas remained. My one large criticism is the obvious plot point that opens the way for ... another sequel. I hope Shifu can teach me the inner peace necessary to endure.

Film Review

“KFP 2” is about 75 percent as good as the first, which means it isn’t half bad.

Grade B

KUNG FU PANDA 2

Starring: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie

Rated: PG

Running time: 90 minutes

Director: Jennifer Yuh



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Film Review

“The Hangover 2” is about half as good as the original – making it really just average.

Grade C

THE HANGOVER 2

Starring: Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis

Rated: R

Running time: 102 minutes

Director: Todd Phillips






At The Movies


Picking the Flicks



Movie information from www.rottentomatoes.com. Thumbs-up based on a 5-point scale.

Bridesmaids 


Rating: R
Plot Overview: Picked as her best friend's maid of honor, lovelorn and broke Annie looks to bluff her way through the expensive and bizarre rituals with an oddball group of bridesmaids.
Starring: Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph
Director: Paul Feig




Mars Needs Moms 


Rating: PG
Plot Overview: A young boy named Milo gains a deeper appreciation for his mom after martians come to Earth to take her away.
Starring: Seth Green, Joan Cusack
Director: Simon Wells




Priest 


Rating: PG-13
Plot Overview: A priest disobeys church law to track down the vampires who kidnapped his niece.
Starring: Paul Bettany, Cam Gigandet
Director: Scott Charles Stewart




Limitless 


Rating: PG-13
Plot Overview: A copywriter discovers a top-secret drug that bestows him with super human abilities.
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro
Director: Neil Burger




Kung Fu Panda 2 


Rating: PG
Plot Overview: Po joins forces with a group of new kung-fu masters to take on an old enemy with a deadly new weapon.
Starring: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie
Director: Jennifer Yuh




Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides 


Rating: PG-13
Plot Overview: Jack Sparrow and Barbossa embark on a quest to find the elusive Fountain of Youth, only to discover that Blackbeard and his daughter are after it, too.
Starring: Johnny Depp
Director: Rob Marshall




The Hangover Part II 


Rating: R
Plot Overview: Right after the bachelor party in Las Vegas, Phil, Stu, Alan and Doug jet to Thailand for Stu's wedding. Stu's plan for a subdued pre-wedding brunch, however, goes seriously awry.
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis
Director: Todd Phillips




Rio 


Rating: PG
Plot Overview: When Blu, a domesticated macaw from small-town Minnesota, meets the fiercely independent Jewel, he takes off on an adventure to Rio de Janeiro with the bird of his dreams.
Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway
Director: Carlos Saldanha




Fast Five 


Rating: PG-13
Plot Overview: Dominic and his crew find themselves on the wrong side of the law once again as they try to switch lanes between a ruthless drug lord and a relentless federal agent.
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Director: Justin Lin




Water for Elephants 


Rating: PG-13
Plot Overview: A veterinary student abandons his studies after his parents are killed and joins a traveling circus as their vet.
Starring: Robert Pattinson, Reese Witherspoon
Director: Francis Lawrence




Thor 

Rating: PG-13
Plot Overview: The powerful but arrogant warrior Thor is cast out of the fantastic realm of Asgard and sent to live amongst humans on Earth, where he soon becomes one of their finest defenders.
Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
Director: Kenneth Branagh




Rango 

Rating: PG
Plot Overview: A chameleon that aspires to be a swashbuckling hero finds himself in a Western town plagued by bandits.
Starring: Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher
Director: Gore Verbinski



Elvis Has Left the Building

Rating: PG-13
Plot Overview: A fugitive Pink Lady rep hooks up with a bored ad exec as she's trying to avoid going down for the murder of several Elvis impersonators.
Starring: Kim Basinger, John Corbett
Director: Joel Zwick
OPENING SATURDAY, JUNE 4




Gnomeo and Juliet 

Rating: G
Plot Overview: The greatest love story ever told, starring ... garden gnomes. Shakespeare's revered tale gets a comical, off-the-wall makeover.
Starring: James McAvoy, Emily Blunt
Director: Kelly Asbury




X-Men: First Class

Rating: PG-13
Plot Overview: In 1963, Charles Xavier starts up a school and later a team for humans with superhuman abilities.
Starring: James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender
Director: Matthew Vaughn
OPENING FRIDAY, JUNE 3



The First Beautiful Thing

Rating: N/A
Plot Overview: A misanthropic professor returns to his hometown to assist his dying mother.
Starring: Valerio Mastandrea, Micaela Ramazzotti
Director: Paolo Viri
OPENING FRIDAY, JUNE 3



New this week on DVD Tuesday, June 6

- True Grit**
Rating: PG-13
Genre: Western, Drama
Starring: Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
Director: Joel and Ethan Coen
- Just Go With It**
Rating: PG-13
Genre: Comedy, Romance
Starring: Adam Sandler, Jennifer Aniston
Director: Dennis Dugan
- Santum**
Rating: R
Genre: Suspense, Action
Starring: Richard Roxburgh, Ioan Gruffudd
Director: Alister Grierson
- Company Men**
Rating: R
Genre: Drama
Starring: Ben Affleck, Tommy Lee Jones
Director: John Wells
- Another Year**
Rating: PG-13
Genre: Comedy, Drama
Starring: Jim Broadbent, Lesley Manville
Director: Mike Leigh

Top Grossing May 27-29

- 1 The Hangover Part II** (Week No. 1)
\$86,035,000
- 2 Kung Fu Panda 2** (Week No. 1)
\$47,835,000
- 3 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides** (Week No. 2)
\$39,592,000
- 4 Bridesmaids** (Week No. 3)
\$16,550,000
- 5 Thor** (Week No. 4)
\$9,400,000
- 6 Fast Five** (Week No. 5)
\$6,439,000
- 7 Midnight in Paris** (Week No. 2)
\$1,930,000
- 8 Something Borrowed** (Week No. 4)
\$1,860,000
- 9 Rio** (Week No. 7)
\$1,825,000
- 10 Jumping the Broom** (Week No. 4)
\$1,825,000


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 at the Fountain Theatre
 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla
MesillaValleyFilm.org • 575-524-8287

Shows nightly at 7:30, Sunday Matinee at 2:30
 Saturday CineMatinee at 1:30 only

June 3 - 9 The First Beautiful Thing 2010, 120 min., in Italian w/ English subtitles, directed by Paolo Virzi.	June 10 - June 16 Potiche (Trophy Wife) 2010, 103 min., in French w/English subtitles, starring Catherine Deneuve and Gérard Depardieu. FREE FOR MVFS MEMBERS!	June 4 only Elvis Has Left the Building 2004, 90 min., rated PG-13, made in NM directed by Joel Zwick. For \$2 extra, see Elvis tribute artist Bud Sanders perform LIVE before the film.
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Michael Swickard • Jim Spence
NEWS
 New Mexico
 6-9 a.m.

Glenn Beck
 Clark Howard
 Lou Dobbs

KSNM 570 AM

Fox Sports Radio
 Talkin' Sports

An upbeat kickoff for Music in the Park concerts

Photos by Niki Rhynes



Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima kicks off the first concert of the 2011 Music in the Park series Sunday, May 29, at Apodaca Park. The free concert series is open to all ages and will continue at 6 p.m. each Sunday through Labor Day with the next concert featuring La Cella Bella and Sounds of Brazil at Apodaca Park.



Las Cruces residents came out in full force for the first concert of the 2011 Music in the Park series.

One-year-old Shaylee Wescott lounges during the jazz concert.



Arath Corral plays for the audience during the first installment of the 2011 Music in the Park series.



Greg Gonzalez gets jazzy on the bass.



Read Around the World
Wednesdays • June 8–July 13
2 p.m. • Ages 7–11
Enjoy stories from around the world and get your passport stamped each week!

Summer Reading Club
One World, Many Stories
Kids can keep track of the amount of time they spend reading and earn prizes! Children who do not read on their own yet may sign up as listeners. Sign up starting June 6. The last day to turn in reading logs is July 15.



Weekly Programs

- Read to Me** (Ages 3 and up)
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Mother Goose Time** (Ages birth–13 months)
Wednesdays at 11 a.m.
- Toddler Time** (Ages 13 months–3 years)
Thursdays & Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
- Rhythm Round-Up** (Ages 2–5)
Fridays at 9 & 10 a.m.

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<http://library.las-cruces.org>


lived:living



**Isadora Stowe
Jordon Schranz**



June 3 - August 6
Las Cruces Museum of Art

Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00am - 4:30pm
491 N Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico • 575-541-2137
www.las-cruces.org/museums  **City of Las Cruces**

Why laughter really is the best medicine



Bob Nosbisch
Getting the Word Out

Several weeks ago, Health writer Natisha Hales asked me if I wanted to write another column for the Las Cruces Bulletin. Not knowing what I would write about, I consented. I'm not an amateur-crastinator; I'm a procrastinator. So as you may have surmised, I went a number of days without a topic for the article.

And then it hit me.

In last Friday's (May 27) edition of the Bulletin, David Edwards began his review of the new "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie by calling the latest installment of the Johnny Depp blockbuster "aarrgh-uably the best of the film series." His pun-ishing comment made two things happen: Coffee instantaneously spewed from my mouth, and I wondered if pirates sold roasted corn for a "buck an ear."

Then I started thinking seriously about laughter and its benefits. Why is laughter the best medicine? These examples may help show you why.

Cardiologists at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore measured the humor responses of 300 people. Half of them did not have heart disease. The other half had undergone coronary artery bypass surgery or suffered a heart attack. Dr. Michael Miller, director of the Center of Preventive Cardiology at the medical center and a professor in the university's School of Medicine, said researchers found that people with heart disease displayed more anger and hostility and generally laughed less, even in positive situations.

"We know that exercising, not smoking and eating foods low in saturated fat will reduce the risk of heart disease," Miller said. "Perhaps regular, hearty laughter should be added to the list."

In another study published in the British Medical Journal, researchers in the United Kingdom found that laughter could be used as a therapeutic option when treating patients with leg ulcers. Professor Andrea Nelson of the University of Leeds' School of Healthcare led the study, whose aim was to find a way to speed up the healing process of persistent leg ulcers.

"Rising levels of obesity mean that the number of people who suffer from leg ulcers is likely to grow," Nelson said.

The scientists observed patients from the U.K. and parts of Ireland who suffered from ulcers that had not healed for six months or more. Previous studies recommended ultrasound as a solution. Nelson's team found the addition of ultrasound did not make a significant difference in the recovery process or the chances of the lesions reappearing. Ultrasound also increased the treatment cost per patient by nearly 200 pounds.

Furthermore, the researchers found that traditional nursing (compression therapy and dressings) and a good sense

See **Laughter** on page D2

Healthy resources found online

Annual event promotes local health awareness

By **Samantha Roberts**
Las Cruces Bulletin

What are the side effects of my birth control? Is my cholesterol too high? How do I check for breast cancer? I'm pregnant, now what?

These, among many others, are common questions that women ask every day. Unfortunately, some of these questions go unanswered because women don't know where to find the answers, until now. Healthywomanonline.org is an all-inclusive tool that provides answers to conventional questions women ask.

"This site is very user-friendly and easy to join," said Audrey Hardman-Hartley, MountainView Regional Medical Center (MVRMC) community relations manager and a Healthy Woman advisor. "The online services provide health care and is supported by MountainView Regional Medical Center, and it's free. Every woman should be using this site."

To help promote women's health and the website, MVRMC hosts an annual event for women, including dinner, a guest speaker, vendor booths and loads of information.

This year, the Las Cruces event will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road.

"2011 is really going to be amazing because we have a guest speaker whose résumé speaks

See **Healthy Woman** on page D2



Dale Smith Thomas is an unapologetic optimist and a woman whose passion for making a difference is stamped on every page of her life, she said. Her direct and powerful message has challenged and inspired hundreds of thousands of people around the world to make winning choices in every area of their life. She is the president and founder of Winners By Choice Inc. Smith will be the speaker for Healthy Woman Thursday, June 9, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road.

Assisting with prescription costs

New Mexico Drug Card offers several benefits to users

Details

New Mexico Drug Card

Sponsored by the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and accepted in 250 pharmacies in New Mexico and 50,000 across the country.

For more information, call 877-321-6755 toll free or visit www.newmexicodrugcard.com



By **Les Parr**

For the Las Cruces Bulletin

A statewide program that was launched a year and a half ago has not reached the heights for which it was designed, sponsors say.

The program, titled the New Mexico Drug Card, is to help provide prescription assistance at the time of purchase at pharmacies throughout the state. The effort is sponsored by the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce.

In November 2009, the chamber said the program was created to help uninsured and underinsured residents of New Mexico by providing free discount drug cards at no cost, which offer significant savings on many prescription drugs. At that time, the Albuquerque chamber said the program was already in use in more than 35 states.

The chamber said the New Mexico Drug Card, a product of United Networks of America, was accepted at more than 250 pharmacy locations in New Mexico, and more than 50,000 across the country.

However, some figures given by Mike McCabe of the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, indicate that

the use of the New Mexico Drug Card has not caught on yet with people purchasing prescriptions. McCabe said in the first year of existence, only about 3,000 prescriptions were filled with the card. This past year, from last November to the present day, there have been about 4,100 uses, so it is gradually gaining interest.

In talking with some Las Cruces pharmacies, the use of the card is apparently very low. Questions to two Walgreen pharmacies showed that they each only had one or two times the card was used in the past couple of months. Walgreen said the Familywize Card is popular with their clients. They also have their own program, and there are several cards available for those without insurance plans.

Rexall Drug did not use the card. Albertsons said it hasn't had any uses of the New Mexico card, but it has had traffic with the Doña Ana County card. Of the two Walmart pharmacies, one did get some use of the card.

McCabe said they have begun a program of publicity and education concerning the availability and use of the New Mexico card, and he will travel around the state to help spread the word about the card.

The following are some of the highlights of the program. Be aware that it is not insurance, it is a "point of sale" discount plan.

- **Free for everyone:** All residents are eligible to get pharmacy discounts through this program. The program can be used to

See **Drug** on page D2

Healthy Woman

Continued from page D1

for itself," Hardman-Hartley said. "The speaker is Dale Thomas Smith, and she has made many appearances around the country including popular talk shows."

Smith has been teaching audiences to "Choose Success" in all areas of their lives by challenging hundreds of thousands of audience members around the world to make choices in their lives that will create success.

"It is important to remind women they must take care of themselves," Smith said. "We are so busy taking care of our families and everyone else that many times we neglect to take care of ourselves. I will share ideas that will help them achieve that goal."

In addition to these ideas, Smith said she will also talk to the audience about how to make small daily changes that can drastically change one's life.

"Woman can expect to learn how simply changing their language can change their life, how to increase their self-esteem and how to find the courage to live their best life," she said.

As a featured guest on many radio and television shows around the country, Smith's message has been seen and heard by millions of people. She has been a special guest expert on "The Dr. Phil Show," "The Big Idea" on CNBC and featured on CMT, VH1 and MTV.

"Healthy Woman is all about women's health and putting positive messages in our heads, which creates positive mental health and in turn, positive physical health," Hardman-Hartley said. "Dale brings such a positive message and talks about these positive messages."

"I think everyone (men and women) need to be reminded daily that life is about choices. We have the choices daily to change our attitude and change our lives," Smith said. "If we

Details

Healthy Woman

When

4 to 8 p.m.
Thursday, June 9

Where

New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum
4100 Dripping Springs Road

Cost

\$20

Contact

556-7665

want our lives to get better we must get better. We have to take responsibility. The Healthy Woman program gives women the keys to being healthy mind, body and spirit. During my program we will laugh, learn and lighten up."

In addition to the guest speaker, participants can enjoy vendor booths and entertainment from 4 to 6 p.m.

"We will have demonstrations from MountainView and a health fair during this time," Hardman-Hartley said. "There will also be some fun shopping opportunities, what I'm calling 'shopopportunities.'"

Dinner will begin at 6 p.m., featuring Smith. Seating is limited and reservations are highly recommended. Tickets are \$20 payable by cash or check at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 556-7665.

Drug

Continued from page D1

supplement most health insurance plans, including Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and High Deductible Plans. It can also be used as a Medicare Part D supplement by providing discounts on non-covered drugs.

- **No restrictions:** There are no enrollment forms, age or income requirements, waiting periods, eligibility required, exclusions, claim forms to file and annual or lifetime limits. It also covers pre-existing conditions.
- **Lowest price:** This program has "lowest price logic" to guarantee that users get the best pricing on prescriptions. Cardholders pay the lower of either an average wholesale price (AWP), discount of MAC pricing or pharmacy promotional retail price. The chamber claims average savings are roughly 30 percent.
- **All medications:** The program includes discounts on brand and generic medications, open formulary so all medications are eligible for discounts.
- **Immediate use:** The New Mexico Drug Card is pre-activated and can be used as soon as you get it.
- **Confidential:** No personal information is required to get a card or is collected on processed prescriptions.

In this age of electronics, there are still those without access to computers. These individuals may be able to talk to their pharmacist to get help obtaining a card.

For those with computer access, it is easy and fast – just visit www.newmexicodrugcard.com. A screen will appear and ask the user for their name and email address. After this information is entered, the user's drug card, name and ID number will be emailed to them. It is pre-activated and ready to use. If the pharmacist needs help processing a prescription, use the Pharmacy Help Line (toll free) at 877-321-6755.

There is a variety of other prescription help cards and most pharmacies will know about what's available.

Regarding the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce's efforts, McCabe said, "If the Chamber can make health care more accessible and more affordable, we believe that is a good contribution to our state's well-being."

The chamber will receive a small fee from United Networks of America, which will be used to help market the card and reach more of the state's population.

Any pharmacy can enroll in the program with no set-up fees. They simply must agree to give a discount to the patients that carry to New Mexico Drug Card.

Laughter

Continued from page D1

of humor were an effective remedy. The experts said a hearty laugh stimulated the diaphragm, which increased blood circulation and helped flush toxins out of the organs.

Need more evidence that laughter is the best medicine?

In another University of Maryland study, the blood vessels in a group of people who watched dramas tended

to tense up and restrict blood flow, while the blood vessels in a group who watched comedy easily expanded and contracted.

Vanderbilt University researcher Maciej Buchowski found that 10 to 15 minutes of laughter burns 50 calories.

Norman Cousins, who was diagnosed with a painful spine condition and who wrote "Anatomy of an Illness," found that a steady diet of watching "Candid Camera" and Marx Brothers movies helped him feel better. He said 10 minutes of laughter

gave him two hours of pain-free sleep.

So watch "Airplane!" again. Listen to a Robin Williams CD. Hang out with people who love to laugh, especially those who elicit from you a hearty chuckle or window-shattering guffaw. You'll feel better and it may help you live longer.

Bob Nobsich is a senior program specialist in the New Mexico State University College of Health and Social Services. The views expressed here are his own and may not reflect the views of the Regents or administration of NMSU.



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LAS CRUCES HIGH SCHOOL OLDIES BUT GOODIES REUNION

Classes of 1956-1960 (All alumni are welcome!)
Saturday, June 18

BBQ Dinner 6-8 p.m. • Dance 8 p.m.-midnight
Music by Little Mike & the Blue Kings



\$25 per person
Knights of Columbus Hall
2655 E. Idaho, off of Telshor

For more info contact:
Dan Rivera 575-932-8237
Sammy Vargas 915-253-9186
Tina Padilla King 575-523-5023
Molly Gamboa Barth 575-524-8101

Michael Swickard • Jim Spence

NEWS

New Mexico
6-9 a.m.

Glenn Beck
Clark Howard
Lou Dobbs



Fox Sports Radio
Talkin' Sports

Healthy Happenings



TOPS MEETING CHAPTER 381

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Chapter 381 is open to new members of all ages at its Thursday morning meetings, which start with a private weigh-in from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Weigh-ins are followed by group discussions of weight loss, dietary help and nutrition. The group meets at Trails West Senior Community Clubhouse, 1450 Avenida de Mesilla, in the Main Room. For more information, call 523-6240.

T'AI CHI CHIH CLASSES

Instructor Rose Alvarez-Diosdado holds T'ai Chi Chih: Joy Thru Movement first-time classes from 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays and classes for beginners from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays in the fourth-floor Women's Resource Room at MountainView Regional Medical Center, 4351 E. Lohman Ave. No registration is required. In addition, T'ai Chi Chih advanced classes are taught from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays. Cost is \$2 and free for Senior Circle and Healthy Woman members.

A class for all levels is held from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning Thursday, June 9 at Young Park, 1905 E. Nevada Ave.

For more information, call 526-3016.

CARING BRIDGE SUPPORT GROUP

Caring Bridge, an activity support group for adults in recovery from mental illness, meets from 4 to 6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Bridge, 2511 Chaparral St.

The group matches those in need of support with volunteers to help build bonds, share experiences and create arts and crafts to sell in a supportive environment. For more information, call Kathy or David at 522-6404 or email bridge@nmsu.edu.

T'AI CHI CHIH, YOGA CLASSES

Clear Mind Zen Temple, 642 S. Alameda Blvd., will offer T'ai Chi Chih classes at 6 p.m. Wednesdays with certified instructor Rose Alvarez-Diosdado.

An introduction to Zen meditation is from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the temple.

A small donation is asked for each class.

For more information, call Harvey Hilbert at 680-6680.

CITY RECREATION SCHEDULE

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

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

- Aerobics:** 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

- Yoga:** 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Spinning:** 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Pilates:** 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Zumba:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays

For more information, call 541-2563.

The following class is held at Benavidez Community Center, 1045 McClure Road:

- Zumba:** 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

For more information, call 541-5185.

The following class is held at Club Fusion Teen Center, 101 E. Union Ave.:

- Zumba:** 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, call 541-5181.

All classes are \$2. For more information, call the City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Department at 541-2550.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step, spiritual program for those with a desire to stop eating compulsively. There are no fees. The program meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Unity of Las Cruces, 125 Wyatt Drive. Enter through the back door. The group also has a big-book meeting at 2 p.m. Fridays at Newman Center, 2615 S. Solano Drive.

GLBTQ CENTER SUPPORT GROUPS

The Las Cruces Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender and Questioning/Queer (GLBTQ) Center, 1210 N. Main St., is open from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The center offers gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of the community counseling, support groups and networking activities. For more information, call the center at 635-4902, email info@newmexicoglbtqcenters.org or use the group-specific contact

information listed below.

- Pride on Main Al-Anon is a 12-step support group and fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics that meets from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. The group is open to all with a focus on the GLBTQ community.

- A GLBTQ youth support group meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. For more information, email Eloy at eacastro@nmsu.edu.

- A support group for parents, guardians, other family and friends caring for or raising a GLBTQ youth meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

- Sexual Compulsives Anonymous meets from 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays. The group is a 12-step program for anyone dealing with sexual compulsion.

- An LBTQ women's group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of each month. The group provides an opportunity for LBTQ women to get know and support each other. For more information, email Dawn at dmbates@nmsu.edu.

- A men's group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. The group is an opportunity for men in the community to get together and support each other. It is an intergenerational group with discussions and activities designed by the group members. For more information, call Nato at 635-4902.

- Bisexuals' support group

meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. For more information, email Dawn at dmbates@nmsu.edu.

- Southern New Mexico Trans Support Group meets from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the first and third Saturday of each month. The group is a confidential, welcoming group open to all ages. Gender-questioning individuals are also welcome. All are invited to attend. For more information, call Nato at 635-4902.

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS

Adult Children of Alcoholics/Co-Dependents Anonymous meets at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Arid Club, 334 W. Griggs Ave. The one-hour meetings are intended to help those who have been raised in an alcoholic or dysfunctional family situations deal with their issues and move on to a healthier, happier life through a 12-step program. For more information, call 647-5684.

STRENGTHENING HIV+ INDIVIDUALS

The support group Strengthening HIV+ Individuals thru Never ending Enlightenment & Encouragement (SHINE) meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Drive, in the Red Room. Cold refreshments are provided. The support group is open to all men and women, regardless of their sexual orientation. The support group is held in a confidential, safe and welcoming atmosphere where participants can come

together to support one another. For more information, call 652-9100.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

A family caregiver support group meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays at Café España in the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. Co-facilitators with many years of experience in senior-care issues will be on hand.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP

A Las Cruces HIV Support Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center, 1210 N. Main St. The group offers advocacy and support for both those infected with or affected by the HIV virus, and focuses on the rebuilding of community, outreach, education, self advocacy and wellness. For more information, call Seth at 621-0681.

CROHN'S AND ULCERATIVE COLITIS GROUP

The Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis support group meets from 3 to 5 p.m. the second Sunday of the month in the Community Education Room of MountainView Regional Medical Center, 4311 E. Lohman Ave. The support group is sponsored by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (www.cdfa.org).

For more information, call Jo Tice Bloom at 382-0722.

CLASSES ON ESSENTIAL OILS

The Tesoro Integrative Health Center, 207 Avenida de Mesilla, has announced the following essential oil and

natural health classes, instructed by Erica Campanella. All classes are from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

- June 4: Natural oils to boost immunity and more
 - July 2: Pain and inflammation
 - July 16: Managing weight, blood sugar, and energy with essential oils
 - Aug. 6: Learn how essential oils can tut you to sleep
 - Aug. 20: Managing moods and emotions effectively
- For more information, call 652-0076.

SNM DIABETES EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach will host a Diabetes Educational Support Group meeting from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Thursday, June 16, at Meerscheidt Recreational Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. The event is free and no pre-registration is required. The meeting is intended for those informed they have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, family and friends of those with diabetes and all who are interested. The meetings provide open discussion, a short teaching regarding diabetes and a question-and-answer period.

For more information, contact the Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach at 522-0289, snmdo@snmdo.org or visit www.snmdo.org.

DITCH RUNNERS MEET SUNDAYS

The Las Cruces Ditch Runners hold group runs every Sunday morning from the Jason Jiron park on Three Crosses Avenue. For more information, call Lynn at 373-0982, John at 532-8151 or email jleroy@q.com.

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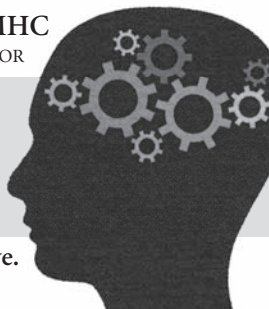
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ThePetReview



Local shop is for the birds ...

... or at least the bird lovers of Las Cruces

By **Amanda Green**

For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Wild Birds Unlimited is a small shop on Lohman Avenue serving the bird lovers of Las Cruces.

Since opening in August 2007, the store has been on a mission to make every Las Cruces yard bird-friendly for the enjoyment of the homeowners and, of course, all of the visiting birds.

Wild Birds carries a wide variety of food, bird feeders, a source of clean water, safe nesting areas and secure cover or shelter, to keep

the birds coming back for years to come. Birds benefit from the outdoor elements homeowners provide, while the family gets satisfaction from watching all of the different species visit their little oasis.

Wild Birds Unlimited also provides the community with information about wildlife and avian events across the Mesilla Valley in its monthly news letter. The store is involved with the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, which hosts field trips every few weeks for bird watchers, and gives presentations to local schools on wildlife in the community. It has sponsored film showings, donated feeders and poles to the Southern New Mexico Cancer Center, allowing patients receiving chemotherapy to enjoy watching the spectacle birds can create.

Each of the independently owned Wild Birds Unlimited stores stands behind its mission to bring people and nature together through its Pathways To Nature Conservation Fund, which supports national parks, wildlife refuges and sanctuaries across the nation. Wild Birds Unlimited is continually looking for ways to give back to the community that has supported its location and passion for backyard wildlife.

"We like to be a place where bird lovers can come to talk about their birds," said owner Kristi Lean. "They send us pictures, and let us know what birds they have seen in their yards."

Lean keeps a list of these on a whiteboard near the register so fellow bird watchers know



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Amanda Green

Wild Birds Unlimited offers an array of items to help bring the feathered creatures to backyards throughout Las Cruces.

what species to be on the look for.

Wild Birds Unlimited has become a gathering place for all bird enthusiasts to share their experiences. The store provides guests with information about seasonal species, how to at-

tract certain species to your backyard and how to preserve our natural wildlife habitats.

For more information on upcoming events and classes, or to sign up for their monthly newsletter, visit <http://lascruces.wbu.com>.

Details

Wild Birds Unlimited

Where

2001 E. Lohman Ave., Suite 130

Hours

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday
through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

Call

523-5489

Health Briefs

Essential oils

The Tesoro Integrative Health Center, 207 Avenida de Mesilla, has announced the following essential oil and natural health community classes, instructed by Erica Campanella. All classes are from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

- **June 4:** Natural oils to boost immunity and more
- **July 2:** Pain and inflammation
- **July 16:** Managing weight, blood sugar, and energy with essential oils
- **Aug. 6:** Learn how essential oils can tut you to sleep
- **Aug. 20:** Managing moods and emotions effectively

For more information, call 652-0076.

ARbonne presentation

Anyone interested in learning more about ARbonne's vegan, soy-free and gluten-free nutritional products can attend one of three free presentations offered by ARbonne's National Vice President Jammi Sivadon from Tulsa, Okla., June 9-11.

"**Living It Up in Las Cruces**" will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at the Las Cruces Association of Realtors, 150 E. Idaho Ave. Samples and prizes will be available.

"**Makeup and Wind Down**" will be at 6 p.m. Friday, June 10, at Morrison's Showroom, 311 Southgate Court. Attendees can learn about ARbonne's anti-aging organic makeup colors. Refreshments will be served.

"**Shake Up & Slim Down Brunch**" will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 11, at the Las Cruces Association of Realtors, 150 E. Idaho Ave. ARbonne's treats will be served.

For more information, contact Laura Smart at lauralsmart@comcast.net or 425-233-9082.

Diabetes Outreach

Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach will host a Diabetes Educational Support Group meeting from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Thursday,

June 16, at Meerscheidt Recreational Center, 1600 E. Hadley Ave. The event is free and no pre-registration is required. The meeting is intended for those informed they have type 1 or type 2 diabetes, family and friends of those with diabetes and all who are interested. The meetings provide open discussion, a short teaching regarding diabetes, and a question-and-answer period.

For more information, contact the Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach at 522-0289, snmdo@snmdo.org or visit www.snmdo.org

Toyota giveaway raises money for diabetes

The Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach is raffling a new 2011 Toyota Yaris four-door sedan. Tickets are \$75 each and only 400 tickets will be sold.

The drawing will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 16, at Las Cruces Toyota, 935 S. Valley Drive. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win. The winner is responsible for tax, title, and license.

The Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach (SNMDO) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Las Cruces that aims to provide diabetes screenings, education and support groups in order to better the lives of those with diabetes and the people who love them. To purchase tickets, visit www.snmdo.org or call 522-0289.

Send us your briefs

Local organizations and businesses are encouraged to send their health-related briefs to the Las Cruces Bulletin. Send general information to health@lascrucesbulletin.com.

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Late artist's legacy endures

Los Artesanos Gallery to honor Ramon Escalante

By **Jimmy Currier**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Ramon Escalante was an artist at heart, who developed his own style. He was a longtime employee of the City of Las Cruces, enjoyed helping others and was a founding owner of Los Artesanos Galeria in his native Mesilla.

For the past two years, he actively participated in the gallery's art show that benefited Relay for Life, which is one of the largest fundraisers benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Sadly, Escalante lost his nine-year battle with prostate cancer in August 2010. While Escalante won't be at the show raising money to help fight cancer or walking the laps at the Relay for Life, his legacy lives on through his artwork.

His art, which is primarily Southwestern-themed etchings on leather and wood, will be for sale, with 20 percent of the proceeds going to the Relay for Life.

"Ray was very inspirational to the other artists here," said his widow, Jan Escalante. "They would ask him about things and he always shared the ideas he had. He was very much a visionary."

Los Artesanos Galeria's third annual Benefit Art Show – which will be June 11-12 at the gallery, 1910 Calle de Parain,

in Mesilla and on the front lawn at San Andres High School, located across the street from the gallery – will be held in Escalante's honor.

When Greta Burger, a co-owner and artist at Los Artesanos, said she wanted to dedicate the benefit show to Ray Escalante, Jan Escalante said he would love that, but also be a little embarrassed.

“ Ray was very inspirational to the artists here. ”

JAN ESCALANTE,
wife

"He was reserved and modest," she said. "He wasn't a braggart."

Ray Escalante traveled the country, with his wife as his manager, displaying his art.

"His biggest joy was having somebody

buy his work and knowing that they're going to put it in their house," Jan Escalante said. "I always thought that was so interesting."

The benefit show will feature other prominent local southern New Mexican artists including Colleen Villanova, Kurt van Wagner, Margaret Cordova, Horacio Cordova and Escalante's nephew Gilbert Paez. In all, Burger hopes to have more than 20 artists at the show, selling various pieces such as gourds, glass, ceramics, pottery, jewelry, metal work, clay, watercolors and etchings for sale. The prices range from \$15 to \$500 with 20 percent of proceeds going to the Relay for Life. Burger said some items, such as her coasters with the cancer awareness ribbon, will have 100 percent of the revenue donated to the fundraiser.

Over the past two years, the art show has hauled in more than \$2,400 to fight cancer.

Burger said she got involved with the Relay for Life because everyone's been affected by cancer.

"I've worked with a lot of people that have been affected – co-workers, family and friends," she said. "It's something very hard to deal with. For me, if I can do something to give back to that, that's what I want to do."



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Jimmy Currier

Jan Escalante and Greta Burger, two of the four owners of the Los Artesanos Galeria in Mesilla, are proud to honor the legacy of the late Ramon Escalante during the annual art show, which benefits the Relay for Life. The duo holds a T-shirt, designed by Ray Escalante's daughter Veronica Terain, which honors him.

Live healthy this summer with these essential tools

These easy steps can help you enjoy the outdoors, watch your waistline

Summer is the season of relaxation for many, but it's easy to become lazy on your mission to better health. Plenty of temptations can negatively affect your well being, but with the right tools, you can treat yourself to good health and good times.

Mix it up

Seasonal drinks and dishes are a highlight of summer, but too many hamburgers, ice cream cones and cocktails can have a disastrous effect on your diet – and waistline.

Fortunately, keeping your body bathing-suit ready doesn't mean you have to sacrifice taste or variety. Whether it's a whole-fruit smoothie, frozen sorbet, fat-free salad dressing, or veggie dip, a high-powered blender or food processor can whip up endless healthy options.

Sun safety

After months of dreary, cold weather, you may be eager to soak up the sun's rays. As good as the warm sunshine feels, though, it can be damaging to your health.



Seasonal treats, including sorbet, are a highlight of summer. With healthy recipes, you don't have to sacrifice variety or taste.

More than 2 million people are diagnosed with skin cancer each year, with unprotected exposure to ultraviolet radiation as a leading cause. To lower your risk, make sure you have the right sun-safety tools: sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat.

Any time you head outside, generously apply sunscreen and lip balm SPF 15 or higher, taking care to cover all exposed areas, including the back of your neck and tips of your ears. Sunglasses should block 99 to 100 percent of UV rays to best protect your eyes and the delicate skin around them, and a comfortable, wide-brimmed hat will give your head and face added protection.

Feet first

Summer is the perfect time to become more active, enjoying the fresh air and scenery while you improve your health. Whether you're planning to hike a trail, ride your bicycle, run a 5K or just stroll through the park, it's important to make sure you have the right support.

Walking in poorly fitted or thin-soled shoes can cause back and joint pain, blisters and stress fractures, so invest in quality cross-training or running shoes that provide sufficient cushion and comfort. Make sure that the shoes fit properly and don't hurt or rub any parts of your feet. Wear thick, sweat-wicking socks and get ready to enjoy better health in the great outdoors.

Stay hydrated

With the temperatures rising and the sun beating down, it doesn't take much to break a sweat on a hot day.

Even if you don't feel thirsty, replacing the water your body loses through sweat is important, as dehydration can lead to

heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If you know you'll be outside for an extended period of time or if you're heading out to exercise, make sure to bring a refillable water bottle or canteen. Fill it with ice and cold water, and drink 8 to 10 ounces about every 15 minutes.

With the right knowledge and tools, you can make this summer healthier and more enjoyable than ever. Invest in and incorporate these essential items into your lifestyle every day, and you're sure to feel healthy and refreshed throughout the summer months.

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 10:15 a.m. Adult/Child Bible Studies
Tuesday - 10 a.m. Bible Study
 Rev. James Patterson, Rector
 Rev. James Reeves, Vicar
7975 Doña Ana Rd., Las Cruces
on the left at the curve
523-2740 or 525-0062

Bethel Second Baptist Church

Reverend Gregory Arthur
Sunday:
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Wednesday:
 Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 6 p.m.
405 E. Hadley Ave. • 523-7850
www.bsbchurch.org

Church Triumphant

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 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
 En Español - 1 p.m.
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 Senior Pastor Marcus McKay
 churchtriumphantlc.com
2020 N. Valley Dr.,
528-LOVE(5683)

Lutheran

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522-7119
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Discussion Groups 9:30 AM
Sunday Meditation 9:45-10:25 AM
 Rev. Sam Ritchey - 647-2560
140 Taylor Rd - 524-2375
www.wellspringnow.com

NEW PROJECT LINUS GROUP

A new Project Linus group will meet from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays at St. Mary's at Hill Parish Hall, 7975 Doña Ana Road. Community members are encouraged to attend and bring supplies to knit, crochet and quilt blankets for children in need. For more information, call Sally at 525-0062.

BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Mary Jane Ropp will preach at the bilingual worship services at 11 a.m. Sundays, June 5 and 12, at El Calvario United Methodist Church, 300 N. Campo St. For more information, call 524-1230.

SUMMER FEST CHORUS REHEARSALS

Douglas Weeks, minister of music at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, has formed a Summer Festival Chorus to prepare a performance of the Brahms' Requiem for the 10th anniversary remembrance of 9/11. Rehearsals will be from 7 to 9 p.m. each Thursday throughout the summer at the church, 225 Griggs Ave. Copies of the choral score along with a rehearsal CD will be available for \$5. For more information, call 526-6689.

Continued on following page


Unity

unity
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"Practical Christianity In Action"
Sunday Celebration..... 10:30 am
Children's Church..... 10:30 am
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www.UnityofLasCruces.org

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524-0654
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 Adult Discipleship 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
 Adult Discipleship (Spanish) 9 a.m.
 Wednesday Family Night (English & Spanish) 7 p.m.
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Service Times:
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Sunday: 10 a.m.
Fr. Jim Lehman - Pastor
www.holyfamilyecc.org
702 Parker Rd. • 644-5025

Eastern Orthodox

St. Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission
 (UOC of USA)
 Father Gabriel Rochelle, Priest
 Divine Liturgy Sun. 9 a.m.
 3rd & 6th Hour Sun. 8:30 a.m.
 Vespers Sat. 5 p.m.
 Sacrament of Repentance Sat. 5:45 p.m.
www.stanthonylc.org
524-1071
 in Kendrick Chapel of St. Andrews at 518 N. Alameda • Las Cruces (Hadley & Alameda)

Worship With Us! Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday 9 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
2900 Elks Drive
523-4232

Non-Denominational

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 Sabbath Services
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Saturdays 1 p.m.
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Episcopal

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 www.SaintAndrewslc.org
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Weekday Services
Tuesday - 9:30 AM - Morning Prayer
Thursday - 12:05 PM - Holy Eucharist
Sunday Services
 8:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - without music
 10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist with choir
 Sunday School for ages 3 to high school
 Nursery Available

Methodist

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 225 W. Griggs Ave.
 Downtown on the corner of Alameda and Griggs • 526-6689 for information
June 5, 2011

Traditional Worship	8:15 am
Unplugged Contemporary Worship	9:30 am
Oasis Praise Service	10:45 am
Traditional Worship	10:45 am

 Rev. James Large, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Tammy Valentine, Ass. Pastor
 e-mail: spoffice@zianet.com

Baha'i Faith

The Baha'i Information & Reading Center
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Wednesday: 10 a.m.
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521-3770
 2941 Morning Star Dr. at Roadrunner Pkwy

Baptist

East Mesa Baptist Church

 Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
 Sunday Worship: 10:15 a.m. & 6 p.m.
 Children's Church Sun: 10:30 a.m.
 Wed Prayer & Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Pastor Linvell Tisdale
6160 Moongate • 382-0386

Disciples of Christ

First Christian Church

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THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin
 welcomes submissions of local church events and activities.

Zen Buddhist


Zen Buddhist Services
 Zazen at 7 p.m.
 Monday–Thursday
 Sunday at 9 a.m.
Clear Mind Zen Temple
 642 South Alameda Blvd, Suite E
 Las Cruces, NM 88005
 www.clearmindzen.org
 Call 575-680-6680

Interested in being on our worship services page? Call 524-8061 for details.

Rock walled church welcomes

Worshippers invited to visit rural landmark, small church

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

Although anyone who has traveled the back roads of Doña Ana County has seen it, many don't know that St. Mary's at Hill Anglican Church is active.

"It's surprising how many times I've heard that people don't think we're still holding services," said Rev. Jim Reeves.

Services

Sundays

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:15 a.m. Bible Study, Morning Prayer Scriptures

Fourth Sunday of the Month

9 a.m. Morning Prayer (Eucharist from Reserve Sacrament)
10:15 a.m. Bible Study, Morning Prayer Scriptures

Tuesdays

10 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:30 a.m. Bible Study

Although the church, located at 7975 Doña Ana Road, is indeed holding services, its regular numbers remain a little more than a dozen, and what concerns Reeves the most is that a majority of those people are older.

With the help of the local gospel music group Connected; however, Reeves said he hopes people will come out to visit the distinctive and cozy church, especially young families, from 8 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. Saturday, June 18. Those curious to peek inside the landmark rural church also are welcome.

Even glimpsed in movies – see the car chase scene of 1979 film of Mark Medoff's "When You Comin' Back Red Ryder?" – the single-story rock-walled church is located on a bend in Doña Ana Road, across from Hill Baptist Church.

The church was built in 1920 – "at least that's what the cornerstone says," Reeves said – by the pastor known as "Preacher Lewis."

Over the years, the church has been home to an assortment of small congregations, Reeves said.

"I don't believe it's ever been used for anything other than a church," Reeves said.

About five years ago, officials with the Anglican Church from the International Communion branch in El Paso was seeking some kind of mission possibility in southern New

Mexico, he said, when they learned the church was available.

"The first time I saw this place, I fell in love with it," he said.

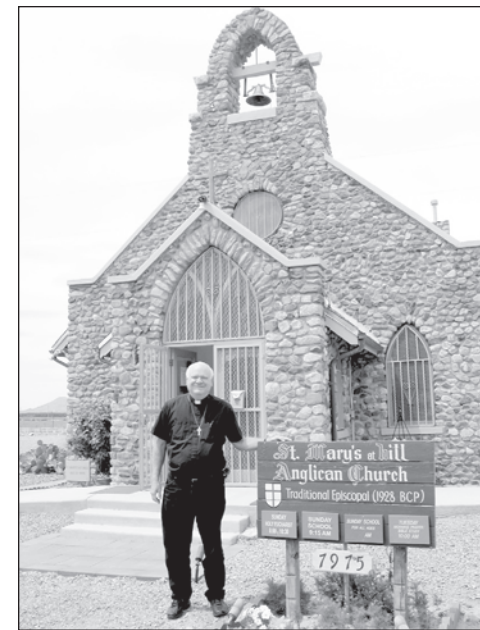
Reeves assumes the interior of the church walls is made with adobe – "when it's cool, it stays cool, and it holds heat in" – and said stones were gathered from the Rio Grande for the exterior walls. The wood floor with an inlaid marble center aisle are all originals, he said. The church did have to plaster over a few cracks, he said, and the pews now are uniform, whereas previously they have been an assemblage of different pews.

Also new since the Anglican church came to the rock church is a bell in the bell tower, which Reeves said is actually rung for services. Next to the church is the new parish building, with more room for group meetings and other activities, such as Bible study.

For those interested in becoming church members, Reeves said St. Mary's is a traditional Episcopal Church – under both the Anglican Church International Communion and the Anglican Convocation of the Good Shepherd – and uses the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

"We are very orthodox in our traditions," he said.

Not only is the church seeking new



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Todd Dickson

Rev. Jim Reeves stands in front of the St. Mary's at Hill Anglican Church on Doña Ana Road. The rock church is looking to attract more worshippers.

members, he said, but especially those wanting to take part in ministry.

Reeves said he will be glad to answer any questions visitors may have about the Anglican faith during the June 18 open house, which will include performances by Connected and light refreshments.

Church News

Continued from previous page

YARD SALE FUNDRAISER

The Etz Chayim-Tree Of Life Messianic Congregation, 134 S. Main St., parking lot No. 10, will hold a yard sale and barbecue fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 5. Barbecue plates for sale and live music will be available. All are welcomed. For more information, call 866-874-7250.

BIG APPLE VBS

East Mesa Baptist Church, 6160 Moongate Road, will hold Vacation Bible School from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 5, through Thursday, June 9, with a family night at 7 p.m. Friday, June 10. The theme is the Big Apple Adventure and children ages 3 to those who have completed fifth grade are welcome. For more information, call 382-0386.

SEAQUEST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

University Presbyterian Church, 2010 Wisconsin Ave., will hold a Summer Seaquest Vacation Bible School for children ages 4 to sixth grade from 9 a.m. to noon June 6-10. Register online at www.upres.com. For more information, call 522-0828.

ANNUAL ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES SALE

Serra Club will hold its 34th annual Antiques and Collectibles Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 11, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 12, at St. Genevieve's Hall, 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave. Forty dealers from four states will present antiques and collectibles for sale. Admission is

\$2 and is good for both days. Food will be available. Guests can also bring items for free appraisals. For more information, call 526-8624.

VIOLA AND PIANO RECITAL

Elaine and Mike Rafferty will present a viola and piano recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 12, at University United Methodist Church, 2000 S. Locust St. The program will consist of classical and sacred selections in a variety of musical styles. The recital is free and open to the public.

LIVING THE RESURRECTION

The spring series of adult education at St. Anthony of the Desert Orthodox Mission, 518 N. Alameda Blvd., will explore the implications of the resurrection of Christ in our lives at 7 p.m. Mondays through June 13. Park on the small lot and come in the side door by the chapel. For more information, call 524-2296.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces, 200 E. Boutz Road, will hold a "Son Surf Beach Bash" themed Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon June 13-17. For more information or to register, call 526-5559.

VBS AT CHURCH ON THE ROCK

Church on the Rock, 1405 S. Solano Drive, will host its Big Apple Adventure Vacation Bible School from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, June 13, through Friday, June 17. Children in pre-school to sixth grade can explore New York

City through music, crafts, games and snacks. For more information, call 527-2687 or visit www.cotrlc.com.

EKANKAR EVENT

Eckankar, Religion of the Light and Sound of God, will hold a free discussion from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 18, at the Ramada Palms de Las Cruces, 201 E. University Ave. The topic will be "How to Survive Spiritually in Our Times." For more information, call 524-2580 or visit www.exkankar-nm.org.

VBS WITH RAINBOW TRAIL

Peace and Trinity Lutheran churches will host Vacation Bible School with counselors from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 5-8 at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Children entering kindergarten through sixth grade are invited and registration forms are available at both churches. For more information or to register, call 522-7119 or email becca@peacelutheranlc.com.

PEACE CAMP

Registration for Peace Camp Las Cruces has begun. The camps held this year, with the theme of "Think Globally – Act Locally," will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 11-15 at Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave., for children in grades eight to 10; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. July 18-22 at Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 S. Solano Drive, for children in grade four to seven; and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 25-29 at First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo Road, for children in grades one to three. For more information, contact 522-7119

or peacevillagenm@gmail.com or visit www.peacevillagenm.org.

SPIRITUAL CINEMA MATINEE

The Center for Spiritual Living, 575 N. Main St., will hold its Inspirational Cinema Matinee at 7 p.m. the first Friday of the month as part of the Downtown Art Ramble. A \$5 donation is suggested. There will be a discussion after the movie at the center's bookstore, Wisdom Through the Pages. For more information, call 523-4847.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES MARKETPLACE

The Catholic Charities Marketplace is partnering with artisans and farmers, locally and abroad, to bring unique, handmade gifts and treasures to the Las Cruces area. Marketplace partners

are receiving a fair wage for their work. The Catholic Charities Marketplace is located at 2205 S. Main St., Suite B. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. If you're an artisan interested in partnering with the marketplace, contact Monita Chip at 523-7577 or mma@catholiccharitiesdlc.org.

PEACE LUTHERAN PRAYER GROUPS

Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 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.

When?
June 6 - June 10
6PM - 8:30PM

Come!
Explore a bamboo forest, and learn about God's love!

Vacation Bible School
for ages 4 - 11

Morning Star United Methodist Church
2941 Morning Star Drive @ Roadrunner

For more information, please call **575-521-3770**

Summer youth programs

There are plenty of opportunities for kids in Las Cruces to stay active and entertained, thanks to a wide variety of camps and programs held throughout the city.

The following is a sampling of the camps and activities available around town. To have your event included, email arts@lascrucesbulletin.com.

10 a.m. Saturdays, Family Art Adventure, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. Families of all ages will draw, paint and make mix-media projects. Free. Call 541-2137.

9 a.m. to noon, June 6-16, Michele's Dance Academy Summer Dance Camp, Michele's Dance Academy, 1195 E. Madrid Ave. Children ages 7 to 14 can participate in a new musical theater class, while children ages 3 to 6 can participate in crafts, dances and videos focusing

on dance and fun. Call 527-1893 for cost.

8:30 to 2 p.m. June 6-17, Career Art Path Program, at Court Youth Center, 410 W. Court Ave., and Preston Contemporary Art Center, 1755 Avenida De Mercado. Doña Ana Arts Council presents the camp, which invites students in sixth through ninth grade to explore career art paths in a variety of fields. Cost \$100. Call 523-6403.

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. June 6-10, Southwest Music Academy Elementary Music Camp, Las Cruces High School, 1755 El Paseo Road. For students in first through fifth grade. Cost \$59. Visit <http://swmusicacademy.org>.

1 to 4 p.m. June 6-10, Southwest Music Academy Middle School Choir Camp, Music Center on the New Mexico State University campus. For

students in sixth through eighth grade. Cost \$59. Visit <http://swmusicacademy.org>.

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. June 7-10, Ceramics, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. For ages 5 to 8. Cost \$50. Call 541-2137.

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. June 7-10, Asian Art Adventure, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. Children ages 8 to 12 can learn traditional arts such as Origami paper sculpture, Sumi painting and Chinese knotting. Cost \$50. Call 541-2137.

1 to 3 p.m. June 7-10, Ceramics, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. For ages 8 to 12. Cost \$50. Call 541-2137.

1 to 3 p.m. June 7-10, Drawing and Painting, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. For ages 5 to 8. Cost \$50. Call 541-2137.

8 a.m. to noon, June 13-17, MathSnacks Camp, Mesa Middle School, 7225 Jornada Road. Students in fifth through seventh grade work with teachers to strengthen their math skills using technology, teamwork, games and manipulatives. Registration required by June 3. Cost \$30. Call 646-8141.

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. June 13-17, Southwest Music Academy Elementary Music Camp, Las Cruces High School, 1755 El Paseo Road. For students in first through fifth grade. Cost \$59. Visit <http://swmusicacademy.org>.

8:30 a.m. to noon, June 13-17, Gem M Summer Science and Art Institute, Court Youth Center, 402 W. Court Ave. Students incoming to sixth through eighth grades can explore the integration of science and art. Cost \$5. Call 541-0145.

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 13-18, Camp Invention, Desert Hills Elementary, 280 N. Roadrunner Parkway. A fun-filled adventure fostering creative-thinking skills, science literacy, history and the arts in activity-oriented modules created for children entering first through sixth grade. Registration required by June 10. Cost \$215. Call 800-968-4332.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 13-17, Spy Camp, New Mexico Space Academy, Alamogordo. Children in kindergarten through 12th grade learn the art of covert operations and espionage. Cost \$150-\$205. Call 575-437-2840.

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 13-17, Nature Camp 2011, Museum of Natural History, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Students in first and second grades will learn about nature through crafts, science experiments, nature study and field trips. Cost \$150. Call 522-3120.

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. TLC Ponies and Petting Zoo, TLC Ponies, 4735 Blair Canyon Drive. Children ages 3 to 5 can learn about horse care and safety, grooming and tack, plus they will get to ride and enjoy a petting zoo. Cost \$165. Call 997-7348 or visit <http://tlcponiesandpettingzoo.com>.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 13-17, Summer Ballet Program, Verdi Academy of Dance, 1685 Don Roser Drive. For children ages 6 to 8. Cost \$75. Call 522-3127.

1 to 4 p.m. July 13-17, Southwest Music Academy High School Full Symphony Orchestra Camp, New Mexico State University Music Center. Open to high school string and band students. Cost \$59. Visit <http://>

swmusicacademy.org. **Overnight, June 13-17, Science Olympiad**, New Mexico Space Academy, Alamogordo. An academic competition preparatory camp for students sixth through 12th grade. Cost \$475. Call 575-437-2840.

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. June 14-17, Ceramics, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. For ages 5 to 8. Cost \$50. Call 541-2137.

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. June 14-17, Comic Book Art & Story Pictures, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. Children ages 8 to 12 learn how to transform their cartoons into stores and works of art. Cost \$50. Call 541-2137.

1 to 3 p.m. June 14-17, Ceramics, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. For ages 8 to 12. Cost \$50. Call 541-2137.

1 to 3 p.m. June 14-17, Drawing and Painting, Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St. For ages 5 to 8. Cost \$50. Call 541-2137.

2 to 4 p.m. June 15-16, New Mexico Craft Workshop, Branigan Cultural Center, 501 N. Main St. Children age 8 and older will create and decorate piñatas – a brightly colored, candy-filled decoration used in celebrations throughout Latin America and other cultures. Early registration is recommended. Cost \$8 per person. Call 541-2154.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 21-23, Bakin' and Shakin': A Historic Cooking Camp, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road. Children ages 9 to 13 learn how pioneer cooking. Pre-registration is required and \$20 class deposit due by June 14. Cost \$70 for museum Friends and \$80 for others. Call 522-4100.

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HEALTHY WOMAN

Join Us In Celebrating Our

Third Anniversary

With Women's Keynote Speaker, Dale Smith Thomas

Dale Smith Thomas
Founder/CEO
Winners
By Choice, Inc.

Real Women, Real Life: Keys to Becoming Your Personal Best

Join us as we bring Dale Smith Thomas, nationally recognized success speaker, to MountainView for **Healthy Woman's Third Anniversary celebration**. Dale will talk about how women are doing more than ever before and the keys to being truly successful, regardless of life's struggles. Learn how to become more successful in every area of your life by implementing skills that will take you from where you are to where you want to be! Dale has been featured on CMT, Dr. Phil, the Travel Channel and *The Big Idea*. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this exciting evening.

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum • 4100 Dripping Springs Rd.

4 – 6 p.m. FREE Women's Health Expo
Health information and demonstrations,
partner exhibits and more!
6 p.m. Dinner Program & Speaker
\$20 per person

Seating is limited for the dinner program, so reserve your space early. RSVP by Friday, June 3 by calling our reservation line at 575-556-7665.

Join Healthy Woman today even if you are unable to attend the anniversary celebration. Go to MountainViewRegional.com or call 575-556-7665. Membership is free, and the benefits last a lifetime.



Summer camps related to science, music, dance and art will take place by various local organizations throughout the city.

REFLECTING WITH THE SUN



Home built to look like it sprouted from the ground

See featured home on pages E2-3

Featured home: 5413 Angel Fire Court

Photos by Niki Rhynes

The home at 5413 Angel Fire Court was built in 2003 by Eddie Chavez to appear as if it grew from the landscape.



Brightly colored walls surround a window bringing in the picturesque view of the Organ Mountains.



A soothing fountain can be found in the front courtyard.



The bathrooms include Talavera sinkbowls surrounded by Saltillo-tile countertops.



The dining room includes a round wall of windows.



Built-in shelves and wood detailing fill the home.



Vigas and corbels add to the home's Southwest flair.

An inspiring residence

Las Alturas home offers peace and an artistic flair

By **Beth Sitzler**

Las Cruces Bulletin

As the sun sets, the Organ Mountains transition into various shades of pinks, oranges and reds. It was this color spectacle in which builder Eddie Chavez found inspiration when constructing his homes in the Las Alturas area.

Developing the area surrounding Angel Fire Court and constructing many of the homes on the street, Chavez selected the stucco for each residence based on the hues of the sunset. For the home at 5413 Angel Fire Court, he chose a deep terracotta that looks almost red when the evening light hits it.

"Eddie, he's an artist and an artisan," said Realtor Renee Frank of Steinborn & Associates Real Estate, who represents the listing. "He tries to make new designs that reflect the culture and landscape of the area. It looks as if the house just grew from the ground."

Built in 2003, the 2,768-square-foot home was later purchased by Dan and Diana Hein, who were relocating to the area from Maryland for work purposes.

Beginning his search for a new home online, Dan Hein said he was instantly attracted to the home when he saw it.

"I liked that it's artistic," he said. "It just grabbed me."

A gravel driveway connects to a flagstone path that takes guests past the naturally landscape front yard to swinging double doors that shut off the front courtyard for privacy.

The path continues to the simple-carved door. Surrounding the rock-covered courtyard are various colorful potted plants. A brick pad for a small table to look out to the front view and a fountain can also be found in the area.

Inside the home, the entryway shoots out in various directions. To the left is the brightly colored living room, which features two large picture windows that capture the view of the scenic backyard and majestic mountainscape.

"This is the selling point right here," Frank said.

Hein said the walls were originally a pale neutral tone. Wanting the home to reflect the Southwest culture, the couple had several of the rooms painted various bright colors.

"You don't see bold colors back on the East Coast," he said.

The bright seafoam green walls of the living room are complemented by a light tan kiva-style fireplace and window seating as well as a viga-and-plank-covered ceiling.

"Personally, I like all of the wood," Hein said. "My dad was a wood carver, and that detail attracted me."

Also near the entrance is the dining room. Featuring a terracotta color, a signature of most Chavez homes, the room includes an iron chandelier hanging from the tall ceiling. A curved wall of windows showcases a view overlooking the courtyard.

Off the living room is the kitchen. Painted a creamy yellow, the room is decorated in tile. The countertops are covered in Saltillo tile, which also decorates the floors of the home. Talavera tiles in cream and blue encompass the backsplash. Wormy maple cabinets cover the walls. Hein said the rustic cabinets were used throughout and complement the knotty pine doors.

Featuring a split-bedroom floor plan, three of the home's four bedroom are located off of the kitchen. French doors seclude a family room area as well as two of the bedrooms, which share a Jack and Jill bathroom.

The master suite can be found on the other end of the home. Featuring a lighter terracotta color than that in the dining room, the peaceful room features a few windows as well as a door to a private, covered patio area.

The master bathroom was designed in a L-shape and features two separate sinks and a vanity. As with the other

bathrooms, Talavera sink bowls and Saltillo tile fill the space. A large tiled shower, decorated in both tan and turquoise tile, is also found in the room.

Hein said the home features a Southwest flair, but also reflects homes found on the East Coast, which have more compartmentalized floor plans and less open spaces.

"I like the privacy the home offers," he said.

Sitting on 1 acre, the backyard features a covered patio area

with fans. A lagoon-shaped swimming pool graces the area. Measuring about 9 feet deep in one area, the pool features a small jumping board and a soothing fountain.

Surrounding the pool are various plants the previous owners put in, Hein said. From rose and sage bushes to oleander, the backyard features numerous colorful native plants. Two turquoise doors located on the back and side walls finish the area and offer a bright contrast to the tan desert surroundings.

"A turquoise or dark blue garden door is a feature of the entire neighborhood," Frank said. "Almost every home has one."

Hein said he has found inspiration in the peacefulness of the home, so much so that he has written a fiction book.

"Being here in the house has been very inspiring," he said.

Details

Featured home
5413 Angel Fire Court

Bedrooms
Four

Price
\$399,000

overlooking neighborhood
and a view of the Organ
Mountains

Square footage
2,768

Bathrooms
Three

Special features
Saltillo and Talavera tile,
wood accents, swimming
pool with a fountain,
enclosed front courtyard

Contact
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renee@reeneefrank.com

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One



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Grilling your breakfast, lunch, dinner

Cast-iron grill accessories extends the use of your outdoor cooker

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Many consider Memorial Day weekend the start of summer and a kick off to grilling season.

It may come as a surprise to some, but the terms grill and barbecue aren't interchangeable. While similar, barbecue requires foods to be cooked slowly at a low temperature – usually 180 to 300 degrees. Grilling, however, uses a higher heat and requires less preparation and planning.

There are several health benefits to grilling. Unlike other cooking methods, foods prepared using a grill don't absorb as much fat. Plus, because grilling often enhances the flavors of a dish, fewer additives, such as salt and butter, are needed.

Meats are the most common grilled items, likely followed by vegetables, but there is so much more that can be prepared using this cooking method. A good way to cook all of your meals over this source of heat is to use the many different cast-iron grilling accessories available.

What are they?

Invented in China approximately 3,000 years ago, cast iron has been melted and poured into a variety of cookware shapes and sizes. Relatively cheap when compared to other cookware materials – such as copper and stainless steel – cast iron offers several benefits to the user.

In addition to its extreme heat retention and ability to withstand high temperatures without warping, cast iron offers one of the best non-stick surfaces available. Also, cast iron lasts a very long time with the proper care. Even items that have fallen victim to rust can be restored with a little elbow grease.

While most kitchens feature a cast-iron pan or two, the cooking material is also used to create a variety of grilling accessories. Most include a long handle, so they can be placed on the flame at a safe distance. From breakfast to lunch, get help creating tasty, grilled dishes this summer with a variety of cast-iron tools, including:

- **Brat and hot dog cooker:** Designed to quickly and efficiently cook small groups

of hot dogs or bratwurst at once, this cast-iron contraption prevents the meat from becoming charred. Another benefit is the cooker allows the dogs to be heated along with toppings, such as onions or peppers.

- **Bread baker:** Consisting of a long cylinder shape, this cast-iron gadget allows you to bake a variety of quick and leavened breads in only 10 minutes. It can also be used to heat up wraps, corn dogs, sausage and burritos.
- **Hamburger griller:** Whether you're looking to grill beef burgers, salmon patties or chicken, this gadget can do it all. The slotted cast iron simulates grill grate cooking, so the excess grease will drip out. The hamburger grill comes in both single and double-patty forms.
- **Panini press:** Crisp, freshly grilled sandwiches are a snap with this specially designed cast-iron tool. Measuring 8-by-4-inches, it can cook most artisan breads. Use like a normal panini press by layering your sandwich selections in the pan before securely locking.

- **Pie iron:** Available in both square and round forms, this cast-iron creation makes pies in a flash. The circular variety crimps the edges tightly for a pocket-type sandwich or pit. The square type makes a traditional toasted square sandwich-type dessert.
- **Popcorn popper:** The traditional way to pop popcorn is with this cast-iron utensil. The raw kernels are placed in the metal bowl and a heavy-duty lid covers the contents, keeping them from shooting out when over the hot flame.
- **Waffle iron:** Available in either a circle or rectangular form, this cast-iron item allows the fluffy breakfast staple to cook quickly and evenly over an open fire.

How do they work?

After lighting your grill and allowing it to reach the required temperature, fill your cast-iron accessory with your desired food items and slide it onto the hot surface.

Each tool will operate differently, so make sure to know when you need to flip and remove the cast-iron gadget so its contents won't burn.

When done, wipe down the cast-iron tool with a dry paper towel, removing any leftover grease, oil or food residue. Be sure to read the accompanying instructions so you can properly clean, season and store your grilling accessory.

Where can they be found?

These items can be purchased at www.bedbathandbeyond.com.

How much do they cost?

Depending on which accessory you select and the manufacturer, a cast-iron cooker for your grill can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$60.



Chocolate Popcorn

12 cups popcorn
1 cup unsalted peanuts
1 cup sugar
2/3 cup corn syrup
2 tablespoons butter
6 ounces semisweet chocolate
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

After popping your popcorn, preheat oven to 250 degrees. Spray a large, shallow roasting pan with vegetable spray. Mix popcorn and peanuts in roasting pan. In a heavy 2-quart saucepan, cook corn syrup, sugar and margarine over medium heat, until the mixture boils, stirring constantly. Stir in chocolate and continue to cook for 5 minutes or until the chocolate is completely melted and the mixture has thickened. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Pour over popcorn and peanuts; stir to coat well. Bake for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Pour onto foil and let cool. Store in tightly covered containers. (Recipe adapted from <http://gourmetpopcornplus.com>.)

Easy Healthy Waffles

1 1/4 cup whole wheat flour
1 cup wheat germ
1 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
2 cup milk
1/2 cup oil
2 eggs

Combine dry ingredients. Add milk, oil and eggs. Mix until smooth. Pour 1 cup on waffle iron. Cook until they stop steaming. (Recipe adapted from www.cooks.com.)

Featured kitchen gadget: Cast-iron grill accessories

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Featured Realtor: Ceil Levatino

Selling Las Cruces to area newcomers

Realtor Ceil Levatino uses experience to get through the current recession

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

With 28 years of experience under her belt, Realtor Ceil Levatino knows a thing or two about building a profession and navigating through tough economic times.

Originally from upstate New York, Levatino attended the Albany Medical School and earned a degree in nursing. After 10 years in the field – which included being the coordinator for kidney transplants, a job that required her to be on call 24 hours a day – she became a new mom and began looking for a different career path.

“I was looking for a profession that gave me the flexibility to be a mom and still be out in the workforce,” she said.

Recently purchasing a new home, Levatino’s husband Tony encouraged her to get involved in the real estate industry.

“I told him he was crazy,” she said. “I hadn’t sold anything in my life. I still haven’t. I think homes sell themselves, I’m just the facilitator.”

Earning her license in 1983, she said the interest rate at the time was 19 percent.

“That was the first recession I went through,” she said. “This is now my fourth. By now, it’s like been there, done that.”

While some may see a recession as a less-than-desirable time to venture out into a new profession, Levatino said it was the perfect time to learn the business.

“I realized it was the best time to get in because people are more interested in selling their home,” she said, “and buyers are usually more likely to price reasonably.”

When she was new to the field, Levatino said she learned a great deal from her first qualifying broker, Rita Scharg, who owned a small company in New York.

“She taught me customer service,” she said. “She taught me how to do relocations and that before you sell a house, you have to sell an area.

“She was a wonderful teacher. I’ve carried her lessons with me these 28 years.”

Levatino said her experience as a nurse has also been beneficial to her real estate career.

“It’s interesting,” she said, “in the late 1990s, (the National Association of Realtors) did a national survey of the top real estate producers. They discovered that most were women and that most of them were former nurses and teachers.”

Using the same skills she developed as a nurse, Levatino said real estate involves a lot of hand holding and listening.

“Dealing with serious medical issues can be very serious, and so can buying a home,” she said. “You have to help people through that.

“You have to have a keen observation. You have to shut up and listen.”

While in New York, Levatino said she not only sold and managed property, but also taught ethics to other Realtors.

“Ethics is very important to me,” she said.

In 2002, her husband was recruited to MountainView Regional Medical Center, relocating the family to the City of the Crosses and bringing Levatino to Steinborn GMAC Real Estate, now Steinborn & Associates Real Estate.

“I like to tell people that God has a sense of humor because I’ve always wanted to live on the ocean and he brought me to the desert,” she said. “But the moment I got here, I felt like I was home. This is where I wanted to be and where I was supposed to be.”

Because Levatino specializes in clients relocating to the area, she said she gets to show off southern New Mexico every day.

“I love meeting people from all over the country,” she said. “I love selling the area. Las Cruces is an easy place to sell.

“I see this area continuing to grow and being a strong and stable real estate market. Its beauty, its culture, its diversity bring people in from all over the country.”

Although some might be wary of the real



Realtor Ceil Levatino said she believes a home sells itself. She represents homes throughout Las Cruces including this one at 1230 Vista del Monte.

estate market, Levatino said because interest rates are currently so low, potential homeowners can obtain larger loans and have more money to spend on a home.

“Right now is an incredible time to buy and sell,” she said. “The biggest challenge is overcoming all of the negativity we see in the mainstream media. It’s a matter of constantly impressing on people that, particularly here, we live in an incredibly stable environment.”

She said thanks to steady employers, such as New Mexico State University, White Sands Missile Range and NASA, Las Cruces hasn’t seen huge dips in the real estate market like other areas have.

“It bodes well for buyers and sellers,” she said.

Selling between one and two homes a month, Levatino said she believes the customer’s needs come above her own.

“I go that extra step,” she said, adding that this includes checking on vacant homes, opening windows and helping with staging, if needed.

This dedication has earned her several awards, she said. Last year, Levatino won the national Premier Customer Service Diamond award through the GMAC franchise. To earn

such an award, she said she had to receive a 100 percent rating on surveys sent to her clients grading her service.

“The secret to succeeding and maintaining business during a recession is to work harder and smarter,” she said. “You have to work longer and more hours, and you have to be more creative. You really have to be able to think outside of the box and not be afraid to do so.”

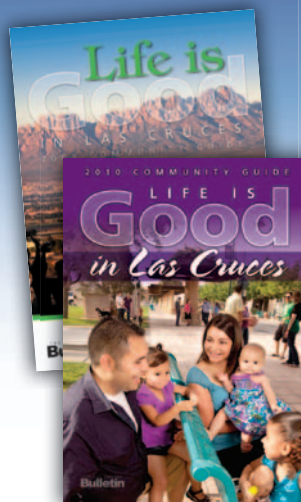
Passing on her experience and knowledge, Levatino has partnered with Realtor Veronica Gallegos.

“She’s been a great mentor and person to work with,” said Gallegos, who received her real estate license in June 2010.

“When someone contacts us, they’re getting two very motivated and hard working Realtors who will put their needs first,” Levatino said.

In addition to her time as a Realtor, Levatino also gives back to the community and the industry in which she works. Along with being active with the Las Cruces Association of Realtors and the Realtor Political Action Committee, she is also on the board of directors for Turning Point. She is also active in politics, she said.

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Details

Featured Realtor

Ceil Levatino

Company

Steinborn & Associates Real Estate

Phone

• 644-6763 (cell)
• 523-2850 (office)

Email

clevatino@comcast.net

Website

www.homesdelascruces.com

Education

Degree in nursing,
Albany Medical School

Organizations

• Las Cruces Association of Realtors
• Realtors Association of New Mexico

- National Association of Realtors
- Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce
- Turning Point

Family

- Husband Tony
- Son Sean



New Mexico makes the solar top 10

State can move up the list with forward-thinking investments



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Solar Powered*

According to the New York Times, New Mexico has ascended to the No. 9 position among the top 10 solar states in the United States. For us in New Mexico, it is no surprise that our state should be among the top 10 states for installed grid-tied solar PV power. The amazing part is to see New Jersey in second place. What's going on in New Jersey?

Clearly the New Jersey lead is not due to greater sunlight or generating capacity per installed kilowatt. After all, an optimally installed 1 kilowatt PV solar system generates 1,831 annual kilowatt hours in Las Cruces, whereas the same system in Newark, N.J., can deliver only 1,310 kilowatt hours – a 29 percent reduction.

Several factors, none of them sunlight intensity, contribute to the New Jersey lead. New Jersey has higher electricity prices and production incentives to reduce costs and speed investment payback. The state and local utilities also offer easy access to funding through loans, grants and other programs.

New Mexico was much farther down the list just over a year ago, so what made the difference? Two things: First, El Paso Electric Co. increased electric rates up to 10 percent by implementing the two tier summer rates. Second, in 2009, production incentives were introduced and New Mexico implemented a 10 percent tax credit program. These changes led to our rapidly expanding New Mexico solar industry.

A lending program specifically for solar, or



Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Samantha Roberts

Despite New Mexico's abundance of sunny days, the state is ranked below New Jersey on the list of the top states that use solar panels.

renewables, would further help New Mexico take its rightful role, leading the U.S. Yet, while work progresses on improving access to financing options, the utilities work against your ability to participate in the distributed solar programs by trying to reduce or eliminate solar production credits.

These forward-thinking incentive programs help to secure our energy future by driving down the cost of renewable-energy

systems. While, at the same time, the increased cost for an average non-solar electric bill is only pennies per year.

Even with the utilities' efforts to reduce the incentive programs, the outlook for continued solar growth in New Mexico looks bright. Planned large-scale utility and distributed solar projects across the state should double the existing installed capacity. Southern New Mexico locations in Las Cruces, Santa Teresa,

Top 10 solar states

Rank	State	Percent installed	Megawatts Installed
1	California	47%	971
2	New Jersey	14%	293
3	Colorado	5%	108
4	Arizona	5%	101
5	Nevada	5%	97
6	Florida	4%	73
7	New York	3%	54
8	Pennsylvania	3%	54
9	New Mexico	2%	45
10	North Carolina	2%	42

Alamogordo, Silver City and Deming are all sites for large or utility scale Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) projects. Hopefully, next year New Mexico will topple Arizona or Florida for a top five spot.

Our relatively low position at No. 9 in nationwide solar production should be temporary. We are the No. 3 state in solar potential due to our bounty of sunny days and cooler high-altitude temperatures compared to other sunny states.

Moving up to No. 1 is not limited to the big multimillion dollar projects. New Mexico needs homeowners and business owners like you to install solar systems. Don't wait for our electric rates to increase and incentives to disappear. Do not let the solar opportunity pass you by. There are many New Mexico programs that make solar work for you, too.

Mellow Honek is a managing member at Sunspot Solar Energy Systems LLC, a Las Cruces solar photovoltaic systems contractor featuring New Mexico made products. For more information on the power of solar, call 541-3533 or visit www.sunspotenergy.com.

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Introducing the cool, green roof

Thurston to install elastomeric roofs, save customers money

By **Beth Sitzler**
Las Cruces Bulletin

With the blistering summer sun pounding down on rooftops throughout Las Cruces, homeowners have the opportunity to go green and save money on their cooling bills by installing an elastomeric roof.

A synthetic latex rubber product used to coat a roof, Farrell Thurston Construction introduced the material in March at this year's Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico Home & Garden Show.

"It's a coating, instead of actually redoing the roof," said Farrell Thurston, owner of Farrell Thurston Construction.

Thurston said that while he began researching elastomeric roofs two years ago, the idea of a more efficient roofing material sprouted about seven years ago after he was constantly tasked with repairing leaks in the flat roofs he installed on his homes.

"I was talking to the framer I had at the time, and he told me about a TPO (thermoplastic polyolefin) product," Thurston said.

Switching to the membrane roofing material, Thurston said his homeowners were very happy with the product, thanks to its durability and energy efficiency.

"We were really pleased with how it was working, but it had seams, and seams could always fail," he said, explaining that the seams are the most vulnerable area of a roof.

Searching for a durable roofing material that was seamless, Thurston came upon KM Coatings Shieldcoat System out of Phoenix.

"I chose this company because they were out of Phoenix, which has extreme heat, more extreme than here," he said, adding that some of the homes that feature the roofing material have had it for 20 years.

"I really like the energy savings and how easy it is to fix, when you know how to fix it."

The company has also coated the roof of Chase Field, the home to the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Targeted for flat roofs, the formula of the material can be adjusted to adhere to a variety



Farrell Thurston has recently introduced elastomeric roofs by the KM Coating Shieldcoat System. The company, based in Phoenix, uses the material to restore Chase Field, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

of surfaces, such as smooth surfaces, granulated build-up roofs, modified bitumen roofs and spray polyurethane, among many others.

After properly cleaning a roof and fixing any problem areas, such as leaks and dips, Thurston said a series of coatings are sprayed to the area.

"The cost is generally under \$2 a square foot," he said.

When finished, the roof is covered with one big sheet of rubber. Generally using one to three coats, and no more than four, Thurston said the number of coats is determined by the warranty, which is offered by him and the manufacturer and can last from five to 20 years.

Thurston said there are several advantages to the roofing material. Because an elastomeric

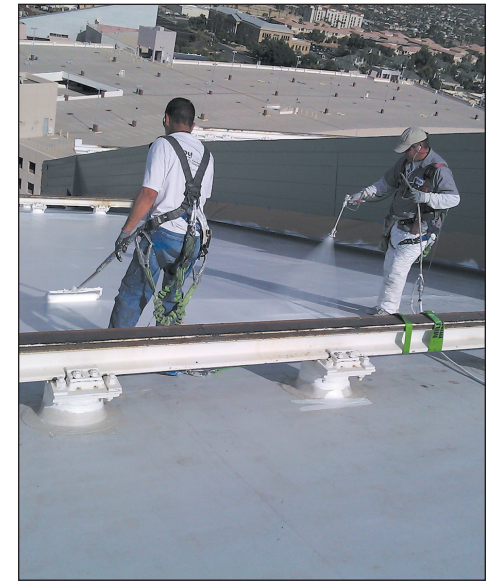
roof is a coating, when it comes time to replace the material, another layer is just simply sprayed on.

"You don't have to rip it off and expose the house or business," he said, adding that it is recommended that users apply a new coating every 10 years, which is about how long it will take the sun to eat through the substance.

This also helps the environment, since less waste is being hauled off to the dump – another expense that comes out of the homeowner's pocket.

Another advantage of the white material is its reflectivity, which will reduce cooling expenses.

"It sends over 90 percent of the sun's rays back up," he said. "The roof will not heat up.



A series of coats, the white roofing surface offers several benefits, such as reflecting 90 percent of the sun's rays, making it an energy-efficient material.

You can walk on it barefoot in the middle of the summer."

An important aspect of the coating material is its durability, which is determined by its tensile strength and flexibility. Thurston explains that the higher the tensile strength, the less dirt that will collect and damage the roof, and the more elasticity, the less it will split and crack.

"We have 40-degree shifts here," he said. "The roof is constantly moving."

Thurston said tears in the roof are usually manmade, most likely caused by someone dragging a sharp object over the surface. To help deal with these little accidents, Thurston said he will show homeowners how to make minor repairs themselves.

Generating interest from homeowners at the Home & Garden Show, Thurston said he has recently measured a few roofs.

"I hope to get things rolling and going," he said. "It's a new thing, people need to get used to it and get comfortable with it."

Thurston added that he plans to use the roofing material on all of the homes he constructs, which will help his future customers.

"It will make it really easy for the homeowner to take care of their roof," he said.



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Tears and smiles at the MVHFH Home Dedication

Photos by Beth Sitzler

Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity dedicated three of its six homes of the 2010-11 build season Thursday, May 23, on Kenmore Road.



MVHFH volunteers Ted Jones and Jimmy Williams were honored for the work they do to pre-construct each home, which includes framing the doors and windows.



Mayor Ken Miyagishima shares a few words with guests during the dedication ceremony. Behind him are Pastor Grady McCollough, who performed the blessing of the homes, and MVHFH Executive Director Ed Johnson.



Home recipient Patricia Guzman stands with Ed Kosciolek, president of the MVHFH board, in front of her three-bedroom home that she will share with her three children. Guzman's home was sponsored by Wells Fargo, which donated \$15,000.



After the tears, Tina Perez is all smiles as Johnson hands her the keys to her new home, which she will share with her two children.



Johnson hands Candace Leyba the keys to her new home as son Jonathon, 3, looks on.

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Enjoy the summer with a shady seating area.



Relaxing in the great outdoors

Get stylish space this summer

Cool drinks. Barbecues. Relaxing. They're all the makings of the perfect summer evening when enjoying time with family and friends. It's the season when everyone is looking for ways to spend time outside – and with a little ingenuity, a bit of a green thumb and a knack for do-it-yourself projects, the backyard can easily become an outdoor oasis. Here are some summer project tips:

- **Deck prep:** Many homes have a patio or deck. A fresh sweep, followed by a hose-down of the area will clear off any debris from the patio. A coat of fresh stain on a deck will liven up the whole space.
- **Garden ready:** Make sure garden beds are free of overgrowth and weeds. If they're looking a little sparse, consider enhancing the area with low-maintenance perennials. Add pops of color with annual flowers such as impatiens, geraniums and marigolds. For additional adornments, plant annual flowers in pots of different shapes and sizes that can be clustered on the corner of the patio or deck.
- **Climb high:** If you enjoy climbing flowers like clematis or climbing snapdragons, it's simple to build a free standing garden obelisk to create a colorful focal point. Finish the garden with fresh mulch to help control weeds and keep the ground moist.
- **Outdoor living:** Cooking with outdoor grills can help keep the heat out of the kitchen. An outdoor fire pit serves as an inviting centerpiece to the area, allowing everyone to enjoy cooler summer evenings.
- **Relax and enjoy:** Finally, create seating areas where family and friends can relax. The classic Adirondack chair is the perfect option for additional seating. Why not take it a step further and create a cozy seat for two, including a table and a place for an umbrella to shade the area? You'll have a new outdoor seating area that is custom made for your backyard oasis.

With a little work around the backyard, you'll have a comfortable and cozy living space that can be used during warm summer months.

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Stop a home bug invasion

Simple steps keep bugs away



Scott Svenheim
ACE Pest Detective

Summer bugs are buzzing, and it's time to seal up the house and sweep up every crumb – unless, of course, you'd like to welcome in ants, mosquitoes and flies.

No matter what the insect, a good start to banishing them is to keep the house sealed. Caulk and fill cracks and holes on the outside of your home. Check window and door screens and mend them if broken. Trim shrubs and trees back from the house. Make sure eaves are tight and any screen vents are intact, and keep the cellar and attic dry.

Inside it is also important to make sure areas such as under the sink are kept dry. Food needs to be properly sealed and stored so it doesn't attract insects.

When all else fails, call a professional to get rid of these pests rather than let them infest your home.

Ants

There are a variety of ants that might sneak in, including crazy ants. Crazy ants are found in all states, living both in and outdoors. They feed on animal matter, greases and sweets. These ants can be difficult to control. The best way to get rid of possible nesting places outdoors is to get rid of decaying vegetation and debris such as lumber. Always clean kitchen counters and store food in airtight containers to help keep them undetected.

Mosquitoes

Everyone knows these summer insects by the itchy, swollen blotches they cause. Female mosquitoes need a blood meal to lay their eggs, and through their bite, carry dangerous diseases, including West Nile virus and malaria. They will breed in the smallest amount of standing water, left for as little as seven days. Get rid of anything



Mosquitoes can be a nuisance and a danger this summer.

that allows water to accumulate. Protect yourself and your family with the appropriate insect repellent outside, making sure to read cautions before applying.

Houseflies

One of the most common pests is the housefly, which is attracted to garbage and other decomposing organic matter.

So, regularly clean trash containers, and always bag trash before tossing it away. Keep all trash containers away from the house, especially windows and doors. Make sure to clean up after pets outside because picking up pet waste will eliminate the areas as breeding grounds.

“ No matter the insect, a good start to banishing them is to keep the house sealed. ”

Spokesperson and Associate Certified Entomologist Scott Svenheim, an expert for Truly Nolen of America, has 25 years of experience in the pest control industry. Svenheim brings an informative as well as unique and entertaining perspective to consumers' pest problems in the 21st century. Founded in 1938, Tucson, Ariz.,-based Truly Nolen of America is one of the largest family owned pest control companies in the United States. Truly Nolen has more than 80 branch offices in Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah. The company also has independently owned and operated franchises in an ever-growing number of territories including California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah as well as Puerto Rico. For more information or to ask your local expert a question about insects and insect prevention, visit www.trulynolen.com or call 915-591-9864.

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Reuse that picnic staple

Extend the life of your disposable paper plates

By **Amanda Green**
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

Disposable cutlery is essential for any backyard barbecue when you have too many guests for the glassware in your cupboards.

Cups, bowls, plates and silverware are in high demand, and for any conscientious consumer, these items are available in an eco-friendly compostable material. The plastics are made of corn, and take 90 percent less time to decompose than their petroleum cousins. Paper plates without the waxy coating are also available in many fiber and natural blends to make the compost pile in your backyard a little happier.

Once the guests have come and gone, there is often an abundance of these disposable items. Paper plates are one item that can have many lives, and here are some quirky ideas to help them live up to their full potential.

1. Use them for arts and crafts: Paper plates can be used to entertain your kids. Teach your children to make masks, mobiles and decorations out of the leftover stack of paper plates. Cut the paper plates in the shape of butterfly wings and attach the two together with some string to turn your kids into instant butterflies. You can also cut out holes for their eyes and mouth and have them decorate the plate into an animal mask of their choice. It'll be a zoo in no time.

2. Teach your kids the time: Turn the plate over and use the underside as the face of a clock. Paste on numbers and hands to teach your children to tell time the old-fashioned way. It's a good way to practice counting and even multiplication for school-age children.

3. Protect stored dishes: Prevent stored dishes from clattering and breaking, especially when you are moving, by inserting a paper plate between each dish when storing. This helps to cushion the glass without the addition of bulky newspaper.

4. Make note cards: Paper plates are tough enough to provide you or your child last-minute impromptu cards for school or work

presentations. Use paper plates and a ruler to measure out an 8-by-5-inch card on the plate and cut out. Use the first card as a template to cut out the rest.

5. Catch paint drips: It's pretty common to scrape the paintbrush on the side of the can to remove excess paint before painting for a smooth and even coat. It prevents drips from running down your walls, but also means those drips are running down the outside of the can instead. To prevent painting the floor, place a paper plate under the can to catch all of the drips, and it makes for an easy clean up when you're done.

6. Soaking up bacon grease: Love your BLTs but out of paper towels to drain the bacon? Grab a paper plate, and place it on top of a glassware plate. Use it as a sponge to trap all of that unwanted grease, and simply toss it out when you're done. No need to pour the grease down the drain and cause yourself plumbing problems months down the line.

7. As a disposable lid: With all the mismatched shapes and sizes of Tupperware, that last-minute dash to get Mama's potato salad out the door and to your next outdoor picnic can be a mess of ill-fitting lids. Use a paper plate as a makeshift lid, either on top of or inside the bowl the salad was prepared in and you'll have an instant lid. To secure it down for that long drive, use a little plastic wrap over the bowl and paper plate lid to ensure a good seal. This trick can also be used when microwaving soups or some other liquid to prevent it from splattering.

8. Make a musical instrument: Throw an impromptu drum circle with buckets, glass bottles and paper-plate tambourines. Fold a paper plate in half and partially glue the rim to the other side. Leave a hole large enough to pour any kind of dried beans, pennies or rice into the sealed plate and close up the hole. Let it dry before decorating it, and get the conga line started at your next family function.

9. A funnel for spices or herbs: Bendable cutting boards are wonderful tools for getting what you've chopped into a mixing bowl. But



*Around-the-house item:
Paper plate*

if you don't have one available, or happen to have a paper plate handy, use it on top of your cutting board. When you're through mincing, simply roll up the paper plate and use it as a funnel into your favorite dressing container or mixing bowl.

10. To move furniture: Slide a paper plate under the legs of your heavy couch or chair for a spontaneous moving machine. Let the friction of the paper help you slide your furniture right out of the door. You can also cut a paper plate to match the size of the bottom of your chair legs to avoid scratching your new wood floor.

11. Create bunny bedding: Shredded paper makes great bedding for many small pets, including rats, rabbits and mice. Put your

leftover, lightly used paper plates through a shredder, or cut strips with scissors to reuse your plates.

12. Lose weight for bikini season: If you're stuck at home and old exercise DVDs just aren't cutting it, put two paper plates under each of your hands and use them to bear walk across your carpet. Keep your arms extended, and use the plates to steer as your legs push you around the house. Expensive gyms usually use a covered 2-by-4 for the same result. This will help get your glutes into top shape.

13. Create a shield when drilling: The next time you have to drill a hole or two into the ceiling, protect yourself from falling debris with a paper plate. Slide the plate over the bit, and it will catch any falling dust or items.

Home Sales Scoreboard

LAS CRUCES AREA

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Closed Sales New Homes	2	3	12

Closed Sales Existing Homes	17	16	28
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Pending Home Sales (All)	201	195	255
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	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Average Days on Market (All)	175	132	117

	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Median Price New	\$292,000	\$179,585	\$148,715

Median Price Existing	\$169,950	\$161,000	\$152,500
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	This Week	Last Week	Same Week Last Year
Total Homes on Market (All)	1,053	1,136	1,185

Real Estate Agents	405	405	454
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"Homes" include detached single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums

Source: Las Cruces Multiple Listing Service (MLS)* for the period 5/23/11 - 5/30/11
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ChileKnights

Need a break from heavy food? Light recipes perfect for summertime dining

Sunny Conley
Chile Knights



After the long Memorial Day weekend binge, I'm geared up for lighter fare, especially for offerings other than burgers, hot dogs and sausage links.

I'm ready for something fishy, and a recipe for Baja fish tacos dressed in a smoky lime sauce comes to mind. Deborah Szekely, founder of Rancho La Puerta resort spa in Baja, Calif., co-authored a full-color hardback cookbook by the same name.

Szekely and Deborah Schneider present a tasty collection of 120 recipes in "Cooking with the Seasons at Rancho La Puerta: Recipes from the World-Famous Spa," organized as a series of seasonal menus. The summer menu includes recipes for Baja fish tacos, salsas, salad tossed in a sassy yogurt dressing and rice pudding.

Corn, Cilantro and Arugula Salad with Yogurt Dressing

- 4 to 5 ears large sweet corn, shucked and silk removed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 cups baby arugula, stemmed
- 12 large radishes, thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon coriander seeds, crushed
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped

With a sharp knife, cut all the kernels from the cobs. You should have about 4 cups.

In a 10-inch sauté pan, heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the corn, cover and sauté 2 to 5 minutes, until tender. Set aside to cool.

In a large bowl, mix the corn, arugula, radishes, coriander and cilantro. Cover and chill for 1 hour. Makes 6 servings.

Yogurt dressing:

- 1/4 cup yogurt
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar or cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt, or to taste
- 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil

1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon chipotle powder

In a small bowl, whisk together the yogurt, vinegar, mustard and salt until well blended. Gradually whisk in the oil and chipotle powder until well blended. The dressing may be made ahead of time and refrigerated for up to 1 hour.

Just before serving, toss the salad with half the dressing. Add more dressing to taste.

Baja Fish Tacos

Serve tacos with homemade salsa (recipes below).

- 1 1/2 pounds boneless white fish, such as mahi mahi, red snapper or halibut
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 shallot, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime or lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon dried Mexican oregano
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 12 corn tortillas
- 1 cup green cabbage, finely shredded
- Chipotle lime sauce (recipe below)

Cut the fish in 12 pieces about 3 inches long and 3/4 inch wide.

Place the fish in a baking dish with the garlic, shallot, lime juice, oregano, salt and pepper. Toss gently to coat the fish. Cover and marinate fish for about an hour in the refrigerator.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Brush a baking sheet lightly with the olive oil. Place fish pieces on a sheet pan and bake for about 15 minutes, or until firm.

Warm the tortillas on a flat grill (or warm in microwave briefly).

Place a portion of fish in each warmed tortilla. Top with 1 tablespoon shredded cabbage and 1 teaspoon of Chipotle Lime Sauce. Makes 12 tacos.

Chipotle Lime Sauce:

- 1/4 cups puréed roasted red pepper (recipe below)
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon canned chipotles in adobo sauce, finely chopped
- 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice

Combine all the ingredients, cover and refrigerate until ready to

serve. Makes 1/3 cup.

Roasted Red Bell Pepper:

Broil or grill one whole red pepper turning often until the skin is blistered and blackened on all sides. Using tongs, place pepper in a paper bag and seal. Allow to steam for about 15 minutes. Remove the skin by rubbing it off, and then remove the stem and seeds. Place pepper in a blender and purée.

Aztec Guacamole

- 1 cup frozen peas, slightly thawed
- 1 medium ripe avocado, peeled and pitted
- 2 tablespoon fresh lime or lemon juice, or to taste
- 1 medium tomato, seeded and cut into 1/2-inch dices
- 1/2 red or sweet onion, cut into 1/8-inch dices
- 1 jalapeño or serrano chile, seeded and minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 teaspoon fresh garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper

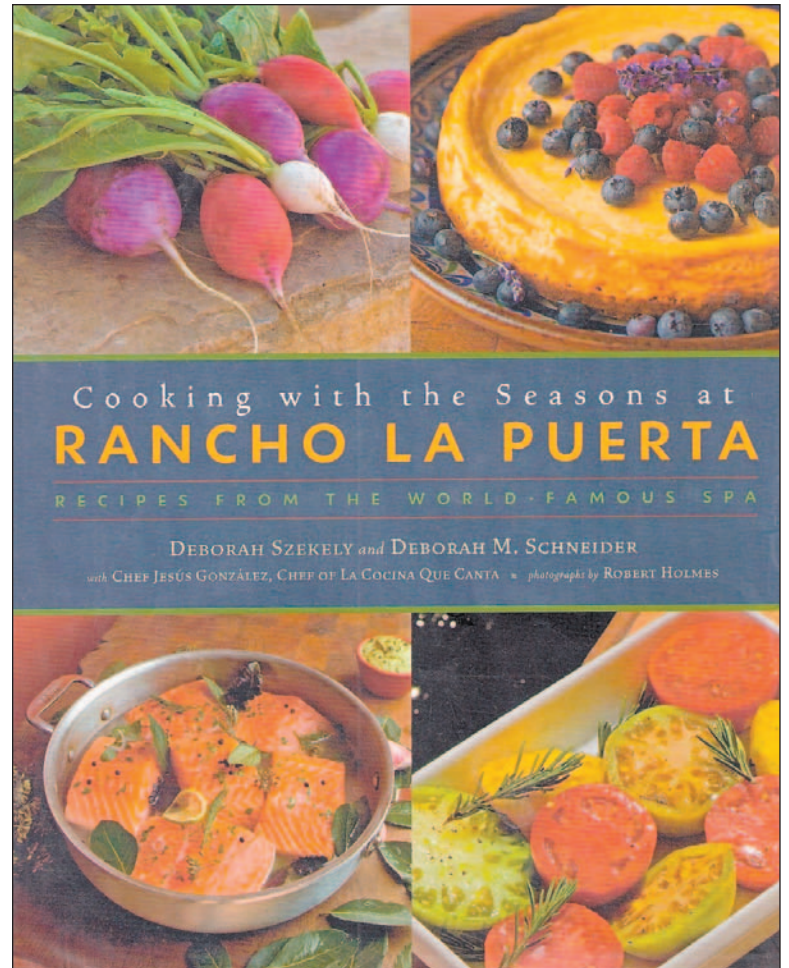
In a blender or in the bowl of a food processor, blend the peas until smooth. In a medium bowl, mash the avocado with a fork or potato masher. Add the juice, tomato, onion, chile pepper, cilantro, garlic, salt and black pepper. Add the peas and mix well. If the guacamole won't be served immediately, press a piece of plastic wrap directly onto the surface to prevent browning. Makes 2 cups.

Variation: Instead of peas, use 1 cup of well-cooked broccoli, edamame or cooked asparagus tips.

Picante Sauce

- 10 dried chiles de arbol, seeded
- 1/2 cup hot water
- 1 Roma tomato, cored and cut into several pieces
- 1 small clove garlic, peeled
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste

Break the chiles into small pieces and soak in the hot water for about 30 minutes, covered. Place the chiles and their soaking liquid in a blender and puree until smooth.



Treat yourself to tasty spa recipes from Rancho La Puerta.

Add the vinegar, garlic, tomato and salt, and pulse until smooth, adding more water as necessary, 1 tablespoon at a time, to make a thin sauce. Strain if desired. Taste for seasoning. Makes 3/4 cup.

Lemon Rice Pudding with Fresh Fruit and Pistachios

- 2 cups milk
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 2 tablespoons lemon verbena leaves, or substitute using leaves from lemon verbena tea bag, chopped
- 1 cup long-grain brown rice
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1/2 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup agave syrup or maple syrup, or to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 cups fresh fruit
- 1/4 cup green pistachio nuts, crushed or chopped

6 to 8 fresh lemon verbena, lemon balm, or mint sprigs for garnish

In a small saucepan, combine 1 cup of the milk with the water. Bring to a simmer over medium heat and stir in the lemon verbena. Turn off the heat and let stand for 30 minutes, returning the milk to the saucepan. Add the rice and cinnamon stick, bring to a simmer and reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook slowly for 15 minutes, or until the rice is soft. Remove the cinnamon stick.

In a blender, combine the remaining 1 cup milk, ricotta cheese, vanilla and syrup. Purée completely, and then stir into the cooked rice along with the ground cinnamon and cayenne pepper. Half fill parfait glasses with rice pudding. Spoon some fresh fruit on top and garnish with a pinch of bright green pistachios and an herb sprig, if desired. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Sunny Conley, a former Las Cruces, is an award-winning cookbook author and food columnist. If you have a chile recipe or idea to share, contact Sunny at sunny.conley@gmail.com.

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Looking to add some landscaping interest?

These flowering trees will survive in the hot desert climate

Gary Guzman
Gardening Guru



If you are looking for something to add interest and shade to your landscape, try a flowering tree. There are several colorful trees to choose from that will thrive even in our harsh desert climate.

One of the easiest and drought tolerant is the desert willow. This naturalized tree or shrub grows to around 15 to 25 feet

tall and is wide, depending on how it is pruned. There are several cultivars available such as "Burgundy," to a seedless variety called "Timeless Beauty." This tree can be pruned at any time of year and will grow with very little or no water once established.

The mimosa or silk tree offers a soft semi-tropical look to the desert landscape without any extra care. This tree usually gives more of a wide canopy before height. Its pink flowers, which stand out against its dark green foliage, give off a wonderful light sweet fragrance. The drawback on this lush looking tree is the amount of seed pods it produces, which may be a maintenance issue. Depending upon pruning, this

tree generally grows 25 to 35 feet, or more, with an equal or wider spread.

The golden rain tree has bright yellow flowers followed by unique seedpods that look like small Japanese lanterns. This slow to moderate growing ornamental offers dappled shade with its openly branched structure. Younger trees often have strong trunks to start off with, which may be ideal in small areas with "wind-tunnel" conditions. This tree usually reaches a mature height of no more than 25 feet.

Crape myrtle trees range from 8 to 25 feet tall depending upon variety. Colors ranging from white, red, purple, pink, lavender and shades in between, make this a popular choice for our hot summers. Regular feeding is recommended for best performance. Use high phosphorous fertilizer for maximum color, and iron chelate for deep green foliage. A drip system will work best especially when in bloom. Removal of old spent blossoms and/or seedpods will keep this colorful plant blooming well into the fall season.

The vitex or chaste tree has bluish purple and sometimes white spike flowers in late spring through summer. This tree is usually multi-trunked, but can be single trunked as well. Older mature specimens can be gnarly with that "Bonsai" look to them. Height and width is 15 to 25 feet or more, again, depending upon pruning. Like most flowering plants, removal of spent flower spikes will result in new blooms. It is drought tolerant once established, but has a lush look if watered occasionally.

All the trees listed above are or should be in bloom now or within the next few weeks. So if you are in the market for something with an added bonus, consider one of these. I don't want to use the old expression, "Kill two birds with one stone," but rather, "Give two birds a home."

Gary Guzman, owner of Guzman's Color Your World Gardening Centers, can be reached at gary@lascrucesbulletin.com.

“ I don't want to use the old expression, 'Kill two birds with one stone,' but ... ”

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Las Cruces Bulletin photo by Beth Sitzler
One of the easiest and drought tolerant flowering trees is the desert willow.