

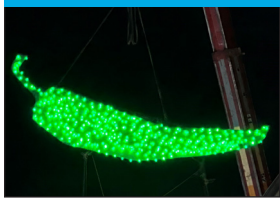
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FRIDAY, JAN. 5, 2024 | Volume 57, Number 1 | lascrucesbulletin.com

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For the dogs

LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO BY JUSTIN GARCIA

Two dogs held at the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley in Las Cruces eye a reporter with curiosity while being photographed on Jan. 2. The shelter is implementing changes in its governance. See page 5.



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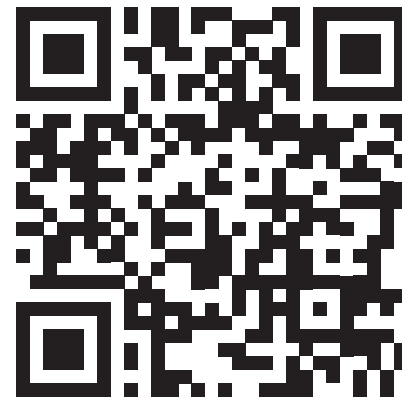


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Miyagishima might not be done with politics

By **ALGERNON D'AMMASSA**
Las Cruces Bulletin

On the day after Christmas, Ken Miyagishima was at his office on S. Solano Drive, where he is district manager for Farmers Insurance. He walked a visitor through memorabilia of over three decades in public office: photographs and front pages of newspapers, trophies and plaques, hard hats from groundbreaking ceremonies and many pictures of him with his father as well as presidents, congress members and celebrities in and out of politics.

He was elected as a Doña Ana County commissioner in 1992 when he was 28 years old, later as a Las Cruces City Councilor and then as mayor in 2007, when he defeated incumbent Bill Mattiace by fewer than 100 votes. (Mattiace returned to city hall this week after winning a seat on the city council in November's elections.)

The district Miyagishima supervises for the insurance company has grown during his time in office: He oversees 56 agents in 20 cities now.

"I'm not getting younger," he said. (Miyagishima is 60.) "It was hard to do justice to both jobs."

His first run for office was in 1990, as a Democrat against Republican Lee Rawson for a state House seat representing the 37th District. Miyagishima, then 26, lost by 330 votes, yet claimed 48 percent of the vote.

"I didn't know what a state Rep. was," he recalled. "All I knew was, I wanted to serve in office."

His father and brother both served in the military during the Vietnam War, and he recalled worrying for his brother after his dad came home in 1969. He noticed that the people in a position to help were in government offices. Besides public service, he seemed to develop an interest in competitive politics while young: He told a story of talking to friends in eighth grade about wanting to run for governor. He recalls individual elections from years past, the candidates' names and vote spreads with ease.

On the other hand, he argues partisan elections are an obstacle to governance. Miyagishima said he saw the difference when he joined city government after serving on the county commission,



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO BY ALGERNON D'AMMASSA
Ahead of his last city council meeting on Dec. 18, Mayor Ken Miyagishima shook hands and greeted well-wishers.

where elections are partisan.

"I couldn't believe how efficient they were," he said, referring to the city. "I think I had PTSD, coming from the county. If you want to stop Congress from fighting, just make it nonpartisan."

At the start of his political career, it wasn't that simple: After becoming the first New Mexican of Japanese descent to hold public office, and during his campaigns for city council and mayor, he recalls encountering discrimination over his ethnicity.

And after overcoming that to be elected to the council, he often found himself the odd man out. "I was always ignored ... I was always a little more strict. I'm no saint, but I try to do the right thing."

Miyagishima upset Mattiace to be elected mayor in 2007 during public controversy over city growth and development, including a scandal over state trust lands leased to private developer Philip Philippou and a fight between the city and the developer over infrastructure culminating in a 2009 legal settlement. He attributes his victory in that election to making ethical development policy a campaign issue.

Over the years, Miyagishima would take other lonely stands or defend unpopular policies backed by the council. He championed the city's humanitarian response to large releases of asylum-seeking migrants in the city in 2019, in-

cluding the lease of an unused building upgraded for use as a processing center, facing angry residents repeatedly in open session. He was also the lone critic on the dais of cannabis legalization, citing public safety and quality-of-life concerns. Serving through the first years of the Covid-19 pandemic, he supported digging into reserve funds to infuse millions of dollars into the local economy.

In recent years, he found himself seated next to a more progressive city council while he positioned himself as a pro-business Democrat – he publicly endorsed Michael Bloomberg for president in 2020. Miyagishima alleged that 2016 bail reforms exacerbated property crime in Las Cruces, and he got into a

public spat in 2022 with Municipal Judge Joy Goldbaum over handling of cases involving repeat defendants, particularly among the unhoused.

In a wry wink to his occasional solitary stands, he voted "no" on a motion to adjourn his last meeting as mayor on Dec. 18.

In 2019, Miyagishima was elected to his fourth and final term as mayor in the city's first ranked-choice election. He defeated nine challengers, ultimately defeating Mattiace in the ninth round of voting. (In ranked choice elections, voters are permitted to rank their preferred candidates by first choice, second choice, etc.)

SEE **MIYAGISHIMA**, PAGE 7

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Urenda appointed to Las Cruces police deputy chief

BULLETIN REPORT

The Las Cruces Police Department appointed Eric Urenda to the position of deputy chief of operations, according to a news release on Dec. 28.

Urenda, a 17-year police officer, will oversee patrol shifts, the street crime unit, SWAT unit, K-9 unit, crisis intervention team, traffic unit, transport officers and police service aids. Urenda works alongside Deputy Chief of Administration Sean Mullen, who was appointed in



ERIC URENDA

January 2023.

“Eric brings a lot to the table when it comes to his experience and the tremendous amount of respect he holds within our department,” LCPD Chief Jeremy Story said in the news release. “I have full confidence in his ability to help lead us into the new year and beyond.”

Urenda is Story’s first appointment after City Manager Ifo Pili hired Story as chief in December 2023.

The news release said Urenda graduated from the LCPD police academy in 2006 and earned

valedictorian status. He earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from New Mexico State University in 2008.

In his 17 years with LCPD, Urenda has overseen dayshift patrol since 2021. He has also overseen LCPD’s Academy. The news release said Urenda has also served as a SWAT team member, LCPD’s Honor Guard and an instructor in the DARE program at local elementary schools.

Urenda starts in the role on Dec. 31. The position of deputy chief of operations was previously held by Story before his promotion to chief.

Free bus fare continues in DAC

BULLETIN REPORT

Doña Ana County residents will have continuing access to free bus service from January through June, per an announcement Wednesday from the South Central Regional Transit District.

SCRTD has been operating county-wide bus service since 2016, and reported carrying more than 100,000 riders during 2023 over eight routes serving three counties, connecting riders to Roadrunner TRANSIT, El Paso’s Sun Metro and other bus operators. County ridership has increased by 20 percent over 2022, the district said.

The SCRTD governing board approved fare-free bus service for the first half of 2024 at their Decem-

ber meeting, expanding free public transit throughout the county, including routes connecting to El Paso.

Doña Ana Commissioner Manuel Sanchez stated in a news release that the free service presents residents with an opportunity try out public transit: “According to the 2020 US Census, residents in rural counties such as Doña Ana spend about 20 percent of their household incomes on transportation annually. By offering a Fare Free service, we will allow those who drive today to experience SCRTD’s safe and convenient service while saving on their family’s budgets and helping us to improve our air quality.”

Additionally, SCRTD noted it has added new

routes, passenger amenities and Google Transit to assist users in using the transit system. Electric-powered buses are coming to its fleet in the future, also, as the district transitions to a zero-emissions fleet within the decade.

SCRTD board chair Javier Perea, who is also the mayor of Sunland Park, stated, “Most other transit agencies in the nation have cut their service dramatically because of the (Covid-19) pandemic. SCRTD has controlled its cost, making it possible to provide free public transit. Offering free fares will allow more people to give SCRTD a try.”

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Animal Services Center to allow public onto its board

By JUSTIN GARCIA

Las Cruces Bulletin

The Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley will be governed differently in the future, pending approval from the state government.

Among a slew of administrative changes to the area's animal center, the most significant change adds four members of the public to the Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley Board of Directors. The four members of the public will act as full vot-

ing members and participate with the same rights and authority as elected officials.

The new board features four elected officials – two city councilors and two county commissioners. Two members of the public appointed by the city council and two members appointed by the county commission join them. The board also includes the city manager, the county manager or their designees.

Before the change, the board had three elected officials from the county

and three elected officials from the city. It also had the county manager and city manager or their designees.

The discussions and votes occurred across several meetings in the fall of 2023, but the board had been examining modification as early as 2022.

ASCMV is a jointly funded operation between the county and the city. The two entities established the ASCMV in 2008 and fund the operation yearly. According to the center's statistics, ASCMV

takes in over 700 animals – mostly dogs and cats – monthly.

The center reported that most intakes come from the public bringing in strays or from animal control officers bringing in strays.

It's also one of the state's "kill shelters," or shelters that euthanize animals when they run out of space. Despite sending dozens of animals to other shelters or rescues each month, the center reported in November they euthanized 265 animals – all dogs or cats.

More changes to ASCMV

The ASCMV Board officially approved the governing changes at a meeting in September. The Board then confirmed that the city and county agreed to the changes during a meeting in December.

Barbra Bencomo, the city's chief administrative officer and a non-voting member of the ASCMV Board, outlined another significant change to the ASCMV just before the vote in September: It established a Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, which bounded differing responsibilities between the city, the county and the center.

For example, the city now oversees finances, human resources, information technology, risk management and the center's vehicles. Bencomo also said the MOU brings the center more in line with city policy regarding personnel rules.

The MOU also outlined the center's responsibilities, such as managing its budget.



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO BY JUSTIN GARCIA

The front entrance of the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley on Dec. 28, 2023. The Center's board recently elected to redraw its governing structure to allow more public presence.



BARBARA BENCOMO

Another change to a different governing document reduced the number of meetings per year from 12 (monthly) to four (quarterly). Some members of the board raised concerns about this, noting that some monthly meetings can last up to four hours. But their concerns were assuaged since the board can call special meetings and has several subcommittees where information is presented.

The board also gave the city of Las Cruces the right to audit the center regularly.

Future problems for future boards

Kassandra Gandara, former city councilor and ASCMV Board member, raised concerns about the experiences of public board members before the ASCMV board approved the change. Gandara asked what training the public board members would receive after an appointment.

Clint Thacker, the

ASCMV Executive Director, said the county and city would decide on an appointment process, which could vet unqualified or inexperienced candidates from the running. Beyond that, Thacker said he'd provide the new members with informational packets and be available to them.

"Also, the hope is that these individuals would already be fluent in a lot of the terminology and the things that we use, and we talk about in the animal industry," Thacker said. "We have some great people here in the community that could easily fill this role."

Still, Gandara said her concerns were more on the budget side of governing the center. She said she could anticipate issues where the city and county could not agree on a budget. She said the lack of official representation would exacerbate the problem.

"I'm all for having the public in. I think that's a



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Outdoor Equity Fund grants support youth programs

BULLETIN REPORT

New Mexico's Outdoor Recreation Division announced \$1 million in Outdoor Equity Fund grants to 30 organizations and public agencies around the state, and five tribal communities, on Dec. 26.

The fund was created by the state legislature in 2019 and has been disbursed \$5 million to 211 organizations since, according to the state Economic Development Department. The grants support outdoor programs fostering "stewardship and respect for New Mexico's land, water and cultural heritage."

"The organizations and communities receiving funding for their youth programs are not only fostering the next generation of outdoor leaders by intro-

ducing new experiences but also planting the seed of the possibility of a career in outdoor recreation," acting EDD Secretary Jon Clark stated in a news release. "These 30 programs actively introduce 6,498 young New Mexicans to the outdoors through day hikes, hunting and tanning, bike rides, ecosystem monitoring, adaptive equine camps, fly fishing, acequia cultural preservation and more."

The awards announced the day after Christmas were the second round of awards from the OEF, totaling \$1,052,347, with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$40,000. The recipients are expected to contribute matching funds totaling \$722,301.50.

In southern New Mexico, the grants include:

Animas Public Schools (Hidalgo County): \$40,000 for environmental and climate education and field trips.

Gila Resources Information Project (Grant County): \$20,000 for the Silver City Watershed Keepers Nature Discovery Summer Camp, a week-long program for children in grades 4 thru 6.

New Mexico Youth Conservation Foundation (Grant County): \$33,680 for nonprofit organization providing outdoor programming for schools, nonprofits and others.

Public Lands Interpretive Association (Doña Ana County): \$40,000 for the Whiptail Trails Club, providing in-class visits and field trips for middle school students in Title I schools and in rural areas.



COURTESY OF NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Students are seen participating in an event with the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program in Bernalillo County.

Raíces del Saber wins charter renewal

Raíces del Saber Xinachtli Community School, a Las Cruces public charter elementary school founded in 2019, announced on Dec. 28 that it received a charter renewal without conditions from the New Mexico Public Education Commission through June 30, 2029.

A 10-member elected body, the PEC authorizes charter schools in New Mexico, of which there were 57 statewide during the 2022-23 school year. Charter schools are public schools that are governed by their own



COURTESY OF RAICES DEL SABER XINACHTLI COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Representing the Raices del Saber charter school at its renewal hearing before the Public Education Commission were, from left: Business manager Terrance Hester, operations and community engagement director Luca Carmona, board chair Raul Aldair Marquez, head administrator Maria Artiaga and teacher Alessa Ibanez.

boards of directors rather than the local school district, although some charter schools lease property or enter agreements with local school districts for services.

They must also meet the same academic standards as other public schools in the state.

The school was founded as a dual-language immersion school

for Kindergarten through fifth grade, with students learning the Nahuatl language and Mesoamerican culture alongside core academic standards required by the state. The term "Xinachtli" in its name is a Nahuatl term for a blossoming seed, and refers to the indigenous-based teaching method practiced there.

The school's head administrator, Maria Artiaga, explained in a news release that a charter renewal without conditions demonstrates the PEC's confidence in "the school's ability to

meet the academic needs of its students and the community's confidence in the program."

Artiaga said the school cleared its regular annual audit visits from the state Charter Schools Division, which review academic and financial standards as well as organization and governance. The process includes input from students and families, teachers and administrative staff as well as the governing board.

More information about the school is available online at RaicesDelSaber.org.



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CITY OF LAS CRUCES

Defense against an invisible threat - Carbon monoxide safety

By Becky Coppa

In The Bulletin's Dec. 1 article about preparing for the winter months, Las Cruces Utility (LCU) warned its customers about the increased risk of carbon monoxide (CO) exposure when turning on their furnace for the first time in the winter season. We spoke with Ramiro Pereyra Jr., LCU Interim Deputy Director of Natural Gas and Energy, and Juan Molina, LCU Interim Gas System Inspection Supervisor, to tell you how you can keep safe from carbon monoxide exposure.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is poisonous and flammable. Not to be confused with carbon dioxide (CO₂), the air we breathe out, carbon monoxide is usually found in fumes and is a byproduct of burning gasoline, stoves, grills, and furnaces. Carbon monoxide poisoning, sometimes described as feeling like "flu-like symptoms," comes after prolonged exposure and

is marked by headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and confusion.

Molina explains that he has received service calls from people experiencing flu-like symptoms and believed to be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. The residence was found to be safe, and it was more likely the customer actually had the flu or a cold.

"That doesn't matter to me," Molina states. "I would rather someone take the precaution and call us. That's what we are here for, to ensure that our customers are safe."

LCU ensures that its employees are equipped to tackle carbon monoxide emergencies. Pereyra Jr. states that LCU has an Operating Maintenance and Emergency Plan reviewed annually with all employees. By city regulations, any employee that responds to emergencies must be trained according to the plan to ensure any updates are incorporated into their skillset.



Photo by Haley Davis

How can customers keep safe from the dangers of carbon monoxide? Since carbon monoxide is a byproduct of burning natural gas, it cannot be odorized for your safety. This means that you cannot smell a carbon monoxide leak.

LCU receives more carbon monoxide-related calls in the winter because customers are turning on their furnaces for the first time that year. Molina urges customers to keep their furnace area clean and well-ventilated. To lessen the risk of carbon monoxide exposure, furnaces should be tuned

up each year – cleaned, calibrated, and inspected. Not only will this tune-up reduce your risk of carbon monoxide exposure, but it will also increase the efficiency of your heating system.

Molina also urges customers to install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes or businesses. These can be purchased at home improvement stores as stand-alone products or in two-in-one smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. These alarms will alert you to unsafe carbon monoxide levels and indicate when to call for help. If your alarm alerts you, exit your home or business immediately and call 911 or the LCU maintenance line at 575-526-0500. This number can also be found at the bottom of each LCU article in The Las Cruces Bulletin.

"The best way to combat carbon monoxide emergencies is with prevention," Molina says. "But in the event that a customer needs our assistance, you can get in touch with us at any time."

MIYAGISHIMA

CONTINUED FROM 3

On Dec. 26, at the end of the hallway outside of Miyagishima's business office, boxes of memorabilia and effects from city hall were waiting to be unpacked.

Asked about speculation he would run for office again, he said he wanted to devote more focus to his business, but didn't rule out another run. He did not disclose whether any particular office attracted him. Federal office seemed to be out: He called Congress "dysfunctional" and too partisan to be effective. When asked about issues he might like to work on, he spoke of statewide

benefits for senior citizens if and when Social Security are cut in the future, improving financial literacy and workforce development and other issues that would align with a seat in the legislature or the governor's office.

"I'm going to take some time off, see my agents that I haven't seen in a while," he said. "The country is going to have a lot of challenges and the state is going to have some, too. Whether or not I want to try to help in the future..."

He seemed to be leading up to "we'll see," but did not even venture that far before another entertaining political story came to mind.

BOARD

CONTINUED FROM 5

really important aspect and something that we've never done," Gandara said. "That's not at all my concern. It's about how drastic the change is and then what happens during budget season."

How the new board handles budgeting remains to be seen – and may not be seen for a while.

Now that the city, county and ASCMV Board

have adopted the changes, one final step must occur: The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration or DFA, which approves all inter-government agreements in the state, must approve the new structure.

Bencomo confirmed to the Bulletin on Dec. 29 that the documents were still being reviewed and had not yet been sent to DFA. She estimated that they'd be sent during the first week of January.

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DISTRIBUTION: The Las Cruces Bulletin is complimentary at many locations in Las Cruces, limited to one copy per reader. We also have several vending machines in the area, where copies may be purchased for 75 cents.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: If you would like to receive the Bulletin at your home, a subscription is \$58 per year for local home delivery, or \$125 per year through the U.S. Postal Service.

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The stupefaction of political polls

Suppose that every candidate still challenging Donald Trump in the Republican presidential primary announced today, before a single voter laid a hand on a ballot, that they will withdraw immediately and concede the election to the former president. That would be good news for the Trump team, to be sure, but would it be a fair, democratic outcome for Republican voters?

It's hard to argue that it would, and yet through the past year pundits, political analysts, podcast hosts and political editors have been hammering home the message that the 2024 Republican primary is over and Trump is the nominee. Columnists in the New York Times and Washington Post have even criticized the candidates for refus-

ing to drop out. The New Yorker's political podcast argued that those candidates were in denial for thinking they had any chance, notwithstanding Donald Trump's multiple criminal trials and other court proceedings.

To hear this reporting, there seems little reason for voters to bother. This is a major ethical blind spot for our largest news organizations and, given the signals Trump is sending about what his prospective second term would be like, a reckoning over this style of reporting is long overdue.

The basis for declaring Trump the "frontrunner" is opinion surveys, which constitute a longstanding problem in political

reportage. For gauging sentiment and understanding of issues, they are useful. With candidacies, however, they create an illusion similar to stop-motion animation: Each poll represents responses to a question at a particular moment in time, asked of a sample of people. More

polls follow, and the results of various polls are compared to one another as time and events progress, creating the sense of a race where some are leading and some fall behind, even when we are months away from the one poll that is supposed to matter most, the election itself.

This is why they call it "horserace reporting," which gives journal-

ists stories that can be produced quickly with appealing graphic illustrations; but whether they admit it or not, it also distorts the process long before voters are permitted to decide.

The sensational reporting on who is up or down, who respondents say they like and plan to vote for, most certainly influences fundraising; and fundraising and positioning in polls both influence who is invited to candidate forums. Several conservative candidates with appropriate experience and policy proposals worthy of debate never got their shot to introduce themselves and their ideas to 2024 voters.

Amid discussions of how journalists still flub their coverage Trump (and the movement that, for the moment, still holds

him as its champion), there ought to be urgent discussion of this, probably unwitting, service journalistic practice provided to the designated frontrunner.

At the very least, major newsrooms should be asking one another why they have spent 2023 telling Republican voters their participation is irrelevant as an irrefutable matter of fact. It seems dissonant with the alarms being sounded by these same departments about the threat to democracy Trump presents. At its worst, this punditry could be classified as voter suppression.

Iowa and New Hampshire Republicans will be allowed, at last, to express their will later this month. By then, one hopes they still have choices.



**ALGERNON
D'AMMASSA**
Desert Sage

Budget offers chance for historic change

Like the salaries paid by the Los Angeles Dodgers for Japanese imports, the revenue numbers for the state are getting to be so big that it's hard to wrap your head around them.

The latest estimate projects that the state will collect just under \$12 billion in Fiscal Year 2024, which runs through June. That's up by \$2.3 billion from the past fiscal year and by \$3.9 billion from two years ago.

All of which means that legislators will have just under \$3.6 billion in so-called "new money" this

year, beyond the \$9.7 billion included in last year's budget.

Much of last year's growth was attributed to one-time money distributed by the federal government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the increases are more closely tied to improvements in the economy.

As is often the case, what is good for the state is not necessarily good

for its residents. That includes not only high gas prices, but inflation in general. Strong consumer spending and wage growth, combined with inflation, have increased the state's gross receipts tax collections.

Oil and gas revenue continues to be the primary revenue generator for the state, but we're in a much better position now to get through the traditional down

cycles in that industry. We are expected to end the year with \$3.68 billion in reserves.

As staggering as those numbers are, the sad truth is that it still won't be nearly enough to address the many problems that have vexed our state for years: homelessness, crime, child abuse and schools that consistently underperform on standardized tests, to name a few.

Last year, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham tried to spread the wealth

around. The largest appropriation in her proposed budget was \$1 billion for tax rebates. While I like free money as much as anyone, I think that was a mistake. It sends the message that the state has more money than it needs or knows what to do with.

If that's truly the case, we should just lower the tax rates.

The next-highest appropriation was \$91.3 million to fund pay raises for state employees. Housing,



WALT RUBEL
The View
From Here

Family & medical leave on the farm

By **KRISTEN WORTHINGTON**
Guest Columnist

Amidst the sprawling pecan orchards that grace the landscape of New Mexico's Mesilla Valley, I stand at the crossroads of farming, family, and the future. My journey as a farmer and employer has unveiled a pressing need for Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) in our state. It's a need that resonates throughout New Mexico, transcending boundaries and touching the lives of countless families. It's high time our lawmakers recognize and address this call for support.

The story of our farm is one marked by resilience and adaptability. When we first arrived here, we were met with the delightful challenge of what to do with the abundant pecans on our land. We rolled up our sleeves, learned the intricacies of pecan farming and started by selling our harvest in the shell, as is customary. However, this approach came with its own set of uncertainties. Prices fluctuated wildly, making it increasingly difficult to cover the costs of caring for our trees properly.

Faced with this dilemma, I embarked on a quest to make our farm

more profitable, not just for us but for our fellow pecan farmers in the community. In January 2020, we initiated the establishment of a shelling plant, a move that promised to stabilize prices and attract more customers. Little did we know that the journey ahead would be fraught with challenges, primarily the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these hurdles, our team's spirit remained unbroken, and in September of that year we finally received our final inspection permit, marking a significant milestone. What started as a venture led solely by my sister and me now supports four employees, and it's only growing.

Throughout this journey, I've come to realize the importance of flexibility, especially when it comes to accommodating employees' needs. As an employer, I've witnessed firsthand the trials and tribulations faced by my team members. From unforeseen illnesses to the need for time off to care for family members, life can throw unexpected challenges our way.

In response, I decided to offer flexible hours to my employees, an approach that has not only eased their personal burdens but has also led to

improved job satisfaction. For instance, when my sister needed surgery, I implemented comp time, allowing her to balance her work hours effectively. Flexibility became the cornerstone of our employment structure, and our employees responded positively.

This experience has made me acutely aware of the importance of PFML. As a small business owner, I believe it can provide the peace of mind my employees deserve when life takes an unexpected turn. Serious illnesses, family emergencies, or other unforeseen events should not force employees to choose between their income and their well-being. PFML would help bridge that gap, ensuring that employees have the financial support they need during challenging times.

New Mexico families and businesses need PFML to thrive. I urge our state lawmakers to make PFML a reality in 2024, as it's high time we put families first. Together, we can create a brighter, more compassionate future for all New Mexicans, where families flourish, and businesses prosper.

Kristen Worthington is the owner of Worthington Farms in Mesilla Park.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I just received the Las Cruces Bulletin's Best of Mesilla Valley 2024 and was astonished to see the first person featured was not even qualified to be on the list.

Yvette Herrell (voted "Best Local Legislator") is not a local legislator and has not been for two years. She was voted out of Congress in 2022 and her first act as a totally new member of Congress was to deplore the procedures by which the state of Pennsylvania conducted its election, thus

challenging its validity. So, on Jan. 7, 2021, her first action in Congress, attempting to disqualify the 2020 presidential election, might have disenfranchised her own states' voters.

Granted, she will run for the general election in November this year, but it is presumptuous to say that she is a "best" for 2024.

It makes me less enthusiastic to believe that any of the "bests" in the edition are credible.

Karen M. Dumont
Las Cruces

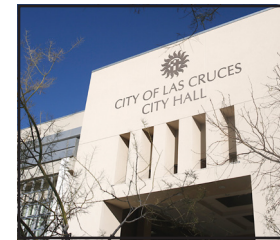
Minimum wage increase takes effect Las Cruces

BULLETIN REPORT

Workers on a minimum wage salary will see a modest increase in pay beginning this week.

Workers making \$12 per hour will see their hourly wage increase to \$12.36. Workers on tipped wages will see an increase from \$4.78 to \$4.95. The change only affects workers and businesses in the city of Las Cruces.

The increase stems from a 2014 ordinance that increased the minimum wage and dictated regular increases based on the city's calculation of the Consumer Price Index, or CPI. CPI mea-



sures the change in the price of goods over time and is meant to track inflation.

According to a news release, the city compares its CPI calculation to the minimum wage established by the state of New Mexico. The city then enforces the higher number.

"In 2024, the State's minimum wage is scheduled to remain at \$12.00 an hour," the

news release announcing the increase said. "The city, however, will adopt the minimum wage based on the City ordinance because it is higher than the State's wage."

The change went into effect on Jan. 1.

According to the ordinance, the city considers employers who break the law by paying workers less than the minimum wage a public nuisance. That allows workers to sue employers. Successful lawsuits enable workers to collect lost wages along with interest on lost wages. They also force the employer to pay the attorney fees.

CHANGE

CONTINUED FROM 8

health care, education, children's services and public safety all received increases. But I'm not sure that any of that new spending will make a significant impact.

Instead of sending

checks to everyone, we should focus on those most in need.

New Mexico Voices For Children has proposed a number of policies that would directly help struggling families. They include paid family and medical leave; increased funding for early child-

hood care and education; a new fund to support tribal education; full funding for college tuitions; increased tax credits for young children, coupled with tax increases for upper-income residents; increased funding for the TANF program and full funding for Medicaid and

disabilities waivers.

No governor in our state's history has ever had the kind of revenue to work with that Lujan Grisham does. She has an historic opportunity to make lasting improvements in the state during her final three legislative sessions. But we can't fix

everything at once.

The governor needs to identify her top priorities, then rally the legislature around them. They should start with those most desperate for help.

Walter Rubel is a freelance journalist based in Las Cruces. His 40-plus-

year career includes work in Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and—since 2002—in New Mexico, covering Las Cruces and the state Legislature. His opinions are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Las Cruces Bulletin. Rubel can be reached at waltrubel@gmail.com.

COMING UP

Friday, Jan. 5

• Film: "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe," 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

Saturday, Jan. 6

• Las Cruces Gun Show, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Info: 575-526-0100

• Frankenstein Movie Marathon, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave. Info: 575-528-4005.

• Dia de Los Reyes Nativity Open House, noon-4 p.m., 706 B S. Mesquite St. Info: 575-635-1608.

• Art demonstration: Potter George Holland at 2 p.m. at Agave Artist Gallery, 2250 Calle de San Albino in Mesilla. Info: 575-339-9870.

• Film: "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe," 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

• Wild West Shootout, 3:30 Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. Info: vado-speedwaypark.com

Sunday, Jan. 7

• Fair Farmers Sunday Market, 8 a.m.-noon, at Plaza de Las Cruces on Main St. Downtown. Info: lascruces.gov

• Las Cruces Gun Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave. Info: 575-526-0100

• Art opening: "A Still Small Voice," Phil Ochs inspired art, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Tombaugh Gallery, 2000 S. Solano Drive. Info: clay_ink@yahoo.com

• Film: "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe," 2 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

• Wild West Shootout, 3:30 Vado Speedway Park, 15900 Stern Drive, Vado. Info: vado-speedwaypark.com

• Film: "Strange Way of Life," 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain The-

atre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

Monday, Jan. 8

• Author Talk: Mary Armstrong, "The Fountain Murders - Understanding the Characters and Conflicts," 1:30-3 p.m. at the Branigan Memorial Library Roadrunner Room, Las Cruces. Info: maryarmstrongauthor.com.

• Film: "Strange Way of Life," 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

• Wednesday Storytime, 10 a.m. at Barns & Noble, Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Info: 575-522-4499.

• Film: "Dream Scenario," comedy/horror, 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

Thursday, Jan. 11

• Overdose Prevention Education & Naloxone Training, 10-11:30 a.m. virtually. Info: 575-

525-5870.

• Film: "Dream Scenario," comedy/horror, 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

Friday, Jan. 12

• Film: "Saltburn," 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

Saturday, Jan. 13

• Storytellers of Las Cruces, 10:30 a.m., COAS Downtown, 317 N. Main St. Info: 575-524-8471.

• Film: "Saltburn," 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

• WWE Supershow, 7:30 p.m., NMSU Pan American Center, 1810 E. University Ave. Info: 575-646-1420.

Sunday, Jan. 14

• Fair Farmers Sunday Market, 8 a.m.-noon, at Plaza de Las Cruces on Main St. Downtown. Info: lascruces.gov

• Negative Painting with Laurel Weathersbee, 2-4 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Society Arts Room, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. Info: nmwatercolorssociety.org.

• Film: "Saltburn," 2 p.m. at the

Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

• Science on Screen presents "Pi" with guest lecturer Dr. David Finston, 6 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesil-lavalleyfilm.org

Ongoing

• Overeaters Anonymous, noon Wednesdays at St. James Episcopal Church, 102 St. James St. Hybrid meeting, available by Zoom. Info: Bob at 610-762-3779.

• Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri Ave. Hybrid meeting, available by Zoom. Info: Barbara at 575-405-9128.

• Tai Chi in the Park free introductory classes every Thursday, 9-10 a.m. at the Mesilla Park Recreation Center in the Park. Ongoing class in the traditional Yan Family Tai Chi Long Form. Information: 915-584-4730.

• Weaving for Justice textile sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at First Christian Church Atrium, 1809 El Paseo Road. Held on the third Saturday of the month, all proceeds go to Maya weaving cooperatives in Chiapas, Mexico. Info: www.weaving-for-justice.org.

• Meditation and Healing Ser-

vice 6 p.m. each Wednesday at Unity of Las Cruces, 575 N. Main St. Through meditation, experience the presence of God. A new service with Rev. Jennifer Kleitz. Info: 575-523-4847.

• Breast Cancer Support Group, 9:15 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of the month, at Memorial Medical Center Annex meeting room (entrance on the west side of the hospital). Info: Maricela at 505-453-1789.

• Grief Share Program, 3-5 p.m. at Sierra Vista Community Church, 514 N. Telshor Blvd. (behind T-Mobile) Info: 575-526-9535.

• Grief Share Program, 3 p.m. Sundays at Morning Star Church, 2941 Morning Star. Program lasts for 13 weeks. Contact: Cris Fernandez, crisfern@me.com.

• Epilepsy Support & Education Services, Inc. meetings, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. third Saturday of every month at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho Info: 575-636-4500 or EpilepsySupportNM.org.

• Federation of Democratic Women of Doña Ana County, at 6 p.m., Village at Northrise, Hallmark Building, 2882 N. Roadrunner Parkway every second Tuesday. Info: Sherri Nolan at 575-644-8207.



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NMSU's Wave the Wonder Dog

BULLETIN REPORT

The American Kennel Club Humane Fund recently announced the winners of the 24th annual AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence. Among the five loyal, hard-working dogs that have significantly improved the lives of their owners and communities is New Mexico State University's beloved Wave the Wonder Dog, owned and trained by Steve Stochaj, head of the university's computer and electrical engineering department.

Wave took the top honor in the "Exemplary Canine" category, the uni-



NMSU PHOTO BY VLADIMIR AVINA

Wave the Wonder Dog practices for his on-the-field job of retrieving the kicking tee at NMSU football games.

versity stated in a news release. Wave is tasked with retrieving the kicking tee during NMSU football games. He has grown into a campus and community celebrity, even claiming thousands of followers on social media.

Stochaj also brings Wave to spring and summer practices so he can meet the players and get accustomed to them. Wave not keeps busy on campus, but has AKC titles in agility, rally, obedience, tracking, trick dog, dock diving and canine good-citizenship. He is also a member of the Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue Organization.

The five winners were carefully chosen from a pool of more than 600 nominations. An award is presented in each of the following five categories: exemplary companion, search and rescue, service dog, therapy dog, and uniformed service K-9.

Las Cruces CHILE DROP

By ALGERNON D'AMMASSA
Las Cruces Bulletin

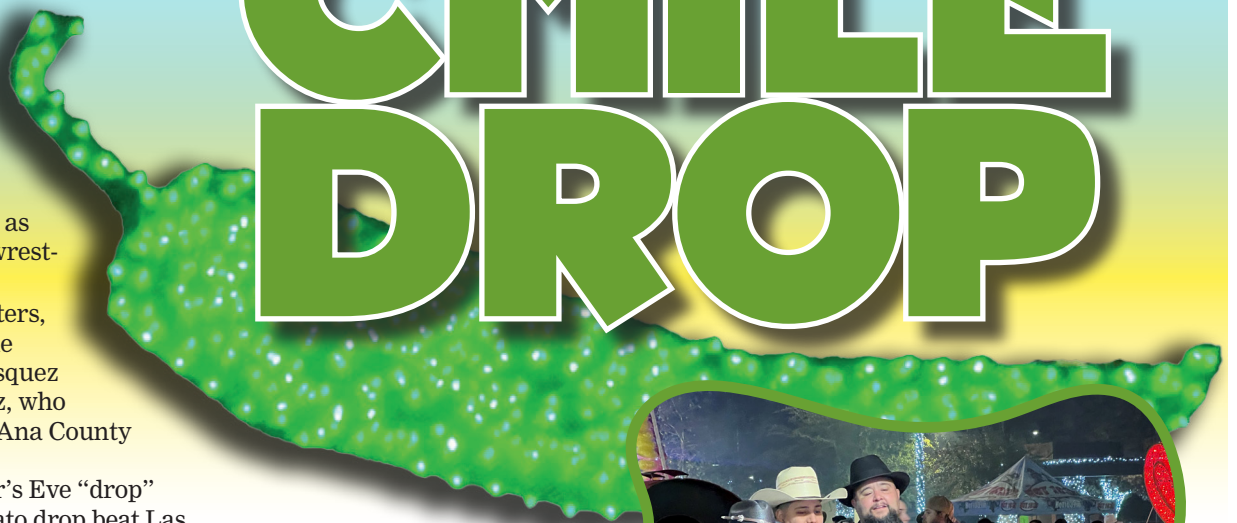
As the midnight hour approached, New Year's Eve revelers poured into Plaza de Las Cruces downtown by the thousands, taking part in the city's 10th annual chile drop – the first to draw CNN's cameras as part of its nationwide New Year's Eve coverage, wresting a brief spotlight for New Mexico's second-largest city.

Before the announcement of the color selected by online voters, red or green, to light up the giant chile suspended from a crane over the plaza, emcee Jack Lutz introduced U.S. Rep. Gabe Vasquez (a former Las Cruces city councilor) and Mayor Eric Enriquez, who joined the stage with other guests and officials, such as Doña Ana County Manager Fernando Macias.

Last month, USA Today published a top-ten list of New Year's Eve "drop" events, ranking Las Cruces' in third place. (Boise, Idaho's potato drop beat Las Cruces to second place, while the beach ball drop in Panama City Beach, Fla. took the crown, or sun visor, or whatever applies.)

The Memphis Band played its style of country rock for hours as people danced in front of the stage and jockeyed for decreasing space with four large El Paso Electric mascots in bulky costumes. Children swung at piñatas and dove for candy, or enjoyed the fairway set up in the plaza to offer carnival games, food trucks and refreshment stands. Main Street's bars and the Grounded café were also busy as the temperature sank to 36 degrees by midnight.

Just as 2024 arrived to the mountain time zone, the announcement came that voters had selected green this year. ("Christmas" was not an option.) The chile was duly illuminated in bright green as the plaza cheered and exchanged kisses, hugs, high-fives and backslaps and began emptying out to go home or, perhaps, to find celebrations elsewhere. The Memphis Band played for another 20 minutes for those inclined to spend the first minutes of 2024 dancing.



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTOS
BY ALGERNON D'AMMASSA



Left: Food trucks and refreshment stands lined the east side of Plaza de Las Cruces during the New Year's Eve Chile Drop on Dec. 31. Above: The New Year's Eve Chile Drop included live music, dancing, food and refreshments and an array of carnival games like this ring toss enjoyed by children and adults alike.



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Art Forms 'For the Love of Art' Returns in February

BULLETIN REPORT

The ArtForms Artists Association of New Mexico announced that its 25th annual "For the Love of Art" celebration will open on Feb. 2 and run through the month.

The events include studio tours and art shows and promotion of community art events. The nonprofit's mission, per its website, is "to ensure that our creative community is regarded as a revenue-generation industry. We work towards the recognition of the greater Las Cruces area as an international art and cultural destination."

Rebecca Courtney, a member and artist active with the organization, stated in a news release,

"Art provides income to families, attracts tourists, builds community pride and establishes our identity as a community. This annual endeavor is truly for the love of art and for the pride we have in the Mesilla Valley."

The opening formal event will be the ArtForms Members' exhibition opening reception in two galleries in the Mesquite Historic District, Gallery 925 and Duende Gallery, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Feb. 2. There will be live music by Blues 101 and refreshments, the association said.

There are 39 studio tours reportedly scheduled during which patrons may talk to the artists and see their creative spaces. Some artists will be working or

doing demonstrations. The studio listing, Q-Code, and specific dates for each will be listed in the ArtForms' guide and on their web page, ArtFormsNM.org.

The Q-Code links to an interactive Google map with all locations and directions. Each studio location will have a blue flag placed out front to make it easier to find, the association said.

"This year, the studio tour is spread out across the valley. The organization is healthy, with 80 members and much support from the community," Artforms President Karen Conley stated in the news release.

This year, instead of recognizing a single artist for elevating the status of the art community, the

organization said it will recognize five individuals who were active in the arts and recently passed away: Ruth Drayer, Les Fairchild, Linda Lundeen, John Northcutt and Jan Thune. They will be included in the event guide and recognized at the reception.

On exhibit from Feb. 2 through Feb. 29 will be the Southern Chapter of the New Mexico Watercolor Society at the Frame and Art Center at 1100 S. Main Street.

Dennis Lujan will be kicking off his 8th annual EROTICA Show located at 3390 Apple Cross Place from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Feb. 9. The show will also run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10 and 11.



COURTESY PHOTOS BY ARTFORMS ARTISTS ASSOCIATION

Above: "Bad Hair Day," sculpture by Heather Murphy. Right: A porcelain vase crafted by Glenn Schwaiger from a potter's wheel, hand carved and glazed with celadon.



p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10. Please email eglynn@nmsu.edu to register for the tour or for any inquiries.

Other events are listed in the event guide and on the organization's website. More information is available via Karen Conley at 314-704-9445 or artform-nm@gmail.com.



Academy for Learning in Retirement

Providing over 1000 presentations to the citizens of Las Cruces since 1992

The Academy for Learning in Retirement (ALR) is returning to in-person presentations beginning January 2024. Sessions will be held at the East Mesa DACC Auditorium at 2800 North Sonoma Ranch Blvd. Refreshments will be at the nearby Student Resources Building on campus from 9:45 until 10:15. Sessions last from 10:30 until noon and will continue to be on Zoom and recorded.

In January, Megan McQueen presents "Honoring Beloved Golden Age Musicals Through a Contemporary Lens". Megan McQueen has been a Producer, Director, Educator and Performer in the Las Cruces community for over two decades.

Dates and topic information

Tuesday, January 16: "West Side Story"

Thursday, January 18: "Oklahoma"

Tuesday, January 23: "The King and I"

Thursday, January 25: "Cinderella"

Pre-register for the monthly sessions (\$20) and/or the spring semester (\$60 for 5 months/20 presentations) at "Academy for Learning in Retirement." Cash or check accepted at the Auditorium. Questions: Call 575-527-7509 or send checks to ALR, P.O. Box 2981, Mesilla Park, NM 88047-2981

Information on the rest of the 2024 spring semester sessions:

February

"Financial Crises"

March

"State and Local Government"

April

"New Mexico Oil and Gas"

May

"The Art and Science of Food"

Pecan art needed for upcoming festival

By **ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH**
Las Cruces Bulletin

The newly minted Las Cruces Pecan Festival is coming up April 19-21. Developed to highlight the importance and impact of the pecan industry on the local economy, the event will feature the talent and organization of all things pecan in Doña Ana County.

With craft, food and beverage vendors; music and dance performances; pecan related competitions and pecan farming education this will be an event to remember, said organizer Kristen Worthington.

As a kick-off, the festival is looking for artwork for the final event poster and other event related items. An art contest featuring pecans has a deadline of Jan. 15. The theme of the competition is “Celebrating the Pecan Industry in Our Community.” Worthington said they are looking for colorful transferable images. Fifteen percent of all profits from sales of items with the chosen artwork go back to the artist. A \$25 entry fee for the contest goes to support the nonprofit Wee Warriors Project. Created to support New Mexico families with babies/children born medically fragile, the funds raised stay in New Mexico.

Wee Warrior Project organizer Camille Plante said the organization focuses on families and rural entities which often don't have the resources and budgets needed.

“We do that by supporting rural hospital entities, pediatric clinics, birthing hospitals,”

she said. “A lot of them don't have the resources they need because they don't have NICUs (Neonatal Intensive Care Units) attached. Those babies are getting shipped to higher level NICUs and the receiving hospital has to come and pick up the baby. A lot of times those [rural locations] don't have the resources they need to put baby in a holding pattern, so we work to support anyone that is working to support families with babies born medically fragile.”



PHOTO BY ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

Locally grown pecans and area growers to be focus of upcoming Las Cruces Pecan Festival in April.

Wee Warrior Project is the umbrella organization for the Pecan Festival, Worthington said.

As a small, local pecan grower, she has been thinking about pulling together a local pecan festival, but knowing it was too big a project to take on herself, she first had to find help and support for the event. That help came together in 2023 and Worthington couldn't be happier about it.

“By doing this, we are letting the small growers know there is so much more you can do with your product except sending it to get shelled,” Worthington said. “We started the Las Cruces Pecan Festival wanting to help the whole community.”

Everything at the festival must be pecan-related and all proceeds from the whole event go to local nonprofits including Wee Warrior Project, she said.

Visit LasCrucesPecanFestival.com for competition rules and more about the festival. Call 575-621-2195 to talk to Worthington about your ideas.

Happy New Year, baby

BULLETIN REPORT

Memorial Medical Center and MountainView Regional Medical Center shared, with parental permission, images of the first babies born at their facilities on New Year's Day.

MountainView Regional Medical Center on Jan. 1 welcomed Baby Graciela, aka Gracie, who was born at 10:20 a.m. on the first day of the year, the hospital said, weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces. The baby and her parents, identified as Leilani and Jason and who consented to the the photograph, were all reported to be doing well. The Bulletin has asked Memorial Medical Center if it welcomed any babies earlier than that; however, such disclosures are strictly at parents' discretion.

MountainView is a designated



COURTESY PHOTO BY MOUNTAINVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Baby Graciela was born at MountainView Regional Medical Center at 10:20 a.m. on New Year's Day, Jan. 1.

“baby-friendly hospital” by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, based on its maternal care facilities and technology, including state-of-the-art maternal-fetal early warning systems that autonomously monitor vital data through labor and delivery, the hospital said.

Memorial Medical Center followed with the announcement of their first childbirth: Baby Josiah made his way into the world at 2:58 p.m., weighing 5 pounds, 10 ounces, congratulating him and parents Alexis and Chris.

Information on MMC's “Birth-Place” facility is available online at MMCLC.org/labor-and-delivery.

The Bulletin welcomes Gracie and Josiah and congratulates Leilani and Jason, and Alexis and Chris.



COURTESY PHOTO BY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Baby Josiah was welcomed at Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces at 2:58 p.m. on New Year's Day.

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Munson Senior Center

January 20, 2024

4pm - 6pm

\$3 per person



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CONNECTION :: CONJUNTO

Featuring a range of diverse artists and mediums from the Borderlands, this exhibit considers how place and space informs the visual language of an artist's work and the connection between artists, the natural environment, and the community in which they live. Participating artists are from The Border Artists.

January 5 - March 23, 2024

Branigan Cultural Center
 501 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, NM 88001
 575-541-2154, www.lascruces.gov/Museums
 @LCMuseums

THE DESERT WAS RED AND RED THE DUST WAS RAISED

This innovative exhibition uses abstraction to consider the relationship between the desert landscape and how it influences an artist's practice and imagery.

Featuring Sharbani Das Gupta, Zoe Spiliotis, Isadora Stowe, Laura Turón, and Amy Vensel.

January 5 - March 23, 2024

Museum of Art
 491 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, NM 88001
 575-541-2137, www.lascruces.gov/Museums
 @LCMuseums

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ACROSS

- 1 Pet doc
- 4 "Come again?"
- 8 Treats maliciously
- 14 Tennis player Borg
- 19 Narcissist's problem
- 21 Actress Andress
- 22 Ate, as prey
- 23 Football Hall of Famer Bronko
- 24 Arrive on wheels
- 25 Frankie or Cleo of song
- 26 Start of a riddle
- 29 Noise in a comic book gunfight
- 30 Exotica singer Sumac
- 31 "The Human Stain" novelist Philip
- 32 Cure-all
- 37 Race of people in an H.G. Wells novella
- 39 Some sorority letters
- 40 Donations to the destitute
- 44 Riddle, part 2
- 48 Like much greasy food
- 49 See 83-Across
- 50 Corp. leader
- 51 Skip over, as a vowel
- 52 World War II film, when tripled
- 53 Charged bit
- 55 Place -- (be active on eBay, say)
- 57 Cheap cigar
- 58 Riddle, part 3
- 63 Simile middle
- 66 Chaney of film

- 67 Song-belting Merman
- 68 On a pension, maybe: Abbr.
- 69 Military draft gp.
- 70 Riddle, part 4
- 75 ZZ Top album whose name is Spanish for "The Crazy One"
- 76 Hamm and Farrow
- 77 Neither's partner
- 78 Tingly feeling
- 82 Totally tired
- 83 With 49-Across, touter of green eggs and ham
- 84 "Yes" vote
- 86 Early arcade giant
- 87 End of the riddle
- 93 -- -Flush (bathroom brand)
- 94 Architect I.M. --
- 95 Made angry
- 96 Florida fruits
- 97 R&B great Marvin
- 99 Not at all new
- 100 Golf club
- 102 Riddle's answer
- 111 Stalin-era labor camp
- 112 Polecat's kin
- 113 Urge against
- 114 Muscat native
- 115 Do over
- 116 Office squawker
- 117 Fender dings
- 118 Mimics a mad mutt
- 119 Helper of Frankenstein
- 120 Inventor Whitney

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PUZZLE ANSWER

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SUPER CROSSWORD

DOWN

- 1 "--, vidi, vici"
- 2 "The Keep" novelist Jennifer
- 3 Forum wear
- 4 Angel's instrument
- 5 Drunk
- 6 Writer Gogol
- 7 Third-largest city in Israel
- 8 Ride a wave
- 9 Eighth-brightest star in the sky
- 10 Like a hajji's religion
- 11 Second-largest city in Oklahoma
- 12 Charles Lamb's alias
- 13 Bay Area California city
- 14 Equivalent of A sharp
- 15 Lee Tracy's "Bombshell"

- co-star
- 16 Like praiseful poetry
- 17 Gossipy Barrett
- 18 Bakersfield-to-Boise dir.
- 20 Letters before
- 39-Across
- 27 Swiss watch brand
- 28 Clueless
- 32 Fizzle sound
- 33 Sleek, informally
- 34 Hair removal brand
- 35 Top squad
- 36 Mooser's mouthful
- 38 On the -- (fleeing)
- 39 "-- say more?"
- 41 Actresses Vivien and Janet
- 42 In -- res (mid-plot)
- 43 Clay pigeons to be shot,

- informally
- 45 Three x three
- 46 Frozen spear
- 47 Eats away at
- 53 "Were -- it all over again ..."
- 54 "It can't be!"
- 55 One of the Three Musketeers
- 56 Nickname for singer Justin, with "the"
- 57 Derisive smile
- 59 One of the three Furies
- 60 R&R alone
- 61 "-- boy!"
- 62 Pisa's river
- 63 Nuclear trials, for short
- 64 Class of antimicrobial drugs, in the British spelling

- 65 Actress Sorkin who once hosted "America's Funniest People"
- 71 Like animals that don't roam
- 72 So-called "fifth taste"
- 73 Apartment near the super's, perhaps
- 74 Mesh well
- 79 Piquancy
- 80 Ontario tribe
- 81 Cat's warning
- 83 Pittsburgh footballers
- 84 "Chances --"
- 85 "Catch my drift, bro?"
- 86 Pie-mode link
- 88 1974 CIA parody film
- 89 More lacteal
- 90 Not cardinal, as a

- number
- 91 Plundering
- 92 Writer Sabato
- 98 Patronage
- 99 "-- Loompa"
- 101 Half-diameters
- 102 Journalist Brit
- 103 Zing
- 104 Lucy Liu's "Kill Bill" role
- 105 Insect traps
- 106 Exploiter
- 107 Mongrel mutt
- 108 Frilly material
- 109 Shrine figure
- 110 Moore of "G.I. Jane"
- 111 Shrine figure

City seeks public input on east mesa skate park

BULLETIN REPORT

The city of Las Cruces' Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a public forum for input on a new skate park planned for the East Mesa Recreation Complex. The facility is to be built on Camino Coyote, east of Sonoma Ranch Boulevard and north of the East Mesa Public Safety Complex, per the city.

The forum will be held 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the safety complex, 550 N. Sonoma Ranch Boulevard. City staff and the design consultant will be in attendance to hear input, including design preferences, from residents.

More information is available via landscape architect Cathy Mathews at 575-541-2550 or cmathews@lascruces.gov.

BULLETIN FILE PHOTO
A skater at the Las Cruces Skate Park is seen in a file photo.



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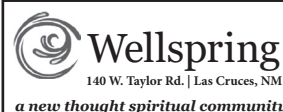
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Towman Eric Luchini seeks to raise esteem for profession

By **ALGERNON D'AMMASSA**
Las Cruces Bulletin

Eric Luchini has an infectious smile that comes over him at certain times: when he gives a tour of the fleet at Luchini's Towing and Recovery on W. Picacho Avenue; sometimes when he is listening to his wife, Crystal, tell a story; and when he shows a collection of professional awards including some of the highest honors of his profession.

Luchini's Towing and Recovery serves an area extending the length of Interstate 10 from Lordsburg to the Texas line, and from Las Cruces to Truth or Consequences on Interstate 25 — about a 150-mile radius. The business handles towing and roadside assistance, extending

to heavy truck recovery and assisting emergency agencies. The business is on call around the clock, and the work is grueling, often dangerous.

The second-generation owner of his company, Luchini has twice been honored with the Order of the Towman award, the industry's recognition of service "above and beyond" for local police and emergency agencies. Among its activities, Luchini's Towing participates in training programs with federal and local agencies, donating hundreds of vehicles over the years to programs training law enforcement officers as well as participating in demonstrations for young people about the consequences of driving while intoxicated. He was also recognized for helping the Doña Ana

County Fire Department acquire its first "jaws of life" rescue equipment and for donating bullet-proof vests to police.

The business was co-founded in 1950 by his father, Ray Luchini, a former White Sands Missile Range engineer who served as a Doña Ana County Commissioner from 1976 to 1992.

As the story goes, the elder Luchini, talented with his hands and with a love for cars, started with a salvage yard, bought his first tow truck in order to move wrecks around and soon picked up requests from local police when the "wrecker on call" was not available. The enterprise he started with his brother, Leo, naturally progressed to an operation that today employs five people and



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTOS BY ALGERNON D'AMMASSA

Eric Luchini stands by his fleet at Luchini's Towing and Recovery on Dec. 29.

several engines.

The elder Luchini, a strong figure in Eric's life, is quoted as saying, "You will never regret helping those in your community," and it is an example the son extolls, saying in an inter-

view, "It's all about people, in every aspect." He has also been active with the New Mexico Southern State Fair, the Better Business Bureau of Las Cruces and numerous professional organizations, and has regularly sponsored local youth sports.

Luchini has also lobbied New Mexico's Public Regulation Commission to increase tariff rates available to towing and recovery operators like him. It's a topic he takes seriously: Towing and recovery personnel are first responders, though not recognized as such by every state, often working under dangerous conditions at traumatic events at the side of busy roadways. He said the rates towing companies are allowed to recoup for

SEE LUCHINI, PAGE 18



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LUCHINI

CONTINUED FROM 17

emergency service have not kept pace with rising costs.

“Our insurance goes up, fuel, maintenance goes up, everything goes up, but our rates don’t go up,” he said. He has lobbied for rates to be indexed according to operating costs, but he said the last increase of any kind was years ago, while he estimates his costs have gone up 20 percent in five years. A relatively modest flatbed truck he purchased recently cost \$189,000, he said.

Across the country, the industry has advocated not only for fair rates but also statutes recognizing tow drivers as emergency responders for insurance purposes and spreading “move over laws” requiring motorists to move over one lane when approaching tow trucks at a recovery site.

In 2016, Luchini received the American Towman Silver Star award, and last spring came the highest honor yet, when the International Towing Museum in Chattanooga, Tenn. (considered the birthplace of the world-wide towing industry) inducted him into its Hall of Fame. Luchini was

the 361st inductee among figures who made history within the profession for innovation, advocacy and moral example. Luchini likened the honor to “sitting among my idols.” It also came with a memento bottle of special edition whiskey and a ring as handsome as any Super Bowl ring.

“I think most people don’t understand a lot about the towing industry,” Luchini said. After all, most members of the public encounter tow drivers under miserable circumstances, and some have had experiences with less ethical operators, he acknowledged. “We are looked at as bad people,” he continued, the smile fading.

“I want people to understand us as first responders. ... Unfortunately, we’ve got to charge to tow your car. It’s a bad day. You’ve got to pay me to tow your car. Or go ahead, push it down the street ... but you could pay me, a professional, to go pick it up, take it and deliver it safely.”

Luchini’s Towing and Recovery is located at 3621 W. Picacho Avenue, but the location is not easily accessible to the public. Contact 575-524-2201 or visit online at Luchinis-Towing.com.

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New mayor, council meet for first time

By **ALGERNON D'AMMASSA**
Las Cruces Bulletin

A new mayor and governing board took their seats in the Las Cruces City Council chambers Tuesday afternoon for their first meeting of the new year.

Mayor Eric Enriquez as well as councilors Cassie McClure (District 1) and Bill Mattiace (District 2) were elected to their positions in November and sworn in on Dec. 18. Among the statements of welcome and opening remarks by the new officers, McClure and Enriquez both promised to earn the trust of voters who did not prefer them in the November election.

"It's an exciting time for Las Cruces," District 4 Councilor Johana Bencomo said later during the 90-minute meeting. "I think we've had one mayor for a really long time and so this just feels like a door open of opportunity."

Among the first orders of business was to select a mayor pro tem, who performs mayoral duties "in the absence or disability of the mayor," per the city's charter. Enriquez nominated Bencomo, who was elected to her second four-year term in November. Bencomo was swiftly and unanimously approved by the rest of the council and immediately switched seats to take her place next to the mayor.

Public comments followed, during which nine speakers approached

the podium to welcome the new officers to their place and offer recommendations, requests or simply vent. The welcomes were not all warm. The very first speaker, Paul Borunda, expressed anger about how the city had handled his past complaints about police misconduct before lashing out at Mattiace, who previously represented District 2 on the city council before serving as mayor until 2007, pointing a finger and raising his voice until Enriquez intervened.

Other speakers urged the council to address complaints about unhoused people in the city, crime and public safety and unfinished traffic medians among other matters, while some called on the city to take stands on broader issues such as opposing gun control measures that might be issued from Santa Fe and supporting a cease fire in the Israel-Gaza war.

Moving on, the council approved a resolution committing the city utilities department to develop an asset management plan for water and water infrastructure and addressed three zoning change requests. Enriquez announced his first board and committee appointments, naming himself to the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance board; himself and McClure to the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization; Bencomo and himself (as



CITY OF LAS CRUCES VIDEO

Las Cruces Mayor Eric Enriquez chairs his first city council meeting since taking office. District 4 city council member Johana Bencomo makes remarks during the Jan. 2 city council meeting where she was voted in as mayor pro tem.



an ex-officio member) to the South Central Solid Waste Authority; himself and District 5 Councilor Becky Corran to the Doña Ana County Juvenile Justice Continuum Board; Mattiace and Bencomo (as the mayor's designee) to the Las Cruces Oversight Committee; District 3 Councilor Becki Graham to the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley board; Mattiace to the University District Citizen's Design Review Committee (as the District 2 representative); McClure to the Las Cruces Utilities Board; and McClure to the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority with Corran as an alternate.

Classifieds

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NMSU is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer committed to assembling a diverse, broadly trained faculty and staff. Women, minorities, people with disabilities, and veterans are strongly encouraged to apply.

DACC, a responsive, accessible, comprehensive, learning-centered community college that provides education opportunities to a diverse community of learners is inviting candidates to apply for the following vacant position:
Program Specialist, Title V Requisition #499140

Required Education: Bachelor's degree in a related field

Required Experience: One (1) year of professional experience related to the standard duties as outlined.

Classification Summary

Plans and implements a single, narrow focused program initiative for an identified client-oriented operational entity of the University. Participates in the generation of the program resources and in the design and development of the program operating goals, objectives, and protocols. Serves as primary point of both internal and external representation and liaison with respect to the implementation, operational matters and compliance. Provides technical/professional and programmatic guidance, consultation, and support to client constituencies.

For a complete job announcement and to apply for position, please visit: Program Specialist, Title V - Doña Ana Community College, New Mexico, United States ([nmsu.edu](https://careers.nmsu.edu/))

Deadline to apply for this position is Jan 11, 2024

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DACC, a responsive, accessible, comprehensive, learning-centered community college that provides education opportunities to a diverse community of learners is inviting candidates to apply for the following vacant position:

Instructional Technologist Requisition #499144

Required Education: Bachelor's degree in a related field

Required Experience: No previous work experience required

Equivalency: Any equivalent combination of education, training and/or experience as approved by Human Resource Services.

Classification Summary

Develops interactive media and training materials for faculty and staff clients. Trains clients how to utilize software applications.

For a complete job announcement and to apply for position, please visit: Instructional Technologist - Doña Ana Community College, New Mexico, United States ([nmsu.edu](https://careers.nmsu.edu/))
Deadline to apply for this position is Jan. 11, 2024

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DACC, a responsive, accessible, comprehensive, learning-centered community college that provides education opportunities to a diverse community of learners is inviting candidates to apply for the following vacant position:

Student Navigator, Nursing Requisition #499161

Required Education: Bachelor's degree in a related field

Required Experience: Three (3) years of experience related to the standard duties as outlined

Equivalency: None
Classification Summary Under limited supervision, develops, implements, and oversees

a range of integrated special programs and initiatives designed to assist in the recruitment and retention of graduate and/or undergraduate students within an underrepresented target population or college.

Responsible for the internal and external promotion and representation of program activities. Coordinates and provides support services to student participants as appropriate to program activities.

For a complete job announcement and to apply for position, please visit: Student Navigator, Nursing - Doña Ana Community College, New Mexico, United States ([nmsu.edu](https://careers.nmsu.edu/))

Deadline to apply for this position is Jan. 14, 2024

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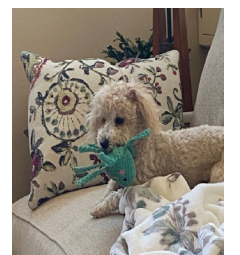
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Switch to DISH and get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: 833-380-2376!

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-806-1541

DIRECTV Sports Pack a 3 Months on Us! Watch pro and college sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional and specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf and more. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-758-5998

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE! Affordable rate on Health Insurance. Let us show you what you can save. Call now! 855-660-1205

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material a steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer a up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-990-0637

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-833-651-2183

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/31/23 Call 1-855-229-7793

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact

design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-596-2752

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-570-3661.

Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-844-577-8323

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$1000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-877-497-3550

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 575-446-6877 Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE! Affordable rate on Health Insurance. Let us show you what you can save. Call now! 855-660-1205

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 505-317-2517 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

Legal Notice

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT Case No.: D-307-

CV-2023-00367
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ROBERT R ESCOBAR; WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.;
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above-entitled Court, having appointed me or my designee as Special Master in this matter with the power to sell, has ordered me to sell the real property (the "Property") situated in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, commonly known as 3990 Golondrina CT, Las Cruces, NM 88012, and more particularly described as follows: LOT 12, RODRIGUEZ SUBDIVISION, IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES, DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE PLAT THEREOF, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY ON NOVEMBER 19, 2001, IN BOOK 19 PAGE(S) 757-758 OF PLAT RECORDS. Including any mobile home, and any and all improvements, fixtures, and attachments. If there is a conflict between the legal description and the street address, the legal description shall control. The sale is to begin at 9:00 AM on January 19, 2024, Outside the main entrance of the 3rd Judicial District Courthouse, 201 W. Picacho, City of Las Cruces, County of Dona Ana, State of New Mexico, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, in lawful currency of the United States of America, the Property to pay expenses of sale, and to satisfy the foreclosure Judgment granted

on October 26, 2023, in the total amount of \$203,727.03, with interest at the rate of 4.8750% per annum from September 26, 2023 through the date of the sale. The sale is subject to the entry of an Order by this Court approving the sale. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the real property and improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements, and all taxes and utility liens, special assessments and taxes that may be due. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., its attorneys, and the undersigned Special Master, disclaim all responsibility for, and the purchaser at the sale takes the property "as is," in its present condition, subject to the valuation of the property by the County Assessor as real or personal property, affixture of any mobile or manufactured home to the land, deactivation of title to a mobile or manufactured home on the property, if any, environmental contamination on the property, if any, and zoning violations concerning the property, if any. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title to the above described real property subject to a one (1) month right of redemption. PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS AT SALE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE THEIR OWN EXAMINATION OF THE TITLE AND THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AND TO CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING. By: Robert Doyle c/o Legal Process Network P.O. Box 279 Sandia Park, NM 87047 1 NM-20-

880836-JUD IDSPub #0189776 12/15/2023 12/22/2023 12/29/2023 1/5/2024

NOTICE is hereby given that on November 1, 2023, Tonya K. Lowery & Robert D. Lowery, 1104 Lopez Road, Las Cruces, NM 88007 filed with the County affected by the diversion and in which the water has been or will be put to beneficial use. This notice is ordered to be published in the Las Cruces Bulletin. To view the application and suppoiling documentation contact the State Engineer District Office to arrange a date and time for an appointment located at 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J, Las Cruces, NM 88005. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity having standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (objection must be legible, signed, and include the writer's complete name, phone number, email address, and mailing address). The objection to the approval of the application must be based on: (1) Impairment; if impairment, you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) Public Welfare/Conservation of Water; if public welfare or conservation of water within the state of New Mexico, you must show how you will be substantially affected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with the State Engineer, 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J, Las Cruces, NM 88005 on or before **February 9, 2024**. Facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted as a valid protest if the hard copy is hand-delivered or mailed and postmarked within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing

Well LRG-3406 will be retained for other rights. Well LRG-3406 POD3 is located at physical address of 4626 Grider Road, Las Cruces, NM 88007. Additionally, applicants will discontinue the use of well LRG-3406. Dona Ana is the County affected by the diversion and in which the water has been or will be put to beneficial use. This notice is ordered to be published in the Las Cruces Bulletin. To view the application and suppoiling documentation contact the State Engineer District Office to arrange a date and time for an appointment located at 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J, Las Cruces, NM 88005. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity having standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (objection must be legible, signed, and include the writer's complete name, phone number, email address, and mailing address). The objection to the approval of the application must be based on: (1) Impairment; if impairment, you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) Public Welfare/Conservation of Water; if public welfare or conservation of water within the state of New Mexico, you must show how you will be substantially affected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with the State Engineer, 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J, Las Cruces, NM 88005 on or before **February 9, 2024**. Facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted as a valid protest if the hard copy is hand-delivered or mailed and postmarked within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing

postmark will be used to validate the 24-hour period. Protests can be faxed to the Office of the State Engineer, at 575-524-6160. If no valid protest or objection is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 72 NMSA 1978. **Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 2024**

IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT No. D-307-PB-2023-00280 Hon. James T. Martin

In the Matter of the Estate of Christine W. Dolezel, Deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against this estate must present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned personal representative at the address listed below or filed with the District Court of Dona Ana, County, New Mexico, located at the following address: 201 West Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM 88005. Dated: 12/13/23. /s/ Clark Rowe Clark Rowe 6100 Moonrise Vista Las Cruces, NM 88011 SUBMITTED: E-LAW, P.C. By: /s/ Michele Ungvarsky Michele Ungvarsky, Esq. Bar No. 8100 1340 Picacho Hills

LEGAL NOTICES

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

Drive
Las Cruces, NM
88007
575.556.2462
Attorneys for the Estate of Christine W. Dolezel, deceased.
Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 2024

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
No. D-307-PB-2008-00127
Judge Driggers
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN R. FUNK, Deceased

NOTICE OF HEARING
HILTON DICKSON, III, the Personal Representative of the Estate of JOHN R. FUNK, deceased, through his attorney, ScottHulse, P.C. (Joshua Dwyer), gives the following notice to any persons who may have an interest in this matter: The hearing on the Petition for an Order of Complete Settlement of Estate, To Approve Final Accounting, and To Discharge Personal Representative will be held at 1:30 p.m., January 26, 2024, at the Third Judicial District Court, Courtroom 6, 201 W. Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005, before the Honorable Judge Driggers. The hearing is scheduled to occur in person. Contact the Court or counsel for more information.

Respectfully:
/s/ Joshua Dwyer
Joshua Dwyer
Attorneys for Personal Representative
SCOTTHULSE PC
201 North Church Street, Suite 201
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
(575) 522-0765
(575) 522-0006
facsimile
Email: jdwy@scotthulse.com
Dates: 12/22, 12/29,

01/05, 2024

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DOÑA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No. D-307-PB-2023-00266
Judge Manuel I. Arrieta

In the Matter of the Estate of JUAN GOMEZ, JR., Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned Personal Representative at the address listed below or filed with the Third Judicial District Court of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, located at 201 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005. Dated: December 14, 2023.
/s/Santos J. Gomez Santos J. Gomez
c/o CaraLyn Banks, Esq., KEMP SMITH LLP
3800 E. Lohman, Suite C
Las Cruces, NM 88011
575-527-0023
caralyn.banks@kempsmith.com
Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 2024

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
Case No. DM 2023-1353
Judge: Robert Lara
Alexia L. Velarde, Petitioner
V.
Gerardo Paez, Respondent.

SUMMONS
THE STATE OF

NEW MEXICO: Gerardo Paez, Respondent. You are required to serve upon the Petitioner or Petitioner's attorney an answer or motion in response to the Petition which is attached to this summons within thirty (30) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service, and file your answer or motion with the court as provided in Rule 1-005 NMRA. If you fail to file a timely answer or motion, default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.
Alexia Velarde
1150 S Triviz Dr.
Apt 19
575-332-8184
WITNESS the Honorable Robert Lara, District Judge of the Third Judicial district court of the State of New Mexico and the seal of the district court of Dona Ana County, this 12 day of December, 2023.

Bernice A. Ramos
Clerk of the Court
Mitchell Allred
Deputy
Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 2024

IN THE JUVENILE COURT FOR COCKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

No. 23-TPR-06069A
STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES,
Petitioner

IN THE MATTER OF: A. C., A CHILD UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

NOTICE OF ENTRY REQUESTED

NOTICE: JOSE LOPEZ The State of Tennessee, Department of Children's Services, has filed a Petition to terminate your parental rights regarding this child. It appears that ordinary process of law cannot be served upon you because

your whereabouts are unknown. You are, therefore, ordered to respond by filing an answer to the Petition filed against you. A copy of the Petition may be obtained at the office of the Juvenile Court of Cocke County, Tennessee, at 111 Court Avenue, Newport, TN 37821. Your Court date is February 15, 2024. You must appear that day at the Cocke County Juvenile Court where this matter is being heard. This notice will be published for four consecutive weeks. The last date of publication will be 01/12/2024. Your answer must be filed within 30 days after that. If no answer is filed, a Default Judgment will be taken against you without further notice to you. ENTERED this the 14 day of December, 2023.

/s/ Mark Strange
Honorable Mark Strange
Approved for entry by: /s/ Dean Griffey
Dean Griffey, BPR #032137
DCS, Regional General Counsel
Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 01/12, 2024

IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

No. D-307-PB-2023-00281
Hon. Casey B. Fitch

In the Matter of the Estate of Nancy Wright, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the

first publication of this notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned Personal Representative at the address listed below or filed with the Third Judicial District Court of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, located at 201 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005. Dated: December 12, 2023.
/s/ Cynthia Wiedmann
Cynthia Wiedmann
725 Calumet R.D. Monument, CO 80132
Submitted: E-Law, P.C. /s/ Michele Ungvarsky
Michele Ungvarsky, Esq.
Bar No. 8100
1340 Picacho Hills Drive
Las Cruces, NM 88007
575-556-2462
Attorneys for the Estate of Nancy Wright, deceased.
Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 2024

NOTICE is hereby given that on October 26, 2023, Aaron Brightly, 400 Lindbergh Avenue, El Paso, TX 79932, filed with the **STATE ENGINEER** Application No.

HU-365 for Permit to Appropriate Groundwater of the Hueco Underground Water Basin of the State of New Mexico. Dona Ana County is the county affected by the diversion and in which the water has been or will be put to beneficial use. This notice is ordered to be published in the Las Cruces Bulletin. Request to appropriate 5.0 acre-feet per annum, consumptive use, of shallow groundwater for a commercial greenhouse operation, proposed on land owned by the applicant, within the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Town-

ship 26S, Range 5E, NMPM, to be diverted from existing well HU-332-POD I, drilled to a depth of 650 feet below ground surface with 6 inch casing located within NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 32 at an approximate point where Longitude and Latitude intersect at 106° 27' 31.42" W, and 32° 0' 30.18" N, WGS84, on land owned by the applicant. The property and well are located at the physical address of 605 Highway 213, Chaparral, NM. To view the application and supporting documentation contact the State Engineer District Office to arrange a date and time for an appointment located at 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J. Las Cruces, NM 88005. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity asserting standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (objection must be legible, signed, and include the writer's complete name, phone number, email address, and mailing address). If the protest does not include the complete name, phone number, email address, and mailing address, it may be deemed invalid and not accepted for filing unless Protestant provides with the protest an affidavit stating that it does not have one of the above-listed elements/requirements (phone number, mailing address, email address, etc.). The objection to the approval of the application must be based on: (1) Impairment; if impairment, you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) Public Welfare/Conservation of Water; if public welfare or conservation of water within the state of

New Mexico, you shall be required to provide evidence showing how you will be substantially and specifically affected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with the State Engineer, 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J., Las Cruces, NM 88005, on or before **January 31, 2024**. Facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted as a valid protest if the hard copy is hand-delivered or mailed and postmarked within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing postmark will be used to validate the 24-hour period. Protests can be faxed to the Office of the State Engineer, (575) 524-6160. If no valid protest or objection is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 72 NMSA 1978.

Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 2024

NOTICE is hereby given that on October 26, 2023, Eric Brightly, 400 Lindbergh Avenue, El Paso, TX 79932, filed with the **STATE ENGINEER** Application No.

HU-366 for Permit to Appropriate Groundwater of the Hueco Underground Water Basin of the State of New Mexico. Dona Ana County is the county affected by the diversion and in which the water has been or will be put to beneficial use. This notice is ordered to be published in the Las Cruces Bulletin. Request to appropriate 3.0 acre-feet per annum, consumptive use, of shallow groundwater for a commercial greenhouse operation, proposed on land owned by the applicant, within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, Township 26S, Range 5E, NMPM, to

be diverted from existing well HU-269, drilled to a depth of 560 feet below ground surface with 4 inch casing located within NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Section 29 at an approximate point where Longitude and Latitude intersect at 106° 26' 54.085" W, and 32° 0' 49.377" N, WGS84, on land owned by the applicant. The property and well are located at the physical address of 900 Highway 213, Chaparral, NM. To view the application and supporting documentation contact the State Engineer District Office to arrange a date and time for an appointment located at 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J. Las Cruces, NM 88005. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity asserting standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (objection must be legible, signed, and include the writer's complete name, phone number, email address, and mailing address). If the protest does not include the complete name, phone number, email address, and mailing address, it may be deemed invalid and not accepted for filing unless Protestant provides with the protest an affidavit stating that it does not have one of the above-listed elements/requirements (phone number, mailing address, email address, etc.). The objection to the approval of the application must be based on: (1) Impairment; if impairment, you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) Public Welfare/Conservation of Water; if public welfare or conservation of water within the state of New Mexico, you shall be required

LEGAL NOTICES

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to provide evidence showing how you will be substantially and specifically affected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with the State Engineer, I 680 Hickory Loop, Suite J., Las Cruces, NM 88005, on or before **January 31, 2024**. Facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted as a valid protest if the hard copy is hand-delivered or mailed and postmarked within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing postmark will be used to validate the 24-hour period. Protests can be faxed to the Office of the State Engineer, (575) 524-6160. If no valid protest or objection is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with the provision-Chapter 72 NMSA 1978.

Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 2024

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF DONA ANA STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Case Number D-307-DM-2023-00981
Judge: Division 4 Noah-Kai Thompson, Plaintiff

V.
Jesse Rayos, Defendant.
SUMMONS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S): 1. Take notice that a lawsuit has been filed against you. A copy of the lawsuit is attached. The Court issued this Summons. 2. You must respond to this lawsuit in writing. You must file your written response with the Court no later than thirty (30) days from the date you are served with this Summons. (The date you are considered served with the Summons is determined by Rule 1-004 NMRA) The Court's address is listed

above. 3. You must file (in person or by mail) your written response with the Court. When you file your response, you must give or mail a copy to the person who signed the lawsuit. 4. If you do not respond in writing, the Court may enter judgment against you as requested in the lawsuit. 5. You are entitled to a jury trial in most types of lawsuits. To ask for a jury trial, you must request one in writing and pay a jury fee. 6. If you need an interpreter, you must ask for one in writing. 7. You may wish to consult a lawyer. You may contact the State Bar of New Mexico for help finding a lawyer at www.nmbar.org; 1-800-876-6227; or 1-505-797-6066. Dated at Las Cruces, New Mexico, this 19th day of December 2023. Clerk of Court By: /s/ Rebecca Hernandez Deputy. Plaintiff Pro Se Noah-Kai Thompson 1513 Andrews Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-339-8716 Noahthompson87@gmail.com

Dates: 12/22, 12/29, 01/05, 2024

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case No.: D-307-CV-2023-02158
PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
ALEJANDRO CASAS; ROCIO CASAS; THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; Defendants
. **NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION**

STATE OF NEW MEXICO to Defendants, Alejandro Casas, Rocio Casas, to be published on: You are hereby notified that the above-named Plaintiff Phh Mortgage Corporation has filed a civil action against you in the above-entitled Court and cause, the general object thereof being to foreclose a mortgage on real property located at 1708 Winton Circle, Las Cruces, NM 88007. The real property which is the subject matter of this action is legally described as follows: LOT 3, BLOCK C, CORAZON DEL VALLE SUBDIVISION, IN THE COUNTY OF DONA ANA, STATE OF NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE PLAT THEREOF, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY AS PLAT NO. 4363 ON 05/02/2006 IN BOOK 21 PAGE(S) 601-05 OF PLAT RECORDS. If there is a conflict between the legal description and the street address, the legal description shall control. Unless you serve a pleading or motion in response to the Complaint in said cause on or before thirty (30) days after the last publication date, judgment by default may be entered against you. McCARTHY & HOLTHUS, LLP By: /s/ Jason Bousliman Jason Bousliman Attorneys for Plaintiff 6501 Eagle Rock NE, Suite A-3 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113 Telephone No.: (505) 219-4900 jbousliman@mccarthyholthus.com IDSPub #0190041 **12/29/2023 1/5/2024 1/12/2024**

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case No.: D-307-CV-2023-01377
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff,
vs.
THE ESTATE OF TOMMY J. LONG; MARIA D LONG; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH INTERNAL REVENU SERVICE; K SIMON CONSTRUCTION, INC; SANTA FE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION; GOODLEAP, LLC;

Defendants .
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO to Defendant, The Estate of Tommy J Long, to be published on: You are hereby notified that the above-named Plaintiff Newrez LLC D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing has filed a civil action against you in the above-entitled Court and cause, the general object thereof being to foreclose a mortgage on real property located at 2135 Rosedale Dr, Las Cruces, NM 88005. The real property which is the subject matter of this action is legally described as follows: LOT 17, BLOCK D, HIGHLAND MANOR SUBDIVISION, IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES, DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS THE SAME IS SHOWN AND DESIGNATED ON PLAT NO. 514, THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY ON AUGUST 19, 1959, AND RECORDED IN BOOK 8, PAGE 48, PLAT RECORDS. If there is a conflict between the legal description and the street

address, the legal description shall control. Unless you serve a pleading or motion in response to the Complaint in said cause on or before thirty (30) days after the last publication date, judgment by default may be entered against you. McCARTHY & HOLTHUS, LLP By: Jason Bousliman Marin Kowal Attorneys for Plaintiff 6501 Eagle Rock NE, Suite A-3 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113 Telephone No.: (505) 219-4900 mkwol@mccarthyholthus.com IDSPub #0190082 **12/29/2023 1/5/2024 1/12/2024**

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

Case No. D-307-PB-2023-00276
Judge Arrieta, Manuel I.

In the Matter of the Estate of Filomena Padilla Garcia a/k/a Nena Garcia, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT MARY G. GAMBOA has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate of FILOMENA PADILLA GARCIA A/ KIA NENA GARCIA. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the Personal Representative, c/o J. David Beasley, Esq., P.O. Box 1620, Las Cruces, NM 88004, or filed with the Third Judicial District Court located at 201 W. Picacho Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88005, (575) 523-

8200. Dated: December 26, 2023. Submitted by: J. David Beasley J. David Beasley, ESQ. Attorney for the Estate of FILOMENA PADILLA GARCIA A/K/A NENA GARCIA P.O. Box 1620 Las Cruces, NM 88004 (575) 528-6782 **Dates: 01/05, 01/12, 01/19, 2024**

NOTICE is hereby given that on July 22, 2022, Robert C. Abercrombie, PO Box 14060, Las Cruces, NM 88013, filed with the **STATE ENGINEER** Application No. LRG-18296-POD1 for Permit to Change Location of Well and Change Place of Use within the Lower Rio Grande Underground Basin of the State of New Mexico. Doña Ana is the County affected by the diversion and in which the water has been or will be put to beneficial use. This notice is ordered to be published in the Las Cruces Bulletin. The applicant proposes discontinuing the irrigation of 19.66 acres of land, owned by the applicant, located within all quarters of Section 28, Township 25S, Range 3E, of which 8.06 acres are irrigated using groundwater only and 11.6 acres will be irrigated using surface water from EBID and groundwater combined. Well LRG-18296-POD1 is located south of Las Cruces, NM, approximately 0.74 miles northwest of the intersection of County Rd. B10 & W San Miguel St. Wells LRG-4286-S, LRG-4286-S2, and LRG-4286-POD4 will be retained for other rights. To view the application and supporting documentation contact the State Engineer District Office to arrange a date and time for an appointment located at 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J. Las Cruces, NM 88005. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity asserting standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (objection must be

legible, signed, and include the writer's complete name, phone number, email address, and mailing address). If the protest does not include the complete name, phone number, email address, and mailing address, it may be deemed invalid and not accepted for filing unless Protestant provides with the protest an affidavit stating that it does not have one of the above-listed elements/requirements (phone number, mailing address, email address, etc.). The objection to the approval of the application must be based on: (1) Impairment; if impairment, you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) Public Welfare/Conservation of Water; if public welfare or conservation of water within the state of New Mexico, you shall be required to 2 provide evidence showing how you will be substantially and specifically affected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with the State Engineer, 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J. Las Cruces, NM 88005, on or before **February 23, 2024**. Facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted as a valid protest if the hard copy is hand-delivered or mailed and postmarked within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing postmark will be used to validate the 24-hour period. Protests can be faxed to the Office of the State Engineer, 575-524-6160. If no valid protest or objection is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 72 NMSA 1978. **Dates: 12/29, 01/05, 01/12, 2024**

Longitude intersect at 32°5'39.73"N & 106°38'16.75"W, 32°5'52.65"N & 106°38'39.712"W, and 32°6'24.75"N & 106°38'26.35"W (WGS84), respectively, located on land owned by the applicant (POD4) and on land owned by Goede Land LLC (S) and Margarita Lopez (S2), and instead irrigate 19.66 acres of land, owned by the applicant, located within the SW¼ SW¼ and SE¼ SW¼ of Section 15, Township 25S, Range 2E (NMPM) using well LRG-18296-POD1, located within the NW¼ NE¼ of Section 22, Township 22S, Range 2E (NMPM), and more specifically where Latitude & Longitude intersect at 32°7'32.12"N & 106°43'47.2"W (WGS84), on land owned by the applicant. Of the 19.66 acres proposed, 8.06 acres will be irrigated using groundwater only and 11.6 acres will be irrigated using surface water from EBID and groundwater combined. Well LRG-18296-POD1 is located south of Las Cruces, NM, approximately 0.74 miles northwest of the intersection of County Rd. B10 & W San Miguel St. Wells LRG-4286-S, LRG-4286-S2, and LRG-4286-POD4 will be retained for other rights. To view the application and supporting documentation contact the State Engineer District Office to arrange a date and time for an appointment located at 1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J. Las Cruces, NM 88005. Any person, firm or corporation or other entity asserting standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (objection must be

Boys basketball Trojans look for mo in '24

By JONAH GALLEGOS

For the Bulletin

The Mayfield High School boys' basketball team has been battle tested so far during this young season, but with three final nondistrict games left, there's a sense that this team isn't afraid to take the court against any opponent — hoping to turn some heads while doing so and bring relevance back to Mayfield basketball.

The Trojans have a record of 4-8 on the season and ended 2023 with a fourth place finish in the LCPS Holiday Hoopla Tournament. In that annual tournament they

went 1-2, beating Santa Teresa and losing to powerhouse programs Los Lunas and Atrisco Heritage Academy. Fellow district opponent Organ Mountain won the tournament, edging out Los Lunas 48-45 in the championship.

Mayfield Trojans head coach Keith Roberts recognizes his team isn't where they want to be record-wise but knows these tough games will pay off when it comes to district play.

"We have been playing top teams in the state week in and week out, but I really think that our hustle is there, our determination is there and our on-the-

floor chemistry has made a big jump," Roberts said. "Our schedule gets more favorable from here on out. I think we're going to be really competitive in district. With how the nondistrict schedule has gone, with all the high level opponents we've been playing, I feel really optimistic with the turn of the year."

Roberts said his team has been playing at a high level, specifically on the defensive side of the ball. Boxing out and creating easier opportunities to score is where he wants his team to improve. But with all the top athletes Mayfield has played against, such as Jalin Holland



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO BY JONAH GALLEGOS

A view from the Mayfield High School gym, where the Trojans are looking to grow through remaining nondistrict games.

from Los Lunas and Dylan Chavez from La Cueva, Roberts said his team can take that experience and learn from it on how to guard and game-plan for similar individual athletes in future games.

The Mayfield basketball program hasn't been crowned the 5A district-3 champions since the 2009-10 season. However, in the 2013-14 campaign they did finish as the regular season district champions. Roberts explained to be officially named the district champions, a team must win the district tournament.

The NMAA playoffs have been nonexistent to the Trojans since 2014, while Roberts also added that 2016 was the last time Mayfield beat Las Cruces High School. He explained that he knows the importance of winning at Mayfield and wants to return that sense of winning back to the program.

"We want to do things that haven't been done in a long time, and if we can just knock off as many of these goals as we can in this season we really can change the narrative of

Mayfield basketball but also really establish a culture here," Roberts said.

Roberts said the district is more open this year, but admits that Organ Mountain is the "top dog" right now. During the summer, Mayfield hosted a tournament where they played Organ Mountain in the championship game. Roberts added that they played them well and were a game away from meeting them in a championship setting again during last week-end's holiday hoopla.

"We're not afraid of anybody, we're just ready to play our brand of basketball and we really feel like we can make a run and compete for a district title," Roberts said.

Senior forward Brian Coyle Jr. and senior guard Aaron "AC" Muñoz have been the go-to men for Mayfield basketball this season, though Roberts said many other of his players have stepped up to the occasion.

"I really think the rest of the team has just made so many positive strides," Roberts said.

Roberts named sophomore guard Fernie Co-

rona, junior guard Tyson Foster, junior guard Braxton McKinley, junior guard Ruben Rivera, sophomore guard Gabriel Herrera and senior guard and forward Gabriel Apodaca as the core of his team.

Roberts said that core has "elevated" their game and that any one of them can go off on any given night to help their teammates in Coyle and Munoz.

With three games left before district play, the Mayfield Trojans have a chance to gain some momentum before the final act of the season. Silver, Roswell and Deming are those opponents, with a game at in-city-rival Las Cruces High as the Trojans' district opener.

"Mayfield basketball — we're really going to try and embody what it is to be a Mayfield Trojan, like what Las Cruces is used to from a Mayfield Trojan athlete," Roberts said. "All of those positive qualities of hard work, determination, grittiness, embracing that north valley culture. I really feel like when we get things rolling, we can be a force in this district."

NM STATE ATHLETICS

State
NEW MEXICO
BASKETBALL

JANUARY SCHEDULES

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

vs **FIU**
THURSDAY, JAN. 11 | 6 PM

vs **SAM HOUSTON**
THURSDAY, JAN. 25 | 6 PM

vs **LA TECH**
SATURDAY, JAN. 27 | NOON

MEN'S BASKETBALL

vs **UTEP**
THURSDAY, JAN. 4 | 7 PM

vs **WKU**
THURSDAY, JAN. 18 | 7 PM

vs **MIDDLE TENNESSEE**
SATURDAY, JAN. 20 | 7 PM

TICKETS: 575-646-1420 | PAN AMERICAN CENTER | LAS CRUCES, NM

Remembering four PGA champions who recently passed

Popular PGA Tour player Andy Bean, with 11 tournament wins (and 15 runner-ups) passed away in October at age 83. The 6' 4," 220-pound gent with a baritone southern accent, was from Lafayette, Georgia, and played golf at the University of Florida. Among his Gator teammates were former TV golf analyst Gary Koch and Fred Ridley, the current chairman of Augusta National Golf Club. Bean won five college tournaments with one NCAA National Championship and three consecutive All-American honors. Bean eventually played in 588 PGA Tour tournaments while collecting those 11 wins. After turning 50 in 2003, he won three times on the PGA Champions Tour. He was affectionately known by players

and writers alike as "gentle giant," and someone who always had time for fans. He is survived by his wife Debbie and his three daughters.

If the name Ivor Robson doesn't strike a bell, you may never have watched the Open Championship (aka "British Open").

From 1975 to 2015, Robson was the iconic starter on the first tee at every Open Championship for 41 consecutive years, with his unmistakable smooth UK voice as he addressed the crowd "on the tee, game number 22," followed by player introductions. Robson, from Moffat, Scotland, started his Open starter career at Carnoustie in 1975, and retired after the Open at St.

Andrews in 2015. He also worked for the DP World Tour and at Ryder Cups.



CHARLIE BLANCHARD
Golf Doctor

Most impressively, Robson never took a relief break from the first tee time to the last – that's eight hours – at 41 straight tournaments. Upon his retirement, Robson mused, "It's been

a wonderful career (and) a great honor. To the professionals, it's been great fun being here with you." Robson passed in October at age 83. R&A CEO Martin Slumbers noted that Robson's voice was "instantly recognizable and synonymous with the Open Championship. (All) will share in our sadness." Robson is survived by his wife of 61 years.

Longtime golf pro-

fessional, teacher and coach, Eddie Merrins, affectionately known as "The Li'l Pro," sadly died in November. He was 91. An outstanding collegiate player at LSU, he won the SEC title twice, in 1953 and '54. As a professional, he competed in over 200 PGA Tour events with two wins: the 1961 metropolitan PGA Championship and the 1961 Long Island Open. Merrins is best remembered for his tenure as UCLA's cherished golf coach. During his 14-year tenure at UCLA, he coached 16 All-Americans, including Corey Pavin, Steve Pate, Tom Pernice, Jr., Duffy Waldorf, Scott McCarron, Bob May and Brandt Jobe. In 1962, Merrins was named the head professional at Bel-Air Country Club in Los Angeles and became one of the

most distinguished teachers in the game during the 42 years that stretched to 2003. Merrins was inducted into the PGA Hall of Fame in 2009. He wrote a super instruction book titled, "Swing the Handle Not the Clubhead."

Don January, who played professional tour golf from 1954 to 1987, died in May at age 93. He was Texas through and through, having been born in Plainview, raised in Dallas and later being part of four NCAA national championship golf teams from 1949 to 1953 at North Texas State. As a pro, he won 10 PGA tournaments, including the 1967 PGA Championship, beating Don Massengale in an 18 hole playoff. After turning 50 he won 22 PGA Senior Tour (now PGA Champions Tour) events.

In 1976, at age 47, he won the Vardon Trophy for lowest scoring average for the year on the PGA Tour. January became an instrumental force in golf, pushing to remove the "Caucasians only" clause in the PGA of America charter.

Once, after signing his scorecard at a Senior Tour event, he told an interviewer, "I'm just a damned old pro from Dallas who was lucky enough to have a swing that lasted for a while." Commenting on January's longevity, Curtis Strange, winner of two consecutive U.S. Opens, observed, "Ol' Don got better with age, just like the bourbon he drank. A true man's man."

Email Dr. Blanchard: docblanchard71@gmail.com.

Happy New Year!

from

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