

# THE LAS CRUCES Bulletin

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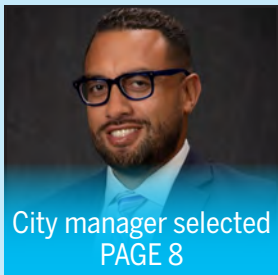
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## NEWS



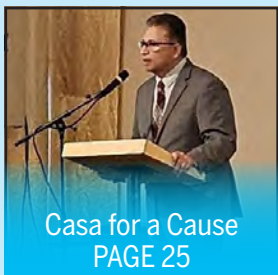
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## ARTS



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## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

# Hatch embraces new police chief

**LEAH ROMERO**  
For the Bulletin

Heads up, Hatch. There's a new chief in town.

The Hatch Police Department recently welcomed a newly appointed chief, Aurora Hernandez, who is officially the first Hispanic female chief to lead law enforcement in the Doña Ana County village.

Hernandez was appointed earlier this month by the late Hatch Mayor James "Slim" Whitlock, just before he passed away on March 9. Hernandez is a nine-year veteran of the department with experience ranging from administrative work to several years with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in New Mexico, though her roots are planted in Mexico.

Hernandez is originally



COURTESY PHOTO

Hatch police chief Aurora Hernandez

from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico and still has family in the area. She explained that she lived there until the age of 20, working an administrative job. After she married, the couple

moved to Kansas where her husband's career took off and she worked part-time at Walmart. Their family was growing at this point and she was busy raising three children.

Her career took a turn when she started working at a Kansas animal shelter and met a retired lieutenant from the Dodge City Police Department. Hernandez explained that the town was quite rural at the time and there was a need for bilingual people in the department.

"Pretty much, it's just for being Hispanic is what introduced me to all this," she said. "I never wanted to be in law enforcement. That was not on my mind. Back in Mexico, I was an administrator. But once I moved here, obviously I needed to find a job and little by little I ended up in this career... It's one of those weird things that I wasn't looking for... the job find me."

She started working as a detention officer in the jail in 2005, but eight months into her one-year stint, the department sent

her to the police academy. Hernandez attended the University of Kansas to complete certification as a law enforcement officer.

Several years later, Hernandez moved to New Mexico and worked in the area of narcotics with Otero County law enforcement. This experience led her to take a job as a task force officer with the DEA in Sunland Park.

In March 2015, she transferred to the village of Hatch to do similar task force work. This month marks nine years she has worked in the community.

Hernandez explained that up until about a year ago, she was one of two female officers working in the department. Today, she is the only one.

Hernandez was transferred to patrol officer about two years into her

SEE **POLICE CHIEF**, PAGE 6



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## DOÑA ANA COUNTY CELEBRATES WOMEN LEADERS DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



**Sitting:** Diana Murillo - Commissioner, District 2. **Standing left to right:** Eugenia "Gina" Montoya Ortega - County Assessor, Marisol Richardson - Chief Deputy Treasurer, Judith Ann Baca - Probate Judge, Caroline Zamora - Chief Deputy Clerk, Susana Chaparro - Commissioner, District 4, and Amanda López Askin - County Clerk. **Not pictured:** Kim Stewart - County Sheriff, and Tessa Abeyta - Undersheriff.

In honor of Women's History Month, Doña Ana County shines a spotlight on the remarkable women who hold elected offices, showcasing their vital contributions to our community. From District Commissioners to the County Sheriff, these leaders exemplify dedication, skill, and the drive to make a difference in the lives of the residents they serve.

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# Las Cruces Bulletin moves back downtown

## BULLETIN REPORT

On Friday and through last weekend, the Las Cruces Bulletin, along with its monthly arts and culture publication, Desert Exposure, relocated from the Las Cruces/Mesilla city line to downtown.

On Monday morning, the Bulletin resumed regular office hours at its new location on the second floor of the Electronic Caregiver building, 506 S. Main Street, in suite 250. The offices will include the Bulletin's sales, editorial and distribution departments, while logistical operations will be located elsewhere with delivery service continuing uninterrupted.

"We are committed to

LAS CRUCES BULLETIN  
FILE PHOTO

**The Electronic Caregiver Building, 506 S. Main Street in downtown Las Cruces.**

providing our community with great local journalism. Now we will be doing so from the very heart of Las Cruces," Bulletin publisher Belinda Mills said on Friday. "This move is practical for our needs, but also represents the ushering in of a new era for the Las Cruces Bulletin."

The move puts the Bulletin half a mile south of its original headquarters when the weekly paper debuted in 1969. Over the years, it has relocated several times, and occupied "Bulletin Plaza" on Calle



de Mercado, next to the Paisano Café restaurant, for six years.

Some of the Bulletin's digital operations have been affected in the course of the move, and

on Wednesday repairs and adjustments were being made to the Bulletin's telephone and IT systems. Staff were working to resolve those issues even as they unpacked boxes and set up their work spaces as this issue went to press.

The Bulletin will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, in its new offices. Its main phone number, 575-524-8061, remains the same.

## Lane closed for Highway 70 work

### BULLETIN REPORT

A new lane closure took effect Wednesday as part of ongoing construction work on U.S. Highway 70.

The closure is to the eastbound right lane, also known as N. Main Street, from Temple Street to N. Triviz Drive, the city stated in a news release, as part of construction work anticipated to last through June. Work crews will reconstruct driveways leading to businesses on the road's east side, leaving at least one half of the driveways

open while work is in progress in order to allow access. Each driveway will take three to five days for work to be complete, the city said.

The Alameda Arroyo trail crossing is closed for public safety while the work continues. Traffic on the east side of the road has one lane open from N. Solano Drive to N. Triviz Drive, and traffic near the Alameda Arroyo is being moved to the west side of the road, with one lane open in each direction.

The speed limit in the construction zone is 35

miles per hour and motorists are asked to use extra caution and allow extra time for moving through the area.

The regular work hours for the project are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Subsequent phases of the work are expected to be complete in October, and the city and state transportation department said residences and businesses will be accessible throughout.

More information is available online via US-70MainStreet.com and NMRoads.com.

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**LINDA LEE GARRETT THARP**

Linda Lee Garrett Tharp of Las Cruces, passed away peacefully in her sleep Saturday October 21, 2023 at Desert Peak assisted living. She was 83 years of age. Linda was born May 9, 1940, in Ardmore, OK to William P. (Bud) Garrett and Dorothy Elliott Garrett.

After WWII, Linda and her brother and sister lived in Japan where her father was stationed. When his duty was over in Japan, the family moved to White Sands Missile Range. Linda commuted to Las Cruces to attend Las Cruces High school where she met and dated her future husband, Charles Tharp.

Upon graduation, she



attended NMSU for a semester before she and Charles got married. Linda and Charles had two children, Laura and Craig.

Linda worked for three years as the attendance clerk for LCHS while Charles was finishing his degree at NMSU. After Laura and Craig were born, she concentrated her efforts on the raising

of her children.

Linda had many activities that she enjoyed. She and Charles were very active in the Mayfield High School band parents organization and enjoyed their involvement while Craig and Laura were in band. They endured many bus rides with the band to various competitions and attended all of the home games and fund-raising activities.

Linda was involved in the Las Cruces Symphony guild for many years where she greatly enjoyed the La Quinceanera program – a celebration for senior girls graduating from high school.

She was also involved in the NMSU Cowboys

for Cancer Pink committee to help raise money and awareness for breast cancer.

Linda was a long-time member of The Wednesday Literary club, which is the oldest active book club in New Mexico.

Her favorite activities included needlework, going to the symphony, and traveling to the opera in Santa Fe with her closest friends Mary and Barbara and Nola. For some reason the husbands would decline to go with them to the opera! She loved to cook and loved to collect cookbooks and take various cooking classes, making her a gourmet cook in all our opinions! She also enjoyed

traveling. She and Charles took many memorable trips with friends to various places in the U.S. and to other countries.

Linda is survived by her husband of 65 years, Charles Tharp of Las Cruces, Linda and Charles' Standard Poodle "Molly," who serves as a constant companion, her daughter Laura Kendrick (Brian) of Los Alamos, NM, Laura and Brians daughter-in-law Caroline Von Werden. Also, her son Craig (Chandra) of Las Cruces. Grandson Cole Kendrick, Alyssa Tharp Soule (Jeffrey) and great granddaughter Sawyer Leigh Soule. She is also survived by her sister Jan Roseman (Robert) of College Sta-

tion, Tx, and her brother Dale Garrett of Houston, Tx, and her sister-in-law Claudia Tharp Keith of Albuquerque, NM

She is preceded in death by her parents William and Dorothy Garrett, her father and mother-in-law Claud and Avalene Tharp, her brother-in-law William Tharp and her Grandson Alexander Kendrick.

Services will be held at the Farm and Ranch Museum at 10:30am on April 5, 2024.

Arrangements by Getz Funeral Home, corner of Solano and Bowman Ave. To sign our local online guestbook, please visit [www.GetzCares.com](http://www.GetzCares.com).

**JOSE RAYMOND AVILA, III**

Jose (Joe, Joseph) Raymond Avila III, age 59, passed away on March 16, 2024, surrounded by his sisters. Joseph was born in Springer, NM on March 12, 1965. Joseph last resided in Las Cruces, New Mexico after coming home from Corpus Christi, TX. Joseph fought a short but courageous battle with metastatic cancer, diagnosed November of 2023.

Joseph was a retail sales worker as well as manager for several retail store chains in Texas as well as New Mexico. He was the proud owner



of his newest adventure known as Avila's Oddities where he used his wonderful creativity to create one of a kind upcycled pieces that he sold from the Peddlers Pavilion and surrounding art fairs. One of his proudest moments was being the Jeweler of

Threads for the Queen of the Las Cruces Renaissance Arts Faire, Misty Morton.

He is survived by his Father, Jose (Joseph) Avila Jr., his sisters Valerie Grace Avila and Victoria Trujillo Williams (Joseph Lee Williams) as well as nephews Zackrey Avila and Justus Williams, niece Jasmine Moreno, grand nephew Nehemiah Trujillo, grand niece Alexa Avila and his many Aunts, Uncles, and cousins. Joseph also leaves behind his cherished fur baby Isis and feathered baby Bud the cockatiel.

Joseph is preceded in death by his mother, Barbara Gail Trujillo and stepfather, Narciso David Trujillo.

Joseph touched many lives and will be truly missed by his friends and family. He adamantly declared that there be no services of any sort but his sister will plan a celebration of life and releasing of his ashes at a later date.

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# Three candidates disqualified in 2024 elections

**JUSTIN GARCIA**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Three candidates were disqualified from running in the 2024 elections, causing some races to become uncompetitive in the process.

Two candidates for state legislature and the third candidate for Doña Ana County Commis-

sion were disqualified for filing late or for issues with nominating petitions. Two of the candidates were Republicans, and one was a Democrat. All three were challengers, not incumbents.

Letters sent to each candidate show why the Doña Ana County Clerk's office disqualified the three candidates. The letters were provided to the Las Cruces

Bulletin upon request.

"It gives me no pleasure to take a candidate out of the races," County Clerk Amanda López Askin said, adding that state law is very rigid regarding exceptions or leniency. The disqualifications came after a week of review from clerk staff following filing day earlier in March.

Oscar Vasquez Butler, a Democrat challenging incumbent Manuel Sanchez for the District 5 seat, was disqualified because he filed petition forms that were incorrectly filled out.

County law allows prospective candidates to file a petition with 20 signatures or pay a \$50 fee to run for office. Butler chose to file petitions but did not put

"District 5" on the petition.

Butler was the lone challenger to Sanchez.

In the state house races, Richard Reynaud, a Republican who launched a write-in candidacy to challenge incumbent Democrat William "Bill" Soules for New Mexico Senate District

SEE **CANDIDATES**, PAGE 7

## POLICE CHIEF

CONTINUED FROM 1

time in Hatch. However, it was not long before she took over as school resource officer for the five public schools in the district. The position was supposed to be temporary, but she wound up working with the schools until earlier this month.

SRO is a position not many in the department want, Hernandez said, describing it as having a negative stigma.

"Back in the days, going to the school as SRO was a punishment for us. For me, I almost felt like OK, I'm the one on the bottom of the pole, so it's my turn," she said.

Hernandez was initially appointed as temporary SRO while the previous officer was out of commission for a while. However, her time in the role was extended with the promise that she would be replaced soon, allowing her to return to patrol duty.

Instead, about six years passed before she left the schools to become chief.

Despite the SRO role's

reputation for being an undesirable position, Hernandez said she enjoyed her time working in the schools. Her days were spent moving between the five public schools and responding to threats or situations as they came up.

"I was a little afraid because I have three children (of) my own, but I was not too patient for anybody that was not my child," she laughed. "I started getting along with people. They liked how I work. I like talking to people, got along with the kids. I know a lot of the families – they are really welcoming in this little town."

She said she was surprised when she got called in for a meeting and was offered the soon-to-be vacant chief of police position.

"They called me in and they offered me the position and I was like, 'Are you talking to the right person?'" she said.

However, Hernandez is one of the most tenured officers in the department. She was the second person to be offered the position,

an appointment that is made jointly by the mayor and city manager.

She officially took over the position on March 4, just days before Whitlock died from a heart attack while at his business.

Much change is in store for Hatch's local government, but Hernandez is prepared to lead law enforcement as the first Hispanic female chief the department has had. She joins only two other women leaders in Doña Ana County law enforcement: Doña Ana County Sheriff Kim Stewart and Anthony Chief of Police Vanessa Ordoñez.

Law enforcement has historically been a male-dominated field. Nationally, the ratio of male officers to female officers in a law enforcement career is about 86 percent to 14 percent, based on 2021 figures compiled by Data USA.

Hernandez said she has had to deal with various forms of harassment throughout her career because she is a Hispanic woman. Examples range from harsh comments from fellow officers to

pushback from people who still believe law enforcement is a "man's world." This has all culminated in exasperating experiences and times when Hernandez was close to leaving the profession altogether.

"Sometimes it's rough with the guys, you know ... some of them still feel like it's a man's world," she said. "Sometimes I go and scream at my husband, but he understands because he was a police officer himself," Hernandez said.

She said she always anticipates challenges due to her past experiences. However, her perseverance paid off in the long run. Hernandez said she and

the rest of the department are still getting used to the new roles, but everyone is supportive and settling in pretty well.

The now vacant role of SRO will likely remain open for the time being. Until then, Hernandez said officers will rotate the responsibility of checking in with the schools while she monitors the callouts.

Ultimately, Hernandez said she is proud to step into the role. With about four years before she plans to retire, she had not thought she would do so as the leader of a department.

"Whenever they called me and I was like, 'It's just

another position,' but no. It was different for everyone because we're changing the culture – the first female Hispanic (chief) in Hatch," she said. "For me, the community is very important. The community I feel is the one that put me here. We have trustees and (community members) go to trustees and make comments and I think I receive a lot of support from them. And I hope I do a good job for them."

*Leah Romero is a freelance reporter based in southern New Mexico. She can be reached at 575-418-3442 or Leah.R.Romero@gmail.com.*

## Emergency Food & Shelter Program Grant Application Available

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## Federal courthouse to get EV charging ports

### BULLETIN REPORT

The federal courthouse in downtown Las Cruces is among the federal buildings slated to receive electric vehicle charging ports across the United States, the General Services Administration announced Tuesday.

Federal funds through the Inflation Reduction Act include \$25 million for the EV ports, with the first \$20 million distributed for projects at 33 federal buildings in 21 states, according to a news release. Among them is the U.S. courthouse in Las Cruces, located at 100 N. Church Street, which will install 16 ports.

Federal agencies are required to adopt electrical vehicle fleets, replacing 600,000 government

vehicles with zero-emission models.

GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan said in the news release that the move not only reduces carbon emissions but also helps stabilize a domestic market for electric vehicles. "Investments like these help us get a triple win by creating more jobs in the green economy, saving taxpayer dollars through increased efficiency of federal operations, and creating healthier communities all across the country," she stated.

The GSA said the installations could reduce carbon emissions by 1,472 million metric tons annually.

The agency did not estimate when the work would be complete.

## CANDIDATES

CONTINUED FROM 6

37, was also disqualified. According to the clerk's office, Reynaud filed paperwork for a write-in candidacy after the deadline.

Soules had no other challengers.

Lastly, Republican Ronnie Sisneros was disqualified from running against incumbent Democrat Joanne Ferrary for state representative in House District 37. According to the clerk's office, Sisneros submitted 82 signatures for his nominating peti-

tions, but the clerk's office found just 11 of those signatures were valid. State law requires that you have 32 signatures to qualify.

The other signatures were disqualified because Sisneros crossed out "house" and replaced it with "state" on some petitions. Altering the documents in that way invalidated them.

The Las Cruces Bulletin reached out to all three disqualified candidates but did not receive a response by press time. The disqualifications end the three candidates' chances of running in 2024.



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

## Courtney Granite is New Management Information System Manager for LCU

Courtney Granite, who has worked in several positions for the City of Las Cruces since 2012, is the new Management Information System Manager for Las Cruces Utilities (LCU). As the new MIS Manager, Courtney will identify, implement, and manage technological solutions, cybersecurity, and general SCADA functions throughout LCU. Additionally, she will manage technology projects, conduct system testing, train personnel, and coordinate disparate software systems to provide wide-ranging benefits to all lines of businesses and programs across LCU.

Before joining Las Cruces Utilities, she was a member of the City's Community Development and Information

Technology departments and worked closely with LCU to streamline processes and develop routine operation reports that focused on data quality and business insights.

In 2019, Granite became the geographic information system (GIS) manager for the Community Development Department where she further demonstrated her strategic and tactical leadership skills. She collaborated with City department leaders to develop and support Connect Las Cruces, an adoption management playbook.

This initiative was successfully implemented and has expanded the modernization of GIS use in City government operations.



Granite has over 30 years of experience and knowledge in information technology, business intelligence, decision support systems, and enterprise frameworks, with a focus on energy management, operation

support, and data quality management.

Prior to joining the City of Las Cruces, Granite was an application analyst for Daffron and Associates, Inc.; a financial analyst for the Mid-South Synergy Electric Cooperative; director of operations for Legacy Energy Solutions; and quality assurance manager for Enron Energy Services.

Granite is a graduate of Penn State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree that focused on Operations Management and Quantitative Analysis.

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# Taumoepeau chosen as Las Cruces city manager

## BULLETIN REPORT

Ikani Taumoepeau, who worked alongside Mayor Eric Enriquez as assistant city manager and has overseen much of the city's top initiatives, was selected by the Las Cruces City Council last week as the next city manager.

The city announced in a news release it had made a tentative offer to Taumoepeau following a process that moved quickly, and mostly out of view of the public, since Ifo Pili, the current city manager, announced his resignation three weeks ago.

Taumoepeau has been an assistant city manager since 2021 and had experience working with outgo-

ing Pili before their time together in Las Cruces. Pili resigned from the job to become city manager of a community near Salt Lake City, Utah.

"City Council chose Ikani for his experience, knowledge, and his ability to work well with the community, organization, and with Mayor and Council," Enriquez stated in a news release announcing the appointment. "Since he joined us three years ago, Ikani has shown that he cares for the people in the organization and the community. We have seen his leadership displayed during his time as Assistant City Manager and are excited to see his leadership



IKANI TAUMOEPEAU

skills grow and flourish as our City Manager."

Taumoepeau beat out assistant city manager Sonya Delgado and public works director David Sedillo, whom the council selected as finalists for the position this week.

"The decision was not easy, as both finalists Sonya Delgado and David

Sedillo are also very strong leaders," Enriquez said. "It is a testament to the leadership in this organization that we had the difficult task of choosing between so many qualified candidates."

The news release touted Taumoepeau's role in overseeing projects such as the implementation of GO bond parks improvements, RoadRUNNER Transit zero-fare, Visit Las Cruces' brand campaign and the city's first airshow at Las Cruces International Airport.

"I am honored to be chosen as Las Cruces City Manager," Taumoepeau said in the news release. "I have had the privilege to work with City Council,

City staff, and the community in the last several years and am proud of the work we have done so far."

Before arriving in Las Cruces in 2021, Taumoepeau served as city manager in Clayton, Calif., assistant city manager in Santa Paula, Calif., deputy city manager in Morro Bay, Calif. and economic development director in Eagle Mountain, Utah, according to the news release and Taumoepeau's resume.

Like his predecessor, Taumoepeau is a Brigham Young University graduate. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in history, a minor in Spanish and a master's in public administration.

The news release said he is also bilingual, speaking English and Spanish.

The city stated that Taumoepeau's contract had not yet been signed but suggested both parties had agreed to it in principle. The contract would be voted on at a council meeting on April 1, the day after Pili's last official day as city manager.

"I look forward to continuing to implement the vision of City Council and make Las Cruces the community that we all want to live and thrive in. I am lucky to work with talented and dedicated people who are committed to serving the community with cariño," Taumoepeau said.

## City denies it violated open meetings law

ALGERNON D'AMMASSA  
Las Cruces Bulletin

The city of Las Cruces maintains that it followed laws pertaining to public meetings early in the process of selecting a new city manager this month, despite evidence from

the city's own statements that city council members discussed public business outside of open session.

The city announced the resignation of City Manager Ifo Pili with a press release on Feb. 28 which stated that internal applications for the job had opened

that day, indicating a decision had been made to hire the next city manager from within rather than through an executive search.

City spokesperson Mandy Guss told the Bulletin shortly after that announcement, "The city manager hiring process

was suggested by Ifo, who spoke individually with the city council members and got their OK to move forward."

New Mexico's Open Meetings Act states that "the formation of public policy or the conduct of business by vote shall not be conducted in closed meetings.

All meetings of any public body except the legislature and the courts shall be public meetings, and all persons so desiring shall be permitted to attend and listen to the deliberations and proceedings."

SEE **COMPLIED**, PAGE 11



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# Parks and Recreation Department

## Thank You

to our local youth who participated in the creation of the Walk Through New Mexico mural!



Special thanks to KLCB staff, Breanna Yazzie, for sharing her vision for this mural and free-hand sketching it!



## GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP

April 27 • 8 am to noon

Individuals, businesses, groups and families can register to clean a location to help beautify our community. We will also have an open-top trash and tire location.

To register and find out more about the Great American Clean Up, scan the QR code. Let's work together to keep Las Cruces and Doña Ana County beautiful.



Volunteers Needed



## ARTE AND AGUAS CLASSES

Enjoy a fun, step-by-step tutorial while sipping on various drinks from a local business. Supplies and drinks will be provided for a \$10 per-person fee for each class.

Next program: Wednesday, April 3, 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Adults and teens, accompanied by a parent, can register. Each class has limited availability.



Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center  
304 W. Bell Ave.  
(575) 541-2454

## MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT

5 p.m.  
Sunday, May 12  
Plaza de Las Cruces  
100 N. Main St.

Join us in celebrating all the great mothers in our community with dancing and live music by Al Hurricane Jr.

- Free family event
- Bring chairs
- Food trucks

Parks & Rec  
(575) 541-2550



# Competency reform efforts stall amid century-old question

JUSTIN GARCIA  
Las Cruces Bulletin

Bulletin  
IN•DEPTH

*Amid concerns about public safety in Las Cruces, the Bulletin is planning an occasional series of in-depth reporting about criminal justice and behavioral health in New Mexico. This is the first of a two-part story about competency and the New Mexico justice system.*

In the first of many news conferences about police officer Jonah Hernandez's death, the police released three details about his killer: his name, his status as an unhoused man and an opinion about his mental health. Weeks later, Las Cruces Police

Department Chief Jeremy Story evolved that fact into an opinion about criminal competency.

"When competency is raised, usually by the defense attorney, it (the case) goes to the district court. There's an evaluation. If the person is deemed incompetent ... it comes back down to either municipal court or magistrate court with an order to dismiss," Story said at a news conference on March 1.

Story said, "There are zero consequences for all this crime. Nothing.



It's dismissal, and that's it. There's no treatment. There is nothing that happens from all this crime." Story buttressed his

criticism with department data showing that in 2023, 576 cases in municipal court, split among four people, were dismissed following this pattern.

Story did not specify the severity of the dismissed charges. However, since all 576 cases were in Las Cruces' Municipal Court, they were likely comparatively minor crimes such as trespassing or property damage.

While the individual impact of the crimes is small, in the aggregate they contribute to a narrative of lawlessness. For weeks, dozens of business owners have been addressing the Las Cruces City Council at length in public comments. They complain of broken windows, feces on the sidewalks or repeated trespassing calls and connect it to a broader world-view.

"I can tell you that, yesterday alone, there was

another vagrant out there screaming, yelling, acting violent, jumping in the air," said Vic Villalobos, the owner of Las Cruces Dock Diving, during a council meeting on March 4. "We got to do something. We really do."

"These are all the kinds of crimes that lead people to believe we've got out of control crime in Albuquerque," said Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, who introduced legislation to change the system this year. "There's a lot of other crime, but these are kinds of crimes that are so visible, you can't escape them."

Meanwhile, advocates in the mental health and civil rights space have called for reform as well. They say the process is slow, leading to people stuck in jail awaiting evaluations, further affecting their mental health while stripping them of their freedom.

LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO  
BY JUSTIN GARCIA

**Las Cruces police chief Jeremy Story stands next to Mayor Eric Enriquez during a news conference on Feb. 13.**

The pressure is coming from everywhere, but the system remains unmoved.

In this two-part series, the Las Cruces Bulletin looks at the roots of New Mexico's competency system, present-day challenges and efforts to improve the system by the legislative and judicial branches of government.

## Competency in New Mexico history

If someone can't understand legal proceedings, how can they have a fair trial?

In New Mexico, the modern conception of competency dates to two cases from the state's territorial and early statehood days.

The first case, *Territory v. Kennedy*, is retold in legal articles discussing competency.

In 1910, James Kennedy, a cook for a group of men driving cattle, forgot the group's water at a previous campsite. His boss, Francis Evans, reprimanded his employee for physically assaulting him. The next night, another member of the group awoke to find Kennedy burying an axe in Evan's body, killing him. From the material reviewed by the Las Cruces Bulletin, it's unclear where in the

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## COMPETENCY

CONTINUED FROM 10

New Mexico territory this event occurred.

Kennedy mounted a defense of insanity and, during the trial, the judge acknowledged to the jury that Kennedy might not be competent. Despite this, the jury convicted Kennedy of murder.

Kennedy then appealed to the territory's supreme court. The court remanded the case back to the lower court for a new trial and, in doing so, affirmed the right of the defendant to be competent to stand trial.

According to an article published in the New Mexico Law Review, this case acknowledged that defendants have the right to be competent to stand trial and that incompetence at the time of trial is not a basis for acquittal.

The next case, "In re Smith," dealt with the question of defendants abusing competency protections.

A news article from 1916 printed in the El Paso Herald titled "Jail Breaker Caught at Reno: Man Believed to Have Led Deming Jail Break to be Taken to Las Cruces" details a jail break and the killing of a Luna County Sheriff that would shape New Mexico's competency laws.

After his arrest on allegations of forgery, A.B. Smith, who used the alias W.F. Dashley, escaped from the

Luna County jail in Deming with four other prisoners. Smith, believed to be the mastermind behind the escape, stole a car and took the escapees as far as Rincon before a sheriff's posse caught up with them on Feb. 20, 1916. The posse, led by Sheriff Dwight Stephens, contained six lawmen.

When the groups confronted each other, a gunfight ensued. Stephens was killed instantly, as was one of the escapees. Smith escaped again before he was arrested in Reno, Nev. in August of 1916.

After his murder conviction, Smith was sentenced to be executed by hanging. As his execution neared, the district court in Santa Fe found Smith "to be of unsound mind." Smith then appealed for the Supreme Court to stay his execution until he could be "restored to reason."

The Supreme Court decided to investigate the claim and ultimately found Smith was sane enough to be executed, although no record of the execution exists.

However, the most important precedent regarding competency comes from a 1960 U.S. Supreme Court case, Dusky v. United States.

According to the case records, Milton Richard Dusky intermittently suffered from visual hallucinations, morbid preoccupations and depression. He also had alcoholism. In August of 1958, Dusky tried to

sexually assault a girl in Missouri before he was arrested.

The first of two psychiatric evaluators found that Dusky was "oriented to time, place, and person" but denied a "complete memory of the day of the offense." The second evaluator diagnosed Dusky with schizophrenia.

Still, Dusky was convicted and sentenced. An appeals court upheld the case before the U.S. Supreme Court took it up. The justices ruled, "A federal court in which criminal proceedings are pending to make a finding regarding the mental competency of the accused to stand trial, may not make a determination that an accused is mentally competent merely because he is oriented to time and place and has some recollection of events; the test must be whether the accused has sufficient present ability to consult with his lawyer with a reasonable degree of rational understanding and whether he has a rational as well as a factual understanding of the proceedings against him."

This ruling meant that all states must determine whether the defendant understands what's happening in the courtroom, and whether they know what their lawyer is telling them when competency is raised.

### What is competency? And where's the breakdown?

Conrad Perea, chief judge of the Third Judicial District Court, said questions of competency come down to the liberty owed to people accused of crimes.

"We're locking them up, so it's a liberty question," Perea said. "And should we, in fact, be locking up an individual who really doesn't understand that he's doing anything wrong?"

*In part two of this story, appearing next week, Perea describes the process of competency and some of its problems, while Ortiz y Pino talks about efforts to put forward a solution through legislation earlier this year.*



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO BY JUSTIN GARCIA

Las Cruces City Hall building.

## COMPLIED

CONTINUED FROM 8

A compliance guide published by the New Mexico Department of Justice affirms that this applies to discussions of public business when members are not present at the same place or time. For instance, the document states: "...if three members of a five-member board discuss public business in a series of telephone or email conversations, the discussion is a meeting of a quorum."

If a quorum discusses public business in separate conversations or messages, it is referred to as a rolling or walking quorum.

When pressed on the appearance of a rolling quorum, Guss replied, "We are confident the City has fully complied with

the Open Meetings Act throughout this process. If you have questions about the interpretation of OMA, you can reach out to the Attorney General."

Melanie Majors, director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, said the evidence resembles "the exact definition of a rolling quorum."

"The use of a quorum to discuss public business or take action violates the Open Meetings Act," she said. "It may be used to produce a predetermined outcome and thus render any open meetings a mere formality. ... It sounds like they have circumvented the Open Meetings Act by using an agent, the city manager, to poll the members of the body through a series of individual contacts. That is what the definition of a rolling quorum is."



SOURCE NM PHOTO BY ANNA PADILLA

The New Mexico Senate Chambers, seen at the state Capitol building in Santa Fe on Jan. 10.



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506 S. Main St., Ste. 250  
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PHONE: 575-524-8061

www.lascrucesbulletin.com  
editor@lascrucesbulletin.com

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Submit letters to editor@lascrucesbulletin.com or by mail to 506 S. Main St., Ste. 250, Las Cruces NM 88001. Letters should not exceed 350 words, may be edited for length or content and must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be published.

## A life seen through offices

In my first career, my only “office” was a dressing room, usually shared with several other actors. At other occupations, I’ve worked on factory floors, in warehouses, cubicles, open office spaces or whatever classroom had been assigned to me. During a jaunt in Italy, nearly a decade before Covid-19, I worked a tech job remotely from cafes and pubs. I’ve been carrying a laptop around with me

everywhere for 12 years. For better and worse, the world has been my office and vice-versa.

At New Mexico State University, my “office” in the now-demolished Regents Row building was actually a storage room where I met with students who had to sit next to a large, bright red popcorn maker on a cart.

I’ve never been a “corner office” guy, but as of this week here I am, looking through windows to the west and the south of the Electronic Caregiver building in downtown Las Cruces.

After six years at the Las Cruces/Mesilla town line, the Las Cruces Bulletin moved its offices last Friday back to S. Main Street, just a few

blocks from its original location in 1969. I marked the occasion, of course, with lunch at Abraham’s on the fourth floor, partaking of a grilled ham and cheese sandwich.

Change is stressful, yet our new space is bathed in natural light, surrounded by windows lending a feeling of spaciousness. It is probably a good sign that a reporter and I lingered in the new space long after the Sunday unpacking-

and-pizza party had broken up, looking out over the city and talking shop in a place that felt more like a newsroom than our previous space.

Local news requires people, and through my open door I hear Bulletin staff bustling, laughing, talking to each other, more than I could in the other building.

I may be a corner office guy for the moment, but I’ll keep that door open.



**ALGERNON  
D'AMMASSA**  
Desert Sage

## Film festival about more than its stars

A film festival is a little bit like a film itself, in that the first thing to get our attention is usually the stars.

Ron Perlman, who I remember for his role as the crusty but wily leader of an outlaw biker gang in the series “Sons of Anarchy,” will be the star of the Las Cruces International Film Festival this year. He will be screening his movie, “Hellboy.”

The costar is Eric Roberts, who was nominated for an Oscar in 1985 for his role in “Runaway Train” and has more than 700 credits during his lengthy career. He will lead a workshop along with his wife on how to create and main-

tain a career in filmmaking.

But, like a movie, stars alone are not enough. Remember “Heaven’s Gate?”

The Las Cruces International Film Festival, which runs from April 3-7, has always been able to attract big names. But at the start, it seemed like a traveling roadshow that came through town once a year and then moved on.

Now it’s a part of something more permanent, the year-round effort to build a film industry in Las Cruces. And it has grown to become one of our commu-

nity’s signature events, attracting film buffs and industry executives from throughout the country.

The Las Cruces International Film Festival is now the largest student-organized film festival in the nation, Executive Director Ross Marks said. That’s due in large part to the year-round work of NMSU film students.

NMSU students screened more than 1,000 films in order to select the more than 100 that will be on the bill for this year’s festival. Students proactively encouraged filmmakers to submit

movies that they wanted for the festival.

Along with the films, there will also be workshops on hair and makeup; film production; writing for film and television; and animation. And many screenings will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmaker.

All of this will be at the Allen Theatres Cineport, which has been donated for the festival, Marks said. Outside the theater, filmmakers will have a chance to scout for locations and see the new facilities in Las Cruces.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham was here last August to announce a \$3 million investment by the state to bolster the

\$75 million investment by 828 Productions to build a 300,000-square foot film studio and 20-acre backlot in Las Cruces.

In January, film executive Tyler Perry announced that he will shoot the feature, “Tyler Perry’s Joe’s College Road Trip” in Las Cruces. They expect to hire 45 crew members and 45 background talent.

The film “In the Summers” was shot in Las Cruces last year, relying heavily on a local crew and cast. It recently won best narrative feature and best director at the Sundance Film Festival.

Marks, who is a film professor at NMSU, said



**WALT RUBEL**  
The View From Here

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ON YOUTH ATHLETICS

Dear editor,

Western New Mexico University students were asked to participate in service learning. The group they volunteered for was the SWAG organization, a group that helps adolescents stay active. This helps our youth stay active, prevent anxiety, help with depression and stop them from forming unhealthy habits.

With winter being over and spring rolling around, SWAG is promoting more outdoor activity as they

are offering training for outdoor sports. SWAG's main purpose is to engage with kids and promote social activity. Participating in their hours with the local youth baseball team, they learned that through playing baseball the kids form a coping mechanism. With there not being as many kids, it helped the WNMU students bond with the youth on a personal level.

Baseball season in the spring is something that the kids can look forward to. In Silver City, the win-

try weather can hinder the youth from participating in the necessary outdoor activities crucial to their development. The kids can learn how to work with others in a team setting that helps them build important lifelong skills.

The WNMU students are thankful to work with the youth, as it helps form a bond with these kids and helps with anxiety and depression in their own lives.

**Carlos Caranza  
Hatch**

## ON SAFETY IN LAS CRUCES

Dear editor,

Recently Las Cruces Police Chief Jeremy Story gave a strong presentation of what was needed to make Las Cruces a safer city. In it he mentioned the shortcomings of New Mexico law surrounding involuntary commitments. I strongly agreed with Police Chief Jeremy Story that a judge needs to be able to make involuntary commitments and order a mentally ill person into treatment.

According to Story, at the present time, if an individual accused of a

crime is evaluated and found incompetent, the case is dismissed. And the individual is placed back in society with no consequences. And often goes on to repeat the offense. This is drastically wrong. Society is harmed, and the mentally ill person does not recover from his illness and learn consequences.

In this last session of legislature, there was a strong bill, Senate Bill 16, to address this issue. However, it died early in the session. I believe it should have passed.

We need to contact our

legislators and make it clear that the rights of society need to be upheld. And to do so, there should be mandatory court-ordered treatment of a mentally ill person evaluated to be incompetent to stand trial. To set the individual free is a travesty of justice.

The Governor supports mandated treatment. Let your legislators know how you feel and that they must act to protect the citizenry of our state. Let us do our part to have a safer New Mexico.

**Kathleen Sampson  
Las Cruces**

## FILM

CONTINUED FROM 12

one of his great frustrations has been that all of his graduates have had to go to Albuquerque or Santa Fe to start their

careers. That's getting better, he said.

It's expected that more than 10,000 people will attend the festival, providing a significant economic boost for the city.

It's time to dim the

lights, settle in and get swept away to someplace far away from here, if only for a little while.

*Walter Rubel can be reached at waltrubel@gmail.com.*

## Tell us: What do you want candidates to talk about?

## JUSTIN GARCIA

I was five years old when I cast my first vote – and learned a few hard truths about democratic participation.

It was the 2000 presidential election. George W. Bush was challenging Vice President Al Gore. As with every election, the future of American history hung in the balance and my daycare center used the opportunity to teach us a lesson about civics.

As I went to cast my ballot, I remembered my parents discussing the election. My five-year-old brain recalled one name: that of Green Party candidate Ralph Nader. For no other reason than a five-year old's version of "name recognition, Nader would be my choice.

Our mock election was as close as the real thing when the votes were tallied up, although we had no hanging chads or Supreme Court intervention. Bush eked out a victory over Gore by a single vote.

When I got home to tell my parents the news, they were mortified. They had not been Nader voters, as I had remembered. They liked Gore and were horrified at the news that their son had spoiled the elections with his uninformed vote.

With one mock election, I learned how the first-past-the-post system encourages a two-party system, how a single issue can determine the out-

come of an election, and the role of name recognition.

Two and half decades later, it's time to learn all that again.

Elections and the subsequent peaceful transfer of power are the core exercise of a functioning democracy. In America, the news media has taken the role of relaying the candidates' points of view and validating the elections. That's why it's the AP, Fox News and others who "call" elections – not the government or the parties.

In our age – fraught as it is with deep fakes, AI, Russian disinformation campaigns, election denial by a leading presidential candidate, and oh so much, much more – the role of media has stumbled into something I believe is not very useful.

The industry phrase we use to describe it is "horserace coverage." This term encompasses stories about polling, the public's perception of events and candidates' differences.

Don't get me wrong. That stuff can be important, and it's interesting in the same way a close football game is interesting. However, the purpose of the media outlets that rely on it is not to inform the public better. Instead, horserace coverage is a reliable source of attention – and thus revenue – for a media outlet.

Put another way, horserace coverage is easy

and cheap. And with media companies disinvesting in communities like ours, cheap and easy are hard to pass up.

But the simple fact is that we think you deserve better. We think the residents of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County deserve coverage that encourages more participation and leads to a more informed electorate.

That's why we're trying to do it differently this year. We're following a model called "The Citizen's Agenda." The model is simple: Focus on the residents, not the candidates.

"We can't guarantee this model will cause more people to go to the polls on Election Day," the model's authors say. "But we do know that it helps people understand their choices better and have more power in the democratic process."

The first step is asking you this question: What do you want the candidates to be talking about as they compete for votes?

Your answers will shape our coverage. If you're reading this on social media, feel free to leave a comment. Otherwise, email us at editor@Las-crucesbulletin.com or call us at 575-524-8061 and leave a message with Algernon or Justin.

*Justin Garcia is a reporter at the Las Cruces Bulletin.*

## COMING UP

### Friday, March 29

- Guided hike to Lower La Maria Trail, 1:30-4 p.m. start at the monument sign on Dripping Springs Road. Info: organ-mountainsdesertpeaks.org
- Film: "Uproar," 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre, 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesillavalleyfilm.org.
- Play, "The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord" 7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: lcctnm.org.
- Camerata Del Sol Sinfonietta with viola soloist Jorge Martinez-Rios 7 p.m. at Alma d'Arte Charter School, 402 W. Court Ave. Info: cameratadelosol.org.

### Saturday, March 30

- Storytellers of Las Cruces, 10:30 a.m., COAS Downtown, 317 N. Main St. Info: 575-524-8471.
- Easter Egg Hunt, noon, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 518 N. Alameda, Info: 575-526-6333
- Play, "The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord" 7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: lcctnm.org.

### Sunday, March 31

- Play, "The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord" 2 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: lcctnm.org.

### Wednesday, April 3

- Wednesday Storytime, 10 a.m. at Barns & Noble, Mesilla Valley Mall, 700 S. Telshor Blvd. Info: 575-522-4499.
- Arte and Aguas Class, 6 p.m.-7 Frank O'Brien Papen Community Center, 304 W. Bell Ave., Info: 575-541-2454
- Las Cruces International Film Festival, "Little Brother" 6:30 p.m. at the Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Drive, Info: lascrucesfilmfest.com
- Flor de Toloache, Latin Grammy winner, 7 p.m. at the Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main St. Info: riograndetheatre.org

### Thursday, April 4

- Las Cruces International Film Festival, 10 a.m.-all day at the Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Drive, Info: lascrucesfilmfest.com

### Friday, April 5

- Las Cruces International Film Festival, 10 a.m.-all day at the Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Drive, Info: lascrucesfilmfest.com

- Film: "Wicked Little Letters," 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Theatre (through March 28), 2469 Calle de Guadalupe, Mesilla. Info: mesillavalleyfilm.org.
- Play, "The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord" 7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: lcctnm.org.

### Saturday, April 6

- Home & Garden Show, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Info: 575-526-6126
- Las Cruces International Film Festival, 10 a.m.-all day at the Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Drive, Info: lascrucesfilmfest.com
- NMSU Cello/Bass/Chamber Music Recital, 4-6 p.m. at Atkinson Recital Hall, 1075 N. Horseshoe St. NMSU, Info: 575-649-3844.
- Play, "The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord" 7:30 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: lcctnm.org.

### Sunday, April 7

- Home & Garden Show, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 E. University Ave., Info: 575-526-6126

- Las Cruces International Film Festival, 10:30 a.m.-all day at the Cineport 10, 700 S. Telshor Drive, Info: lascrucesfilmfest.com
- Play, "The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord" 2 p.m. at Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main St. Info: lcctnm.org.

### Monday, April 8

- Veterans Benefits Seminar, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at American Legion Post # 10, 1185 E. Madrid Ave., Info: va.gov/lascruces-vet-center

### Ongoing

- Mayfield High School 70's Reunion is looking for Mayfield High School graduates from the 1970s to be held June 21 and 22. Must preorder tickets, no sales at the door. Info: text 575-649-4217; myevent.com/rollontrojans.
- Overeaters Anonymous, noon Wednesdays at St. James Episcopal Church, 102 St. James St. Hybrid meeting, available by Zoom. Info: Bob at 610-762-3779.
- Federation of Democratic Women of Doña Ana County, at 6 p.m., Holy Family Catholic Church, 702 Parker Road, every second Tuesday. Info: Sherri Nolan at 575-644-8207.
- 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 Service 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.
- 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.

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## WOMEN IN MUSIC

# Flor de Toloache

push the spirit of mariachi into the future

**DAVID SALCIDO**

For the Bulletin

Think you know everything there is to know about mariachi? Chances are, you've only scratched the surface.

For many of us living in New Mexico, mariachi is exemplified by roaming musicians singing traditional Spanish songs in crowded Mexican restaurants, or the rare spectacle of the International Mariachi Convention. Even rarer still are the occasional touring female mariachi groups, a blasphemy of sorts to those purists who continue to embrace the old-world traditions of music and machismo.

One all-female group in particular is bucking those tradi-

tions and breaking down barriers for future generations. Taking their name from a sacred flower that blooms along the riverbanks in Mexico – known for its mystical properties in love potions, as well as its use as a poison in larger doses – Flor de Toloache has been making waves in the mariachi and Latin pop scenes for 16 years and have the Grammy awards to prove it.

Core members Mireya Ramos and Shae Fiol have been exploring the roots of both their musical directions and their familial connections ever



COURTESY PHOTOS BY FLOR DE TOLOACHE  
Mireya Ramos and Shae Fiol form the core of the all-female mariachi group Flor de Toloache.

since their early days playing in the subways of New York City. Over the years, their sound has grown stronger, even as they push the boundaries of tradition with new arrangements and original songs.

One minute they're belting out a traditional ranchera like "Pero tú no lo ves," the next they're rocking a sassy No Doubt cover ("No sigas (don't talk)"), followed by an original crooner like "Let down." Throughout them all, what captures the ear is the expressive harmonies coaxing passion from the words, the soul of the music laid

bare.

"We did mostly mariachi songs in the beginning but were always adding new things to it," says Mireya. "We tried using different rhythms, which people really loved, and that led to us recording the first album, which was basically some of my songs and some of Shae's songs, and some traditional songs, too."

For Mireya, who grew up with a mariachi father, the music was always a part of her life. For Shae, however, it was initially uncharted waters. "Musically, it touched on what I really wanted to do vocally," she says. "I wanted to be able to belt, and to really emote, so when I started listening to the music I was

SEE **TOLOACHE,**  
PAGE 17

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# Glenwood's the place to be in April

## BULLETIN REPORT

With the arrival of spring, the U.S. Forest Service is recommending residents enjoy the Gila National Forest and Glenwood, situated in Catron County, in particular.

The agency points to its numerous trails for hikers and birdwatchers as well as special events during April: the Whitewater Mesa Kite Flying Picnic and the annual Dutch Oven Gathering.

On Saturday April 6th, 100 kites are expected to fly at the 18th annual kite flying picnic in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Gila National Wilderness. The event features a multitude of kites of all colors, shapes and sizes against the backdrop of the Gila.

On June 3, 1924, the U.S. Forest Service set aside 755,000 acres in New Mexico as the Gila Wilderness — the first designated wilderness in the world.

The kite event is sanctioned by the

American Kitefliers Association, but the agency states it is not just for pros — everyone from toddlers to senior citizens are invited to test their kite-flying skills, enjoying a picnic with family and friends in the bargain. Free raffle tickets will be offered with a drawing for a kite at 2:30 p.m.

Along with Gila trails, the Forest Service recommended walking the labyrinths and a maze across the road at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths. It happens from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 6 at Whitewater Mesa Labyrinths, 355 Bursum Road (NM Highway 159) off U.S. Highway 180, between Glenwood and Alma. Admission is free.

Water, kite-mending supplies, a portapotty and loaner kites will be provided.

More information is available at [WMLabyrinths.com](http://WMLabyrinths.com) or via Cordelia Rose at 575-313-1002.

On Saturday, April 13, the annual Glenwood Dutch Oven Gathering takes



COURTESY PHOTOS BY THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

**Above: Kites fly at the annual Whitewater Mesa Kite Flying Picnic in Glenwood. Right: A Dutch oven cooks over an open flame at the annual Dutch Oven Gathering in Glenwood.**



over Glenwood Community Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The park is located on Catwalk Road (NM Highway 174) off of U.S. 180.

Cooking teams from New Mexico, Texas and Arizona prepare authentic campfire Dutch oven cooking at their campsites over charcoal or an open fire.

Full meals are served at individual campsites at 1:30 p.m. Menus for each campsite are posted in the pavilion and also at the campsites. Meal tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. A variety of other vendors will be on hand and other food vendors will also be available. Tickets are \$15. The agency warns that tickets to this event sell out quickly.

Organizers say they always need more cooking teams and vendors. More information is available via Molly Bryan at 575-574-7704, or 575-539-2714 or email [3mollymules60@gmail.com](mailto:3mollymules60@gmail.com).

The event is a fundraiser for different activities that benefit the community.

Additionally, the Glenwood Community Library sets up its spring book sale

at the event. It features a huge selection of books, DVDs, audiobooks and CDs, all available by donation.

The Glenwood Woman's Club will hold its annual rummage sale nearby from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Glenwood Community Center, 21 Menges Lane. It features clothing, household items, furniture and more.



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## TOLOACHE

CONTINUED FROM 15

like, 'Oh, yeah, this is really awesome.' The music itself was really different for me, but I was ready for something new."

Spicing things up are a rotating roster of accomplished female musicians, many of whom had never played Mariachi before, joining them in the recording studio and on the road. Assisting them on this leg of their current tour, in support of their fifth album, Motherflower, are trumpeter and vocalist Ruth Nichols, and bassist Stephanie Rio, both from Los Angeles.

"The people we work with are all professionals," says Shae. "I don't know if they truly love the music, but they all give one hundred percent. When we're all on stage it's like a family, a sisterhood. That's where a lot of the energy comes from. It's empowering for those of us playing the music, but also to the people who are there when we rock the stage."

"I think mostly Shae and I are on an adventure, but we really didn't know how far it would go,"

Mireya adds. "We learned as we went, and each brought our strengths to the band. It takes time, especially when you're dealing with people from different cultures. We definitely learned a lot from everybody who has been part of the band."

Still, there are issues to contend with, but the duo takes it all in stride.

"I don't know if we'll ever overcome the prejudices that are inherent in the genre, because it is still a very male-dominated industry," Shae says, "I do think that we are moving through it. Of course we aren't the originators of women in mariachi, but we have enjoyed this platform where we're writing songs and encouraging other women to do the same. Flor de Toloache has grown our own branch on the mariachi tree. It may not be the traditional mariachi that everybody knows, but it's the music that we play, and people seem to like it."

Flor de Toloache will play the Rio Grande Theatre on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit the website at [RioGrandeTheatre.org](http://RioGrandeTheatre.org).

## Missing teenager located

### BULLETIN REPORT

A 13-year-old girl reported missing Tuesday was located in good condition, according to Las Cruces police.

The LCPD sought the public's help when the minor, identified as Emma Marie Robertson, was reported as missing by her family, last seen in

the east mesa area of the city. The call for help was issued across social media platforms.

"The Las Cruces Police Department thanks those who helped disseminate information on this missing person case," the department stated in a news release Wednesday morning.

# LCIFF\* FILM FESTIVAL APRIL 3-7, 2024



## HONORED GUEST RON PERLMAN

Will receive the LCIFF "Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment" award.

Perlman will accept the award in person and host a screening of one of his best-known movies, "Hellboy", with a question-and-answer session at the Medoff Theater at the NMSU Center for the Arts Thursday April 4th @ 2pm. Free and Open to the Public.

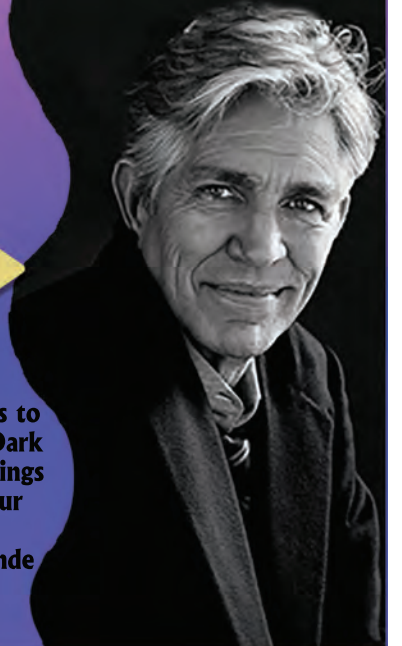


## SPECIAL GUEST.....

## ERIC ROBERTS

With over 500 film and television credits to his name, including iconic roles in 'The Dark Knight' and 'Runaway Train', Roberts brings unparalleled experience and talent to our celebration of cinema.

Roberts will be speaking at the Rio Grande Theater Saturday April 6th @ 2pm. Free and Open to the Public.



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# Arts roundup

ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH  
Las Cruces Bulletin

## • Art For Art grand sale raising funds for the Museum of the People

Museo de La Gente/ Museum of the People is a community archival resource center to be located in the heart of Las Cruces. The Museo will preserve the history, music, literature, art and story of the borderland region, offering the community a legacy of its vibrant life and culture. The Museo is an ongoing project of writer Denise Chávez and her husband, photographer Daniel Zolinsky, owners of Casa Camino Real Bookstore.

Raising funds for the museum, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., March 28-30 at Casa Camino Real Bookstore, 314 South Tornillo St. an Art for Art sale features paintings, photographs, prints, posters and Mexican lobby cards. The art includes the work of photographer Daniel Zolinsky; printmaker Lydia Rede Madrid; Cavan B. Gonzales, great-great grandson

of legendary potter Maria Martinez; and Randy Lee White (Whitehorse), Sioux artist; among many others.

The bookstore features special discount bundles of books and magazines. Call 575-649-9173 for more information.

## • Free Screenings of ‘Juan Quezada: Pioneer Potter of Mata Ortiz’

The University Art Museum is sharing two free screenings of the short film “Juan Quezada: Pioneer Potter of Mata Ortiz” at 6 p.m. and 6:45 p.m., on Friday, April 5 at the Rio Grande Theater presented in conjunction with the UAM’s newest exhibition “Mata Ortiz: Highlights from the Lysbeth Warren Anderson Collection.”

The film documents one of the last recorded interviews before Juan Quezada’s passing in 2022. A leader in his community, Quezada was credited and celebrated for pioneering the resurgence of traditional Casas Grandes and Paquimé pottery that evolved into the remarkable Mata Ortiz style. In the film, Quezada



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Best Wishes, a war shirt by Randy Lee White is among the pieces on sale during an art sale at Casa Camino Real Bookstore this weekend.**

himself recounts his many lived experiences; how he revived the ancient pots from the Paquimé site in Chihuahua Mexico and how he was able to make a living as a potter, changing his life as well as the lives of the potters from Mata Ortiz.

“Juan Quezada: Pioneer Potter of Mata Ortiz” was made by Dina Perlasca, a Mexican-American artist and New Mexico State University alumna. Perlasca teaches ceramics at The University of Texas at El Paso, she is part of the board of Artaxis and exhibits her work, nationally, and internationally. Her most recent solo exhibitions were at the Roswell

Museum and at the Juarez Museum of Art.

“Mata Ortiz: Highlights from the Lysbeth Warren Anderson Collection” runs from March 22-April 5. In the realm of contemporary ceramics, this Mata Ortiz exhibition invites audiences to witness the evolution of this distinct style that seamlessly blends tradition with modern and contemporary innovation. Showcasing the artistry of more than 25 potters, the exhibit spotlights the generous contribution of early Mata Ortiz ceramics and prints by Juan Quezada by Lysbeth Warren Anderson to the NMSU Permanent Art Collection.



**“Orange” by Conner Turner is part of the “All-City High Schools Senior Show” beginning April 5 at The Las Cruces Museum of Art.**

The Rio Grande Theater is located at 211 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, NM 88001. Box office is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday from Visit [riograndetheatre.org](http://riograndetheatre.org) for information on future events.

The UAM is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, at 1308 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88003. Admission to all programming is free and open to the public. For more information and a detailed calendar with associated programs and dates visit [uam.nmsu.edu](http://uam.nmsu.edu).

## • ‘All-City High Schools Senior Show’ opens at the Museum of Art

The Las Cruces Museum of Art, 491 N. Main St., features this year’s “All-City High Schools Senior Show,” beginning April 5.

More than 90 senior art students from Alma d’Arte, Centennial, Las Cruces, Mayfield, and Organ Mountain high schools will offer viewers a wide range of 2-D and 3-D art. The “All-

City High Schools Senior Show” will be on view from Friday, April 5, through Saturday, May 4. An opening reception for the exhibition will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, April 5.

The exhibition includes art pieces from ceramics to mixed media, as well as paintings, drawings and digital artwork. This grouping of artwork showcases the progress and development students have made through their years in high school and demonstrates the creativity of these exciting emerging artists.

Artwork will be juried by three judges. Winners will be selected in three categories and one piece will be named Best of Show. Prizes will be funded by the Foundation for Las Cruces Museums. The Museum of Art is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. There is no admission fee. For information, visit the Museums System website at [lascruces.gov/museums](http://lascruces.gov/museums) or call 575-541-2137.




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# NM film 'Little Brother' rings true to sibling dynamics

ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH  
Las Cruces Bulletin

What is a road trip movie? It might be about camaraderie, growth, changes and some unfolding insight. The New Mexico made film "Little Brother" becomes the epitome of road trip movies as it unfurls the relationship between brothers with a troubled dynamic.

The film follows Jake and Pete, estranged brothers who embark on a road trip together from Albuquerque to Seattle. Jake is tasked with driving Pete, who recently discharged himself from facility where he was staying in recovery following a suicide attempt.

After a slow start, the film sucks you in as it reveals, bit by bit, the relationships between

the sons and the parents, the brothers and their expectations and the deep feelings of betrayal and confusion in sibling dynamics.

Jake, who is the younger, doesn't understand why Pete would try to commit suicide leaving himself, Jake, and their parents in the resulting devastation it would cause.

"Please don't leave me," Jake begs at one point in the film as responsibility flips back and forth between the brothers. Pete, as the older brother, carried some caregiver duties when they were children. Jake is now responsible for getting his brother safely to Seattle.

There is so much to unpack and think about here, creating some gentle and touching moments as well as heart wrench-



ing ones that made me angry and "hurray!" moments as well.

Themes here include forgiveness, understanding, loss, death, abandonment and, overarching all, the question of "why?"

"Little Brother" kicks off the 2024 Las Cruces International Film Festival on opening night, Wednesday, April 3. There will be four showings of the film, directed by Korean American writer and director Sheridan O'Donnell, scheduled at 6:30, 6:45, 7 and 7:15 p.m. at the Allen Theatre Cineport 10 at 700 S. Telshor Blvd.

Daniel Diemer plays Jake, Philip Ettinger is Pete and J.K. Simmons and Polly Draper are their parents. Since its release in 2023, "Little Brother" has received several award nominations. The film won honors for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor at the Next Generation Indie Film Awards.

"We are looking forward to the filmmakers and stars of the film who will attend and greet the



audience and host a question-and-answer session after the screenings," said Ross Marks, executive director of the festival and professor in NMSU's Creative Media Institute.

O'Donnell, Ettinger, executive producer Mary Haarmeyer and producer Kegan Karnes will be on hand to engage with the audience after the showings to briefly discuss the making of the film.

Tickets to attend the screening of "Little Brother" are on sale now for \$25. Other tickets for the April 3-7 festival are also available at [lascrucesfilmfest.com](http://lascrucesfilmfest.com).



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- **Tuesday, April 9 "A History of Oil and Gas"**  
**Dr. Jim Peach**, Emeritus Professor NMSU, Author of books and articles and was past president of 4 academic organizations.
- **Thursday, April 11 "Oil and Gas in Literature and Film"**  
**Dr. Jim Peach**, Speaker at legislative committees and energy conferences.
- **Tuesday, April 16 "Oil and Gas and New Mexico's Fiscal Future"**  
**Dr. Leonardo Delgado**, Chief Economist, NM Department of Finance and Administration.
- **Thursday, April 18 "How the Oil and Gas Industry Energizes New Mexico's Challenges and Opportunities". ZOOM presentation only.**  
**Abe Baldonado**, Director of Community Engagement, New Mexico Oil and Gas Association.



Dr. Jim Peach



Dr. Leonardo Delgado



Abe Baldonado

In person presentations are held at the East Mesa DACC Auditorium, 2800 North Sonoma Ranch Blvd. Coffee, tea, cookies and conversation available at the nearby Student Resources Building from 9:30 until 10:20. Sessions begin at 10:30 and end around noon. Presentations continue to be on Zoom and recorded for viewing at your convenience. For detailed information and/or to pre-register, go to "Academy for Learning in Retirement". Fees are \$20 for the 4 April sessions or \$60 for 5 months/20 presentations. Cash or check accepted at the DACC Auditorium registration desk. Questions: call 575-527-7509.



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## Shoho retires as NMSU provost

### BULLETIN REPORT

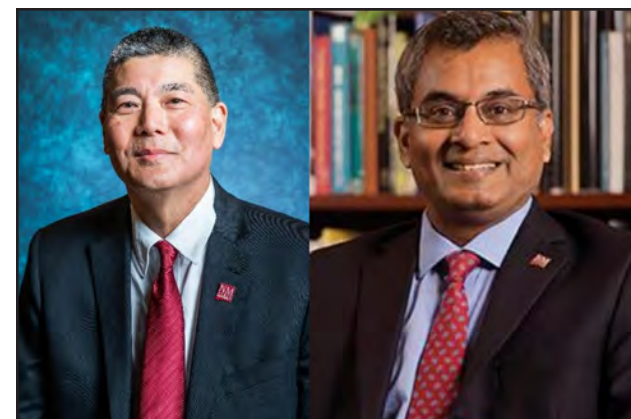
The interim president of New Mexico State University appointed a new provost last week following the resignation of Provost Alan Shoho.

Shoho, who had been provost and chief academic officer since April 2023, told faculty and staff that his last day with NMSU was March 22.

“I came to NMSU knowing of the many challenges that lay ahead. But I saw great potential for this institution as well, and you helped me realize it was not an illusion,” Shoho said. “There remains great potential and I am satisfied that together we made strides in moving the university forward by making some processes better, improving student retention and preparing the institution for the demographic cliff in two years.”

Interim President Jay Gogue appointed Lakshmi Reddi, dean of the College of Engineering, to fill the role but as interim provost.

“During his time at NMSU, Dr. Reddi has distinguished himself as an effective leader in the



COURTESY PHOTOS BY NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY  
Alan Shoho, who had been provost and chief academic officer since April 2023, will leave the provost's office. Lakshmi Reddi, dean of the College of Engineering, will take the job.

College of Engineering and will bring his expertise and extensive knowledge of our university's academic operations to this temporary role. We appreciate his willingness to guide our academic operations at this time. Over the next few weeks, he will also work with other leaders in the College of Engineering to ensure a smooth transition,” Gogue said.

The provost is responsible for overseeing the university's academic endeavors. The position is appointed by the president, who has the authority to select a candidate they believe is best suited for the role. Shoho

was appointed by former chancellor Dan Arvizu and assumed his duties as provost on April 17, 2023.

“I was looking forward to welcoming a new president on board. Alas, this was not meant to be, at least not just yet. When the new president is selected, they will be able to hire their own provost. And while it has been a tremendous honor to serve as your provost and chief academic officer, I felt this was the right time for me to begin the next chapter in my life. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve NMSU over the past year,” Shoho said.

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# Principal's spouse called police to charter school meeting

**ALGERNON D'AMMASSA**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

A 17-year-old high school student who spoke harshly in public comments at a meeting of Alma d'Arte Charter High School's governing board found himself in an encounter with Las Cruces police on March 18.

School officials later said they did not know who placed the call. Dispatch records indicate the call was placed to central dispatch, not 911, and that the caller was the spouse of principal Adam Amador.

The incident, previously reported by the Las Cruces Bulletin, unfolded during an open meeting at the arts-based public charter school, which is governed by its own board of directors. The student, who identified himself as Steven van Coblign, complained in a raised voice that he had been expelled from the school without any disciplinary process, made a disdainful remark about Amador that included an expletive, set down the microphone and left the podium. The board's chair, Richelle Peugh-Swofford, asked him to leave the meeting, but he declined. At that point, some spectators defended the student's presence, with one calling out, "He's fine. He can stay."

Peugh-Swofford then ended public comments and the board went into closed session to discuss the principal's evaluation.

Police arrived at the

school auditorium while the board was still out of the room. An officer entered the auditorium, where people were waiting for open session to resume, and said he was responding to a report of disorderly conduct and wanted to take the student out of the room to conduct his investigation. Spectators negotiated with the officer on behalf of van Coblign, who began filming the interaction with his mobile phone.

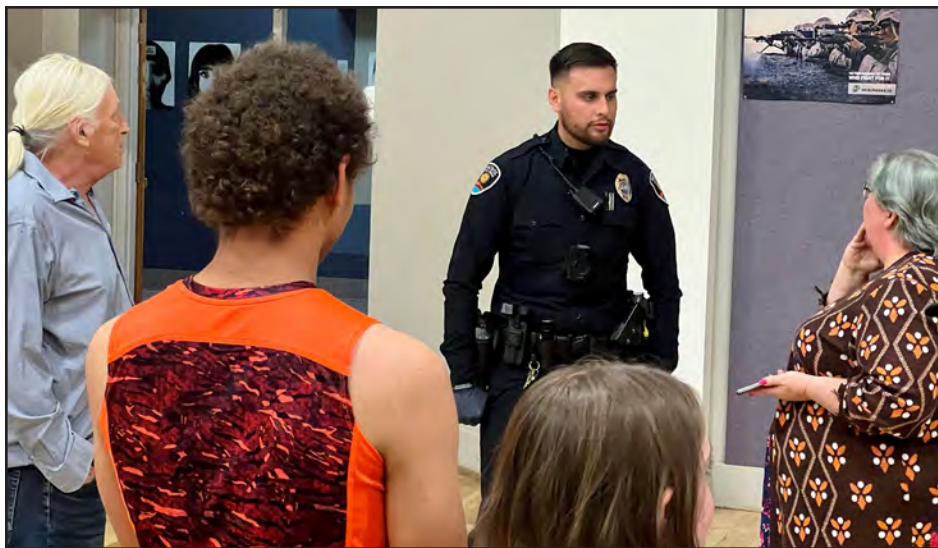
Dispatch records indicate five police officers responded, but no caller or anyone from the school appeared to speak with police. The board returned from closed session and continued with the meeting as the officers looked on from the entrance to the auditorium, and eventually left.

Following the incident, the principal told the Bulletin he did not know who had made the call, as he and the board had been in closed session.

"To my knowledge, no one on the governing council called the police nor requested that they be called," Peugh-Swofford told the Bulletin. "We were all in closed executive session."

Dispatch notes indicate the call came in at approximately 6:46 p.m., a few minutes after the board went into closed session. The caller was Kari Amador, who is married to Adam Amador.

"I'm at Alma d'Arte charter school and we're



A Las Cruces police officer talks with spectators at a public meeting of Alma d'Arte Charter High School's governing board on March 18.

here at a board meeting, and there is a student and a parent getting unruly; and they've asked me to call and try to get someone to come and remove them," Amador told the dispatcher in the phone call, per public records. Describing the situation further, she says, "When they were asked to leave, the whole room was like, 'We're going to let them stay,' so that's why I'm over here in the corner. I'm kind of scared that I'm going to get in trouble. They're going to come try to mob me, I think."

Van Coblign's mother was in attendance at the meeting but was not among those who gave public input.

"As stated before, I was not aware who made that call to LCPD. Nor did I direct anyone to do so," Adam Amador told the Bulletin when asked about the call.

"I was asked by some concerned community members to call the non-emergency dispatch,"

Kari Amador told the Bulletin. "I do not know their names or connections with the school. I

did not have any contact with any board members or Dr. Amador while they were in executive session. Other than this, I have no further comment."

Under New Mexico's open meetings law, public comments are not a requirement of public meetings, although public input is commonly included on the agenda with limits on time and expectations of decorum.

"It is not okay for anyone to yell profanity in a public meeting. As board president, it is my job to run an orderly meeting," Peugh-Swofford wrote in an email. "Our goal as governing council is graduate artists and scholars who are prepared to succeed."



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# Quality of Life Department

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**12:10pm** - (1981) Rated R, run time 92 minutes - A spoof of world events includes mockeries of the Bible, the Last Supper, the French Revolution, and the Spanish Inquisition, among others.

**1:45pm** - (1987) Rated PG, run time 96 minutes - A rogue pilot and his best friend team with a princess to help her save her planet when an evil space commander wants to steal all the planet's air in this "Star Wars" spoof.

**3:30pm** - (1993) Rated PG-13, run time 105 minutes - A veteran of the Crusades brings together a ragtag group to do battle against an evil king, and gets help from a surprising source inside the royal castle in this spoof of the Robin Hood legend.

**Saturday, April 6**

Roadrunner Room, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library



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*Somos hijos de Motecuhzoma Xocoyotzin; Los Manteles de mi Abuela* at the Branigan Cultural Center and *All-City High Schools Senior Art Show* at the Museum of Art will be opening on April 5, 2024.

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## CHALK THE PLAZA

### ¡MIRA! Las Cruces!

Calling all sidewalk artists to sign up for the second annual Chalk the Plaza chalk art competition. This year's theme is "¡MIRA! Postcards from Las Cruces."

**Deadline is April 5**

For application and information, visit [www.lascruces.gov/PublicArt](http://www.lascruces.gov/PublicArt)

This event will take place during the ¡MIRA! Las Cruces Festival.



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# PUZZLES

## HAVING A ROLE TO FILL

### ACROSS

- 1 Is worthy of
- 9 Ice cream shop treats
- 15 Glaringly sensational
- 20 Clear out of
- 21 Riga's land
- 22 "Nadja" title role player
- Loewensohn
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Fuzz-covered
- 26 Royal Middleton
- 27 Inflated head
- 28 Glimpse
- 29 Urge (on)
- 31 It may contain coffee
- 32 -- -cone (icy treat)
- 33 More of the riddle
- 38 Chess pieces, e.g.
- 39 Seating tier
- 40 Officer led by Capt. Kirk
- 41 Equilibrium
- 45 Urge on
- 49 Novelist -- Stanley
- Gardner
- 51 More of the riddle
- 57 Pipe bend
- 58 Prefix with byte
- 59 Mardi -- (Big Easy bash)
- 60 Hi-tech special FX
- 61 -- -rock (music genre)
- 62 "-- Blu Dipinto di Blu" (1958 hit song)
- 63 Q-tips, e.g.
- 65 Jockeys' garb
- 67 Like Mass officiants
- 69 More of the riddle
- 73 Really hungry
- 76 Really high

### DOWN

- 77 Twangy, as a voice
- 81 Yes, to Sartre
- 82 U.S. immigrants' course
- 83 "Gross!"
- 84 Cookbook qtys.
- 87 Subdue with a stun gun
- 88 And the rest: Abbr.
- 89 More of the riddle
- 93 Departs
- 95 "Ad -- per aspera"
- 96 Wash and iron
- 97 Attempt to convey
- 101 Stephen of "Ondine"
- 104 Hypothetical cases
- 105 End of the riddle
- 110 Cloaked
- 113 Inferior mag
- 114 Tiki bar necklace
- 115 Ending for pay or plug
- 116 Response to "Are you?"
- 117 Roseanne of "Roseanne"
- 118 "-- Gold" (1997 Peter Fonda film)
- 120 Riddle's answer
- 125 Pasta variety
- 126 -- Alex (2005 Belmont Stakes winner)
- 127 Pupil-dilating alkaloid
- 128 Comic Johnson and Angels owner Moreno
- 129 Puts it forth as fact
- 130 Tailor

### DOWN

- 1 Office fixtures
- 2 Aquafina rival
- 3 -- Domingo
- 4 Nero's "Lo!"

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128								129						130					

## PUZZLE ANSWER

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D	I	R	L	T	S	O	A	T	O	F	E	S	E	R	V	E	S	E	

## SUPER CROSSWORD

- 5 Regret
- 6 Jumbo tub
- 7 Early anesthetic
- 8 Pete of folk music
- 9 St. Pete loc.
- 10 Ranch rope
- 11 River romper
- 12 With -- to (in hopes of)
- 13 It may contain coffee
- 14 Most wise
- 15 Running time
- 16 Ending with form
- 17 Undertow
- 18 Alongside each other
- 19 "Tell It to My Heart" singer Taylor
- 24 Chanel of perfumery
- 30 Wildebeest
- 33 Fender flaw
- 34 Disguised, for short
- 35 Small branch
- 36 German for "everyone"
- 37 Be litigious
- 38 Ghastly
- 41 Tiny pieces
- 42 Some
- 43 "The Practice" co-star -- Flynn Boyle
- 44 Blunder
- 46 Dirt-digging journalist
- 47 Hog haven
- 48 "-- tu" (Verdi aria)
- 50 -- May (one of TV's Clampetts)
- 52 Ship poles
- 53 "Dream on!"
- 54 Deform
- 55 Et -- (and others)
- 56 Unyielding
- 64 Muscle power
- 66 Like plunging necklines
- 67 Rival of Coke
- 68 Lipitor and Zocor, e.g.
- 70 "Jiminy!"
- 71 Luau dance
- 72 Jabba the --
- 73 Filmmaker Nicolas
- 74 Salesperson in a car lot
- 75 Deputy ruler
- 78 Anti-DUI gp.
- 79 Tennis great Arthur
- 80 Look of lust
- 83 Mensa stats
- 85 D.C. VIP
- 86 Slowpoke
- 90 Jacques of French film
- 91 Delhi dress
- 92 Beer on "The Simpsons"
- 94 Test, as tea
- 98 Triple-time dances, in Paris
- 99 Ending for Siam or Milan
- 100 Big Japanese dogs
- 102 Kuwaiti ruler
- 103 Yoga poses
- 105 Big-band drummer Gene
- 106 In a high-minded manner
- 107 Singers' clubs
- 108 19th U.S. president
- 109 Overplay it
- 110 Custom
- 111 "Fame" singer Cara
- 112 Hair salon fixture
- 117 Conks
- 119 Ethyl ender
- 121 Out -- job
- 122 Western tribe
- 123 Song syllable
- 124 "Splash" co-star Hanks

## ALMANAC

# Hot cross buns or roast mutton?

“A windy and a dry March is good for corn, but evil for old folks and child-bearing women,” according to Dove’s Almanack in 1627. In the 17th century, almanacs treated the final days of March as a potentially cold and stormy time during the “borrowed days” lent to March by April.

There are various legends about these supposedly borrowed days, one of which involves a broken promise from a shepherd to March. The shepherd pledged a

lamb if March would ease its winds, according to the story, and did not follow through when March granted the request.

Wind does not always get a bad rap in folklore, however. In Indigenous cultures, wind is respected as an animating force or even the voice of a holy spirit.

Good Friday lands on March 29, two days ahead of Easter on Sunday.

The date is also National Vietnam War Veterans Day in the United States, the date marking the date in 1973 that the last

contingent of American military personnel left Vietnam.

Traditional fare for those observing Good Friday has been hot crossed buns, frosted in the shape of the Christian cross. Alternatively, when Easter comes later, this Sunday would be observed as Mothering Sunday, for which the Fairfax Household Book of the 17th and 18th centuries recommended roast mutton with oysters:

“...then take the tops of rosemary,

thyme and parsley chopped small, and the yolks of three hard eggs and an onion minced altogether, and put thereto a quantity of gross pepper and four spoons of wine vinegar. Mingle all these with your oysters, and stuff all into the mutton. Set it in the oven and baste it with sweet butter: and when it is roasted put four spoons of white wine vinegar to the gravy and so serve it.”

(Source: “The Perpetual Almanack of Folklore,” Charles Kightly)

## Worship Services

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518 N. Alameda Blvd.  
Las Cruces, NM 88005  
(575) 526-6333

“Digging deep wells so others may drink”

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Jonathan Hanneman

#### SUNDAY SERVICES:

8:30 AM Eucharist Rite I (in-person)  
10:30 AM Eucharist Rite II  
(in-person and Facebook Live)

#### WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Tuesday, 9:30 AM – Morning Prayer  
(in-person)

Thursday, Noon – Eucharist and Healing  
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[www.SaintAndrewsLC.org](http://www.SaintAndrewsLC.org)

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[www.mstarlc.church](http://www.mstarlc.church) | 575.521.3770

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8:30am & 11:00am

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\*childcare during  
9:45 and 11:00 am services\*

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YouTube & website

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RECTOR

The Very Reverend John Tober

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Solemn Collects 12 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Easter Vigil - March 30  
5:00 p.m.

Easter - March 31  
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Worship  
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## 'Casa for a Cause' distributes \$145K to nonprofits

**ALGERNON D'AMMASSA**  
Las Cruces Bulletin

The Las Cruces Home Builders Association announced last week that \$145,000 will be distributed to 26 local nonprofit organizations from the annual Casa for a Cause initiative.

The project, formerly known as the Anniversary House and debuting in 2014, involves local home builders who construct a house, contributing discounted or volunteer labor, equipment, materials and land. Proceeds from the sale of the house are then

distributed to a couple of dozen local nonprofits.

The first of these homes was built in 2014 by Hakes Brothers according to the LCHBA. The annual sales took a pause in 2020 and 2021, the first years of the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the years, the association says sales of the homes brought in \$540,400 in funding for community nonprofits.

This year's awards were announced at a March 21 banquet at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum gathering members of the LCHBA,



sponsors and figures in the construction, lending and real estate industries.

The Las Cruces Bul-

letin was the presenting sponsor of the event, with publisher Belinda Mills helping distribute the

LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO  
BY ALGERNON D'AMMASSA

**Sister Beth Daddio, founder of Jardin de los Niños and Tutti Bambini, receives a ceremonial check from the Las Cruces Home Builders Association as part of the home builder's annual Casa for a Cause event benefitting community nonprofits, on March 21.**

ceremonial checks to each organization.

"I just absolutely love our industry," LCHBA CEO Nicole Perez said during remarks that repeatedly emphasized the close connections among area home builders and friendly

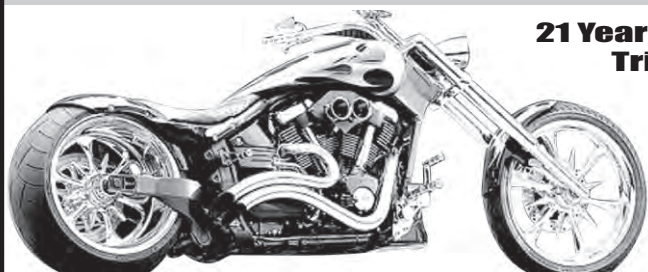
competition among them in building the houses that benefit local charities.

This year's house, located on Bedford Avenue near the Red Hawk Golf Course, was built by French Brothers. As previously reported in the Bulletin, the house was designed using the builder's Caballo floor plan, measuring 2,039 square feet with four bedrooms, two baths and a two-car garage. The home also features a view of the Organ Mountains.

SEE **CASA**, PAGE 27

*Law offices of Kenneth G. Egan*

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*Casa for a  
Cause*



## CASA

CONTINUED FROM 25

French Brothers is a New Mexico building company opened in Las Cruces in 2015. The company's sales and marketing director, Jason Kipker, told the Bulletin, "We want to be good stewards to the communities we're part of. What better way to be able to do what we do and give back to the community?"

Last fall, Kipker said he hoped to see the house yield up to \$140,000 to benefit community service organizations. Ultimately, the goal was exceeded, bring the total to a record-high since the program's inception, Perez said during the banquet.

"This financial support will empower them to continue their essential work, touching countless lives and making a tangible impact in our community," she said. "Our industry is often misunderstood and unfairly labeled. Yet I stand here to refute those misconceptions. ... Every individual deserves a safe place to call home, and it is our industry that provides the foundation for these dreams to become a reality."



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO BY MIKE COOK

**French Brothers built the four-bedroom Bedford Avenue home, pictured last September, whose sale yielded \$145,000 in donations to community nonprofits for this year's 'Casa for a Cause' event.**

Mayor Eric Enriquez paid tribute to the industry in his own remarks, saying, "When you see people in this community that have the opportunity to purchase a home, it gives a sense of pride, a sense of accomplishment; and you touch so many lives, from the labor force to every industry that's involved in building homes."

Kipker, as this year's chair, said Casa for a Cause aligns with the values French Brothers was founded upon, citing the company's purpose statement, "which is to build a great company that enriches

the lives of our people, our customers and our communities. And I really felt that Casa for a Cause really kind of embodied that."

The awards announced at the banquet were as follows:

- Mesilla Valley Hospice — \$15,000
- LCHBA Education Foundation — \$10,000
- Las Cruces Boys and Girls Club — \$10,000
- Tutti Bambini — \$7,500
- Turning Point of Las Cruces — \$7,500
- NM Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics — \$7,500
- ACTION Programs for Animals — \$7,500
- United Way of Southwest New Mexico — \$5,000
- Toys for Tots of Doña Ana County — \$5,000
- Organ Mountain Veterans Coffee Group — \$5,000
- Loaves and Fishes — \$5,000
- Morning Star's Lighthouse — \$5,000
- Mesilla Valley Habitat for

**Humanity** — \$5,000

- Jardin de los Niños — \$5,000
- Honor Flight of Southern New Mexico — \$5,000
- Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 8 — \$5,000
- Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley — \$5,000
- El Caldito — \$5,000
- Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico — \$5,000
- Casa de Peregrinos — \$5,000
- The Cat's Meow — \$2,500
- Doña Ana County Humane Society — \$2,500
- The Sophia — \$2,500
- St. Andrew Hospitality House — \$2,500
- Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue — \$2,500
- Order of the Eastern Star — \$2,500

The association also announced a new Aggie Builder Endowed Scholarship at New Mexico State University, to be awarded annually to a student pursuing a trade and enrolled at the university.

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## WOMEN IN HISTORY

## DAR recognizes Las Cruces 'trailblazers'

## BULLETIN REPORT

Four Las Cruces women were hailed as 'trailblazers' as they were named 2024 Women in American History by the Doña Ana County chapter of the New Mexico Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. According to a news release, honorees are selected for their contributions as intellectual, educational, social, religious, political, scientific or cultural innovators.

The 2024 honorees in-



MARY JANE GARCIA

clude New Mexico State University professor emeritus Jerry Ann Alt; former legislator Mary Jane Garcia, who died in

January; former educator and business woman Elisabeth Caryl Porter; and anthropologist Wenda Trevathan, also retired from NMSU.

Alt was selected, per the announcement, for her 26-year tenure as director of choral activities until her 2012 retirement, building an "elite" choir and expanding a program that trained music teachers who went on to teach throughout New Mexico. Alt now lives out of state but continues to be involved with Bella Voce de

Las Cruces, a touring ensemble that promotes the development and appreciation of choral singing.

Porter, born and raised in Las Cruces, taught in the Gadsden Independent School District, the release stated, later turning to fine housewares and eventually moving to London, where her investment led to the recovery of antique Chinese porcelain from a 1752 shipwreck, establishing her as an eminent porcelain dealer before returning to New Mexico

to paint.

Former Sen. Mary Jane Garcia served in the legislature for 24 years. She was born in Doña Ana and renowned for her work passing laws protecting children and families and survivors of domestic abuse, as well as her efforts on behalf of youth, animal rights, border issues, historic preservation and a range of other issues. She was also owner of multiple businesses in the community.

Trevathan is a bio-

logical anthropologist researching evolutionary and biocultural factors underlying human reproduction including child-birth, maternal behavior, sexuality, menopause and evolutionary medicine, per the news release, which cited her study of the 3.7 million-year-old hominin fossil Lucy. DAR stated that Trevathan taught 4,000 students as a faculty member at NMSU, and now lives in Santa Fe working as a senior scholar for the School for Advanced Research.

## State Board tables suspension of LC police officers

## BULLETIN REPORT

A decision to revoke the police credentials of two Las Cruces officers charged with murder was tabled during a meeting of the state's top policing board last week.

The New Mexico Law Enforcement Certification Board reviewed proposed suspensions for Brad Lundsford and Felipe Hernandez during a meeting in Las Cruces on March 21.

The over-two-hour discussion about Lundsford and Hernandez occurred in a closed session. That's typical since New Mexico state law allows personnel matters to remain behind closed doors.

When the board returned to open ses-

sion, they announced they'd tabled the decision on Lundsford and Hernandez. One of the board members said the tabling was at the request of Lundsford and Hernandez' attorneys, who said they could not attend the meeting.

The decision will be heard again at a meeting in June. That meeting will occur in Farmington. Lundsford and Hernandez face criminal charges for killing two people while policing Las Cruces in recent years.

**The case against Brad Lundsford**

Lundsford, 38, stands charged with voluntary manslaughter. He killed Presley Eze, a 36-year-old man, dur-

ing a shoplifting call at the Chevron on Valley Drive near University Avenue. According to a criminal complaint, Eze and a store clerk got into a spat, leading to police arriving at the scene. Lundsford and Eze came into conflict before Lundsford shot Eze in the back of the head.

The shooting occurred in August of 2022. The state Department of Justice, formerly called the attorney general's office, formally charged Lundsford in 2023. Lundsford has pleaded not guilty and is set for a 10-day trial in February 2025.

Lundsford could face between three to six years if convicted.

**The case against Felipe Hernandez**

Hernandez faces a charge of second-degree murder. He killed Teresa Gomez in October of 2023. Body camera footage released by the police department during a news conference showed Hernandez gunning down Gomez as she drove away from him. Hernandez had just finished a profanity-laden encounter when Gomez, apparently fed up with the treatment, drove away from Hernandez.

A criminal complaint found that Hernandez was not in any danger of being hit by Gomez's car when he decided to shoot her.

A trial has yet to be scheduled for this case.

## SHOES IN THE NEWS



LAS CRUCES BULLETIN PHOTO BY ALGERNON D'AMMASSA

KRWG Public Media concluded its spring membership drive last week, and on the final day, March 22, development director Edmundo Resendez sported bright orange sneakers, with a matching work shirt, somehow conveying "casual urgency" as KRWG hosts and membership drive guests orbited around the food and refreshments on offer in the main hallway. At any rate, he was never hard to find.



# NM elections rated best-run by MIT

**NICOLE MAXWELL**  
New Mexico Political Report

New Mexico's 2022 election was ranked most well-run in the country by Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Election Data and Science Lab's Elections Performance Index.

"The professional election administrators who keep the polls open and the votes counted and the engine of democracy running in New Mexico are exemplary and it's an honor to see this work recognized on the national stage," New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver said in a press release. "Alongside my incredible staff and the tireless work of our thirty-three county clerks and their staffs, I'm proud to have helped modernize New Mexico's elections by finding a critical balance between voter access and election security."

Toulouse Oliver also thanked members of the legislature for updating election laws over the years.

"I'm particularly proud of the index's recognition of New Mexico's excellent online voter resources, our low ballot rejection rates, our use of post-election audits, and our membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) – all of which were cited as

indicators of our peak performance," she continued.

The EPI was launched in 2012 by the Pew Charitable Trusts as a means to measure states' performance on metrics ranging from voter wait times and turnout to voter registration rates and election audits.

## New Mexico previously ranked ninth in 2018.

The index reflects not only how states are administering elections but how election administration has changed in the intervening elections.

"The latest update to the EPI shows that election management across the United States improved in the 2022 midterm election, continuing an upward trend we see throughout the past few iterations of the index," MIT said in a press release. "In 2010, the nationwide average score on the index was just 63 percent. In 2022, that has leapt to 80 percent, an incredible achievement. Among the biggest factors driving state improvement have been improved data collection and practices, as well as more capable websites that feature better tools for voters."

For more information about New Mexico's elections including how to apply for or update your voter registration, visit [NMVote.org](http://NMVote.org).

# Classifieds

## Help Wanted Full-Time

**School of Social Work New Mexico State University** seeks two (2) **College Assistant Professors**

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- 3) Demonstrated experience working with culturally diverse populations, especially populations of

the Southwest and the U.S.-Mexico border, 4) Experience in the development and delivery of online courses, 5) Prior experience with advising or student support.

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## Miscellaneous

**Viasat Satellite Internet.** Up to 12 Mbps Plans Starting at \$30/month. Our Fastest Speeds (up to 50 Mbps) & Unlimited Data Plans Start at \$100/month. Call Viasat today! 1-855-260-8627

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# LEGAL NOTICES

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Get More Data FREE Off-Peak Data. FAST download speeds. WiFi built in! FREE Standard Installation for lease customers! Limited Time, Call 1-855-800-2806

## Two great new offers from AT&T Wireless!

Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e ON US with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! CALL 1-888-989-2198

## 4G LTE Home Internet Now Available! Get

GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 855-407-7829

## 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

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Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-877-613-0103 today!

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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

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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!

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For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 Call 1-855-229-7793

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Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-404-4306

## Legal Notice

### STATE OF NEW MEXICO IN THE PROBATE COURT DONA ANA COUNTY

No. 24-0063  
Judge Judith Ann Baca

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLIE HOMER THOMPSON, II, a/k/a Eva Charlie

H. Thompson, DECEASED.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT JIMICHAEL BRETT THOMPSON has been appointed personal representative of the estate of the decedent. All persons having claims against the estate of the decedent are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of any published notice to creditors or sixty

(60) days after the date of mailing or other delivery of this notice, whichever is later, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to personal representative at the address listed below, or filed with the Probate Court of Dona Ana County, New Mexico, located at 845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico 88007. DATED this 6th day of March, 2024.

KEITHLY & ENGLISH, LLC  
/s/ Shane A. English  
SHANE A. ENGLISH  
Attorney for Jose "Joe" Navarez,  
Personal Representative  
N.M. State Bar No. 4854

Post Office Drawer 1329  
Anthony, NM 88021  
(575) 882-4500  
(575) 882-5000 [FAX]  
kne1329@aol.com  
Dates: 03/15, 03/22,  
03/29, 2024

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

Case No. D-307-DM-2023-1112  
Judge Grace B. Duran

Anis Dominguez,  
Petitioner

Angello James-Matthews Maestas,  
Respondent.

### NOTICE OF SUIT

To Angello James-Matthews Maestas, Respondent: Take notice that a lawsuit has been filed against you. The subject of this lawsuit is: Parentage. If you do not file a response or responsive pleading with the above-titled Court within 30 days after the third publication of this notice, the Court may enter a default judgment against you.

Petitioner's Name: Anis Dominguez  
625 Acosta Rd  
Apt 19

Anthony, NM 88021  
915-633-4613

WITNESS the Honorable Grace B. Duran, 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 29th day of February, 2024.  
Bernice A. Ramos,  
Clerk of the District Court

Dates: 03/15, 03/22,  
03/29, 2024

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

No. D-307-CV-2024-00052  
NEWREZ LLC  
D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff,

vs.  
DONNA P. EUDY, if living, if deceased, THE ESTATE OF DONNA P. EUDY, Deceased; RICHARD EUDY; CHARLES EUDY; JEFFREY EUDY; MONICA LYNN MEYER; JULIA WELLS; DONNA CONNER; and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES OR LEGATEES OF DONNA P. EUDY, Deceased, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION  
Defendant(s) Donna P. Eudy, if living, if deceased, The Estate of Donna P. Eudy, Deceased, Monica Lynn Meyer and The Unknown Heirs, Devisees or Legatees of Donna P. Eudy, Deceased, is/are hereby notified that Plaintiff has filed a civil suit against Defendant(s) in the above-entitled cause of action, the general object thereof being to foreclose a mortgage on property located at 517 Hermosa Drive, in the City of Chaparral, New Mexico, more particularly described as: Lot 5 in Block A of the Green-

wood Subdivision, located in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, as the same is shown and designated on the plat thereof filed for record in the office of the County Clerk of Dona Ana County, New Mexico on May 17, 1971 and recorded in Book 10 at Page 82, Plat Records, including, but not limited to, the manufactured home permanently attached thereto, a 1992 OAKC/105, VIN No. 0C05924666AB, title to which has been deactivated in the records of the Motor Vehicle Department of the State of New Mexico. Defendant(s) is/are required to serve upon the Plaintiff an Answer or Motion in response to the Complaint within thirty (30) days and file a copy of the Answer or Motion with the Court as provided in Rule 1-005 NMRA 2005. If the Defendant(s) fail(s) to file a timely Answer or Motion, a default judgment may be entered against Defendant(s) for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Attorneys for the Plaintiff: Tiffany & Bosco, P.A. 1700 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite 300 Albuquerque, NM 87110 (505) 248-2400 March 7, 2024  
By /s/ Deborah A. Nesbitt  
Deborah A. Nesbitt  
Denise A. Snyder  
Joshua T. Chappell  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Dates: 03/15, 03/22,  
03/29, 2024

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

No. D-307-PB-2024-11  
Judge Arrieta

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BERYL ANN MARLOWE, Deceased.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT DAVID PETERSON has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. All persons having claims against said 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 undersigned counsel for Personal Representative or filed with the Clerk of the Third Judicial District Court, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.  
MELISSA J. REEVES, P.C.  
/S/ Melissa J. Reeves-Evins  
Melissa J. Reeves-Evins  
NM State Bar No. 7629  
200 W. Las Cruces Ave., Ste. A Las Cruces, NM 88005  
575-522-5009 522-5031 FAX Attorney for Personal Representative  
Dates: 03/15, 03/22,  
03/29, 2024

Mario A. Perea, Respondent.

### NOTICE OF SUIT

To Mario A. Perea, Respondent: Take notice that a lawsuit has been filed against you. The subject of this lawsuit is: Dissolution of marriage. If you do not file a response or responsive pleading with the above-titled Court within 30 days after the third publication of this notice, the Court may enter a default judgment against you.

Petitioner's Name: Anna M. Camunez  
845 Watson Lane Trlr 27  
Las Cruces, NM 88005  
575-635-2994

WITNESS the Honorable Rebecca C. Duffin, 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 26th day of February, 2024.  
Bernice A. Ramos  
Clerk of the District Court

Dates: 03/15, 03/22,  
03/29, 2024

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

No. D-307-PB-2024-11  
Judge Arrieta

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BERYL ANN MARLOWE, Deceased.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT DAVID PETERSON has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. All persons having claims against said 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 undersigned counsel for Personal Representative or filed with the Clerk of the Third Judicial District Court, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005.

MELISSA J. REEVES, P.C.  
/S/ Melissa J. Reeves-Evins

Melissa J. Reeves-Evins  
NM State Bar No. 7629

200 W. Las Cruces Ave., Ste. A Las Cruces, NM 88005  
575-522-5009 522-5031 FAX Attorney for Personal Representative

Dates: 03/15, 03/22,  
03/29, 2024

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

No. D-307-CV-2023-00698  
Fitch, Casey B.

BELTWAY CAPITAL, LLC, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS ADMINISTRATOR OF WESTERN RUN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT TRUST, Plaintiff,

vs.  
MARIA ELENA SILVA; JESUS J. SILVA; JESUS J. SILVA, JR.; PATRICIA RIVERA; OFELIA ARAGON; MARIA ESTELLA RAMIREZ; JOSIE MASCHERI; IRMA CADLE; BERTHA HOLGUIN; UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, OR LEGATEES OF MARIA ELENA SILVA, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, OR LEGATEES OF JESUS J. SILVA, DECEASED, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT on April 16, 2024, at the hour of 10 a.m., the

# LEGAL NOTICES

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

undersigned Special Master will, at the main entrance of the Third Judicial Court-house, 201 West Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005, sell all right, title, and interest of the Defendants, in and to the herein-after-described real estate to the highest bidder for cash. The property to be sold is situated in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, is commonly known as 290 Florida Street, La Mesa, NM 88044 and more particularly described on Exhibit A to the Deed of Trust as follows: A tract of land situate within La Mesa, Dona Ana County, New Mexico, being part of Block 16, La Mesa, as recorded February 19, 1992, in Book 2, Page 20 of the Dona Ana County Records and being more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point for the southeast corner of this tract, being identical to the northeast corner of a tract deeded to the La Mesa Public Schools on December 20, 1955, as recorded in Deed Book 138, Page 100. THENCE from the point of beginning, S.54°31'00"W., 115.40 feet to a point for the southeast corner of this tract; THENCE N.34°01'20"W., 95.21 feet to a point along the south right of way line of Florida Avenue for the northwest corner of this tract; THENCE along said right of way, N.54°22'17"E., 118.33 feet to a point at the intersection of the south right of way line of Florida Avenue and the west right of way line of Principal Street for the northeast corner of this tract; THENCE along the west right of way line of Principal Street, S.32°16'14"E., 95.63

feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.256 acres, more or less. Subject to easements and reservations of record. THE FOREGOING SALE will be made in accordance with a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above-captioned matter on February 12, 2024, this being an action to foreclose a deed of trust on the above-described real property. The Plaintiff has the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid verbally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of the indebtedness of Defendants Maria Elena Silva and Jesus J. Silva to the purchase price in lieu of cash. The sale may be postponed and rescheduled at the discretion of the Special Master. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the above-described real property and any improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to easements, reservations and restrictions of record; taxes and governmental assessments including unpaid utility bills; any liens or encumbrances not foreclosed in this proceeding; 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; environmental contamination, if any; any homeowners' association or condominium dues, assessments, declarations, rules, requirements and restrictions; any requirements imposed by city or county ordinance or by state law affecting the property; and zoning violations concerning

the property, if any. No representation is made as to the validity of the rights of ingress and egress. Transfer of title to the highest bidder shall be without warranty or representation of any kind. ALL PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS AT THE SALE ARE ADVISED TO INDEPENDENTLY REVIEW THE DISTRICT COURT FILE, TO MAKE THEIR OWN EXAMINATION OF TITLE AND TO CONSULT THEIR OWN ATTORNEY BEFORE BIDDING. 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. Address inquiries to counsel for Plaintiff, Matthew H. Sloan, at (602) 234-7858 (mhs@jkhmlaw.com). Respectfully submitted,  
By /s/ David Washburn  
David Washburn  
National Service & Investigation, Inc.  
8100 Wyoming Blvd. NE  
Suite M-4, Box 272  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
(505) 318-0300 Special Master  
**Dates: 03/15, 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO IN THE PROBATE COURT DOÑA ANA COUNTY**  
No. 24-0075  
In the Matter of the Estate of Ester Holguin, 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 of the decedent are

required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of any published notice to creditors or sixty (60) days after the date of mailing or other delivery of this notice, whichever is later, 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 Probate Court of Dona Ana County, New Mexico, located at the following address: 845 N. Motel Blvd., Room 1-200, Las Cruces, NM 88007  
Dated: March 11, 2024  
/s/ Christina A Guerra  
Christina A Guerra  
5707 Santa Gertrudes Drive  
Las Cruces, NM 88012  
**Dates: 03/15, 03/22, 03/29, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
No. D-307-CV-2023-00975  
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
RAYMOND O. MONTOYA, if living, if deceased, THE ESTATE OF RAYMOND O. MONTOYA, Deceased; IRIS CARRILLO; D.B. MONTOYA; STEVE MONTOYA; EVIE CASTANEDA; GARY MONTOYA; PEGGY CARRION; and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES OR LEGATEES OF RAYMOND O. MONTOYA, Deceased, Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 24, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the undersigned Special Master will,

at the main entrance of the Dona Ana County Judicial Complex, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico, sell all the right, title and interest of the above-named Defendants in and to the herein-after described real estate to the highest bidder for cash. The property to be sold is located at 890 D Banegas Road, Unit 1, Las Cruces, and is situate in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, and is particularly described as follows: A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN SECTION 35, T.22S., R.1E., N.M.P.M.U.S.R.S. SURVEYS, AS PART OF U.S.R.S. TRACT S-76A3, AND AS PART OF TRACT 2 OF A COUNTY SURVEYOR'S PLAT, AS FILED OCTOBER 20, 1962 IN PLAT BOOK 8 PAGE 71, IN THE DONA ANA COUNTY RECORDS, NORTH OF LAS CRUCES, DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF A COMMUNITY DITCH FOR THE MOST NORTHERLY CORNER OF THIS TRACT, WHENCE THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF U.S.R.S. TRACT S-76A3 BEARS S.67°29'W; A DISTANCE OF 509.00 FEET. THENCE FROM THE PLACE OF BEGINNING S.44°02'30"E; 112.31 FEET TO AN ANGLE POINT OF THIS TRACT. THENCE S.26°55'30"E., 97.60 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THIS TRACT; THENCE S.63°04'30"W., 104.89 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THIS

TRACT; THENCE N.26°55'30"W., 97.60 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THIS TRACT; THENCE N.63°04'30"E., 48.00 FEET TO THE CORNER OF THIS TRACT; THENCE N.14°24'18"W., 109.95 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. THE FOREGOING SALE will be made to satisfy a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above entitled and numbered cause on February 27, 2024, being an action to foreclose a mortgage on the above described property. The Plaintiff's Judgment, which includes interest and costs, is \$150,664.76 and the same bears interest at 4.375% per annum from December 1, 2023, to the date of sale. The Plaintiff and/or its assignees has the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid verbally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of its judgment to the purchase price in lieu of cash. The sale may be postponed and rescheduled at the discretion of the Special Master. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the real property and improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements, all recorded and unrecorded liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due. Plaintiff and its attorneys disclaim all responsibility for, and the purchaser at the sale takes the property subject to, the valuation of the property by the County Assessor as real or personal property, affixture of any mobile or manu-

factured 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 month right of redemption. Electronically filed /s/ Kenneth Gale Kenneth Gale, Special Master  
PO Box 91988  
(87199)  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
Phone: 505-433-4576  
**Dates: 03/15, 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO IN THE PROBATE COURT DOÑA ANA COUNTY**  
No. 24-0053

In the Matter of the Estate of Jeanne Marie Greiner, 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 of the decedent are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of any published notice to creditors or sixty (60) days after the date of mailing or other delivery of this notice, whichever is later, 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 Probate Court of Dona Ana County, New Mexico, located at the follow-

ing address: 845 N. Motel Blvd., Room 1-201, Las Cruces, NM 88007  
Dated: March 11, 2024  
/s/ Tyler Bishop  
Tyler Bishop  
24372 Rim View Rd  
Moreno Valley, CA 92557  
**Dates: 03/15, 03/22, 03/29, 2024**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on February 13, 2024, Amber Harrison on behalf of Robin A. Harrison, 1010 Carver Road, Las Cruces, NM 88005, filed with the **STATE ENGINEER** Application No. LRG-18194-IR0D2, OSE File No. LRG-18195-1, for Permit to Drill and Use a Replacement Well within the Lower Rio Grande Underground Water Basin of the State of New Mexico. Use of well LRG-18195-POD1, located on land owned by applicant and located within the NE¼ of Sec. 06 T24S R02E, NMPM, and more specifically located at or near the intersection of Latitude 32° 15' 24.029" N Longitude 106° 46' 15.168 "W (WGS84), will be replaced by proposed well LRG-18194-POD2 which is to be located within the NE¼ of said Sec. 06, at the approximate intersection of Latitude 32° 15' 24.55" N Longitude 106° 46' 15.975 "W (WGS84) on land owned by the applicant for the continued diversion of up to 3.0 acre-feet per annum of shallow groundwater for domestic and livestock purposes as described in Subfile No. LRS-28-001-0075 Right A of the Lower Rio Grande Hydrographic Survey. Proposed well LRG-18194-POD2 will be located at the physical address of 1110 Carver Rd. approximated 640 ft. northwest of the

# LEGAL NOTICES

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intersection of the Corralitos Lateral and the Park Drain. The applicant has requested emergency authorization to use replacement existing well under NMSA, 1978, Section 72-12-22. 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 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 Protestants 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 **May 17, 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 (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: 03/15, 03/22, 03/29, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
Case No.: D-307-CV-2023-00840  
**US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, Plaintiff,**  
vs.  
**MARCOS R PENA, if living, if deceased, THE ESTATE OF MARCOS R PENA, deceased; JESSIE MANUEL PENA; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES OR LEGATEES OF MARCOS R. PENA, deceased;**  
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 1713 Foster Road, Las Cruces, NM 88001, and more particularly described as follows: LOT 16, BLOCK 3, DALE BELLAMAH ANNEX, 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 OCTOBER 8, 1953, IN BOOK 7 PAGE 44 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 10:00 AM on May 7, 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 February 27, 2024, in the total amount of \$65,407.71, with interest at the rate of 8.2500% per annum from December 2, 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. US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust, 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: Margaret Lake 201 Eubank NE Suite #A1 Albuquerque, NM 87123 1 NM-23-967387-JUD IDSPub #0201360  
**3/15/2024 3/22/2024 3/29/2024 4/5/2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
No. D-307-DM-2023-00172  
Maria Morones, Petitioner  
In the matter of the kinship guardianship of A.M. a child, and concerning Valentin

dent.  
**NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION**  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO to Valentin Morones, Respondent. Greetings: You are hereby notified that Maria Morones, Petitioner, filed a Petition to Appoint Kinship Guardian for A.M. against you in the above entitled court and cause. Unless you enter your appearance and written response in this cause on or before thirty (30) days after the last date of publication, a judgment by default will be entered against you. Maria Morones 2301 El Camino Real Trlr 36 Las Cruces, NM 88007  
**Dates: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
No. D-307-PB-2024-00048  
Judge Casey B. Fitch  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CAROL P. METHENY, Deceased.**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed the Personal Representative of this estate. All persons having claims against this 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 in care of Joseph M. Holmes, P.A., PO Box 366, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004-0366, or filed with the Third Judicial District Court, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico

88005. Dated: March 4, 2024  
/s/ Larry P. Metheny  
Larry P. Metheny  
Personal Representative for the Estate of Carol P. Metheny, Deceased  
**PREPARED & SUBMITTED BY:**  
JOSEPH M. HOLMES, P.A.  
PO Box 366  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-0366  
(575) 524-0833  
holmespa@zianet.com  
/s/ Joseph M. Holmes  
Joseph M. Holmes  
Attorney for the Estate  
**Dates: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
**Case No. D-307-DM-2023-1109**  
Judge Robert Lara  
Anis Dominguez, Petitioner  
V.  
Michael Jo Harris Jr., Respondent.  
**NOTICE OF SUIT**  
To Michael Jo Harris Jr., Respondent: Take notice that a lawsuit has been filed against you, The subject of this lawsuit is: Michael Jo Harris. If you do not file a response or responsive pleading with the above-titled Court within 30 days after the third publication of this notice, the Court may enter a default judgment against you. Petitioner's Name: Anis Dominguez 625 Acosta Rd. #19 Anthony, NM 88021 915-633-4613  
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 7th day of March, 2024.  
Bernice A. Ramos  
Clerk of the District Court  
**Dates: 03/22, 03/29,**

**04/05, 2024**  
**STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
No. D-307-PB-2024-00046  
Judge Casey B. Fitch  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROXANNE C. NIMMER, Deceased.**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed the Personal Representative of this estate. All persons having claims against this 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 in care of Joseph M. Holmes, P.A., PO Box 366, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004-0366, or filed with the Third Judicial District Court, 201 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005. Dated: March 12, 2024  
/s/ Virginia L.R. Quintana  
Virginia L.R. Quintana, Personal Representative for the Estate of Roxanne C. Nimmer, Deceased  
**PREPARED & SUBMITTED BY: JOSEPH M. HOLMES, P.A.**  
PO Box 366  
Las Cruces, NM 88004-0366  
(575) 524-0833  
holmespa@zianet.com  
/s/ Joseph M. Holmes  
Joseph M. Holmes  
Attorney for the Estate  
**Dates: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**  
**NOTICE** is hereby given that on February 15, 2024, Jose J. Calzadilla, Jr., 210 De Lara Estates,

Chaparral, NM 88081, filed with the **STATE ENGINEER** Application No. HU-325-PODI, OSE File No. HU-376 for Permit to Appropriate Underground Water within the Hueco Underground Water Basin of the State of New Mexico. 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. Applicant proposes using existing well HU-325-PODI located in the NW ¼ SW ¼ SW ¼ Sec.28, T26S, R05E, NMPM; located on land owned by the applicant, for a new appropriation of groundwater, not to exceed 62.55 acre-feet per annum, to be divelied for irrigation purposes on 15 acres of land; located within the NW ¼ SW ¼ SW ¼ & SW ¼ NW ¼ SW ¼ of Sec.28, T26S, R05E, NMPM; owned by the applicant. The property can be located SW of the intersection of County Rd A74 & De Lara Estates Rd. 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



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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 **May 20, 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: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on February 2, 2024, Richard C. White as trustee of the Richard C. White Revocable Trust, PO Box 808, Mesilla, NM 88046 filed with the **STATE ENGINEER** Application No: LRG-01605-POD 15, OSE File No:

LRG-01605-G, for Permit to Change Point of Diversion within the Lower Rio Grande Underground Water Basin of the State of New Mexico to discontinue the use of well LRG-01605-POD 14 located within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26, Township 23S, Range 01E, NMPM, and more specifically described where Latitude and Longitude intersect at 32° 16' 19.78"N 106° 48'34.05"W (WGS84), on land owned by Barry Fulcher, and drilling new well LRG-01605-POD 15 to a depth of 160 feet with 8-in casing within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 26, more specifically described where Latitude and Longitude intersect at 32° 16'23.02"N 106° 48'27.60"W (WGS84), on land owned by the applicant, for the continued diversion of the amount of water subject to all conditions and provisions contained in the August 22, 2011 Final Judgment and Settlement Agreement in Stream System Issue No 101, SS-97-101, combined with surface water from the EBID for the irrigation of 4. 72 acres of land, owned by the applicant, located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 26. The new well will be located approximately 1,120 ft west of the intersection of Paisano Rd and Calle Del Norte at physical address 2811 Cielo Grande Ct, Las Cruces, NM 88005. Change-from well LRG-01605-POD 14 will be retained for other rights. 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 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 1 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 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 **May 3, 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: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

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

Case No. D-307-DM-2024-0035  
Judge Robert Lara  
Heather Anne Bell,  
Petitioner

V.  
Zaquery Lee Bell,  
Respondent.  
**NOTICE OF SUIT**

To Zaquery Bell,  
Respondent:  
Take notice that a lawsuit has been filed against you. The subject of this lawsuit is: Petition for divorce with children  
If you do not file a response or responsive pleading with the above-titled Court within 30 days after the third publication of this notice, the Court may enter a default judgment against you.

Petitioner's Name: Heather Bell  
11504 Holman Rd  
Las Cruces, NM 88012  
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 11th day of March, 2024.

Bernice A. Ramos  
Clerk of the District Court  
/s/ Yvette Lopez  
**Dates: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on

February 14, 2024, Carlos Jose Garcia Felix and Rebecca Caballero Garcia, 6982 McNutt Rd, Anthony, NM 88021 filed with the **STATE ENGINEER** Application No. LRG-18203-POD1, OSE File No. LRG-18203-1, for Permit to Change Point of Diversion within the Lower Rio Grande Underground Water Basin of the State of New Mexico by discontinuing the use of well LRG-12682, located within the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 33, Township 27 South, Range 3 East (NMPM), more specifically where Latitude and Longitude intersect at 31° 54' 39.9" N, 106° 38' 39.3" W (WGS84), on land owned by the Cielo Dorado Homeowners Association, and by drilling a new well LRG-18203-POD1, to a depth of 200 ft. with a 3 in. casing, to be located within the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 33, Township 27 South, Range 3 East (NMPM), and more specifically located where Latitude and Longitude intersect at 31° 54' 47.79" N, 106° 38' 41.90" W (WGS84), on land owned by the applicant, for the continued diversion of the amount of water subject to all conditions and provisions contained in the August 22, 2011 Final Judgment and Settlement Agreement in Stream System Issue No. 101, SS-97-101, combined with surface water from the Elephant Butte Irrigation District for the irrigation of 5.37 acres of land, owned by the applicant, located within the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 33, Township 27 South, Range 3 East (NMPM) as described by Subfile Order No. LRS-28-0019-0008 of the Third Judicial

District Court, Dona Ana County, State of New Mexico. Old well LRG-12682 will be retained for other rights. The proposed site of new well LRG-18203-POD 1 is located South of La Union, NM and may be found at the property address of 6982 McNutt Rd. Anthony NM. 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 Sun News or the Las Cruces Bulletin. 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 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 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 **April 26, 2024**. Facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted as a valid protest if the hard copy is hand-de-

livered 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: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on March 4, 2024, Mary Canavan of Blue Heron Enterprises, LLC, 2357 W. Union Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88005 filed with the **STATE-ENGINEER** Application No. LRG-06255-POD2, OSE File Nos. LRG-06813-3 & LRG-06813-4, for Permit to Change Location of Well within the Lower Rio Grande Underground Water Basin of the State of New Mexico by discontinuing the use of well LRG-0681f, located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of projected Section 36, Township 23 South, Range 1 East (NMPM), and more specifically located where Latitude and Longitude intersect at 32° 15' 42" N, 106° 47' 27" W (WGS84), on land owned by the John and Aurellia Nelson Revocable Trust, and by utilizing existing well LRG-06255-POD2, located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of projected Section 36, Township 23 South, Range 1 East (NMPM), and more specifically located where Latitude and Longitude intersect at 32° 15' 43" N, 106° 47' 27" W (WGS84), on land owned by the applicant, for the continued diversion of the amount of water subject to all conditions and provisions contained in the August 22, 2011 Final Judgment and Settlement Agreement in Stream System Issue No. 101, SS-97-101, combined with surface water from the Elephant Butte Irrigation District for the irrigation of a total of 1.68 acres of land, owned by the applicant, located within the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of projected Section 36, Township 23 South, Range 1 East (NMPM) as described by Subfile Order Nos. LRN-28-013-0372-A, Right A and LRN-28-013-0371-B of the Third Judicial District Court, Dona Ana County, State of New Mexico. The applicant has requested emergency authorization to use the existing well under NMSA, 1978, Section 72-12-23. 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 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 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

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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 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 **May 20, 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: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO IN THE PROBATE COURT DOÑA ANA COUNTY**  
No. D-307-PB-2024-00036  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOE ALLEN NELSON, 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 are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of any published notice to creditors or sixty (60) days after the date of mailing or

other delivery of this notice, whichever is later, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned Personal Representative at their address as listed below: Janice A. Nelson 4901 N. Vinton Road, Anthony, New Mexico 88021. You may also file claims with the Third Judicial District Court of Dona Ana County, New Mexico, located at the following address: 201 W. Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005. **THE GOLDFARB LAW FIRM, PLLC 309 E. Robinson Ave. El Paso, Texas 79902 915-995-5950 915-792-0711 (FAX) /s/ Aaron Goldfarb AARON GOLDFARB New Mexico State Bar No. 152686 aaron@goldfarb-legal.com Attorney for Janice A. Nelson**  
**Dates: 03/22, 03/29, 04/05, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
NO. D-307-SA-2023-35  
**JUDGE DURAN IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION BY AARON QUEZADA and REBECCA BERTOLDO**  
**NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION**

Efrain Tavarez, whose last known place of residence is in Las Cruces, New Mexico, will hereby take notice that on November 3, 2023, a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Third Judicial District Court in the Dona Ana County, in the State of New Mexico, with it being Case No. D-307-SA-2023-35 on the docket of said court, praying for adoption of the minor child,

G.A.J.Q. Efrain Tavarez will further take notice that he is required to file a reply to the Petition for Adoption within 30 days or a default judgment may be entered by the Court therefore granting Petitioners request for adoption of the minor child G.A.J.Q. Petitioners Attorney is Ramon Hernandez, 1127 E. Idaho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 523-0144.  
**Dates: 03/29, 04/05, 04/12, 2024**

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

PB-2024-0062  
Judge Martin  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOSEPHINE V. CHAVEZ, 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 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, in care of the Bates Law Firm, PO Box 305, Las Cruces, NM 88004-0305, or filed with the Third Judicial District Court, 201 W. Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM 88005. DATED: March 21, 2024.

/s/ Estella M. Perez Estella M. Perez Personal Representative of the Estate of Josephine V. Chavez, Deceased  
**PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY: BATES LAW FIRM P.O. Box 305 Las Cruces, NM**

88004-0305 (575) 524-8585 (575) 524-1895 (Fax) /s/ Lloyd O. Bates Lloyd O. Bates Jr. Attorney for the Estate NM Bar No. 175  
**Dates: 03/29, 04/05, 04/12, 2024**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT**  
The City Council of the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico, Hereby Gives Notice of its Intent to Adopt the Following Ordinance(s) at the Regular City Council Meeting Held on April 15, 2024: Council Bill No. 24-024; Ordinance No. 3066: An Ordinance Confirming the Successful Completion of the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) Project with X2NSAT, Inc., and Authorizing its Termination, to Include the Project Participation Agreement, Intergovernmental Agreement and the Release of the \$150,000 Guaranty that has Served as Security for the Project. Copies Are Available for Inspection During Working Hours at the Office of the City Clerk. Witness My Hand and Seal of the City of Las Cruces on this the 26th day of March, 2024.  
**Dates: 03/29, 2024**

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

No. D-307-PB-2024-00059  
Judge James T. Martin  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM JOHN BERRY, deceased**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kevin Poindexter has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of William John

Berry, deceased. 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 undersigned counsel for the Personal Representative or filed with the Clerk of the Third Judicial District Court, 201 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005. **STREETER LAW FIRM, LLC 1990 E. Lohman Ave., Ste. 217 Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 524-6893 /s/ Jessica Streeter Jessica Streeter NM Bar No. 142793**  
**Dates: 03/29, 04/05, 04/12, 2024**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on February 22, 2024, Pablo Canales on behalf of Stahmanns Inc., 108 HWY 28, Anthony, NM, 88021, filed with the **STATE ENGINEER** Application No. LRG-01688-POD 12, OSE File No. LRG-01688, for Permit to Drill and Use a Supplemental Well within the Lower Rio Grande Underground Water Basin of the State of New Mexico. 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. Use of wells LRG-01688-S, LRG-01688-S2, LRG-01688-S3, LRG-01688-S5, LRG-01688-S7, LRG-01688-POD9, LRG-01688-POD10 and LRG-01688-POD11 located collectively within Township 23S Range 01E and Township 24S and 01E,

NMPM, as recorded and on file with the OSE, on land owned by applicant, will be supplemented by proposed well LRG-01688-POD12 which is to be located within the SE¼ of said projected Sec. 02 T24S R01E, at the approximate intersection of Latitude 32° 14' 37.662" N and Longitude 106° 48' 30.604" W (WGS84) on land owned by the applicant for the continued diversion of the amount of water subject to all conditions and provisions contained in the August 22, 2011 Final Judgment and Settlement Agreement in Stream System Issue No. 101, SS-97-101, combined with surface water from the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, for the irrigation of 1041.65 acres, owned by the applicant. located within Township 23S Range 01E and Township 24S and 01E, NMPM, as described in Subfile No. LRS 28-001-0006 Right A of the Lower Rio Grande Hydrographic Survey. The site of the proposed well, LRG-01688-POD12 will be approximately 150 ft east of the intersection of the Del Rio Drain and the California Lateral west of Mesilla. The applicant has requested emergency authorization to drill the proposed well under NMSA 1978, Section 72-12-24. 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 **May 24, 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 (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: 03/29, 04/05, 04/12, 2024**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA**

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
No. D-307-PB-2024-00024  
Judge Fitch, Casey B  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAUL HENRY SRIGLEY, a/k/a Paul H Srigley, DECEASED.**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SHERRI R. SRIGLEY has been appointed personal representative of the estate of the decedent. All persons having claims against the estate of the decedent are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of any published notice to creditors or sixty (60) days after the date of mailing or other delivery of this notice, whichever is later, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to personal representative at the address listed below, or filed with the Third Judicial District Court of Dona Ana County, New Mexico, located at 201 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005. DATED this 7th day of March, 2024. **KEITHLY & ENGLISH, LLC /s/ Shane A. English SHANE A. ENGLISH Attorney for Michael Brett Thompson, Personal Representative N.M. State Bar No. 4854 Post Office Drawer 1329 Anthony, NM 88021 (575) 882-4500 (575) 882-5000 [FAX] kne1329@aol.com**  
**Dates: 03/15, 03/22, 03/29, 2024**

## GAME BOARD

### High school sports weekend

#### Thursday

#### BASEBALL

- Centennial hosts Hobbs, JV and varsity, 4:30 & 6:30 p.m., Field of Dreams Baseball Complex.
- Organ Mountain freshmen, JV and varsity at Deming High, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

#### SOFTBALL

- Organ Mountain JV and varsity at Deming High, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

#### POWER LIFTING

- Organ Mountain at Shiprock High, varsity mixed power lifting, 12:30 p.m.

## Aggie baseball notches win in Arizona



COURTESY PHOTO BY NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

New Mexico State baseball players exult during their match against the Arizona Wildcats in Tucson on March 26.

#### NMSU REPORTS

The NM State Aggies defeated the Arizona Wildcats in Tucson, Ariz., March 26, 12-8. In an outstanding performance, Preston Godfrey went four for five with a single, double, triple and home run to be the first Aggie that hit for the cycle since 2020.

In the first, the Wildcats jumped up to an early lead as they would hit a solo home run to go up by one. That lead would not last long, as designated hitter Godfrey blasted a lead-off home run to right field to even the score.

In the top of the sixth, Mitch Namie managed to hit a home run to right field to score Damon Hale this home run would give the Aggies 11 runs on the day. Following the home run, Godfrey checked a single off his line as the final hit he needed to hit for the cycle. The last time an Aggie managed to achieve

this feat was in 2020, when former Aggie Nick Gonzales did it.

In the bottom of the seventh, Josh Sharman entered the game for the Aggies. He would only manage to get one out before Hayden Lewis was the next Aggie to be featured on the mound. In the inning, the Wildcats managed to put four runs on the board.

In the top of the eighth, the Aggies added another run on a sacrifice bunt from Gore to earn the Aggies their 12th and final run of the night. In both the eighth and ninth innings, the Wildcats scored one run on a single in the eighth and one run in the ninth on a solo home run.

With the win, the Aggies earned their first power five win of the season and first road win of the season.

The Aggies play next in Dallas, Texas against conference rival Dallas Baptist in a three-game series from March 28 to 30.

**NM STATE ATHLETICS**

NEW MEXICO STATE BASEBALL

# Upcoming

**VS LIBERTY**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5 • 6 PM**  
FLAG GIVEAWAY (FIRST 200 FANS)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6 • 2 PM**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7 • 11 AM**  
\$1 HOTDOGS

**VS UNM**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9 • 6 PM**

BATTLE OF I-25

PRESLEY ASKEW FIELD  
TICKETS: 575-646-1420



# Copyright protections coming to golf course designs

In its basic form, intellectual property has been protected under the U.S. Constitution in Title 17 of the U.S. Code, Section 102(a), that ensures protection for “original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression,” which broadly includes everything from literature to music to photographs, and since a 1990 amendment to the Copyright Act, the architectural design of buildings.

A bill introduced this year in Congress would include golf course design under the copyright umbrella. Known as the “Bolstering Intellectual Rights against Digital Infringement Enhancement Act, or the “BIRDIE Act,”

this proposed legislation would protect course designs after December 1, 1990, mainly in response to the expanding industry of golf simulators and other virtual reality media. Introduced by U.S. Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Penn., and Jimmy Panetta, D-Calif., the bill seeks to include golf course designs within the definition of “architectural works.”

The BIRDIE Act would amend the Copyright Act to include not only the overall layout and design of a golf course, but also its various components such as landscaping, irrigation systems, paths,

greens, tees, practice facilities, bunkers, lakes and topographic features. Further, the provisions would also apply to unconstructed works embodied in unpublished plans or drawings as of Dec. 1, 1990.

This means a significant number of existing course designs could potentially benefit from copyright protection under the new legislation, and it’s possible that redesigns of courses would then be covered.

The BIRDIE Act would also bring under its purview so-called “replica” courses, which recreate famous golf holes from

famous golf architects, and now number at least 13 in the United States. Of those, I have only played the Tour 18 in Dallas, which is 18 holes from PGA Tour courses including number 17 at TPC Sawgrass; and the Tribute Golf Links, which replicates famous holes from courses in Scotland where the Open Championship has been played. While all these replica courses pay homage to famous golf course designs and architects, they are stealing intellectual, architectural and artistic property, doubtless unintentionally, that had not been under copyright law.

The proposed BIRDIE Act is supported broadly

by the members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. “The BIRDIE Act isn’t just good for golf course architects, it’s good for golf course owners as well. It acknowledges golf courses for what they are: creative works of art. Golf course architecture isn’t just planned on paper; it’s also created on site by visionaries making the most of a setting. While physical plans can be copyrighted, decisions made in the field cannot. So, it makes sense that a finished golf course would be protected as well,” says ASGCA past president Jan Bel Jan.

Robert Trent Jones, Jr., past president of ASGCA, states, “By securing these

copyrights, we inspire (golf course architects) to continue creating original designs and playing experiences for the huge numbers of golfers in the United States and around the world. This protection will ensure that if someone wishes to copy their work, then the architect will be involved to make sure it’s represented accurately and properly for the benefit of all.”

If the bipartisan BIRDIE Act doesn’t pass both houses of Congress, those elected politicians who voted “no” should be penalized severely.

*Email Dr. Blanchard at [docblanchard71@gmail.com](mailto:docblanchard71@gmail.com).*



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Golf Doctor

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