

# News-Sun

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## Community News

The deadline for the **4H CREATIVE ARTS ENTRIES** at the Lea County Fair is today. For more information, contact the fair office at 396-2819.

**THE CAPROCK SWIM TEAM** will have a fundraising garage sale 1700 N. Cielo from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday so its athletes may attend the Junior Olympics at the end of July.

The 52nd annual **LEA COUNTY FIDDLER'S CONTEST** will be in the Yucca Building on Aug. 11 at 1 p.m. Registration begins at noon. For more information, contact Mary McClure at 396-4778.

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# Potash, oil and gas plan announced



Interior Secretary Ken Salazar

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Thursday introduced a proposal that could effectively end a decades-long squabble over development of oil and natural gas in an area that makes up the nation's greatest potash reserve.

Oil and gas developers and the companies going after potash — the key ingredient in fertilizers — have been locked in a series of legal disputes over development of the resources for years. The concern has centered on contamination of the resources and mining safety.

"At stake here are tens of thousands of jobs in southeastern New Mexico in the oil and gas industry as well as thousands of jobs in the potash industry," Salazar said. "And importantly, both of those industries are part of the energy and mineral security of the United States."

Salazar's draft order would establish a program for identifying areas where development can happen safely. Buffer zones would be established to allow oil and gas drillers to go after the fossil fuels without compromising potash deposits.

Experts say advances in drilling techniques make the proposal possible. Salazar said "drilling islands" could be created within the 625-square-mile area where potash is protected.

The area, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, currently produces three-quarters of the potash mined in the U.S. Part of the Permian Basin that spans New Mexico and Texas, the area is also home to nearly 800 federal oil and gas leases.

"What we're seeing is a tremendous

SEE PROPOSAL, Page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## URENCO scholarships

Members of URENCO USA's Scholarship Committee and scholarship recipients enjoy an evening of celebration at Hobbs Country Club. Pictured are, back row, URENCO USA Head of Operations Steve Cowne, Nick Pankratz of Hobbs, Curtis Pankratz of Hobbs, Juan Zamora of Eunice, David Rickman of Seminole and URENCO USA Chief Nuclear Officer Jay Laughlin; front row, URENCO USA Vice President of Talent and Community Engagement Ruth Girón, Chris Cluff of Artesia, Steven Johnson of Hobbs, James Taylor of Seminole, Joaquin Rosendo of Lovington and URENCO USA Energy Services Chief Operating Officer Kevin Reilly.

## STATE POLICE CRACKDOWN

# HPD, Lea chiefs unhappy with blitz

ALMA OLIVAS-POSADAS  
NEWS-SUN

New Mexico State Police wrote 553 citations during the three days this week 18 motor patrol officers were in Lea County.

And Lea County Sheriff Mark Hargrove and Hobbs Police Department Chief J.D. Sanders are not happy with the manner in which the state police swarmed the streets and wrote citations.

"I appreciate the State Police efforts but it needs to be a joint effort or at least a courtesy call," Hargrove said. "... I don't like the way they came in and treated the citizens and now they are gone. I don't agree with the tactics they used on the operation. I apologize to the citizens of Lea County for the way they were treated and handled."

According to NMSF District Three Commander Capt. Dina Orozco the 14 additional N.M. State Police officers and four additional N.M. Motor Transportation Police officers patrolled Lea County Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in an

SEE CRACKDOWN, Page 4

# Funds for Hispano projects OK'd

HELENA RODRIGUEZ  
NEWS-SUN

If the Hobbs City Commission gives the nod on Monday night, the fiestas will go on.

During a lodgers' tax board meeting on Wednesday, the board unanimously approved recommending The Hobbs Hispano Chamber of

## Lodgers' tax board

Commerce be awarded \$20,000 for Mariachi Christmas in December and \$26,000 for the third annual Fiesta de Septiembre, which is held in Hobbs to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. The board did

not approve an additional \$4,000 the Hispano Chamber had requested to cover the cost of generators at Fiesta de Septiembre.

Recently revised guidelines by the City Commission stipulate that lodgers' tax funds should only be used to cover the promotion and

SEE LODGERS, Page 6

**Educator Jaimee Thrash reads to students participating in a Start Smart Summer program at Booker T. Washington School in Hobbs.**

KIMBERLY RYAN  
NEWS-SUN



## START SMART PROGRAM

# Benefit of extra school days tested

HELENA RODRIGUEZ  
NEWS-SUN

According to author, Robert Fulghum, everything we need to know, we learn in kindergarten. So how much more will kindergarteners learn by starting kindergarten 25 days early?

That's the question researchers at the University of Utah want to know, and six Hobbs elementary schools will help them find out the answer.

On Monday, 68 students showed up to Booker T. Washington Elementary School for their first day of kindergarten. They are taking part in a 25-day Start Smart program which is part of a pilot study to see how additional school days benefit students. The students who get the "smart start" by

starting school early will be compared to those who did not get 25 additional days of instruction.

In Jaimee Thrash's kindergarten classroom at Booker T., students were practicing writing the letter "S" on Tuesday by drawing the letter in the air with their fingers.

"Do we ever start writing the letter from the bottom?" Jaimee Thrash, a teacher at Will Rogers Elementary during the regular school year, asked her students and then she responded, "No, we always start from the top."

According to Thrash, not only are her students getting a running start learning their ABCs and

SEE SMART, Page 3

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# A&E CALENDAR

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Theatre

**July 19-22** — The Community Players of Hobbs summer youth workshop participants will perform Disney's musical Aladdin Jr., the stage adaptation of the hit film, at 7:30 p.m. July 19, 20 and 21 and at 2 p.m. July 22. The workshop began on June 18 and includes students 9-18 years old. Most weeks require four days a week attendance from 9 a.m.-noon for the workshop participants. Participants learn about performance and all aspects of theater. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance at [www.communityplayersofhobbs.com](http://www.communityplayersofhobbs.com).

**Aug 5 and 6** — The Community Players of Hobbs will have auditions for the melodrama "Rascality on the rig or Oils Well that Ends Well" on Sunday, Aug. 5, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 6, at 6:30 p.m. The show is directed by Glynese Floyd and assistant director Mary Lyle. Show dates are in September.

## Museum

**June 14-July 14** — The annual Festival of Quilts will open on June 14 and will continue through July 14 at the Western Heritage Museum. See this year's community quilt, enjoy this art form made by your fellow community members, and see who won first place. For more information about the Festival of Quilts contact Mary Lyle at 575-492-2679 or by email at [mlyle@nmjc.edu](mailto:mlyle@nmjc.edu).

## Art

**May-July** — The Center for the Arts is signing up students now for various workshops for the 2012 Youth Visual Arts Camps. Workshops include creative writing July 30-31. Times and ages vary but start at age 6, depending on the class, and include morning and afternoon sessions. Pick up a brochure and register at the Center for the Arts, 122 W. Broadway, or download a brochure at [www.lcca.us](http://www.lcca.us). Call 397-2787 for more information.

**Oct.-Nov.** — The Llano Estacado Art Association and the Lea County Commission for the Arts have announced the guidelines and a call for entries for the 2012 Fall Juried Art Show, 100 Years of Enchantment, Oct. 6-Nov. 3, at the Center for the Arts, 122 W. Broadway, Hobbs, New Mexico. The ongoing

events commemorating the 2012 State of New Mexico Centennial celebration includes the upcoming exhibit of art which will depict the Centennial Theme and reflect the history, traditions and culture of New Mexico.



All entries must be representative of past or present life in New Mexico. The prospectus can be seen and downloaded from the Llano Estacado Art Association home page [www.llanoestacadoartassociation.com](http://www.llanoestacadoartassociation.com) and from the website of Lea County Commission for the Arts [www.lcca.us](http://www.lcca.us). The prospectus is also available at the Center for the Arts, 122 W. Broadway in downtown Hobbs or a request to have a prospectus mailed please contact Carol Hammond, 575-390-1166 or the Center for the Arts, 575-397-2787.

## Entertainment

**July 27** — The City of Hobbs will have a free showing of the movie "Soul Surfer" at Del Norte Park at dusk. Bring your lawn chair. The next showing will be Aug. 24 of "Sherlock Holmes 2".

## Music

**July 21** — Lea County Museum hosts The Derailers for a free concert on the Courthouse square on Saturday, July 21. Show starts at 7 p.m. and bring a lawn chair.

**Aug 3-11** — The Lea County Fair will be held at the fairgrounds. Concerts include Easton Corbn on Aug. 4, Mercy Me on Aug. 8, Stoney LaRue on Aug. 9, Uncle Kracker on Aug. 10 and Chris Young on Aug. 11. Entry into the fair, which includes the concerts, is \$6 per adult. Concerts begin after the end of the rodeo most nights.



## Writing

**Sept. 3-Nov. 3** — "Book Discussion: Lincoln and the Civil War" with Dwight Pitcaithley from 1 to 3 p.m. in the upper level of New Mexico Junior College's Pannell Library on Sept. 3, Sept. 22, Oct. 6, Oct. 20 and Nov. 3.

**Oct. 31** — Emerging Writer's Contest. Poetry and short story submission from previously unpublished writers wanted for contest sponsored by NMJC's Pannell Library having to do with New Mexico's Centennial. Deadline is Oct. 31. Sent submissions to [mtuytschaevers@elinlib.org](mailto:mtuytschaevers@elinlib.org).

## Proposal

from PAGE 1

level of activity in southeastern New Mexico," said Steve Henke, president of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association. "There has been some uncertainty, denials and delays of permitting due to potash concerns, so operation within the framework of the new order I would think will allow for full exploration of possible new development on the oil and gas side."

The potash lies above the oil and gas deposits. The potash industry long objected to oil and gas development taking place below its operations, claiming that such drilling spoils the potash and presents a potential hazard to miners who work underground.

In January, Salazar met with representatives from both industries. A committee was formed and has been working for the last six months to develop a framework for the draft order.

That first meeting "put the heat on everyone involved to quit squabbling and find some way to agree," said Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The public has until Aug. 12 to comment on the proposal.

## Lubbock doctor's death ruled a homicide

LUBBOCK (AP) — Lubbock police are investigating the death of a doctor found shot in his home as a homicide.

Sgt. Jonathan Stewart says police were called to the home Wednesday afternoon after a landscaper and a maid found the body of Dr. Joseph Sonnier III, chief pathologist for Covenant Health System in Lubbock.

Stewart says landscapers had found a broken window at the house.

Stewart tells The Associated Press that they currently have no suspects in the case.



A plan introduced Thursday by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar would create buffer zones to allow oil and gas drillers to go after fossil fuels without compromising potash deposits.

Salazar expects to have a final order this fall.

Salazar said the conflict drained millions of dollars in litigation fees from both industries and left a cloud of uncertainty over energy development in the area.

Federal officials said it remains to be seen how much the order will boost oil and gas production in New Mexico, which is already expected to enjoy a \$200 million boost in state revenues thanks to oil and gas taxes and royalties.

Potash mining is also ramping up. In March, the BLM

approved plans by Intrepid Potash to operate a solution mine northeast of Carlsbad and a \$36 million potash compaction plant opened in May.

"This is all about jobs," said Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M. "It's about jobs in the potash industry. It's about jobs in the oil and gas industry. There are thousands of jobs there and I think this draft order is going to put us on a path where people are going to be able to grow their businesses and create more jobs. That's what people want to see right now."

## Make me a servant!

Taylor Street Church of Christ

## VBS

July 18, 19, 20, 2012

9:00 - 11:50 am

ages 3 years - 5th grade

Registration July 18th @ 8:30 am

216 E. Cain ~ 575-393-0538



SUBMITTED PHOTO

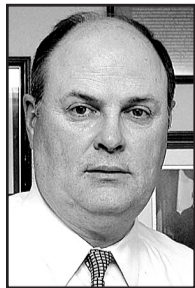
Lea County Museum hosts The Derailers for a free concert on the Courthouse Square in Lovington on July 21. Show starts at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair.

## Crackdown

from PAGE 1

attempt to crack down on the number of fatal traffic accidents and traffic violations. This year there have been nine fatal crashes in Lea County claiming the lives of 11 individuals.

"No one is more concerned about the safety and protection of our citizens than I am. Our department shares that concern as does the mayor and commission and entire city staff. We would never subject our citizens to the type of harassing tactics we saw on display here this week," Sanders said.



Sanders

Hargrove and Sanders said their departments were not notified of the operation and were surprised by the presence of the numerous state police officers patrolling throughout the county.

"It is really embarrassing as a sheriff when I have citizens calling me and asking me what is going on," Hargrove said, emphasizing his agency was not notified ahead of time.

"The tactics they used are not the kind that is effective in reducing traffic fatalities. They do produce a lot of seat belt, speeding, and a variety of other citations. But, they have virtually no effect in reducing crashes or fatalities," said Sanders. "Our department has reduced the number of citations from a high in 2008 of over 14,000 to just over 6,700 last year. In the same period, traffic crashes have decreased from over 1,000 to around 800, even with a huge increase in the number of vehicles on the road."

He said the effort his department has had in concentrating patrol efforts at the sites of highest

number of crashes, primarily intersections, has had good results.

"We are sorry for any confusion created by this week's activities. We had no part in it and would never condone that style of enforcement," said Sanders.

Hargrove said he is further frustrated at the three-day blitz because on one night during the blitz, there was an auto accident on Drinkard Road in Lea County, an accident N.M. State Police should have investigated. Hargrove said his understanding is his department was told there were no state police available to investigate the accident yet there were state police officers working the streets during that same day in Lea County.

"They need to be on the state highway, not on county roads and city limits," Hargrove said.

According to Orozco, about 86 of the 553 citations were seatbelt violations and the officers were stationed at key locations including heavy traffic locations or places where the highest number of fatalities occur.

"They were told to focus on the areas of high volume traffic," Orozco said. "We have worked two fatalities within the city limits of Hobbs ... every fatality that we investigate ultimately shows up on my statistics. We did try to focus them on those areas."

Orozco said she agrees there needs to be better communication between agencies and was unaware such a numerous amount of officers were going to show up for the operation.

"We didn't know there were going to be so many coming in," Orozco said explaining she was expecting five or seven motor officers to show up.

Hargrove said his department has a good working connection with the five state police officers who are permanently stationed in the county and communicates with their sergeant on an everyday basis.

HOBBS

Walmart

# Career Fair

Saturday, July 14th

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

All Positions  
Need To Be Filled

3800 N. Lovington Hwy.