

# News-Sun

JAL ■ EUNICE ■ HOBBS ■ LOVINGTON ■ TATUM ■ SEMINOLE ■ DENVER CITY

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50 cents

## Community News

The Hobbs High School **CHOIR BOOSTERS** will host a car wash from noon-4 p.m. Saturday at Forrest Tire, 1703 N. Turner. The proceeds will help fund the spring choir trip to Colorado Springs, Colo.

Lea County residents who wish to receive **REVERSE 911 CALLS** from the county are asked to enroll their phone number at [www.leacounty.net](http://www.leacounty.net) and then follow the link called "CodeRED," or by calling 397-9600, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The service provides quick information in the case of an emergency in the area such as severe weather.

The members of **HOBBS VFW POST 3274** and its auxiliary are asking for any addresses of service men and women stationed overseas in order to send monthly care packages. Any resident who has an address can call 392-8695 or send an e-mail to [llester2@hotmail.com](mailto:llester2@hotmail.com).

**HOME COMING PARADE** forms for the Hobbs High homecoming parade are due no later than Sept. 27. The parade is scheduled for 4 p.m. Oct. 4. For more information, call 575-602-3389.

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## OIL PRICES

| West Texas intermediate | Price Change    |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Spot                    | \$106.39 - 1.68 |
| Posted                  | \$102.75 - 1.75 |
| Sour                    | \$101.70 - 1.75 |
| N. Gas                  | \$3.720 + .007  |



# Lea West Nile case confirmed

BETH HAHN  
NEWS-SUN

The New Mexico State Department of Health confirmed a case of West Nile virus in a 52-year-old Lea County woman.

This is the first human case in the county of 2013. DOH officials previously confirmed two cases in horses in August.


According to a press release from the DOH, the woman recovered from the illness.

Two other cases — in Doña Ana County and Curry County — were also confirmed. Those patients also recovered.

"With the recent rains and flooding, there are

**WEST NILE VIRUS**

- **CAUSE:** Mosquito bites
- **SYMPTOMS:** Fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches
- **INFECTION PRIME TIME:** Dust to dawn are peak hours for mosquitoes. Avoid outdoor activities at those times.



that can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes," said state secretary of health Retta Ward. "It is very important for people to avoid mosquito bites so they can prevent getting infected with West Nile Virus."

Common West Nile virus symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. If someone has these symptoms, they should see their health care provider.

In rare cases, West Nile virus can cause meningitis or encephalitis.

"There could be large increases in mosquito populations which will be present until the first hard frost," said Paul Ettestad, the department's public

SEE WEST NILE, Page 4

## Happy dancer

Southern Heights kindergartner Alina Muro practices her run and jump - as well as the extension of her "crispy fingers" during Thursday's National Dance Institute instruction. Teachers from the Santa Fe organization are working with Southern Heights, Broadmoor, Jefferson and Will Rogers students for two weeks in preparation for two Sept. 27 performances at Tydings Auditorium. In addition to dance moves, the students are learning about nutrition, self-discipline and good study habits.

HOBBS SCHOOLS PHOTO



# Police training period reduced

CHRISTIAN BETANCOURT  
NEWS-SUN

The New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy in Hobbs will shorten its basic police officer training to 16 weeks from the current 22.

The training had been the same for the past 15 years. One of the classes offered would take 18 hours but could be completed in eight, said Angie Byrd director of the Southeast New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy in Hobbs.

"It was getting to the point that we had to have fillers because people were teaching the topic in an appropriate amount of time," Byrd said. "When we took the time off and took off the redundancy, we were able to produce the same quality cadets in 16 weeks."

Other police academies in N.M. offer classes as long as 26 weeks, the academy in Hobbs, however, serves several police agencies in the state.

"We're a regional academy," Byrd said. "We conduct training for the southeastern region of the state."

Hobbs Police Chief Chris McCall said he supports the change.

"This allows the training to get back to basic level," he said. "It allows satellites academies to teach a curriculum for the area that they serve."

After training at the academy, officers still need to complete further training at their specific departments.

"With the 16-week academy, they come out faster and we can then put emphasis on things that are important to our respective agency," Lovington Police Chief Danny Bryant said. "They can get out to do their job faster with their field training officer. These officers teach them and help them understand our agency's requirements and basic operational systems. The 10-code we use is an example. In Northern N.M. they use a different type of 10-code to distinguish situations a police officer may be facing."

SEE POLICE, Page 4

# Eunice eyes solution to sewer woes

BETH HAHN  
NEWS-SUN

Some Eunice residents are having sewer problems, but the fix may have to wait.

City Manager Marty Moore said tree roots are causing sewer blockages in some parts of Eunice, while other lines are old and in danger of collapsing.

"It's a big problem that's growing in the community that we need to get a handle on," Moore said.

City officials are exploring the possibility of combining sewer and street repairs during upcoming construction cycles.

Moore said the combination would be less of a headache for residents.

"Then we're not going in and tearing up a new street to repair the sewer lines or extending the amount of time that a street is under construction," he said.

**'It's a big problem that's growing in the community that we need to get a handle on.'**



Marty Moore  
Eunice city manager

Any construction, though, is largely dependent on state or federal funds.

Mayor Matt White said an analysis the city's income records found

an 80 percent decrease in revenue due to a drop in construction.

Several projects including a new elementary school and the third phase of the downtown reconstruction wrapped up last year.

Two oilfield businesses also moved out of Eunice, White said, creating another drop in income.

"Luckily, we built our budget around \$300,000 a month and that's what we're running," he said.

City officials are waiting on the results of a lawsuit filed against the state Taxation and Revenue Department, which could impact Eunice's budget further.

City officials believe a subcontractor at the URENCO USA plant mistakenly paid about \$40,000 in gross receipts taxes during a five-year period ending in 2012.

When the company sought repay-

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## HOBBS EXPRESS

# Program's funding renewed

DENISE MARQUEZ  
NEWS-SUN

Hobbs Express can add another year to its 24 years of serving the community thanks to city commissioners approving funding for the program.

Hobbs commissioners approved a memorandum of agreement to continue the operation of Hobbs Express for the fiscal year 2013-14 with the New Mexico Department of Transportation during their commission meeting Monday night.

The total funding for the pro-

SEE EXPRESS, Page 4



KIMBERLY RYAN/NEWS-SUN

Bobbie Norman waits for a Hobbs Express bus after visiting her parents at Desert Gardens Thursday at the bus stop at the new Hobbs Express building on Broadway. Norman rides the bus every day except for Sunday.

## HOBBS SCHOOLS

# Student pregnancy numbers declining

GABRIELA MUÑOZ  
NEWS-SUN

Even with record enrollment numbers, Hobbs Municipal Schools has reported the lowest number of teen pregnancies in 14 years.

According to the 2012-13 school year student pregnancy report, there were 48 pregnant students in the district last year. The previous lowest number was during the 1998-99 school year.

"I was so excited to see the numbers," said HMS Nursing

SEE PREGNANCY, Page 4

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