

**Briefs**

**Bodies found east of Lovington identified**

The Office of the Medical Investigator was able to identify the two bodies found Thursday east of Lovington on State Road 82, according to a release from the Lea County Sheriff's Department.

One man was identified as Leon Sanchez, 48, of Lovington. The other man was identified as Francis McClain, 43, of Lovington.

No further information is available, and the investigation is continuing, stated the release.

The Lea County Sheriff's Department can be reached at 575-396-3611.

**City investigation clears Albuquerque officer in shooting**

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Albuquerque's independent investigator has cleared a police officer of wrongdoing in the shooting of a mentally ill man last year.

The Albuquerque Journal reports (http://bit.ly/t5aZYs) that the city's Police Oversight Commission unanimously accepted the findings of Independent Review Officer William Deaton this week. Deaton had cleared officer Leah Kelly in the September, 2010, shooting of 19-year-old Chandler Todd Barr.

The commission is a panel of citizens that reviews complaints against police.

Kelly shot Barr after he had become upset while trying to buy a bus ticket to his home in Oklahoma. He brandished a knife and had cuts on his wrists, then was confronted by Kelly and another officer.

Kelly shot Barr twice in the chest after ordering him to drop the knife. He survived.



HOBBBS SCHOOLS PHOTOS

**Who am I?**

Taylor fifth-graders portrayed a cast of famous scientists through the centuries and even conducted their own science experiments during a production for parents and classmates on Friday afternoon. Top, Destiny Jackson brought Marie Curie to life; above left, Colton Owen was a little closer to home as he set off rockets while playing New Mexico scientist Robert Goddard, and, above right, Jesse Evaro portrayed Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon.

**Obituaries**

**Odeza Lopez**

Odeza Lopez, 59, of Hobbs, NM, passed away on November 7, 2011, at Country Cottage. She was born on May 3, 1952, in Uvalde, TX, to Brigedo Lopez and Eulalia Vasquez. She moved to Hobbs 38 years ago from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was a very active member of her faith in Christ and a very loving and caring person. She was a loving daughter, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, mother-in-law, and friend who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Memorial services will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at 2 p.m., at Calvary Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. The family is requesting that those who will be attending the memorial service to please wear bright colors. Services have been entrusted to Calvary Memorial Funeral Home.

Odeza is survived by her four daughters: Sannette Deleon and husband Ernie of Hobbs, Odie Malissa Calvillo and husband Abel of Hobbs, Cynthia Morales and Adam Gutierrez of Lovington, and Tammy Pena and husband Tommy of Phoenix, Arizona; two brothers: Brigido Lopez of Uvalde, TX, and Isaiah Lopez of Houston, TX; eleven grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ms. Lopez is preceded in death by her parents: Brigido Lopez and Eulalia Vasquez, one brother: Bragden Lopez, two great granddaughters, one aunt, and numerous uncles.

**Walter Cardwell**

Walter Leonard Cardwell was born on September 17, 1938, in Mountainair, New Mexico, to L.L. "Skeet" and Ruby Jean Cardwell. He went to be with the Lord on November 10, 2011.

Raised in Tatum, New Mexico, he married Melba Parks on September 21, 1957, and began a long and successful career in the oil fields of

the Permian Basin. He began his career on a drilling rig, eventually working for Sinclair then Amoco while he and Melba raised two daughters in Tatum. He moved with Amoco to Big Spring, Texas in 1985, then retired while in Amoco's Odessa office in 1994.

Retirement was not meant for Walt, so he joined Citation Oil and Gas in the same year and remained there until his passing. He earned respect from his peers though his integrity and dedication to any task he undertook. He had a passion for hard work, but his pride and joy was his family. To them he was an ever present source of support in all they did.



Cardwell

In addition to his parents, Walter was preceded in death by his brother, Johnny Lee.

He is survived by his wife Melba, daughter Pamela Cunningham, husband Mickey and grandsons Jay and Klay all of Midland, daughter Rebecca Warren, husband Gary, and grandchildren Kaleb and Mady Jo, all of Odessa. He is also survived by two sisters, Barbara Benge of Lovington, New Mexico and Gail Daniell of Abilene, along with numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Family will receive friends on Sunday, November 13, 2011, from 2-4 p.m. CST at Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

Services for Walter will be held at Crestview Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, Monday, November 14, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. CST with burial in his hometown of Tatum, New Mexico, at 3:30 p.m. MST that same day.

Pall Bearers are Billy Landrum, Gary Warren, Kaleb Warren, Mickey Cunningham, Jay Cunningham, and Klay Cunningham.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Frank Wilson Funeral Home in Odessa, Texas.

**Death notices**

**Ernest Patrick King**

Ernest Patrick King, 52, of Hobbs died Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011, at his home. He was born Sept. 28, 1959, in Deming. Services are pending.

**James Atkinson**

James (Jack-Legg) Atkinson, 74, of Lamesa, Texas, formerly of Hobbs, died Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, at his home. He was born June 19, 1937, in Waco, Texas. Funeral services are pending with Griffin Funeral Home.

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**Fall arrives late in some Southwestern pockets**

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Forests throughout the Southwest are growing quiet as the season for bugling elk comes to an end. The aspens in the high country and cottonwoods in the valleys are dropping their golden leaves, and snow has dusted mountain tops in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.

There's no denying it's fall.

But for land managers, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts, it was a long time coming in some areas. They had to wait a few extra weeks for summer to loosen its grip.

The slow change in season comes on the heels of months of volatile weather. Dust storms enveloped Arizona, drought paralyzed Texas and New Mexico and temperatures far above normal plagued most of the country. The summer that would never end is how forecasters with the National Weather Service in Albuquerque referred to it.

Those sweltering temperatures are thought to be one reason fall was late in some spots. The obvious measure was the foliage.

By the end of September, cars are usually funneling up the narrow roads leading to New Mexico's ski areas so spectators can soak in the colors. Near Santa Fe, many of the trees were still green in early October.

There were similar reports from Flagstaff, Ariz., Ouray, Colo., and Taos.

"I was up in Taos last week and noticed that it was late.

Everyone was talking about how late it was. But it was very beautiful," said Andy Graves, an entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service in New Mexico. "A lot of people are just attributing it somewhat to the drought and maybe the elongated summer. It was a weird year."

Some areas escaped the shift of the season's start.

Along the Rio Grande in central New Mexico, officials said the yellowing of the cottonwoods was on schedule. So was the migration of the sandhill cranes and geese that visit Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge each fall.

In Gunnison, Colo., U.S. Forest Service pathologist Jim Worrall said things appeared to be normal, with only some reports of foliage changes being a week late.

Slight shifts in the peak of fall foliage are normal since the turning of the leaves is affected by moisture, temperature and exposure to daylight. Scientists say those elements come in different combinations each year, making no two fall seasons alike.

But with the sting of record drought and high temperatures still lingering, scientists are looking carefully at the region's forests to ensure they are healthy. With their white bark and lush understories, aspens are sometimes looked to as a "report card" for the forest.

It was a combination of record breaking temperatures and a severe drought that peaked in southern Colorado in 2002 that triggered a sudden decline in the aspen population, Worrall said.

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A quick reference guide in your time of bereavement

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**Seferina Nicole Fitz William**  
Born November 12, 1992 • Died August 11, 2004

Time has gone by so fast. It seems like only yesterday you were here with us. We love you and miss our little hummingbird so much.

Love Mom Lisa, Grandpa Mike, Brothers Chance & Cameron, Uncles Eddie, Mike, Zach & Albert Aunt's Nora, Kim, & Liz. Great Aunt Rosie & Great Uncle Joe, along with all your cousins.

**Happy 19th Birthday Baby!**