Board restarts altered LEAP

Board entertains adding student advisers to dais

By Damien Willis
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LAS CRUCES — The Las Cruces Public Schools board met Wednesday to discuss bringing back the Leading Edge Accelerated Program, or LEAP, to receive an update from Superintendent Stan Rounds on reorganization at the district's central office, and to address a pending lawsuit over the district's furlough plan.

After more than two hours in closed session, the board emerged and President Maria Flores called for a motion to declare a state of emergency under the Public Employees Bargaining Act. Twice, the request was met with silence from the board. No motion was made, and the board moved on with the agenda.

The declaration was intended to strengthen the district's position in a lawsuit filed by the Classified School Employees Council of Las Cruces over furloughs ordered for all employees as part of a budget-cutting effort.

During public input, Patrick Sanchez of the National Education Association-Las Cruces rhetorically called his own "state of emergency," and accused the district of sending out contracts for new employees that reflect 180 work days rather than the 183 in the teachers union's collective-bargaining agreement. He said sending out contracts that reflect the three-day furlough while the union and district are still at the bargaining table showed a lack of good faith.

CSEC, which represents custodians, cafeteria workers and employees in other non-teaching positions, has filed for an injunction against LCPS over the furloughs in district court, and with the state's Public Employees Labor Relations Board. No rulings have been handed down in either case.

"The fact that the school board did not vote on a declaration of emergency doesn't impair our continued efforts toward reaching a resolution with the CSEC bargaining team," Rounds told the Sun-News.

The board voted unanimously Wednesday to follow the Public Education Department's directive to restore its Leading Edge Accelerated Program at Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School. The PED refused to approve the district's budget submitted in May because defunding the LEAP program effectively closed MVAMS, in violation of the department's protocols for closing a school.

The district had hoped to save $350,000 by discontinuing the program. At Wednesday's meeting, Chief Academic Officer Andrea Fletcher told the board it could be reinstated for $323,000.

The district's Behavior Intervention Classroom Setting, or BICS program, will also be moved to Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School as a cost-saving measure. The BICS program primarily serves elementary children who need additional attention due to behavioral issues.

Fletcher said LEAP will continue to utilize a "project-based learning approach," but former principal Kathy Adams will no longer lead the program. Adams, who is Rounds' finance, will continue to head the Joint Ungraded Multiage Primary program. Dennis Padilla, the BICS administrator, will take over LEAP as well.

The board also heard from students interested in organizing and serving on a youth advisory council. A presentation by Kathie Davis, principal of Rio Grande Preparatory Institute, recommended asking the staffs at each high school to nominate students who are empathetic, have demonstrated leadership abilities, and have shown a history of fulfilling commitments.

From those nominees, three students each will be selected from Las Cruces, Mayfield, Oñate and Centennial high schools. Two students each will be chosen from Arrowhead Park Early College High School and Rio Grande Preparatory Academy. If the plan goes through as presented, student representatives will sit on the dais for one meeting or work session in a non-voting capacity, on a rotating basis. The student advisers could be in place as early as this September.

"I think the students can offer valuable input into the decisions we make," said board member Ed Frank.
Flores said including student voices on the board is something she's been pushing for six years.

"I'm just so excited about this," she said. "And I'm really excited that the principals are going to get all of their staff involved."

Rounds said he also thinks it's a great idea, and that it plays into an idea he's been hoping to implement.

"We'd like for students to experience what goes on with the school board. We think it's a good opportunity," Rounds said. "In putting this together, we've turned to our experts - the principals in those schools, and asked them to come up with a plan."

Rounds said he liked the plan that was presented, and hoped that he could use the panel of students to serve as a student advisory committee to help inform his decisions as superintendent, as well.

"I hope that this can serve as an opportunity to educate the students, but also to bring student issues to the board, through the superintendent's report," Rounds said. "In that way, we can give them a voice through my seat at the dais, and hopefully bring relevancy to some of the issues that they raise."

The resolution to move forward in exploring ways to implement the plan passed, 3-0, with board members Barbara Hall and Chuck Davis abstaining.

Wednesday's meeting was also the last for LCPS Chief of Staff Leslie Cervantes, who has been with the district since November 2006 and has served as chief of staff for the past two and a half years. Cervantes is leaving the district to serve as the vice president for alumni engagement and participation at New Mexico State University.

"It's been my honor to work for Las Cruces Public Schools for the last eight and a half years, as we created programs and business partnerships that positively impacted our schools and our kids," Cervantes told the Sun-News. "I'll miss the great people who work for LCPS. They're hard-working people, and I respect them greatly."

Cervantes said she was looking forward to joining the NMSU family, and making new relationships and partnerships in her role at the university.

"I never stand in the way of careers," Rounds said. "And she's very talented - but, boy, what a loss. I'm losing my right hand."

Flores took a moment in Wednesday's meeting to personally thank Cervantes for "her beautiful personality, and her incredible helpfulness."

Board member Maury Castro echoed Flores' sentiments.

"When we joined the board, she welcomed us with open arms. She's really helped us a lot," Castro said.

Damien Willis can be reached at 575-541-5468.
Ags working on radio and TV deals for home games

By Jason Groves
jgroves@lsun-news.com
@jgrovers on Twitter

LAS CRUCES — The recent multimedia rights agreement between New Mexico State University and Learfield Sports, now named New Mexico State Properties in Las Cruces, was a significant early accomplishment for Director of Athletics Mario Moccia.

It also created a sense of urgency as NMSU football kicks off the 2015 season Sept. 5 at Florida.

"The onus is on New Mexico State Sports Properties to find a local flagship station and affiliates around the state, and radio was one of the first things that they have done," Moccia said. "Learfield is doing a lot of that in person or from their home offices in Dallas and Jefferson City, Missouri."

Last week, Adams Radio Group of Las Cruces announced a one-year agreement to broadcast all home football and men's basketball games on The Ticket 570-AM.

"If it's a big, local game, you'll hear it on FOX Sports AM 570 The Ticket this season," Adams Radio Group of Las Cruces Operations Manager and Program Director Ernesto Garcia said.

Garcia said that Learfield has approached affiliates throughout the state about continuing to carry Aggie broadcasts.

At Tuesday's NMSU football media day event, Moccia said the school will televise all five home football games live in Las Cruces.

"Prior to (New Mexico State Sports Properties) being in place, the athletic department, myself and (Associate AD) Steve Macy have had meetings with Comcast, Fox Sports Arizona and, I believe Fox Sports Southwest," Moccia said. "We have plans right now to televise all home football games and a certain amount of men's basketball games."

AggieVision will produce the home game broadcasts live in Las Cruces, Moccia said.

Moccia said the guaranteed revenue ($1 million per year) created as a result of NMSU's seven-year contract with Learfield does not detract from his staff's effort to fill Aggie Memorial Stadium with fans this season.

"When we were selling the games ourselves, in my opinion, we were not maximizing enough revenue to justify a live broadcast," Moccia said. "When you have a deal with Learfield that almost triples what we were making two and three years ago, as much as I want the stands full, I am taking a lot of money from a corporate sponsorship standpoint."

Their job is to go out and sell and make a profit from our TV broadcasts. It's not my favorite thing, but we desperately need the revenue.

"Our charge is to work double and get people off their sofas and sell the experience of a game."

What the NMSU broadcasts will look like, who will be in the play by play booth and what station games will be available on is yet to be determined.

"The timing was terrible," said Chris Lahey, who was hired by Learfield as the general manager for New Mexico State Sports Properties. "It looks like there is a good base here of sponsors and partners. I think they are hungry for more success."

Lahey has worked for Learfield Sports for less than two weeks. He came to Las Cruces after two years heading up corporate sponsorships at Saint Leo University in Florida, following 10 years at South Florida while ESPN held the USF media rights at the time.

Adams Radio Group will broadcast select postseason games for women's basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball. NMSU student station 91.5 KRUX-FM broadcast spring sports last season and Lahey did not rule that out this year.

"The football program there was a start up, and here I'm hearing there is nowhere to go but up," Lahey said. "We talk about football because it's driving college athletics. The other pieces will fall into place, but football had to be taken care of fast."

Radio and television broadcasts are likely to be streamed on NMSU's website, which will also have a new look. It's likely there will be a fee for streaming service.

"I don't know what that will look like yet, but those will be conversations we have with Adams Radio," Lahey said. "But that streaming service will be a piece of Learfield's inventory. There is some merit to having that but there is a balance of how we generate revenue and making a partner happy in the community with Adams. It's really important to have that."

Sports Editor Jason Groves can be reached at 575-541-5459
Innovation Fellow participated in White House Demo Day

By Linda Fresques
lfresque@nmsu.edu

LAS CRUCES — The wide-ranging talents of innovators from across the country were showcased earlier this week at the first-ever White House Demo Day. Innovators from around the country joined President Barak Obama to demonstrate their individual success stories and show why every American should have the opportunity to pursue bold, game-changing ideas. Among those invited to participate in the event was New Mexico State University electrical engineering Ph.D. candidate Shanta Thoutam, also a University Innovation Fellow.

Thoutam is one of six NMSU University Innovation Fellows who are part of a cohort of 300 students from 115 higher education institutions across the United States under the National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation. The program is funded by the National Science Foundation and directed by Stanford University and VentureWell. The University Innovation Fellows program empowers students to become agents of change at their schools.

Thoutam, along with other fellows, was invited to the celebration and were broadcasted from the 1776 DC Co-Working Space while talking about what they are doing on campus to improve their respective university innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystems. A startup hub, 1776 DC offers worldwide access to the powerful Washington, D.C. region.

“My experience of visiting the 1776 global incubator’s co-working space was mind boggling. It housed so many temporary and permanent members who are working on startups to transform industries such as education, energy and sustainability and health all having the potential of impacting millions of people,” said Thoutam.

As part of the celebration, some 30 educational institutions, including NMSU, collectively signed a letter of commitment addressed to President Obama emphasizing their goal to provide all students on campus, regardless of major, with access to innovation and entrepreneurship learning opportunities.

“Our nation’s higher education institutions have long held great economic potential. Higher education spending on research and development in FY2013 totaled $67.2 billion. This resulted in more than 24,500 patent applications and 43,300 licenses, a 20 percent increase in new commercial products from the year prior. While the primary purpose of academic research remains the education of America’s next generation of scientists and engineers, it is vital that our innovations are commercialized so they may benefit society and create economic opportunity,” read the letter.

Accompanying the letter were statements of commitment from the educational institutions, including one from NMSU signed by Garrey Carruthers, chancellor, and University Innovation Fellows Shanta Thoutam, Brendan Sullivan, Jamie Valesquez, Ember Krech, Karl Johannes and Marcio Garcia.

The NMSU letter noted accomplishments on campus that have already supported innovation, including creation of the Aggie Innovation Space, available to students campuswide; support for student business startups at the Studio G Incubator; and participation in the EpiCenter Pathways to Innovation program to deploy innovation education throughout the engineering curriculum.

The University Innovation Fellows are a national community of students in engineering and related fields who work to ensure that their peers gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to compete in the economy of the future. To accomplish this, the Fellows advocate for lasting institutional change and create opportunities for students to engage with entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity, design thinking and venture creation at their schools.

Said Thoutam, “Over the summer, I definitely learned a lot about startup and entrepreneurial culture and certainly will bring my first-hand experiences and ideas to enlighten my peers who can join us in building a viable and sustainable innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem on campus of NMSU. I am quite positive about adding value to my UIF project and also to Arrowhead Center’s Launch program by implementing advanced techniques that I learned over summer to promote tech transfer and commercialization mindset of not only the students, but also the faculty members.”

Linda Fresques writes for NMSU University Communications and may be reached at 575-646-7416.
New Mexico State University electrical engineering Ph.D. candidate Shanta Thoutam, who is a University Innovation Fellow, visited the 1776 DC Co-Working Space as part of the first-ever White House Demo Day to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.
NMSU Aggies look for first winning season since 2002
Andy Morgan

It's no secret the New Mexico State Aggies have historically struggled on the football field.

No bowl game since 1960. Their last winning season was in 2002.

So how are they going to stay positive and shine their improvements?

"Football is a simple game. Get the ball to your play makers and let them make plays," sophomore running back Larry Rose III said. "When you can outweigh a team with play makers, then you definitely have the upper-hand."

Head coach Doug Martin thinks he has the playmakers to have the Aggies take the field with a reputation as a high scoring team.

His top playmakers certainly have that belief.

"Getting us, me, Larry and you can say Tyrain (Taylor) in open space, that's really good for us because we're shifty guys and we can make people miss. Score 30. That's the motto. Coach Martin says that. We just have to score 30," wide receiver Teldrick Morgan said.

Morgan is a returning all-conference selection and he's on the Fred Biletnikoff Award watch list, an award that goes to the nation's best college wide out.

Martin is also confident in his running back Rose.

"Larry Rose is definitely an All-Conference back," Martin said. "In my opinion the best running back in the Sun Belt Conference. We have to make sure we have plays designed to get the ball in those play makers hands."

The Aggies open their season Sept. 4 at Florida.
LEED Certified Buildings
Ranked by # of LEED points
Brandon Call

Information was obtained from the U.S. Green Building Council and includes only buildings certified in calendar year 2014. In case of ties, companies are listed alphabetically.

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575-483-2411 | 43 | Certified | May 29, 2014 | Existing building v2009 | Commercial |
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| 21 | APS Sports Complex  
1601 Arroyo Vista Blvd.  
NW  
Albuquerque 87120  
505-880-3700 | 42 | Gold | July 2, 2014 | New construction v2.2 | K12 |
| 22 | Cleanair Systems Expansion  
2600A Camino Entrada  
Santa Fe 87507  
505-474-4120 | 41 | Certified | Feb. 28, 2014 | Existing building v2009 | Commercial |
| 22 | Wells Fargo Bank Dexter Branch  
113 Lincoln Ave.  
Dexter 88230  
575-734-5462 | 41 | Certified | May 29, 2014 | New construction v2.2 | Commercial |
| 24 | NMHU Student Center  
Box 9000  
Las Vegas 87701  
505-425-7511 | 40 | Gold | Feb. 19, 2014 | New construction v2.2 | Higher education |
| 25 | UNM Castetter Hall  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque 87131  
505-277-0111 | 38 | Silver | Aug. 5, 2014 | New construction v2.2 | Higher education |
Scientists are captivated by Jupiter’s gigantic storm, The Great Red Spot and NASA has taken a closer look as well. The storm is so big it is twice as wide as Earth. Some of the most powerful and epic hurricanes recorded on Earth have been as large as 1,000 miles across. These storms are in no comparison to the storm on Jupiter.

The Great Red Spot has been swirling at about 400 mph. Scientists say that the storm has been over Jupiter’s skies for maybe even longer than 150 years. The Great Red Spot is is said to have perfect conditions due to it being trapped between two jet streams.

NASA states that, “The Great Red Spot is an anticyclone swirling around a center of high atmospheric pressure that makes it rotate in the opposite sense of hurricanes on Earth.” Scientists are captivated by the storm, and believe that some people stargazing through telescopes back in the 1600’s may have seen this same Great Red Spot. They still are unsure of what causes the red hues that swirl around in a marbleized pattern.

Jupiter is very complicated. The planet is over a thousand times as big as the Earth, and is mostly made up of gas. Surrounding Jupiter’s core is a liquid of hydrogen much like an ocean. The atmosphere is mostly comprised of mainly hydrogen and helium. These components make Jupiter have no solid ground like here on Earth. No solid ground also means the storms do not weaken. A lot of Jupiter’s clouds obstruct closer observations of it’s atmosphere and what lies below.

Amy Simon, expert in pantry atmospheres at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, said that learning more about this massive storm can ultimately help scientists understand the weather system on Earth better. Simon goes on to explain that weather functions are very similar and under the same set of physics as Earth, just much farther from the sun. Simon also says these studies could help our understanding of places beyond our solar system.

Studies conducted so far predict that clouds around Jupiter’s upper atmosphere are filled with ammonia, ammonium hydrosulfide, and water. Scientists still ponder on whether the chemical reactions are what gives the Great Red Spot it’s red hues.

“We’re talking about something that only makes up a really tiny portion of the atmosphere. That’s what makes it so hard to figure out exactly what makes the colors that we see,” stated Simon.
Two other scientists at Goddard, Mark Loeffler and Reggie Hudson, have been performing studies with cosmic rays. They are investigating whether one type of radiation that hits the clouds of Jupiter can alter the chemical make up and comprise new compounds explaining the color variations found. Duplicating more realistic atmosphere’s like Jupiter’s, is the key and complications to getting better results.

NASA’s Planetary Atmospheres and Outer Planets programs are funding the scientists who are to appear in the journal Icarus later in the year. Nancy Chanover, an astronomer from New Mexico State University, will also take part in the studies.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS CRUCES — State Attorney General Hector Balderas doesn’t want New Mexico communities to be pitted against one another as water resources dwindle and an interstate legal challenge over the Rio Grande looms.

Balderas announced Thursday during a visit to Las Cruces that his office is partnering with the Water Resources Research Institute at New Mexico State University.

The goal is to find more innovative ways to use water and to plan for future demand. "It’s a long-term strategy to better protect families in New Mexico, recognizing that water is vital. It’s a public safety issue as well as an economic development issue," Balderas said.

New Mexico is enjoying one of its wettest periods in close to a decade thanks to afternoon thunderstorms consistently dumping rain over many parts of the state. On Monday, the rain gauge at the Albuquerque airport recorded 2.24 inches, setting a record for 24-hour rainfall.

While severe drought has all but disappeared from the latest maps, forecasters say New Mexico will need even more rain if it wants to reverse the effects of back-to-back dry years in which the state recorded record-low reservoir levels and river flows.

Under the partnership between the research institute and the attorney general’s office, scientists plan to get a better handle on the water resources available in New Mexico.

The attorney general’s office is investing $1 million from its consumer protection fund in the institute to help with the work.

It’s just as important to fund research as it is litigation, Balderas said.
Nine teens will compete at state 4-H conference

 Competitors in it to win at New Mexico State University next week.

By Aubry Buzek
STAFF WRITER
abuzek@cnjonline.com

Curry County 4-H is gearing up to take nine competitors to the New Mexico State 4-H Conference next week at New Mexico State University, and according to 4-H Agent Janelle Duffey, they are in it to win.

“They are all fired up,” Duffey said. “They are extremely competitive, well-rounded, goal-oriented young people.”

The sophomore through seniors will be competing in two teams of four in agronomy, wildlife habitat evaluation, livestock skill-a-thon, meats identification, and livestock judging.

To earn a spot on team one, the individuals first had to win a top four individual placing at the county contest.

Duffey said competitors began attending regular practices right after school let out.

“It’s pretty hectic,” said competitor Garrett Rutherford, 16, of Grady. “I’m practicing as hard as I can with my other team members.”

Rutherford said the team has been using a variety of study methods to practice for the events, including visiting local farms to evaluate livestock, all to “go in with confidence and be able to do your best.”

It also helps that nearly all of the team members have attended the state conference together before.

“We are very close knit — and we know each others strengths and weaknesses,” Rutherford said. “We’ve also been good friends for a long time.”

If any of the teams win the state conference, which Duffey said they’ve been only points away from achieving in previous years, they will earn a spot at the national 4-H conference later this year.

“I keep telling them this is your year,” Duffey said. “If we are going to do it this is the year to do it.”

The teams will practice one more time in an intense, all-day session tomorrow, and then Monday it’s off to Las Cruces.

“At this point they’ve learned all they are going to learn, so it’s just a matter of cheering them on and helping them out and being the supportive person,” Duffey said.
NEW MEXICO

AG to partner with water research center

LAS CRUCES - State Attorney General Hector Balderas says he doesn’t want New Mexico communities to be pitted against one another as water resources dwindle and an interstate legal challenge over the Rio Grande looms.

So Balderas announced Thursday during a visit to Las Cruces that his office is partnering with the Water Resources Research Institute at New Mexico State University.

Balderas says the goal is to be more innovative when dealing with water planning and the use of water in general.

He also wants to find a reasonable resolution to the fight with Texas over the Rio Grande but still protect the rights of New Mexico citizens.

— The Associated Press
Doug Lederman

Brad Andrews, senior vice president for student success and strategic enrollment at Carthage College, in Wisconsin, has been appointed president of Southwestern College, in Kansas.

James C. Bean, provost at the University of Oregon, has been selected as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Northeastern University, in Massachusetts.

Joseph D. Bessie, professor of philosophy and former provost at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, has been named provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Minnesota State University-Moorhead.

Ryan Carstens, vice president for academic affairs at New Mexico State University, has been chosen as president of Spokane Community College, in Washington.

Alan LaFave, dean of the School of Fine Arts at Northern State University, in South Dakota, has been promoted to provost and vice president of academic affairs there.

Edward F. Leonard III, president of Bethany College, in Kansas, has been named president of Birmingham-Southern College, in Alabama.

Ronald Mason Jr., president of Southern University and A&M College System, in Louisiana, has been chosen as president of the University of the District of Columbia.

Margaret McKenna, acting director of the Sillerman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy at Brandeis University and former president of Lesley University, in Massachusetts, has been appointed president of Suffolk University, also in Massachusetts.

Kerri Schuiling, professor and dean of the College of Health Sciences and Professional Studies at Northern Michigan University, has been promoted to provost and vice president for academic affairs there.

C. Reynold Verret, provost and chief academic officer at Savannah State University, in Georgia, has been named president of Xavier University of Louisiana.
Agriculture’s role in NM economy, culture, water cycle
By Jeff Witte

National Farmers Market Week this week got me thinking about the economic and cultural importance of not just the state’s 75 farmers markets, but of New Mexico agriculture more broadly.

Jeff Witte, New Mexico Department of Agriculture secretary.

On the economics side, New Mexico agriculture is a $4 billion-a-year sector. But the true financial impact of agriculture in the state is much bigger. Four billion is a measure of the value of agricultural commodities at the farm or ranch: things like live cattle, raw milk, and unprocessed wheat. Turning those commodities into the products that most people no longer make for themselves – such as when milk gets turned into cheese, and when wheat gets turned into flour – adds several billion dollars more to the system.

In fact, researchers at New Mexico State University recently estimated that agriculture and food processing, combined, “accounted for $10.6 billion (roughly 12.3%) of New Mexico’s $86.5 billion gross state product (GSP) in 2012. In addition, the two industries directly created 32,578 jobs and 18,308 jobs in related support activities for a total of 50,886 jobs statewide.” (Interested readers can learn more by reading NMSU Cooperative Extension Service Circular 675, entitled “Agriculture’s Contribution to New Mexico’s Economy”.)

Given the slim profit margins in agriculture, farmers and ranchers are always looking for new efficiencies. That fact bears out in some interesting ways. For instance, recent news stories about our declining chile acreage ignore the fact that New Mexico chile growers are now growing more chile per acre than they were 25 years ago. They and other growers have adopted things like laser leveling, drip irrigation, sensor technology, and satellite imaging – all of which contribute to more efficient water use by both plants and farmers. But traditional flood irrigation – watering crops by applying water to the surface of the ground in which they’re growing – has its own merits. Research conducted at NMSU (Ward, 2008) shows that as much as 58 percent of the water applied to some of New Mexico’s major crops via flood irrigation returns to the aquifer. With these “return flows”, as they’re known, water gets filtered as it percolates through the ground. Then it’s available for others, including municipalities that provide drinking water to the bulk of the people reading this…perhaps you.

Even if you dwell in an urban area, chances are that agriculture exists nearby. Data released by USDA last year showed that there are nearly 25,000 farms, ranches, and other such agricultural operations across New Mexico. That figure covers a wide range of sizes – including small farms with $1,000 worth of production a year – as well as ethnic backgrounds, ages, and crops. And agricultural diversity translates into a diverse economy.
While a dollars-and-cents approach is helpful when talking about agriculture and its water use, it ignores the tremendous cultural contributions farming and ranching make to New Mexico. What would this region be like without the people who have called this place home for centuries and even millennia, thanks in part to the Three Sisters of beans, corn, and squash? How different would the meaning of la comunidad be in northern New Mexico without the water-sharing approach of our acequia system? What water would sustain our state’s wildlife populations if not for the rainwater that sheep and cattle ranchers catch in dirt tanks to water their animals year-round?

And what would a Saturday morning in your community feel like without the vibrancy of your local farmers market? The state’s 75 farmers markets are all the more important when you consider the high rate of food deserts (low-income communities with limited access to grocery stores) here. Many of these markets are now participating in a program called Double Up Food Bucks, which allows recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to double their purchasing power of fresh, local food at the farmers market. That’s good for low-income families, farmers and ranchers who sell at the market, and communities that will see those dollars spent and re-spent locally.

I often tell people that farmers and ranchers take water – a substance that begins with zero calories, zero protein, zero fiber – and make it nutritious. If you’d like to consider directing water away from agriculture, I ask you to please save that thought for the next time you sit down to eat. Would you be willing to part with the enchiladas that were made using New Mexico chile, onions, and cheese? Neither would I. New Mexico’s unique cuisine is dependent on New Mexico’s unique agricultural heritage. And while our unique cuisine is something we have access to whenever the craving hits, it’s coveted by those who live elsewhere. Eating New Mexican food is an important part of the experience tourists come here looking for.

I grew up on a ranch in northern New Mexico. I know how hard agricultural work is, and how thankless it may seems on tough days – but in the end, it’s still one of the most rewarding things people can do for themselves, their families, and their communities. Thank you to all the past, present, and future farmers and ranchers across New Mexico, and thanks to everyone who stands in strong support of them.
LAS CRUCES — State Attorney General Hector Balderas doesn’t want New Mexico communities to be pitted against one another as water resources dwindle and an interstate legal challenge over the Rio Grande looms.

Balderas announced Thursday during a visit to Las Cruces that his office is partnering with the Water Resources Research Institute at New Mexico State University.

The goal is to find more innovative ways to use water and to plan for future demand. “It’s a long-term strategy to better protect families in New Mexico, recognizing that water is vital. It’s a public safety issue as well as an economic development issue,” Balderas said.

New Mexico is enjoying one of its wettest periods in close to a decade thanks to afternoon thunderstorms consistently dumping rain over many parts of the state. On Monday, the rain gauge at the Albuquerque airport recorded 2.24 inches, setting a record for 24-hour rainfall.

While severe drought has all but disappeared from the latest maps, forecasters say New Mexico will need even more rain if it wants to reverse the effects of back-to-back dry years in which the state recorded record-low reservoir levels and river flows.

Under the partnerships between the research institute and the attorney general’s office, scientists plan to get a better handle on the water resources available in New Mexico.

The attorney general’s office is investing $1 million from its consumer protection fund in the institute to help with the work.

It’s just as important to fund research as it is litigation, Balderas said.
Easy tips to help manage your weed problem this season

9. Weeds! I have more weeds in my garden than I can remember ever having before. I guess it is because this year we had so much early rain. Can you give me any advice to make help me get rid of the weeds more easily? I prefer to not use chemicals.

A. Getting rid of weeds is not a realistic prospect, managing them to minimize their negative impacts can be done.

In managing weeds, persistence is a critical weapon in your arsenal.

Weeds quickly get out of hand if you do not deal with weeds on a regular basis, whether your approach is to use cultural or chemical weed management practices.

The moisture that some of New Mexico had during May and June has resulted in earlier and more abundant growth of weeds.

Cultural weed management practices include a number of things. Irrigation methods that localize moisture will help reduce weed growth during periods between rains.

Mulch can also help reduce weeds and make them easier to remove. Use of low-growing, spreading groundcover plants can serve as living mulch with the same effect. Frequent removal of weeds manually is also important.

Irrigation by drip irrigation, olla irrigation, or other means that directs water to limited areas where it most benefits desired plants conserves water and weakens weeds that try to grow elsewhere on rain water alone.

Without supplemental water, weeds will grow more slowly and give you more time to remove them.

It is easier to remove weeds from most soil, so whenever possible remove these weeds soon after a rain. In areas of irrigation, frequent weed management will be necessary.

In areas away from irrigation a scuffle hoe is a useful tool. A scuffle hoe is one that cuts weeds just at or just below the soil line. In the case of annual weeds this removes the weed and by minimizing soil disturbance reduces new weed seed germination.

If the weeds are perennial weeds they will grow back from their roots, but frequent cutting with the scuffle hoe will weaken the weeds to the point that they grow back very slowly or not at all.

Chopping the soil with a traditional hoe or digging with a shovel disturbs the soil and brings new weed seeds to the surface where they can germinate.

Weed seeds buried deeply
in the soil may remain alive for many years, but do not grow until they are near the surface and receive sunlight.

Mulch helps reduce weeds by reducing the light at the surface of the soil and inhibiting weed seed germination.

Perennial weeds may come through the mulch, but because the mulch conserves moisture in the soil, the mulch can make it easier to pull the weeds.

Some scuffle hoes can work through a layer of mulch and may be employed to remove weeds growing in mulch.

The choice of organic mulch (wood chips, straw, or bark) or inorganic mulch (crusher fines, gravel, cobbles, and such) depends on the plants in the landscape and garden.

Some can tolerate the heat that inorganic mulch accumulates, but others need the organic mulches that do not generate as much heat from our plentiful New Mexico summer sunshine.

Understanding which weeds you have growing in your garden and landscape is important in managing the weeds.

I referred to annual and perennial weeds and mentioned some of their characteristics.

The annual weeds (pincushion vine/goatheads, pigweed, purslane, mustard weeds, spurge, some grasses, and many others) must grow from seeds each year.

Some germinate in the fall and survive the winter, some germinate in late winter and some do not begin growing until the soil warms in late spring.

If you prevent them from forming seeds you can reduce the potential weed problems for the next year.

However, since weeds seeds can persist in the soil many years before germinating, they will continue to reappear, but you can begin to reduce their presence by your persistence.

Perennial weeds (silverleaf nightshade, globe mallow, bindweed, and others) grow from seeds as well, but they also are able to regrow from buds on their root systems.

Pulling newly germinated perennial weeds before they can establish their perennial root system helps reduce the problem.

As they regrow from established root systems, frequent removal of the tops will help diminish the food reserves in the roots and weaken the weeds over time.

As they become weaker, they become easier to manage.

Send your gardening questions to Yard and Garden, Attn: Dr. Curtis Smith, NMSU Agricultural Science Center, 1036 Miller Road SW, Los Lunas, NM 87031. You may also send to cwsmith@nmsu.edu or leave a message at facebook.com/NMSUExtExpStnPubs. Curtis W. Smith, Ph.D., is an Extension Horticulture Specialist, retired from New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.
Summer hits at the RMAC; new exhibits, fun

By Michael Hall
Executive Director

This summer is proving to be a very productive one at the Roswell Museum and Art Center.

As the executive director, I am particularly proud of the numerous programs, events and lectures we are offering, as well as many new exhibits. An entire article will be devoted to the new exhibits soon. I am going to just give a sample of the fun activities we have.

Top among our notable summer programs is “Arts for Autism” that reconvened the last Saturday of June for a second season of activities.

This free program was created by RMAC Education Curator Claudia Gonzalez last January for families with autistic youths and the initial sessions enjoyed a very successful first quarter.

It is now back by popular demand with a new series of adventures in partnership with the New Mexico Autism Society. These activities remain not just an art class in multiple mediums, but a forum to introduce youths with special needs to new levels of self-confidence and socialization.

During last Saturday's class, families worked with their children and enjoyed the art of creating “Jellyfish” light designs, which incorporated art and science in an innovative exercise.

As they made these jellyfish lights, the class discussed those sea creatures and how they pulse in the water and the way in which this life form must rely on their tentacles to catch food.

This sensory lesson challenged new experiences for our wonderful students.

Also in June, the RMAC’s first in a series of three Friday night sci-fi adventure movies launched. We featured the alien adventure Independence Day as a warm-up for our Fourth of July RMAC Costume Contest.

(Speaking of the Costume Contest, it was a smashing success with Events Coordinator Olga McGuire.)

Our movies are of note here because they remain our proudest feature.

Film features allow us to host parents participating in an enjoyable family activity of movie going with their children.

Free popcorn and snacks make it an even more enjoyable evening. The next two family movie nights are on Friday, July 10 with Titan and Battle for Terra on Friday, July 24. All features start at 7 p.m. at the Roswell.
Museum and Art Center.

Our clay classes are already full this summer and all of our offerings in art are a big success. They provide a wide variety of art all the way from drawing to yoga to a new experiment in crocheting.

Summer guitar classes with Johnathan Gomez are a major hit too and are all in harmony to bring music into our world of the arts.

This summer we have also featured some enjoyable free lectures for the public. We want to thank senior curator from the Hubbard Museum, Brittany Porter, for providing a fantastic lecture this last Wednesday.

Her presentation, “My Land is the Southwest,” focused on the National Register of Historic Places area nomination process and the designation of the Peter and Henriette Wyeth Hurd House and Studios in San Patricio.

Dr. L. Hernandez Gomez provided another very well received lecture recently. She spoke as a representative of the League of Imaginary Scientists, a Los Angeles-based art group specializing in Pataphysics, Interactive Art and Art/Science Collaborations.

Dr. Hernandez discussed “Life on Earth vs. Life on Mars” which was a climate-focused art lecture.

Her hands-on approach seeks interplanetary solutions to local environmental concerns.

Following the lecture Dr. Hernandez engaged in a workshop with several participants including a very interested youth who developed an even greater appreciation for our delicate natural environment.

Our Xcel Energy grant-funded mentoring program completed two more successful sessions in June. We welcomed Evan Feldman, the Director of Contemporary Art at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe. She presented a program on New Mexico Galleries.

Galleries are the business end of the art scene, and this was an important lesson in dollars and common sense. That is exactly what our program is about, providing a wide variety of skills that are not taught in most academic settings.

This is an amazing opportunity and a totally free one for any high school age youth who has an interest in a career in art.

Our eight sessions are providing insights and experiences that no art class or college preparatory course will provide.

Most recently we welcomed Marisa Sage for the fifth program in our series of eight. Ms. Sage is the new director of the New Mexico State University Gallery, who featured a lesson on creating “Effective Portfolios.”

Putting together an effective portfolio is a key skill for any aspiring artist. Art-bound students can still join remaining sessions, and there will continue to be new offerings for everyone at the RMAC!

So stay tuned and for more information contact us at education@roswellmuseum.org.
Spacecraft flyby brings discoverer close to Pluto

New Horizons to carry former NMSU instructor’s ashes past dwarf planet Tuesday

By Robin Martin
The New Mexican

A New Mexican scientist will be the first human to leave the solar system.

Some of astronomer Clyde Tombaugh's ashes are aboard the spacecraft New Horizons, due Tuesday to zip by Pluto — the dwarf planet he discovered — on its way to outer space.

New Horizons is the fastest spacecraft ever. Smaller than a grand piano, it was launched in 2006 from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Flying at about 31,000 miles per hour, it will come within 7,500 miles of Pluto. The 3 billion-mile trip has taken more than nine years.

Until now, photos of the dwarf planet have been fuzzy, even with the Hubble Space Telescope's powerful optics. The photos received from New Horizons during the past few days show a surface that has colors and geological features. As the craft flies closer to Pluto, these features will become clearer.

Scientists divide our solar system into three zones: Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, rocky planets nearest the sun; Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, giants of gas and ice; farthest out, the Kuiper belt, containing dwarf planets such as Pluto, Eris, Haumea and Makemake.

Pluto was the first Kuiper belt object discovered — in 1930 by Tombaugh. In 1997, the astronomer died at the age of 91 in Las Cruces, where he had retired after serving on the faculty of New Mexico State University.

Growing up on an Illinois farm, Tombaugh built his first telescope with automobile and farm machinery parts. Drawings he made of Mars and Jupiter, using that and other homemade telescopes, landed him a job at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz., in 1929. There, he searched for “Planet X” by comparing hundreds of photographs to see if any bright spots were traveling across the background of fixed stars.

Scientists predicted the existence of a ninth planet because they had found the orbits of Uranus and Neptune were disturbed in ways they couldn't otherwise explain. After about a year of searching, Tombaugh discovered “Planet X.” It was named Pluto after the Roman god of the underworld, a name suggested by an English schoolgirl.

After the discovery, Tombaugh won a scholarship to the University of Kansas, where he earned an undergraduate and a master's degree. Until World War II, he continued searching the heavens at Lowell Observatory, documenting star clusters, asteroids, comets and more than 29,000 galaxies. During the war, he taught navigation for the Navy. Later, he moved on to the White Sands Proving Ground in Southern New Mexico. In 1953, he joined the faculty at NMSU, where he worked until retirement in 1973.

As their calculations became more sophisticated, astronomers realized Pluto is much smaller than they had originally thought, a small object in a dance with many moons. Then they began to discover other objects of a similar size in the Kuiper belt.

In 2006, the same year that New Horizons was launched from Cape Canaveral, Pluto was demoted to a dwarf planet.

NASA estimates Pluto's diameter is about 1,500 miles. Its largest moon, Charon, is about half that size, and also will be studied by instruments on New Horizons.

Pluto is so far away from Earth that signals from the flyby of New Horizons will take almost 4½ hours to reach us. And the bandwidth of transmission is so slow that it will be a year before all the data reaches us.

The spacecraft is powered by only 202 watts, equivalent to a few light bulbs.

Using data from the flyby, scientists will study the geology of Pluto and its moon Charon, the composition of their surfaces and atmospheres, and their temperatures. Perhaps they may even find Saturn-like rings and other moons. People can follow the discoveries at nasa.gov/newhorizons.

On Tuesday, Tombaugh will be as close to Pluto as any man ever has, before the spacecraft carrying his ashes continues to outer space.

Clyde Tombaugh in 1931 with the telescope through which he discovered Pluto at Lowell Observatory in Arizona. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Clyde Tombaugh in 1990. On Tuesday, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, carrying his ashes, is scheduled to pass within 7,800 miles of Pluto, which he discovered 85 years ago. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO
Working With Small-Acreage Farmers To Meet Local Demands

By Jane Moorman

Trending nationally and here in New Mexico is an increasing desire to eat local food, including locally grown fruits and vegetables. The change in consumer purchasing could be a windfall for small-acreage farmers around the state.

New Mexico State University (NMSU) is working with small-acreage farmers to help meet the demand.

"In the Albuquerque metropolitan area, 80 percent of the fresh fruits and vegetables eaten come from outside of New Mexico," said Michael Patrick, economic development specialist with NMSU’s College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

Currently, the primary source of locally grown produce is farmers markets, according to research Patrick conducted with a New Mexico Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Grant.

"The number of growers markets and vendors has steadily increased since 2006. In the Albuquerque area, an estimated $2.2 million in sales was generated last year," Patrick said.

Statewide in 2013, there were more than 70 farmers markets with nearly 1,000 vendors and sales of more than $8 million, according to the New Mexico Farmers’ Marketing Association.

Another source of increasing demand is restaurants that desire locally grown vegetables and fruits. Chefs like to feature quality fresh ingredients, yet obtaining local produce consistently can be a challenge.

New Mexico school districts are also purchasing locally grown food. In an effort to help meet the new U.S. Department of Agriculture’s school nutritional guidelines for fresh fruits and vegetables, the state legislature provides funding to districts to reach those guidelines while stimulating local economies.

"Los Lunas, Santa Fe and other school districts around the state are taking advantage of this program," said John Garlisch, Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service agricultural agent. "Districts are exploring the program’s feasibility and connecting with their local farmers."

While the potential demand is huge, Patrick’s research indicated a need to work with local growers to help meet the demand.

"There are several issues that need to be addressed, including land-use, labor, water and weather, as well as meeting the institutional buyer demands, volume, quality and distribution," Patrick said.

"The average age of a farmer is 65 years old," Garlisch said. "The opportunity for growth to help meet the demand for local produce lies with small-acreage farmers and beginning farmers."

NMSU’s Cooperative Extension Service is addressing these production challenges through educational trainings statewide.

Recently, a vegetable-farming workshop was held in Albuquerque, teaching farmers about a variety of production topics. Of the attendees, 90 percent farmed 10 acres or less and 75 percent had farmed for less than 10 years.

"Many current growers see themselves as hobby gardeners, not as production agriculture," Garlisch said. "But they are farmers. They are contributing fresh produce into the food chain, whether it is just for themselves and their neighbors or selling into a market."

NMSU Extension is replicating these trainings across the state to help producers reach this new demand.

Ongoing programs available are hoop house construction to extend seasonal production, soil and cover crops, integrated pest management, growing fruits and vegetables, and value-added marketing. NMSU also offers production information through online resources at aces.nmsu.edu/pubs.

"New Mexico has a potential to invest in its local businesses by supporting local farmers and locally grown food," Garlisch said. "This is a good challenge and a great opportunity as well."

To locate a growers market near you visit farmersmarket.nm.org.
Obituaries

COINMAN: Nancy Ruth Coinman died Monday, July 6, 2015, at her home in Mimbres. Nancy Ruth (Braun, Arvidson) Coinman was born on Dec. 12, 1944, in St. Paul, Minn., to Ruth Ann (Braun) Arvidson and Murray David Braun. She is survived by her siblings, William Arvidson (Patricia), Gloria Felts (Rick), Edward Arvidson (Denise), Cynthia Marquez and Elizabeth Direen (Alan). She was preceded in death by mother, Ruth, in 1989; father, Murray, in 1944; adoptive father, Raymond Arvidson, in 2012; and brother, Frederick Arvidson, in 1999. She moved to Albuquerque in 1950, where she attended St. Mary’s, Holy Ghost, Wilson Junior High and Highland High. She graduated from HHS in 1962 and from New Mexico State University in 1966. In 1967, she married Mike Coinman. He was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and became a pilot, but died in an aviation accident in 1969. She stayed in California where she taught school and traveled often to Europe, Africa, Asia and South America. Her traveling fueled a fascination with cultural anthropology that led her to obtain master’s and doctorate degrees in anthropology from Arizona State University. She taught at Tulsa University and then in 1993 was hired by Iowa State University where she taught anthropology and archaeology and led field archaeology research in Jordan during several summers. She retired in 2009 and moved to Mimbres, where she became active in the local archaeology scene and in community service. After a three-year struggle with cancer, with compassionate care from the New Mexico Cancer Center in Silver City, and assistance from neighbors and siblings, she was able to stay in her beloved home in Mimbres. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mimbres Health Action League or the Grant County Archaeology Society. Cremation has taken place at Terrazas Crematory. Arrangements are with Terrazas Funeral Chapels and Crematory. “Trusted care for the ones you love.” Phone 537-0777. To send condolences, visit www.terrazasfuneralchapel.com.
Former Viking, Jackson, to share message for men
Spencer Dream Center to host freewill offering men's breakfast Saturday
By Randy M. Cauthron

Joe Jackson, who played along such pro football greats as Fran Tarkenton, Joe Namath and the Minnesota Viking's vaunted "Purple People Eaters," will be featured at a men's freewill offering breakfast at the Spencer Dream Center at 9 a.m. Saturday. The event is hosted by Dayspring Assembly of God Church in Spencer. (Photo submitted)

Raised in a Christian family in Cincinnati, Ohio, former Minnesota Viking Joe Jackson was baptized at 12 as a member of Second Trinity Baptist Church, but it wasn't until later in life that he committed his life to Christ. Today, rather than lining up with "Purple People Eaters" -- Carl Eller, Alan Page and Jim Marshall -- he leads Joe Jackson Ministries and is the pro director of Athletes International Ministries. He also serves a church evangelist at Phoenix First Assembly of God Church.

Jackson will lead a men's breakfast beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Spencer Dream Center. The breakfast -- which will include pancakes, sausage, bacon, hash browns and scrambled eggs for a freewill donation -- is open to all men in Spencer and the surrounding communities.

Jackson's message to the men ... "will depend on where God's leading me."

"I'll be sharing my story, my journey, not just to the NFL but since then. I'll talk about how men can fulfill their God-given destiny," Jackson said.

As a youth, Jackson struggled with low self-confidence and self-esteem despite his 6-foot, 176-pound frame in the sixth grade. Towering over his classmates made him feel different, odd and clumsy. His desire to find acceptance from his peers sent him down a bad path placing the threat of detention centers and reform schools in front of any hopes of a National Football League.

"You want to be thought of as a person of value and special. When you measure yourself against your peers, that's your first problem. I should have determined that regardless of what I thought I looked like, I was of value. I had a particular set of skills that were of value," Jackson recalled.

"I made some poor choices," he continued. "Just like a lot of kids today, I wanted to be accepted. Sometimes you think you have to do things to acquire that and try to promote yourself. It's great to be loved by your family members, and they did that, but it was really important for me at that time to be loved by my peers. I figured with
my folks, that's what they're paid to do. But I wanted that love from my peers. It was my family who really stood by me though."

Feeling the impact that his behavior and decisions were having on his family, he turned to God.

"It just seemed to come upon me in a sense. It came upon me as a senior and as a freshman in college. A lot of my friends made some poor choices and wound up dead, or they dropped out of school or were in prison," Jackson said.

During his freshman year at New Mexico State University he cultivated that relationship through organizations such as Campus Crusade for Christ, The Navigators and The Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Jackson credited a friend with introducing him to a more Godly path. He was introduced to the four spiritual laws from the Campus Crusade for Christ.

"He told me God loved me and had a great plan for my life. That's really when things changed. My life was turned around, not overnight, but it was headed in the right direction. That was a catalyst for who I am and what I am today."

As he grew spiritually, he continued to develop as a football player as well, being named a Preseason College All-American and All-Rocky Mountain Conference before being drafted by the New York Jets. His college and career accomplishments earned him election into the New Mexico State University Hall of Fame.

As a rookie in the NFL, Jackson finished second in quarterback sacks among first-year players and earned an All-Rookie Team spot in Sports magazine. His career allowed him the opportunity to play with the Vikings "Purple People Eaters" -- Carl Eller, Alan Page and Jim Marshall. He also played alongside NFL greats Fran Tarkenton, Joe Namath and John Riggins.

During his visit to the Spencer Dream Center dining room Saturday for the breakfast with area men, he said that while he's waiting on a little divine counsel regarding the exact message he will share, the direction and tone will be simple.

"I think we all need to follow the Lord's lead in our lives," Jackson said. "My message is for men to see themselves as victors. A lot of guys are beaten on and beaten down. Their self-esteem is low. They think they don't measure up to he world's standards. We will take about the 10 steps of a great man, the 10 steps of a champion. They all have value and it's not value based on someone else's values. That's the story I want to live them with."