Bhullar declares for NBA draft

7-foot-5 sophomore center will leave NMSU to pursue a professional career

By Jason Groves
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LAS CRUCES — There is a rather large absence now from the New Mexico State men's basketball team.

After three years in Las Cruces, Aggies 7-foot-5 redshirt sophomore center Sim Bhullar announced Friday he had declared for the June 26 NBA Draft. Whether or not he is drafted, Bhullar cannot play again for an NCAA team.

The Toronto native of Indian descent said he was not 100 percent sure he wanted to declare until this week.

"As soon as I got home, I wanted to talk to my family," Bhullar said Friday from Houston. "Ever since I was a kid, nobody thought I would ever make it this far in basketball. People told me how proud they were that I was a good player at the college level and that I have made it further than anyone has ever made it from India. They just told me to follow my heart and do whatever makes me happy."

On the court, Bhullar was a two-time Western
Athletic Conference Tournament MVP. He holds the school’s single season record for blocked shots with 101 this season and helped lead the Aggies to their third straight NCAA Tournament appearance.

But Bhullar’s impact in a short period of time can’t be measured strictly in terms of what he did on the court.

In January, Sports Illustrated published a story on Bhullar and his younger brother, 7-foot-3 Tanveer Bhullar, a redshirt freshman on the Aggies. Sim Bhullar was also the topic of conversation leading up to and during the Aggies’ NCAA Tournament overtime loss to San Diego State in March.

“I don’t think the common fan understands the value of national branding effects when you receive the type of publicity that we have had by having both Sim and Tanveer here,” said Aggies coach Marvin Menzies. “I’m extremely grateful for the family and their decision to be Aggies. Sim is a special person and that was all really just the by-product of him being part of the family and a valued teammate.”

Now his success will be measured in dollars and cents. Bhullar said that as of Friday, he hasn’t signed with an agent, but that he would likely enlist former AAU coach-turned-agent Mike George of Excel Sports Management.

Bhullar said up to 15 NBA teams have shown interest in some form. He can work out for professional teams after May 2.

In preparation for his professional career, Bhullar has been training with former NBA coach John Lucas in Houston. He said he has lost 15 pounds while working on his skills.

“I came out here and worked out for a couple days,” Bhullar said. “I wanted to see where I’m at compared to other guys in the NBA. Coach Lucas really, really helped me out with that. He’s a big part of the decision. My brother came to his camp two years ago. (Lucas) had a good relationship with him. I knew this was a place I wanted to be. I heard so many things about him and how many pros he works with and how he gets them ready for the next level.”

Bhullar is the fifth Canadian-born underclassman to declare for this year’s NBA Draft. But if he one day signs a NBA contract, it is widely believed he would be the first player of Indian descent in the world’s most popular league.

A 7-foot-5 center of Indian heritage could put the NBA on the map in a country with a population of over 1 billion people, making Bhullar an intriguing professional prospect.

“I know that if I’m drafted, I will be the first Indian … it would be a great feeling,” Bhullar said. “Hopefully I can make everyone proud. I have to keep working hard. Hopefully I will not only play in the NBA, but stay there for awhile.”

There were other considerations, as well.

Bhullar suffered foot injuries in his redshirt season and he missed five games last year.

“My body feels great,” Bhullar said. “When I hurt my foot, I think that was a freak injury. I had never had any problems with my feet before.”

The last NMSU player to be taken in the NBA draft was Randy Brown in 1991, long before leaving school early became the norm.

Each player is different, Menzies said.

“I’m supportive of guys going when there is a firm commitment at the next level, as long as they will have opportunities,” Menzies said. “If you have that opportunity to do that before your eligibility expires, then I’m all for it. Sim has committed to continue to work toward his degree from New Mexico State.”

Bhullar, who averaged 10.4 points per game, 7.8 rebounds per game and 3.4 blocks per game for the Aggies this year, may not be one of the 60 players taken in the draft.

Some national sports writers who cover the league gave Bhullar’s decision to declare for the draft negative reviews via social media.

“Just from an eye test alone, I don’t see it,” said Ryan Ross, an avid Aggies fan and NMSU alum. “But other than coming back to improve his overall game, coming back could get him hurt. As a selfish Aggies fan, I want to see him back. I think with Sim and what we have coming back, we could have a great shot at a Sweet 16 next year.”

There is also local curiosity about what the Aggies would have looked like had the Bhullar brothers taken the court at the same time. Still, there is relief that the Aggies will return a center with the Bhullar last name.

“Sim was a defensive presence, but his brother gives you an offensive threat,” said Greg Berry, a former assistant coach at NMSU and longtime NMSU fan. “It’s nice for people to think about them playing together, but it would also create problems for them on the defensive end.”

*Jason Groves can be reached at 575-541-5459.*

NMSU News Clips
New Mexico State University alumnus Jim Wetherbe speaks Friday during a ground-breaking ceremony for the new nondenominational Spiritual Center that will be located near alumni pond, west of NMSU’s Educational Services Building. Wetherbe and his wife, Brynn, donated $600,000 to build the facility that will be available for weddings, memorial services and as a location for peaceful meditation, regardless of faith.
Zumba to benefit Sandoval scholarship

LAS CRUCES » The New Mexico State University College of Health and Social Services is hosting a Zumba master class fundraiser at 10 a.m. May 3 at the Rentfrow Gymnasium, with all proceeds benefiting the Lucy Sandoval Memorial Endowed Nursing Scholarship.

Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the door or in the dean's office in the College of Health and Social Services.

Leticia Gomez is teaching the class and volunteering her services.

Brittany Barham, one of Sandoval's students, was instrumental in creating the scholarship to honor the Doña Ana Community College nursing instructor.

Sandoval died in January 2013 when she was struck by a car on the New Mexico State University campus.

"Working on this scholarship helps me feel like everything I learned from her has a chance of continuing at NMSU," Barham said.

"The things she taught us, I feel, are vital components to my profession now as a nurse."

Barham said Sandoval helped her finish her degree because she wrote a recommendation for the Nightingale Scholarship from the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence, which Barham received.

For information, contact the College of Health and Social Services at 575-646-3526.
Sim Bhullar will look to take his game to the next level, in hopes of having a professional basketball career.
After 2 seasons, 7-foot-5 center has good reasons to try for NBA career

The big announcement by the biggest Aggie should come as no big shock.

After he helped put New Mexico State back on the college basketball map, Sim Bhullar’s work here is done.

The 7-foot-5 sophomore center from Toronto, Ontario made his long speculated decision to turn pro official on Friday after three years in Las Cruces, the past two in an Aggies uniform.

If drafted on June 26, Bhullar would be the first NMSU player to hear his name called since Randy Brown was selected No. 31 by the Sacramento Kings in 1991.

Interestingly enough, the Kings are now owned by Vivik Ranadive, the NBA’s first Indian-born owner, which adds to the intrigue behind Bhullar’s decision. If he were to stick on a NBA roster as a second-round pick or an undrafted free agent, it’s widely believed he would be the first player of Indian heritage to play in the NBA, which could tie a franchise and the NBA to a population of over 1 billion people.

But that’s just one of the likely factors that Bhullar considered in the days following the Aggies loss to San Diego State in the NCAA Tournament this past March.

The truth of the matter is that nobody knows if Friday’s choice is the right one. That likely won’t be decided until Bhullar’s playing career is over.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

2 WAC Tournament MVPs for Bhullar during the 2013 and 2014 seasons. Bhullar and the Aggies went 6-1 in WAC Tournament games, with the 7-foot-5 center averaging 13.1 points, 10.5 rebounds and 2.8 blocked shots per game during the league’s postseason.

101 Blocked shots for Bhullar last year, an NMSU record. Bhullar set the previous school record for blocks with 84, the year prior. In 2014, Bhullar also averaged 10.4 points and 7.8 rebounds per game, while shooting 54 percent from the floor.

5 Games missed last season for Bhullar due to a foot injury. He also suffered an injured foot during his redshirt freshman year. The 7-foot-5, 350-pound big man will hope to remain healthy moving forward as a professional player.

7-3 While Sim stands at 7-foot-5, his younger brother Tanveer is a 7-foot-3 freshman who was a redshirt player last year. The Aggies are hopeful the younger Bhullar can step in and make his mark in the middle with the departure of his sibling.

his sophomore season, he leaves a team that, on paper, looks as if it should return – and possibly make some noise – to next year’s postseason.

0-2 Bhullar’s record in NCAA Tournament games during his Aggie career. While he departs after
Even if Bhullar were to sign a contract in a quality league overseas, he would be competing against big men that would better prepare him for a possible shot in the NBA. It's not the end of the world if he's not on a NBA roster a year from now.

How much would another year at NMSU improve his draft stock? Critics quick to point out Bhullar's lack of conditioning as a reason he wouldn't be a successful pro are missing the fact that after two record-setting seasons at NMSU, Bhullar gains nothing from going against 6-foot-5 post players in the Western Athletic Conference. Or that college players are limited to eight hours a week with the NMSU coaching staff this time of year. Since the Aggies' season ended, Bhullar has been working out with former NBA coach John Lucas in Houston, preparing his body for pre-draft workouts that will become open to him after May 2 as a declared underclassman.

Men of Bhullar's stature don't have a proven track record of long-tenured careers, at least not in the NBA. He suffered a foot injury during his redshirt season of 2011-12, then missed five games this year with another foot injury.

Another injury at the college level could literally cost Bhullar his future. Regardless of Bhullar's professional destination, his impact at NMSU can't be understated.

Off the court, you could argue that during his brief stay in Las Cruces he was the face of the basketball program, or at least co-heading it with head coach Marvin Menzies, whose national profile has likewise increased over the past three years as well.

Sports Illustrated spent a weekend in Las Cruces this season working on a piece that centered on Bhullar and younger brother Tanveer, who at 7-foot-3, figures to fill his brother's shoes. Sim Bhullar was the center of attention from Day 1 this season and he played his best game of the year on the NCAA Tournament stage. He broke his own school record for blocked shots in a single season with 101 this year. Without Bhullar in the lineup, the Aggies held a 8-2 record with opposing teams shooting 45 percent from the floor. For the season, NMSU opponents shot 40 percent from the field.

Bhullar has done it while staying on course for his college degree.

NMSU hasn't had a player drafted into the NBA for 23 years. In reality, the program couldn't ask for a better possible representative than Bhullar, who represented the school well the past two years while bringing a proud Aggie hoops tradition back to life.

Jason Groves can be reached at 575-541-5459.
Aggies pound Utah Valley in doubleheader

Sun-News report

The New Mexico State Aggie softball team swept Utah Valley in a road doubleheader on Friday night in Orem, Utah. NMSU won Game 1 6-3 before taking Game 2 15-6.

The Aggies are now 28-21 on the season and 10-4 in Western Athletic Conference play. Utah Valley dropped to 14-36 on the season and 5-9 in league.

Game 1 saw the score tied 3-3 in extra innings before the Aggies took advantage of three Utah Valley errors in the ninth inning to plate three runs and the eventual win. Staci Rodriguez, Kelsey Dodd and Malena Padilla each drove in runs for the Aggies in the opener, while Rodriguez scored two runs as well.

Celisha Walker got the Game 1 win for the Aggies in the circle, pitching seven innings in a relief role while surrendering just one earned run and striking out seven.

Game 2 saw the Aggies get three first-inning doubles to take a 6-0 lead.

The Aggies would go on to score two more in the second inning, another five in the third and single runs each in the fourth and fifth innings.

Seven Aggies drove in runs, with Emma Adams and Brennaly Nakamura each recording two RBI in the contest. Rodriguez scored three runs while Adams went 3-for-4 at the plate with two runs scored of her own.

Karysta Donisthorpe, Makayla McAdams and Walker each contributed to the victory in the circle.

NMSU and Utah Valley will take the field again at noon today for the series finale.
Seattle University tennis player Ian Clare plays in doubles competition against the University of Texas-Pan American on Friday in the opening round of the WAC Tennis Tournament in Las Cruces. No. 6 seed UTPA beat Seattle 4-2 to advance to today's semifinals against the University of Idaho. In the other semifinal, No. 4 Kansas City will take on No. 1 New Mexico State. Men's and women's semifinals begin at 7:30 a.m. today.
Bhullar makes draft status official

7-foot-5 NMSU center thanks fans, coaches, school for support the past 2 years

Journal Staff and Wires

LAS CRUCES — Sim Bhullar made it official Friday, stating through New Mexico State that he will enter his name into the 2014 NBA draft.

“I want to thank my family, friends, coaches, and teammates for all their support during this decision making process,” Bhullar said in a statement released by the school. “Most importantly I want to thank all the Aggie fans who have followed and cheered us on. The support and love I received here has made my time in Las Cruces an amazing college experience. Aggie Up.”

Bhullar’s announcement wasn’t a surprise. The Las Cruces Sun-News had reported that the 7-foot-5 sophomore center from Toronto had been working out with former NBA player and coach John Lucas in Houston — largely in preparation for pre-draft workouts available to underclassmen beginning next month.

Bhullar averaged 10.2 points and 7.2 rebounds in 65 career games as an Aggie. He was named the MVP of both the 2013 and 2014 Western Athletic Conference tournaments, which New Mexico State won, and led the league in blocks (3.37 per game) and field-goal percentage (64.3). He set the single-game record for blocks (10) on Nov. 27 in a 91-60 win over Prairie View A&M.

Bhullar’s last game as an Aggie was impactful — a 14-point, seven-rebound, two-block performance in the NCAA Tournament in a 73-69 overtime loss to San Diego State in Spokane, Wash.

“We are 100 percent supportive of his decision to play professionally,” Aggies coach Marvin Menzies said. “He has had an unbelievable impact on this program, community and school in his short time here.”

The draft is June 26 and is two rounds, 30 players in each round.

Already as of Thursday, 30 underclassmen had declared for the draft, including New Mexico junior center Alex Kirk. The early entry eligibility deadline is Sunday. On Friday, Colorado junior point guard Spencer Dinwiddie and Michigan sophomore forward Mitch McGary also threw their names into the draft hat. McGary’s positive test for marijuana during the NCAA Tournament would have carried a one-year NCAA ban.

Kentucky freshmen twins Aaron and Andrew Harrison announced they will stay in school, citing “unfinished business” after the Wildcats lost in the NCAA championship game.

Draft projections generally have Bhullar as going undrafted, though one (DraftExpress.com) puts him in a range between No. 50 and undrafted.

The last Aggie to hear his name called in the draft was Randy Brown, selected No. 31 by the Sacramento Kings in 1991.

It is widely believed that Bhullar, should he make an NBA roster, would be the first player in the league of Indian descent.

Bhullar’s younger and smaller — 7-foot-3 — brother, Tanveer, was a redshirt this past season at NMSU.
Rebels snap Lobos’ 9-game win streak

From Journal Reports

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The UNLV Rebels landed a big early punch and captured Game 1 of a three-game series against visiting New Mexico on Friday night.

UNLV scored six first-inning runs, getting back-to-back home runs from Joey Armstrong and Erik VanMeetren, and rolled to an 11-2 victory at Earl E. Wilson Stadium. The Rebels (26-15, 13-6 Mountain West) snapped a five-game losing streak and put an end to the Lobos’ nine-game winning streak.

Trailing 6-0 after one inning, New Mexico (31-12-1, 14-5) had plenty of scoring chances against UNLV ace Erick Fedde (8-2). The Lobos had nine hits and drew two walks in Fedde’s 7⅔ innings of work. But they were unable to get a key hit and four times struck out with runners at third base. UNM’s only run against Fedde came on Lane Milligan’s bases-loaded ground-out that made the score 6-1 in the fourth.

Aided by sloppy UNM defense, the Rebels put it away against Lobo reliever Drew Bridges, who was making his first appearance since leaving a March 14 start with shoulder soreness. Bridges was rusty, allowing five runs in two innings.

Chase Harris and Andre Vigil had three hits each for UNM.

**Today**

New Mexico at UNLV,
2:05 p.m., 101.7 FM

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GRAND CANYON 6, NMSU 3:

In Phoenix, Andrew Naderer pitched eight strong innings to lead the Antelopes (22-17, 11-5) to a Western Athletic Conference win over the Aggies (16-21, 7-6). Naderer allowed just one run on three hits and struck out eight. NMSU rallied for two runs and brought the potential tying run to the plate in the ninth, but Michael Medina grounded out to end it.
Aggie tennis to get a 7:30 a.m. start

LAS CRUCES — Host New Mexico State will have to get up early in the morning today in its quest to win the Western Athletic Conference team tennis championships. Because of the forecast of high winds (23 mph and greater by 11 a.m.), the tourney committee decided to begin play for both the men and women at 7:30 a.m. at the NMSU Tennis Center.

The Aggie men are top-seeded and play Missouri-Kansas City in one semifinal. The Aggie women, seeded third, play Texas-Pan American.
Supporting the Las Cruces Boys & Girls Club at the Lou & Mary Henson Breakfast

Photos by Todd Dickson

Jimmy Collins, former University of Illinois - Chicago head basketball coach and captain of New Mexico State University’s 1970 Final Four team, talks at the sixth annual Lou & Mary Henson Community Breakfast for the Las Cruces Boys & Girls Club Thursday, April 24, at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. Collins said a Boys & Girls Club helped him become a better person as a youth who could have easily “gone down the wrong path.” Ashley Echavarria, Las Cruces Boys & Girls Club chief professional officer, said the club will be debt-free by the end of this year. The club provides after-school programs for low-income children.

Julissa Galaz, the 2014 Junior Youth of the Year, gave an inspiring speech at the breakfast.

The Hensons pose with Collins and his wife Hettie at the VIP reception.

Club members lead the breakfast audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Cheney shares a laugh with Courage Idemudia at the reception.
Sharing sustainability at the
NMSU Earth Day event

Photos by Elva K. Österreich

Kaile Slocter with Associated Students of New Mexico State University hands out swag and shares information on environmental sustainability in front of Corbett Center Student Union Tuesday, April 22, aka Earth Day.

To learn green facts and earn points toward free T-shirts, students could use their phones to scan QR codes hung on "QR trees" across campus on Earth Day.

Earth Day T-shirts flap in the wind earlier this week, waiting for people to earn them by telling Slocter three ways they are observing sustainability practices in their own homes, or by scanning the QR codes hanging from trees around the NMSU campus.
Accreditation team to visit

HLC to review DACC

Doña Ana Community College (DACC) will host reviewers from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) Monday through Wednesday, April 28-30, as part of the institutional accreditation process.

HLC peer reviewers will meet with students, faculty, staff and board members. The committee will go to other DACC sites besides the East Mesa Campus. DACC has asked the HLC to approve its new associates of science in general engineering degree.

The committee chair has requested input from the public and a listening session will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday in the East Mesa Auditorium, 2800 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd. Visit www.ncahlc.org to learn more about the accreditation process.
DACCC to award Connor an honorary degree
Community college commencement to be held May 8

Doña Ana Community College (DACCC) Interim President Andrew J. Burke today announced Dolores Connor as the 2014 honorary degree recipient for the DACCC commencement Thursday, May 8, at the Pan American Center.

Connor will receive an associate's degree of arts in Business Management. The DACCC Advisory Board conferred the degree on her for the many contributions she has made to the quality of life at DACCC and the Las Cruces community and her gracious generosity to higher education.

Connor is a member of a third-generation family from Las Cruces and a lifelong resident of the Mesilla Valley. She has had a long and varied work career starting in high school. Before she graduated from Mayfield High School, she became a paper girl for the Las Cruces Sun-News. Her public service started after graduation as a teacher's aide working with the children of migrant farm workers who picked crops.

Connor worked for Mutual Building & Loan for 18 years, where she started as a teller and was continuously promoted to finish her banking career as the vice president of operations. Next, Connor was the co-owner of a gourmet coffee, tea and kitchen gift store.

Her roots in public service enticed her to successfully run for Las Cruces City Council in 2003. Connor was elected Mayor Pro Tempore from 2005-07. During that time, she created a mentor program for Las Cruces high school students called "today's kids, tomorrow's future."

Her many honors include being awarded: "Women who Mean Business" from the New Mexico Business Weekly, and the 2007 Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year award."

Connor participates in community service through the Jardín de los Niños board. In the past, she has been a board member of Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Mesilla Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates and the Mesilla Valley Hospice. She also serves on boards dedicated to economic development. She is a board member of U.S. Bank. In the past she served on Mesilla Valley Economic Development Association and the Rio Grande Natural Gas Association. She has represented Las Cruces on several statewide boards including New Mexico First and served as president of the New Mexico Municipal League, where she represented New Mexico nationally.

More than 1,500 DACCC students are expected to graduate this spring with associates or certificate degrees. Around 750 are expected to participate in graduation ceremonies.
Miss Native American NMSU crowned

Navajo student wins title

New Mexico State University student Savannah Lee was crowned Miss Native American NMSU 2014-2015 during the university's celebration of American Indian Week in April.

"The Miss Native American NMSU title has a positive impact on the NMSU community and the greater community of New Mexico in that Miss Native American NMSU serves as a cultural goodwill ambassador," Justin McHorse, director of the American Indian Programs, said.

The Miss Native American NMSU pageant differs from the traditional pageants, adding an emphasis on cultural and academic aspects. McHorse said the students must also demonstrate knowledge of their culture.

"As the ambassador of the American Indian Program, I am able to work with others, let students know the benefits of college and be a role model to the younger students," Lee said.

Lee is president of the United Native American Organization and involved with the Native American Business Student Association and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

"Savannah will have the opportunity to support the American Indian Program on campus and create an outreach to the native communities of New Mexico and the surrounding states," McHorse said. "She will serve as a liaison and a contact to inform and interact with the community on campus, helping educate on American Indian culture and language."

American Indian Week was organized by the NMSU AISES, UNAO and the NABSA with support from the American Indian Program. American Indian Week was also sponsored by ASNMSU.

Lee is pursing a bachelor's degree, majoring in kinesiology. She is from Mexican Springs, N.M., and represents the Navajo nation.

Student Savannah Lee shows off her grandmother's handmade jewelry in her native Navajo dress.
Aggies host rodeo event

Annual event top in the nation

This year's New Mexico State University Rodeo comes out of the chute Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 25-27.

The Aggie men's team enters the rodeo ranked No. 4 in the nation in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) standings. The Aggie women are No. 15.

For the past nine years, the NMSU Rodeo has been rated NIRA's best rodeo event.

The rodeo will be at the Aggie tailgate lot east of Aggie Memorial Stadium, with performance beginning at 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. There will be a top 10 short go at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is $5, but NMSU students are admitted free with a student I.D.

Aggie Justin Kipp is ranked No. 6 nationally in the men's all-around division, and teammate Cody Jo Mirabal is ranked No. 21.

Kipp is ranked No. 1 nationally in steer wrestling.

NMSU's Colt Capurro is No. 14 in steer wrestling. Aggie Trenten Romero is ranked No. 3 in NIRA in bareback riding and Victor Ugalde is No. 25 in tie down roping.

Mirabal is the nation's No. 7 header in team roping and Thomas Eddy is the No. 6 heeler.

On the women's side, Aggie Meghan Johnson is ranked No. 6 nationally in barrel racing. Jenna Suazo is No. 23 in breakaway roping.

The Aggie men's team, led by Coach Jim Brown, has finished in first place in all eight rodeos in the NIRA Grand Canyon Region during the 2013-2014 season. The women's team has captured two firsts.
Aggies around the mound

NMSU softball and baseball head into the WAC tourney

The New Mexico State University softball team travels to Orem, Utah, to close out the conference season against Utah Valley at 3 p.m. Friday, April 25, and finish with a doubleheader at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26.

NMSU needs just one win against the Wolverines to claim the No. 1 seed in the 2014 WAC Tournament.

The Aggies will then meet Rio Grande rival New Mexico Tuesday, April 29, before heading to the 2014 edition of the WAC Tournament. May 8-10.

Hosted by Seattle University, the Aggies could head into the tournament as the No. 1 seed at Logan Field at Seattle University Park. With GCU ineligible for postseason play, NMSU needs to win just one of the three-game series against Utah Valley Friday and Saturday, April 25-26, to secure the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

NMSU had a tough weekend on the road against conference opponent Grand Canyon. In a three-game series versus the Antelopes, the Aggies failed to come away with a victory.

On Friday, April 18, Grand Canyon took the first game of the doubleheader by a score of 7-1, and won the second game in a 2-0 shutout. The Antelopes also won the final game of the series by a score of 3-2 on April 19.

The Aggies are now second in the Western Athletic Conference standings, behind Grand Canyon by two games.

The team is led at the plate by junior Staci Rodriguez with a .403 batting average and 12 home runs. She is tied in the top 10 for home runs this season with fellow hard hitter Fiana Finau.

The duo combines for 69 RBI this year. Rodriguez is ninth in the nation with a .827 slugging percentage and Finau is slugging .710 so far this year.

In the circle, Makayla McAdams leads the Aggies with a 3.15 ERA this season. The team is hurling 3.59 combined with redshirt Karysta Donisthorpe pitching 97.1 of the teams innings.

Donisthorpe is leading the Aggies with 80 strikeouts this season and is holding her opponents to a .273 batting average.

Walker has become the closer for the team, pitching 88.2 innings and striking out 51. She has tallied three saves and one shutout this year.

Baseball

The NMSU baseball team faces Grand Canyon University in a three-game Western Athletic Conference series at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25 in Phoenix.

The second game of the series is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 26, and the finale is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27. All three games are set to air over the radio waves on KSNM AM 570 and can also be heard from anywhere around the world on the Internet at www.nmstatesports.com.

NMSU heads into the three-game series versus Grand Canyon with a 16-20 overall record and a 7-5 WAC record. The Aggies have won six out of the last eight games picking up conference wins over Northern Colorado and Seattle University.

NMSU is hitting .313 as a team during the past eight games with Michael Paulson posting a .467 (14-of-30) batting average during that time and Michael Medina hitting .452 (14-of-31).

The Aggies are hitting .273 on the season with three NM State offensive players hitting above .300 – Dereck Umphres, Kristoffer Koerper and Michael Medina.

NMSU is hitting .277 in WAC play while sitting in a tie for third with Seattle U and North Dakota. Medina has been stellar in WAC play, posting a .400 batting average with a double, two triples and nine RBIs to go along with eight walks.

He has also reached base five times by being hit by a pitch during WAC play.

NMSU took on Seattle University in a four-game series Thursday through Saturday, April 17-19 at Presley Askew Field.

The Aggies wed 3-1 on the weekend winning the first game against the Redhawks on April 17 with a 7-4 final score.

The second day of the series, the Aggies
played a doubleheader losing their first competition 3-9 but coming back during the second game to win 6-5. NM State ended their weekend on a good note beating the Redhawks 5-3 on Saturday, April 19.

The Aggies posted a .254 batting average against Seattle U while Medina led the way hitting .462 versus the Redhawks.

Left-handed pitcher Christopher Bradley had a great outing versus Seattle U striking out seven batters in 6.2 innings of work and right-hand pitcher Billy Conard got six strikeouts in 6.0 innings on the mound. Each pitcher earned a win against the Redhawks.

NMSU is at 7-5 in the Western Athletic Conference. The Aggies currently sit in a tie for third place in the league standings and are batting .277 in league play.

In WAC games only, the Aggies are first in on base percentage averaging a .382 and second with a .369 slugging percentage.

Offensively, NMSU ranks first in the league for runs scored (221) and runs batted in (200). On the mound, the Aggies are eighth for earned runs allowed (186) and ERA (5.41).

Individually, outfielder Michael Medina and third baseman Kristoffer Koerper place in the top 10 in a majority of the offensive categories for WAC only play.

Koerper ranks in the top 10 in batting average (.328), slugging percentage (.473) and runs batted in (30).

Medina is seen on the board with his .453 batting average and 32 runs scored. Pitching wise, Riley Barr leads the team in WAC play with his 2.45 ERA.

Christopher Bradley is third against WAC opponents with 7.99 strikeouts per game.
Tradin’ for tennis shoes
WAC tournament upon us

Pistol Pete
Pete’s Ponderings

Pete is trading his cowboy boots for tennis shoes, but just for the week.
That is because NMSU is hosting the Western Athletic Conference men’s and women’s tennis tournament Friday through Sunday, April 25-27. The schedule is easy to remember and the price is right.
The women’s draw is in the morning and the men serve and volley in the afternoon. The best news is that the Aggies are making sure all the fans can attend as there is no admission charge.
The top six teams in the conference will be competing and the Aggies were seeded near the top in both gender brackets.
The men come in on a three game win streak. Seniors Marc Westgate and Naveen Manivanan have led the way in singles and doubles with sophomores Strahanja Trecakov, Paul Denele and Liam Goldsberg adding to the momentum.
It looks to ole Pete like coach Carlos Vargas has got the team playing its best and deserving of the No. 2 seed it earned for the conference championships.
Women’s coach Ivan Fernandez has seen his team string together four straight wins, including a victory over the top seed Idaho in the regular season finale.
Seniors Annemieke Witte and Ros-Polly Nguyen have been leading the way with freshman Brittany Collens playing consistently all season. It is a great chance to see some championship tennis and join Pete in cheering these Aggies on to another conference championship. See you this weekend at the NMSU tennis center.
Another title on the line is on the links: Women’s golf coach Jackie Booth is taking her team to the WAC championships in Mesa, Ariz. Coach Booth’s squad is coming off of a win at the Wyoming Invitational and has had the WAC Player of the Week two of the last three weeks. Viviana Macias and Camille Orito picked up the individual honors, but they and Booth won’t quit until there is the team trophy on display in the Aggie trophy case.
Make plans now: The annual spring event Aggies in Paradise is just around the corner. Make a note now to get tickets for the party that will be May 16 and promises to be better than ever. For one thing it will be under, the stars at the Northwest entrance to Aggie Memorial stadium.
All kinds of entertainment will be provided along with great grub and your favorite beverage as part of the admission package. You can talk sports with the coaches and get a preview of what is coming to NMSU in 2014-15. Tickets are available through the Aggie Athletic Club.
Call 646-5151 and get yours now. The money raised goes to scholarships and the continuation of success for NM State athletics.
Coaches set to lead
Aggie football looks to Aug.

Doug Martin
Head Coach
Football

I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to all of you and shed some light on what is going on right now within the Aggie Football program.

We just finished up spring practice, in which we had 15 practice sessions from March 30 through the spring game Saturday, April 19. It was a highly successful spring, in which we stayed healthy, made strides as a team and had a great chance to evaluate our players and see exactly where we are at.

One of the key elements to this spring was integrating our new coaches with the team. We were highly successful in this, as our players have responded positively to all of our new additions. On the defensive side, our new defensive coordinator Larry Coyer and our new defensive line coach Kerry Locklin have both brought a really positive, aggressive style of coaching.

They have really highlighted the development of fundamentals on defense – tackling, footwork and communication. These have become the foundation of every single practice throughout the spring. One of the other keys on defense this spring is the approach of not thinking too much.

A football player cannot think and play at the same time, so we have simplified a lot of things to let them play faster. To be successful on defense, you must play fast. On offense, our new offensive line coach Steve Marshall brings a similar attitude.

Marshall's experience speaks for itself. His ability to teach and effectively communicate with our players has really translated to a great spring for the offensive line group. We have a great chance to have an outstanding offensive line this season and Marshall is a big part of that.

It is clearly evident that all three of our new coaches have an abundance of experience, which is paying immediate dividends with our players.

The spring game was a huge success in which we identified certain players who are game ready. The spring game offers our coaching staff a chance to see our players in real game situations. It is one thing to make plays and look good in practice when no one is watching, but we are interested in who makes those plays when the lights are on and it really counts.

For us to be successful, we will need more of our players to step up and make those kinds of plays in critical situations. We very much look forward to the opportunity presented against Cal-Poly on Aug. 28 to make those plays. We hope you join us for that game and the rest of our home slate during the 2014 season. Go Aggies!
**Aggie student-athlete spotlight**

**Zach Freeman**
Baseball  
Sophomore  
Murphy, Texas  

Sophomore right-hand pitcher Zach Freeman (Murphy, Texas) made two appearances against Seattle U last week and picked up a win. He finished the week working 3.2 innings, striking out two batters while allowing only two walks, three hits and no runs. Freeman won in a 5-3 win over Seattle U Saturday, April 19, after coming in for his 14th appearance of the year. He is now 3-2 on the season working 27 innings and striking out 25 batters.

**Makayla McAdams**
Softball  
Sophomore  
Tucson, Ariz.  

Makayla McAdams, a sophomore from Tucson, Ariz., picked up a 1.35 ERA in her two appearances against Grand Canyon over the weekend. She pitched 10.1 innings and allowed just two earned runs in her two starts. She held her opponents to a .179 batting average.

**Diana Hawk**
Track & field  
Junior  
Albuquerque  

Diana Hawk competed in the 3,000-meter run at the UTSA Invitational on Saturday, April 19. She earned a first-place finish with a time of 9:49.03. This is the fifth consecutive week Hawk has taken first in her individual event. For the previous four weeks Hawk has won the 1,500-meter run.
This week in the history of the Mesilla Valley

100 years ago

1914
- Concerns over water shortage had "grown so serious that it became necessary to discover who is careless in letting water run at night." Officers were sent out and "discovered a few hydrants running." The perpetrators were named and forced to pay fines of $8.75 each. "Let this be a warning to others to turn on no water before 7 a.m. or after 10 a.m. until further orders are posted," the article reported.

- The Las Cruces Hardware Company held its grand opening on Main Street with "several hundred people" visiting the store "to inspect the handsome line of stock and receive a souvenir. The souvenirs were useful household articles, a choice of a paring knife, vegetable spoon or clothes sprinkler, with cigars for the gentlemen."

75 years ago

1939
- Five boys from Hatch, New Mexico, "ranging in age from 16 to 22 years," were being held in Doña Ana County jail in connection with "theft of mechanical tools and oil from the Hatch Motor Company. Four of the boys pleaded guilty, while one of the boys pleaded not guilty. "He must have forgotten he was there," one of the guilty boys was reputed to have said.

- Hatching of migratory range grasshoppers had been detected "in the vicinity of Tucumcari," leading county extension agents to "step up progression of poisoning operations to late April," two weeks earlier than the year before. It was reported that "educational meetings" had "aroused a great deal of interest among farmers and ranchers, as well as urban residents."

50 years ago

1964
- White Sands Missile Range was to be the focus of an "all-out effort to really modernize," according to Maj. General J. Fredrick Thorlin, commander of WSMR, who said, "In today's fast-moving missile development, any range could be said to be out of date in instrumentation almost overnight."

- The May 1964 issue of New Mexico Magazine was said to be "loaded with articles and color shots of Las Cruces and the surrounding area," including a story on "the forthcoming Jackie Cooper TV series that will be filmed here, intitled [sic] 'City of the Crosses.'"
A vintage photo taken in the late 1950s of a parade traveling south along Main Street. Clearly visible is the streetlight at Griggs Avenue in the middle of the shot. The Rio Grande Theatre can be seen on the far right.

25 years ago

1989

- After the results of a $340,000 U.S. Highway 70 Reliever Route study were announced during a meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), it was decided that the volume of traffic on the stretch of U.S. 70, running from Interstate 25 to the town of Organ, was not enough to justify the building of a “multi-million dollar highway.” Instead, the MPO decided to “look into providing frontage roads and grade separations at major intersections along U.S. 70.”

- An appearance by “Taos entertainer” Michael Martin Murphy was announced as the highlight of the Organ Mountain Festival. Co-sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the event was planned to celebrate the acquisition of the A.B. Cox Ranch and to “familiarize the public with the conservation work of the BLM and the TNC on public lands in New Mexico.” Over 8,000 people would attend the one-time festival on Aug. 19.

Information gathered from New Mexico State University Library’s Microform Area and Archives and Special Collections.
Arts Council honors community members
Community Arts Awards recognize arts-minded individuals, businesses

Bulletin Staff Report

The Doña Ana Arts Council's 28th annual Community Arts Awards took place Thursday, April 24, at the historic Rio Grande Theatre.

This year, the Debi True Rounds Newcomer Award was sponsored by Stan Rounds and was awarded to Diane and Robin Fovargue.

These Canadian snowbirds divide their time between a home in the Niagara wine country and their home in Las Cruces. They volunteer at El Caldito Soup Kitchen and enjoy travel, good food, wine and art — especially local, Southwestern art.

For the last two years, the Fovargues have been co-chairs, with Glenn and Sally Cutter, of the Las Cruces Arts Fair. Their career experience of managing multi-million-dollar projects involving hundreds of people has helped with the planning and organization of the Arts Fair, a project that involves hundreds of volunteers and artists.

The Community Arts Award for Excellence in Public Service to the Arts went to Andy Hume, downtown coordinator for the City of Las Cruces. The award is sponsored by the Frame and Art Center.

Hume is with the Community Development Department and is currently working on his master's degree in Public Administration at New Mexico State University. He is the hub through which collaboration and communication takes place on all downtown issues and works directly with the Amador Hotel Foundation, Doña Ana Arts Council, Downtown Las Cruces Partnership, the Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces and the City of Las Cruces Art Board.

Described as a "can-do" guy who makes good things happen, Hume oversaw the transition of the Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces from the City to private operation without missing a single market day.

The Community Arts Award for an Individual, sponsored by New Mexico Cardiac Care, was awarded to Russ Smith. Smith moved to Las Cruces 12 years ago with his wife, Mercy, and son, Mac, and started his own food service business, Happy Dog.

A vendor at the Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces, he serves on the Board of the Downtown Las Cruces Partnership, is on the Marketing Committee for the market and the Planning Committee for Salsa Fest and is an artist himself, playing drums in the Mesilla Valley Swing Band.

The Community Arts Award for a Business is sponsored by Steve Newby Architects & Associates, PC, and went to the Las Cruces Sun-News, Frank Leto, publisher.

An institution in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County since its founding as the Rio Grande Republic in 1881, the Sun-News predated the founding of NMSU by seven years and the establishment of the state of New Mexico by 31 years.

Leto serves on the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Council and the newspaper sponsored the grand opening of the Center for the Arts at NMSU. The Sun-News has partnered with the Doña Ana Arts Council in recent years as a sponsor of the Arts Council's programs at the Rio Grande Theatre.

The Art in Public Places Award was presented to Joyce Macrorie and was sponsored by Southwest Senior, Keith Whelpley, publisher.

Macrorie lives and paints in the Mesquite Historic District. In December of 2013, Joyce donated 41 original framed pieces of her art to the Doña Ana County Government Center's permanent collection. She also has work on permanent display at the United States Federal Court House located in Downtown Las Cruces.

The Arts in Education Award, sponsored by Ruben and Liz Smith, was awarded to Sherry Doil-Carter. Her local journey of providing quality arts education at NMSU, Mayfield High School, Oñate High School and now Alma d'Arte Charter High School has been a testament to her compassion in the classroom and her innate love of the arts.

During a four-year hiatus from teaching, she helped create and run the Adobe Patio Gallery in Mesilla, and was a partner at the White Raven Studio Gallery downtown. During this time she created her own art through a dedicated studio practice fostered by her membership and leadership in the local Border Artists' Association where she served as president for eleven years.

Doil-Carter's commitment to educating new generations of artists and art lovers plays a crucial role in insuring the future of the visual arts in southern New Mexico.

The Papen Family Award, named for the late Senator Frank O. Papen and Senator Mary Kay Papen in recognition of their tireless
advocacy and support for the arts, is the highest award given annually by the Doña Ana Arts Council to those who have given extraordinarily of their time, talent and financial support to the arts in the Mesilla Valley. This year’s award went to Jerean Camuzex Hutchinson and Tom Hutchinson of La Posta de Mesilla. Glenn and Sally Cutter are the sponsors of this award.

Looking to be closer to family and yearning for “home,” Jerean and her husband Tom moved back to Las Cruces in 1996 and acquired the famed La Posta de Mesilla property and business. During their stewardship, the restaurant has been through several restorations, each careful to preserve the historical integrity of the iconic landmark.

The restaurant is a gallery in itself, with murals and nichos painted by local artists as well as beautiful artifacts from Mexico. Historic adobe walls, vigas and latillas grace the 1840’s architecture.

In 2002, the Hutchinsons were recognized by the Doña Ana Historical Society for the successful repair and rehabilitation of a historic commercial property.

The Hutchinsons also own the historic Fountain Theater and have this year committed their considerable efforts to restore and refresh many of the historic elements of the theater. Home to the Mesilla Valley Film Society, the Fountain Theatre offers a stimulating annual film series. The renewed and updated building gives the venue new life and ensures that alternative, foreign and independent film and video will continue to have a vibrant presence in the region.

The John Glowacki Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded in recognition of major and significant contributions to the arts. This year, that award was given to J. Paul Taylor. The award is named after the founder of the Doña Ana Arts Council and longtime Department Head of Fine Arts at NMSU, and is sponsored in his memory by Barbara Glowacki.

Taylor was born in Chamberino, N.M. in 1920, the son of a Texas native whose family owned a dairy in El Paso and whose mother traced her ancestry to Juan Vaca, a soldier with Coronado’s expedition in 1540.

Taylor earned a bachelor’s degree from NM A&M, and after wartime service in the Navy, he earned two additional degrees in education. He spent more than three decades as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent in the Las Cruces Public School system and upon retirement served nine consecutive terms as the Representative for District 33 in the legislature.

Widely known for his support of programs to help the indigent and as an advocate for arts and culture, Taylor has been called “the conscience of the NM Legislature.” Among his many awards are the Doña Ana Arts Council’s Mesilla Valley Treasure Award, a Heritage Preservation Lifetime Achievement Award, the NM Governor’s Award as a Major Contributor to the Arts and the Luminaria Award by the New Mexico Community Foundation.

In the early 1950s, Taylor and his wife, Mary Helen, purchased a dilapidated adobe on the west side of the Mesilla plaza and raised their seven children within its renovated walls. In 2003, they generously donated their historic home and two adjoining stores to the Museum of New Mexico as a State Monument.

The Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Historic Site, as it is now called, provides an exceptional setting for visitors to understand and appreciate the history, culture, and architecture of Mesilla and the Borderland. The Taylor family collection of Spanish colonial, Mexican and New Mexican artwork, along with furniture, rugs, pottery and textiles from all over the world, was donated as part of the Historic Site.

Taylor is one of the most beloved and respected gentlemen in the state of New Mexico, and the Doña Ana Arts Council said it was proud to honor him with this special award.
J. Paul Taylor was honored by the Doña Ana Arts Council with the John Glowacki Lifetime Achievement Award at the 28th annual Community Arts Awards Thursday, April 24.

Tom and Jenaan Hutchinson, proprietors of La Posta Restaurants, were the recipients of the Papen Family Award at this year's Community Arts Awards.
NMSU concrete canoe team advances to nationals

The New Mexico State University College of Engineering Concrete Canoe Team placed second behind first-place Utah State at the American Society of Civil Engineers Regional Conference in Fort Collins, Colo., earlier this month.

The process of designing and building the canoe was time consuming and exhausting, as students worked from September until March. Students first had to formulate the concrete mix. Tiffany Turner, the co-captain of the team, said developing the mix takes a few months.

The second part of the process was determining a curing method. The team tried three different methods of curing this year, and found the best option was steam to immersion.

“Our goal coming into this year was to increase overall strength and durability. We have decided to do this by using a stronger mix and different curing method,” Turner said.

The curing of the concrete after it has been cast took 35 days.

A total of 29 NMSU students went to the ASCE Regional Conference. Thirteen students were part of the concrete canoe team, where they competed against 12 other universities. At the regional conference, schools are assigned an overall ranking. However, based on placements in different competitions, teams can advance to nationals. NMSU had two first-place finishes, one second, a fourth place and a fifth place in the canoe races. The NMSU team advanced to nationals, which will be held June 19-21 in Johnstown, Pa., at the University of Pittsburgh.

Turner said fundraising is also a big concern for the team, as it will cost around $1,000 per person; they plan on taking 13 students.

“Coming into this, I knew nothing about concrete and I learned by diving in,” she said. “It has taught me a lot about engineering and project management.”

The concrete canoe team selects a theme for the canoe. “Greek mythology” won, and the canoe was named “Protopenoi.” According to Greek mythology, Protogenoi are the first entities or beings to come into existence that were made of the very fabric of our universe. They were immortal.

Turner said Protogenoi is a fitting name for this year’s canoe, since the team has set new trends. For example, the pour day was done before winter break. In previous years, no NMSU team has used full immersion for curing before.
New Mexico True Summer Reading Challenge announced

Gov. Susana Martinez has announced the New Mexico True Summer Reading Challenge, designed to help stop the “summer slide,” helping to prevent students from losing reading proficiency while not in school.

The New Mexico True Summer Reading Challenge is open to all New Mexico elementary school children, ages 5 through 12. Readers who submit their completed reading log with information regarding the 12 books they read, as well as a short essay explaining “Why I Love New Mexico,” will receive a New Mexico True bookmark and have their name entered in the random drawing to receive one of the following grand prizes:

- All-expenses paid family vacation to Disney’s Animal Kingdom in Orlando (one reader)
- All-inclusive family (of four) vacation to Red River, which includes overnight accommodations (for two nights), dinner (for two nights) and ski passes (for two days) (one reader)
- Real-life fossil digging adventure in Socorro with an overnight stay and boat ride in nearby Elephant Butte (one reader)
- Hot-air balloon ride with the governor and a family four-pack of admission tickets to the Albuquerque Balloon Museum (two readers)
- A behind the scenes tour and a family four-pack of admission tickets to the New Mexico Museum of Natural History (two readers)
- An adventure as a junior zookeeper for a day at the ABQ BioPark Zoo (four readers)
- Meet a Lobo head basketball coach, free tickets to a Lobo basketball game, take part in a center-court ceremony at The Pit, and receive an autographed Lobo basketball (three readers)
- Meet an Aggie head basketball coach, free tickets to an Aggie basketball game, take part in a center-court ceremony at The Pan-Am Center, and receive an autographed Aggie basketball (three readers)
- A free admission pass for 16 museums and monuments across the state (200 readers)

The program started Tuesday, April 22, and entries must be postmarked by July 31.
MANUEL ‘CUATE’ EVARO
May 27, 1939 to April 14, 2014

Manuel “Cuate” Evaro, 74, peacefully passed away April 14, 2014. Cuate Manuel was born May 27, 1939, in La Mesa, NM, into a family of 12; it was reported he was number eight, or, depending on who told the tale, number nine.

Many will remember him by his signature mustache or the mischievous twinkle in his eyes as he told his stories or expressed his opinions. As a proud Marine, he made sure all knew the motto “Semper Fi.” He served in the Navy Reserve, was a Vietnam War veteran and was very active in the VFW Post 4384 and the Marine Corps and American Legions. He was very patriotic and a strong advocate for all veterans – his comrades.

He had a lifelong passion for fishing, hunting, camping, big bonfires – where his famous cowboy coffee was made – reading, doing crossword puzzles, drawing amazing pictures and arguing with all sports fans. We all knew the Dallas Cowboys was not a subject to bring up! He was a force to be reckoned with, he had a heart of gold and he would give you the shirt off his back. As a handyman, he tried to fix or recycle everything! He was very good at causing a ruckus and then making us laugh till we cried. Manny retired from NMSU in December 2013.

He is survived by wife, Estella Evaro; two daughters, Sylvia Orme (Dave Thune) and Leticia Evaro; three grandsons, John Soto, Zachary Soto and Alejandro Evaro; daughter-in-law Consuelo Evaro. Sisters Damiania Chavez, Bernadette Cano, Sara Carrasco, Frances (Edward) Avalos, Kila (George) Sanchez, Mary (Juanito) Acosta. Brothers, Cuate Rudolph (Margaret) Evaro and Albert (Matilda) Evaro; sisters-in-law Ester and Dolores Evaro.

He was preceded in death by his son, Lawrence M. Evaro, his parents, two brothers and a sister.

The rosary was held at the San Jose Catholic Church in La Mesa, NM, and the funeral mass was held at the Saint Genevieve Church in Las Cruces. He was laid to rest at the Hillcrest Cemetery.

The family entrusted care to Baca’s Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces, 527-2222. For online condolences, log on to www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com.
Finalists for NMSU College of Business dean picked

Two finalists have been chosen to interview on campus in the search for a new dean to New Mexico State University’s College of Business.

The first interview, with Stuart Michelson, professor and former dean at Stetson University, took place Wednesday, April 23.

The second, with James Hoffman, professor and former dean at Texas Tech University, will take place Tuesday, April 29.

Both interviews are being conducted on the NMSU campus, where the finalists are meeting with university Executive Vice President and Provost Dan Howard, the search committee and College of Business staff, faculty and students.

The 15-member search committee, chaired by Lowell Catlett, dean in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Science, went through approximately 24 applications for the positions before inviting the two candidates to visit the campus.
Chris Erickson to be featured guest at MVEDA luncheon

Christopher Erickson, professor in the Department of Economics, Applied Statistics and International Business at New Mexico State University, will be the guest speaker at the May meeting of the MVEDA Business in the Borderplex Forum, held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, at the Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

Advance registration is $20 per person. Payment at the door is $25 per person. The meeting will begin with a hot entrée buffet. Due to space constraints, reservations are required.

Online registration information can be found at www.mveda.com/blog.
Construction for New Mexico State University's Corbett Center Student Union renovation began in late February and will last approximately 14 months. Wooten Construction Company of Las Cruces was awarded the contract. Infrastructure improvements include converting the building's electrical system so that a backup generator can be used in the event of a power outage. The ballroom floor and ceiling will be replaced, along with the roof of the building. Corbett will go from the current wireless capacity of about 300 users to about 1,700 once the project is complete. The renovation is scheduled to be completed in April 2015. The center will not close for the renovations.
AgriFuture trains future growers
Institute held for future farmers, ranchers, agribusiness leaders

Agricultural organizations and agencies in New Mexico are looking to expand upon an exciting new trend: More young people are taking up farming, ranching, and other careers in agricultural production in the Land of Enchantment.

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) and a dozen other agencies and organizations involved in New Mexico agriculture are coordinating and hosting the 2014 AgriFuture Educational Institute for beginning/future farmers and ranchers, as well as those aiming for other careers in agriculture.

The institute will be hosted May 12-14 in Albuquerque.

"The goal of the AgriFuture Educational Institute is to inform, inspire, and connect the people who will produce our food and fiber going forward," said New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte. "And how the Institute aims to achieve that lofty goal is by bringing together future ag producers and current ag producers, and really facilitating a conversation among that diverse group."

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture released by USDA last month, New Mexico saw an increase in the number of people age 35 and younger who are agricultural producers, from 818 in 2007 to 1,200 in 2012.

At the same time, the census showed a slight uptick in the average age of farmers in New Mexico from 59.6 years old in 2007 to 60.5 years old in 2012.

"Taken together, what those two statistics tell us is that we’re headed in the right direction in terms of getting more young people into agriculture, but that we still have work to do," Witte said.

Access to land and capital are often said to be the major roadblocks for young people who want to join the ranks of today’s farmers and ranchers.

Witte said that topic will be one of many addressed in the breakout session piece of the institute. Then attendees will board several buses to take private tours of a wide variety of agricultural businesses in and around Albuquerque.

"New Mexico depends on agriculture, and thus we depend on future generations getting involved with the entire spectrum of agriculture from farming and ranching to banking to teaching to communications and much, much more," said Caren Cowan, executive director of the New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Association, one of the institute’s organizers and sponsors.

“(AgriFuture) hopes to expose young people to the wide range of possibilities.”

The institute is open to future agricultural producers age 40 and under; veterans are encouraged to attend.

It is also open to current agricultural producers of all ages in hopes that they will serve as mentors going forward.

Witte said the idea of community is critical in agriculture, because people often develop their best practices on the farm or ranch by talking with others rather than by, say, reading a handbook.

The registration fee for future agriculture producers is $50 for the Institute, while the fee for current agriculture producers – can potentially mentor beginning farmers and ranchers – is $100.

Institute activities are also being funded in part by such sponsors as Farm Credit of New Mexico, which is also helping organize the institute.

In addition to NMDA, Cattle Growers’, and Farm Credit, institute organizers include Ag New Mexico Farm Credit; New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau; New Mexico Beef Council; Dairy Producers of New Mexico; New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.; New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts; New Mexico State University-Cooperative Extension Service; USDA-Farm Service Agency’s New Mexico office; USDA-

Details

AgriFuture Educational Institute

What
Educational institute for beginning and future farmers and ranchers, as well as those aiming for other careers in agriculture.

When
Monday, May 12 through Wednesday, May 14

Where
Albuquerque

Deadline to register
Thursday, May 1

Register at
www.nmada.nmsu.edu

Phone
646-3702

Natural Resources Conservation Service’s New Mexico office; and USDA-Rural Development’s New Mexico office.

The institute agenda and registration are available at www.nmada.nmsu.edu.

People can also join the Facebook event page (via www.facebook.com/NMDepartmentofAg) to stay tuned for institute updates and connect with other attendees.

Anyone interested in sponsoring the event can call NMADA at 646-3702.
Exploring delicious choices at
Game day cake auction

Photos by Elva K. Österreich

Cindy Lee listens as Mason Klein explains the games represented in cake form at a silent auction at the college business complex on campus. New Mexico State University College of Business Student Organizations hosted the Cakes for Kids event to raise money for the Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces. The silent cake auction/decorating competition offered student baked goods representing games Tuesday, April 22 at the business complex.

Various games, from Candyland, below, to Hungry Hungry Hippo, above, were recreated in cake form at the NMSU College of Business for a silent auction fundraising event.
Blazin’ Brewfest taps Main Street Downtown
NM Brewers Guild returns to Las Cruces for annual craft beer fest

By Zak Hansen
Las Cruces Bulletin

Last year, the New Mexico Brewers Guild (NMBG) – a nonprofit association of craft brewers, industry partners and beer enthusiasts with a mission of supporting the development of a robust craft brewing industry and inspiring a culture of quality beer appreciation in New Mexico – traveled south for their first event in Las Cruces, June’s Blazin’ Brewfest.

Setting up at the Grapevine Plaza, event organizers and NMBG reps were expecting attendance of around 500 to 600. By the end of the day, the first-annual Blazin’ Brewfest drew more than 1,200 thirsty beer lovers, who readily floated the kegs of most of the event’s 12 participating Land of Enchantment breweries.

Inspired by the wild success of the guild’s first outing to southern New Mexico, as well as Dia de la Cerveza, held Downtown in November 2013, the NMBG is back for the return of its perennial event, the Blazin’ Brewfest, from 4 to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 3, on Main Street Downtown at the heart of Las Cruces’ growing city center.

Speaking on the NMBG’s first southern event, beer ambassador – aka executive director – Chris Goblet, said the response was overwhelming, nearly guaranteeing a fast return.

“That was our first time coming down south as an organization, and it was such a great experience, a great crowd and a really positive reception,” Goblet said. “We ran out of some beer, so we underestimated the thirst that comes with Las Cruces’ hot, dry weather. We really enjoyed it and our brewers said they definitely wanted to do it again, and the springtime events have become really popular.”

Last year’s Blazin’ Brewfest was held in June – one of the hottest months in the scorching Las Cruces summers – so Goblet chose to move this year’s even back a month, in order to “capture a little bit of this cooler weather, and the opportunity to catch some of the New Mexico State University students who were already gone for the summer by the time June rolled around.”

Attendees can expect some of the best craft and microbrews from around the state at this year’s Blazin’ Brewfest, with participating breweries including La Cumbre, Tractor, Turtle Mountain, Santa Fe, Second Street, Little Toad Creek, Bosque Brewing, Wellhead, Abbey Brewing, Marble and Rio Grande/Sierra Blanca, newcomers Taos Mesa and Stumbling Steer, as well as local hosts High Desert Brewing Co.

In addition to the 14 breweries on tap, the second annual Blazin’ Brewfest will feature food vendors including Luchador Food Truck, Happy Dog, Cruisin’ Quesadilla and 138 Sandwiches, and live music from Bourbon Legend, Strange as Folk and The Mother Tucker.

Shifting the date of the event back a month, Goblet began working with Carrie La Tour, executive director of the Downtown
Las Cruces Partnership, and Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces Manager Duane Mosely to bring the event Downtown, partly inspired by his own years spent as part of Albuquerque's Main Street organization.

"Part of my motivation since the first time we came down was that I wanted to work with Main Streets, and I want to work with Main Streets across the state," Goblet said.

Working not only in the larger New Mexico cities in the north, Goblet's work has brought events to Main Street communities of Portales, Farmington and Silver City, as well as Las Cruces.

"Every time I go to a Main Street community, I go to work with local people," he said. "They're always more energetic and enthusiastic, and it fits in with our philosophy.

"We're locally produced, we make local products, we are local manufacturers, working with your local food vendors and your local companies, spending our dollars in your economy, and that's part of the mission of the New Mexico Brewers Guild."

Early-bird tickets to the Blazin' Brewfest (available through the NMBG website at http://nmbeer.org) are $10. Advance tickets are $15, and tickets at the gate are $20. Attendees must be 21 or older, or with a parent or guardian. For more information, visit http://nmbeer.org.

Details

Blazin' Brewfest

When
4 to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 3

Where
Main Street Downtown

Cost
$15 advance, $20 at the gate

Website
http://nmbeer.org

Brother Christian of the Monastery of Christ in the Desert in Abiquiu, N.M., hands a patron a glass of Abbey Beverage Company's Monks' Tripel during the first Blazin' Brewfest in June 2013. The event, sponsored by the New Mexico Brewers Guild, returns to Las Cruces Saturday, May 3.
ASTC takes on Moliere’s ‘Misanthrope’
Director Chenard adds unique spin on classic

Review by Gerald M. Kane
For the Las Cruces Bulletin

It is quite unusual to have the opportunity to see two interpretations of the same play by two theater companies in the same theatre season in Las Cruces.

This year, that is not the case. For theater aficionados, we have been presented with two very different and fascinating versions of the same classic play, with the same basic plot, but with two very different production spins and outcomes.

The first version of Moliere’s classic “The Misanthrope,” made its appearance in October 2013, on the stage of the Las Cruces Community Theatre under the title “School for Lies.” Written in rhymed couplets, it featured a clever script – full of double entendres and Yiddish and popular slang that never would have crossed Moliere’s lips – by noted playwright David Ives. It was a fine, funny production, full of foppery, humor and well-played performances, most especially by its director Brandon Brown, who stepped into the leading role, along with Bob Diven, Britany Stout and Gail Wheeler.

Quite a different take on the “The Misanthrope” is currently on view at the Mark and Stephanie Medoff Theatre in the Center for the Arts on the campus of New Mexico State University through Sunday, May 4.

This production’s script, also in rhymed couplets, is written by noted poet laureate and double Pulitzer Prize-winner for poetry Richard Wilbur. I have a sense Wilbur stuck closer to the original French text. While the story elements of both scripts are basically the same, the directors’ takes and foci present us with a good deal to contemplate.

Both productions feature “mash-up” elements. The LCCT production made use of an iPad, a cell phone and sneakers, mixed in with period costumes with abundant flounce from the Doña Ana Lyric Opera’s costume stash.

The current American Southwest Theatre Company (ASTC) production features freshly made stylized costumes in bright, carnival-like colors and unique crepe paper “rolled” white wigs which give their own “flossy mopsy” look to the show. Costume and wig designer Kaitlin Sikes and her hard-working crew truly outdid themselves, giving the costumes and wigs an amazing, almost carnival-like feel.

Jim Billings’ period 1666 salon set is up to his usual sterling standards, which are jam packed with hidden unexpected surprises which reveal themselves at play’s end.

I am pleased to report that articulation and sound issues which have plagued some works performed on the stage of the Medoff seem to have been mastered.

Profuse background notes by professor William Strong of NMSU’s Theatre Arts Department place the play and
playwright in proper historical context, but a more revealing point of view is presented in director Josh Chenard's notes.

Chenard seems to have been inspired by his summers working at an amusement park on the coast of Maine. This carnival-like atmosphere seems to have infused itself into his interpretation of Molière's 1866 plot about Alceste, an individual who finds no satisfaction dealing with people in general, disillusioned by his love interest Celimene and the affected folks who populate his immediate environment.

Directors are given artistic license to put their own “spin” on the classics. The addition of an unscripted prelude and postlude truly bring some surprise and splash to the show. The cast enters holding large picture frames to show off their costumes and personalities. They do so at show’s end to take their well-deserved bows.

Kudos to the cast for their mastery of the text, extending and not forcing the rhyme at the end of each line. This allows for proper emphasis to make understanding the text easier on the audience.

In the leading roles of Alceste and Celimene, Joshua Horton and Ellen Streipeke run the gamut of emotional range in their well-directed portrayals. Lindsey Porter, as the gossiping Arsinoe and plot spoiler, gives us a sense she was bathed in arsenic before making her acerbic entrance.

I am compelled to single out and applaud one cast member with hardly any spoken lines, who, if given permission would chew up all the scenery on stage, and who gives a much needed sense of humor to all the verbiage coming from the mouths of the other characters. Stephanie Vasquez plays Basque, a house maid. Hers is not a role in the original Molière text, but Chenard saw the value of adding a silent maid to the mix to add a dash of comic relief wherever and whenever she could. Brava, Stephanie. We look forward to seeing much more of you on the ASTC stage.

In sum, this is a delightful performance, well worthy of your attention.

The American Southwest Theatre Company schedule for the 2014-15 season has been announced. One highlight for me is a production of the Tony Award-winning musical “The Mystery of Edwin Drood.”

“The Misanthrope” runs through Sunday, May 4, in the Mark and Stephanie Medoff Theatre at the Center for the Arts on the NMSU campus. Tickets are $10 to $17 and available at the Center for the Arts Box office from noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, through Ticketmaster or by calling 646-4515 or 646-1420.

Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. For more information, including videos about the process of creating the production, visit www.nmsutheatre.com.

Gerald Kane has reviewed theater, film and opera for NPR stations and newspapers in New Orleans, Phoenix and Kansas City, as well as for the Las Cruces Bulletin for the past 11 years. A former member of the American Theatre Critics Association, he has taught “Jews on Screen” at NMSU. He is the Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces.