President signs Enhanced DNA law

Residents of Lea and Eddy County honored for their needed courage

Ordinary people with extraordinary courage

Casa Hermosa sale to Chelsea Investment Corporation finalized

Lovington PD seize more than 40 grams of meth

Recipients of the first annual Southeastern New Mexico Real Heroes Breakfast and Awards stand together following a breakfast banquet honoring them. Nine groups or individuals were chosen from a list of 60 nominees for this year’s event. The nine groups or individuals were honored for “going above and beyond what they would normally do during their day-to-day operations.”

“Whether you are a professional safety officer, a firefighter, a medical provider or just a normal person, you must have the heart and desire to help those who are beyond their comfort zone,” Sen. Kay Kamen, R-Robbins, the event’s keynote speaker said.

“We are honoring ordinary people in the community with extraordinary courage,” said Debba Luhrs, community relations manager for the American Red Cross.

More than 250 people attended the event at the Lea County Fairgrounds.

Casa Hermosa sale to Chelsea Investment

The 88-unit Casa Hermosa apartment complex in Hobbs was recently sold for $1.8 million. The new owners plan to spend $4.5 million to rehabilitate the complex.

“The authority is pleased to have found a buyer,” Chris Herbert, director of the Region 6 Housing Authority, said. The property closed Dec. 28 and the floor for six hours, crying for someone to save her.

Thursday morning, three people and several others were celebrated for their heroic acts during the first annual Southeastern New Mexico Real Heroes Breakfast and Awards, presented by the American Red Cross.

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Casa Hermosa

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DNA law

Casa Hermosa from PAGE 1

in rehabilitation of the 88-unit apartment complex.

"Casa Hermosa is going to be curve, mixed-income develop- ment, serving a variety of ten- ants from 80 percent (adjusted median income) and even some unrestricted units for market rate folks as well," Grosz said last week.

Chelsea has more than 5,600 units on the ground and of those 1,060 are rehabilitation units. The facility is going to be really proud to have the renovations completed during the fourth quarter of 2013.

"We use everything in place to do what we said we were going to do," he said. "The city is going to be really proud to have it in their community again.

Grosz said the project will result in some $500,000-$600,000 of rehabilitation and remodel- ing costs for each unit of the 88-unit facility, resulting in a remodel cost of around $45 million.

The facility is currently only about 58 percent occupied and Grosz said the company will likely employ a single struc- ture, rehabilitate it and then move all the residents to new permanent homes in that building while moving on to the next structure.

A buyer was interested in the complex as recently as early 2011, but the bond trustee rep- resenting investors, who helped fund a remodel of the apartments in the 1980s didn’t accept the offer. Herbert said at one point the housing authority was in the process of foreclosing on Casa Hermosa because of the ongoing high cost of operating the facility — as much as $200,000 a month.

**Meth**

The investigation was sparked about three months ago when the FBI informed law enforcement officials in Lovington about a drug ring involving a number of identified meth labs.

Skaggs was arrested by the Washington County Sheriff’s Office and charged with conspiracy.

Lea County Detention Center in Lovington, Skaggs bond is set at $80,000.

Meanwhile, 27-year-old Julian Gomez of Lovington has been arrested and charged with drug trafficking and felon in possession of a firearm. Police said they recovered seven grams of methamphetamine and a firearm from Gomez. The two cases are not related, police said.

Gomez is being held at the Lea County Detention Center. A buyer will most likely return to the property in 18 years in prison.

Skaggs and Contois are being held at the 1001 Louisiana, Suite 3000.

**Hair**

**Friday and Saturday Nights!**

**IN THE STATE LINE SHOWROOM**

Must be 21. $5 Cover Charge.

**TODD BAILEY/NEWS-SUN**

**FOR THE FRONT PAGE 6**

**NOTICE OF AIR QUALITY PERMIT APPLICATION**

Targa Resources Intends to submit an application to the New Mexico Environment Department for a technical review to air quality permit 110-MR-01 for its Monument Gas Plant. The facility is currently operating under an expired Air Quality Permit. The expected date of application submission to the Air Quality Bureau is approximately January 11, 2013.

The location of the facility is Township 10 South, Range 36 East, Section 36, near Monument, NM. This location is approximately 2.8 miles west of Monument, NM, in Lea County. From the location, the Monument Gas Plant can be accessed by: travel west on Monument Highway for approximately 3.4 miles. The plant will be on the left.

This revision is expected to increase emissions from the facility. The facility estimates approximately an increase of regulated air contaminants, after the revision, to be based on the current permitted allowances:

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<td>239 lb</td>
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Emissions of other pollutants will be negligible. The standard operating schedule will be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The consentorder of the facility is:

Vasco Gas Processors LLC - Owner
Targa Midstream Services LLC - Operator
Targa Midstream Services LLC - Operator
1001 Louisiana, Suite 3000
Hobbs, TX 78540

If you have any comments about the construction or operation of the above facility, and want your comments to be made a part of the permit review process, you must submit your comments in writing to the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality. If you have questions about the Department, the Department of Environmental Quality or any other issue, please call the Department of Environmental Quality at 391-5436. A buyer will most likely return to the property in 18 years in prison. 

Alexis Oros-DePasquale can be reached at alexis@hobbsnews.com or call her at 391-3446.

**DNA**

DNA legal proceedings to implement them. The new law authorizes the Department of Justice to award grants to cover up to 100 percent of a state’s first-year cost of implementing a collection program.

More states may implement DNA arrest collection programs, which could allow law enforcement to compare DNA collected from arrests who are arrested or charged with crime, including murder, sexual assault, kidnapping and aggravated assault.

Collected DNA could be compared with the FBI database.

Supports who have DNA collected for the federal database may have their records expunged if they are acquitted, their conviction is over- turned or if the charges against them are dis- missed.

As a condition of receiving a grant, states must notify individuals who submit DNA samples of the relevant expungement procedures and post the information on a public website.

Beth Hans can be reached at 391-3446 or beth@hobbsnews.com.

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<th>Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)</th>
<th>Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)</th>
<th>Suspended Particulate (TSP)</th>
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