**Hobbs Express named a top transportation system**

**LEVI HILL**

Public transportation is generally associated with large urban cities, and Hobbs must be getting there because it has one of the best transit systems in the state.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation recently recognized Hobbs’ Tran system, Hobbs Express, as one of five 2013 Transportation Systems of the Year. Hobbs Express received a Rural Transit System of the Year award.

Melissa Drake, spokeswoman for the state DOT, said the DOT’s transit and rail division chose the award July 15 and will take about a year to complete.

It is broken up into three phases. Inside each is an opportunity to allow as much access to residential properties as possible,” Randall said.

Randall said this phase will take 2-4 months and will require complete removal of Temple Street from Dal Paso to Cochran and up Cochran to Texas Street and then west again to the railroad right of way.

The project is just a portion of more than 6 miles of aging sewer main that is collapsing and needs replacing. The穿越 along the stretch that will eventually connect Ocotillo Golf Course to the city’s effluent system so effluent water can be used to water the course.

Randall said each phase of the project will take 2-4 months and will require complete removal of Temple Street where the line is being removed, because it is at a depth of about 16 feet. This will mean limited access to the areas.

However, the good news is residents on Temple will not be cut off and not allowed to sell, since approximately $800 a linear foot, with $250 of that coming from the city’s solid waste removal and replacement.

The plan is that the Temple Street project will be from Dal Paso west to Ocean Drive.

**SEE OCTILLO PARK, Page 4**

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**Airport tour**

Mills Elementary kindergarten students toured the Lea County Airport Tuesday morning. The tour included the control tower, the house, museum and a United Express airplane. Angel Estrada, top, lifted by Bertha Guerra so that he could see out of the control tower during the tour.

**Wirz-Cobb/NEWS-SUN**

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**Ocotillo Park**

**$700,000**

OK’d for course design

**LEVI HILL**

Despite haring nowhere for Hobbs golfers to play since 2012, the Ocotillo Park Golf Course is closed, the city is moving ahead with final design plans for a portion of the golf course.

For the last several months the city has been working with the Arizona golf course designer Andy Staples and a citizens’ advisory group to develop a plan to update and modernize the old course.

The plan calls for more than $8.3 million to be spent to upgrade the 18 holes, add a 9-hole par 3 course and include putting greens, a driving range and add up to 8 inches of topsoil to the course.

At Monday’s city commission meeting, Parks and Recreation director Mia Russell presented the commission with a request to spend $652,000 on a final design for the course.

"With this, we move forward with 90 percent complete plans that would be ready by the end of June," Russell said. The city has discussed closing the course and starting the 15-month renovation in October. "That is an extremely long renovation timeline, but if approved today Andy Staples will start working on three plans that have been designed and the 90 percent construction documents ready to go out by the end of September.

The cost of the contract for the final design plans is on par with the industry standard of 15 percent of the total project cost, Russell said.

Russell said the city has the ability to terminate or put the contract on hold if unable to put the project out to bid later this year.

The city has been in talks with the Hobbs Country Club for a contract to allow non-member Hobbs residents to play the course while Ocotillo Park is closed for 15 months of construction. However, an agreement has not yet been reached.

**SEE OCTILLO PARK, Page 4**

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**Hobbs Express**

**$4 million sewer project to begin**

**RANDALL WILLIAMSON**

Life is south Hobbs for residents along Temple Street will get a little better beginning in July as the city kicks off a year-long sewer line replacement project that will require the complete demolition of Temple Street.

The city commission approved the contract for the project with Smokey Construction Inc. for $4.549 million at Monday’s regular meeting.

City engineer Todd Vellis said the work would begin in late June or early July and will take about a year to complete.

"It is broken up into three phases. Inside each is an opportunity to allow as much access to residential properties as possible," Randall said.

Randall said this phase will take 2-4 months and will require complete removal of Temple Street from Dal Paso to Cochran and up Cochran to Texas Street and then west again to the railroad right of way.

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**SEE EXPLORER, Page 4**

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**Community News**

**THE EUNICE FIRE DEPARTMENT** will be testing the warning system at 11 a.m. today.

Friday is the deadline to enter this year’s COMMUNITY PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW at the Western Heritage Museum. The amateur photography show will run from May 16-June 7. For more information, call 492-2678.

The HOBBS HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY shopping bags, bag your trash and be served and video highlights presentation given. For more information, contact Bob Kelley at 575-393-2661 or Kevin Wieser at 501-213-6192.

Hobbs Beautiful and Committee for Hobbs is reminding everyone to assist in the FIGHT AGAINST LITTER and weeds. Tips include reuse or recycle plastic shopping bags, bag your trash and be sure the top of the polybag is closed.
Homicide victim was ex-prosecution officer

MCLENNAN (AP) — An air car accident in Hobbs on Wednesday that killed one victim and injured another is being investigated as a homicide.

A Corrections Department spokesman said the deceased was a 47-year-old man who had been working as an investigator with the New Mexico State Police and had been on duty at the prison when the incident occurred.

The state police are investigating the incident as a possible homicide and have set up an investigation team.

It was the second fatality in a week for the city’s police force, which has been busy dealing with a surge in violent crime.

Police officials said they are concerned about the increase in crime and are working to increase public safety measures.

In a separate incident, a man was shot and killed in a park near the city on Thursday night.

The man, identified as 32-year-old John Smith, was walking through a park when he was shot and killed.

Police are still investigating the incident and say they are working to identify the suspect.

A large crowd gathered at the scene to pay tribute to Mr. Smith and to express their support for the police force.

In other news, a woman was stabbed to death in her home on Wednesday night.

The woman, who was in her 60s, was found with multiple stab wounds.

Police are still investigating the incident and say they are working to identify the suspect.

The woman’s death is the third murder in the city this year.

Police officials said they are concerned about the increase in violence and are working to increase public safety measures.

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