**Medical Center appoints new CEO**

LANCE CRENshaw / NEWS-SUN

Less Regional Medical Center has a new chief executive officer.

Tim Thorneill was named CEO on Aug. 1. Thorneill, who most recently was chief operating officer at MountainView Regional Medical Center in Las Cruces, has over 15 years of health care administrative experience.

“We have been privileged to get to know Tim over the last few months as our interim CEO,” Jerry McLoughlin, chair of the Less Regional Medical Center board, said in a press release. “He has taken advantage of the opportunity to learn about our hospital’s strengths, our employees and our medical staff along our shared commitment to deliver the highest quality care to all of our neighbors in the area.”

Thorneill has a master’s degree in health care administration, and a bachelor’s degree in physics and French. He said that in the short time he’s been here, he has come to understand firsthand how each of the employees at Less Regional puts patients first.

“I am excited to work with the hospital, clinic, and medical staff to augment the services we provide,” Thorneill said in the release. “I look to improve the way we take care of the patients in our community.”

Thorneill has been working in the hospital as interim CEO for more than three months and with his wife, Tamara, and his three children, he is relocating to Hobbs.

WEST SANGER STREET between West County Road and French Drive will be closed to through traffic for about three weeks to replace a drainage structure crossing on Sanger.

JOULE UNLIMITED, a company that is scheduled to build a pilot plant in Lea County for making biofuels, was featured on Fox News’ Energy in America on Tuesday.

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Rivas

**15-year-old charged with murder**

BETTY HAHN / NEWS-SUN

A 15-year-old Hobbs student is facing murder charges after allegedly stabbing an elderly woman to death.

Juan Rivas Jr. was arrested Monday by Hobbs police. He is being held without bond in the Lea County Detention Center.

Hobbs police officers were called to the 130 block of East Temple at about midnight Sunday by family members of 87-year-old Clara Alvarez.

Family members were concerned because they had not heard from Alvarez in a few days and her car was missing.

Officers found an open door and found the woman wrapped in bedding in a bedroom.

According to police reports, Rivas tried to break into the Rincon home in the early morning hours, but he just didn’t have the budget this year to do it.”

Other improvements made to the Lovington school district include new cafeteria tables at the elementary schools, new computer equipment in a press release.

“With the money we had, we made some improvements to the school,” O’Quinn said.

One of the biggest changes happened at Taylor Middle School, where $200,000 was spent on replacing old kitchen equipment.

“We didn’t have much of a budget this year, like the rest of the districts around the state,” said Superintendent Steve O’Quinn. “But with the money that we had, we made some improvements to the school.”

Money was also used to add new lockers, create storage space, install new sprinkler systems for all the lawns at the campuses, and replace old conditioning units,” said O’Quinn. “There is still a lot of work to be done, but we just didn’t have the budget this year to do it.”

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