HELENA RODRIGUEZ  
NEWS-SUN

HFD dealing with ‘growing pains’

Hobbs has been a city on the grow for several years. With this growth has come a 20.5 percent increase in fire runs over the previous year; a 10.9 percent increase in ambulance runs; and a 28 percent increase in property losses due to fire.

In addition, residential fires were the leading cause for alarms largely due to accidental fires related to cooking or failure of equipment or heating sources.

These are the “growing pains” recently published by the Hobbs Fire Department in an annual report released by fire chief Manny Gomez.

To help combat these growing pains, a new $2.8 million fire station is expected to be completed and open in mid-May in the College Lane area, north-west of Hobbs, where Gomez said the city is experiencing the most growth.

Also, Gomez pointed out that while property losses from 2010 to 2011 are $340,000, in 2011, he said this is a significant decrease from two years previous.

“In 2011, the property loss due to fires was near $500,000,” Gomez said. “That could be due to an increased training, certification requirements and enhanced equipment that we do with this.” Public education and code enforcement have made a great impact as well.

Gomez recently completed his 26th year with the Hobbs Fire Department Office and recalls in 1991, when the fire department had 660 fire runs and 3,509 emergency medical service (EMS) calls. In 2011, the fire department made 1,675 fire runs and 4,441 EMS runs.

Inside Today

Obituaries .................................. 2
Opinion .................................. 5
Parenting .................................. 19

Station One preschool

Station One preschool kids hug each other before lunch time. Station One Preschool has a new facility located at 905 E. Gloretea next to La Pradera apartment complex.

Some chickenpox cases reported in Hobbs

Reports of infants and toddlers infected with chickenpox and rash-like symptoms have become more numerous in Lea County in the past month.

Before routine vaccination began in 1995, chickenpox was a common and deadly disease that most children caught. Some instances, parents intentionally exposed their children to the virus in hopes of having their kids catch the illness at an early age, as contracting the virus as an adult can be dangerous.

But the activity is frowned upon by pediatricians because of dangers arising from possible complications associated with chickenpox, such as encephalitis, chickenpox-associated pneumonia, and immune group A strep.

One Hobbs daycare facility has not had any cases of chickenpox in the last two weeks, prompting the posting of signs on the daycare’s front doors stating “any children with fever or visible red spots cannot come in.

“We do require our kids to have their current shot records, so this cutoff is a punishment,” said an employee at the daycare.

In 1991, the property loss due to fires was near $500,000,” Gomez said. “That could be due to an increased training, certification requirements and enhanced equipment that we do with this.” Public education and code enforcement have made a great impact as well.

Gomez recently completed his 26th year with the Hobbs Fire Department Office and recalls in 1991, when the fire department had 660 fire runs and 3,509 emergency medical service (EMS) calls. In 2011, the fire department made 1,675 fire runs and 4,441 EMS runs.

According to Fletcher, there were actually less voters during the municipal election, which was a total of 438 votes counted.

According to Fletcher, there were actually less voters during the municipal election, which was a total of 438 votes counted.

“Others got out and vote, this is still a low percentage of voting. Fletcher said, “32 people are not registered, they still have some % in votes would of voted for the June primaries.”

A total of 3,200 votes were recorded for the March 6 election.

In 1991, the property loss due to fires was near $500,000,” Gomez said. “That could be due to an increased training, certification requirements and enhanced equipment that we do with this.” Public education and code enforcement have made a great impact as well.

Gomez recently completed his 26th year with the Hobbs Fire Department Office and recalls in 1991, when the fire department had 660 fire runs and 3,509 emergency medical service (EMS) calls. In 2011, the fire department made 1,675 fire runs and 4,441 EMS runs.

According to Fletcher, there were actually less voters during the municipal election, which was a total of 438 votes counted.

According to Fletcher, there were actually less voters during the municipal election, which was a total of 438 votes counted.

“The purpose of the election is to get the candidates to the polls.”

“Others got out and vote, this is still a low percentage of voting. Fletcher said, “32 people are not registered, they still have some % in votes would of voted for the June primaries.”

A total of 3,200 votes were recorded for the March 6 election.

In 1991, the property loss due to fires was near $500,000,” Gomez said. “That could be due to an increased training, certification requirements and enhanced equipment that we do with this.” Public education and code enforcement have made a great impact as well.

Gomez recently completed his 26th year with the Hobbs Fire Department Office and recalls in 1991, when the fire department had 660 fire runs and 3,509 emergency medical service (EMS) calls. In 2011, the fire department made 1,675 fire runs and 4,441 EMS runs.

According to Fletcher, there were actually less voters during the municipal election, which was a total of 438 votes counted.

According to Fletcher, there were actually less voters during the municipal election, which was a total of 438 votes counted.

“The purpose of the election is to get the candidates to the polls.”

“Others got out and vote, this is still a low percentage of voting. Fletcher said, “32 people are not registered, they still have some % in votes would of voted for the June primaries.”

A total of 3,200 votes were recorded for the March 6 election.

In 1991, the property loss due to fires was near $500,000,” Gomez said. “That could be due to an increased training, certification requirements and enhanced equipment that we do with this.” Public education and code enforcement have made a great impact as well.

Gomez recently completed his 26th year with the Hobbs Fire Department Office and recalls in 1991, when the fire department had 660 fire runs and 3,509 emergency medical service (EMS) calls. In 2011, the fire department made 1,675 fire runs and 4,441 EMS runs.
Roswell. They come to Hobbs for their shifts and places such as Eunice and one who lives in lifted its residency requirement that firefighters focus on the talent of the candidates and we laid off by cities cutting back.

"A big reason for a lot of residential fires is people cooking unattended or multi-tasking, which is the 20 cause with senior citizens. Gomez is currently working to fill five open- tions within the fire department, noting that factors or people leaving candles out or kid- playing with matches."

For this reason, Gomez said they conduct fire inspections for residents and conduct fire safety programs and campaigns throughout the com- munity .

With residential fires, which were the leading cause of alarms, Gomez said many of the fires were preventable.

According to Gomez, a part of the increase in fires, and people who have been laid off by new fire station will help increase response time to fires, especially those in the north part of town. He said the Fire Department will also re- ing fires. It takes a community," Gomez said.

In spite of the increasing fire and ambulance run figures, Gomez pointed out that 2011 also marked the seventh consecutive year without a

With this past week's election, voters could vote from PAGE 1

Vote from PAGE 1

According to the city clerk's office, most students in Tuesday's election were cast at the Len County Office Complex at 1923 N. Dal Paso. "They were 900 votes cast at the Lea County Complex. There were 10.000 votes cast, because that place has already been utilized as a Lea County Voting Center," stated Melissa Maldonado, the deputy city clerk.

To help with recruiting, Gomez said the city lified its residency requirement that firefight- er's are to live in the Hobbs city land, so they now have about 15 percent of the staff com- pacted outside of the city limits, from places such as El Paso and one who lives in Brownsville. They come to Hobbs for their shifts and drive home on their days off.

The Hobbs Fire Department is looking to hire at least four employees to man a new fire station in the College Lane area.

In addition to increased EMS and fire runs, Gomez said the city has ad on-time high in 2011 in the number of condemned buildings which were destroyed fire and smoke hazards and were deemed fire and safety hazards and were condemned in 2011. He said an incentive rollover program which helped owners with some of the costs of demolishing or making structurally hab- itable helped.

"Condemned buildings are not just eye sores, but also possible places of drug activity and pos- sible fire hazards," Gomez said.

"Many times, the city building official said that when a property is condemned, concerns have two options, either tear down the building, or fix it up to meet the city building code."

"Since the city offers an incentive roll-off program, the city pays for the cost to tear it down. The only thing people have to pay for in the time it takes to tear down the city pays most of the costs and they would usually family members to help when it is time to tear down," Marquez said.

He also said that while most property owners are given days to clean up or remodel proper- ty they have offered extensions when needed as long as efforts are being made to tear it down or fix it.

"The benefits are two fold, whether we tear down the building or they fix it up," Marquez said. "If they fix it up, it creates a better commun- ity and the property looks better, or if they tear it down, it makes the city safer."