**Community News**

**A CENTENNIAL DINER THEATER** will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Center for the Arts on April 26 featuring Hobbs High School actors who will perform a short presentation and guest speaker Judge Roy Bean, an actor from the Playhouse of the O'Keeffe Council of Carlsbad.

Tickets for the catered dinner are $25. For tickets, visit the Center at 122 W. Broadway or call 397-2787. Wednesday-Saturday.

Reminder that today is TAX FILING deadline day.

The New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Hispanic Medical Association, the City of Hobbs, and many community partners will host a day of HEALTH AND WELLNESS educational activities suitable for the whole family as part of this inaugural Semana de Salud/Hispanic Health Week. The event will kick off with a walk at noon at NMTC.

**THE NEW MEXICO TEXAS CHALLENGE MARATHON** will be Saturday from the Lea County Museum in Lovington to the Western Heritage Museum in Hobbs. For more information, call 396-4095. Registration is due Friday.

**SESASE STREET LIVE** presents "Elmo Makes Music" at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. today at the Lea County Event Center. Tickets start at $16.50 and are available at the Lea County Event Center box office and through selectaseatbook.co.

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**Keynote Features**

- **BETH HAHN**

*The first draft of the 2012-13 Lea County budget will be considered by county commissioners next week.*

Commissioners previewed the $92 million budget during a meeting in Hobbs April 10. County manager Mike Gallagher said the budget is an overall reduction, even with pay raises for county employees.

**Draft Lea budget includes 2 percent employee raise**

Under the draft budget, employees will receive a 2 percent cost of living raise, with up to an additional 3 percent in merit pay. Gallagher said saving employees could see a 5 percent pay raise in 2012-13.

Even with the employee raises, Gallagher said the budget is the smallest since 2008-09. According to the press release:**

**S E E B U D G E T , P a g e 4**

**EQUESTRIAN FACILITY**

Donated land may be site for Lea center

**HELENA RODRIGUEZ**

The Hobbs City Commission isn’t holding out on its horses. On Monday night, the commission agreed to give 22.75 acres of land to Lea County to possibly construct a new equestrian center north of town.

Although Lea County is reportedly in the preliminary stages of planning an equestrian center, the commission agreed to use the land: Hill Ranch Industrial Air Park and the New Mexico Department of Health and the Hobbs City Commission.

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**NEWS SUN STAFF REPORT**

A Lovingston resident died in a single vehicle rollover Sunday afternoon.

According to New Mexico State Police a 2012 Dodge pickup was traveling eastbound on U.S. Highway 62/180 about 15 miles west of Hobbs when the driver, Joel Lopez, 24, flipped the vehicle.

Officials report the vehicle then drifted into the center median and the driver overcorrected to the right in an attempt to get the vehicle back on the road. NSDPD reports the vehicle went off the roadway, then reentered the roadway and it was exiting the south side of the road when the driver overcorrected to the left, causing the vehicle to begin sliding with the passenger side in the roadway.

According to the press release:

**SEE ROLLERCO, Page 4**

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**SEE BUDGET, Page 4**

**LIGHTNING STRIKES another motorcyclist**

**Denise Pimentel**

A Texas Democrat says documents detail concerns about possible groundwater contamination at a radioactive waste dump in West Texas, and is seeking official permission to release them.

State Rep. Lon Burnam wrote a letter to Attorney General Greg Abbott asking him to waive the confidentiality agreement for documents expressing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s concerns about Waste Control Specialists LLC’s application to build the site in rural Lynn County near the New Mexico border. The site is just east of Pecos.

Burnam, a Democrat from Fort Worth, also obtained the documents under a 2009 open records request — and only after years of legal battle by Burnam’s not allowed to release what’s in them but said they contain official concerns about the location of groundwater wells near the dump site, the margins of safety in the event of groundwater contamination, and the possible risk of public exposure to radiation.

Burnam also said paperwork that can be released indicates water from the radioactive waste disposal facility

**SEE WSC, Page 4**

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**SEE WSC, Page 4**
**Rollover**

MLPD shooting.

all occupants including the driver Joel Lopez and passengers Ulises Lopez, 22, Martin Martinez, 30, and Joseph Noack, 30, were ejected from the vehicle.

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The one vehicle roll over on Sunday on the Carlsbad Highway shut traffic down as rescue crews called in a helicopter to transport the wounded. The one vehicle roll over on Sunday on the Carlsbad Highway shut traffic down as rescue crews called in a helicopter to transport the wounded.

**Wild hogs spreading toward Dona Ana**

LAS CRUCES (AP) — Wild hogs are likely on their way to Dona Ana County as the animals continue to spread across the state, according to a Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services official.

The animals, a cross between domestic pigs and European hogs introduced by hunters into the U.S., can reach up to 250 or 300 pounds. They breed quickly, traveling in groups of about 10 to 15 and are difficult to eradicate.

According to a press release from the hospital, an average waiting time can be found online at www.learegionalmedical.com. The times displayed are based on a two hour average and are updated every 15 minutes.

"Our process improvements focus on getting patients into a treatment room as quickly as possible, enabling our clinical professionals to see a patient and begin diagnosis and treatment in a timely manner," Thornell said.

"We believe this service pledge will distinguish us from other health care providers in the area, and underline our commitment to the people who live and work in the Lea County community," Thornell said in the release. The pledge made in the press release.

The wild pigs have been a problem for farmers and ranchers for years as they dig up crops and cause damage to property.

"We have identified disease fatality and failures to use snares as contributing factors. Alcohol was not a contributing factor; according to police.

**Pledge**

designed to offer patients emergency care in an efficient and quick way.

"That’s why Las Cruces has a 30-minute ER service pledge, to assure patients that we are dedicated not only to offering the best quality care, but also to providing that care as efficiently and quickly as possible," said LMHC chief executive officer Tim Thorrill in a press release.

According to a press release from the hospital, when a patient comes to the emergency room the arrival time is noted and that is when the 30-minute pledge begins. Time is also noted when the patient is seen by a clinical professional who can include a doctor, physician’s assistant or a nurse practitioner. The pledge is timed as the time a patient asks to see a doctor or healthcare professional, and the total length of time a patient may spend receiving treatment depends on each case.

"We believe this service pledge will distinguish us from other health care providers in the area, and underline our commitment to the people who live and work in the Lea County community," Thornell said in the release. The pledge made in the press release.

Thorrill added the 30-minute pledge is not an effort to rush patients through the emergency room, but to get quickly get patients to a treatment room where they can be examined.

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