

# Jobs Chamber board backs election bonds

**FOR THE NEWS-SUN**  
At its Oct. 1 regular meeting, the Hobbs Chamber board of directors approved a resolution directing its support behind the passage of three general obligation bond issues that will be put before voters in the Nov. 4 general election.

Voters will be asked to vote for or against general obligation bond questions in support of three major projects: senior citizen facilities and equipment, public libraries, and higher education.

Finance Authority and served with an existing statewide property tax, the resolution reads. "These bonds are paid back through our property taxes, and we pay property taxes whether or not the bond issues are passed," Hobbs Chamber chairwoman Ruth Grön said. "It's important that our public-sector partners, like New Mexico Junior College, get the resources they need to do the great work they do."

4 ballot were first created by the New Mexico Legislature, which designated the following amounts: Bond Issue A will provide a total of \$5,555,000 statewide for senior citizen facilities, improvements and equipment; Bond Issue B will provide \$10,800,000 for public libraries, public school libraries, academic libraries and tribal libraries statewide; and Bond Issue C will provide \$138,755,000 statewide for capital improvements for higher education, special schools and

tribal schools. New Mexico Junior College stands to gain \$5 million from Bond Issue C, and with it the junior college will "plan, design, construct, equip and furnish a health and wellness learning center," the original legislation reads.

"The Hobbs Chamber Board of Directors strongly urges Lea County voters to give their support for improving the quality of life of senior citizens, for assisting the state library system and

capital improvements for higher education throughout the state, and specifically in Lea County through the use of the funds cited above," the board resolved.

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## TODAY

### Picemakers' Quilt Association

The Picemakers' Quilt Association will meet at 2 p.m. at the Agnes Kestner Community Center located at 200 East Park in Hobbs. This is an open sew day for anyone interested in learning to quilt or share in quilting. For additional information, contact Kathy James at 393-3437 or Margaret Gonzales at 392-4489. Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library will be accepting donations of items that have been "generally loved" from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church, 305 W. Alston. Enter through the Northwest Door. For more information, call 399-3644 or 964-8242.

## FRIDAY

### Legal Clinic

A free legal clinic will be held in Hobbs from 1-4 p.m. The legal fair will be held at Hobbs City Hall, 200 Broadway St. Attorneys will be available to provide free consultations on a

## Mark the date

first-come, first-served basis on a variety of civil legal topics.

### Williamsons Concert

Christian vocal group the Williamsons with The McCarthurs will be in concert at 6:30 p.m. at Northgate Free Will Baptist Church, 2701 N. Grimes. For more information, visit [www.williamsons-music.com](http://www.williamsons-music.com).

## SATURDAY

### Lovington Farmers Market

The Lovington Downtown Farmers Market is scheduled from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Courthouse Square in Lovington. The market will be open each Saturday until Oct. 25. For more information, call 396-1418.

### Hobbs Farmers Market

The Hobbs Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Del Norte Park, 4314 N. Grimes. The market will be open each Saturday until Oct. 25. For more information, call 210-289-9124 or 575-390-5975.

### Southwest Syphony

The Southwest Symphony featuring Michael Martin Murphy is scheduled to perform at 7 p.m. at Tydings Auditorium. Tickets are \$20 for adults and free to anyone 18 years and younger or college students with college ID.

### City-wide Community Cleanup

The City of Hobbs is hosting its city-wide community cleanup from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the city limits. Household items will only be accepted. Residents are asked to have their items on their curbside by 8 a.m. For those needing assistance in moving large items, call 397-9292 by Wednesday, Oct. 8. No demolition or construction materials will be taken. For more information, call 397-9292.

### Larry the Cable Guy

Comedian Larry the Cable Guy is scheduled to appear at 7:30 p.m. at the Lea County Event Center. Also appearing is comedian Steve Collier. For tickets, visit [hobbsroadtrip.com](http://hobbsroadtrip.com) or call 391-2900.

### The Holy Rosary

The Knights of Columbus, 220 E. Main, is hosting a Public Square Rosary Crusade at noon, Oct. 11. For more information, call 393-0889 or 602-2840.

### Blood Drive

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, at the corner of Grimes and Joe Harvey, is hosting a blood drive from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call 575-738-9977.

### Lovington VFW Dance

The Lovington Dance will be from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the VFW on the Tatum Highway. Admission is \$5. The live band will be Seminole County or Travis Williams. Bring your own snacks. No smoking. Non-VFW members are welcome.

### Guidelines

Readers are welcome to submit items for free to the Mark the Date calendar. The event should have a local connection, be open to the public and should contain information providing your own snacks. No smoking. Non-VFW members are welcome. Email items to editor@hobbsnews.com.

## UFO

"I've had people tell me they saw the same thing, but they didn't want to say anything because they didn't want to be called crazy," Hubbard said.

It is a fair assumption as Hubbard's post on a Roswell Facebook page—Roswell? My town? Well, has been met with derision by some, but confirmation by others.

"I've had some people tell me it was a drone, but this was not like any drone I've seen before," Hubbard said.

So what exactly are people seeing in the skies over Lea and Chaves counties?

Some skeptics claim it is a military jet or drone, others a weather balloon. Both answers could be right or neither.

Questions of recent military aircraft training in the area were asked to the Cannon Air Force Base media relations department in Clovis where Hubbard works. A base spokeswoman did say that no triangular-shaped aircraft are stationed at the base.

## Safe

their kids and even some of them who rode bicycles I saw the parents walking in with them too, so everybody really got involved."

The program addresses parents' safety concerns by educating children and their parents, partnering with traffic law enforcement, and developing plans to create safer streets.

"We do have some kids that still don't know how to live a couple miles away, but instead of dropping off kids we try to have parents set up a place down the street where they can walk with them to the school, so that helps with the congestion too," Patterson said. "Our school has 500 kids, so even if they live far away we have other alternatives for

At Holloman Air Force Base near White Sands the prime aircraft used by F-16 fighters, a far cry from a flying saucer and not likely to be mistaken as a triangular aircraft.

Arlan Ponder, Holloman spokesman, said Holloman has no craft training in the skies over Lea County and the only triangular craft he can think of are the F-117 stealth jets, which were retired in 2008 and are no longer flown.

Ponder, however, said that it is possible long range bombers from an airbase in Missouri could be passing over Lea County. The B-2, also known as the "Stealth Bomber," does have a very distinctive arrowhead or triangular shape.

Other witnesses are reporting a disc or egg-shaped object, usually seen around dusk that hovers in one place and disappears suddenly.

All of accounts it could be balloons people are seeing, said Danny Ball, site manager for the Columbia Scientific Balloon

Facility, which launches balloons into the upper atmosphere from Fort Sumner.

"I am sure that is what they saw. They kind of glow like a star at sunset," he said. "When the light shifts off of them they just blink out."

The balloons may fly at an altitude of some 120,000 feet, just at the edge of the earth's atmosphere, but they are large enough to be seen from as far as 250 miles away, Ball said.

"The ones we fly are workhorse balloons," he said. "When it gets to float altitude, it is about the size of the Houston Astrodome."

A balloon that large would reflect a lot of sunlight with its polyethylene material and can appear red or orange, Ball said.

"The balloons Ball's team releases are usually attached to 100-gallon super telescopes commissioned by NASA to look into space.

"You might call them cheap satellites," Ball said. They get along with t-shirts for the students."

The Safe Routes to Schools program is administered to promote walking, bicycling, taking transit, or carpooling to school, planning safer walking and bicycling routes to schools, funding the construction of safe pathways to school and providing crossing guards at major intersections.

"We also have a punch card system for the kids, which will kick off next week where students punch their card every time they walk or ride to school and they will get a prize once they fill their card," Patterson said. "Because our school has become part of the Safe Routes to Schools committee, they have given us money to buy the prizes

up past the atmosphere so the telescopes can see better into space."

The most recent launch by Ball's group was on Sept. 26 and the balloon passed over Clovis.

Ball said it is possible in the evening sun that Hobbsans could have spotted the balloon.

He said a private group out of Roswell is also releasing similar balloons. Ball said that group sees an increase in UFO reports following LeA balloon releases.

Whatever Lea Countians are seeing in the skies, few are making official reports.

Lea County Communications Authority Director Angela Martinez said there have been no reports of UFOs or unidentified objects made to dispatch in the past two weeks.

"It surprises me we didn't get any calls, because we get calls for everything," she said.

Levi Hill can be reached at 391-5438 or at [managingeditor@hobbsnews.com](mailto:managingeditor@hobbsnews.com).

## NOTICE TO VOTERS

The Lea County Courthouse will be closed Monday, October 13, 2014 in observance of Columbus Day. Early voting for the November 4th General Election will not be available that day.

## AVISO A LOS VOTANTES

La Corte del Condado de Lea estará cerrada Lunes, 13 de octubre, 2014 en conmemoración del día de Columbus. La votación anticipada para la Elección General del 4 de noviembre no estará disponible ese día.

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## Odor

again, but I have the plant all in control."

City Commissioner Jonathan Sena residents have been informing city officials of the smell and said he would seek input from Lea County officials.

"After lunch today (the smell) is just awful," he said. "The smell is hitting all the districts."

Chairman Gregg Fuller said the county will look into the matter and see what can be done about the odor.

"As far as identifying that smell we can make sure it is related to fuming and if it's not there's things we might be able to do about it," Fuller said. "We do that and find out if there is an environmental air quality issue."

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