Pro-Treat LLC
26 years, 2 Children

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Family: Married almost 26 years, 2 Children
Education: B.S. in Electrical Engineering.
Occupation: Entrepreneur, oilfield consultant.

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Four Republican candidates seek sheriff’s post

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Occupation: Sheriff’s Deputy.

Jon C. Martinez
Age: 46
Political party: Republican
Occupation: Chief deputy sheriff of Lea County, N.M.

For the News-Sun

The first new elementary school to open its doors in Hobbs in more than 30 years will be named after a pioneering Hobbs couple who had a soft spot for children.

James M. Murray Jr. was, among other things, an oilman, land developer and former Hobbs mayor. His wife, Polly Murray, was active in many city and civic organizations. Together, they were a power couple that helped transform Hobbs from a raw frontier community into a modern city.

But behind the scenes they did even more. From quietly helping send minority students to college to ensuring that many Hobbs children from all over the city had a special Halloween treat, the Murphys’ mission was to improve the lives of all residents — especially adopted homeless children.

For that reason, Hobbs Municipal Schools bought the land for a new $25-million building at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Midwestern State University will serve 400 children and also include classrooms for 15 preschool children with learning or physical disabilities. The campus will be located near De La Parra and Clinton at the former site of Torrey’s Grocery Store. Murray Elementary will be on land just adjacent to Hobbs City Park — which was developed after James and Polly Murray transferred the property to the City of Hobbs in 1946.

“I think they would have loved a school named after them,” said Michael Murray, the couple’s only grandson. “They loved kids. They doted on children.”

After his family’s patriarch, James Murray Jr. moved to Hobbs from Oklahoma in the late 1940s, his father, James Murray Sr., established an oilfield supply company that later diversified the family interests and went on to serve as New Mexico’s lieutenant governor. Here, later diversified the family interests and went on to serve as New Mexico’s lieutenant governor. Here, later diversified the family interests and went on to serve as New Mexico’s lieutenant governor.

“HMS to honor Murphys”

Tatum celebrates 26 graduates

JAYCIE CHESSER/NEWS-SUN

Students receive diplomas during the commencement ceremony.

“I challenge you to face the adversity life throws at you with a good attitude and a smile on your face,” Rushi said. “Tatum High School alumni Jenna Decker was the commencement guest speaker and encouraged graduates to cherish every moment in high school.”

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Red Cross on hiring hold until new CEO is found

JAYCIE CHESSER

The New Mexico chapter of the American Red Cross is on the hunt for a new regional chief executive officer after former CEO Robin Balsara left the position.

“Our CEO went to another humanitarian organization in a location where he can be closer to his family,” Beverly Allen, the American Red Cross chapter’s vice president for development, told the HOBBS NEWS-SUN.

“Rushi has worked hard to maintain the top spot since his freshman year when student rankings began. “My goal has always been to do the best I can do,” Rushi said. “I’ve always wanted to have straight A’s in every single class that I had. I wanted to have a 100 average and really got that.”

Rushi managed to maintain an average of 100 or higher through his sophomore year and in the majority of his classes his freshman and senior years.

In addition to maintaining the highest academic ranking in his class each year, Rushi was involved with the HHS Marching Band and HHS Concert, Band Science Olympiad where he was named Anatomy and Physiology State Champion several years, National Honor Society where he served as president twice, Student Council and Student Advisory Committee.

And although he was largely self-driven, Rushi’s success was also heavily influenced by his family, which includes his older brother, Raj, his younger brother, Kunal Mankad, his parents, Jay and Kena Mankad, and his maternal grandmother, Niashadh, as his most influential educator.

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“Rushi said although he had many great teachers throughout the years, choosing his father was a no-brainer.

“When I think of the title, most influential educator, I just think of my dad,” Rushi said. “He has influenced me so much. I think about how he thinks about before himself, his wife, his job — is me and my brother’s well-being.”

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Rushi’s father, Naishadh, is a retired Native American police offi cer who was a tribal educator and the person who accompanied him when he graduated.

“Although Naishadh will miss his son when he moves away to Albuquerque in the fall, he is proud to see him pursue his dreams.

“While it is a necessary part of growing up,” Naishadh said. “They mean, learn to be more responsible and take care of themselves. We’re not going to miss him, but at the same time, we’re happy and proud of him.

Before Rushi leaves in August, the Mankad family will take a trip to the Bahamas.

“It’s a much needed vacation,” Rushi said with a laugh.

Gabriela Moez can be reached at 393-5474 or at reporter@hobbsnews.com.