**Community News**

The City of Hobbs Street Department will be CHIPSEALING several streets starting Monday. The roads include east Sanger from Marland to Harris, Central from Lovington Highway to Northwest, and Cape from Lovington Highway to Northwest. Central and Cape will be closed while work is being done.

New Mexico’s gross receipts TAX FREE WEEKEND for back to school supplies is the Friday-Sunday, Aug. 1-3. Items eligible for tax on the purchase include certain clothing under $100, computers under $1,000, and school supplies such as notebooks, etc. Texas tax week-end will be Friday-Sunday, Aug. 8-10. For a list of school supplies by grade level, see today’s Lifestyles page.

**The HISPANIC HERITAGE CEREMONY** is Friday at the Lea County Fair and Rodeo featuring Paquita Del Barrio and El Dia. Carnival opens at 5 p.m. and concerts begin at 7 p.m.

**Inside Today**

Hóbbs, NM

**GABRIELA MUÑOZ**

Out of 17 Hobbs schools, 11 receive grade of ‘B’

The Hobbs Municipal School district has been recognized as one of the top three school dis-tricts showing noteworthy academic growth in New Mexico.

For the third year, the New Mexico Public Education Department released its statewide annual grading report and more than half of the schools in the Hobbs School district received a ‘B’ as their school grade for the 2013-14 school year.

“We were recognized by the secretary as being one of the three top growing districts in the state,” said Hobbs Superintendent TJ Parks.

“Hobbs, Artesia and Gadsden ISD were named three of the most improving districts in New Mexico. I just think it’s a real tribute to the teachers and the administrators for the hard work they put in. It’s nice to be a great pat on the back for the kids.”

In the Hobbs school district, nine schools improved their letter grade, one school had a lower grade, and the other schools maintained their let-ter grade for the last year.

Out of 17 schools in the dis-trict, 11 received ‘B’

“Two years ago when the first grade came out, we only had 15 percent of our schools that were a ‘C’ or better,” Parks said. “Two years since, we’ve seen that increment up to 75 percent of the schools are now a ‘C’ or bet-ter.”

Parks said he believes that although many factors com-prise school grade, the focus on individual data for students has contributed to the improved school grades.

“Thanks to the efforts of Dr. (Suchint) Sarangarm to cut staff, teachers have more days in the classroom and have grades data in front of them,” Parks said.

“So they are able to adjust their teaching methods better to meet the needs of each indi-vidual student. And I think that doing that on a day-to-day basis and working harder, if I have even any more work, is really con-tributed to the growth.”

“Even just the efforts of our staff,” Parks added. “When a child shows up, it does not matter which levels they are at academically. We are trying to improve the academic per-formance of our students before the kids graduate.”

Debbie Cooper, assistant superintendent of instruction, also praised the hard work teachers, administrators, par-

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SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014

**News Sun**

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They needed knowledge so badly that they asked us to break in and take some kind of hands-on experience,” Creed said.

“We got a little adrenaline rush on the way over there,” Creed said. “It’s kind of an adrenaline junkie, but I’m sure that everybody thought the same thing — We have some homes to save.” Luckily, there were no lives at stake at that point.

The cadets spent approximately 10 hours helping to fight the fire. The break was at the two-pane window burst, but the inside pane wilted under the heat. Cordova said her apartment didn’t even smell like smoke. The broken window was the only damage to any inhabited units at Ledgestone during the fire.

“Just seeing how much damage it did and us getting fight the fire and cleaning up,” Creed said. “It’s something I could not have done seven months ago,” Creed said. “I’ve learned a lot more physically and mentally prepared.”

Trujillo agreed. “If this had happened when I first started, I would probably be out here today,” he said. “I would have quit. It was intense. They definitely build you up and make you a lot stronger — mentally and physically.”

Ultimately the cadets felt being a part of the team that battled the fire was possibly the best training experience they could receive.

“Taking just how much damage it did and us being able to get the upper hand on it even with the wind going, it was really cool to watch everyone working together as a unit,” Creed said.

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“The last fire we had been to wasn’t due to our training,” Trujillo said. “It was an awesome experience because it showed us what a fire like that can do and being with people who know what they are doing is the best training.”

Trujillo and Creed are slated to graduate from the academy Sept. 26.

Grades from PAGE 1

The family of Richard Morris stand with his family's apartment.

“Kat” Morris, Bo Langley, Richard's son, Aaron Langley, Arelene Langley and Jeanette Langley. Not pictured are Morris' daughter Kelly Johnson and grandson Jared Johnson. Morris was also chairman of the Permian Friends of the NRA, where he'd served 8 years as chairman. He had been president of the gun club for five years.

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