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 Caprock from Lovington Highway to Northwest. Central and Caprock will be closed while work is being done.

New Mexico’s gross receipt TAX FREE WEEKEND for back to school supplies is the Friday-Sunday, Aug. 3-5. Items eligible for the tax on the purchase include certain clothing under $100, computers under $1,000 and school supplies such as notebooks, writing pads, calculators, etc. Texas tax free weekend will be Friday, Sunday, Aug. 8-10. For a list of school supplies by grade level, see today’s lifestyles page.

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

The J. F Maddox Foundation has been named one of the top three school districts 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 also 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 letter grade and five schools maintained their letter grade for the last year. Out of 17 schools in the district, 11 received “B”.

“Two years ago when the first grades came out, we only had 25 percent of our schools that were a ‘C’ or better,” Parks said. “Two years times, we completely inverted that system, where 75 percent of the schools are now a ‘C’ or better.”

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

“I want to thank the rest of Dr. (Suchint) Sarangarm to cut off, teachers, principals, our staff, teachers literally have grades data in front of them,” Parks said. “So if they are able to adjust the teaching methods in order to meet the needs of each individual student. And I think that doing that on a day-to-day basis and working harder, if I ever saw any amount of work, I am committed to the growth.

‘It’s just the mindset of our staff,” Parks added. “When a child shows up, it does not matter what level they are at academically. We cannot improve the academic performance of that child before we have 100 percent of that child showing up.”

Debbie Cooper, assistant superintendent of instruction, also moved the hard work of teachers, administrators, par...
Cadets from PAGE 1


Hobbs police say they are investigating a fire in the Ledgestone community that caused about $50,000 in damages.

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Maddox from PAGE 1

The five finalists were honored at a reception Friday, July 24, hosted by the Foundation at the Center at the Center for New Mexico. The five finalists were honored at a reception Friday, July 24, hosted by the Foundation at the Center for New Mexico.

The J. F Maddox Foundation was established by Jack Maddox and his wife, Mabel, who were longtime residents of Hobbs.