

News-Sun

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Community News

Spring 2014 Internship applications for **THE LEA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS** are available for any undergraduate and graduate students interested in interning at the Center for the Arts. An application and required materials must be submitted by Jan. 31. For more information, call 397-2787.

The Western Heritage Museum and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame is hosting a **HOLIDAY MOVIE** at 2 p.m. Sunday. The movie is "White Christmas." The event is free. For more information call 575-493-2678 or visit www.westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com.

Lea County officials will swear in **INTERIM ASSESSOR** Sharla Kennedy at 11 a.m. Monday at the Courthouse.

Inside Today

Obituaries	2
Mark the date	3
Fun & Games	7
Weather	8
Sports	9
Classifieds	12
TV	13
Lottery	14

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HOBBS SCHOOLS PHOTOS

Happy Holidays at Taylor Elementary

Kindergartners from Taylor Elementary in Hobbs put on a Christmas program for their parents recently.



HOBBS SCHOOLS

Security work begins

GABRIELA MUÑOZ
NEWS-SUN
Students at College Lane, Coronado and Stone Elementary will be greeted with a new entrance after their two-week holiday vacation.

Entrances at the schools are being renovated for security purposes. Instead of doors that lead directly into the hallways, entrances will lead to a lobby area that leads to the school office.

The renovations, which in total will cost about \$2 million, began Friday at Coronado Elementary as soon as students and staff left the campus for the holiday break.

The project is part of the \$25 million general obligation bond election passed in September, which includes the construction of a new elementary school and a new Broadmoor Elementary.

"Stone and College Lane are relatively simple to do," said Hobbs Schools Director of Operations Gene Strickland. "It is literally an installation of another storefront at the corner of the hallway where their office is. They are going to be mirrors of each other."

Secondary doorways at both schools will be removed.

"That (the second doorway) is coming out," Strickland said. "It's in the way and it stays open 100 percent of the time. It's more of a bottleneck, so that's going to come out completely."

Two storefronts will be installed at Sanger Elementary due to the "nature" of the building and the office location, Strickland said.

"Sanger is on the list because we feel comfortable that we can get part of it done during Christmas break," he added.

SEE SECURITY, Page 6

Investigation of cemetery murder continuing

CHRISTIAN BETANCOURT
NEWS-SUN

Investigation continues in the body found at Prairie Heaven cemetery Thursday.

"The body was sent to Albuquerque for autopsy," Hobbs Police Department Public Information Officer Mike Stone said. "The investigation is still continuing."

The body of 42-year-old Eddie White of Hobbs was found at Prairie Haven Cemetery Thursday Morning. HPD is investigating the case as a homicide.

According to a press release from the Hobbs Police Department, officers responded to Prairie Haven Memorial Park Cemetery in reference to an unresponsive subject.

White was pronounced dead at the

scene.

The cemetery was closed to the public for much of the day but reopened to the public Thursday afternoon, said Parks and Recreation Superintendent Wade Whitehead.

"At about four o'clock we were able to resume services," Whitehead said.

A burial service that was scheduled for Thursday was postponed until

Friday morning, said Chapel of Hope co-manager Danielle Hammock.

Anyone with information concerning this death is asked to call Hobbs Police Criminal Investigation Division at 397-9265 or Crime Stoppers at 393-8005.

Christian Betancourt can be reached at courts@hobbsnews.com or 391-5446.



Dan Shackelford, Robert Lujan and Manuel Gonzales accept toy donations from Heizer educators Joe Clarkson and Glenda Bearden.

Heizer teachers donate toys for kids

■ 350 Hobbs children expected to benefit from Toys for Tots drive this year

GABRIELA MUNOZ
NEWS-SUN

This week staff members at Heizer Middle School arrived at school with stuffed animals, toy trucks and dolls in tow.

For the holiday season, the teachers and other staff at the middle school decided to include a toy donation with their annual, staff Secret Santa gift. The donations will benefit Toys For Tots, a drive hosted by the Marine Corps League Det. 1185.

"Those who participated in Secret Santa also brought toys for the kids," said Language Arts teacher Joe Clarkson.

Clarkson said participating staff were encouraged to donate a toy that best represented their "secret Santa."

Clarkson donated Play-Doh and a remote-controlled car, which she felt represented the teacher who was her secret Santa.

"I got Play-Doh because she strikes me as kind of artsy," Clarkson said, "and I thought the car would appeal to her sense of adventure."

Marine Corps League Commandant Dan Shackelford was on hand to accept the donations Friday morning.

SEE TOYS, Page 6

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