

News-Sun

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Community News

JEAN CHATZKY, award-winning journalist, best-selling author and sought-after motivational speaker, will appear at Tydings Auditorium on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

The well-known financial expert visits Hobbs as part of the

Jack Maddox Distinguished Lecture Series, hosted by University of the Southwest. You can reserve your tickets by calling 575-392-6565, ext. 1014. Free tickets can also be obtained at chambers of commerces in Artesia, Carlsbad, Eunice, Hobbs, Lovington, and Seminole and Denver City, Yates Petroleum in Artesia, Woolworth Library in Jal, LES/NEF in Eunice, Tatum School district administration office, Western Commerce Bank in Carlsbad and Hobbs, First National Bank in Hobbs, Lea County State Bank in Hobbs, Center for the Arts in Hobbs, Hobbs Municipal Schools Administration Building, Hobbs Public Library and the New Mexico Junior College President's Office.

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Lovington near growth mark

LEVI HILL
NEWS-SUN

Lovington Municipal Schools may just meet the 1 percent growth needed to receive additional state funding this year.

Superintendent Steve O'Quinn told the school board Monday night that the district is four-five students over the number needed to qualify for 1 percent growth. But the question is if that many students will be in school

today.

"The day is tomorrow," O'Quinn said Tuesday. "We just have to hope all those students attend school tomorrow."

New Mexico school districts that see 1 percent or more growth in stu-



O'Quinn

dent populations see additional state funding from the funding formula. O'Quinn said 1 percent growth would add \$170,000-\$180,000 to the district, enough to offset the remaining portion lost when the state cut all schools' funding by 3.2 percent this year.

Federal funds allocated to New Mexico in August offset most of the state funding cuts.

In other school news, the district

approved a resolution for an election proclamation — a district board election in February for the seats of Lynda McGinnes, Thurman "Slick" Duncan and Ronny Reeder.

The district will also have a renewal of one of two 2 mill levies. O'Quinn said the mill has to be renewed every four years and adds about \$1 million to the district, which is used for maintenance.



HOBBS SCHOOLS PHOTO

Flies beware

After spending a week rehearsing, these students from four Hobbs elementary schools portrayed Venus Fly Traps in Saturday's "Frog Prince" performance at Tydings Auditorium.

'CAN YOU SEE ME NOW'

Ride targets motorcycle awareness

BETH HAHN
NEWS-SUN

Local motorcycle enthusiasts are invited to participate in a ride Oct. 30 to raise awareness of motorcycle safety.

Area resident Sherry Houston is one of the organizers behind the ride and said it is designed to help remind area drivers to watch for motorcyclists.

"There were too many fatalities in Hobbs this year that involved people riding motorcycles," she said. "We want to remind everyone to be safe and to check for motorcycles when they're driving."

The "Can You See Me Now" awareness ride is sponsored by the Old Dogs Brotherhood motorcycle group, but is open to anyone.

Houston said she's hoping motorcycle riders of all ages and affiliations will turn out.

Activities are scheduled to begin at noon Oct. 30 at New Mexico Junior College.

Participating riders will meet at NMJC near the Ray Birmingham Baseball field for food and to socialize.

From NMJC, Houston said the group will leave at about 2 p.m. and drive south on Grimes to Broadway, east on Broadway to Dal Paso, north on Dal Paso to Bender and west on Bender to Albertsons.

At Albertsons the group will split up and "saturate Hobbs," Houston said.

"We want to just drive all around to raise awareness," she said.

Hobbs Police Department spokesman Officer Mike Stone said the ride is a good idea.

"Any program that brings awareness of motorcycle riders is good for the community," he said.

At the end of the day, riders will regroup at NMJC for refreshments.

Participants are encouraged to order a T-shirt before Oct. 22 to wear on the ride. The shirts are large, 1X and 2X, Houston said. Before Oct. 30, shirts are \$15 and will be \$20 the day of the ride.

All proceeds from the ride will go to help families of the victims of recent motorcycle fatalities. Houston said donations are welcome.

For more information or to donate food or funds for the Oct. 30 ride, contact Brian Houston at 602-8268.

Hobbs attorney dies at home

KELLEY MCMILLAN
NEWS-SUN

New Mexico Junior College Board chairman and well-known Hobbs attorney Larry Hanna, 58, died at his home of natural causes Tuesday morning.

"I think it's a huge loss for the community at large and a tremendous loss to the New Mexico Junior College," NMJC President Steve McCleery said.

Hanna, who served as the attorney for Lea County for many years and the attorney for the cities of Jal, Eunice and Tatum for several years, was an active community member whose service was well-known in local government and the arts.

Hanna had been a member of the NMJC board for about nine years, McCleery said. He also served on the Foundation Board for several years helping to fund scholarships for students.

McCleery said Hanna had several years of input into NMJC's future and direction and much of that vision is still ongoing.

"I think that Larry's work is going to be unveiled for many years," McCleery said. "... Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his family."

At Lea County, commission chairman Greg Fulfer said Hanna was a pillar.

"He's been just the backbone," Fulfer said. "We ran everything through Larry. He's going to be sorely, sorely missed."

Hanna began his career in



Hanna

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REFRACTIVE EYE PROCEDURES

Lasik service coming to Hobbs

LEVI HILL
NEWS-SUN

State-of-the-art laser eye surgery will be wheeling its way into Hobbs in the coming months.

Hobbs Ophthalmologist Arnett Carraby has been working in Hobbs since 2007, but prior to that he had performed more than 10,000 refractive eye procedures, a process known as Lasik. Carraby has been here, but the equipment, which runs about \$500,000, hasn't.

"I have been practicing ophthalmology for 25 years and I have been doing refractive sur-

gery since it started in 1999," he said. "We just haven't had the special equipment here, but we are finally going to get that next month."

The equipment will be trucked to Lea Regional Medical Center by Laser Vision Centers once a month for operations.

"This is a great program for small areas," Carraby said. "They have five places they take this equipment and two certified technicians that work with it."

The program lets smaller hospitals rent the

SEE LASIK, Page 4



LEVI HILL/NEWS-SUN

Hobbs Ophthalmologist Arnett Carraby examines the eye of a patient. Dr. Carraby will begin performing Lasik surgery in Hobbs in November.

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