

# Fire restrictions enacted by BLM

SUBMITTED TO THE NEWS-SUN

Prolonged high temperatures, low humidity and spring winds have increased the fire danger at lower elevations in southern and southeastern New Mexico.

As a result, the Bureau of Land Management is enacting fire restrictions, effective Wednesday, April 13, to help prevent wildfires and ensure public and firefighter safety.

The fire restrictions cover public lands managed by the BLM's Pecos District in Chaves, Curry, DeBaca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Lea, Lincoln, Quay, and Roosevelt Counties and for the Las Cruces BLM District Office areas in Otero, Luna, Dona Ana, Sierra, Grant, and Hidalgo Counties.

Effective at 8:00 a.m., April 13, 2011, and until rescinded, the following acts are prohibited:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, except within a developed recreation site or improved site.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, in a developed campsite, or in an area three feet in diameter, cleared of all flammable materials.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic or incendiary device.
4. Operating a chainsaw without an approved spark arrester and without a chemically pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 ounce capacity by weight, and one round point shovel. The extinguisher will be with the equipment operator. The shovel may be kept with fueling supplies but readily available for use.
5. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, except within an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials at least 10 feet on all sides from equipment.

## Wildfire scorches 23,000 acres in eastern N.M.

CLAYTON (AP) — A wildfire that broke out near Clayton in northeastern New Mexico has burned 23,000 acres of grassland, pinon and juniper trees, but is no longer threatening any structures.

New Mexico Forestry spokesman Dan Ware says the human-caused blaze threatened a handful of structures Sunday. He says none was burned and no evacuations were ordered.

Mapping done Monday resulted in the higher acreage. By the afternoon, the fire was 80 percent contained.

Ware says crews were working on fire lines and on hot spots.

Tinder-dry conditions, wind and a lack of rain have made for dangerous fire conditions around New Mexico. That's led to numerous fires in recent weeks.

In southern New Mexico near Ruidoso, crews had nearly contained the 10,356-acre White Fire by Monday afternoon. That blaze started April 3.

These restrictions have been coordinated with the other land management agencies, the New Mexico State Forestry division, and affected counties. Fire Prevention Orders are available at each District Office and will be posted to <http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/NM.php>. As summer approaches, additional restrictions or closures may be necessary; check for updates at [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com).



**BTW play**  
TOP: Kaleigh Tarin and Joseph Diaz portrayed Mary and her Little Lamb during Friday's Core Knowledge Play at Booker T. Washington Elementary. Kindergartners at the school acted out famous nursery rhymes for a portion of the performance.

RIGHT: Jacqueline Gomez took on a huge role when she portrayed "South America" in Booker T. Washington's recent Core Knowledge play. Kindergartners spent a week rehearsing parts that helped them learn everything from geography to age-old parables.



HOBBS SCHOOLS PHOTOS

## Fire

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No structures were damaged as a result of either grass fire.

Broom said residents need to be aware of the fire danger and remember to be careful with activities that could cause a grass fire.

"It's not taking a lot to get fires started right now and we all need to keep that in mind," he said. "The last forecast I saw, it's going to be at

least a month, maybe two months, before we get any rain."

Broom said if anyone sees smoke or smells smoke, they need to contact their local fire department immediately.

"The faster we can get someone out there to check it out, the faster we can get it contained," he said.

Broom said residents should create a defensible space around their homes by keeping debris away from their homes and keeping plants trimmed.

## Plates

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ment as of press time Monday.

Grant Taylor, president of the Hobbs Chamber of Commerce and former EDC of Lea County staffer, worked on the design and concept of the EnergyPlex branding.

"Not having the bill signed after all the work

that went into its passage is an enormous disappointment, but Lea County is no less the EnergyPlex without that license plate," he said. "Thanks to the board of the EDC of Lea County, which green-lighted my idea to brand Lea County the EnergyPlex in 2008; thanks to the residents of Lea County who support and embody what is the EnergyPlex; and thanks to the amazing Lea County delegation that worked this legislation to passage."

## Briefs

### Las Cruces teacher receives \$25,000 award

LAS CRUCES (AP) — A second-grade teacher in Las Cruces has been awarded \$25,000 for winning the Milken National Educator Award for New Mexico.

James Dickerson of Cesar E. Chavez Elementary School was presented the award during a ceremony in Santa Monica, Calif., over the weekend.

The yearly awards are given to educators across the nation who exhibit excellence in education. They come with an unrestricted cash award. The

event also honored 52 other educators.

### VistaCare Hospice hosting grief support groups

VistaCare Hospice will be having grief support groups for adults or children.

These groups are open to the public and free of charge.

The grief support groups for adults is Life After Loss and is a six week program available to all adults who have experienced a death. The group starts meeting April 14.

The grief support group for chil-

dren, ages 5-11, is a 6-8 week program for children who have experienced a death. VistaCare will need to only meet with the parent/guardian on April 14 and the groups will start for the children on April 21.

Contact VistaCare for more information at 392-2060.

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