



BTW dancers

Mia Romero and Marcus Rodriguez put their best forward, right, during a recent dance program. Students in Booker T. Washington's AfterSchool Kindergarten program spent the month of October taking weekly lessons from Maciolek School of Dance, then got a chance to demonstrate skills for their parents. Other students involved in the program, top, included Briana Burich, Mia Romero and Eli Flores in back and Maleria Mata and Azalea Mascarenas in front.

HOBBS SCHOOLS PHOTOS



Texas county returning alleged traffic stop shakedown cash

DALLAS (AP) — Authorities in a Texas county where a drug enforcement program was allegedly used to shake down black and Latino highway travelers are returning more than \$100,000 taken during the traffic stops.

The stops in Tenaha, which often resulted in people being forced to hand over cash without any charges being filed, have led to multiple lawsuits and two federal criminal investigations.

District Attorney Kenneth Florence said Shelby County has dismissed all of its pending forfeiture cases, even those without a connection to Tenaha, in what he described as an effort to turn the page after an agreement was reached in August to settle a class action lawsuit stemming from the stops.

"I just don't think you could get anything done with any of those cases," said Florence, who was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in August and is running for the post in next week's election. "They are all tainted, so to speak."

Asset forfeiture laws provide a civil procedure for authorities to seize property they believe is linked to criminal activity. The laws are designed to take so-called "dirty" money off the streets and allow it to be used to fund law enforcement efforts. But critics believe the laws are too easily abused, and they have frequently pointed to Tenaha, a town of 1,160 near the Louisiana border, as an example.

The class action alleged that innocent motorists of color traveling on U.S. Highway 59 were threatened with money laundering charges if they didn't turn over their cash through forfeiture agreements. Although many of the motorists initially agreed to the forfeitures, they were able to get their money back after hiring attorneys and challenging the legitimacy of the proceedings.

The settlement, which still needs a judge's approval, will require the county to take steps aimed at eliminating racial profiling in its law enforcement.

An Associated Press report last year detailed how some of the stops also resulted in suspected drug traffickers receiving light sentences or escaping criminal prosecution altogether for giving up their cash. Those cases netted the county more than \$800,000 in less than a year.

They were prosecuted by the

county's former district attorney, Lynda Kaye Russell, who retired at the end of last year. Russell has not responded to repeated requests for comment, and she asserted her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination for every question in a deposition for the class action lawsuit.

The money that remains with the county accrued from forfeiture cases that have languished because of competing claims or defendants who hadn't been properly served with court papers, records show. It has been placed in the court registry until people can prove it's theirs.

Luis Rivera, of Brockton, Mass., is among those who

were notified that they have a possible claim to some of the remaining cash. He and a companion, both of whom are Puerto Rican, were arrested after being stopped four years ago in Tenaha for "following too close and failure to drive in a single lane," records show.

Joe Krowski, an attorney for Rivera, said his client is pleased he may soon get his money but remains traumatized by the two days he spent in a Texas jail.

"All of a sudden, they take your possessions and stick you in a cell when you didn't do anything wrong," Krowski said. "How much scarier does it get?"

The Workhorse
206 W. Broadway 397-4605

HARDEN SOFA
4 STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM **\$299⁹⁹**

Holiday Open House
at ALBERTHIA'S FLOWERS, INC.
207 S. Cecil St. ~ 575-393-8845

NOVEMBER 3, 2012
9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Alberthia Campbell invites you to come in and see our Christmas Specials!

- * Wreath Designs
- * Table Arrangements - Fresh & Silk
- * Green & Blooming Plants
- * Gift Baskets & Plush Animals

REGISTER FOR OUR DOOR PRIZES!
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Mark the date

TODAY

Blood drive

Wells Fargo Bank and Hobbs Rotary Club are having a blood drive from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Community Room. Call Kathie Wiseman at 392-3612 for more information.

SATURDAY

Discussion group

Professor Dwight Pitcaithley of NMSU will moderate Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War at 1 p.m. at the NMJC library. Topic will be "War and Freedom."

Prayer breakfast

University of the Southwest has its 15th Annual Lea Community Prayer Breakfast. A full breakfast at the Lea County Event Center will be served from 7:30-8 a.m. at a cost of \$3 per person and the program will begin at 8:15 a.m. Special speaker for the event is Dr. Lynn Shaw of Hobbs. His message will be based on Psalm 118:24: "This is the day the Lord hath made; let us." For more information about this time of prayer and praise, call Linda Chapman at 575-492-2107 or Laurie Dean at 575-492-2108.

Craft show

The Lovington Chambers' fall festival arts and craft show is from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Lea County Fairgrounds. Free admission.

Residential cleanup

The City of Hobbs is hosting the final phase of the Residential Community Cleanup. If you live north of Sanger and east of Fowler within the city limits, this is your chance to do your fall cleaning. Have your items curbside by 8 a.m. Saturday morning. City crews will be going down every block in this area to pick up unwanted items including such items as couches, tires (limited to four passenger or light duty truck tires), pesticides, paint and tree limbs that are bundled and no longer than four feet in length. Have the items at curbside and not in a personal trailer. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Office at

397-9291.

Lea County Dance

The Lea County Dance at the VFWS in Lovington, one mile north of Lovington on the Tatum Highway, will be from 7-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person with potluck refreshments. Class Act will play.

Cowboy Hall of Fame

Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame Awards Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. the Lea County Events Center. The annual Cowboy Hall of Fame Banquet will be presenting the Bronze Cowboy Award to honor two people with a rich ranching history in Lea County and the Silver Concho Award, honoring a person for excellence in public service. You must be a member to attend the banquet.

Silhouette Club

The High Lonesome Club is hosting a steel target (22-long-rifle only) shoot at the Hobbs Gun Club Range. Range opens at 7:30 a.m., 1/2 scale targets match starts at 9 a.m. and the 3/8 scale targets match starts at 1 p.m. Safety meeting and discussion of range rules will be held prior to

each match. All matches are open to the public and the entry fee is \$5 for each match. All shooters from novice to expert are welcome (youths and juniors must be accompanied by an adult). All entrants at each match are entered in a drawing for a door prize. For more information contact, Lloyd May at 575-390-9257.

Gallery exhibit

The Center for the Art is proud to bring you the Odessa Arts Association for their November Gallery Exhibit. Opening reception for OAA will be Saturday, Nov. 3, from 4-6 p.m. at the Center for the Arts, 122 W. Broadway. The exhibit will be running the entire month of November. They will be presenting an exhibit displaying artwork with "travel and vacation" for the theme.

Candy donations

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. candidate for county commission Tom Pierce will be at Taco Villa collecting excess candy for Operation Gratitude, which will send candy to troops serving overseas. Donators will receive a free bean burrito.

The Kountry Korral
Gift Shop & Tea Room
Holiday Open House

November 3rd 10:00 to 5:00

Enjoy refreshments and door-prizes
While you shop for the perfect gift!

Register to win a
\$100.00 Gift Certificate
Winner to be announced Dec. 3

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM (\$6.50) EXCEPT 3D

EAGLE 9

TAKEN 2
DAILY (2:00 4:15) 7:30 9:40 **PG-13**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:25)

*** FUN SIZE**
DAILY (2:00 4:20) 7:30 9:40 **PG-13**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:40)

*** WRECK IT RALPH 3D**
DAILY (2:00 4:30) 7:30 9:40 **PG**

*** WRECK IT RALPH 2D**
DAILY 9:35 **PG**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:30)

SILENT HILL REVELATION 3D
DAILY (2:25 4:25) 6:55 **TV**

SILENT HILL REVELATION 2D
DAILY 9:10 **TV**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:45)

HERE COMES THE BOOM
DAILY (2:10 4:40) 7:25 9:50 **TV**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:15)

SINISTER
DAILY (2:20 4:45) 7:25 9:50 **TV**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:30)

***HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3D**
DAILY (2:15 4:25) 6:50 **TV**

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2D
DAILY 9:10 **TV**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:30)

***FRANKENWEENIE 3D**
DAILY (2:40) 5:00 7:10 **TV**

FRANKENWEENIE 2D
DAILY 9:30 **TV**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:15)

***PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4**
DAILY (2:30 4:45) 7:00 9:30 **TV**
SATURDAY - SUNDAY (11:40)

ALL 3D MOVIES
MATINEE ALL SEATS \$8.50
EVENING \$8.50 CHILD \$10.50 ADULT

No Pass, Discount or Gift Tickets on * Movies

and **Grand Opening**
Holiday Open House

LE JUNQUE

OPEN...
November 1st
150 E Navajo Dr
Hobbs, NM
In the ATech Building

Tuesday ~ Saturday
10:00 AM ~ 5:30 PM

"LIKE" LE JUNQUE on Facebook

Horsefeathers
2000 N. Dal Paso 575-391-0845
Mon - Sat 10am to 5:30pm

Holiday Open House

Friday, November 2nd & Saturday, November 3rd

10:00 am to 5:30 pm

Door Prizes & Refreshments

- * Holiday Coffee & Cocoa
- * Candles & Melts
- * Stocking Stuffers
- * Circle E
- * Ornaments Galore
- * Tyler
- * Christmas Decor
- * Swan Creek
- * Home Decor & Gifts
- * Capri Blue