

News-Sun

JAL ■ EUNICE ■ HOBBS ■ LOVINGTON ■ TATUM ■ SEMINOLE ■ DENVER CITY

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50 cents

Community News

JUNCTION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY hosts its third annual fundraiser and auction today at 6:30 p.m. at Cowboy Junction Church, 9924 Catchings Drive. Proceeds will benefit the academy. Auction items include a 2008 GMC pickup, jewelry and a miniature horse.

LIVING DESERT ZOO and Gardens State Park in Carlsbad celebrates its 40th anniversary today and for this special occasion only, entrance fees are rolling back to their original price of \$1 for visitors. Children 6 years old and under are free.

THE WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM Complex will be accepting quilts for the 2011 Festival of Quilts today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The quilts will be on display at the museum starting June 16. Anyone interested in entering a quilt can call the museum for more information at 392-6730.

HOBBS GOSPEL OPRY presents the "Stars of Gospel" at 7 p.m. at the Lea County Event Center on June 11. Tickets are \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance. For more information, call 631-0321. Performers include the Greenlees and the Gospel Chicks.

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OIL PRICES

	Price	Change
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Special fare kicks off flights

LEVI HILL
NEWS-SUN

To celebrate the start of new air service from Hobbs to Houston through United Airlines, a special rate for air service is being offered.

The Economic Development Corporation of Lea County began announcing the special fare Thursday and it is already piquing interest.

"So far the reaction has been very good," said David Jett, director of marketing and public relations for the EDC.

The special rate is \$198 for a round-

trip ticket, but there are some requirements, Jett said.

"It has to be a three night stay minimum and must be used by Jan. 6, 2012," Jett said.

The tickets can be bought at United Airlines online or through www.flyhobbs.com.

Hobbs had originally signed a contract with Continental Airlines, but the company merged with United earlier this year.



The merger is good news for Hobbs, Jett said.

"That expands our horizons," he said. "With Continental and United together, it doubles the places you can fly out of Houston. We have the largest air carrier in the world in our back yard."

Flights to or from Houston that do not meet the requirements for the special rate will vary in price depending on a multitude of factors, but should be within \$50 of the

same flight from Midland, Jett said.

The first flight from Hobbs to Houston is scheduled for July 1 and will be celebrated on June 30 when the first plane taxis to the gate, Jett said.

"We are going to have the plane taxi to the gate and pass through some water jets from fire trucks," he said.

Jett said he wants to make sure the community knows that the flights to and from Hobbs will not be made with a prop plane, but with a 50-passenger jet.

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KIMBERLY RYAN/NEWS-SUN

Young sculptors

Children attend a wire sculpture class Thursday as part of the Center for the Arts summer program.

Eunice police to be assisted by LCSD

ALMA OLIVAS-POSADAS
NEWS-SUN

Lea County Sheriff's Department is assisting the Eunice Police Department with managing services until a new police chief is hired.

The City of Eunice decided not to renew the contract of former Chief Kevin Burnam by a vote of 4-3 in early May.

On Tuesday the county commission approved the memorandum of understanding between Lea County and the City of Eunice for the Lea County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement supervision for 60 days or until the position is filled.

Lea County's Sheriff's Department Undersheriff Mark Hargrove said

they are basically taking over day to day operations.

"Since the chief has been gone they don't have a department head," Hargrove said. "Capt. James Wilmeth will be filling that position."

City of Eunice Mayor Matt White said council members did not renew the former police chief's contract about 30 days ago.

"We had a couple of local officers apply for the chief's position and we didn't feel like it was fair to use them as an acting police chief in the meantime," White said. "So we asked the Sheriff's Department to help us with that."

Eunice City Council member C.W. Motes said he feels stricter leadership

is needed over other officers.

"I'd like to see more turn around here as long as keeping people off the street late at night and things like that," he said. "Making sure our officers are out there more."

Eunice City councilor Billy Hobbs said he feels confident about a new police chief.

"I am waiting to do the interviews and just get going from there," he said.

Mayor White said police officers are still on the job and everything is going on as usual.

"There are no reasons for any of the citizens to be alarmed, everything is normal," White said.

SkillsUSA contestants detouring to help out in Joplin

BETH HAHN
NEWS-SUN

Three New Mexico Junior College students competing in the national SkillsUSA conference this month will take a detour in Joplin, Mo., for a community service project and to deliver items collected to help victims of a May 23 tornado.

NMJC cosmetology professor Robin Porter, one of the SkillsUSA sponsors, said the students are collecting items to take to Joplin residents.

"We're going to take a trailer and hopefully it is just packed full of stuff," she said.

The SkillsUSA national conference and competition is held in Kansas City and Porter said stopping by Joplin seems like a good idea. The students will deliver

donated supplies to the tornado victims and participate in a community service project before heading to Kansas City.

"They're so excited about any community service project," Porter said. "I think they're really going to enjoy it."

SkillsUSA students compete in several areas at the state level. Those who place first in their category are eligible to compete at the national level.

NMJC will send three students: Saul Bolivar, who will compete in CPR/First Aid; Melodie Brown, who will compete in nurse assisting; and Daniel Marin, who will compete in extemporaneous speaking.

The national conference is June 18-26.

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Volunteers join the tornado cleanup effort in Joplin. Three NMJC students will deliver items to victims and lend a hand en route to a SkillsUSA contest in Kansas City.

AP PHOTO

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