

Volume 2,
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2016

The City Voice



March—April 2016 Edition



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 - Scot Youngblood

THANKS AND ADMIRATION by J.J. Murphy, City Manager

I would like to thank every member of the City of Hobbs and every citizen of this great area for always persevering. It seems that no matter how good the times are or how difficult they may become, nothing can beat us.

It is because of teamwork and support like this that we have been able to accomplish so much. Across the board, from NMJC's number one ranked nursing graduate class and athletic achievements to USW's rising enrollment rates despite the national state of the

economy, our schools are gaining recognition in every area. Times may be slow, but the healthcare industry in Hobbs is still working towards expansion goals, such as the addition of **Nor-Lea Medical Clinic**. Our residents are busy with work, life, and family, yet members such as Genaro Gonzales, HFD Captain Travis Collins, HFD Captain Keith Akin, HPD Sergeant Scott Keenan, HPD Sergeant Thomas Stoddard, and HPD Lieutenant Danny Garrett find opportunities for international mission work.

I appreciate the opportunity and your time to express my admiration for our town's choice of long-term interests over short-term pressures. Our town is still growing and has the best to come.



Upcoming Events

April 10-16 - National Library Week

April 15—County Wide Orange Out

(look inside for more details)

April 23—24 - Hobbs Downtown Slam & Jam

(look inside for more details)

April 30 - Great American Clean-Up

April 18 - City Commission Meeting 6 p.m.

Every Wednesday morning - Coffee with Cops 7:30-9 a.m.

April 28 - Take Your Son or Daughter to Work Day

May 2— City Commission Meeting 6 p.m.

May 17— Young Adults Movie Night at Hobbs Public Library

May 28 - ALL POOLS OPEN



Your Part in Preventing Wildfires

Due to recent high winds, please be aware of the different levels of fire warnings issued by the National Weather Service. A Red Flag Warning is issued for weather events that may result in extreme fire behavior that will occur within 24 hours. A Fire Weather Watch is issued when a weather conditions could exist in the next 12 to 72 hours.

A Red flag Warning is the highest alert. During these times, the public is urged to be extremely cautious, because a simple spark could cause a major wildfire. A Fire Watch is one level below a warning, but a fire danger is still high. Factors that influence the spread of wild fires are:

- Weather (Wind, Temperature, and Relative Humidity), Fuel, and Topography.
- Wind increases the rate and the direction of the spread of fire.
- Relative Humidity and Temperature mainly effect fuel.

Types of Weather Pattern that cause a watch or warning include low relative humidity, strong winds, dry fuels, the possibility of dry lightnings strikes, or any combination.



Tips to help stop Wild Land Fires:

- Dispose of smoking materials in an appropriate container and make sure it is completely extinguished. Do not throw these items into any open area as they may start a fire that will spread rapidly.
- Do not throw cigars or cigarettes out of your vehicle when traveling.
- Do not burn or trash without appropriate approval from your local fire department.
- Proceed with caution when using outside grills or cooking equipment during these times. If you must use outside cooking equipment, make sure you have some type of extinguishing agent nearby (e.g., water hose, bucket of sand, fire extinguisher).

Join your Hobbs Police Department
for coffee, doughnuts, & open discussion
on Wednesdays 7-9 AM for
Coffee with Cops

Call (575) 391-4169 for more details

Hobbs Police Department Citizens' Police Academy

Another round of the HPD Citizens' Police Academy has begun and is now in its 7th week, with 31 students. So far, the class has gained in-depth education on law, crime scene investigations, domestic violence, K9 units, and other law enforcement topics. The program lasts for 10 weeks and is open to all who wish to participate. Throughout the course, students gain hands on experience on how to use a speed radar gun, how to identify someone who is past the legal alcohol intoxication level to drive, and even get to solve a crime with HPD's own Crime Scene Technicians.

The course is coordinated by Officer Mike Stone with help from many other members of the Hobbs Police Department and the City of Hobbs Legal Department. There are two courses offered throughout the year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. For more information or to get signed up for the next course, call Officer Mike Stone at (575) 397-9381.

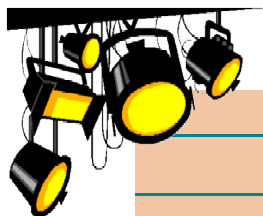




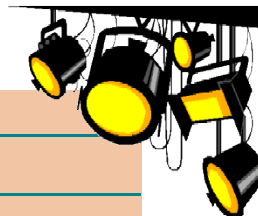
Update!

For the second year in a row, the Hobbs Downtown Slam & Jam is back on April 23rd and 24th! With 178 teams signed up for the Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament as of April 14th, it is already larger than it was at this time last year! Numerous non-profit organizations have joined to participate this year, including the Center for the Arts, who will be coordinating the Talent Show to be held at 1 o'clock on the 23rd. There will also be a Mud Volleyball Tournament, Slam Dunk Contest to be held by the Hobbs Chamber of Commerce, and enough food and activities to entertain every member of your group! For more information and Mud Volleyball registration, call (575)397-9291.

Below is a list of all the participants to present in the Talent Show:



Ashley Zamora	Aurianda Guerrero
Ibree McCorvey	Amanda Davis
Ashley Jenkins	Monique Ford
Destiny Awaits	Ruben Baca
Milka Cruz	Kayla Johnson



Lifesaving Award

Thank you so very much, Officer Jayson Hoff, for your dedication and hard work in earning the Lifesaving Award. If it was not for Officer Hoff, the individual who was the subject of the call would not have survived.

So again, thank you for all that you do every day to train, educate, and prepare yourself for situations such as this one, Officer Hoff.



Officer Jayson Hoff
with Police Chief Chris
McCall

New Commissioner for District 6

On Thursday, March 10th, at a Special City Commission meeting, Don R. Gerth, a longtime resident of Hobbs, NM, was selected by the City Commission as Commissioner for District 6. Married, possessing a passion for sports, a former NMJC student-athlete and All-American, Commissioner Gerth looks forward to giving back to his community. Commissioner Gerth found inspiration in the famous John F. Kennedy quote from the late president's inaugural address, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Commissioner Gerth has felt encouraged by individuals in his life. He looks forward to collaborating with other Commissioners and the Mayor to provide a higher quality of life, more opportunities for the community's youth, and giving back in a way that he never has before.

Commissioner Gerth is replacing Commissioner Boyd, who resigned Tuesday, February 16th.



New Designated Parking Spaces

The City of Hobbs installed 15 reserved parking signs for the Combat Wounded Warriors in our community. The signs have been placed in front of parking spaces near the entrance of City Hall and other city facilities in Hobbs. Many Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans have returned to the States with injuries uncommon in previous wars; due to advances in body armor and battlefield medicine practices, these soldiers have been able to survive the injuries they've endured. On return, they quietly flow back into civilian life without asking for any benefits. These reserved parking signs are a small token of our respect and appreciation for those in our midst who have given priceless sacrifices to protect our freedoms.

Other new designated parking spaces at City Hall and other City facilities include "Residents" and "Guests of Hobbs Parking" and "Wounded Warrior Parking." The last one is to celebrate each month's recipient of the Warrior Award for their excellence at going above and beyond in the workplace as well as in the community.



Health Wellness Learning Center Update

The City Parks and Rec Department is going to be a lot busier come Summer of 2018. That is when completion of the Health Wellness Learning Center (HWLC) is expected. So don't be alarmed when you begin to see a large circular centerpiece go up, along with an indoor track, indoor therapy and recreation pools with water slides, fitness class rooms, weight room, study and meeting rooms, and other amenities to satisfy the different groups expected to gather here.

For a city with a class of nursing graduates ranked number one in the nation, extra curricular and athletic achievements advancing to the next level at the end of every season, and an increased enrollment rate at the colleges, it is evident that our area needs an amenity to provide a place for fitness, relaxation, study, and gathering in one location. As our community members grow and evolve, so must our community. The HWLC will also serve as an event venue and a location for athletic events to be held. Expected activities and classes to be held range from yoga to spinning and many other types of leagues and classes. Our community members deserve something like this for all of their hard work and achievements.

Construction is to begin this Summer of 2016. A meaningful partnership between Hobbs Municipal Schools, the J.F. Maddox Foundation, New Mexico Junior College, University of the Southwest, and the City of Hobbs is making this \$62 million project a reality and something to considerably increase the quality of life in Hobbs, New Mexico.



City Park Improvements

The City of Hobbs (City) and the Hobbs Municipal Schools (HMS) are pleased to announce a special funding partnership that will result in major renovations to City Park. Several years ago, in connection with the plans to construct Murray Elementary School, HMS and the City each reserved \$250,000 in capital funds to improve City Park in anticipation of greater use of the facility as a result of the location of Murray Elementary next it. Subsequently, the J. F Maddox Foundation (Foundation) indicated an interest in participating in this project to expand the level of improvements that might be made to the park.

Last year, the City engaged Wilson & Company to explore possible options for significantly upgrading City Park. This experienced engineering and architectural firm has worked with the City, HMS, and the Foundation in developing a Master Plan. During this process, the City reached out to area residents for their input. The resulting Master Plan provides for significant improvements to City Park, which include exciting new features that will accommodate the varied interests of people of all ages. Among the improvements planned are additional gathering/picnic areas, new athletic courts, a large splash pad, new restrooms, and additional parking. Further, the planned improvements will result in a much more attractive park that will complement the many significant improvements that have been made in the area neighboring the Park. Based on the Master Plan, the Foundation has agreed to provide \$3,740,000 in funding in support of this project.



National Library Week!



Hobbs Public Library

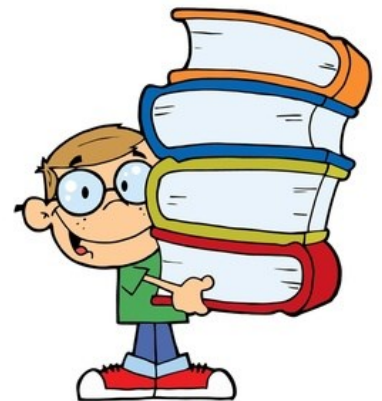
National Library Week will be from April 10th-16th this year, and the Hobbs Public Library is gearing up for it! In celebration of the occasion, the Hobbs Public Library will be hosting multiple special events and activities for individuals of all ages to partake in, in addition to the programs regularly held there such as the Young Adults Program.

The Children's Department Staff will be displaying a variety of storybooks on Tumble Books, which are electronic books, also known as e-books. These will be held in the Story Hour Room on Friday of National Library Week (April 15th). Children of all ages are welcome, although the e-books are targeted at K-5th graders. Some of the stories they may watch include [Mercy Watson to the Rescue](#) by Kate DiCamillo, [When Pigs Fly](#) by Valerie Coulman, [Burrow's Tortillas](#) by Terri Fields, [Down by the Sea with Mr. McGee](#) by Chris Vandusen, [Boomer's Big Surprise](#) by Constance McGeorge, and many others. Please, remember that children under the age of 8 years old must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or caregiver.

Coloring books are no longer just for children! The Library has also scheduled an Adult Program with Adult Coloring Books as the activity. The Adult Program will be held on May 9th from 6-7 PM for all individuals over 18 years old, and an assortment of coloring sheets, colored pencils, markers, and crayons will be made available. Research has shown that coloring books for adults can be calming, relaxing, spark creativity, and overall relaxing and beneficial for the psyche – a person's mental, emotional, and intellectual health.

Staff will also be passing out a limited number of complimentary pencils and an assortment of bookmarks, as long as supplies last. So head on over to your Hobbs Public Library to help the Staff celebrate National Library Week and all they are doing to observe it!

For more information, please contact the Hobbs Public Library at (575) 397-9328.





On April 6th and 7th, the United States Golf Association (USGA) sent a filming crew to Hobbs, New Mexico to catch the beauty and success thus far of Rockwind Community Links. Since inception, the staffs of the facility, as well as the City of Hobbs, have worked diligently to accomplish the concept of "community links," and the USGA has embraced this concept and believes it may be the catalyst for growing the game of golf.

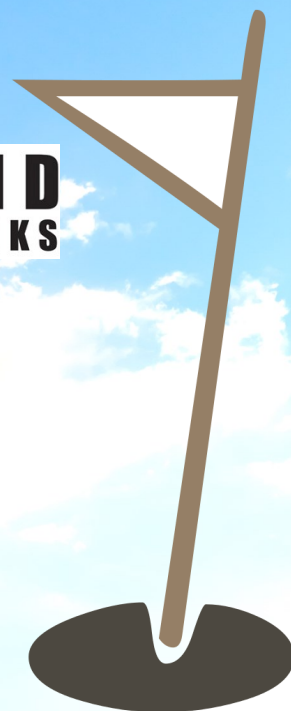
Rockwind has received numerous awards and accolades in the months leading up to the USGA visit, with one magazine calling Rockwind "the future of golf." In light of declining participation rates, the USGA is excited by the concept. The project of filming a piece on Rockwind came about after a presentation about Rockwind Community Links given by Hobbs City Manager, J.J. Murphy, and course architect, Andy Staples, at a USGA Symposium in January. The idea of still keeping golf as the center of such a facility but bringing in activities that either haven't been incorporated at a course before or not in the same way contributes to the concept. That has made such a positive impact on our community, as well as to the success of Rockwind. This was the theme of J.J.'s presentation which caught USGA leaders' attention.

"The Community Links concept is helping to shine a light on the value that a well-conceived, well-run golf facility can provide to the community," said Hunki Yun, the USGA's director of partnerships, outreach and education. "Thanks to the vision of the city of Hobbs, Rockwind can serve as a model for other municipalities that are looking to use golf to offer numerous benefits to their residents."

Rockwind has an open atmosphere and numerous activities made available for golfers and non-golfers of all ages, making it a gathering place for groups and individuals of all types and interests to come to. Now, others around the nation will learn about the 9-Hole Par 3 Course and 18-hole Championship Course, the jogging trail, the numerous types of golf classes and clinics for golfers at all stages, the reservation types made available for weddings and other special events, and the relaxing patio as well as indoor dining experiences at Rockwind Grill.

The filming crew's visit, made by Rob Cowen and Rob Rabena, consisted of numerous on-camera interviews given by various supporters of Rockwind. The Mayor, City Manager, participants in the Couples Program on Wednesday nights, children and their parents of the First Tee Program of Southeastern New Mexico at Rockwind, and of course Rockwind Golf Pros Linda Howell and Camren Bergman all delivered positive comments. With beautiful weather and an active schedule, Rockwind shone in all its glory both days, giving the crew the perfect opportunity to catch the well-known sunsets and sunrises that Southeastern New Mexico manifests. The crew also took many shots of both courses, but also of some of the local surrounding attractions, such as Harry McAdams Park, the 9/11 Memorial, and the jogging trail along Lovington Highway.

After seeing how this concept has not only sustained itself but thrived, the USGA is now presenting Rockwind Community Links to golf courses and industry insiders across the nation as a model for how golf courses should now be developed and managed. The success and honor that Rockwind has attained is something unforeseeable but well-received, with J.J. Murphy stating, "It is a major privilege for the USGA to acknowledge and highlight Rockwind Community Links in such a way. To be showcased as a model for how golf possibly could be developed and managed is sure to bring many more accolades for Rockwind, and we were happy to accommodate the filming crew and thank them for all of their hard work in getting our message out."





Looking for a quick easy way
to pay your Utilities Bill online?

Try the "Online Payments" link
on the left side of the City of Hobbs
homepage.

Be sure to tune
into the City's
radio station
KHBX on 99.3 for
all the latest
Public Service
Announcements
and Updates!

**KHBX
99.3**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

Gus Macker Registration 4:00
- 7:00 pm

SATURDAY

Gus Macker Registration 7:00 am
- 12:00 pm

Gus Macker Opening Ceremonies
& Tournament play begins 8:00 am

Mud Volleyball Tournament
hosted by HHS 8:00 am

Food Court

Mars Hill Band in Concert 11:30 am

Slam Dunk Competition 12:30 pm

Lea County Center for the Arts
Talent show 1:00 pm

SUNDAY

Gus Macker Tournament
continues 8 am

Hobbs DOWNTOWN SLAM & JAM

APRIL 23 • 24

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Lea County Regional Airport
Hobbs, NM

Saturday, June 18th 2016

Airplanes, Helicopters and More!

Games, Activities, Food



2nd Annual

FlyHobbs

Aviation Day and Fly In!



Entry is FREE!

Lea County Regional Airport

6601 W. Carlsbad Hwy

Hobbs, NM

Saturday, June 18th 2016

Gates are Open

8 am. to 1 pm.

www.flyhobbsaviationday.com



One of the best family events in Lea County!

Event will include a raffle for free United Airlines tickets, games, military aircraft, helicopters, airplanes, food trucks, and much more.





New Bathrooms at MLK Complex

Due to numerous requests from parents of soccer participants at Martin Luther King, Jr. Complex, the City of Hobbs added a second restroom facility to the complex. The facility holds two stalls for women and two stalls for men, making a total of four new stalls. The new restrooms were placed on the east side of the complex in order to shorten the trek from the east side of the complex to the existing restrooms. MLK Complex is used year-round with both Fall and Spring seasons. In addition to the new restroom facility, new entrance steps, parking spaces, and lighting were added to the east side of the complex, and concrete repairs and new hand rails and hand rail repairs were also done to the complex. The lighting on the walking trail that surrounds the fields was upgraded to LED lighting, which aligns with the LED lighting upgrades that are being made throughout City of Hobbs buildings and facilities. The overall cost of the additions and repairs made at MLK Complex is just over \$300,000, and these will be complete with the help of several contracted companies.

New HFD Battalion Chief Appointed



Photographed: Battalion Chief Max Brown with his wife, Selene, and their youngest son between them

At the City Commission meeting held on February 1st, 2016, Max Brown, a native of Lovington, New Mexico, was promoted to Battalion Chief of the Hobbs Fire Department. Max's wife, Selene, pinned Brown's new Battalion Chief badge to his chest after Chief Eric Enriquez introduced Brown to the Commission and all meeting attendees. Two of Max and Selene's sons watched on from the audience while one stood between them to be a part of the action and numerous members of the Hobbs Fire Department attended in support and recognition.

Chief Enriquez is confident in the choice of Max Brown, stating, "The Fire Department's leadership team was able to learn a lot about the individuals who applied for the position. They really put their passion and hearts into their presentations. Max was the one who stood out, and the Battalion Chiefs now know more about all the individuals who participated. I encouraged them to take that passion they displayed, and to put it to good use in inspiration and motivation."

Brown has been with the fire service for 15 years, 12 of those with the Hobbs Fire Department. He possesses Associate's Degrees in both Fire Science and Emergency Medicine, and is currently working on a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management. Brown was very supportive of the promotional process he underwent for the position, stating "Oh, it was a great process. I learned a lot about myself, both strengths and weaknesses. Now I am working on improving those weaknesses and sharpening the strengths."

Countywide Orange-Out

The City of Hobbs was proud to participate in the Countywide Orange-Out on April 15th in support of Teen Dating Violence Awareness. The County came together to promote respect and healthy relationships by wearing all of the orange they had in their closets and sharing their photos online to spread the word.

For more information on this topic, contact Hobbs High School Nurse, Stefanie Shoults, at (575)433-0204.



Warrior Awards



February

Code Enforcement Officer, Isabel Torres, had gone above and beyond her line of duty. The most recent is a complaint she received regarding some abandoned dogs. She had intended to get a search warrant for the property so that we could insure the dogs were alive. According to the complaint, the animals had been in the house for over 3 weeks without anyone helping them. The implications were that the dog owners locked the dogs in the house and left town. Isabel, rightfully, decided that she needed to do a deeper investigation into the issue before she obtained a warrant to enter and search the property. Her investigation revealed that the owners had not abandoned the dogs as previously reported but were in the hospital in Lubbock. She was able to contact the owner, who returned to Hobbs briefly to meet Isabel and photograph the dogs. She

reported that all dogs were healthy. She was able to alleviate the concerns of neighbors in the process. All this was done without jumping to conclusions or operating on assumptions. This is important because she took the time to conduct a thorough investigation, and even went above and beyond to protect the property rights of this particular dog owner and prevent a broken door. Throughout the whole process, Isabel kept in contact with the neighbors and let them know that the City was taking care of it. Isabel has been a Code Enforcement Officer for 7 years.—Nominator of Isabel

April

Prior to my arrival to the City's GIS Division, GIS was maintained and kept afloat through the direct efforts of Scot Youngblood. All of which managed with limited resources, support and training, yet he forged on striving to meet the growing demands and requests placed upon him by the citizens and City's organization.

Since my arrival, Scot continues to maintain the same focus and drive in fulfilling requests by those he proudly serves and to fill in where he's needed. Scot takes an active role with the growth of the team and the Division, by providing excellent insight and bringing a broad range of skills and knowledge to the table.

Furthermore, he's responsive to the demands of his position and the ever changing environment in Hobbs. He puts the best interests of the City and the citizens first by being proactive and diligent in his tasks. We proudly call him the 'Guardian of the Data,' as he protects it as if it were his own and facilitates meeting the dynamically growing standards being developed.

In conclusion, Scot daily displays the character and work ethic that makes him a worthy warrior candidate. Previously in his position as a GIS Technician, he worked long hours without much support or praise. And since he has been bumped to the GIS Specialist position he continues the same work effort and mentality, without a complaint or negative attitude.— Nominator of Scot Youngblood: GIS Technician, Terrance Staggs

Scot also displays excellent service to the youth in our community. He volunteers his time to help Hobbs High students in the New Mexico Science Olympiad. Most recently, Scott has attended the Science Olympiad Coaching Workshop and assists the Hobbs Freshman High School students after hours and weekends. Hobbs Freshmen compete state wide on the High School level.

In 2016, the Hobbs High School finished 5th in the state and the Hobbs Freshman High School finished 18th out of 25. The success of the Hobbs High School starts with the foundation that Scott builds in the Freshman School. The Warrior Award is about an employee that makes a difference... Scot is making a difference throughout our community!

— Nominator of Scot Youngblood: Head City Engineer, Todd Randall



J.J.'s Final Thought:

"Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress. Don't strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt. "



The City of Hobbs will be hosting the New Mexico Municipal League Annual Conference on August 31 – September 2, 2016. Approximately 600 – 800 attendees from cities, towns and villages all across the State will be traveling to Hobbs to view our beautiful city during this conference!