

Upcoming Events

January 2012

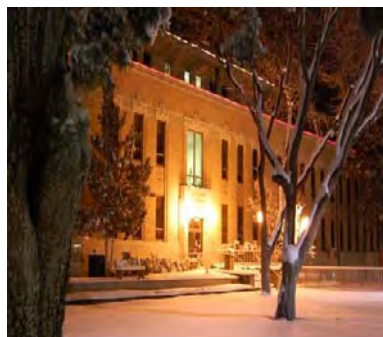
- January 1 Happy New Year!
- January 13 3-5 pm **Open House** for the new **Sheriff's Headquarters**
- January 14 7 pm **ARRIVAL-An ABBA Tribute**
Southwest Symphony Orchestra Tydings Auditorium
- January 20 8 pm **Wynonna & A Big Noise**
Lea County Event Center Box Office 575-391-2900
Tickets at selectaseatlubbock.com 1-800-735-1288
- January 28 7:30 pm **Tuf Hedeman Championship Bull Riding**
Lea County Event Center Box Office 575-391-2900

- Thru May 2012 NM Centennial Cattle Drive of the Century**
Tickets are on sale for May 9-12 Lea County to Eddy County
cattle drive at selectaseatlubbock.com 1-800-735-1288 &
at the Lea County Event Center Box Office 575-391-2900

Let it Snow!

Maintaining the Lea County Airport runways and roads is a full time job. Corey Needham, Public Works Director, and his staff worked overtime throughout the holidays making streets and the Lea county Airport safe for the holiday traffic.

With eight inches of snow by Christmas Eve Day, they worked hard to keep travelers safe as they went to their family gatherings.



Lea County New Mexico
100 North Main Street
Lovington, NM 88260
575-396-8600
www.leacounty.net

Issue

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Lea County Connections

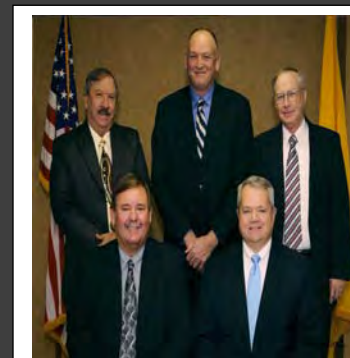
Happy New Year!

The Lea County Board of Commissioners and employees wish all of the residents a Happy New Year for 2012!

The economic growth and prosperity of Lea County provides an excellent place to live and jobs to support our families. Even with the growth in population over the past ten years, Lea County maintains a very low unemployment rate in comparison to other counties and states.

This is credited to the tremendous growth in the oil & gas industry and other renewable energy industries that have built businesses in Lea County during the past decade.

We are committed to continuing this growth throughout 2012. In addition, we will strive to provide an excellent quality of life for our citizens through the New Year.



Lea Co Board of Commissioners



Lea County Courthouse



Ice skating is a blast!

Light Up Lea County!



Holiday photos in the snow globe.

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Ice skating in Lea County? Why not? There was even snow for Christmas! For five days, December 17-21, kids of all ages were ice skating on an artificial ice rink, zooming down a giant "snowzilla" toboggan ride or jumping in a snow globe with friends and family for their holiday photos.

Light Up Lea County! brought a new dimension of thrills to the Lea County Event Center. With screams of laughter and big smiles the look of joy and wonder was on all of the faces.

Thanks to Teen Court members, CDC, DWI, Friends of the Library, Lea County Museum, Girl Scouts, Option Inc, J Morrill Photography & the Hobbs Community Band & Singers for the celebration!



"Snowzilla"

Spotlight!

Warden Jann Gartman of the Lea County Detention Center has just celebrated their 6th year anniversary.

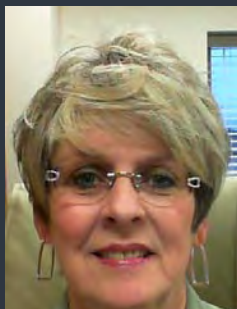
FUN FACTS

In the past 12 months, our average adult inmate headcount was 266. Our average juvenile headcount was 16.

Our average monthly income was \$245,000 which is generated primarily from housing & transporting Federal inmates, plus state inmates, Eddy County inmates & local inmates.

We traveled 121,000 miles taking Federal inmates back & forth to court.

Our work detail crew has picked up over 1,000 55 gallon trash bags off of highways. We have a staff of 86 detention officers & four maintenance staff.



Warden Jann Gartmann



Lea County's top energy news stories for 2011

Lea County Board of Commissioners Welcome Alternative Renewable Energy Options

Top Energy News

Lea County continues to lead the state in alternative energy sources. Projects that have met milestones in 2011 include the following projects:

El Dorado Bio-Fuels

In 2011 the plant opened near Jal and is already harvesting diesel produced by its algae ponds.

International Isotopes

In August 2011, II Inc. announced that it had completed the process to receive 540 acres transferred from Lea County and the state of New Mexico near Jal. Once properly permitted by the NRC, International Isotopes plans to move a de-conversion facility to its new site. The de-conversion facility is a complimentary service to the URENCO plant by taking depleted uranium and extracting the fluorine gases and acids.

Joule Unlimited

May 2011 Lea County announced a partnership with Joule to use 500 of 1,500 acres leased to build another sustainable energy source for the bio-fuel market.

Joule's Helioculture platform produces infra-structure-ready diesel and ethanol directly and continuously from sunlight and waste CO2 with no dependence on arable land or fresh water.

"The EnergyPlex is the place to build alternative energy plants."

Joule was recently recognized with the 2011 Wall Street Journal Technology Innovation Award in the energy category. The company was chosen for its new approach to solving the age old problem of how to efficiently produce alternative liquid fuels.

URENCO

The first uranium enrichment facility in the US was built outside of Eunice in Lea County. Only a month after going into operation, the URENCO board authorized another \$1.5 billion to fund Phase 2 of the facility.

Construction began on what would be another 4 years of expansion. Phase 2 is on schedule. Plans have already been proposed to the board for Phase 3.

Intercontinental Potash

News was good for IPC in 2011 with the finding of high grade sources of polyhalite mineral under Lea County with feasible ways to convert the material into valuable potash for high-grade fertilizers. In December the final economic assessment gave the project another green light. Groundbreaking is projected for late 2012.

Lea County Regional Airport



Lea County Regional Airport December 24, 2011

The Lea County Regional Airport is a convenient travel option to the residents of Lea County and surrounding areas.

With daily non-stop flights between Hobbs and Houston, travelers may leave from home, park for free and return to Hobbs with only a short drive, minutes from their home. Many local travelers have enjoyed the convenience of daily flights to Houston.

Connections between Hobbs and Houston, business travel has improved with employees being able to conduct business and return on the same day.

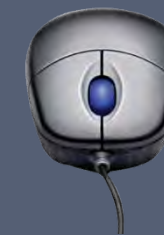
United Airlines connects in Houston (IAH) with 60 domestic and 30 international flights to destinations throughout the world within a few hours. United Airlines transports more than 450,000 passengers a day.

Airport Manager, Corey Needham, was named airport manager of the year at the 2011 New Mexico Aviation Conference annual meeting in Santa Fe. Needham said "it was a complete surprise. It made me real proud of everyone that helped out this year. We had some pretty major accomplishments at the airport." Congratulations for a job well done with the launch of the new United service.

Q&A Tips www.leacounty.net

Q: Can I pay my property taxes online?

A: Just a click of the mouse can help you pay your property taxes on line. Go on line to www.leacounty.net and click on the Tax Assessor's under the drop down or scroll to form. It is perfectly safe and protected to pay your taxes on line. If you need help, please call 575-396-8626 for a



Q:How can I apply for a job?

A: Lea County Human Resources offer a variety of opportunities to work in different departments of the county government. Look on line at leacounty.net. Click on Human Resources to see the jobs that are available. Lea County is an equal opportunity employer with regard to hiring policies.

Lea County Manager Updates

Welcome to the January Lea County Connections newsletter with updates for all of the county government. The newsletters will be available in both print and online.

We welcome your comments as the county government staff works diligently to provide for the health, welfare and safety of each Lea County resident.

You will continue to see improved roads, housing projects, business development and additional leisure activities throughout the county.

We are committed to improving the life style of each county resident through out the year.



Mike Gallagher
Lea County Manager