

## Legislature 2012

Members of the Lea County Board of Commissioners attended the Grand Opening of the Sheriff's Department HQ on January 13, 2012.

In January, the LCBC also attended the 2012 New Mexico Association of Counties Conference and the opening of the 2012 Legislative Session in Santa Fe. They had meetings with Lea County legislators in the House and Senate discussing projects that are vital to the county.

The economic growth of Lea County provides New Mexico with funding for their annual budget. With the growth in population over the past ten years, Lea County continues to be a significant part of the state's growth.

The LCBC are committed to continuing this growth throughout 2012. In addition, they strive to provide an excellent quality of life for our citizens through the year.



Sheriff's HQ Grand Opening

## February 2012

- Sheriffs' HQ Opens **P.1**
- 2012 NMAC Conference **P.2**
- Spotlight! Dee Robinson **P.2**
- Lea County Regional Airport **P.3**



January 13, 2012 marked the Sheriff's HQ Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony and remarks by Sheriff Mark Hargrove. The afternoon included designated tours throughout the building. With this opening, another milestone has been reached in Lea County growth.

## Sheriff's Department of Lea County Celebrates Grand Opening Ceremony



Sheriff's Department of Lea County



Lea Co Board of Commissioners

## Spotlight!

Lea County Tax Assessor Dee Robinson performs many public duties within the county, state and nation. She is currently serving as the Vice President of the New Mexico Association of Counties. Throughout her travels, Assessor Dee Robinson tirelessly promotes Lea County.

The Tax Assessor's office staff assists the residents of Lea County with accurate records to ensure a fair & equitable assessment of real & personal property by providing a current, well-maintained tax base for government to base tax levies.

"Our aim is to keep this office maintained with the latest equipment in order to keep the tax payers better informed and educated with the most current courses provided to us."



Assessor Dee Robinson



As contributing members of the New Mexico Association of Counties, Lea County employees work to improve the quality of government within the state. One of the programs, New Mexico EDGE (Education Designed to Generate Excellence in the Public Sector) is under the County College.

Lea County is very proud of its select group of hardworking county employees who have successfully completed the requirements to earn their certification in the NMEDGE County College & CPM programs.

They were honored at the NM EDGE County College & CPM Graduation Ceremony January 19 in conjunction with the NMAC Legislative Conference at the Pavilion in the El Dorado Hotel in Santa Fe. All three are among the first in the state to complete their certifications & graduation.

## Legislative Days for New Mexico January 2012

Lea County employees are honored at New Mexico Association of Counties Conference in Santa Fe

### Shannon Capps

Shannon Capps, Lea County Mapper, has been with the county for 17 years. "The GIS courses have given me more knowledge & professionalism in my job. The CPM courses have made me aware of other issues from finance to communications. I can now say that I feel comfortable in my position and have been able to use many of the skills every day." Capps earned the designation of NM Certified GIS Specialist.

### Buster Willis

Buster Willis, Lea County GIS Planning Administrator, has been with the county 24 years, spending 12 years at the Road Department before moving into GIS. Willis earned the designation of NM Certified County GIS Specialist. "My goal was to gain more knowledge about government & how to apply it to my daily duties to become a better public servant for Lea County."

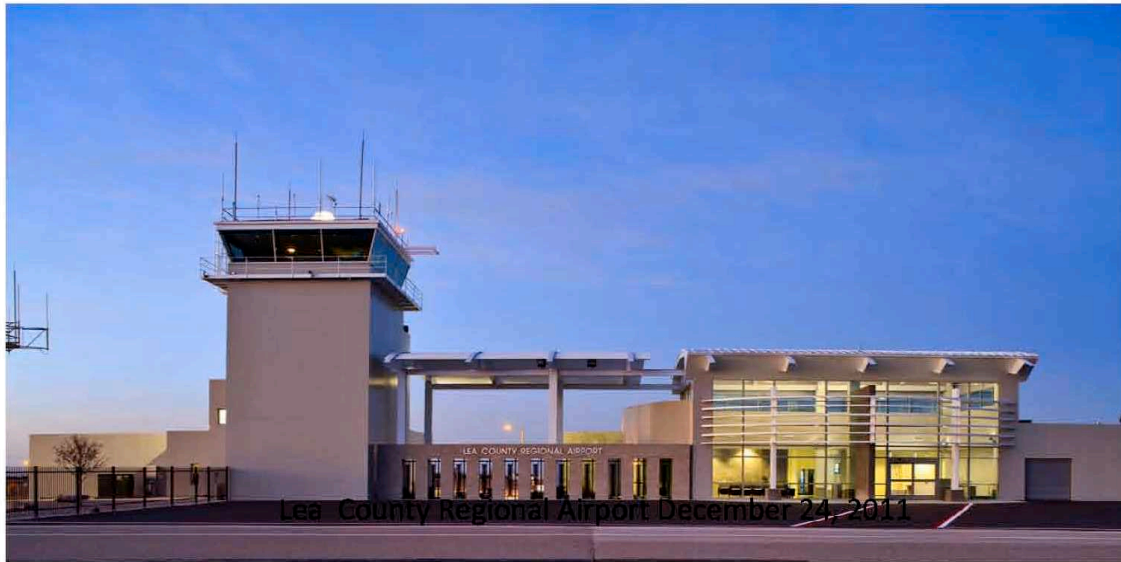
### Jann Gartman

Jann Gartman, Lea County Detention Center Warden, has worked at the county for 18 years & 12 years in Texas. Three years and 300-plus training hours ago, Gartman started her journey with County College. Gartman improved her work performance & enhanced her professional skills. Gartman has earned the highest designation as a Certified Public Managers.

**"Many thanks to Lea County for their commitment to our goal of "Better Government through Education."**

(CPM is a nationally recognized certification.) She proudly represents Lea County as one of the first Certified Public Managers in NM. Gartman has now earned her CPO, CPS, and CPM.

# Lea County Regional Airport



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 has improved business travel with employees being able to conduct business and return on the same day.

Patients being treated at MD Anderson have also taken advantage of the easy access with the daily Houston flights. United Airlines connects at IAH with 60 domestic and 30 international flights to destinations throughout the world within a few hours..

Airport Manager, Corey Needham, 2011 NM airport manager of the year, said "In addition to providing the United passenger service we are working with groups like Hobbs Skydiving, Air Force bases and the Confederate Air Force to add other amenities for residents at the airport."

Work is already being done to expand the parking lot from 110 spaces to 200 spaces.

## Q&A Tips [www.leacounty.net](http://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](http://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 clerk in the Tax Assessor's office.



### 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](http://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 February issue of the Lea County Connections newsletter with updates for all of the county government. The newsletter is available in print and online at our [leacounty.net](http://leacounty.net) web site.

The Lea County Board of Commissioners and I met with NM State legislators during the recent NMAC Conference held in Santa Fe during the 2012 Legislative Session.

We continually communicate with state government and our legislators to improve the services provided to each county resident throughout the year. The county government staff works diligently to provide for the health, welfare and safety of each county resident.



Mike Gallagher  
Lea County Manager



### Centennial 2012

New Mexico kicked off it's 100 years of statehood with a Governor's Gala in Santa Fe on January 6, 2012, the anniversary of President Taft's signing documents naming New Mexico as a state.

Many celebrations are being held in locations throughout New Mexico all year. Go to [newmexicomagazine.com](http://newmexicomagazine.com) or the [newmexico.org](http://newmexico.org) web sites for details about Centennial celebrations during 2012.

### February 2012

**February 4-5** 8 am-5 pm All Breed Show Hobbs NM Kennel Club  
Lea County Event Center 575-391-2900 Free admission.

**February 10** 7-10 pm "Hollywood Walking the Red Carpet"  
Father Daughter Dance for girls ages 5-13.  
Lea County Event Center Box Office 575-391-2900

**February 11** 7-11 pm **Boots & Bling Gala** for CASA of Lea County  
Zia Horsemen's Annex 575-393-0015

**February 13** 7 pm **Vienna Boys Choir**  
Southwest Symphony Orchestra  
Tydings Auditorium 575-738-1041

**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](http://selectaseatlubbock.com) 1-800-735-1288 &  
at the Lea County Event Center Box Office 575-391-2900



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