Lucía Yenes fulfilling her 'American Dream' with New Mexico State

SPORTS, 1B

Las Cruces Sun-News

States map out celebrations

A look at America250 as communities prepare to share their stories

Years of work by national organizations, states, local governments and nonprofits will culminate in what is expected to be a symphony of reflection and celebration across the country. ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

America250 chair Rosie Rios said the initiatives were created to "educate, engage, and unite," the latter of which is no easy task at a time when Americans are deeply divided, particularly over how to tell the country's story.
MARC VASCONCELLOS/BROCKTON ENTERPRISE

Karissa Waddick USA TODAY

This year, Arizona will ferry a replica of the Liberty Bell through its 15 counties; New Jersey will host a slate of history-themed 5K races; Kentucky will plant a tulip-poplar tree in each of its 120 counties, and Colorado will dazzle nearly 150 of its communities with drone shows. ● Across the country, Americans will walk into mobile Airstream studios to tell their stories; children will write about what America means to them for a chance to win a historical trip, and charity organizations will attempt to log the most volunteer service hours in history. ● These are but a sampling of the dizzying array of initiatives planned to mark the semiquincentennial, the 250-year anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Years of work by national organizations, states, local governments and nonprofits will culminate in what is expected to be a symphony of reflection and celebration across the country.

America250, the official commission designated by Congress to organize the commemoration, deliberately planned a wide range of programs – from grand parades and fireworks, to reflective essay contests, town halls and newly commissioned works of art. Every state had a different path to becoming part of the United States of America.

White Sands FCU branch in progress

Jessica Onsurez
Las Cruces Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW MEXICO

Location: 3110 University Avenue (Telshor and University, across from Maverick gas station)

Description: New branch of White Sands Federal Credit Union at Aggie Uptown

White Sands Federal Credit Union's University branch is now under construction, following a groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 14.

"We are incredibly excited to bring White Sands Federal Credit Union to Aggie Uptown and to continue strengthening our great partnership with New Mexico State University," said Phillip Fifield, CEO of White Sands Federal Credit Union in a news release.. "This location allows us to better serve NMSU students and faculty, the incredible health care professionals at and around Memorial Medical Center, and the families who live around the A-Mountain area. This is more than a new branch – it's an investment in the future of our community."

White Sands FCU has two locations in Las Cruces already: on Lohmann Avenue and on N. Main Street. The credit union also has branches in El Paso and Truth or Consequences.

History: White Sands FCU is a member-owned, not for profit cooperative founded in 1952.

It's newest branch is part of New Mexico State University's Aggie Uptown development, an effort to develop "a dynamic campus-adjacent environment."

When will the work be done? The completion date for construction wasn't readily available.

Bonus: NMSU said as part of Aggie Uptown development a Blake's Lotaburger and university-based senior retirement company are likely to be the next projects developed.

Sources: White Sands FCU, NMSU

Man charged with trespassing, arrested at county meeting

Jason Groves
Las Cruces Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW MEXICO

A Las Cruces man was taken into custody by the Doña Ana Sheriff's Department after disrupting the Jan. 13 Board of County Commissioner's meeting.

Derrick Pacheco, 42, was booked into Doña Ana County Detention Center around noon on Jan. 13 and charged with misdemeanor counts of criminal trespassing, resisting and disorderly conduct, according to jail records.

Pacheco pleaded not guilty during an initial court appearance in Magistrate Court on Jan. 14 and was released on an unsecured bond of $100.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Pacheco was seen, wearing a disguise and sunglasses, behind the current speaker holding what appeared to a be a cell phone or camera, surrounded by security, as well as Sheriff Kim Stewart.

"We ask that if you are going to be recording, we do ask that you do that in the areas designated for media," said Commissioner Manuel Sanchez, who was appointed Board Chair earlier in the meeting. "One of the things we are continuing to see, while we welcome this as a public forum, we do not need the distractions from the people who are speaking and presenters who are presenting."

Before Pacheco could speak, Sanchez announced a 15-minute break, at which time Pacheco was asked to leave and was ultimately taken into custody.

"During Tuesday's BOCC meeting, an individual under an active trespass notice (delivered via both email and certified mail) entered the chambers," County Spokeswoman Ariana Parra said in email to the Sun-News. "Security requested that the individual leave in accordance with the notice; however, he refused. Due to the resulting disturbance, the meeting went into a brief intermission while the Doña Ana County sheriff and undersheriff intervened. After being removed from the chamber,

Derrick Pacheco, in sunglasses, is seen in a YouTube screen shot during the Jan. 13 County Commissioners meeting in Las Cruces. JASON GROVES/LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS