



LIBERTY NEWS

Serving New America School-Las Cruces

February 2016

Collecting Clothes for La Casa

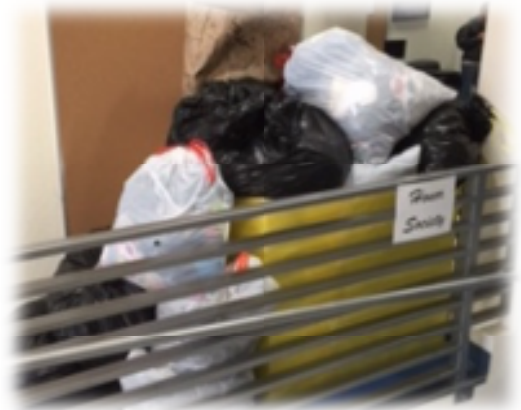
Student Council vs. Honor Society

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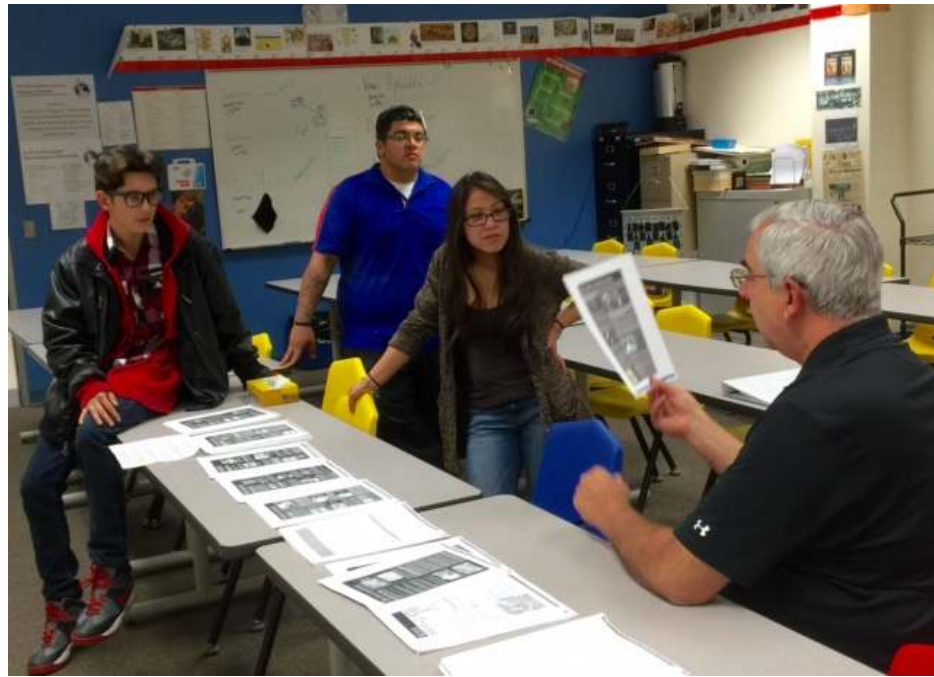
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Student Council and Honor Society are locked in a battle to see which organization can bring in the most clothes for La Casa, a community organization that helps families in crisis. The greatest need is for women's and children's clothing (especially for little boys).

You can donate your unneeded clothes in one of the boxes in the lobby area – they are clearly marked as “Student Council” and “Honor Society.” Your donation supports La Casa as well the organization of your choice. The winning organization gets bragging rights and a prize to be determined. The last day of the contest is Monday, February 29.



The bags are filled with clothing donations for La Casa.



(l-r) Students Juan Diaz, Joe Valles, Nancy Martinez, and Mr. Ray discuss plans for the Holocaust display, called "Choices."

*"It's all shaping up...
I'm impressed with
their level of effort."*

"Choices" Display: March 12-17

Students Plan Holocaust Exhibit

The Holocaust occurred more than 60 years ago, but the lessons learned from that event are still relevant today. To educate the Las Cruces community about the Holocaust, a group of about 20 New America School students enrolled in an independent study class. Their goal is to bring a major display of the Holocaust, called "Choices," to the Mesilla Valley Mall during Spring Break (Sunday, March 12 – Friday, March 17, 2016).

According to Mr. Ray, the class instructor, "The exhibit provides a clear picture of how Germany changed from a defeated post-World War I country to a methodical killing machine taking the lives of about 8,000,000 people." Ray said, "When I asked the students in all my classes if they would be interested in bringing the exhibit to Las Cruces, they responded very positively." The students are responsible for all the planning and organization it takes to put on a quality exhibit with reverence to the subject. Ray commented, "It is all shaping up well so far. I'm impressed with their level of effort."

Speaking Out ...

On Deafness & Cochlear Implants

Students Ms. Marshall's ninth grade English class at the New America School had just read a story about a girl with a cochlear implant. They had lots of questions that were beyond Marshall's expertise, so she turned to the school's Speaker's Bureau and arranged for a classroom visit from Stephanie Butler whose son Shepherd has a cochlear implant. Students had a chance to ask questions of Butler, examine the hardware associated with a cochlear implant, and learn more about deafness, cochlear implants, and the deaf culture.



Stephanie Butler (above) holds her son Shepard. Butler shared information about cochlear implants and deafness with students in Ms. Marshall's ninth grade English class.

Thinking of a career in hospitality management?

At a regular meeting of the Honor Society, Daniel Smead, Student Program Coordinator for the School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management at New Mexico State University, discussed "School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management: What is HRTM and where can it take you?"



Daniel Smead (above left) stayed after his presentation to share a Mardi Gras king's cake with Honor Society members and friends. He ended up with the "baby" in his piece of cake, which means he'll host next year's Mardi Gras party.

Silda Garcia

A New American

by Serena McClure



Silda Garcia, a senior at the New America School, is in a celebratory mood because she is now officially an American citizen. Serena McClure interviewed Garcia for *Liberty News*.

Why did you want to be an American? I wanted better job opportunities and the chance to vote.

How long did it take for you to get your citizenship? I lived in America for 27 years and had a green card for 16 years.

Did you have to take a citizenship test? How long was it? What kinds of questions were you asked? Yes, I had to take a citizenship test. It was about 30 minutes long. One of the questions was, "Who is the first president of the United States?"

Did your studies at the New America School help you? Yes. The school gave me the chance to improve my English and to make new friends.



Serena McClure (above left) interviewed Silda Garcia and took photos for this story.

Mark Your Calendar ...

Feb. 24: **Early Release**

Feb. 26: **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Mar. 8: **Honor Society Meeting** at 3:45 and 4:15 in Room 118

Mar. 9-10: **Final Exams**

Mar. 14-18: **Spring Break**

News Flash ... NAS-LC will be offering summer school classes. Stay tuned for more information.



Meet the Patriots

New America's Women's Volleyball Team has been playing competitively against other teams, learning the skills of the game, and building friendships through respect, teamwork, hard work, commitment and determination. Come support the girls at their next game Thursday, February 25th at 5:30 vs. St. Mary's; Saturday at 9 am vs. Anthony Charter. The Patriot volleyball team will wrap up their season on March 5 with the end of season tournament.

Top (l-r): Victoria Rogers, Evangelina Rios, Alejandra Moreno, Daniela Juarez, Nancy Hernandez; **Middle** (l-r) Alicia Acosta, Lizzeth Sandoval, Beatriz Vallez, Ireyna Barrientos; **Bottom:** (l-r) Jenni Sosa, Alice Espinosa. Not pictured: Cassandra Aguirre.

NAS Teacher Nominated as Outstanding New Mexico Teacher

Congratulations to Ms. Morinsilva, who was nominated as the 2016 New Mexico Teacher of the Year. Morinsilva was honored for this nomination at a reception in Santa Fe. Her daughter and mother also attended this special event.





(l-r) Bryan Moctezuma, Irwin Adame, Representative Nora Espinoza. Jason Ortiz, Mrs. Fisk, Lizzeth Sandoval, Justin Montoya, and Kimberly Fowler at the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Meeting with State Legislators

By Kim Fowler

On February 16, 2016, SB 141 was dropped, which means that charter school funding cuts will not be made.

On February 11-12, 2016, Mrs. Fisk and a group of Student Council members traveled to Santa Fe to visit legislators in the New Mexico State Capitol building. Their main goal was to ask the house representatives to oppose the new SB 141 bill that if passed would cut funding for all charter high schools. Students met with many legislators and passed out flyers and DVDs that contained interviews with students telling what this school means to them.

Students met Representative Nora Espinoza who represents District 59 (Chaves & Lincoln counties), who gave them a quick lesson on “how to talk to politicians” and then took them on a tour of the capitol building. Students met with many legislators who would be voting on the bill. She then took students to see the main room in the governor’s office with the large round table where all the governor’s personal meetings take place.

About Student Council ...

Student Council provides many great opportunities for students to become involved in our school and our community. To join Student Council just come to one our meetings Mrs. Fisk’s classroom every Thursday after school at 4 o’clock for day students and 5 o’clock for night students.



Mr. Wiburg ... Library Hero

At the February meeting of the NAS-LC Board of Directors, Mr. Marv Wiburg was singled out for the many contributions he has made to the school, including his work organizing and staffing the library in its new location. Thank you, Mr. Wiburg!



(l-r) Andres Gonzales,
Cesar Moncada, Liz Villa,
Joanna Hernandez, and
Jessica Rodriquez.

Recognizing Student Achievement

The faculty of the New America School named **Andres Gonzales, Cesar Moncada, Liz Villa, Joanna Hernandez, and Jessica Rodriquez** as the February students of the month. All of these students have excellent attendance, are dedicated to their studies, and demonstrate high standards of conduct. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

In My Opinion ...

Should we include city events in *Liberty News*?

By Wendy Wieczorek

After interviewing several readers, about 40% said this was a bad idea and 60% said it was a good idea. The reaction of having city events in our *Liberty News* was looking mighty good.

Out of the 40% who said it was a bad idea, one woman said it could be dangerous for our children to know too much from the media. She said we need to protect them from the media, including social media.

The 60% who said having local events in *Liberty News* was a good idea made some wonderful points. A local couple with two high school students said it would be fantastic. The reason behind their position might shock you. The said, "We could know if our teens will be home late from school or decide if we as a family will be at one of their events." They went on to say, "This would also help us keep better tabs on our teens."

In my opinion, including city events in *Liberty News* is a wonderful idea. It would unite all family, students, readers, and local residents in our community.

What do you think?



William Horner (above) spoke to members of the Las Cruces Optimist Club. The organization awarded \$200 for his Cuba trip.

Cuba or Bust ...

William Horner, a sophomore at NAS-LC, will be leaving for Cuba on March 23rd. His winning essay secured his place on a delegation of 10 NM students on this educational trip. He will have an opportunity to learn about a country in transition through lectures, site visits, community service projects, museums, nature hikes, and engagement with Cuban high school students.

With the help of the NAS-LC school community, especially the Honor Society, and the community at large, William has raised the \$3500+ cost for the trip.

Liberty News Staff

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Advisors: Ms. Atkins and Dr. Stathis; special thanks to Ms. Duran for her help with *Liberty News*!

Submit a news tip, letter to the editor, or suggestion to any member of the *Liberty News* staff. We may print it!