

Eddy County Newsletter

April 2021

Issue #07

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April Highlights

- 1st- April Fool's Day
- 2nd- National PB&J Day
- 4th- Easter Sunday
- 5th- National Deep Dish Pizza Day
- 6th- National Caramel Popcorn Day
- 7th- National Beer Day
- 8th- National Empanada Day
- 10th- National Siblings Day
- 11th- National Pet Day
- 12th- National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
- 13th- National Thomas Jefferson Day
- 15th- National High Five Day
- 17th- National Bat Appreciation Day
- 20th- National Cheddar Fries Day
- 21st- National Administrative Professionals Day
- 22nd- National Jelly Bean Day
- 23rd- National Picnic Day
- 25th- National Zucchini Bread Day
- 26th- National Pretzel Day
- 28th- National Superhero Day
- 29th- National Shrimp Scampi Day
- 30th- National Oatmeal Cookie Day



MESSAGE FROM EDDY COUNTY LEADERSHIP...

Citizens of Eddy County:

It has been a rough couple of months watching the legislative process in Santa Fe. There was a concerted effort to cripple oil and gas production in New Mexico. The Arrowhead Study from NMSU, shows that 35% of the State budget and 70% of the Department of Education budget comes from right here in Southeast New Mexico. County officials have reached out to other counties and municipalities to share the study and its findings. I think sharing this information around the State is instrumental in preventing debilitating legislation surrounding oil and gas from passing. You can find the entire study on the Eddy County website at eddycounty.org.

On a brighter note, the county has achieved green status. Thank you Eddy County residents; you have been vigilant with virus safety.

To date, almost 12,000 citizens in Eddy County have received at least their first dose of the vaccine. Artesia General Hospital was among first to get vaccinations started and many Eddy County residents have traveled to Artesia for their vaccinations. South Eddy County is working to catch up. A BIG "Thank You" to the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Manager, Jennifer Armendariz and the many volunteers who are making this possible. I would encourage everyone who is comfortable with and eligible for the vaccine to register through the NM Department of Health website at vaccinenm.org.

The current County Commission has made roads in Eddy County a top priority. Anyone traveling around the county is bound to have noticed some improvements. With hot weather coming, it will permit more hard surfaced roads to be totally repaired and chip sealed. New cattle guards will be included. There are over twelve hundred miles of county roads in Eddy County. By the end of summer, Jason Burns and the County Road Department expect to have resurfaced and/or bladed over half of those roads and that is just the beginning!

On a final note, I would like to thank our Legislators, Representative Cathrynn Brown, Representative Jim Townsend, Senator Gay Kernan, Senator Ron Griggs and Senator David Gallegos for fighting the good fight in Santa Fe. A lot of really bad legislation did not pass. With their help, some good bills did pass. I'm sure we will be hearing more from them.

Pray for rain!

Eddy County Commissioner,
Fred F. Beard

Updates & News

- Eddy County Officials Hit the Road with Arrowhead Study
- Holiday Hours



Eddy County Officials Hit the Road with Arrowhead County Level Revenue and Expenditure Analysis

Eddy County Commissioner, Ernie Carlson, and Eddy County Community and Administrative Services Director, Wesley Hooper, have been traveling around the state presenting the County Level Revenue and Expenditure Analysis that was completed by NMSU's Arrowhead Center.

“One of the things that the study shows, and I like to highlight, is that Eddy County sends the State revenues in the amount of \$102,089 per Eddy County Resident and only receives back \$19,226 or a disparity of -\$82,863,” said Commissioner Carlson. “When you compare what we receive back to what other counties throughout the State receive in funding per person, there are only seven counties out of 33 that receive less per person than we do. So, we are the #1 revenue funding county in New Mexico, but rank #26 as a recipient county. When you look at the numbers, there are only six counties that provide more funds to the State Government than they receive back in funding. That is Eddy County #1 and Lea County #2. So, what I tell them is it's pretty simple to see that improving the infrastructure and roads in Eddy County and Southeast New Mexico helps the Oil & Gas Industry increase their revenues, which helps you. To make a long story short, Help Us Help You!”

Mr. Hooper described the responses received so far, “Basically, we have had nothing but positive support from the entities we have presented to thus far. They have been willing to set up other meetings and attend those meetings in support of educating others and stand behind investing back into Southeast New Mexico. Most of the individuals had no idea how much of the state's revenues are generated in Southeast New Mexico and the huge difference between the second highest revenue generating county and the third highest. It has been jaw dropping to most that there are only six counties within the state that have a positive net number after taking the difference between what revenues are generated within their county on a per capita basis and the expense per capita.” He added, “We want to thank the city and county managers who have allowed us to present this study to them, and those that are working on getting us on their agenda.”

So far, the study has been presented to the City of Deming, Luna County, and Grant County. Talks are underway with Bernalillo County and the City of Las Cruces to be added to their agendas.

Holiday Hours

The Eddy County Administration Office will be closed for ½ day at 12:00 PM on Friday, April 2nd, 2021, in observance of Good Friday. The Sheriff's Deputies will remain on duty, the Road Department will have a road crew on call, and the County Clerk's Office will remain open during their normal business hours from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.



Employee Spotlight

Eddy County Service Awards

- Cheryl Winfield, Assessor's Office- 15 Years
- Frederick Kezar, Public Works 15 Years
- Claude Brown, Public Works 10 Years
- Jacqueline Lucas, Human Resources - 5 Years
- Bryan Rayroux, Detention 5 Years

Happy Retirement to:

- Judy G. Pressett, Assessor's Office- 31 Years 2 Months
- Sal Rey Salcido, Detention 20 Years 10 Months
- James B. Parker, Sheriff's Department- 23 Years 8 Months
- Daniel D. Villescas, Detention 5 Years 10 Months



This month's employee spotlight is Jennifer Armendariz

Jennifer started with Eddy County in 2011 as a receptionist for Emergency Services working her way up to Emergency Management Coordinator, and then to Emergency Management Manager.

Her favorite part about working for Eddy County is that it allows her to work with many different agencies and employees, while helping the community at the same time.

Jennifer has been heavily engaged and deeply immersed in support related to the COVID pandemic for the communities and agencies in our County. Her involvement with the State Emergency Management core group along with coordinating efforts with regional and local NMDOH staff for delivery of resources and materials is a constant and continuous effort. Most recently she has been asked to coordinate the local vaccination clinics that the County, the City of Carlsbad and the local hospital have committed resources to operate and deliver the vaccine to our citizens in conjunction with our local NMDOH staff. There are numerous moving parts and pieces required to execute these events and Jennifer has leveraged her contacts and networks to bring the skills and capabilities of all these groups and organizations together. We certainly appreciate all of the resources working together to make these clinics successful, as Jennifer certainly can't do it alone. All involved look to her for guidance and direction in carrying out all that's needed to be efficient and effective.

Recently, Devon Energy awarded Jennifer Armendariz the 2021 Hometown Hero award, stating, "For her unwavering commitment to her community during this difficult year, we're proud to call Jennifer Armendariz a Devon Hometown Hero!"

Eddy County Manager, Allen Davis said, "Often times the actions and efforts that Jennifer delivers can go unnoticed. She accomplishes a tremendous amount behind the scenes. She'd be the last to want to be recognized, but I very much appreciate her can-do approach, and her extensive contacts and networks that help the County's overall success and her willingness to meet these challenges head on."

In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her three children, anything outdoors, and going on mission trips with her church.

If you've experienced an Eddy County employee or department that has gone above and beyond to serve you, we want to know! Email your experience to jstrong@co.eddy.nm.us

Eddy County in the Community

Eddy County
101 W. Greene Street
Carlsbad, NM 88220
575-887-9511
EddyCounty.org

COMMISSIONERS

Steven McCutcheon, Chairman
District 4

Fred F. Beard, Vice Chairman
District 3

Ernie Carlson, Member
District 1

Jonathan A. Henry, Member
District 2

Sarah Cordova, Member
District 5

COUNTY MANAGER

Allen Davis

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Gemma Ferguson
Assessor

Robin Van Natta
Clerk

Jay L. Francis
Probate Judge

Mark Cage
Sheriff

Laurie Pruitt
Treasurer



Eddy County Donates Fire Truck to Curry County

Eddy County donated a 1997 Ford F350 Wildland fire truck to Curry County. The truck is currently assigned to the County Fire Administration. The truck will be assigned to the Countyline Fire District upon certification by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Pictured above is Travis Olbert, Deputy Director of Eddy County Fire Services, handing the keys to John Novak, Chief of the Countyline Fire District.

