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Kudos

With people trying to make their dollars go further, more families are opting for “staycations,” or taking time off from work while staying closer to home. Luckily, Northern New Mexico is filled with fun things to do for every member of the family. Our museums, performing arts groups, and outdoor activities are some of the best in the country.

If you’re looking for specific ideas for things to do, we’ve got several suggestions inside this issue of “Connections.” For instance, there’s [Pancakes on the Plaza](#) on Saturday, the 4th of July. You can volunteer to participate individually or as a family. The event raises money for the United Way of Santa Fe County and helps children in the region.

In addition, our Bradbury Science Museum (BSM) has a host of activities for different age groups that revolve around [stargazing](#) to develop a better understanding of astronomy. The BSM is also holding a free, public talk, given by our archivist, on the [early years of the Lab](#).

Los Alamos is again holding “[The Next Big Idea](#)” event on July 17 and 18 that celebrates the unique, creative heritage of Los Alamos. Included will be activities designed for students in grades seven through 12, as well as a public festival that will feature exhibits with hands-on activities.

If you enjoy helping and working with animals, the [Espanola Valley Humane Society](#) is also having a series of events this month to help take care of the pets in their care, and to find them permanent and loving homes. I’m sure they’d appreciate any time that you could give them.

And these are only the things we’ve included in this issue! A quick Web search will lead to an even longer list of activities that are either free or entail a minimal cost. So, if you’re staying home this summer, there’s a lot to do right here in our own backyard. Enjoy!



Volunteering Spotlight Espanola Valley Humane Society Volunteer Opportunities

Each year the Espanola Valley Humane Society (EVHS) helps more than 4,000 animals, and your help is needed for the following activities.

Poster hanging in Los Alamos and Santa Fe

The Society needs help hanging posters for its Food Drive and Kitten Festival in Santa Fe and Los Alamos (see below for more information).

Posters in local stores, banks, and on community bulletin boards will help publicize the events. E-mail Nina (contact information below) for a list of locations. Posters can be picked up at the LANL Community Programs Office (1619 Central Ave., Los Alamos) or the EVHS offices (108 Hamm Parkway, Española).



July Feline Food Drive

The Society needs more than 700 pounds of cat food each month, along with a ton (literally) of cat litter. Needed are dry cat and kitten food, non-clumping cat litter, litter scoops, and cat toys. Consider an office or neighborhood drive to collect supplies. EVHS is even willing to pick up your donation.

EVHS Summer Camp for Young Animal Lovers

July 6 through 10, at the Espanola Valley Humane Society facility.

Love kids *and* animals? The Society can use your help at its shelter summer camp. Volunteers are needed to help with arts and crafts, games, presentations, and preparation tasks. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day during the week, and volunteers can help for an hour or a day, or whatever works with your schedule.



2nd Annual Kitten Festival

Saturday, July 25, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PETCO, 2006 Cerrillos Road Santa Fe.

This is the largest pet adoption fair in Santa Fe. Last year, 51 felines found homes during the event, and this year they're hoping to place even more kittens.

Volunteers are needed to help keep the kitties clean, fed, and comfy. The fair needs the most help during the early morning and late afternoon hours, but having hands on deck throughout the day will be critical to making this event a success. Two-hour shifts are available.

Rio Arriba County Fair

July 30 through August 1, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rio Arriba County Fairgrounds, Abiquiu.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Society's information table at the fair. It will have puppies for adoption, but the primary purpose of this venue is to reach out to the rural communities it serves. Help and have fun at the same time!

For more information or to volunteer, contact Nina Chiotasso at 470-1278 or via e-mail at EVHSNina@gmail.com. You can also visit the Society's Website at <http://www.evalleyshelter.org/welcome>.

If you would like to highlight your nonprofit in this newsletter, contact connections@lanl.gov for more information.

The Next Big Idea

"The Next Big Idea: A Festival of Discovery, Invention and Innovation" will be held in Los Alamos on July 17 and 18. This annual event highlights Los Alamos' unique creative heritage while providing an opportunity for aspiring young people from throughout the state to learn about possible futures in science, technology, engineering, and math.

On July 17, "STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Student Day" is geared for students in grades 7th through 12th, and

will feature topics such as solar energy engineering, supercomputing, distance learning, and include an opportunity to meet with scientists and innovators. Advance registration is required, and the \$50 fee includes lunch, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses. (Scholarships are available.)

The "Showcase of Ideas" will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 18 and will include exhibits by researchers, inventors, and innovation companies, hands-on activities, not to mention live music and food.

For more information on the events, go to <http://nextbigideala.com/>.



Small Businesses Win Awards

Each year the important economic contributions of small business are acknowledged by the U.S. Small Business Administration. New Mexico businesses recently received their share of awards, and Michele E. Justice, President and CEO of Personnel Security Consultants, Inc. of Albuquerque was recognized as the state's Small Business Person of the Year.

2009 Small Business Award Winners from Northern New Mexico this year included:

Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Small Business of the Year

Kenneth L. Suazo – FastDitch, Inc., Vallecitos



Small Business Exporter of the Year

Karl S. Halpert – Private Label Select Ltd. Company, Ranchos de Taos

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

Bette A. Bradbury – WESST, Santa Fe

Region VI and NM SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Jason Michael Burns – Recapturing Vehicles, LLC, Rio Rancho

The Laboratory also nominated three businesses for **Region VI Subcontractor of the Year:**

Sophie A. Gonzales, Owner
Rocky Mountain Business Systems, Santa Fe

Tracy Kitts, Owner
Southwest Office Solutions, Inc., Los Alamos

Denise Vigil, President
Vigil Enterprises, Inc., Santa Fe

For more information on the Small Business Awards, please go to <http://www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com/>.



New Exhibit Coming to BSM

Recently the Lab's Bradbury Science Museum and the local chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) partnered to acquire funding for a new supercomputing exhibit. As a result, almost \$30,000 received from the IEEE Foundation will go toward a new exhibit and an interactive Website slated for introduction this Fall.

With the recent installation of the world's fastest supercomputer at the Lab, it was time to upgrade the Museum's computing information. The new exhibit will include a history of computing at the Lab, show how computing speed has increased over time, include new videos related to the subject, and provide other learning opportunities through the new Website.

As part of the project, the Lab involved local students at the 8th and 12th grade levels in focus groups to help determine what the exhibit should include and what would make computer science more interesting to them. The students also helped to determine what features should be available through the new Website.

Stay tuned for more information on the exhibit's opening.

For more information on the Bradbury Science Museum and what it has to offer, go to <http://www.lanl.gov/museum/>.

Frontiers in Science Talks

June's Frontiers in Science series talk: "Lost in Transmission: Saving Energy with Superconductivity" proved very popular with audiences. The talk was held in Albuquerque, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Espanola and touched on the history of electrical distribution, future challenges for electrical delivery, and the advantages of superconductivity, including its efficiency, better infrastructure security, and lower environmental impact.



Upcoming Frontiers in Science subjects slated for this year include a talk on the physics of explosions and another talk on neutron stars. To ensure you don't miss a single talk, join the Frontiers in Science distribution list. You'll receive advance notice of upcoming science talks, and your e-mail information will be protected. To subscribe, send an e-mail to anderman@lanl.gov. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Looking for Big Brothers

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico organization wants to recruit “100 Men in 100 Days” to help boys in Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Taos, San Miguel, Mora, and McKinley counties do better in school and stay away from drugs, alcohol, and violence.

The organization has more than 100 boys on its waiting list and would like to find Big Brothers for them between now and Labor Day. Volunteering isn’t difficult and takes as little as four hours a month. Volunteers can engage in activities they already enjoy, but share them with a “little brother.”



The organization has a convenient online application and resources to help make the volunteering experience fulfilling for participants.

Don’t have time to volunteer, but still want to help? Spread the word about the recruitment campaign. Perhaps you know of someone who would be a great Big Brother, but might not be aware of the tremendous need here in Northern New Mexico. Spread the word!

For more information on volunteering for Big Brothers Big Sisters, go to http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.keJMIUOyEnH/b.3791835/k.E693/Big_Brothers_Big_Sisters_of_Northern_New_Mexico.htm. For more information on the “100 Men” campaign, go to http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.keJMIUOyEnH/b.5207473/k.62ED/100_Men_in_100_Days_Campaign.htm. You can also call Carissa Eret, marketing coordinator, at 983-8360 or e-mail her at ceret@bbbsnorthernnm.org.



Los Alamos Report Hot Off the Presses

Each Friday, the Lab compiles links to news stories that mention it. Some sources include videos and references in fictional stories. To check out the latest collection of stories, go to <http://www.lareport.blogspot.com>. Alternatively, go to listmanager@lanl.gov and put “subscribe losalamosreport” in the body of the e-mail to have the news stories collections automatically delivered to your e-mail address each week.

School Supply Drive Begins

The Lab is about to begin its annual School Supply Drive to benefit regional children through the collection of donations for back-to-school supplies and new shoes. This year’s goal is to collect enough supplies for 500 backpacks and the funding to purchase 300 pairs of school shoes. Last year, the Lab was able to collect more than 1,500 school supply items and was able to get shoes to more than 150 children.



Donations for the drive come from Lab employees and contractors. Several Lab organizations help out, and the Shoe Department in Espanola offers discounted shoe prices and assistance in fitting the children.

In addition to collecting donations, the Lab will host a carnival this year to highlight the drive and encourage additional participation.

For more information, contact Tim Martinez at 667-2390 or at e-mail at timothy@lanl.gov.

Tribal Students Visit Lab



Groups of students from the Santa Fe Indian School recently visited the Lab to learn about the archaeology of Los Alamos and the Pajarito Plateau during a visit to Sandia Cave Kiva below Technical Area 53. The tour was given by Alex Johnson of the Lab’s Ecology and Air Quality Group.

In addition to the archaeology tour, the students visited the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center and heard a presentation on the Lab’s fuel cell research program.

A Talk on LANL: The Early Years

If you've ever been curious about the Lab's early years, mark your calendar for 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, and make your way to the Lab's Bradbury Science Museum. At that time, Alan B. Carr, the Lab's archivist and historian, will present "LANL: The Early Years."

The talk is free and open to the public, but seating is limited to the first 72 attendees, so plan to arrive early.

For more information, go <http://www.lanl.gov/museum/> or call (505) 667-4444.

Look! Stars! (But Not Celebrities)

Help celebrate International Year of Astronomy at the Bradbury Science Museum with the following events during July:

Starlab Shows

Dates: July 7, 9, 28, and 30 at 10:30 a.m. as well as 1 and 2 p.m.

Different topics each day including "The Night Sky," "Dim and Fuzzy—Nebulas and Galaxies," "RingWorld," and "Extra Solar Planets."



Learn to build a telescope

For those entering 4th grade and up (ages 9 and up)
Dates: July 14 and 16 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Class size is limited. Please call 606-1492 for more information or to register for the program.

SUN DAYS

Dates: July 21 and 23
No registration required; just stop by between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the above days and learn to create sundials, make sun observations with the solar telescope, discuss solar weather, etc.

For more information, go <http://www.lanl.gov/museum/> or call (505) 667-4444.

Rees Selected as New Global Security Head

William S. Rees, Jr. recently joined the Lab as the Principal Associate Director for Global Security, a new position that elevates the importance of the Lab's work in key program areas, including non-proliferation, intelligence support, defense, nuclear counterterrorism, and homeland security. A primary role for Rees will be to leverage Lab capabilities to meet current and emerging global security challenges.



His most recent assignments include the Science and Technology Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., where he is a fellow and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for the Department of Defense Laboratories and Basic Science. He was also the United States' science and technology lead to the North Atlantic Treaty

Organization (NATO) and the U.S. principal on the NATO Research and Technology Board. Prior to his service in DoD, he was with the Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate.

Rees was a postdoctoral fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology after obtaining his doctorate from the University of California Los Angeles. An internationally recognized chemist, he holds seven patents and has more than 140 publications.

First RH-TRU waste shipped



Last month the Lab reached an important milestone when its first remote-handled transuranic (RH-TRU) waste container left the gates at Technical Area 54 and arrived safely at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, the next morning.

The last of the 16 RH-TRU shipments should take place in July and help get the Lab one step closer to cleaning up and closing the site where the shipments originated.

Calendar

July 2	Environment	Upper Los Alamos Canyon Project Office Hours @ LATA http://www.lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/d090702.htm
July 4	Community	Pancakes on the Plaza http://www.uwsfc.org/pancakes.html
July 8	Environment	Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Environmental Monitoring, Surveillance & Remediation Committee Meeting http://www.lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/d090708.htm
July 8	Economic Development	Intro to Grant Writing http://www.centerforprofitexcellence.org/home/civirm/event/info?reset=1&id=280
July 14	Business	Information Session for CRS (Congressional Research Service) Taxpayers http://www.nmsbdc.org/santafe/showevent.html?command=Event&command_arg=showAll&center_id=10
July 15	Environment	Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Waste Management Committee Meeting http://www.lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/d090715.htm
July 15-18	Education	New Mexico Hispanic Youth Symposium http://www.hispanicyouth.org/symposium-new-mexico
July 16	Business	Powerful Presentation Skills to Increase Sales http://www.nmsbdc.org/losalamos/showevent.html?command=Event&command_arg=showAll&center_id=8
July 16	Community	LANL: The Early Years lecture at the Bradbury Science Museum http://www.lanl.gov/museum/images/june09lectures.jpg
July 17-18	Community	The Next Big Idea event http://www.chamberorganizer.com/losalamoschamber/mem_nextbigideala
July 22	Environment	Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board Bi-Monthly Board Meeting http://www.lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/d090722.htm
July 31	Business	Steps to Starting a Small Business http://www.nmsbdc.org/state_calendar.html

Kudos



- To David Telles of the Vulnerability Analysis Office for being named NNSA's 2008 Security Professional of the Year.

- To LANL for receiving the "E Star Award" that recognizes the accomplishments of the Laboratory's Environmental Management System.

- To Chris Graves for winning LANL's Postdoctoral Publication Prize in Experimental Sciences.

- To Tom Harper, the Lab's chief information officer, for receiving the Department of Energy's highest cyber security honor.

Contact Information

Connections is published by the Community Programs Office at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

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For more information, e-mail connections@lanl.gov or visit our website at <http://community.lanl.gov/>