

opening of the Lux Theater, the movies came to **Grants**.

Grants is nestled in the heart of some of the most spectacular lava flows in the world. On December 31, 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill designating a large area south of **Grants** as "El Malpais National Monument."

HOBBS AMERICA!

Hobbs, it all happens here... What an exciting time for southeast New Mexico's largest city, with the development and opening of the Zia Park Race Track and the Black Gold Casino, the landscape in this community has changed forever. From a history of black gold and natural gas, a transition to tourism has forever changed this community's place in history. The discovery of oil in the 1920's and the boom town development of **Hobbs** via the three townships that made-up the **Hobbs** area, to a modern city of 35,000 people with a retail trade zone of over 150,000 people, **Hobbs** has become New

Mexico's newest tourist attraction and destination.

Hobbs prides itself on being a diverse community with industries including oil and gas, dairy farms, ranching, a prison and two major higher learning institutions, the New Mexico Junior College and the University of the Southwest. Both play a major role in developing teachers, accountants and engineers along with a host of other degreed disciplines. Each of the campuses have had an aggressive buildings program and have increased their student marketing to offer courses reflecting today's business and industrial needs.

The **Hobbs** community has the second largest convention and meeting facility in New Mexico, the Lea County Event Center, which can host indoor rodeos, concerts, tractor pulls and indoor soccer events all on the main floor of the center. The three new meeting facilities offer a host of venues to meet most meeting and conference needs. The professionally



*Hobb, NM. It All Happens Here!
(photo courtesy Hobbs Chamber of Commerce)*

managed facility is available for events large and small.

LES continues to build and operate the National Enrichment Facility next door in Eunice New Mexico. This is a 1.5 billion company that at its full capacity will provide 25% of America's nuclear energy demand. This facility has proven to be a key factor in the evident growth of our city.

If a little history and culture is what you're looking for the Western Heritage Museum is home to many displays that portray the history of Lea County as seen from the perspective of Indians, buffalo hunters, soldiers, and settlers. Exhibits that spotlight outstanding county

ranchers and rodeo performers in our area are part of the Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame which is located on the New Mexico Junior College campus.

If you have not been to **Hobbs** or Lea County in the past year, you need to visit the "NEW" in New Mexico.

LAS CRUCES

Las Cruces is the crossroads of the Southwest. **Las Cruces** is located in southern New Mexico along the Texas/Mexico border where they enjoy 350 days of sunshine a year. The community is very rich in Western/Mexican culture which can be found in

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