Cliff Burch received his Master of Education Administration from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico, his Bachelor of Science from Eastern New Mexico University, and his Associate of Science from NMJC.

New Mexico Junior College was a perfect fit for me to begin my college education and that big step into adulthood and the unknown. Back then, and as it is now, the attention and patience shown by the staff toward the students is a large part of the continuing success of NMJC. I have often said that my time at NMJC was one of the best experiences I could have ever had.

— Cliff Burch

Cliff Burch Returns to Hobbs Municipal Schools

Former English teacher Cliff Burch disagrees with author Thomas Wolfe's assertion that "you can't go home again."

"Oh, yes you can," Burch said recently while sitting in his new principal's office at Stone Elementary School – one he has decorated with the black and gold Eagle trappings of a 25-year career with Hobbs Municipal Schools.

But many, including Burch himself, thought that HMS career came to an end in 2010 when the 53-year-old announced his retirement from the district and the superintendent's job which he had held for five years.

"At the time, I thought, 'I'm young enough; I'd like to see what else is out there.'" Burch said of his decision to step away from the district's top job. His experimentation with the private sector was brief, however, as Burch – who is married to a HMS teacher and has two daughters who are teachers – soon returned to the field. "I discovered I have a calling – regardless of whether it's in teaching, administration or anything related to education," he said. "I wanted to be back in the schools. I knew I was going to work. There was no way I could not work."

Which is why, when the new school year began last August, Burch found himself driving 28 miles every day to his job as a Seminole High School English teacher. Is it any surprise that Burch – known more for his mild-mannered demeanor than a sizeable ego – never considered the teaching job a step down the career ladder? Or that he failed to share his credentials with co-workers who, in many instances, weren't born when Burch first went to work as a teacher 31 years before?

"I didn't mention my previous job," Burch said of new teacher orientation sessions and other trainings. "I hoped that they saw me as somebody just like them – someone who wanted to make an impact on kids." To maximize the impact, Burch even trained for and obtained a special education teaching endorsement.

He also became reacquainted with the joys – as well as the drawbacks – of daily classroom instruction. Funny how he'd forgotten about the amount of time it takes to prepare for each class, the out-of-pocket expense for making his classroom a welcoming environment, the occasional discipline issues that crop up or the weekends spent grading homework.

But one thing he didn't forget was the feeling of revitalization that comes from standing in front of a group of students every day. "Seeing their successes and working with them through their failures – that's something that never changes," Burch said. "It's just an incredible feeling working with kids."

Flash forward a school year. Burch had every intention of returning to his teaching post at Seminole High School this fall. When Stone principal Dawn Nelson retired in June, however, Burch, a former principal at Jefferson Elementary School, was intrigued. "I started kind of thinking, 'Wow, should I apply for the job? It would be a great fit.'"

Hobbs Municipal School Superintendent TJ Parks agreed. "Cliff Burch is a great educator. We are honored to have him return."

"Not only will his experience benefit the entire district, it's just great to have him rejoin the family."

Nelson has similar sentiments. She was torn about walking away from a 28-year career in education, but the fact that Burch is now her successor has made the transition easier. "My students and my staff are like my family," Nelson said. "I prayed for the right person to take care of them. Cliff was like an answer to those prayers. Things work out sometimes."

Burch feels he'll be a better principal as the result of his teaching experiences over the past year. "Going back into the classroom was one of the greatest things I could have done," he said. "I have so much respect for what teachers do on a daily basis."

The feeling is mutual. When he was introduced to fellow principals during a work session recently at the administration building he once called home, the response was hearty and lengthy applause. The reception has been similar among Stone teachers, some of whom include former students from his days as principal at HHS.

"I couldn't have drawn a picture and made things turn out any better," Burch said. "My experience in Seminole was very positive. But it's great to be back in Hobbs. It makes you feel so good about yourself when people also seem pleased that you are back. It's just like being home again."
New Mexico Junior College will host a Constitution Day celebration on Thursday, September 15, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Daniels Conference Room in the Ben Alexander Student Learning Center.

Constitution Day was established as a federal holiday in 2004 and provides an opportunity to remind Americans about the ways in which the U.S. Constitution has shaped history.

At the event, Mr. Harry Teague will speak, and the NMJC American Government project paper winners from across Lea County will be announced. There will also be a musical interlude with Mr. Justin Harlin’s music students, and a reception will follow in the foyer.

Tables manned by the College Campus Democrats and the College Campus Republicans will also be set up nearby so that students may sign up to join either of the two organizations.

NMJC’s Constitution Day Celebration is open to the public and free of charge.

For more information about NMJC’s Constitution Day Celebration, please contact Dr. Emmerich at (575) 392-4510 or pemmerich@nmjc.edu.
**GED**

**Did you know...**

1) NMJC offers pre-GED classes, the Pre-GED Test, and the Official GED Test.

2) When you pass the Official GED Test, you receive a diploma, just as if you had graduated high school. It even says "New Mexico High School Diploma," but you must be a New Mexico resident to receive it.

3) When you pass the GED Test at New Mexico Junior College, you will be able to walk across stage at the NMJC Commencement.

4) When you pass the GED and enroll for college at NMJC, you are eligible for the New Mexico Lottery Scholarship.

SEE TESTING DATES IN THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**Notes from Natalia**

Fall semester is now underway at NMJC, so come on in and register for our 2nd eight-week session that starts October 17th. It is never too late to get started on your education goals!

El semestre de otoño está ahora en marcha en NMJC. Entre y registrese para nuestra segunda sesión de ocho semanas que inicia el 17 de Octubre. Nunca es demasiado tarde para empezar a trabajar en sus objetivos de educación!

*Natalia De Jesus*

Admission Specialist
(575) 492-2545
ndejesus@nmjc.edu

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**County Fair Winners Announced**

Over 50,000 people attended the 2011 Lea County Fair & Rodeo this year, and almost 2,300 of them submitted tickets at the NMJC booth for their chance to win three $100 gift certificates, which were provided by the NMJC Foundation.

The winners, announced Saturday, August 13, shortly after 8:00 p.m., were selected in a random drawing by 12-year-old Trey Collins of San Diego, California.

The three lucky recipients of the gift certificates were Jo Gunn, Lovington; Nancy Leyva, Lovington; and Brandon Marinovich, Hobbs. Leyva and Marinovich are both students at NMJC.

In a separate drawing, two GED Official Tests were given away. The winners of the Tests, valued at $50 each, were Pamela Hughes and Laura Ruid, both of Tatum. Many of the Fair attendees who registered for the GED drawing were extremely pleased to discover that NMJC will be able to help them with their dream of completing their high school educations. As one Fair-goer said as she filled out a ticket, "I've already won, just by finding out how to finally get my GED."

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Standing beside a replica of the first New Mexico Junior College sign is Dee Gober, who built the replica and hexagonal base. The entire project stands about 8’ tall and is 4’ in diameter at the bottom. Past and present pictures of the college are displayed on the 6 sides of the cone-shaped base. The project, which can be taken apart and moved, is presently being displayed in NMJC’s Pannell Library.
Make plans now to attend the event of the season as Common Ground and NMJC’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes sponsor the award-winning Christian rock group Rush of Fools! Rush of Fools, joined by Jimmy Needham and The Advice, will be performing a FREE concert on Wednesday, September 28, at 7 pm at Caster Activity Center on the NMJC campus. For more information, call 492-2780.
STUDENT ORIENTATION – AUGUST 20, 2011

Congratulations to Omar Miramontes on winning the iPad, to DeQuan Hicks on winning the mini-fridge donated by Lowes, and to Josh Mahten on winning the FlyHobbs ticket!
Underground of Enchantment

September 1 - October 9, 2011
Western Heritage Museum Complex
New Mexico Junior College
Hobbs, New Mexico

The Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame is excited to announce its newest exhibit, “Underground of Enchantment: Lechuguilla Cave in 3-D.”

“Underground of Enchantment” is a 3-D photo exhibit featuring the beautiful magic and microbial secrets of one of the most interesting caves in the world: Lechuguilla Cave in southeastern New Mexico.

Lechuguilla Cave is the deepest limestone cave (1597.4 ft.) in the USA and fifth longest cave in the world (128 miles). The cave holds a spectacular but fragile ecosystem that was cut off from the surface until 1986. To protect this system, entry is restricted to exploration and science only.

The exhibit features amazing 3-D photography and image presentations by David De Roest, Michel Renda, Daniel Chailloux, and Peter and Ann Bosted, all remarkable photographers and outstanding cavers from Belgium, France, and the United States.

“Underground of Enchantment” can be viewed from September 1 - October 9. Don’t miss this fascinating exhibit!

IT’S NOT TOO LATE!

Although classes have already started, it’s not too late to take a full semester’s worth of classes this fall at New Mexico Junior College. How? Register now for NMJC’s Fall 2nd Eight-Week Session! Classes begin October 17 and end December 9. Choose from dozens of online courses, such as Art, Biology, Business, English, Math, History, and many more! To find out how you can still complete a full semester’s worth of classes this fall, come by the campus or call 392-4510.

21ST ANNUAL STAKED PLAINS ROUNDPUP

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16 • 9AM - 3PM
LEA COUNTY COWBOY HALL OF FAME
ON THE NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE CAMPUS

PETTING ZOO
SHEEP SHEARING
WEAVING
BUTTER CHURNING
COW DOGS AND...
BRICE CHAPMAN, FAMOUS TRICK ROPER

CHUCKWAGON LUNCH
$12 TICKET • 11 AM - 1 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
(575) 492-2675

The Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame invites you to join them September 15 and 16 for the 21st Annual Staked Plains Roundup! Come see world-famous trick roper Brice Chapman and his performing horse & dog, view lots of exciting exhibits, and then purchase a cowboy lunch from a real, working chuck wagon! Everyone is invited to this free event! For information, call 492-2675.
There are many household items that we may not give two thoughts about, and then there are others that have to coordinate or be of a certain style or period. I guess you could say that I'm a pretty utilitarian person, so I love when something can serve a dual purpose as a functional and decorative item. Cupboards are one of these dual-purpose items, and a great example can be found at the Museum from the Virgil and Thelma Linam Collection.

What exactly is a cupboard? Well, if you go the very literal route looking at the name, it is a board that you place a cup on for display or storage. That seems a little too easy but describes the function pretty well. Early on we would have recognized these items as more of a sideboard than cupboard, but in the 16th century the “press” came about and was recessed with doors and shelves according to word-origins.com and looked more like the cupboards we know.

These presses eventually evolved into modern cupboards, armoires, and wardrobes. Armoires and wardrobes were completely closed, according to fine woodworking.com, while cupboards remained partially open. A cupboard must have doors, or else it might be confused with a chest-of-drawers or the like. The cupboard in the Museum has drawers on the bottom and doors on the top. The partial opening comes from the punched tin on the top half. The tin is punched in geometric patterns and makes the cupboard more decorative without having to use what's inside as the decoration. Cupboards can be used to store just about anything from pies (the punched tin area would have been a great place to cool a pie while keeping it safe) to cups and plates.

During pioneer times, a time when your possessions consisted of items that you transported from back East or items that you made yourself, something like a cupboard that could be both decorative and functional was a great asset. Come and check out this wonderful piece of history from the Virgil and Thelma Linam Collection in the South Gallery at the Western Heritage Museum Complex and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame.
NMJC Library Wins Architectural Award

In addition to undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation last year, NMJC’s Pannell Library recently won a prestigious architectural award for its layout, design, and efficiency, thanks to the architectural and design firm of Dekker/Perich/Sabatini. The firm was recently notified that it had won the NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association 2011 Award of Excellence for the New Mexico Junior College Pannel Library addition and renovation.

Named in honor of Dr. H.C. Pannell, the first president of New Mexico Junior College, Pannell Library was built in 1967 as a one-story concrete and masonry building, with a second-floor addition completed in 1981. Some 30 years later, following a 13-month, $3.8 million renovation, Pannell Library reopened as a much brighter, more exciting, and student-friendly space, thanks to the vision of Dekker/Perich/Sabatini.

Although the original central skylight underwent a major renovation, the large staircase from the middle of the building is now gone, as are the stacks, or bookshelves. Today, the first floor reflects the space-saving mobile bookshelves, more student seating and study areas, the Zia Board Room, and a total of nine offices.

While there were numerous changes and updates to the 30,000 sq. ft. library, one of the most practical aspects can be found in the towering new glass entrance. A new elevator and staircase are located just inside, and thanks to the design, students and patrons can now access the second floor even after the first floor is closed.

On the second floor, new classrooms, computer labs, offices, and support spaces were created. The new C.M. Burk University Center houses offices for Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Tech, the University of New Mexico, and other institutions of higher education from across the state, which provide students with direct access to bachelor and master degrees without leaving Lea County.

Professional photos by Patrick Coulie
According to Dr. Robert Rhodes, Vice President for Training & Outreach, NMJC and Albuquerque-based Sacred Power Corporation recently completed a grant agreement for wind turbines and solar panels to be used on campus.

Funding the $400,000 project are grants from Marathon Oil and DCP Midstream. Later this fall, Sacred Power will provide the installation of the wind turbines and solar panels, which will provide enough electricity to power the west side of campus, including the Larry Hanna Training & Outreach Center and the Dan Berry Rodeo Arena.

Rhodes said that the installation will not only reduce the school’s electric bill but will also provide critical training for students in the energy technology program, which is “NMJC’s primary goal.”
LECHUGUILLA CAVE EXHIBIT  
September 1 - October 9  
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame  
Contact: Mary Lyle, (575) 492-2679, mlyle@nmjc.edu  
westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

LABOR DAY (CAMPUS CLOSED)  
September 5

CONSTITUTION DAY  
September 15 @ 1 pm - 4 pm  
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Daniels Room  
Contact: Dr. Patty Emmerich, (575) 492-2814, pemmerich@nmjc.edu

STAKED PLAINS ROUNDUP  
September 15, 16 @ 9 am - 3 pm • Chuckwagon Meal $12, 11 am - 1 pm  
Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame  
Contact: Stacy Allen, (575) 492-2675, sallen@nmjc.edu  
westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

GED TESTING  
September 22  
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145  
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592, jhamm@nmjc.edu

NMJC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION  
September 27 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Watson Hall Auditorium  
Contact: Kim Latimer, (575) 492-2780, klatimer@nmjc.edu

SEE YOU AT THE POLE (sponsored by FCA)  
September 28 @ 7:30 am  
Flagpole behind the Administration Building  
Contact: Kim Latimer, (575) 492-2780, klatimer@nmjc.edu

FREEFALL 11 CONCERT TOUR (sponsored by FCA)  
RUSH OF FOOLS • JIMMY NEEDHAM • THE ADVICE  
September 28 @ 7 pm  
Caster Activity Center  
Contact: Kim Latimer, (575) 492-2780, klatimer@nmjc.edu

RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT  
October 8  
Del Norte Fitness Center  
Contact: Linda Hall, (575) 392-6476, lhall@nmjc.edu

COMMUNITY BAND FAMOUS MARCHES CONCERT  
October 9 @ 3 pm  
Watson Hall Auditorium  
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

COPPER CANYON & THE TARAHUARMA INDIANS EXHIBIT  
October 13 - November 22  
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame  
Contact: Mary Lyle, (575) 492-2679, mlyle@nmjc.edu  
westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

CUT-A-THON  
October 15  
Cosmetology Department  
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850, mvick@nmjc.edu

SECOND 8-WEEK SESSION BEGINS  
October 17

GED TESTING  
October 20  
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145  
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592

DISCOVER NMJC DAY FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS  
October 21  
Contact: Connie Hanson, (575) 492-2587, chanson@nmjc.edu

MORAN LECTURE SERIES (County Educators In-Service)  
November 3 @ 1:30 pm  
Teddings Auditorium  
Contact: Jeff McCool, (575) 492-4711, jmccool@nmjc.edu

NJCAA CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL TRACK CHAMPIONSHIP  
November 12  
Contact: Don Worth, (575) 492-2741, dworth@nmjc.edu

PHI THETA KAPPA INDUCTION  
November 15 @ 7 pm  
Watson Hall Auditorium  
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2850, mvick@nmjc.edu

ANNUAL BRONZE LEA COUNTY COWBOY HALL OF FAME BANQUET  
November 19 @ 6 pm  
Lea County Event Center Banquet Hall  
Contact: Stacy Allen, (575) 492-2675, sallen@nmjc.edu  
westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

GED TESTING  
November 17 (GED does not test in December)  
Ben Alexander Student Learning Center, Room 145  
Contact: Jerry Hamm, (575) 492-2592

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (CAMPUS CLOSED)  
November 23-25
CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD
December 1 @ 7 pm
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: Mary Lyle, (575) 492-2679, mlyle@nmjc.edu
westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

COMMUNITY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT
December 4 @ 3 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

NMJC VOCAL MUSIC STUDENTS' RECITAL
December 5 @ 7 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

LEA COUNTY FOSTER KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY (PTK)
December 5 @ 7 pm
Lea County Event Center
Contact: Maria Vick, (575) 492-2830, mvick@nmjc.edu

NMJC INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENTS' RECITAL
December 6 @ 7 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

WINTER BREAK TERM BEGINS
December 8

COMMUNITY CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
December 11 @ 6:30 pm
Watson Hall Auditorium
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong, (575) 492-2844, yswong@nmjc.edu

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (CAMPUS CLOSED)
December 22 - January 4

SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS
January 17

EYES ON EARTH EXHIBIT
February 1
Western Heritage Museum Complex & Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame
Contact: Mary Lyle, (575) 492-2679, mlyle@nmjc.edu
westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

JURIED ART SHOW (Sponsored by NMJC Foundation)
April 22 - April 29 (Reception April 22 @ 2 pm)
Pannell Library
Contact: Mary Tuytschaever, (575) 492-2873, mtuytschaever@nmjc.edu
Theme: “Enchantment” All are invited to participate; turn in works by 4/16.