

Movers and Shakers of 2012: Where are they now?

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LAS CRUCES — From the outgoing district attorney to a prominent sports figure in the community to a leading Chile expert, the Sun-News' Movers and Shakers in 2012 were active — though they had mixed success.

Amy Orlando
former district attorney
Among the most high-profile on the 2012 list was Amy Orlando, a Republican whose tenure as district attorney ended Friday. Orlando and her staff were instrumental in prosecuting and investigating a widespread public corruption and election fraud scandal in Sunland Park. Re-



Orlando

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

cently, a former city manager pleaded guilty to four extortion counts. A trial for the former mayor-elect, Daniel Salinas, is pending. More than 20 people were charged in total.

Some convictions have resulted. The remainder of the Sunland Park cases are "ready to go to trial," Orlando said in a recent interview.

"I'm proud of my office and the investigative team for doing the work discovering how deep the corruption was," she said.

In addition, of the 15 murder cases resolved under Orlando's tenure, about half occurred in 2012, she said.

While Orlando had some courtroom triumphs, she lost a close race

in the November election to challenger Mark D'Antonio.

Her next step career-wise? Orlando said she's staying in Doña Ana County.

"I'm actively seeking employment," she said. "I've been going to job interviews. I think I'll have something ready to go by the first of the year."

Dewayne Walker
NMSU football coach
In Walker's fourth year as head NMSU football coach, the Aggies entered talking about bowl-game aspirations, only to fall well short of their goal.

NMSU won its first game of the 2012 campaign, then went on to lose its next 11, and were seldom competitive in any. Walker spoke of-



Walker

ten this past year about the need to put more resources into Aggie football — more money for his assistant coaching staff, in the strength and conditioning program, and in recruiting.

After speculation that he could be on his way out of town following such a tough campaign, Walker still holds his head-coaching position at the university.

Mal Henthorne
board president,
Las Cruces Downtown Partnership
Onlookers praised the leadership of Henthorne, an advisor with NAI 1st Valley Realty, who was at the helm of the Las Cruces Downtown Partnership in



Henthorne

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many of the same faces will return for the 2013 season — experience to build upon.

Keri Miyagishima
mayor, City of Las Cruces
Miyagishima, who just finished the first year of his second four-year term, logged a number of successes and at least some challenges.



Miyagishima

In addition to the reopening of the last stretch of Main Street, as part of the revitalization work, the city broke ground on a solar array to cut electricity costs at City Hall. Work on a new intermodal bus station also commenced. And a new multi-use path was completed.

Miyagishima said the Main Street reopening was among the highlights of 2012. But also particularly notable is the city's healthy financial state, in spite of economic troubles facing municipalities in other parts of the country. Las Cruces has boosted its public safety budget and animal services budget, too.

Some of the public challenges Miyagishima, and city officials, faced in 2012 include a decision to postpone implementation of a new impact fees on major road construction and drainage improvements until June. The postponement was sought by the Las Cruces Home Builders Association, amid concerns that the cost would be passed to property owners and impact a rebounding construction industry.

Personally, Miyagishima is regrouping after filing for di-

voiced earlier this year.

Pat Hynes
executive director, New Mexico Space Grant Consortium

Pat Hynes continued at the helm of the New Mexico Space Grant Consortium, a federally funded entity aimed at promoting aerospace education and research. She started the job in 1998.

Among the highlights of 2012 included Hynes' work in hosting the International Symposium for Personal and Commercial Spaceflight, well-attended by a number of high-profile names in the commercial aerospace industry. Gov. Susana Martinez was among the speakers.

Hynes, too, has joined a chorus of backers advocating the passage of a bill to keep part suppliers to the spaceport from being sued by passengers or their families. A number of supporters of Spaceport America, located just north of Doña Ana County, say the upcoming legislation is crucial to the facility's survival.

Still, a group of opponents say it would undermine consumer safety. The measure will be considered in the coming legislative session.

Jeffrey Silva
branch manager, US Bank
Las Cruces Jeffrey Silva, a banker, stayed heavily active in the realm of volunteerism over the past year, leading the charge to host a major annual fundraiser for the March of



Hynes

Dimes, the dinner event, aimed at raising awareness about premature births, features local prominent figures who serve as waiters and waitresses.

Silva, whose youngest son was born premature, is looking forward to the 2013 March of Dimes dinner in March. It will be in its fourth year, which also happens to be the 75th anniversary of the March of Dimes.

He snagged two awards in the Look Who's Dancing competition and was active in a number of charities. He's winding down his year-long term as president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce de Las Cruces, but will remain on the board in an advisory role.

Formerly the president of Bank 94 in Las Cruces, Silva switched directions and became manager at a new US Bank branch in September.

Paul Bosland
co-founder and director,
The Chile Pepper Institute
A go-to expert for all things Chile, New Mexico State University Professor Paul Bosland racked up recognition in the past year.

Bosland and the university-based Chile Pepper Institute grabbed headlines in February by announcing the



Silva

world's newest, hottest Chile, as tested by the institute: Trinidad Moruga Scorpion Red.

The champion, heat-packing pepper registers 2 million Scoville Heat Units, greater than the roughly 1.6 of the previous record-holder, Bhut Jolokia.

Bosland, who heads NMSU's Chile breeding and genetics research program, in July was elected president of the American Society for Horticulture Science.

After being named as a mover and shaker in January

2012 for her role as executive director of the Las Cruces chapter of the Green Chamber of Commerce, Cundiff had a career switch. Within weeks, she left the



Bosland

Elsa Cundiff
former executive director,
Las Cruces Chapter of the Green Chamber of Commerce



Cundiff

role for a job with a private electrical contracting company that specializes in solar electric and wind power systems.

Ceci Vasconcellos
former executive director,
Doña Ana Arts Council
Ceci Vasconcellos, who led the Doña Ana Arts Council since July 2010, resigned in September from the executive director role. She cited family and a desire to "get back into the private sector" as reasons.

Early on in the year, Vasconcellos, like Silva, competed in the local Look Who's Dancing event.

Kathleen Albers continues to serve as DAAC's interim director.

*Sun-News Sports Editor
Teddy Feinberg and Sun-News reporter Steve Ramirez
contributed to this report.*

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2012. As president of the organization, he's tasked with steering the group's efforts to revitalize the downtown district. Among his achievements, they say, were helping to seek new tenant businesses, cater to the needs of existing businesses and advocate in a wide-ranging fashion for the revitalization.

In 2012, the final, long-closed portion of Main Street reopened, a project spearheaded by the city but championed, too, by Henthorne. Some say the achievement is a turning point for the city's long-stale downtown district.

Aaron Ocampo
first-ever football coach,
Centennial High School
Ocampo, formerly of Manzano High School, was tasked with starting a football program from scratch, as the first head coach for Centennial High School.



Name

The new school opened its doors for the first time in the fall of 2012 near the base of "A" Mountain.

Despite wondering early on whether the school would be able to find enough players for a team, Ocampo was able to field a full squad. In the final game of the season, 13 freshmen or sophomores started.

The Hawks ended their 4A season with a 5-5 record. But Ocampo has highlighted that