

# ¿QUE PASA?

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## What's up

### Otero

#### Calling all artists

The Las Cruces Museum of Art is seeking proposals for solo and group exhibitions to be presented at the Museum of Art in 2013. Artists living and working in New Mexico, Arizona and Texas are eligible to submit. Exhibition jurors are Thom Brown, art department chair at New Mexico State University, and Diane McGregor, studio artist. The submission deadline is Oct. 19. For more information, visit [www.lascruces.org/museums](http://www.lascruces.org/museums) for complete prospectus, or call (575) 541-2137.

#### C.O.P.E. second annual Golf Skills

## Women's advocacy group addresses community, asks what they can do to help

BY ALEX QUINTANA  
STAFF WRITER

A women's advocacy group made a stop in Alamogordo on Thursday at the Sgt. Willie Estrada Civic Memorial Center to hear the needs of women in Alamogordo and Otero County and discuss the newly passed health care act.

The Southwest Women's Law Center advocacy group is made up of a group of lawyers based in Albuquerque who advocate for immigrant women's rights, reproductive health and rights, equal pay, and economic justice for women. Alamogordo was part of a six-city tour across the state. Their agenda included listing the benefits of the Affordable Care Act to women. They gather information for congressional meetings and for various members of congress.

"We want to listen, and the last part of the tour will be women telling

us what they want advocated on their behalf," said Pamela Herndon, executive director for the law center.

The event was coordinated by Southern New Mexico Wellness Alliance vice president of the board of directors Karen Hutchinson.

The tour had guest speaker Caroline Silby, a sports psychologist and author of "The Games Girls Play" who spoke about how sports help girls stay in school and how the need for equality in sports in schools is necessary. She said the Women's Law Center was doing a lot of advocacy work with Title IX, which is a big interest to her and her work so she contacted the advocacy group.

"We have the second highest rate teen pregnancy in the country and we

wanted to address that in terms of Title IX because we believe that girls participating in sports have good self-esteem," Herndon said.

The School Athletics Equity Act must have a report that is closely related to title IX that looks at schools to see if there are an equal amount of sports and spending on those sports. Herndon said the group has analyzed the report and will release the results later in the year.

Kyle Stock, a staff attorney with the group, said a lack of information is the main problem in the state when it came the Affordable Care Act. She said with the state being in charge of implementing the act she wants competing interests interest the state government, division of insurance and consumer interests to come to an

agreement on the ACA.

"It's not a perfect law but it's going to help a lot in the state," Stock said.

The group plans to advocate in support of Medicaid expansion for the state.

"There are 175,000 people who are eligible to come on Medicaid if the state of New Mexico plans to adopt it," Herndon said.

The group will write a report with help from surveys they asked attendees to answer during their tour. The surveys help the group can know what to advocate in terms of women's issues in the state Legislature.

The group heard from members of the community and representatives of different organizations in town after the presentation.

For more information about the advocacy group visit [www.swwomenslaw.org](http://www.swwomenslaw.org).

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