



114 S. Canyon Street  
Carlsbad, New Mexico



101 W. Greene St.  
Carlsbad, New Mexico

Media Contacts:  
Rick Rudometkin  
Eddy County  
(575) 887-9511

Mike Antiporda  
Carlsbad Community Foundation  
(575) 887-1131

## **Agreement Ensures Long-Term Fire/Public Safety Training for Area**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., February 27, 2015** – The Eddy County Commission and the Carlsbad Community Foundation have approved a sales agreement that will ensure long-term fire/public safety training in the area. The County will acquire land and structures at the Permian Basin Regional Training Center, which are valued at more than \$12M, from the Foundation for \$1.6M. Today’s action will continue, and likely expand, training for firefighters, first responders and others whose goal is public safety.

“Our goal is to preserve the mission of the facility and to make it a top notch training facility for all of Eddy County,” said Eddy County Commission Chair Susan Crockett. “This is a positive step that will showcase safety for individuals, organizations and industry.”

The positive mission of the training center emerged from tragic circumstances. Funding for the land, building, and the design/construction of the state-of-the-art live-fire training equipment was made possible through the Smith, Heady, Sumler Family Memorial Fund at the Foundation. The fund was established at the Foundation following the 2000 pipeline explosion near Carlsbad. The facility officially opened in 2008 and includes a memorial for the 12 members of the Smith, Heady and Sumler family that perished in the explosion. The County plans to preserve the memorial as a park.

“We are invested in a very personal way in the success of this facility,” said Foundation Board President Larry Henderson. “We believe in the County’s hands it will grow and prosper.”

The Foundation set out to entrust the facility to an organization that could best continue its public safety mission. The original fund and the proceeds from the sale will be used to complete payment of industrial revenue bonds and other expenses incurred in constructing and establishing the facility, leaving the facility free to operate without debt.

“The potential for this training facility is limitless,” said Henderson. “We believe it has a bright future and will serve our community and the region for many years to come.”

The Eddy County Commission voted to approve the sales agreement on February 27 and the Foundation Board approved the measure later the same day.

#### **About Eddy County, New Mexico**

The mission of Eddy County is to provide leadership, service, policies and direction for the enhancement of safety, health, economic and infrastructure development based on the principles of ethical management, fiscal responsibility, open-mindedness, vision and integrity while preserving the trust placed in us by the citizens of Eddy County.

#### **About the Carlsbad Community Foundation**

The Carlsbad Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life for the people of our community and South Eddy County. The work of the Foundation is achieved by building and preserving permanent funds for the support of arts and humanities, community development, education, environmental needs, health and human services and law and protection.

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