

More canines helping kids find a voice in court

Assistance Dogs of the West will celebrate its 20th anniversary Thursday. **LOCAL, A-10**



SPORTS

Lobos work on sputtering offense

Lackluster UNM preparing for Mountain West opener on the road against Wyoming. **PAGE B-1**



NATION

President, first lady welcome pope to U.S. **Page A-5**



SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

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Corrections agency sued by third employee

Woman claims she was fired after questioning state ties to GED exam operator

By **Phaedra Haywood**
The New Mexican

A third Department of Corrections employee is claiming the state agency fired her for questioning the department's decision to hire a firm she says is politically connected to administer educational tests to prison inmates.

Two other employees made similar allegations earlier this year. Their cases went to arbitration, and each was offered the right to return to work at the department. One accepted and one declined, but both of their complaints under the New Mexico Whistleblower Act are still pending in state courts.

Patricia Brainard on Friday filed her own whistleblower complaint against the Corrections Department, claiming she was fired for raising questions about the hiring of London-based Pearson Vue — and also because she had agreed to testify in one of the other cases against the department.

Brainard's complaint says she began work as the department's education administrator on July 6, 2013, and a few weeks later, she told her supervisor — David Huerta, the former director of recidivism reduction — that she had concerns about the implementation of Pearson Vue's General Educational

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Study: Health insurance deductibles outpace pay

By **Reed Abelson**
The New York Times

It may not seem like much — just an extra hundred dollars or so a year.

But the steady upward creep in health insurance deductibles has easily outpaced the average increase in wages over the past five years, according to an analysis released Tuesday by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Kaiser, a health policy research group that conducts a yearly survey of employer health benefits, calculates that deductibles have risen more than six times faster than workers' earnings since 2010.

"It's a very powerful trend," said Drew Altman, Kaiser's chief executive.

Four of five workers who receive their insurance through an employer now pay a deductible, in which they must pay some of their medical bills before their coverage starts, according to Kaiser.

Those workers' deductibles have climbed from a yearly average of \$900 in 2010 for an individual plan to above \$1,300 this year, while employees work-

Please see **STUDY**, Page A-4



Santa Fe Police officers, along with the SWAT team, arrested Curtis Luck singer, 49, on Tuesday at the Talavera Apartments after a brief standoff. Luck singer, a suspect in several robberies, was taken into custody after about an hour. PHOTOS BY LUIS SÁNCHEZ SATURNO/THE NEW MEXICAN

Suspected serial robber arrested after standoff

Police believe S.F. man was involved in at least 7 incidents at businesses

By **Uriel J. Garcia**
The New Mexican

A heavily armed Santa Fe police SWAT team on Tuesday afternoon swarmed into a south-side apartment complex, where officers arrested a man suspected of committing a recent series of robberies.

Acting on a tip, officers went to the Talavera Apartments on South Meadows Road near Airport Road at about 3:15 p.m. Following an hourlong standoff, police said, officers took Curtis Luck singer, 49, of Santa Fe into custody.

Police believe Luck singer is the man who has stolen cash from various businesses over a period of

11 days. In each of the crimes, the robber entered the business about 10 minutes before either handing a note to a cashier or telling the cashier that he had a weapon.

Investigators suspect that Luck singer most recently tried but failed to rob Dion's restaurant on Cerrillos Road, south of St. Michael's Drive, on Monday.

Earlier incidents in which police suspect Luck singer was involved include the Sept. 10 robberies of the Latinos Unidos Mini Market on Airport Road and an Allsup's convenience store on Cerrillos Road. The next day, police said, the same man targeted a Subway sandwich shop on

Please see **STANDOFF**, Page A-4



Santa Fe Police officers, along with the SWAT team, arrested Luck singer at his apartment.

Joel Boyd

"There is nothing here to give the community any concern about the finances of Santa Fe Public Schools," the superintendent says.



Joel Boyd: Charters behind most audit troubles

Santa Fe schools, education agency among worst in statewide financial review

By **Steve Terrell**
The New Mexican

Charter schools have driven up the number of audit problems documented by the State Auditor's Office in connection with the Santa Fe Public Schools and the state Public Education Department.

A report released Tuesday said the school district and the education department are among the 10 worst government entities in New Mexico with regard to the number of audit findings, which include errors, exceptions, deviations or deficiencies in financial records.

But Santa Fe Superintendent Joel Boyd said Tuesday about three-fourths of those findings relate to charter schools, not the school district itself. "There is nothing here to give the com-

Please see **AUDIT**, Page A-4



Today

Partly cloudy.
High 75, low 49.

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Pasapick

www.pasatiempomagazine.com

Justin Townes Earle

Americana singer/songwriter, 7:30 p.m., Lencis Performing Arts Center, 211 W. San Francisco St., Sam Outlaw opens, \$22-\$42, amconcerts.org or 988-1234, ticketssantafe.org.

Obituaries

Kathleen Lenore McGraw, 71, Sept. 19
Leon Bernard Mattingly, 89, Sept. 15
Lugarda R. Griego, 84, Santa Fe, Sept. 19
Kami Kiesov, Santa Fe, Sept. 11
Sandra Schroeder
Silveria Lucila Martinez, 82, Albuquerque, Sept. 17
Dianne Loomis
Joseph George Mejia, 53

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Sarandon, Nolte, city to star in series

Filming Epix political satire to start on Plaza in October

By **Bruce Krasnow**
The New Mexican

Susan Sarandon will make her TV series debut with Nick Nolte in a show scheduled to be filmed in Santa Fe. *The New Mexican* has learned.

Graves is a political satire that follows a fictitious former president, Richard Graves, played by Nolte. Oscar winner Sarandon plays his wife, who has her own political ambitions.

The city of Santa Fe also has a role in the series, serving as a getaway town for the former president.

According to a story by *Hollywood Reporter*, the series is set 20 years after Graves' presidential term ends, when he begins to think that his policies have damaged the country for decades. Graves then embarks on



Susan Sarandon

Nick Nolte

a Don Quixote-like journey to fix things. Meanwhile, his wife decides to pursue her own political ambitions.

The single-camera, half-hour comedy is from Lionsgate Television.

Members of a city of Santa Fe tourism committee were told Tuesday that parts of the story would be filmed on the Santa Fe Plaza starting in October. And, unlike many movies and TV series that film in New Mexico but use the scenery as a backdrop for fictional communities or other

locales around the world. Graves will give the city itself a presence on the screen.

"It's going to use Santa Fe's assets," said Randy Randall, director of Tourism Santa Fe, the city's convention and visitors bureau. "People will know it's Santa Fe."

Randall expects the cast and crew to be working in Santa Fe for up to three months.

He added that the city agreed to postpone its annual sodding of the Plaza in October to accommodate the filming, though much of the production would be undertaken at a studio.

The 10-episode series, created by Joshua Michael Stern (who co-wrote and directed *Swing Vote*, a 2008 film also shot in New Mexico) is produced by the Epix premium cable network and the television arm of Lionsgate. It is scheduled to premiere in the fall of

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