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State Building More, Hiring Less

■ *Audit urges combining workers in buildings to cut costs*

By **BARRY MASSEY**
The Associated Press

SANTA FE — State government office space has expanded by 6 percent in the past four years while the number of state workers had dropped by 14 percent, according to a legislative

audit critical of the management of buildings owned and leased by the state.

It's costing New Mexico taxpayers \$47 million a year for the state to lease office space, and a Legislative Finance Committee audit report Wednesday recommends more consolidation in the use of government buildings.

The audit lauded the Property Control Division in the General Services Department for

saving \$1.2 million on leases in the past year but said more should be done to trim costs by consolidating workers in government-owned buildings and ending leases.

Auditors visited 18 state buildings and found 251 vacant offices and work stations.

"Agencies hold surplus space with the expectation to fill vacancies, but incur lease and operating costs for the empty space," the report said.

To improve the planning and management of buildings, auditors said the Legislature should consider having the department oversee all state-owned buildings. A number of agencies manage their own buildings, including the Department of Game and Fish, the Land Office, the State Fair, colleges, universities, and the judicial and legislative branches of government. The Property Control Division

already oversees all state leases except for the Land Office, auditors said.

The Department of Transportation and the Department of Cultural Affairs objected to the auditor's proposal, telling lawmakers they can best manage their unique properties.

The state's network of museums and monuments is administered by the Cultural Affairs Department, and agency officials said the department's

mission is to preserve and care for its collections and historic properties.

Cultural Affairs Secretary Veronica Gonzales said in a written statement that private financial support and donations for museums might suffer if the Property Control Division managed the buildings. The department rents out museums for business and

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MR. WASHBURN GOES TO WASHINGTON



ADOLPHE PIERRE-LOUIS/JOURNAL

University of New Mexico School of Law Dean Kevin Washburn, left, gets a standing ovation and an award Wednesday from students. Washburn, a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, is leaving to serve as assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of Interior, where he will oversee the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education. He has served as dean since June 2009.

Input Of Police Sought

Union To Survey Cops on Scandals

Climber Still Rocks at 95

Active nonagenarian scales wall for birthday ritual



By **RYAN BOETEL**
The Daily Times

FARMINGTON — It took his hands a few minutes to tie a reweven-figure-eight knot through the loops on his 40-year-old climbing harness.

At times he struggled to keep his

'Ultima' Film Comes to N.M.

Novel's Adaptation Premiered in Texas

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Albuquerque Journal

By **ADRIAN GOMEZ**
Journal Staff Writer

"Bless Me, Ultima" is coming home.

After a successful run and premiere in El Paso on Sept. 17, the film adaptation from Rudolfo Anaya's 1972 novel will open in Albuquerque and Santa Fe on Oct. 19 — a day after its New Mexico premiere at the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival. The screenings will take place at Cinemark and Regal theaters.

"We are thrilled and honored to bring 'Bless Me, Ultima' to the native land of the renowned author, Rudolfo Anaya," said Santiago Pozo,

founder & CEO of Arenas, the Los Angeles-based company that is distributing and marketing the film. "Add to that the fact that the film was shot locally in Santa Fe, and a number of our cast and crew members are local to the area, which makes this a wonderful homecoming for the film."

Leyla Fletcher, vice president of marketing at Arenas, said there were a lot of upset people in New Mexico when the film was chosen to premiere in El Paso.

"We wanted to screen the film in a non-biased market," she explained. "El Paso was a market that embraced Chicano literature and knew of Rudolfo Anaya's work. But now we have a case study and it's been successful and Albuquerque and Santa Fe are the next steps for the film."

"Bless Me, Ultima," is set in

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COURTESY OF ARENAS

Antonio, left, played by Luke Ganalon, and Ultima, played by Miriam Colon, star in the film adaptation of "Bless Me, Ultima."