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It Should Be Dry Through January



JOURNAL FILE

Alfalfa farmer Craig Ogden of Loving stands in a parched field in southeastern New Mexico, which, like most of the state, suffered through drought for the last two years.

Forecast Comes as Two-Thirds of N.M. Is in Severe Drought

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Albuquerque Journal

By JOHN FLECK
Journal Staff Writer

Last summer, El Niño was looking like our savior.

The climate pattern with the catchy name usually tips the odds toward wet weather in New Mexico. So it looked like good news when it showed signs in June of returning

after two years dominated by its drought-making sibling La Niña.

But in September, the warm Pacific Ocean temperatures that are El Niño's hallmark began to disappear.

It's not gone completely, but its rapid fade — federal forecaster Mike Halpert on Thursday called it “an indecisive El Niño” — has taken the edge off of any optimism that the winter forecast might offer

relief for New Mexico after two years of deep drought.

As a result, Halpert and his colleagues at the Climate Prediction Center in Maryland offered a seasonal forecast that said odds favor drought to continue in New Mexico and across much of the nation's midsection at least through January.

The forecast comes as New Mexico heads into winter with two-thirds of the state

in severe drought, according to Thursday's weekly federal Drought Monitor. Most of the state's large water reservoirs are low after two years of La Niña-induced drought, and water managers say current dry soils and aquifers mean it will take an extra helping of snow this winter to make up the deficit.

It could be worse.

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'BLESS ME, ULTIMA' PREMIERES



EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

Author Rudolfo Anaya and actor Luke Ganalon, 11, who plays Antonio in the film “Bless Me, Ultima,” based on Anaya's book, talk with reporters before the movie's New Mexico premiere at the Lensic Performing Arts Center in Santa Fe on Thursday. More than 700 attendees lined up for the film. The award-winning author was the man of the hour and received the American Author Award from the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival. The film hits theaters in Albuquerque today.

Suit Filed Over Mother's Death After C-Section

Nurse Named As Defendant

By OLIVIER UYTTEBROUCK
Journal Staff Writer

The family of a woman who died two weeks after giving birth by cesarean section filed a lawsuit alleging a nurse contributed to the death by not scheduling a doctor's appointment the day she reported symptoms of an infection.

Diana Molina died on July 30, 2010, just hours before her scheduled appointment with an ABQ Health Partners doctor, according to a lawsuit filed in state District Court in Santa Fe.

An autopsy performed by the Office of the Medical Investigator found bacterial infection in Molina's incision and that her death was caused by sepsis following cesarean

operative damages on behalf of Molina's son and others. The only defendant named in the lawsuit is Linda Platt, a registered nurse employed by ABQ Health Partners, an independent physicians' group.

Debra Hammer, a spokeswoman for ABQ Health Partners, declined to comment and said that ABQ Health Partners officials were not aware of the lawsuit. Messages left for Platt this week were not returned.

The lawsuit alleges that Molina called Platt on July 28, 2010, and reported that her incision was painful, red and had a foul-smelling discharge. Platt allegedly told Molina to clean the wound with peroxide and water.

Molina called Platt a second time the day before her death and reported similar symptoms, the lawsuit contends. Platt scheduled Molina for a doctor's appointment the following day and again told her to clean the wound with