

METRO & NM

SECTION C | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2013 | ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

FUNNY BUSINESS

Looking for some workplace cheer? You can always count on Dilbert and his buddies for a few laughs.

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Lawyer: I was censored at POC meeting

Accounts differ about why her talk ended

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By **JEFF PROCTOR**
AND **PATRICK LOHMANN**
Journal Staff Writers

A local lawyer says she was "censored" by city attorneys and the inde-

pendent review officer who cut short her civil rights law presentation to the Police Oversight Commission on Thursday evening.

The reason? Kari Morrissey, who frequently handles civil rights cases against APD, was describing for commissioners what she said were contradictions between the department's policies and federal case law regarding witness detention.

For example, she said, federal case

law states that witnesses may only be detained for 90 minutes. Anything beyond that requires an arrest and probable cause. APD policies have no time limits, and she said officers frequently hold witnesses for hours at a time, take away their cellphones and lock them in the backs of police cars.

About halfway through a scheduled hour-long presentation, Morrissey said Deputy City Attorney Kathy Levy stopped the talk and asked her to step into the hallway.

They were joined by City Attorney David Tourek and Robin Hammer, the city's independent review officer.

Levy told Morrissey it wasn't appropriate for her to discuss APD policies with commissioners, Morrissey said. Levy also raised concerns that Morrissey was discussing specific cases.

"I never mentioned any specific case, any pending matters or any officers' names," Morrissey said. "But I was told (by Levy) that I would only

be permitted to present information about case law, that I would not be permitted to give my point of view, express my opinion or discuss how APD (policies) relate to federal case law. So I declined to continue."

Reached by telephone, Levy referred questions to Tourek, who did not return calls or emails.

However, Hammer said she saw Morrissey reading from depositions

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SNOW IN ALBUQUERQUE



MARLA BROSE/JOURNAL

A dog walker goes through Jerry Cline Park, near I-40 and Constitution. The Albuquerque metro area saw 2.7 inches of snow on Thursday.

Albuquerque's precipitation levels are still "way, way below normal," despite Thursday's snowstorm, National Weather Service meteorologist Kerry Jones said.

Nearly 3 inches fell at the Albuquerque airport, while the foothills received 3½ inches. This brought Albuquerque's total precipitation to 0.56 inches this water year, which began Oct. 1. The average is 2.83 inches.

"As far as the snow goes, up until today our snowfall was .7 of an inch. Now ...we're up 3.4 inches, but we're still below average on that, too," Jones said.

The forecast for today is scattered showers and temperatures in the mid- to upper-40s in the metro area.



Tyler Wesley and his 6-year-old daughter Ava Garcia-Wesley make a snowman in Jerry Cline Park on Thursday morning.

America to see 'Bless Me, Ultima'

Low-budget film was such a hit in N.M., it goes national today

By **ADRIAN GOMEZ**
Journal Staff Writer

"Bless Me, Ultima" is going national.

After a successful run in New Mexico and El Paso, the low-budget independent film is slated for a limited nationwide release beginning today.

Arenas Entertainment founder and CEO Santiago Pozo announced that the film had an extremely successful box office run in regional

Whitaker in N.M.

Oscar-winning actor and director Forest Whitaker returns to New Mexico for his latest project, the film "Enemy Way" C2

Online

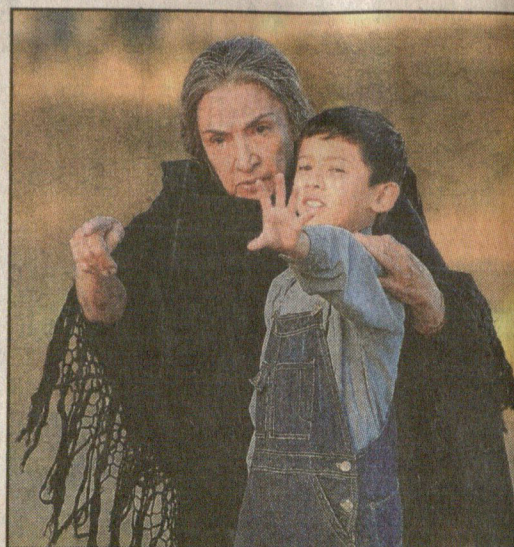
Visit ABQjournal.com/venue to read Roger Ebert's four-star review of the film.

release earlier this year, and the company decided to market it to other areas.

The film opened on Oct. 19 in five New Mexico theaters, a day after premiering at the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival. To date, the film has grossed more than \$325,000 in New Mexico and averaged \$16,000-plus per screen on its opening weekend, making it the No. 1 film in the region that weekend.

Similarly, the film was successful in its El Paso release on Sept. 19, averaging \$10,000-plus per screen on its opening weekend and grossing more than \$100,000 since its Sept. 21 debut in that city.

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ARENAS ENTERTAINMENT/AP

Miriam Colon, who plays Ultima, and Luke Galan, who plays Antonio, in a scene from "Bless Me, Ultima."

Santa Fe police probe cop's alleged ties to gang

Officer may be associated with Bandidos biker club

By **T.S. LAST**
Journal Northern Bureau

SANTA FE — For the second time in four years, a Santa Fe police officer is the subject of an internal affairs investigation looking into the officer's connections to an outlaw motorcycle gang.

Santa Fe Police Chief Raymond Rael confirmed Thursday that officer Ben Chavarria, who is assigned to SFPD's community relations department, is under investigation for allegedly associating with the Bandidos Motorcycle Club.

"They are seen as a criminal organization in various jurisdictions," Rael said of the Bandidos. "They've been involved from everything from narcotics trafficking, drugs, trafficking guns and other crimes."

Rael said that the department's internal affairs division investigated Chavarria for the same allegations in 2009. The Journal on Thursday could not confirm the outcome of that investigation.

Rael said he didn't know when internal affairs would complete its current investigation, which he said was initiated after an obituary for a Santa Fe man appeared in a local newspaper.

The obituary for Stevan Roybal, who died Nov. 19, 2012, listed Roybal as "a PROUD member of the Bandidos MC" and Chavarria as an honorary pallbearer.

KRQE-TV reported that Chavarria described Roybal as his "best friend" on his

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Water hookups in Carnuel hinge on NMFA decision

By **LEE ROSS**
Mountain View Telegraph

Carnuel could see a few more water hookups, depending on how things go with New Mexico Finance Authority.

According to Bernalillo County Commissioner Wayne Johnson, a pipeline that would serve about 50 residences is waiting on NMFA to decide whether the new project breaks the rules.

"They want to have the policy published and vetted so that they'd be able to get public input on proposed changes," he said. "That makes good sense."

The new phase would hook into an existing Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority line and run a water line and bring fresh, clean water east, to about 52 potential connections, including 48 homes and four businesses, according to Frank Roth, a senior policy manager with the water authority.

Although most of the Carnuel area is highly affected by nitrates, the new phase will bring

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