

## Proceedings to begin against La Promesa

*School facing revocation of charter for poor financial management*

BY KIM BURGESS  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SANTA FE — After long, tense discussions, the Public Education Commission voted 5-3 Friday to begin charter revocation proceedings against La Promesa Early Learning Center.

The Albuquerque K-8 school's administrators argued through

the morning that they are getting back on track financially and academically and just need time to improve procedures.

But several PEC members pointed to the school's most recent audit, released Wednesday by State Auditor Tim Keller, which shows a pattern of sloppy bookkeeping, including late bills, overpayments and poor internal controls.

"Budget is sacred," said Commissioner Danielle Johnston. "With this, you are at risk of not providing a concrete program."

Commissioner R. Carlos Caballero consistently defended the school, noting that the problems cited in the audit occurred during fiscal year 2016, which ended on July 1.

Since then, a new administration has taken over and the Public Education Department has assumed control of the school finances.

La Promesa executive director Chris Jones repeatedly stressed that staff have taken initiative to improve, going above and beyond PED's demands.

For instance, the school found a new business manager and Governing Council president and worked on its payroll process.

"I believe the actions we have taken have definitely demonstrated our knowledge of the seriousness of the situation and, not only that, but the fact that we want to work on it," Jones said.

Paul Aguilar, PED deputy secretary for finance and operations, told the commissioners La Promesa is getting back on track only because the state is running

its finances.

PED's charter schools division has also expressed concern about La Promesa's poor test scores and F school grade.

In the end, three commissioners supported La Promesa — Carmie Lynn Toulouse, James Conyers and Caballero — and five voted for the revocation proceedings.

The hearing will be held in mid-March, and PED will shut the school down this summer if

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JIM THOMPSON/JOURNAL

A woman who police say was the victim of an attempted carjacking is put on a gurney to be taken to the hospital Friday afternoon. Police shot the carjacking suspect in the leg, but haven't yet said who shot the victim.

## Officer shoots, wounds suspect in attempted armed carjacking

*Victim also wounded, but it is unclear who shot her; no officers hurt in incident*

BY ELISE KAPLAN  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

At least one officer shot and injured a man who had fled from police and attempted to carjack a woman at gunpoint in a parking lot near Interstate 25 and San Antonio NE Friday afternoon, according to the Albuquerque

Police Department.

The carjacking victim was also shot, but it is unclear who shot her, said officer Fred Duran, an APD spokesman. Both were taken to the University of New Mexico Hospital with non-life-threatening gunshot wounds. They were both shot in the leg. No officers were injured.

Duran said a bail bond agency called police for assistance in finding Lee Brandenburg, 41, who was wanted on a burglary charge and

misdemeanor traffic charges.

They found him near the Mazda dealership on the west side of the freeway. Brandenburg ran and several officers gave chase.

"They caught up with the suspect and the suspect tried to carjack a victim that was trying to drive out of the parking lot," Duran said. "Officers witnessed this, observed the threat to the driver and they took action that they needed to in order to stop that action."

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## Creating another Valentine's Day to remember

Perhaps it's a sign of the times.

We plan to spend less this Valentine's Day on those we love than we did last year, the average allowance for *amor* falling from a record \$146.84 to \$136.57, according to the National Retail Federation.

The organization also predicts that just 54 percent of Americans plan to celebrate the holiday Tuesday.

We're giving love a bad name, people.

So once again we turn our lonely eyes to the South Valley man who puts the O! in romance. When it comes to Valentine's Day, Lonnie Anderson is the king of hearts.

Anne Bolger-Witherspoon, his wife of 16 years, is his queen and possibly the luckiest wom-

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UPFRONT



Joline Gutierrez Krueger



BRIGHT SPOT



COURTESY OF LONNIE ANDERSON

Rudolfo Anaya is one of nine poets who have agreed to recite a favorite love poem for Anne Bolger-Witherspoon, the Albuquerque woman who is feted every Valentine's Day with a creative show of *amor* from her husband, Lonnie Anderson.