

Police reform hearing takes on a new tone

Judge notes change in proceeding under new city administration

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ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL
BY RYAN BOETEL
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The cast of characters was slightly different, but not as different as the tone during the first public court hearing in the case that is aiming to reform the Albuquerque Police Department. Thursday's hearing was the first since Mayor Tim Keller and Police Chief Mike Geier took

office in December.

Unlike previous hearings, which U.S. District Judge Robert Brack has held occasionally since the settlement between the city and U.S. Department of Justice was filed in court in November 2014, officials and community advocates who spoke in court expressed optimism with the new administration's approach to reforms and their willingness to meet with community members.

Brack even said he was considering handing the case to another judge when he goes on senior status this summer but changed his mind after meeting with Keller and Geier.



Tim Keller

James Ginger

"You ran on this issue, you're going to be judged on the success of this issue. You said, 'I own this,'" Brack told Keller, who attended the proceeding. "With that kind of commitment level from you ... I agreed to stay on." It also was the first hearing

since John Anderson, the U.S. attorney for the District of New Mexico, has been leading the local office.

Albuquerque police are in the midst of a yearslong reform effort that aims to address problems uncovered by a DOJ investigation, which found a pattern of excessive force. The reforms call on police to make a wide range of changes, from how the department investigates use of force and deals with mentally ill people to improving relationships between APD and the community.

"It seems like night and day, after three years of them playing games with us," said Steven

Robert Allen, the policy director for the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and a member of APD Forward, which advocates for police reform. "It finally seems like the adults are in the room."

James Ginger, the independent monitor overseeing the reform, has written six reports, each about 500 pages long, and other updates on the police progress through about three years of monitoring. Much of his documentation has been critical of the supervision and command staff within the department.

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Celebrating a lifelong connection



BRIGHT SPOT

Iconic New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya greets children from Alameda Elementary School outside the newly renamed Rudolfo Anaya North Valley Library.

MARLA BROSE/JOURNAL



North Valley library renamed for iconic New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya

BY RICK NATHANSON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Libraries have always been important to iconic New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya, so it was particularly significant when the North Valley Library was renamed the Rudolfo Anaya North Valley Library during a windy Thursday morning ceremony.

As a child in Santa Rosa, N.M., Anaya was overjoyed to discover a one-room public library on top of the local fire station.

"We found out we could go there and check out books and take them home. It was incredible, because we

were from a poor family and we didn't have books at home, and here was a way to get books, take them home, read them — cowboy stories, Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys."

Later, his family moved to Albuquerque and Anaya attended Albuquerque High School, where he earned a reputation as someone who was pretty good putting words to paper. A daily study session in the school library turned into a writing session as other boys prevailed on him to pen love notes for their romantic interests.

"Pretty soon the girls were looking at me because they knew who had written the notes," he said.

As a graduate student at the University of New Mexico, Anaya said he met a beautiful woman named Patricia in a summer class. They were studying folklore and spent a lot of time in Zimmerman Library. "I think Patricia and I fell in love at the library," Anaya said of his late wife, who died in January 2010.

"I've always been connected to libraries," Anaya said during the renaming ceremony. "It's fantastic and it's an honor. The library is probably one of the most important things in my life. It's a center for democracy

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Special ed teacher charged with abuse

Deputies say video shows him slapping a student with Down syndrome

BY ELISE KAPLAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

A Rio Grande High School special education teacher was arrested and charged with child abuse after deputies say a teenager recorded video of him slapping a student with Down syndrome.

Travis Castillo, 28, was booked into the county jail Wednesday. "He was arrested and placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation," said

Monica Armenta, a spokeswoman for Albuquerque Public Schools.

According to a criminal complaint filed in Metropolitan Court, a teenager told her mother that she had seen Castillo abuse his students. Her mother suggested she take a video to show to the principal.

On Wednesday, a Bernalillo County Sheriff's deputy was called to Rio Grande High School to investigate.

"(The teen) told me that a juvenile special needs student identified as MC had spilled his cereal and the classroom



Travis Castillo

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CBP asks meeting with Dunn

Talks will address federal use of state trust border lands

BY ANGELA KOCHERGA
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

LAS CRUCES — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials plan to meet with State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn in the next few weeks to discuss concerns that the federal government is using state trust lands on the border without paying for the right of way.

"Our real estate team is researching the items you reference and has been in touch with your office," according to a letter signed by Karl Calvo, the assistant commissioner for CBP's facilities,

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ANGELA KOCHERGA/JOURNAL

New Mexico State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn stands at the border site where he posted a "no trespassing" sign last week.

'Roswell' reprise to film TV pilot episode in Albuquerque

BY ADRIAN GOMEZ
JOURNAL ARTS EDITOR

It's a "Roswell" reboot as the late-1990s TV series, which aired for three seasons and 61 episodes, is getting a pilot order.

Warner Bros. Television/Palladin Productions will begin principal photography this month on the "Untitled Roswell Project."

"We're excited to welcome another production highlighting New Mexico's unique history," said Film Office Director Nick Maniatis. "With strong tools, infrastructure, as well as unique stories and

landscapes, New Mexico is a perfect location for any production."



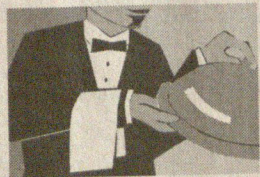
Jeanine Mason

Production will take place in Albuquerque.

It is based on the Roswell High book series, written by Melinda Metz.

The upcoming pilot tells the story of a daughter of immigrants who, after reluctantly

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Fundraising dinner

The 67th annual Brother Mathias Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner — a fundraiser for homeless services provider Good Shepherd Center — is from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the St. Pius X High School gym, 5301 St Josephs NW. Tickets, \$15 adults, \$5 children 12 and younger, can be bought at the door or at www.goodshepherdcenternm.org.

Irish folk guitar

Enjoy the classical and traditional Irish folk guitar music of Kevin Caffrey this afternoon at the South Broadway Library, 1025 Broadway SE. The concert is from 4 to 5 p.m. in the youth section of the library and is free to the public. Caffrey represents Guitar New Mexico, a nonprofit that fosters the appreciation of classical guitar. Visit guitarnewmexico.org to learn more and for a schedule of upcoming events.



St. Patrick's Uber rides

Free or low-cost Uber rides offered St. Patrick's Day weekend. Download Uber app, enter code ABQGreen18. Rides available from today at 4 p.m. to Sunday at 4 a.m. Start or end anywhere in ABQ for one trip, up to \$10 off.



Flying the colors

The flag is to be flown at full staff today.



Quote of the day

"Damn, we should have been further along after three years. I get it and I know it to be true. But I'm pleased with the commitment I heard from the city."

— U.S. District Judge Robert Brack during the Thursday court hearing in the case that is aiming to reform APD.

