

Unending quest



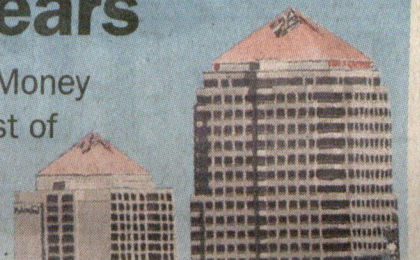
Los Alamos Mountaineers have been seeking new challenges for 60 years
GO! ■ B4

'Act of terror'

Argument led to some of the sharpest exchanges in debate
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Golden years

Albuquerque makes Money magazine's Top 25 list of best places to retire
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ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

HOME-OWNED AND HOME-OPERATED ■ MADE IN THE U.S.A.
132ND YEAR, No. 292 ■ 78 PAGES IN 10 SECTIONS

THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 18, 2012

FINAL ★★

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ELECTION 2012 JOURNAL POLL

Voters Give Mayor Berry High Marks

Approval Rating Higher Than 2010

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By **DAN MCKAY**
Journal Staff Writer

Three years at City Hall haven't diminished Mayor Richard Berry's popularity. In fact, it appears to be

Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor Berry's job performance?



68% APPROVE **15%** DISAPPROVE **17%** UNDECIDED

improving with time, based on a comparison with a 2010 poll.

A new Journal Poll shows 68 percent of likely voters in Albuquerque say they gener-

ally approve of Berry's job performance and only 15 percent disapprove. The remainder are undecided, don't know or wouldn't say.

Brian Sanderoff, president of Research & Polling Inc., which conducted the survey, said Berry's public persona as a mayor who governs with

a business-like approach and non-confrontational style appears to contribute to the strong rating.

"It's really unusual to garner such high rates of approval for any politician or elected official these days," Sanderoff said in an interview Wednesday.

The new approval rating is even higher than what Berry scored in 2010, less than a year into his first term. A survey from August of that year —

also conducted by Sanderoff, among likely voters in Bernalillo County — showed the mayor had a 63 percent approval rating, with 12 percent disapproving.

The past two years haven't always been smooth for Berry.

Last year, voters soundly rejected a \$50 million bond issue to pay for two projects outlined in Berry's "ABQ: The Plan" initiative, a sports com-

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Leslie Linthicum



UpFRONT

Learning Life Skills Helps Homeless

I was sitting in a classroom with eight desks arranged in a half-circle as instructor Terry Toman from CNM's Workforce Training Center went over a worksheet about the plural forms of nouns and then threw out some word-play brain teasers.

It was the first week of the semester, and the students, seven young women and one young man, were as attentive as you might expect new students to be, but they were a little tentative as well. They were homeless adults, all parents, and they hadn't been in a classroom in a while.

The class was being offered by the nonprofit organization Saranam, which works to move families from homeless shelters into stable homes.

If you're wondering, like I was, what knowing that the plural form of "leaf" is "leaves" has to do with homelessness, I'll let the group's executive director, Tracy

See **LEARNING** on **PAGE A2**

A Spiritual Journey

'Bless Me, Ultima' Film Premieres Tonight in Santa Fe



COURTESY OF ARENA ENTERTAINMENT

ABOVE: Actors portraying the Marez family with Ultima, third from right. TOP: "Bless Me, Ultima" movie poster.

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By **ADRIAN GOMEZ**
Journal Staff Writer

Much like the character Antonio Marez in "Bless Me, Ultima," Rudolfo Anaya has been on a journey. For 40 years, the award-winning author and New Mexico native daydreamed about the day his book would become a feature-length film.

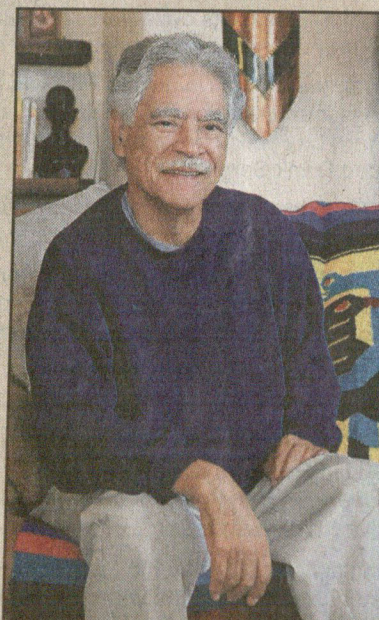
After the decades-long wait, Anaya can breathe deep. "Bless Me, Ultima" will have its New Mexico premiere at the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival at 7 tonight to a sold-out audience at the Lensic Performing Arts Cen-

ter in Santa Fe.

On Friday, the film will open at Regal 14 in Santa Fe, Dreamcatcher in Española and Cottonwood, Century Rio 24 and Century 14 Downtown in Albuquerque.

The novel, required reading at many New Mexico schools for years, was awarded the prestigious Premio Quinto Sol literary prize in 1972 for bringing Chicano literature to the forefront of American cultures. The book also drew its share of controversy from critics who said it was anti-Catholic and too sexually explicit.

The New Mexico premiere comes one month after the film



MORGAN PETROSKI/JOURNAL

Author Rudolfo Anaya at home in Albuquerque.

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Pay Hikes For 3 Top APS Staff

Associate Superintendents Get 6.6% Raises to \$125,000

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By **HAILEY HEINZ**
Journal Staff Writer

Three top administrators at Albuquerque Public Schools received 6.6 percent raises this summer — boosting their salaries to \$125,000 — despite decreased state funding, increased class sizes and teacher salaries that have not budged since 2008.

APS Superintendent Winston Brooks said the three associate superintendents have absorbed numerous extra responsibilities in the past several years, including the workloads of administrators who left the district. Brooks said that has saved taxpayers money, even with the salary increases.

"We just keep losing people and somebody's got to do the work, and it keeps coming back on the shoulders of the associates," Brooks said.

The three associate superintendents are Eddie Soto, Diane Kerschen and Raquel Reedy. Soto is in charge of middle and high

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Kennedy Faces Vigil in Supreme Court Election

Incumbent Touts His Experience Over SF Judge

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By **SCOTT SANDLIN**
Journal Staff Writer

Ethics rules bar judges from speaking in any depth about current hot button issues of the day, because a case involving the topic may come before them.

Their focus instead is on experience. This year's race for a vacancy on the New Mexico Supreme Court is no exception.

Paul J. Kennedy, an incumbent justice seeking election to the post following an interim appointment, says he has more experience in the law than his opponent by virtue of his 36 years of practice, including pioneering work

Q&A

Read candidates' answers to Journal questions on **C2**

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