

Travon Bryant  
Missouri

## Surviving Round 1 at the Pit

Wyoming stuns Gonzaga while Arizona, Missouri and Ohio State advance into the second round of the NCAA Tournament with victories in the Pit

SPORTS ■ C1



Paris Corner  
Marcus Bailey  
Wyoming



Salim Stoudamire  
Arizona

# ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

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**COMBING WRECKAGE:** On Sunday, Phillip Campos, of Ortega's Wrecking, sorted through the charred remains of vehicles in the March 8 string of accidents on I-40.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

## Hot Rail Tie Suspected in I-40 Crash

Chain of Accidents Killed 7, Injured 16

By LESLIE LINTHICUM  
Journal Staff Writer

A smoldering railroad tie near a railroad work site is the prime suspect as the cause of a brush fire that led to a chain of fatal accidents on Interstate 40 last week, according to the State Fire Marshal.

The investigation is not complete and the burning railroad tie has not been determined to have caused the fire, State Fire Marshal George Chavez said Thursday.

But, he said, the wooden tie's location — about 16 feet north of where the grass started to burn — makes it the prime target of investigators' suspicions.

"We found a railroad tie that was smoldering, and that

became our suspect," Chavez said. "It is a possible source."

The Fire Marshal and the New Mexico State Police are trying to determine what sparked a grass fire that burned out of control March 8, hopped I-40 and obscured the roadway with thick black smoke. Drivers blinded by the smoke in the eastbound lanes were involved in a series of rear-end collisions that ulti-

mately involved 12 vehicles and left seven people dead. Sixteen people were injured and two remain hospitalized a week after the crash.

The Union Pacific Railroad's freight track runs north of I-40 in the area east of Santa Rosa where the accident occurred. The railroad company is conducting its own investigation into the fire, and a spokesman

See RAILROAD on PAGE A2

## New Mexico Hero Laid To Rest



TERRY ASHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Military pallbearers carry the casket of Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, a 26-year-old New Mexico native, to its final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday.

Cunningham, who was born in Carlsbad and grew up in Farmington, was among six U.S. military men who died in a firefight in Afghanistan on March 4 in what was the bloodiest day of fighting since the Afghan

campaign began last year.

At a memorial service Wednesday night, Larry Cunningham placed a handwritten letter in his son's casket.

"Trust me when I say that your self-determination and pure heart for your goals will forever live in my soul," the four-page letter said.

STORY AND LETTER, PAGE A2

*Rudolfo Anaya photo*

## Author Anaya Humbled By National Arts Honor

By DAVID STEINBERG  
Journal Staff Writer

Albuquerque writer Rudolfo Anaya, considered the dean of Chicano literature, will receive a National Medal of Arts for 2001, President Bush announced Thursday.

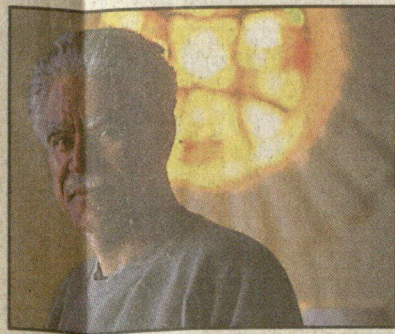
The 64-year-old Anaya called the award "an honor. It's humbling. I don't know what to think. ... I don't know how one handles these big honors except you show up."

He quoted a government official who informed him about the award several weeks ago as saying, "It's like knighthood."

Anaya is widely known for his coming-of-age novel "Bless Me, Ultima," which was published in 1972.

The debut novel earned him the Premio Quinto Sol national award and is standard text in high school and college literature courses worldwide.

He also wrote four cultural mysteries, dubbed "The Albuquerque



JOURNAL FILE

**HONOREE:** Albuquerque writer Rudolfo Anaya, widely known for his novel "Bless Me, Ultima," will receive a National Medal of Arts.

Quartet," children's books including "The Farolitos of Christmas," essays and plays.

His play, "The Season of La Llorona," began as a novella and was adapted for the stage. Anaya said it is

See ALBUQUERQUE on PAGE A2

## Accountants For Enron Charged

Indictment Alleges Andersen Company Destroyed Evidence

By PETE YOST  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government secured its first indictment in the politically charged collapse of Enron Corp., accusing the Arthur Andersen accounting firm of obstructing justice by shredding documents and deleting computer files about the energy trading company.

The one-count indictment, announced Thursday, was returned last week by a federal grand jury in Houston, where Enron is based, Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson said.

"The firm sought to undermine our justice system by destroying evidence," Thompson, the department's No. 2 official, said at a news conference.

### Best option?

Filing for bankruptcy-court protection may be the best remaining option for Arthur Andersen LLP, experts say **B4**

See ANDERSEN on PAGE A8

## N.M. Linked To Huge Drug Ring

Toys May Have Hidden Money

By GUILLERMO CONTRERAS  
Journal Staff Writer

More than a dozen New Mexicans have been arrested after a multistate investigation into an alleged drug ring suspected of using toys and children to disguise millions of dollars in drug trafficking.

The ring used couriers who drove the drugs cross-country in cars carrying women and children and bearing "pro-family" bumper stickers, according to a 168-page indictment unsealed Wednesday in Virginia. The ring may have been operating since at least 1996.

Payments for the drugs were often mailed to New Mexico in packages also containing Etch-

A-Sketch toys, CD-ROMs and puzzles, the indictment said. The indictment alleges that the ring moved more than \$2.4 million in drug proceeds.

The document alleges that the ring moved more than 10,000 kilograms of marijuana, 40 kilograms of cocaine and at least 4 pounds of crystal methamphetamine.

Flanked by a company of lawyers, 13 defendants from New Mexico appeared Thursday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Don J. Svet in Albuquerque after local police and DEA agents arrested them Wednesday.

The defendants are among more than 30 people named in the mammoth indictment.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia declined comment until a

See INDICTMENT on PAGE A2

## UNM's Gordon To Join Wake Forest

President Returns To Alma Mater

By OLIVIER UYTTEBROUCK  
Journal Staff Writer

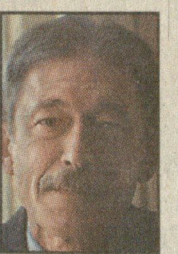
Four years is long enough to pilot a growing, high-profile research institution like the University of New Mexico, President William Gordon said Thursday.

Gordon, 55, said he plans to take a job Sept. 1 as provost of Wake Forest University in North Carolina. Gordon began as UNM's interim president in September 1998 and was formally named to the post seven

months later.

"There's a time during which you really have an impact on an institution," Gordon said in an interview Thursday.

"The impact they (college presidents) have sometimes is really diminished if they stay on beyond the time when they can really make a contribution," he



**GORDON:** Will become provost at Wake Forest

See UNM'S on PAGE A8

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### WEATHER ◆ D14

Mostly sunny with spring-like breezes in the afternoon. High of 57. Fair tonight. Low 29.

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