



High school scores from a busy weekend of action

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Stream Netflix's NM-filmed 'Chupa' in April



Production for the Netflix movie "Chupa" took over Mesilla on Nov. 11, 2021. Set designers transformed a portion of Calle de Parian into a 1990s-era Mexican mercado. NATHAN J FISH/SUN-NEWS

Can New Mexico afford to regulate oil and gas?

Adrian Hedden

Carlsbad Current-Argus

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW MEXICO

Concerns lingered that oversight of oil and gas industry was inadequately funded in New Mexico, despite an almost \$9.6 billion budget approved by lawmakers during this year's legislative session that concluded March 18.

House Bill 2, the General Appropriation Act of 2023, was passed by lawmakers in the State House and Senate three days before the session concluded and was awaiting signature into law by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham.

The State's two main regulatory agencies for oil and gas, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), both saw increases in state appropriations via HB 2 at 21 percent and 14.7 percent, respectively.

But Santa Fe-based environmental group WildEarth Guardians said increasing spills and other environmental impacts from New Mexico's booming oil and gas industry meant more resources were needed from the state.

The group pointed to 1,450 liquid spills throughout the state last year, averaging four spills per day and totaling about 5.4 million gallons of contaminants.

These largely included oil and gas wastewater, also known as "produced water" by the industry, and WildEarth Guardians said the "vast majority" occurred in Eddy and Lea counties - the two counties that contain the Permian Basin in southeast New Mexico.

It's the U.S.' most active oilfield, shared by New Mexico and West Texas but in a March 21 letter to NMED and EMNRD officials, the group said expanded production meant greater efforts from the State to prevent pollution while transitioning to lower-carbon fuel sources.

"In this climate, our state has but one pragmatic choice: to meaningfully decrease oil and gas production and work towards a just transition away

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Action, adventure movie was filmed in 2021

Leah Romero

Las Cruces Sun-News

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW MEXICO

LAS CRUCES - Netflix's latest feature film "Chupa," filmed in New Mexico, is set to release on the streaming platform in April.

"Chupa" is an action, adventure film that tells the story of a teenager, Alex, and his discovery of a young Chupacabra while visiting family in Mexico for the first time. The Chupacabra is a mythical creature said to prey on the blood of livestock at night, particularly goats.

The film stars Evan Whitten ("Mr.

Robot," "Words on Bathroom Walls") as Alex and Ashley Ciarra and Nickolas Verdugo as the teen's cousins. Christian Slater ("Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," "Very Bad Things") and Demián Bichir ("Godzilla vs. Kong," "The Hateful Eight") also star. Jonás Cuarón ("Desierto," "Año uña") directed.

Filming for "Chupa" took place between August and November 2021 in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Estancia and Mesilla. Production took over Calle de Parian between La Posta de Mesilla and Billy the Kid Gift Shop in mid-November and transformed the Mesilla street into 1990s-era Mexico.

The team told the Sun-News in 2021 that 70 food stalls were constructed along the street and the walls of the buildings were temporarily made to look like a scene from Chihuahua, Mexico.

Netflix released the film trailer online March 14. New Mexicans will notice familiar images from their home state.

"Chupa" is scheduled to release on Netflix April 7, 2023.

Leah Romero is the trending reporter at the Las Cruces Sun-News and can be reached at 575-418-3442, LRomero@lcsun-news.com or @rromero_leah on Twitter.

Biden's moves on drilling, TikTok test young voters

Jonathan J. Cooper

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPE, Ariz. - Recent moves by President Joe Biden to pressure TikTok over its Chinese ownership and approve oil drilling in an untapped area of Alaska are testing the loyalty of young voters, a group that's largely been in his corner.

Youth turnout surged in the three elections since Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, helping Biden eke out victories in swing states in 2020, pick up a Democratic Senate seat in the 2022 election and stem potential losses in the House.

But the 80-year-old president has never been the favorite candidate of young liberals itching for a new generation of American leadership. As Biden gears up for an expected reelection campaign, a potential TikTok ban and the Alaska drilling could weigh him down.

Meanwhile, his plan to wipe out billions of dollars in student loan debt is in jeopardy at the Supreme Court. The ef-

fort, announced shortly before last year's midterms, was an attempt by Biden to keep a promise he made after defeating progressive Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary campaign in 2020.

The risk for Biden is less that young left-of-center voters will vote Republican and more that they would sit out an uninspiring election altogether.

"I'm a Democrat, but I'm not voting for Biden," said Mark Buehlmann, a 20-year-old Arizona State University student who said he likely would abstain if Biden is the Democratic nominee, as expected. "He's maybe capable of doing a good job, but he's not capable of gathering the troops, rallying the people. Especially the Democratic voter base. I don't think he's a strong candidate."

TikTok allows users, 150 million of whom are in the United States, to post short, creative videos for friends and strangers. Its algorithm figures out what

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Recent moves by President Joe Biden to pressure TikTok over its Chinese ownership and approve oil drilling in an untapped area of Alaska are testing the loyalty of young voters, a group that's been largely in his corner.

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