



Western New Mexico falls to NMSU in El Paso arena

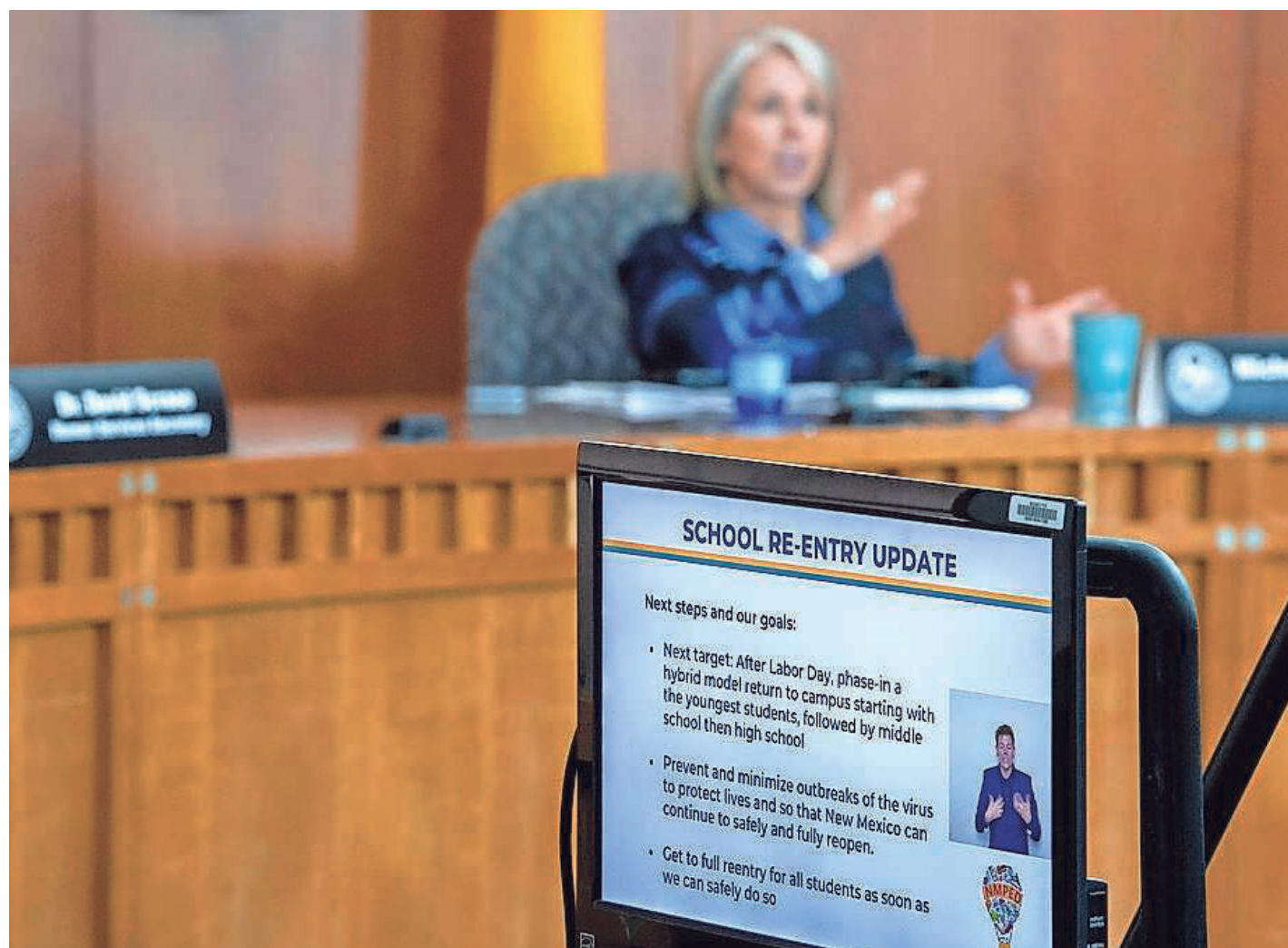
Sports, 1B

SILVER CITY SUN-NEWS

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Gov. calls for 'generational investment' of children



In this July 23, 2020, file photo, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham talks about schools during an update on a COVID-19 broadcast from the state Capitol in Santa Fe. EDDIE MOORE/AP

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham delivers recorded 'State of the State' address as state Capitol remains closed

Algernon D'Ammassa

Las Cruces Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW MEXICO

SANTA FE - This year's legislative session did not open with the customary spectacle of a joint session with an address by the governor punctuated by ovations.

Instead, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham delivered a recorded online "State of the State" address Tuesday afternoon, one week after the 2021 legislative session began instead of on opening day, seated between a U.S. flag and the flag of New Mexico. She spoke for about half an hour in an address broadcast on the legislature's website and local news stations.

The state Capitol building remains closed to the public and most proceedings of the New Mexico legislature have moved to virtual platforms to allow lawmakers to participate remotely.



Lujan Grisham

These public health precautions are being taken as the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second year in the United States: The first case of the disease caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus was confirmed in Washington state on Jan. 21 of last year. New Mexico's first cases were announced on March 11.

The pandemic has presented the first-term Democrat with three major challenges: managing a continuing public health emergency that is now in its 11th month; a severe economic downturn resulting from restrictions on travel and business activity aiming to slow community spread of the disease; and political pushback not only from Republicans but from local law enforcement agencies and elected sheriffs on enforcing some of the earliest and more strict



The Las Cruces football team practice in "pods" or small groups at Las Cruces High School on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2020. NATHAN J FISH/SUN-NEWS

emergency health orders in the nation. In a major development Tuesday, Lujan Grisham's administration announced Tuesday that schools will have the option to reopen under a hybrid model, in which groups of students rotate between in-person and virtual learning, on Feb. 8, even as

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Photographer earns international recognition

Damien D. Willis

Las Cruces Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW MEXICO

LAS CRUCES - When Las Cruces photographer Wayne Suggs saw a double-rainbow develop against the picturesque backdrop of the rugged Organ Mountains, his camera was already set up, but he was forced to think on the fly.

For three years, he had been trying to capture the hedgehog cacti behind his house in full bloom, in just the right light. But, on April 22 - Earth Day - the skies opened up, it began raining in the desert, and something magical happened.

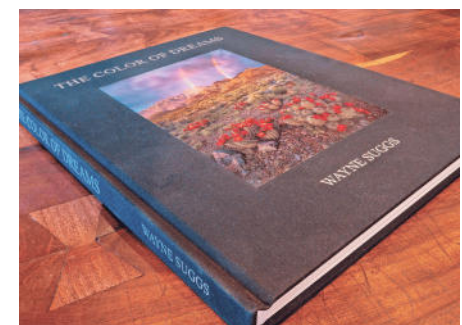
The photograph was taken about 200 yards behind Suggs' house.

"I've been trying to capture them, all in bloom, for about three years - and with quality light," he said. For three years, he was never able to get the right shot - the shot he wanted.

"I'd go out there in the evening, and it just wouldn't happen," Suggs said. "Literally, for three years."

But on April 22, all of the right elements came into play. Suggs said he was set up for a landscape (horizontal)

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"The Color of Dreams," by Las Cruces photographer Wayne Suggs, is now available for pre-order and is expected to begin shipping in February 2021. WAYNE SUGGS

Three businesses named Silver City Strong

From Staff Reports

Silver City Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW MEXICO

SILVER CITY - Silver City Main-Street is acknowledging downtown businesses that have persevered during the COVID pandemic with Downtown Silver City Strong awards. The awards are a way to say thank you to businesses that have worked hard to stay open and find new and creative ways to operate.

The latest recipient are Town and Country Garden Club Thrift Store, Power and Light Press and Lois Duffy Art.

Town and Country Garden Club is a 501c3 charity founded 60 years ago to support the community by giving yearly donations to local charities. These cash donations possible through the sales of items donated to the TCGC Thrift Store.

Many upgrades have recently been made to the store; from new management, new paint, accepting credit and debit cards and remodeling the store

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How do I get a COVID-19 vaccine in New Mexico?

Leah Romero and Damien D. Willis

Las Cruces Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW MEXICO

LAS CRUCES - COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed, but New Mexico residents have expressed a lot of questions about the registration and appointment process. Here's what you should know.

How do I sign up?

People can register for a vaccine at <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>. Registration includes providing a name, date of birth, ZIP code, contact information, employment and health conditions. Once this information is submitted, the DOH will provide a confirmation code so registrants can log in and provide insurance information and other details.

Those lacking internet access can

register for the vaccine by phone at 855-600-3453.

Then the waiting begins.

Who qualifies for the vaccine right now?

The state's phased plan of distributing the vaccine is categorized by risk factors that make people more vulnerable to contracting the virus. Phase 1B, the current phase, includes people 75 and older, people 16 and older who have underlying health conditions and frontline essential workers who cannot work remotely. Specifically, the Department of Health lists:

- Hospital personnel
- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- Medical first responders
- Congregate setting workers
- Persons providing direct medical care and other in-person services

- Home-based health care and hospice workers
- People 75 and older
- People 16 and older at risk of COVID-19 complications

How will I be notified?

When vaccines become available in the area and a person qualifies under the phase parameters, the DOH will contact residents who have registered for the vaccine to make an appointment. This may be at a location where mass vaccine distribution is scheduled, a pharmacy or other local health care provider.

People with questions or who need assistance registering can do so over the phone by calling 1-855-600-3453. Further information can also be found on the DOH website at <https://>

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USA TODAY

President Joe Biden addresses housing bias, moves to end federal reliance on private prisons. 4A

Bill will advance

New Mexico civil rights bill clears to the House Judiciary Committee. 2A

Weather

High 38° | Low 23°
Sunny. Forecast, 6A

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