



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Julia M. Dendinger | News-Bulletin photos

Members of the Belen Fire Department and AMR Ambulance Service gave people an up close look at fire and emergency extraction equipment and apparatus during the department's Fire Prevention Week event on Saturday, Oct. 10. There was free popcorn and hotdogs as well as a chance to visit with Sparky the Fire Dog.

Brandon Villalobos to be sentenced as an adult for murder of 12 year old

By Julia M. Dendinger News-Bulletin Assistant Editor

The case of the 2014 murder of a 12-year-old boy has taken a step closer to being finished.

Last week, 13th Judicial District Court Judge James Lawrence Sanchez ruled that Brandon Villalobos, who was 15 at the time of the crime, would be sentenced as an adult for the 2014 beating death of Alex Madrid, 12.

In February, a jury found Villalobos guilty of second-degree murder and tampering with evidence. Because Villalobos was a juvenile when he killed



Alex Madrid



Brandon Villalobos

Madrid, he is subject to the state's children's code said Barbara Romo, chief deputy for the 13th Judicial District Attorney's Office, even though he is now 22 years old.

In order to be sentenced, Villalobos had to undergo an amenability hearing to determine whether he was amenable to treatment in

See Villalobos, Page 3

All state high school athletic competition on hold till spring

By Cameron Goeldner News-Bulletin Sports Writer

There will be no fall sports season after all.

After weeks of buildup as teams across the county and the state prepared to get underway, news came Wednesday, Oct. 7, that the start of the season would be pushed a week as the public health order wasn't amended in order to allow for competitions.

The following day, in her address discussing the recent spike in COVID-19 cases across New Mexico, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said she would not be amending the order to avoid introducing more risk.

"It's a huge disappointment," Lujan Grisham said. "COVID is an unfair, vicious virus."

While the New Mexico Activities Association said they were forced to delay

the seasons by the governor's orders, competitions have never been allowed under the public health order.

The seasons for cross country and volleyball will be pushed to the spring, with the NMAA expected to release an updated schedule this week to include cross country and volleyball. Golf, which was also scheduled to compete this fall, already was on the schedule for a spring start on April 5.

The change means all 13 sports will begin their seasons sometime between January and April.

The news was a disappointment to the local school districts that have been able to safely hold practices in line with the public health orders since June.

"We are all disappointed, frustrated and saddened that our students athletes will not

See Sports, Page 5

General Election voting going well Valencia County

Bond questions and constitutional amendments on ballot

By Julia M. Dendinger News-Bulletin Assistant Editor

The 2020 election is under way and the Valencia County clerk reports things are going smoothly so far, with a steady stream of voters at the clerk's office.

"The first day (Tuesday, Oct. 6), we had a line out the door but after that it's been a steady stream of people; it's been smooth so far," said Valencia County Clerk Peggy Carabajal.

Early voting began at the clerk's office last Tuesday and additional early voting sites will open on Saturday, Oct. 17.

As of Tuesday, Oct. 13, the clerk's office mailed out 14,294 absentee ballots. Of those 8,379 went to Democrats, 3,668 to Republicans, 90 to Libertarians and 2,157 to voters who declined to state a party.

More than 700 people went to

the clerk's office those two days to vote in person.

Like during the June primaries, there are COVID-19 safe practices in place, the clerk said. Poll workers are wearing masks, cleaning surfaces and door handles frequently and giving disposable wooden styluses to voters to sign for their ballot.

When early voting begins on Oct. 17, come Monday, Oct. 19, there will be two precinct boards operating out of the commission room, Carabajal said.

"Essentially that means voters can come to the county administration building from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, to vote," she said.

The other two early voting sites will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday Oct. 17, through Saturday, Oct. 31, Monday through Saturday; at the Belen Community Center, 305 Eagle

Lane, Belen, and the Bosque Farms Public Library, 1455 W. Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms.

Voters who have received and completed absentee ballots can return them by mail in the included postage-paid envelopes or bring them in person to the county administration building, 444 Luna Ave., Los Lunas. There will be a ballot drop box in the lobby, as well as drop boxes at the other early voting sites.

On election day, there will be ballot drop boxes for absentee ballots at all 17 Voting Convenience Centers around the county.

With the unusually high number of absentee ballots this year, Bureau of Elections Director Candace Teague said the clerk's office is urging people to bring in their absentee ballots.

"We're not sure if the mail will be an issue, and we want to make sure we get everyone's ballot,"

Teague said.

All absentee ballots must be received by the clerk's office by 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 3, to be counted. The last day to request an absentee ballot is Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Voters returning absentee ballots this year will need to sign and provide the last four digits of their Social Security number in a secure location on the outer envelope before returning it, Teague said.

Another change made during the June session was a stop time on counting absentee ballots on Election Day.

All clerk's offices have to stop counting at 11 p.m. that day. If there are still ballots to be counted, the absentee board continues the next day.

2020 Bond Questions

There are three bond questions on the ballot this year to fund capital improvements at senior centers, libraries and schools around

the state.

Bond Issue A is for \$33,292,141 statewide for certain senior citizen facilities, including \$260,000 for vehicles at the Belen Senior Center and \$200,000 for the Del Rio Senior Center.

Bond Issue B is \$9.5 million for academic, public school, tribal and public library resource acquisitions.

Bond Issue C is \$155,973,967 statewide for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools, and includes \$1.5 million for fire safety upgrades at The University of New Mexico-Valencia campus.

If all three bond issues are approved, the property tax year 2020 mill levy has been set at 1.36 mills, the same as the 2018 and 2019 rates, meaning the bonds are not expected to increase property taxes.

The State Board of Finance estimates in a 10-year period,

See Election, Page 8



Call us at 864-4472 news-bulletin.com

INDEX

Table with 3 columns: Category, Page Number, and Page Number. Includes DataBank, Weather, Opinion, Obits, Sports, La Vida, Church Directory, Noticias, and Classifieds.



Advertisement for NUSENDA CREDIT UNION. Text: 'Access Your Accounts - Anytime, Anywhere. Mobile and Internet Banking made simple. nusenda.org/mobile | 505-889-7755 | f t i n'.