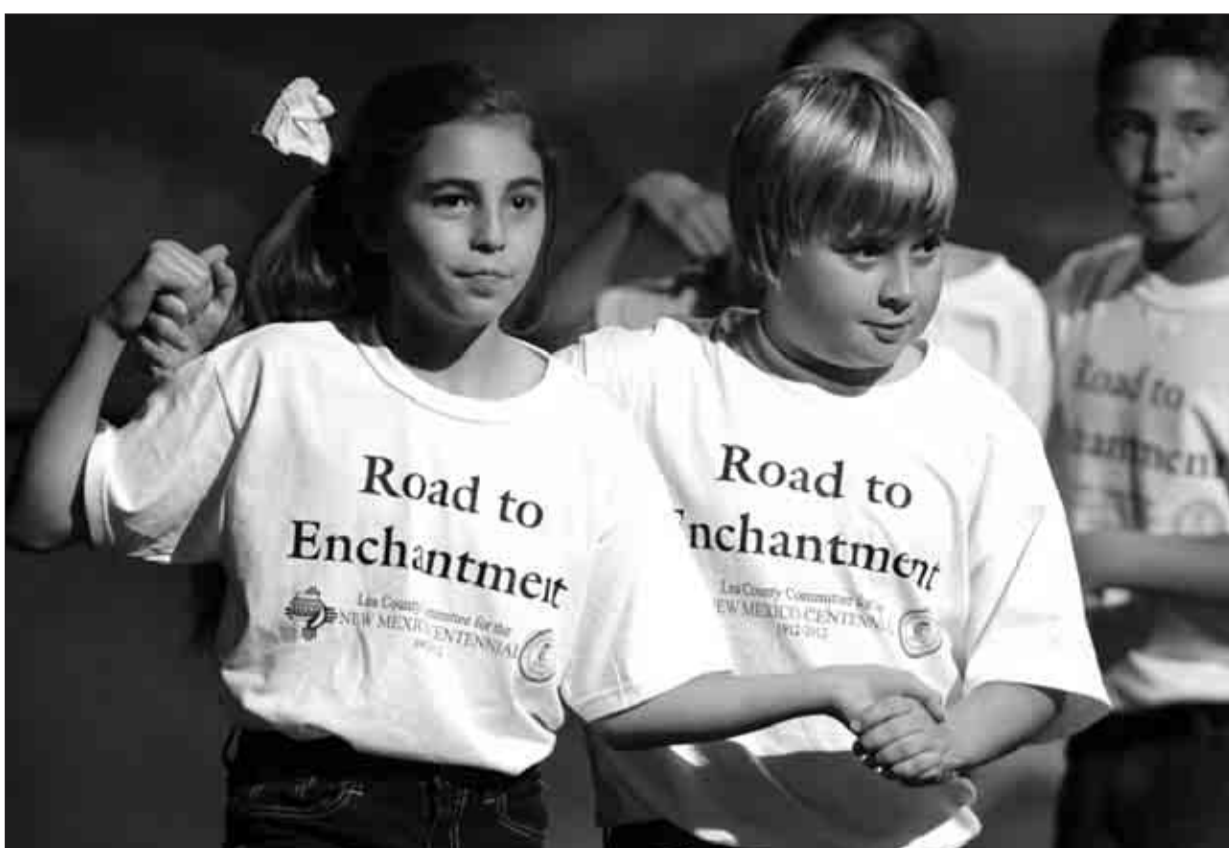


Centennial recognition

Zakaya Bengé and Evan Gray, above, mosey around the stage at New Mexico Junior College while doing the cotton-eyed Joe as part of a centennial celebration of New Mexico dance and music on Friday. Stone Elementary fifth-graders, including those below, spent a week learning about state history and traditions during a workshop given by Maciolek School of Dance. The Road to Enchantment event was the first of several centennial recognitions the school district will perform this school year in honor of New Mexico's 100th birthday.

HOBBS SCHOOLS PHOTO



Senate approves unemployment fix, food stamp money

SANTA FE (AP) — The Senate approved a proposal Friday to shore up the state's unemployment fund without an immediate tax increase for businesses.

The measure will prevent a potentially hefty tax increase on employers in 2012 if Republican Gov. Susana Martinez loses a pending court challenge over a veto of unemployment legislation.

Senators voted 7-3 for a proposal to keep current tax rates in place next year for businesses, but higher premiums would be paid in 2013 to keep the unemployment compensation program from running out of money. Three Republicans opposed the measure.

Before approving the measure, the Senate rejected a Martinez-backed measure that would maintain current tax rates through 2013, but allow borrowing \$70 million from the state's main budget account if necessary to pay unemployment benefits.

The loan would have to be repaid over five years, but with no interest charges. The proposal also would have directed a state panel to develop recommendations for changing the unemployment rate system. The governor objects that the Legislature can override current provisions in law for automatically setting rates based on the fund's balances and the yearly statewide payroll.

Democrats objected to the proposed loan. Taxes on businesses have traditionally covered the cost of unemployment benefits.

"Boy, if we're going to start doing what's happening in

Washington where we're just borrowing, borrowing, borrowing, I think that's a very scary precedent," said Sen. Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe.

Sen. Cisco McSorley, D-Albuquerque, called the proposal the "al-Qaida bill of this session" and said the proposed transfer to the unemployment fund reduce the amount of state money available to spend on public schools.

"This is not like borrowing from a bank. It's like borrowing it from our school kids," McSorley said.

Sen. Steven Neville, R-Aztec, defended the proposal, saying a tax increase would hurt businesses and the economy. He said the proposed transfer might not happen and would take place only if the fund wasn't otherwise able to cover jobless benefits.

Under a current rate schedule, tax payments by a business average \$325 a year for each of its employees. The required contributions vary for each business depending on its history of unemployment claims.

Lottery numbers

- N.M. PICK 3**
3-2-8
- ROADRUNNER CASH**
1-4-5-19-20
- TEXAS PICK 3**
5-2-6 (day); 0-4-4 (night)
- TEXAS DAILY 4**
5-5-7-8 (day); 9-5-3-9 (night)
- CASH FIVE TEXAS**
7-9-22-30-34
- MEGA MILLIONS**
21-27-32-40-52 MB: 36

Obituaries

Gary Dean Flowers

Gary Dean Flowers, 58, of Buchanan Dam, Texas, formerly of Eunice, New Mexico, passed away Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at his residence. He was born October 23, 1952, to C.D. Flowers and Margery Ann (Huddelston) Flowers in Hobbs, New Mexico. He had retired from Conoco

Phillips as Operations Manager for Polar Lights. Gary is preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his mother, Margery Ann Flowers of Hobbs, New Mexico; brothers, Wayne Flowers and wife Phylis of Denton, Texas, and Dickey Flowers of Eunice, New Mexico; sister, Janet Collins and husband Arthur of Eunice, New Mexico; four nieces and one great niece; and many friends the world over who loved him and now miss him. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be made to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, www.aspc.org. A Memorial Service will be held in Eunice, New Mexico, on October 1, 2011 at 10:00 AM, at the First United Methodist Church. A Celebration of Gary's life will be held at his home in Buchanan Dam on October 15, 2011.



Witcher

Rose Witcher. He attended Cowboy Junction Church and was an usher. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. He married Marynell Glasspole. He later married Edwin Ballard, February 4, 1985 in Seminole, Texas.

He is survived by his wife Edwin Witcher of Lovington, New Mexico, two daughters Cheryl Marie Witcher of Hobbs, New Mexico and Charlotte E. Carr and husband Danny of Hobbs, New Mexico, two sons Calvin Witcher and wife Maram of Hobbs, New Mexico and Alvin Witcher of Hobbs, New Mexico, step children are Deborah Sager & husband Frank of Sepio, Oklahoma, Lisa Marie Richardson of McAlister, Oklahoma, Carl Ray Richardson of Indianola, Oklahoma and James Randell Richardson of Lovington, New Mexico, brother Bobby Witcher of Roaring Springs, Texas and sister Georgia Witcher of Roaring Springs, Texas, 17 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.

Online access to registry is www.stevensfuneral.com.

Elmer W. Witcher

A Memorial Service for Elmer W. Witcher, 69, of Lovington, New Mexico will be Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 10:00 AM at Stevens Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Tye Bean and Rev. Ray Poskey officiating. He passed away September 18, 2011 in

Lovington, New Mexico. Services are under the direction of Stevens Funeral Home.

He was born January 25, 1942, in Pernell, Oklahoma to John and Joyce Gilbert. They resided in Hobbs until September, 2009, when they moved to Albuquerque. Leon was a member of Paradise Hills United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. Leon is survived by wife Joyce Joslin of Albuquerque; daughter, Karen Joslin of Hobbs; son Charlie Joslin and wife Kathy of Hobbs; daughter Vicki Miller and husband Alan of Placitas; grandchildren Jennifer Sowers and husband Tom, Andy Lord; great-grandchildren T.J. Sowers and Hazel Lord. The family wishes to thank Academy Heights Assisted Living and Vista Care Hospice staffs for their loving care. Leon will be dearly missed by his family, and they will forever hold his memory in their hearts.

Online access to registry is www.stevensfuneral.com.

Charles Leon Joslin

Charles Leon Joslin, age 84, of Albuquerque formerly of

Hobbs, passed away Friday, September 16, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Leon was born in Waxahachie, TX to Clarence Dwight and Eula Mae Joslin. His talent for football and golf led him to Texas Christian University, where he graduated in 1949 with a B.S. in History. Afterward, he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict, flying B-29 bombers for the Strategic Air Command. He and his first wife, Sara married in 1955. Out of this union, daughter Karen and son Charlie Joslin were born. Sara preceded Leon in death in 1990. Leon worked for K & S Electric for 40 years, after which he spent a great deal of time playing golf. In March of 1992, Leon married Joyce Gilbert. They resided in Hobbs until September, 2009, when they moved to Albuquerque. Leon was a member of Paradise Hills United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. Leon is survived by wife Joyce Joslin of Albuquerque; daughter, Karen Joslin of Hobbs; son Charlie Joslin and wife Kathy of Hobbs; daughter Vicki Miller and husband Alan of Placitas; grandchildren Jennifer Sowers and husband Tom, Andy Lord; great-grandchildren T.J. Sowers and Hazel Lord. The family wishes to thank Academy Heights Assisted Living and Vista Care Hospice staffs for their loving care. Leon will be dearly missed by his family, and they will forever hold his memory in their hearts.

Memorial contributions may be made to Make-a-Wish Foundation, 144 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 or charity of donor's choice.

Condolences may be expressed at dentonwood.com.

Leave condolences at RememberTheirStory.com or www.chapelofhopefunerals.com.

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Michael Wayne Wright "Mike"

Michael Wayne Wright "Mike", 51, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, passed away September 21, 2011 at Covenant Specialty Hospital in Lubbock, Texas.

Visitation will be Sunday, September 25, 2011, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM and will continue, Monday, September 26, 2011 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Denton-Wood Funeral Home, 1001 North Canal Street, Carlsbad, NM.

A Funeral Service is scheduled for Monday, September 26, 2011, 2:00 PM, at Oasis Christian Fellowship, 802 South Main Street, Carlsbad, NM, with Rev. Bill Campbell and Asst. Pastor Gabriel Rubio officiating.

Interment will follow in Carlsbad Cemetery, 1506 Boyd Drive, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Denton-Wood Funeral Home, 575-885-6363, is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Make-a-Wish Foundation, 144 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 or charity of donor's choice.

Condolences may be expressed at dentonwood.com.

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