



## 5 players pivotal to NMSU's defense as the season begins

SPORTS, 1B

# LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025 | LCSUN-NEWS.COM

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Office of Institutional Equity Interim Director Aisha Gutierrez said sexual assault cases remain common at New Mexico State University. Photo taken Aug. 24. DAVID CASTAÑEDA/THE ROUND UP

## Student, NMSU reach \$1M settlement

Lawsuit resulted from 2022 sexual assault

**Jessica Onsurez**  
Las Cruces Sun-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW MEXICO

*Sensitive readers are cautioned that this article contains reports of sexual violence. If you or someone you know experiences sexual violence, you can find local support via La Piñon's 24-Hour Crisis Hotline at 575-526-3437 or go to [www.lapinon.org](http://www.lapinon.org).*

New Mexico State University Board of Regents reached a \$1 million settlement in a lawsuit resulting from a 2022 sexual assault on campus.

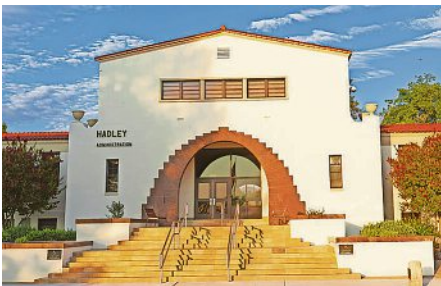
The lawsuit, which named the university's Board of Regents and Aizen Robert Saucedo as defendants, claimed that a female student was sexually assaulted in her dorm room in Juniper Hall by Saucedo, also an NMSU student living in another on-campus dorm, and that the university not only failed to prevent the assault but failed to protect the victim after she reported it.

Elicia Montoya, an attorney with Albuquerque-based McGinn, Montoya, Love, Curry and Sievers representing the woman, said her client hoped the settlement would foster change at NMSU.

"It's never been about the money, but we're hoping that this amount of money sends a message to New Mexico State University, and to all universities, that they need to be held accountable and they need to take reports of sexual assault seriously," Montoya said in an interview with the Las Cruces Sun-News.

The settlement funds are paid and administered by New Mexico's Risk Management Division, and will be placed in a trust account. Amanda

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The \$1 million settlement resulted from a lawsuit accusing the NMSU Board of Regents of failing to protect sexual assault victims. Photo taken Aug. 24. DAVID CASTAÑEDA/THE ROUND UP

## By the numbers: Sexual assault at NMSU

**Elizabeth Anne Andrews**  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Round Up

*This story contains content related to sexual misconduct, which may be distressing to some readers. If you or someone you know is struggling, you can call La Piñon at 575-526-3437. The Office of Institutional Equity also provides resources at <https://equity.nmsu.edu> or 575-646-3635.*

In a \$1 million settlement signed in July 2025, the New Mexico State University Board of Regents agreed to mandate consent training for every student. This settlement effectively dismisses a lawsuit from a 2022 on-campus rape case. The lawsuit named the Board of Regents and Aizen Robert Saucedo as defendants and accused the university of failing to protect the victim. The Round Up does not publish the names of sexual assault victims.

This settlement brings to light the issue of sexual misconduct on campus, something the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) Interim Director Aisha Gutierrez said remains common.

**"We do get a couple cases every semester of student-involved sexual assault that go all the way to hearing. Of course, that's what's being reported."**

**Aisha Gutierrez**, Office of Institutional Equity interim director

"We do get a couple cases every semester of student-involved sexual assault that go all the way to hearing. Of course, that's what's being reported," Gutierrez said.

According to the NMSU Police Department's 2021 Annual Security Report, reports of rape peaked in 2018. In October 2019, The Round Up reported 12 rapes were reported in 2018 – four times the number in 2017.

The 2021 Annual Security Report shows in 2019, seven rapes were reported. According to the 2023 Annual Security Report, four rapes were reported in 2020, two were reported in 2021, and seven were reported in 2022. The 2024 Annual Security Report records in 2023, two on-campus rapes were reported.

Due to changes in reporting, there are some differences between the number of rapes reported in the Annual Security Reports for 2021 and 2023 compared to the number of criminal sexual offenses reported in the Daily Crime Logs for those years. The Annual Security Reports for both 2021 and 2023 record two rape cases. The Daily Crime logs for 2021 and 2023 show four cases of criminal sexual penetration and one case of criminal sexual contact in both years. Police Chief Justin Dunivan attributed this to "the classification related to our changes with NIBRs and UCR reporting." NIBRS refers to the National Incident Based

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The Hatch Chile Festival is scheduled for Aug. 30 and Aug. 31 in the Village of Hatch, New Mexico.

JAIME GUZMAN/LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

## Hatch Chile Festival kicks off Aug. 30

**Jessica Onsurez**  
Las Cruces Sun-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW MEXICO

It's green chile time! The Hatch Chile Festival is coming fast, and has a line up of fun, family-friendly events.

The festival was first established in 1971 – the festival's 53rd year – and according to its website draws thousands of visitors every year to southern New Mexico.

*Here's what to know before you go to the festival.*

**When is the Hatch Chile Festival?**

The Hatch Chile Festival is scheduled for Aug. 30 and Aug. 31, 2025 in the Village of Hatch, New Mexico.

**Visit vendors, take in entertainment**

Dozens of vendors will be at the Hatch Chile Festival to offer a shopping experience to visitors.

Among the listed vendors are several food and drink providers, including El

Amore food truck, El Sazon de Maria, Enchanted Honey & Kettle Corn, Big Blue Kitchen and Chuck Wagon Old Soda.

Mi Abuelita's Biscochitos and Nana's Jellies will also be on hand for those with a sweet tooth.

**Catch the Hatch Chile parade**

At 9 a.m. on Aug. 30 the Hatch Chile Festival Parade will roll through the

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Volume 145 | Issue 120  
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