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SPORTS, 1B

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Patricia S. Kimble appointed to Doña Ana County Commission

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

Patricia S. Kimble will fill the vacant District 3 seat on the Doña Ana County Board of County Commissioners following an appointment by New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham.

District 3 consists of southeastern Doña Ana County including Las Alturas, Telshor, Foothills, the Talavera, and University Hills neighborhoods, NMSU, White Sands Missile Range, Fort Bliss (in

Doña Ana County), Chaparral and Tortugas.

"Doña Ana County is managing rapid growth in Santa Teresa, addressing infrastructure needs, and ensuring every resident has access to quality services," said Lujan Grisham. "Susie's track record in collaborative problem-solving makes her the right choice to help the county navigate these opportunities and challenges."

Kimble, founder of the Doña Ana County Behavioral Health Local Collaborative and current employee of the Me-

silla Valley Hospital, said she was "honored" by the appointment.

"The county is at a pivotal moment. Continuing economic expansion and development in Santa Teresa brings opportunities and challenges. I look forward to bringing my experience in fiscal oversight and building effective partnerships to help Doña Ana County meet these opportunities head-on," Kimble said in a statement.

The seat was vacant following the

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A sign marks an entrance to the Doña Ana County Government Center parking lot, 845 N. Motel Blvd., on Dec. 12, 2017.

DIANA ALBA SOULAR/SUN-NEWS



An aerial view shows the U.S.-Mexico border from downtown El Paso, Texas. President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to launch military strikes on cartel-linked land targets in Mexico. PAUL RATJE/REUTERS FILE

FAA briefly closes airspace over southwest Texas

Official says cartel drones were disabled

Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Jeff Abbott
USA TODAY

EL PASO, TX - The airspace over the international airport in El Paso, Texas, was briefly closed on Feb. 11 after the Pentagon disabled drones controlled by Mexican cartels that breached U.S. airspace, according to an administration official.

The military took action to disable the drones, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The FAA and DOW acted swiftly to address a cartel drone incursion," Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on X, citing the acronyms for the Federal Aviation Administration and for the Department of War, the Trump administration's new name for the Department of Defense.

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Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said there is no danger to commercial travel at the El Paso International Airport in Texas. JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ/REUTERS

Lawsuit alleges Project Jupiter vote violated Open Meetings Act

Joshua Bowling
Source New Mexico

A new lawsuit accuses Doña Ana county leaders of violating the New Mexico Open Meetings Act in September before they approved \$165 billion in bonds for the data center campus Project Jupiter.

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center filed the legal challenge on Friday and accuse elected leaders of "abruptly" pausing the testy September public hearing on Project Jupiter to go into a closed-door session "without providing reasonable specificity as to the subject matter to be discussed."

The Open Meetings Act is one of New Mexico's "sunshine laws" aimed at making government business occur in the public's view. The law prohibits elected leaders from setting policy or taking votes during closed sessions.

"The sunshine laws in our state, like the Open Meetings Act, exist to ensure that when public government bodies make decisions that stand to impact communities' health, safety, environment, and lives," New Mexico Environmental Law Center staff attorney Kacey Hovden said in a statement. "These decisions are made in the public eye where community members have the opportunity to meaningfully participate and inform the outcome of their futures."

Friday's filing marks the second New Mexico Environmental Law Center lawsuit against the project. The other, filed in October, accused county commissioners of voting on an incomplete application when they approved the \$165 billion in bonds for the development.

The county commission chair and a Project Jupiter spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment.

Critics of Project Jupiter for months have expressed concerns over its plans to use drinking water from a nearby troubled utility and to build natural gas plants to power its data processing.

Plans for Project Jupiter say its energy will come from a gas-powered "microgrid" - a self-reliant energy source that doesn't draw from an existing utility's grid. Lawmakers have disagreed over whether a last-minute floor amendment to a 2025 law on grid

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