

# SILVER CITY DAILY PRESS

AND INDEPENDENT

## Better management called for as wolves numbers increase

By JUNO OGLE  
Daily Press Staff

While the numbers of Mexican gray wolves again increased in 2025, both conservationists and a Catron County rancher say not enough is being done to manage the species — although each group cited different reasons.

Last month, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

and the Arizona Game and Fish Department announced the annual population count was at least 319 wolves in the two states, an increase of 33 from the 2024 count.

The joint press release noted that number brings the Mexican gray wolf recovery program closer to a point that would

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# Ticket Punched

### Mustangs invited to NCAA Division II national tournament

The Western New Mexico University Mustangs will be playing in the NCAA Division II national tournament.

Sixty-four teams received invitations to play in the tournament, which gets underway Saturday.

“This is a historic moment for our university,” WNMU interim Athletic Director Matt Enriquez said. “For the first time in program history, our men’s team is headed to the NCAA tournament. This moment reflects the hard work of our student-athletes, the leadership of our coaching staff, and unwavering support of our community, university and fans.”

“I am incredibly proud of our players and coaches for what they have accomplished and excited to watch them repre-

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(Daily Press File Photo) Western’s Andre Harris went up and blocked this dunk attempt by a Sul Ross player during action on Drag’s Court during Lone Star Conference play earlier this season. The Mustangs, 25-7 overall, will be playing in the NCAA Division II, 64-team national tournament at the South Central Region. Western will be the fourth seed in the region and will face No. 5 St. Edward’s at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at the Berg Center in Dallas, Texas.

## New literacy bill SB 37 holds schools accountable for reading instruction

By MIKAELA JOHNSON  
Daily Press Correspondent

A bill mandating evidence-based reading instruction was signed into law Monday by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. The measure codifies literacy standards in New Mexico schools, including dyslexia screenings, parent notification

of students’ struggles, strengthening educator preparation programs and allocating around \$14 million of the state’s budget to provide low-performing schools with literacy coaches.

The passage came after the governor took to social media, urging New Mexicans to call their representatives in support of SB 37. The

bill passed both the Senate and the House unanimously.

“New Mexico has boosted student reading proficiency significantly over the past four years and this literacy initiative will accelerate that progress,” Lujan Grisham said in a press release.

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## Sheriff seeks hit-and-run driver

The Grant County Sheriff’s Office is asking for the public’s help in identifying the driver involved in a hit-and-run crash that occurred early Friday morning.

According to a press release

and the weekly activity report from the Sheriff’s Office, a man was struck by a vehicle at about 1 a.m. while walking on U.S. 180 between Bayard and Hurley around mile marker 125. The man was severely

injured and transported to a hospital out of the area, and his condition is not known.

Debris recovered at the scene indicates the man was

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