New Mexico highlights support for family caregivers — Page W2

Snell, Cobre High move up on state list for replacement

By RALEIGH BURLEIGH
Daily Press Correspondent

The Cobre Consolidated Schools Board of Education met at Central Elementary School in Santa Clara on Monday for their regular monthly meeting — which ran for close to five hours, including an executive session closed to the public.

The meeting began with a celebration of Kiwanis Students of the Month: Zailani Ogas of C.C. Snell Middle School and Eden Araiza of Cobre High School. Gabrielle Begay, who resigned from the board earlier this month, was also recognized for her dedication in serving on the school board these past five years.

"Cobre is also where my teaching career began, and that will always hold a special place in my heart," Begay said after the recognition. "When I look back on my time in the district, first as an educator and then as a board member, one of the things I value most is the opportunity to build relationships, work alongside others and be a part of a community that cares deeply about its children."

With Begay having resigned from her position, the board has until Dec. 16 to fill the vacancy. They decided later in the meeting that applications will be accepted through Dec. 9, and a new member will be sworn in during a Dec. 14 meeting.

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SILVER CITY DAILY PRESS
AND INDEPENDENT



(Source N.M. Photo by Matt Mondschein)

Democratic state Sen. Linda Lopez of Albuquerque joins education advocates Tuesday to voice their opposition to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's decision to opt in to the Trump administration's Federal Scholarship Tax Credit.

New Mexico leaders oppose new federal education tax credit

By MATT MONDSCHEIN
Source New Mexico

New Mexico education advocates, teachers union representatives and a state lawmaker on Tuesday held a news conference to decry the state's participation in a controversial federal education tax credit.

The Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program, established in President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act enacted last year, allows eligible taxpayers to receive a federal tax credit of up to $1,700 annually for charitable contributions to qualified nonprofit "scholarship granting organizations." Those organizations then award scholarships to eligible K-12 students in public and nonpublic schools to cover qualified educational expenses. States can opt in to the program, which takes effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

Earlier this month, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced that New Mexico would become the 32nd state to participate, saying in a statement that at a "time of diminishing federal investment in education, New Mexico must take advantage of every dollar we can to bolster public education and continue our state's upward trajectory in literacy and student achievement."

CREDIT Page W6



(Photo by Aaron Rogers for the Daily Press)

One of the new owners, Madison Vasquez, works with barista Emily Bjorklund (foreground) to fill orders at Javalina, located at 117 W. Market St. in Silver City.

Locals link up to take over longtime coffee house

By AARON ROGERS
Daily Press Correspondent

Many people who've worked for a small business have found themselves thinking that if they owned the place, they know what they would do to make it even better — and a couple of lifelong Grant County residents are now in the process of realizing that dream at Javalina Coffee House.

"Bethany and I both worked here with Sam [Aliban, the previous owner]," said new owner Madison Vasquez, who teamed up with Bethany Stailey and her husband, Trenton, to take over the business. "I worked here for three years, and I'm pretty sure Bethany worked here a little longer. I left about three years ago. We took over on November 1, and we officially reopened on Monday."

"My wife saw Sam post a vlog on Facebook that mentioned the possibility of selling," Trenton said. "I knew that Madison and my wife had talked about owning it someday, kind of as a joke."

"It was a little bit of a dream, and we would say, 'Oh, maybe one day, if we owned this place, we could do so much with it,'" Vasquez added.

"I told her, 'The answer's always no if you don't ask,'" Bethany said. "So we asked, and the answer was maybe not right, but certainly doable."

The three partners have already redesigned the interior and patio area of the shop to open up the space some, and they said they have more ideas in mind.

"We want to make it a hangout place," Bethany said. "There's not a lot of places for people to hang out anymore. We have tossed around the ideas of having after-hours specials, game nights, live music — just trying to bring a little bit of community back to Silver City, a place where college kids can come and use the internet and drink some coffee to get some schoolwork done."

As for the product, they plan to stick to some of the staples that have kept Javalina a downtown business for decades.

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