

## Making wrestling history

Bloomfield High School looks to Caylee Miller and Bryce Lance to add to the Bobcat legacy. **Page 15A**



CURTIS RAY BENALLY/Special to the Tri-City Record

## Chamber music lovers may rejoice

'A Viennese Soirée' to take place on Sunday in Roshong Recital Hall at Fort Lewis College. **Page 12A**



Courtesy of Judith Reynolds

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### NEW MEXICO

# Judge: Federal prosecutor can't say that he's 'acting'

## Trump has not officially submitted Ellison for Senate confirmation

BY PATRICK LOHMANN  
SOURCE NM

A judge ruled this week that Ryan Ellison, the federal prosecutor leading New Mexico's United States Attorney's Office, could no longer legally call himself the "acting" United States Attorney, saying Attorney General Pam Bondi acted outside the scope of the

law when she designated him as such last August.

But David Nuffer, a United State district judge in Utah, in a 53-page ruling Wednesday stopped short of declaring invalid all of the actions Ellison has taken since August. A group of defense attorneys argued in court that Ellison's indictments against some clients had no force of law because the

person who made them was acting illegally.

Defense attorneys, including from the Office of the Federal Public Defender, representing clients in 19 criminal cases all filed similar motions last year challenging Ellison's authority. A spokesperson for the office did not immediately respond to Source New Mexico's request for comment.

The lawsuit centers around a sequence of events in mid-August in which Ellison officially resigned as "interim" U.S. Attorney before Bondi named

him "first assistant" and then immediately after "acting" U.S. Attorney. Defense attorneys said the maneuver undermined Congressional authority to confirm permanent appointees and laws governing who can and can't fill vacant federal offices.

Because President Donald Trump has not officially submitted Ellison for Senate confirmation, Ellison's official status and title as head of the office have remained precarious for more than a year. He is one of

See **JUDGE 3A**



DEBRA MAYEUX/Tri-City Record

## New Mexico birding not a wild goose chase

A Canada goose prepares to fly in the Animas River the afternoon of Jan. 9 in Berg Park. **Page 4A**