

10 inspired Olympic moments

Alysa Liu wins the crowd and the first U.S. gold in skating in 24 years with a joy-filled performance in Italy. **Page 8A**



The Associated Press

What happens when you make animal heroes

Real ecosystems don't have heroes and villains. Rather, their role and influence in system can shift. **Page 10A**



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NEW MEXICO

Tribes, plaintiffs urge judge to reject education plan

Nearly all 23 tribes in New Mexico have formally objected to it

BY BELLA DAVIS
NEW MEXICO IN DEPTH

The Public Education Department should throw out its court-ordered plan for remedying inequities in how the majority of public school students in New Mexico are educated and start over. That's what the plaintiffs in the long-running Yazzie/Martinez case told a state judge last week.

They're asking the court to order PED to consult with

experts in Native education, school finance, and other fields, along with tribal governments, to craft a new plan.

Almost all 23 tribes in New Mexico have also formally objected to PED's plan, in resolutions and in letters sent to the judge. The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representing the 19 Pueblos in the state, wrote that the agency did not consult them about it.

In a Wednesday email to New Mexico In Depth, PED spokes-

person Martha Pincoffs wrote the agency "rejects the premise that progress is stagnant" and that the plan is insufficient. The plan "builds on measurable momentum already underway," Pincoffs wrote, pointing to investments in structured literacy that have "driven the highest literacy growth in New Mexico's history" and legislative efforts to "achieve similar progress for math and special education."

The plaintiffs, in a 53-page

document outlining their objections, argue the plan "provides no credible basis to conclude" that New Mexico "will ever remedy the constitutional violations or extensive deficiencies" identified eight years ago.

The 190-page plan, submitted by the agency in November, doesn't adequately tailor programs to each of the four student groups recognized as "at risk" in the case and doesn't

See **TRIBES, 3A**



JON AUSTRIA/Special to The Tri-City Record

It's championship night

Farmington High's girls basketball team reacts as they pull ahead against Rio Rancho during the fourth quarter at Rio Rancho High School on Jan. 20. Farmington will host Rio Rancho for the district title tonight. In tonight's other championship games, Kirtland Central will host Gallup, and Navajo Prep will host Tohatchi. **Pages 15-16A.**