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FRIDAY
February 20, 2004

North

EDITION

Same-Sex Nuptials

Sandoval County To Allow Marriages

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Sanchez Invitation Pulled

Sex Allegations Against Former Archbishop Cited

PAGE A 1

HOLLYWOOD of the Southwest

Pork Bill Includes \$10 Million for Film Center



KATHARINE KIMBALL/JOURNAL

Paula Martinez, a staff member for the House minority leadership, carries away notebooks from the House chambers after the legislative session wrapped up Thursday.

BY JOHN ARNOLD
AND WREN PROPP
Journal Staff Writers

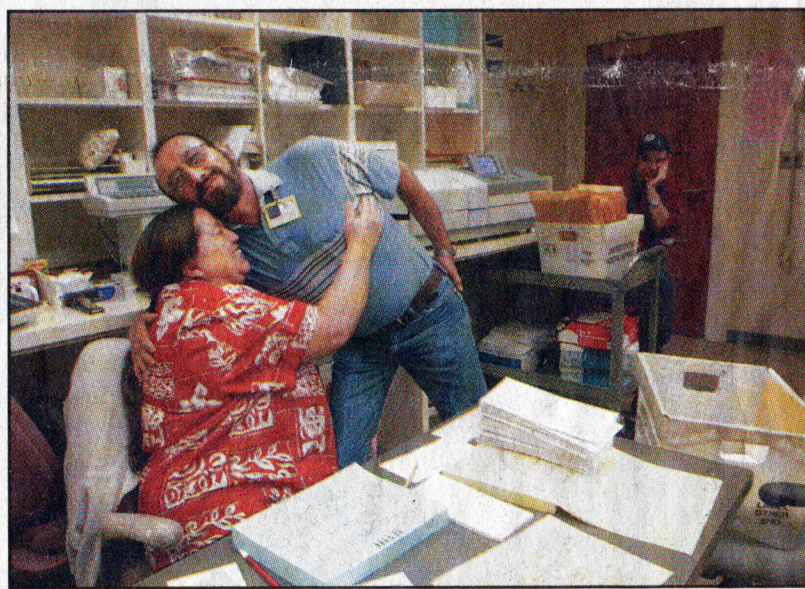
The list of \$325 million in capital improvement projects approved by the Legislature on Thursday includes a \$10 million boost for the state's burgeoning film industry — and, apparently, for Santa Fe.

The so-called "pork" bill includes \$10 million for a film education and training center in Santa Fe. The money would come from the state's general fund.

In his State of the State address last month, Richardson said he wanted to allocate \$10 million to "design, plan and build a film training institute, to train New Mexicans in every facet of film production."

At the time, Richardson offered few details about the plan but did say he had approached actor Robert Redford about his possible involvement. He also mentioned that the University of New Mexico might be involved in the training center.

According to the capital outlay bill, which now goes to the governor for his sig-



Mail clerk Patricio A. Garcia leans over to embrace Viola M. Maes, assistant supervisor of the bill room, before his departure at the end of the legislative session Thursday. José A. Vigil, bill room clerk, is in the background.

nature, the \$10 million would be distributed in Santa Fe. But a Richardson spokesman could not provide further details Thursday afternoon.

Santa Fe also had some other big scores in the capital outlay bill. It calls for \$4.6 million for Santa Fe's Downtown Railyard project, plus \$300,000 for the Santa Fe Farmers Market, a long-time Railyard tenant.

Also, more than \$1 million is designated for construction of a new southside library, \$3 million for the new New Mexico History Museum planned behind the Palace of the Governors and \$1.2 million for the Institute of American Indian Arts Lifelong Learning Center.

The bill also includes \$275,000 for restoration of old Oscar Huber Memorial Ballpark in Madrid.

At least four or five groups in Santa Fe are vying to get the planned film center, according to Jon Bowman, executive director of the Santa Fe Film Festival and a member of the Governor's Film Advisory Board.

Universities and colleges, including the Santa Fe Community College, are interested in bidding on it, he

See **FILM** on **PAGE 4**

Legislature
2004

Food tax axed

Tired lawmakers bemoan "overloaded" agenda
A1

Lodgers tax

Approved measure provides funds for new convention center
Page 2



COURTESY PHOTO

A Georgia-based aircraft manufacturer and a company that handles business interests for San Juan Pueblo are exploring the idea of building a factory in the Española Valley that would assemble these twin-engine, turbo-prop planes.

Aircraft Builder Eyes Pueblo

Firms Would Build Factory

BY ANDY LENDERMAN
Journal Staff Writer

If investors find \$11 million, a freight airplane factory could be located in the Española Valley on San Juan Pueblo later this year, supporters of the idea say.

The assembly plant could someday employ as many as 1,100 people, supporters say, and provide a major industry for northern New Mexico.

TSAY Corporation and American Utilicraft Corp. of Lawrenceville, Ga., have announced a formal agreement to work together on the idea, called a memorandum of understanding.

"The MOU is a commitment on our part... to attempt to get

the financing to build an 80,000-square-foot assembly facility adjacent to our airport," said Ron Lovato, chief executive officer of TSAY. TSAY manages business interests for San Juan Pueblo.

The twin-engine, turbo-prop planes would transport smaller packages to factories that need parts quickly and are unable to wait for truck shipments, company president John Dupont said Thursday, citing an example of how the aircraft would be used.

"We intend to take the next 60 days to put the final negotiations together," Dupont said by telephone.

TSAY will seek a loan from the state Finance Authority, Lovato said.

"It's worth noting that we're not undertaking this alone," Lovato said. "We're in collabo-

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Man Indicted In Casino Worker's Death

BY ANDY LENDERMAN
Journal Staff Writer

Sara Atencio got the call on Thursday afternoon — Derrick Lane of La Madera had been charged with murder in connection with the October death of her close friend, Ariana Rendon.

"Oh, thank God," Atencio said. "... That's really good news. Made my day."

Lane, 20, was charged by a Rio Arriba County grand jury Thursday with murder, two counts of criminal sexual penetration, kidnapping, tampering

with evidence and arson, according to State Police Agent Miguel Aguilar.

Aguilar served an arrest warrant on Lane on Thursday. Lane was already in jail at the Rio Arriba County Detention Center in Tierra Amarilla, where he's been held since November on a probation violation, Aguilar said.

Aguilar declined to elaborate on the case, and the local district attorney who handled the matter could not immediately be reached.

Rendon was discovered by

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- SPORTS 6



COURTESY PHOTO

This is an image from "Touched," Laurel Chiten's documentary about alien contact, which has proved popular in Santa Fe.

ET's No Alien to Abducted Santa Feans

■ Hands shoot up when documentary film audience asked about other-worldly contacts

BY WREN PROPP
Journal Staff Writer

Count alien abduction as yet another way the capital city upholds its rep as the City Different.

Massachusetts filmmaker Laurel Chiten said she was "blown away" in December when maybe as much as

half of a standing-room-only Santa Fe audience who saw her film "Touched" raised their hands to say they'd had personal interaction with aliens from other worlds.

"Touched" is a documentary about people who say they have experienced alien abduction and contact. It was screened at the Santa Fe Film Festival in December with sold-out showings.

"I was kind of blown away. . . The film really found its audience" in Santa Fe, said Chiten in a telephone interview from California.

Chiten and Dr. John E. Mack, a Harvard University psychiatrist and researcher of those he calls "experiencers" — folks who report missing time, probes, sperm extraction, impregnation and hybridization experiments after contact with aliens — plan to be in Santa Fe on Tuesday and Albuquerque on Wednesday for additional screenings of the film.

Santa Fe's reputation as a place for people to heal — with alternative medical practices, lifestyles and reli-

See **ET'S** on **PAGE 2**



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Taos Judge Cracks Down on Parking Fines

Offenders Are Being Arrested

By KATHRYN HOLZKA
For the Journal

TAOS — Seventeen people — including a father, a mother and their 22-year-old daughter — were arrested and brought to Municipal Court in handcuffs Thursday in a crackdown on those who don't pay their parking citations.

According to Taos Municipal Judge Richard Chavez, the court estimates there is around \$200,000 outstanding in unpaid fines.

Thursday's action netted the court about \$3,500, Chavez said.

"I try to be lenient and help people when I can, but enough is enough," Chavez said Thursday afternoon in chambers after a busy day of processing the offenders, some of whom he said had between 200 and 300 unpaid parking tickets.

Chavez said one man, whom he would identify only as a Ranchos de Taos resident, had



CHAVEZ: 'I try to be lenient, but enough is enough'

unpaid fines dating back to 1995 and had been brought in on arrest warrants twice before, promising each time to pay off the \$492 he owed in fines and late charges.

"Of course, as soon as he got out of court, he forgot his promises," Chavez said. "Today, he also said he didn't have the money but would pay the court \$10 or \$15 a month, but I wasn't buying it this time. I sentenced him to 12 days in jail, and guess what? He asked to make a phone call, and within 30 minutes, a relative showed up with the money."

Taos Police Chief Neil Curran said the police department ran public service announcements on local radio stations

for three days prior to the roundup to alert those with unpaid tickets that they could avoid arrest on the warrants if they came in voluntarily and paid their fines.

He said the department plans to do similar roundups in the future because of the success of Thursday's action, which was organized by patrolman Fidel Cordova and carried out by a 16-member task force comprised of law enforcement personnel from the Taos Police Department, the Taos Pueblo Tribal Police, the Taos County Sheriff's Department and the State Police.

Both Curran and Chavez said unpaid parking fines tend to accumulate because manpow-

er limitations make executing arrest warrants in those cases a low priority.

"But we are now putting the public on notice that they can be arrested if they fail to pay the fines," Curran said. "The fact that some 35 people came in voluntarily to pay what they owed the court between Monday and even (Thursday) while we were serving the warrants is encouraging."

Chavez said that statistically, half of those cited pay their parking fines on time, while half just ignore them.

"But I think the group who got arrested today and hauled into court will spread the word that it is better to pay up than try to get away with it," he said.

"We are now putting the public on notice that they can be arrested if they fail to pay the fines."

TAOS POLICE CHIEF
NEIL CURRAN

Lodgers Tax Measure Passes

Bill Funds New Convention Center

By JOHN ARNOLD
Journal Staff Writer

The state Legislature has approved a measure that would allow the Santa Fe City Council to raise the lodgers tax. Revenues generated by the increase would be used to help build and operate a new \$37 million convention center.

Under the bill, SB 236, the

City Council could enact an ordinance raising the tax from 6 percent to 7 percent on hotel room rates.

"It gives (the City Council) something to continue their plans and not be concerned with a lack of money," said Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela, D-Santa Fe, who sponsored the House version of the



bill. Sen. Phil Griego, D-San Jose, sponsored the Senate version.

Lodgers tax revenues are earmarked for specific uses — for example, operation and maintenance of the existing Sweeney Convention Center and tourism-related advertising.

Last October, city councilors raised the lodgers tax from 5 percent to 6 percent. That increase, along with the one proposed in the legislation, would be used specifically for

funding construction and operation of a new convention center.

"(A new convention center) is a big missing piece of our tourism infrastructure," said Councilor David Pfeffer, who supported Griego's bill. "This (legislation) is going to make it feasible."

The City Council has yet to agree on a design for the new civic center and has put off discussions on the issue until after the March municipal elections.

Aircraft Builder Eyes San Juan

from PAGE 1

ration with the city of Española on this. It's a huge endeavor, but it's something that this valley has never seen before. And what I mean is industry, private sector, good-paying jobs."

The state's secretary of Economic Development has been heavily involved in bringing the two companies together.

"I think this has great potential," Secretary Rick Homans said Thursday. "It's great to

have a company like this looking at New Mexico, and we will do everything that we can to assist the pueblo in making a very serious investment decision."

Dupont said his company has a purchase order for 36 planes from WSI Hong Kong, LTD. That company would resell the planes, he said.

"We're in the process of negotiating the distributorship agreement" with WSI Hong Kong, Dupont said.

Dupont said his company was founded in 1990. It's based in the metropolitan Atlanta area and is publicly traded. Today, it has about 25 employees and outsources with 18 manufacturing partners, Dupont said.

He said he met New Mexico's economic development officials at a trade show in October.

"They told us that they are developing aircraft manufacturing in their state, and they said that they could be actively involved in helping us with the

financing of the company, and that was very intriguing," Dupont said. "And they've lived up to their statement."

Homans said American Utilcraft officials have met with Gov. Bill Richardson about the idea.

"It's a first step," Homans said of the two companies working together. "And it's a significant first step. There are many more steps that we will have to go through, together."

ET's No Alien to Abducted Santa Feans

from PAGE 1

gious rituals — makes it prime stomping grounds for those who believe they have made alien connections, said Jon Bowman, executive director of the film festival.

"A lot of people come here to lick their wounds. It's kind of a way station, a crossroads," Bowman said.

And New Mexico's long-standing reports of crashing flying saucers from Roswell to Aztec and years of cattle mutilations provide fertile soil for those who would also be interested in "Touched," he said.

"It goes with the territory," Bowman said.

After a screening of "Touched" in Santa Fe in December, audience members talked about their own experiences, Chiten said.

Unlike discussions after other screenings elsewhere, the Santa Feans didn't argue about the existence of aliens or the possibility of mental illness on the part of abductees, she said.

"This audience asked questions about the phenomenon and broke into a discussion with each other, sharing their experiences," Chiten said.

When someone in the audience asked how many people at



CHITEN: Her film on alien contacts 'found its audience' in Santa Fe



MACK: Santa Feans 'might be more open spirited instead of digging in their heels'

the theater had experienced contact with aliens, about half raised their hands, Chiten said.

"I was shocked," she said. Mack, who calls those who have reported contact with aliens "experiencers," said that perhaps those drawn to Santa Fe are also drawn to experiences sent out from other dimensions.

"I would guess that the people in Santa Fe would be different from those in New York," he said in a telephone interview from the East Coast. "They might be more open spirited instead of digging in their heels."

Mack earned a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of T.E. Lawrence titled "A Prince of

Get 'Touched' Again

In encore events sponsored by the Santa Fe Film Festival, "Touched" will be shown at The Screen at the College of Santa Fe, 1600 St. Michael's Drive, at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Another showing, along with appearances by director Laurel Chiten and Dr. John E. Mack, is at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Madstone Theaters in Albuquerque, 6311 San Mateo Blvd. NE. Tickets for both showings are \$10 and available at the door. More information is available by calling the festival at 988-5225.

Our Disorder: The Life of T.E. Lawrence," whose life was explored in the film "Lawrence of Arabia."

The kind of discussion reported by Chiten in Santa Fe sounds similar to the kind of discussion Mack hopes the film will generate worldwide.

The film "avoids the rather sterile debate" over whether alien contact can be proved," he said.

Viewers "can't help feel these are authentic individuals. ... The film goes to the heart," Mack said.

He considers the film a conversation "provoker" that really gets people thinking and talking.

"I think it's a very effective educational tool," Mack said.

Mack has interviewed more than 200 "experiencers" and written essays and books on the subject. He also persuaded Chiten that she needed to investigate the "experiencers."

"John Mack abducted me," Chiten said jokingly.

Mack sought her out after hearing her speak. Chiten, whose credits include "The Jew in the Lotus" — about eight Jews who traveled to India to visit the Dalai Lama in 1990 — and "Twitch and Shout" — about people living with Tourette Syndrome — isn't completely convinced that those she filmed for "Touched" were actually abducted by aliens.

However, Mack and the people she met through him impressed her enough to make a film about their experiences.

"Their stories really blew me away," she said.

Weather

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SANTA FE FORECAST

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
50/25 Partly cloudy	47/25 Mostly cloudy	45/28 Partly sunny	45/25 Mostly cloudy	48/26 Mostly cloudy

Partly cloudy skies and seasonable today. Highs near 50. Mostly cloudy skies and cold overnight. Lows, mid-20s. Partly to mostly cloudy and cooler Sat-

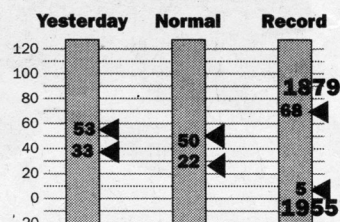
urday and Sunday. Highs in the mid- to upper 40s. Mostly cloudy skies and continued cool Monday and Tuesday. Highs in the mid- to upper 40s.

YESTERDAY

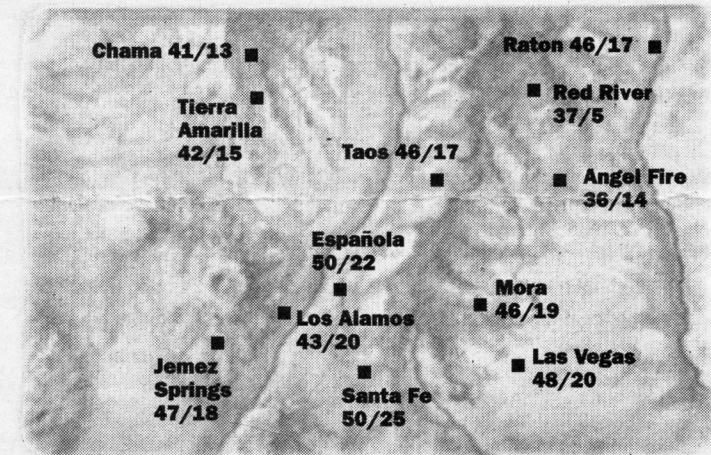
PRECIPITATION

	Thurs.	Month	Year
Total	trace	0.07	0.38
Normal	0.02	0.32	0.92
Change	-0.02	-0.25	-0.54

TEMPERATURE



TODAY'S TEMPERATURES



SKI CONDITIONS

Angel Fire	28"-28"	Purgatory	50"-58"	Steamboat	58"-62"
Chama	45"-60"	Red River	48"-56"	Taos	65"-73"
Copper Mtn.	38"-48"	Sandia	30"-30"	Telluride	54"-56"
Crested Butte	41"-50"	Santa Fe	54"-54"	Wolf Creek	101"-109"
Enchanted Forest	26"-36"	Sipapu	26"-48"		
Pajarito	20"-48"	Ski Apache	40"-40"		

Man Indicted In Casino Worker's Death

from PAGE 1

State Police south of Ojo Caliente on Oct. 29, on U.S. Bureau of Land Management property.

She suffered blunt force trauma to the head, court records show.

Rendon and Lane were seen together early on Oct. 29 at Club Tropicana in Española.

Police later interviewed a witness who said they last saw Rendon in a black Ford Aerostar minivan, driven by a man.

Also on Oct. 29, the van was located by the Española Police Department and the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department in La Puebla, a village between Española and Chimayó. It had been burned and was on its way to a junk yard for storage, according to previously filed court records.



RENDON: Body found on Oct. 29

Near Ojo Caliente, police located "a ring located near the body, tire impressions, shoe impressions, blood and several empty beer cans and bottles," according to a previously filed search warrant affidavit.

On Oct. 30, police located a bloody tire iron and what they believe to be Rendon's clothing at a rest stop on U.S. 285, at milepost 337.

The 25-year-old casino worker was from the village of Dixon. She worked as a slot machine attendant at Ohkay Casino on San Juan Pueblo.

Last October, Atencio said Rendon was like a daughter to her.

"She was a good girl," Atencio said. "She was responsible, and she was beautiful."

Lane was charged in 2001 and 2002 in separate cases with auto theft, drug possession, aggravated battery on a household member and resisting an officer, court records show.

He pleaded not guilty to those charges.

EDUCATION IN BRIEF

Journal Staff Reports

Schools Seeking Help With Gap

The Strategic Issues Advisory Team of the Santa Fe Public Schools will meet Tuesday to explore how community members can be partners in closing the district's achievement gap.

The topic of the SIAT meeting is "Involving the Community in Closing the Achievement Gap" at 4-6:45 p.m. at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center.

The meeting is open to teachers, administrators, students, parents and interested community members.

For more information, call 467-2028.

Author To Read From New Novel

The College of Santa Fe Reading Series will present novelist and nonfiction writer Randall Kenan on March 8.

Kenan will read from his novel-in-progress, "The Fire and the Baptism," about a kidnapping in 1970 committed by a group of whimsical political activists in North Carolina.

His collection of stories, "Let the Dead Bury Their Dead," was published in 1992 by Harcourt Brace and was nominated for the Los Angeles Times Book Award for Fiction.

The collection was also a finalist from the National Book Critics Circle Award and was among The New York Times Notable Books of 1992. The reading starts at 7 p.m.

in Tipton Hall. Admission is \$2. For more information, call 473-6502.

Atalaya Students Headed to D.C.

Nine Atalaya Elementary students have been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum.

These sixth-graders will join a select group of students in Washington, D.C., March 22-28, to earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of our nation's most prominent monuments and institutions.

Bridgette Butler, Quinn Butler, Kenny Welch, Calloway Bastien, Marcus Baron, James Clements, Everett Shipp, Sydney Marts and Ari Liljenwall were nominated for the honor by their teacher,

Muriel Lawler, based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

Free Hearing Tests at SFCC

Santa Fe Community College will host a free hearing screening on March 3.

Certified audiologists from Southwestern Ear, Nose & Throat in Santa Fe will provide the screenings 9:30-11:30 a.m. in SFCC's William C. Witter Fitness Education Center.

Each screening takes about 10 minutes and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The screenings are provided as a free community service by the community college's Wellness Center.