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Timing pivotal for clot-busting drug

Medicine can save stroke patients from death or disabilities, but it needs to be administered quickly.

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Big hopes for Lobos at MWC

NM women beat UNLV in upset Wednesday night; men are looking for first title under Alford next week.

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UPFRONT

Hollywood Indian will ride again

Actor Johnny Depp says he'll interpret Tonto as more than an equal partner to the Lone Ranger.

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M. ranks low in foreclosure sales

State's 8.3 percent rate in 2011 was well below national rate of nearly one-fourth.

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Con Man May Soon Be Freed

Motion Asks For Time Reduction

By Vic Vela
Journal Staff Writer

The "Casanova Con Man" may be getting out of prison soon.

Michael Soutar has filed a motion that seeks modification of a 34-year sentence for a 2007 conviction on securities fraud and

racketeering charges in Santa Fe. Soutar was convicted of bilking local investors in failed plans for the Santa Fe Market, which was to sell local arts and crafts at a downtown location.

Soutar, who had convictions for defrauding people before coming to Santa Fe, received national fame — thanks to the television show "America's Most Wanted" — while he was on the lam before his case went to trial. The TV program dubbed him the "Casanova

Con Man" because he'd allegedly scammed several women over the years.

If his sentence is modified as proposed in his recent motion, Soutar will be released with a sentence reduced to the prison time he has already served. Although Soutar was sentenced in the Santa Fe case about five years ago, in August 2007, his motion says that with "good time" credits earned in prison and his pre-sentencing confinement, Soutar has effectively

served more than 10 years.

The motion was filed in state District Court on Feb. 29 by Assistant Appellate Public Defender Eleanor Brogan.

Soutar, a Navy veteran, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, according to the court filing. Upon his release from prison, Soutar plans to move to Connecticut, where his fiancée lives, to receive treatment at a veterans hospital



SOUTAR: Must pay victim's \$187,000

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Jake Herndon, 7, from Chaparral Elementary School, discusses his science project, "Popping Off Lids," with judge Bruce Abell on Wednesday.

You can't start asking questions too early in life. Some 209 students from 18 public schools in Santa Fe demonstrated the questions they asked and the answers they found at the 5th annual District Science Expo Challenge on Wednesday morning at Kearny Elementary School.

The students who were invited to participate had won top rankings from their own schools for the projects they produced. Anonymous donors provided prizes for the students whose projects are judged the best at the Expo by 24 judges, members of the Santa Fe Alliance for Science.

Overall, the entries were culled from 2,788 science fair participants district wide.



Daniel Dominguez, 11, from Cesar Chavez Elementary, used an electric car and a car powered by a mouse trap to illustrate potential energy and electric power at the Science Expo at Kearny Elementary School.

County Courthouse Takes A Big Hit

■ Martinez vetoes millions for the project

By Mark Oswald
Of the Journal

The new Santa Fe County courthouse going up in downtown Santa Fe took the biggest hit Wednesday when Gov. Susana Martinez cut millions from the Legislature's bill to provide funding for numerous projects around the state.

The governor vetoed \$1,370,000 for security cameras, furniture, fixtures and information technology infrastructure for the court building, scheduled for completion near the end of the year.

Santa Fe legislators were upset, and state district judges in the First Judicial District are trying to figure out what to do next. The judges and other court personnel were expecting to move into the new building at Montezuma and Sandoval next January.

Judge Barbara Vigil, the district's chief judge, said that as a result of the veto, the judges "will be meeting within the next couple of days to determine our ability to move under the current timetable" and consider other funding options.

The county has financed the \$60 million project, including a few million dollars in extra costs to clean up extensive gasoline contamination from old service stations that was discovered after construction began.

But Arthur Pepin, director of the state Administrative Office of the Courts, told The Associated Press that "we don't understand it to be the county's obligation to furnish the building."

Some furniture from the existing courthouse could be reused but that's not possible with all equipment and furnishings, Pepin said.

State Rep. Brian Egolf, D-Santa Fe, said the Santa Fe courthouse funding was the state Supreme Court's "number one priority" among capital spending projects for the state court system.