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Gov. axes funds for S.F. projects



By Steve Terrell
The New Mexican

The new district courthouse currently under construction, a planned botanical garden on Museum Hill, the Santa Fe Farmers Market, La Familia Medical Center, Women's Health Services, El Museo Cultural and Santa Fe Public Schools were among the local entities hit Wednesday by Gov.

Susana Martinez's vetoes.

Martinez cut almost \$23 million from a capital outlay bill by using her line-item veto power to ax nearly 200 projects statewide. Those included more than 20 projects in Santa Fe County.

The vetoes included \$1.37 million for computer equipment, furniture and security cameras for the First

Judicial District courthouse under construction on Sandoval Street downtown.

The chief judge of the district, Barbara Vigil, said Wednesday that Martinez's vetoes might delay the move into the new facility. "We hope not," Vigil said. She said all the judges in the district will meet soon to see

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SOME LOCAL PROJECTS CUT BY MARTINEZ

\$1.4 million for information technology equipment, furniture and security cameras for the First Judicial District courthouse under construction

\$204,000 for a commercial kitchen to the Santa Fe Farmers Market Pavilion

\$201,000 for a botanical garden near Museum Hill

\$130,000 to improve the Women's Health Services family and counseling center

\$70,000 for improvements to El Museo Cultural

Putting science to test



Daniel Dominguez, a fifth-grader at César Chávez Community School, talks Wednesday with judge Cass Mason of the Santa Fe Alliance for Science about his science project, in which he built two cars — one powered by AA batteries and the other driven by a combination of a wooden frame, a small rod, a rubber band and a mouse trap — to prove that in the long run, electric energy outdistances potential energy. CLYDE MUELLER/THE NEW MEXICAN

Student experiments cover everything from mummies to Pluto at school district expo

By Robert Nott
The New Mexican

Angelina Oliver mummified two oranges in baking soda. The Agua Fria Elementary School fourth-grader was trying to prove that baking soda serves just as well as

bandages when it comes to preserving a body.

"It would probably work, because the liquid in the human body is like the juice in an orange," she said. Images of mummies — including one of a scary bandaged guy reaching out with his hands as if to strangle an unsuspecting explorer — adorned her display at the Santa Fe Public Schools' districtwide Science Expo.

The event, held Wednesday morning at Kearny Elementary School on the south side of town, involved about 215 students in

grades K-8 from 18 different schools. Professional scientists moved from booth to booth during the display, judging the students' inquiry-based presentations on an array of criteria.

"This is student driven and student centered," said Ellen Levy, coordinator for math and science programs within the district. "It gives the students an opportunity to talk about their work to scientists and engineers."

The expo included experiments questioning whether Pluto is really a planet (yes), whether hand sani-

tizer is more effective than soap and water when washing your hands (yes), and how much a snake grows during wintertime (it can gain 5 to 15 grams, depending on how much it eats, as an accompanying photo of Mr. Snake devouring Mr. Mouse helped demonstrate.)

Are tall buildings more stable than short buildings during an earthquake? No, according to one display. Do excessive student absences and tardies contribute to low academic achievement? For

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iPad,
in HD



What's new in the latest version of Apple's best-seller. **PAGE A-2**

State tax e-filers get fast refunds

Potential scams use stolen information

By Kate Nash
The New Mexican

The 90 percent of New Mexico taxpayers who file their state income taxes online are getting refunds in record time.

The average wait for electronic filers this year is four days, down from nine days in the 2010 tax year and 14 days in 2009, Taxation and Revenue Secretary Demesia Padilla said in an interview Wednesday.

The turnaround time for paper filers is about three weeks.

Padilla said that as the public has become more interested in filing online, the state has been able to

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Pasapick

2012 Short Film Showcase

New Mexico Women in Film and Women in Film and Television present an international selection of films, 7-9 p.m., followed by a Q & A with Santa Fe filmmaker Jocelyn Jansons

