

LOCAL NEWS



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No. 14 Lady Braves face difficult hurdle against No. 3 Portales

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Lawyers wrangle over minivan shooting evidence

Judge questions lack of crime-scene investigation

By Andrew Oxford
The Taos News

TAOS — A judge in Taos has ordered the New Mexico State Police to produce additional information about its investigation into an officer-involved shooting at the van of Oriana Farrell as she fled police with her five children during a

traffic stop last fall.

The hearing before 8th Judicial District Court Judge John Paternoster came after a motion from Farrell's attorney, Alan Maestas, who is seeking a slew of evidence, including the state police's internal investigation and video footage of the roadside incident near Taos that was captured by officers' dashboard cameras.

Farrell faces charges of aggravated fleeing, child abuse and possession of drug paraphernalia. The incident on

Oct. 28, 2013, attracted national attention after video footage from one state police vehicle involved in the pursuit went viral. State police Officer E1ias Montoya, who shot at Farrell's fleeing vehicle, was dismissed following an investigation into his use of force.

But much of the evidence sought by the defense appears to be in disarray, and explanations by Deputy District Attorney Emilio Chávez did not satisfy Paternoster.

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From left, Deputy District Attorney Emilio Chávez, defendant Oriana Farrell and paralegal Kathryn Hardy appear at a hearing Thursday at the Taos County Courthouse.

RICK ROMANITO
THE TAOS NEWS

YOUNG SCIENTISTS PUT EXPERIMENTS ON DISPLAY



Judge Doug Reilly speaks with Jeremiah Romero, a fifth-grader at Sweeney Elementary School, about his experiment Thursday during the Santa Fe Public Schools' Science Expo at Gonzales Community School. Romero's experiment explored what kind of cup amplifies the music from an iPhone best — plastic, Styrofoam or paper. He found that the Styrofoam cups performed best.



ABOVE: Softie Fisher, a fourth-grader at Aspen Community Magnet School, blows a bubble during the fair. Fisher found that glycerin makes big, long-lasting bubbles.

LEFT: Lukas Olausson, a sixth-grade student at Carlos Gilbert Elementary School, reads a comic book under his display while he waits to speak with a judge at the science fair. Olausson's experiment explored which type of home-building material holds the most heat. He determined that straw was the most insulating.

PHOTOS BY LUIS SÁNCHEZ SATURNI/THE NEW MEXICAN

Owner claims poison placed near park killed his dog

Strychnine-laced chicken may have been meant for coyotes, man says

By Chris Quintana
The New Mexican

Bill Roth took his three dogs — Frankie, Field and Bunny — out for a walk in an empty plot of land Feb. 13. The field is a few blocks away from his home near Ashbaugh Park, and his dogs had always roamed there without problems.

But when Roth returned home that day with two of the dogs — Frankie was still out and about — he noticed something was amiss. Field had begun seizing. As Roth was rushing him to the car, Frankie appeared. He loaded both of them into his vehicle and hurried to the veterinarian's office, fearing the worst.

En route, he said, Frankie crawled into the passenger foot well, began seizing and then died.

An examination of her intestines revealed Frankie had consumed neon blue strychnine, a poison often used for rodent control. Roth said the poison "turns on all the sensory nerves," which causes seizures.

"From a humane standpoint, it's just a horrible way to die," he said.

He said he believes the two dogs had eaten chicken laced with poison. The poison was wrapped in a finely "picked apart" chicken breast, leading Roth to believe that it had been placed intentionally, possibly for coyotes that sometimes appear in the field.

Roth said the other dog, Field, survived the poisoning.

He and his girlfriend, Elisabeth Broderson, had got

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Energy official holds town hall on WIPP leak

Carlsbad mayor: Filters contained radiation; probe needs to be quick

By Susan Montoya Bryan
The Associated Press

CARLSBAD — Several dozen residents, workers, elected officials and others turned out Thursday for a town hall meeting in Carlsbad as the U.S. Department of Energy released more information on its efforts to recover from a radiation leak last month at the nation's only underground nuclear waste dump.

Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway told the audience that systems at WIPP had worked during the leak, with fil