



# SIERRA COUNTY SENTINEL

JULY 30, 2021

Your Hometown Newspaper

24 PAGES • 4 INSERTS • 50¢

## Teachers Prepare: School Starts Monday

### State Releases Requirements For Opening Schools

By Jim Shiley  
SENTINEL

©Copyright 2021 Sierra County Sentinel

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) released its guidelines for public school reopening for the 2021-2022 school year Monday. While there are some differences in requirements between elementary and secondary schools, most of the guidance applies to all schools.

#### ALL SCHOOLS REGARDLESS OF GRADE LEVEL:

- No masks are required for anyone when outdoors.
- Masks are required for all bus riders, regardless vaccination status.
- Each district is required to have a COVID point of contact. In our district that is Nurse Lara Clement.
- Signage should be placed throughout every school encouraging COVID-safe practices.
- Social (physical) distancing of three-feet for students and six-feet for adults, or to the best of each school's ability given our facility and enrollment.
- No social (physical) distancing required for those fully vaccinated.
- Frequent handwashing shall be encouraged.
- Cleaning and disinfecting at schools should be continued.
- Each school must maintain an "Isolation Room," for symptomatic individuals as before.
- Water fountains and lockers at all schools are allowed to be used.

(OPEN Continued On Page A7)



(SENTINEL Photo/Jim Shiley)

By Jim Shiley  
SENTINEL

©Copyright 2021 Sierra County Sentinel

Schools are opening Monday, and the usual district staff meeting to kick off the year on began with something different. In a new tradition, the district faculty

and staff gathered in Tiger Stadium. After catching up with old friends and new faces, they all set off on the first annual "Tiger One Mile Run/Walk" Everyone made four circuits around the track, one mile.

The idea for this high-energy

school year opener came to Dr. Segura from watching the Tiger track team, at practice. The team begins by running the track. On the backs of their warmups are the words, "We Run Together." Dr. Segura said, "We start this year together, we will finish together."

## Hatch Man Arrested For Human Smuggling

By Joe Baird  
SENTINEL

©Copyright 2021 Sierra County Sentinel

A report of a hit and run accident on July 24 has landed one man behind bars and the 11 passengers of his vehicle in the custody of Homeland Security officials.

Court documents filed in the Sierra County Magistrate Court indicate that officers were notified of a van that had struck a truck parked along I-25, and then hit the guardrail on the median side of the highway before continuing north on I-25.

Officers first observed the vehicle on North Date Street in T-or-C about 12:30 p.m., on July 24 and as officers attempted to stop the van it continued back onto I-25, disregarding the officer's emergency lights. When the driver

eventually stopped the van, several subjects in the back of the van tried to run off into the desert. Most of the subjects were detained at the vehicle, while three did run into the nearby brush.

SCSD Officer Avalos located the driver, Luis Raymundo Escobedo, 39, of Hatch, NM, in the weeds, where he was initially combative and resisted arrest, assaulting the officer while being placed under arrest. Escobedo was initially charged with battery on a police officer, aggravated fleeing, resisting, evading or obstructing, and vehicular accidents involving damage (hit and run).

After further investigation, officers discovered the 11



ESCOBEDO

subjects in the back of the van were from Brazil. Some were picked up in El Paso, TX, while others were picked up in Hatch, all headed for Albuquerque. The 11 subjects were transported to Sierra Vista Hospital for treatment.

According to Sierra County Sheriff Glenn Hamilton, after the subjects were treated for dehydration and injuries, they were released to Homeland Security Investigations and Customs Border Patrol were notified.

In addition to the original charges, Escobedo, who was out on federal probation, has also been charged with federal human smuggling.

## Life Saving Actions Applauded



Sierra County Commissioners joined in applauding the swift actions of Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Josh Baker and Sergeant Joel Trejo, who were each awarded with the department's Life Saving Award during the board's July 27 regular meeting. While responding to a traffic-related incident and assisting tow truck driver David Christ with a damaged department vehicle, Lieutenant Baker recognized Christ had collapsed and was apparently suffering a heart attack. After an initial assessment he immediately began administering CPR and was quickly joined by Sergeant Trejo. The team continued administering CPR and were successful in reestablishing a heartbeat as emergency medical technicians arrived on scene. After outlining the incident, Sheriff Glenn Hamilton expressed his personal pride in the actions of the two department leaders and formally presented each with the department's highly respected award. Above left to right, a much-appreciative Christ looked on as Sheriff Hamilton presented the Life Saving Awards to Sergeant Trejo and Lieutenant Baker. Hamilton paused after this moment, allowing Christ to present the award to Trejo and to share a few personal words with the quick acting deputies. Full County story on C5.

## Fallen Firefighter Escorted Home



(SENTINEL Photo/Joe Baird)

Representatives of many area law enforcement, fire department and emergency medical agencies were present for the procession to bring fallen Caballo Volunteer Firefighter Janet Tracy, 59, of Caballo, from Albuquerque to Sierra County just before 12:00 pm, Friday July 23. Area residents and emergency personnel gathered on overpasses as the procession traveled south to Caballo and then back to T-or-C. As the procession came through Williamsburg and T-or-C, area residents gathered along Broadway and Date streets to pay their respects as Tracy was escorted to Kirikos Family Funeral Home. According to The New Mexico State Police, Tracy was providing aid and support at a vehicle crash, when she was struck by a fire truck and died on the scene. Further details will be released when they become available.



### QUIET MOMENTS

Lord, I know You are here. I Trust in Your presence, Your power, Your goodness and Your complete control over everything I'm facing. Help me walk through the questions, assured of Your answers, even though they're still unclear to me. And when I don't understand all the answer, help me to remember to Trust in You. I have You with me. Please give me increasing eyes of faith to trust what You are doing, even when I don't understand. Help me to remember I never walk alone. In your sweet name, Amen.

## Hospital CEO Placed On Admin Leave

Story & Photo  
By Chuck Wentworth  
SENTINEL

©Copyright 2021 Sierra County Sentinel

Following up on a direction from the Sierra Vista Hospital governing board to "continue as members discussed during their July 27 closed-door executive session", chairman Greg D'Amour confirmed that he had placed Chief Executive Officer Eric Stokes on administrative leave,

effective 9am Wednesday, July 28.

D'Amour said Stokes was placed on leave pending the receipt of additional clinical and operational information, but could offer no other details regarding the action.

Until further notice, the governing board chairman said anyone seeking operational information pertaining to SVH should contact Chief Nursing Officer Sheila Adams. D'Amour also

directed anyone seeking financial information to Chief Financial Officer Ming Huang and information regarding SVH personnel is available through Human Resources Manager Tim James.

The governing board chairman did not anticipate when a resolution to the present situation might be realized, but indicated the board would formally address the matter when appropriate.



Lake Levels  
(7-30-21): 4,302.16 ft.  
(1 Year ago): 4,311.23 ft.

SOURCE: National Weather Service

	HIGH	LOW
July 23	89	67
July 24	81	66
July 25	84	67
July 26	90	69
July 27	92	70
July 28	93	71
July 29	93	71

### Extended Forecast

- Friday, July 30  
Mostly Sunny - high 91, low 70
- Saturday, July 31  
Mostly Sunny - high 93, low 71
- Sunday, August 1  
Mostly Sunny - high 92, low 71
- Monday, August 2  
Thunderstorms - high 90, low 69

- Tuesday, August 3  
Partly Cloudy - high 89, low 69
- Wednesday, August 4  
Partly Cloudy - high 89, low 69
- Thursday, August 5  
Partly Cloudy - high 90, low 69
- Friday, August 6  
Mostly Sunny - high 91, low 70

