School board field offers rich, varied backgrounds

ed moreno
the new mexican staff

Most reporters have spent most of their adult lives watching, studying and reporting on the activities of politicians, from citizen advisors on appointed boards to those elected to the highest offices in the land.

From my years covering politics, I have determined, among other things, that:

• Nearly everyone running for higher office has a hidden agenda.

• The reason incumbents are hard to beat is not because they're so great, but they really have to screw up before they're booted out by the voters.

But there is something special and completely refreshing about those who are seeking office for the first time, and the crop of candidates for the Santa Fe school board is no exception.

Of the even dozen contenders for two slots, two have prior experience in running campaigns, while experience of the others in the political arena range from nothing to a little.

Novices cannot display their records to show how great they are. They are hardpressed to distinguish between what they would like to do and what they think really can get done. They all say they will bring to the job the qualifications that have made them successful businessmen, parents, engineers and bureaucrats.

I am happy to report that the field is not only large, but very interested in the well-being of the public schools. Each candidate is offering the benefit of his or her prior life and career experiences to show why he or she should be elected.

There are 10 candidates running for Position 1 on the Feb. 1 ballot. Only one, Jake Castellano, has made a prior bid for public office (he ran unsuccessfully for Santa Fe County clerk in 1974). Regrettably, when the polls close on Feb. 1, there will be only one winner, and nine disappointed people.

The candidates are: Edward Ytuarte, an engineer; Cassandra Schackel, a former educator and now business manager for her husband, an orthodontist; Thomas Padilla, city personnel director; Ben Mendiola, electrical contractor; Ruben Lovato, city recreation director; Thomas Duckworth, acupuncturist; Everett "Skip" Burgett, insurance agent; W.E. Joe Bates, manpower specialist with Northern New Mexico Community College; Don R. Baca, insurance agent and former coach; and Castellano, a mental health manpower specialist.

Each of the candidates was interviewed last week, and one thing became painfully clear: How easy the choice would be if we could take the best from each person and combine it all into one super-board member who would not only get elected, but have perfect rapport with parents, children, teachers, administrators and janitors — all at the same time, never burn out and always win re-election by a landslide.

For example: There are two people running as parents, saying parents need to be represented on the school board. On the other hand, one man who's is on the ballot says he should be elected because he doesn't have any children.

A candidate with a background in construction said his experience would help him on the board, while the bureaucrats in the field of candidates talk about "cooperation" with other local governments for the good of the school system.

There has been no sexual delineation ("Vote for me because I'm a woman,") even though the present board is all male. The women contenders are the challenger in Position 2, Margaret Boland, and Schackel in Position 1.

In Position 2, there are only two candidates. Art Johnson, the incumbent, says he can offer his experience being "on the inside," as he said last week. We assume the incumbent can more easily distinguish the pipe dream from the feasible reality.

—RATES—

Continued from Page A-1

$10.2 million to reflect lower depreciation rates than originally expected. The request was cut even more after the Supreme Court ruled money from Yellow Pages advertising should be considered in rate cases.

Commissioner John Elliott proposed the increase that the commission settled upon Monday.

Elliott's motion also included a rate schedule. But chairman Eric Serna asked that Elliott amend the motion to give the commission more time to study rate adjustments.

Serna said after the meeting he wanted "to ensure fairness" in determining the rate schedule. He also said he may propose that people on fixed incomes or with low incomes be granted a smaller increase.

But Serna said he would not support the idea if it meant other residential customers had to subsidize people on fixed incomes.

Trujillo said the company probably will ask that most of the burden of the increase be placed on residential customers.

"If we put it on long-distance service, for example, it's a competitive market and we aren't guaranteed we'll get the money," he said, meaning people could discontinue making long distance telephone calls with Mountain Bell if that was the only area affected by the increase.

Trujillo estimated the average residential customers' telephone bill would increase about $4 a month if the "majority of the increase went to local bills."

Mountain Bell was last granted a rate increase in July 1981.

Trujillo said the 1981 rate case amounted to an increase of about $3 a month for the average residential customer.

Serna said, "The company should take measures to be economical and should be able to get by on that (the $29.9 million) figure."

He said another factor in deciding the rate schedule would be the effect it will have on a rate reduction put into effect in December.

Serna said he did not want customers to lose the reduction, which came from a stipulation reached between the commission and Mountain Bell after the Yellow Pages decision.

Mountain Bell residential and business customers' bills decreased by about $1.25 a month because of the December stipulation. The decrease was to continue until Feb. 20, Serna said.

"If we put this increase into effect today it wipes out the reduction," he said.

Serna said he hoped a rate schedule could be agreed upon by the end of next week.

Auto emissions test unfair, lawyer says

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Bernalillo County's automobile emissions testing program is irrational because it exempts the worst polluters, says an attorney for Albuquerque motorists challenging the program.

Attorney Bruce Pasternack told District Judge Philip Ashby on Monday that the law enforcing the program is unfair because it's not applied equally to everyone.

Under the law, vehicles made before 1968 are exempted from the inspections and Pasternack said those are the vehicles "that pollute the most."

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courts

DISTRICT COURT
SANTA FE COUNTY

Jan 7

• Richard J. Taubman vs. First National Bank of Santa Fe. Complaint for $1 million in damages.

• Dee Brake d/b/a Tin Nee Ann Trading Co. vs. John Paul. Complaint for debt seeking $8,804.

Jan 10

• Sal Roybal vs. Robert Rodriguez. Appeal of magistrate court decision.

• Motion for protective order, to prevent subpoena of arrest records by Assistant District Attorney Henry Valdez.

• Earl Montoya vs. City of Santa Fe. Workman's compensation suit, seeking $3,000.

• Petition for release of birth certificate and adoption records for Karl P. Gallegos.

• Tina M. Peralta vs. Joseph Michael Lopez. Complaint for custody of minor child.

• Edward E. Crocker, Jr. vs. Donald Meyer. Complaint for fraud, seeking $217,423.

• Robert A. Striffolino vs. Chuck Hotchkiss. Return by Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office of writ of execution for $760 debt.

• Herculano Oroz and Reliance Insurance Co. vs. Rial Drilling Co. et al. Complaint for personal injuries, seeking $150,000.

Jan 11

• Sealy Matress of the Northwest vs. Livingston Furniture Co. Complaint for debt, seeking $4,350.

• Dianna Romero vs. Mario Torres. Petition to establish paternity, award child support and compel custody.

• Public Service Company of New Mexico vs. Leland Thompson, Jr. et al. Petition for eminent domain.

• In re name change for Margaret A. Oeffiemeyer, to Margaret Venita Archuleta.

Jan 12

• Ronald K. Piper and State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. vs. Evelyn and John H. Maruska. Complaint for damages, seeking $3,726.

• Eldon G. and Beverly M. Nolte vs. J. Baldino and Emilie F. Duran. Complaint on promissory note, seeking $17,000 plus interest.

Jan 13

• New Mexico Federal Savings and Loan Assn. vs. Edward T. Sandoval et al. Complaint for collection of debt due, seeking $55,744.

• Ronald Fundingsland vs. W.W. Grainger, Inc. Petition for an order permitting subpoenas to the Boulder County District Court Commission.

• Arthur H. Greiser vs. Dorthy Brown. Complaint for personal injury seeking $9,000 medical damages and other unspecified damages.

• Leroy Madril vs. Montgomery Ward. Complaint for workman's compensation seeking $101 for 314 weeks.

• Virginia R. Trujillo, name change to Virginia Rael.

• Heinrich Kagerer, application for limited driver's license.

Jan 14

• Elenore S. Grubb vs. Frederick K. Grubb. Petition for restraining order.

• Daniel Construction Co. Petition for attendance of witness at deposition.

• Terry J. Vander Weide vs. Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico et al. Petition for writ of mandamus, and permanent and preliminary complaint.

• Dennis J. Duty vs. Judy Allison. Complaint on promissory note, seeking $3,507.

• Thriftway Marketing Corp. vs. John Romero, director of the state department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Petition for review, to reverse denial of Gallup liquor license transfer.

• Helen Zuelzke vs. Mario and Michael Perea. Complaint for damages, seeking $30,900.

Jan 17

• Allstate Insurance Co. vs. Robert L. Baca. Complaint to recover damages, seeking $995.

• Lath and Plaster Supply Company vs. Rey Cordova. Complaint on open account, seeking $1,817 plus interest.

• Elva Rael vs. Molly Archibeque d/b/a Molly's Kitchen. Complaint to recover damages for alleged negligence, causing fall of plaintiff in entryway. Seeking $40,000.

• Ramon Gutierrez vs. Armour World Wide Glass Co. et al. Complaint for personal injury, alleging firms breached implied warranties in their products or plans resulting in imprisonment of plaintiff in Feb. 2, 1980 inmate riot at the Penitentiary of New Mexico. Seeking $1 million.

• Joe Vigil vs. Home Insurance Co. and Old Santa Fe Roofing Co. Complaint for workman's compensation damages.

The New Mexican/Mark Lennihan

The Our Lady of Light church, badly in need of repair, sits alone on top of a hill in Lamy. The community hopes to do something soon.

A lot of effort needed to save Lamy church

By JUDY WILEY
The New Mexican Staff

The horizon at Lamy is marked by a cross thrust high above shiny rails winding through the town.

The old church, the railroad station and Legal Tender restaurant are Lamy's claims to fame, and one of them is decaying dangerously. The Lamy Community Association wants to save Our Lady of Light church before it falls to ruin.

The building is so torn by time, Our Lady of Light is a sadly appropriate name for the church — daylight can be seen through cracks in the walls.

"It needs major repairs," said Connie Doughman, a member of the association. "In this community with all the people in the building trades we can do it, but it's a big job."

Shards of the steeple's wood frame lie on the ground in front of the church, attesting to the size of the rebuilding task.

Doughman said the church was built in the 1920s by community residents. Apparently, they also donated the religious statues and figurines that still stand on the altar at the front of the church.

Although it hasn't been used for mass in more than 10 years, Doughman said weddings, funerals and community meetings still take place in Our Lady of Light.

When the building is repaired, Doughman said the community association might raise money to buy a propane tank to heat the building so it can be used more often.

Like the rest of the town, the church stands on land granted to Archbishop Lamy in the 1800s, when Lamy was called Galisteo Junction. Later, Archbishop Lamy had the church property put into a trust for the Roman Catholic Church.

Doughman said the local archdiocese has said it may be willing to help with restoration.

The first chore will be replastering the outside, Doughman said. She works with stained glass, and will be charged with repairing holes in the bright windows of the church.

"I don't want to do it until there's some protection for them," she said.

None of the work can begin until the community association raises money, Doughman said. A kite-flying contest and a bake sale are two ways the community has discussed.

The association will decide soon whether church restoration or creation of a Lamy fire department will be its priority for this year.

—PLAN—

Continued from Page A-1

Regarding a rock wall surrounding the property on which the house sits, which the Public Works Department plans to move 75 feet to the north, Chavez said, "That same wall is going to look a heck of a lot different 75 feet back than it is now."

He recommended the board deny the request for demolition of the house and that the board direct the Public Works Department to come back with a new plan.

Chavez also said the city should not be treated differently than other applicants.

Art Garcia, a native Santa Fean, told the board he "shivers" when he has to pass through the precarious intersection, stating "I have to put my life on the line (to go through it) ... two weeks ago, I saw three accidents there. Somebody's going to get hurt one of these days ... and somebody's going to have a lawsuit."

In light of the testimony of Chavez' and other individuals, including Anna Manana, who has spearheaded a drive to save the house, wall and streetscape, Kueffer made a motion to approve the Public Works Department's plan for restructuring the intersection, with the provision the house be sold and moved, and that a more detailed design of the rebuilt rock wall and detailed design of landscaping at the intersection be executed.

Public Works Department Director Ed Ortiz said it would be feasible to move the house.

—FUNDS—

Continued from Page A-1

If the money can not be accounted for, it may have to be paid back, Goldberg said. The $386,928 in question is part of more than $1.8 million in weatherization grant monies which the DOE is questioning in New Mexico.

Santa Fe County Manager Mike Trujillo said the letter from Goldberg was not unexpected.

The county has known for several weeks that serious financial problems existed in the CAP program. CAP was operated by the city and the county through an appointed board until it was disbanded last spring.

Former CAP director Ruben Gonzales was charged and convicted of fraud involving the federal low income energy assistance program and is serving a prison term.

Although the program is officially disbanded, it is still overseen by a nine-member board, which includes all three county commissioners, three city councilors and three lay persons.

"After city and county officials discovered the mess, they personally took charge to see the program was closed down and all the books were closed," the county manager said.

Trujillo said the city may have to share in repaying money because the CAP program was operated through a joint powers agreement and jointly appointed board.

"The way I look at it, if we shared in the good, I guess we both have to share in the bad," he said.

Last July, the CAP board temporarily named county personnel director Phil Trujillo as director.

Trujillo had preceeded Gonzales as CAP director and was familiar with the operation of the more than 30 programs under the CAP county umbrella, including Headstart, Senior Citizens day care, home nutrition programs and various weatherization and energy assistance programs.

After he took over the program, Phil Trujillo said he discovered the county was more than $100,000 in arrears in federal income tax withholding payments, more than $30,000 behind in state unemployment compensation insurance payments and had stacks of unpaid bills from landlords, vendors, utility companies and service providers.

The county had a $50,000 performance bond on Gonzales, and during his trial the attorney general's office was able to document more than $42,000 in fraud. The county was able to collect this money from the bonding company.

Trujillo said he used all of this money to pay part of what the county owed to the IRS.

"I thought that was the most important problem because you can't mess with the IRS," he said.

Trujillo said it is impossible to say how much of the $384,000 being sought by the state and the federal government could be cleared up through additional audits.

"I don't think there was any money taken, just bad management. If one program came up short on money, the former director just borrowed from another account to make up the shortfall. There's no documentation and no rhyme or reason to the bookkeeping," Trujillo said.

Goldberg said his department is only interested in the home weatherization monies.

Out of more than $7 million in DOE weatherization funds, federal auditors questioned $800,000 in expenditures out of the former Governor's Office of Community Affairs, which was supposed to administer the state level program, and $1 million in expenditures from 19 individual local CAPS, senior citizens organizations and Indian groups.

The Santa Fe County CAP made up the largest part of the $1 million in questioned spending. Las Cruces represents the next highest figure. Its CAP program, which also was rocked by scandal and corruption, is being asked to account for $209,000 out of $308,000 received for home weatherization over the five-year period.

Two weeks ago, Goldberg hired Brian Sanderoff, a former aide to former Gov. Bruce King, to review the weatherization audit exceptions with local communities and see how many could be removed.

Under King's administration, Sanderoff was sent in to clean up the mess in the Governor's Office of Community Affairs in the federal low income energy assistance program. Sanderoff was able to reduce $2.1 million in audit exceptions down to about $450,000.

"Before it is over, Brian may have to take to the streets and knock on doors and ask people if they received insulation from the government. He may have to take a camera and take pictures so we can prove to the government how this money was used," Goldberg said.

Goldberg, who took over the Human Services Department in January, said the federal home weatherization and low income energy assistance programs were transferred to his department's administration in July after the Governor's Office of Community Affairs was closed.

Former state director Herman Grace also was convicted of fraud and is serving a federal prison term.

"The Governor's Office of Community Affairs was responsible for administering the home weatherization program, and Mr. Grace was the director at the time these audit deficiences were supposed to have occurred, but I can't comment on any more than that," Goldberg said.

Goldberg said he hoped New Mexico will have learned from the problems encountered with the low income energy assistance and home weatherization programs.

"We're going to try to get something positive out of this. We going to install administrative procedures and checks to ensure that in the future things like this don't happen again," he said.

Legislature told to study possible oil price changes

By The Associated Press

A $1 per barrel change in oil prices either up or down makes a $2 million difference in state general fund revenues, says Michael Warner, an economist with the state Department of Finance and Administration.

State legislators were told Monday that actions by OPEC ministers could have a direct effect on New Mexico's faltering finances.

Vickie Fisher, state taxation and revenue secretary, said state finance experts must study the actions taken by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries before knowing what impact, if any, they will have on the state.

Fisher and Finance Secretary Denise Fort gave a comprehensive finance report at a joint meeting of the House Appropriations and Finance and Taxation and Revenue committees and the Senate Finance Committee.

Fort explained Gov. Toney Anaya's strategy for dealing with the financial problems facing the state. Anaya will ask the Legislature to approve a $187 million tax increase package, which includes a two-year suspension of tax reductions granted in 1981.

Fort said that revenue projections for the current fiscal year made in December 1981 "indicated a weak economy but did not predict a disaster, which is what has happened."

Revised projections, completed in December 1982, showed state general fund revenues had been overestimated by $165 million. Instead of a $58 million surplus, as earlier predicted, the state faces a $107 deficit.

Fort said the national recession's impact on New Mexico was the cause of the sharp decline in the economy and in state revenues.

There are signs of a recovery. The recovery is expected to be weak in the near future, she added.

Over the past decade, personal income grew in New Mexico at an annual average rate of 12.6 percent. Fort said a growth of only 9.5 percent is expected next fiscal year.

Employment had increased at an average annual rate of 4.5 percent. A decline of 0.3 percent is expected this fiscal year, which ends June 30, Fort said, and the growth in employment is projected to be only 2.4 percent next year.

Most of the growth will be in the construction and service industries, with no employment increase expected in the mining and oil and gas industries, she said.

With no definite action by OPEC, New Mexico oil prices are expected to average $32.50 a barrel next year, a slight increase from the current price of $31.25, Fort said.