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THURSDAY
JUNE 17, 2021

FINAL ****

Falling streetlights along ABQ ART route prompt city lawsuit



ROBERTO E. ROSALES/JOURNAL

Ambrose Edwards, a groundsman with Dalkia Energy Solutions, replaces a streetlight Wednesday along Central Avenue. The company is refitting lights with safety equipment to prevent them from falling, and it is also replacing damaged light fixtures.

Millions are sought in damages; city says public is endangered

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BY OLIVIER UYTENBROUCK
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

First, there were the trailblazing electric Albuquerque Rapid Transit buses that couldn't hold the charge the manufacturer had promised.

Then, there were issues with inconsistent heights at some of the platforms, which city leaders worried could cause problems for those in wheelchairs. And mirrors on the buses were hitting the part of the platform holding up the canopies. Then came numerous crashes as drivers struggled to navigate ART routes.

Last week, city officials revealed yet another issue with the problem-plagued rapid bus system: falling 25-pound lights that they contend are endangering the public.

A number of the light fixtures have fallen from a height of up to 25 feet onto the street, according to a lawsuit the city filed last week against companies involved in the design and construction of the ART system.

Albuquerque is seeking at least \$2.5 million in compensatory damages and an additional \$10 million.

See FALLING >> A3



A streetlight rests Wednesday on a Central Avenue sidewalk as workers with Dalkia Energy Solutions prepare to replace a defective light. Albuquerque filed a lawsuit this month, alleging defects have caused some lights to fall to the street.

NM reopening target in doubt as vaccinations short of 60%

State's top health officials point to incentives, say they're not concerned

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BY DAN MCKAY AND DAN BOYD
JOURNAL CARTOON BUREAU

SANTA FE — After an earlier slowdown, New Mexicans are completing their COVID-19 vaccinations at a faster pace since the Department of Health started offering \$100 in cash to get the shot, top health officials said Wednesday.

But it isn't clear whether New Mexico will reach its goal of vaccinating 60% of adult residents by the end of Thursday — the target Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's administration said would allow the state to fully reopen July 1.

"We really want to meet our target," Human Services Secretary David Scrase said in a public briefing Wednesday. "We really want to reopen the economy."

New Mexico made slow progress Wednesday toward the vaccine goal. The share of residents with all their shots rose to 58.7%, just 0.2 percentage points above Tuesday's total.

During Wednesday's briefing, Scrase and Health Secretary Tracie Collins — the top physicians in Lujan Grisham's Cabinet — did not directly answer questions about whether New Mexico would push back its reopening target if the state fails to reach the 60% goal by Thursday.

They said they would review the data with Lujan Grisham on Friday before deciding how to proceed.

NM'S LATEST NUMBERS

Total doses received
2,338,355Total doses administered
2,069,868Doses given in past 7 days
37,993Number fully vaccinated
1,002,864

*Number of New Mexicans 12+ with vaccination series completed.

SOURCE: NMDOH

See REOPENING >> A3

BERNCO OFFERS MEALS TO PEOPLE 60 AND OVER



BRIGHT SPOT

Bernalillo County is offering free lunches to people 60 and older at the South Valley Multipurpose Senior Center and Raymond G. Sanchez Senior Center, Monday through Friday.

METRO & NM >> A5

For this American family, giving up is not an option

UPFRONT



Joine Gutierrez Krueger

He was 14 when he came to this country in search of work to help support his family in Mexico.

It was the early 1980s, and Mexico's economy was in shambles, the peso devalued, families going to bed each night with empty bellies, broken hearts.

It was easier then, if just barely, to cross the border to earn a little money picking crops, building houses, cleaning motels.

Joaquin Trillo made that journey many times over the years. Then in 1986, he was granted amnesty under the Immigration Reform and Control Act and became among the more than 2.7 million immigrants already in the United States.

See FOR >> A2



OFFENSE (FINALLY) RETURNS FOR UNITED

Josh Suggs and Austin Yearwood each scored for New Mexico United, ending a long scoring drought on the home pitch at Isotopes Park, in a 2-0 win Wednesday night over San Antonio FC.

SPORTS >> B1

Sandia High grad represents golf great

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BY STEVE VIRGEN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Ever heard of Steve Loy? To the many he has mentored as coach and agent — and that includes the golf champion known as Lefty — Loy is affectionately known as Coach.

A Sandia High alumnus who grew up in Albuquerque, Loy's now a millionaire average Joe who never forgets his roots.

Perhaps his biggest claim to fame is as agent to Phil Mickelson, the current darling of the professional golf world after winning the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island on May 23 at age 50, which made him the



Steve Loy

See SANDIA >> A7

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