



one-twelfth of gross receipts taxes to the pool. The interim Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee endorsed the bill in December with support from the New Mexico Association of Counties.

Rodriguez told the interim committee that the sunset allows for an assessment of the effects of Medicaid expansion. She said the end date was vetoed in last year's legislation, but the governor now supports the sunset.

"We are opposed to the bill," said Jeff Dye, President and CEO of the New Mexico Hospital Association. "We think it's premature and based on safety net, Page 5

Group wants charter school for Natives in Gallup

By Bill Donovan
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GALLUP — A group is working on creating a new charter school in Gallup, this one devoted to educating Native Americans.

Lane Tower, one of the organizers of the Gallup Indigenous School Initiative, said the school is still in its early stages and won't open until September 2016, starting with a sixth and seventh grade class, each made up of 30 students. One grade will be added per year after 2016 until it becomes a sixth to 12th grade school.

The group is hoping to have a collaborative relationship with the Gallup McKinley School District which will allow it to become a district authorized charter school.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the school board, Tower received encouragement from school officials and board members to continue the project.

Superintendent Frank Chiappetti acknowledged that culturally responsive models for Native youth are difficult to implement in the multicultural Gallup schools, adding "I think I could see a niche in Gallup for this sort of school."

Board members Joe Menini and Titus Nez

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Charter school

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Dr. Christopher Dyer, executive director of University of New Mexico-Gallup, said he also supports the new school saying that a school devoted to promoting the cultural identity of Native students has the potential to reduce college remediation rates.

Dr. Matt Mingus, assistant professor of History at UNM-Gallup and Lynn Hueneemann, a retired educator, have also given support to the school.

"The bad news is that American public education is very monolithic, which might be justified in national terms — if choice on where to send their children.

"Not all Navajos can afford students. However, the unfortunate truth is that this dominant model has consistently failed to serve American Indian students in a private school," he said.

Safety net

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This was a hard-fought battle in July, the Hospital Association testified that the Affordable Care Act reduced hospital funding significantly, and the 2014 measure further reduced funding. Although hospitals will eventually see more funding as Sen. George Muoz, D-Gallup, wanted to increase the county gross receipts tax to one-eighth of one percent, which would have provided enough money for hospitals, Albuquerque Journal that some counties think the present system gives them less control over how the revenues are used. He also said counties and hospitals might come to an agreement when the effects of expanded Medicaid are known. In October, Kopelman testified that counties wanted the sunset clause. This year's measure adds a year to the original sunset date to better time it with the expiration of the Medicaid waiver and so the effects of health reform and Medicaid expansion would be better understood.

The Safety Net Care Pool replaced the Sole Community Provider fund, which had declined precipitously and then ended. Without the funding, 29 hospitals receiving lower payments than we believe to be lower than \$192 million. Even hope total funding sinks no on the Safety Net Care Pool budget and plan."

The 29 hospitals depending in Santa Fe when his bill was heard. "I'm not an expert on the absence of hospital officials to run bills for the hospital and got zero support," referring to Dyed said. "Hospitals desperately need stability and predictability in funding streams so they can veto to message that one-twelfth of one percent wasn't enough; The governor said in her soon to contemplate ending support of community hospitals," \$3 million.

He added, "Last year asked that other percent and another Lord knows we could have used to come up with more money. "The city and county will have going to have any jobs unless we save our hospital," he said. "Without treatment, the injury to the bowl would result in death," he said.

Between the time of the alleged abuse and Jim's death, Matshes said the boy would have experienced significant pain and discomfort.

"Put simply, the person would not look well and would not act normal," he said.

It had been too long

In addition to Ashley and

potting his pants? Hughbanks asked.

"Yeah," Mariano responded. "But Horton held that Mariano acted both cruelly and intentionally."

"(Jim) was slowly dying over a couple of days, and that's cruel," she said.

Seeger argued that investigators did not sufficiently establish when the alleged abuse occurred, who caused it, nor did they locate the stick Mariano reportedly used to harm the child.

"We're engaging in speculation," Seeger said, before asking the court to discharge his client.

Horton said, however, that Mariano's confession to MCSO investigators showed his guilt.

"How do we know Mariano caused those injuries? Because he told us."

After the hearing, Seeger said that he believes it will be hard for the state to prove the case to a jury. Binding a case over for trial requires only probably cause, whereas a jury must find a defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, he said.

"This is all the evidence they have," he said. "We'll see how things unfold."

Horton said she was pleased with the outcome, and was ready for the next step.

"We are prepared and ready to face any of the challenges that will present themselves in District Court," she said.

Significant blunt force trauma

Dr. Evan Matshes, forensic pathologist for the Albu-

"We've been actively working with legislators and the governor and the LFC on any possible option to raise the \$9.8 million," Dye said.

Last year, RMCHCS refinanced a loan to support operations as it waited to receive its Safety Net Care Pool payment "roughly round bruises," which could be the result of blunt trauma to Jim's head, trunk and internal organs, including several small blunt trauma to Jim's head, and internal trauma, and blunt force trauma, which likely occurred hours or days before the child died.

Munoz has vowed to fight for the hospital. "We're not going to have any jobs unless we save our hospital," he said. "The city and county will have to come up with more money. "For all those reasons, it's too soon to contemplate ending support of community hospitals," \$3 million.

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A hard-fought battle

Continued from Page 1

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No facility yet

The new school doesn't have a facility yet but Tower

work.org

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"I'm a bad person," Mariano said in tears.

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Given the opportunity to add to his comments, Mariano apologized to the boy.

"I'm sorry baby Joel, I'm sorry baby," he said on the tape. When investigators left the room allowing Mariano time to write an admission, he continued to cry, saying "I'm sorry baby Joel," and "Lord help me, I'm sorry Lord Jesus Christ, I'm sorry."

And a number of innovative models of school organization, including Ben Soce and Marka Sweetwyne — have been working on the proposal since last July.

The group is holding a community meeting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 18 at the Hocho Centro in Gallup to provide more information or to answer any questions people may have about the project.

Information: www.gist.wed-263-9737 or e-mail him at lane@macainspwedschoolsnet-263-9737 or e-mail him at work.org

I wish to express deep appreciation to each of you who offered such kindness, support, messages of sympathy, prayers, masses and donations during his illness and after the loss of our beloved Oscar. God Bless each of you. Sincerely, Esther Tafuya and family