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FINAL ★★★★★



Kids may lose free school meals

■ Red tape threatens a nutrition program that feeds 77,000 children

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Albuquerque Journal

BY COLLEEN HEILD
Journal Investigative Reporter

In a state ranked highest in the nation for childhood hunger and food insecurity, some fear New Mexico's low-income children

may be at risk of losing federally funded free school breakfasts and lunches next school year.

To blame: bureaucratic problems that have bred confusion, misinformation and criticism about oversight of the National School Lunch Program by the state's Public Education Department and the regional office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A USDA management evaluation for fiscal year 2012 found the PED's Student Nutrition Program failed to require the proper documen-

tation of how some New Mexico schools have determined eligibility for a USDA free meal program that served more than 77,000 children at 348 schools this year.

PED officials say they have made strides in improving the "paperwork process" and don't believe eligible children will go without free school meals next school year. "We don't think that's going to be a big issue," said Paul Aguilar, deputy secretary for PED's finance and operations.

The USDA audit focused on a

program that pays for free meals for all students at schools or school districts with a high percentage of low-income students.

One result could be a requirement that schools must now "re-establish" their students' documentation proving eligibility.

That would mean asking every family of a student to fill out a new application where their eligibility would be determined. Then schools would have to track the

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JOURNAL FILE

A fifth-grader at Adobe Acres Elementary School grabs a free breakfast served in her classroom.

Schools may join assault survey

■ UNM, CNM consider action after White House targets campus sexual assault issue

BY MIKE BUSH
Journal Staff Writer

In the wake of an alleged gang rape involving University of New Mexico students, local higher education officials are considering a call from the Obama administration to join in campus surveys to identify and eventually solve the problem of sexual assault at colleges and universities.

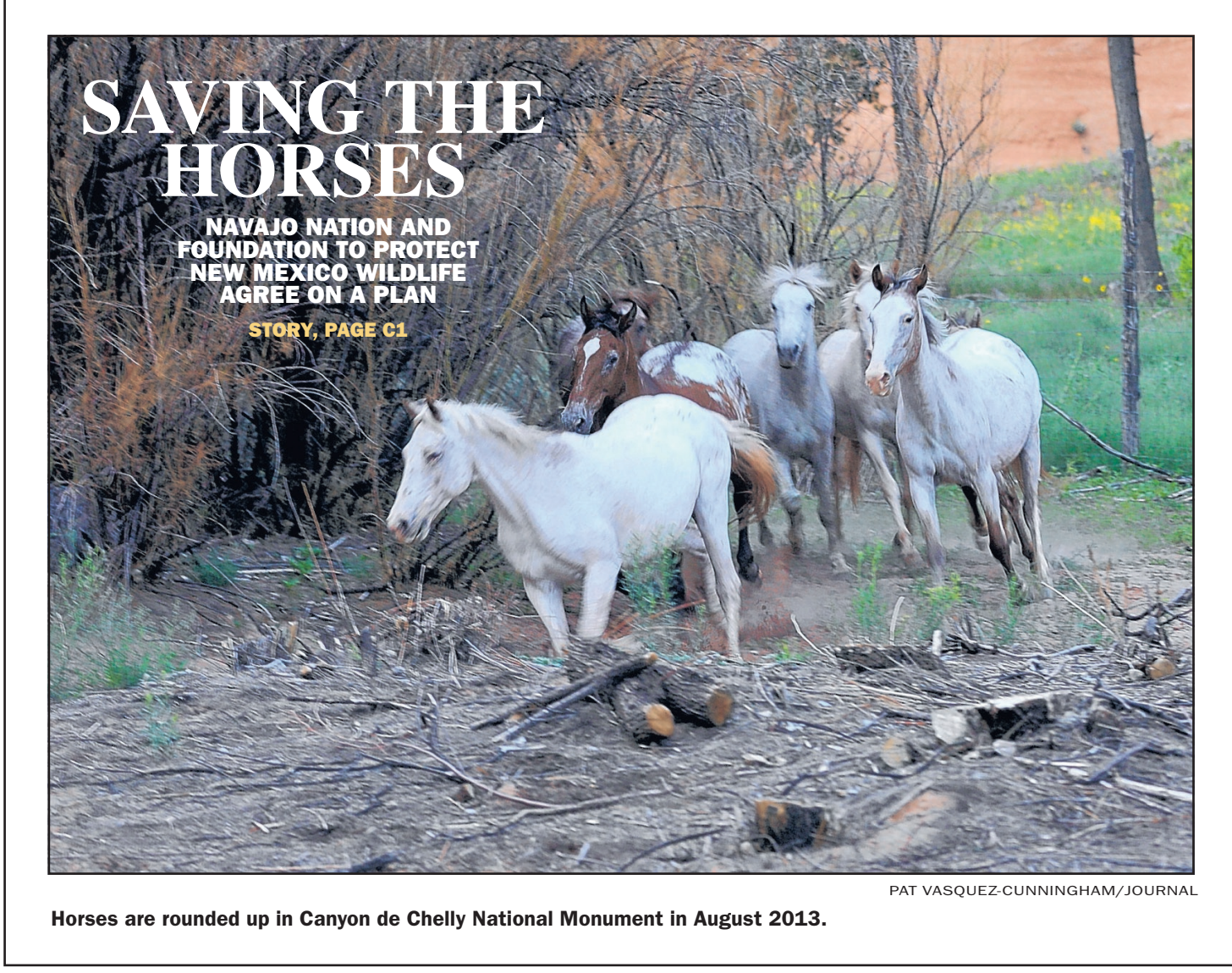
On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Education posted a list of 55 colleges and universities that are facing federal investigations to see if they mishandled sexual abuse allegations. No New Mexico schools are on the list.

The schools range from public universities such as Ohio State, the University of California, Berkeley, and Arizona State University; to private schools, including Knox College in Illinois, Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and Catholic University of Amer-

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Lawyer: All lies

Attorney for one of the men accused of rape says woman lied to police and to UNM D1



SAVING THE HORSES

NAVAJO NATION AND FOUNDATION TO PROTECT NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE AGREE ON A PLAN

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PAT VASQUEZ-CUNNINGHAM/JOURNAL

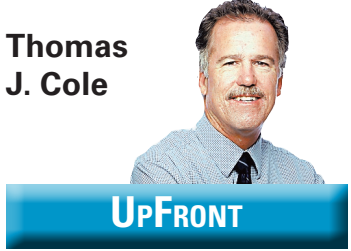
Horses are rounded up in Canyon de Chelly National Monument in August 2013.

Lawyer makes deal in cougar killing

TUCUMCARI — For an Oklahoma lawyer, a plea deal to charges related to his shooting of a cougar that had already been "treed" cost him a lot less than it did to set up the kill on the family ranch of the then-chairman of the New Mexico Game Commission.

Jason Roselius of Oklahoma City pleaded no contest in court Wednesday to unlawful hunting — a charge that carries a

Thomas J. Cole



UPFRONT

maximum penalty of six months in jail and a fine of \$500. He got no jail time and was ordered to pay \$73 in court costs and \$500 in

restitution to the Department of Game and Fish.

Roselius previously had told a Game and Fish law enforcement officer that he paid \$9,000 for the cougar hunt, including a \$3,500 tip for the guides, according to a case report by the officer.

Charges of unlawful hunting are still pending against former Game Commission Chairman Scott Bidegain and three other men, who all have pleaded not guilty.

Bidegain, an appointee of Gov. Susana Martinez, resigned as commission chairman the weekend before the charges were filed in February. The Governor's Office has said it asked Bidegain to resign after being told by the Game and Fish Department that it had enough evidence to charge him.

At the time of his resignation, Bidegain

See LAWYER on PAGE A5

Court allows some convicts to own guns

■ NM Supreme Court says those who complete deferred sentence should have civil rights restored

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BY SCOTT SANDLIN
Journal Staff Writer

Successful completion of a deferred sentence allows a person convicted of a criminal felony offense to own guns, the New Mexico Supreme Court said in a case decided Thursday.

"I think it has broad significance for New Mexico on both the federal and state sides," said attorney and former state Supreme Court Justice Paul Kennedy, who represents James Oliver Reese in the case decided Thursday. "It really clarifies the law for people in this position and clarifies that these people cannot be prosecuted anymore."

A deferred sentence requires someone to complete certain conditions, like probation, after which the conviction will be dismissed.

The opinion by Justice Richard C. Bosson for a unanimous court said the state Legislature set up deferred sentences as a way to offer clemency. As a result, a defendant who satisfies the conditions of deferment has criminal charges

See SOME on PAGE A2

Pope calls meeting to re-examine teachings on family issues

■ Senior clerics to debate divorce, birth control, gay unions

BY HENRY CHU
Los Angeles Times

VATICAN CITY — Contraception, cohabitation, divorce, remarriage and same-sex unions: They're issues that pain and puzzle Roman Catholics who may not agree with all

of the church's teachings but who want to be true to both their church and themselves.

Now those issues are about to be put up for debate by their leader, a man who appears determined to push boundaries and effect change.

On Pope Francis' orders, the Vatican will convene an urgent meeting of senior clerics this fall to re-examine church teachings that touch the most intimate aspects of people's

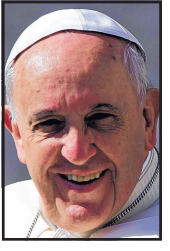
lives. Billed as an "extraordinary" assembly of bishops, the gathering could herald a new approach by the church to the sensitive topics.

The Rev. Dennis Garcia, pastor of San Felipe de Neri Church in Albuquerque, said the meeting in October is part of a larger process that is likely to take a couple years, ending with a large meeting, or synod, of church leaders to discuss the vast subject of family life.

Garcia said the likely purpose of the process is to gather information about issues such as marriage, single-parent families and divorced people to help priests provide better ministry and improve family life.

"I think it will address, pastorally, the challenges we have with single-parent homes, and certainly with persons who are

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FRANCIS: Pushes boundaries to effect change

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