

by the nose for wait to war.

The six dogs, breeds such as Labrador and Chesapeake Bay retrievers, posed for photos and demonstrated their newly learned drug-sniffing skills. The six and their human partners recently returned from a three-week training course at a special school in Napa, Calif.

"Basically, we've done this because of all the drugs coming in. The amount of drugs coming into the state far surpasses the amount of drugs seized," Department of Public Safety Secretary Darren White said.

White said statistics indicate that New Mexico is the eighth most violent state in the nation and that more than 70 percent of all cocaine coming into the United States does so through Southwestern states. He said he

believes that, as a border state, New Mexico has a responsibility to ensure it is doing all it can to combat drug trafficking.

White said officials believe there is a direct correlation between the high rate of violence and the large amount of drugs. He also said they have discovered that Mexican organizations that traffic in several types of drugs in the past few years have taken over the major drug market, a territory previously ruled by "motorcycle gangs."

The dogs and their partners are stationed in Albuquerque, Deming, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Lordsburg and Tucumcari. White said those districts

See POLICE on PAGE A2

booster seat and extenders so her legs could reach the control pedals, spoke to her mother by telephone even as she revved the engine on the runway.

J. DUBROFF: Used booster seat to fly

Lisa Blair Hathaway said she heard no word of problems as the three began to take off and ended the communication.

"I beg people to let children fly if they want to fly," a teary-eyed Hathaway said before flying from Boston to Wyoming to claim her daughter's body. She had flown ahead to Massachusetts to await the arrival of her ex-husband and Jessica.

"Clearly, I would want all my children to die in a state of joy. I mean, what more could I ask for? I would prefer it was not at age 7 but, God,

See GIRL on PAGE A2

DE

Tip gain; time to look at your rd. You'll find e ideas in the & Garden day's Journal.



Tainted Soil, Water Traced to Old Dump

Leaky Landfill Now Balloon Fiesta Site

BY CINDY GLOVER Journal Staff Writer

Two feet beneath the balloon fiesta's launch site on Alameda Boulevard, an estimated 1.2 million tons of trash — dumped by the city over five years — slowly decomposes.

North Valley residents have long known their neighbor to the east is the city's former Los Angeles landfill. Many, like Theresa Lucero, protested the dump's opening in 1978 and cheered its closure in 1983.

"Sometimes, it would smell, especially at night," Lucero said. "I'm glad it's closed."

But Lucero and her neighbors were taken by surprise this week when city Environmental Health Director Sarah Kotchian announced that ground water and soil half a mile east of their homes are contaminated with toxic chemicals and gases from the 77 1/2-acre landfill.

The city has monitored the site since 1986 and discovered elevated levels of trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene in the ground water in 1988, Kotchian said.

Both are common in grease-cutting solvents and in chemicals used by dry-cleaning operations. The soil also had unacceptably high levels of methane gas. But officials say there is no immediate danger for residents living nearby.

Kotchian told the City Council's Finance Committee on Monday that her department is wrapping up its decadelong investigation of the Los Angeles landfill, is monitoring four other former city landfills and will soon dig wells to study four more.

Although she said it's too soon to say how much cleaning up contamination from all the landfills would cost, Kotchian warned the committee that the price tag could reach \$50 million.

Kotchian said she expects that her department will conclude its study by next year. But she added that she knows the Los Angeles

See OLD on PAGE A6

MORNING

MVD say they will soon have fixed the dupli- problem on some driver's licenses. Now if ly do something about the pictures.

HER

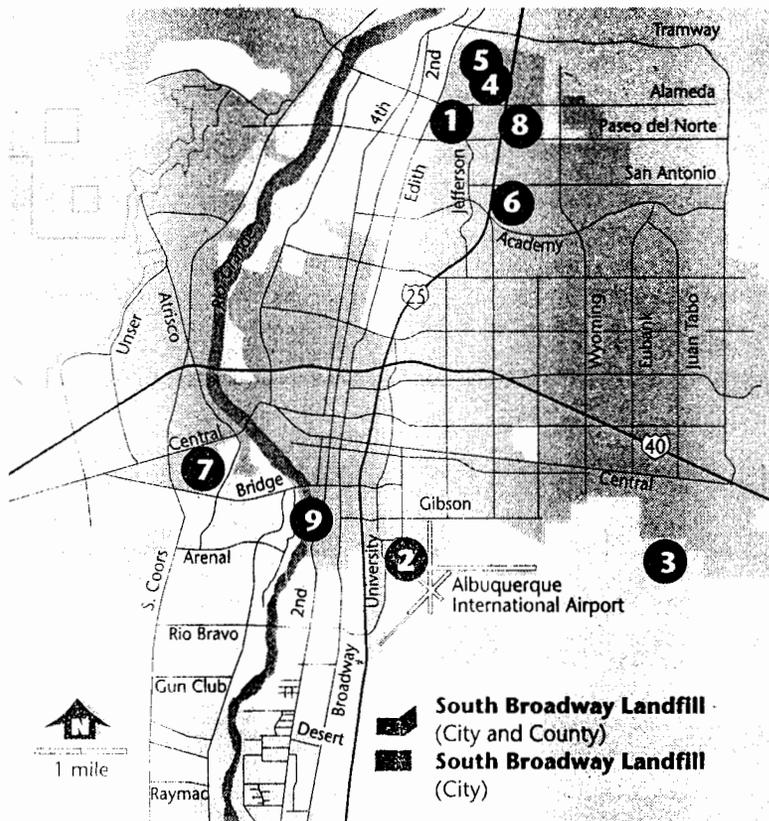
D13

and breezy. High 72, low 43.

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ABQ 5 4/12/96

LANDFILLS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA



Cleanup priorities

- ① Los Angeles Landfill
- ④ Coronado Landfill
- ⑦ Atrisco Landfill
- ② South Yale Landfill
- ⑤ Nazareth Landfill
- ⑧ Sacramento Landfill
- ③ Eubank Landfill
- ⑥ San Antonio Landfill
- ⑨ Old City River Landfill

SOURCE: Albuquerque Environmental Health Department

G. GIBSON/JOURNAL

Old Dump Leaking Toxics

from PAGE A1

landfill will cost \$3 million to \$5 million to clean up.

It's not clear where the cleanup money will come from.

Kotchian said an amendment the City Council made to last year's budget required her to report to councilors on the state of the former landfills before this fiscal year ends June 30.

Mary Lou Leonard, the city's ground water and hazardous waste supervisor, said cleanup of the Los Angeles landfill will require installing machines to extract gases from the soil.

If that doesn't lower the contamination levels. Leonard said the city will remove the ground water with pumping wells, treat it and return it to the aquifer.

The city won't have to dig up the landfill.

News of the contamination unsettled Lucero who, like many of her neighbors, pumped water into her home from a private well while the dump was in operation and after its closure.

"We got city water in 1984," Lucero said. "We were one of the

first. Other people got it later."

Chief Administrative Officer Lawrence Rael confirmed that some people living near the former Los Angeles landfill still get their water from wells.

Leonard said Lucero and her North Valley neighbors needn't worry.

She explained that the ground water near the landfill flows east, taking the contaminants away from the North Valley residents. She also said there are no wells to the east of the landfill.

"I suppose the water could switch direction, but that would be very unusual, and we'd know about it right away," Leonard said. "We very carefully monitor things like that.

"We have no reason to believe ground water that is contaminated has gone anywhere near those homes or those wells. If we had, we'd have acted on it immediately."

Kotchian's revelations about the contamination came a week before a scheduled vote on Councilor Alan Armijo's proposal to decrease the recycling fees included in residential garbage bills by 18 cents a

month.

Rael has warned councilors that cutting garbage bills could hurt expansion of solid waste disposal in a growing city.

But Armijo said Thursday that he doesn't think Kotchian's comments were timed to scare councilors out of voting for his measure at next Monday's meeting.

Armijo said his proposal would affect revenues for the Solid Waste Department, which handles garbage disposal, not Kotchian's department.

"My amendment reduces the recycling fee, nothing else," he added. "It wouldn't affect landfills at all."

But Kotchian said that, when her department is ready to begin cleaning up the sites, the funding will likely have to come from increasing garbage or water rates, imposing a 1/16-cent gross receipts tax or raising so-called "tipping fees" at the city's solid waste convenience centers.

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