

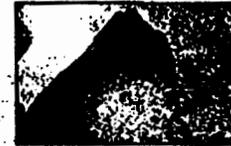
ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

PLAYING TOUGH

Spirited Spartans fall to top-rated Chargers

SPORTS • MS

Metro Plus



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1996

ALAMEDA • BURN • BERKALMILLO • BOSQUE PARK •
 CORRALES • LOS LUNAS • LOS RANCHOS DE ALBUQUERQUE
 PARADISE HILLS • PLACITAS • RIO RANCHO • TAYLOR RANCH

Bill Targets Threat to West Side Water

By PAUL LOGAN
Journal Staff Writer

A proposed law would pressure a national corporation to pay for cleaning up a major contamination plume that officials say threatens Albuquerque's ground water supply.

Sen. Joe Carraro, R-Albuquerque, is sponsoring Senate Bill 252, which calls for appropriating \$250,000 from the state general fund. The money would go to the New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee for starting to clean up the spreading contamination plume from Sparton Technology Inc.'s former West Side manufacturing site.

Carraro said Friday that his bill, if passed, will "do something quickly" to avoid further damage. If action isn't taken soon, he said, "this thing could pollute ground water in Albuquerque and pollute the aquifer."

The plume of contaminated water underlies nearly 90 acres of property and is spreading at the rate of three to 10 acres a year in Carraro's District 23. City of Albuquerque officials say the plume has moved out to at least a half mile from the Sparton site on North Coors.

Carraro said the Legislature's budget, contained in House Bill 2, also contains a similar request for funding to start the cleanup. But the bill might not

pass during this session because the Democratic leadership and Gov. Gary Johnson are in a standoff regarding the legislation's language, he said. So Carraro's bill might have a better chance of becoming law, he said.

Although the cost of cleaning the contaminated site is expected to be in the "area of millions of dollars," Carraro said, the legislative money is expected to give Sparton the impetus to begin its cleanup plans.

"We look at it as a start of the cleanup process," he said. "We'll let contracts and bill the company (Sparton) that's responsible. We'll give them a time frame to pay and if the money doesn't come

in, we'll take them to court and place a lien on their property."

The funding will be used to do engineering design work in preparation for starting the cleanup, said Bill Turner, the state's natural resources trustee.

Turner said Sparton's Rio Rancho plant did about \$23 million in electronic component sales last year. He said the state could garnish the plant's cash flow if Sparton doesn't pay the bills that the state intends to send the company.

Jan Appel, general counsel at Sparton's Jackson, Mich.-based corporate headquarters, could



CARRARO: "Do something quick."

See BILL on PAGE B2

WALK LIKE A LLAMA



Teen Camp Funded

WGB-00339-SPARTON

Bill Targets Threat to West Side Water

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not be reached for comment Friday.

The source of the contamination are solvents that Sparton used in its manufacturing process. The plant, which opened in 1961, first detected contamination in 1983. The manufacturing operations ceased in 1994.

Turner said legislative funding "is extremely vital. Without funding, we're a toothless lion. If this doesn't go through, we'll try something else. But this is the most certain way of getting the money."

The state is concerned that the plume is moving toward a paleochannel, an underground drainage area in which water flows at extremely high rates of speed, Turner said. Once the contaminated water reaches the channel — and Turner said "it's pretty close" — the polluted water could be spread throughout the West Side.

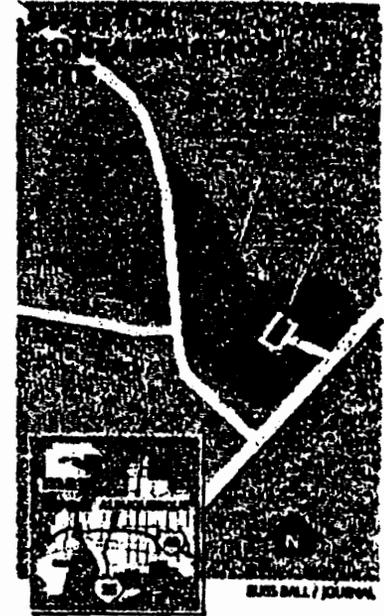
"It may not be the biggest (plume) in the state, but it's far and away the

most significant, because it lies in the heart of future (Albuquerque) water fields," he said.

Last week, local government officials, homeowners and other speakers attended the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's hearing at Cibola High School on the contamination plume. The EPA is expected to review information from the public comment period and announce a final remedy for the Sparton site in June, Turner said.

The Johnson administration's position on the plume calls for Turner's office to handle the problem if Sparton doesn't accept the EPA's ruling, he said. Johnson doesn't want the state Environment Department to begin another lengthy administrative process with Sparton, Turner said.

"The governor is absolutely flabbergasted," he said. "He didn't even know about (the plume)."



Poll Gives Valencia Campus High Marks

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although the administration did not follow up on the results because of pressing construction issues and meeting accreditation requirements, Gandara said. Individual departments, however, used pieces of the information in their programs.

The number of Valencia County residents who had taken classes at the school had risen by 6 percent since the last survey to 36 percent.

Twenty-five percent of the respondents said they would be

Fifty-one percent of the respondents were most interested in vocational or technical courses. Forty-three percent wanted upper division college courses that are transferable.

Respondents expressed interest in business classes and computer classes. Interest in noncredit courses was high for computer classes; health, fitness and personal development; and arts, crafts and hobbies.

"What we are trying to do is meet the needs of the residents in the service area," Gandara said.

Gandara said the survey results reaffirmed some of the new directions the campus is taking.

"The survey kind of underlines that there are two general areas of study that attract the most interest: vocational or technical courses," she said. "The campus is moving to design (such) courses that will be offered in the fall semester."

Research and Polling Inc. of Albuquerque was paid \$8,000 to conduct the survey in order to assess awareness of the school's programs and

GWB-00338-SPARTON

40189, Albuquerque, N.M., 96. For information call 247-2 and leave a name and phone message.

TROT HEADS OF NEW MEXICO begin meeting the second Thursday each month. Tentative time and location are Antonio's on Fourth NW between 5 and 7 p.m. If you enjoy Jimmy Buffett's music and a variety of social activities and volunteering community service and environmental projects, call Walt at 345-27.

ANIMAL HUMANE ASSOCIATION ADOPTION CENTER West Side satellite is in space donated by New Mexico Pet and Vet Supply at Coors and Alameda NW. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Monday.

CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAM Alameda Community Center, 9600 North NW, needs volunteer tutors. Each volunteer will be needed two hours weekly at the community center for an elementary or middle school student needing help with reading, spelling, writing or comprehension skills. Since volunteers will be trained, previous experience is not necessary. For information, call Lore Olsson at 898-6263.

FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS are needed by the state Children, Youth and Families Department. Training and reimbursement will be provided. For information about programs in Sandoval and Valencia counties call 867-2373 or 1-800-933-6274.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS AUDITIONS will be with Rio Rancho Parks and Recreation Department. Live auditions, without equipment or sound system provided, will be March 2.

chance to retrieve their pets before adoption. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily by appointment only; call 867-0004. The Animal Hotline operating 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. is 867-6135. **KIDZONE** for children 3-5 years old is offered 9 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at Sabana Grande Recreation Center and Haynes Community Center. Cost is \$40 a child each month. Activities include free play, cooperative games, arts and crafts and monthly field trips.

ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS group takes hikes to nearby locations with one- to four-day van trips, has mystery trips, social events and various service projects. Contact West Side Family YMCA at 899-8417 or Helen Pederson, Active Older Adult Program director, at 897-9206.

YMCA HIKING CLUB: Participants' first hikes are free. Meet at West Side Family YMCA, 4701 Montañito NW at Taylor Ranch at 9 a.m. to carpool to destination. Take water, a snack, sunscreen, a hat, and dress in layers. Hiking boots recommended. The group may have lunch after some hikes. Trips scheduled are: Thursday, Piedra Marcadas (Petroglyph National Monument), easy; March 9, Rinconado Canyon to Volcanos, moderate; March 21, Rio Puerco, moderate, and multi-generational hike to Piedra Marcadas (Petroglyphs), easy; April 18, Embudo Trail from the end of Indian School, moderate to difficult; May 18, Pino Trail from Elena Gallegos, moderate to difficult.

ANIMAL HUMANE ASSOCIATION needs volunteers and new members to help with adoptions at the new West Side satellite adoption center