

...the firefighter may
...en lost.
...and Los Chapulines
...ward the river and
...ncia and threatened
...le to control them

Kids Home

...on Friday gave stu-
...Del Valle SW after a
...line about 9 a.m.,
...tment,
...he incident.
...ay.

COURTS & COPS

...n prison despite pleas
...ent person," District
...8, before giving him
...father," Brown said.
...expressed by you."
...n to shoot his father
...sa in the buttocks.
...the parents found out
...far home.

QUOTE! OF THE WEEK

...k it's shocking."
...e Albuquerque P

...what instances would you support
...increases in state taxes?
..."I would oppose any state tax
...increases."
4. Do you generally agree with the

School, 1975
Occupation:
Owner, Our
Place
Sportsbar &



...provide these programs, I would
...have to vote for taxes."
4. Do you generally agree with the
...goals of Gov. Gary Johnson's admin-

6. Have you ever been charged with
...or convicted of drunken driving or
...any felony?
"No."

Mayor Pushes for Sparton Cleanup

City Resolution May Lead to Suit

BY CINDY GLOVER
Journal Staff Writer

On the city's West Side, toxic sol-
vents dumped into open pits for two
decades are encroaching on an
arroyo that is one the most impor-
tant pipelines recharging Albu-
querque's aquifer.

State officials said Friday that
contaminant levels in ground water
a quarter mile from the Calabacillas
Arroyo are 380 times greater than
drinking water standards allow and
pose an "imminent danger" to the
city's future water supply.

The U.S. Environmental Protec-
tion Agency is negotiating with
Sparton Technology Inc. to get the
electronics company to pay for a
cleanup.

But the pace of those negotiations
is not fast enough for Mayor Martin

Chavez. Chavez sent a resolution to
the City Council on Thursday that
lays the groundwork for the city to
sue Sparton.

Chief Administrative Officer
Lawrence Rael said the mayor
hopes a clear statement from the
city will add urgency to the discus-
sions and speed the cleanup.

Councilor Alan Armijo, who is
sponsoring the resolution, said he
will introduce it Monday.

Jan Appel, general counsel at
Sparton's Jackson, Mich.-based cor-
porate headquarters, could not be
reached for comment Friday.

State officials say they're disap-
pointed the city is considering
breaking ranks with other govern-
ment agencies involved in the case.

"We were hoping if there was a
lawsuit, that all five agencies would
be named as plaintiffs against the
company," Bill Williams, communi-
cations director of the state Envi-
ronment Department, said Friday.

The agencies involved are Albu-
querque, Bernalillo County, the

EPA, the state Environment
Department and the state Office of
Natural Resource Trustee.

Rael said the city has not decided
whether to sue; the resolution just
directs city attorneys to prepare for
the possibility.

The Sparton manufacturing plant
at 9621 Coors Road NW near the
intersection with Paseo del Norte
opened in 1961. The company pro-
duced microprocessors, circuit
boards and switches for nuclear
weapons until 1994.

Federal records show Sparton
and the EPA discovered the conta-
mination in 1980. The company
stopped using the pits in 1983 and,
under EPA direction, sank 17 moni-
toring wells.

In 1988, contamination was found
beyond the company's 12-acre prop-
erty and the EPA stiffened moni-
toring requirements.

But a state geologist said recent
surveys show the contamination
has continued to spread at the rate
of three to 10 acres a year. At the

farthest point being monitored, half
a mile from the plant, levels of
trichloroethylene are 1,900 parts
per billion compared to the maxi-
mum drinking water standard of 5
parts per billion.

The EPA estimates the cost of
cleanup between \$6.3 million and
\$15 million, depending on how far
the contamination "plume" has
spread.

"It is one of the worst cases of
ground-water contamination in the
state, no question about it," Dennis
McQuillan, a geologist with the
state Environment Department,
said Friday.

Assistant City Attorney Gary
O'Dea said the city did not learn
about the problem until six months
ago.

"That's part of our frustration.
They've (federal officials) known
it's been contaminated for over a
decade, but they still can't tell us
the extent of it. All we know is it's
egregious and fast-moving," O'Dea
said.

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Judge's Crack Remark Draws Fire

from PAGE B1

ary 1987, also attended. He said he
found out about the meeting from
state District Judge Tommy Jewell,
who encouraged him to explain him-
self.

"As a judge, I have some sympa-
thy for comments made particular-
ly in the heat of custody arraign-
ments," said Jewell, who is Black

Some people at the meeting want-
ed more drastic action, suggesting
Gentry should be removed from the
judiciary, Hoppes said. Others
mostly wanted an apology.

"My feeling is I don't think at this
time I could say Judge Gentry is a
racist or if he was saying something
to hurt a certain race," said Herb
Edmon, a retired firefighter and
community activist. He said the

However, he suggested that the
statement might have shaken peo-
ple up enough to initiate needed dia-
logue about drug problems.

"Crack dealers are coming in
from all over the country to prey on
us, and they focus on poor and
underprivileged areas, and they
ravage them," Gentry said.

Perhaps his perspective on the
impact of crack on the Black com-

"It was a very weird day," Taylor
said, because it was one of the first
days of a District Attorney's Office
policy not to prosecute certain drug
cases.

Taylor said that one of her first
thoughts after hearing Gentry's
comment was that it was a reflec-
tion on his frustration of not prose-
cuting drug cases.

"It was poorly phrased without a
doubt," Taylor said. "But I have a lot

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