

Benito
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October 23, 1997

New Mexico in brief

EPA expected to approve WIPP today

The Environmental Protection Agency today is expected to give the go-ahead for the Waste Isolation Pilot Project.

WIPP is a \$19 billion Department of Energy project to bury radioactive waste, including waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory, underground in salt beds near Carlsbad.

The EPA already has announced that the plant will meet the agency's basic disposal standard: that the waste remain isolated from the envi-

ronment for 10,000 years. That announcement was met by criticism by environmental groups that accused the agency of being overly lenient.

A 120-day comment period will follow the agency's proposed decision.

EPA administrator Carol Browner is expected to make her final decision next May. Department of Energy officials hope WIPP can start receiving waste by the end of next summer.

Ditch that old, smelly recliner this week

Now is the time to get rid of the tattered old recliner chewing up space in your garage.

As part of Fall Clean-Up Week, the city Solid Waste Division will pick up old furniture, appliances, yard waste and other large items that are left at the curbside between 6 to 8 a.m. on normal garbage collection days all this week.

Tree branches should be cut to four feet or shorter lengths, bundled, and weigh less than 40 pounds. Capital Scrap and Metals Co. of Santa Fe also will re-

move old vehicles. Call 471-0740 to make arrangements for removal.

For large or heavy items that might take more than two men to lift, call 473-7207 to coordinate the pickup.

Residents also are urged to participate in the recycling exchange program, "Otra Vez: Trash to Treasures," which provides an exchange program for unwanted goods. Call Nancy Judd, the city's recycling coordinator, at 473-7202.

County to sponsor free dumping day

Santa Fe County is sponsoring a free trash day on Saturday, from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

County residents with vehicle permits can make unlimited trips to any of the county's nine transfer stations for free on that day.

Transfer stations will accept bags of trash, leaves, grass and plywood cut into 4-foot pieces

or smaller. Lead-acid batteries, anti-freeze and dead animals are prohibited. The free day is limited to residential customers.

County Manager Domingo Sánchez said the county hopes to sponsor two free days per year, in the fall and the spring, to give residents a chance to clean out their homes and yards.

Woodmen's Halloween party is Saturday

Rangers of the Woodmen of the World are having a Hallow-

No. 351 are invited to the party from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the

PNM fails to stop rate case

Public Service Company of New Mexico failed to stop an electric rate case it contends will hinder electric utility competition in New Mexico.

The state Supreme Court refused Monday to halt the rate case in which PNM must justify its customer charges. Regulators on Tuesday scheduled the case for Nov. 3.

The court said it found no evidence to grant the company's request to delay the case, which was ordered by the Public Utility Commission.

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