

next to City Hall.

Voters will decide whether the city should raise its gross-receipts tax by two separate increments of one-sixteenth of a cent. One increase would pay for the costs of 15 police officers. The other would subsidize operation costs for the south-side recreation center.

Early voting continues through Friday.

The city parking division is distributing a new downtown parking guide. The 16-page booklet explains parking-incentive programs and shows downtown parking facilities. The booklets will be available at hotels, information centers and municipal parking lots. To request copies for your business, call 984-6852.

Whistleblower claims retaliation in Taos

A former employee is suing the Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, alleging he was fired in retaliation for reporting problems at the nonprofit foundation for the creative arts.

Mark Goldman, the foundation's former maintenance supervisor, filed the lawsuit Aug. 30 in state District Court in Taos against the foundation, its board of trustees and its acting executive director, Michael Knight.

Goldman's lawsuit contends he was fired May 4 "because his statements of the foundation's wrongdoing formed the basis of an investigation by the attorney general's office."

Among the problems Goldman reported were violations of the Uniform Building Code with respect to construction activities at the foundation — including the installation of double-cylinder deadbolts on doors to the artists' residences that "seriously compromised" their safety in case of fire or other disaster, the lawsuit says.

Goldman also reported an improper bid process at the foundation; a misappropriation of foundation funds; and the foundation's failure to pay state taxes, the lawsuit says.

Wurlitzer officials declined to comment but said they plan to issue a statement about the lawsuit after a board meeting this weekend.

Plan for Eldorado self-storage scrubbed

A request to Santa Fe County

Roybal heads N.M. Municipal League

Española pro tem mayor Chris Roybal was elected president of the New Mexico Municipal League during the organization's 42nd annual conference held in Albuquerque, Sept. 1 to 3.

Silver City Mayor John Paul Jones was named president-elect, Carlsbad Councilor Charles E. Wiggins was elected vice president, and Santa Fe Councilor Molly Whitted was chosen as treasurer.

The new officers will take their positions Oct. 1.

Hurley Trustee Ray Baca, Artesia Councilor Manuel Madrid, and Springer Trustee Carlos Gutierrez filled the three positions for two year terms as at-large directors on the League's Board of Directors.

The New Mexico Municipal League is a nonprofit organization which represents all 102 incorporated municipalities in New Mexico.

Officer: Give WIPP a state permit

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant — which has been receiving radioactive waste since March — should be given a state permit, a hearing officer's report has concluded.

Jeffrey Gulin based his conclusion on weeks of testimony from the Department of Energy as well as opponents of the underground waste dump near Carlsbad, said environment spokesman Nathan Wade. Gulin found no evidence that the facility will contaminate groundwater or the surrounding area, Wade said.

The public now has 15 days to comment on the report.

Opponents of the dump will ask Maggiore to extend the comment period. They also will ask to make oral arguments in front of Maggiore before he makes a decision, said Don Hancock of the Southwest Research and Information Center in Albuquerque.

The 104-page report is available to be read by the public at the New Mexico Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau office at 2044 Galisteo, Building A.

For more information call 827-1557.

ment from its national rankings in the past several years.

Wyoming had the highest rate of alcohol-involved traffic deaths last year and New York had the lowest, according to figures released Monday by the DWI Resource Center in Albuquerque.

In New Mexico, there were 8.75 alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population last year.

That's down from 10 deaths per 100,000 in 1997, when New Mexico had the third highest rate in the nation. In 1996, New Mexico had the nation's worst per-capita rate of alcohol-involved highway deaths.

The latest rankings are based on newly published information

percent blood alcohol con Linda Atkinson, ex director of the DWI R Center, said that New M rate was almost twice the al average of 4.61 alcohol traffic deaths per 100,000 "We still have a lot of do," Atkinson said.

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