



House Schools Takes Safety Precautions

By Maddie Kenyon
Editor

House Schools recently took safety precautions by holding a shelter-in-place and canceling school due to a manhunt for two fugitives in the Fort Sumner area.

During the 48-hour manhunt, House Schools stayed in constant contact with local authorities and made decisions based on guidance from law enforcement.

According to the Albuquerque Journal, the fugitives were found on Wednesday in Fort Sumner and taken into custody. “Makaela Johnson, 26, and Jovan Martinez, 40, are charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, aggravated assault on a peace officer, harboring a felon, and an assortment of other charges,” the

Albuquerque Journal reported. Coby Norman, House Schools superintendent, said the school followed law enforcement’s recommendations.

“When I was notified by law enforcement that they were searching for fugitives who had shot at an officer and were believed to be south of Highway 84, we took security precautions to ensure the safety of our students,” Norman said.

Norman said the school implemented a shelter-in-place on Tuesday and canceled in-person learning on Wednesday.

“One of the primary reasons I canceled school was to allow law enforcement to reduce their presence in our area and assist with the fugitive search,” he said. “This allowed two of the

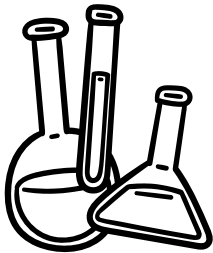
three officers in the House area to go to Fort Sumner to help.”

Norman said the situation provided important lessons for both the school and the community.

“This reinforced my belief in the importance of holding drills,” he said. “I also learned the importance of clear communication when it comes to decisions and not relying on social media as a primary source of information.”

He added that the experience serves as a reminder for everyone.

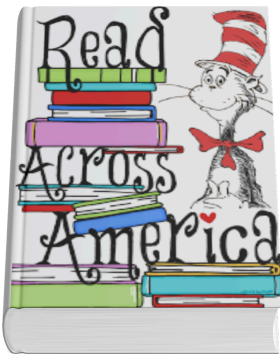
“I’ve learned that just because something is allegedly going on doesn’t mean people need to react immediately,” Norman said. “Wait until you have reliable information, and then act.”



Science Fair – p. 2
House Municipal Schools prepares for the annual science fair. Science teacher, Wayne Sleep reflects on the goals, purpose, and requirements of the science fair.



Voices of House Schools – p.2
Voices of House Schools gives students the chance to share their thoughts, creativity, and school spirit through writing and storytelling. The publication celebrates student perspectives, achievements, and the events that make House Schools such a close-knit and vibrant community.



Read Across America – p. 3
House Municipal Schools celebrated Read Across America Week with dress-up days, reading activities, and recognition of student success to promote a love of reading. Literacy Coach Lisa Norman shared that students have read 267 books this year and emphasized that the event helps expose students to a variety of books, including Dr. Seuss favorites.



Weird Laws in New Mexico– p. 4
New Mexico has several unusual laws, like banning lunchboxes on Main Street in Las Cruces and prohibiting public spitting in Deming, though many are outdated or not enforced today. These laws reflect older language and values, showing how rules and societal expectations have changed over time.

Seniors Look Ahead to the Future

By Kaliah Quintana
Staff Writer

As the 2025–2026 school year comes to an end, four seniors are preparing for their next chapter after graduation.

Maddie Kenyon plans to attend New Mexico State University, where she will double major in agricultural education and agricultural communications, with hopes of pursuing a career in teaching or agricultural public relations.

“I’m excited to continue learning and be involved in different organizations on campus,” Kenyon said.

Valeria Caraveo will attend South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, where she is exploring career options

but is especially interested in radiology.

“I’m still figuring things out, but I’m interested in a career in radiology,” Caraveo said.

Cade Lee is still deciding but is considering Clarendon College, with interests in ranch or turf management.

“I’m still deciding where to go, but I know I want to work in something related to agriculture,” Lee said.

Aimee Ross is leaning toward Eastern New Mexico University and plans to study elementary education.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with kids, so teaching feels like the right path for me,” Ross said.

Kenyon hopes to maintain a high GPA, participate in the honors program, and get involved in campus organizations. Caraveo wants to stay accountable while also enjoying her college experience. Lee aims to pass all of his classes, have fun, and continue improving his skills and hobbies. Ross plans to succeed in her classes, make new friends, and improve her time management so she can balance school with her personal interests.

Each senior is taking the next step toward their future.

EDITORIAL

Students Prepare for Upcoming Annual Science Fair

By Maddie Kenyon
Editor

The annual House Schools Science Fair will be held in late May, in the gymnasium or multipurpose room. The science fair is a tradition of House Schools and students in fifth through secondary grades enrolled in a science course will participate. Each small group or student will present their project that they worked on at school and home.

Wayne Sleep said the science fair helps students to gain real-life experience

in the scientific field. “The purpose of the science fair is to help students explore science through hands-on learning, practice problem-solving skills, and learn how to present their ideas clearly to others,” Sleep said.

He said students have requirements for the project that they choose. “Students need to choose a project that will allow them to utilize the scientific method to explore a topic,” Sleep said. “They will have to ask a question, research

their topic, state a hypothesis, test that hypothesis, analyze the data, and report the results. The information they gain will have to be presented in a written research paper and with a display board that highlights their project and results.”

He said he hopes students will gain a plethora of knowledge through their projects. “The goal is for students to gain confidence, curiosity, and a better understanding of the scientific process. The

science fair also helps students build communication skills and how to interpret data as it relates to a question they are trying to answer,” Sleep said.

He said that students made progress in their projects. “Some students have already chosen their project topics, while others are still deciding. A few students began planning early and are already gathering materials and research,” he said.

House FFA Prepares for State Career Development Events

By Cypress Sholtz
Staff Writer

The National FFA Organization offers opportunities to develop students’ skills in premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

One of these opportunities is participating in Career Development Events (CDEs), also known as judging competitions.

Maddie Kenyon, House FFA president, said she competes in wool and homesite judging. She explained that these

events require memorizing wool textures, numbers, and rules, which can be challenging.

“In wool and homesite alike, there are a lot of numbers and rules that you have to memorize,” Kenyon said.

She added that success requires a strong work ethic and teamwork.

“To be competitive, you have to study and work for it. It’s a team effort, so everyone needs to pull their weight and try,” she

said.

There are eleven students from House competing in judging events, including wool, land, homesite, agricultural mechanics, and entomology. The students involved are Maddie, Elizabeth, Adela, Maria, Aaron, Cade, Andrew, Zarek, Jalen, Adam, and Kyle.

Students must work as a team while also performing well individually to earn high scores. All House teams

have qualified to compete at the state Career Development Events competition.

The state competition will be held April 7–10 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, at the New Mexico State University campus.

Results from the state competition will be posted in the May edition of the House Roundup and shared on the House Municipal Schools Facebook page.

VOICES OF HOUSE SCHOOLS

What’s your go-to excuse when you’re tired?

“I didn’t get much sleep last night.”
Bruce, 5th

If you could swap schedules with anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

“Probably Maddie because she makes bank off of NPT and she has free time.”
Adam, 10th

What’s your current “school mood” in one sentence?

“Looking foward to summer.”
Mrs. Hampton, librarian

Which teacher would survive in the wild the longest?

“Mrs. Lavender.”
Davín, 3rd

House Schools Celebrate Read Across America Week

By Annabelle Wooldridge
Staff Writer

House Municipal Schools celebrated “Read Across America Week,” through reading books, dressing up, and showcasing students' success.

Read Across America Week is a nationwide celebration of reading, with the goal of fostering an appreciation for reading in students. It was established by the

National Education Association, coinciding with Dr. Seuss’s birthday. House Schools Literacy Coach, Lisa Norman said that the school has been excellent in their overall reading status. “We have counted from the beginning of the year, and we have read 267 books,” Norman said. She said this is a great opportunity for literacy

improvement.

“I love it, because students are exposed to Dr. Seuss books and other genres of books,” Norman said.

Norman said she enjoys the week-long celebration and appreciates its impact.

“I look forward to it every year. I like to read to students, and with students,” she said.

Mrs. Norman also participated in Read Across America Week herself.

“Some of the books I read included The Cat in the Hat, One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish, Mr. Brown Can Moo, and The Lorax,” Norman said.

Read Across America Week helps students develop a love for reading and encourages them to explore different books.



FLOWERS	BREEZE
BLOSSOM	SUNNY
BUTTERFLY	PICNIC
RAINBOW	BEE
LADYBUG	RAIN
SPROUTS	GROW

Pen and Paper vs. Technology in the Classroom

By: Kaylee Smith
Faculty Sponsor

Teachers at House Municipal Schools shared their thoughts on whether students learn better using traditional pen and paper or modern devices, and the responses showed a mix of perspectives with some clear trends. Many teachers agreed that traditional methods help students stay more focused during class time. “On the computer there are too many distractions,” Mrs. Regalado said, explaining that it is easy for students to click away from their work. Mrs. Seick added that students are “more focused” when using pen and paper, especially during note-taking or

writing assignments. Mr. Sleep shared a more balanced view, saying, “A combination of the two is best,” emphasizing that both methods can play an important role in learning.

Several teachers also pointed out that students tend to remember information better when they physically write things down. One teacher explained that writing “helps them fix things in their brain better,” meaning it strengthens memory and understanding. Others agreed that drafting work by hand often leads to stronger writing, better organization, and more thoughtful responses.

Teachers noticed that when students slow down to write, they tend to think more deeply about what they are trying to say, which can improve both comprehension and critical thinking skills.

When it comes to technology, opinions were more mixed. Some teachers said devices can improve learning by giving students access to more resources, faster research, and tools that make assignments easier to complete. However, others raised concerns about how easily technology can become a distraction. “Students abuse the computer and open up tabs,” one teacher said, noting that

it can be difficult to keep students on task when they have access to games, social media, or other websites during class.

Overall, teachers agreed that both technology and handwriting have value in the classroom. While pen and paper can help with focus, memory, and deeper thinking, technology can provide helpful tools and resources when used correctly. Most teachers believe that finding a balance between the two is key to helping students stay engaged, build strong skills, and succeed both in school and beyond.

Weird Laws in New Mexico

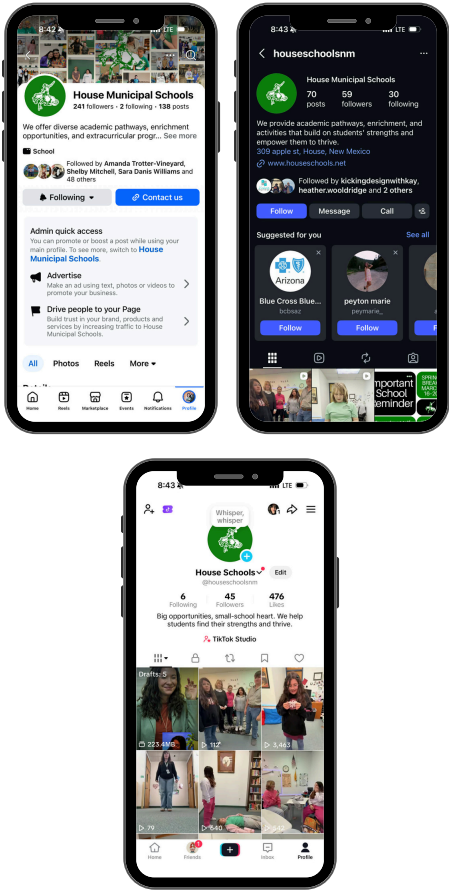
By Hendrina VanderMerwe
Staff Writer

There are many weird laws in New Mexico that demonstrate the difference between modern and past slang and ideals. While many of these laws are not enforced today, they are still interesting examples of how rules have changed over time. One commonly mentioned law comes from Las Cruces, where it is said that carrying a lunchbox down Main Street is prohibited. However, there is little evidence that this law is currently enforced or

officially documented. It is often shared more as a local story than a rule people actually follow. Another unusual law in New Mexico states that “idiots” are not allowed to vote. While this sounds strange, the wording comes from older legal language that is no longer used today. Modern laws focus on more specific qualifications for voting, making this law more of a historical example than something actively applied. In Deming, there is also

a law related to public behavior. Spitting in public is prohibited, which was likely created to promote cleanliness and public health. While it may seem unusual today, laws like this were common in the past to help keep communities sanitary. Even though some of these laws may seem strange, they show how rules and expectations have changed over time. Looking back at them helps us better understand the history of laws in New Mexico.

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If you have concerns about possible special education needs for your child, please reach out to us!

Contact us at House Municipal Schools:
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