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Santa Fean's Lobbying Shows One Person Can Make Difference

By Sue Major Holmes
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Frances Neigh of Santa Fe believes citizen lobbyists can make a difference. "I sure want people to know that it's possible to do it and it's worth it, it's worth it," said Mrs. Neigh, 80.

In 1985, she lobbied the Legislature for a measure requiring life care retirement committees for the elderly to disclose certain financial information to prospective customers.

Her work led to the Continuing Care Act, sponsored by Reps. Bill Camp, R-Bernalillo, and Robert Hawk, D-Bernalillo.

The measure requires disclosure of information so senior citizens can evaluate the information and make their own judgment as to whether it's prudent to put their life savings into this sort of thing," Camp said.

He said the law was needed because in other states, people had solicited large deposits of around \$50,000 from elderly people inter-

ested in a life care facility. But the facilities never were built and the backers disappeared with the money, he said.

In other cases, honest business people opened up a life care home, only to have it fail due to poor management or other factors, he said.

"Senior citizens who would lay out large fees were left holding nothing," Camp said.

Camp credited Mrs. Neigh for getting the law through the Legislature.

Mrs. Neigh, who lives in a life care home for the elderly, worked for two years gathering information and similar laws from other states before she went to the Legislature with the idea.

"You have to have your heart and soul in it," she said. "It has to be a real cause with a capital C. It can be done."

Camp also said Mrs. Neigh had a good lobbying technique. "Some citizens just can't take no for an answer," he said. "If a legislator has a philosophical differ-

ence, instead of saying thank you and moving on to the next legislator, they just keep talking and talking and talking to a legislator they are never going to convince."

Smart Bluestone, an attorney in the consumer division of the attorney general's office, said Mrs. Neigh "essentially singlehandedly spearheaded the passage of the law."

He said Mrs. Neigh worked closely with Camp and Hawk, the Legislative Council Service, the state Agency on Aging and the attorney general's consumer division.

"She talked personally to virtually every legislator in the House and Senate, and while there was some opposition... this law is on the books now," he said.

"One person can make a difference," Bluestone said.

Bluestone, who spent several years as an attorney lobbying Congress on consumer issues, said the New Mexico Legislature is more open and approachable for the average citizen than Congress is.

"Practically every committee chairman who reviews a bill in a public hearing asks members of the public if they have any comment. They (lawmakers) are there, avail-

able to be approached on different on," Bluestone said.

He said citizens who are interested in an issue or a piece of legislation can have an impact on it.

Two Shootings Bring Area 1986 Homicide Total to 61

Two people were killed in separate shootings Saturday, bringing the Albuquerque area homicide total to 61 so far this year.

Albuquerque police were called to the 300 block of Dallas SE shortly before 2 a.m. where they found the body of Paul Dubose, 22, of Charleston SE, said police spokesman Mary Molina Mesal.

Dubose had been shot once in his chest with a small-caliber gun. Ms. Mesal said. Police sought two men for questioning.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's officers were investigating the shooting death of a woman in the 7500 block of North Coors Saturday evening. Identity of the woman—and a man taken into custody near the scene—were not available.

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Bingaman Campaigns for Calkin

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., on Saturday helped attract more than 100 people to a fund-raiser on behalf of land commissioner candidate Brant Calkin.

Bingaman, so far the highest-ranking elected official to stump for a candidate in that race, arrived in Albuquerque earlier Saturday from a congressional session that ran two weeks late.

Calkin faces Republican Bill Humphreys in the Nov. 4 general election.

"When you get a senator who on the day he gets back from Washington is nevertheless willing to keep his commitment for someone who's

position down the ballot," Calkin said, "that shows the guy's not just mouthing loyalty."

The fund-raiser was held in the Southside Heights home of Dr. Frank Hesse and his wife, Zora. Mrs. Hesse is a former Democratic national commissioner.

"I've known Brant a long time, and I think he's a quality candidate," Bingaman said. "He knows the issues facing the land office, he's committed to the public interest, and I think that kind of candidate should be supported and encouraged."

Calkin and Bingaman had already been helpful in his race despite delay in the session placing phone calls on his behalf and contacting potential donors to Calkin's campaign.

He said Bingaman's support will be helpful in other ways, both during and after the campaign. "Inevitably, there's going to be legislation that affects the State Land Office that's going to be going before Congress," Calkin said.

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Neighborhood Watch Leaders Meet

By Steven Parks
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. That was the message of law enforcement officials and judicial spokesmen attending the second annual Albuquerque Block Captains Association conference Saturday.

Block captains help coordinate the city's Neighborhood Watch program in their area. The conference gives block captains an opportunity to discuss common problems and exchange ideas among themselves.

said Richard B. Leonard, an organizer for the meeting. District Attorney Steven Schiff said the Neighborhood Watch program is instrumental in helping police make arrests and prevent crime.

"The majority of arrests stem from citizens seeing something that doesn't look right and calling the police," he said. "The fact that there are block captains talking to people in the neighborhood persuades people to help protect themselves."

Sgt. John Shainin of the Albuquerque Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit said everyone must participate in crime prevention because the APD's manpower is limited.

"It's time that the citizens of Albuquerque realize that the police department is unable to protect everyone," Shainin said. "We are here to serve you. But... you have it impossible for us to be watching every house in the city of Albuquerque 24 hours a day."

Domenici Boosts Cargo Luncheon Via Phone Call

By David Staats
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

LAS VEGAS — Cheered on by a U.S. senator in a telephone call they couldn't hear, about 50 supporters of Republican congressional candidate David Cargo turned out Saturday for a free lunch of ham, cheese and political speeches.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., telephoned the Rialto Restaurant from Washington to help rally the Cargo crowd. But no one had arranged a speaker hookup, and a city councilman wound up having to relay Domenici's words from the phone behind the bar.

Domenici complimented Cargo for running "a good campaign without enough money" against two-term Democratic incumbent Bill Richardson, said the conciliatory Democrat Matt Martinez. Referring to the entire GOP ticket, Domenici said, "This is going to be a new start for New Mexico."

Cargo said it was the third time in three weeks that he has campaigned in heavily Democratic Las Vegas.

The former governor used the occasion to reiterate some of his campaign themes. He called for higher state-employee salaries, attacked Richardson as unresponsive to poor people, urged Richardson to debate him, and reminded supporters of the roads, parks, and other public works he built in northern counties when he was in office nearly two decades ago.

DWI Section Gets New Chief

GALLUP — Mayor Robert Allan has appointed municipal court employee Dorothy Baca director of the new city-run, drunk-driving school.

Mrs. Baca will replace Municipal Judge Ladio Ramalho as head of the school, which was closed last month when the Supreme Court ordered Ramalho to cut his ties with the school. Classes could begin within the next two weeks.

Though Mrs. Baca is a court employee, City Manager Dan Doble said the state would not protest her involvement in the school since she is not involved in sentencing DWI offenders.

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