

Governor again vetoes Botanical Garden funds

By Journal Staff

Gov. Susana Martinez still doesn't like using state dollars for the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. For the second year in a row, she cut state money for the park being developed on Santa Fe's Museum Hill from the capital outlay bill approved by the Legislature.

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Last year, she called money for the Botanical Garden "wasteful pork." Her veto this year eliminates \$140,000 the Legislature approved for the multi-year project spearheaded by a nonprofit.

The financially strapped Santa Fe Children's Museum fared better. Martinez okayed \$117,336 for improvements at the museum.

Also last year, the governor set off controversy by axing nearly \$1.4 million to furnish the new Santa Fe County Courthouse. In her budget actions Friday, she vetoed \$45,000 for touchscreen computers at the new courthouse but left intact \$85,000 for information technology wiring for the \$60 million building.

The governor also vetoed: appropriations of \$10,000 each for "marquees" at Santa Fe's Capshaw Middle School and the Academy at Larragoite; \$100,000 for improvements at the Poeh Center at Pojoaque Pueblo; \$185,000 for solar panels at the state Capitol; \$50,000 for a "math and science artwalk" in Los Alamos; \$250,000 for an "evidence collection vehicle" and police cars for the Rio Arriba County Sheriff's Office; \$65,000 for "theater and convention equipment" in Santa Fe County; and \$64,500 for improvements to Siringo Road to accommodate the Santa Fe Community College's new Higher Education Center.

Some of the many appropriations Martinez left intact include: \$3.5 million for a new State Police office in Española; \$850,000 in track and locomotive improvements for the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railway; \$1.8 million for repairs to the deteriorating Bradner Dam in San Miguel County; \$500,000 for a fitness center at the Institute of American Indian Arts; \$216,000 for a trauma treatment center in Santa Fe; \$680,000 for a new indoor arena on the Santa Fe County rodeo grounds; \$135,000 for improvements including a cafe counter at the Santa Fe Farmers Market; \$8 million for improvements to the New Mexico School for the Deaf; \$50,000 for Santa Fe's El Museo Cultural; and \$225,000 for new baseball fields in the Pojoaque Valley.

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