

# Artesia Daily Press

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## School shooting threat at Artesia schools

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Artesia Daily Press

Artesia High School was temporarily placed on a “shelter in place” order by local police Tuesday afternoon after authorities said they were investigating a potential shooting threat.

Investigators later discovered

the call came from Louisiana and alleged that it was made to schools throughout the U.S. including at least one more in New Mexico at Ruidoso High School.

Police Chief Kirk Roberts said the same caller threatened multiple schools across the country, labeling the threat as “swatting,” a fake emergency call designed to trigger a heavy police response.

By Tuesday night, the call was deemed to be not credible, police said, but led to Artesia High and Junior High schools being let out early, following a brief shelter-in-place order which asked students and staff to remain in classrooms until further notice.

The caller was described as an unknown person who contacted the high school via telephone

and said there would be a school shooting on Tuesday, said Commander Pete Quinoes with the Artesia Police Department.

He said the caller did not give a specific time or location, and that police were working to identify the person who made the call.

Investigators were notified of the possible threat at about 1:15 p.m. by a school resource officer

and gave the shelter in place order “out of an abundance of precaution,” according to a new release from Artesia police.

Shelter in place means students and staff within school buildings were asked to stay in their classrooms and not move

**THREAT,**  
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### SEE INSIDE

Look inside this edition of the newspaper for a special section of preview coverage of the Legacy of Liberty Air Show planned this weekend at Holloman Air Force Base.

Stories detail the planes flying in the show, the people behind the event, and what to know if you go.

The Legacy of Liberty Air Show is Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19.

The event is free and open to the public.

## Hull touts industry support

*Rio Rancho mayor seeking GOP nomination for governor*

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Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull brought his campaign for the Republican gubernatorial nomination to Artesia this week, touting his record of supporting new industries in his community.

Hull was elected to his third term as mayor of Sandoval County’s biggest city in 2022 and is one of two candidates vying for front-runner status in the June 2 primary.

The primary winner will take on the Democrats’ nominee in the general election Nov. 3 when New Mexicans will choose a successor to outgoing Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat who is serving her second term and is prevented by term limits from seeking reelection.

Hull, 59, addressed a Tuesday, April 14, gathering of about 10 residents and government leaders at Artesia coffee shop Kith and Kin, citing increases in Rio Rancho’s local industries such as aerospace and manufacturing.

He pointed specifically to California-based aerospace company Castelion, which earlier this year began construction of a missile manufacturing plant about three miles outside the city’s limits. The plant is a \$220 million project expected to create 300 jobs and \$650 million in economic impact over the next decade, according to the company’s website.

Before he was elected, Hull said, “The business climate in Rio Rancho was just horrible. When I started complaining about it, people started saying I should do something about it. I realized it’s

**HULL,**  
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MIKE SMITH | ARTESIA DAILY PRESS

A ribbon cutting welcomed New Mexico School for the Deaf’s new infant hearing testing center on April 10, 2026.

## Infant hearing testing center brings support to families



MIKE SMITH | ARTESIA DAILY PRESS

**Dr. Jennifer Herbold, superintendent of the New Mexico School for the Deaf, says an infant hearing testing center was needed in Artesia.**

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A new regional infant and hearing testing center in Artesia means fewer trips to Albuquerque for screenings of newborn babies, officials say.

Members of the Santa Fe-based New Mexico School for the Deaf joined government, nonprofit and business leaders from Artesia and Eddy County for an April 10 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Regional Infant Hearing Testing Center at Haven of Hope, 2100 W. Richey Ave.

Dr. Jennifer Herbold, superintendent of the school for the deaf, said the Artesia center will serve Eddy, Lea, and Chaves counties, relieving residents of the need to make the nearly three-hour drive to Albuquerque for testing.

Hearing loss is the most common condition present at birth, according to a news release from the school for the deaf.

“New Mexico law requires that all newborns be screened for hearing loss at birthing hospitals across the state,” the release read. “However, when infants in Lea, Eddy, and Chaves counties do not pass their hospital screening or follow-up screening, families have traditionally had to travel to Albuquerque for diagnostic testing.”

Herbold said the testing center in Artesia resulted from a plan launched last year involving families, health care providers, nonprofits, and state legislators.

“It’s amazing what community representation can do,” Herbold said. “When we first started with the Legislature we said we needed funding for audiology services for the whole state. They were supportive. But then we continued looking for a specific site and the site is actually one of the very hardest parts.”

She said the Artesia community stepped forward, offering the Haven of Hope location.

“Now that I see this place for myself it is very beautiful,” Herbold said.

Haven of Hope has seen firsthand the strain involved in young mothers transporting babies to Albuquerque for a hearing test, said Denys Rivera, executive director of the organization dedicated to providing life skills to single mothers and their children.

“We actually have a mom here at Haven of Hope who was having to travel to Albuquerque for one her sons to see a specialist,” Rivera said. “It came full circle for us, and we were glad we were able to bring a little bit of assistance and hope into our home.”

Artesia Mayor Jeff Youtsey said the school for the deaf and Haven of Hope provided a needed service for the community.

“It gives children local access. It gets treatment help for these children,” he said.

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