

Family arming son with love, faith to fight problems

EDITOR'S NOTE: A white Mormon couple from Tatum touched off a flurry of controversy last year when they launched a successful legal battle to adopt a baby of mixed race. Earl and Jane Jones said their lives were filled with despair when social workers told them they couldn't have the baby placed in their home under a foster-parent program. But the Joneses won their fight and adopted the child. Starla Searfoss of the Hobbs News-Sun visited the

family last month, on Father's Day.
By STARLA SEARFOSS
Hobbs News-Sun
TATUM (AP) — Earl and Jane Jones, a white Mormon couple who took on state bureaucrats and won a dramatic legal fight to adopt a half-white, half-black baby boy, say love and faith will overcome problems the child is bound to face.
"My plan is to teach Jonathan to be a man and live his life according to the Scriptures," said

Jones. "That in itself will help him overcome any problems."
The Joneses said they knew Jonathan Brooks Jones, now nearly 2, was "going to have a life filled with complications."
"We're certain we can cope with it," they said. "Things labeled as complications we don't really consider complications."
June marked the first anniversary of the precedent-setting court case where the Joneses won the right to adopt Jonathan. The family has two

other children, Aaron, 13, and Leesa, 9, who also is adopted.
Jonathan's life with the Joneses began when he was 4 days old. A social worker from the Human Services Department in Hobbs called to ask the couple if they wanted to be foster parents to a "mixed blood baby."
"The Joneses asked to be allowed to adopt Jonathan after he had been in their home a week. At first the state seemed to condone the adoption.
But one day, when Jones, the

owner of a prosperous oil supply firm was out of town on business, Mrs. Jones received a call telling her a Hobbs caseworker would be at her home in an hour to take Jonathan to a black foster home.
Asked the reason for the abrupt removal, the caseworker told Mrs. Jones in a tape-recorded conversation, "I will not put a black child in a Mormon home."
The Joneses took the agency to court, charging religious and racial discrimination.
After Jonathan was taken, Mrs.

Jones doubted she would get her 4-month-old child back.
"My heart was so heavy and full of despair," she says now. "I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep. I didn't know which way to turn. The entire family prayed."
On June 17, 1978, the Human Services Department retreated from its opposition to the interracial adoption and announced in Santa Fe District Court that it had decided it was in the best interests of Jonathan, who was then 8 months old, to allow the Joneses to adopt him.
The case also led to a review by the Human Services Department of its policies on interracial adoption.

Jones said that once the case went to court, he was sure Jonathan would be returned. "They wanted a closed session because they knew we were going to hang their dirty laundry out," he said.
Four months after being taken from the Jones' sprawling, comfortable ranch house north of Tatum, Jonathan was back home.
Mrs. Jones said that at first, he was "afraid of things, reserved." But it didn't take him long to get over it, she said in a recent interview, during which Jonathan played with a golf ball in the middle of the living room floor.
Moments later a golf ball

whizzed through the air and bounced off a wall. Jonathan momentarily forgot it and ran to the sliding patio door, having spied an airplane. He tried to open the door himself, saying, "airplane, airplane."
"All the children have special spirits," Mrs. Jones said. "Jonathan has a specially special spirit."
Jones, who isn't afraid to show affection by cuddling and touching his children, admits the family gets some strange looks.
"People look and think hmmm. I wonder what kind of hanky-panky went on. There's a lot of

News Of New Mexico Anthony dollar popularity varies

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Some Albuquerque banks reported heavy sales of the new Susan B. Anthony dollar coin, while others said they had only a few people asking for them.
The coin was placed in circulation Monday in Albuquerque as it was around the rest of the country.
The coin is smaller than a half dollar and slightly larger than a quarter. The likeness of suffragette Susan B. Anthony appears on one side of the coin. It's the first U.S. coin to carry the image of an American woman.
The U.S. Treasury and bankers are hoping it will catch on since it costs less to produce than the Eisenhower coin dollar and will circulate longer than the dollar paper note.
The First National Bank reported it sold 116,000 of the new coins to customers and other banks Monday. A spokesman for Albuquerque National Bank said the coins were selling well there, too.
But at the Plaza Del Sol National Bank sales of the coins were going very slowly, said a bank spokesman.
Reaction of people who received the coins at banks varied.
"Little, tiny dollars that feel like quarters. And they call that progress," said one customer, who apparently wasn't too impressed with the new coins.
But at The First National Bank one person evidently liked the idea better because the customer bought five rolls, said the bank. And the banks reported that no one given the coins in business transactions asked for paper dollars instead.

New airport site sought for Ruidoso

SANTA FE (AP) — Gov. Bruce King says he's asked state officials to cooperate with the Sierra Blanca Airport Commission in locating another site for a proposed airport to serve the Ruidoso area.
King said Monday a letter from Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus appears to rule out land on the Fort Stanton reservation as the site for the facility.
King's comments came after he met Monday with state Natural Resources Secretary Bill Huey, head of a task force named by the governor to study the issue, and state Agriculture Secretary Bill Stephens.
Huey said before meeting with the governor he interprets Andrus' comments to mean no part of the proposed Site B at Fort Stanton is available for airport development.
The Sierra Blanca Airport Commission filed an application with the Federal Aviation Administration for use of 3,000 acres at Fort Stanton to develop an airport. New Mexico State University in Las Cruces has a long-term lease with the Bureau of Land Management for use of the land for a range and wildlife research project.
After a study, the state director of the BLM denied the application by the Federal Aviation Administration to dedicate the 3,000 acres for airport development.
Andrus said in his letter to King, dated June 26, that he was writing "to explain somewhat more fully my recent decision regarding the Fort Stanton airport application."
"On June 19, 1979, I affirmed the Bureau of Land Management New Mexico state director's decision, which was to deny the application of the Federal Aviation Administration for the so-called Site B," Andrus said.
"While I recognized the need for a new airport facility to serve the immediate Ruidoso area, I also had to consider the value of the present use of the proposed site to the general public.
"After careful deliberation, I concluded that the national interest would best be served by allowing the present use, that of range research, to continue. Livestock grazing of the public and private lands is an extremely important use in the West," Andrus said.
Andrus told King his decision was based on the merits of the particular site, "and is not an indication that the Department of the Interior or the BLM is against airport development."
"You may be assured that BLM will expeditiously review any other airport application to serve the Ruidoso region that the FAA may propose that would affect public lands," Andrus said.
King said the only alternative now is for the state Transportation Department, through its Aviation Division, to review other possible sites.
"In view of the large amount of public land around Ruidoso, it seems that a viable site can certainly be found," King said.
Huey said Monday after giving a report to the governor that the work of the task force is completed.
"The impression I get is that the ball is back in the court of the Aviation Division of the Transportation Department," Huey said. "We will be able to give any assistance if we are asked."
Site B on the Fort Stanton Reservation was the one recommended several years ago by the Herkenhoff engineering firm of Albuquerque, the consulting engineer for the Sierra Blanca Airport Commission.
Huey said the criteria used by Herkenhoff included a minimum 2,000-acre site for future development of a 13,000-foot runway.
He said that if other criteria were used there could be several other acceptable sites on public land in the Ruidoso area.

"I think the airport commission would be willing to go along with anything acceptable to the FAA," Huey said. "The main thing the people in Ruidoso want is a safe airport, and I agree with that."
The present Ruidoso airport lies at the foot of a mountain and is surrounded by residential development.
Huey met with Stephens, another member of the task force, prior to their meeting with

King.
"We discussed Secretary Andrus' letter and the language we would use in our report to the governor," Huey said. "We agreed about the only thing we could do was advise the governor the secretary's letter ruled out Site B."
"We felt that since the size of the area needed could be smaller than the original plan, some other sites should be looked at," Huey said.

Bokum challenging permit rejection

SANTA FE (AP) — Bokum Resources Corp., saying a lot of jobs and tax money are at stake, is challenging in court a decision denying the company a water discharge permit for its Marquez uranium mill in Valencia County.
Bokum said the company had "not satisfied the burden of showing that the groundwater under the tailings pond, which will become highly contaminated during the operation, will not be used in the reasonable, foreseeable future."
Bokum alleges in the suit that Baca "has failed and refused to perform his clear legal duty and illegally deprived the company of its rights and privileges."
It contends Baca has required a water discharge plan under regulations that are invalid. It also charges that if a discharge plan is required, Baca denied the company's plan for reasons not allowed by law or regulation.
The firm also alleges Baca based his decision on illegal, speculative findings that he ignored or did not weigh the evidence of the company's experts.
Bokum noted the validity and constitutionality of the state's groundwater regulations are subjects of a case now pending before the state Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals has upheld the regulations.
Approximately 365 people are currently employed in the mill and mill construction. Unless the company obtains speedy relief, it will in all likelihood be necessary to halt construction with resultant loss of jobs and income for employees, contractors, suppliers and others," Bokum said in its petition.
"An additional loss of approximately 110 permanent jobs at the mill will occur with an annual payroll of approximately \$2.4 million. An additional loss of approximately 300 permanent jobs at the related mine may occur, with an estimated annual

Mobil gets OK on mining test

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — The U.S. Department of Interior has approved an interim mining and reclamation plan for Mobil Oil Corp. to test uranium solution mining near Crownpoint.
Solution mining is a process in which water and chemicals are flushed through a uranium ore body in the earth to dissolve the uranium. The water is then pumped out of the ground and the uranium is processed out of the water.
Mobil officials said, however, they do not plan to begin mining until U.S. District Judge Harold H. Greene of Washington, D.C., rules on a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the project. Greene is to hear the motion, filed by Friends of Earth, this month.
Greene already has denied a motion filed by the group for a temporary restraining order.
And a petition against the project filed by DNA on behalf of Sara McCray, a Navajo who holds the allotment on the 160-acre tract of land Mobil has leased from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has been denied by Forrest Gerard, assistant secretary of the interior.

NM Brief
WON'T ATTEND
ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — U.S. Sen. Harrison Schmitt, R.N.M., said he won't attend a Las Vegas, Nev., event commemorating the 10th anniversary of man's first walk on the moon. The senator has a strict policy that as long as the Senate is in session, he does not leave Washington," said Ann Graham of Schmitt's Washington office. The Las Vegas celebration is a four-day affair sponsored by the Dunes Hotel and the National Space Institute. Included will be a party hosted by former President Richard Nixon at his San Clemente home.

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