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ONE DOLLAR

SANTA FE RAILYARD

'It's wicked good'

Redevelopment's grand opening brings out community for firsthand look



Photos by Natalie Guillén/The New Mexican

The Santa Fe Railyard's grand opening Saturday brought out more than 3,000 people to take a first glimpse at the redevelopment of the area. The Rail Runner train 'kissed' a car from the Santa Fe Southern Railway in a symbolic ceremony.

By Kate Nash
The New Mexican

If you closed your eyes for a moment anywhere near the Railyard Park on Saturday, the beat of train horns, the wafts of fresh bread, the murmur of strolling crowds might have led you to think you were somewhere in Europe.

The kaleidoscope of fruits, vegetables and flowers, not to mention the adults gliding leisurely on swings and children frolicking in playgrounds nearby, had felt more like Spain's Barcelona than the Southwest.

Soon, though, came the toot of a Rail Runner train as it approached the place where it was to "kiss" a car from the Santa Fe Southern Railway during the grand opening of the Railyard Park — an event that could have happened only in Santa Fe.

The two trains met at the park in a symbolic blending of the old and the new shortly before the public was offered tours of both trains. A throng of onlookers snapped photos and video of the moment as Mayor David Coss appeared to be driv-



ing the SFSR car while it crept up to the Rail Runner.

The Rail Runner train was only in town for the ceremony, but by early December, it is expected to carry passengers from Santa Fe to Albuquerque and as far south as Belen. Of the 23 miles of new track that are needed for the extension to the Capi-

tol City, just 4.5 remain to be done.

Although the train is primarily for commuters along the Rio Grande corridor, it drew visitors from out of state who were curious to check it out.

Margaret and Lloyd Cargill came from

Please see **GOOD**, Page A-8



Jay Janney/The Associated Press

Galveston, Texas, resident Abraham Cox looks at the destruction on Seawall Boulevard in Galveston after Hurricane Ike passed through the area Saturday.

Thousands struggle in Ike's wake

Millions remain without power; massive search under way for those who ignored warnings

By Eva-Marie Ayala, Aman Batheja and Evan S. Benn
McClatchy Newspapers

GALVESTON, Texas — Hurricane Ike flooded thousands of homes, blew out countless windows and left millions without electricity in Texas and Louisiana on Saturday as authorities took to boats and helicopters to help rescue people stranded by the rising water.

The storm claimed at least two lives in Texas after rumbling ashore in Galveston at 11:0 a.m. MDT as a 110-mph Category 2 cyclone, but officials said the death toll could rise in the coming days, and damage cleanup will likely take six months or longer.

"Most fatalities come after a storm," said R. David Paulison, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Don't get impatient. Don't go out too early."

As the wind and rain subsided, attention turned to the tens of thousands who ignored mandatory evacua-

INSIDE

Economic damage likely less than feared.

Page A-9

Please see **WAKE**, Page A-9

Rescuers fight chaos at scene of train collision