Written by By Cody Begaye Sun Correspondent
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FIRE PREVENTION IS THE FOCUS

Theresa Becenti--Aguilar, Chair and District 4 commissioner of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, paid a visit to Stagecoach Elementary Oct. 4 as part of a series of stops across the Four Corners region. One of her goals was fire safety education in her district.

The students and faculty of Stagecoach Elementary received a lecture on fire safety and prevention from Becenti--Aguilar, members of the Gallup Fire Department, and the State Fire Marshal's office. Students also got a close-up view of a fire truck and an overview of its functions and equipment.

Becenti--Aguilar said, "I work closely with the fire marshal." Of the fire department, she added, "They want to protect every human being, every New Mexican."

With winter looming, Becenti--Aguilar said the fire marshal's office has been busy educating students and parents across the state about fire safety and what to do in case of an emergency.

“We want you to be able to alert your parents and neighbors on what to do if there’s an emergency,” she said.

Students toured the fire truck parked in front of the school with members of Gallup Fire Department explaining the numerous functions of the fire truck.

Lawrence Montoya, of the fire marshal’s Code Enforcement Bureau was also at Stagecoach Elementary. He explained to the students what his office does. “The state fire marshal’s office works every single day to make sure you are all safe. We come to school to make sure all your doors work, all your lights work, the fire alarm system works, and the sprinkler system works. We go across the entire state.”

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