





# **Governor creates Navajo Nation Rapid Response Team**

Written by By Beth Blakeman Associate Editor Friday, 08 January 2021 08:32

Gallup's outgoing mayor Jackie McKinney asked for a state of emergency within the City of Gallup April 30. McKinney called on the governor to declare a state of emergency pursuant to "the Riot Control Act" (NMSA 1978 12-10-16 through 12-10-21) within the boundaries of the City of Gallup.

In his letter, McKinney said, "This request is being made as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in our community, which constitutes an unprecedented health crisis. The virus has caused many deaths, stretched our medical facilities and resources to their capacity, and adversely impacted the welfare of the City of Gallup. Our community is unable to adequately address the outbreak without the imposition of certain restrictions necessary to regulate social distancing, public gatherings, sales of good[s], and the use of public streets."

The act to which McKinney refers states in Section 12-10-17 – Proclamation of emergency that "Upon request of the mayor of a municipality or the sheriff of a county or a majority of the members of the governing body of the municipality or county having jurisdiction and after finding that a public disorder, disaster or emergency which affects life or property exists in the state, the governor may proclaim a state of emergency in the area affected. The proclamation becomes effective immediately upon its signing by the governor, but the governor shall give public notice of its contents through the public press and other news media."

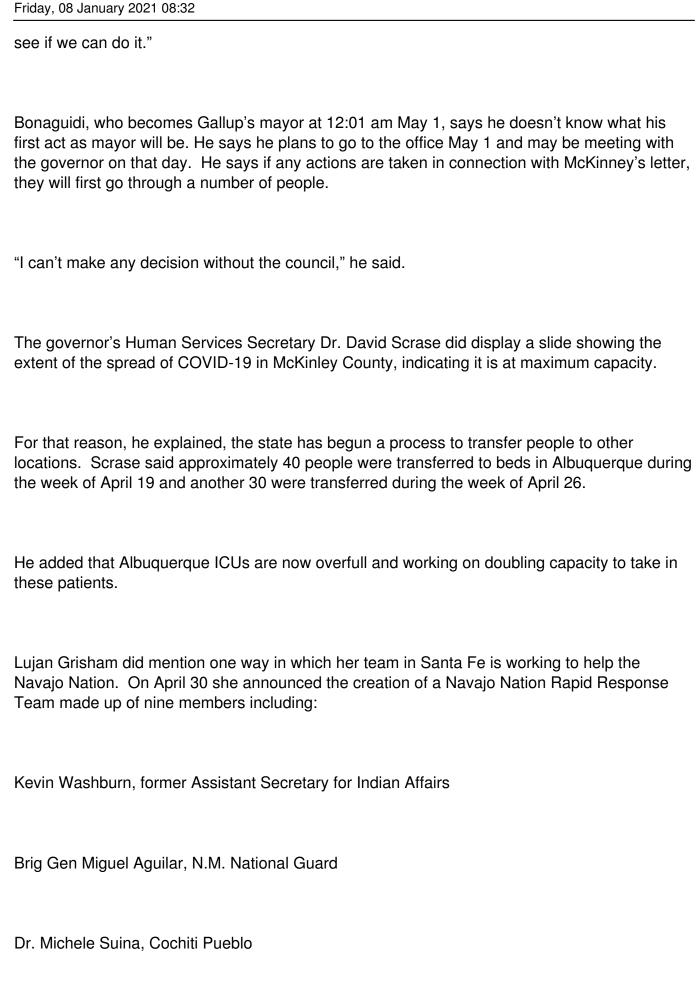
In Section 12-10-18 – Emergency restrictions, it lists that the governor may prohibit by proclamation any person being on public streets, parks or locations during specific hours; gatherings; the sale or purchase of or dispensing of alcoholic beverages; the use of certain streets and other activities to help maintain life, property or the public peace.

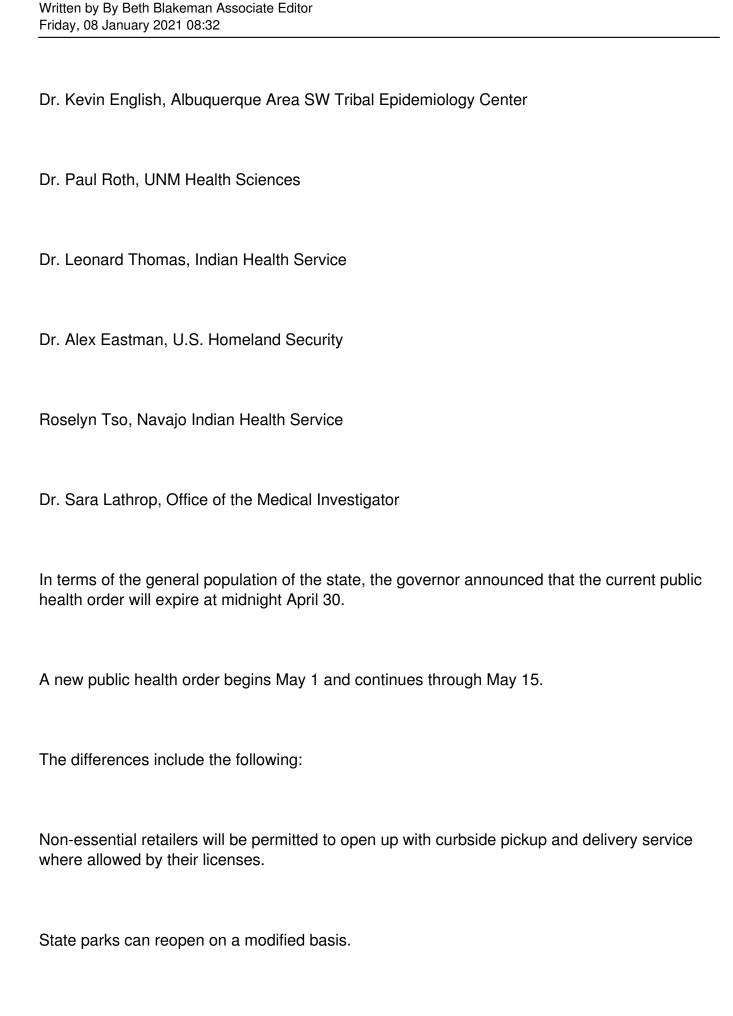
Now, that Louie Bonaguidi has been sworn in as Gallup's new mayor as of 2:30 pm April 30, he will be the person who will take on this new challenge.

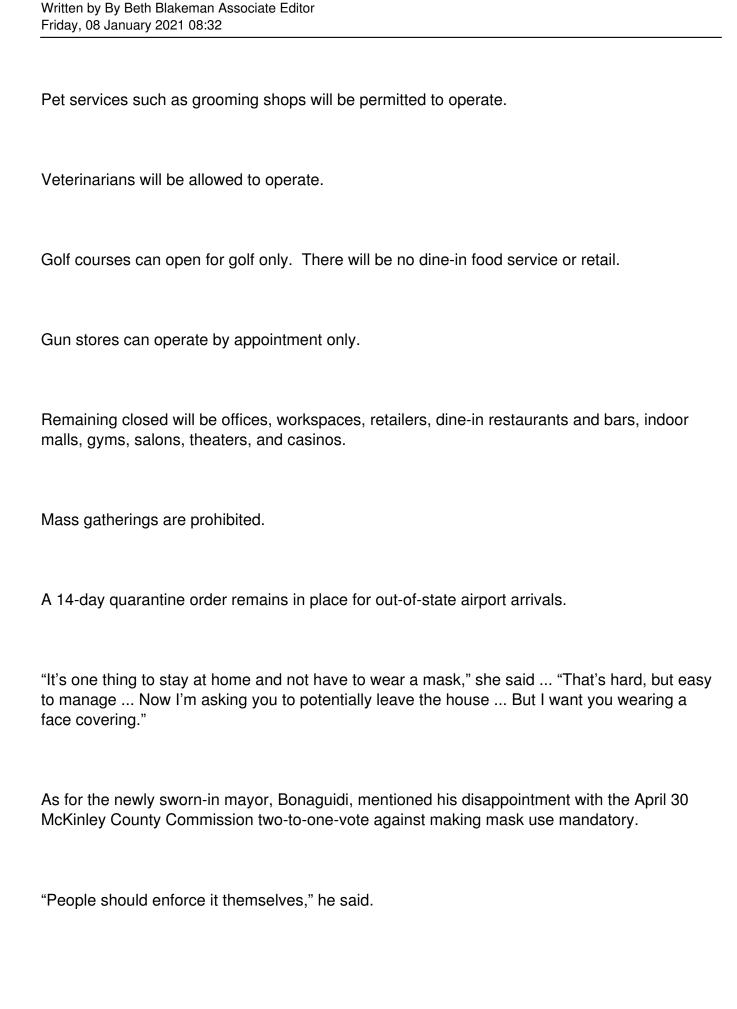
At her COVID-19 update on April 30, Lujan-Grisham did not respond to the request from McKinney. She did, however, respond privately to the letter.

Bonaguidi told the Gallup Sun that Lujan Grisham said, "You tell me what you want and we'll

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