

Putting news first

With the Ray Rivera era ending at *The New Mexican*, I'll add my accolades to the chorus (“ ‘New Mexican’ editor accepts job in Seattle ” Aug. 2). We had a good daily paper before Ray came along. Now, it's outstanding. Thanks to Ray's hard work, knowledge and intuition, the West's oldest newspaper currently provides abundant quantities of important, clearly presented info every morning. In an age of suffering regional-news organizations, Ray gave this region an aggressive watchdog — strong, sharp-toothed, fearless and swift — with a beagle's nose and an eagle's eyes. Although four years seems not enough to fully test the thickness of an editor's skin, I wish him and his family the best. *The Seattle Times* is lucky to get him, too. After a sneak peek at his new employer's website — overflowing with bright, large ads and stories that look like ads and ads that look like stories — Seattle could use the Rivera touch and its unofficial motto: News first.

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