Don't Cross the Line: Construction Zones Are Not Safe for Pedestrians

Recently, we observed an individual attempt to move a traffic barrel, which snapped back and caused him to lose his balance; when he tried to bypass the area, he became tangled in temporary fencing and nearly fell into a trench. Encounters like this highlight why barricades must remain in place: they prevent falls, protect pedestrians from heavy equipment and open excavations, and keep workers safe. When pedestrians enter a live work zone, crews are required to stop operations immediately, which not only jeopardizes safety but also interrupts progress, increases project costs, and extends the overall timeline.

Unauthorized entry into construction zones is both dangerous and illegal under New Mexico law. State Statute §66-7-303.1 prohibits anyone from disobeying, removing, or altering construction-zone traffic-control devices or barricades, and violations are punishable as misdemeanors under §66-8-7 NMSA 1978. As the Foch Street project enters a phase with extensive heavy-equipment use, contractors are adding more fencing and barriers, and police presence will increase to help enforce safety. Public cooperation is essential to prevent injuries and avoid unnecessary delays.

Community Wayfinding Project Nears Reality

A new citywide wayfinding system—designed to help residents and visitors more easily navigate Truth or Consequences—is nearing final approval. MainStreet Truth or Consequences and New Mexico MainStreet specialists presented the full plan at the January 16 Commission meeting, which includes 37 new signs, unified branding, clearer directions to key locations, and improved visibility for the Historic Hot Springs District. The city expressed strong support, noting that user-friendly signage will make it easier for travelers to find parks, museums, and downtown businesses while reinforcing the city's identity. The plan will help the city pursue grant funding so signs can be fabricated and installed without local tax increases. The Commission called for another presentation where they can better understand the signage, durability and future replacement costs.

City Animal Shelter Wins Support and New Funding

The Truth or Consequences Animal Shelter received a boost through a $5,000 Best Friends grant, awarded for its 2025 data reporting efforts. Shelter Supervisor Tara Manning also announced the return of the high-energy "Jordan's Way" fundraising event on February 25, promising community fun, live challenges, and volunteer participation. The funds raised will support lifesaving care for at-risk dogs and cats, while a new agreement with local nonprofit Sierra County Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) will help streamline donations and ensure the shelter receives the maximum benefit. The City Commission approved all related agreements, reaffirming its support for animal welfare programs in the community.