

# Las Vegas police officer charged with distributing illegal steroids

**By Ryan Lowery**  
Special to the Optic

**A** Las Vegas Police Department officer is on leave after being charged with possessing anabolic steroids, which investigators allege were packaged to sell.

Deputies with the San Miguel County Sheriff's Office Thursday served an arrest warrant for Officer Patrick Maes, 25, following a drug trafficking investigation into his younger brother, Fabian Maes.

Police arrested Fabian Maes in June after alleging he was part of

a plot to sneak drugs into the San Miguel County Detention Center in May.

Police allege the plot was arranged by two other men, and that Fabian Maes was supposed to gather a package containing heroin and the prescription opioid Suboxone, and then purposely get arrested or turn himself in on an outstanding warrant so that he could bring the drugs into the jail, according to an arrest affidavit filed in San Miguel Magistrate Court in May.

Police arrested Fabian Maes on May 23 at his home in the 2700 block

of Hot Springs Boulevard, a home he shares with his brother, according to an arrest affidavit filed in San Miguel Magistrate Court on Thursday.

During a search of the home, police located 16 Suboxone strips in a bathroom. In Patrick Maes' bedroom, in a box underneath a City of Las Vegas pay stub with his name on it, police located three types of anabolic steroids, the affidavit stated. Under the federal Controlled Substances Act, anabolic steroids are illegal to possess without a prescription.

Investigators also located injectable testosterone, along with Arimi-

dex, a drug often used to control gynecomastia — a side effect of taking anabolic steroids — and bacteriostatic water, which is often used to dilute or dissolve injected medications. More than 100 syringes were found in a drawer as well.

Police allege that Patrick Maes had more than a five-month supply of one of the steroids, Stanozolol, and that the pills were packaged in individual bags, leading investigators to suspect Maes intended to sell the pills.

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## Missoula Children's Theatre



Photos courtesy of Theresa Wesner

More than 30 local children took part in this year's Missoula Children's Theatre performance, "The Secret Garden," last week in Las Vegas. The local production is locally sponsored by the Las Vegas Arts Council and New Mexico Highlands University. "The Secret Garden" is a story of hope and celebration and all the good things in life. The Missoula Children's Theatre is an annual tradition in Las Vegas, providing opportunities to the youngest generation in the Meadow City. *See next week's edition for additional photos from the performance.*

## Blame Her Ranch honors local firefighters

**By Vanessa Maciel**  
Community Reporter

About 125 area firefighters and their family members were treated to lunch and entertainment Saturday during an appreciation event at a ranch in Ribera.

"We had a good turnout," said Steven Blamer, who organized the Firefighters Appreciation Day event at the Blame Her Ranch that he owns with his wife, Linda. The day's activities were fun for firefighters, their partners and their children. The event included a taco bar with eight varieties of tacos, a barbecue, face painting, a raffle, live music and a blowup castle. San Miguel County Commissioners Harold Garcia and Janice C. Varela were also in attendance.

Steven Blamer said the event was meant to show appreciation to area firefighters and the community he has called home for the past 15 years.

"It's the one thing we can do to show our appreciation to these men and women," Blamer said. "I can't put out a fire. ... The one thing I can do is throw

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## FEMA pushes out more disaster relief funds

**By Megan Gleason**  
Source New Mexico

Victims of New Mexico's largest fire ever got a boost in federal compensation funds over the past week.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced on Monday that officials have now delivered at least \$14 million to people and governments affected by the 2022 Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon Fire.

Most of that money went to individuals and families, FEMA spokesperson Deborah Martinez said.

It's been a slow-moving process to get money into the hands of victims since Congress approved \$3.95 billion in relief dollars eight months ago. The federal government promised to pay for disaster damage and losses since botched prescribed burns by the U.S. Forest Service led to the out-of-control wildfire in northern New Mexico.

Last month, ProPublica in partnership with Source NM reported that FEMA had only paid out about \$3 million. At most, \$400,000 could've gone to individuals.

The bulk of the money went to the city of Las Vegas, N.M. On Monday, Martinez confirmed that at some point over the summer, Mora and San Miguel Counties also got \$100,000.

Now, FEMA has boosted payouts to people and families, reportedly giving out almost \$11 million to individuals in the past week alone, according to FEMA's news release sent out on Monday.

That's still less than 1% of the total funds Congress made available for victims.

FEMA said payments are increasing on a daily basis.

### Sports

Local powerlifters show their strength

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### Today



HIGH: 90° / LOW: 59°

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Laura Jane Vigil

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