

# Police find no sign of missing teen in landfill

By **Christine Steele**

[CSTEELE@SCSUN-NEWS.COM](mailto:CSTEELE@SCSUN-NEWS.COM)

SILVER CITY — After four days of searching, Silver City police have not found any evidence of missing teenager David Ortiz Jr. in the landfill at the Southwest Solid Waste Authority.

Following up on a tip, officers with the Silver City Police Department and Grant County Sheriff's Department served a search warrant on the Southwest Solid Waste Authority at 318 Ridge Road on Thursday to begin searching for the body of Ortiz, who went missing on Halloween — three days after he

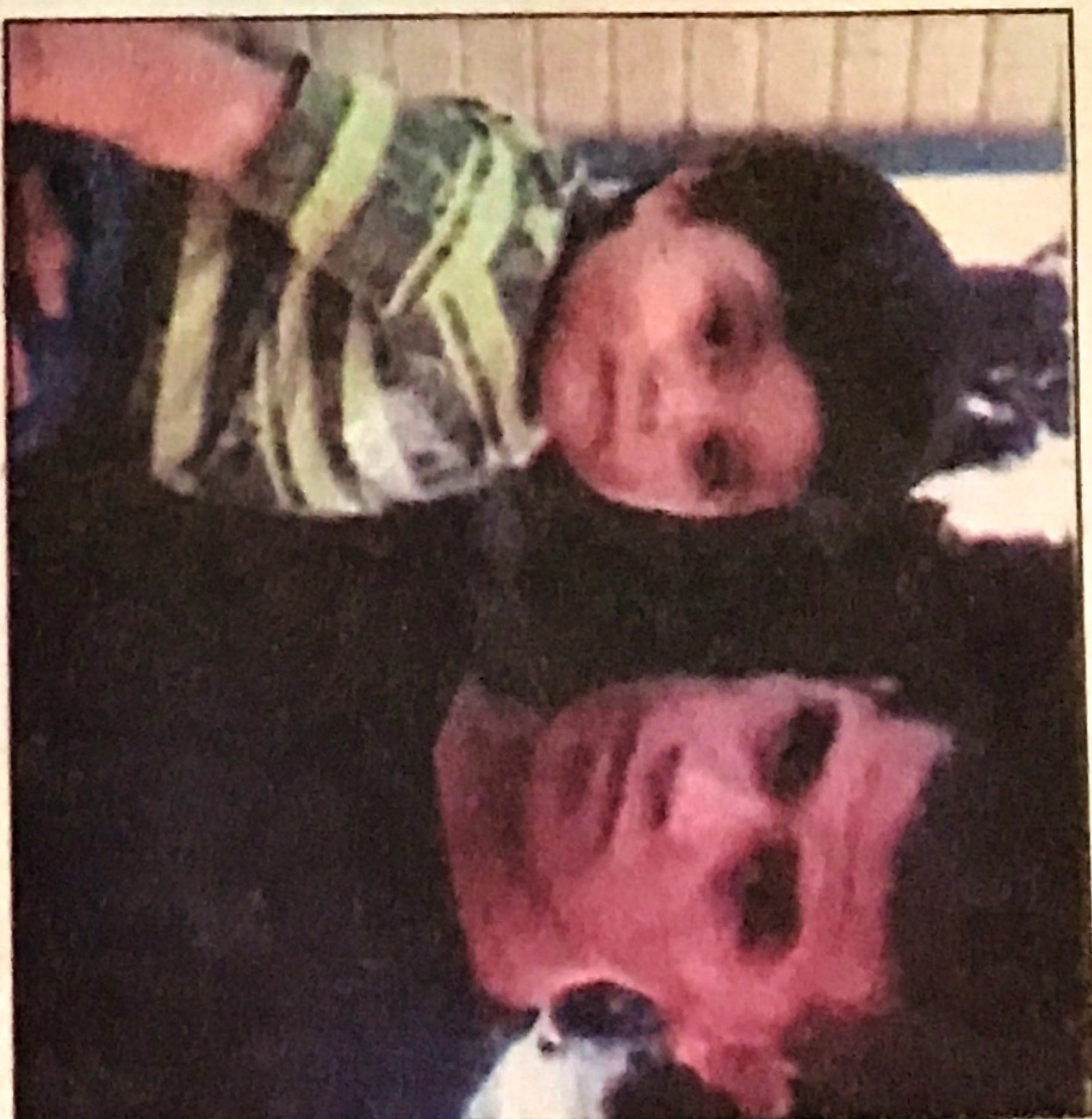
went to court seeking visitation with his son Joshua.

Silver City Police Chief Ed Reynolds said the Investigative Unit of the department received information that Ortiz's body may have been dumped in the Southwest Solid Waste Authority landfill. According to information obtained by the Grant County Sheriff's Office, Reynolds said Ortiz's body may have been placed in a dumpster sometime in the early part of November 2010.

The investigative units of both departments remained at the landfill conducting the search until Sunday afternoon. Through records kept by the Sol-

id Waste Authority, officers were able to pinpoint the area which was being used to dump trash last November. No body was found during the search.

In addition to the police and Sheriff's departments, the Border Patrol assisted with providing three cadaver dogs. The Grant County Road Department and the Silver City Street Department provided manpower to operate some of the heavy equipment used during the search. Because of the complexity of this search, investigators contacted mining operator Freeport McMoran seeking assistance



COURTESY PHOTO

**DAVID ORTIZ JR.** holds his then-17-month-old son Joshua the day before he disappeared, Oct. 30, 2010.



# Missing

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with additional heavy equipment. Freeport McMoran provided additional heavy equipment by contracting with Kenney McCauley.

Chief Reynolds said the cooperation between the involved entities and the private sector was outstanding and he extended his appreciation for the assistance in helping to make this operation much easier and more efficient.

Reynolds said this search was just one of several the department has conducted in looking for Ortiz.

Grant County Crime Stoppers had previously issued a \$1,000 reward for information leading to finding Ortiz, and has now increased that award to \$2,000, with the other \$1,000 coming from the Ortiz family. Elizabeth Ortiz pulled the additionally \$1,000 from her retirement fund in hopes that it will help lead to finding her

## If you have information

▶ **The Silver City Police Department** is continuing the investigation into the missing persons complaint on David Ortiz Jr..

Anyone with information is asked to call The Silver City Police Department at (575) 538-3723.

▶ **Grant County Crime Stoppers** is offering a \$2,000 reward for information that leads to locating Ortiz. He is described as a Hispanic man, 5-foot tall, 110 pounds, with short brown hair and brown eyes. Anyone who

has information as to his whereabouts is urged to call the Crime Stopper Hotline at (575) 538-5254. Callers are assured

anonymity if they call this number. It has no caller ID, no method of recording conversations and no way of identifying the caller. With this assured confidentiality, Crime Stoppers hopes that it will encourage someone to come forward. In order to collect the reward, the information provided must lead to the actual location of Ortiz.

missing son.

son.

The family has said they don't believe Ortiz ran away. Ortiz was 18 years old when he went missing and was about to graduate from Silver Opportunity High School and had just been granted visitation with his

"All of his belongings are at home," Elizabeth Ortiz, David's mother said. Ortiz turned 19 on Nov. 22.

Christine Steele can be reached at (575) 538-5893 ext. 5802.



the 1960s classic "Downtown."

The final scene of the video is the infamous "eight degrees below zero" scene filmed under the Downtown Gateway Arch on the morning of Feb. 3. Bonus outtake scenes, too. Free and open to public.

► **Scott plays The Blues**, 7 to 9 p.m., Diane's Parlor.

► **Trivia**, 7 p.m., Billy's

**Wild West BBQ and Wood**

**Fired Pizza**, 2138 Hwy. 180 E,

corner Zach Bruton

Library, 515 W. College Ave.

► **Bayard Farmers' Market**, 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Lion's Club, 808 Tom Foy Blvd.

(Hwy. 180). For more information call: (575) 313-6883.

► **Grant County Democratic**

**Party meeting**, Local 890

Union Hall, Hwy 180 E, Bayard. Potluck at 5:30 p.m. followed by business at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish and share it and a good time with Democrats. All welcome.

Grant County Relay