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NM special session to address Trump cuts

Jason Groves
Las Cruces Sun-News
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW MEXICO

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced on Sept. 4 that she will call New Mexico lawmakers into a special legislative session to begin on Oct. 1.

Lujan Grisham said in a news release that the special session will focus on legislation to address federal budget cuts due to the budget package passed by President Donald Trump’s administration.

“New Mexicans should not be forced to shoulder these heavy burdens without help from their elected officials,” Lujan Grisham said in a news release. “After discussions with legislative leaders,

we’ve resolved to do everything possible to protect essential services and minimize the damage from President Trump’s disastrous bill.”

The October 2025 session will be the seventh special session of the legislature during Lujan Grisham’s tenure.

“New Mexico is not going to allow Trump and the radical right to take food off your table or kick your family off your healthcare plan,” Speaker of the House Javier Martínez said in a news release. “We have been hard at work evaluating how this federal budget will impact New Mexico and how we can best fight back. Now, we’re ready to roll up our sleeves to protect access to the services you and your families need most.”

How much federal funding will New Mexico lose?

The state estimated that federal cuts will reduce state revenues by approximately \$206 million between Fiscal Years 2026 and 2030.

Some of the potential reductions cited by the state in August 2025 include:

- \$70 million from lifting the state and local tax deduction limit.
- \$46 million from other non-income tax impacts.
- \$44 million from federal business tax changes.
- \$41 million from standard deduction changes.
- \$5 million from the elimination of tax on certain car loan interest.

Lawmakers plan to consider a package of measures in October that could include

- Funding to the Rural Health Care Delivery Fund to allow stabilization grants for quality health care providers.
- Taking action to make health insurance premiums more affordable in the marketplace and for New Mexicans losing Medicaid coverage.
- New investments in food assistance for children, seniors and families in need.
- Funding for public broadcasting.
- Additional resources to help the Health Care Authority prepare for upcoming Medicaid enrollment changes.

See LEGISLATURE, Page 2A

Can cloud seeding control the weather?



Jesse Juchtzer, right, and Frank McDonough, left, tend to one of Desert Research Institute’s cloud-seeding machines up on Alpine Meadows Ski Area in California in 2018. PHOTOS BY JASON BEAN/RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL FILE

Extreme events, such as TX flooding, often stir up long-running conspiracies

Hayleigh Evans Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

PHOENIX – In early July, a storm dumped as much as 20 inches of rain in parts of central Texas, the equivalent of months’ worth of rain. It swelled the Guadalupe River with such devastating force that at least 130 people died in the flooding, including dozens of children.

Amid the grief and confusion, blame emerged in an unexpected place. A small cloud-seeding flight conducted by a startup named Rainmaker two days prior became the target of unfounded accusations. Elected officials and online influencers questioned whether the operation triggered or worsened the deluge.

The flight, more than 100 miles away and lasting about 20 minutes, released 70 grams of silver iodide into a set of

See CLOUD, Page 2A



A vile of silver iodide is seen at the DRI cloud-seeding generator at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort.

Crackdown may be exposing FBI cars

Jana Winter
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump’s surge of federal law enforcement into Washington, DC, is exposing the FBI’s fleet of unmarked cars, potentially risking its ability to do its most sensitive national security and surveillance work, nine current and former employees of the bureau warned.

The surge, which the White House has said is meant to crack down on violent crime but has featured many arrests for minor offenses, could make it harder for the FBI to combat violent criminal gangs, foreign intelligence services and drug traffickers, said the current and former employees, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

As part of the surge, FBI agents who normally conduct their investigative work out of the spotlight are now more involved in routine police work in Washington, appearing in high-profile areas dressed in tactical gear and emerging from unmarked cars, with the unintended effect of potentially identifying those vehicles to surveillance targets.

As the Republican president publicly muses about expanding his crackdown into cities such as Chicago and Baltimore, the employees said they are

See FBI, Page 2A



As part of the surge, FBI agents who normally conduct their investigative work out of the spotlight are now more involved in routine police work in Washington. BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS FILE