



Lobos begin offering football season tickets for \$90

SPORTS, B-1

Pushing back on aging

Pumping iron increasingly becoming some seniors' secret to aging well

HEALTH & SCIENCE, A-7



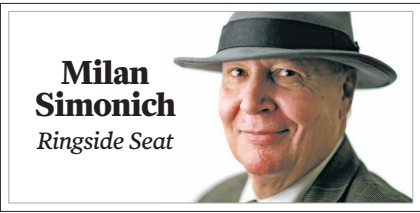
White House breaks pledge on mandate for IVF care

NATION & WORLD, A-2

MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

# SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

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## COMMENTARY

### Campaign trail is comeback trail for Vigil Coppler

Sunrise Family Restaurant bustled with morning diners. Turnout was lighter in the room set aside for “Coffee with JoAnne.”

Santa Fe mayoral candidate JoAnne Vigil Coppler didn’t show any sign of disappointment as customers drifted past for omelets, menudo and huevos rancheros.

She never stopped smiling as she shook hands with the few people who sought her out. A man volunteered to place one of her campaign signs near Yucca and Zia. Others signed Vigil Coppler’s petition to help her qualify for the November ballot.

For Vigil Coppler, the campaign trail and the comeback trail are one and the same. She finished a distant second to incumbent Mayor Alan Webber in 2021, her campaign devoid of energy.

Webber outspent her, \$507,000 to \$156,000. The election still should have been winnable for Vigil Coppler, as countless residents complained about poor city services under

Please see story on Page A-5

## Can UNM pass safety test?

Fatal shooting at university housing last month turns spotlight on campus security as new semester nears



PHOTOS BY GABRIELA CAMPOS/NEW MEXICAN FILE PHOTO

New Mexico State Police officers secure the boundary of a crime scene on the University of New Mexico campus July 25 following a shooting that left a 14-year-old dead and another person wounded at the Casas del Rio student housing complex on campus. There have been at least four other weapons-related violations in student housing at UNM since September, according to the university’s daily crime log.

By Lily Alexander  
[alexander@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:alexander@sfnewmexican.com)

ALBUQUERQUE

Josslyn Scrivner woke up in Hokona Hall at 6:30 a.m. July 25 to confused texts from other members of her student orientation group.

One of her fellow incoming freshmen at the University of New Mexico said they had gone outside, only to be stopped by police and an array of yellow tape. Orientation program leaders told the groups of new students to stay in their rooms but didn’t elaborate on the situation.

A Google search gave Scrivner a few details: There had been a shooting a few hours earlier at the Casas del Rio student housing complex on the UNM campus — a third of a mile from where the soon-to-be students were staying. She later would learn a 14-year-old boy had been killed in the incident.

“It’s on national news, and it’s just kind of a weird feeling,” Scrivner recounted.



A man throws some belongings of Toa Fa’avae, a UNM football player, down to him from the Casas del Rio dormitory complex July 25 after he was not allowed to enter as police investigated the shooting.

graduate degree at UNM. “And it’s at the expense of the students.”

As Scrivner looks toward the beginning of her college education — the semester starts Aug. 18 — she hopes campus security improves, she said.

“I know it’s a public area; people come in and out all the time,” she said. “But specifically in housing areas — I feel like it should be a bit more secured.”

### Violent crime on campus

Michael LaMotte, a student at Rio Rancho High School, had been fatally shot July 25 while playing video games in a Casas del Rio dorm room with three other people, while a 19-year-old UNM student had been

Please see story on Page A-8

## Texas Dems leave state to block map

By Patrick Marley  
*The Washington Post*

Democrats in the Texas legislature said they were fleeing the state Sunday to block a redistricting plan backed by President Donald Trump aimed at preserving the GOP’s slim House majority, escalating tensions as a broader fight over congressional district lines unfolds throughout the country ahead of the 2026 midterms.

Texas Democrats have twice deployed the same tactic to combat legislation in the 22 years since Republicans have controlled all of state government, but their efforts

Please see story on Page A-5



**Today**

Mostly sunny, High 88, low 60.

**PAGE A-10**

**Obituaries**

**Sandra D. Chavez**, July 20

**Roland J. Garcia**, 41, Santa Fe

**Harley Glen Smith**, March 24 **PAGE A-8**

Rock Ulibarri, a direct descendant of the Las Gorras Blancas nightrider group, discusses stories passed down in his family in 2022 while pointing at a painting of the nightriders: Juan José, Pablo and Nicanor Herrera. *The New Mexican* — then a publication that was backing the establishment Santa Fe Ring — was no fan of the group, describing them as “cowardly” and a “devilish outfit” and “rowdies” in stories and believing they were a blemish on the territory’s push for statehood.

JIM WEBER  
NEW MEXICAN FILE PHOTO



## Pages weren’t blank on nightrider group

Establishment ‘New Mexican’ was no fan of Las Gorras Blancas as it cut fences to protect Las Vegas Land Grant from white settlers

By Cormac Dodd  
[cdodd@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:cdodd@sfnewmexican.com)

The chilling account of a midnight scene puts 63 masked men, armed to the hilt, parading on horseback through the dusty streets of Las Vegas, N.M., on Nov. 3, 1889, as grand jury investigations were imminent.

This was the shadowy brigade credited with severing hundreds of miles of cattle

fences linked to the political elite, no longer willing to sit idle when they felt their way of life was under siege. The Wild West imagery comes not from a film but a compelling epoch in Northern New Mexico’s turbulent history.

In the late 1800s, Las Gorras Blancas emerged from the rural discontent that simmered among the working-class people of San Miguel County over the land grab effort from

white settlers, new to the region and authoring swift change. At least for a spell, this was the organized resistance, the vivid protest. They were either lawlessness or justice personified, depending on your perspective.

The cryptic nightriders were reacting to property enclosures and shifting economic realities as the Las Vegas Land Grant, created by the Mexican government in 1835, became attractive to East Coast grazing outfits, with its shapely meadows and railroad

Please see story on Page A-10



**INSIDE**

◆ In August ‘74, paper carried Nixon’s end, removal of ‘savagery’ from obelisk. **PAGE A-4**



Did you work at Sandia/Los Alamos Laboratory or a Uranium Site?



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4250 Cerrillos Road

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August 13, 11:00 am–1:00pm  
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