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Scholarship guru offers tips

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MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

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Trial begins in 2022 fatal shooting

Defendant already facing prison after pleading guilty in unrelated rape

By **Phaedra Haywood**

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TIERRA AMARILLA — A murder trial for a Rio Arriba County man accused of fatally shooting his neighbor in 2022, while he was awaiting trial in a rape case, got a shaky start Wednesday.

Few of the witnesses the state called to the stand in a Tierra Amarilla courthouse offered testimony that shed light on what happened that dark night in Hernández, when prosecutors allege Kevin Martinez killed Elmer Sanchez Jr. during a chaotic dispute involving

several neighbors.

Martinez, 25, pleaded guilty last month in the rape case — in which he was accused of keeping a 14-year-old girl captive at his home for nearly two weeks in 2020, raping her daily and ultimately impregnating her.

His agreement with prosecutors gives a judge discretion to send him to prison for no less than seven years and no more than 15 at his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set.

Sanchez, 36, died from a single gunshot wound to the chest the night of Oct. 17, 2022, at a mobile home park in Hernández where

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PHAEDRA HAYWOOD/THE NEW MEXICAN
Kevin Martinez, 25, with attorney Keren Fenderson on the first day of his trial Wednesday in state District Court in Tierra Amarilla.

10 accused of smuggling suboxone into S.F. county jail

Facility has repeatedly faced issue of drug
for addiction treatment being brought in

By **Nicholas Gilmore**

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Ten people have been charged in what sheriff's deputies allege was a coordinated attempt to bring drugs — namely Suboxone, a medication used to treat opioid addiction with debatable abuse potential — into the Santa Fe County jail.

The 10 charged include both inmates in the jail as well as others who were not incarcerated.

Deputies allege investigators monitored phone calls made by several inmates to people on the outside — including girlfriends and relatives — over the summer ahead of one man's attempt to smuggle Suboxone strips into the jail after he was arrested on a probation violation warrant.

The case represents at least the fourth bust in four years in which inmates, jail guards or others have been accused of sneaking Suboxone into the jail.

Suboxone, which contains buprenorphine, is a medication commonly used in medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction. It is considered a Schedule 3 controlled substance, according to state and federal law, and requires a prescription.

While buprenorphine is an opioid-based medication, its potential for abuse has been debated. A *Harvard Health* article notes the drug “causes significantly less euphoria” and is “less prone to misuse” than other opiates such as heroin and oxycodone since it is only a “partial agonist” of the main opiate receptor of the brain. Other sources note overdose on buprenorphine is extremely rare.

Prisons and jails throughout New Mexico have received state funding in recent years to stand up medication-assisted treatment programs that involve giving Suboxone to inmates.

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Diego Talamante

Taking aim at gun trafficking

Lawmakers planning bill say most firearms tied to crime originate with licensed gun dealers



PHOTOS BY GABRIELA CAMPOS/THE NEW MEXICAN

ABOVE: ABQ Guns owner Arnie Gallegos takes a suppressor out of the box while taking calls at the store Wednesday. Gallegos, who has owned the Albuquerque firearms store for 15 years, keeps a close eye on “unusual buying patterns” that could indicate customers are angling to resell guns illegally, he said. **BELOW:** Gallegos takes out a Glock 19 that's sold to first responders at a discount.



By **Clara Bates**

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Arne Gallegos, who has owned the local Albuquerque firearms store ABQ Guns for 15 years, keeps a close eye on “unusual buying patterns” that could indicate customers angling to resell guns illegally, he said.

“If they're buying, like, 15 ARs, or they're ordering an AR every week or something like that, that's kind of a red flag,” he said.

And if the customer fails to give

a convincing explanation for a suspicious purchase, “we're going to pretty much tell them, ‘I'm sorry, we're not going to be able to do business anymore.’” he added.

The practice isn't just for the business's liability: “It's not just good business, but it's good for the community,” he said.

A pair of New Mexico lawmakers said Wednesday they're eyeing legislation to increase regulations on firearms dealers who they say do overlook suspicious purchases

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Trump weakens fuel efficiency requirements for cars

President rails against electric vehicles, says prices should come down

By **Lisa Friedman, Maxine Joselow and Jack Ewing**

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday threw the weight of the federal government behind vehicles that burn gasoline

rather than electric cars, gutting one of the country's most significant efforts to address climate change and thrusting the automobile industry into greater uncertainty.

Flanked by executives from major automakers in the Oval Office, Trump said the Transportation Department would significantly

weaken fuel efficiency requirements for tens of millions of new cars and light trucks. The administration claimed the changes would save Americans \$109 billion over five years and shave \$1,000 off the average cost of a new car.

The Biden administration's stricter efficiency standards were designed to get more

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PUBLIC RECORDS WATCH

Top officials say no excuse for delays in DWI checkpoint data

After months-long wait for information,
Cabinet secretary says he's intervening

By **Daniel J. Chacón**

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The New Mexico Department of Public Safety, which has faced a series of complaints and a recent lawsuit over the release of public records, is vowing to change its ways.

The revision comes after *The New Mexican* asked the Governor's Office on Wednesday about the department's months-long delay in filling a public records request for information related to DWI checkpoints conducted by New Mexico State Police.

Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Jason Bowie, whose department handles records requests for state police, deemed the delay “unacceptable.”

“This morning, the Secretary's Office was made aware that DPS failed to provide a timely response to an IPRA request submitted in June. This is unacceptable and does not meet the standards I expect from this department,” Bowie said in a statement.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) “enables access to public records of governmental entities in New Mexico,” according to the New Mexico Department of Justice. Public Records Watch is an occasional series from *The Santa Fe New Mexican* that documents how public agencies respond to IPRA requests.

Pasapick

pasatiempomagazine.com

‘The Mystery of Edwin Drood’

A musical based on Charles Dickens' final unfinished novel; 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays through December 28; Santa Fe Playhouse, 42 E. De Vargas St., 505-988-4262; santafeplayhouse.org; pay what you wish preview.

More events Fridays in Pasatiempo



Today

Partly cloudy.
High 34,
low 20.

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Obituaries

Tommy Cantou Sr.,
93, Nov. 26

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Epstein files coming out

Revelations including photos from infamous sex offender's home on private island appear aimed at pressuring Justice Department. **PAGE A-2**

