



Alvord Elementary building for sale at \$10M

LOCAL & REGION, A-7

BOYS HOOPS PREVIEW
SFIS OFF TO STRONG START

SPORTS, B-1



National Trust sues to block construction of White House ballroom

NATION, A-3

MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Locally owned and independent Saturday, December 13, 2025 santafenewmexican.com \$1.50

Jan. 1 to mark the end of Scott

S.F. city manager to resign after lashing out at Garcia in heated council meeting Wednesday

By Carina Julig
cjulig@sfnewmexican.com

An email City Manager Mark Scott sent to members of the City Council on Thursday added further context to his

dramatic outburst at a council meeting Wednesday, where he publicly criticized incoming Mayor Michael Garcia.

Scott's description of working for the city over the past 11 months points to the significant challenges Garcia will soon inherit — issues that will likely be harder to address due to the departure of many senior staff members.

A longtime city manager hired for the city's top job in February, Scott's frustra-

tions with the city's operating procedures and laundry list of challenges were evident in the candid message, where he thanked Mayor Alan Webber for the opportunity to serve.

"What happened at the meeting last night was very painful to me," Scott wrote. "No part of that makes me feel anything but sick to my stomach. Right

Please see story on Page A-4



City Manager Mark Scott listens to debate during a meeting about minimum wage at City Hall last month. Scott has resigned, and his last day as a city official will be Jan. 1.

JIM WEBER
NEW MEXICAN
FILE PHOTO

Booking Sundays at the library?

City officials open to bringing 7-day week back to Santa Fe system, but some adjustments would be necessary



GABRIELA CAMPOS/THE NEW MEXICAN

Elizabeth Young, director of Education & Community Engagement at the Santa Fe Symphony, plays the ukulele earlier this month for a group of children, including Kai Owens, at Symphony Storytime at the Southside Library community room. Santa Fe's three library branches have closed on Sundays ever since the coronavirus pandemic, but recent discussions among officials at board meetings have raised the possibility of bringing back the seven-day week.

By Carina Julig
cjulig@sfnewmexican.com

Santa Fe city officials are open to considering the possibility of reopening libraries on Sundays but say the change would need to come with either an increase in the division's budget or changes to operating hours during other times of the week to avoid overtaxing staff.

"The expectation can't just be 'We want a seven day a week library — here's the same budget you had last year,'" Community Health and Safety Director Henri Hammond-Paul said during a special meeting of the Library Advisory Board in early December.

The discussions, raised during recent library board meetings as well as in a Dec. 3 Friends of the Santa Fe Public Library presentation to the City Council Quality of Life committee, come at

the same time as the city is shifting to a performance-based budgeting system.

Under the new model, spearheaded by city Senior Adviser Rod Gould and Deputy City Manager Andrea Phillips, division budgets would be tied to specific outcomes tracked throughout the fiscal year.

Increasing hours was not one of the goals of the library division presented at a Nov. 19 City Council

Please see story on Page A-4

Justice Gutierrez-Cruz, and Felisha Barela, shown together, were killed in a car crash June 27, 2020.



COURTESY PHOTO

Woman sentenced to 30 years in deadly 2020 crash

50-year-old convicted of two counts of homicide by vehicle while driving under influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs

By Phaedra Haywood
phaywood@sfnewmexican.com

Cory Christine Johnson had alcohol, prescription painkillers and sedatives in her system when she veered into oncoming traffic while driving on U.S. 84 between Hernandez and Medanales in June 2020, plowing head-on into another vehicle, according to the First Judicial District Attorney.

On Dec. 1 of this year, Johnson, 50, was sentenced to 30 years in prison in connection with the crash, which claimed the lives of two Rio Arriba County women.

Felisha Barela, 29 and Justice Gutierrez-Cruz, who had just turned 23, died at the scene. Police filed charges against

Please see story on Page A-4

Fierce critic among gov.'s options to fill vacancy in Senate

Rep. John Block, who tried to have Lujan Grisham impeached, is one of three nominated to take the seat

By Daniel J. Chacón
dchacon@sfnewmexican.com

One of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's harshest critics is now one of the three men she is considering to fill a vacant southeastern New Mexico Senate seat.

State Rep. John Block, an Alamogordo Republican who is also the founder and editor of a conservative online news site that has referred to Lujan Grisham as a "scandal-ridden alleged serial groper" and "an ally of the fringe left-wing," is one of three candidates who has been proposed by local county commissioners to succeed District 33 Sen. Nicholas Paul, a Republican who resigned in October.

Please see story on Page A-5

ICE agents using air passenger data in deportation effort

Enforcement activities at airports could distract from security, cause longer wait times, former official says

By Hamed Aleaziz
[The New York Times](http://TheNewYorkTimes.com)

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is providing the names of all air travelers to immigration officials, substantially expanding its use

of data sharing to expel people under deportation orders.

Under the previously undisclosed program, the Transportation Security Administration provides a list multiple times a week to Immigration and Customs Enforcement of travelers who will be coming through airports. ICE can then match the list against its own database of people subject to deportation and send agents to the airport to detain those people.

It's unclear how many arrests have

been made as a result of the collaboration. But documents obtained by *The New York Times* show that it led to the arrest of Any Lucía López Belloza, the college student picked up at Boston Logan Airport on Nov. 20 and deported to Honduras two days later. A former ICE official said 75% of instances in that official's region where names were flagged by the program yielded arrests.

ICE has historically avoided interfering with domestic travel. But the partnership between airport security

and the immigration agency, which began quietly in March, is the latest way the Trump administration is increasing cooperation and information sharing among federal agencies in service of the president's goal of carrying out the largest deportation campaign in U.S. history.

"The message to those in the country illegally is clear: The only reason you should be flying is to self-deport home,"

Please see story on Page A-4

Pasapick

pasatiempomagazine.com

Santa Fe Desert Chorale Carols & Lullabies

Luminaria, winter festival; 7 p.m. Saturday, encores Tuesday and Thursday; Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, 131 Cathedral Place; desertchorale.org; continuing Dec. 19-21; \$12-\$119.

More events Fridays in Pasatiempo



Today

Sunny and clear.
High 60, low 30.

PAGE B-6

Obituaries

Joseph Harold Romero, Nov. 24
Kathryn Sherlock, Dec. 8
Lucy Berridge, Nov. 14

PAGE A-9

