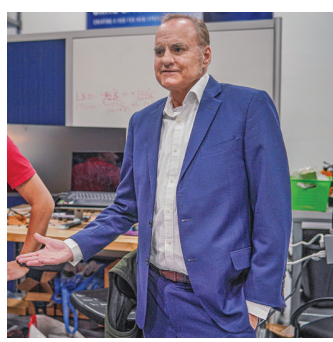


Optimism reigns as new report shows tech growing in N.M.

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# SOLID SHOWING ON THE TRACK

Northern track athletes shine at Marilyn Sepulveda Meet of Champions

SPORTS, B-1



Cadaver dogs and drones sniff around Epstein's former ranch

LOCAL & REGION, A-6

MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

# SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

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## Obesity among kids in state up as Trump cuts food programs

New data shows by third grade, rate in N.M. outpaces national average as SNAP-related options promoting health being rolled back

By Margaret O'Hara  
mohara@sfnewmexican.com

A team of public health officials, school nursing staff and volunteers measured the heights and weights of more than 4,500 elementary school students across New Mexico in the fall.

That data, released late last week by the state Department of Health, confirms the local version of a nationwide and global epidemic: Rates of childhood obesity are on the rise in New Mexico — though they remain lower than all-time highs recorded during the coronavirus pandemic.

The increase signals a continued need for investment in public programs and infrastructure that keep kids healthy, said Rita Condon, the Health Department's obesity, nutrition and physical activity program director.

As the latest batch of data shows, she said, "We have this ongoing problem, and we need to work on the environment that can help us raise children that are healthy weights."

The increase in childhood obesity rates in New Mexico comes at a challenging time for federal food programs.

Please see story on Page A-4

## By blasting pope, Trump putting support among Catholics at risk

Longtime observers of Roman church say president's social media posts calling pontiff 'WEAK,' 'terrible' unprecedented

By Anthony Faiola and Karen Tumulty  
The Washington Post

ROME — After white smoke in the rafters of the Sistine Chapel signaled the rise of a new pope last May, President Donald Trump heralded the first U.S.-born leader of the Catholic Church by declaring the choice "a Great Honor for our Country."

But now the two most influential Americans on the world stage — Trump, the leader of 340 million Americans, and Pope Leo XIV, with a global flock of 1.4 billion Catholics — are locked in a struggle for hearts and minds that harbors risks for both men.

After a pair of Trump posts Sunday on Truth Social —

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## Blockade a test in pain tolerance

Trump says U.S. military has Iran embargo in place containing ports . PAGE A-3



### Today

Showers possible with partly cloudy conditions at night. High 60, low 34.

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### Obituaries

Edward Sinforsoro Torrez, 40, Santa Fe, March 4

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### 2026 RACE FOR GOVERNOR

## Dems spend big as primary heats up

Haaland, Bregman have run through combined \$9M, far outpacing 3 candidates vying for GOP nomination

By Daniel J. Chacón  
dchacon@sfnewmexican.com

With only three weeks left until the start of early voting, Deb Haaland is heading into the high-stakes June 2 primary with a 4-to-1 cash advantage over her rival in what will go down as the costliest pri-

mary race in New Mexico history.

Combined, the two Democrats have spent more than \$9 million so far in their quest for their party's nomination for governor.

Haaland, a former congresswoman who is the first Indigenous woman to serve as a U.S. Cabinet secretary, reported raising \$4.1 mil-

lion in the latest campaign finance reporting period, or \$11.1 million total since she announced her candidacy in February 2025. Haaland has spent \$6.3 million so far, leaving her with \$4.3 million in the bank.

Her opponent, Bernalillo County District Attorney Sam Bregman, brought in more than \$2.1 million over the same time period, between Oct. 7 and April 6, bringing his total fundraising haul

to about \$3.7 million. After spending some \$2.85 million, Bregman is facing the final stretch of the campaign with only \$850,000 cash on hand.

More than 80% of Bregman's campaign contributions came from New Mexico.

"We are overwhelmed by the level of support we have received on this campaign," Joanie Griffin,

Please see story on Page A-4

## 'Change is happening'

100 days in, Santa Fe Mayor Michael Garcia touts accomplishments, sees work ahead



NATHAN BURTON/THE NEW MEXICAN

Santa Fe Mayor Michael Garcia films one of his weekly updates earlier this month outside City Hall. In a wide-ranging recent interview, Garcia said he is "beyond thankful and grateful" to be serving as mayor and is proud of what the city has accomplished in his first months in office.

By Carina Julig  
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Santa Fe Mayor Michael Garcia was sporting a pair of his trademark tennis shoes on his 100th day in office Friday.

It was a fitting sartorial choice for a mayor who has jumped feet first into a busy job, navigating a fast-paced New Mexico legislative session, a new city budget process and thorny topics such as the future of the toppled Soldiers' Monument on the Plaza and the contentious plot in Santa Fe County just outside city limits known as Area 1B.

In a wide-ranging recent interview, Garcia said he is "beyond thankful and grateful" to be serving as mayor and is proud of what the city has accomplished in his first months in office.

"This is truly the best job I've ever been entrusted with," he said.

Garcia credited city staff for making possible the administration's progress so far.

"We would not have been able to accomplish the, in my opinion, great amount of work we've been able to get done in these first 100 days without the

Please see story on Page A-4



MATT DAHLSEID/THE NEW MEXICAN

Santa Fe Mayor Michael Garcia and his daughter, Eliana Jackson, walk in the pilgrimage to El Santuario de Chimayó on Good Friday. Garcia said, "We would not have been able to accomplish the, in my opinion, great amount of work we've been able to get done in these first 100 days without the support and dedication of our city team."

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