

Catching a whiff of Sulphur Springs' storied past

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## NBA FINALS RARE FEAT IN BIG APPLE

Knicks fans basking in victory  
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Trump says U.S., Iran have reached ceasefire agreement

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MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

# SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Locally owned and independent Monday, June 15, 2026 santafenewmexican.com \$2.00

## Charting new course for Rio Grande

Decadelong dispute over key waterway was settled by Supreme Court — now New Mexico is forced to adapt

By Alaina Mencinger  
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After more than a decade of legal wrangling, New Mexico, Texas and the federal government are navigating the uncertain future of the Rio Grande together.

Now this state needs to implement agreed-upon plans to reduce groundwater use and manage a strangled water supply statewide.

"As temperatures are increasing and anticipated to increase further, we lose additional moisture from our landscape," said Interstate Stream Commission Director Han-

nah Riseley-White. "So, not only does demand go up for crops, but also evaporation from open water and riparian vegetation evapotranspiration increases, and so we will just continue to face increasing scarcity as temperatures increase, even with uncertainty as to precipitation."

As the state came out of what Riseley-White described as a "particularly brutally dry winter," the U.S. Supreme Court officially agreed in May to a settlement reached between states and the

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SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Sand bars develop along the Rio Grande as stretches of the river began to dry in Albuquerque last month. After a recent settlement over the key waterway, New Mexico has to implement agreed-upon plans to reduce groundwater use and manage a strangled water supply.

## Would plan to split troubled CYFD provide it some relief?

Growing concerns of systemic issues at child welfare agency have some calling for two branches: one for protection, one for justice

By Esteban Candelaria  
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The New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department takes thousands of abused and traumatized children into its custody every year.

Meanwhile, the beleaguered agency is also tasked with management of the state's juvenile justice system and oversees the custody of scores more kids in secure facilities.

Is it too much for one department to handle?

Lawmakers and law enforcement officials in recent months have pitched the idea of splitting CYFD into two distinct state agencies: one to manage child protective services and another to oversee juvenile justice. The pitch has come amid growing concerns of systemic issues at CYFD and calls for it to be structurally reimagined.

"CYFD's breadth of responsibility (spanning child protection, juvenile justice, and behavioral health) is one factor that has made effective leadership extraordinarily difficult," New Mexico Department of Justice spokesperson Lauren Rodriguez wrote in an email. "... No secretary has ever brought expertise across all three domains."

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**POLITICS CHECK** 

## Fine pairing takes root

Lescombes Family Vineyards, Santa Ana Pueblo strike deal to cultivate grapes for new wines



PHOTOS BY JIM WEBER/THE NEW MEXICAN

Vineyard manager Walter Dods cuts weeds along rows of chardonnay grapes at the Pueblo of Santa Ana's Tamaya Vineyard on Thursday. Pueblo and winery officials announced the five-year agreement earlier this month, saying Deming-based Lescombes Family Vineyards — which operates the Hervé wine bar in Santa Fe — will purchase Santa Ana-grown grapes for the production of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier.

By Mike Easterling  
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As the agricultural director for the Pueblo of Santa Ana, Ryan Garcia didn't have to think long when asked why he thought officials at Lescombes Family Vineyards were interested in striking a deal on grapes for new varietals.

"They like our story," Garcia said of the pueblo's vineyard. "The pueblo owns the land, owns the water. Most of our employees are from Santa Ana Pueblo, and they work really hard."

He added, "We didn't have any doubt this deal with Lescombes was going to work for us." Pueblo and winery officials

announced the five-year agreement earlier this month, saying Deming-based Lescombes — which bills itself as New Mexico's largest winery and operates the Hervé wine bar in downtown Santa Fe — will purchase Santa Ana-grown grapes for the production of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier.

The deal offers significant benefits for both parties, they said in a joint statement, allowing Lescombes to expand its portfolio and giving the pueblo a reliable market for what it characterizes as its "premier fruit."

Randi Morrow, the sales and mar-

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Dods reveals some of the fledgling grapes at the vineyard Thursday.



Milan Simonich  
Ringside Seat

COMMENTARY

## Recently deposed Republican leader is running again

The Democrats' most useful double agent is back. That would be Amy Barela, recently ousted as leader of New Mexico's Republican Party. She will try to regain the position this week, a maneuver Democrats are sure to applaud while many Republicans shudder.

Notorious for dividing her own party in this election year, Barela announced her comeback bid on social media. She positioned her campaign flyer for Republican Party chairperson next to a statement from a murky new organization, something labeled as the Southern & Rural New Mexico County Officers Coalition.

The people behind that mouthful of nothingness hope to elect a state Republican chairperson on Saturday in Las Cruces. Barela, who's from Tularosa in Otero County, sees a chance to gain a home-court advantage by running in Southern New Mexico. If everything breaks just right for her, she might be able to win back the office she was just ejected from.

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Today

Showers likely.  
High 81,  
low 55.

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Rural Utahns take on tech

Conservative area pushes back on data center plan. PAGE A-3

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Design and headlines: Nick Baca, nbaca@sfnwmexican.com

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177th year, No. 166  
Publication No. 596-440

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