



**Barron:
Demons,
Jags should
already worry
about playoffs**

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MAKING ROOM IN MADRID

The Mine Shaft Tavern to expand,
unveil taproom and brewery

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**Interior Dept.
approves large
Navajo
coal mine
expansion**

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MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Locally owned and independent Tuesday, September 1, 2026 santafenewmexican.com \$2.00

Multiple speed cameras shot on first day

Despite damage, all
devices are operational

By Nicholas Gilmore
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Three of the five sets of speed cameras recently deployed on Santa Fe streets were shot up within hours of being activated Monday, police confirmed.

Despite taking a few bullets, all of the cameras were still operational as of Monday evening, Santa Fe police interim Chief Ben Valdez said.

The vandalism of the newly launched speed enforcement system suggests Santa Fe drivers, like those in many cities nationwide, have mixed reactions to automated traffic enforcement and surveillance in the city.

While some residents — including members of the group Stop Aggressive Driving — have for years urged city officials to install speed cameras to crack down on speeding and aggressive driving, and “noise cameras” to

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AG says Romero’s DA job must end

Torrez issues letter
clarifying rule on
lawmakers working
in prosecutor’s office

By Phaendra Haywood
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Don’t get it twisted.
A state legislator can occasionally work as a special prosecutor, but “may not hold a standing position, however titled, in a district attorney’s office,” New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez wrote in a letter Monday to district attorneys around the state.

His letter came in the wake of recent controversy that arose after *The New Mexican* reported state Rep. Andrea Romero, a Santa Fe Democrat, had been employed part-time at the First Judicial District Attorney’s Office since May. Such employment

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Raúl Torrez

BEAR STAKES OUT FORT MARCY PARK



ABOVE: A black bear climbs a tree in Fort Marcy park on Monday. Police and New Mexico Department of Wildlife monitored the scene after responding to a call reporting that a large black bear was running around the park. LEFT: Department of Wildlife personnel direct onlookers away from the area. See story on Page A-6.

PHOTOS BY
NATHAN BURTON
THE NEW MEXICAN

Counties concerned over suit costs from 2021 law

Officials: Violations of
N.M.’s Civil Rights Act
leading to state spending
more cash on settlements

By Clara Bates
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Pointing to rising insurance costs as lawsuits mount, advocates for New Mexico counties want the Legislature to amend a 5-year-old law that makes it easier to sue government agencies over civil rights violations.

The insurance pool covering most New Mexico counties says it has paid out roughly \$30 million in settlements and legal costs under the state Civil Rights Act since the law went into effect in July 2021.

Counties have been raising the alarm over the cost of insuring themselves since the passage of the law, which was designed to make it easier for New Mexicans whose civil rights are violated by public entities to get justice.

Particularly driving up costs, said Grace Phillips, executive director of New Mexico Counties — which runs the self-insurance pool — have been claims alleging civil rights violations by law enforcement. The number of claims involving law enforcement has stayed steady but the cost of each has increased. She said training efforts that help to prevent lawsuits in the first place could end up being cut as budgets tighten.

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Today
Showers likely.
High 84,
low 60.
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Obituaries

Juan A. Vigil, 88, Aug. 14
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Ski Santa Fe seeks to increase snowmaking capabilities

After dismal snowpack, resort looks to build new
water tank, upgrade production infrastructure

By Daniel J. Chacón
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While weather forecasters are predicting above-average snowfall in New Mexico this winter, Jack Dant is doing everything he can to make the outlook come true.

“My fingers are crossed; my toes are crossed,” Dant, mountain manager at Ski Santa Fe, said Monday.

“I’m counting all my hair as being crossed,” he added. “I would love to see a mega winter that helps replenish just this dry drought that

we’ve been going through.”

Mother Nature, however, is unpredictable, particularly amid a warming climate, forcing Ski Santa Fe and other ski areas to turn to machine-made snow.

Ski Santa Fe, which ended its 2025-26 winter season two weeks early due to dismal snowfall, is proposing a snowmaking modernization project that includes construction of a new 4.6 million-gallon water tank at the bottom of Alpine and Lobo ski runs and upgrading and extending snowmaking

infrastructure up the mountain by installing up to 4,170 feet of new snowmaking pipe, according to a preliminary environmental assessment.

Santa Fe National Forest announced Monday the assessment will be open for public comment for 30 business days.

“The purpose of the proposed project is to modernize and expand snowmaking infrastructure within [Ski Santa Fe], increase water storage capacity, improve efficiency and reliability of snowmaking operations, and correct the double-fall line in the Sunrise Ski Run,” a news

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NEW MEXICAN FILE PHOTO

Snowmaking and grooming operator Michael Lindenbaum maintains a snow gun last year at Ski Santa Fe.

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