



Brewers hold off Dodgers in Game 1 of NL Championship Series

SPORTS, B-1

VIVA EL MARIACHI

UNLV program trains musicians to provide in-demand lessons

LEARNING, A-5



Trump's jab at Zelenskyy, deal with Russia draw outcry

NATION & WORLD, A-3

MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Locally owned and independent Monday, October 12, 2026 santafenewmexican.com \$2.00

Slow search for city manager draws criticism

Moya has served as interim in position for months, concerning some councilors

By Carina Julig
cjulig@sfnewmexican.com

After starting his term with a number of high-level positions vacant, Santa Fe Mayor Michael Garcia's administration has hired a spate of directors over the summer and moved into the final stages



Brian Moya

That won't be changing soon. In a Wednesday interview, Garcia said that

of the search for a new police chief. But nine months into his term, Garcia has yet to hire a city manager, a top city position currently being filled in the interim by Fire Chief Brian Moya.

Moya "will be sticking on board through this next budget season, and then I will hire a permanent city manager."

Based on that timeline, a city manager may not be in place until close to a year-and-a-half into Garcia's four-year term.

That's too slow for several city councilors, who said that while Moya has excelled in the role, they are anxious for the city to hire a permanent leader.

"I'm not happy about this situation at all," Councilor Pilar Faulkner said Thursday.

Councilors and the mayor also disagree on whether the administration is in violation of an ordinance passed earlier this year requiring the mayor to present a candidate to the City Council within six months of a vacancy.

Top brass

Santa Fe's full-time mayor system of leadership means the city manager has less power than in council-manager cities, where the city manager is the

chief executive. However, the city manager still plays a key role in overseeing the city's 1,400 employees and making major decisions about how the city operates.

The city published a job posting for the city manager position in December, and Garcia said originally the plan was to get someone in place "as soon as possible." However, he said, Moya did such a good job in the role that Garcia

Please see story on Page A-6

Not just a 'frat boy' sport

Indigenous-led club grounds lacrosse in Native roots, offers accessible means for S.F. girls to play



JIM WEBER/THE NEW MEXICAN

Turquoise Thunder founder Melody Saucedo, right, and coach Isabella Twocrow mix it up a little for fun last week during a community day to introduce the sport to Santa Feans at Salvador Perez Park. Saucedo established the Turquoise Thunder lacrosse team in August 2025 with two goals in mind: to inform the Santa Fe community about the sport's Indigenous roots, and to create a free and accessible space for girls to play.

By Lily Alexander
lalexander@sfnewmexican.com

Lacrosse can be prohibitively expensive and socially exclusive — with a reputation that runs counter to its Indigenous roots.

With Turquoise Thunder, a local lacrosse club for girls in grades 6 through 12, Melody Saucedo seeks to change that.

Saucedo, a Santa Fe resident who is Ma-chis Lower Creek, Apache and Mexican,

established the club in August 2025 with two goals in mind: to inform the community about the sport's rich history and to create a free and accessible space for girls to play.

She was propelled into action by her observations as her daughter played for the Santa Fe Prep team — one of a few local lacrosse opportunities for youth. Lacrosse brought hefty fees, she said, and not every athlete saw a fair amount of field time. Many perceived it as a "white sport."

"Me being not only an Indigenous woman

but a mother to all these children — we call ourselves 'lacrosse moms' — I was like, 'Let's do this,'" she said.

Saucedo visited several Santa Fe schools to recruit middle school and high school girls for the team. With a 10-player team that left no room for substitutions, the group faced some roadblocks in its first spring season.

The girls played on several fields littered with holes and tumbleweeds, and used car

Please see story on Page A-4

ELECTION 2026

May be tough for Democrats to flip N.M. House seats

By Nathan Brown
nbrown@sfnewmexican.com

While the outcome of most New Mexico House races isn't in doubt, a swing of just a few seats could make a difference.

That could be harder than it looks.

Democrats now hold 42 of the House's 70 seats; two others that elected Democrats in 2024 are vacant, although one is a deep-blue Northern New Mexico district where there isn't even a Republican running. With the Democrats set to lose one seat thanks to not being able to field a candidate in House District 4 after Rep. Joseph Hernandez suspended his reelection bid, Democrats would likely need to flip four Republican-held seats in November to win a "supermajority," or two-thirds of the chamber's seats.

In a year where Democrats are expected to do well nationally due to President Donald Trump's low approval ratings — an August *Albuquerque Journal* polled showed 61% of New Mexicans disapprove of him — four legislative seats in the state might not sound like a lot. In a similar

Please see story on Page A-4



Milan Simonich
Ringside Seat

COMMENTARY

'I Play Rocky' stirs up good memories

October in New Mexico provides a window to escape from campaigns and politicians to theaters and movies.

And this year's Santa Fe International Film Festival promises to be more satisfying for me than usual.

After boycotting Sylvester Stallone's movies for more than 40 years, I am looking forward to watching on the big screen an account of his rise to stardom. Titled *I Play Rocky*, the movie is part of Friday's lineup at the festival.

I was a fan of Stallone in the beginning. For me, the beginning was *Rocky*, a low-budget movie that packed a wallop.

Inspired by underwhelming heavyweight Chuck Wepner giving his all in a championship bout against Muhammad Ali, 28-year-old Stallone wrote a terrific screenplay. His protagonist was a club fighter who makes

Please see story on Page A-6

DOJ investigating network coverage of Trump

Agency looking into if outlets violated antitrust laws for brief suspension of White House coverage

By David McCabe, Michael M. Grynbaum, Benjamin Mullin, Lauren Hirsch and Glenn Thrush
The New York Times

The Justice Department is investigating whether the major television networks — ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and Fox News

— violated federal antitrust laws when the group briefly suspended their pooled coverage of President Donald Trump, according to six people with knowledge of the department's action.

Officials from the Justice Department contacted the networks Friday and demanded communications and materials related to the White House TV pool, the people said. The pool is a long-standing system where the networks share the responsibility of providing footage of the president and distributing it to other news outlets.

Last month, the networks collectively suspended their pool footage of Trump for several days after the president barred CNN journalists from the White House grounds, which prevented CNN from participating in the pool. Video footage of some major events, including Trump's greeting of President Xi Jinping of China, was not carried by any major news station.

In a statement Saturday, a Justice Department spokesperson, Emily Covington, described the five networks as having "proudly

boycotted covering White House events."

"Group boycotts among commercial competitors can violate the Sherman Act," a core antitrust law, Covington wrote. "The Antitrust Division is simply investigating to determine whether these news organizations have violated the antitrust laws."

The inquiry by the Justice Department is a profound escalation of the Trump administration's ongoing battles with the White

Please see story on Page A-6



Today
Mostly sunny.
High 69,
low 49.
PAGE A-8

Santa Fe-area food service inspections
PAGE A-6

