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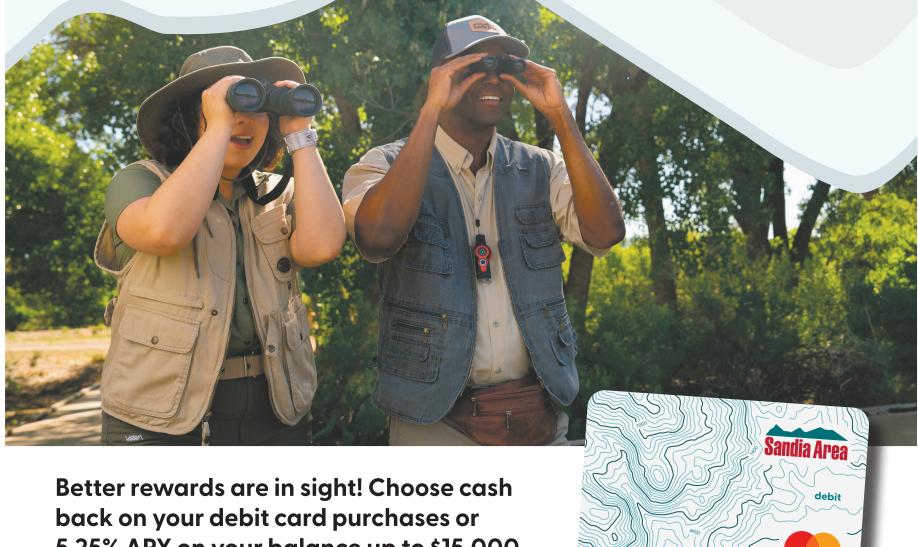
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From top: Dancers at National Hispanic Cultural Center, courtesy of UNM Chicana and Chicano Studies department. Huichol yarn painting from Jalisco, Mexico, ca. 1978, gift of the Girard Foundation Collection, MOIFA A.1980.2.541, photograph by Tira Howard. Jar, 2006, Lisa Holt (Cochiti) and Harlan Reano (Santo Domingo), courtesy Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, photograph by Addison Doty. A young visitor contemplates Portrait of Gerald Maar by Peter Hurd at the New Mexico Museum of Art, photograph by Kitty Leaken.

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Tumbleweeds

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MAGAZINE

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Letters, artwork, and articles from our readers on personal and professional experiences with children are welcome. Tumbleweeds Magazine strives to connect families to resources and to each other.

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ON THE COVER:

GWYNNE, 7, AND MAEVE, 5

How do you like to spend your time?

Gwynne: There's so much to do, best is skiing and swimming with my family.

Maeve: I like to get ice cream for fun times!

What do you think will be different about the world when you are an adult?

Gwynne: Cars flying in the sky, definitely that will happen.

Maeve: That babies will be happy in their lifetime.

Who are your best friends and why do you like each other?

Gwynne: My best friend is Maya, and I like her because we do fashion shows together at her house.

Maeve: Rita and Lia are best friends because they are kind and I've known them since preschool.

What do you think your parents do at work all day?

Gwynne: Sell houses. You have the person with you, you show them the house and if they like it, they can buy it. You also do meetings about houses.

Maeve: Sell houses because people want to buy a house and they give you their money.

What's the most important rule that you know of?

Gwynne: Don't litter. We don't want the earth to be sad or hurt. When you litter, it kind of makes a scratch on the earth.

Maeve: At my school the rules are: no jumping off the bee-hive, no going like a choo-choo train with friends down the slide, and no using the red toys, because they are from the other classroom.

Tumbleweeds

MAGAZINE

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DISTRIBUTION

Tumbleweeds Magazine is a bimonthly print and online publication. It is Northern New Mexico families' best resource. Thanks to our advertisers and community partners, seasonal issues are distributed FREE throughout Santa Fe, Española and Los Alamos.

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If you or your organization would like to purchase copies of Tumbleweeds Magazine, bulk orders of 10 copies or more may be requested via email at: Hello@TumbleweedsMag.com

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Tumbleweeds Magazine offers event organizers FREE online event listings and promotion. Submit your event online at: TumbleweedsMag.com/things-to-do

FAMILY DIRECTORY

As the #1 resource for Northern New Mexico families, you may include your business in Tumbleweeds Magazine's online Family Directory for FREE. Submit your business information at: **FamilyDirectory**@ Tumbleweeds Mag.com

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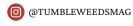
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The Tumbleweeds Magazine 2025 Holidays issue will be published November 1, 2025.

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ON THE COVER:

Meet sisters Gwynne, 7, and Maeve, 5—bursting with personality! Gwynne skis, swims, and hosts runway shows with bestie Maya, while Maeve prefers ice cream missions and preschool pals Rita and Lia. They imagine flying cars, extra-happy babies, and enforce playground rules with flair—future dreamers, current comedians, and total cover stars. Photo by Kitty Leaken.

ARTWORK IN THIS ISSUE:

Tumbleweeds Magazine partnered with Art School Santa Fe and JF Mazur Studio to share children and teen artwork. Art School Santa Fe offers courses in numerous genres including illustration, creature design, fantasy art, comic book drawing, animals, landscapes and cartooning. JF Mazur Studio offers children's art workshops and private painting classes. See more artwork on our website, **TumbleweedsMag.com**

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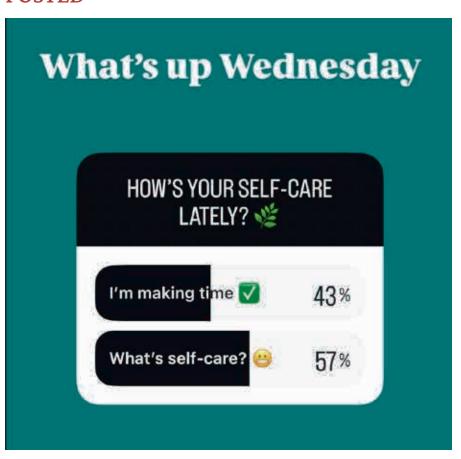
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NOTES FROM JEN

Lessons in Every Leap

JEN PAUL SCHROER

From dance studio to public service

Someone asked me at lunch the other day how I got into public service. I smiled and replied, "I was a college dropout."

It wasn't because I couldn't handle college. I did well in school and was even in the National Honor Society. I just didn't enjoy the college thing. I felt restless, like I was wasting time. I was bored. So I dropped out and started a business. My parents, of course, were less than thrilled at first.

For seven years, I owned a small dance studio where I taught jazz, tap, ballet, pep, and cheer. It was a modest space with a swamp cooler that chugged away in the hot summer months. On those sweltering days, I'd arrive hours before the first class to switch it on, hoping to cool the room just enough for the 3 p.m. start. And the days I didn't arrive early, I always regretted it.

The dance studio was my world. I still remember the thrill of my first newspaper interview, having a journalist come take photos during my tiny 3-year-old ballet class, all in pink leotards and glittery smiles. Over time, I hired other teachers and learned how to manage and retain employees; figuring out that leadership in a small business is as much about trust and encouragement as it is about schedules, paychecks and accountability.

And then there was my very first dance recital, held in a downtown theater. Two three-year-old twins absolutely refused to go on stage. They screamed so loudly the entire audience could hear them. Parents sighed softly in empathy, chuckled with understanding, and we decided to skip their number so I'd have a few minutes to calm them down. Eventually, the girls agreed to perform—but only if I joined them.

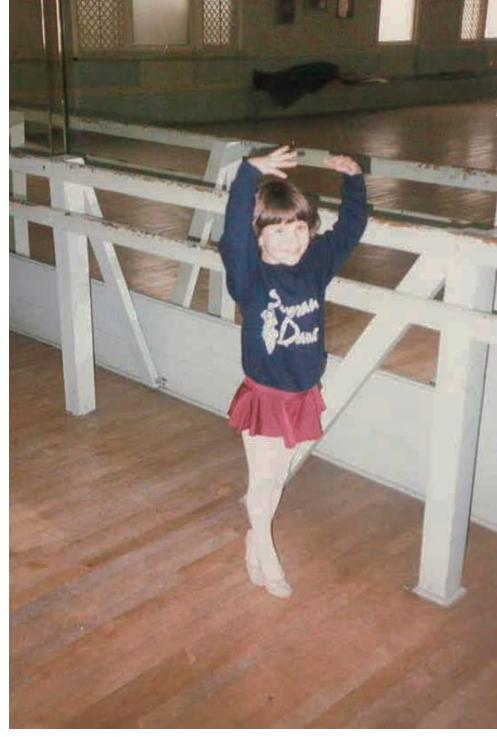
So, I walked them on stage and we $\,$ danced together to Oh, You Beautiful Doll. Partway through, one girl's ballet shoe flung off her foot into the air. She sat down and twirled the shoe on her



Courtesy photo: Jen Paul Schroer, former Cabinet Secretary of Tourism, presenting to Ed Pulsifer, Santa Fe resident, at the Tourism Hall of Fame in 2019.

finger. Eventually, she slipped it back on and rejoined the routine smiling ear to ear. When the number ended, the audience erupted in applause and rose to their feet, cheering. In that moment, the entire room felt the unifying power of parenting—cheering not for perfection, but for courage, compassion, and the simple joy of getting through it together.

That first recital taught me more than just choreography. It showed me how patience, flexibility, and humor could carry me through almost anything. And those lessons carried over into every part of running the studio. I learned to build spreadsheets to track tuition payments and calculate breakeven points. I developed an annual calendar, produced year-end recitals, and became adept at client relations with my "Dance Moms." I celebrated national-level wins and endured a few hard knocks along the way. I loved kids, teaching, and dance. But eventually, the



Courtesy photo: Jen Paul Schroer as a young ballerina.

8 Skills I Learned Running a Dance Studio That Still Help Me Today

1. Budgeting & Financial Management

Understanding every dollar, from tuition payments to costume orders.

2. Event Planning

Coordinating recitals prepared me for conferences and large-scale public events.

3. Customer Service

Listening, problem-solving, and keeping clients happy.

4. Marketing & Promotion

Filling classes taught me how to tell a compelling story.

Bouncing back from low enrollment seasons or event-day surprises.

6. Team Leadership

Hiring, training, and motivating staff to share a vision.

7. Crisis Management

Handling last-minute cancellations or costume mishaps without losing composure.

8. Community Building

Creating a place where families felt welcome and connected.

physical demands—pulled hamstrings, fractured feet, muscle spasms, and a bad back—made it clear this wasn't a career I could sustain forever.

I sold the studio and went back to college, earning degrees in Organizational Leadership and Theater/Film. After a short break, I pursued my MBA. This time, I truly enjoyed being in college. With entrepreneurial experience under my belt, the theories and case studies made sense in a way they never had before. More than once, I caught myself wishing I'd known these best practices while running my business; it might have saved me from a few hard lessons.

Many of my professors felt more like mentors and even colleagues. They valued my experience and treated it as an asset, which made learning feel collaborative rather than one-sided. One of those professors recommended me for a position at the university, and that opportunity opened the door to a completely new chapter in community and economic development as a communications director.

From Choreography to Conferences and Collaboration

My new role took me far from the world of dance studios and into initiatives that shaped regions and impacted thousands of lives. I worked on complex projects like the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, tackling everything from economic growth to telehealth to regional water policy,

and the Fresno Stewardship Initiative, focused on long-term prosperity for the region. My focus was always on one central question: how can we help people live better lives?

The topics, acronyms, industries, and politics were new, stressful, and intimidating. But the personal fulfillment of contributing to my community and my neighbors made it worth every late night and steep learning curve.

My first major success came when I planned a state conference for hundreds of people. The governor attended, along with state legislators, mayors, and city officials. Coordinating with elected officials and their staff turned out to be far more complex than coordinating with teenage dancers and "Dance Moms." The political protocol was overwhelming at first—everything from seating charts to security clearances—but when the last speaker took the stage and every detail came together, I was both exhausted and proud.

That leap—from teaching dance and choreography to managing conference logistics and public policy initiatives—showed me that the skills I'd built in my studio were not only transferable but essential. The same ability to adapt quickly, motivate people, and keep multiple moving parts in sync applied in both worlds.

In public service, the criticism cuts deeper because the stakes were higher. Choices weren't just about a dance routine, costumes and song choices; they were about livelihoods, neighborhoods, and futures. And while that level of accountability is both right and necessary, it can also be emotionally exhausting. For all those public servants with a sensitive nature like mine, hang in there. The scrutiny can often feel heavier than the work itself, but you are appreciated.

I learned the emotional toll of constant public judgment can be heavy—on your confidence, your energy, and your spirit. It takes resilience to keep showing up, knowing that no matter how hard you work, someone will find fault. That became my Achilles heel throughout my career: balancing the drive to serve with the challenge of protecting my own heart.

Why This Matters for Back-to-School Season

As I shared in the last issue, I have since stepped down from public service, and now I'm the "Dance Mom" in the audience—loving every minute of cheering for my daughter from the other side of the stage.

This fall, our family is also taking a leap. We decided to put our kids in a different school this year. It's the kind of choice that stirs both excitement and a little bit of nervous energy. New teachers, new friends, and new routines like the first few steps of a dance you haven't quite learned yet.

As our kids head back to school, I think about how my own career path wasn't a straight line. Sometimes the most valuable lessons don't come from the classroom—they come from trying, failing, adjusting, and trying again.

Whether your child dreams of being a scientist, a dancer, or something they haven't yet discovered, remember: every job, hobby, or side project can teach skills that prepare them for a future they (and you) can't yet imagine. You never know when learning to track payments for a dance recital might be the first step toward leading regional economic initiatives.

Life's choreography is rarely what we expect, but often exactly what we need. Cheers to another school year and remember: it's never too late to go back to college.

Jen Paul Schroer is a dedicated community leader with a proven track record of driving positive change. As a three-time Senate-confirmed cabinet secretary, trade association CEO, and chamber of commerce executive director, Jen has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. As a wife and mother of two, Jen is deeply committed to improving the local community and supporting the economic well-being of families as the editor and owner of Tumbleweeds magazine and other ventures.



In Her Own Words:



 $Courtesy\ photo:\ Griffin\ in\ her\ role\ as\ former\ superintendent\ of\ the\ Humboldt\ Unified\ School\ District\ in\ Prescott\ Valley,\ AZ,\ 2024.$

TARA MELTON

A candid Q&A with the superintendent of Santa Fe Public Schools

Dr. Christine E. Griffin, superintendent of Santa Fe Public Schools, brings more than 20 years of experience in public education. Her career reflects a deep commitment to student success, instructional innovation, and community engagement. Previously, she served as the superintendent

of the Humboldt Unified School District in Prescott Valley, Arizona. She served as executive director of Educational Services and Innovation, as a principal, district intervention coordinator, instructional coach, and a classroom teacher.

She has championed equitable access and whole-child development throughout her leadership journey. Christine holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University along with certifications in multiple areas, including special education and school administration. A strong advocate for

professional learning, she has completed extensive training in school leadership and inclusive practices. Her work extends into the community through partnerships with education foundations, local chambers, and strategic planning groups, all focused on creating innovative learning environments where students and educators can thrive.

Can you tell us a little bit about where you grew up and what your childhood was like?

I grew up in Gilbert, Arizona. I lived on a street with four other girls my



Courtesy photo: Griffin on a mountain bike ride, embracing adventure and the great outdoors.

same age, so we often did a lot of things outside together. We all had horses. Mine was a dappled palomino, and her name was Coco. We would go out and ride through cotton fields, and Gilbert was developing so quickly that in sixth grade, I was riding the horse through the cotton field, and the next year, I was going to junior high where that cotton field used to be. I had a nice childhood, a lot of friends, and being outside.

What inspired you to go into education?

When I was younger, I really did not want to be a teacher. But then I graduated from high school and didn't really have a plan. I attended community college and proved to myself that I could accomplish the work. I still didn't know what I wanted to do. I ended up learning a trade and became a massage therapist in my twenties. I had my own business, and for several years I learned things the hard way. I began thinking, "Wow, I really wish I had learned this in school." People around me would complain about kids these days, and it really inspired me to make a difference. I wanted kids to graduate with a plan and not experience things the hard way like I did. I decided to become a teacher when I was 27.

Did you have a favorite subject you loved as a student or when you were teaching?

I loved science. I just always imagined myself to be a scientist. I think it's a little bit ironic that the things that I loved in third, fourth, and fifth grade were researching a problem and trying



Courtesy photo: Griffin and her husband enjoy a night out listening to live music together.

different ways to solve that problem. Education is a lot like that, looking at data and figuring out how to solve the challenges within that data.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Griffin: I enjoy mountain biking. When I was forty, I learned about this subculture of people called mountain bikers, and they hung out together around campfires and rode their bikes all day. The idea that these grown adults who ride their bikes together on weekends just seemed really intriguing. Now, more than years later, every weekend my husband and I are out riding our bikes.

What's something people might be surprised to learn about you?

I'm not an extrovert. Being superintendent, you are around people constantly, and it's so important to have that extroverted lens. But I've learned I need balance and to be able to recover from being around people all day.

How do you stay grounded during difficult times?

I walk my dogs in the morning and the evening. It gives me the chance to really shut out all the noise around me and take a moment to focus on the bigger picture.

What do you love most about leading a district?

I love helping people. Being a leader is such a privilege. Remembering the why behind it and being able to empower and allow people to make their own choices, and have their own autonomy, but all move in the same direction, and support them with that is really incredible.

How do you define success for a school district beyond just test scores and graduation rates?

It's 100 percent culture. When you walk into any of our schools, I want you to feel welcomed and that you belong. Also, all of the amazing outcomes for our students, it's a feeling of being proud to be where you're at.

How do you balance leading such a large district while staying personally connected to students and families?

This is something that's super important to me. One of the tools that I've learned in the past is how important it is to manage my schedule. I have to make sure that every week I have time set aside to be at the schools, walking through classrooms, and making sure that when there are parent events, that my staff and I are attending those things, so we know the heartbeat of the district.

What advice would you give to students who are struggling or feeling unsure about their path?

Just keep at it. It's not meant to be easy, and anyone who thinks that they're supposed to know everything, doesn't know everything. So just give yourself a break, and take a breath, and know that learning is hard but it's worth it.

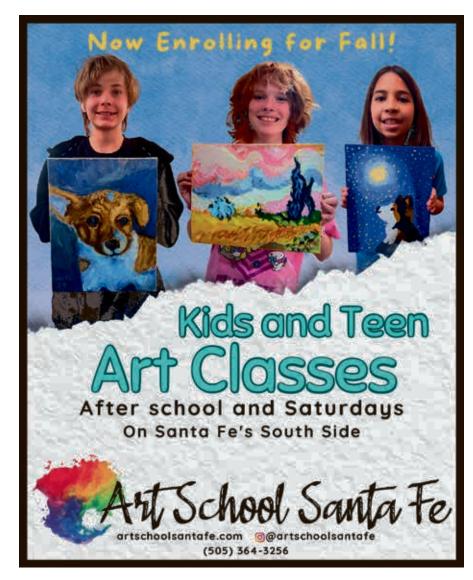
What legacy do you hope to leave behind a superintendent?

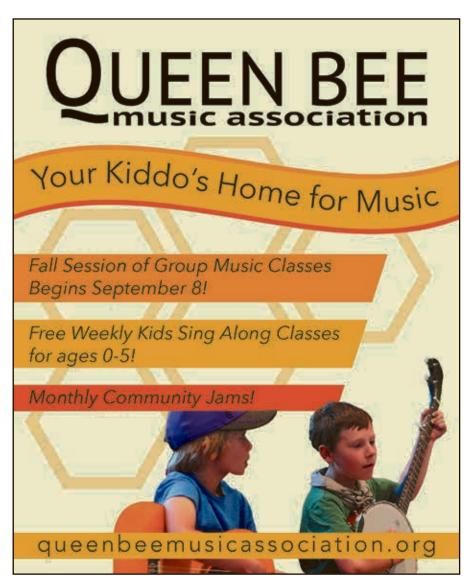
My legacy is always leaving places better than I found them. I hope that people will look back and see that I was able to accomplish things and that I led in a very kind, authentic, and supportive way.

What's your vision for students and parents in the district?

The vision is engagement. Our students, in the world that they're growing up in, are very disconnected from each other. It's about being present in the moment and engaging with their surroundings, their classmates, their peers, and for the families to engage with the schools. I also want teachers and staff to feel welcomed. That's really the goal—to have every student, family, teacher, and staff member engaged.

Tara Melton serves as the public information officer of the Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS), a district dedicated to educating approximately 11,000 students throughout the Santa Fe area. SFPS is committed to providing every student with a safe, high-quality, and engaging education—one that embraces diversity, promotes equity, and advances social justice. The district works in close partnership with the community to make the most of its collective resources. Learn more at sfps.info.





VOCES DE LAS FAMILIAS



Courtesy photo: Christine E. Griffin, como exsuperintendente del distrito escolar unificado Humboldt en Prescott Valley, AZ, da un discurso durante la ceremonia de graduación de la secundaria Bradshaw Mountain en el 2024.

TARA MELTON

Una conversación franca con la superintendente de las escuelas públicas de Santa Fe

La Dra. Christine E. Griffin, superintendente de las escuelas públicas de Santa Fe, tiene más de dos décadas de experiencia en la educación pública, marcados por un gran compromiso con el éxito de los estudiantes, innovaciones educativas y relaciones con

la comunidad. Anteriormente fue superintendente del distrito escolar unificado Humboldt en Prescott Valley, AZ, también directora ejecutiva de servicios educativos e innovación, directora de escuela, coordinadora de intervención de distrito, entrenadora educativa y maestra.

Ha abogado por un acceso equitativo y desarrollo infantil completo a través de su trayectoria de liderazgo. Tiene un doctorado en liderazgo educativo de la Universidad de Arizona del Norte y certificaciones en diferentes campos, incluso el de la educación especial y la administración escolar. Como abogada

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del aprendizaje profesional, ha completado una amplia capacitación en liderazgo escolar y prácticas integradoras. Su trabajo se extiende hacia la comunidad por medio de asociaciones con fundaciones educativas, cámaras locales y grupos de planificación estratégica, todos centrados en crear ambientes de aprendizaje innovadores, donde los estudiantes y los educadores puedan prosperar.

¿Nos puede hablar un poquito sobre dónde creció y cómo fue su niñez?

Me crié en Gilbert, Arizona. Vivía en una calle con otras cuatro niñas de mi



Courtesy photo: Christine E. Griffin, en un recorrido por motocicleta de montaña se lanza a la aventura v al aire libre.

edad, así es que con frecuencia hacíamos muchas cosas juntas afuera. Todas teníamos caballos. El mío era un palomino pinto, se llamaba Coco. Salíamos a montar a caballo por los campos de algodón; Gilbert crecía tan rápidamente que en sexto grado yo montaba a caballo por el campo de algodón y, el siguiente año, iba a la secundaria donde antes estaba el campo de algodón. Tuve una niñez feliz, muchas amigas y disfrutaba el aire libre.

¿Que la inspiró a dedicarse a la educación?

Cuando era más joven, realmente no quería ser maestra. Pero luego me gradué de la preparatoria y verdaderamente no tenía un plan. Asistí a una universidad comunitaria y me di cuenta que podía hacer el trabajo. Aún no sabía qué quería hacer. Terminé por aprender un oficio y me convertí en masajista en mis años 20. Tuve mi propio negocio y, por varios años, aprendí cosas a la brava y empecé a pensar: "Guau, realmente quisiera haber aprendido esto en la escuela". Las personas en mi entorno se quejaban de sus hijos en esos días y eso realmente me inspiró a hacer una diferencia. Quería que los chicos se graduaran con un plan y que no tuvieran que experimentar a la brava como lo hice yo. Decidí hacerme maestra cuando tenía 27 años de edad.

¿Tenía una materia favorita que le gustaba como estudiante o cuando enseñaba?

Me gustaban las ciencias. Siempre me imaginé como científica. Creo que es un tanto irónico que lo que me gustaba en el tercer, cuarto y quinto grado era investigar un problema y tratar diferentes formas de resolver ese problema. La educación es muy parecida a eso, observar información y averiguar cómo resolver los desafíos que esa información presenta.

¿Qué le gusta hacer aparte de trabajar?

Me gusta montar bicicleta en la montaña. Cuando tenía 40 años de edad, aprendí sobre esta subcultura de las personas conocidas como ciclistas de montaña, que se reúnen alrededor de fogatas de campamento y montan sus bicicletas todo el día. La idea de que estos adultos mayores que montan sus bicicletas juntos los fines de semana me parecía realmente intrigante. Ahora, unos 10 años más tarde, cada fin de semana, mi esposo y yo andamos afuera montando nuestras bicicletas.

¿Hay algo que la gente se sorprendería de saber sobre Ud.?

No soy extrovertida. Como superintendente, una anda rodeada de personas constantemente y es muy importante tener esos lentes comunicativos. Sin embargo, he aprendido que necesito equilibrio y ser capaz de recuperarme después de estar rodeada de gente todo el día.

¿Cómo mantiene los pies en la tierra en tiempos difíciles?

Llevo a mis perros a caminar en la mañana y en la tarde — me ayuda a mantener los pies en la tierra. Me da la oportunidad verdaderamente de dejar



Courtesy photo: Christine E. Griffin con su esposo, Jim Monahan, disfrutan una noche de música en vivo.

fuera todo el ruido que me rodea y tomar un momento para enfocarme en la perspectiva más amplia.

¿Qué es lo que más le gusta de estar a la cabeza de un distrito (escolar)?

Me encanta ayudar a la gente. Ser líder es un privilegio. Recordar el porqué detrás de ello y ser capaz de empoderar a las personas y permitirles que tomen sus propias decisiones y que tengan su propia autonomía, pero que todos vayan en la misma dirección, y apoyarles con eso es realmente increíble.

¿Cómo define el éxito para un distrito escolar más allá de las notas de las pruebas y las tasas de graduación?

Es el 100 por ciento la cultura. Cuando usted entra en cualquiera de nuestras

escuelas, quiero que se sienta bienvenido y que es parte de ellas. También, todos los asombrosos resultados para nuestros estudiantes, es el sentirse orgulloso de estar donde se está.

¿Cómo mantiene el equilibrio guiando un distrito escolar tan grande y al mismo tiempo la conexión con los estudiantes y familias personalmente?

Para mí esto es muy importante. Una de las herramientas que he aprendido en el pasado es lo importante de controlar mi horario. Debo asegurarme de que cada semana tengo tiempo asignado para estar en las escuelas, visitar los salones de clase y, cuando hay eventos con los padres de familia, mi personal y yo asistimos para conocer lo que mueve el distrito.

¿Qué consejos tiene para los estudiantes que tienen dificultades o se sienten inseguros de su camino?

Sólo que perseveren. No se supone que sea fácil y cualquiera que piense que está supuesto a saberlo todo, no lo sabe todo. Así es que no sea muy duro consigo mismo, respire y sepa que aprender es difícil, pero vale la pena.

¿Qué legado espera dejar como superintendente?

Mi legado siempre es dejar los lugares mejor de lo que los encontré. Espero que en retrospectiva la gente vea que pude lograr cosas y que lideré en forma atenta, auténtica y comprensiva.

¿Cuál es su visión para los estudiantes y padres de familia en el distrito?

La visión es la participación. Nuestros estudiantes, en el mundo en el cual están creciendo, están muy desconectados los unos de los otros. Se trata de estar presente en el momento e involucrarse con su medio ambiente, sus compañeros de clase, sus colegas y, para las familias, involucrarse con la escuelas. También quiero que los maestros y personal se sientan bienvenidos. Ésa es realmente la meta — que cada estudi-ante, familia, maestro y miembro del personal participe.

Tara Melton es la encargada de información de las escuelas públicas de Santa Fe (SFPS por sus siglas en inglés), un distrito dedicado a educar a unos 11.000 estudiantes en Santa Fe. El distrito está comprometido a darle a cada estudiante una educación segura, de alta calidad y motivadora. Una educación que incluya la diversidad, fomente la equidad y la justicia social. El distrito trabaja muy de cerca con la comunidad para aprovechar al máximo sus recursos y servicios colectivos. Puede obtener más información en el sitio sfps.info.



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FAMILY TIME



Courtesy photo: Pamela and her daughters at Denver volleyball tournament.

REDEFINING a Professional Mother's **SUCCESS**

PAMELA K. BLACKWELL

How stepping away from traditional work created space for purpose, presence, and possibility

"No rules," advised a dear friend. Others have cheered me on with, "Do what the [blank] you want." It's unsettling, uncomfortable, and freeing advice to take.

Like many working mothers, I've spent years navigating the tightrope between professional ambition and family responsibility. But a few months ago, I did what many women dream about but often defer: I stepped off the ladder and left traditional employment.

For a motivated, high-achieving professional—consummate list-maker, jacket and water-bottle bringer—this step, without an immediate on-ramp to the next job, was unfamiliar terrain.

For more than two decades, I built a solid career in communications and government relations, climbing to leadership roles in respected organizations in New Mexico and Washington, D.C. I've teamed up with

stellar colleagues and made a difference with the skills and dedicated effort I put forth. On paper, everything looked good. But in reality, I was in a box. I'd grown as much as I could where I was. While I did not have a clear path forward, I knew that I had more to grow, more to do and ample energy to do it.

Once I stepped off the ladder, something unexpected happened: opportunity after opportunity came my way. Freelance gigs. Consulting roles. A couple attractive full-time offers. The ego boost was real, but so was the danger of losing my balance between family and career.

For a person who almost always says "Yes, yes I can," saying no hasn't been easy. Saying no to good things is a privilege not lost on me. I've had to resist the urge to follow my default, self-prescribed path. I know myself well enough to recognize that once I commit to something, I dive in completely.

I've had to get brutally honest with myself. Was I going to fill my schedule with work that felt familiar and flattering? Or was I turning my back on a rare opportunity to do something entirely new and explore my interests? Could I use this window in time to stretch out and build something truly mine?

For the first time I could be like the main character in one of my favorite novels, The Midnight Library, and sample my alternate universes—alternate career and personal paths. I'd already slowwalked this idea, coaching middle school volleyball and track for four years. I decided to lengthen my stride.

Since leaving my job, I've trained like I'm sponsored by Nike to run 5ks. I've taught like John Keating from Dead Poet's Society as a high school substitute teacher. I've traveled with my family like I'm a local tour guide. I've been a girl boss and chosen consulting work that is challenging and meaningful. And I've been a very present mother, driving my kids to-and-fro, no conference calls en route, just me and them and our



Courtesy photo: Pamela finishing a 5k.



Courtesy photo: Pamela's son and the Sandia slope.

conversations spilling over from the back seat to the front.

A wise friend told me not to take a job for six months. Try not to rush to fill the silence. She was right. I hadn't taken a breath since starting my career and then having three children. I even worked while on hospital bedrest while pregnant with our twins. Saying no—especially to jobs I was qualified for, good at and even excited by—is the hardest part. But I needed a time-out.

Choosing not to fill the silence has meant watching my son play Saturday soccer matches with the dramatic slope of the Sandias as the backdrop. Other than applying sunscreen or bundling up, there's nothing else for me to do.

This winter was the first state legislative session I'd missed in years, the all-consuming, round-the-clock months of political work. At weekend volleyball tournaments, I no longer had to block rogue balls from crashing into my laptop while trying to meet deadlines in the bleachers. Instead, I got to truly watch my daughters play the game I also loved at their age.

Many women tie their worth to their roles: job title, organizational clout, regular paycheck. Letting go of that feels like a freefall. I've worried: Would people still respect me? Would I lose touch with my professional identity? Could I support myself?

My goals are no less audacious, they're just rooted in autonomy and alignment now. I want to build something sustainable and impactful. One consultant and mom advised me to create a portfolio of "momming," coaching kids, and advising clients.

That advice helped shape my vision of starting my own consulting studio. It uses my skills, feeds my spirit, and lets me work on my terms. It gives me space to be there for my children and continue exploring joy in my alternate universes.

Saying no wasn't about shutting doors. It was about creating space for the right ones to open

And yes, I have days of doubt. Lots of them. I still get scared. I may ultimately return to traditional employment. Or maybe become a teacher. Either way, I've traded feeling boxed in for purposeful challenge, and I'm not inclined to give that up.

On the hardest career days where doubt creeps in, I fantasize about being a barista (though I'm an avowed tea drinker). So, I got myself a decent espresso maker. It's not as easy as you think. At the rate I make espresso—and my paltry, at-home tip jar earnings—barista may not be my calling. But I'm working on it, one espresso at a time.

I'm still early in this chapter, but I know it was the right move. I feel more creative, increasingly grounded, and more present. I'm building something that reflects my values, not just as a professional but as a mother and a human being.

This isn't a story of quitting. It's a story of choosing. Choosing to step off the rung into the unknown. Choosing to trust myself. Choosing to model something radically honest for the people I love most.

And that, to me, is success.

This piece begins a series chronicling Pamela's journey navigating career, identity, and family as a professional parent.

Pamela K. Blackwell is a mother of three teens, and the founder of PKB Consulting, a communications, stakeholder, and government-relations studio. She is a middle school volleyball and track coach and an avid 5k runner who enjoys travel, swimming, hiking, climbing, and cooking. Pamela is an 11-plus-generation New Mexican who grew up in Santa Fe and lives in Albuquerque with her family.



Welcome Back, Beautiful Autumn! Falling for You in a Big Way

JUDY REINHARTZ

Connecting Science and Math to Life, Learning, and Play

On our ongoing learning journey, "The important thing is to never stop questioning" (Albert Einstein). I never tire of his insights about caregivers providing the right conditions for learning. He underscores the importance of igniting curiosity.

Leaning into fall science and math awakens joy, inspires open-ended play, and encourages creative expression. I challenge caregivers to see how many fall activities you can do and related books you can read with your children to establish the conditions for learning as part of the season of change.

Whether feeling the blowing wind on our faces, observing color changes in our picturesque landscape, admiring bright flowers starting to wither, or witnessing trees shedding their leaves, all make lasting impressions on us. The sun is less intense, animals scurry for food to store in homes where they will hibernate, darkness comes earlier as the earth tilts on its axis away from the sun, and the growing season ends and harvesting begins. All these changes tingle our senses and make fall memorable.

Playing outdoors now means wearing warmer clothes, so in Lynn Ploude's book, Bella finds out that her coat is too small, but she loves being outside. So, what to do? Her grandmother comes to her rescue and makes her a new coat. Read Bella's Fall Coat to find out what she did with her old one.

Fall would not be fall without jumping onto piles of leaves. It is a rite of passage across generations as is listening to the crackling sounds of crushing leaves, grabbing handfuls of leaves and throwing them into the air, and watching them flutter to the ground. Leaf piles are springboards into safe scavenger hunts with buried treasures to find. Leaf Jumpers by Carole Gerber, with its colorful artwork and poetic text for the youngest leaf jumpers, will keep the leaf conversations going.

Having children make collages and bracelets with leaves using masking tape, gathering pinecones and arranging them in patterns, moving fingers through the squishy flesh of pumpkins and gourds, and counting the slippery seeds to be planted next year or to be roasted, and using the flesh to bake

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Courtesy photo: Driving my truck in the cool weather

pumpkin pies are all ideal backdrops for engaging tactile sensory play. All support fine motor skills and language development while introducing new words ("mushy," "slimy," and "wet"). Build birdhouses with hollowed-out gourds and bird feeders with toilet paper rolls, peanut butter, seed, and string. Both offer bird watching opportunities.

Continue fall magic with leaf rubbings. All you need are unwrapped crayons, paper, and leaves arranged under the paper. Use the side of the crayons to rub over the top of the paper. Uncover the masterpieces and ask, What do you see? Are you surprised? Next time, have pastels and chalk available. Create animal friends using leaves adding eyes, noses, and mouths (handmadecharlotte.



Courtesy photo: Shapes and numbers activity with young children.

com/60551/). Preserve the leaf animals by pressing them in heavy books and iron them between wax paper. Children tell stories about their animals—where they live and what they eat.

Pairing these activities with a story about a boy who searches for a *Lucky Leaf* by Kevin O'Malley sparks imaginative ideas for leaf art. Lois Ehlert's delightful book *Leaf Man* celebrates nature's changing colors with leaves taking on different personalities and shapes. Or read *The Leaf Thief* by Alice Hemming about a squirrel who loves counting the red, yellow, and orange leaves on his tree, but one day one is missing. After questioning his animal friends, he discovers the culprit was the wind.

And you thought I forgot about Halloween, a time when children dress up, go trick-or-treating, and carve pumpkins. In James and Kimberly Dean's book Pete the Cat Falling for Autumn, Pete discovers corn mazes, havrides, and apple picking and realizes there's so much to be thankful for. Take advantage of "mining the math" to find the measurements of pumpkins using a piece of yarn and a scale, make groups of TEN with the seeds, create a pumpkin patch with paper pumpkins for imaginary and sensory play, and set up a pretend store with play money where items can be purchased with children taking turns playing the customers or owner.

Halloween is not complete without investigating what children have collected in their trick-or-treat bags. It is an opportunity to introduce graphing

and foundational math skills (patterns, shapes, estimation, fractions). Graphs/pictographs present information and numbers visually. Try a floor graph/pictograph by taping off a section with columns (up-down/vertical direction, Y axis) and rows (left-right/horizonal direction, X axis) and ask questions so children can and chime by estimating the number in each direction based on the goodies (Kit Kats, Starbursts, etc.) they have. With an interactive graph/pictograph, children can "walk" and place their goodies on it, promoting math thinking and problem solving.

Family gatherings and helping others are trademarks of fall. In *The Scarecrow* by Beth Ferry, the title character strikes up an unexpected friendship with a crow. With its inspiring art and poetic verse, it is a welcome addition to autumn storytelling.

An ideal pairing with fall activities is *Because of an Acorn* by Lola M. and Adam Schaefer, using only 60 words in 27 pages. They tell the life story of a single acorn that grows up to be an oak tree in a forest ecosystem. The rhythmic language and enchanting illustrations explain complex science concepts that children of all ages can understand.

Or read *Maple* by Lori Nichols about a nature-loving little girl. A maple tree is planted when she is born, and they grow up together. She finds out early that the tree is not her best playmate. Maple welcomes Autumn and new siblings with open arms. Do you remember playing with maple seeds, sticking



Courtesy photo: Adding to the weather window.

them on your nose, and flying them as helicopters? And don't miss Steve Metzger' book *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt*. Using repetitive sound effects, children can also sing along with friends lookinwg for leaves at bit.ly/4osEoM7.

We end our fall science and math odyssey with weather. Every day children experience weather when they step outside. Is it sunny or cloudy? Is it raining? Do I need an umbrella? For children, weather leads to exploring and discovering. Create a "weather window" that serves as a place for weather words while still seeing the outdoors; have cards, markers, and tape available so when children say, "weather words," write them down on

the cards and tape them to the window. Make weather caterpillars with paper plates to record daily weather with drawings and written descriptions on them. Generate rainbows using a prism, look up and follow cloud movements, shapes, and types (cirrus, stratus, etc.), and read cloud poems and sing songs (bit.ly/3Uj9hF9).

Read Patricia Polacco's *Thunder Cake*, an endearing story of how her babushka (grandmother) helped her overcome her fear of thunder. Caroline Formby's fun book *Wild Weather Soup* tells Winifred Weathervane's story of making weather soup in her cloud kitchen, but there is a twist when she goes on vacation. Read what happens.

Fall sets the stage for fun and engaging investigations. With colder days and evenings not turning back and coats coming out of closets, my goal was to present a special fall of experiences for you and your children to enjoy together.

Judy Reinhartz is a professor emeritus at the University of Texas at El Paso, lead for Math-Amigos and director of its literacy and math coaching program (mathamigos.org), and board member of the Santa Fe Alliance for Science and coordinator of its Adopt-A-School program. Get in touch at jreinhartz@utep.edu.







LOUISE YAKEY

Free SAT Preparation Tutoring at the City Teen Center

Everyone has had the experience of feeling lost in a class. Tutoring provides the one-on-one and small group guidance that students of all ages find beneficial. For K-12 students Arise Tutors works closely with the students and their families and teachers to provide guided practice with current and upcoming coursework. Because the CEO is a licensed teacher, she understands the importance of preparation for each tutoring session and has access to important resources available to educators. While a tutoring session can be homework help, Arise anticipates and prepares for the standards-based instruction students receive in school. The tutors are guided by the CEO to use the state standards. For example, the students who received tutoring help this summer benefited from preparation for their upcoming school year. Generally, the students did not have summer work so the tutor prepared materials to give the students a boost-up for the coming year. It is exciting to think that the students stayed in touch with formal learning for an hour or two each week and they are prepared for their new math and/or reading lessons.

Arise Tutors also works with those students who did not graduate from high school and are opting to take the GED exams for their high school graduation equivalency. While there is excellent GED instruction at most colleges or other agencies, some GED students need the accountability of a dedicated tutor to get through the preparation for the rigorous GED tests. Since most GED participants left high school before they received the full curriculum of instruction, those students are learning many math, reading & writing, science and history concepts for the first time. They need a skilled GED tutor who can customize their lessons based on which concepts are new to them. Since the GED exams can be different from the types of exams they took in high school, the students need strategies to "crack the code" of passing these rigorous exams. A trained, experienced tutor provides this type of guidance. Many students finish the GED feeling like they are now a good test taker and are ready for college level work.

Starting August 13, Arise Tutors will be offering free SAT preparation at the new City of Santa Fe Teen Center near the Southside Library. Arise employs

Courtesy photo: Tutor helping St. Michael's middle school student prepare for final exam in math.



Courtesy photo: Aspring teacher working with student during summer program at Ramirez Thomas Elementary

a variety of exciting tutors with a wide range of experience including those that have been teaching high school and college math or reading and writing for their entire career to tutors who recently took the SAT for college admission. All tutors are either teachers or professors already teaching or are college students pursuing teaching as a career. The city is generously providing the stipends for the tutors and underwriting the cost of the study manuals so the SAT instruction is free to all participants. The August cohort is intended for seniors retaking the SAT that they took in 11th grade and the November cohort is intended for juniors taking the SAT for the first time in the spring. This free tutoring is an opportunity that many families could not otherwise afford. Commercial online tutoring is upwards of \$7650. Thank you to the City of Santa Fe for making this important tutoring available to all our students!

While there is a trend to de-emphasize testing in education, the SAT exam is required by the state of New Mexico for most high school students and is encouraged by many universities and scholarship programs. Classroom instruction is important for SAT $\,$ preparation but SAT testing skills are specialized and often not taught in regular high school classes. The official SAT website (https://www. collegeboard.org/) recommends that students study 6-8 hours to increase their score 90 points and that 20 hours of study is associated with a score gain of 115 points. With an average score



Courtesy photo: Tutor helping student understand scholarship application questions

of 885 in New Mexico and a score of 1200 to 1400 recommended for most scholarships, the free tutoring offered at the Teen Center will help interested students to increase their scores to a much more competitive level.

Arise also offers online tutoring for those students who prefer to study from home for the GED, SAT, and K12 general education. Many parents/ guardians/mentors appreciate the online opportunity to participate in the tutoring sessions in the effort to support the student outside of school and the tutoring session. Arise makes every effort to ensure that anyone needing

tutoring can access it by offering tutoring in a variety of venues including online. Package discounts, group pricing, and scholarships are available for one-on-one and small group tutoring.

Every tutoring session includes effective time management, organizational and study skills strategies. We often find that the missing link for students is organizing their work and learning. Test preparation strategies can be challenging to foster in a classroom of students. The one-on-one guidance given to students in tutoring sessions gets students ready to study content for exams.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share testimonials from parents. One parent of a student Arise tutors online said that tutoring "gave evenings back to the family by decreasing homework time stress in the household". Another parent texted to say that her daughter, going into 9th grade, "actually looks forward to her tutoring sessions and her sense of dread about math is gone!" The mom of a GED student is so excited that her daughter "is now able to look for work and move her life forward". The student could not get through the math portion of the GED without the tutoring as she did not attend high school. She is enrolling in college in January and will be working full-time beginning this fall.

Anyone interested in learning more about private tutoring or participating in the free SAT tutoring, should contact the Arise Tutors CEO, Louise Yakey, MS, MPA, Ed.S. at louiseyakey@arisetutors. com or 315-552-8205 (cell).

Louise Yakey, MS, MPA, Ed.S. is CEO of Arise Tutors. She is also the health careers teacher at Ortiz Middle School in Santa Fe. Arise Tutors provides high-quality tutoring for all ages including K-12, GED, SAT and nursing school math.

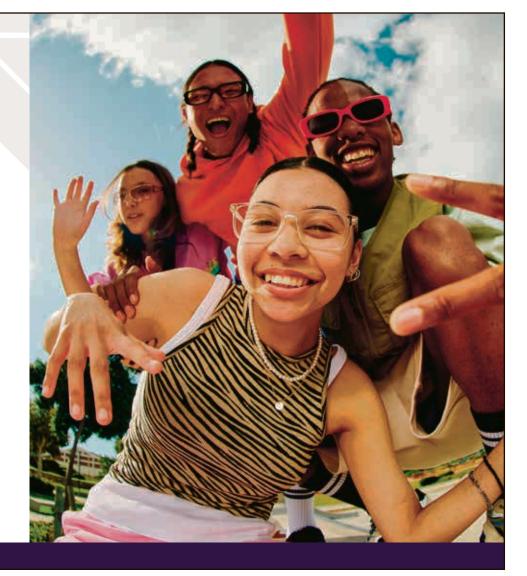
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DARREN VAUGHAN

Cooler temperatures provide perfect conditions for outdoor fun

As the weather cools and leaves start to turn, families across New Mexico are heading outside to enjoy the season's best offerings. From spotting elk in golden meadows to reeling in a rainbow trout or splashing in a quiet lake, fall is a perfect time for you and your kids to make memories outdoors. And with mild temperatures, colorful scenery, and fewer crowds than summer, it's one of the best times of year to explore together.

Whether your little ones are in strollers or walking on their own, New Mexico has dozens of fun family-friendly spots to enjoy fall recreation—from wildlife watching to hiking, fishing, boating and off-road exploring.

Kids love the chance to see their favorite wildlife up close. Across New Mexico, wildlife management areas (WMAs) and state parks make it easy for families to view birds, elk, deer and even wild turkeys. A great starting point is Colin Neblett WMA, near Eagle Nest. Families can stroll along trails and maybe catch a glimpse of elk grazing in the meadows or wild turkeys darting through the grass. In central New Mexico, Bernardo WMA is famous for hosting thousands of sandhill cranes and geese that migrate through in late October and November—bring binoculars and a blanket for a picnic by the viewing decks. The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro is another popular stop for families during the fall bird migration. For more bird fun, head south to Red Rock WMA near Lordsburg or Mimbres Tract near Silver City, where kids can see quail, hawks and songbirds flying between trees. Tip: Visit in the morning or evening for the best chances of seeing

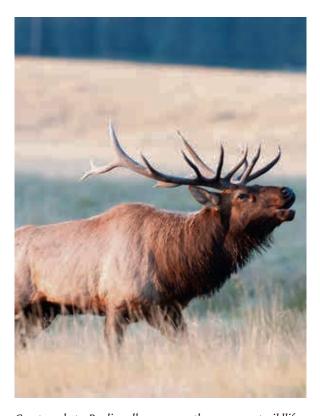
animals, and pack snacks, water, and layers to keep everyone comfortable.

Fishing is a great way to introduce kids to nature and enjoy some peaceful time by the water. In fall, many of our lakes and rivers are stocked with rainbow, Rio Grande cutthroat, and Gila trout, and cooler temperatures make for a relaxing day outside.

The Red River in northern New Mexico is another favorite for families who want to try fly fishing or simply dip a line in the water. Even young kids can enjoy watching the fish swim and helping net them with supervision. Don't forget, anyone age 12 and older must have a fishing license. Junior fishing licenses are available for kids ages 12 to 17 and cost just \$5. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish also offers a Free Fishing Weekend, and this year it's September 27-28. Everyone can fish for free, regardless of age, in honor of National Hunting and Fishing Day. You can also check out the department's website (wildlife.dgf.nm.gov) for other upcoming events. Sign up for our weekly fishing report to see the state's hot spots. You can also visit the fishing planner on the Game and Fish Website to find accommodations such as ADA accessibility, restroom facilities, boat ramps, and more. Lastly, don't forget to send your fishing pictures to Game and Fish via iFish. You just might see your picture in the Weekly Wall of Fame or on our social media pages.

New Mexico's hiking trails come alive in fall with colorful leaves, crisp air and views the whole family will enjoy. Best of all, there are trails suited for all ages and energy levels.

Elephant Butte Lake State Park, near Truth or Consequences, is a great place to explore on a boat or paddleboard, thanks to warmer weather conditions lasting later into the year.



Courtesy photo: Bugling elk are among the many great wildlife viewing opportunities available across New Mexico. These elk can be found in high mountain areas such as the Colin Neblett Wildlife Management Area in Colfax County.

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New Mexico has some great places to safely and legally drive off-highway vehicles, allowing out-door enthusiasts of all ages to reach some of the Land of Enchantment's most remote landscapes.

In Santa Fe, the Aspen Vista Trail is a wide path with gentle slopes where burly-tired strollers are welcome and fall leaves glow gold all around. In northern New Mexico, Wild Rivers Recreation Area offers short hikes to overlooks and the Big Arsenic Trail, which has fascinating petroglyphs and river views. For more adventurous families, the Catwalk Trail near Glenwood takes you along metal walkways suspended above a canyon—kids love the bridges, and parents will appreciate the sturdy handrails and short distance (about one mile round trip). Closer to Albuquerque, the Rio Grande Nature Center offers flat walking paths, bird blinds and shady cottonwood forests that are perfect for toddlers and early walkers. Tip: Fall mornings can be chilly, so dress in layers and bring plenty of water, even on cool days.

Just because summer is over doesn't mean water fun has to end. Fall is a great time for calm paddling and shoreline exploring at several familyfriendly lakes across the state.

Eagle Nest is a scenic and quiet spot for kayaking and canoeing, and boat rentals are available nearby. Kids will enjoy spotting ducks, tossing pebbles into the water or just relaxing by the lakeshore with snacks and warm cocoa. If you're not looking to bundle up quite yet, Elephant Butte Lake State Park stays warmer into the fall and is a popular place for boating, paddleboarding, and picnicking. Many coves have shallow water and sandy beaches where young children can play safely under adult supervision. If you're near Taos or Questa, check out the Wild Rivers Recreation Area, where older kids (and brave parents) can try rafting or kayaking on mild stretches of the Rio Grande in early fall—before the water gets too low.

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) offer a fun way for families with older kids or teens to explore New Mexico's backroads and mountain views. Cooler fall weather is perfect for an afternoon ride, and many areas have easy-to-navigate trails suitable for beginners.

Carson National Forest has more than 1,000 miles of forest roads, some of which are open to OHVs. Near the Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway, families can combine scenic drives with short off-road detours for photos, hikes or picnic stops. State Road 378 in the Wild Rivers Recreation Area is a paved scenic route that connects to dirt roads where families with ATVs or side-by-sides can explore at a relaxed pace. Don't forget helmets, safety gear, and permits (check local requirements before heading out). More information about rules and regulations regarding OHV use in New Mexico can be found at ridenm.dgf.nm.gov/.

Fall in New Mexico is about more than pretty colors—it's about slowing down, stepping outside, and enjoying the simple pleasures of nature with your family. Whether you're catching your first fish, hiking under golden aspens, or seeing a sandhill crane for the first time, these shared experiences build bonds that last long after the leaves drop. So pack up the car, bring the kids and hit the road. New Mexico's great outdoors is waiting—colorful, calm and perfect for young explorers.

Darren Vaughan is the communications director for the New **Mexico Department of Game** and Fish, the state government agency responsible for conserving New Mexico's wildlife for future generations. Visit wildlife.dgf.nm.gov for more information on the department's programs, rules and regulations, educational programs, and upcoming events. The department can also be found on Facebook (@NMDGF), Instagram (@NMGameandFish) and YouTube (@NMGameandFish).



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MEGAN ROSKER

Understanding and empowering our different learners

Children carry an innate curiosity about the world. It's our responsibility as adults to fan that spark into a flamefueling enthusiasm, engagement, and the skills they need to meet the world and share their unique perspective.

For the one in five children with dyslexia, that potential can be hidden beneath layers of adversity as they navigate an educational system and culture not built for their brains. Across New Mexico, these children are bright, creative, and capable—but too often misunderstood, misdiagnosed, or overlooked.

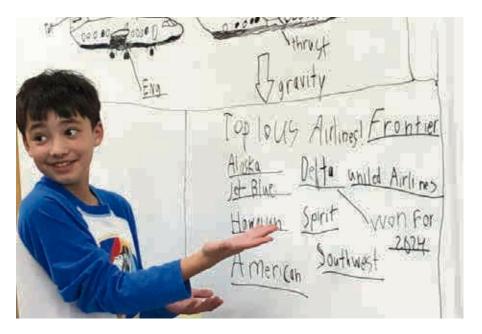
Dyslexia is a neurobiological difference affecting how the brain processes written language. It is not a vision problem, a sign of low intelligence, or the result of poor instruction or effort. Many children with dyslexia have average to above-average intelligence and work extraordinarily hard in the classroom. Dyslexia often coexists with other learning differences like ADHD or dysgraphia and presents uniquely

across ages. Early identification and intervention are essential.

According to the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity, dyslexia affects about 20 percent of the population and accounts for 80–90% of all learning disabilities. In a typical classroom of 20 to 25 students, about four to five may be navigating school with a dyslexic brain. Yet many parents and teachers are unprepared to recognize symptoms, know how to refer students for testing, or implement specialized teaching techniques. Because dyslexia exists on a spectrum, many cases go undiagnosed, with individuals developing coping strategies to manage.

One persistent myth is that dyslexia means reading words backward. While letter reversals can occur, dyslexia is more about difficulties with phonemic awareness—the ability to hear and manipulate sounds in words—and challenges in spelling, handwriting, memory, and reading fluency. Dyslexic

Courtesy photo: Middle school students work together on assignments.



Courtesy photo: Idak Fierro shares his personal interests in planes at the white board during a typical day at May Center.

students often put extraordinary effort into keeping up with rapid language acquisition demands.

Another myth is that children will grow out of dyslexia. Without systematic teaching of foundational language principles—regardless of language—children with dyslexia do not outgrow their challenges but often grow more frustrated.

A further misconception is that bilingualism worsens dyslexia. Research from the International Dyslexia Association and journals like Annals of Dyslexia and Frontiers in Psychology shows bilingual children with dyslexia have the same core challenges as monolingual peers. However, bilingualism can strengthen cognitive skills such as executive function and metalinguistic awareness. Teaching foundational language skills—like phonemic awareness and decodingany language helps dyslexic learners improve reading and writing. In New Mexico, where many children speak Spanish, English, and Native languages, embracing foundational multilingual skills supports identity and motivation, enhancing learning outcomes rather than hindering them.

Perhaps the most damaging myth is that dyslexia reflects low intelligence. History shows that many brilliant minds—like Albert Einstein, Agatha Christie, and Steve Jobs—had dyslexic traits.

Reading is a relatively recent cultural invention. Unlike spoken language, which humans have used for tens of thousands of years, widespread literacy emerged in the past few centuries. Universal education systems took hold in the 19th and early 20th centuries, including in New Mexico, where many Native languages were traditionally oral. Formal schooling after statehood in 1912 emphasized English literacy and often suppressed native languages.

Research shows that oral traditions—storytelling, song, poetry—are vital for dyslexic learners and often areas where they thrive. Teaching foundational language principles, including phonics and sound manipulation, is critical. These elements combined create truly literate students, whether learning English, Spanish, or Native languages.

This shift from oral to print culture has outpaced the brain's evolutionary development. Reading requires rewiring the brain, engaging areas for vision, language, and memory. Since not all brains are wired alike, assuming reading fluency is universal creates challenges for many learners.

Literacy today demands much more than reading basic text. Individuals must navigate complex written and visual information across multiple media. This raises the stakes for young learners and highlights why understanding individual differences in reading processing is vital.

The dyslexic brain works differently. Brain imaging shows dyslexic readers use different brain areas—those better at big-picture thinking, visualization, and making creative connections—

Mark Your Calendar

Join the Dyslexia Justice League Conference on Friday, November 8th, at the May Center for Learning in Santa Fe. This event offers parents, educators, and experts a day of learning and connection to better support dyslexic students.

New Mexico Resources

Families and educators in New Mexico are supported by the following organizations:

- Southwest International Dyslexia Association (SWIDA) offers education, advocacy, and workshops for families and educators.
- The Reading League NM provides resources and training on evidence-based reading instruction.
- The May Center for Learning offers individualized instruction and professional development rooted in the multisensory Orton-Gillingham method, effective for dyslexic learners.

rather than the linear decoding centers most people use. This can make reading effortful but enhances strengths in holistic thinking, 3-D visualization, and pattern recognition—skills valuable in engineering, design, entrepreneurship, and problem-solving.

Historically, before literacy norms, societies valued oral storytelling, memory, and spatial navigation—areas where dyslexic thinkers excel. As AI automates routine tasks, human creativity, insight, and adaptability—strengths of dyslexic minds—become increasingly essential.

Public schools increasingly screen for dyslexia and provide intervention services. Pediatricians can recommend further testing, and some insurance plans cover evaluations, aiding early diagnosis. Families can access resources through SWIDA and The Reading League NM for support tailored to their needs.

Shifting the dyslexia narrative from deficit to difference fosters inclusion and empowerment. With proper support, children with dyslexia can thrive. A growing community of parents, educators, and advocates in New Mexico works to ensure these learners receive opportunities—not just accommodations.

Our children deserve to be seen for their complexity and brilliance. Understanding dyslexia deeply opens the door to a future where every learner is honored and empowered.

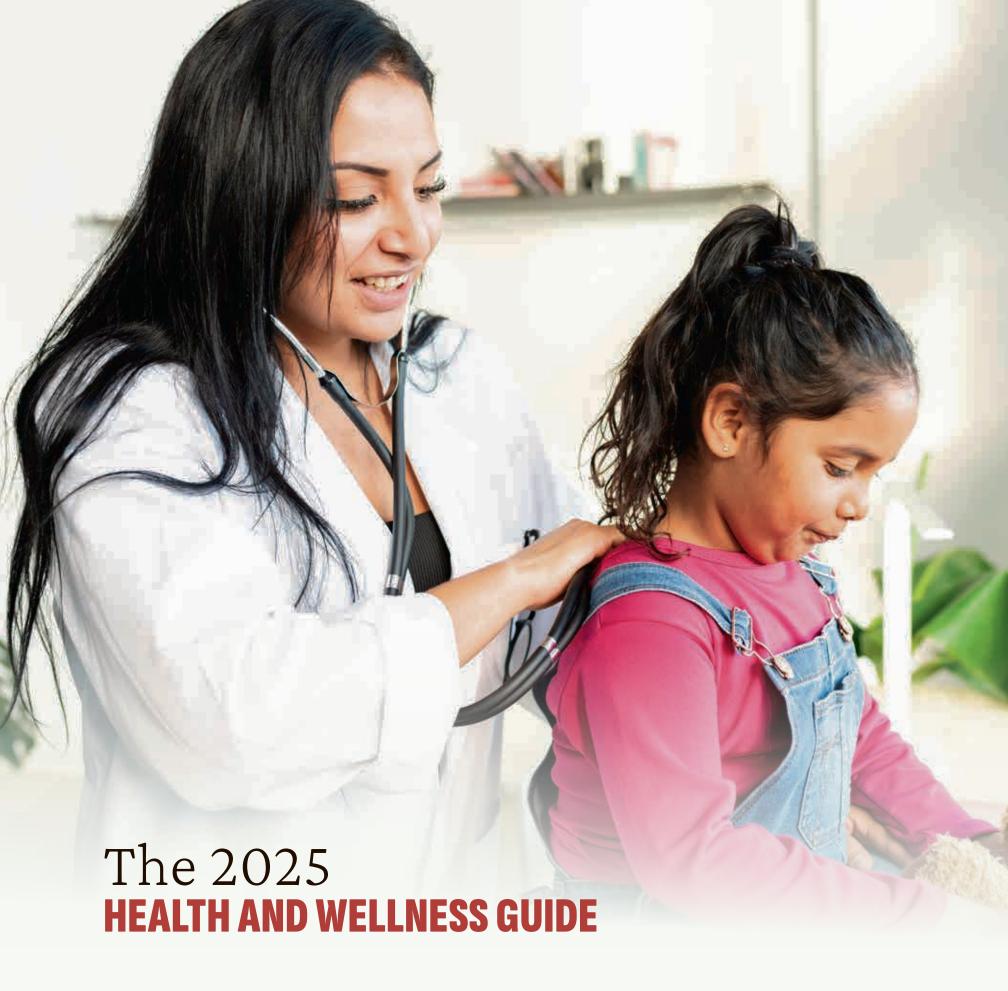


Courtesy photo: Art School Santa Fe.











The **#1 Guide** for Health & Wellness services across Northern New Mexico

2025 **HEALTH AND WELLNESS GUIDE**

LEGEND























Hospitals & Medical **Practices**

Christus St. Vincent

christushealth.org/ locations/st-vincent

ARROYO CHAMISO PEDIATRICS

465 St. Michaels Dr. Ste. 200, Santa Fe 505-913-4901

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PEDIATRIC AUTISM
- PEDIATRIC ANXIETY SPORTS PHYSICALS

ENTRADA CONTENTA HEALTH CENTER

5501 Herrera Dr., Santa Fe 505-913-3233

- PRIMARY CARE PEDIATRICS
- URGENT CARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGY

FAMILY MEDICINE CENTER

2025 Galisteo St., Santa Fe 505-913-3450

- PRIMARY CARE PEDIATRICS
- BEHAVIORAL & MENTAL HEALTH
- PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGY



Courtesy photo: Art School Santa Fe.

POJOAQUE PRIMARY CARE

5 Petroglyph Cir. Ste. A, Santa Fe 505-455-1962

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGY
- PEDIATRIC ANXIETY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- CHILD ABUSE ASSESMENT

Presbyterian Healthcare Services

phs.org

PRESBYTERIAN SANTA FE **MEDICAL CENTER**

4801 Beckner Rd., Santa Fe 505-772-2000

● PEDIATRICS ● PRIMARY CARE

PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY **MEDICINE**

454 St. Michael's Dr., Santa Fe 505-303-5000

PRIMARY CARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

URGENT CARE

PRESBYTERIAN ESPAÑOLA **HOSPITAL**

1010 Spruce St., Española 505-753-7111

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH URGENT CARE

Presbyterian Medical Services

pmsnm.org

SANTA FE FAMILY HEALTH & **WELLNESS CENTER**

4730 Beckner Rd., Santa Fe 505-989-4500

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DENTISTRY
- SPORTS PHYSICALS

HOPEWELL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

1775 Hopewell St., Santa Fe 505-443-3100

PRIMARY CARE



Courtesy photo: JF Mazur Studio.

ESPAÑOLA FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER

1200 North Paseo de Onate, Española 505-443-2800

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

835 Spruce St. Ste. C & D, Española 505-747-7400

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

La Familia Health

lafamiliasf.org

ALTO STREET CLINIC

1035 Alto St., Santa Fe 505-982-4425

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPORTS PHYSICALS

SOUTHSIDE CLINIC

2145 Caja Del Oro Grand Rd., Santa Fe **505-982-4425**

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPORTS PHYSICALS

DENTAL CLINIC

6401 Richards Ave., Santa Fe **505-984-5048**

DENTISTRY

SANTA FE MOBILE MD

1640 Calle Medico Ste. E, Santa Fe

505-386-1380

santafemobilemd.com

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- URGENT CARE

Southwest Care

901 W. Alameda St., Santa Fe 505-955-9454

southwestcare.org

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HARKLE CLINIC

649 Harkle Rd, Santa Fe 505-955-9454

southwestcare.org/harkle-clinic

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

ASPEN MEDICAL CENTER

Santa Fe Clinic

3450 Zafarano Dr. Ste. C, Santa Fe

505-596-4657

aspenmedicalcenter.com

- PRIMARY CARE URGENT CARE
- SPORTS PHYSICALS



Courtesy photo: JF Mazur Studio.

FREE FAMILY FUN!

Every Second Sunday at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Family Fun Day 217 Johnson Street Second Sunday | 10:30 AM-2:30 PM

Bring the whole family to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum for fun activities happening throughout the day including hands-on art-making, storytime, and other surprises! Families can also enjoy free access to the Museum Galleries.

This event is free and open to the public.

Family Fun Day is offered in partnership with the Santa Fe Children's Museum and Santa Fe Public Libraries.







505-946-1000 | gokm.org



2025 **HEALTH AND WELLNESS GUIDE**

LOS ALAMOS MEDICAL **CENTER**

3917 West Rd., Los Alamos 505-662-4234 lachildrensclinic.com

- PEDIATRICS PRIMARY CARE
- URGENT CARE

MEDICAL ASSOCIATES OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

3917 West Rd., Los Alamos 505-661-8900 mannm.com

● PRIMARY CARE ● SPORTS PHYSICALS

Dentists & Orthodontists

ADVENTURE DENTAL, **VISION & ORTHODONTICS**

2027 Cerrillos Rd., Santa Fe 505-820-1212

dental-santafe@ adventurenewmexico.com kidsdentalvisioncare.com

DARMITZEL ORTHODONTICS

125A Siringo Rd., Santa Fe, 505-982-6656 info@darmitzelortho.com darmitzelortho.com

DENTISTRY FOR KIDS

1439 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe 505-473-5437 santafedentistryforkids@gmail.com santafedentistryforkids.com

DENTISTRY FOR KIDS SOUTHSIDE

6640 Cerrillos Rd. Ste. E, Santa Fe 505-473-5437 santafedentistryforkids@gmail.com santafedentistryforkids.com

JUST FOR GRINS

490B W. Zia Rd., Santa Fe 505-428-7878 pdsf505@gmail.com just-for-grins.com

SANTA FE DENTISTRY & **ORTHODONTICS**

1406 Luisa St. Ste. 1, Santa Fe 505-303-4503 santafedentistry@mb2dental.com santafedentalandortho.com

SANTA FE MODERN DENTISTRY

3569 Zafarano Dr., Santa Fe 505-986-8000 santafemoderndentistry@ smilegeneration.com Santafemoderndentistry.com

SUCCESS SMILES ORTHODONTICS

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self-confidence, adds appreciation for the world, and nurtures creative thinking!



A PLACE WHERE KIDS CAN **EXPRESS THEMSELVES** THROUGH ART AND DISCOVER THEIR CREATIVITY

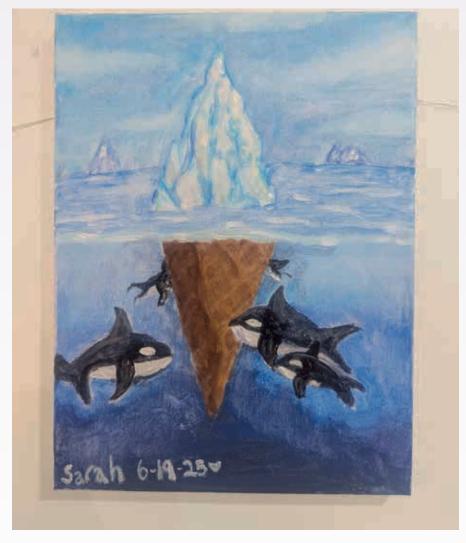
- Summer Camps
- After School Art Classes
- "No School" Art Days
- Birthday Parties
- Private and Group Classes
- Holiday Workshops

www.Dragonflyartsf.com

505-670-5019



Courtesy photo: JF Mazur Art Studio.



Courtesy photo: Art School Santa Fe.

2025 HEALTH AND WELLNESS GUIDE

Family Chiropractic

FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC CENTER OF SANTA FE

2019 Galisteo St. Ste. M6, Santa Fe 505-984-0006 info@spchiro.net

NEW MEXICO FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

spchiro.net

3600 Rodeo Ln. Ste. D2, Santa Fe 505-984-0821

Behavioral, Mental Health & Occupational Therapy

CHILD COUNSELING CENTER & PLAY THERAPY INSTITUTE OF NM

505-772-0459 childcounselingcenterofnm@gmail.com childcounselingcenterofnm.com

DOG TRAINING ELITE NEW MEXICO

1400 Maclovia, Ste.1, Santa Fe

Free in-home evaluations for service dog training.
505-207-0383

newmexico@dogtrainingelite.com dogtrainingelite.com/nm

MY LITTLE HORSE LISTENER

Through structured interactions with trained miniature equines, children and adolescents are provided with therapeutic activities individually designed to enable confidence, clear communication, and empathy and respect for equines in an accessible learning park where all are welcome. Wheelchair accessible trails, braille signage and support for those with sensory differences. All services are free of charge.

48 Blue Agave, Cerillos
executivedirector@
mylittlehorselistener.org
mylittlehorselistener.com

SANTA FE PLAY

19 Plaza La Prensa Ste. B, Santa Fe 505-819-3749 santafeplay1@gmail.com santafeplay.com

SANTA FE PSYCHOLOGY

2204 Brothers Rd. Ste. B, Santa Fe 505-795-5566 sfpsychology@yahoo.com santafepsychology.com

SANTA FE THERAPY ASSOCIATES

1800 Old Pecos Trail, Ste.1, Santa Fe 505-424-8777 sftherapyassoc@gmail.com sftherapyassoc.com

SOLACE

6601 Valentine Way, Santa Fe 505-988-1951 800-721-7273 (24/7 hotline) info@findsolace.org findsolace.org

SOUTHWEST FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER & INSTITUTE

4001 Office Ct. Dr. Ste. 603, Santa Fe **505-310-4764** swfamily.com

THE SKY CENTER

Ortiz Middle School 4164 South Meadows Rd., Santa Fe **505-473-6191**

988

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline



Courtesy photo: JF Mazur Art Studio.



LEGEND

★ SPOTLIGHT



VISUAL ARTS



SPECIAL EVENTS
SUPPORT & COMMUNITY



PERFORMING ARTS





ENTERTAINMENT

September

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	Santa Fe Fiestas Various Times Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Toddler Time at Many Mothers 11:30 AM - 12 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM Birth Talk Los Alamos 6:30 - 4:30 PM	2 Santa Fe Fiestas Various Times Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Santa Fe Farmers' Market - Del Sur 3 - 6 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	3 ★ Santa Fe Fiestas Various Times Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close 10 AM - 12 PM (Birds), 4 PM (Planetarium) Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Toddler Tunes at LAFSN 10:30 - 11 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 2 - 4 PM Teen Lounge at Southside Library 3 - 5 PM Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
Santa Fe Fiestas Various Times Dawn 'Til Dusk at Coronado All Day Dawn 'Til Dusk at Los Luceros All Day Family Art at Art-Vladem Contemporary 10 AM - 12 PM Railyard Artisan Market 10 AM - 3 PM Free First Sundays at NM Museums 10 AM - 5 PM Can You Dig It? 11AM - 3PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Storytime at NM Museum of Art 10:30 - 11:30 AM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM Birth Talk Los Alamos 6:30 - 4:30 PM	Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Arte Para Chiquitos at NHCC 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Santa Fe Farmers' Market - Del Sur 3 - 6 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	10 Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close 10 AM - 12 PM (Birds), 4 PM (Planetarium) Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 2 - 4 PM Teen Lounge at Southside Library 3 - 5 PM Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
Railyard Artisan Market 10 AM - 3 PM Santa Fe Renaissance Faire 10 AM - 5 PM Pop-Up Playground 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM Free Family Fun at Georgia O'Keeffe 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM	Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Santa Fe Farmers' Market - Del Sur 3 - 6 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Toddler Craft at LAFSN 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close 10 AM - 12 PM (Birds), 4 PM (Planetarium) Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 2 - 4 PM Teen Lounge at Southside Library 3 - 5 PM Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
Railyard Artisan Market 10 AM - 3 PM Can You Dig It? 11AM - 3PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Storytime at NM Museum of Art 10:30 - 11:30 AM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM	Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Santa Fe Farmers' Market - Del Sur 3 - 6 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	24 Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close 10 AM - 12 PM (Birds), 4 PM (Planetarium) Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM Teen Lounge at La Farge Library 2 - 4 PM Teen Lounge at Southside Library 3 - 5 PM Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
Railyard Artisan Market 10 AM - 3 PM Can You Dig It? 11AM - 3PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM	Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Santa Fe Farmers' Market - Del Sur 3 - 6 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO NORTHERN NEW MEXICO BY:



IF YOU WANT YOUR EVENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE, VISIT

TUMBLEWEEDSMAG.COM/THINGS-TO-DO

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
\$\frac{\lambda}{\times} \sum_{\text{Santa}} \text{Feisstas Various Times}\$ Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Storytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Nature up Close (Gardens) 10 AM - 12 PM Seeds and Sprouts 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Fun With Firefighters at Santa Fe Children's Museum 1 - 2 PM Meet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PM Thursdays Are Yours at Santa Fe Children's Museum 4 - 7 PM The Backyard Concert Series 4:30 to 5:45 PM Pajama Storytime/Hora Del Cuento En Pijama 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Santa Fe Fiestas Various Times Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Bilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AM Books and Blooms Storytime 10 AM - 11 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Fine Art Fridays at Santa Fe Children's Museum 2 - 4 PM Paseo Pottery Throw Down 5 - 8 PM First Friday Fractals 8 - 9 PM, 9 - 10 PM	Santa Fe Fiestas Various Times Santa Fe Saturday Farmers' Market 8 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Southside Library 10 - 10:30 AM Caregiver and Tot Creative Movement at Main Library 10:15 - 11 AM Bilingual Book Club - Rincón de Lectura (Santa Fe) 11-12 PM Meet the Miniature Horses of My Little Horse Listener 11 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Paws and Pages at Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Santa Fe Chess Battle 2025 1 PM Science Saturdays 2 - 4 PM
11 Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Nature up Close (Gardens) 10 AM - 12 PM Storytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Seeds and Sprouts 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Meet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PM Create With O'Keeffe at La Farge Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM Thursdays Are Yours at Santa Fe Children's Museum 4 - 7 PM The Backyard Concert Series 4:30 to 5:45 PM Anime Club 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pajama Storytime/Hora Del Cuento En Pijama 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Bilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Fine Art Fridays at Santa Fe Children's Museum 2 - 4 PM	Santa Fe Saturday Farmers' Market 8 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Southside Library 10 - 10:30 AM Santa Fe Renaissance Faire 10 AM - 5 PM Sathering Seeds, Tending Roots Community Day on Museum Hill 10 AM - 6 PM Kids Sing Along with Queen Bee - Reunity Resources Farm 10:30 - 11:15 AM Baby and Toddler Play Hour at the Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Meet the Miniature Horses of My Little Horse Listener 11 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Science Saturdays 2 - 4 PM
Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Nature up Close (Gardens) 10 AM - 12 PM Storytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Seeds and Sprouts 10:30 - 11:30 AM Bilingual Book Club - Rincón de Lectura (Española) 11-12 PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Meet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PM Create With O'Keeffe at Southside Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM Thursdays Are Yours at Santa Fe Children's Museum 4 - 7 PM Pajama Storytime/Hora Del Cuento En Pijama 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Bilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Fine Art Fridays at Santa Fe Children's Museum 2 - 4 PM	Santa Fe Saturday Farmers' Market 8 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Billingual Books and Babies at Southside Library 10 - 10:30 AM Caregiver and Tot Creative Movement at Main Library 10:15 - 11 AM Toddler Craft at LAFSN 10 - 11 AM Kids Sing Along with Queen Bee - Randall Davey Audobon Center 10:30 - 11:15 AM Meet the Miniature Horses of My Little Horse Listener 11 AM Paws and Pages at Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Science Saturdays 2 - 4 PM Birthday Bash and Community Party 4 - 7 PM
Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Nature up Close (Gardens) 10 AM - 12 PM Storytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Seeds and Sprouts 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Meet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PM Create With O'Keeffe at Main Library 3:30 - 4:30 PM Thursdays Are Yours at Santa Fe Children's Museum 4 - 7 PM Random Fandom 6 - 7 PM Pajama Storytime/Hora Del Cuento En Pijama 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Bilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Fine Art Fridays at Santa Fe Children's Museum 2 - 4 PM	Santa Fe Saturday Farmers' Market 8 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Southside Library 10 - 10:30 AM Meet the Miniature Horses of My Little Horse Listener 11 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Come Build With Us at Main Library 2 - 4 PM Science Saturdays 2 - 4 PM

Calendar of Events

October

LEGEND

★ SPOTLIGHT



VISUAL ARTS

SPECIAL EVENTS
SUPPORT & COMMUNITY SPORTS & ACTIVITY



PERFORMING ARTS



EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT



ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close 10 AM - 12 PM (Birds), 4 PM (Planetarium) Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Toddler Tunes at LAFSN 10:30 - 11 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM
Dawn 'Til Dusk at Coronado All Day Dawn 'Til Dusk at Los Luceros All Day International Balloon Fiesta 5:45 AM - 8 PM Family Art at Art-Vladem Contemporary 10 AM - 12 PM Railyard Artisan Market 10 AM - 3 PM Free First Sundays at NM Museums 10 AM - 5 PM Santa Fe Harvest Festival 10 AM - 4 PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	International Balloon Fiesta 5:45 AM - 8 PM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Storytime at NM Museum of Art 10:30 - 11:30 AM Toddler Time at Many Mothers 11:30 AM - 12 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM Birth Talk Los Alamos 6:30 - 8:30 PM	Tinternational Balloon Fiesta 5:45 AM - 8 PM Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	8 International Balloon Fiesta 5:45 AM - 8 PM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close 10 AM - 12 PM (Birds), 4 PM (Planetarium) Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Toddler Tunes at LAFSN 10:30 - 11 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
	Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM	Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Arte Para Chiquitos at NHCC 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Toddler Craft at LAFSN 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close 10 AM - 12 PM (Birds), 4 PM (Planetarium) Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
Railyard Artisan Market 10 AM - 3 PM Family Halloween Fest at the SF Botanical Garden 11 AM - 1 PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Storytime at NM Museum of Art 10:30 - 11:30 AM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM	Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close 10 AM - 12 PM (Birds), 4 PM (Planetarium) Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Wee Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM
Railyard Artisan Market 10 AM - 3 PM Dia de los Muertos Annual Community Celebration 11 AM - 4PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Nature Playtime 10 - 11 AM Nature up Close (Reptiles) 10:15 - 11:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee Music 10:30 - 11:15 AM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Monday Funday at Meow Wolf 3 - 8 PM Paws and Pages at La Farge 4:30 - 5:30 PM	Santa Fe Tuesday Farmer's Market 8 AM - 1 PM Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Babytime Los Alamos 10:15 - 11 AM Storytime and Craft at Southside 10:30 - 11:30 AM Weird Science Halloween Babs 3 - 6 PM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Special Needs/Autism Support Group 6 - 7 PM Paws and Pages at Main Library 6 - 7 PM	Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Bilingual Books and Babies at Main Library 10 - 11 AM Storytime at White Rock Library 10:15 - 10:45 AM Kids Sing-along with Queen Bee - Railyard Park 10:30 - 11:15 AM Storytime and Craft at La Farge Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM What's Up Wednesday at Mesa Public Library 1:30 - 3 PM Youth Chess at Main Library 5:45 - 7:45 PM

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO NORTHERN NEW MEXICO BY:



IF YOU WANT YOUR EVENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE, VISIT

TUMBLEWEEDSMAG.COM/THINGS-TO-DO

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4
Tot Time at GCCC 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Music and Movement in Los Alamos 9:30 - 10 AM Storytime and Craft at Main Library 10:30 - 11:30 AM Nature up Close (Gardens) 10 AM - 12 PM Seeds and Sprouts 10:30 - 11:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Many Mothers Play Area 12 - 2 PM Fun With Firefighters at Santa Fe Children's Museum 1 - 2 PM Meet Cornelius the Snake 1 - 2 PM Thursdays Are Yours at Santa Fe Children's Museum 4 - 7 PM Pajama Storytime/Hora Del Cuento En Pijama 6:30 - 7:30 PM	Origami in the Garden 9 AM - 1 PM Bilingual Books and Babies at La Farge Library 10 - 10:30 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Fine Art Fridays at Santa Fe Children's Museum 2 - 4 PM Paseo Pottery Throw Down 5 - 8 PM First Friday Fractals 8 - 9 PM, 9 - 10 PM	Santa Fe Harvest Festival 10 AM - 4 PM International Balloon Fiesta 5:45 AM - 8 PM Santa Fe Saturday Farmers' Market 8 AM - 1 PM Billingual Books and Babies at Southside Library 10 - 10:30 AM Sand Play Saturday 10 AM - 12 PM Caregiver and Tot Creative Movement at Main Library 10:15 - 11 AM Meet the Miniature Horses of My Little Horse Listener 11 AM Animal Encounters 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Paws and Pages at Southside Library 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Science Saturdays 2 - 4 PM
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Calendar of Events

LEGEND



CELEBRATION & HOLIDAY

SUPPORT & COMMUNITY







PERFORMING ARTS



EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT



NATURE



ENTERTAINMENT

SPOTLIGHT EVENTS



CELEBRATIONS & HOLIDAYS

★ BIRTHDAY BASH AND COMMUNITY PARTY

SEPTEMBER 20 | 4-7 PM

United Church of Santa Fe turns 45. Bring family and friends to a fun event featuring food trucks, bounce house, games, and more. All are welcome.

★ CARLOS GILBERT ELEMENTARY HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 25 | 12-5 PM

The Halloween Carnival is a monster-size fundraiser held at Carlos Gilbert Elementary every October. The PTK organizes this event to raise money to support the students and teachers at CGE. The money raised is used to pay for classroom expenses, clubs, team equipment, tutoring, field trips, and grade-level enrichment programs for the students including dance, theater, trout raising, cooking, and team-building activities.

★ DIA DE LOS MUERTOS ANNUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 26 | 11 AM-4 PM

Join us at the Museum of International Folk Art for our annual

com9munity celebration celebrating Dia de los Muertos. This is a family friendly event and is free and open to the public. We will have music, face painting and hands-on activities including decorating sugar skulls. We will also serve pan de muerto.

FAMILY HALLOWEEN FEST AT THE SF BOTANICAL GARDEN

OCTOBER 19 | 11 AM-1 PM

Come to the garden for a fun and festive afternoon of Halloween themed crafts and activities. Make sure you wear your costume! Registration required: visitsf-bg.org/event/family-hallow-een-fest-october-2025

★ HAUNTED GARDEN WALK AT THE SF BOTANICAL GARDEN

OCTOBER 25 | 7-9PM

Do you dare to take a nighttime walk through the garden? Join us for a night of spine-tingling tales by flickering campfires draping you in an eerie glow. But beware—the garden holds secrets, and you'll be led by a ghastly guide through three chilling stories in the darkest corners of the grounds. Will you make it through the garden's twisted tales, or will the night's horrors follow you home? Hot



Courtesy photo: Art School Santa Fe.

cider will be served. Tickets: visitsfbg.org/event/haunted-garden-walk-october-25-2025

★ INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA

OCTOBER 4 - 22

Watch the skies come alive at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Marvel at hundreds of colorful hot air balloons, dazzling dawn launches, glowing night shows, and festive fun for all ages. A breathtaking celebration of flight you won't want to miss!

★ SANTA FE FIESTAS

AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 7

Santa Fe Fiestas is the longest continuously running celebration in the US With the Mariachi Extravaganza, the Fine Arts & Crafts Market, food booths, concerts and more, this is a feast for all the senses. Be sure to check the schedule for times, dates, and locations of all events.

★ SANTA FE HARVEST FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 4 - 5

As the autumn breeze sweeps through the historic ranch grounds, join us at El Rancho de las Golondrinas for a celebration of the bountiful harvest season. Learn the time-honored tradition of crafting vibrant red chile ristras, or wander through the pumpkin patch to pick the perfect pumpkin for your fall decor.

★ SANTA FE RENAISSANCE FAIRE

SEPTEMBER 13 - 14

Hear ye, hear ye! Journey to the El Rancho de las Golondrinas for the 17th Annual Santa Fe Renaissance Faire. Revel in knightly combat, frolic with fairies, marvel at jesters, sway to merry tunes, and toast with fine local ale. A day of magic, mirth, and medieval delight awaits.

★ SPIRITS OF NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER 24 - 25

Step into the mystical realm where the spirits of New Mexico's past come to life. Gather around campfires and lantern-lit paths as you listen to the captivating tales of ghosts who once roamed the land of enchantment.



OCTOBER 28

Get ready for a spooky-good time at the Santa Fe Children's Museum's annual Weird Science Halloween Bash. This beloved family fundraiser blends handson STEAM fun with Halloween magic including exciting experiments, curious creatures, creative costumes, and trick-ortreating galore. Led by museum educators and guest scientists from across New Mexico, this event invites kids and families to explore the weird and wonderful world of science in a playful. With engaging activities for children of all ages, it's no wonder the Bash draws hundreds of families each year. Tickets at santafechildrensmuseum.org and at the door.



Courtesy photo: JF Mazur Studio.

EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT

★ BOOKS AND BLOOMS STORYTIME

SEPTEMBER 5

Join us on Friday 9/5 for Books & Blooms, a storytime program for children 6 and under with their grown-ups! Listen to a story in the Garden, then spend time exploring activity stations set up especially for you and your young ones to explore together! No registration needed. Cost: \$5/member, \$8/non-member, \$10 at the door.

GATHERING SEEDS, TENDING ROOTS COMMUNITY DAY ON MUSEUM HILL

SEPTEMBER 13 | 10 AM-6 PM

Please join us for Community Day 2025 on Museum Hill in Santa Fe,

New Mexico. In collaboration with UNESCO, we are celebrating our cultural resilience and cultural heritages. There will be food, music, artist demonstrations and more. This event is free and open to the public.

★ SANTA FE CHESS BATTLE 2025

SEPTEMBER 6

Win prizes or just watch the excitement at our blitz battle royale. With free entry and no elimination, all skill levels are welcome to compete. Info and sign-up: kingregistration.com/event/SFR09062025.



★ POP-UP PLAYGROUND

SEPTEMBER 14

Where children of all ages are free to build the ultimate fort

city using recycled materials.
Join the Railyard Park Conservancy in celebrating kids, their imaginations, and their boundless creativity with a free, fun-filled festival in the Railyard Park's Open Field. Free parking all day.

★ COMMUNITY DAY AT THE GARDEN

OCTOBER 9, NOVEMBER 12

Discover the beauty and tranquility of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden during our monthly Community Day, where New Mexico residents and students with ID receive free admission to explore and enjoy all the Garden has to offer. Come and enjoy the Garden—where there's something for everyone, every season of the year.

RECURRING EVENTS



BABY AND TODDLER PLAY HOUR AT MAIN LIBRARY

10:30-11:30 AM

Free, unstructured play where children can explore and interact with other children and new educational toys. Learn and make social connections together with your toddler.

DATES: Every second Saturday

BABYTIME IN LOS ALAMOS

10:15-11 AM

Babytime is best for ages 0 to 2 and their caregivers at Mesa Public Library. Library staff share songs, bounces, and rhymes to help babies develop early literacy skills. The program might include scarves, bells, or rattles. It includes focused play and free play. Free admission.

DATES: Every Tuesday

BIRTH TALK LOS ALAMOS

6:30-8:30 PM

A free community talk circle for pregnant women and mothers. Birth Talk Los Alamos is a safe place to learn about options in pregnancy and childbirth. Hosted virtually.

DATES: First Monday

DAWN 'TIL DUSK DAY AT LOS LUCEROS HISTORIC SITE

SUNRISE TO SUNSET

Los Luceros Historic Site will extend its hours on the first Sunday of each month. During this time, entrance into Los Luceros is free for New Mexico residents and includes access to the site's visitor center, historic buildings, trails, and picnic areas.

DATES: First Sunday

DAWN TO DUSK AT CORONADO HISTORIC SITE

SUNRISE TO SUNSET

Coronado Historic Site offers extended hours from dawn until

dusk on the First Sunday of each month to allow visitors an opportunity to see the site at these beautiful times of day. The early mornings are a great time to see a multitude of different birds, while the evenings offer unparalleled views of the Sandia Mountains glowing pink at sunset. Activities for people of all ages are available throughout the day. First Sundays are free to all New Mexico residents with ID. Regular admission is \$7 for nonresident adults, children 16 and younger are free.

DATES: First Sunday

MEET THE MINIATURE HORSES OF MY LITTLE HORSE LISTENER

11 AM

Meet and play with the miniature therapy equines of My Little Horse Listener. Guided tours of our accessible Equine Learning Park, available every Saturday during the fall. Healthy snacks available. Free; reservations required.

DATES: Every Saturday

RAILYARD ARTISAN MARKET

10 AM-3 PM

The Sunday Market is dedicated to local artisans and small creative businesses and it's one of New Mexico's oldest and best-loved art markets. This is the perfect place to purchase fine art and crafts directly from the artists, a gift for a special occasion, and souvenirs and mementos.

DATES: Every Sunday

SANTA FE FARMERS' MARKET - DEL SUR

3-6 PM

Santa Fe Farmers' Market (SFFM) in partnership with Presbyterian Santa Fe Medical Center is committed to connecting local growers with the entire city of Santa Fe. Every year the seasonal Santa Fe Farmers' Market – Del Sur runs July through September and is helping spread fresh, healthy food to our wonderful growing community on the Southside of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Held at the

Santa Fe Presbyterian Medical Center parking lot starting July 1. **DATES:** Every Tuesday until September 30th

SANTA FE TUESDAY FARMERS' MARKET

8 AM-1 PM

Beat the crowds, load up on farm fresh goodies, enjoy the music and treat yourself to one of our delicious burritos in Cafe Fresh. The Tuesday market has it all!! Held at the Santa Fe Farmers' Market Pavilion in the Railyard.

DATES: Every Tuesday

SANTA FE SATURDAY FARMERS' MARKET

8 AM-1 PM

Shop a great selection of fresh produce, eggs, meat, honey, bread, chile, apothecary items, and much more. At our market, 100% of the vegetables, fruits, and nursery plants available are grown right here in northern New Mexico. Arrive hungry and stop BY Cafe Fresh for hot coffee and a selection of ready-toeat treats. Check out our Santa Fe Farmers' Market Gift Shop and its ever-changing selection of fair trade and local items. Your purchases directly support our farmers.

DATES: Every Saturday

SPECIAL NEEDS/AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

6-7 PM

All parents and caregivers raising children with an autism diagnosis are welcome. This is an in-person meeting at Las Cumbres - Los Alamos Center. Email Abbie.Nelson@lccs-nm.org with any questions about this group.

DATES: Every Tuesday

TEEN LOUNGE AT LA FARGE LIBRARY

2-4 PM

A safe space for teens to decompress after school. La Farge Library has art supplies, homework tables, laptops and Wi-Fi, board games, tea, and snacks.

DATES: Every Wednesday (except in June)

TEEN LOUNGE AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

3:00-5:00 PM

Hang out space for teens to relax with games, crafts, snacks, study rooms, and wi-fi.

DATES: Every Wednesday (except in June)

THURSDAYS ARE YOURS AT SANTA FE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

4-7 PM

Extended hours and free admission for children under 17 at the Santa Fe Children's Museum.

DATES: Every Thursday

TODDLER TIME AT MANY MOTHERS

11:30 AM - 12 PM

Toddlers and caregivers, join Santa Fe Public Library at Many Mothers of Santa Fe on the first Monday of every month for a special storytime.

Enjoy rhymes, songs, movement, and stories in a lively atmosphere. This program builds on familiar experiences to introduce new vocabulary and sounds, fostering early literacy and joyful learning together. Ages 1-3.

DATES: First Monday

SPORTS & MOVEMENT

TOT TIME AT GCCC

8:15-9:30 AM

Leisure pool for kids 4 and under. No registration needed, \$2 per person.

DATES: Tuesday and Thursday



ARTE PARA CHIQUITOS AT THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER

10 AM

Arte para chiquitos is a free, monthly, 45-minute program for babies and toddlers ages 0 months to 4 years and their caregivers that cultivates creativity and self-expression through the exploration of Hispanic/Latine arts and culture. Participants explore the NHCC Museum, Performing Arts Center, and engage in artmaking, music, movement, dance, drama, and bilingual story time. NHCC instructors model age-appropriate arts techniques that celebrate self-expression, build vocabulary, and strengthen both fine-motor and gross-motor skills in a fun environment. Free Community Event. Please register here: my.nmculture.org/30048/42138, or call the NHCC Welcome Center at 505-724-4771 for assistance.

DATES: Second Tuesdays

CREATE WITH O'KEEFFE AT LA FARGE LIBRARY

3:30-4:30 PM

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and the Santa Fe Public Library are proud to offer free drop-in artmaking. Perfect for kids of all ages, expand your creativity and explore your imagination with new art activities every month. All supplies provided.

DATES: Second Thursday

CREATE WITH O'KEEFFE AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

3:30-4:30 PM

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and the Santa Fe Public Library are proud to offer free drop-in artmaking. Perfect for kids of all ages, expand your creativity and explore your imagination with new art activities every month. All supplies provided.

DATES: Third Thursday

CREATE WITH O'KEEFE AT MAIN LIBRARY

3:30-4:30 PM

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and the Santa Fe Public Library are proud to offer free drop-in artmaking. Perfect for kids of all ages, expand your creativity and explore your imagination with new art activities every month. All supplies provided.

DATES: Fourth Thursday

FAMILY ART MAKING AT NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF ARTVLADEM CONTEMPORARY

10 AM-12 PM

The first Sunday of each month we invite families to join us in a

fun art-making session at the new Vladem Contemporary. Explore the galleries to find inspiration and enjoy the power of creating with your loved ones and friends. Light snacks will be available. These events are free for all New Mexico residents.

DATES: First Sunday

FINE ART FRIDAYS AT SANTA FE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

2-4 PM

A weekly exploration into the arts with special guests and hands-on activities.

DATES: Every Friday

FREE FAMILY FUN AT GEORGIA O'KEEFE MUSEUM

10:30 AM-2:30 PM

Bring the whole family to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum for fun activities happening throughout the day including hands-on art-making, storytime, and other surprises. Families can also enjoy free access to the Museum Galleries.

DATES: Second Sunday

FREE FIRST SUNDAYS AT NEW MEXICO MUSEUMS

10 AM-5 PM

Admission is free on the first Sunday of every month to New Mexico residents with ID to the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, the Museum of International Folk Art, the New Mexico History Museum, and the New Mexico Museum of Art.

DATES: First Sundays

MONDAY FUNDAY: NM AP-PRECIATION DISCOUNT AT MEOW WOLF

3-8 PM

Make the first day of the workweek a little less Monday and a lot more Funday with Meow Wolf's weekly New Mexico 50% off appreciation discount.

DATES: Every Monday

ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN - SCULPTURE GARDEN

9 AM - 1 PM

We are so excited to be open for our 2025 season with our big-



OBEDIENCE & MANNERS TRAINING ACTIVITIES TRAINING + MORE!

DogTrainingElite.com newmexico@dogtrainingelite.com

505.207.0383





gest, boldest, brightest traveling exhibition to date: Florigami. Our Cerrillos sculpture garden and garden welcome gallery will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We hope that you will have the opportunity to visit our gardens for a very unique experience where you can explore, discover, and engage all of your senses.

DATES: Monday through Friday until October 31st

STORYTIME AT THE NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF ART

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Join us this spring for Elements of Art: Story Time at the New Mexico Museum of Art Library. Every other Monday at 10:30 a.m., we invite children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers to learn about a basic element of art though story, song, and craft. Led by Cyndi Korzec, an early childhood educator, this program will introduce children to concepts such as color, line, and form.

DATES: Every other Monday starting 5/5.

TODDLER CRAFT AT LAFSN

10-11 AM

FSN's monthly crafts are a pleasure for grown-ups and kids. Free; drop in.

DATES: Third Wednesday & following Saturday



KIDS SING-ALONG WITH QUEEN BEE MUSIC

10:30-11:15 AM

Join us every Monday for joyful music and games at Queen Bee Music Association.

DATES: Every Monday

KIDS SING-ALONG WITH QUEEN BEE MUSIC - RAILYARD PARK

10:30-11:15 AM

Join us for joyful music and games at the Railyard Park community room.

DATES: Every Wednesday

KIDS SING-ALONG WITH QUEEN BEE MUSIC - RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON CENTER

10:30-11:15 AM

Join us for joyful music and games every third Saturday at the Randall Davey Audubon Center.

DATES: Every third Saturday.

KIDS SING ALONG WITH QUEEN BEE MUSIC -REUNITY RESOURCES FARM

10:30-11:15 AM

Join us every second Saturday at Reunity Resources Farm for joyful music and games.

DATES: Every second Saturday.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT IN LOS ALAMOS

9:30-10 AM

Musical fun for children ages 0 to 6 and their caregivers. Music and Movement (M&M) is great for brain and body development. M&M uses songs, scarves, bells, rhythm sticks, and more to count, clap, sing, jump, and wiggle together.

DATES: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays at Mesa Public Library; Wednesdays at White Rock Library (Los Alamos libraries will be closed 12/22 through 1/4)

THE BACKYARD CONCERT SERIES

4:30-5:45 PM

The Backyard Concert Series: a free summer concert series at the Santa Fe Children's Museum presented in partnership with Queen Bee Music Association. Enjoy a monthly outdoor concert in the Backyard at the Santa Fe Children's Museum.

TODDLER TUNES AT LAFSN

10:30-11 AM

Children and parents sing, play instruments, and dance together, while Rachel Josephson shares simple ways to engage children in music and movement. Free; drop in.

DATES: First Wednesday



BILINGUAL BOOKS AND BABIES AT LA FARGE LIBRARY

10-10:30 AM

The power of music and song is used as an introduction to language in this program for babies and toddlers. Exposure to new and different language sounds in early childhood can help children with language acquisition skills as they grow.

DATES: Every Friday

BILINGUAL BOOKS AND BABIES AT MAIN LIBRARY

10-11 AM

The power of music and song is used as an introduction to language in this program for babies and toddlers. Exposure to new and different language sounds in early childhood can help children with language acquisition skills as they grow.

DATES: Every Wednesday

BILINGUAL BOOKS AND BABIES AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

10-10:30 AM

The power of music and song is used as an introduction to language in this program for babies and toddlers. Exposure to new and different language sounds in early childhood can help children with language acquisition skills as they grow.

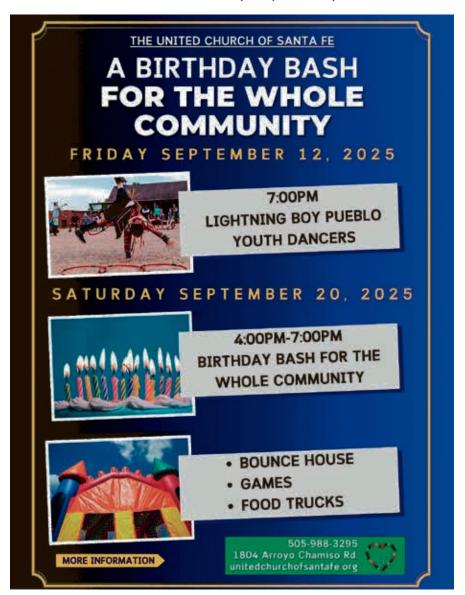
DATES: Every Saturday

CAREGIVER AND TOT CREATIVE MOVEMENT AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

10:15-11 AM

This gentle introductory class for children and their caregiver utilizes a curriculum based on child development theories and discovery of dance through play, which sparks a lifelong appreciation for movement arts.

DATES: First and third Saturday (except in June)



COME BUILD WITH US AT MAIN LIBRARY

2-4 PM

Come use your imagination to build your newest creation!
DATES: Fourth Saturday

FUN WITH FIREFIGHTERS AT SANTA FE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

1-2 PM

Join the Santa Fe Fire Department for story time at the Santa Fe Children's Museum and then go outside to visit a fire truck. Free with admission to the museum.

DATES: First Thursday

MANY MOTHERS' PLAY AREA

12-2 PM

Did You know Many Mothers has an indoor play area for children 0 to 3 years old? Monday through Thursday, 12 to 2 p.m., you and your little one are invited to stop by and play, have fun, and explore indoors.

DATES: Monday-Thursday

PAJAMA STORYTIME/ HORA DEL CUENTO EN PIJAMA AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

6:30-7:30 PM

A cozy evening storytime that includes a snack and a craft for caregivers and preschool children. This program is in partnership with

This program is in partnership with the Santa Fe Children's Museum and Growing Up New Mexico.

DATES: Every Thursday

PASEO POTTERY THROW DOWN

5-8 PM

The first Friday of every month, Paseo Pottery hosts a Pottery Throw Down to celebrate our local nonprofit organizations. Each month we will invite a local nonprofit and proceeds from the event are donated to them as our way of saying thanks for the important work they do. There will be live pottery demos, libations, music, and a chance for newbies to try their hand at the wheel with the help of our volunteers. Grab a friend and come



Courtesy photo: JF Mazur Studio

play in the mud with us. Cost: \$25 per person.

DATES: First Friday

PAWS AND PAGES AT LA FARGE LIBRARY

4:30-5:30 PM

Practice reading aloud to a friendly therapy dog from the Santa Fe Animal Shelter Pet Outreach Program. Our dogs are patient, cuddly, and love to hear stories. Reluctant readers will gain confidence and seasoned readers will enjoy practicing their read-aloud skills in a relaxed environment.

DATES: Every Monday

PAWS AND PAGES AT MAIN LIBRARY

6-7 PM

Children can practice their reading skills by sharing a story with a furry friend. This program is for early school age children. No registration required. These wonderful dogs are from the Santa Fe Animal Shelter Pet Outreach Program.

DATES: Every Tuesday

PAWS AND PAGES AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Children can practice their reading skills by sharing a story with a furry friend. A local therapy dog will be here at the library eagerly waiting. This program is for early school-age children.

DATES: Every first and third Saturday

SCIENCE SATURDAYS

2-4 PM

Scientists and STEM instructors visit the Santa Fe Children's Museum to conduct experiments, explorations, and demonstrations. Free with admission. Presented in the Woods Family Outdoor Classroom.

DATES: Every Saturday

STORYTIME AND CRAFT AT LA FARGE LIBRARY

10:30-11:30 AM

Created with early childhood teaching techniques, this story hour and craft provide social, physical, and cognitive skill practice for kindergarten readiness. This program is for preschool-age children.

DATES: Every Wednesday

STORYTIME AND CRAFT AT MAIN LIBRARY

10:30-11:30 AM

Created with early childhood teaching techniques, this story hour and craft provide social, physical, and cognitive skill practice for kindergarten readiness. This program is for preschool-age children.

DATES: Every Thursday

STORYTIME AND CRAFT AT SOUTHSIDE LIBRARY

10:30-11:30 AM

Created with early childhood teaching techniques, this story hour and craft provide social, physical, and cognitive skill practice for kindergarten readiness. This program is for preschool-age children.

DATES: Every Tuesday

STORYTIME AT WHITE ROCK LIBRARY

10:15-10:45 AM

Children ages 3 to 5 years old are invited to attend storytime at

White Rock Library. Storytime is meant to teach and affirm early literacy concepts, songs, and fun with kids who can listen to a few books and are starting to put the world together in story form. Babies and older siblings are welcome, but caregivers should be aware of the program's focus.

DATES: Every Wednesday

(except 1/1)

WEE WEDNESDAYS

10:30-11:30 AM

Santa Fe Children's Museum offers storytime for toddlers and special exploration and activities.

DATES: Every Wednesday

(except 1/1)

WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAY AT **MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1:30-3 PM

Activities for elementary-age kids weekly. It might be Legos, an art project, board games, physical games, a special guest, or something else. Best for children 6 to 11 years old. Children 5 and under must have a caregiver with them. **DATES:** Every Wednesday

YOUTH CHESS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

5:45-7:45 PM

Youth chess is a weekly chance for school-age youth to continue to improve their critical thinking skills through the game of chess. While playing with other youth, new techniques, strategies, and tricks are introduced. This program is for youth of all ages who know the basic elements of chess and can play without aid.

DATES: Every Wednesday (except 1/1)



ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS AT THE NEW MEXICO **WILDLIFE CENTER**

11:30-12:30 AM

Meet an animal ambassador. **DATES:** Tuesday through Sunday

CAN YOU DIG IT?

11AM-3PM

Unearth the wonders of the past at the Can You Dig It? program at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, an exciting hands-on archaeology dig designed especially for kids and families. This unique activity is available on select Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the season, giving kids the opportunity to learn about archaeology and New Mexico history by digging in a simulated archaeology pit. Each child is assigned an area to dig, and they record the variety of objects that they discover in the pit. The program is included in regular museum admission (member families and kids 12 and under always receive free admission). The program is suitable only for ages 5 and older. Parent supervision is required.

DATES: 9/7, 9/21, 9/28

FIRST FRIDAY FRACTALS

8-9 PM, 9-10 PM

First Friday Fractals is the spectacular, award-winning full dome planetarium show that takes viewers on a tour of the fractals in nature and zooms through infinitely complex mathematical fractals. Featuring original music, the show is both educational and highly entertaining and suitable for audiences aged 3 and up.

DATES: First Friday

MEET CORNELIUS THE SNAKE

1-2 PM

Come say hello to beloved corn snake Cornelius and watch him eat his weekly dinner at the Santa Fe Children's Museum. Please be aware that Cornelius will not be able to come out when he is shedding or not feeling well.

DATES: Every Thursday

NATURE PLAYTIME

10-11 AM

Start the week off by playing outside at the Pajarito Environmental Education Center. An opportunity for toddlers, preschoolers, and caregivers to explore the nature center and explore the natural world. Each playtime features outdoor play, sensory exploration, and activities focused on a theme in nature. Dress for the weather, we will be outside year-round. Admission is free.

DATES: Every Monday (excluding holidays)

NATURE UP CLOSE

Meet one of our naturalists, learn about our local wildlife and plants, and explore our skies in the planetarium. All Nature Up Close events are free, but they are dependent on volunteer availability.

DATES: Mondays, 11:15-11:45 a.m. Birds: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Walk-In Planetarium Show: Wednesdays 4 p.m. Gardens: Thursdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday

SAND PLAY SATURDAY

10 AM-12 PM

Experience a morning of exploration, connection and creative play, geared toward young children and their families. Sand Play is a free program running every Saturday from June 7th through August 30th (except July 12th) in the Railyard Park's beautifully designed sand area.

DATES: Every Saturday from 6/7 to 8/30 (except 7/12)

SEEDS AND SPROUTS BACKYARD PROGRAM

10:30-11:30 AM

Hands-on gardening and nature-themed craft projects in the Earthworks Garden (weather permitting) at the Santa Fe Children's Museum.

DATES: Every Thursday



ANIME CLUB

5:30-7:30 PM

Anime Club is for anyone in grades 7 to 12. This chill program provides snacks and a comfortable place with friendly people to watch two hours of anime at the Zone at Mesa Public Library. Anime may be rated TV-14/PG-13. Art and freebies.

DATES: Second Thursday

RANDOM FANDOM

6-7 PM

Hang out time for youths in grades 7 to 12 to make stuff, play games, eat, and talk. Held at the Zone at Mesa Public Library.

DATES: Fourth Thursday





October 28, 2025

3 pm – 6 pm

Santa Fe Children's Museum
1050 Old Pecos Trail

Enjoy STEM activities, trick-or-treating, interactive exhibits, live entertainment, a special toddler area, and healthy snacks!



SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS & DETAILS:



A spooktacular fundraiser to benefit the Santa Fe Children's Museum





santafechildrensmuseum.org | 505.989.8359 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, NM



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