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FEBRUARY 8, 2024

APD Officer Arrested on Domestic Violence Charges

Officer remains in custody pending court hearing in Bernalillo

By Sandoval Signpost Staff

An Albuquerque Police officer was arrested on domestic violence charges stemming from an argument he had with his girlfriend.

On Feb. 4, Rio Rancho Police responded to a call about a domestic dispute at a house on the 500 block of Archibeque Ave in Rio Rancho. The caller said her boyfriend, 24 year-old Isaiah Ortiz y Pino, had become physical with her and he was an APD officer.

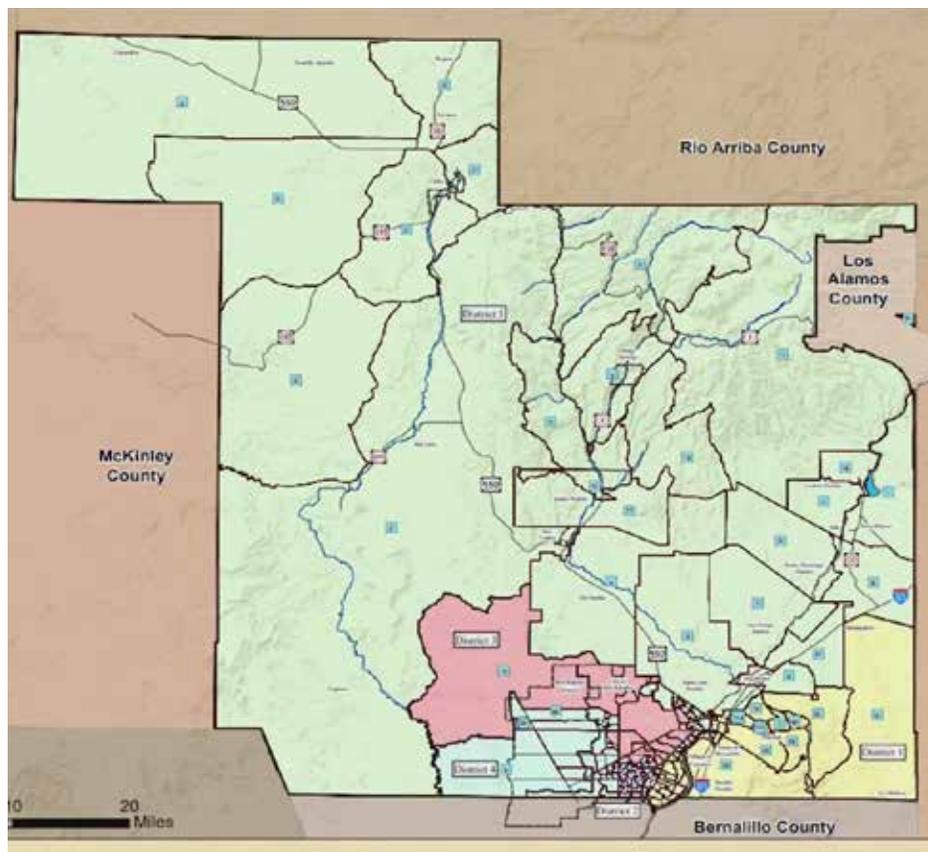
According to the criminal complaint, while officers were en route to the house, Ortiz y Pino himself called the county's non-emergency line and requested a "domestic escort," which is traditionally used when one party wants to request an officer to stand by while they retrieve their belongings, but he eventually disconnected from dispatch.

When officers arrived at the residence, Ortiz y Pino's girlfriend and her 11 year-old daughter were both crying and upset. The girlfriend told officers she and Ortiz y Pino had been arguing in the kitchen when

Read the full story at
sandovalsignpost.com

County Commission Chairman Deposed in Gerrymandering Lawsuit

Claim alleges District 2 boundaries drawn to favor GOP



By T.S. Last, Sandoval Signpost

Sandoval County Commission Chairman David Heil was scheduled to give a deposition Jan. 29 in a case alleging that the Commission approved gerrymandered boundaries to give Republican candidates an advantage.

The lawsuit was brought by the Democratic Party of Sandoval County, Democratic elected officials, a voter and two pueblos: Jemez and San Felipe. The plaintiffs in the case claim the map, approved 3-2 by the

County Commission's Republican majority, "advantages Republicans and Non-Hispanic White and disadvantages Democrats, Native Americans and Hispanics."

According to online records, Heil was scheduled to visit the law offices of Kenneth H. Stalter in Albuquerque for a stenographic deposition recorded by a certified court reporter. The notice of deposition states that Heil's testimony could be used "for any purpose permitted by the rules of civil procedure."

Heil is the third person deposed in the case but the first since County

Manager Wayne Johnson provided testimony last June.

Rod Adair, a former Republican state senator whose Roswell firm drew the maps accepted by the County Commission in December 2021, provided a deposition in February of last year. As a part of the discovery process, Adair was later asked to provide records and information he used to analyze data and draw up proposed maps.

At the time the Commission approved the maps, Democrats made up 42% of registered voters in all of Sandoval County, compared to 33% Republicans. Those not declaring a party affiliation made up 22% of registered voters.

The lawsuit specifically alleges that the boundaries for County Commission District 2 were drawn to give Republicans a voting advantage in that district.

Democratic elected officials among the plaintiffs include state Rep. Derrick Lente, of Sandia Pueblo; state Sen. Brenda McKenna, of Corrales; state Treasurer Laura Montoya, formerly the Sandoval County Treasurer; District 1 County Commissioner Katherine Bruch; and Town of Bernalillo Mayor Jack Torres.

In a higher profile gerrymandering case last year, the New Mexico Supreme Court upheld redrawn maps for the state's Congressional Districts. While some partisan gerrymandering was allowed, the court said, the redrawn maps in New Mexico fell short of "egregious" gerrymandering.

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Placitas Studio Tour to Announce 2024 Artist Line Up

Sandoval Signpost staff

Twenty-six years ago, a small group of artists created the first Placitas Studio Tour, which has become one of the most highly-anticipated annual studio tours in New Mexico. What makes the Placitas Studio Tour unique among all other artist tours around the state is not that the art is created in Placitas, but only artists living in Placitas.

The studio tour has now grown to feature over 65 artists and crafts for artists in multiple mediums.

The Placitas tour offers a unique behind-the-scenes opportunity to visit artists in their element in their studios. The tour is organized by neighborhoods to allow visitors to easily locate the studios of their

choice and to review the routes to the studios. Creations in sculpture, glass, steel, wood, photography, ceramics, fiber, jewelry, collage, basketry, pottery, bronze, mixed-media, and painting are available to purchase directly from the artists.

The 2024 artist neighborhoods will be ready to view by mid-February, to see a sneak peek of the artists in the 27th season tour head to the website at placitasstudiotour.com.

Organizers say they will have maps ready for the studio tour as early as April for pick up at tour stops and businesses in Placitas.

The tour is traditionally held over Mother's Day Weekend, with studios open for the season scheduled Saturday, May 11th and Sunday, May 12th, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 5p.m.



(courtesy Placitas Studio Tour)

PLACITAS Community LIBRARY

ART EXHIBIT: *Gifts of Our Ancestors: Resilience in the Diaspora*



FEBRUARY 3 – MARCH 14, 2024

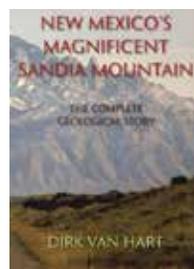
Reception is Friday,
February 16, 5 to 7 PM.

Soul food reception provided by the artists along with traditional African music.

ADULT PROGRAMS, 2 PM GRACIE LEE ROOM

Feb 10 — "The Art of Staying Alive" with Shannon Farrell, a Captain in the Sandoval County Fire Department. She is a paramedic and also manages the Public Health and Safety program.

Feb 24 — "Our Magnificent Sandias" with Dirk Van Hart — retired petroleum geologist and noted local author, will discuss and sign copies of his new book, "New Mexico's Magnificent Sandia Mountain, The Complete Geological Story."



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Coffee & Connect
9:00 AM Saturday,
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Gather to learn more about volunteering at the library.

2nd Saturdays at 9:00 every even month.

Meet our volunteers, enjoy coffee and snacks, and learn about all the different ways YOU could be part of the library.

Kids Activities

Sunday, February 4 at 1:00 PM - A continuation of the Kids' Create to the Music Program. Children will create artwork while listening to guitar music. Art will be displayed in the Collin Meeting Room at the Placitas Library. This program is for children 3-10 years old and their family members.

Sunday, February 11 at 1:00 PM - Kids' Valentine Party for ages infant - 10 and members of their families.



Tuesday, February 13 at 10:00 AM - Pre-K Story Time for children ages infant - 5

Library Hours:

Sunday 1 – 4pm / Tuesday 10 am – 7pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10 am – 5 pm

453 Hwy 165, Placitas 87043 (505) 867-3355 placitaslibrary.com

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Advertising inquiries:
(505)300-4087 or
tierna@sandovalsignpost.com

New Mexico Owned.

STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS:

Admin:

Pat Davis
Owner & Publisher
pat@newmexico.news

Editorial:

TS Last
Reporter
ts@sandovalsignpost.com

Sara Atencio-Gonzales
Reporter
sara@abq.news

Sales:

John Hankinson
Sales Executive
john@abq.news

Chela Gurnee
Sales Executive
chela@abq.news

Muhamed Abdel-Hack
Sales Executive
muhamed@abq.news

Production:

Rachel Mills
Art Director
rachel@abq.news

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Meetings Schedule

SANDOVAL COUNTY

Planning and Zoning Commission

Feb. 13, 4:30 p.m., Sandoval County Commission Chambers

Sandoval County Commission

Feb. 14, 6 p.m., Sandoval County Commission Chambers

Sandoval County Commission

Feb. 28, 6 p.m., Sandoval County Commission Chambers

Board of Finance

Feb. 28, 5 p.m., Sandoval County Commission Chambers

RIO RANCHO

Arts Commission

Feb. 8, 6 p.m., Rio Rancho City Hall

Governing Body

Feb. 8, 6 p.m., Rio Rancho City Hall

Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful Committee

Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m., Rio Rancho City Hall

Senior Services Advisory Board

Feb. 13, 1:15 p.m., Meadowlark Senior Center

Parks and Recreation Commission

Feb. 19, 6 p.m., Rio Rancho City Hall

BERNALILLO

Town Council

Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Town Council

Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Multi-Modal Transportation Plan

Feb. 29, 4:30 p.m.

VILLAGE OF JEMEZ SPRINGS

Lodger's Advisory Tax Board

Feb. 7, 9 a.m.

Planning and Zoning Meeting

Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Village Council

Feb. 21, 6 p.m.

Lodger's Advisory Tax Board

Mar. 7, 9 a.m.

Correction: Coach on Admin Leave

In the Feb. 2 issue of the *Sandoval Signpost*, we misidentified Rio Rancho High School coach Ron Murphy who was placed on administrative leave as the football coach, and have corrected the story to say he is the baseball coach.

State Sen. McKenna won't run for reelection

Cindy Nava, DACA "Dreamer" and White House appointee, quickly announces

Sandoval Signpost staff

By all accounts, including her own, State Senator Brenda McKenna was preparing to launch her reelection campaign as soon as she finished serving in the state legislature later this month. She was posting updates to her constituents online and her campaign finance reports showed that she was raising small dollar contributions from supporters during the most recent filing period. Then came her surprising announcement this week that she had decided to pursue another path, which was quickly followed by an announcement from a high-profile Democrat prepared to take McKenna's place.

State Senator Brenda McKenna, a Corrales Democrat serving in District 9 (Corrales, Placitas, Bernalillo), won election in 2020 and served in the state senate while also working in the office of U.S. Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury. As a state legislator, she promoted

legislation addressing gun violence and supporting access for women's reproductive healthcare.

McKenna told supporters via email that she had intended to stand for reelection in November, but "an opportunity has arisen that I can't in good faith pass up. While I'm not prepared to share the specifics yet, it is one I am so excited about and I know it will take a substantial amount of my time and energy." She declined to provide additional details and had not responded by press time to a question from the Comment about whether she intends to finish serving out the remainder of her term after the current legislative session adjourns later this month.

Just a day after McKenna's announcement, Bernalillo resident Cindy Nava announced that she was seeking the seat. Nava, a formerly undocumented resident of New Mexico and DACA recipient, is no stranger to the state legislature. As a young organizer, she worked on the staff of Democratic leaders in

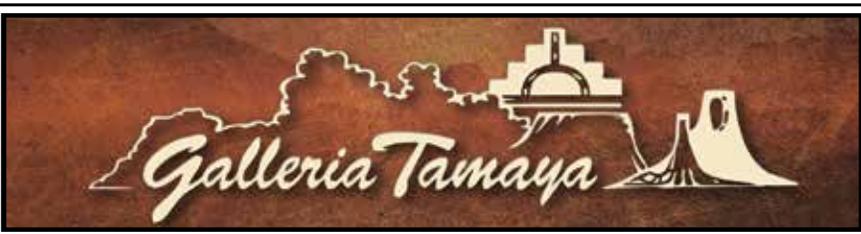


State Senator Brenda McKenna

the state house before joining the office of US Senator Ben Ray Lujan, and eventually being appointed by President Joe Biden to serve as a policy advisor with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development — all while working towards her US citizenship.

"I am the first in my family to graduate college, and the first

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient — or "Dreamer" — in the country to be appointed by the White House, where I served as Senior Policy Advisor to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development," Nava shared in her announcement. She recently resigned her position with HUD to focus on her election. She lives in Bernalillo with her husband.




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Rio Rancho Elementary Installs a Book Vending Machine



Rio Rancho elementary installs a book vending machine. (Photo courtesy Ernest Stapleton Elementary)

Sara Atencio-Gonzales
Sandoval Signpost

Ernest Stapleton Elementary School is taking reading to the next level with a new addition to the school. The school has recently brought in a new vending machine into the school, but it's not just any vending machine— but one where students work to earn a free book.

“We brought in the best vending machine, because we really wanted our kids to have more books in their homes and have more books that they could just keep on hand,” said Laraine Hostetler, Librarian at Ernest Stapleton Elementary School.

Teachers at the school also started to notice that the children's reading scores were starting to drop since returning from the pandemic.

According to the New Mexico Public Education Department, Stapleton Elementary had a 55% reading proficiency in 2023. The vending machine became a great idea for a fun, interactive way to get children at the school more interested in reading.

The vending machine took a lot of fundraising for the school in order to purchase it. The school's PTA had a big hand in the fund raising amongst many other events throughout the school year. “We have a great PTA who spent a lot of time trying to raise funds for the school,” said Hostetler. “We also had some community donations as well.”

Any student can receive a book out of the vending machine but they must earn it. To be able to receive a book students must earn a token by showing “Coyote Pride Behavior”.

That means students must be respectful and responsible students. They can also receive a token if a teacher gives them a positive behavior referral, has good attendance, or if they have some sort of academic progress. Once a student receives a token, the book it is theirs to keep and take it back to their home.

The books in the vending machine are constantly being restocked and filled with books that the students will be interested in reading. As the librarian, Hostetler figures out what books the kids would be interested in reading. “We want to make sure that we have books at all different kinds of levels for the kids, different genres. We also like to have books in there that validates kids' culture” said Hostetler. The school looks to have a great selection of books so that way there is always something for everyone.

As of right now, the school does not plan to bring in another book vending machine to the school, but is focused on making sure their current one is always well stocked. However, the school does hope that their vending machine inspires other schools across Rio Rancho to look into getting one for themselves.

“We have a lot of schools in Rio Rancho who are Title One schools. And we would love to see those schools get one too,” says Hostetler.

Ernest Stapleton Elementary recently had an unveiling of the book vending machine for the students and it's now stocked and ready for readers.

Police Catch Cell Phone Thief

Sandoval Signpost staff

On January 25, Rio Rancho Police responded to the Cricket Wireless store located at 1109 Highway 528 SE in response to a call for an armed robbery. The male suspect, who was wearing all black clothes and a black gator mask, brandished a gun and demanded the clerk give him cell phones. Cricket employees told police that the suspect “looked like a security guard.”

According to an incident report, on January 25, “approximately an hour and a half after the robbery” one of the stolen iPhones was sold to a Walmart ecoATM, which requires sellers to verify their identity by driver's license. The seller was identified as Lawrence Jackson III. The next day on Jan 26 a second phone matched to the robbery was sold to the same ecoATM.

Police and Walmart Asset Protection were able to identify the sellers of the stolen phones on both days as well as the dark-colored SUV they drove. Surveillance also showed the men greeted at the cash register by a third person “dressed in black

BDU's, tactical boots, and wearing a leather computer bag displaying a badge on his belt loop... He turns to leave where the camera was able to view the letters on his chest. The letters spelled out Fauntleroy.” RRPD investigators used “publicly available social media photographs to positively identify the male as David Fauntleroy” and the vehicle he drives.

Surveillance footage from the Cricket store robbery shows the armed suspect leaving the parking lot in a dark-colored SUV and confirmed that Fauntleroy owns an SUV matching the description of the getaway vehicle. Walmart surveillance footage also shows the suspect/sellers of the stolen cell phones traveling in a dark-colored SUV matching the description of Fauntleroy's vehicle.

On February 2, Rio Rancho Police arrested Fauntleroy, who was booked at the Sandoval County Detention Center and charged with armed robbery and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Jackson III was booked at SCDC the same day on a robbery charge as well.

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Community Briefs

By Sandoval Signpost staff

2024 Sports Writing and Logo Contest

The Bernalillo Community Museum is looking to highlight the significant role that sports holds within society. Therefore, to be able to explore this topic more in-depth students are asked to examine the unique ways in which sports can influence an individual, a community, or even a nation. To do this the Bernalillo Community Museum is holding two contests. For the first contest, students can create a nonfiction essay for a sports team of their choice. Then for the second contest students can design a logo for a sports team that has a positive message, is inspirational, or represents a specific location or community. The winner of each contest will be featured in the History of Sports Exhibition at the Museum and receive a \$75 gift card to the Range Café. For more information on the contests please go to bernalillomuseum.org.

Childrens Valentines Day Party

Looking for something fun to do with your kids on this upcoming Valentines weekend? The Martha Liebert Public Library in Bernalillo has just the event for you. The party will be held on Feb. 10 starting at 10 a.m. Bring your kids to the library for some fun craft, including stained glass hearts, love bugs, and more! There will be food and drinks provided at the Valentines event. The event is free and open to the public.

Kids in the Kitchen

The Cabezon Community Center with the help of the Parks & Recreation staff would like to invite kids from the ages of 9 to 16 to come and learn how to prepare fun & creative lunches and snacks. The community center currently has four more sessions of these classes left. The four final sessions are set for Feb. 17, Feb. 24, Mar. 2 and Mar. 9 all with their own register deadline date. Each session will allow kids

to learn a different food to make including Sloppy Joes, quesadillas, and more. Each session costs \$20 per person and supplies will be included. To register your child for this event please go to rrnm.gov/activenet.

Draw All You Can Workshop

Art on the Mesa is offering a Draw All You Can workshop on Feb. 24 at Star Heights Community Center. Draw All You Can is like a choose-your-own-adventure drawing game. The drawing process meets you where you are at any skill level. Using prompts and ideas, each group will create unique, original art. This is a two or more person activity, so bring a friend, spouse, sibling, anyone to enjoy the fun event with. The pricing for the workshop goes as follows: \$40 per couple and \$15 for each additional person. The workshop will begin at 3 p.m. on Feb. 24. Sign up today at rr-cc.org.

County's Dem Party Headquarters Moves to Corrales

Sandoval Signpost staff

The Democratic Party of Sandoval County has settled into Corrales.

The party moved its headquarters from Rio Rancho to office space they say is three times as big at the beginning of the year. The office is on the second floor of Territorial Plaza, an office park just south of the recreation center, located at 3949 Corrales Road.

The party is pleased with the extra space, which includes four desks, file cabinets, a round conference table and chairs, according to its website. There's also a conference room with a smart connection to Wi-Fi with seats for 10-12 people. It's also equipped with a kitchen with a microwave, refrigerator and coffee pot.

The office is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Vocational Education Bill Off and Running

Trades, especially the construction trades, have been saying for years that they need more workers. Community colleges and unions are doing their best to make that happen, but funding is up and down.

All She Wrote



Sherry Robinson

A bill that easily passed the House last week would stabilize funding for apprentice and training programs in the state.

It lines up with the widespread public realization that college is not for everybody and legislative intentions to boost vocational education. Last month the combined House and Senate education committees prioritized career-technical education (CTE).

House Bill 5 would use a \$30 million appropriation to create the Workforce Development and Apprenticeship Trust Fund. The State Investment Officer would invest the fund and use returns, \$2.5 million a year the first two years and \$1.5

million a year thereafter, to distribute to the Public Works Apprentice and Training Fund and the Workforce Solutions Department. The goal is to get New Mexicans into high-paying jobs in the trades.

“Increasing the technical skills and practical experience of our workforce is good for workers and for business,” said lead sponsor Rep. Joy Garratt, D-Albuquerque. “Investing in our registered apprenticeship programs is a vital part of developing our workforce pipeline.”

Apprenticeship programs of one to five years involve paid on-the-job training and classroom instruction, according to legislative analysis. The Workforce Solutions Department funnels federal money to more than 50 programs in the state. More money would allow it to increase enrollment in apprenticeships, expand programs to new subject matter, and reimburse employers at a higher level.

Associated Builders and Contractors New Mexico runs the state’s largest apprentice program, said its president and CEO Carla Kugler, and the program has grown. “Now it’s not just construction, it’s a lot of other industries,” she told the

House Appropriations and Finance Committee. “Funding is critical to retain instructors and expand around the state.”

Joan Baker, of UA 412 Plumbers and Pipefitters, said applications for its apprentice program have doubled in the last two years.

That’s a broad trend. Workforce Solutions reported 1,883 apprentices in fiscal 2022 and 2,273 in fiscal 2023, a 21% increase.

Minority Floor Leader Ryan Lane, R-Aztec, told the Albuquerque Journal last month that lawmakers wanted to approve more money for CTE programs. It would address the shortage of trade workers and get 18-year-olds ready for a job or an apprenticeship program, he said. And it’s a way to keep young people from leaving the state.

Republicans aren’t entirely on board. Three of four Republicans on the first committee voted against HB 5. Five Rs were opposed in the lopsided 63-to-5 vote in the House. Rep. Randall Pettigrew, R-Lovington, raised repeated objections during the House Appropriations and Finance Committee hearing and wanted to know the number of union and

non-union programs. It’s one-third non-union and two-thirds union, responded Sarita Nair, secretary of Workforce Solutions. Ultimately Pettigrew voted for it in committee but opposed it in the House vote.

Another voc-ed bill is SB 67, by Sens. Craig Brandt and Joshua Hernandez, both Rio Rancho Republicans. It would create the Career Development Success pilot program. The Public Education Department could offer financial incentives to school districts for students completing industry-credential programs or workplace training programs. But SG 67 hasn’t made it out of its first committee.

At this writing, HB 5 appears to be the only CTE bill moving.

Rep. Nathan Small, D-Las Cruces, said, after it passed his House Appropriations: “This is so exciting. It’s the biggest investment in apprenticeships perhaps ever in the history of the state.”

HB 5 now goes to the Senate, where it will face competition from other worthy budget items plus the scrutiny of the Senate Finance Committee.



APD: A Cautionary Tale

A federal investigation into the ADWI unit of the Albuquerque Police Department and an Albuquerque law firm has resulted in the mayor, the police chief and the district attorney all pointing fingers – away from themselves.

If you don't follow Albuquerque news, here's the gist: Albuquerque lawyer Thomas Clear (also chair of the State Public Defender Commission until the FBI raided his office) is alleged to have colluded with four APD officers and one lieutenant over DWI defendants. The scam worked like this: the cops in question would arrest a DWI offender, refer them to Clear for legal representation and then make a procedural error during the legal proceedings, most commonly missing a court date, leading to the dismissal of the charges.

The mayor is mad at the City Council for asking reasonable questions about the investigation. The police chief is mad at the DA for not telling him when officers were no shows. The DA is mad at the police chief for not making sure officers show up to hearings. And all of this is being aired via press release or press

Commentary



Merritt Hamilton Allen

conference.

(Crisis communication pro tip #1: when there is an active federal investigation, shut up. And then tell the press, "There is an active investigation. It would not be appropriate to comment while the investigation is ongoing." *Because it isn't.* For so many reasons.)

When the news of the FBI raid broke last month, the first thing that crossed my mind was, "I bet the cops got paid to just not show up in court." Alas, I am not a brilliant investigative mind. I am instead the spouse of a defense attorney with 30 years of courtroom experience. When we moved back to New Mexico from the DC metro area in 2005, he was struck by how common it was for police officers to just not show up for hearings. There seemed to be no consequences.

Sort of like when the cubicle-weary protagonist of the film *Office Space* simply decides to handle his workplace misery with a very simple plan: "I'm just going to stop going." No one, including his boss and the optimization consultants, seems to know how to react. APD doesn't seem to know how, either.

APD Chief Harold Medina has been unable to provide much detail about the situation in press conferences held since the FBI raid. He has been

willing to go on the record and blame the DA's office, though, for failing to notify APD when an officer misses a hearing.

(Crisis communication pro tip #2: if you are going to say you don't know if the officers under investigation were ever disciplined for missing court dates, maybe don't have the press conference. See pro tip #1. It is always okay to not discuss an ongoing investigation and refer the press to the FBI.)

Sam Bregman, the DA, should have a heightened awareness of this issue, having spent most of his previous career as a highly successful and high-profile criminal defense attorney. It appears the DA's office stopped notifying APD when officers missed court dates about four months before Bregman took office. Bregman's team has recently started the notifications again and has started a tracking system.

If you are reading this column in the southern part of the state, or in a small town, why should you care if APD has a problem with crooked cops? Because APD, after the State Police, is the biggest and best paying police force in the state. Your local police chiefs are fighting to keep their officers every day because APD pays better and always will.

Law enforcement in smaller

jurisdictions are truly volunteers, working long hours and fewer days off for less pay, dealing with many of the same problems as the big cities: fentanyl, domestic violence, human trafficking. But they get to know the community better. And they, for the most part, are more honest.

It's a lot harder to pull off a scam like this when there are a dozen or fewer officers in your police department and fewer than six law firms in town. Bigger departments also bring bigger problems.

New Mexicans are tired of public corruption. But I hope we haven't become used to it. It would help matters immensely if the elected officials directly responsible for managing the police and adjudicating justice would shut up, let the FBI do its work, and if warranted, hold those responsible accountable to the fullest extent of the law. *Merritt Hamilton Allen is a PR executive and former Navy officer. She appeared regularly as a panelist on NM PBS and is a frequent guest on News Radio KKOB. A Republican, she lives amicably with her Democratic husband north of I-40 where they run one head of dog, and two of cat. She can be reached at news.ind.merritt@gmail.com.*

Family Leave Bills are Not Quite Ready

Trades, especially the construction trades, have been saying for years that they need more workers. Community colleges and unions are doing their best to make that happen, but funding is up and down.

A bill that easily passed the House last week would stabilize funding for apprentice and training programs in the state.

It lines up with the widespread public realization that college is not for everybody and legislative intentions to boost vocational education. Last month the combined House and Senate education committees prioritized career-technical education (CTE).

House Bill 5 would use a \$30 million appropriation to create the Workforce Development and Apprenticeship Trust Fund. The State Investment Officer would invest the fund and use returns, \$2.5 million a year the first two years and \$1.5

Triple Spaced Again



Merilee Dannemann

million a year thereafter, to distribute to the Public Works Apprentice and Training Fund and the Workforce Solutions Department. The goal is to get New Mexicans into high-paying jobs in the trades.

"Increasing the technical skills and practical experience of our workforce is good for workers and for business," said lead sponsor Rep. Joy Garratt, D-Albuquerque. "Investing in our registered apprenticeship programs is a vital part of developing our workforce pipeline."

Apprenticeship programs of one to five years involve paid on-the-job training and classroom instruction, according to legislative analysis. The Workforce Solutions Department funnels federal money to more than 50 programs in the state. More money would allow it to increase enrollment in apprenticeships, expand programs to new subject matter, and reimburse employers at a higher level.

Associated Builders and Contractors New Mexico runs the state's largest apprentice program, said its president and CEO Carla Kugler, and the program has grown. "Now it's not just construction, it's a lot of other industries," she told the

House Appropriations and Finance Committee. "Funding is critical to retain instructors and expand around the state."

Joan Baker, of UA 412 Plumbers and Pipefitters, said applications for its apprentice program have doubled in the last two years.

That's a broad trend. Workforce Solutions reported 1,883 apprentices in fiscal 2022 and 2,273 in fiscal 2023, a 21% increase.

Minority Floor Leader Ryan Lane, R-Aztec, told the Albuquerque Journal last month that lawmakers wanted to approve more money for CTE programs. It would address the shortage of trade workers and get 18-year-olds ready for a job or an apprenticeship program, he said. And it's a way to keep young people from leaving the state.

Republicans aren't entirely on board. Three of four Republicans on the first committee voted against HB 5. Five Rs were opposed in the lopsided 63-to-5 vote in the House. Rep. Randall Pettigrew, R-Lovington, raised repeated objections during the House Appropriations and Finance Committee hearing and wanted to know the number of union and

non-union programs. It's one-third non-union and two-thirds union, responded Sarita Nair, secretary of Workforce Solutions. Ultimately Pettigrew voted for it in committee but opposed it in the House vote.

Another voc-ed bill is SB 67, by Sens. Craig Brandt and Joshua Hernandez, both Rio Rancho Republicans. It would create the Career Development Success pilot program. The Public Education Department could offer financial incentives to school districts for students completing industry-credential programs or workplace training programs. But SG 67 hasn't made it out of its first committee.

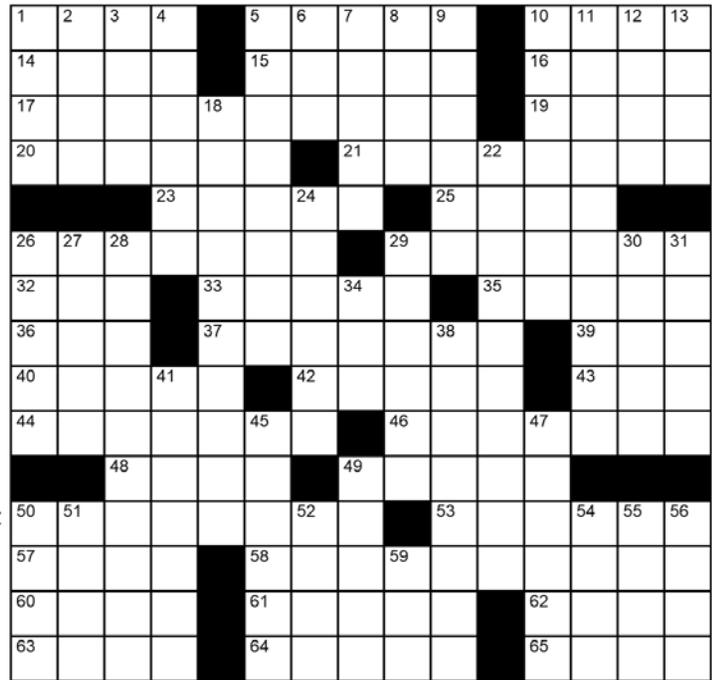
At this writing, HB 5 appears to be the only CTE bill moving.

Rep. Nathan Small, D-Las Cruces, said, after it passed his House Appropriations: "This is so exciting. It's the biggest investment in apprenticeships perhaps ever in the history of the state."

HB 5 now goes to the Senate, where it will face competition from other worthy budget items plus the scrutiny of the Senate Finance Committee.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dundee native
 - 5 Scene with stuntmen
 - 10 Traveler's aids
 - 14 Use a whetstone
 - 15 Skating sites
 - 16 Equipped
 - 17 Not real-world
 - 19 Eastwood film, "___ Torino"
 - 20 Footnote word
 - 21 Motionless
 - 23 One of the Brontë sisters
 - 25 Pot pie tidbits
 - 26 Wind instrument
 - 29 Small boater's woe
 - 32 WWII female
 - 33 Busch Gardens locale
 - 35 Not at any time
 - 36 "This is Us" network
 - 37 Calgary's province
 - 39 Ostrich's cousin
 - 40 Campaign word
 - 42 Cut and ___
 - 43 Slice (off)
 - 44 Close copy
 - 46 Wall Street worker
 - 48 Handyman's need
 - 49 Martin or McQueen
 - 50 80s Soviet policy
 - 53 Winter hand warmer
 - 57 Piercing place



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- 58 Stubble-free cut
 - 60 Night fliers
 - 61 Singing Carpenter
 - 62 Top spot
 - 63 Actress Amanda
 - 64 Perspiration
 - 65 Pre-Easter period
- DOWN**
- 1 Ocean liner
 - 2 Musical ending
 - 3 Washington bills
 - 4 Movie promo
 - 5 Jackson hit, "Smooth ___"
 - 6 That guy's
 - 7 On pins and needles
 - 8 "Laugh-In" segment
 - 9 Make a run for it
 - 10 Business bigwig
 - 11 In a rude way
 - 12 Something to hatch
 - 13 Mailed out
 - 18 Handicap
 - 22 "The Accidental Tourist" Oscar winner
 - 24 Sorority letter
 - 26 Deed holder
 - 27 Monthly bill
 - 28 Satisfactory
 - 29 Western prop
 - 30 Audition tapes
 - 31 Fly off the handle
 - 34 Part of w.p.m.
 - 38 Slum dwelling
 - 41 Like a best friend
 - 45 Time machines?
 - 47 "___ Weapon"
 - 49 Cache
 - 50 Icky stuff
 - 51 Rob who hosts "The Floor"
 - 52 Picnic dish
 - 54 Scotch ___
 - 55 Roulette bet
 - 56 Counter call
 - 59 Mermaid's home

Legal Notice

SSCAFCA Board of Directors
 Regular Monthly Meeting
 February 15, 2024, 9:00AM
 1041 Commercial Dr. SE
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EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Comedy

Ali Macofsky \$20-\$25 7-8:30 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Ali Macofsky \$20-\$25 9:30-11 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Dance

Flamenco D'Aki 6-8 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

Discussion / Lecture

Theology on Tap: Season of Bright Sadness with Fr. Chris Zuger 6:30-8:30 pm Village Pizza 4266 Corrales Rd., Corrales

Music

Dj Fishbowl 6-11 pm Tractor Brewing Westside 5720 McMahon Blvd NW bldg 5 ste a, Albuquerque

Eryn Bent 7:30-9:30 pm M'tucci's Moderno Italian Restaurant 1908 Wellspring Ave. SE, Rio Rancho

The Westerners 7-9 pm The Range Cafe 925 S Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Class / Workshop

Let's Make Valentine's! 1-5 pm Casa Perea Art Space 4829 Corrales Road, NM-448, Corrales

Saturday Stitch Club 10:30-11:30 am Corrales Community Library 84 W. La Entrada, Corrales

Valentine's Day Paint Night 2-4 pm The Chill Zone 4320 Ridgecrest Dr SE, Rio Rancho, Rio Rancho

Comedy

Ali Macofsky \$20-\$25 7-8:30 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Ali Macofsky \$20-\$25 9:30-11 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Exhibit

2nd Saturday - 2024 Open House 1-4 pm Casa San Ysidro 973 Old Church Rd., Corrales

Woodworking Artist David Johnson: "Talking With Trees" reception 1-3 pm Wild Hearts Gallery 221 B Hwy. 165, Placitas

Markets

Friends of the Corrales Library Jewelry Sale 10 am-3 pm San Ysidro Catholic Church 5105 Corrales Rd, Corrales

Music

Duke City Swampcoolers 7-9 pm The Range Cafe 925 S Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo

Jacob Chavez 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing Westside 5720 McMahon Blvd NW bldg 5 ste a, Albuquerque

Jukebox Junkies 7-9 pm Tenpins & More 1416 Deborah Rd. SE, Rio Rancho

Rawk Out Unplugged 7-10 pm Brew Lab 101 3301 Southern Blvd. SE, Rio Rancho

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Discussion / Lecture

A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of the Southwest 2-3:30 pm Sandoval County Historical Society 151 Edmund Rd., Bernalillo

Miscellaneous

Rainbow Roadrunners Car Club February Meeting 12-2 pm Village Pizza 4266 Corrales Rd., Corrales

Hosting a public event?
We can help
spread the word!

View the full list of events or
submit to our online calendar at

abq.news/calendar

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Daily: The Mayor Hull Show. Go to rrm.gov/mayorhullshow. Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull talks about issues facing Rio Rancho.

Daily: Recreating at Valles Caldera National Preserve. The park landscape remains open to vehicles along NM-4 and pedestrian/bicycle access along trails, as designated. For a complete list of activities at the National Preserve, go to tonps.gov/vall/index.htm.

Mondays: Bernalillo/Placitas open Al-Anon meeting for families and friends of alcoholics/problem drinkers. 7:30-8:30. Held at the Bernalillo United Methodist Church, 136 Calle Don Andres (behind Abuelitas), Bernalillo. Maximum: 12 people; masks required. Info: 262-2177.

Second Monday: Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association (ESCA) monthly meeting. 4 p.m. Held at the Placitas Community Library.

Second and fourth Mondays: Bernalillo Town Council meeting. 6:30 p.m. Held at Bernalillo Town Hall. Info: call 867-3311, townofbernalillo.org.

Mondays through Saturdays: Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in Bernalillo. For a complete list of schedules, visit the website at albuquerqueaa.org or call Central Office at 266-1900, open 24/7.

First Tuesdays: Albuquerque Newcomers' Club Welcome Coffee. 10 a.m. Held at Sandia Presbyterian Church (not affiliated with church)—10704 Paseo del Norte. Membership is open to residents who have lived in the Albuquerque area (including Sandoval County) for five years or less, or who are having major changes in their lives. Make new friends and increase your social life. Sign up for monthly luncheons and speakers, dining out, visits to area attractions, book and movie groups, bridge, bunco, mah-jongg, walking, wine tastings, etc. Singles' and men's groups. abqnewcomers@gmail.com. 321-6970.

First Tuesdays: Coronado Kennel Club meeting. 7:30 p.m. All-breed kennel club. Schedule changes in August and December. Call 867-4510 for meeting location.

First Tuesday: Monthly ice cream social hosted by the Kiwanis Club. 6 p.m. Held at the Paleta Bar in Bernalillo—510 NM Highway 528.

Third Tuesday: Open meeting of the Sandia Vista Amateur Radio Club. 7 p.m. Held at Fire Station 41 on highway 165, just east of the Placitas Community Library. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings, whether or not they have an FCC License.

Third Tuesdays: Bead Society of New Mexico (BSNM) Monthly Membership Meeting. 6-8 p.m. We do not meet in July or December. Please check our website in case of occasional changes. Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Road NE. For more information, go to beadsocietyNM.org.

Third Tuesdays: Monthly meeting of the Republican Party of Sandoval County (RPSC). 7 p.m. at Gospel Light Baptist Church, 1500 Southern Boulevard in Rio Rancho. SandovalGOP.com.

Third Tuesdays: Sandia Vista Amateur Radio Club. 7 p.m. Help provide emergency communications in Placitas. Become a "HAM" radio operator. We will help you get your FCC license. Visitors welcome. Held at the Placitas Fire Station No. 41, Hwy 165, near the Library. sandiavista.net.

Fourth Tuesdays: Pathways: Wildlife Corridors of NM monthly meeting. 6:30 p.m. Held at Placitas Community Center. Open to the public. pathwayswc.wordpress.com.

Fourth Tuesdays: Eastern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (ESCAFCA) meeting. 6 p.m. Held in the Town of Bernalillo Council Chambers. Persons wishing to be on the agenda or persons with disabilities who need accommodations should call 771-7110 by the first Tuesday. Board meeting agenda is posted on the ESCAFCA website (escafea.com) and at the front desk of the Town Hall by Friday preceding the meeting.

Fourth Tuesdays: Placitas Democrats and Friends. 6-7:30 p.m. Held at Placitas Community Library. Meetings are open to the public and feature candidates for local, state, national offices; sandovaldemocrats.org. 259-5860.

Tuesdays: Haven House Domestic Violence Support Group for women whose lives have been touched by domestic violence. 6:30-8:00 p.m. Topics include: Dynamics of Domestic Violence, Safety Plans, Developing Healthy Relationships, and information about available services. All sessions are confidential and free of charge. Held at Rio Rancho First Baptist Church, corner of Route 528 and 19th Avenue. 896-4869 or 1-800-526-7157.

Tuesday and Thursday: Sandoval County Historical Society is open. 9-noon. Photo Archive, Library, and Family Research. Located between Warrior gas station and Santa Ana Star casino on US 550.

Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays: Play Pickleball. 1 p.m. Pickleball is a game played on a court with paddles and a whiffle ball. The court is smaller than a tennis court and allows people to play who no longer want to run and jump as they did in their younger years. Anyone can play, even if they have never played tennis. Info: 505-934-2649. At Bernalillo Recreation Center.

Second Tuesdays: Coronado Optimist Club of Bernalillo. 6 p.m. Held at 149 E Calle Don Francisco in Bernalillo. "Bringing out the best in kids" 505-867-4689.

Wednesdays: Boy Scout meetings. 7 p.m. 237 Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo. In front of Loretto Park. 505-506-2773.

Wednesdays: Rotary Club of Rio Rancho Sunrise. 7 a.m. For breakfast, fellowship, a great speaker, and a chance to get involved in local and worldwide service projects. At Club Rio Rancho (used to be Chamisa Hills CC), 500 Country Club Drive, Rio Rancho. Info: Mac McKinney, 892-4313.

First Wednesdays: Free civil legal clinic offered. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Held in the third-floor conference room

of the Second District Courthouse, at the southwest corner of Lomas and Fourth, NW. Free legal advice on a number of civil legal issues. No family law services will be offered. Attendance is limited to the first 25 persons who qualify for low-income assistance. Interpreters and bilingual attorneys will be on hand. Attendees should bring all of their paperwork. Expect about a thirty-minute, free legal consultation. 797-6077.

Second Wednesdays: Visionary Arts & Crafts Guild (VACG) monthly membership meeting. 6-8 p.m. VACG's mission is to develop a fellowship among craftspeople and facilitate a market for crafts. The VACG supports the "Art of Craft" through exhibitions, education, and public awareness to promote the development and appreciation of craftspeople and their work. Meets all months except October, November, and December. Info: vacgnm@gmail.com, facebook.com/vacgnm, VACGNM.com.

Second Wednesdays: Rio Rancho Art Association (RRAA) monthly membership meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. RRAA is a non-juried/all mediums regional art association. You need not be a resident of Rio Rancho to join. Held in Don Chalmers Ford Community Room, 2500 Rio Rancho Boulevard, Rio Rancho. rraasa.org, rioranchoartassociation.blogspot.com or 301-2009.

Second and fourth Wednesdays: Sandoval County Civitans meet. 6:00 p.m. Held at Fair Winds, 920 Riverview Drive SE, Rio Rancho. 898-6884.

Second and fourth Wednesdays: Sandoval County Commission meeting. 6 p.m. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held in the Sandoval Administration Building, 1500 Idalia Road Building D, Bernalillo. Info or meeting agenda: sandovalcounty.com, 867-7500.

Third Wednesdays: Las Placitas Association meets in person. 6 p.m. Visitors are welcome. Email: theboard@lasplacitas.org for an invitation and further details.

Thursdays: Sandoval County Historical Society archives and library are open to members and the public for family research. 9 a.m.-Noon. Bernalillo. Info: 867-2755.

First Thursdays: Sandoval County veteran's outreach and business counseling. 1-4 p.m. Held at the Sandoval County Administrative Building, 1500 Idalia Road in Bernalillo. All honorably-discharged veterans may be entitled to VA benefits and state Veteran benefits. Come learn about your potential benefits. Bring your DD-214. 383-2414.

First Thursdays: Art and Music at the Loma Colorado Main Library Auditorium, Rio Rancho. Info: riorancholibraries.org, 505-891-5013.

Third Thursdays: Placitas Community Library Board of Directors meetings. At the Placitas Community Library, 453 Hwy 165. 6:30 p.m. Open to the public. Meeting agendas are posted at the library and Placitas Post Office.

Fourth Thursdays: Sandoval County Development Planning & Zoning Commission. 6 p.m. Held at the Sandoval County Administration Building, 1500 Idalia Road., Bldg. D, Bernalillo.

Last Thursdays: Sandoval County veteran's outreach and business counseling. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Held at 433 Meadowlark SE in Rio Rancho. All honorably-discharged veterans may be entitled to VA benefits and state Veteran benefits. Come learn about your potential benefits. Bring your DD-214. 383-2414.

Fridays: Sandoval County Stroke Support Group. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Provides weekly support to survivors of stroke, their caregivers, adult family members, health care providers. Water & light snacks provided. No charge for meetings. Social outings arranged six times/year. Contact Geri: 620-8802.

First Fridays: Monthly luncheon of the Democratic Party of Sandoval County. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Range Cafe in Bernalillo, 925 Camino del Pueblo. Sandoval Democrats gather once a month (most months) to welcome speakers, candidates, and government representatives. You pay for your lunch from the menu, or come for just the meeting. sandovaldemocrats.org.

Third Friday: Luncheon of the San-Bern Federation of Republican Women. Starts at 11:00 a.m. Held at Pelican's East or West 9800 Montgomery Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87111 and 10022 Coors Blvd NW Albuquerque, NM 87114. Contact Jeanette Nowers-Clark at 505-321-9189 Sanbernfrw1@gmail.com or Sanbernfrw.org.

Saturdays: Los Ranchos Growers' Market. 8-11 a.m. Local farmers offer fresh produce, greens, eggs, fruit, honey, jams/jellies, baked goods, jerky, grass-fed beef, seedlings/plants, flowers, and more. Hot food vendors in attendance as well. Held in Village of Los Ranchos, in Tennis Court Parking Lot, 6718 Rio Grande Boulevard. Free and vendors accept WIC/Senior discounts. Montoya4664@hotmail.com, 610-9591, or Los Ranchos Growers' Market on Facebook.

Saturdays: Casa Rosa Pantry. Open 9-11 a.m. Held in the pink house east of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church at 640 Highway 165, six miles east of I-25. Community outreach program provides nonperishable food items as well as dairy, frozen meats, and fresh produce as available for Placitas residents in need. Donations, volunteers welcome.

Third Saturdays: Rio Rancho Northwest Mesa NAACP meets "Virtual." Public is invited.

Third Saturday: Monthly meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). 11 a.m. Held at the Don Newton Community Center, 4900 Kachina Street NW, in Albuquerque. All are welcome. rrnaacp.org

Second Sundays: Second Sunday Studio Shows. 5 p.m. Live Acoustic Music. Suggested Donation: \$20. Sponsored by Solamente Natural Plaster. Contact: Kent 205-6010, kent@solamentenaturalplaster.com.

Second Sundays: Placitas Cannabis Cultivators Club. 3-5 p.m. Experienced or novice growers welcome. Group is designed to help anyone who wants to grow cannabis do it better. Donations accepted; not required. Contact: 373 8860, luckyloubq@gmail.com, meetup.com/PlacitasCannabisCultivatorsClub, Placitas, NM).

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“

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"It started out as a normal outing. My wife and I had to run to the grocery store. We were driving down the road casually going over our shopping list when the car ahead of me started to slow down anticipating the yellow light. I started to move my foot from the gas to the brake as any normal person would do when they see brake lights in front of them but I couldn't. I couldn't feel my foot. The car kept moving forward and I just couldn't get my foot on the brake. And CRUNCH! I finally came to a stop when I hit the car in front of me."

This tragic story was shared with us by Dan S. an Albuquerque resident who has peripheral neuropathy. And while no one was hurt in this accident, Dan S. had suffered almost everyday of his life with tingling and burning in his feet until numbness set in and he could no longer feel even the brake pedal beneath his foot.

"The first stage is pain." share Dr. Andrea Brogdon of AAIM| Albuquerque Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine. "You feel burning, tingling, sharp pains, or you feel like you're waking on tacks or marbles. This pain eventually subsides and the numbness sets in. Unfortunately the numbness brings with it a whole other host of problems."

This was the case with Dan. "I said I wasn't going to drive again. What if that had been a pedestrian?"

It is terribly common that peripheral neuropathy and its debilitating symptoms interfere with a person's ability to live their life. Dan was now reliant on his wife to drive him around, even the simple pleasure of cruising through Old Town or taking her out to dinner was outside his capabilities. And even more common, Dan's general practitioner and several specialists told him there was nothing they could do other than prescribe him pills that would ease the pain of his neuropathy.

That's where Dr. Brogdon and her staff at AAIM come in. "About 75% of our current patients come to us suffering from the same condition as Mr. Dan," tells Dr. Brogdon

"They're in constant pain from neuropathy and it prevents them from not only living their lives but more importantly, it prevents them from enjoying it. Depending on the severity of their nerve damage, we typically see tremendous progress in 3-4 months of treatment. I like to say we're in the business of making your golden years golden."

"I can't lie," confides Dan. "I was skeptical at first. The folks down at UNM told me there was

nothing that could be done and then there's a doctor right here in Albuquerque tells me she can help. Turns out she was right!

About three months after treatment I was able to confidently drive myself to my appointments! My wife and I celebrated by buying ourselves a new car! It's hard to put into words how incredible this is, quite frankly [Dr. Brogdon] gave me my life back."

While AAIM specializes in acupuncture and it's definitely part of their protocols in treating neuropathy, the real secret is in a more modern medical solution called ATP Resonance BioTherapy™. "This technology was originally developed by NASA to expedite healing and recovery" shares Sarah, a Senior Patient Care Technician at the clinic. "It's like watering a plant. ATP Resonance BioTherapy™ stimulates the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerve and provide them the proper nutrients to heal and repair."

You can learn more about Dr. Brogdon and AAIM by visiting AAIM-ABQ.com. If you're ready to schedule a consultation call (505)355-1984 and do so quickly. AAIM is a very intimate clinic and the staff takes pride in their ability to take their time with each patient so they are very limited in their ability to take on new patients.

Visit AAIM-ABQ.com to learn more and take advantage of their New Patient Offer!