

## Officials Search for Bosque Fires Suspect

*Crews clean up spot fires for three days*

By Sandoval Signpost staff

The Rio Rancho Fire Marshal's Office is looking for a suspect who set fires in the Bosque.

On the evening of May 19, Rio Rancho Fire and Rescue crews responded to reports of fires in the Bosque Open Space near the River's Edge II development. An Albuquerque Fire and Rescue (AFR) wildland response was requested for mutual aid by the Rio Rancho Fire and Rescue Department for the Middle Rio Grande Fire.

Crews arrived and reported multiple fires from Rio Rancho North Beach and extending north. While firefighting operations were underway, more fires were reported. Fire crews engaged an approximate one-acre fire that included several spot fires believed to be human-caused. Fire crews stopped the progress of the fire and stayed through the night for mop-up and confirmation of extinguishment.

Rio Rancho Fire and Rescue's Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause of the fire, but officials believe the fires were started intentionally.

As of May 21, the Bosque Open Space Area was still closed to the public in order to allow fire crews to evaluate and patrol the area. Fire units were on scene for three days as they worked to locate and extinguish any areas of heat.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to contact the Fire Marshal's Office at (505) 891-5924.

## Bernalillo Declines Federal Loan for Lead Pipe Survey



(Source: Luis Quintero on Pexels.com)

### Town working on own inventory

By Jesse Jones, Sandoval Signpost

The Town of Bernalillo has declined a \$250,000 federal loan intended to fund lead and copper water pipe surveys in communities around New Mexico.

Town leaders decided not to accept the money because officials initially applied for what they believed to be grant-funded assistance but when the contract arrived, it was structured as a loan-grant fund, requiring partial repayment.

"When we read through it, we didn't want to do the loan part of it and that's the only way you could accept the full amount is by doing the loan and the grant," Troy Martinez, Bernalillo public works director said. "We're just moving forward with our existing process."

According to a report by *Source NM*, the loan originated from the

\$28.6 million Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, funded by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The money was given by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to both the New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA).

The NMFA approved \$8.7 million, which will fund lead and copper water pipe surveys in cities and counties around the state, the money will also fund smaller water association projects.

In 2023, the EPA announced a rule designed to protect people from the long-term health effects of lead exposure in drinking water. Under this rule, water systems must provide an inventory of their lead water mains and service lines by October.

A 2023 EPA survey estimated that New Mexico has more than 15,000

lead service lines, accounting for less than 1% of the state's total pipes. The estimated cost to replace these lines is \$1.6 billion.

According to Martinez, the town has been working on the required inventory of the lead pipes and is almost finished with the documentation. The engineers have not identified anything that indicates lead pipes were ever used in the town.

"If it were to turn out that we did find pipes that had lead that is going to need to be replaced," Martinez said. "Then at that point, we may reapply for this specific funding if we don't have the funds to be able to do those repairs."

Bernalillo officials issued a task order to the town's on-call engineers to inventory the lead pipes using existing funds. According to Martinez, the town estimated the inventory to cost \$60,000, but so far, it has cost just over half that amount.

### Resources

If you believe you have lead pipes, the EPA offers this guidance:

- Contact your water utility to have your water tested.
- Contact your water utility or a licensed plumber to determine if the service line is made of lead.
- Before drinking, flush your home's pipes by running the tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or doing a load of dishes. The amount of time to run the water will depend on whether your home has a lead service line or not, and the length of the lead service line.

For more information about the health risks of lead, visit the EPA website or call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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# Meetings Schedule

## Sandoval County

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit [sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/scmeetings/](http://sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/scmeetings/)

*Sandoval County  
Commission Special Work  
Session*

*May 28, 9 a.m.*

*Sandoval County Chambers  
1500 Idalia Rd., Building D*

## Rio Rancho

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit [rrnm.gov/2303/Watch-and-Download-City-Meetings](http://rrnm.gov/2303/Watch-and-Download-City-Meetings)

*Planning and Zoning  
Board*

*May 28, 6 p.m.*

*Rio Rancho City Hall*

*Investment Advisory  
Board*

*May 29, 6 p.m.*

*Rio Rancho City Hall*

*City Council Regular  
Meeting*

*June 16, 6 p.m.*

## Bernalillo

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit [tobnm.gov/government/town\\_council/agendas\\_and\\_minutes.php](http://tobnm.gov/government/town_council/agendas_and_minutes.php)

*Town Council*  
*May 27, 6:30 p.m.*  
*Bernalillo Town Hall*

## Village of Jemez Springs

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit [jemezsprings-nm.gov/meetings/](http://jemezsprings-nm.gov/meetings/)

*Village Council*  
*June 18, 6 p.m.*

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Placitas

# New Exhibit Explores America's Identity

## Placitas library showcases works from around New Mexico

By Sandoval Signpost staff

The Placitas Community Library will be the backdrop for a new exhibition celebrating the diversity of America.

The exhibit "Our America" represents a tapestry of cultural diversity bound together by the unique weft and warp of stories and experiences representing the various backgrounds and origins of the American landscape. Through the lens of art, the exhibition explores and celebrates the richness and complexity of America's collective identity.

The exhibition will be on display June 8 through July 21 in the Gracie Lee Community Room.

Artists were invited to reflect on and draw inspiration from their personal connections with family legacies, ancestral roots and cultural traditions and how those have been woven together over time to create the American landscape celebrated July 4 and throughout the year.

The exhibition will feature both new and established artists coming together to celebrate the richness

and complexity of the American experience.

The event is a one-time, month-long exhibition showcasing artists from the Albuquerque/northern New Mexico area. Several artists from Placitas will also be showing their work in this exhibition.

"Celebrating diversity is very important to the Placitas Community Library, and this exhibition features a wide range of artists representing various backgrounds and origins, telling their story of their personal experience of America," said John Streicher, library exhibits co-coordinator.

Approximately 45 pieces from 15 artists will be on display.

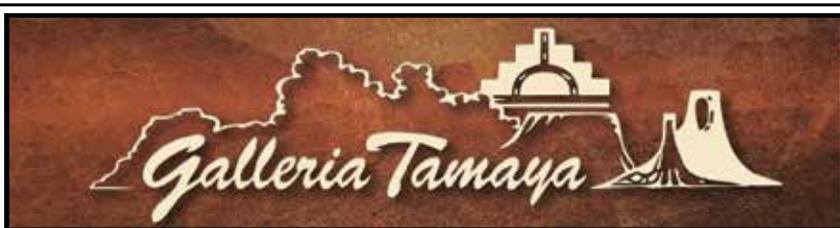
"The whole is often bigger than the sum of its parts. This exhibition is important because what each individual has to say about America becomes collectively 'Our America,'" Streicher said.

There will be a community celebration and a reception for the artists to unveil the exhibition from 5 - 6 p.m. Friday, June 21.

A percentage of any art sales benefits the library.



"Red Cap" by Phillip Timper (Source: Placitas Community Library)




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**Sandoval County**

# Sandoval County K-9s Sniff Out Missing Persons

## *Dogs used in other NM counties*

By Michael Hodock, Sandoval Signpost

Thanks to a unique combination of skills honed through specialized training programs, Sandoval County Fire and Rescue (SCFR) K-9 units are helping out on missions throughout the state.

On April 29, SCFR reported that their K-9s were called to assist the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, Roswell Fire Department and the New Mexico State Fire Marshal's Office in searching the scene of an April 25 fire at the Roswell Air Center in Chavez County. The dogs were searching for human remains, although they found none in the wreckage.

Advances in technology, especially the use of personal cellphones and GPS have made it safer for outdoor enthusiasts to explore the vast New Mexico wilderness, and calls to emergency responders to locate lost travelers have become less frequent in recent years. Reliance on technology presents its own set of obstacles that K-9 units help rescue workers overcome. Even with those advancements, SCFR Capt. Shannon Ferrell told *The Signpost* that her department still gets called to search for missing people. Technology can fail, batteries die and some of the most urgent searches involve people who do not have working phones.

Ferrell recalled a recent search for an elderly person with dementia lost in the bosque at night and said that those types of special needs calls are usually the ones that require K-9 assistance.

"Little kids will get tucked into vegetation and get scared," Ferrell said. "They won't call back when you're calling their names."

### Tracking and Trailing

In the event that someone gets lost or injured in a large area, or a location thick with undergrowth, the dogs can access spots that their human handlers cannot.

"They'll be off-leash," Ferrell said. "You'll give them the command and then they start searching, we have GPS on their collars."

Unsurprisingly, the dogs' most valuable tool is their nose. Tracking, according to Ferrell, is exactly what it sounds like. The dogs are able to



A Sandoval County K-9 works in Roswell to sniff out remains. (Source: Sandoval County Fire and Rescue)

detect a scent unique to an individual by literally sticking their nose in each of their footprints. To a dog, the type of shampoo or perfume a person wears, their scent glands, or the hundreds of skin particles that fall from their body as they walk can indicate the location of a lost or missing person, even in a large or remote area.

"All of those things are a picture to the dog," Ferrell said. "Those things don't just sit in the footprints, the wind blows them and they kind of fall all over the area."

When a dog follows a scent that has been dispersed and determines their traveling route, it is called trailing.

### Detecting Human Remains

SCFR recently purchased a boat that will help perform lifesaving search-and-rescue operations during the spring runoff season, when increased flow and faster-running water speeds make New Mexico rivers and streams particularly dangerous. The potential for drowning is also greater during this time and the dogs must also be ready.

"Now that they got the boat, they're asking us to incorporate the dogs to find human remains. So if somebody

drowns, they want us to look for that," Ferrell said. "And even though the dogs have training in [detecting] human remains, this is definitely specialized."

The dogs have been trained to detect human remains from the shoreline, but the spring runoff makes conditions dangerous for dogs and humans alike. By searching for remains from a boat, the dogs stay safe while helping divers pinpoint possible locations in large or murky bodies of water with low visibility.

The searches can be hazardous because of debris in the water, and they are time consuming and expensive. Using the dogs' boat skills saves the county money by reducing the amount of time and manpower required to dive and search for remains.

In 2023, SCFR K9 teams participated in 18 requested searches from law enforcement and fire departments across New Mexico. To date in 2024, they have been involved in five.

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New Mexico

# As Early Voting Expands, More Than 27,000 New Mexicans Cast Their Votes in Primaries

*Voters already affiliated with a major party cannot switch their party and vote on the same day*

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By Danielle Prokop, Source New Mexico

May is basically early voting month in the lead-up to the 2024 primary Election Day on Tuesday, June 4.

More sites statewide are open for voters to cast ballots early in the New Mexico primary elections, and will continue to be open until Saturday, June 1.

Polls will reopen for Election Day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Since voting opened May 7, the Secretary of State Office said 27,688 people have cast ballots, with nearly 60% of those coming to the polls in-person.

An additional 11,474 people returned their absentee ballots

already. That is almost a third of the more than 35,000 voters that requested absentee ballots for the primary election as of Monday, according to the Secretary of State.

New Mexico holds “modified open primaries,” meaning you must be a member of a recognized party. In this state that is either the Democratic, Republican or Libertarian major parties. The Green Party of New Mexico, considered a minor party, does not have a primary which means that their candidates will appear on the ballot in November. Voters can only select candidates in their registered party.

Independent voters account for about 25% of New Mexico’s voting populations. Anyone that is not affiliated with a party can change their registration at polling places in-person, using same-day registration. After picking their party, they can vote on the same day.

Already, 493 voters across the state used same-day registration when casting their votes, according to the New Mexico Secretary of State Office.



Voters head to the polls in Bernalillo. (Roberto E. Rosales / Sandoval Signpost)

When signing up, 270 registered as Democrats, 215 registered as Republicans and 8 people registered as Libertarians.

Voters already affiliated with a major party cannot switch their party and vote on the same day.

For voters wanting to send a ballot through the mail, the deadline to request an absentee ballot is Tuesday, May 21. That can be done anytime online or during office hours if in-

person at a county clerk’s office.

Voters can also sign up to permanently add themselves to a list, and receive their ballots each election in the mail, instead of having to request an absentee ballot request individually.

For some races, the primary is the only contested election between candidates, meaning they will not face an opponent in the November General Election.

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Rio Rancho

# Rio Rancho Installs Library Lockers

## Lockers make reading more accessible

By Sandoval Signpost staff

The City of Rio Rancho has made reading even more accessible with library lockers.

In February, Rio Rancho began installing lockers outside of two of its libraries as a way to encourage reading and make books and other media items more accessible.

a user is at the locker they will scan their library card barcode, select the items to check out on the screen and the door for the items opens.

For more information on how the lockers work or to order your library item for pick up, visit [rrnm.gov/library/lockers](http://rrnm.gov/library/lockers).

### How it works

The new library lockers allow a library user to place a hold on materials and submit online requests from the library catalog at [rrnm.gov/library/lockers](http://rrnm.gov/library/lockers). The items ordered are then available for pick up at any of the four locker locations, which the user can choose from. The lockers are accessible 24/7 for pickup.

Users will be contacted when items are available for pickup. When

#### Locker Locations

**The HUB @ Enchanted Hills - 7845 Enchanted Hills Blvd.**

**Cabezon Community Center - 2307 Cabezon Blvd.**

**Fire Station 2 (North Hills) - 1490 Cherry Rd.**

**Fire Station 3 (Rivers Edge 2) - 1650 Riverside Dr.**



(Source: Rio Rancho Library)



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New Mexico

# AG Announces Legislative Priorities for Upcoming Special Session

## Funding for rapid DNA analysis for law enforcement at top of the list

By Susan Dunlap,  
NM Political Report

Attorney General Raúl Torrez announced on Thursday his legislative priorities for July's special legislative session, including the creation of a crime victim's unit to monitor crime victims' rights.

Torrez held a press conference to discuss three policies he hopes the legislature will address in the upcoming special session. Torrez also sent a letter to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham outlining his priorities.

Jodi McGinnis-Porter, spokesperson for the governor's office, said the governor's office did not have time to review the proposals and could comment.

Torrez said during the press conference that he supports revisiting comprehensive public safety legislation that failed to pass in the 2024 legislature. He said he hopes that interim legislative committees will revisit it and that legislators will file similar public safety bills in

the 60-day session in 2025. But, he said, the special session in July is not the time to revisit those larger public safety policies because the time involved in a special session is too short.

"I continue to believe these policies can and should be included in a comprehensive approach but now is not the time to dig into those larger issues in the upcoming session," Torrez said.

The three legislative priorities Torrez laid out are a rapid DNA analysis tool for law enforcement, clarifying a law to ensure that pre-release information is accessible to the public and providing funding for the crime victim's unit housed in the New Mexico Department of Justice's Office.

Torrez said that because of the backlog of DNA evidence at the state crime lab, investigators can wait as long as a year for DNA analysis to be returned.

Farmington Police Department Chief Steve Hebbe spoke during the



(Source: New Mexico Department of Justice)

press conference and said that San Juan County Police have purchased a rapid DNA analysis tool for law enforcement but his department is one of a very few in the state that can afford such a tool. He said it can help with solving crimes.

Pretrial Detention Reform Advocate Angel Alire also spoke during the press conference. Her son, Devon Heyborne, was killed in 2021 by a man, Devin Munford, who had received prerelease for an unrelated crime. Munford wore a GPS monitoring bracelet during his prerelease but he broke the conditions of his prerelease 113 times before he

killed Heyborne, Alire said. Munford was convicted of Heyborne's murder earlier this year.

According to the letter sent to Lujan Grisham's office, which Torrez's office sent to media, if the legislature affirms that the law allows for public records inspection of how pre-release information is used then there will be accountability over whether prerelease is being applied as intended and the court cannot "cloak pretrial services under a veil of secrecy."

[Read the full story at sandovalsignpost.com](https://sandovalsignpost.com)

## NM Stands in for California in McConaughey Film About 2018 Deadly Wildfire

AP By Susan Montoya Bryan  
Associated Press

New Mexico is standing in for California in a new film as Jamie Lee Curtis' production company and others tell the story of a bus driver and a school teacher who rescued students during the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California's history.

The 2018 blaze killed 85 people and nearly erased the community of Paradise in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Some residents have returned to help make something new, while others are still haunted by their memories.

Curtis was among those marking the five-year anniversary in November when she posted on social media about the people of Paradise having suffered an unimaginable inferno and talked about the bravery of residents and the heroes who suited up and responded.

She said at the time she was proud to be producing a film based on the stories in Lizzie Johnson's novel: "Paradise: One Town's Struggle to

Survive an American Wildfire."

"The Lost Bus" was a project that started in 2022. Now, filming is underway in and around Santa Fe and Española and in Ruidoso, a mountainous area of southern New Mexico that also has seen its share of wildfires — including a deadly fire in 2022 that was sparked by a downed power line.

From California to New Mexico and other parts of the West, wildfires have become more volatile amid drier and hotter conditions that have been exacerbated by the effects of climate change. So far this year, more than 2,812 square miles (7,283 square kilometers) have burned — more than double the 10-year average, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

The film will star Matthew McConaughey and America Ferrera under the direction of Paul Greengrass. Emmy Award winner Brad Ingelsby, Greg Goodman and Jason Blum's production company Blumhouse will join Curtis' Comet Pictures in producing the film.

"The Lost Bus" will focus on bus



Matthew McConaughey. (Source: Wikimedia Commons)

driver Kevin McKay and teacher Mary Ludwig, who helped navigate a bus full of children through the deadly wildfire.

In an interview in 2018, Marc Kessler, a science teacher at a Paradise Unified School District middle school, told The Associated Press he arrived at work early that Thursday morning

and saw smoke plumes that soon grew uncomfortably near.

Teachers, aides and bus drivers loaded more than 100 students into cars and school buses as the fast-moving wildfire approached, Kessler said. They drove hours through smoke and flames to safely reunite the children with their families.

In McKay's case, he responded to an emergency call and picked up 22 students from Ponderosa Elementary School as the flames approached. Ludwig and fellow teacher Abbie Davis helped to comfort the children.

Curtis in a 2022 interview with Deadline said as a lifelong California resident, she watched with profound sadness as the ferocious fire consumed Paradise. She had said she wanted to be able to turn the stories in Johnson's novel into a film that would explore the human elements, tragedies and bravery that stemmed from the wildfire.

The production will employ 480 New Mexico crew members and 2,100 extras, according to the New Mexico Film Office.



# Caesars Sportsbook to Open at Route 66 Casino

## Retail sportsbook giant aims to create an elevated wagering experience

By Sandoval Signpost staff

Laguna Development Corporation (LDC) announced May 20 a partnership with Caesars Entertainment, Inc. to open multiple in-person sportsbooks at three gaming properties in New Mexico.

In a press release, LDC stated in-person sports wagers are now accepted at newly opened Caesars Sportsbook locations at Route 66 Casino Hotel and Casino Xpress west of Albuquerque and Dancing Eagle Casino east of Grants.

Sports betting will be a new addition to Dancing Eagle Casino, the company's smaller property.

"We are excited to partner with one of the world's leading gaming companies to provide New Mexico sports fans a world-class wagering experience that connects our guests with sporting events around the country and the world," Maxine

Velasquez, president and CEO of LDC, said in the release.

Caesars looked to Laguna properties because their properties fell in line with the elevated type of experience the brand hopes to provide.

"LDC shares our passion for treating guests like royalty," Eric Hession, president of Caesars Digital, said in the release. "We believe that bringing our first-class Caesars Sportsbook locations and sports betting kiosks to their historic properties will provide an elevated and rewarding sports wagering experience built for the modern sports fan 21 and older in New Mexico."

Sportsbook betting first became legal in New Mexico in 2018, and Santa Ana Star Casino was the first casino in the state to offer sports betting. Current law states that sports wagers are legal on tribal lands as



Caesars sportsbook inside Route 66 Casino. (Roberto Rosales / Sandoval Signpost)

long as those placing the wager are physically on-site. There are no legal online sportsbooks active in the state.

There are currently six on-site sportsbooks at tribal casinos.

Route 66 Casino Hotel introduced sports wagering to the property in 2019. The Book has become a popular destination for sports

bettors. Route 66 Casino Hotel General Manager Adrian Fox said that the casino plans to have additional upgrades to its restaurants and other hotel improvements in the next year.

Caesars Sportsbook currently features sports games from all over the world.

### Paid Advertisement

## Ask the Experts: Upgrading Your Swamp Cooler to Cool A/C For Hotter Summers

Sponsored by Kidzz Mechanical

It is the time of year when many Albuquerque homeowners begin the arduous task of opening up their swamp cooler and wondering if this is the year they should finally convert to A/C.

To learn what the process really looks like, and how new financing options help homeowners manage, we asked Chad Redford, CEO at **Kidzz Mechanical**, an Albuquerque-based HVAC firm with more than 200 5-Star reviews on Google about today's conversion process.

**Chad, a lot of homes around Albuquerque were built with swamp coolers, but those don't seem to work as well as they used to. Why is that?**

The biggest issue with swamp coolers in our climate is that 10 or 20 years ago our monsoon season occurred in late August/early September. Now in recent years we get our monsoon season in early/mid July.

When the rains come the relative humidity increases from our usual 5-10% humidity to 25-35% relative humidity. When the relative humidity increases to over 20% a swamp cooler only has the ability to change the temperature or air by 6-7°.

This change in climate has encouraged many people to convert to refrigerated air so that they have the ability to stay comfortable during the hottest days of the year.

And, we all know that swamp coolers can lower inside temperatures by up to 20-degrees. On our hottest days, inside temps can still be unbearable. The National Weather Service shows us that ABQ is seeing more high temperature days each year.

**How long does it take to upgrade or install a new air conditioner?**

In most cases we can install a new air conditioning system in one day.

**Many people think they can't afford an upgrade, but you have lots of reviews online from customers who did. What financing is available now?**

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(Credit Kidzz Mechanical)

**• If I'm not ready for an upgrade yet, do you handle smaller jobs like opening my swamp cooler?**

If you're not ready to upgrade your system yet, we have some of the best service technicians in the state. Sometimes your system just needs a tune up and some maintenance to get it operating properly and heating or cooling your house like it should. We offer very affordable maintenance packages and repair options.

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Commentary

# Letter to the Editor: Unbecoming Conduct by New Mexico State Senator

Last week, in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, Senator Craig Brandt criticized Senate District 9 Republican candidate, Audrey Trujillo, with unfounded, defamatory accusations. The purpose? To promote Trujillo's Republican opponent before the Primary. Trujillo is ahead in the polls and Senator Brandt is scared.

No matter how dirty politics can get, Senator Brandt has no place mud-slinging or throwing stones. Especially since his own actions are not in line with his occupation as Clergy (listed in his New Mexico Legislative profile.)

On October 30, 2023, Senator Brandt's personal conduct was extremely disrespectful and uncivilized at a meeting of the Republican Party of Sandoval County (RPSC), attended by 40 to 50 people at Gospel Light Baptist Church in Rio Rancho. During the meeting and totally unprovoked, Senator Brandt stood up and yelled "a\_\_hole" at Sandoval County Commissioner Jay Block. This

outburst was met with shock by all of the attendees, of which many people immediately told Senator Brandt he should leave.

Senator Brandt walked out of the church. But minutes later, he returned for the remainder of the meeting. Unfortunately, this was not his last outburst. As people were leaving, Senator Brandt was standing in the church foyer and had another outburst of profanity directed again at Commissioner Block. This time, it was in the presence of Gospel Light Baptist Church Pastor Brent Lenentine.

Since October 30th, Senator Brandt has not attended any RPSC meetings, nor has he offered an apology to the members regarding his conduct. This incident has not gone unnoticed. Yet, Senator Brandt has made it clear to several RPSC members that he will not apologize.

Hearing this news, an RPSC member decided to take this to a higher level. On December 26, 2023, an ethics complaint against Senator Brandt was filed with

the New Mexico State Ethics Commission (SEC), No. 2023-60. The complaint alleged Brandt's conduct violated Section 10-16-3 (B) of the Governmental Conduct Act, NMSA 1978: "Legislators and public officers and employees shall conduct themselves in a manner that justifies the confidence placed in them by the people, at all times maintaining the integrity and discharging ethically the high responsibilities of public service."

Part of the ethics complaint includes making a suggestion to resolve the concern. The remedy proposed to the SEC was simple. Brandt should apologize to RPSC members and also attend Legislator Ethics Training for a much needed refresher. On February 2, 2024, the case was dismissed by the SEC. The Commission acknowledged, "it is the responsibility of public service that a public official be courteous. The basis of the dismissal indicates that the Commission should not pursue administrative or civil remedies against a Member of the

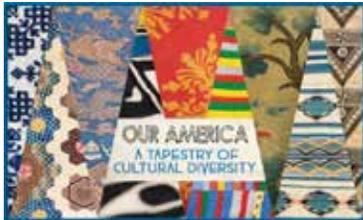
Legislature...based only on speech that the Member made in a public setting. Also, "the Commission has the authority to promulgate a model code of ethics, and has done so, the agency does not have the authority to enforce it." Although the ethics complaint was dismissed, it will forever be on Senator Brandt's record.

Senator Brandt is up for re-election in November. We must hold elected officials accountable. In turn, they must meet the higher standards for which they serve. **We The People** are not happy with Senator Brandt's lack of respect. And, even though the SEC did not find him in violation of the Code of Conduct he swore to uphold, **We The People** have a different perspective. We will make our voices heard when we cast our ballots.

Barbara V. Hall  
Algodones

## PLACITAS Community LIBRARY

### Gracie Lee Community Room ART EXHIBIT:



"Our America: A Tapestry of Cultural Diversity"  
June 8 to July 18

Join us for the Artists Reception  
June 21, 5 to 6:30

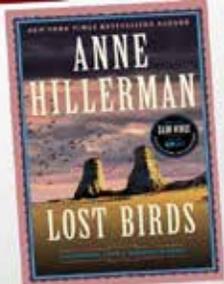
2024 PCL Volunteer Coffee & Connect – 9 am  
June 8 – cancelled - August 10  
Enjoy the summer off!  
Next: October 12 & December 14

Gather to learn more about volunteering at the library. Meet our volunteers, enjoy coffee and snacks, and learn about all the different ways you could be part of the library. Volunteers are welcomed at any time, just ask about it at the front desk.

### Anne Hillerman in Conversation with Ron Franscell Sunday, June 23 @ 2 PM

*Lost Birds* is the ninth book in her Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito series. Each novel explores complex emotional issues which test the detectives in different ways. This time, Anne has taken on the extremely complicated issues involving the adoption of Indigenous children by non-native parents.

Signed copies of *Lost Birds* are available at the PCL while they last. Thanks to Anne's generosity, all sales benefit the library.



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### Adventure Begins at Your Library

- **JUNE 8 at 12 PM:** "The Modern Pop Art Experience" with artist, Michael Albert. Michael is the creator of "Cerealism," which is creating collages with cereal boxes. His first was created with Frosted Flakes. Since that first collage, he has become a nationally-acclaimed artist showing his art in museums in New York and at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Michael will bring examples of his work and conduct a hands-on workshop to show your children how to create their own collage. The program finishes with a free poster giveaway and signing. A great opportunity!
- **JUNE 15 at 2 PM:** Meet the Exotics of the Rainforest. Carolyn and Sparky Newell will return with over 30 animals they have rescued over the years. Meet snakes, beautiful tropical birds, and many more. A wonderful adventure!
- **JUNE 22 at 2 PM:** Stephanie Kaylan, founder of the Wanagi Wolf Fund and Rescue, will return with her wolf ambassador, Jioyti, to share her experiences when she first created the wolf rescue. Stephanie will describe the care and training of her beloved wolves and wolf dogs, and how she helps rescue wolves all over the country. Another amazing adventure!
- **JUNE 29 at 1 PM:** STEM goes to the Summer Olympics presented by Stephanie and Walt Witowski, PCL volunteers. Learn how athletes use science and engineering to become the best at their sport. Play some "Placitas Library Olympic" games and win a medal. Finally, create a STEM Olympic game and try it out with your friends!

For additional information, please visit the library website.

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<https://placitaslibrary.com/help-the-library/brick-campaign/>



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## Commentary

# Step Into the Future With Produced Water

When the legislative session ended in 2019, House Speaker Brian Egolf said, “The produced water bill, I think, is going to go down as one of the greatest environmental accomplishments to come out of the state Legislature of New Mexico. Just the quantity of fresh, potable water that’s going to be saved for agricultural and municipal use is breathtaking.”

Five years later, we see the law’s first proposed rule.

The oil industry does pull a breathtaking amount of water out of the ground, along with the desired oil – five to seven barrels of water for every barrel of oil. In 2021 that was more than 60 billion gallons, which the industry could treat and reuse for its own activities or inject into disposal wells. Most is injected, but what if, in this dry state, it could be treated and used for other needs?

House Bill 546 in 2019 took a big step in that direction. First, it

### All She Wrote



Sherry Robinson

expanded oversight by making the Water Quality Control Commission regulator of produced water. Second, it assigned enforcement to the state Environment Department. Third, it gave owners or operators of oil or gas wells the right to recycle or treat and sell or dispose produced water.

The bill was intended to resolve confusion and legal obstacles to the reuse and recycling of produced water. And it opened the door to using treated water for, say, certain agricultural applications or golf courses.

The governor, the oil and gas industry and business groups supported the bill.

Reactions from environmental groups were mixed. Some liked the idea that the Environment Department rather than the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department would be the enforcer and that the Oil Conservation Division could levy fines for violations. Others didn’t trust the state to regulate produced water and were skeptical that the wastewater could be effectively cleaned. They worried that chemical contaminants

could seep into fresh water.

Pros and cons surfaced again recently, as the Water Quality Control Commission held hearings on the proposed rule. At this writing we don’t know the results, but the two sides clashed before hearings began.

Mariel Nanasi, executive director of New Energy Economy, argued that the proposed rule “fails to include scientific standards.” In an op ed, she accuses the governor and the Environment Department of fast tracking “their strategic water supply scheme to spend \$500 million of public money to help the oil and gas industry solve their waste problem.”

This refers to the governor’s proposal to buy treated produced water in order to create a market and encourage private enterprise to build treatment facilities.

Nanasi warned, “Every New Mexican should be outraged by this brazen attempt to offload the oil and gas industry’s toxic waste into our lands, waters and our bodies.”

The Environment Department’s deputy secretary, Sydney Lienemann, shot back, “Let me be very clear: This rule does not allow produced

water, treated or otherwise, to be released into our rivers, lakes or groundwater.” He chided unnamed groups for “misinformation and fear mongering.”

Lienemann explained that the draft rules include “safeguards to test and develop new treatments for produced water” and “encourage closed-loop use of treated, produced water for purposes such as solar manufacturing or renewable hydrogen generation, as long as not a drop of that produced water is released to the ground.”

Contrary to Nanasi’s claims, there’s plenty of science in the proposed rules.

John Rhoderick, director of the state Water Protection Division, told the Albuquerque Journal that technology exists to treat this water. “The issue becomes socializing the concepts so that it becomes acceptable to humans.”

He means: Joe and Jane Consumer, let me take you for a spin in my horseless carriage.

We can refuse the ride, or we can trust technology and roll into the future.



## Commentary

# New Mexico’s Lucky Day

In New Mexico one of our best kept secrets is former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris. It was a lucky day in 1976 when Sen. Harris and his family moved to New Mexico.

The move came after two terms as U.S. senator from Oklahoma and two runs for president in 1972 and 1976.

On May 21 New Mexico PBS will air “American Experience: The Riot Report.” Harris is featured as the surviving member of the National Advisory Council on Civil Disorders, better known as the Kerner Commission. It was established after the Detroit riot of 1967, which killed dozens of people and spurred other riots in cities in Ohio, New Jersey and New York.

Harris was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson at a time when one journalist dubbed it as the worst crisis since the Civil War.

The work of the commission and

### Corner to Corner



Diane Denish

its conclusions were controversial. After intensive field investigations in 23 cities, the report concluded that white racism and police brutality – not communist agitators, as President Johnson had thought – were what sparked the riots. The conclusion was unanimous among the members of the commission, who had significantly differing political views.

Reading that was what gave me the idea to write about Sen. Harris, who I met in 1982. In New Mexico communities outside of Albuquerque, Fred Harris might not be a familiar name. And with the shrinking emphasis on teaching history, the story of the Detroit Riots through the Riot Report and other historical events of the 60s become less well known.

Fred Harris, through his personal story as a young boy in Oklahoma, his service as a state legislator and as a U.S. senator from the same state, his experience as a two-time candidate for president, and as a member of the Kerner Commission

make him New Mexico’s own witness to history.

After moving to New Mexico, Harris began a 30-year career as a professor in the Political Science Department at the University of New Mexico. Then for ten years he was founder and director of the Fred Harris Congressional Internship program, established in 2006, which gives students the chance to spend a semester in Washington D. C. working for a member of the New Mexico delegation. Students get a bird’s eye view of how Congress works (or sometimes doesn’t work).

As a popular and beloved history professor at UNM, Harris became known as the best storyteller of historical events and their context, including those in his lifetime. Among them, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights fights, and successes of LBJ and the conflicts including in his own party about the Vietnam War.

He wasn’t always just teaching history. He was also connecting

with and encouraging students to keep going. That story was brought to light last weekend at the convocation of the graduating political science students. Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland told of Harris’ impact on her own life. She came to his classroom as a single Native American mom, recovering alcoholic, and struggling student working to get her education. Harris’ encouragement and friendship, his knowledge of the struggles of Native Americans, and his innate ability to identify her determination powered her through – encouraged her to be an activist, get her law degree, and succeed.

Almost 50 years after that move in 1976, Harris has become known by students, friends, and political colleagues from both sides as “a radical optimist,” always looking ahead with an eye on the future, believing in the goodness of others and the power of the next generation, and confident in our ability to do better. New Mexico is lucky indeed.



## Commentary

# The Students Have a Point

By Darrell M. Allen, Guest Columnist

It is easy to make fun of the student protesters who have vociferously made their voices heard in support of the Palestinian people, pretty much across the whole country. Even here in Albuquerque at the University of New Mexico. The front page of the May 16 Albuquerque Journal, perhaps inadvertently, did just this with its banner headline, "Duck Pond Encampment torn down". That a ragtag encampment at a duck pond needed to be torn down by law enforcement officers to make sure that, well what? Keep the ducks safe? There seems to be fun to make all around.

But I think the student protesters have a point, and deserve to be heard. The right to peacefully assemble and protest perceived wrongs is still a thing. But aside from sensationalist images of occupied buildings and tug-of-war arrests, the protests have largely been peaceful and well within First

Amendment parameters. According to the Economist there are about 16 million undergraduate students in the United States, yet the protests have resulted in some 3,000 arrests. Not exactly the breakdown of civil order, and not even close to the killing of four student Vietnam War protesters at Kent State in 1970 by national guardsmen.

To be sure, chanting "From the River to the Sea", and berating Jewish folks because they are Jewish is hateful, stupid, and counterproductive. The chant smacks of literal genocide, so it makes the chanters look silly as they loudly criticize Israel for supposed genocide against the Palestinian people. And berating Jews because they are Jewish looks a whole like their criticism of Israel treating Palestinians with cavalier disregard because they are Palestinians.

I was ten years old during the Yom Kippur War of 1973, when Egypt, Syria and Jordan invaded Israel, and got their butts kicked for their

effort. The same thing happened in the 1967 Six Day War. It was plucky little Israel defending its very right to exist, with astonishing success. Israel was rightly regarded, and highly hailed as a bright example of a nation state with a democratic form of government and a well developed free market economy. The contrast with other Middle Eastern states could not have been more stark.

But the youngsters see Israel with different, younger eyes. The plucky little Israel I remember is 50 years in the past. To the protesters, Israel is the undisputed military superpower of the Middle East and has always been run by Benjamin Netanyahu. The West Bank has always been a place where Israelis continuously take bite sized plots of land for new settlements while denying the native Palestinians any meaningful degree of autonomy. And the current war in Gaza is an ongoing humanitarian catastrophe; the one-day October 7 invasion by Hamas was barbarous, but the months long pummeling of

Gaza resulting in tens of thousands of civilian deaths is out of all proportion to military necessity. To the youngsters, Israel is the bully, and this belief is not wholly wrong.

This belief, that Israel is the bully, is also not wholly right. Hamas is a literal death cult; its political goals are advanced when more people die, and it makes no difference whether the dead person is Israeli or Palestinian. Any protest that does not take this awful reality into account will come across as unserious, or even offensive to some.

The student protesters have youth and vigor on their side; decades of time and experience has yet to be inflicted upon them. Young people are not stupid, they are just young.

*Darrell M. Allen is a former criminal defense attorney, and he is the husband of Merritt Hamilton Allen, a nice Republican lady. They live north of I-40 where they run one head of dog and two of cat.*

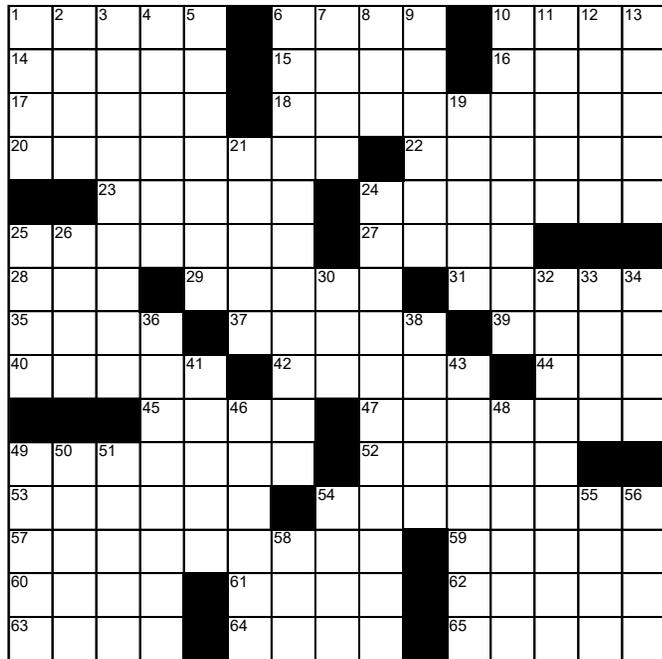


**The Weekly Crossword**

by Margie E. Burke

**ACROSS**

- 1 Contrail's makeup
- 6 Radar screen image
- 10 "Father Knows \_\_\_"
- 14 Treasure
- 15 Streaming device
- 16 Chorus voice
- 17 Birth-related
- 18 Game with Cavity Sam
- 20 Waste away
- 22 Galaxy rival
- 23 Part of a URL
- 24 Turned a key, perhaps
- 25 Heart of the matter
- 27 Novice
- 28 Sundial's seven
- 29 Sculpted work
- 31 Big fusses
- 35 Reunion goer
- 37 Heartbeat sound
- 39 Street performer
- 40 Wanderer
- 42 Walking \_\_\_ (elated)
- 44 Cheese partner, briefly
- 45 Copter's forerunner (var.)
- 47 Lenient
- 49 Got in shape
- 52 Tough guy
- 53 Wheel's cover
- 54 Ladies' man
- 57 Without oxygen
- 59 Baltimore player
- 60 Apt to snoop
- 61 "Loving" actress Negga
- 62 Work on dough

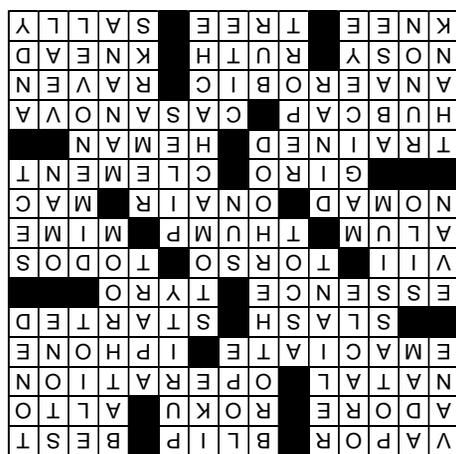


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- 63 "Trick" joint
- 64 Peach or beech
- 65 Charlie Brown's sister
- 11 "Silas Marner" novelist
- 12 Oscar-winning Emma
- 13 Sculpted, as muscles
- 19 One way to fall
- 21 Fancy necktie
- 24 Overeater's woe
- 25 2007 Steve Carell film, "\_\_\_ Almighty"
- 26 Storage cylinder
- 30 Phoenix NBAer
- 32 Piece of pulp fiction
- 33 Neighbor of Yemen
- 34 Religious offshoot
- 36 90s optical illusion fad
- 38 A whole bunch
- 41 Mideast money
- 43 Notes
- 46 School paper
- 48 Tomorrow, in Tulum
- 49 Word in an Oscar speech
- 50 Talk a blue streak
- 51 Demean
- 54 Give a ticket to
- 55 Butcher's offering
- 56 Taylor of Mayberry
- 58 Prickly seed case

**DOWN**

- 1 Windmill part
- 2 Driver of "Ferrari"
- 3 Mineral in bananas
- 4 Delphic shrine
- 5 80s Plymouth model
- 6 Fraternity
- 7 Leisurely run
- 8 White House nickname
- 9 What white symbolizes
- 10 Primping place



Solution to Crossword:

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# EVENTS

## FRIDAY, MAY 24

### Comedy

Dustin Ybarra \$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

Dustin Ybarra \$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

### Dance

Flamenco D'Aki 6:30-8:30 pm  
Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill,  
Bernalillo

### Exhibit

Charcoal, Pen & Ink and Painting  
Artist Alan Charlee: "Remembering  
Grandfather" All Day Wild Hearts  
Gallery 221 B Hwy. 165, Placitas

### Music

DJ Ill Audia 6-9 pm Tractor Brewing  
Westside 5720 McMahon Blvd NW  
bldg 5 ste a, Albuquerque

Lisa Litman Band 7:30-9:30 pm Casa  
Vieja Brewery 4541 Corrales Rd,  
Corrales

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

## SATURDAY, MAY 25

### Comedy

Dustin Ybarra \$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

Dustin Ybarra \$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

### Family/Kids

Brick Fest Live \$19-\$34 9 am-5 pm  
Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic  
Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

### Markets

Jemez Red Rocks Arts and Crafts  
Show 10 am-5 pm Jemez Red Rocks  
7413 Highway 4, Jemez Pueblo

### Music

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

Greg Johns & the Semi-Large Band  
7-9 pm The Range Cafe 925 S Camino  
Del Pueblo, Bernalillo

Joe Daddy Warner & Friends 12-3  
pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South  
Hill, Bernalillo

Saturday Night Barn Dance w/ The  
Dust Devils 6-9 pm Kaktus Brewing  
Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

The Woodpeckers 7:30-9:30 pm  
Casa Vieja Brewery 4541 Corrales Rd,  
Corrales

### Sports

Viva Vino Run \$45 9 am-1 pm Casa  
Vieja Brewery 4541 Corrales Rd,  
Corrales

## SUNDAY, MAY 26

### Class / Workshop

Fraud Education Seminar 11 am-2  
pm Rio Rancho United Methodist  
Church 1652 Abrazo Rd. NE, Rio  
Rancho

### Family/Kids

Brick Fest Live \$19-\$34 9 am-5 pm  
Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic  
Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

### Food

Corrales Growers' Market 9:30 am-12  
pm Corrales Parks & Recreation 500  
Jones Rd., Corrales

### Markets

Jemez Red Rocks Arts and Crafts  
Show 10 am-5 pm Jemez Red Rocks  
7413 Highway 4, Jemez Pueblo

### Music

Canyon Blues & Jazz: Sandia Chill  
Sunday Concert \$0-\$20 6-9:30 pm  
Homestead Village Shopping Center  
221 NM-165, Placitas

Kaktus Kats Blues Jam 2-5 pm  
Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill,  
Bernalillo

Swag Duo 6:30-8:30 pm Casa Vieja  
Brewery 4541 Corrales Rd, Corrales

## MONDAY, MAY 27

### Class / Workshop

Sweet Songbirds Songwriting Camp  
for Girls \$200 All Day Alchemy  
Studios 2859 State Hwy 14, Cerrillos

### Games

Singo Music Bingo 7-9 pm Brew Lab  
101 3301 Southern Blvd. SE, Rio  
Rancho

Trivia! With Trivia Mafia 6-9 pm Ex  
Novo Brewing 4895 Corrales Rd,  
Corrales

### Markets

Jemez Red Rocks Arts and Crafts  
Show 10 am-5 pm Jemez Red Rocks  
7413 Highway 4, Jemez Pueblo

### Miscellaneous

Memorial Day Ceremony 10-11 am  
Veterans Memorial Park Rio Rancho  
950 Pinetree Rd SE, Rio Rancho, Rio  
Rancho

## TUESDAY, MAY 28

### Class / Workshop

Tuesday Tech Classes 1-3 pm  
Corrales Community Library 84 W.  
La Entrada, Corrales

### Games

Chess Club 6-7 pm Corrales  
Community Library 84 W. La  
Entrada, Corrales

### Music

Karaoke Tuesdays 6-9 pm Tractor  
Brewing Westside 5720 McMahon  
Blvd NW bldg 5 ste a, Albuquerque

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

### Class / Workshop

Equine Nutrition 101 & How to Read  
a Feed Tag 6:30-7:30 pm Bernalillo  
Feed & Chevron 656 S. Camino Del  
Pueblo, Bernalillo

### Games

Geeks Who Drink 7-9 pm Tractor  
Brewing Westside 5720 McMahon  
Blvd NW bldg 5 ste a, Albuquerque

### Music

Kaktus Jazz Jam 6-9 pm Kaktus  
Brewing Co. 471 South Hill,  
Bernalillo

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# “PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY RELIEF!”

Bernalillo resident Maria R had been experiencing the debilitating side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy.

**“I was beginning to have other health issues due to the lack of sleep. I needed help just standing up and when I was standing I was afraid I would fall because I had no feeling in my feet. My life felt like a nightmare.”** Then she met Albuquerque's very own Dr. Andrea Brogdon

**“I was so desperate to the point of giving up” exclaimed Maria R. from Bernalillo. “I was in so much discomfort due to the numbness, tingling, and burning on the back of both legs and in my feet.”**

Maria R had been diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy and had seen a neurologist with no relief. To complicate things further, Maria had been diagnosed with two fractured discs in her back that were causing her severe pain. “I was no longer able to do surgery and all other treatments didn’t work. I was starting to feel hopeless.”

Maria is one of 3 million people in the United States suffering from peripheral neuropathy, a degenerative disease of the peripheral nervous system. “Those with peripheral neuropathy experience numbness, tingling, burning and even severe cramping due to the dying off of the peripheral nerves,” explains Dr. Andrea Brogdon of Albuquerque Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine. “These nerves continue to die off until they have completely expired leaving sufferers with numbness and debilitating balance issues. Patients come to see me after having seen many other doctors with no relief. They have been told that there is nothing they can do or that they just have to live with it.”

**“I was beginning to have other health issues due to the lack of sleep. I needed help just standing up and when I was standing I was afraid I would fall because I had no feeling in my feet. My life felt like a nightmare,” says Maria.**

“I learned about Dr. Andrea Brogdon from an article I read and learned that she helped others like me, experiencing the same symptoms.

I made an appointment hoping she was going to be able to help me. It was my last resort.”

Dr. Andrea Brogdon has helped thousands of patients get their life back after being diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy and living with the debilitating effects of the disease. How does she get such amazing results? “Acupuncture has been used for centuries to improve circulation but the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance BioTherapy™.” By using modern technological advancements alongside the time tested science of acupuncture, Dr. Brogdon is able to reverse the effects of this degenerative disease, regardless of its origin.

“Early detection is key when it comes to improving your chances of a full recovery,” explains Dr. Brogdon. Which is why she starts every patient with an initial consultation during which a sensory exam is performed. “This helps to determine just how much nerve damage has occurred,” tells the doctor. “This is important because if the patient has suffered more than 95% sensory loss there is very little I can do at that point.”

**“After several treatments, I experienced tremendous relief. Life is good! I have seen a huge improvement in my walking, I sleep better, even my mood is better! I am so grateful I never stopped searching!”** exclaims Maria.

If you or a loved one are living a life of suffering due to peripheral neuropathy and your pain has prevented you from doing the things you love with the people you love, it’s time to call Dr. Brogdon and the staff at AAIM.

Call (505) 355-1984 today to schedule an initial consultation or visit [AAIM-ABQ.com](http://AAIM-ABQ.com) to read more incredible success stories.



**PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY?  
Call (505) 355-1984  
to schedule a consultation!**

**10400 Academy Rd NE Suite 210  
Albuquerque, NM 87111  
[WWW.AAIM-ABQ.COM](http://WWW.AAIM-ABQ.COM)**