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Vol. 35 | No. 22 ©2024 CTRL+P Publishing May 30, 2024

# Bernalillo Budget Includes Raise for Town Employees

Health, safety and staff support are top priorities

By Jesse Jones, Sandoval Signpost

The Town of Bernalillo unveiled its preliminary budget at the May 13 council meeting, focusing on enhancing community health and safety, as well as improving the quality of life for town employees.

The proposed budget reflects the town's conservative financial strategy to maintain a balanced budget. The budget includes allocations for a salary increase for town staff, funding for additional public safety personnel and improvements to parks and the library.

"For us, it's about the health and safety of the community first and foremost," Mayor Jack Torres said.

The preliminary budget for 2024-2025 is set at \$12.2 million, reflecting a little over a 6% increase from last year's \$11.5 million budget. According to Torres, the town did not see significant increases in any specific departmental budgets. However, the town aims to expand the police, fire, parks and library departments this year.

"There has not been one single tax increase since 2010," Torres said. "We didn't request one again this year and we're real proud of that."

The budget includes a 5% salary increase for all town staff. This increase is designed to offset the

See BUDGET on page 2

# Lawsuit Filed Against RRPS Alleges Inappropriate Touching by Middle School Teacher



(Source: Rio Rancho Public Schools)

# Teacher found working at another school

Bethany Raja, Sandoval Signpost

The parent of a student enrolled at Lincoln Middle School in 2022, filed a civil lawsuit in April against Rio Rancho Public Schools, the superintendent and principal of the school, alleging his daughter was sexually harassed by a teacher.

The lawsuit alleges that on April 4, 2022, a female student was in Todd Ganger's classroom when she walked up to his desk during class. While at his desk, the lawsuit alleges, he sexually rubbed the student's buttocks.

The lawsuit states that due to Ganger's alleged actions, the student suffered humiliation, mental distress, fear and emotional suffering and that RRPS did not investigate and terminate Ganger as soon as officials found out about the incident.

The lawsuit says the student reported the incident to her parents,

who then reported it to the school but the school didn't do enough to investigate the incident and protect their daughter or other students from this teacher.

Wyndham Kemsley, communications director for RRPS, told the *Sandoval Signpost* that Ganger is no longer employed by the district.

"I can confirm that he resigned in February of 2023," Kemsley said.

Kemsley said any inappropriate behavior between teachers and students at RRPS is unacceptable.

"We have a full team here at Rio Rancho Public Schools to investigate any reports of wrongdoing. We take matters like this incredibly seriously," Kemsley said.

The *Sandoval Signpost* reached out to Ganger for comment on these allegations, but he did not respond by press time.

The Sandoval Signpost contacted

the family's attorney for comment on the case but did not hear back by press time.

It is unclear who Ganger's attorney is at this time.

LinkedIn and Facebook profiles found by the Sandoval Signpost for a Todd Ganger listing prior employment as a "sixth grade math teacher at Lincoln Middle School, Rio Rancho" now identify him working at Northland Christian School in Missouri. When the Signpost reached out to confirm his employment with Northland school administration, we were told they would respond via email but they had not done so by press time. An online staff directory for the Christian school listed a Todd Ganger as a 6th grade teacher in the staff directory as of May 24. As of Tuesday, May 28, after the Signpost contacted the school, Todd Ganger was no longer listed in the staff directory.

# **Sexual harassment policy**

RRPS Sexual Harassment Policy 1017, states that the Board of Education forbids harassment of any student on the basis of sex. The board will not tolerate sexual harassment of students by employees or by other students.

"The intent of this policy regarding conduct between employees and students is clear and straightforward: No employee of the school district may engage in any conduct of a sexual nature with any student, regardless of the student's age, ability to consent or actual consent," the policy states.

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# - BUDGET from page 1

cost of living increase, which was reported to be 3.4% in April for New Mexico, according to the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee.

"For us, one of the priorities is supporting staff because they're the town, so to speak, and that's why we included the salary increase for them. We think it's a reasonable amount and you always want to try to do more for staff," Torres said.

### Who gets what

The police department's budget of \$3.8 million includes funding for an additional detective and enhanced technology to improve the town's safety.

According to the mayor, the new detective is needed to assist the department's sole detective, who was added to the town's police force a couple of years ago.

Officials plan to allocate budget money for a second license plate camera, known as a Flock camera. This technology is particularly useful in monitoring criminal activity, such as felony pursuits. Police Chief Chris Stoyell is also exploring other speed



(Source: Bernalillo Police Department)

detection technologies, though no final decisions have been made.

Bernalillo received seven new police units and tasers, funded by capital outlay, so this equipment wasn't included in the overall budget.

The town's Fire and Rescue Department has a budget of \$2.2 million and is considering creating new firefighter positions to support the department's growth. Torres said the department will need to resolve internal issues before the town adds additional firefighters.

Torres said the council unanimously agreed that the Parks Department needed more support. They allocated budget funds and added a new position in the parks department to address increased responsibilities over the last few years.

He also said the council had agreed to restructure the library's operations and allocate additional budget funds for staffing to further its development.

# **Funding sources**

"We've worked aggressively to find outside funding so that we don't have to use general fund monies for everything that we need and we've been fortunate for instance, with capital outlay," Torres said.

The gross receipts tax accounts for about 78-80% of the general fund revenue for Bernalillo, according to Torres. The town works hard to secure state and federal sources for quality-of-life initiatives, especially to minimize the impact on the town's general fund.

# **Next steps**

The initial budget was sent to the Budget and Finance Bureau for review. Once the council receives the budget with any comments, they will discuss them in a council meeting before sending it back to the state for final approval.



# PLACITAS Community LIBRARY



# Gracie Lee Community Room \_\_\_\_\_ ART EXHIBIT:

OIR AMERICA A TAPESTRY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

"Our America: A Tapestry of Cultural Diversity"

June 8 to July 18

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

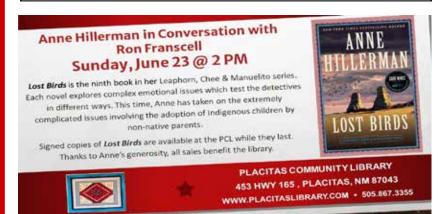
2024 PCL Volunteer Coffee & Connect – 9 am

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 approach you could be part of the library. Volunteers are welcomed at any time, just ask about it at the freet dask.



# **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.

Honor a loved man this month with a personalized engraved brick to decorate the PCL landscape.



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

453 Hwy 165, Placitas 87043 (505) 867-3355 placitas library.com
Library Hours: Sunday 1 – 4pm / Tuesday 10 am – 7pm / Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10 am – 5 pm











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# **Meetings Schedule**

# SANDOVAL COUNTY

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/

Sandoval County Ethics Board June 10, 3 p.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-

City Council Regular Meeting June 13, 6 p.m. Rio Rancho City Hall Parks and Recreation Commission June 17, 6 p.m. Rio Rancho City Hall

# BERNALILLO

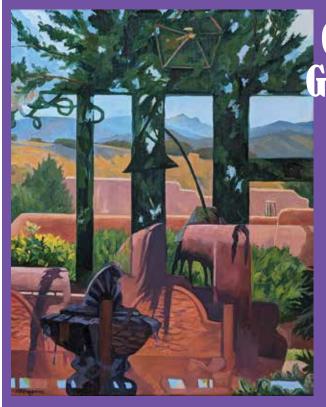
To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit tobnm. gov/government/town\_council/agendas\_ and\_minutes.php

Town Council June 10, 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/

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



**MAY 28** through **JUNE 23** 

Artist reception June 8 1-3 pm

# **Upon Further Reflection**

June 2 is a First Sunday ARTScrawl event at the gallery.

Wild Hearts Gallery

221 B State Highway 165, Placitas wildheartsgallery.com • 505-361-2710



# **Placitas Hoarding Home on Its Last Leg**

# Home with dozens of dogs seized by county

By Michael Hodock, Sandoval Signpost

Placitas home that was the site of an alleged hoarding case involving more than 40 dogs in February has been seized by Sandoval County after a unanimous decision at a May 22 County Commission

According to the County Commission, the home at 77 Aspen Road in Placitas is "a menace to the public comfort, health, peace or safety" due to its unsafe condition.

"We had to take into custody 47 Australian shepherds," Sandoval County Manager Wayne Johnson said. "The animals were found starving, in some cases actually eating each other, living on the roof. When [police] made entry into the property, they found feces as high as your knee along the walls."

In addition to the dogs, police found five horses on the property. According to the County Commission resolution, the property is titled in the name of Laurian Lee Jaramillo aka Laurian Lee Hott. Paul Jaramillo, one of the owners of the home, has

pleaded not guilty to 18 counts of animal cruelty and one count of resisting, aiding or obstructing an officer. His case is pending trial.

Johnson says that animal hoarding seems to be a growing problem in Sandoval County, and that he sees more cases like this than he used to. In February, Sandoval County sheriff's deputies determined that one of the owners of the house has a medical condition they believe might have led to the deterioration of the home and the animals inside.

The county Construction Industries Division was asked to inspect the property.

"We know it didn't get here overnight due to the severity of the damage," Johnson said.

Sandoval County Director of Planning and Zoning Daniel J. Beamen said the "Construction Industries Division has found the structure to be unsafe due to its compromised condition. This resolution would require the owner to remove the building and if they do not, authorize the county to remove it and place a lien on the property



A puppy rescued from a home in Placitas. (Source: Española Humane)

for the costs. State law requires the commission to adopt a resolution in order for the county to act."

According to Beamen, the property owner's brother has indicated that he has power of attorney and is not questioning that the building needs to be brought up to "a standard that is acceptable."

Johnson said the commission's decision to take control of the

property is the beginning of a long process, and the property owner's brother has 10 days to appeal the decision.

"We don't want to under any circumstances violate property rights," Johnson said. "We're gonna work with [the owners] to the extent that we can and the extent that they're willing to."



ernalillo Public Schools Student Nutrition Department is offering FREE Sear

It is time to think about keeping children healthy, while school is out this summer

Bernalillo Public Schools will provide FREE breakfast and lunch to any child 1 through 18 years of age. No need to register and no proof of age or income is required.



# **OPEN SITES**

NON-CONGREATE MEAL SITE

Town of Bernalillo Rotary Park 370 Rotary Park Rd, Bernalillo, NM. June 10, 2024 through August 2, 2024 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

NON-CONGREATE MEAL SITE Pena Blanca Community Center 778 Hwy 22, Pena Blanca, NM June 10, 2024 through August 2, 2024 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Each year the U.S. Department of Agriculture collaborates with local organizations like Bernalillo Public Schools, to provide free meals to children during the summer.

For more information about the National Seamless Summer Program Food Service Program, visit https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program or contact Debra J Trujillo at ditrujillo@bernaliillops.org, phone number (505) 404-5741 or Reyna Morales rmorales@bephone number (505) 404-5710.

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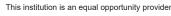
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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

program.intake@usda.gov





El Departamento de Nutrición Estudiantil de las Escuelas Públicas de Bernalillo ofrece comidas de verano GRATUITAS sin interrupciones.

Es hora de pensar en mantener a los niños sanos, mientras la escuela está fuera este verano

Las Escuelas Públicas de Bernalillo proporcionarán desayuno y almuerzo GRATIS a cualquier niño de 1 a 18 años de edad. No es necesario registrarse y no se requiere prueba de edad o ingresos.

# Amigos, Diversión y Comida



# **SITIOS ABIERTOS**

SITIO DE COMIDAS QUE NO SON CONGREATE Parque Rotario de la Ciudad de Bernalillo 370 Rotary Park Rd, Bernalillo, NM. 10 de Junio de 2024 al 2 de Agosto de 2024

SITIO DE COMIDAS QUE NO SON CONGREATE Centro Comunitario Peña Blanca 778 Hwy 22, Peña Blanca, NM 10 de Junio de 2024 al de Agosto de 2024 11:30 – 12:30

Cada año, el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos colabora con organizaciones locales como las Escuelas Públicas de Bernalillo, para proporcionar comidas gratuitas a los niños durante el

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Para obtener más información sobre el Programa Nacional de Servicio de Alimentos del Programa de Verano sin Interrupciones, visite <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program">https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program</a> o comuníquese con Debra J Trujillo al <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program">https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program</a> o Reyna Morales <a href="morales@bernalillops.org">morales@bernalillops.org</a>, número de teléfono (505) 404-5710. De acuerdo con la ley federal de derechos civiles y las regulaciones y políticas de derechos civiles del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA), esta institución tiene prohibido discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo (incluida la identidad de género y la orientación sexual), discapacidad, edad o represalias o represalias por actividades anteriores de derechos civiles. La información del programa puede estar disponible en idiomas distintos del inglés. Las personas con discapacidades que requieren medios alternativos de comunicación para obtener información del programa (p. ej., Braille, letra grande, cinta de audio, lenguaje de señas americano), deben comunicarse con la agencia estatal o local responsable que administra el programa o el Centro TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (voz y TTY) o comunicarse con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Retransmisión al (800) 877-8339.

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Oficina del Subsecretario de Derechos Civiles
1400 Avenida Independencia, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; o

(833) 256-1665 o (202) 690-7442; o Correo electrónico program.intake@usda.gov

# **How Green is Too Green?**

# Bernalillo dispensary ordered to repaint after public complaints

By Jesse Jones, Sandoval Signpost

The Bernalillo Town Council **⊥** reversed the planning commission's approval of a dispensary painted bright green, citing community concerns regarding historic preservation.

Dispensary Near Me, a cannabis dispensary located at 413 South Camino Del Pueblo in Bernalillo, has been ordered to repaint its building following public complaints. At the May 28 meeting, the town council overturned an earlier decision by the Planning and Zoning Commission that had permitted the dispensary to use a bright green color for its exterior paint.

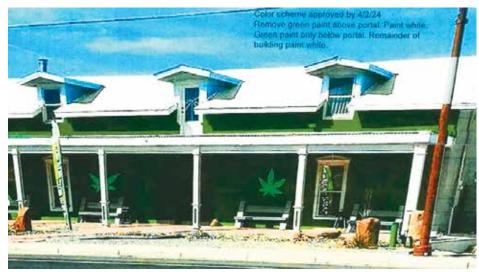
The council's decision came after community members voiced their concerns about the aesthetic impact of the green paint on the historic ambiance of Camino del Pueblo.

After the variance was approved, Trevor Donaldson, owner of Dispensary Near Me, added color above the building's portal which was not approved by the planning department, prompting residents Sterling and Margarita Amoit, who were worried about preserving the town's heritage, to appeal the Planning and Zoning Commission's approval of a variance request.

'We are here representing many concerned citizens who have expressed strong feelings about the color change of the building at 413 South," Margarita Amoit said. "They feel that the color green is disturbing and does not represent the character of main street."

The council unanimously sided with maintaining historical integrity, mandating that the dispensary should select a more appropriate color in line with the Mainstreet Overlay Zone's guidelines.

According to Stephanie Shumsky, the town's planning and zoning director, the guidelines for Bernalillo's Mainstreet Overlay District do not specify a color palette for historic buildings. Although the dispensary is not listed on the state or national register, it is included on a list of buildings the overlay considers historic. Shumsky said buildings in this district are expected to emulate historic structures, which traditionally feature a muted



Dispensary Near Me (Source: Town of Bernalillo)

yellowish-tan color.

In a letter to the planning commission, Donaldson argued that the "paradise green" paint color was integral to the company's brand identity. He emphasized that the color of the building was crucial for brand recognition and he said it adds brightness to the community.

Rhonda Mitchell, a resident of Bernalillo disagreed, "That building was one of my favorite buildings in the town and so to see that drastic change was shocking to me." She continued, "Even though we have different colors in our neighborhood, they're compatible and they complement one another. So I would hope to see this building restored to its previous form."

At the end of the discussion, the councilors agreed with the residents and voted to approve the appeal. This means Donaldson will need to choose a color that suits the character of the town.

"I got more calls about this one than anything I've gotten calls about in a while because it really does not hit on the character of the town that we've grown up in and that we all love," said Mayor Jack Torres.

# Sandoval County 🚳



# **Workforce Housing at Cuba Health Center Breaks Ground**

# Additional housing will help retention efforts

By Jesse Jones, Sandoval Signpost

Tew housing units being built in the Village of Cuba are part of a plan to improve health care provider retention in the rural community.

On May 29, Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS) officials, along with Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-New Mexico), celebrated the groundbreaking for new workforce housing units at the Cuba Health Center.

The construction of four modern apartment homes adjacent to the Cuba Health Center on PMS-owned land aims to improve recruitment and retention by addressing the housing shortage for health care providers in the village.

Leger Fernández secured \$1.6 million in funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Economic Development Initiative, part of a broader \$22.7 million appropriations package passed by the House to support families and communities in New Mexico.

Three of the four units will be 900 square feet, each with one bedroom and one bathroom, while the fourth unit will be a 1,040-square-foot apartment with two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

"Our communities continue to fight inflation and rising costs of living. This is why I voted for a government funding package that brings down these costs by investing in housing, water infrastructure, small business, and energy for Nuevo Mexicanos," Leger Fernández said in a press release about the appropriations last year.



A mockup of the workforce housing soon to be in Cuba. (Source: Village of Cuba)

# **Rio Rancho Billion Dollar Solar Project Nears Completion**

City ready to become major renewable energy source

By Jesse Jones, Sandoval Signpost

Rio Rancho is about to become a major renewable energy source for New Mexico as work on a billiondollar, two-phase solar project nears completion.

Clēnera, a privately held renewable energy company based in Boise, Idaho, is the developer of the Atrisco Solar and Quail Ranch Solar projects located just north of Double Eagle II Airport. These combined projects will supply 400 megawatts (MW) of clean energy to approximately 100,000 households in the metro area. Clēnera is selling the generated power to the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM).

According to a PNM representative, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission approved the projects in 2022 to replace the energy capacity lost when PNM exited its lease at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in Arizona. The plant's closing resulted in a loss of 114 MW.

"PNM has a need for additional power," said Eric Desmarais, director of development for Clēnera. "There's been a large amount of data center growth and just in general we're becoming more and more electrified, whether it's just simple uses in our house or electric vehicles there's a shift happening so more power is needed."

Combined, the two projects cost \$1.1 billion.

# The solar projects

According to Desmarais, Clēnera is targeting August for commercial operation of the photovoltaic or solar portion of phase one of the Atrisco Solar project, with the battery storage component expected to achieve full operational status by September. Phase two, the Quail Ranch project, is projected to come online by November 2025.

At an estimated total capital cost of \$847 million, the Atrisco Solar project will produce 300 MW of solar capacity and 1,200 megawatt-hours (MWh) of energy storage.

The Atrisco Solar project spans 1,800 acres and comprises roughly 670,000 solar panels meeting



Atrisco Solar project in Rio Rancho. (Source: Clēnera)

international regulations and certifications, each measuring 7 feet by 4 feet and weighing 73 pounds.

The Quail Ranch Solar project will add 100 MW of solar power and 400 MWh of battery storage. Quail Ranch will share the same PNM interconnection infrastructure as Atrisco Solar, integrating it into the PNM power grid.

Desmarais said the Quail Ranch project is expected to be approximately one-third the size of the Atrisco project. This translates to around 223,000 solar panels covering about 600 acres, with an estimated cost of \$300 million.

# **Economic benefits**

Clēnera hired 350 workers during construction and once operational, they will have six to eight full-time jobs on site.

Clēnera secured an industrial revenue bond with Rio Rancho, which includes a tax abatement mechanism. As a result, the company will contribute approximately \$1 million per year to the county from the Atrisco facility alone.

# **Environmental benefits**

The area had an interesting historical hurdle the company had to maneuver — the site was a former World War II-era bombing range.

"Basically, every bomber who fought in WWII trained in New Mexico at the site or the installation near Alamogordo," Desmarais said.

According to Desmarais, the area had to be cleared of 100-

and 300-pound bombs before construction could safely begin.

For four months, a team of eight workers, walking arm's length apart and using magnetometers, searched for unexploded ordnance.

An unexploded ordnance removal contractor cleared about two tons of metal off the site.

"We have 100% confidence the site is clear and safe for development," Desmarais said.

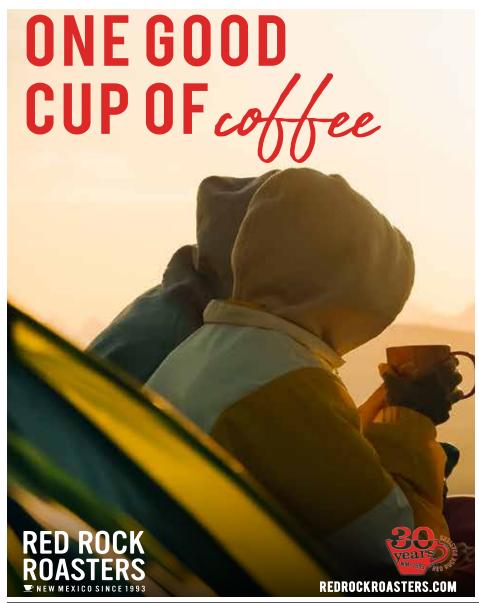
According to Desmarais, the City of Rio Rancho, including the planning department and City Manager Matt Geisel, have been excellent partners. Geisel collaborated closely with Clēnera on developing the site plans and managing the industrial revenue bonds while keeping the City Council informed.

"They've done a really good job asking the right questions and trying to understand what exactly we're doing to make sure that it's in the best interest of the people of Rio Rancho," Desmarais said.

# **Future plans**

The land for the solar projects has been used for various purposes uses over the years, including serving as a bombing range, a biosolid collection site for fertilizer, grazing land, and now a solar field.

Clēnera envisions the project having a 35-40 year lifespan. If the city's growth extends beyond the solar facility, the solar installations can be easily decommissioned, allowing the land to be repurposed for future development.



# NM to Offer \$5 Million in Teacher Loan Forgiveness

# Applications open until August

Sandoval Signpost staff

The New Mexico Higher
Education Department
announced applications are open
for a program that will forgive
some student loans for New Mexico
teachers. The state's Teacher Loan
Repayment Program is accepting
applications until Aug. 1.

New Mexico licensed teachers working in high-need fields and schools statewide may be eligible for up to \$6,000 per year for two years toward principal debt and interest on federal student loans related to teacher education.

Last year, the program received a record number of applications for the second consecutive year, supporting over 1,000 New Mexico teachers. This year, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham approved \$5 million to continue funding the program.

"The Teacher Loan Repayment Program is an essential tool for supporting our hardworking educators, who have chosen a career dedicated to supporting the students of New Mexico, and we encourage teachers to consider applying for this amazing opportunity," said Higher Education Secretary Stephanie M. Rodriguez. "We know that recruiting and retaining teachers is vital to the intellectual and economic strength of our state, and we thank Gov. Lujan Grisham for her continued commitment to assisting educators."

In 2024, Lujan Grisham approved \$5 million for the Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship, which supports students pursuing degrees leading to teaching careers. Last year, the program was expanded to include licensed teachers pursuing master's degrees. The legislative change now allows for any teacher who earned

their degree before these programs were available, or who pursued advanced degrees funded by federal student loans, to benefit. The average amount of debt held by teachers participating in the program this year is \$48,150. The award can be renewed for an additional two-year cycle if the recipient continues to fulfill the teaching commitment. Preference is also given to teachers who graduated from a New Mexico college or university and those from underrepresented backgrounds. Teachers benefitting from the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program can simultaneously benefit from New Mexico's program.

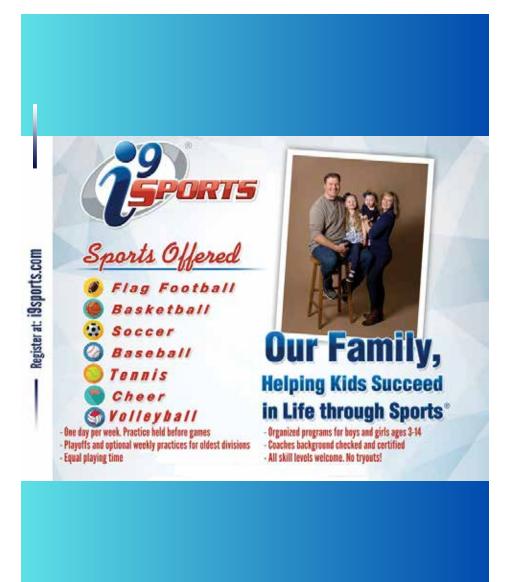
Eligible teachers must be U.S. citizens, New Mexico residents for 12 or more consecutive months, hold a New Mexico teaching license, and have taught at least three years in New Mexico. Priority is given to teachers in a high-need position, including those with endorsements and actively teaching in the following areas:

- · Bilingual education.
- · Early childhood education.
- $\cdot$  Special education.
- · Science, technology, engineering, or math.
  - · Career technical education.
- · Teaching in a low-performing school serving economically disadvantaged populations (40% or more of students receiving free and reduced lunch). Program applications are due by 5 p.m. on Aug. 1 and can be completed online at the New Mexico Higher Education Department's website at hed.nm.gov. Teachers interested in applying to the program can also contact the agency via email at Fin.Aid@hed. nm.gov or through the Financial Aid Hotline at 1-800-279-9777.



A teacher at Bernalillo Public Schools. (Source: Bernalillo Public Schools)







# Fulfilling a Big Vision for New Mexico Demands Experience and Courage

Heather Balas is a candidate for state Senate serving Corrales, Bernalillo and Placitas

By Heather Balas, Candidate, NM Senate District 9

New Mexico needs an educational system that inspires students to succeed. One that prepares them for careers we can't even imagine. We need enough healthcare providers to meet the needs of our diverse families, including the growing number who need mental health services. We need a vibrant economy that welcomes small businesses and creates good jobs with great wages. We need a sustainable approach to protecting our natural resources in a changing climate - most critically our declining water supplies. And we need a government that works. One that isn't paralyzed by gridlock or hyper-partisanship.

### It's actually not too much to ask.

I'm running for the legislature because I believe our state *can* 

achieve those goals. A fifthgeneration New Mexican and 20-year resident of Senate District 9, I will be the leader that the residents of my community deserve – one who protects and strengthens our diverse communities.

I have worked with leading local and national institutions and organizations to institute real, positive change for New Mexico. Serving over a decade as President and Executive Director of New Mexico First, our work strengthened democracy and government ethics, enhanced equitable educational opportunities, protected our water supplies, expanded healthcare access, and created new economic development opportunities including in our green industries. Our work helped establish the State Ethics Commission, strengthen the Hispanic Education Act, and pass the Forest and Watershed Restoration

Act. I've also been fortunate to work on good government efforts with the Thornburg Foundation, and today I serve as Vice President of the Election Reformers Network to strengthen American democracy and ensure that our nation never experiences another 'January 6.'

I know, that's one long paragraph. But I believe it's important for voters to know which of their candidates knows how to get smart, lasting laws and policies passed. I also believe we need more leaders who unite diverse voices rather than continue the political divide that hurts our families in so many ways.

My friend and mentor Ed Chavez, former Chief Justice of the NM Supreme Court, says in his endorsement of me, "In Heather Balas, I witness an intelligent, wellspoken, objective, and trustworthy person whose ideas are inspired by her devotion to a democracy that is truly 'we the people.' She will work everyday *against* polarization and *for* lasting solutions."

So, if that sounds like something the voters of Senate District 9 want, I'm asking for your vote.

This primary matters. Because we deserve courageous legislators who have a big vision for a great state. And we deserve legislators who will walk in the door with the support to be effective. That means support from education, healthcare, conservation, labor and business.

I'm that person, with the endorsements to prove it. And I want to work for you.

Learn more about Heather Balas at https://www.heatherfornewmexico.org/

# Do Your Research Before You Vote

"We need bold solutions, drastic overhauls and serious reforms," writes a candidate for the Legislature in an op-ed article.

Bold, huh? Boy, that's new and exciting. Oh, wait. It isn't. It's a standard cliché for everybody who runs for office.

This particular candidate wrote an entire op-ed filled with platitudes and generalizations. Not a single specific policy position was stated. I'm not giving this candidate's name because it's not my intent to embarrass the candidate, but rather to remind voters to look further. Lots of candidates do what this candidate did. It's politically fuzzy language. It's Republicans saying all Democrats are radical and Democrats saying all Republicans are extremists.

The early voting polls are open and the primary election is in full swing. It's up to us voters to do a bit of homework to find out about the candidates before we fill in the little black circles on our ballots.

In a primary, we may find that candidates of the same party have similar political views, so what matters may be their prior professional experience, their competencies and their likely ability to deliver. Especially in the Legislature, professional backgrounds matter because legislators bring their knowledge to their understanding of legislation.

Your criteria in a primary might be quite different from your concerns in the general election. It might be to pick the candidate who has the best chance of winning in November.

To oversimplify, in some Democratic primary contests the distinction

is moderate versus progressive. The moderate argument is that, in a mixed district, by nominating a progressive in the primary, you may be handing the district to the Republican nominee in November.

In some Republican primaries, the distinction might be today's Republican orthodoxy versus the old moderate Republican approach or any other variation.

In another recent op-ed, legislative candidate Nicole Chavez identified

herself as the endorsed chosen successor of legislator Bill Rehm, who is not seeking reelection. She said she will follow in his footsteps.

Rehm has been an anti-crime champion. So we know what Chavez is going to prioritize. We also might note

that Rehm sponsored many good bills that didn't get anywhere, so a voter in her district might ask her how she plans to improve on his track record.

The candidates in this district have made it easy for voters to figure out who's who.

Chavez is competing with two other Republicans. One is Sara Jane Allen, a local founder of the conservative group Moms for Liberty, a national organization that has been active in school board races. You can look up that group and find out its priorities. The third is Patrick Huested, who doesn't appear to have a website (at least, I couldn't find one) but who has supplied answers on vote411.org. Vicky Estrada-Bustillo, a Democrat is running for this seat.

In every race you're voting for Democrat against Democrat or Republican against Republican. You could vote if you are a registered Libertarian, but I doubt there are any contests with two Libertarians running against each other.

And if you are an independent or "decline to state" registered voter, you can vote in this primary by changing your registration literally at the last minute to Republican or Democrat, then changing it back again after this election. It's a clumsy process but it's New Mexico's reluctant first step toward open primaries.

Unlike the general election, the primary ballot is short. It is not cluttered with bond issues or proposed amendments to the state constitution. It shouldn't take you too long to figure out your choices.

And your vote will help determine how your local community is governed.

Contact Merilee Dannemann through www.triplespacedagain. com.



Merilee Dannemann

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**Legal Notice** 

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sheri L. Mendoza has been ap-

pointed Personal Representative of this estate. All persons having

claims against this estate are required to present their claims with-

in four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice,

or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to

the undersigned Attorney for the Personal Representative, John

filed with the Thirteenth Judicial District Court Clerk, Sandoval

County District Court, 1500 Idalia Road, Building A, Bernalillo,

D. Wheeler, at P.O. Box 1810, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 88310 or

JOHN D. WHEELER & ASSOCIATES, A Professional Corporation

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

COUNTY OF SANDOVAL

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ROBERT C. AKINS, Deceased.

DATED this 1st day of May, 2024.

Attorney for Personal Representative

Alamogordo, New Mexico 88311

(575) 437-5750 Telephone (575) 437-3557 Facsimile

By:/s/ John D. Wheeler

JOHN D. WHEELER

NO.D-1329-PB-2024-00044

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NM 87004.

P.O. Box 1810

# **The Weekly Crossword** by Margie E. Burke 10 Pilgrim to Mecca 14 Visibly shocked 23 They're handed 25 Suffix with ideal

Copyright 2024 by The Puzzle Syndicate

- 57 Natural magnet 37 Lois of the Daily 59 Pigeon's perch
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Solution to Crossword:

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# **Legal Notice**

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF SANDOVAL THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SOLEDAD ELLIOTT, deceased.

13th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

Sandoval County 5/13/2024 12:34 PM AUDREY GARCIA CLERK OF THE COURT Patricia Trujillo

D-1329-PB-2024-00047 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MICHELLE MCPHERSON has been appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of SOLE-DAD ELLIOTT, deceased. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will forever be barred. Claims must either be presented to the Personal Representative, c/o Weed Law Firm, LLC, 1171 Montoya Road, Suite A., Bernalillo, NM 87004, or filed with the Thirteenth Judicial District Court located at 1500 Idalia Road, Bernalillo, NM 87004. Dated: May 13, 2024

Respectfully submitted: WEED LAW FIRM, LLC /s/ Kyle McConnell Kyle McConnell Attorney for Personal Representative 1171 Montoya Road Suite A Bernalillo, NM 87004 Phone: (505) 771-3544 Kyle. Mc Connell@Weedlaw firmllc.com

# **EVENTS**

# FRIDAY, MAY 31

# **Class / Workshop**

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

# Comedy

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

### **Exhibit**

Placitas Wild Hearts Gallery presents Painting Artist Colleen Gregoire: "Upon Further Reflection" Reception All Day Wild Hearts Gallery 221 B Hwy. 165, Placitas

# Miscellaneous

Sandoval County Free Legal Fair 12-4 pm Sandoval County Administration Building 1500 Idalia Rd, Bernalillo

# Music

Joe Daddy Warner & Friends 7-9 pm The Range Cafe 925 S Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo

The Fabulous Martini-Tones 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing Westside 5720 McMahon Blvd NW bldg 5 ste a, Albuquerque

# **SATURDAY, JUNE 1**

# **Art Openings**

Art in the Library Opening Reception 6:30-8:30 pm Irene S. Sweetkind Public Library 6515 Plaza S # A, Cochiti Lake

# Comedy

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

# Miscellaneous

Kassy's Kause Cruizin Car Show 10 am-2 pm Haynes Park 2006 Grande Blvd. SE, Rio Rancho

### Music

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

Music in Corrales Free Family Concert 5-6:30 pm La Entrada Park 84 West La Entrada, Corrales

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

Spiral Pilots 7-9 pm Casa Vieja Brewery 4541 Corrales Rd, Corrales

# **SUNDAY, JUNE 2**

# Class / Workshop

Paint Party \$35 1-4 pm Corrales Teas & Chocolates 3923 Corrales Rd. Suite B, Corrales

### Food

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

# Markets

June is For Love 1-5 pm Bosque Brewing Co. (North) 834 US-550 , Bernalillo

# Music

Kaktus Kats Presents Tiho Dimitrov 2-5 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

# **MONDAY, JUNE 3**

# **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

# **TUESDAY, JUNE 4**

# 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

Hondo Coyote 6-8:30 pm Steel Bender Brewyard 8305 Second St. NW, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque

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

Live Music with Jaeden Huenemann 6-9 pm Ex Novo Brewing 4895 Corrales Rd, Corrales

# **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5**

### **Games**

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

# **Miscellaneous**

Bernalillo Blue Chapter Fundaxi Business Mixer 1-2:30 pm The Range Cafe 925 S Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo

# Music

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

# **Outdoors**

Traditional Gardening at Coronado Historic Site \$7 10:30 am-12 pm Coronado Historic Site 485 Kuaua Rd., Bernalillo

Hosting a public event?
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Submit it to our online calendar at
abg.news/calendar



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# **SEEKING HOME/CASITA TO**

**RENT** Seeking home/casita to rent in Bernalillo, Corrales, Rio Rancho area. Mature professional semiretired male. Non-smoker, nondrinker. Crate trained dogs. Seeking home/casita to rent. References available. Contact via email: aenriquez4561@gmail.com

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FOR SALE- Stunning, one of kind 1.5 Acre Unobstructed Sandia Mtns view lot. \$310,000.

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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 to read more incredible success stories.



PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY?
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to schedule a consultation!

10400 Academy Rd NE Suite 210 Albuquerque, NM 87111 WWW.AAIM-ABQ.COM