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Senator says BLM determined to mine Placitas gravel

—SIGNPOST STAFF

Anticipated regional growth justifies opening federal lands in Placitas to sand and gravel mining, a top official of the Bureau of Land Management recently told a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

"The department notes that the population of the Albuquerque metro area, which includes Placitas, is expected to nearly double within the next 25 to thirty years, and federal minerals will be an important source of materials for future infrastructure needs," Michael Nedd, BLM deputy director of operations, said during the May 14 hearing. The government stands to reap significant revenue if the land is leased through a competitive bidding process, he added.

Nedd's comments to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee referred to the Buffalo Tract Protection Act. Introduced by Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall, the act would withdraw from mineral, oil, and gas development four BLM parcels totaling more than 4,300 acres in Placitas.

The largest parcel, at 3,142 acres, the Buffalo Tract in northern and northwestern Placitas, is adjacent to two of the four quarries already operating along the Interstate 25 frontage road, north and south of State Road 165.

The fate of BLM land here is caught up in a larger Resource Management Plan (RMP) in development by the Albuquerque-based Rio Puerco Field Office. The field office jurisdiction involves six counties, from the Arizona border to east of the Sandia Mountains, and includes 997,000 surface acres and 3.6 million acres of subsurface mineral rights.

A similar RMP, nearing completion by the Farmington Field Office, is dealing with the contentious issue of oil and gas development encroaching on the Chaco Culture National Historic Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Heinrich and Udall introduced legislation to create a ten-mile buffer around the park by withdrawing federal mineral rights there.

A preliminary draft of the Rio Puerco RMP was released in 2012 and drew fifty thousand comments from across the region. The BLM has said the final draft could be released as early as this month, or later in the summer, with a final decision several months thereafter.

Nedd's written testimony cited a potential 36 million cubic yards of sand and gravel in the Placitas tracts. At least one company has expressed interest in mining the area, he said.

"The department supports approaches that could protect high-value resources, while still accommodating uses and activities permitted on all BLM-managed land," Nedd said during the hearing. "We would like to work with the sponsor on modification to this bill in a way that would insure a full range of uses for this area."

The sponsor is a five-member New Mexico congressional delegation—all Democrats. Heinrich and Udall are sponsoring the Senate version while Ben Ray Luján and Deb Haaland carry the companion bill in the House supported by Rep. Xochitl Torres Small.

Heinrich, a member of the subcommittee, said he took Nedd's testimony to mean that the BLM, part of the Department of Interior, is determined to mine gravel in Placitas.

"I think we can all agree the parcels at issue in the Buffalo Tract Protection Act are not your typical BLM parcels—at least in New Mexico," Heinrich said. "Three of the four are less than one thousand acres in size, and more importantly, they are intermixed

—continued on page 3

—BILL DIVEN



A bicyclist keeps an eye on the rails as he takes advantage of Bernalillo's new pedestrian crossing of the tracks that splits the east part of the town. Flashing lights, bells, and crossing arms that come down protect the crossing when a train approaches.

Bernalillo pedestrians gain safe railroad crossing

—BILL DIVEN

If trains and pedestrians don't mix well in Bernalillo, the man walking beside the tracks as Amtrak raced up behind him made that clear enough.

Fortunately for him, he was next to the sidetrack and not the mainline as the train, bound for Albuquerque, sped by. Watching all this were about twenty people gathered to celebrate the first segment of fencing along the tracks and the opening of a dedicated pedestrian crossing.

"There was a train on the other side, and it was so quiet I didn't hear it," the man said as he passed through the crowd and continued his trek on Railroad Track Road.

Fencing the right-of-way and providing an alternate walking path has been years in the making, following the deaths of Bernalillo residents that railroads would consider trespassers. Yet, when the tracks split eastern neighborhoods from downtown, and the banks of an irrigation canal link tracks to Carroll Elementary School and Bernalillo High School, foot traffic is inevitable.

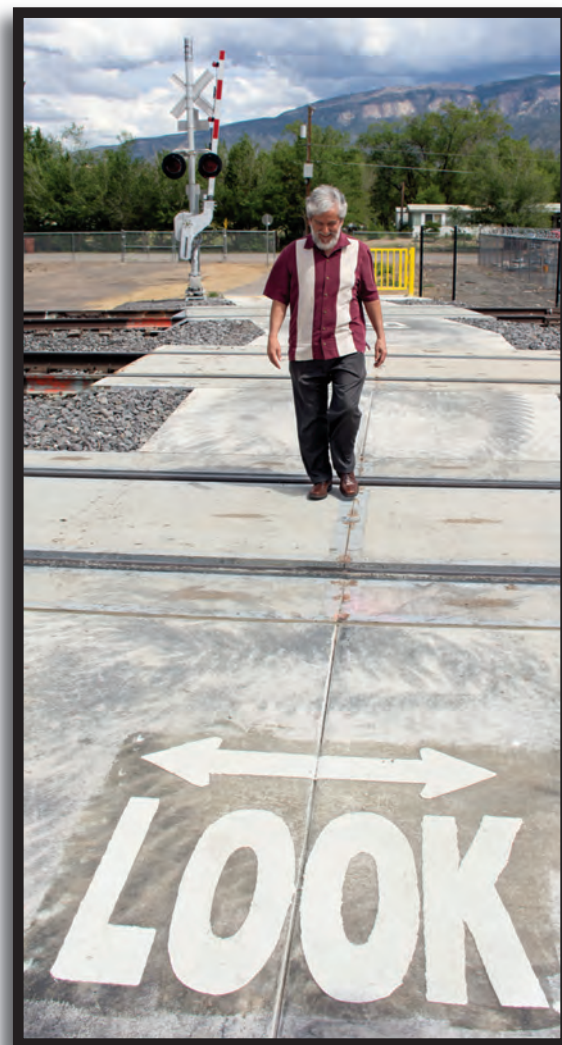
Federal records show at least 12 pedestrian fatalities on the tracks between 1997 and 2015. Two fatalities have occurred elsewhere in Sandoval County since then.

"While the safety issues on the tracks have been present for generations, the town of Bernalillo, New Mexico Department of Transportation, and Rio Metro knew the safety improvements couldn't wait any longer," said Dewey Cave, executive director of the Mid-Region Council of Governments.

Studies leading up to funding and construction included temporary cameras monitoring of the rails.

"What the video revealed was quite alarming," Cave continued. "We discovered about

—continued on page 5



Bernalillo Mayor Jack Torres takes a stroll across the railroad tracks before an event marking completion of the pedestrian crossing connecting residential neighborhoods with the downtown. The project includes about a mile of fencing.

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www.sandovalsignpost.com

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Vulcan Materials owns three gravel mines along the Interstate 25 frontage road in western Placitas. This is the Baca Pit near Algodones and adjacent to the BLM Buffalo Tract.

from page 1—Gravel

directly among residential development... So the consequences of mineral development... including gravel mining, are very different in a residential context than in more rural or certainly more unpopulated areas the BLM largely manages."

When Heinrich quizzed Nedd about how the BLM factored the Placitas community into its resource planning, Nedd said the BLM includes all stakeholders in the process.

"What concerns me is that when looking at the two local pueblos, both of them are vociferously opposed in this case," Heinrich continued. "When looking at the community groups, they are opposed, the county is opposed... I'm still looking for the community voice that is not opposed to this particular location for a gravel mine."

Heinrich, and Udall when he addressed the subcommittee, also cited a lack of meaningful tribal consultation with the Navajo Nation and its attempts to protect Chaco Canyon about fifty miles south of Farmington.

"Over the last three years, the Bureau of Land Management has proposed new oil and gas leasing in the greater Chaco Canyon landscape area," Udall said. "Each time BLM has withdrawn the proposals as the result of overwhelming protest from the public and pressure from public officials like Senator Heinrich and myself... This sacred area, home to critically important architectural sites and objects, should not be under constant threat."

Last month, the federal 10th Circuit Court of Appeals found the BLM had not properly considered the cumulative effect on water when approving six oil and gas permits near Chaco.

"Today's ruling is a win in our efforts to protect our treasured New Mexico heritage from the damage done by oil and gas drilling," Haaland said in a May 7 news release. "We'll continue pushing forward on the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act, our legislation to permanently protect our sacred landscapes from being drilled out of existence."

Both Santa Ana and San Felipe pueblos, which border the Buffalo Tract, have stated claims to the Buffalo Tract as part of their ancestral homelands. The San Antonio de las Huertas land grant, and advocates for a wild-horse sanctuary, have also expressed interest.

While the BLM's Nedd did not identify by name the party or parties interested in mining public lands in Placitas, Vulcan Materials has been exploring the area. Vulcan owns and operates the two quarries adjacent to the Buffalo Tract and one just north of NM 165.

The company, however, is not ready to commit publicly to trying to lease the Buffalo Tract for mining.

"Vulcan has completed core testing on the Buffalo Tract under an approved exploration plan from the Bureau of Land Management, but has yet to fully analyze the samples," Tyler Lowe, manager of community and government relations, wrote in response to questions from the *Signpost*.

Both the Buffalo Tract and Chaco bills are in the early stages of the legislative process. Neither has been heard by full committees, which could kill or advance the bills to the House and Senate.



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June 22 - The Explora! Museum will visit bringing "hands-on" space activities and experiments for children. There will be activities that are age appropriate for both younger and older children from ages 2-10. Parents will enjoy them as well.

June 29 - "Moon, Mars, and Meteorites" with PCL patrons Jacki and Carl Allen and Michelle Palmer who will lead children in space experiments and activities. Carl and Jacki are scientists who worked at the Johnson Space Center, and Michelle volunteers at the Albuquerque National History Museum. There will be age appropriate activities for a variety of ages. Parents are always encouraged to help their children.

At each program children will receive a new book and the opportunity to receive up to 4 raffle tickets by participating in our reading and math challenges. Registration for the challenges continues throughout the summer program.

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from page 1—Rail

seventy people cross the three sets of tracks here each weekday and another thirty people walk along the tracks without crossing."

Many of those were young people, and about ten percent were carrying bicycles, he added.

Sixteen Rail Runner Express weekday commuter trains and two daily Amtrak cross-country trains rumble through the town. At the urging of town officials, the Rio Metro Regional Transit District, which manages Rail Runner and the state-owned tracks, cut the maximum speed from 79 mph to forty mph four years ago.

The new fence extends about a mile from Avenida Bernalillo on the south to the undercrossing of the irrigation canal. The paved pedestrian crossing, complete with bells, flashing lights, and a gate that lowers when trains approach, connects Railroad Track Avenue near the downtown Rail Runner Station with Oak Avenue.

The fence will be extended north to the Sandoval/US 550 Rail Runner station when funding becomes available.

Court case on county union-fees ordinance dies a quiet death

BUSINESS

~SIGNPOST STAFF

After more than a year in court, the lawsuit challenging Sandoval County's "right-to-work" ordinance faded away without even the blessing of a judge.

The lawyer representing the two unions that filed the lawsuit in February, 2018, and the lawyers defending the county agreed the case should be dismissed. Under court rules, filing the written agreement on April 30 closed out the case without further court action.

The lawsuit became moot after a bill approved in the Legislature, and signed by the governor in March, made the ordinance, and others like it, unenforceable.

Still unclear, however, is whether the commission will formally repeal the ordinance or leave it on the books in hopes of a change in the political climate. Democratic Commissioner Katherine Bruch of Placitas said she favors outright repeal while Republican Commission Chair David Heil of Rio Rancho said he doesn't know what will happen pending a discussion with the county's legal counsel.

The ordinance prohibited contracts between unions and private businesses that required employees, who chose not to join the union, to pay fees toward contract-related work. By law, such fees cannot be used for political activity.

The ordinance passed 3-1 with one abstention in January, 2018. Nine other counties and the village of Ruidoso followed suit with similar ordinances.

During the debate at County Commission meetings, union leaders contended the county lacked the legal authority to regulate unions. Earlier this year, the Legislature reinforced that point through a bill specifically reserving the power for the state.

County commissioners endorsing the ordinance cited economic development and employee rights as justification. Unions said it was an attempt by out-of-state interests to reduce their effectiveness.

Local 611 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Local 1564 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, who have members employed in Sandoval County, filed the lawsuit.

"We didn't think there was a gray area," said attorney Shannon Youtz, who represented the two locals. "From a logistical perspective, I'd have to hopscotch around the state for the next five years making that clear to county commissions, city councils, and judges... This is a much cleaner way to do it."

The county's contract attorney, Brent Yessin of Tampa, Florida, didn't see a gray area either, telling the *Signpost* that broad local powers such as zoning mean counties already have the authority to regulate commerce. The action by the Legislature, however, ended that debate, he said.

"The issue in New Mexico was going to be whether the New Mexico Constitution delegated substantial authority to cities and counties within their police powers," Yessin said. "Our view was it could."

The loss takes away an economic-development tool that would have allowed local competition for neighboring states with such limits on unions, he added.

Yessin has been a high-profile advocate for the so-called right-to-work ordinances particularly in Kentucky, where a federal appeals court upheld local laws. That ruling did not directly affect New Mexico, which is in a different appellate district.

But because he is not licensed to practice law in New Mexico, Yessin, with the county's approval, subcontracted defense of the lawsuit to the Albuquerque law firm Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris, and Sisk.

—continued next page

Phil Messuri, MS, CFP®

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from page 5 —Ordinance

County commissioners approved the ordinance after being assured taxpayers would not pay to defend it in court. Yessin's contract made him responsible for costs.

Fundraising by the New Mexico Business Coalition and Americans for Prosperity covered the expenses, including reimbursing the county about four hundred dollars for a court-filing fee, paid under a pressing dead-

line, Yessin said.

The coalition is based in Albuquerque while Americans for Prosperity is part of a national organization described as libertarian/conservative and favoring limited government. Both have advocated for right-to-work legislation.

Youtz said the two unions he represented were paying him.

BUSINESS

~CONTINUED



A sheriff's deputy leads a state game warden, another deputy and the San Ysidro town marshal as they search for a shooter or shooters during a training exercise at Jemez Valley High School. In the background are school staff and officers monitoring the exercise.

Fiction mirrors fact in school-shooting drill

PUBLIC SAFETY

~BILL DIVEN

For more than an hour, it is as close, if not closer, than law officers, first responders, and Jemez Valley High School students want to get to an actual school shooting.

The dramatic exercise, giving a taste of being caught up in such violence was all too real: two students, or people passing as students, blended in until the shooting starts. Everyone runs, hides, or hunkers down in locked classrooms.

Then they wait as the shooters roam, and minutes tick away before the first Sandoval County sheriff's deputy arrives. He is alone, carefully entering the school and not knowing what he will find or how many shooters there are.

Meanwhile, the adjacent elementary school and junior high go into lockdown.

"The response time is always going to be the hardest thing we're ever going to deal with," says sheriff's Lt. John Castañeda. "With these other jurisdictions responding, that, in turn, helps us, and we, in turn, can help them."

More time passes until a second officer, the village marshal from San Ysidro eight miles down State Road 4, arrives, followed shortly by more deputies and a conservation officer from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

None are carrying live firearms for this drill. Instead, they receive inert red pistols or, when those run out, are told to act as if they have a weapon.

Jemez Pueblo and Village of Jemez Springs officers also are nearby but not part of the exercise.

The Sandoval County Regional Communications Center dispatcher has a script and occasionally broadcasts bits of information about casualties and hostages. Otherwise, the officers assess the situation and respond accordingly as the scenario plays out.

They encounter locked doors for which they don't have keys. Student actors randomly picked become the panicked and wounded.

An exercise monitors yells to open a new phase of the exercise. "Bang! Bang! We've got shots fired in the hallway."

Superintendent Dr. Susan Wilkinson-Davis requested, and helped plan, the exercise. "With all the sounds, the fire alarm ringing, the screaming in the halls and so on, I'm sure a lot of people are pretty nervous right now," she says inside

—continued next page



—BILL DIVEN

A state game warden checks the hallway and a sheriff's deputy makes sure the coast is clear as students participating in an active-shooter drill leave the classroom where they've been locked down. The officer in the vest is a monitor taking notes for the later debriefing.

from page 2—Drill

the school.

Monitors, in bright safety vests, make notes on clipboards as they follow officers clearing rooms, offices, storage spaces, and backstage of the auditorium, evacuating students, staff, and teachers, and ultimately subduing the shooters. Most, but not all, of the students and officers survive the storyline.

Later, the officers and officers who monitor the exercise gather to go over what they've just experienced. By then, officers unfamiliar with the school know their way around, but one concern already was known.

"Obviously when officers are responding, most of the schools have locked front doors," Castañeda says. "If they go into lockdown, how do we make entry? Lock-boxes in front of schools? Keys we might have?"

"When it comes down to entry, we will make entry with some of the tools we have."

The experience extends beyond officers to the students who, it is hoped, will carry their thoughts and new knowledge back to their parents.

"This a smaller school, so I have to say that one of the advantages is that everybody knows everybody," Castañeda continues. "That's where it comes back down to what do the parents talk to their kids about?"

"Hey, OK, is this a new student? Or where did this person come from?' And you start asking those questions."

He says he's talked to his own children enough that he hears when there's a new student or they see someone in a hallway they don't know.

In the days leading up to the exercise, parents received a letter and two robo-calls. Multiple local, state, and tribal agencies were notified of the exercise with the county and Jemez Pueblo fire and emergency management departments providing direct support.

About 35 students, roughly half the JVHS student body, participated in the exercise.

"They see it on TV, but this brings it home," Wilkinson-Davis says.

All public schools in New Mexico develop a Safe Schools Plan, and active-shooter drills have now joined the fire drills practiced for decades, she says, adding that she looks forward to feedback from the law enforcement agencies.

Wilkinson-Davis says she saw the election of a new sheriff and appointment of new officers as an opportunity to expand beyond the in-school drills. Planning began last fall.

"You always learn things when you practice," Wilkinson-Davis continued. "You can't predict everything, the things you haven't thought about... So for us to practice, it's always a learning experience for us so we can improve our plan. Safety is the bottom line."

Thanks for the warm Welcome!



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She served as an Assistant Judge Advocate General (JAG) with the U. S. Air Force before settling in Placitas.



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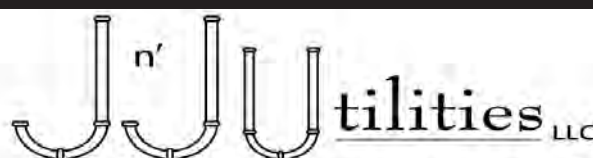
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Horse survives collision; County rethinks speed limits

~BILL DIVEN

The horse and people are okay, the Honda... not so much.

The latest crash of a vehicle and free-roaming horse in eastern Placitas happened at low speed, the investigating Sandoval County sheriff's deputy reported. Even that wasn't enough to prevent the collision on Camino del Tecolote.

The driver, a resident of Diamond Tail, his two passengers, and a witness in the car behind, all agreed on what happened on May 15 at around 8:00 a.m. They told the deputy that they were traveling north at 15-to-twenty mph (below the 25 mph speed limit) and saw the horse standing on the side of the road about 0.4 miles from State Road 165.

"As the lead vehicle approached the horse, the horse suddenly jumped in front of [the] vehicle," the deputy wrote. "Upon impact the horse landed on the hood and rolled into the windshield... I was told the horse flew up into the air and then landed on its feet and ran away and appeared to be uninjured."

The low speed may have saved the horse, but the tumbling animal left its mark on the 2005 Honda: hood crushed, windshield heavily cracked, and skylight broken. The occupants declined medical attention, and the driver was not cited.

Meanwhile, speed limits on part of nearby Camino de las Huertas, lowered to 25 mph last year, are back up to thirty mph for about the northern three miles of the four-mile-long road

"That's too bad," said Bebe Marks, who lives on the new thirty mph section. "That means they'll go back to fifty."

Marks, who's had close calls with speeding motorists and contractors' trucks, lobbied the county for years to address speeds, speeding, and lack of signs warning of dangerous curves.

"People were finally beginning to slow down," she said. "People typically do five over, so if it's thirty, that's 35, but out here, it's 45 or fifty."

Early in 2018, a horse and a foal died after separate late-night hit-and-run crashes near the community center. Two adult horses died days apart in November after being hit on NM 165 in and near Placitas village.

The one driver who stayed on the scene was not injured, although his car was totaled.

After an engineering study that monitored vehicle speeds, the county, in September, set the 25 mph speed limit on all of las Huertas. Signs warning of horses went up, and the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office increased enforcement on las Huertas, Tecolote and Camino de la Rosa Castilla, and on NM 165.

—BILL DIVEN



Free-roaming horses in Placitas

At last report, deputies and the SCSO traffic unit, occasionally backed by State Police, had made more than 220 traffic stops, reporting most of the speeders to be Placitas residents.

Now the county Public Works Department, after taking another look at the engineering study, has restored the limit in the northerly three miles of las Huertas to thirty mph from 25 mph.

"There was no guidance in the engineering report that would have led to that reduction," District 1 Commissioner Katherine Bruch of Placitas said. "We did discuss what the impacts were, and one thing that remains the same is in front of community center is to remain at 25."

The study found drivers averaging 7.5 mph over the limit near the community center, but 4.8 mph elsewhere. At Signpost deadline signs were still being updated.

PUBLIC SAFETY

~CONTINUED



Jail woes freeze county hiring and buying

~SIGNPOST STAFF

The decades of "benign neglect" at the Sandoval County Detention Center, already costing taxpayers millions to fix, have now blown a hole in the county's annual operations budget.

Citing the loss of revenue from housing federal prisoners, the county administration in early May froze hiring and purchases through at least the end of the fiscal year on June 30. The problem arose after county commissioners voted unanimously, on April 11, to request federal agencies move their prisoners elsewhere during renovation of the jail in western Bernalillo.

The idea was to speed up the work by emptying cell pods so contractors would work more efficiently. The detention center had been housing around four hundred inmates, about half of them federal.

"They moved them a little quicker than we thought it might happen," County Commission Chair David Heil said during the May 9 commission meeting. "The two hundred is now down to 34, which in terms of getting the work done is a good thing, but it also reduces the income of the county over the next two months by about \$450,000."

The county had anticipated \$4.3 million in payments for housing federal prisoners during the current budget year. The immediate freeze will help assess the impact of continued lost revenue over the next two years of construction, Heil added.

The preliminary estimate is a revenue hit of \$2.9 million for each of those years.

"So we're having to take some very strident measures to manage the budget, and were doing this in this first increment through the end of this fiscal year," Heil continued. "I can assure you the budget for next fiscal year will be extremely tight."

During a county Board of Finance meeting, later in the month, County Manager Dianne Maez said the purchasing freeze was actually more of a slowdown to stop unnecessary end-of-the-year purchases. She also said job offers from a completed hiring process were allowed to proceed.

County Treasurer Laura Montoya, however, said she turned in hiring paperwork and made job offers, including to someone who then gave notice and had to ask for his job back.

"We are elected offices," she said. "It was already budgeted and approved... These are people we need in our office in order to be able get the job done to bring you in the revenue you need."

After opening in 1988, the detention center suffered from decades of what Heil called benign neglect. "It was really left to rot in place for many years," Commissioner Jay Block said during the April 11 meeting.

The four-minute discussion at that April meeting cited reducing potential liability and assuring staff and inmate safety during construction. There was no mention of a budgetary impact.

Neglect, or rot, became a crisis after staff errors and issues with the jail physical plant contributed to inmate escapes in May and July 2017 and the firing of the warden and his deputy. Early in 2018, commissioners approved two increases totaling one eighth of one percent in the county gross-receipts tax, generally called the sales tax on most purchases.

Each one sixteenth of one percent increment was forecast to raise about \$950,000 annually, limited by state law to spending on detention facilities. One piece is paying back more than five million dollars borrowed for the jail upgrades; the other funds ongoing maintenance and operations.

That boosted the sales tax in unincorporated area of Sandoval County to 6.375 percent, of which the county takes 1.25 percent with the rest being the state tax.

In other action during May, commissioners...

- Proclaimed May as Older Americans Month. Albuquerque is hosting the national Senior Olympics in June, which is expected to draw 13,000 participants, 3,500 from New Mexico.

—continued next page

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The Taos Box

~EVAN BELKNAP

Water! It's gushing down the *acequias* in Placitas, breaking free from its prescribed paths and flooding, far and wide, to every stick and leaf and weed. *Parciantes* are out in their yards with poles and hoes, unclogging drains and scratching new, desperate lines for the water to follow. The apricot trees and grapevines are happy explosions of green, and the smell of water hangs lightly in the air.

In the *bosque*, in Bernalillo and Corrales, the Rio Grande is flooding over the banks into its old floodplain, and the cottonwoods, willows, and Russian Olives are drinking it in. New trees are springing out of the earth by the thousands.

After last year's depressing trickle, this new torrent of water seems to ease the collective soul of our parched little world—at least for now.

Up in Taos, inside the Taos Gorge, the narrow, rocky stretch of the Rio Grande is being described creatively by river runners as "Big!"

I mean, for real... that thing is pumpin'. All the rocks are now incredible hydraulics of white frothy water, twenty-foot drops through VW bus-sized waves and holes.

Adventurous boaters are being summoned by the crash and fury of the mighty Rio Grande, and, this last weekend, my friend Will and I were among them.

It had been about a decade since I'd been on this stretch of water. I didn't remember the safe lines through the rapids at all, and Will had never been in a raft. Naturally, we were a bit nervous. We decided that if we couldn't make some friends at the put-in to raft along with, we would probably have to be smart and wait for another day. It's almost never a good idea to boat alone.

The put-in was crowded with commercial groups and several private boaters like ourselves. A veteran guide told us we could follow their group and that they'd keep an eye on us, and another group told us they'd give us a ride back to our car at the end of the day. Things were working out. We quickly squeezed into wet suits, pumped up our boat, packed our lunch, and with a million giddy butterflies in our stomachs, we hopped aboard and pushed off shore.

The current quickly grabbed us and carried us downstream. Will took a deep breath and exhaled loudly. I gave him a good pat on the back.

The river starts fairly casually. We practiced our turns and strokes, hit some eddies, found our rhythm, and snacked on sandwiches. What a beautiful day. Volcanic black and red cliffs rose up on both sides for a thousand feet. Swallows skimmed the surface of the water for bugs. Waxy green clumps of poison ivy crowded the banks and red-and-orange-headed Tanagers flitted about in pairs. The sun beat down. We kicked back, floating in circles there on the river in New Mexico, and wondered what took us so long to get to this place and time.

Through our peaceful floating, a subtle grumble from far away grew louder and louder.

The first rapid is called Ski Jump. We paddled as hard as we could away from its massive hole at the bottom, but it pulled us in anyway. I straightened us out at the last second so we could at least hit the wave head on, and we braced for impact.

A second later, drenched and exhilarated, but upright, we knew what we were up against. We paddled hard to catch up with another group of boats.

—continued next page

from page 9—Jail

Santa Ana Pueblo is hosting golf and bowling tournaments, while Cochiti Pueblo will be the site of the triathlon, said Denise King, county Senior Program manager.

• Heard a report on the 2018 Sandoval County Fair, which will celebrate its 43rd anniversary this year under the theme of "Bring Your Herd to the 43rd." Attendance of the fair just outside Cuba has increased the last two years. Events include a parade, junior and adult rodeos, livestock judging and auctions, and cooking and craft competitions.

• Unanimously appointed Steve Conrad of Placitas and Jerry Romero Duarte of Rio Rancho to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Placitas Community Flea Market—2019

Bring your unwanted treasures, your crafts, tools, garage sale items to sell, for someone else's "junk" is another's treasure. Booth spaces are only \$10.00 for a 10 x 15 space. Vendors come as early as you want, please bring your own tents, tables and chairs. Spaces are on a first-come first-served basis. The Flea Market is located at the Homestead Village open field on Hwy 165 in Placitas and is held the second and fourth Saturdays of each month through October. Hours are 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For additional information, contact Nancy Holley at 505-515-4323.

District 2 City Councilor meet and greet

On June 6, District 2 residents will have the opportunity to meet Jeremy Lenentine, the newly appointed District 2 City Councilor. The meet-and-greet event will be held at Fire Station 2, 1490 Cherry Road, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The District 2 City Councilor vacancy was created when Dawnn Robinson, re-elected in March, 2018, resigned effective March 13, 2019, due to family reasons. Councilor Lenentine was selected by Mayor Hull from six applicants and was confirmed by the Governing Body and officially sworn into office on April 10, 2019. He will complete a City Councilor term that is set to expire in March 2020.

Lenentine is currently the outreach director at the Gospel Light Baptist Church located in Rio Rancho. He attended Champion College (Arkansas) and Hyles Anderson College (Indiana). Lenentine has lived in Rio Rancho for nearly thirty years.

from page 10 —Box

And then the rapids really started up—Dead Car, Powerline, Rock Garden, Boat Reamer, Dead Canoe. Many whoops and hollers were issued, and an abundance of high-fives were enjoyed.

Hours later, the current calmed down, and we thought we'd done it. The excitement over, we each cracked a beer and lost track of all the other rafters. We didn't want the day to end and continued where we'd started with our lazy circling.

Suddenly, we turned a corner and were looking down at the biggest cascading white-water maelstrom we'd seen yet, and we had about five seconds to get ready. We jumped back into our seats, stuffed our fresh beers in the necks of our life jackets and down we went. At the bottom of the rapid, Rio Bravo Creek meets the Rio Grande and, like the hand of Poseidon rising up out of the ocean, it smacks your boat from the left. Our boat went sideways, time slowed down, and 85 percent of Will fell out of the boat. Only his feet, locked in under the tubes remained. Beer poured from his neck-beer onto his face as I flew through the air into the middle of the boat. I caught the middle tube then grabbed Will by the strap of his lifejacket and pulled him back in. Our boat righted, and we celebrated like lunatics.

We finished our watered-down beers and continued to the take-out.

You wish you could have days like this every day—full of nervous excitement and challenge, butterflies in your stomach, good friends, warm sun, cold beer, and a triumphant ending—but sometimes it's hard to motivate and try hard when life gets complicated. I've learned that these are the most important times for me to get out of bed and get outside. The rapids of life seem far away and



Looking north on the Rio Grande at the upriver portion of the remarkable Taos Box

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much less turbulent from a boat on the river or a cliff in the mountains.

Will and I dragged our raft up on the shore to dry, then sat and watched the river. The richness of color—the sage-green hillsides and endless wildflowers—the silent space—cut only by the river flowing by and occasional splashes and whoops from people jumping off the bridge—and the sheer abundance of water in our dry and drying wonderland—made everything simple again, if only for a few hours.



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June Night Sky

~CHARLIE CHRISTMANN

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Until recently, there were no good maps of our own galaxy, but that was before European Space Agency's (ESA) Gaia was launched. Today, this sharp-eyed spacecraft sits at a point called Lagrange-2 (L2), some 930,000 miles away from Earth, opposite the sun. In this special place, Gaia can sit where gravitational effects between the Sun and Earth require little effort to maintain its position. This location is also far enough from Earth so our planet does not interfere with the craft's sensitive measurements.

Since its launch in December of 2013, Gaia has been busy measuring the position and brightness of stars in our galaxy. The first data dump from the craft's measurements, in September of 2016, included 1,114,200,000 stars. More than two million stars in the dump were measured for the first time. Gaia intends to give us a good three-dimensional map of our home galaxy. The data provided to date is already proving interesting.

Hiding in the data was an unknown, thirty light-years-wide star cluster subsequently named Gaia-1. This large bright cluster was hiding in plain sight, behind Sirius, the brightest star in our night sky until Gaia plotted its stars positions.

Additionally, a 2017 data release found six hypervelocity stars, traveling at hundreds of thousands of miles per hour. One star stands out, speeding at over a million miles per hour; it will likely leave our galaxy for intergalactic space. The other five hypervelocity stars likely will not escape the galaxy, they seem to be slowing down. Astronomers are hoping to use these stars to help map out dark matter in the Milky Way.

Several more stars caught some attention. ESA officials tell us that sixteen stars will come within 37 trillion miles of the sun in the next five million years. One of them, Gliese 710 will come within 1.6 trillion miles in about 1.3 million years. At that distance, Gliese 710's gravity will disrupt the orbit of objects in our Oort cloud, sending some of them into the inner solar system and toward Earth.

The latest discovery from Gaia is a previously unknown stellar stream. This long, drawn out stream of stars are likely from a globular cluster or small galaxy that strayed too close to the Milky Way and was shredded. Normally, these stars would flow somewhat together, with a gap at the point where the original cluster was before its stars drifted away in two directions. Gaia data measurements of the stream surprised astronomers with a second gap. And it is not a small hole in the stream, it is thirty-to-65 light-years across. That is the size of an intact globular cluster.

It appears that an object has punched a large hole in the stream. First, astronomers considered a star may have caused the hole; but, a star simply could not be large enough to cause that amount of mayhem. While it is not possible to completely eliminate an idea that that a luminous object may have caused the hole, none has been found so far.

Another possibility for the stellar stream's gap is a black hole. It would need to be supermassive, similar to the one in the center of our galaxy. The problem is that most galaxies have only one supermassive black hole, and there is no evidence of the Milky Way having more than one. If there were a black hole in that area, observers would expect to find signs of it, such as high-energy x-rays and radio emissions; there are none nearby.

That leaves one plausible possibility: dark matter. With no radio, light, or x-ray emissions, a large blob of dark matter could have punched through the stream, leaving behind stars scattered from the gap. While dark matter has never been seen, there are several large, expensive experiments looking for it. For now, it can only be detected by how its gravity effects objects we can see.

Making up a large majority of the mass of our universe, dark matter is still very mysterious. Scientists cannot agree on what it is made of. Perhaps another recent discovery will help out. A "dark matter hurricane" may be heading in our direction. In fact its leading edges may already be here. Another stellar stream, named S1, is heading our way. This stellar stream is believed to have a slug of dark matter associated with it. Don't worry, dark matter, if it actually exists, interacts with normal matter so infrequently, this is one storm you will never feel. It may allow dark matter detectors a better chance of proving the existence of the mysterious substance with more of it around to find.

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JUNE 2019 NIGHT SKY CALENDAR

Morning Planets	Venus, Jupiter (until Jun 10), Saturn						
Evening Planets	Mars, Jupiter (after Jun 10)						
Date	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Moon
Jun 2	Coronation Day (UK)						
Jun 3	New Moon at 4:02a, begin Lunation 1193						
Jun 5	First day of Shawwa						
Jun 7	r 5:50a s 8:19p	r 7:03a s 9:49p Mag -0.5	r 4:49a s 6:47p Mag -3.9	r 7:50a s 10:22p Mag +1.8	s 6:15a r 8:22p Mag -2.6	s 8:24a r 10:27p Mag +0.2	r 10:08a s 12:28a* Ill 23%
Jun 8	Venus 5 Deg S of Pleiades; Regulus 3 Deg S of Moon; The Queen's Official Birthday (UK)						
Jun 9	Moon 1st Qtr; Feast of Weeks (Shavuot); Whit Sunday (Pentecost)						
Jun 10	Jupiter passes behind the sun; Birthday of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (UK)						
Jun 14	r 5:50a s 8:22p	r 7:28a s 10:04p	r 4:51a s 7:02p	r 7:44a s 10:11p	s 5:43a r 7:50p	s 7:55a r 9:58p	s 4:03a r 5:52p Ill 93%
Jun 16	Trinity Sunday						
Jun 17	Full Moon at 2:31a						
Jun 21	r 5:51a s 8:24p	r 7:46a s 10:05p	r 4:54a s 7:15p	r 7:38a r 10:00p	s 5:12a r 7:19p	s 7:25a r 9:28p	s 9:44a r 11:50p Ill 82%
Jun 21	Mercury passes in front of Sun; Summer begins at 9:54a						
Jun 25	Moon last Qtr						
Jun 28	5:53a s 8:25p	r 7:52a s 9:53p Mag +0.9	r 5:00a s 7:28p Mag -3.9	r 7:32a s 9:49p Mag +1.8	s 4:41a r 6:48p Mag -2.6	s 6:55a r 8:59p Mag +0.1	r 2:50a s 4:20p Ill 19%
Jun 30	Aldebaran 2 Deg S of Moon						

Key: r = rise, s = set, a = am, p = pm, Qtr = quarter, Mag = magnitude (negative values are brighter than positive values), deg = degrees, N = north, E = east, S = south, W = west, Ill = Illumination. *next day, **previous day. Three middle fingers together at arm's length span 5 degrees; the width of your little finger at arm's length is about 1 degree.

Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors Chipper Day and work session

-CAROLYN KENNEDY, CSWCD

This time of year, yard waste, especially prunings from unwanted trees, tends to build up from spring activities. It is important to keep our lands from becoming overgrown with trees like juniper, which can be a dangerous fire hazard. Even though we have had nice weather lately, we must be eternally diligent in reducing wildfire hazard in our communities.

For this reason, the Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) is sponsoring a Chipper Day on June 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. As before, Placitas Community Library has graciously agreed to let the woodchipper set up in their parking lot.

The chipper can handle branches, up to six inches in diameter, and bundles of dead and dried limbs and twigs. The crew can work the easiest with branches bundled going in the same direction, so they can quickly be fed into the chipper, but will take less tidy bundles. It also can handle juniper branches. Still-green and moist leaves

tend to clog the chipper, so it is best to stick with dry material.

Sandoval County residents can bring multiple loads throughout the morning. CSWCD appreciates voluntary donations, suggesting ten dollars per pickup truck load, or less for smaller loads. The resulting wood chips are free to take. Any leftovers can be picked up from the parking lot for a few days following the event. First come, first served.

Thanks to the Placitas Community Library and all the folks who make chipper days happen.

Pursuant to its grant to continue work on erosion control in the Placitas Open Space (POS) during Fiscal Year 2019, CSWCD has scheduled another on-site work session for June 1, at 10:30 a.m., weather and conditions permitting. Volunteers will continue constructing sponge slots, spreading juniper boughs, and repairing previously constructed swales and berms.

For questions or directions, visit our website at www.coronadoswcd.org.

—“Eco-Beat” continued page 19

ECO-BEAT

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Meals are provided on a first-come, first-served basis, and all meals must be consumed on-site. Lunches that are served follow current U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered at the state level by the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department.

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\$139,000 - Calle Pinon
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\$225,000 - Evening Star Court
2.4 acres
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\$107,000 - 3 Wide Ruin Court
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re: Horses as a tourist attraction in Placitas?

At the recent meeting of the Sandoval County Free-Roaming Horse Advisory Council, it was curious that the presentation by Dr. Hale seemed to promote "the horses" as a tourist attraction for Placitas. I was present at the meeting and also noted that, of the seven or so public comments at the end of the meeting, only one, I believe, was in support of free-roaming status for them. In a wasteful culture and destructive society, it is refreshing to see the passion for saving horses. However, to promote the free-roaming horses as a tourist attraction for Placitas? Please! I do not wish to have tourists driving down my road to see the horses.

I have lived in Placitas forty-four years. We had cows, pigs, chickens, and horses. We belonged to the local horse-riding club, did the gymkhanas, and enjoyed many trail rides. Horses were fed, watered, and kept in a corral. The population of Placitas has at least tripled since then, and it has changed dramatically the nature of the area. Some of it good, I suppose, and some not so much. We all want it to stay the way it was when we moved here.

Despite recent rains and winter snow on Sandia Peak, we are in a serious drought pattern, and it is predicted to get worse. We felt the drought in the '90s when our well began to fail, and we had to haul water. The second well failed in 2014. We are on our third well. Climatologists tell us the world is getting hotter, and the Southwest is on track to more and longer drought conditions AND that it is happening faster than even the scientists predicted.

How about saving the land? The land is poor now and getting poorer. When we moved here in the '70s, there was real grass on our land. Now it's Snake Weed, which appeals neither to horse nor cattle. Horses are hard on the land. I wish to have trees and a few flowers, and I wish to hike on my property safely with trails that are not eroded or full of rocks from cattle or horse traffic.

Even with new folks moving here, we were an open and friendly neighborhood. Now, there are gates and fences. I have spent thousands of dollars on fencing only to have the posted signs ripped down and the wire cut. The horse families need a sanctuary, but not the whole of Placitas and not our front yards.

—CATHERINE HARRIS, *Placitas*

GAUNTLET

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Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association (ESCA) report

—GEORGE FRANZEN, ES-CA

These are busy times for the East Sandoval Citizens Association, and we want to share what is happening in our organization, along with important updates regarding the crucial Buffalo Tract.

ESCA is in the first stages of planning a membership drive that will last through the end of 2019. We will reach out through mailings, personal calls, social media, and special events in the months to come. ESCA has become an integral part of efforts to advocate for quality of life in our oft-forgotten Sandoval County communities east of I25.

We will have more information forthcoming, and if you would like to become a member of this community, visit our booth at the Placitas Appreciation Day on June 1 or check out our website at www.es-ca.org/.

The ESCA LPT/County Vulcan mine-site visit was held on April 26. Copies of photos were provided from each Sundance site adjoining the Area 3 final mining section to show the before/after view from fence line. Vulcan performed exploratory drilling in Area 3 (by Sundance) immediately following the sampling in the Buffalo Tract. ESCA, its Land Protection Trust (LPT), and the Las Placitas Association (LPA) have continued to be extremely active in the fight to save the BLM Buffalo Tract from becoming the next supersized gravel mine in Placitas.

On May 2, ESCA, LPT, and LPA had a meeting in Santa Fe with NMED Secretary Kinney's staff: Sandra Ely, the Division Director, and Ms. Bisbee, the Air Quality Control head. They will be responsible for issuing any permit for mining on the BLM property. On May 8, we met

with DOT Cabinet Secretary Michael Sandoval to ask him to support the Governor in stopping the BLM mining. Now that we've met with key staff members, we are requesting a short meeting with Governor Grisham to ensure she is updated on our efforts and readiness to assist in her response to the RMP when provided for her review.

At the federal level, on May 9, Representative Haaland (with Rep Lujan) re-introduced the Grisham bill in House as H.R.2640. Representative Haaland was also able to get firm statements of support for this bill from the affected tribes. The first Senate Hearing scheduled for the Senate Bill counterpart (by Heinrich/Udall) was held on May 14. These bills were recently explained by Senator Heinrich: "The Buffalo Tract Protection Act... would protect Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in southern Sandoval County, near the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Pueblo of Santa Ana, and Placitas, including the Buffalo Tract and the Crest of Montezuma, from any mineral development, including gravel mining."

A letter has been sent to Interior Secretary, David Bernhardt, requesting these lands be withdrawn from any mineral extraction "in aid of pending legislation." This letter and other materials (white paper, resolutions) were submitted as testimony to the senate hearing.

The Next ES-CA Board Meeting, which is open to the public, will be held on June 10, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Note the new meeting time. Meetings are held at the Placitas Community Library—NM Highway 165.

re: Is the Buffalo Tract worth saving?

So, [our] esteemed Senators might ask, "... is the Buffalo Tract worth saving? Does it have any redeeming qualities, any unique environmental or national park-like qualities we can point to?" The answer is yes. The BLM Buffalo Tract is part of a tract of high desert land touching the Sandia Mountains, with magnificent vistas of 360 degrees, where we can see the 10,000 foot Sandias Mountains looming over us, the Jemez Mountains (and Las Alamos) to the northwest, the Sangre de Cristo (Santa Fe) and Pecos Mountains to the north, and the Ortez Mountains to the east. Just to the west is a view of the Rio Grande river and the incredible views of the Santa Ana and San Felipe mesas under the east face of the 12,000-foot Jemez Mountains. The 3,400-acre Buffalo Tract is claimed as aboriginal holdings of the Santa Ana and San Felipe Pueblo people, as well as part of the original land grant holdings of the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant Community dating back to the 1700s. It is in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains, and is starkly visual, with canyons and arroyos challenging to hikers, horse riders and bikers. It is available to the ATV riders or 4 wheelers who regularly travel the simple single and two-track

—continued next page

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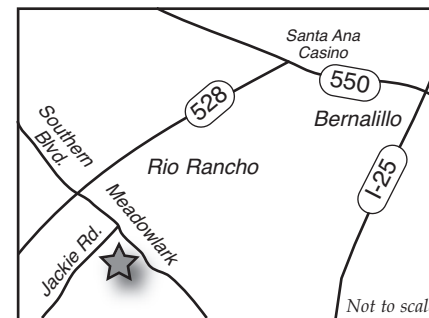
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from page 16—Buffalo Tract

trails. It has an extensive collection of pinon and juniper trees dotting the landscape, chaparral shrubs and in the springtime, beautiful flowering plants. It reflects our 4-season high desert environment, having some snow on the ground in winter, occasional rains in the spring and fall, and challenging heat in the summertime. Make no mistake though, it is a harsh high desert environment that some would not believe is attractive. We disagree.

The current US Department of Interior legislated multi-use rules for BLM lands have little lee-way to limit use of BLM lands for recreational use only, but we have worked hard over the years now to obtain RMP changes that might eliminate gravel mining here on the Buffalo Tract. Hundreds, if not thousands of letters have been written to our Senators and Congressmen and Congresswomen, and to the BLM pleading for this. Those efforts notwithstanding, there is a still a special need in our community for a recreational designation for the Buffalo Tract in conjunction with the S. 526 elimination of mineral development to provide for the overall well-being of the closely surrounding communities and the fragile lands, plants and animals of the Jemez to Sandia Wildlife Corridor contained in the BLM Buffalo Tract.

In the interest of these objectives I would respectfully ask for the Natural Resources Committee approval of the proposed Buffalo Tract Bill (S. 526. To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development).

Sincerely,

—MARTIN CLIFTON, *Placitas*

[Excerpt from letter written by Martin Clifton to the Congressional Natural Resources Committee in support of the proposed Buffalo Tract Bill (S. 526)]

re: Words of praise for Bernalillo Elementary School and administration

My grandson, Brady, is a nine-year-old third grader on the Autism spectrum. He and his mom live in Bernalillo. The following paragraph will explain in a nutshell the horrific behaviors and retaliation his mom and I have endured mostly during his second-grade school year simply for attempting to work with staff to understand what works best for him and his, at times, non-conforming behaviors. It was clear from the beginning that staff was not trained in specifics regarding these behaviors as well as meltdowns, and the “Autistic Child” in general.

CYFD would be called as a threat/retaliation to keep his mom from advocating on his behalf and at least two-to-three times per week, she was called to leave work to pick him up from school because they could not “deal” with him during a meltdown (which by the way, would have been triggered by their treatment of him). That year was a nightmare for Brady and for us. His mom was berated in public by the principal, to the point of tears, for trying to suggest a better form of communication between her and the school in order to maintain consistency in his day-to-day experience in school.

Simply put... Staff was not appropriately trained to provide Brady with “FAPE” (Free Appropriate Public Education), nor were they willing to listen to our suggestions, work with us, and give us the respect we deserve as parents of a special needs child.

This is not uncommon. APS, RRPS, and Districts throughout our State are not able to keep quality special education teachers employed for any

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length of time... mostly because of low pay and no appropriate training and/or training at all. Teachers are leaving the field out of frustration and survival needs. If something is not done, and this problem is not corrected at the State level, our state will be “First” and will lead the way in the “School to Prison Pipeline.” It is so important that we have the teaching staff that cares, understands, and knows how to support our special-needs kids so they will be able to grow, learn social skills, and attend college or trade schools in order to be productive, confident, and happy members in their communities.

This year 2018/2019, he started Third Grade at Bernalillo Elementary School, as his previous school supports K-2 grades only. Early in the year we had a few hiccups, however this past month, we attended his annual “IEP” (Individualized Education Plan) meeting. In attendance for “Our Team Brady” was Mom, Stepdad, me, Brady’s

—continued next page

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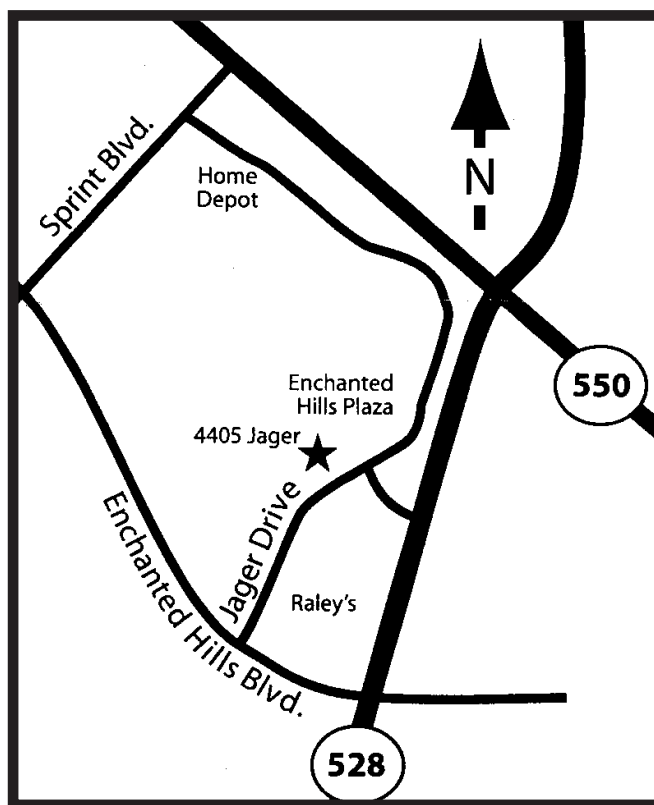
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GAUNTLET

~CONTINUED

from page 17—School

BCBA (through Centria Autism Therapy Services), our parent advocate, and her supervisor from Parents Reaching Out Organization. To represent the school's "Team Brady" was Principal-Felix Garcia, Brady's Special Education Teacher- Mario Arellano, Brady's General Education Teacher-Ms. Gail Tansey, OT Therapist-Ana Amon, Speech/Language Pathologist-Teresita De La Torre, Recreational Therapist-Jennah Thompson, SSW-Barbara Durner, and SSW-Ramona Tapia. His PT Therapist also participated, however I do not have her name.

I was prepared for a very difficult and emotional meeting. Much to my surprise, I felt that for once, we were heard. Everyone on school staff listened to us and agreed with us as to our proposals regarding Brady's next school year and the changes we felt would work for him. I am so grateful for this new school and the staff involved. It is clearly evident to me that they legitimately care about my grandson, and I want everyone who

—continued next page

from page 18—School

reads this to know who they are, how hard they work for our special-needs kids as well as our general education kids and how much they care about what is right, not just what is “easy.”

In addition, I am equally as grateful to the administration of Bernalillo Public Schools, Mr. Keith Cowan-Superintendent and Ms. Jane Pitts-Special Education Director, for their superior management and courtesy to us, the parents, and school staff.

We all appreciate our teachers and schools, etc., so why this heartfelt, public letter of gratitude for a meeting regarding our child that went well? Perhaps it is because anyone who has had the pain and heartache of witnessing the inappropriate treatment of their special-needs child by the very individuals we trust our children with for nine months of each year (plus summer school), will understand exactly my feelings of gratitude and pure joy!

So... from the bottom of my heart, thank you for shining your light on our very special children. Bernalillo Elementary School should be an example for other schools within this district as well as other districts such as “APS” to learn communication skills, patience, diffusing difficult situations, and most important, love and consideration for our special need’s children.

—KATHY MCNULTY, *Placitas*



Village of Los Ranchos, Tennis Court Parking Lot

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Sandia Seed Steward workshop shares info

~LYNDA GARVIN

Are you concerned about the fate of our planet? Do you want to be a positive contributor to addressing climate change and creating locally adapted and diverse gardens? Are you a seed junkie who loves to browse and try new varieties? Did you know that planting and selecting seeds from your best varieties is an act of contributing to a resilient and sustainable local seed system? If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Sandia Seed Steward project is for you.

On June 14 and 15, join the movement of millions of seed savers to create locally available seeds—contribute to seed libraries, and exchange and share seeds with others. This project aligns with the primary mission of the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance (RMSA) to create a resilient Rocky Mountain West by connecting communities with the seeds that sustain them. Their work emphasizes the sharing of seed-saving knowledge to preserve and promote the use of regionally adapted crops, herbs, wildflowers, and native grass seeds.

Project members will collaborate to develop the projects objectives and practices. I hope to see you at the training and look forward to working with you on this exciting initiative.

Space is limited. RSVP at rsvp.nmsu.edu/rsvp/sandiaseed.

NM hemp growers must obtain license from NMDA

New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte would like to remind the public that all hemp growers in New Mexico must obtain a license from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

State and federal laws require oversight of hemp production to ensure cannabis plants grown meet the state and federal definition of hemp. In New Mexico, both the individual grower and the growing location must be registered with NMDA.

Interested individuals may download a hemp production application at www.nmda.nmsu.edu. For more information, call NMDA at 575-646-3207 or email hemp@nmda.nmsu.edu.

Greater Chaco region wins reprieve from fracking

~BRIAN SWEENEY, WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

MAY 7, 2019—This month, a federal appeals court held that the U.S. Department of Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) illegally approved oil and gas drilling and fracking in the Greater Chaco region of New Mexico, a landscape sacred to Tribes throughout the American Southwest and home to the Navajo Nation.

“We always knew BLM wasn’t doing their job—we watch their violations and non-compliance every day,” said Kendra Pinto of Counselor Chapter House, a member of Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment. “To finally be vindicated by a higher court is the necessary step forward we need. Now we must continue to hold BLM accountable.”

In 2015, Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, the San Juan Citizens Alliance, WildEarth Guardians, the Western Environmental Law Center, and the Natural Resources Defense Council filed suit to halt BLM’s approval of hundreds of oil and gas wells in the Greater Chaco region.

The suit targeted BLM’s failure to account for the cumulative, region-wide impacts of fracking, including impacts to water supplies, community health, air quality, climate, and cultural integrity of the landscape. In 2014, the Bureau estimated nearly four thousand fracking wells would be developed in the region, where more than 91 percent of the available land is leased for oil and gas drilling.

Since 2014, the region has faced increased pressure from the oil and gas industry. With the advent of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing of shale formations, companies have encroached closer to Chaco Canyon, filling the region with intense industrial development, bringing more air and water pollution, and increasingly impacting Navajo communities.

With iconic Chaco Canyon and Chaco Culture National Historical Park at its core, the Greater Chaco landscape is where the Ancestral Puebloan peoples thrived over a thousand years ago.

Known for its ruins and other cultural sites, the region remains important and sacred to Tribes throughout the American Southwest, including the Hopi and Dine, including Navajo people who currently reside in the region, and twenty Pueblo nations of New Mexico and Texas, the modern-day descendants of the Ancestral Puebloan people.

“Fracking has been consuming the Greater Chaco landscape, degrading the region’s air, water, and health while purporting to comply with a 2003 Resource Management Plan by the BLM,” said Mike

ECO-BEAT ~CONTINUED

Eisenfeld, Energy and Climate Program Manager for San Juan Citizens Alliance. “This is the last place this kind of destructive industrial development should be happening and is particularly egregious given the BLM’s failure to accurately assess cumulative impacts.”

In 2018, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico rejected the groups’ suit and they appealed the decision to a higher court.

In this month’s ruling, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit reversed the District Court. The Appeals Court held the Bureau of Land Management failed to comply with federal law because it failed to account for the cumulative impacts of fracking in the Greater Chaco, including the impacts of nearly four thousand new oil and gas wells, and failed to address the impacts of water use associated with fracking.

The court ruled, “We conclude that the 3,960 horizontal Mancos Shale wells predicted in the 2014 RFDS [reasonably foreseeable development scenario] were reasonably foreseeable after the 2014 RFDS issued. The BLM therefore had to consider the cumulative impacts of all 3,960 wells when it conducted its site-specific EAs [environmental assessments].”

“BLM has been approving drilling and fracking permits for years without ever having considered the cumulative impacts to people and the environment,” said Kyle Tisdell, energy program director and attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center. “The Tenth Circuit has acknowledged this unlawful practice, sending BLM back to the drawing board. This is a huge win for Chaco, and the people and communities that call this sacred landscape home.”

All told, the court reversed the approval of 25 drilling permits. However, the case has implications for hundreds of drilling permits that have been approved and are currently under consideration in the region.

The ruling comes as political pressure is mounting to permanently protect the Greater Chaco region.

Last month, the New Mexico State Land Office issued a moratorium on leasing oil and gas underneath state trust lands in the area.

Also last month, federal legislation was introduced to protect a core area around Chaco Culture National Historical Park and the U.S. House of Representatives’ Natural Resources Committee held a field hearing on the impacts of oil and gas development to sacred sites and air quality.

Thirteen-year-old Katie Bone of Bernalillo to represent NM at JDRF 2019 Children's Congress

REAL PEOPLE

~CONTINUED

~MIKE ELY

Katie Bone, 13, of Bernalillo has been selected by JDRF, the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research, to join a delegation of youth advocates in Washington, D.C. this summer at JDRF 2019 Children's Congress. The Delegates will be lobbying their Members of Congress to remind them of the vital need to continue supporting T1D research that could reduce the burden of this disease and ultimately find a cure.

The children will participate in a number of activities on the Hill, including a Congressional Committee hearing to share personal testimonies that highlight the challenges of living with T1D and the need for continued funding for research projects such as the Special Diabetes Program (SDP).

Katie is a competitive rock climber, competing nationally in rock-climbing competitions. Kaitlyn was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes two years ago, and since then has learned to live and thrive in spite of this disease, continuing her competitive activities, traveling, and learning to advocate for those living with T1D.

"I am so excited to be a part of the JDRF 2019 Children's Congress delegation and to share my family's story with people who can make a huge impact on T1D research," said Katie Bone. "My family and I look forward to going to Capitol Hill alongside so many other inspiring kids to meet with our Senators and Representatives. Together, we have a chance to make a difference in the lives of people with T1D."



Katie Bone—on the wall

Town hires first police cadets, OKs brewery bonds

~SIGNPOST STAFF

Bernalillo's strategy of generating its own police officers has begun with the hiring of the town's first two cadet officers.

At the May 13 meeting, town councilors approved the hiring of Ronald Sanchez Jr. and Jeremy Portmore. Sanchez went through security-police training from a government contractor, and Portmore, most recently an employee of Albuquerque Ambulance Service, received field training from the Lovington Police Department, according to their resumes.

Neither is yet a certified police officer, which is the point of the new program. With big departments like Albuquerque on hiring binges, small towns like Bernalillo say it's difficult-to-impossible to recruit experienced officers.

In March, the town approved a program to hire qualified applicants and run them through an in-house training program in preparation for attending the state-level police academy at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque. The town pays to put the officers through the academy to receive their certification.

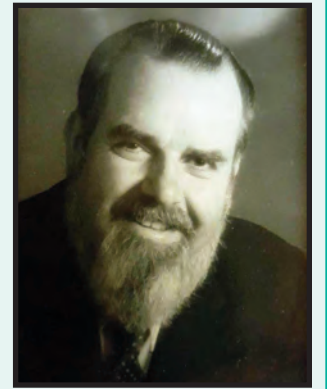
In exchange, the officers agree to work for Bernalillo for at least two years. If they fail to achieve certification due to their own actions, they're to reimburse the town.

"They are well-aware of the challenges ahead of them and are willing to take it on," Bernalillo Police Chief Tom Romero said. "We're very appreciative of that."

With the hiring of Sanchez and

Martin Daniel Bradshaw

MARTIN BRADSHAW, 82, a longtime resident of Placitas, NM, passed away after a brief illness at a local Albuquerque Hospital on Monday, May 13, 2019, surrounded by family. Martin was born June 24, 1936, to Walter Daniel and Mildred Marie (Martin) Bradshaw in Pittsburg, Kansas. He was the oldest of their four children.



Martin lived in several places in Kansas, Arkansas and Missouri growing up. In his early teens, his family settled in Newton, Kansas, where he graduated from Newton High School in 1954. Martin had many fond memories and stories to share about being a Newton High Rail-roader and working at his Dad's local Dairy Queen store during his high school years.

Martin received a B.S.E.E. from Wichita State University in 1958 and his M.S.E.E. in 1961. He attended Carnegie Institute of Technology on a Ford Foundation Fellowship from 1961 to 1963 and received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1964. He was a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of New Mexico from 1963 to 1986 and returned from retirement to UNM again from 1991 to 1996. He won numerous local, regional and national teaching awards including the George Westinghouse Award from the ASEE in 1973 and the IEEE Centennial Medal in 2000. "Dr. B"—as he was known by his students—loved his role as teacher and mentor. It was amazing to his family how often they would run into former students in public and how Martin generally remembered their names and even the year they graduated!

Martin is survived by his wife of 35 years, Jo of Placitas. He is also survived by his daughters, Debby Cannon (Brian) and Janell Martinez (Dan) and stepchildren Dusty Rinaldi (Willie), Cathy Wilson (Brian) and Jeff York, as well as his brother, Wally Bradshaw (Patty) of New Jersey, 14 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He was recently preceded in death by his sister, Lynda Tincher of Kansas and his son, Kevin Lee Bradshaw of Albuquerque. Martin was very involved with his family and stayed in touch with numerous cousins, nieces and nephews scattered throughout the country.

After retirement, Martin and his wife Jo enjoyed traveling to dog shows across the country to show Jo's award winning Basenjis. They had many wonderful adventures and made many friends on their journeys. Martin was well-known as someone who always had a joke to tell or story to share. He had a warm and outgoing personality and always made an effort to learn the name of anyone he was interacting with—from the wait staff at a restaurant, the checker at the grocery store, or the counter agents at his local Placitas post office. You could truly say, Martin never met a stranger. He was a supporter of the Placitas Community Library and was honored each year to play Santa at the Library's annual holiday event. With his fluffy white beard and his ability to easily interact with people of all ages, Martin made the perfect Santa!

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends! Burial has taken place at a private cemetery in Placitas. A memorial reception will be held on Friday, June 14, at 5:00 p.m. in the Centennial Engineering Center Stamm Room at the University of New Mexico. If you would like to do something to honor Martin's life, please consider a donation to the Placitas Community Library or to a charity of your choice. To view information or leave a condolence, please visit www.danielsfuneral.com.

New Mexico joins Measles outbreak

As the national number of measles cases rises, New Mexico has recorded its first case in more than four years.

On May 17, the New Mexico Department of Health reported confirmation of measles in a one-year-old Sierra County child.

"We have worked with the clinic that treated the child, and the patient's family, to identify people who may have been exposed so we can prevent more cases of the disease," said state Health Secretary Kathyeen Kunkel. "We encourage everyone to check whether you and your family have been vaccinated to protect against measles... Immunization is the best tool we have to protect people from measles."

The disease is considered highly contagious and easily transmitted from person to person, according to NMDOH.

By mid-May, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had reported 880 confirmed cases of measles in 24 states. That is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1994, and most of those infected were not vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Measles was declared eliminated in 2000.

Portmore, four slots remain to be filled, he added.

During the meeting, Mayor Jack Torres reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, after a site visit in September, has found the town in compliance with its Community Rating System. That extends the voluntary program that recognizes local progress and provides incentives for flood management.

The program is intended to reduce flood damage but also can lead to lower rates for flood insurance.

Planning and Zoning Director Stephanie Shumsky said some properties could be removed from flood zones entirely, but it will take an update of the flood-zone map to do that. The current map dates to 2008, she said.

"I'm thinking that we'll shrink the flood zone," Shumsky added.

Torres asked her to explore the cost of developing a new map, potential funding sources, and possible help from the Eastern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority.

Councilors also approved issuing \$2.5 million in industrial revenue bonds to equip the Bosque Brewing Co. facility in Bernalillo. As an economic-development tool, businesses get a tax break by issuing bonds through a city or county but are solely responsible for paying off the bonds.



Hometown gals enjoy a brew

Farmhouse Ale Event—"the largest country music event in the area"—to replace the Bernalillo Wine Festival

—DANA KOLLER, KATUS BREWING COMPANY

On June 1, from noon to 6:00 p.m., come enjoy the first annual Farmhouse Ale Event hosted by Bernalillo's Kactus Brewing Company. This lively outdoor festival will be held at Loretto Park in historic Bernalillo, featuring a huge beer garden, live music, and a country theme not to forget.

Local craft beer will be served by Kactus and Bosque Brewing Companies. Country music acts are coming all the way from Nashville. There will also be a car and tractor show, ax throwing, live animals, a kids' zone, and more.

This event is supported by the Bernalillo Lodgers Tax and seeks to be the largest country music event in New Mexico. A portion of the proceeds will support two nonprofit organizations: The Kiwanis Club of Greater Bernalillo and UN-17.

Tickets are \$10 Early Bird, and \$15 at the door. More information can be found at www.FarmhouseAleEvent.com.

Outdoor concerts return to Placitas Homestead Village shopping center

—SANDRA LIAKUS PILCHER

Four outdoor "Sandia Chill" evening concerts are scheduled this summer at the Homestead Village Shopping Center in Placitas. The concerts will be held on the second Sunday of the month, June through September, each starting at 7:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and a picnic. The organizers are suggesting a donation of \$15 per adult per concert, with net proceeds benefiting local charities.

The first concert is scheduled for June 9 and will feature the 18-piece Albuquerque Jazz Orchestra, along with New Mexico's popular singer, the amazing Hillary Smith. The remaining 2019 "Sandia Chill" concerts are: July 14, Aretha Franklin Tribute featuring Hillary Smith, friends, and the Chillhouse Band; August 11, Chaka Khan Tribute Featuring Toni Morgan and the Got Soul Band; September 8, Jazz and Blues Jam featuring top local musicians.

The owners of the Homestead Village Shopping Center, Orville and Judy McCallister, are graciously allowing the concerts to take place on their grounds as part of a nonprofit offering to the community. Anja Bladergroen, owner of the Blades Bistro, is pleased to see summer concerts returning to the Placitas shopping center. She believes that along with public-listening enjoyment, the businesses located in the center will benefit from greater visibility by the people attending the "Sandia Chill" concerts. Many community members are already familiar with the talented bands and singers noted from weeknight performances at the Placitas Café and at other area clubs.

The 2019 "Sandia Chill" concerts are sponsored by the newly formed member nonprofit endeavor, The Canyon Blues and Jazz (CB&J). For more information on the concerts, CB&J memberships, and sponsorship opportunities along with the associated benefits go to [@sandiachillconcerts](https://www.facebook.com/CanyonBluesandJazz), email Canyonbluesandjazz@gmail.com, or call Jim Casey at 214-544-5827.



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Call for artists for the 38th annual

Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale

The Placitas Mountaincraft and Soiree Society is seeking artists for the 2019 Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale, an annual event held each year on the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 23 and 24, in the village of Placitas. This is a juried show and all artists will need to submit digital images of their artwork to be accepted. Artists do not have to be from Placitas to apply.

This event is organized by the Placitas Mountaincraft and Soiree Society, a 501(c)(3) organization that has supported the arts in Placitas for more than 46 years.

The artist application is online at www.placitasholidaysale.com. Also on the website, artists can get information about the show and print the application. If you need an application sent to you, contact the Placitas Holiday Sale, 3 Canon del Apache, Placitas, NM 87043 or send an email to info@placitasholidaysale.com. The deadline is July 24, 2019, and all applications must be postmarked by this date.

First annual Rio Rancho Arts Summit

On June 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Sue Cleveland High School Performing Arts Center, the Rio Rancho Art Association and the City of Rio Rancho Art Commissioners will bring the talented and diverse Arts Community of Rio Rancho together for a half day event to discuss what they would like to see happen in the City of Rio Rancho for the arts.

Rio Rancho is an active, thriving, and culturally rich community. The Art Association would like to help discover how they can better promote and share the skills and talents of the Rio Rancho community. There will be live performances, art demos, and vendor tables available for rent. Refreshments and coffee will be served. Admission is free. For more information, send email to arts@rrnm.gov, with subject line RRAA Arts Summit.

New award and exhibit on display at Jemez Historic Site

-MATTHEW J. BARBOUR, MANAGER, CORONADO AND JEMEZ HISTORIC SITES

On May 17, New Mexico Historic Sites and the Pueblo of Jemez were awarded the Archaeology Heritage Preservation Award by New Mexico Historic Preservation Division and the New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee. The award was given at the 2019 New Mexico Historic Preservation Awards, held in Santa Fe. This award was given for collaboration during the "Dig Giusewa" Project. Director Moore, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Toya, Manager Barbour, Coordinator Ortega, and Coordinator Magdalena were on hand to receive the honor, which was presented by New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs Secretary Debra Garcia y Griego and Cultural Properties Review Committee Member and Historical Archaeologist Douglas Boggess.

The "Dig Giusewa" Project focused on archaeological investigations of a large rectangular room just north of the Visitor Center at Jemez Historic Site. Over the course of the Fall (August 16-November 6) and Spring (March 7-April 6) field seasons, New Mexico Historic Site staff, Jemez Pueblo Tribal Members, University of New Mexico Graduate Students, and Friends of Coronado and Jemez Historic Site Volunteers worked to address long-held questions about the Jemez people involving their origins and how their lives changed after the arrival of the Spanish. This resulted in the collection of over 10,000 artifacts and the documentation of a structure that was thought to have been abandoned during the Pueblo Revolt of 1680.

The very next day, on May 18, Jemez Historic Site hosted an exhibit opening to honor and acknowledge the massive overhaul of the Visitor Center, completed by students enrolled in the New Mexico Highlands University Program in Interactive Cultural Technology (PICT). This program is coordinated by the Media Arts Chair Miriam Langer. The new visitor experience includes three-dimensional projection mapping, an oral history video, a children's activity booklet, an updated trail guide, and a visitor center tourist kiosk. However, modifications and improvements to the exhibit are expected to continue throughout the summer of 2019.

Both the award and new exhibits are on display now at Jemez Historic Site. Jemez Historic Site is located at 18160 Highway 4 in Jemez Springs, New Mexico, and is open Wednesday through Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admittance is \$5 per adult. Children and Jemez Tribal Members are free. For more information, visit www.nmhistoricsites.org or call 575-829-3530.

Silk in Summer

-BUNNY BOWEN

The New Mexico Silk Painter's Guild (NMSPG) will open a colorful exhibition of surface design on cloth at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, in the Village of Placitas, on June 4, open until June 28. The public is welcome to view the show during church business hours: Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Formed in 1995, NMSPG is an organization of fiber/textile artists working in various surface design techniques/media. Members exhibit in numerous venues, individually and as a group. Several members have been recognized internationally, and some offer classes and/or teach privately. NMSPG meets regularly to discuss their art, to make exhibition plans and, once in awhile, to organize retreats where members are free to work together and enjoy each other's company.

Meeting monthly, we welcome all interested in joining at any level. It is a rich resource for those interested in exploring surface design on cloth, whether beginners or advanced fiber artists. NMSPG is a member of the Albuquerque Fiber Arts Council and participates in the Biennial Albuquerque Fiber Arts Fiesta. The guild is active in SPIN, Silk Painters International, and as board members, instructors, curators, and students. SPIN has held several of their international conferences at IAIA (Institute of American Indian Arts) in Santa Fe.

For more about NMSPG, visit www.nmsilkpaintersguild.com or call Suzanne Visor at 265-7288. Las Placitas Presbyterian Church is located at 7 Paseo De San Antonio Road in Placitas. 867-5718.



Six weeks in the life of a silkworm (detail)
by Bunny Bowen

Wheels and Motion at Placitas Library

-REBECCA COHEN

There is a Chinese proverb that says "Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still." It seems that many of us have intuited its wisdom. From the time we are children, bicycles, skates, and amusement rides whirl us around and around. Then, as adults, we zoom through life on trains, planes, and automobiles, or sometimes by running laps, occasionally slowing to a walk, but rarely sitting still. "I move, therefore I am," writes Haruki Murakami in his book 1Q84. It feels like an accurate observation.

For the June exhibition at the Placitas Community Library, artists expound on the idea of motion in a variety of media and styles. Whether depicting trucks, trailers, and other modern conveyances in a realistic manner or trying to capture the essence of motion itself through photography or the rays from a solar powered lamp, participants grapple heroically with a subject that won't remain still.

Participating artists include Margaret Bruch, Ron Bunker, Pea S. Garr, Linda Heath, Meredith McPherson, Bonnie Mitisek, Eugenia Reilly, Bill Otterbein, Lisa Rossi, Alfons Schuster, and Erica Wendel-Ogelsby, among others.

The public is welcome to attend the artists' reception on June 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. All work is available to purchase, and a percentage of the proceeds will benefit the library.

Held in the Collin Meeting Room, Placitas Community Library—453 State Highway 165. The exhibit will be on display until June 27.



Cyclist, painting, by Ron Bunker

BRILLIANCE!
VISIONS IN GLASS



LISA CHERNOFF

NANCY & JON COUCH

MAY 21 thru JUNE 23, 2019

Reception
SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1-4 p.m.

221-B Hwy 165, Placitas 87043
in Homestead Village
wildheartsgallery-nm.com

Wild Hearts Gallery
an artists' collective

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Wild Hearts Gallery features brilliant glass art

~ROSEMARY BREEHL

Glass is magical stuff. Once a hot, flowing liquid, it can be blown, kiln-cast, fused, slumped, flame-worked, hot sculpted and cold worked. The art of June's featured artists represents thousands of years of refinement and invention.

Lisa Chernoff and Nancy and Jon Couch are the featured artists at Wild Hearts Gallery in June. The public is invited to the opening reception on June 8, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Lisa Chernoff, a self-directed explorer and experimenter in kiln-fused glass, delights in captivating her viewers' attention in her exclamatory sculptures.

Nancy and Jon Couch have been artists all of their lives. They are renowned for their water prisms, which create dancing rainbows of color.

Wild Hearts Gallery is an artists' collective, supported by 14 longtime local artists. They are painters, sculptors, photographers, potters, printmakers, jewelers, woodworkers, glass, fiber, and mosaic artists. Wild Hearts Gallery is located in Placitas, at Homestead Village, 221-B State Highway 165. The works will be on display through June 23.

The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.wildheartsgallery-nm.com or call 361-2710.



Bloom, glass art,
by Lisa Chernoff



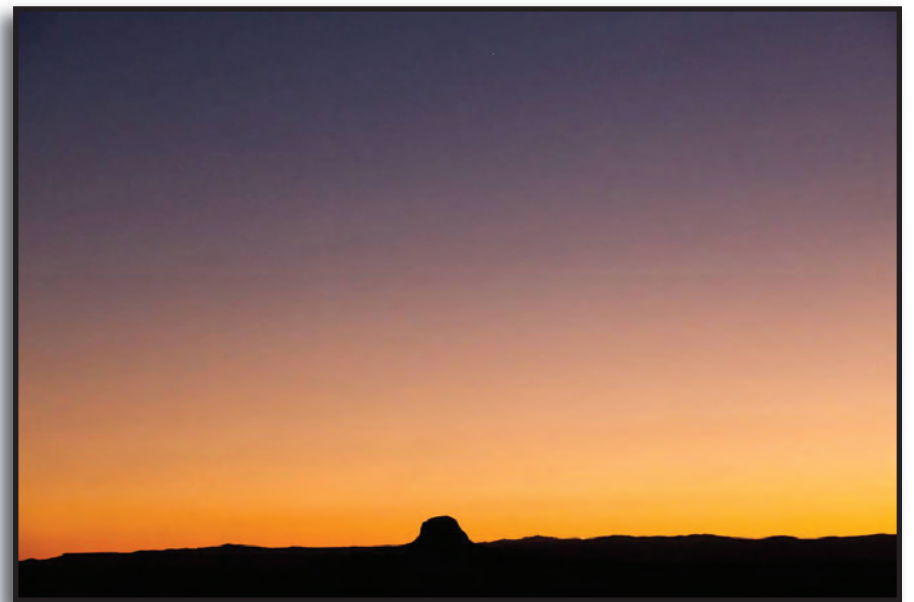
Star of David, water prism,
by Nancy and Jon Couch

PlacitasArtists.Com

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Cabezón Sunset, photograph

Jemez Historic Site hosts Hummingbird Music Camp concert series

This summer, the Jemez Historic Site will once again host students from Hummingbird Music Camp to perform outdoors at San Jose de los Jemez Mission at the historic site. Each Saturday evening, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., until July 27, you can listen to their melodies, while exploring the historic site after hours.

"Our patrons find these Hummingbird students' concerts entertaining and also uplifting," says Matthew Barbour, manager of the Jemez and Coronado Historic Sites. "There's nothing quite like the sounds of their young voices serenading you as you explore the ruins in the quiet solitude of the village of Jemez Springs."

There is no admission fee, and this event is open to the public. Contact the Jemez Historic Site for more information at 575-829-3530.

Jemez Historic Site is located at 18160 NM-4, in Jemez Springs.

Celebrating glass art and the Summer Solstice

~DORIS FIELDS

The Wild Hearts Gallery will celebrate the summer solstice with community members at the gallery on June 21, at 5:00 p.m. The celebration will feature glass art, with talks by Placitas glass artists Lisa Chernoff and Jon and Nancy Couch. These artists will share information about their processes, what it takes to transform glass to beautiful works of art. We will have a Solstice altar where anyone may contribute an item that is special to

them; the space will be set up a few days prior to the solstice celebration. Also, we will share a few fun facts and images about solstice. We may be able to watch the sun set that evening behind Cabezón Peak. The celebration of solstice promises to be educational, entertaining, and fun. Wild Hearts Gallery is located at Homestead Village—221-B, NM-165—in Placitas. For more information, call 867-5340.

SIGNPOST COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To submit a listing, send it to: email@sandovalsignpost.com. Deadline for submission is the twentieth of the month prior to publication. The calendar is a free community service provided by the *Signpost* to nonprofits and for cultural events of interest to residents of Sandoval County. Example: "First Monday" means the first Monday of each month.

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

Daily: **Free hikes at Valles Caldera National Preserve—from Magma to Magpie.** For a complete list of activities at the National Preserve, go to <https://www.nps.gov/vall/index.htm>.

Monthly: **Various community events at Rio Rancho Libraries.** Rio Rancho libraries—Esther Bone and Loma Colorado—will be hosting a variety of events all month long ranging from book signings, to poetry readings, lectures, concerts, arts and crafts, meet and greets, etc. For more information about the library or each month's activities, visit www.riorancholibraries.org.

Monthly: **Urban Horticulture Classes.** Sponsored by the SandovalMasterGardeners.org. Free. Open to public. Registration preferred. Sandovalmastergardeners.org/public-class-registration.

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

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

Second and fourth Mondays: **Westside Neuro Choir—A chorus for adults living with brain challenges & caregivers. Includes ALS, brain injury, MS, Parkinson's, strokes, and others.** 5:45-7:15 p.m. Held at Grace Outreach Church, 2900 Southern Blvd, Rio Rancho. Use southern entrance. For more info contact Sheri at 917-7981 or sheriarzm@gmail.com

Mondays through Fridays: **Placitas Mothers' Day Out childcare.** A caring, cooperative, community childcare program since 1989. Hours: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. daily, \$23. Info: Ms. Debbie Steuber, 867-3371.

Tuesdays: **Teen Hang Out at the Martha Liebert Public Library.** 4 p.m. 867-1440. Tuesdays: **Yoga with Patricia,** 1-2 p.m., at the Town of Bernalillo Martha Liebert Public Library, 124 Calle Melinche, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-1440.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: **Pickleball at the Bernalillo Community Center.** 1-4 p.m. Pickleball is a game played on a court with paddles and a whiffle ball. The court is smaller than a tennis court and allows people to play who no longer want to run and jump as they did in their younger years. Anyone can play, even if they have never played tennis. 934-2649.

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

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

Second Thursdays: **Visionary Arts & Crafts Guild (VACG).** 6-8 p.m. VACG is a group of juried artists whose mission is to develop a fellowship among craftspeople and facilitate a market for crafts. The VACG supports the "Art of Craft" through exhibitions, education and public awareness to promote the development and appreciation of craftspeople and their work. Baptist Church of Rio Rancho Adult Education Center, 1909 Grande Avenue, Rio Rancho. VisionaryACG@gmail.com, 948-3132.

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays: **Seniors (62+) ride free on the Rail Runner.** Bring valid photo ID (with birthdate).

Wednesdays: **Thinking Straight open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.** 6-7 p.m. Have a Desire to Stop Drinking? Celebrate Sobriety with us and learn how to stay sober. Held at the First Assembly Church, 274 Camino Don Tomas (Room 8), Just south of Highway 550 in Bernalillo. 266-1900.

Wednesdays: **Cub Scout meetings.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Held at the LDS Church Center in Bernalillo, west of I-25's Exit 240. New members are always welcome. 867-4689, 867-2047.

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

Drive, Rio Rancho. Info: Mac McKinney, 892-4313.

Wednesdays: **Urban Horticulture Class Continuing Series.** 1-3 p.m. Sponsored by the SandovalMasterGardeners.org. Free and open to the public. Registration preferred. SandovalMasterGardeners.org. Sandoval County Ext. Office, Bernalillo. 929-0414.

First Wednesdays: **Free civil legal clinic offered.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Held in the third-floor conference room of the Second District Courthouse, at the southwest corner of Lomas and Fourth, NW. Free legal advice on a number of civil legal issues. No family law services will be offered. Attendance is limited to the first 25 persons who qualify for low-income assistance. Interpreters and bilingual attorneys will be on hand. Attendees should bring all of their paperwork. Expect about a thirty-minute, free legal consultation. 797-6077.

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

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

Third Wednesdays: **Meeting of the Coronado Optimist Club.** 6-7 p.m. Held at the Range Cafe in Bernalillo.

Third Wednesdays (except December): **Las Placitas Association Board meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Held at the Placitas Community Center. lasplacitas.org.

Thursdays: **Using Microsoft Word at the Martha Liebert Public Library.** 10 a.m. Registration a must. 867-1440.

Thursdays: **El Club del Libro—Our monthly Spanish Book Club.** 6-7 p.m. Recurring. Held at Loma Colorado Main Library Rio Rancho History Room. Join us in reading a book in Spanish, improving conversation skills, and meeting interesting friends who wouldn't have the opportunity to cross paths without "El Club del Libro." This month, in coordination with PBS's The Great American Read program, we will discuss *Bendiceme, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya. No registration required. Walk-ins welcome! Please note new day and time.

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

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

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

First and third Thursdays: **Sandoval County Commission meeting.** 6 p.m. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held in the Sandoval Administration Building, 1500 Idalia Road Building D, Bernalillo. Info or meeting agenda: www.sandoval-county.com, 867-7500.

Second Thursday: **The New Mexico Parkinson's Coalition (NMPCC) meets.** 1:30-3 p.m. Held at Grace Outreach at 2900 Southern Boulevard SE in Rio Rancho. The NMPCC works to enhance the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's through education, awareness and support for those with the disease. For more information, call 219-5065 or visit the website: nmparkinson.org.

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

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

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

Fridays: **Toddler Time at the Martha Liebert Public Library.** 10 a.m. 867-1440.

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

Fridays: **Celebrate Recovery—12 steps to finding freedom from hurts, hang-ups, and habits.** 6:30 p.m. Held at the First Assembly Church, 274 Camino Don Tomas, Bernalillo. 867-7226.

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

Saturdays: **Jemez Historic Site hosts Hummingbird Music Camp concert series.** 6-8 p.m. Held until July 27. Free, open to the public. 575-829-3530.

Saturdays: **Wildflower walks on the Sandia Ranger District.** Starting at 9 a.m. There will be an amenity fee of three dollars. Be sure to bring a hat, water, and sunscreen. Sandia Ranger District: 281-3305.

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

Saturdays: **Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque Growers' Market.** Free. May-Aug.—7 a.m.-noon. Sep.-Nov. 8 a.m.-noon. Fresh vegetable, fruits, herbs flowers, jams, cheeses, arts and crafts. Live music. Voted "Best In City."

Accepts WIC/Senior. At Village of Los Ranchos tennis court parking lot. losranchosgrowersmarket.com.

Second and fourth Saturdays: **Placitas Community Flea Market.** 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Held at Homestead Village on Highway 165 in beautiful Placitas. Vendor spaces are \$10 for each 10x15 space. Spaces are on a first come basis. We cannot sell food, beverages, or firearms. Vendor set up time is from 5:30 a.m. Bring your own table, chairs and tents, which must be weighted down in case the winds pick up. All vendor fees go to a selected charitable organizations. For additional information, contact Nancy Holley at 515-4323.

Third Saturdays: **Rio Rancho Northwest Mesa NAACP meets.** 11 a.m. Held at Don Newton Community Center. Public is invited. www.rrnmnaacp.org.

Sundays: **Corrales Growers' Market.** 9-noon. Located at Corrales and Jones Road. 259-0203.

June 1: **Placitas History Project presentation, Esteban: eight-years across the American Southwest.** 2 p.m. Placitas Community Library, 453 Highway 165. Free and open to all. 867-3355.

June 1: **Placitas Appreciation Day.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Featuring a car show, live music, free food, a Watermelon Mountain Ranch dog booth, and much more. Held at Homestead Village Shopping Center in Placitas.

June 1: **Farmhouse Ale Event hosted by Kaktus Brewery.** Noon-6 p.m. Held at Loretto Park in Bernalillo. Featuring a beer garden, live music, and a country theme. There will also be a car show, ax throwing, live animals, and a kids' zone. \$10 Early Bird; \$15 at the door. A portion of the proceeds will support the Kiwanis Club of Greater Bernalillo and UN-17.

June 3: **Xeric Club presents Wildlife Gardening: Help in a Changing World.** 10-11 a.m. Docent Mary Deaguero will give a tour of the Xeric Garden Club's Certified Wildlife Habitat Demonstration Garden, exploring how, by adding wildlife friendly plants to your landscape that provide food and shelter throughout the growing season, and by adopting pollinator friendly landscapes practices, you can make a difference to both wildlife and humans. She will also explore with tour participants requirements to create a wildlife habitat in your own backyard. The Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas NE. Free. For further information go to www.xericgardclub.org.

June 4: **Opening for New Mexico Silk Painter's Guild's "Silk in Summer"** Tuesdays-Fridays through June 28. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Placitas Presbyterian Church.

June 5: **Albuquerque Concert Band Summer Concert Series.** 7-8 p.m. Albuquerque Balloon Museum—9201 Balloon Museum Dr. NE. Free admission. Open to the public. Bring family, friends, and a picnic.

June 5: **Jardineros de Placitas monthly meeting.** 9:30 a.m. Held at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. This month features Placitas EMT Technicians speaking on Emergency Management Services. Jardineros de Placitas is a social, benevolent, and charitable community-based organization for residents of Placitas. In addition to monthly meetings, members support local community organizations and participate in community service projects and twenty varied interest groups. www.jardinerosdeplacitas.org or contact Karen Cox at 867-2399.

June 6-8: **Pastelworld painting exhibit.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Featuring the world's best pastel painters. Hotel Albuquerque, (room to the left of the entryway doors), in Albuquerque. Free. 843-6300, www.iaps.org.

June 7: **Monthly meeting of the Rio Rancho Astronomical Society.** 7:30 p.m. Held at Rainbow Park Observatory—301 Southern Boulevard SE. Open to the public. RRAS President Jon Schuchardt will give a talk on observing double stars. Telescopes will be available for stargazing after the meeting, weather permitting. www.rrastro.org.

June 8: **Wild Hearts Gallery reception for Brilliance, a glass art show.** Featuring Lisa Chernoff and Nancy and Jon Couch. 1-4 p.m. wildheartsgallery-nm.com.

June 9: **Outdoor concert at Homestead Village Shopping Center in Placitas.** 7 p.m. Featuring the 18-piece Albuquerque Jazz Orchestra, along with the amazing Hillary Smith. The organizers are suggesting a donation of \$15 per adult per concert, with net proceeds benefiting local charities. Bring your lawn chairs and a picnic.

June 9: **Sandoval County Historical Society presents "Tour of Old Church in Corrales and Casa San Ysidro."** 2 p.m., Delavy House, Bernalillo. Historical Society archives and library are open to members and the public for family research every Thursday morning from 9-noon. Info: 867-2755.

June 10: **ES-CA Board Meeting.** 4:30-6 p.m. Open to the public. Note the new meeting time. Held at the Placitas Community Library—NM Highway 165.

June 14: **Artist reception for Wheels and Motion at Placitas Community Library.** 5-7 p.m. All work is available to purchase, and a percentage of the proceeds will benefit the library. 453 State Highway 165. On display until June 27.

June 15: **Albuquerque Folk Festival.** Family fun and music. New location at the Bosque School. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Children under 11—free. Full day tickets: \$5-\$20. Advanced tickets available online at www.abqfolkfest.org. 505-294-6909.

June 15: **Chipper Day at Placitas Community Library.** 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Bring branches, up to six inches in diameter, and bundles of dead and dried limbs and twigs. CSWCD appreciates voluntary donations, suggesting ten dollars per pickup truck load, or less for smaller loads. The resulting wood chips are free to take. www.coronadoswcd.org.

June 15: **First annual Rio Rancho Arts Summit.** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Held at Sue Cleaveland High School Performing Arts Center. Rio Rancho Art Association and the City of Rio Rancho Art Commissioners will bring the talented and diverse Arts Community of Rio Rancho together for a half day event to discuss what they would like to see happen in the City of Rio Rancho for the arts.

June 19: **Albuquerque Concert Band Summer Concert Series.** 7-8 p.m. Albuquerque Balloon Museum—9201 Balloon Museum Dr. NE. Free admission. Open to the public. Bring family, friends, and a picnic.

June 21: **Solstice party and glass celebration at Wild Hearts Gallery.** 5 p.m. Located at Homestead Village, 221-B, NM-165, in Placitas. All welcome. Contact: Doris Fields, 867-5340.

Bernalillo Senior Center activities

June 3: 10:00 a.m. coffee social/People Works, 12:30 p.m. bingo
 June 4: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. senior advisory meeting, 1:00 p.m. Power yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting
 June 5: 8:00 a.m. Roadrunner Mobile Food Pantry, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 10:00 a.m. UNMSRC Presentation, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 June 6: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican dominoes, 1:00 p.m. popcorn and games
 June 7: 10:00 a.m. bingo at Beehive Homes, 12:30 p.m. billiards, 1:30 p.m. trip to Paleta Bar for ice cream
 June 10: 9:00 a.m. Walmart, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 10:00 a.m. one-stroke painting with Maria, 12:30 p.m. bingo
 June 11: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:00 p.m. Power yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting, 4:00 p.m. Karaoke and Dinner
 June 12: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 June 13: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican dominoes, 1:00 p.m. Dollar Tree
 June 14: 8:30 a.m. Santa Cruz Lake, 12:30 p.m. billiards, 1:00 p.m. AARP Defensive Driving
 June 17: 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 10:00 a.m. one-stroke painting with Maria, 12:30 p.m. bingo, 10:00 a.m. local shopping

COMMUNITY CENTERS

June 18: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:00 p.m. Power yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting
 June 19: 9:00 a.m. Echo Commodities, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 June 20: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican dominoes, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz
 June 21: 10:00 a.m. National History Museum, 12:30 p.m. billiards
 June 24: 9:00 a.m. Walmart, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 10:00 a.m. one-stroke painting with Maria, 12:30 p.m. bingo
 June 25: 9:00 a.m. Cerrillos Museum/Madrid, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:00 p.m. PWR Yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting
 June 26: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 June 27: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican dominoes, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz
 June 28: 10:30 a.m. billiards game day, 12:30 p.m. birthday social, 1:00 p.m. birthday bingo

Placitas Community Center activities

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

Monday: 9:30 a.m. yoga, 11:15 a.m. enhanced fitness, 1:30 p.m. qi gong
 Tuesday: 8:15 a.m. Pilates, 9:30 a.m. Zumba, 12:30 p.m. billiards, 1:00 p.m. bingo, 2:30 p.m. every second and fourth 2:30 p.m. fused glass workshop
 Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. Project Linus blanket making, 1:00 p.m. cards, 9:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m. billiards, 2:00 p.m. chair yoga, 3:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 Thursday: 8:15 a.m. Pilates, 9:30-11 a.m. yoga, 11:15 a.m. enhanced fitness, 1:00-4:30 p.m. beading class, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Beyond the Brush/Mixed Media
 Friday: 8:00 a.m. Zumba, 9:30 a.m. having fun with clay, 9:30 a.m. painting open workshop, 12:00 p.m. enhanced fitness, 1:00 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. billiards

Now serving a light breakfast on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Suggested donation of one dollar for seniors 60+.

SPECIAL CLASSES/EVENTS:

June 3: 12:30 p.m. essential needs shopping at Wal-Mart, Albertsons, and Walgreens
 June 4: 9:30 a.m. haircuts by appointment only
 June 5: 7:45 a.m. depart for food pantry at Bernalillo Senior Center, 10:00 a.m. billiards game day
 June 6: 9:45 a.m. depart Placitas Senior Center for Project Linus recognition luncheon
 June 7: 10:30 a.m. depart to BeeHive for burgers and bingo, 10:00 a.m. Chinese herbalist mini treatments

June 10: 12:30 p.m. Card-making class
 June 12: 11:30 a.m. Father's Day luncheon
 June 13: 9:00 a.m. trip to Sandia Pueblo for Feast Day
 June 14: 8:00 a.m. field trip to Santa Cruz Lake for picnic and fishing
 June 17: 1:00 p.m. event planning committee gathering
 June 18: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. haircuts by appointment only, 1:00-4:00 p.m. chair massages with Dhara by appointment only
 June 25: 12:30 p.m. nutrition training demo
 June 26: 11:00 a.m. health checks by volunteer fire department, 11:30 a.m. birthday social
For further information on all events, contact the Placitas Community Center at 867-1396 and pick up the complete newsletter at site located at 41 Camino De Las Huertas.

Sandoval County Senior Centers' lunch menu

June 3: Pineapple glazed chicken, steamed brown rice, steamed Italian veggies, garden salad with dressing, biscuit with margarine fresh melon
 June 4: Green chile beef smothered burrito, pinto beans, steamed Chuckwagon corn, garden salad with dressing, fresh banana
 June 5: Creole pork chop, garlic mashed potatoes, steamed broccoli, spinach salsa with dressing, whole-wheat roll with margarine, chilled applesauce
 June 6: Four-cheese lasagna, Italian green beans, creamy cucumber salad, garlic toast, fresh grapes
 June 7: Waldorf chicken salad on a croissant, fresh baby carrot with ranch dip, pasta salad, coleslaw, fresh apple slices
 June 10: Sweet and sour pork, Asian noodles, steamed oriental veggies, carrot and raisin salad, sweet roll with margarine, fresh orange and fortune cookie
 June 11: Breakfast for lunch bacon egg and cheese burrito, with green chili sauce, breakfast potatoes, spinach, mushrooms, onions, orange juice
 June 12: BBQ rib sandwich, baked beans, steamed broccoli, garden salad with dressing, chilled fruit cocktail
 June 13: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed carrots, garden salad with dressing, homemade soda bread, fresh banana
 June 14: Baked salmon with lemon butter, wild and white rice, steamed Italian green beans, coleslaw, whole-wheat roll with margarine, fresh cantaloupe
 June 17: Salisbury steak with mushroom gravy, baked potato with sour cream, steamed cabbage, garden salad with dressing, biscuit with margarine, chilled peaches
 June 18: Chili cheese dog with onions, steak fries, steamed corn, coleslaw, fresh orange
 June 19: Santa Fe chicken, Spanish rice, steamed green beans, garden salad with dressing, cornbread with honey and mar-

garine, chilled fruit cocktail
 June 20: Chinese chicken salad with chicken, chow mien noodles, toasted almonds, green onions, cilantro, sesame seeds and Asian sesame ginger dressing, chilled pares and fortune cookie
 June 21: Roasted beef with gravy, scalloped potatoes, green beans almandine, garden salad with dressing, chilled mandarin oranges, garlic breadstick, and cherry pie
 June 24: Country fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed California veggies, garden salad with dressing, biscuit with margarine, fresh apple slices
 June 25: Red chile beef enchiladas, pinto beans, Spanish rice, garden salad with dressing, fresh orange
 June 26: Chicken Parmesan over spaghetti with marinara, steamed cauliflower/carrots, garden salad with dressing, garlic toast, chilled peaches
 June 27: Stuffed bell peppers, steamed green beans, garden salad with dressing, whole-wheat roll with margarine, chilled pears
 June 28: Chef's salad with turkey, ham, tomato, cheese and egg, croutons, club crackers, fresh melon, butterscotch pudding

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church

Bienvenidos todos!
 Founded in 1894

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15 a.m.—Adult Forum
 10:30 a.m.—Second Service & Choir; Sunday School
 Nursery provided, then Refreshments & Fellowship.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sat. 9-11 a.m.—Casa Rosa Food Pantry: Placitas residents
 Sun. 7 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous
 Mon. 7 p.m.—Monday Night Study Group
 Mon-Fri. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.—Mothers' Day Out Preschool (with aftercare available)
 * CAREGIVER POSITIONS AVAILABLE— seeking 2 individuals to provide a safe environment for children under 5 years old during worship service and church sponsored events. Must be 16 yrs or older, must have childcare experience, CPR & First Aid Certification (provided by LPPC). Please contact the LPPC church office for more information or to apply.

Location: 7 Paseo de San Antonio, Placitas, NM 87043
 Church Office Hours: Tues-Fri. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Phone: 505-867-5718 Website: www.lasplacitaschurch.org
 Mothers' Day Out Preschool: 867-3371

Corrales Senior Center activities

AGE REQUIREMENTS: 60+ years
 OPERATION TIME:
 Monday through Friday,
 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 LOCATION: 4324-A Corrales Road,
 Corrales

Activities vary month to month. The Center also celebrates special events, and holds holiday parties, birthday socials, dances, and informal presentations. Open gym equipment, pool table available daily.

Call the Center for the full Activities Schedule at (505) 897-3818, or stop by to pick one up.

ONGOING:
 Mondays: 8:15 a.m. Yoga, 9:30 a.m. Yoga, 3:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 Tuesdays: 8:30 a.m. Zumba, 10:00 a.m. conversational Spanish, 2:00 p.m. Ukulele Jam (except second Tuesdays)
 Wednesdays: 8:15 a.m. Yoga, 9:30 a.m. Yoga, 12:30 p.m. two-hour Bingo, 3:15 p.m. Tai Chi
 Thursdays: 8:30 a.m. Zumba, 10:00 a.m. Linus Project, 2:00 p.m. PWR! Group (first and third Thursdays)
 Fridays: 8:30 a.m. Beginning Line Dance, 9:30 a.m. Line Dance, 2:00 p.m. Chair Tai Chi

Other public library events

PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY:

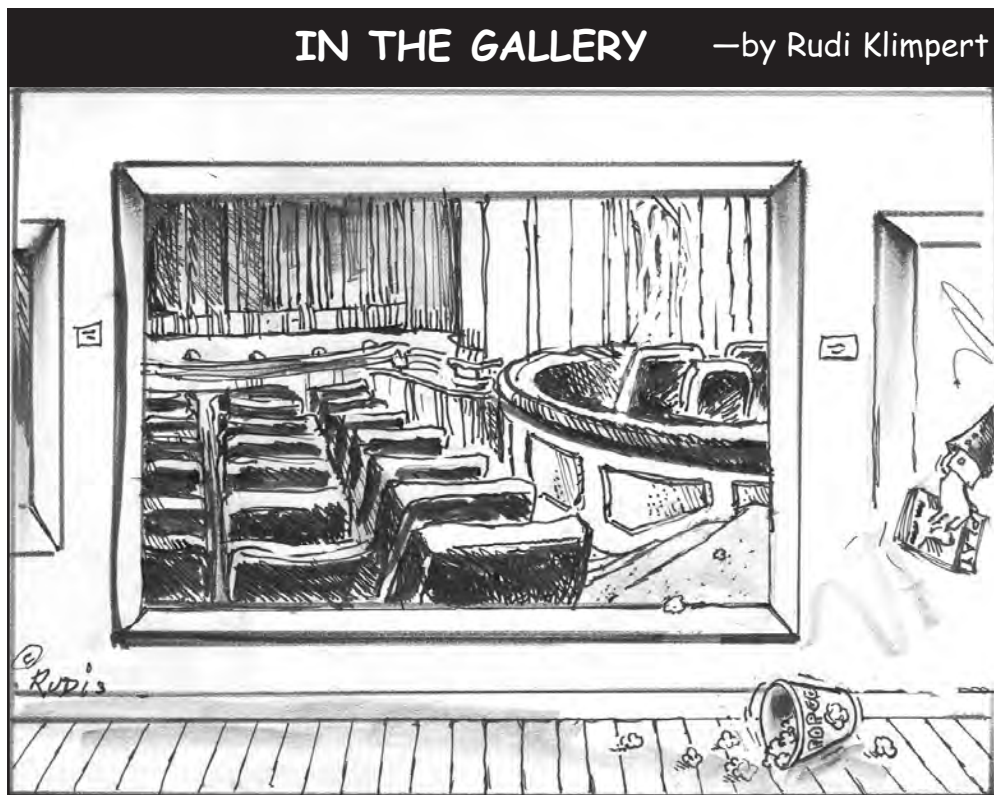
June 15: "Curious Chris Lands on the Moon." 10 a.m. Storyteller Chris Harrell will present interactive stories and songs celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing. After the program, join Chris outside on the field to shoot off water bottle rockets.
 June 22: The Explora Museum will visit, bringing "hands-on" space activities and experiments for children. 10 a.m. There will be activities for both younger and older children from ages two to ten. Parents welcome to attend and participate.

June 29: "Moon, Mars, and Meteorites" with PCL patrons Jacki and Carl Allen and Michelle Palmer who will lead children in space experiments and activities. 10 a.m. Carl and Jacki are scientists who worked at the Johnson Space Center, and Michelle volunteers at the Albuquerque National History Museum. There will be age appropriate activities for a variety of ages. Parents are always encouraged to help their children.
 • At each program children will receive a new book and the opportunity to receive up to 4 raffle tickets by participating in our reading and math challenges. Registration for the challenges continues throughout the summer program.

TOWN OF BERNALILLO PUBLIC LIBRARY:

TUESDAYS:
 • Toddler Time at 10:00 a.m.—stories, music, and crafts
 • Movie Time at 1:00 p.m.—for ages 12 and up
 • Teen "Hangout" group meets from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Fun crafts, time with friends, good books.
 WEDNESDAYS:
 • Presentations and Performers for all ages at 10:00 a.m. Theater, pet care, Explora, and puppets. Each Wednesday brings something new.
 • Three "D" Pen fun for ages ten and up. Stop by and see what this is all about.
 THURSDAYS:
 • Story and Craft for ages six thru 12 at 10:00 a.m.

• Family Movie Time at 1:00 p.m. For all ages at the Town of Bernalillo Public Library.
 FRIDAYS: • STEM for ages six and up at 10:00 a.m. explore the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.
 DAILY: The "Zone" is a great place to come and have some fun playing computer games, board games, working with STEM projects, and creating Art. Open Monday through Friday, from noon to closing and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For ages six and up. Six-to-nine year-old children must be accompanied by a parent or older sibling.
 RIO RANCHO PUBLIC LIBRARIES: Many exciting events!
 For schedule, visit: riorancholibraries.org. Loma Colorado Main Library is located at 755 Loma Colorado Blvd., Esther Bone Memorial Library is located at 950 Pinetree Road.



YOUNG AT HEART

Senior athletes rally in advance of national games

~SIGNPOST STAFF

Bonnie Coleman finished the Bernalillo leg of the Senior Olympics Torch Relay carrying not only the flame, but the wisdom gained from 18 years of competition.

"This message is for everybody, not just the athletes," Coleman told the crowd gathered at the Rotary Park pavilion for the annual Sandoval County Senior Picnic. "When I first began competing in Senior Olympics, I was a member of the Silver Gloves softball organization... We weren't good, but we had fun."

The team would qualify for the 2007 national Senior Olympics, inspiring Coleman, now 65 and a resident of Bernalillo, to get back into swimming and track and field.

She will be competing in swimming events again this year when Albuquerque hosts the 2019 National Senior Games, beginning with the flame-arrival ceremony on June 15 and continuing through June 22. The 32nd annual gathering is expected to draw more than ten thousand athletes and 15,000 family and friends.

About 180 county residents have qualified for the twenty medal sports, ranging from badminton to cycling and shuffleboard to three-on-three basketball. Sandoval County will be the site for the triathlon, held at Cochiti Lake and golf and bowling at Santa Ana Pueblo.

Volunteers are still needed, with the last in-per-



Bonnie Coleman leads the last leg of the Bernalillo portion of the Senior Olympics Statewide Torch Relay approaching the annual senior picnic at Rotary Park. Coleman has been participating in senior games at the local, state and national level for 18 years. The national games begin June 15 in Albuquerque.

son training session scheduled for June 8 in Albuquerque. There also is online training.

Additional information is available by calling 210-1930 or emailing volunteer@nsga.com. The Sandoval County Senior Program still needs help serving breakfast and lunch during the June 22 triathlon.

The torch relay began in February in Silver City making multiple stops before the May 17 Bernalillo relay by the Softball Ladies team and six individual runners 0.9 miles from Town Hall to Rotary Park. From there, the torch moved to the next leg in Farmington, then Santa Fe, and finally Albuquerque.

Coleman told the picnic crowd that her multiple sclerosis paralyzed her below one knee and then the other. She runs with a brace on each leg and said her overall medal count from local, state, and national events stands at 32 gold, a dozen or more silver, and a few bronze.

"It is the helping and the support you get from your fellow athletes, at least for me, is what it's all about," she said. "You don't have to be good. Get out there and do something just because it's fun."

Income cap for senior, disabled tax break rises

~SIGNPOST STAFF

A bill, passed during the recent legislative session, raises the income limit for older and disabled residents to qualify for a break on their property taxes.

The higher income limit—\$35,000 instead of \$32,000—is the first change in the tax program since 1999. The program is known as the Property Valuation Freeze, since it keeps market conditions from driving up the taxable value of single-family homes while the residents' income is essentially static.

"Some of our seniors and disabled are struggling to pay their property taxes due to property value or mill levy increases," said Sandoval County Treasurer Laura Montoya. "It is statistically proven that seniors over 65, and disabled [citizens], are populations that do not have increased annual income.

"This three thousand dollar increase in the income cap insures that our seniors and disabled are not at risk of losing their homes due to market increases."

The impact on the county tax base is expected to be minimal, although potentially huge for residents who qualify.

Sandoval County Assessor Linda Gallegos said her office will be accepting application for the valuation freeze through the rest of this year for the 2020 tax year. An official ID and copies of tax returns or proof of income are also required.

The freeze must be renewed annually for three years and then it self-renews. Additional information is available on the county website at SandovalCountyNM.gov under Elected Officials/County Assessor/FAQs/Exemptions.

Rep. Bill Rehm, R-Albuquerque, sponsored the legislation and developed it with the help of county treasurers and assessors and the state Property Tax Division.



Cub scouts line up for the carnival games of darts and bean bag toss.

Scout news

~AMANDA GRIEGO

May has been a busy month for the cub scouts of Pack 708. On May 8, the Bear Den ran a carnival for the rest of the dens, with games of musical chairs, balloon targets for darts, bean bag and ring tosses, with popcorn and candy prizes. Service was given, as many of the scouts, leaders, parents, grandparents, and siblings gathered at Carroll Elementary School and pulled weeds as part of the Great American Clean-up on May 18.

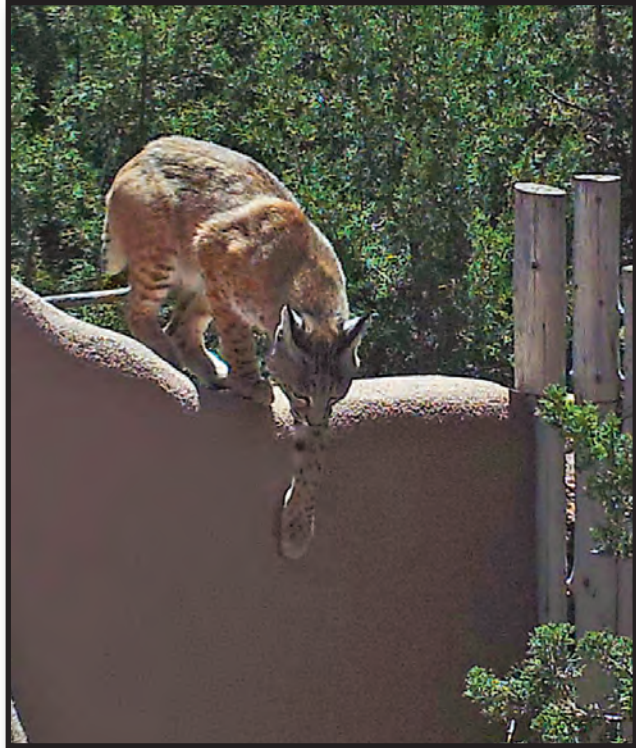
On May 22, officials from the Bank of Albuquerque brought board games that taught the youth about money management. On May 29, the cubs from the Webelos Den graduated and crossed over into Troop 708 as part of the monthly pack meeting where the scouts from the various dens participated in the flag ceremony, games, and skits. The boys from Troop 708 were also active as they made plans for the coming year and helped with car parking on May 25 at the fundraising event for the Placitas Community Library.

June will also be a busy month with fishing on June 1 and day camp attendance on one of the Rio Grande District camps on June 12-14 and 19-21.

For information on how to participate call Amanda at 507-1305 or David at 867-4689.

LALO'S PET PRINTS

Email your animal photos to "Lalo" at:
email@sandovalsignpost.com



This Mama Bobcat resides with her two new kittens on Vista Montana Loop in Placitas.
—CENTRILL



(Above) Lalo: First time I've seen a Lazuli Bunting on our property in Placitas. WOOF! —MICHAEL SARE :-)



Western Tanagers—Been seeing them all day today. They're usually a rare sighting, only seen a couple times a year.
—TODD RENNECKAR

ANIMAL HOTLINE

A service to help reunite lost and found pets with their people.

LOST

Dog: "Baxter," a ten-pound black-and-white Shi Tzu went missing from 32 Sage Hill, Placitas, on May 11. Please call 944-6373. Reward.

Cat: White cat with grey and brown ears. Our cat "Xojoy," pronounced sometimes as Zoey, has been missing since May 19. We miss her. She went missing off Camino de San Francisco in Placitas. Please email any information to: Aarbear777@gmail.com.



If you lose or find an animal in Sandoval County, email the information to:

email@sandovalsignpost.com

We will place it in the upcoming issue at no charge. If the animal you reported no longer needs attention, please email the *Signpost* by the 20th of the month to have the listing not included.

The Animal Hotline is a free service of the *Signpost*.

Black-footed ferrets reintroduced to New Mexico once again

—ALEXA HENRY

Hiding inside small pet carriers in the back of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service truck, eight very rare animals that once thrived in New Mexico waited to go home.

It was a sunny, late September afternoon when wildlife biologists, conservationists, ranchers, and local residents gathered on the side of a dirt road at the Moore Land and Cattle Company Ranch, east of Wagon Mound, for the rare opportunity to witness the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret to New Mexico. The ferrets were driven down from Fish and Wildlife's National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center near Fort Collins, Colorado, where the animals are raised in captivity and prepared for release at sites throughout the interior western United States.

The release location was only the third ever in the state; several years have passed since the last reintroduction attempt at the Vermejo Park Ranch in Colfax County, not too far away from this five hundred-acre black-tailed prairie dog town.

In the wild, black-footed ferrets reside in prairie dog towns. For ranchers such as Greg Moore, owner of the 25,000-acre ranch, this program is an opportunity to restore native species to his property.

And the large prairie dog population on Moore's ranch means ferrets should be able to thrive there. Black-footed ferrets rely almost exclusively on prairie dogs, for food and for their burrows, which provide denning and shelter sites; the presence of a predator species would keep the prairie dog population in check, enable ranchers to avoid shooting or poisoning the animals and possibly force them to move elsewhere before they further damage the land by creating too many burrows.

"Is the prairie dog the villain or is it just getting used by a lot of other species, and then the prairie dog gets the blame?" said Moore, who has owned the ranch since 1971. "Maybe the little ferrets could make them move around so they don't sit in one spot."



A black-footed ferret takes a peek at his new home on the eastern grasslands of New Mexico.

ANIMAL NEWS



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ANIMALS



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—“ANIMALS,” continued next column

ANIMALS ~ CONTINUED ~

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WILDLIFE RESCUE—Call 505-344-2500.
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CHURCH NEWS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—JUNE 17TH-JUNE 21ST
from 4-6 pm for kids from ages 4-12 at First Baptist Church of Bernalillo at 800 S. Camino del Pueblo. Contact the church 867-8807 for more information.

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FOR SALE: HOMES / LAND

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WILD CHERRY FARMS IN THE VILLAGE—Five lots with shared well, underground power and natural gas. Great western and mountain views tucked in among the fruit and cottonwood trees. Asking \$82,000 per lot. Porter 263-3662, La Puerta Real Estate Services, LLC -867-3388.

—“FOR SALE: HOMES / LAND,” continued next page

FOR SALE: HOMES / LAND ~ CONTINUED ~

T OR C, HOME OF HOT MINERAL BATHS, NM SPACEPORT, 5 MILES FROM ELEPHANT BUTTE LAKE—Vacant 48' x 142' lot with city utilities. \$12,000 obo. 505-301-0926.

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PLACITAS—ALMOST 6 ACRES \$45,000—Must sell. Dave 263-2266 Placitas Realty 867-8000.

PLACITAS—2 ACRES \$59,000—2-acre lot with water, power, phone, cable and natural gas in Placitas Homesteads. Sandia views and dramatic views of the sunsets & city lights! Bank financing available! Placitas Realty 867-8000 Dave Harper 263-2266.

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PLACITAS—2 ACRE LOT WITH WATER \$34,000—Affordable lot with water & power. Motivated! Placitas Realty 867-8000, Dave Harper 263-2266.

—“FOR SALE: HOMES / LAND,” continued next column

FOR SALE: HOMES / LAND ~ CONTINUED ~

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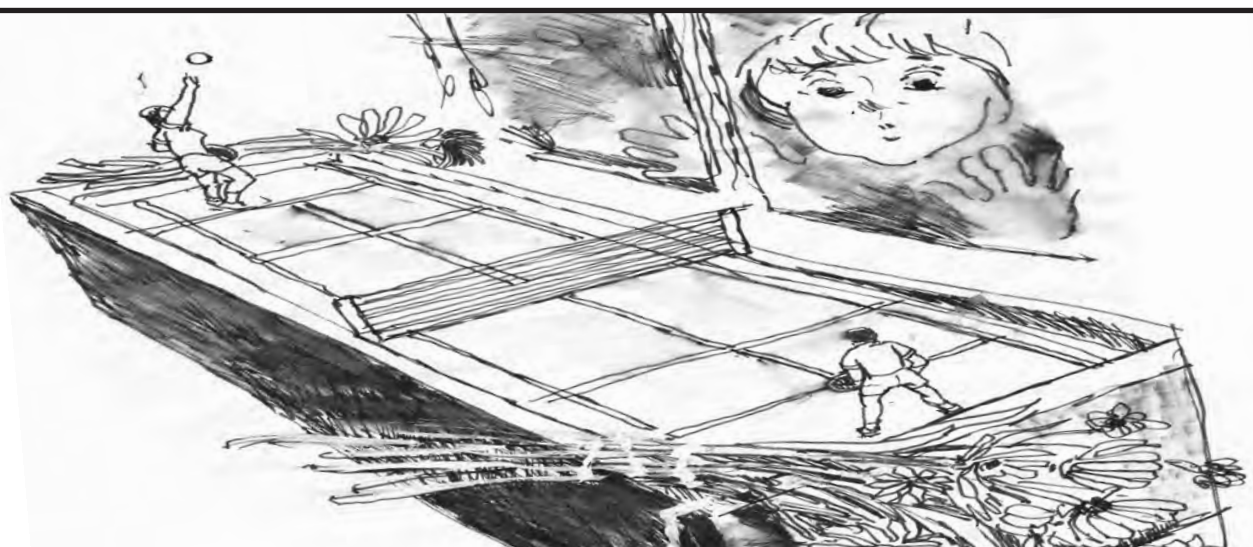
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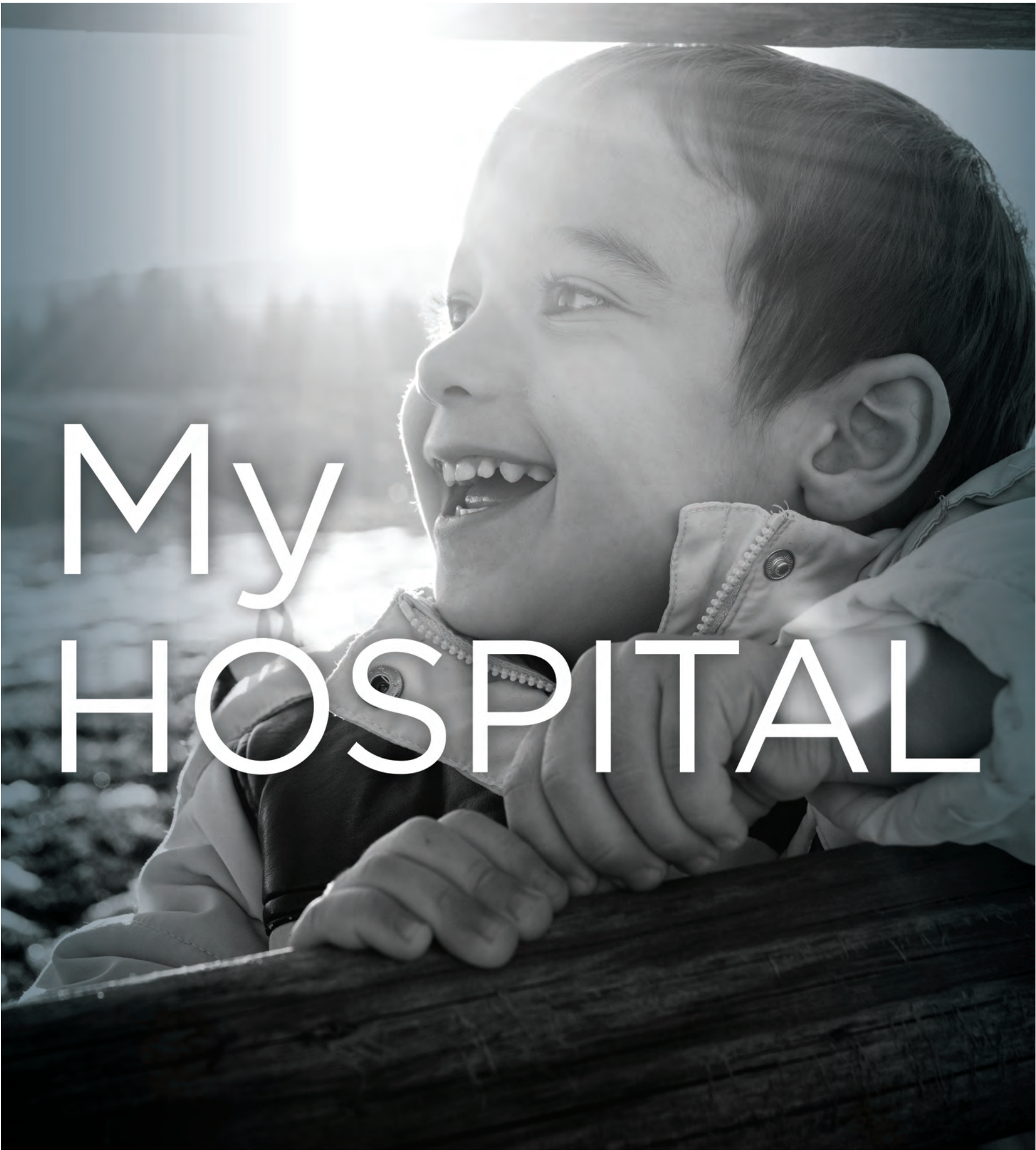
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