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Old-time politics stained New Mexico history

~BILL DIVEN

Hiding the truth, or stretching it to breaking, is as old as partisan politics in the U.S. and as current as claims that a massive conspiracy stole a presidential election.

Never immune from such shenanigans, New Mexico dealt with troubles long before troll farms and loosely connected data points made false information an industry. Even after the June election, Secretary of State Maggie Tolouse Oliver went to court to force Otero County commissioners to follow the law and approve preliminary vote totals from the primary election.

Commissioners there, and one in Sandoval County, voted no despite the thousands of trained citizen poll workers and observers working under elected officials and professional staffs. Overlying the process were state election law, paper ballots, physical and electronic security measures, pre- and post-election testing of vote-counting machines, and no signs of fraud. Recounts in close races changed results by a few votes, changing no outcomes.

Republican Audrey Trujillo, trying to unseat Democrat Tolouse Oliver's as the state's top election official, was listed by the Washington Post among ten "election deniers" who won primaries for the office. Trujillo claims in fundraising appeals that Democrats are "plotting to steal the election from me every step of the way."

While secretaries of state can't just change election results, they can create trouble. How Trujillo responds if she loses a clean election, or even wins one, will play out after November 8.

But beyond the current conflicts over election security, has the landscape for candidates and voters ever been this bad here? New Mexico's record provides plenty to ponder.

State and territorial history is rife with parties, or factions within parties, fighting not over policy but the spoils of public office. While voters might rally around party banners, candidates and their allies were out to grab public contracts or dispense jobs in return for loyalty and a piece of your paycheck.

As explained to me by a Republican lawyer offered a position as assistant attorney general in the early 1940s, holding a state job then required being a Democrat, so he became one. And withholding from paychecks conveniently included three percent taken off the top going directly to the Democratic Party.

Republicans had their own issues, of course, when they were in power earlier and intermittently since.

A pint of whiskey could peacefully buy a vote

—continued on page 8

—BILL DIVEN



Chief Deputy County Clerk Joey Dominguez, County Clerk Anne Brady-Romero and Bureau of Elections Manager Tina Dominguez (left to right) pose in the county's Voting Machine Warehouse surrounded by voting machines and other equipment to be used in the general election.

Placitas loses a polling place as election preps gear up

~SIGNPOST STAFF

The mid-term election has arrived as early voting begins this month as the complex process of preparing and securing polling sites and voting equipment shifts into showtime.

Early, in-person and absentee voting begins on October 11 at the County Administrative Building with secure containers known as drop boxes for absentee ballots being placed there and at the former county courthouse in downtown Bernalillo, Corrales Village Hall, and the Placitas Community Library. Absentee ballots are collected daily by the county clerk's staff and stored in a process that maintains secure custody.

Early, in-person voting expands on October 22, at the county administration building and eight other sites. It starts at the Placitas Community Library two days later, delayed by a previously scheduled event.

Early voting ends on November 5, the Saturday before Election Day, November 8. New Mexico permits same-day voter registration at voting sites with a state driver's license or ID card, a document showing county residence plus a photo ID, or with a college ID and current fee statement showing county residency.

Various early voting days are scheduled at pueblos and Navajo chapter houses. Schedules, locations, and other information can be found on the county website—SandovalCountyNM.gov—by selecting Departments/Bureau of Elections.

Placitas will see just one voting convenience center, instead of the usual two, after Department of Justice monitors raised concerns before the June primary about accessibility at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. County Public Works crews were able to finesse such issues at a number of sites, but both the church and Bernalillo High School were dropped from the general election.

Drop boxes are one of multiple points of contention nationally and locally as the unproven claims of conspiracy and fraud in the 2020 presidential election spread into suspicion and fears about election security in general. The four drop boxes in this election now are to be inside public buildings and monitored 24-hours a day.

Surveillance videos are checked for signs of attempted tampering, County Clerk Anne Brady-Romero told the *Signpost*. Changes also have been made at the Voting Machine Warehouse where the county

—continued on page 4

Find the Signpost online at www.sandovalsignpost.com

Placitas Artists Series Presents

October Concert & Art Exhibit

Sunday, October 16, 3:00 pm ■ Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, Placitas



David Felberg & Friends: Strings, Clarinet and Piano

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On View: *Morning Twirl* by Katherine Irish, a 30"X28" framed raffle donation valued at \$1,900 (shown at right). Raffle tickets available on our website, the library, and at the concert.



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Placitas Artists Series projects are made possible in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Up Front 1	Arts 21	Lalo's Pics 28
Election 4	Gauntlet 24	Classifieds 29
Around Town 16	Time Off 25	Stereogram 31
Real People 19	Calendar 26	
Night Sky 20	Community Ctr 27	



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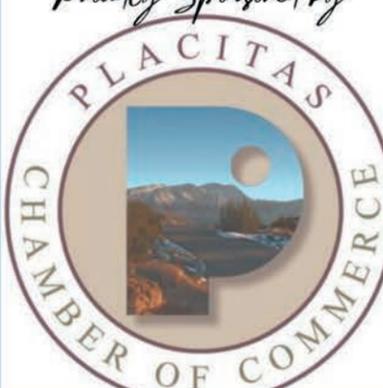
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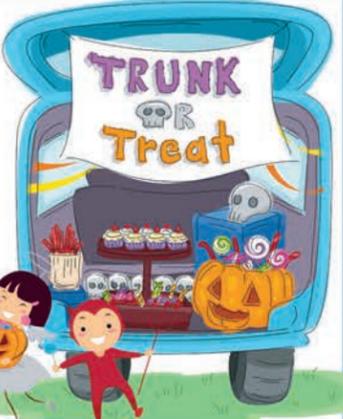


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SHOP THE MERC



From page 1 —Prep

stores ballot printers, portable voting booths, and Dominion Voting Systems tabulators.

The tabulators are the counting machines into which voters feed their paper ballots after marking them. The paper ballots are retained for recounts, to check rejected ballots and for random testing of counts for accuracy after elections.

Security cameras inside and out were added to the warehouse early in her term, Brady-Romero said. An interior partition is now in place for election night to separate where election judges deliver locked ballot boxes for opening from where election staff enter results into the state election system, she added.

“All we can do is follow the letter of the law with integrity and transparency,” Brady-Romero said.

Working under a series of state deadlines, Bureau of Elections Manager Tina Dominguez said decks of marked test ballots oriented up, down, backwards, and forwards and including problem ballots are fed into the Dominion tabulators.

“Once we get accurate numbers, the machines are sealed, a technician signs the seal, and they are locked and not opened until the election,” she said. The process this year certifies 145 voting machines including a few spares, Dominguez added.

Questions for voters populate election ballot

~SIGNPOST STAFF

Voters in the general election get a direct say-so on some public policies and spending, as bond issues and three constitutional amendments appear on the November 8 ballot.

Sandoval County commissioners have approved two bond questions that would borrow money for libraries and pay for all, or part, of an expanded and upgraded Judicial Complex. The bonds would be repaid from property tax revenue.

Meanwhile, the 2022 Legislature approved three statewide questions for bond sales, also paid back from property taxes.

The constitutional amendments relate to a new payout from one of the state's permanent funds for educational purposes, changing how quickly some appointed judge have to run for election, and allowing public money to be spent for certain residential uses.

The County Questions:

- Library bonds for facilities, books, and other resources, \$1.9 million repaid from general tax revenue: Library bonds are issued on a regular cycle with new bonds sold as old

—continued next page

PLACITAS Community LIBRARY



Children's News

Join us for a Halloween party on **Saturday, October 29 at 1:00 PM** at the PCL. Our special guest will be storyteller, Indiana Bones with stories of witches, monsters, mummies, spirits, and ghosts. Stories include: “The Dragon, the Witch and the Warrior”, “Spirits of New Mexico and So. Colorado”, and “The Curse of the Monkey Mummy”. All are guaranteed to make you scream and laugh. After the stories, we will have several activities and CANDY!

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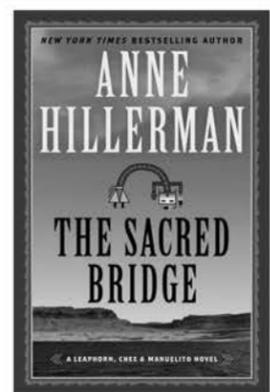
Life's Hidden Treasures can be found in the friends and family that surround us every day; those wonderful destinations that provide solace and renewal or surprise us with the unexpected. There are the life changing moments that illuminate and elevate our awareness of what is seen and unseen; with time, these become the treasured experiences of our being for years to come.

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ELECTION

From page 4 —Ballot

ones are retired. That keeps the tax rate about the same, although it would drop slightly if voters reject the bonds.

• Construction bonds to renovate, expand, and equip the county Judicial Complex, up to \$41 million repaid by property taxes. Starting with a new building, two judges, three courtrooms, and no jury room in 2005, the District Court in Bernalillo now has five judges with another and more staff needed. The caseloads have continued to grow as the county added 46,000 residents, a 43 percent increase.

Counties are required to provide court space, but the vote to raise taxes for this project caused a bipartisan 3-2 split of county commissioners. If the county were on the hook for the full \$41 million, it would add about \$18 to taxes on a \$300,000 house for several years and lesser amounts going forward, according to estimates presented at a commission meeting.

The county, however, plans to delay issuing the bonds until after the 2023 Legislature has a chance to contribute from its burgeoning revenue, while the county looks for additional resources. The county also is considering a

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design-build project that speeds up construction and reduces costs.

The sheriff's office will move out of the building once the Public Safety Complex, now under construction, is completed. Plans call for Magistrate Court to move into the upgraded Judicial Complex.

State Constitutional Amendments:

• Amend Article 6, Section 35: This change would allow a judge appointed to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals to serve at least one year before running for the position in a general election, which occurs every two years. As is, such

appointed judges can face election almost immediately after being appointed.

• Amend Article 9, Section 14, known as the "Anti-Donation Cause:" This would add to the short list of exemptions where public money can be spent for private purposes, in this case "essential household services" like water, internet, and energy. Expenditures would require legislative approval.

A League of Women Voters discussion cites the pandemic exacerbating the lack of such services in rural New Mexico and also how such funds could be used to

—continued next page

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From page 5—Ballot

match federal grants for rural services. The LWV also notes critics of the proposed amendment are concerned about its vague languages on the services involved and who would benefit.

- Amend Article 12, Section 7: Debated for many years, this amendment would boost the distribution of income from the Land Grant Permanent Fund for educational purposes to earmark the increase for at-risk students, longer school years, teacher salaries and early childhood education. At the end of the 2021, the fund fed by oil and gas royalties held \$26 billion.

Proponents of the amendment have cited the state's low education rankings and need for improvements, while critics have worried money taken from income instead of being reinvested will harm the body of the fund.

Statewide Bond Projects Repaid from Property Taxes:

Question 1: \$24 million for senior citizen facility improvements, construction, and equipment.

Question 2: \$19 million for higher education, school, public, and tribal libraries.

Question 3: \$216 million for capital improvements to higher education, special schools, and tribal schools.



Democratic Sandoval County Sheriff Jesse James Casaus (left) and his Republican opponent Darrell K. "Keith" Elder.

Former colleagues vie to be county sheriff

~BILL DIVEN

The election for sheriff of Sandoval County sets up a rematch of the 2018 contest between two veteran law officers who once worked together.

Incumbent Sheriff Jesse James Casaus of Placitas, a Democrat, is a former State Police senior patrolman whose first duty station was in Cuba. He later joined the Cuba Police Department before serving as a sher-

iff's deputy for nine years.

Fired after running against the Republican sheriff in the 2014 election, the county settled out of court after Casaus sued alleging retaliation. He holds an associate's degree criminology.

Republican Darrell Keith Elder of Rio Rancho also worked under that previous sheriff and during 12

ELECTION—
CONTINUED

—continued next page



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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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From page 6

—Sheriff

years with the agency, rising from deputy to lieutenant and, at times, commanding the patrol, court services, and criminal investigations divisions. He previously served 12 years with the State Police, including four years on the governor's security detail.

He retired in 2019.

Casaus said that after nearly four years in office, he has a track record of results, adding seven deputies, making an authorized strength of 54 certified officers including patrol deputies, investigators, and ranking officers. The department also added a Street Crimes and Intelligence Unit focused on drug-related crime and a K-9 Unit, upgraded equipment, and increased the training budget as crime trended downward.

"Crime is low from previous years," Casaus said. "I think we're doing well."

He attributed some of that to patrol deputies looking for opportunities to gather information to pass on to investigators.

"They've really be diligent," he added. "By looking beyond the traffic stop if they encounter even just a minimal amount of narcotics, that act alone pushes to the Street Crimes to go after the dealer."

According to the Sheriff's Office 2021 annual report, deputies responded to nearly 21,000 calls for service in county areas outside municipalities and state, federal, and tribal lands. The reported numbers show one criminal homicide, no forcible rapes, and significant drops in assaults and auto and residential burglaries, while robberies ticked up to two from one.

Part of his progress with the department is from his being flexible and able to work with people, Casaus said.

"Relationships matter," he continued. "Relationships with county commissioners, constituents, councilors, to other agencies to accomplish the common goal, which is the safety of the people, working for the people."

Since retiring from law enforcement, Elder worked at the state Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) in helping to accredit and renew training officers for local agencies and in continuing education for officers to maintain their certification.

Over the last three years, starting after the pandemic shut down classes, he and a partner have operated a company providing the firearms training needed to retain certification and consulting with local agencies.

"Departments were losing instructors to retirement or just leaving the profession," Elder said. "We've been able to help fill that void in the instructional area for law enforcement."

Elder said he became interested in running again for sheriff as he heard concerns from people, notably about extended response times when calling for a deputy.

"The public service aspect of my heart is what got me back into it," he said. "I've got the energy. I've got the desire to serve."

Elder said reevaluating how deputies are allocated around the county would be one of his moves upon taking office, along with reaching out to other agencies.

"We're going to go back into dialog with the local police departments," he said. "I've had conversations with those chiefs, and they feel like there's no communication, no cooperation between them and the Sheriff's Office."

Some crime issues haven't changed, including the spillover of crime from Bernalillo County, which calls for cooperation with Rio Rancho in particular, Elder continued.

"New conversations, new cooperation so we can all work together and be a team to bring better services to the people," Elder said.

Online: Jesse James Casaus:
Facebook.com/JesseJames.Casaus;
Darrell K. Elder:
DarrellKeithElder.com

ELECTION— CONTINUED

Vote

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ELDER**

**SANDOVAL COUNTY
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From page 1—Politics

well into the mid-20th century, but the rough-and-tumble politics ever since the U.S. Army invaded Old Mexico in 1846 also could be a blood sport.

Consider territorial days when a feuding Republic legislator and the Democratic chief justice shouted at each other in a Santa Fe hotel lobby until the legislator shot the judge, who died two days later. Or the collision of Democrat and Republican parades in Doña Ana County that left bodies scattered on the Mesilla plaza and gunmen firing from the rooftops until the cavalry rode 18 miles from Fort Selden to restore order.

Even as late as 1934, two years after Democrats of various factions began a twenty-year run controlling state government, the National Guard appeared in some northern New Mexico towns to prevent violence on Election Day. North Texas University history Professor G. L. Seligman Jr., writing in the New Mexico Historical Review in 1972, noted the governor denied calling out the Guard but later conceded he gave the state adjutant general permission to do so.

While the parties avowed not to engage in mud slinging, Seligman described Democrats calling Republican U.S. Sen. Bronson Cutting a traitor, adulterer, jackass, and damn nuisance, among other slurs. Republicans, in turn, accused Democratic candidate Dennis Chavez of padding welfare roles with relatives



—BILL DIVEN, 1972

U.S. Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (center) is offered a slice of birthday cake on January 6, 1972, during the 60th anniversary celebration of New Mexico statehood. Anderson was state Democratic Party Chairman during the ugly 1928 election when the Ku Klux Klan was a force nationally and in New Mexico.

and spending welfare money for political purposes.

Cutting won 50.2-49.35 percent with Chavez unsuccessfully challenging the results in state court and the U.S. Senate.

Beyond slinging mud and bullets, however, perhaps the

worst deceit infecting state politics and society arrived from outside. During the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan, reborn from its Southern post-Civil War roots in 1915, discovered marketing and sent recruiters into the field.

“The second Klan, a memorial to the Reconstruction Klan and its work in the post-bellum South, was to act as a restructured fraternity that supported white supremacy, the purity of white womanhood, nationalism, and Protestant Christianity,” Kelly J. Baker, a University of New Mexico instructor with a doctorate in religious studies, wrote in a 2009 essay. “Although (Klan founder William J.) Simmons cloaked the new order in the familiar white robes of its predecessor; he explicitly developed the Christian nature of the order and its ties to religious faith and patriotism.

“Under his dramaturgical leadership, the order moved beyond the bounds of the South and into the rest of the continental United States.”

After a professor, newspaper editor, and public pressure chased a Klan recruiter out of Las Cruces, he found fertile ground down the road in El Paso, Texas. There, Klan members tried and failed to take over the city council but won the school board, spreading havoc before their affiliation was uncovered before the next election.

In Albuquerque, a 25-foot cross exploded in flame one night in 1923 on a hill near downtown. Anonymous recruiting flyers were reported the next day portraying the Klan wrapped in patriotism and supporting law and order, Protestant Christianity, defense of womanhood, and being open to native-born white citizens.

No mention was made of the Klan spreading fear of African Americans, Jews, and Catholics or its willingness to use violence and work secretly with select politicians and public officials. At the time, New Mexico Republicans

—continued next page

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From page 8—Politics

were still the Party of Lincoln and champions of Hispanics while the Democrats were more Anglo and conservative.

National Klan membership in the mid-1920s has been estimated between 2.5 and 4 million, easily enough to draw the 40,000 hooded Klansmen who paraded down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. New Mexico membership is not known, although Elvis E. Fleming, professor emeritus of history at Eastern New Mexico University writing in the New Mexico Historical Review in 2013, said his review of privately held records listed 508 men as members of Pioneer Klan No. 15 in Roswell beginning in 1924.

As Klan chapters were numbered as chartered, there were at least 23 in the state and likely more.

The Klan apparently established itself well in counties along the Texas border. Ten of those counties promptly set up separate and purportedly equal schools for African American students after the 1925 Legislature—with almost no dissension and with the Republican governor's signature—approved segregating public schools.

The Klan chapter in Farmington—Klan No. 23, Realm of New Mexico—surfaced during that session with a letter on official stationery protesting the Republican-led state Senate removing Democratic Sens. William Butler and Joseph Hodges for election fraud after an investigation, although without a hearing, according to news accounts.

Klan No. 23 denied Butler from Farmington was, or had been, a Klan member.

Things reached rock bottom in New Mexico in 1928 when the Democrats chose New York Gov. Alfred "Al" Smith as the first Roman Catholic nominated for president. While Prohibition—Smith was known to be "wet" for enjoying an illicit drink—was one issue, rampant prejudice against Catholics played a major role in the ugly campaign.

Clinton Anderson, later a venerated U.S. Senator from New Mexico, was the state Democratic Party chairman at the time. He recalled north and western counties being wet, Catholic and Republican, while eastern counties were basically dry, Protestant and Democratic.

Factor in the Klan feeding prejudices, and campaign parades Anderson described slandered Catholics as stumbling drunks loyal first to Rome and Republicans as soldiers in blue, butchering and burning through the South.

—continued next page

UP FRONT— CONTINUED

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FINANCIAL FOCUS—

Should you consolidate retirement accounts?

One of the rewards for working over several decades is the ability to contribute to tax-advantaged retirement accounts, which can help provide needed income for you when you do retire. As the years went by, you may well have accumulated several retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans. But you might find it advantageous to consolidate these accounts with a single provider.

Consolidating them can provide you with several potential benefits, including these:

- **Less confusion and clutter** – If you have multiple accounts in different locations, it may be difficult to keep track of tax documents, statements, fees, disclosures and other important information. Consolidating accounts could help provide clear, simplified account maintenance.

- **Less likelihood of “lost accounts”** – It may be hard to believe, but many people abandon their retirement accounts, leaving thousands of dollars behind and unclaimed. In fact, at the end of 2021, there were nearly 25 million forgotten 401(k) accounts, worth about 20% of all 401(k) assets, according to an estimate by Capitalize, a financial services company that helps individuals roll over retirement plan assets into new accounts. It's possible that employers can even move small, old accounts out of their 401(k) plans and into an IRA on behalf of their former employees, thus increasing the chances that savers will lose track of their money. By consolidating your retirement plans with one provider, you can ensure you don't lose track of your hard-earned money.

- **Ability to follow a unified strategy** – With multiple retirement accounts, and different investment portfolios, you might find it difficult to maintain a unified financial strategy that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. But once you've consolidated accounts with a single provider, you'll find it easier to manage your investment mix and to rebalance your portfolio as needed. The need to

rebalance may become more important as you near retirement because you may want to shift some of your assets into investments that aren't as susceptible to swings in the financial markets.

- **Possible improvement in investment options** – Often, 401(k)s may have limited investment selection, so consolidating accounts with a full-service firm may allow for a wider array of products and strategies. This broader exposure can potentially help you improve your overall retirement income strategies.

- **Greater ease in calculating RMDs** – Once you turn 72, you will need to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar plan. If you don't take out at least the minimal amount, which is based on your age and account balance, you could face a penalty. If you have several accounts, with different providers, it could be cumbersome and difficult to calculate your RMDs — it will be much easier with all accounts under one roof. So, if you do have multiple retirement accounts, give some thought to consolidating them. The consolidation process is not difficult, and the end result may save you time and hassles, while also helping you manage your retirement income more effectively.

Lucas Romero Financial Advisor

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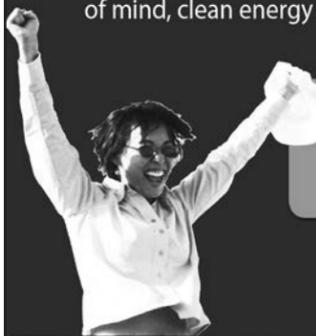
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From page 9 —Politics

“The parades were typical of the way the election brought out the worst in people, on both sides,” Anderson wrote in his 1970 memoir. “Every town reported fist fights. Best friends broke up, some never to be reconciled.”

Still bitter decades later, Anderson called it a religious war.

While the KKK in the early 1920s “spread across the nation like a prairie wildfire,” historian Shawn Lay said it faded rapidly from American life beginning the late 1920s in part because people lost interest in the Klan as a way to address local problems.

2022 may not be 1928, but on January 6, 2021, as a violent mob stormed the U.S. Capitol trying to derail an election, a vehicle caravan was leaving Placitas for a related, but peaceful, rally at the state Capitol. Some in the caravan displayed a racist white-power hand sign, while others showed support for at least one right-wing militia caught up in the Washington melee.

Whether current events devolve into bitter conflict or mellow as people seek better solutions is, for now, history yet to be written.

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ELECTION— CONTINUED

Fairness a profession for county assessor candidates

~BILL DIVEN

It's not the flashiest of public offices, and it leaves the political fights over raising or lowering taxes to others.

Yet, it is the County Assessor's Office's job to track every residential, commercial, and vacant property in Sandoval County and strive to fairly and equitably establish the value of each for tax purposes. That technical work provides the assessment values, mailed out in April, that are behind the tax bills arriving from the County Treasurer in December.

The assessor also maintains property records and handles various tax exemptions related to agriculture, being head of a household, qualifying as a veteran, or by meeting requirements for age, low income, or disability.

In campaigning for election, both incumbent Assessor Linda Gallegos, a Democrat, and her Republican opponent Lawrence Griego, agree that professional staff and the integrity of the office are essential for taxpayers to know that they're being treated fairly.

Gallegos, who just prior to taking office four years ago was a county deputy treasurer, said her background includes more than thirty years in real estate, property titling, banking, and management. She also is a certified appraiser and certified public official.

With the treasurer and assessor offices working closely together, and the previous assessor largely absent, due to health issues, she said she stepped up to campaign for the office.

"I kept my promises," Gallegos said. "I took away unfair discounts that only certain people were getting. I made the budget better. We've set goals for the office, and we've met them... Overall, were better for the county because we are more fair and equitable across the board."

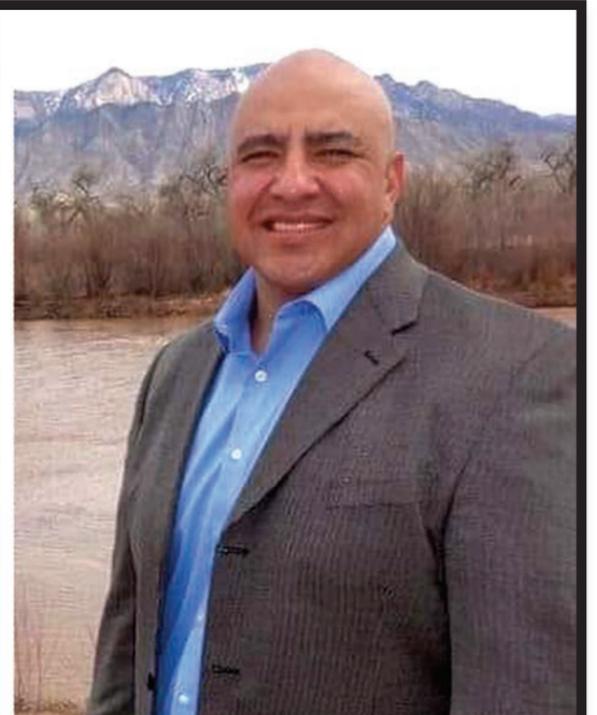
Griego has been with the assessor's office for 16 years as an appraiser and appraiser supervisor. He said a desire to serve the community led to his running unsuccessfully for county clerk two years ago and is behind his campaign his current assessor.

"Because of my experience in property tax appraisal I feel that I can give back to the community based on that experience and based on those qualifications to help insure the assessments are properly assessed fairly and equitably across the whole county."

Griego holds a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and numerous professional designations earned while working in appraisals. In 2018, he was one of three public-sector employees that year to become a New Mexico Certified Public Manager after completing a New Mexico State University program.

He also was chair of the Sandoval County Republican Party from January 2021-March 2022,

Online: Linda Gallegos: LindaDavide4Sandoval.com; Lawrence Griego: LGriego4Assessor.com



Democratic incumbent County Assessor Linda Gallegos and her Republican opponent Lawrence Griego.

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ELECTION— CONTINUED

Placitas residents compete for commission spot

~BILL DIVEN

While redistricting brought the village of Corrales into Sandoval County Commission District 1, it will be a woman from Placitas occupying the commission seat for the next four years.

Commissioner Katherine Bruch, a Democrat, faces off in the November 8 election against Jeanette Clark, president of the San-Bern Federated Republican Women's Club. Bruch is completing her first commission term, and Clark is making her first run for elective office.

Both have backgrounds in business. Bruch spent thirty years in corporate operations, human resources, and training in restaurants and retail before moving to Placitas. She became involved in the community and served on the board of the Placitas Community Library.

Clark was a program director and developer for the Girls Club of America and worked for the Santa Fe YMCA before opening a graphics arts business after the death of her husband left her with two young children to raise. For the last 24 years, she has been in partnership with husband John Clark in a custom blinds business in Albuquerque.

She also puts her singing talents to work for free at funerals and in churches and nursing homes.

The new boundaries of District 1 continue to cover the southeast corner of Sandoval County, taking in La Madera, Sandia Pueblo, and Placitas—now adding Corrales, Bernalillo east of the Rio Grande and north of U.S. Highway 550, and a sliver of far southeast Rio Rancho east of Rio Rancho Drive.

"As slow as government works, I would say I have set the wheels in motion for quite a few things," Bruch said. "For the Placitas area would be my ability to work with our congressional delegation fairly effectively as I've built those relationships over the years."

That includes pending congressional action to protect about 4,300 acres of federal land in Placitas from gravel and other mining. Bruch said she has also distributed her allocated discretionary funds to nonprofits across the district and advocates for roads—Madera Road in the East Mountains and Tierra Madre in Placitas have already received major upgrades.

"Maybe one of the biggest wins is the animal shelter," she continued. "We know that a build for a brand new one will take, minimally, 18 months... We should have a contract executed very soon for property that will be used for the permanent animal shelter, and the funding has been acquired."

Bruch said she decided to run for the office after observing incivility between commissioners and the public at meetings and divisive national issues being placed on agendas, distracting from county business. The current commission works well when focused on the people's business, as it did during the



Democratic Sandoval County Commissioner Katherine Bruch (left) and her Republican opponent Jeanette Clark.

pandemic, supporting public health needs and using federal funds to aid small businesses and other needs, she said.

As a new commissioner, Bruch said one of her first requests was for county departments to begin strategic planning process to look at a range of community needs. The data have been coming in and an initial report is due soon, she added.

Clark took a similar tack to elective politics, saying she lives by a life code that you should never complain about something you're not willing to do something about.

"So, I decided that it's time to take some action and do something about these critical issues that we're facing," she said. "Plus, I think that my background lends itself to work with the commission team, the other commissioners... With my pragmatic common-sense style of approach I think I could be really good asset."

Business owners and residents that she's talked to in Bernalillo, and elsewhere, have expressed concerns about crime and the growing homeless population, Clark continued. Crime, homelessness, and

—continued next page

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From page 12—Commission

behavioral health issues need immediate attention, and that's not happening, she added.

She also said she has talked to business owners who describe a shrinking workforce and has seen businesses close as a result, showing a need to address apathy and a lack of desire to work in their workers.

"I'm running for a lot of reasons; these things have just been kind of piling up," Clark said.

Clark said she supports sensible growth and sees the continued expansion of Paseo del Volcán from U.S. Highway 550 in west Rio Rancho to Interstate 40 in west Albuquerque as both traffic relief and a boost to economic development.

"It will grow that area in Sandoval County, and it will actually result in more revenue and economic growth," she said. "I believe there will be a lot more start-up businesses."

The county has been incrementally buying right-of-way and lengthening the limited-access road as funds become available.

While election laws and overall procedures are a state function, the county clerk, through Sandoval County commissioners, designates polling sites and is involved in securing those and voting equipment. Commissioners already have found themselves in two

contentious meetings with angry citizens, some from outside the county, relitigating the 2020 national election and espousing unproven claims of past and pending voter fraud.

"Our elections are done locally," Bruch said. "That means the local community, the people that are involved, are your friends and neighbors... If you trust them, and there's a balance of people of all parties represented in that process, then you shouldn't believe some of the propaganda. It is propaganda that is being disseminated throughout our community."

Clark, describing herself as a common-sense conservative Republican, said she sees concerns about ballot security as a bipartisan issue.

"I want to make sure every legal vote is counted, and I also do not think the drop boxes are a safe way of tabulating votes," she said. "They're not all monitored... Unless they are all monitored, it makes the drop boxes vulnerable for voter fraud."

Requiring voters to show identification to vote also would mitigate fraud, she added.

Online: Katherine Bruch: KatherineBruch4SandovalCounty-Commission.com; Jeanette Clark: JC4NM.com.

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ELECTION— CONTINUED

Election race adds bit of Bernalillo to Rio Rancho

~BILL DIVEN

Both the incumbent Sandoval County Commissioner in District 3 and his opponent in the November 8 election have worked to make the county a better place.

Republican commission Chair Michael Meek, seeking a second four-year term, was working in real estate when he studied to become a volunteer EMT. Joining the Rio Rancho Fire Department full time, he worked his way up to chief and retired after 25 years.

Democrat Gregory Deforest Bennett is a retired biomedical researcher who, after retirement, volunteered with the Medical Reserve Corp working in nonmedical roles as the nation battled the coronavirus pandemic. After retiring to New Mexico, he helped with vaccination clinics in Albuquerque.

Both candidates live in Rio Rancho where District 3 spreads across the north and northwest part of the city, catching part of southwest Bernalillo since the redistricting that followed the 2020 Census. A strip of Rio Rancho neighborhoods lining U.S. Highway 550 remains in District 5, which sprawls across the county outside the more populated southeast.

Meek said politics wasn't on his retirement agenda until another Rio Rancho commissioner encouraged him to run. Continuing in community service, while watching over the public's money and prioritizing



Republican Sandoval County Commissioner Michael Meek (left) and his Democratic opponent Gregory Deforest Bennett.

local needs, proved appealing and still is, he added.

"There's been a lot of change in the last four years," he continued. "Some cleaning up and some moving forward."

A major cleanup was thirty years of neglect at the Detention Center, a now-accredited facility Meek had compared to a Third World prison. An important success was maneuvering through the pandemic while helping to keep businesses open, employees paid, and even adding employers, he said.

He said the county remains committed to economic development, going beyond just attracting businesses, to include training, workforce, and affordable housing. Also looming as little as five years in the future is a new county landfill on a site already selected.

Bennett said he chose to run after looking around the county and deciding the people needed a voice. As he's knocked on doors, learning about people's concerns while campaigning, even most Republi-

—continued next page

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From page 14—Race

cans have at least been cordial in hearing him out, he said.

“They were willing to give me their perspective, which is what I want,” Bennett said. “I want this to be as open a position as possible.”

“When you show up at their door, a lot of them are very appreciative that you’re there, that you’ve made the time.”

Among his concerns in the fastest growing county in the state is whether businesses and other community stakeholders can create a plan for sustainable growth.

“How do we deal with our water issues?” Bennett said. “Do we just sit back and let the developers develop?... Or do we have a hand in there and say, ‘Listen. This is how we should do it given our resources?’”

When the national conflict over 2020 election results reached Sandoval County, commissioners held a work session, leading by a split vote to suggested changes like adding voter IDs that were sent to the Legislature. Comments about election issues, limited to three minutes, have become a regular feature at commission meeting, although no longer shouted, as initially was the case.

What the county did not recommend was removing voting machines and returning to hand-counted ballots, although paper ballots in use now are retained after being run through tabulating machines.

“Nobody on our commission that I’m aware of actually believes that Biden is not our president,” Meek said. “We can say we have the best elections, but there is room for improvement... People made some suggestions, and that’s what we pushed forward.”

Bennett noted how the controversy has intruded on county business, fed in some measure by people continuing their fight from other counties.

“It’s a dog whistle that people respond to,” he said. “We’re going to have to deal with it in some way as time goes on... It’s not going to go away just because I get elected.”

Online: Michael Meek: CommissionerMeek.com; Gregory Deforest Bennett: GregoryBennett4NM.com.

Election ballot includes surprise shuffle

~BILL DIVEN

Even though only two Sandoval County Commission seats are on the November 8 ballot, a third seat appears ready to change hands after the election.

That’s because District 5 Commissioner F. Kenneth Eichwald of Cuba is running unopposed for the Cuba-based Magistrate Court District 3 judgeship. He would be sworn in with other county officeholders on January 1, but first must resign from the commission.

Under the state constitution, the governor would appoint someone to complete the remaining two years of Eichwald’s term and likely will consider recommendations of the remaining commissioners. The governor and Eichwald are Democrats, and his resignation would leave the commission with a 3-1 Republican majority.

The other Magistrate Court candidates—Democrats Ann Marie Maxwell-Chavez and Delilah Montañó-Baca—also are running unopposed, as is Democrat Edward Wayne Lovato, candidate for probate judge. The four county commission candidates, as well as candidates for county sheriff and assessor, are profiled elsewhere in this *Signpost*.

Also running unopposed is Rep. Matthew McQueen, D-Santa Fe, who, with the redistricting, now represents southeast Sandoval County including

Placitas, La Madera, and rural areas north of there.

Ballots will include statewide races for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, and commissioner of public lands. And on the ballot are three constitutional amendments and four bond questions described in this *Signpost*, page 4.

Congressional positions for the north, south, and central House districts are on the ballots in those districts.

Among the other races Sandoval County voters will see on their ballots, depending on where they live, are:

- House District 22: Republican Alan T. Martinez of Bernalillo vs. Democrat Ramon M. Montañó of Rio Rancho. Rep. Daymon Ely, D-Corralles, held this seat but did not run for reelection.

- House District 44: Incumbent Rep. Jane Powdrell-Culbert, R-Corralles vs. Democrat Kathleen M. Cates of Rio Rancho.

- House District 57: Incumbent Rep. Jason Harper, R-Rio Rancho vs. Democrat Michelle Eleanor Sandoval of Rio Rancho.

- House District 60: Incumbent Rep. Derrick Lente, D-Sandia Pueblo vs. Republican Joshua Nathaniel Hernandez of Rio Rancho.

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Registration for Rio Rancho Police Department's Citizens' Police Academy now open

~LIEUTENANT JACQUELYNN REEDY

The Rio Rancho Police Department is pleased to announce we are currently accepting applications for RRPD Citizens' Police Academy Class 22-02.

The goal of the Citizens' Police Academy is to keep the Rio Rancho Police Department connected with our community. The academy provides citizens with a greater understanding of all of the services and programs the Rio Rancho Police Department has to offer. Our presenters are officers from different divisions across our agency which are out in the community every day providing the great service we strive for. As citizens learn about our police department, they will have an opportunity to meet the people behind the badge, learn who we are, and what motivates us.

The Citizens' Police Academy will consist of an in-person, eleven-week course, one night per week (Tuesdays from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.) at the Rio Rancho Police Department. The start date is October 18, 2022. The course is comprised of hands-on learning, demonstrations, and varying presentations on topics such as patrol officer response, K9 Unit, SWAT, Criminal Investigations, and much more.

The academy is open to current Rio Rancho residents and/or Rio Rancho business owners and will be limited to thirty students. The deadline to apply is October 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Citizens interested in attending can apply online at rrnm.gov/cpa or in-person at 500 Quantum Road NE in Rio Rancho.

AROUND TOWN



—BARB BELKNAP

Dancers and audience members alike enjoy the salsa band Son Como Son at the last concert of the season at Homestead Village Shopping Center in Placitas. The five-concert Canyon Blues and Jazz summer series is organized by Sandia Chill Concerts—a locally formed group that brings music and fun times to attendees from June to September. For further info, visit CanyonBluesandJazz.org.



Rio Rancho Fall Festival at City Center

~PETER WELLS

The City of Rio Rancho is excited to announce its 2022 edition of the Rio Rancho Fall Festival, which is a free, family-friendly event. This year, the festivities will again take place at Campus Park in City Center on October 22, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

“Last year’s Fall Festival was a huge success, and we look forward to building on this wonderful community event,” said Mayor Gregg Hull. “I invite all citizens to come out and take part in all of the festivities happening throughout the day.”

City Center will be decorated to celebrate the fall season and live music will be playing throughout the day in the Sky Room at Campus Park. This community event provides something for everyone: carnival games, pumpkin carving, food trucks, a beer garden, and Trunk or Treating. All ages are encouraged to wear and show off their Halloween costumes!

Event Activities Schedule

Throughout the day, there will be activities event attendees can participate in:

- 2:00-8:00 p.m.: children’s carnival & face painting
- 2:00-6:00 p.m.: pumpkin carving for the public
- 2:00-8:00 p.m.: live music in the Sky Room
- 2:00-6:00 p.m.: cake walk
- 5:30-6:00 p.m.: costume contest
- 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Trunk or Treat in the parking lot adjacent to Campus Park

**Start and end times are tentative and the schedule is subject to change.

All event start times are subject to weather, and may be canceled due to such conditions as rain, wind, lightning, or public health orders. Admission is free. Parking and park seating space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Blankets, umbrellas, and coolers are permitted. Food vendors will be on-site. No glass, outside alcoholic beverages, or individual grills will be allowed. Live music starts at 2:00 p.m. Visitors can access City Center via Unser Blvd./King Blvd. and Paseo del Volcan/Broadmoor Boulevard.

For more information about this event, go to www.rrnm.gov or contact the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department at 505-891-5015.

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- Upgraded Sandoval County Fire and Rescue and the Sheriff’s Office
- Spearheaded the creation of Sandoval’s first animal shelter

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Sandoval County Commission District 1

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2022 Placitas Holiday Market returns—community-wide

~GERI VERBLE

For 38 years, the popular Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale was held the weekend before Thanksgiving. When it did not return after the Pandemic, the community came together and reorganized the Placitas Holiday Market to focus on local artisans. This year, our second, we return to the traditional weekend before Thanksgiving—Saturday and Sunday, November 19 to 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily—with events at six sites, located on or near Highway 165. Pick up a map and follow the Candy Cane signage to the market sites. You will find art, crafts, food, and drink to benefit the good works of local community groups and charities as well. Maps will be available at all venue sites and online. Save the date. Admission is free.

Site #1: Wild Hearts Gallery, Homestead Village Shopping Center, 220-B NM-165. Enjoy cider and cookies and the artwork of 16 members of this art collective. A portion of sales will benefit “Rebuilding Together Sandoval County.”

Site # 2: Placitas Community Library, 453 NM-165. A nonprofit providing children and adult programs, an art gallery and meeting space for community use. With a Holiday Fiesta theme, the library will feature 14 artists, a raffle benefiting library programs, bake and book sale, and Mexican food truck.

Site #3—Placitas Winery, 26 Camino de los Pueblitos. A micro-winery producing fruit wines and a community event center. It will feature 29 artists, a raffle, wine, beer, spirits, and German/European food to warm the soul. Raffle sales will benefit the Placitas Elementary School art program.

Site #4—Historic Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, 7 Paseo de San Antonio. This nineteenth-century Spanish village church will feature the artwork of six artists and hand-selected crafters. Sales will benefit the Placitas Artists Series, a nonprofit that produces annual music performances and art exhibitions in the church.

Site #5—Historic San Antonio Mission, 43 Paseo San Antonio. Established in 1840, serving the Catholic community in Placitas. It will feature 18 local artisans, a raffle, and an array of New Mexican foods. Sales will benefit their ongoing philanthropic projects.

Site #6—Placitas Community Senior Center, 41 Camino de Las Huertas. This heartbeat in our community provides classes, exercise, field trips, and more, plus services to seniors including congregate meals, meal delivery, and transportation. The center will display a variety of art and crafts.

For more information and to preview of artists, go to placitasholidaymarket.com.

See information and a preview of the artists at placitasholidaymarket.com



Holiday decorations glittered at the 2021 Placitas Holiday Market at Placitas Winery.

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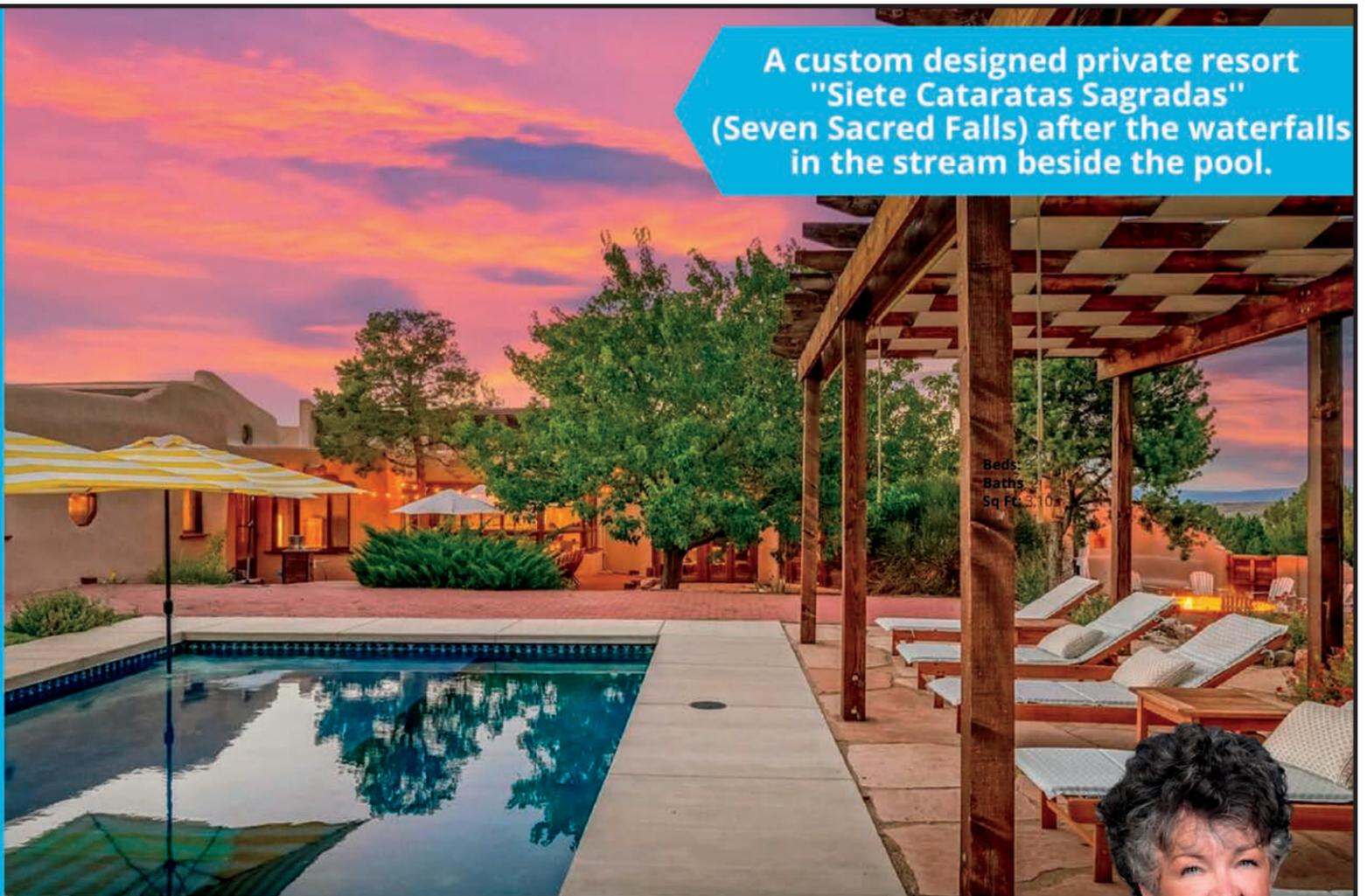
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Blessings Day gives

~RENEE KIRK, SAINT VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY

Preparations for Blessings Day have already begun for about eighty families who have been referred by school counselors, school secretaries, churches, Casa Rosa, and the San Felipe Health Clinic. The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish will be handling all aspects of this special event.

A holiday dinner with all the trimmings will be assembled and delivered, or picked up by the families, on December 10. Each family will also receive a gift card from Target for each child so that parents can select their own special present

for their children.

The amount of the gift card will be determined by the generosity of our community sponsors.

Rather than the community providing gifts and toys as in the past, the Covid epidemic prompted the use of gift cards, which have been happily received by the families. For more information on how to donate, call Renee at 505-263-2615.

A joyous holiday season to everyone from the Saint Vincent DePaul Society!

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2022-2023 annual Jewish Book Club Reading Guide honors Placitas author

~SIGNPOST STAFF

Mary E. Carter's 2018 debut novel *I, Sarah Steinway* was a finalist in the Jewish Book Council's National Jewish Book Awards and was a winner in the 2018 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. This year, it was selected as one of eight novels to be featured in the Jewish Book Council's 2022-2023 Annual Jewish Book Club Reading Guide.

JBC Book Clubs, a division of Jewish Book Council, launched this project to assist book clubs who read Jewish-interest books in choosing high-quality titles that represent the diversity of Jewish experience, and that will provoke rich discussion. When read together, the collection presents a rich



portrait of the Jewish literary landscape and of Jewish life.

The heroine of Carter's novel survives a catastrophic flood by moving into her treehouse on the northern shoreline of the San Francisco Bay. With snark and pluck, she lives up there for five years, engaging in argumentation with God, shouting the eternal question: "Why me?"

I, Sarah Steinway is available at bookstores and at amazon.com. You can preview Mary E. Carter's other books at www.tovah-miriam.com.

NIGHT SKY

October 2022 Night Sky

~CHARLIE CHRISTMANN

Fall is upon us. It is my favorite time of the year to go outside and gaze at the night sky. I know it won't be long until Orion, my favorite constellation, as it is for many others, and Sirius will rise early evening to signify winter is here. Until then, Orion rises around midnight this month.

For now, we can enjoy many other constellations. I like to go out about 8:00 p.m., after it gets dark and the atmosphere has had a chance to settle down. Looking for the Zodiac signs, we can see Scorpius low on the southwestern horizon. If you happen to get outside earlier than 8:00 p.m., look for Antares, the bright, red heart of the scorpion. Next, in the south southwest, is the teapot of Sagittarius. While actually representing an archer drawing his bow in mythology, the star Ascella, at the bottom of the teapot handle, is the shoulder of the archer. The backdrop of the Milky Way seems to depict steam rising from the pot.

In the south, we see Capricornus, the Sea-Goat. Unfortunately, this goat is not too bright; its brightest star, Deneb Algedi, is only third magnitude. It is here that the planet Saturn can be found, along with the dwarf planet Vesta this month. The southeast is Aquarius, the water bearer. It too has no star brighter than second magnitude. The two brightest stars, Industria and Sasalsuud are yellow supergiants not moving normally with the rest of the galaxy; they are moving at a right angle to the plane of the galaxy. Also located in Aquarius is the planet Neptune and Juno (the dwarf planet orbiting in the asteroid belt).

In the eastern sky resides Pisces, the fishes. The third magnitude star Alrescha is the brightest in this constellation. If you live in a city or near bright lights, forget finding these two fish. As we look to the northeast, we can find Aries, the ram, on the horizon. Its brightest star, Hamal, and second brightest star, Sheratan, are just under second magnitude. Both Uranus and the asteroid Hestia can be found in this constellation.

It is interesting that the constellations that mark the equinoxes and solstices have changed over time. For the last two-thousand years, Pisces carried the sun into the dawn sky for the spring equinox, Gemini the summer solstice, Virgo the autumn equinox, and Sagittarius the winter solstice. Each sign of the zodiac, no matter its actual size, represents thirty degrees of the sky. However, the Earth's precession is about one degree every 72 years, such that over the course of two-thousand years the sun has migrated by almost 28 degrees. With the spring equinox representing the current astrological age, we are still living in the age of Pisces. In about 150 years, we will see Aquarius usher in the dawn at the spring equinox. Thus, we will be in the age of Aquarius.

Directly overhead at 8:00 p.m. is the star Deneb in the constellation of Cygnus, the swan. This bird can be seen flying

NIGHT SKY CALENDAR:							
Morning Planets: Mars				Astrology: Venus in Virgo; Mars in Taurus; Jupiter in Pisces; Saturn in Capricorn; Neptune in Aquarius; Uranus in Aries; Pluto in Sagittarius; Sun from Leo to Libra			
Evening Planets: Jupiter, Saturn							
Date	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Moon
Oct 2	Moon 1st Qtr						
Oct 4	Feast of St Francis of Assisi (Christian); Dussehra (Hindu)						
Oct 5	Moon - Saturn close approach at 9:51a; Yom Kippur (Jewish)						
Oct 6	German - American Day						
Oct 7	r 7:05a s 6:41p	r 5:40a s 6:00p Mag -0.2	r 6:46a s 6:36p Mag -3.9	s 12:39p r 10:13p Mag -0.7	s 12:13a r 6:09p Mag -2.9	s 2:43a r 4:11p Mag +0.5	s 4:33a r 5:54p Ill 90%
Oct 8	Moon - Jupiter close approach at 12:06p; Prophet's Birthday (Muslim)						
Oct 9	Full Moon at 2:55p; Leif Erikson Day						
Oct 10	First day of Sukkot (Jewish); Columbus Day; Indigenous People's Day						
Oct 13	Navy Birthday						
Oct 14	r 7:11a s 6:32p	r 5:52a s 5:57p	r 7:01a s 6:30p	s 12:20p r 9:51p	r 5:39p s 11:38p	s 2:15a r 3:44p	s 12:04p r 9:40p Ill 82%
Oct 14	Moon - Mars close approach at 10:28p						
Oct 15	White Cane Safety Day						
Oct 16	Last day of Sukkot (Jewish)						
Oct 17	Oct 18 Moon last Qtr; Boss's Day						
Oct 18	Simchat Torah (Jewish)						
Oct 21	r 7:17a s 6:23p	r 6:18a s 5:58p	r 7:16a s 6:26p	s 11:58a r 9:28p	r 5:10p s 11:08p	s 1:47a r 3:16p	r 3:19a s 4:46p Ill 20%
Oct 21	Orionids Meteor Shower peak						
Oct 22	Venus superior Conjunction (in front of sun)						
Oct 24	Diwali/Deepavali (Hindu)						
Oct 25	New Moon at 4:49a, begin lunation 1234						
Oct 28	r 7:24a s 6:15p	r 6:48a s 6:00p Mag -1.1	r 7:31a s 6:22p Mag -3.9	s 11:34a r 9:01p Mag -1.1	r 4:40p s 10:38p Mag -2.8	s 1:20a r 2:48p Mag +0.6	r 11:05a s 8:43p Ill 9%
Oct 31	Moon 1st Qtr at 11:37p; Halloween						

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. Three middle fingers together at arm's length span about 5 degrees; the width of your little finger at arm's length is about 1 degree.

(some say swimming) down the river of stars that make up the Milky Way. Following the Milky Way to the south, we find the constellation Vulpecula, or little fox. Its brightest star is a dim 4.4 magnitude. One quick fact about Vulpecula: the first pulsar was found here in 1967 with a constant pulse rate of 1.3 seconds.

Just below Vulpecula is Sagitta, the arrow, another dim constellation. Its brightest star is a red giant with no formal name I can't find, so let's just call it gamma Sagittae.

To the northeast of Cygnus in the Milky Way is Lacerta, the lizard. It looks a bit like Cassiopeia as its stars form a "W." Following the river of stars, Cassiopeia, the queen mother of Andromeda is next in line. Cassiopeia's "W" is visible all year as it rotates around the north pole star. If you are looking for the "big dipper," it is just a portion of the larger Ursa Major (Big Bear), and it is located on the other side of the North Star from Cassiopeia.

On the northeast horizon, look for Perseus, named after the Greek hero. The plane of our galaxy passes through this constellation. Perseus' brightest star, Mirfak, is a first magnitude yellow-white supergiant.

To the west of Cygnus is the bright star Vega located in the constellation Lyra, the harp.

Now, as monsoon season is waning, get outside and take a look at the different constellations and see how many you can identify.

11th Annual Night Under the Stars shines

~STEVE ZELLERS

The Rio Rancho Astronomical Society (RRAS) will host its 11th annual fundraiser on October 29 at Rainbow Park Observatory, located at 301 Southern Boulevard, behind Rainbow Pool in Rio Rancho.

Dr. Crumpler, one of the lead planetary geologists on the Perseverance Mars Rover and Ingenuity helicopter, will talk about his thirty years of experience on multiple Mars missions. His new book, *Missions to Mars*, will be available for sale and autographs. Activities, silent auction, and food begin at 5:00 p.m., and Dr. Crumpler's talk starts at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, including a link to silent auction items, visit our website at www.rrastro.org.

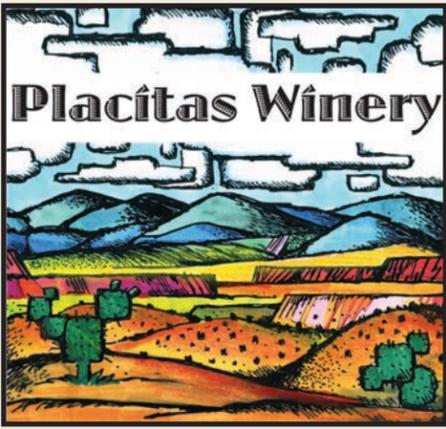
Also join us on October 1 at 7:00 p.m. for International Observe the Moon Night. This event occurs annually in September or October, when the Moon is around first quarter—a great phase for evening observing. A first-quarter Moon offers excellent viewing opportunities along the terminator (the line between night and day), where shadows enhance the Moon's cratered landscape. For more information, visit our website at rrastro.org or call 505-430-9604.

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David Felberg & Friends bring strings, clarinet, piano to concert

~ALLEN BOURNE

David Felberg & Friends will take the stage for the Placitas Artists Series (PAS) on October 16, with a sextet of strings, clarinet, and piano. The 3:00 p.m. concert takes place at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church and is preceded by a public visual artists reception at 2:00 p.m.

Violinist Felberg will be accompanied by Elizabeth Young, violin; Margaret Dyer-Harris, viola; Felix Fan, cello; James Shields, clarinet; and Judith Gordon, piano. Their program will include *Capriccio for Cello and Piano* (1948) by Lukas Foss; *Sextet for Clarinet, String Quartet and Piano* by Aaron Copland; *Broad and Free, for Violin and Piano* by Caroline Shaw; and *Piano Quartet in c minor* by Johannes Brahms. The concert is generously sponsored by the Estate of Vangie Dunmire.

Concertgoers are encouraged to come early to meet the visual artists in the church's Fellowship Hall. Artists on display will be Alice Webb, plein air oil painting; Karl Hofmann, pastels and prints; John DeSpain, pastels; Christiane Couvert, pottery; and Myra Gadson, jewelry. Also on view is *Morning Twirls*, a framed pastel by Katherine Irish that the

artist donated to PAS for a fundraising raffle—tickets for which are available on the PAS website, the Placitas Community Library, and at the concert. The show is open to the public during church gallery hours, Tuesday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and by appointment. All artwork on display is available for purchase and benefits PAS.

Tickets can be purchased at PlacitasArts.org, where the concert program, musician bios, and more will be available. K-12 students accompanied by an adult ticket holder can attend free.

On October 2, PAS is also hosting a fundraising concert to thank Richard Reif, its previous board president, for his service. Felberg, Luke Gullickson, Jesse Tatum and John Barney will present the music of Philip Glass, Arvo Pärt, Meredith Monk, and John Adams, along with an original composition by Gullickson. Tickets are available on the PAS website—PlacitasArts.org.

Placitas Artists Series projects are made possible in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

ARTS

Local writer publishes second collection of short stories—

Ernest's New Watch

~SIGNPOST STAFF

Gary Priester of Placitas has been busy during the pandemic producing two books of short stories. His first book, *The Chimes of Westminster* was released in June, 2021. His second book, *Ernest's New Watch*, has just been released.

In the title story, Ernest, a man who is pathologically punctual, succumbs to the allure of the latest Apple Watch, a watch that can do almost everything his iPhone can do. And it's cute, to boot. Can a cell-phone be jealous? Can it be vindictive? Will it destroy Ernest's new romance? Time will tell.

Other stories include: *The Story of My Life - in Texts*, in which Bradley Bingham, a young student desperately texts to find an eleventh-hour date for the Sophomore Prom. In *The Blue Door*, Dick Martin, an artist new to New Mexico, finds a gallery and a wife while he searches for his birth parents. *It's No Joke*, puts a new spin on an old Jewish joke. *The Magnifying Glass* not only magnifies whatever it focuses on, it's an excellent BS detector as well.

Ernest's New Watch by Gary W. Priester is available on Amazon in the Books section.



Call for Poets

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION
25th ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT POETRY READING
Saturday, December 17, 2022, 7 p.m.
Theme: "Touching Silver"
Submit poems by Wednesday, November 9 to
jacqueline.fletcher@okstate.edu
Poems are limited to 4 minutes and should
reflect the theme, the winter solstice, and care for the Earth.
This event will be held live at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church,
in the village of Placitas. Poets and audience members are encouraged
to be vaccinated and boosted, and to mask while in the church.
A Zoom option will be available for virtual attendees.
Sponsored by LPPC Earth Care Fellowship

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10 to 5 OCTOBER 1-9
Artists Reception Sept. 30 • 5-7 pm

34th annual Old Church Fine art show returns

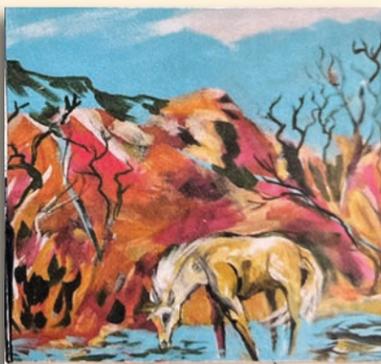
~DEBBIE CLEMENTE

Corrales Historical Society and Corrales Society of Artists are pleased to announce the 34th annual juried Old Church Fine Arts Show. This year, the nine-day, in-person show will once again hang in the beautiful Historic Old San Ysidro Church during Balloon Fiesta, October 1-9. This juried show features 58 of New Mexico's finest artists who will showcase a variety of art forms. Spend some time soaking in these incredible artworks, select a special piece to treasure forever, or find a gift for someone special on your holiday list. Admission and parking are free.

Twenty-five percent of artists' sales are donated toward the preservation and maintenance of the Old Church, so this 154-year-old historic structure will be around for centuries to come.

Art enthusiasts will enjoy knowing their purchase helps both the artist and the Old Church.

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Artists of Mariposa present art show and sale

~PAM TROUTMAN

Over forty artists reside in the Community of Mariposa, and many of these artisans will be displaying and selling their beautiful works of art during our Annual Artists of Mariposa event, held in the Mariposa Community Center—2501 Mariposa Parkway NE in Rio Rancho—on October 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cool Beans Neighborhood Café will provide food and coffee. This event will showcase paintings, ceramics, pastels, jewelry, metal art, drawings, fiber art, mixed media, and more. Plan to attend this annual event and meet the artists. Custom Orders welcomed. More information at www.facebook.com/AoMRioRanchoNM/.

Under Charlie's Covers to host New Mexico children's book author Nicholas Aragon

~LARA HARRISON

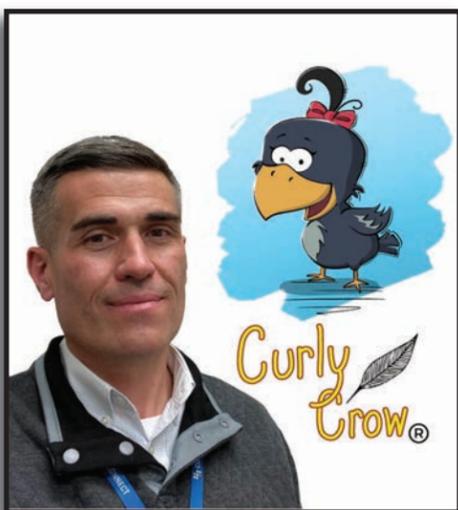
Under Charlie's Covers Fine Used Books welcomes children's book author Nicholas Aragon for a book signing on October 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Aragon, a resident of Rio Rancho, will be selling and signing his latest release, *Curly Crow Goes to School*, along with the corresponding coloring book. He will also have copies of the other books in the series, *Curly Crow Goes Camping* and *Curly Crow Goes to the River*. The series follows a curious young crow who has exciting adventures while experiencing the beauty of New Mexico.

Inspired by his mother Barb Keady (1959-2017), Aragon continued the book series she wrote for her granddaughters and started Curly Crow LLC with a mission to inspire and heal the human spirit through art.

In addition to writing amazing children's books, Nicholas works full time as a Higher Education Administrator where he satisfies his passion to help change lives one student at a time. A native New Mexican, Nicholas enjoys fishing and spending time outdoors with his amazing wife and two beautiful daughters.

For more information about Curly Crow books, visit the website at www.curlycrow.com/book-shop/. Under Charlie's Covers is located at 160 South Camino Del Pueblo, Suite B in Bernalillo, next to The Vision Store. For more information, call 505-404-2097 or go to www.undercharliescovers.com.



Art exhibit features life's changing moments

~REBECCA S. COHEN

Beginning October 1, the Gracie Lee Community Room will feature an exhibition titled, *Life's Hidden Treasures*. The images in this exhibit suggest the discovery of the unexpected and hint at the values and concerns of the roughly 25 artists who are participating. "There are life changing moments that illuminate and elevate our awareness of what is seen and unseen," explain exhibition coordinators Colleen Greigore and Linda Hughes. "These become the treasured experiences of our being for years to come."

It is intriguing, for instance, to speculate on the story behind Roberta Delgado's couple seen only from behind, titled *Growing old together*, or eyes peering through what appears to be a withered leaf by Mary Dereske, or the interaction between Katrina Lasko's mother, child, and bear in *Circus Family*.

The exhibit continues through November 10, with a public artists' reception on October 14, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. As always, works that are sold will benefit both the artist and the Placitas Community Library. The Library is located at 453 Highway 165.



Circus Family,
painting, by Katrina Lasko

Amapola Gallery features Kristin Parrott

~PAM TROUTMAN

Amapola Gallery's Featured Artist for October is one of our original members, Kristin Parrott. (She'll tell you she was six at that time, 1980—a shocking untruth.) This show concentrates on Ms. Parrott's acrylic and watercolor paintings and stone carvings. Her landscapes, florals, and abstracts feature bright colors, graceful shapes, sunsets, and a whole forest of trees. Kristin hand-carves a variety of soapstones, and an occasional piece of alabaster, using chisels, rasps, and knives. Her animals share a whimsical outlook but her carved hands offer a much more elegant dignity. Meet this award-winning multi-media artist on October 7, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Her work will be on display the entire month of October. Amapola Gallery is located on the Plaza in Old Town Albuquerque—205 Romero NW. For more information, call 505-242-4311 or go to amapola-gallery.com.



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



Organica, fused glass,
by Lisa Chernoff

Lisa Chernoff and Nancy and Jon Couch host glass show “Creative Visions”

—JOAN FENICLE

Art glass by Lisa Chernoff & Nancy and Jon Couch will be on display at Wild Hearts Gallery in Placitas from September 27 through October 23. A reception for the artists will be held on October 8, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Lisa is a native New Mexican who originally worked in clay. In 1997, she began to experiment by fusing found, scrap glass with her clay firings. She soon made the transition to working with glass exclusively. Her recent work has taken on an earthy and raw quality.

Nancy and Jon Couch share that passion for art, with their exploration of stained glass spanning more than forty years. Their unique Water Prisms were their first creations in stained glass in the early 1980s. Forty years later, they have graced thousands of homes with dancing rainbows from refractive sunlight. They have added stained glass windows, mandalas, jewelry boxes, lamps, mirrors, sun catchers, and ornaments to their collection.

Wild Hearts Gallery is an artists’ collective, supported by 16 local artists. You can also take a visual tour of the gallery by visiting wildheartsgallery.com.

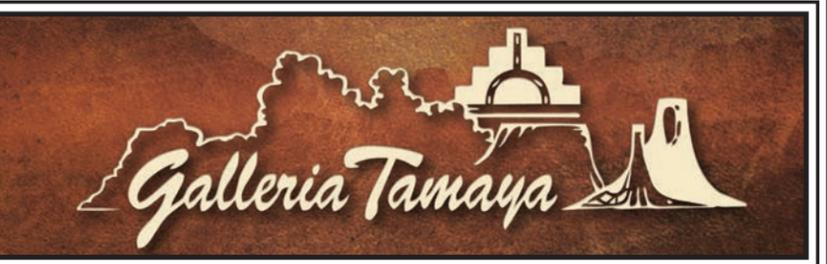
Placitas Reads: Exciting programs in October

—ANNE FROST, PLACITAS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Placitas Community Library is excited to offer two programs this month as part of our series “Placitas Reads” on Anne Hillerman’s novel *The Sacred Bridge*. On October 15, Elder Kathy Wan Povi Sanchez of San Ildefonso Pueblo will speak on “Respecting and Protecting Native American Sacred Sites.” On October 22, the library will host the well-known New Mexican writer of seven tribal mystery novels with an “Afternoon with Anne Hillerman.” Both events start at 2:00 p.m.

Kathy Sanchez, an elder and spirit-rooted social activist from San Ildefonso Pueblo says, “Throughout New Mexico, there are many areas under the “so-called” ownership of federal, state, and private entities that are sacred to Indigenous communities. These sacred sites provide the physical foundation for Indigenous culture, identity, creation stories, and a connection from each generation to their ancestors. The need to protect sacred sites is vital to maintaining and passing from generation to generation the distinct identities, traditions, and histories of Indigenous peoples.”

The Rainbow Bridge near Lake Powell in Utah is one such sacred site. It has been under threat since 1956 when construction began on Glen Canyon Dam and the flooding of the canyon. The creation of Lake Powell radically changed the entire area and submerged many sites sacred to native people. Now, the worsening drought and other factors have created new risks to this important area. This is the setting for Anne



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Elder Kathy Wan Povi Sanchez



Anne Hillerman

Hillerman’s most recent mystery, which is the featured title of PCL’s community read, 2022 Placitas Reads: *the Sacred Bridge*.

The culmination of the series will be an “Afternoon with Anne Hillerman” on October 22. Anne is a special friend of PCL and has even included the library in one of her novels, which continue the Navajo detective stories her father Tony Hillerman made popular. She will discuss the importance of research in writing fiction, including this latest gripping narrative featuring Leaphorn, Chee, and Manuelito.

The Placitas Library has signed copies of *The Sacred Bridge* for sale to benefit the library at the Help Desk. Please join us for these two exciting programs.



Creative Visions 3RD ANNUAL GLASS SHOW

September 27 – October 23

Jon & Nancy
Couch

Artist’s Reception
Saturday
October 8 • 1–4 pm



Lisa Chernoff

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Aspen Vista in the Sandias

Las Placitas Association

—JOAN FENICLE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LPA

Bike/hike Placitas project:

Several months ago, LPA suggested that it was time to revisit the recommendation in the Placitas Master Plan of 2009 for development of bike and walking trails along NM-165 in Placitas. A survey was conducted, and we learned that the majority of Placitans agree. A Zoom meeting was attended by community members, LPA board members, and representatives of the DOT, MRGCOG, and Sandoval County. The next step is a feasibility study. The Sandoval County Sheriff's Department has provided the energy and expertise to move this forward, and the county has now been awarded funding for the feasibility study.

New Mexico Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes announced the second round of Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant recipients for 2022. This included Sandoval County: the project entails contracting with a vendor to conduct a feasibility study on the completion of a pedestrian, bicycle, and multiuse trail along NM-165 in Placitas. The trail would be approximately nine miles in length and help connect the residents and visitors of Placitas, as well as help provide children of Placitas a safe route to the elementary school.

Aspen hike: It's autumn and our aspen forests are turning bright yellow again. The slopes of North Sandia Peak have large stands of aspens and this hike will feature some fall color as well as spectacular views of the valley all the way to Mt. Taylor. This 3.7-mile trail is considered an easy route with an elevation gain of only 705 feet, but at 10,000+ feet elevation, you will get a good workout. It takes an average of 1 hour 48 minutes to complete. If you want to come, meet at the Merc parking lot on October 16, at 9:00 a.m., to car-pool to the trail head. P.S. Did you know that a stand of aspen trees is considered a singular organism with the main life force being an extensive and connected root system?

Gathering of Spirits: We had so much fun last year, KUPR and the Kactus Kats (with Joanie Cere) are heading back to Placitas Winery on October 29, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., for a Halloween party! (See the ad, page 5, this Signpost for more details.) Costumes are HIGHLY recommended!



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Eastern Sandoval Citizens (ESCA)

—JEAN ROBERTS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ESCA

You may have noticed a nip of fall in the air, and that should bring to mind the General Election that is looming on the horizon. November 8 is the date, so mark your calendar and please plan to VOTE. Note that Early Voting begins as soon as October 11 at the County Clerk's Office. Sandoval County will begin early voting on October 22, and it will last until November 5.

If you are interested, for whatever reason, in voting from home in the General Election, it is extremely easy. Go to "nmvote.org," scroll down to Request Absentee Ballot Online and take a couple of minutes to fill out the necessary information. After October 11, you will receive your absentee ballot in the mail. Fill out your ballot and either return it in the postage free envelope or place it in the official drop box at the Placitas Community Library.

Another Fall happening is the semi-annual Eastern Sandoval Citizens Associations (ESCA) Adopt-A-Highway clean-up effort on October 23, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the rest area at the start of the first mile of Highway 165. We welcome all! Bring gloves, sunscreen, and water.

Please note that the ESCA Annual Meeting will be held on October 2, at 4:00 p.m., at the Placitas Community Library. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will enjoy a social half hour followed by key speakers, our County Commissioner, Sandoval County Sheriff, the Chief of Fire and Rescue, and an update on the Buffalo Protection Act. We ask that you RSVP to president@es-ca.org.



TIME OFF

We tried to let the sleeping bears lie

~BILL DIVEN

If anyone felt a surge of adrenalin as more than a dozen grizzly bears surrounded us, it was guide Lance Bassett, who almost stepped on one snoozing in the brush.

Eight of us, bedecked in waders and foul-weather gear, huddled beside the main flow of Moraine Creek while he scouted a lazy side channel behind us for our next safe move in the Katmai National Park and Preserve. By then, we were well into counting 15 Alaska brown bears spread along the creek where dead salmon floated by after their spawning run from the Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet.

Most gorged on their easy catches to fatten up for the winter, while others were dark mounds on the tundra, sleeping off their last meal before ordering up another. When fishing ends, the menu shifts to the berries ripening across the grassy hummocks kept low by the sometimes-savage climate at 58 degrees north latitude.

Two adult bears would find time to play fight, and a mother trying to relax on the ridge opposite us finally relented to the pestering of two large cubs leading them down to the stream for fish snacks.

Lance returned after a few minutes, eyes wide, the timbre in his voice somewhere between startled and exuberant. Following a game trail, he hadn't seen the bear on its side soundly asleep in the brush until he watched his left foot about to land on an outstretched paw and claws nearly the size of a dinner plate.

In all his years guiding bear tours and working with documentary film crews, he said it was the closest he'd been to a grizzly that wasn't tranquilized. He would be jazzed about the encounter for the rest of the day.

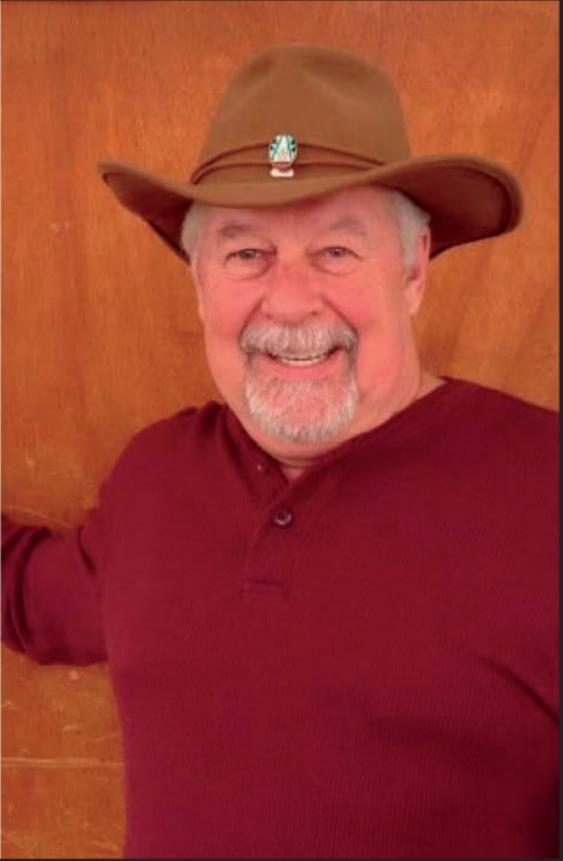
We all wanted a look, and quietly moved up the trail to within about 35 feet of the paw. Whether our camera shutters were disturbingly noisy or an internal alarm clock went off, the seven-hundred-pound bear began to stir.

Groggy from heavy dining, or perhaps the luxury of being his own boss, he took his time getting up. He yawned, stretched, glanced at us, yawned some more, stretched some more, and did a little yoga.

OK, he didn't do a yoga bear pose, but the scene seemed that casual. All of us stood mesmerized as he took a couple steps in our direction before turning toward the side channel, lumbering off for a drink and moving on to whatever bear business needed doing.

Bears and humans mix well here usually with more distance. The advice if

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Refreshments will be served afterwards.



one seemed headed our way was either to move out of its path as a group in slow motion or sit down, something the bears do to show each other they're friendly. We did both.

They don't associate humans with, or as, food; none is tagged and they're only numbered, not named as they were in earlier times. Lance carried only bear spray and made sure we ate our lunches over our open daypacks so we left not even a crumb behind.

The National Park Service estimates 2,200 brown bears live at Katmai. Founded in 1918, the park spreads across 5,700 square miles on the volcanic peninsula leading to the Aleutian Islands. Access is by plane or boat.

Our bear ramble, 15 of us in two groups, climaxed a day that only happened because the Gondwana Ecotours trip leaders scrambled to make it so. With dicey weather forecast, they were able to move the flights a day taking us from Seward on a 170-mile loop around the Kenai Peninsula and straight to Emerald Air Service in Homer.

There, two de Havilland Canada turbo Otters built in the late 1950s waited in a lake for the sixty-mile flight across the inlet to Katmai. Alaska, with clusters of population wrapped in wilderness and water, boasts six times as many pilots and 16 times as many aircraft per capital than any other state.

As an aside, Alaskans like to gig Texas. Maps showing the Lone Star state fitting easily inside their borders with abundant room to spare even welcome arrivals at Anchorage's airport.

For many people, Alaska is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure and is not cheap, regardless of how you do it. The scenery stuns anytime, but with tourist season winding down in mid-September, our independent drive to Fairbanks and back looped through country awash in fall colors that almost blinded us when the sun came out.

It rained much of the time, of course, so we saw no Northern Lights or 20,310-foot Denali—except from the flight in.

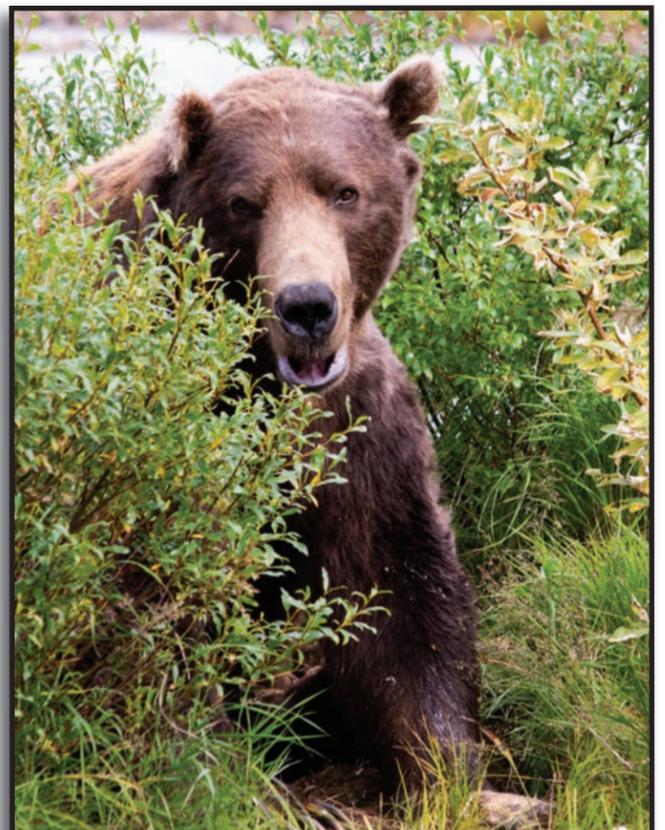
You don't need another whine about airline disruptions, so I'll only mention that Alaska Airways took good care of us, but has dropped the morning flight from Albuquerque. That made for a two-day trip through SeaTac to avoid a middle-of-the-night arrival in Anchorage.

The two-hop flight home was a long day, but we were back in Placitas at 1:00 a.m., which at least was only 11:00 a.m. in bear country.

—STORY PHOTOS BY BILL DIVEN



Two Alaskan brown bear cubs in their second year join their mother in feasting on dead salmon floating down Moraine Creek in Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska.



The sleeping Alaskan brown bear at Katmai National Park and Preserve is awake now but still a bit groggy as he eyes the group of visitors staring back at him.

SIGNPOST COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Some of these ongoing listings are temporarily cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
please Check via their contact information to see when and if they are happening.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Third Tuesdays: Bead Society of New Mexico (BSNM) Monthly Membership Meeting. 6-8 p.m. The BSNM's purpose is to provide for the benefit and development of our members and the community at large through education, appreciation, and involvement in the field of beads and bead-related subjects. We do not meet in July or December. Please check our website in case of occasional changes. Meets at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Road NE. For more information, go to beadsocietyNM.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Wednesdays: Rio Rancho Art Association (RRAA) monthly membership meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. RRAA is a non-juried/all mediums regional art association. You need not be a resident of Rio Rancho to join. Held in Don 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 meet. 6:00 p.m. Held at Fair Winds, 920 Riverview Drive SE, Rio Rancho. 898-6884.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturdays: Casa Rosa 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.

Third Saturdays: Rio Rancho Northwest Mesa NAACP meets "Virtual." Public is invited. rrnaacp.wixsite.com/website

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

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

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

October 1-9: **34th annual juried Old Church Fine Arts Show and Sale.** 10 am.-5 p.m. Over 50 artists. Held in the Historic Old San Ysidro Church. 966 Old Church Road, Corrales. Free admission and parking.

October 1: "Littlefoot" at Placitas Winery. 6-9 p.m. Father-son duo Marc and Michel Robert perform top-shelf Old-Time music. Fiddle, banjo, guitar. Come relax with wine-tasting and sales, beer, spirits, non-alcoholic specialty drinks, food sales. \$7 at the door (cash/credit).

October 1: **International Observe the Moon Night.** 7 p.m. Hosted by Rio Rancho Astronomical Society. Held at Rainbow Park Observatory, located at 301 Southern Boulevard. Free and open to the public. rrasto.org.

October 2: **Placitas Artist Series announces special concert honoring retired President Richard Reif.** 3 p.m. Held at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. PlacitasArts.org/tickets.

October 2: **ESCA Annual Meeting.** 4 p.m. Held at Placitas Community Library. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will enjoy a social half hour followed by key speakers, our County Commissioner, Sandoval County Sheriff, the Chief of Fire and Rescue, and an update on the Buffalo Protection Act. RSVP to president@es-ca.org.

October 7: **Artist reception for Kristin Parrott at Amapola Gallery in Old Town ABQ.** 4-7 p.m. Her work will be on display the entire month of October. 205 Romero NW. amapola-gallery.com.

October 8: **Artists of Mariposa Art Show & Sale.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Food and coffee from Cool Beans Neighborhood Café. This event will showcase paintings, ceramics, pastels, jewelry, metal art, drawings, fiber art, mixed media, and more. www.facebook.com/AoMRioRanchoNM/.

October 8: **Artist reception for glass artists Lisa Chernoff & Nancy and Jon Couch at Wild Hearts Gallery in Placitas.** 1-4 p.m. wildheartsgallery.com.

October 9: **23rd Annual Albuquerque Folk Festival.** 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Over 100 events to choose from. At National Hispanic Cultural Center. Learn more at www.abqfolkfest.org.

October 14: **Opening reception for visual art exhibition *Life's Hidden Treasures* at Placitas Community Library.** 5-6:30 p.m. 453 Highway 165. placitaslibrary.com.

October 15 and October 22: **Placitas Reads *The Sacred Bridge* at Placitas Library.** 2 p.m. More information in this *Signpost* and online at placitaslibrary.com.

October 16: **Community hike to see the Sandia Aspens change color.** 9 a.m. Meet at the Merc parking lot to carpool to the trailhead. 3.7-mile hike, come prepared. Organized by Las Placitas Association.

October 16: **Placitas Artist Series concert and art exhibition.** Artist reception at 2 p.m.; concert at 3 p.m. Held at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church in Placitas. Featuring Violinist Felberg accompanied by Elizabeth Young, violin; Margaret Dyer-Harris, viola; Felix Fan, cello; James Shields, clarinet; and Judith Gordon, piano. Visual artists are Alice Webb, plein air oil painting; Karl Hofmann, pastels and prints; John DeSpain, pastels; Christiane Couvert, pottery; and Myra Gadson, jewelry. Tickets available at PlacitasArts.org.

October 22: **Rio Rancho Fall Festival at City Center.** 2-8 p.m. Carnival games, face painting, pumpkin carving, food trucks, a beer garden, and Trunk or Treating. Costumes encouraged. www.rrnm.gov.

October 23: **ESCA Adopt-A-Highway clean-up effort in Placitas.** 9 a.m. Meet at the rest area at the start of the first mile of Highway 165. Bring gloves, sunscreen, and water.

October 29: **Trunk-or-Treat.** 3-5 p.m. Dress up in your spookiest, scariest, funniest, goofiest costumes and have fun at this event sponsored by the Placitas Chamber of Commerce. At Homestead Village Shopping Center. Free and open to the public.

October 29: **Gathering of Spirits Halloween party.** 6-9 p.m. Held at Placitas winery—placitaswinery.com. See the ad in this issue of the *Signpost* for more details. Costumes HIGHLY recommended!

October 29: **11th annual Night Under the Stars fundraiser.** 5-7 p.m. Dr. Crumpler, one of the lead planetary geologists on the Perseverance Mars Rover and Ingenuity helicopter, will talk about his thirty years of experience on multiple Mars missions. Followed by activities, a silent auction, and food. Held at Rainbow Park Observatory, located at 301 Southern Boulevard. www.rrasto.org.

Corrales Senior Center

AGE REQUIREMENT: 60+ years

OPERATION TIME: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 4324-A Corrales Road, 87048, 505-897-3818

Activities vary month to month. The Center also celebrates special events, and holds holiday parties, birthday socials, dances, and informal presentations. Open gym equipment available daily. Call the Center for the full Activities Schedule at (505) 897-3818.

COMMUNITY

ONGOING:

Mondays: yoga, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.; Tai Chi 2:00 p.m.

Tuesdays: Zumba, 8:30 a.m.; PWR! Group 2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: yoga 9:00 a.m.; Bingo 12:30 p.m.

Thursdays: yoga 8:30 a.m.; Project Linus 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; PWR! Group 2:00 p.m.

Fridays: line dance 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.; Tai Chi 2:00 p.m.

Get the Best of Farm-Table Seasonal Produce

It's fall at the market. Join us Saturdays in October!

Pick up fresh produce for a salad, roasted chiles for stew or apples for a delicious apple pie. You will find a wide variety of salad greens, onions, cabbage, cucumbers, peas, carrots, and tomatoes. Check out melons, corn, green beans, turnips, potatoes, garlic, green or hot peppers, freshly picked fruit and berries, summer and winter squash, and eggplant. Be sure to add fresh eggs, honey, jams/jellies, baked goods, jerky, flowers and bouquets to your shopping list. Enjoy live music as you shop!

We're open every Saturday – 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



Placitas Senior Center

AGE REQUIREMENT: 60+ years

OPERATION TIME: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 41 Camino De Las Huertas, 87043, (505) 867-1396

ONGOING:

Mondays: open gym 7:30-8:30 a.m.; yoga 9 a.m.; enhanced fitness 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; billiards 3-4 p.m.; open gym 3-4:50 p.m.

Tuesdays: open gym 7:30-8:30 a.m.; Pilates 8:15 a.m.; painting class 9:30 a.m.; billiards 12:00-3:00 p.m.; open gym, 3:00-4:50 p.m.

Wednesdays: open gym, 7:30- 8:30 a.m.; Project Linus, 9 a.m.; enhanced fitness 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; card games, 1-4 p.m.; Tai Chi, 3:30 p.m.

Thursdays: open gym, 7:30-8:30 a.m.; Pilates, 8:15 a.m.; yoga, 9:30 a.m.; chair Zumba Gold 1 p.m.; beading, 1-4 p.m.; billiards, 1-4 p.m.; open gym, 3:00-4:50 p.m.

Fridays: open gym, 7:30-8:30 a.m.; enhanced fitness, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 1:30-4 p.m. billiards, Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; open gym, 1 p.m.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

October 5: 8:00 a.m. Roadrunner Food Pantry, pick up at the Bernalillo Senior Center

October 11: 1:00 p.m. shopping trip Walmart, Walgreens, Albertsons, Dollar Tree

October 8: 9:30 a.m. advisory board meeting

October 17: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. birthday social and health checks with the Sandoval County Fire and Rescue

October 20: 11:00 a.m. departure for shopping trip to Los Alamos and Lunch at Viola's

October 24: 1:00 p.m. painting with Don Cambell

October 25: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. billiards game day

October 26: 9:00 a.m. departure for shopping trip to Los Alamos and lunch at Viola's

October 28: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Halloween social & costume party

October 30: 12:30 p.m. card making class with Kathy Morgan

Bernalillo Senior Center activities

AGE REQUIREMENT: 60+ years

OPERATION TIME: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

801 Rotary Park, Bernalillo 87004 • (505) 867-9448

ONGOING:

Mondays: open gym and billiard room 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Bingo 10 a.m.

Tuesdays: open gym and billiard room 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Moe Fit/Holistic Fitness, Mind, and Body 10:30 a.m.; Yoga 3:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: open gym, billiard room 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tai Chi 1:30 p.m.

Thursdays: open gym and billiard room 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Yoga 10:30 a.m.; Bingo 12:30 p.m.

Fridays: open gym and billiard room 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30 p.m.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

October 3: Local Shopping 1:00 p.m.

October 5: Roadrunner Food Bank Distribution 8:00 a.m.

October 6: International Balloon Fiesta 9:30 a.m.

October 11: Prime Time Expo 7:30 a.m.

October 17: Wal-Mart Shopping Day 1:00 p.m.

October 19: Echo Commodities 9:00 a.m.

October 28: Billiard Game Day! 10:00 a.m.; Birthday Social 12:30 p.m.

Sandoval County senior centers lunch menu

October 3: Salisbury steak, mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, garden salad, biscuit, mandarin oranges

October 4: stuffed bell peppers, beef, rice, California veggies, garden salad, whole-wheat roll, grapes

October 5: chef salad, croutons, crackers, orange, pudding

October 6: pineapple-glazed chicken, green beans, rice, garden salad, whole-wheat roll, pineapple

October 7: Swedish meatball over rice, brussels sprouts, beet and red onion salad, applesauce, whole-wheat roll, oatmeal raisin cookie

October 10: cranberry maple chicken, cranberry stuffing, broccoli, garden salad, whole-wheat roll, fruit cocktail

October 11: hamburger stroganoff, rice, California veggies, garden salad, whole-wheat roll, fruit crisp

October 12: Chinese chicken salad, chow mien noodles, sesame dressing, fruit, fortune cookie

October 13: green chile cheese lasagna, Italian vegetables, garden salad, breadstick banana

October 14: roasted pork loin/au jus, red potatoes, carrots, garden salad, whole-wheat roll, apple sauce

October 17: country fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, garden salad, biscuit, apple

October 18: green chile chicken stew, pinto beans, garden salad, flour tortilla, melon

October 19: stuffed chicken breast, cream gravy, scalloped potatoes, green beans, whole-wheat roll, fruit, pudding

October 20: sweet and sour pork, rice, Asian veggies, garden salad, sweet roll, fruit, fortune cookie

October 21: Frito pie, chuck wagon corn, shredded lettuce, tomato, flour tortilla, pear

October 24: garlic ginger chicken, cabbage, coconut rice, garden salad, whole-wheat roll, pineapple

October 25: brat in a bun, peppers & onion, corn, potato wedges, garden salad, cantaloupe

October 26: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, garden salad, biscuit, fruit cocktail

October 27: red chile bean and cheese enchilada, Spanish rice, chuckwagon corn, shredded lettuce, diced tomato, banana

October 28: BBQ chicken breast, rice pilaf, peas and carrots, coleslaw, whole-wheat roll, peaches

October 31: green chile chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice, pinto beans, garden salad, baked cinnamon apples

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church
¡Bienvenidos a Todos!
Founded in 1894 The Rev. Dr. Rich Holmes, Pastor

Living Faith, Loving God, and Welcoming All

Please join us for worship in the heart of the Village of Placitas at 8:30a.m., and 10:30a.m., then stay for Fellowship afterwards.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sat, 9-11 a.m.—Casa Rosa Food Pantry: Placitas residents

KID'S DAY OUT PRESCHOOL 505-867-3371

Sunday AA Meetings, Earth Care Fellowship, Bible Study, Dignity Mission, Youth Events, and more!

Location: 7 Paseo de San Antonio, Placitas, NM 87043
Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00 pm
Phone: 505-867-5718 Website: www.lasplacitaschurch.org

Haz el bien y no mires a quien

THE ANIMAL HOTLINE

To help reunite lost/found pets with their people.

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 removed.



.....
The Animal Hotline is a free animal-friendly service of the Signpost.



YOU'RE INVITED to save the animals

THE ROARING 20th Fur Ball 2022

ANNIVERSARY

Saturday | Nov 5 | 6pm | Marriott Pyramid North

- Steve Stucker's Parade of Pets
- In-Person Reception
- Live Auction
- Paddle Raiser
- Online Fundraising Silent Auction

Early Bird Tickets \$97 (until Oct 5)
\$125 (after Oct 5)




Purchase Event Tickets at www.WMRanch.org  





Hi Lalo, Does this count as an animal photo?
South Las Huertas in Placitas. Black-tailed rattler about
three-and-a-half feet long and fat! In my courtyard
yesterday, September 10. Relocated safely.

—JO CHAVEZ

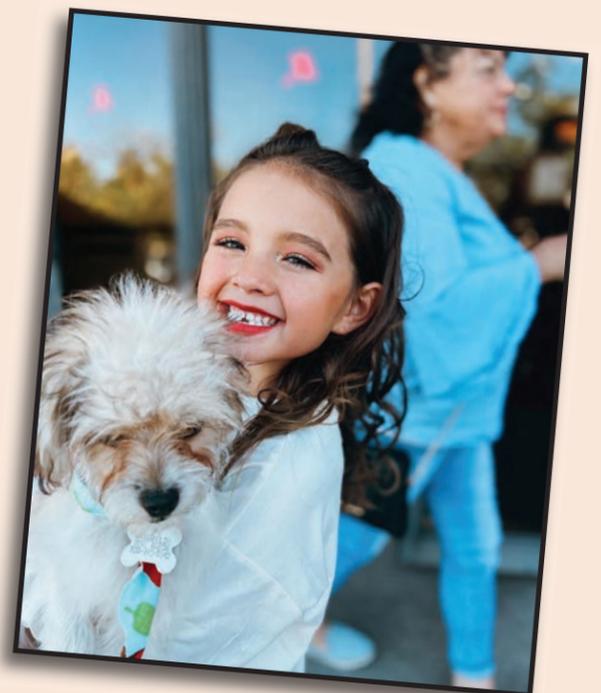
LALO'S PICS

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



Praying mantis are such cool little creatures!
Love having them in my garden.

—JUDY FITZPATRICK



(l.-r.) Cori, Izayah, and Lea delight at modeling with prospective pets
at Watermelon Mountain Ranch's Annual Fashion Show.

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Rio Rancho, and metro area

FOR SALE: HOMES / LAND ~ CONTINUED ~

\$158,000 - PLACITAS-10 ACRES! Platted as 3 separate lots (6 acres, 2.5 acres & 2 acres), this is ridgetop land with really panoramic views! Water & electricity are already there! Owners are selling all 3 lots together for this price. Dave Harper, Placitas Realty placitasdave@gmail.com 505-867-8000 or 505-263-2266.

\$95,000 - 1.3 ACRES NEXT TO PUEBLO LAND. Convenient lot next to Sandia reservation on the south side of Highway 165 in western Placitas! Commanding views! Water & electricity available. Located just 3.5 miles from I-25. Dave Harper 505-263-2266 Placitas Realty 505-867-8000 placitasdave@gmail.com.

\$60,000 - RIO RANCHO-ACRE LOT. Level lot with City Water! Just off paved road. Sandia views! No HOA. Dave Harper 505-263-2266 Placitas Realty 505-867-8000 placitasdave@gmail.com.

\$1,200,000 - PANORAMIC VIEWS! Ridge top home in Placitas with unbeatable views of Sandias, city lights, sunsets and Jemez Mtns. Floor plan that is great for entertaining! Over 4,000 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 living areas, 2 offices, formal dining and more! On paved road with community water and underground utilities. Placitas Realty 505-867-8000 Dave Harper 505-263-2266 placitasdave@gmail.com.

\$68,100 - RIO RANCHO-18 LOTS. Undeveloped land in western Rio Rancho Estates. 22.7 acres located in western areas outside the city limits, being sold as a bulk sale. Placitas Realty 505-867-8000, Dave Harper 505-263-2266 placitasdave@gmail.com.

\$60,000 - PLACITAS-ACRE LOT IN PLACITAS. Level building site in Ranchos de Placitas. Sweet Sandia views! Includes water, electric & cable. Reasonable covenants. Owner/Broker: Dave Harper, Placitas Realty 505-263-2266 or 505-867-8000 placitasdave@gmail.com.

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Contact us for a free Market Analysis of the value of your home

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

SIGNPOST CLASSIFIEDS

~ CONTINUED ~

FOR SALE: MISCELLANEOUS

RED DOG PLANTERS & YARD ART—is a quaint outdoor shop that specializes in planters and yard art. Talavera planters and animals, recycled metal/glass yard art, hand-painted Barn quilts. 3563 Corrales Rd. Open M-Sat 9-3.

THREE BIKES EXCELLENT CONDITION—Men's electric bike, pedal assist. New battery and charger. \$850. Two mountain bikes, used less than ten times; men's "Backwoods" and womens "Diamondback" \$500 each. Must See/test ride! Email sundance@spinn.net or call 505 867-0946.

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—“GROUND WORK / LANDSCAPING,”
continued next column

GROUND WORK LANDSCAPING ~ CONTINUED ~

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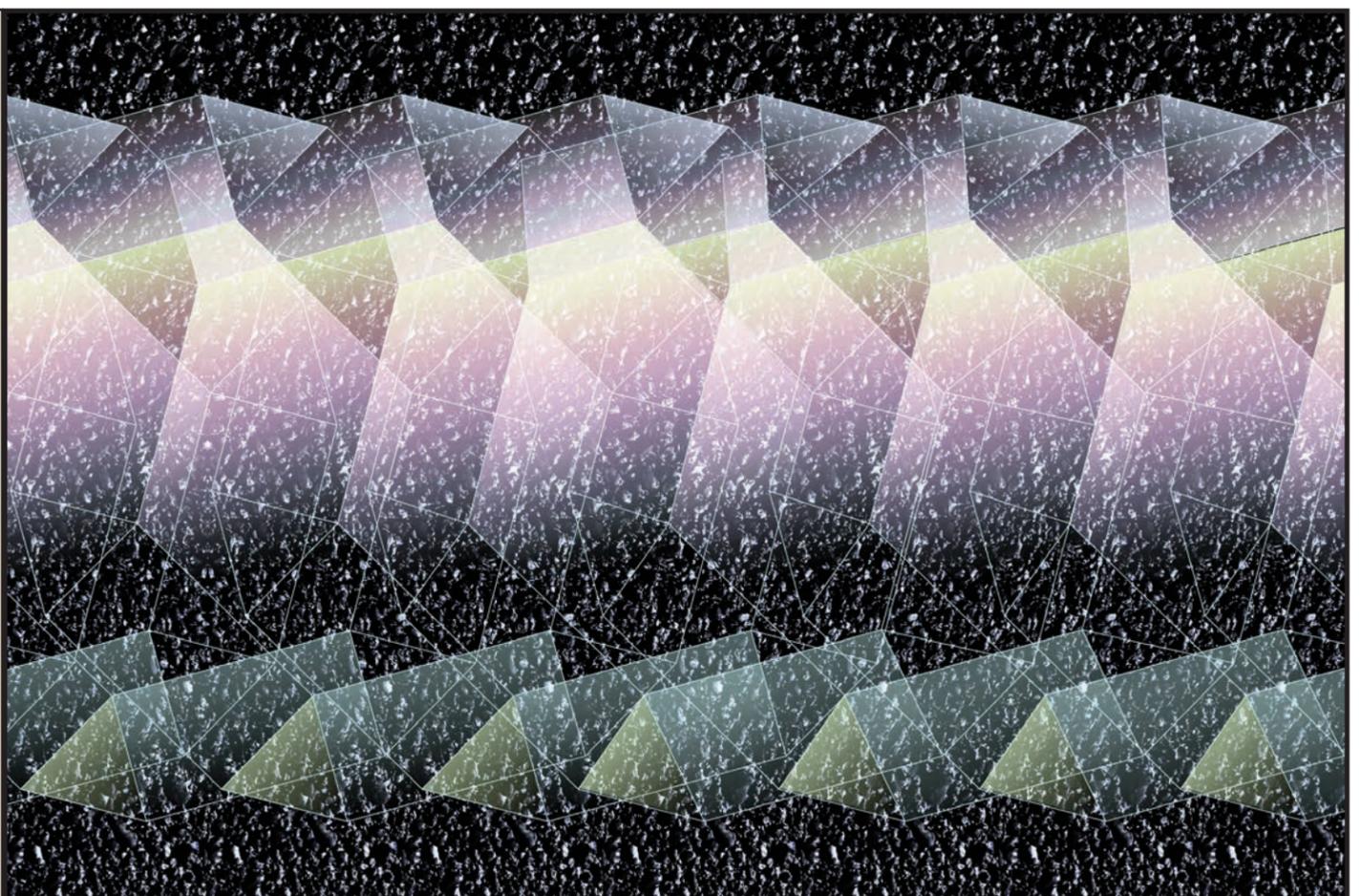
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"SHE SAVED MY LIFE"

Albuquerque resident Dawn R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy.

"My feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do.

That I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life."

Then she met Albuquerque's very own Dr. Andrea Brogdon

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system. Dawn explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful. "How can you live for the next 30 years when you don't even want to get out of bed to do simple things?"

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling and sharp pains that those suffering with neuropathy often describe. "The way that I would describe it, it's equivalent to walking on glass." Dawn hadn't worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would 'touch' her feet.

Unfortunately Dawn's story is all too familiar for over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.

If you're unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis you're not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You're struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you to 'just live with the pain' and you're taking medications that aren't working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, four months ago Dawn read an article about Dr. Andrea Brogdon and the work she was doing to treat those suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications.

Dr. Brogdon, founder of AAIM | Albuquerque Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine, is using the tested science of acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

"Now when I go to bed at night I don't have those shooting pains. I don't have that burning sensation. I don't have pain coming up my legs," Dawn enthusiastically describes life after receiving Dr. Brogdon's treatments.

"I can wear socks and shoes!"

Dawn and her sister now operate a successful dog walking business, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day.

"It's life altering. As far as I'm concerned Dr. Brogdon saved my life!"

Dr. Brogdon is helping the senior community using the most cutting edge and innovative integrative medicine. Specializing in chronic pain cases, specifically those that have been deemed 'hopeless' or 'untreatable', she consistently generates unparalleled results.

What was once a missing link in senior healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of Albuquerque.

If you've missed too many tee times because of pain or you've passed on dancing because you're afraid of falling, it's time to call Dr. Brogdon and the staff at AAIM.

It's time you let your golden years BE GOLDEN!

Dr. Brogdon is now accepting new patients but only for a limited time. In an effort to protect her patients, both current and future, she has made the difficult decision to limit the number of patients seen in her clinic. Only 10 new neuropathy patients will be accepted before the end of October so call (505) 355-1984 now to schedule a consultation.

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to schedule a consultation!**

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