

The Paper.

FREE
NOVEMBER 8, 2023
VOLUME 04 | ISSUE 45

ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



City Council and School Board
CH-CH-CHANGES



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The Paper.

ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS:

Admin:
Pat Davis
Owner & Publisher
pat@abq.news
Abby Lewis
Owner & General Counsel
abby@abq.news
Tierna Unruh-Enos
Publisher
tierna@abq.news

Editorial:
Andy Lyman
Editor
andy@abq.news
Devin D. O'Leary
Calendar Editor, Reporter
devin@abq.news
Sara Atencio-Gonzales
Reporter

Contributors:
Carolyn Carlson
Investigative Reporter
Joshua Lee
Cannabis Reporter, Columnist
Jonathan Sims
Indigeneity Columnist, Reporter
Gwynne Unruh
Reporter
Michael Hodock
Reporter
Roberto Rosales
Photographer

Sales:
John Hankinson
Account Executive
johnh@abq.news
Chela Gurnee
Account Executive
chela@abq.news
Duncan Stewart
Account Executive
duncan@abq.news

Production:
Rachel Mills
Graphic Designer
Sheena Suazo
Media Manager

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The Paper. is published by Good Trouble, LLLP.
The Paper. is printed by the Santa Fe New Mexican in Santa Fe, NM.
Our mailing address is:
317 Commercial St NE #201 ABQ, 87102

By Danielle Prokop, Source New Mexico

Even as some candidates in the largest school district races raise tens of thousands of dollars, for most of New Mexico's school board races, there's no requirement to disclose campaign spending or donors.

Only candidates running for school board seats in districts with 12,000 students or more are required to file any campaign finance reports.

New Mexico has 89 school districts, only the six largest publicly disclose where school board candidates are getting money and where it's being spent.

Gallup-McKinley School District has a student population of 12,347, and candidates also filed reports, even as it's not listed on the Secretary of State's website as being required to.

Only five districts meet the criteria, according to the New Mexico Secretary of State's office. Those district races are for Albuquerque Public Schools District, Las Cruces Public Schools, Rio Rancho Public Schools, Gadsden Independent School District and Santa Fe Public Schools.

But Santa Fe is on the edge. The 2023 enrollment numbers from the New Mexico Public Education Department show that enrollment is 11,826.

State law requires candidates to file reports 21 days before the election and 30 days after the election. This means that spending in the weeks leading up to the election isn't public until after the elections.

The student population at Farmington Municipal Schools is 11,200, just below the cutoff where candidates are required to report.

Lisa Maxwell, a challenger to the Farmington District 5 seat describing her platform as acting and considering action through "conservative values," on her website, said she'd support reporting donations and expenditures.

Maxwell, a licensed CPA, said she chose not to accept donations.

"I didn't feel right taking donations for school board politics," she told *Source NM* in an interview. "Heavy-duty politics shouldn't be in the school systems."

Roundhouse solution

A proposal to change campaign finance reporting laws in local school board races stalled in the 2023 legislative session. Rep. Natalie Figueroa introduced House Bill 325 that would require campaign finance filings from all school board races when receiving or spending more than \$500.

"It's just something we have to address," Figueroa said. "People need to know where candidates are getting their money in the other 84 races."

The law would have also required school board members to step down when running for other offices, tighten legal penalties for nepotism, require more hours of training and require all districts to webcast their meetings.

The bill was tabled in the House Education Committee at the tail end of the session.

Figueroa told *Source NM* that bringing the bill back in 2024 would depend on Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's call, but said to expect it in future sessions.

Think New Mexico, a nonpartisan think



Show Your Work

A bill that died late in the 2023 session on campaign finance reforms is looking to make a comeback in the next session

(Photo by Megan Gleason / Source NM)

tank which helped write the bill, produced the 2022 report and said the improvements on school board governance would be part of bettering outcomes for New Mexico schools.

Executive Director Fred Nathan said he's concerned about national groups pouring money into these local elections on issues such as book banning or other controversial issues.

"These are nonpartisan elections, and the public might be influenced if they knew who's supporting or opposing a candidate and school board," he said. "Nationally, school board positions have become much more contentious lately."

The New Mexico School Boards Association President Joe Guillen opposed the bill in this past session. Guillen told *Source NM* that he would still oppose the bill if campaign finance was required of all school board races.

He said filing reports of no activity, even if below the \$500 spending limit, would be burdensome on smaller school districts, and may discourage participation.

When asked about districts that are close to the 12,000 student limit, Guillen said there may be some negotiation in making larger districts report campaign expenditures and donations.

"I see the possibility of reaching down and picking up a few more of the districts if they have in fact shown there are political contributions," he said. "But making that across the board for all the districts would not be helpful."

What did candidates have to say?

At least one candidate in a small race said he hoped for more transparency.

Kevin Reid Scott, running for the District 5 seat in the 2,331-student district of Moriarty-Edgewood, said he rejected all donations and was self-financed in the race.

He faces other challengers Lyndsi Donner and incumbent Windie Burns.

"People deserve to know who is spending money, candidates and donors," he told *Source NM*.

Most candidates running in big and small races said more transparency over school board races would be a positive for voters.

In Las Cruces races, challengers and incumbents said they support transparency in campaign finance reporting.

Patrick Nolan is a first-time candidate, running for the District 1 seat, which he was appointed to earlier this year.

Nolan has raised \$3,335 in contributions, trailing behind opponent Joseph Sousa, who carried over a \$5,200 balance from running for the seat in 2021 and sits in the seat after appointment in April.

Many of Nolan's donations are from prominent local Democratic officeholders, including committees to elect Sen. Carrie Hamblen, Rep. Angelica Rubio and Las Cruces City Councilor Johana Bencomo.

Sousa's top donors include Kimberly Skaggs, an executive director for the Republican Party of New Mexico, who ran for state Senate in 2020.

Nolan told *Source NM* that using donation platforms like ActBlue – a political action committee to fundraise for left-leaning and Democratic politicians – was "a seamless way to raise money."

"The reality is that we have to raise money in an efficient, easy way to win races these days," he said.

Nolan said an important part of the race is transparency.

"Letting folks know who is supporting your campaign is equally as important as what you are campaigning on," Nolan said. "The more sunlight and clarity there is for who's supporting you, the more valuable for the voters."

One Las Cruces Board of Education incumbent, Carol Cooper, described difficulties filing with the Secretary of State's office, saying that "reporting has been a nuisance" for a donation of \$20.

"I'm older, and I've had some difficulties recently with memory, but I cannot tolerate the level of frustration, I don't have the capacity for things taking a long time or being incomprehensible," she said.

Cooper said she had to call the Secretary of State's office to have someone walk her through the reporting process again.

According to the latest filing, Cooper paid a \$200 fine for failing to file her latest report due Oct. 17. She's had \$600 in fines waived.

New Mexico's secretary of state held four trainings on campaign finance filing in October and has another two in November, according to the office website.



THU
NOV
2
7:30PM

**PATTI LITTLEFIELD GROUP:
JAZZ STORIES 2**
NM vocalist sings songs by Herbie Hancock, Thelonious Monk & more

FRI
NOV
3
7:30PM

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NOV
9
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Godfrey Reggio's experimental fairytale
ONCE WITHIN A TIME
Wed-Sun Nov 1-5 4:00, 8:00pm

Climate hero farmers: **COMMON GROUND**
Wed-Sun Nov 1-5 5:45pm

Dario Argento's **OPERA (1987)**
Fri Nov 3 10:30pm

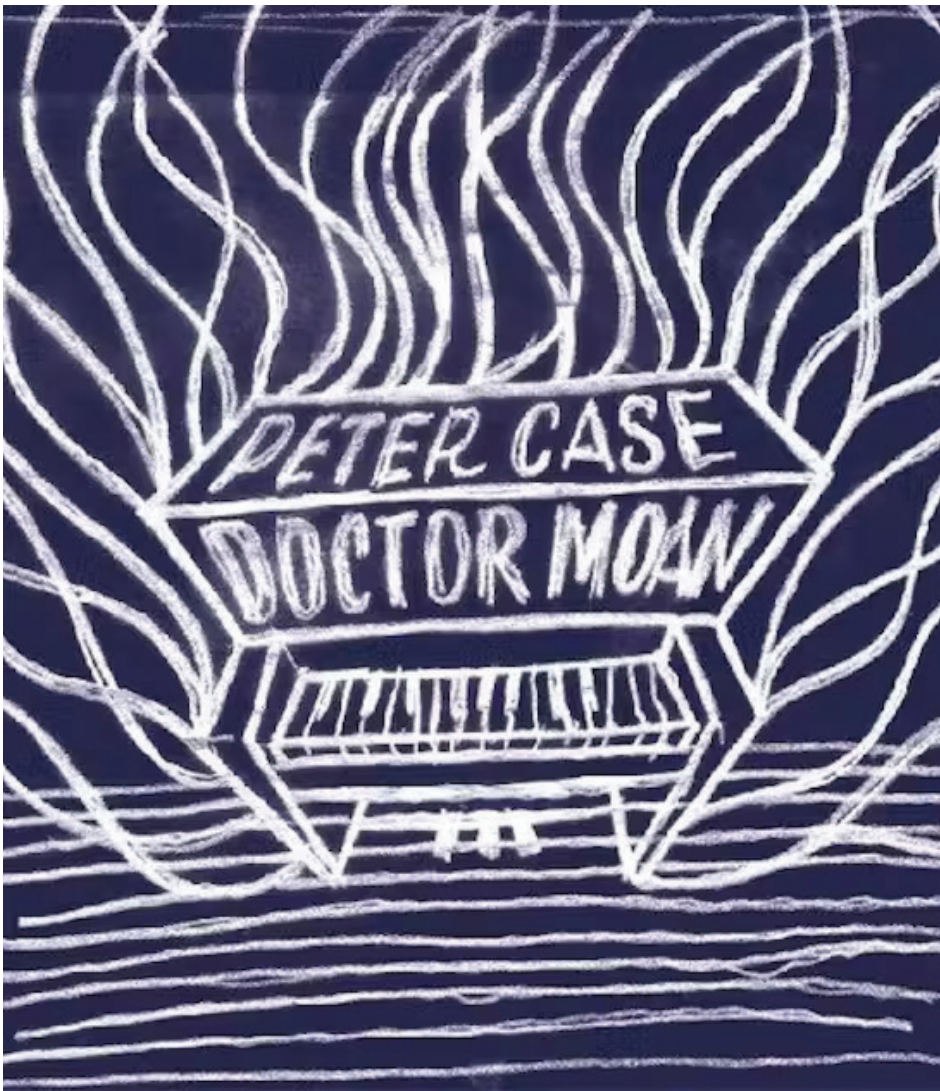
Touring filmmakers in person!
Unsettling, bizarre **TEARSUCKER**
Sat Nov 4 10:30pm

Siobhan Fallon-Hogan: **SHELTER IN SOLITUDE**
Mon-Wed Nov 6-8 4:00, 6:00pm

Subversive sci-fi satire
LANDSCAPE WITH INVISIBLE HAND
Mon-Wed Nov 6-8 8:00pm

FLY FISHING FILM TOUR 2023
Thu Nov 9 7:00pm

3405 Central Ave NE 255-1848
www.guildcinema.com



Peter Case

Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Peter Case started out in the early punk era trio The Nerves (whose standout single "Hanging on the Telephone" was more famously covered by Blondie). In 1979 he went on to form The Plimsouls, whose hit song "A Million Miles Away" became the backbone of the Valley Girl soundtrack. As a solo performer, he just released his 16th album, Doctor Moan. Case has teamed up with AMP Concert to headline a live concert at FUSION's Cell Theatre (700 First St. NW) on Saturday, Nov. 11 starting at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$23 in advance or \$28 on the day of and can be purchased at tickets.ampconcerts.org/tickets/420000.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Art
New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists Celebration of Clay exhibit "Inhabited Earth": - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. N/C. Gallery Hozho at Hotel Chaco 2000 Bellamah Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Comedy
Noche de Risa: Laughter is the Best Medicine: - 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. \$25. The Clyde Hotel 330 Tijeras Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Film
Fly-Fishing Film Tour: - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$18. Guild Cinema 3405 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Music
2023 International Western Music Association Convention: - 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. \$100-\$695. Hotel Albuquerque 800 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM.
Carnifex: - 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. \$22. Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM.
Dave Stryker Quartet: - 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. \$25-\$30. Outpost Performance Space 210 Yale Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM.
MMMFD of Lyrikal Snuff Productionz: - 6 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. \$12. Eclipse 600 Louisiana Blvd. SE H, Albuquerque, NM.
Ryan Chrys & The Rough Cuts: - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. No cover charge. Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast, Albuquerque, NM.

Zach Coffey: - 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. No Cover Charge. Dirty Bourbon Dance Hall & Saloon 9800 Montgomery Blvd., Albuquerque, NM.

Performance

Camelot: - 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. \$19-\$27. Albuquerque Little Theatre 224 San Pasquale Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM.

FUSION Theatre Company Presents The Height of the Storm: - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$20-\$40. FUSION Theatre 700 First St. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Hazardous Materials: - 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. \$24. The Vortex Theatre 2900 Carlisle Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Love and Information: - 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. \$22-\$23. North Fourth Arts Center 4904 Fourth Street NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Love and Information: - 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. \$22-\$25. North Fourth Arts Center 4904 Fourth Street NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Trivia

DHP Presents Movie Trivia Night: - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. No cover charge. Voodoo Girl Pizza & Pints 1401 Second St. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at 505 Central Food Hall: - 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. 505 Central Food Hall 505 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at 505 Spirits: - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. 505 Spirits 105 Harvard Dr SE, Albuquerque, NM.

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Sunday Service Motor Company: - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday Service Motor Company 2701 Fourth St., Albuquerque, NM.

Trivia Night at Lizard Tail Nob Hill: - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Lizard Tail Brewing Nob Hill 3417 Central Ave. NE Suite C, Albuquerque, NM.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Comedy

The Show: - 9 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$10-\$12. The Box Performance Space & Improv Theatre 114 Gold Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM.

Dance

Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque Dinner Show: - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$75-\$85. Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque 800 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W., Albuquerque, NM.

Xicano Power Concert: - 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$48-\$88. National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th

Street Southwest, Albuquerque, NM.

Miscellaneous

The Nightbird Trolley Experience: - 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$25. Lapis Room 303 Romero St. NW S107, Albuquerque, NM.

Music

2023 International Western Music Association Convention: - 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. \$100-\$695. Hotel Albuquerque 800 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Emo Nite: - 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. \$16. Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM.

Goth Night & Dark Market: Gothsgiving Edition: - 8 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. No Cover Charge. Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

I Love the '90s Tour f/ Vanilla Ice: - 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. \$70-\$80. Isleta Resort and Casino Showroom 11000 Broadway Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM.

QBar Lounge live entertainment: - 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. No cover charge. QBar Lounge 800 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W., Albuquerque, NM.

Sara Landry: - 9:30 p.m. - 2 a.m. \$27. Electric Playhouse 5201 Ouray Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Sorry Papi Tour: The All Girl Party: - 8 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. \$25. Revel Entertainment Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Performance

Camelot: - 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. \$19-\$27. Albuquerque Little Theatre 224 San Pasquale Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Comedy

An Evening With Mark Maron: - 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. KiMo Theatre 423 Central Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Dance

Xicano Power Concert: - 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. \$48-\$88. National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest, Albuquerque, NM.

Festival

1st Annual Albuquerque Dia de los Muertos Festival & Parade: - 2 p.m. - 10 p.m. Civic Plaza I Civic Plaza, Albuquerque, NM.



A vibrant, colorful poster for MEOW WOLF MONDAY FUNDAY. The background is black with various colorful elements like a cat, a mouse, a television, and a camera. The text "MEOW WOLF" is at the top in a stylized font. Below it, "MONDAY FUNDAY" is written in large, bold, pink letters. A blue banner in the center says "HALF PRICE FOR NM RESIDENTS EVERY MONDAY AFTER 3PM." Below that, another blue banner says "USE CODE MONDAYFUNDAY".



A poster for MEOW WOLF UPCOMING EVENTS. The background is dark blue with a stylized cityscape at the bottom. The text "MEOW WOLF" is at the top in a stylized font. Below it, "UPCOMING EVENTS" is written in large, bold, white letters. A table lists upcoming events with dates, names, and descriptions.

Date	Event	Description
11/09	LP Giobbi	with Bad Snacks
11/10	ALLEYCVT	with K-Woozy, Baby Bumps
11/11	Laszewo	with Koastle
11/16	Maddy O'Neal	with Kaipora, iDroppa
11/18	TVBOO	with Dubfist, Papa Beats
11/27	Jeff Rosenstock	with Small Crush & Georgia Maq
12/03	Holiday Junk Journal Workshop	with we.grow.eco

EVERY MONDAY: NM residents use code MONDAYFUNDAY for half off admission after 3pm

Get your tickets at meow.wf/santafeshows

Markets
Sandia Bands Fall Craft Fair:
- 9 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sandia High
School 7801 Candelaria Rd. NE,
Albuquerque, NM.

The Art of Gifting: New Mexico
Arts & Crafts Festival: - 10
a.m. - 4 p.m. UNM Continuing
Education Center 1634 University
Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Music
2023 International Western
Music Association Convention: -
7 a.m. - 10 p.m. \$100-\$695. Hotel
Albuquerque 800 Rio Grande
Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM.

AMP Concerts Presents Peter
Case: - 7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. \$23-
\$28. FUSION Theatre 700 First
St. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Barrett Martin - Singing Earth
Tour: - 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. \$35-\$55.
Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW,
Albuquerque, NM.

Bronco: - 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$116-
\$183. Kiva Auditorium 401
Second St. NW, Albuquerque,
NM.

Chat Pile: - 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. \$15.
Sister 407 Central Ave. NW,
Albuquerque, NM.

Shrek Rave: - 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
\$22-\$37. Revel Entertainment

Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE,
Albuquerque, NM.

Strange Mix: - 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. \$10.
Moonlight Lounge 120 Central
Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM.

Performance
FUSION Theatre Company
Presents The Height of the
Storm: - 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. \$20-\$40.
FUSION Theatre 700 First St.
NW, Albuquerque, NM.

HOLY TWINKIE - a 99 Hooker
live audio visual show: - 10:30
p.m. - 12:15 p.m. \$10. Guild
Cinema 3405 Central Ave NE,
Albuquerque, NM.

Love and Information: - 2 p.m.
- 4 p.m. \$22-\$23. North Fourth
Arts Center 4904 Fourth Street
NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Love and Information: - 2 p.m.
- 4 p.m. \$22-\$25. North Fourth
Arts Center 4904 Fourth Street
NW, Albuquerque, NM.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Dance
Tablao Flamenco Sunday
Matinee: - 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
\$25-\$35. Tablao Flamenco
Albuquerque 800 Rio Grande
Blvd. N.W., Albuquerque, NM.

Miscellaneous
Diamond Dash Wedding Show:
- 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. \$5-\$10. Embassy
Suites by Hilton Albuquerque
1000 Woodward P.l NE,
Albuquerque, NM.

Tellebration! An annual
worldwide tribute to storytelling:
- 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. \$10. Monte Vista
Christian Church 13112 Velma
Place NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Music
2023 International Western
Music Association Convention: -
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. \$100-\$695. Hotel
Albuquerque 800 Rio Grande
Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Composers of Mountainair:
- 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. \$5 suggested
donation. Manzano Mountain
Art Council 101 E. Broadway,
Mountainair, NM.

FEA: - 7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. \$10.
Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW,
Albuquerque, NM.

Psychic Trash (fka Wizard Rifle):
- 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$10. Sister 407
Central Ave. NW, Albuquerque,
NM.

Wheeler Walker Jr.: - 8
p.m. - 10 p.m. \$30-\$130.
Revel Entertainment Center
4720 Alexander Blvd NE,
Albuquerque, NM.

Performance
FUSION Theatre Company
Presents The Height of the
Storm: - 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. \$20-\$40.
FUSION Theatre 700 First St.
NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Hazardous Materials: - 2
p.m. - 4 p.m. \$24. The Vortex
Theatre 2900 Carlisle Blvd. NE,
Albuquerque, NM.

Trivia
Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at
Tractor Brewing Wells Park: - 7
p.m. - 9 p.m. Tractor Brewing
Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW,
Albuquerque, NM.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Trivia
Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at
Bow & Arrow Brewing: - 7 p.m.
- 9 p.m. Bow & Arrow Brewing
Co. 608 McKnight Ave NW,
Albuquerque, NM.

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at
Santa Fe Brewing Co.: - 7 p.m. - 9
p.m. Santa Fe Brewing (Tin Can
Alley) 6110 Alameda Blvd NE
Suite #1, Albuquerque, NM.


TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Music
Rags to Riffage Tour 2023 f/
Inferi: - 9:30 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

THE
MOUNTAIN GOATS

WITH BULLY + CRAIG FINN

EL REY THEATER
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
JANUARY 28



ELREYLIVE.COM

PALLBEARER



NOV 8


URBAN
HEAT

WITH RARE DM



NOV 16

Mudhoney



Hooveriii

Launchpad November 9

INFLAMES

WITH HAVOK



FRIDAY NOV. 17
ALBUQUERQUE, NM - SUNSHINE THEATER

\$17. Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM.

The National: - 7:30 p.m.
- 9:30 p.m. \$99-\$140. Kiva Auditorium 401 Second St. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Music - Classical

UNM Wind Symphony: - 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. \$15. Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr, Albuquerque, NM.

Trivia

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Poki Poki Cevicheria: - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Poki Poki Cevicheria (Wyoming Blvd) 3517 Wyoming Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Drink

Bike Night: - 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. No cover charge. Sunday Service Motor Company 2701 Fourth St., Albuquerque, NM.

Miscellaneous

BernCo Animal Care Services Vaccine and Microchip Clinic: - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free. Bernalillo County Animal Care and Resource Center 3001 Second St. SW, Albuquerque, NM.

Music

Acoustic Showcase and Open Mic: - 6:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. No cover charge. Hotel Zazz 3711 Central Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM.

DHP Presents Karaoke at Voodoo Girl Pizza & Pints: - 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. No Cover Charge. Voodoo Girl Pizza & Pints 1401 Second St. NW, Albuquerque, NM.

La Dame Blanche & BCUC: - 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. \$20-\$25. Dirty Bourbon Dance Hall & Saloon 9800 Montgomery Blvd., Albuquerque, NM.

Left To Die: Reborn Dead Tour 2023: - 8 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. \$22. Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM.

Trivia

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Ponderosa Brewing Company: - 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Ponderosa Brewing Company 1761 Bellamah Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Santa Fe Brewing Co.: - 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Santa Fe Brewing Co. (Albuquerque Taproom) 3600 Cutler NE, Albuquerque, NM.



(Courtesy Photo)

By Devon O'Leary, The Paper.

This coming Veteran's Day is a special one for Paul Ingles. Ingles is using the solemn holiday to screen his semi-autobiographical film *A Soldier's Passage: Conversations from the Last Mile of the Long Walk Home* as a way to pay tribute to his late father, a World War II veteran.

For the past 48 years, Ingles has been a radio man. He spent 16 years in commercial radio as a journalist, program director, on-air host and station manager. Ingles moved to public radio in 1994 when KUNM hired him as its program director. There, he became the co-founder and host of the "Peace Talks Radio," a job he's proudly held since 2003.

In 2010 Ingles took a film acting class "as the start of a late stage hobby." Without the patience to do film background work and audition for one-line parts, Ingles decided if he was going to be in a movie, he would have to make one himself. In 2015 he teamed up with local cinematographer Tim Nenninger to self-finance and shoot a short film titled "The Weeds in Our Own Backyards."

"As I was finishing that film, my father's health took a downward turn, and I and my two siblings had to help him make all the key decisions that families have to make when an elder approaches the end of life," recalls Ingles. "As a freelancer, I had a little more flexibility in my schedule than my siblings—both teachers—so I found myself spending a lot of time back with my father at his retirement home in North Carolina. There were hours of conversations with him in that time, both hard ones and sweet ones. I heard stories about his life I'd never heard."

Ingles, ever the radio journalist, started recording those conversations.

"He was going through a challenging life review, feeling some regrets. We all wanted to provide him the emotional support he needed to move through it more easefully. I was getting help myself from my therapist back in Albuquerque who bolstered my tool kit to help my father more effectively. It all felt deeply profound and as it was playing out, I'd convinced myself that I should make a dramatic film about it," says Ingles.

Ingles' father fought when he was 22 with Patton's Third Army at the Battle of the Bulge and was eventually awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He died July 5, 2016 at the age of 93.

By the start of 2017, Ingles was working with a scriptwriting group here in Albuquerque to turn those recorded conversations with his father into a somewhat fictionalized feature film.

"I finished the script by the end of February. We did a table read that spring. Cast it and shot it two to three days a week in June and July mostly at La Vida Llena retirement community, which gave us great access to several vacant rooms and locations. Usually, the shooting crew consisted of Tim, production assistant/script supervisor Jen McKinley, myself and occasionally a second camera person and/or a sound engineer. We employed 40 local non-SAG actors with key roles and/or speaking parts. Two-thirds of them I knew through my acting classes."

The end result was a six chapter, 3 1/4 hour miniseries version that premiered at La Vida Llena in June of 2018. Over the next two years, Ingles and Nenninger perfected a 2 hour and 15 minute feature version, which they were able to premiere at Guild Cinema in July 2019. Over the course of the pandemic, Ingles sent the film to a string of film festivals, eventually picking up 19 "official selections" or "best of" awards around the country.

Coming into the fifth anniversary of finishing the first draft of the film, Ingles decided to release a special "black and white" cut of the film. This new version will screen Nov. 11 at 12:30pm at **Guild Cinema (3405 Central NE)**. Admission is free. Ingles believes this will be the last big screen showing of the film and is happy it coincides with both Veteran's Day (a holiday "which people often don't know how to celebrate or honor") and what would have been his father's 100th birthday. In addition to that, it's also the 20th anniversary of "Peace Talks Radio," now heard on over 70 stations in 25 states.

"We're going to pass around the hat for donations at the screening," says Ingles, "hoping we can raise a little money to keep promoting a culture of peace through our radio efforts and take small steps toward a day when the sacrifice of our veterans might someday be obsolete."



(Justin Schatz)

By Justin Schatz/Trail Mix

Frost is now a regular visitor to the high country. The great fiery explosions of oranges and reds that lit up the Sandias are nearing their end. Late autumn and longer nights are officially here.

For many, especially in the southwest, this may be an end to a season of day hikes and excursions into our backyard mountain range, but luckily the Sandias still hold some fall wonders late into the season.

The higher elevations will be cold, but lower on the mountain early fall colors and temperatures will linger well into November. Quaking Aspens dominate much of the north side of the range, even at lower elevations, interrupting seemingly never-ending forests of spring and juniper.

And there are plenty of trails to explore the late-season glory of the Sandias.

For aspen lovers, 10K Trail is an often overlooked gem that cuts through a thick forest of young aspens before eventually entering an open and more established forest. The trail begins 4.2 miles up NM 536 from the Sandia Ski Area towards the Sandia Crest.

The trailhead is more obscure than more popular trails on the mountain, being just a small parking lot on the north side of the road. The under-advertised trailhead guarantees that there will be few other hikers on the trail. On the north side of the road, 10k Trail is about three miles in length.

For a longer excursion into the southern end of the Sandias, 10K Trail ends at the North

Crest Trail, which creates a loop full of late-season aspen colors. The 6.8-mile loop meanders upward, with an elevation gain of 1,288 feet. Not only will visitors be greeted by the oranges and yellows of aspens, but the grasses at that elevation also display brilliant late-season colors as local flora readies itself for winter.

Arizona Fescue dominates the fields found on this trail and much of the meadows found in the upper elevations of the Sandia Mountains.



Justin Schatz

For more late-season colors and an area that holds countless trails is the Sandia Ski Area. Mountain bikers might dominate the more established trails in the area during the warmer months, but there is plenty of space for any activity.

Deer dominate the open fields, hardly paying attention to the hikers passing by. On quiet days in the mountains, the occasional black bear might be spotted slowly making its way through the fields before disappearing into the thick forests that border the meadows. Sandia Ski Area begins at 8,600 feet and ends at the Sandia Tram at 10,300 ft. The nearly 2,000 feet of elevation hosts a variety of ecological zones.

An empty ski area, with its vintage blue chair lifts, is a magical place. The calm and silence during the off-season services as a sharp contrast to the hustle and bustle of winter. Enjoy it when it's empty.

Colder weather in the Southwest does not mean hanging up the trail hikers. The Southwest and especially the Sandias still boasts plenty of fall fervor well into late autumn for any taste.

So Long To a Friend and Fellow Traveler

By Sherry Robinson/All She Wrote

My friend and long-time colleague Harold Morgan passed away last month. Harold started writing for this small syndicate in 2004.

He spent a career in numbers as founding editor of New Mexico Business Journal and Sunwest Bank's chronicler of New Mexico's economy, although he once wrote, "Grains of salt should be issued with the first unveiling of all numbers. Full salt tablets should come with more complex numbers." He loved wading into data in a search. As a tribute to Harold, I'd like to share some excerpts from his 17-plus years of columns.

In his first column on Feb. 4, 2004, he reported state job numbers: "It's a performance just above mediocre and nowhere close to the claim, promoted in August by Gov. Bill Richardson's staff, as 'one of the most dramatic economic turnarounds in U.S. history.'"

A year later, he pierced the "tax-cut brouhaha" in the Legislature. Tax cuts were "offset by the Richardson administration's long list of tax and fee increases." This sword cut both ways. In 2017 he punctured Gov. Susana Martinez administration's claim that they cut taxes 37 times by looking at each bill. He concluded, "With a few exceptions, the much celebrated tax cuts, overall, mean little to the state."

Harold, an admirer of the late Republican Sen. Pete Domenici, sadly reported in October 2007 that Domenici "departs the New Mexico political scene with grace and dignity, the same way he has served for 35 years as United States Senator." Domenici was frank about the incurable brain disease that forced his retirement. "Confronting mortality is somewhere between strange and unpleasant for any individual," Harold wrote. "Doing so in public, in front of television cameras, adds dimensions difficult to comprehend."

Harold followed economic development closely. In 2011 he skewered Gov. Martinez and her economic development secretary whose only proposals were recruiting companies to the state. "Recruiting is good and necessary, but for that to be the only topic massively misses the point," he wrote. Recruiting

had no impact on the smallest communities.

That year Harold surprised everyone: "Legalize marijuana. There! I said it! In public! Conservative me!" His reason was that "the social costs of legal marijuana, however high, would be less than the social costs of illegal marijuana." He meant that illegal weed brought otherwise law-abiding citizens into contact with criminals. "In my brief, long ago marijuana flirtation, my supplier was a Washington-based federal prosecutor. This nicely defines the potential for societal rot."

In 2012 Harold wrote that

Martinez's thin agenda lacked values.

"Republicans must bring a framework of values to the conversation." Run articulate Republicans for office, starting with grassroots positions.

"But, remember, ground everything in values. Dump the

extremism."

Harold was the only business writer I knew who followed population growth. When he reported in 2014 that New Mexico topped 2 million people, he added that since 2011 more people had left New Mexico than had moved here. Why? Economic downturns and nonexistent job growth.

Civility was a regular subject. Deb Haaland, then Democratic Party chairwoman, said in 2016 that Martinez's policy priorities were "exactly in line with the reckless and racist priorities of Trump and other Republican candidates." Harold responded, "While it's tough to argue Donald Trump is anything other than reckless and racist, pasting that label on Martinez is hardly civil." He added, "Republicans say the same stupid stuff."

When Steve Pearce announced his run for governor in 2017, Harold wrote: "I like Steve Pearce." But he wondered if Pearce could win a statewide general election. "For sure he will be toast if he only presents voters the standard list of right-wing talking points."

Harold's last column was June 28, 2021. He stepped down for medical treatment and then decided to devote himself to a book on New Mexico's uranium industry.

Nobody else covered the state's economy in such depth and gusto.

All She Wrote



Sherry Robinson

Sen. Stuart Ingle: I'm out of here



(ANNAfoxlover at English Wikipedia)

By Diane Denish/Corner to Corner

Congenial. Fair. Smart. Trustworthy. Man of his word.

These were words used to describe Sen. Stuart Ingle when I spoke to his colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, in the Senate. Ingle, a veteran of the New Mexico Senate, resigned recently, deciding to call it quits after almost 40 years.

In his typical, low-key manner, he loaded up his box of belongings from his Senate office, and when a passerby asked him what he was doing, he said "I'm done. I'm out of here."

Ingle came to the Senate in 1985. His first term was the only time he served in the majority. The Senate was evenly divided, 21-21. The 21 Republicans formed a coalition with four Democrats to elect a Democratic president pro-tem and to pass legislation. In the 1988 election, Republicans lost five seats, ending the coalition.

His fellow senator, Gay Kernan, described him best: "Stuart was an example of collegiality and always had an open-door policy." She applauded his understanding that members came from various parts of the state with different interests. He advised them to do the best job they could and represent "the folks in their district." And he gave them the freedom to do so.

A review of his legislation over the years shows he followed his own advice, making sure Eastern New Mexico University and rural New Mexicans had a voice in the chamber.

Sen. Michael Sanchez, a Democrat who served as majority leader when Ingle was minority leader, called him "greatest guy ever." Sanchez, along with Kernan and other current members, acknowledge that Ingle's retirement will be a loss of institutional history, support for the staff and Legislative Council Service who make the wheels turn, and critical budget knowledge.

When I joined the Senate as lieutenant governor in 2003, Ingle was in his fifth term. I didn't know him. Lobbyist Tom Horan had assured me that he was one of "the good guys." Not having served in the Legislature, I had tried to prepare to be president of the Senate but still needed all the help I could get. I quickly understood that as minority leader, Sen. Ingle wasn't going to let his caucus embarrass me. But what I really learned and enjoyed during my term and beyond, was Sen. Ingle had a sense of humor – something essential to success and sanity when you are in public office.

When I visited with Ingle after his retirement, I asked him if I could tell a favorite story or two. He said nothing was off limits.

Corner to Corner



Diane Denish

One of my favorites was an evening of one of the exceedingly long, late-night sessions. Ingle called me at my desk and said he was going to the restaurant next door. He asked if I wanted something, to which I jokingly responded, "vodka on the rocks?" The session dragged on with interminable speeches that had been heard before. Later, Sen. Ingle came up to the desk and brought me a cup of coffee. I took a sip and surprise! Vodka on the rocks!! Remembering it still makes me laugh.

Ingle almost always referred to me as "little lady." When a member of his caucus wanted to be recognized, he would call me and say, "Hey, little lady." Sometimes he would greet me that way at a reception. It wasn't offensive, it was endearing. That was the language of our shared history in Southeastern New Mexico.

Ingle takes pride in his title of "farmer," but as his colleagues pointed out, don't let that fool you. He knew as much about the institution of the Senate, the budget, counting votes and working across the aisle as anyone to grace the chamber. And is still one of the good guys.

Letter to the Editor: Don't Ditch Rewards Points

Submitted by Gabriela Alarid-McCarthy

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the recent move by the U.S. Senate to eliminate rewards points, a decision that seems to unfairly favor big-box stores over consumers like myself who have limited financial resources and rely on these points to save money on essential expenses such as gas, and to facilitate travel to see my family.

As a college student working as a waitress, I understand the value of every dollar earned. With a job that depends heavily on tips, my income is often inconsistent and limited. That's why credit card rewards have been a lifeline for me. I rely on these rewards points to save money, especially when it comes to purchasing gas. By utilizing these points to reduce the price at the pump, I am able to stretch my limited funds further, enabling me to keep up with the ever-increasing costs of commuting to work and college.

Moreover, as a student living away from family, the rewards points I have accumulated through responsible credit card usage have made it possible for me to visit my loved ones during holidays and special occasions. The ability to redeem these points for discounted airfare has allowed me to maintain a vital connection with my family despite the financial limitations I face. The thought of losing this opportunity due to the proposed elimination of rewards points is deeply distressing.

It is disheartening to learn that the U.S. Senate is considering measures that would eliminate rewards points. This move, seemingly disguised as a bail out for big-box stores, will have a devastating impact on consumers like me, who rely on these benefits to cope with the challenges of limited financial resources and irregular income. While big-box stores may argue that interchange fees burden them, it is the consumers who will bear the brunt if rewards programs are eliminated.

The move to eliminate rewards points not only disregards the needs of financially constrained individuals but also creates an unfair advantage in favor of big-box stores. Instead of completely doing away with rewards programs, I urge the U.S. Senate to explore alternative solutions that address the concerns of both big-box retailers and consumers. Finding a balanced approach will ensure that rewards points continue to serve as a vital resource, benefiting consumers while supporting the growth of businesses.

I implore the lawmakers in the U.S. Senate to reconsider this decision and take into account the voices of young individuals who, like me, rely on rewards points to save money on essential expenses like gas and to maintain connections with loved ones through affordable travel options. It is crucial to prioritize the interests of consumers and promote financial inclusivity and accessibility, rather than providing unnecessary bailouts to big box stores at the expense of young individuals like me.



Win, Lose and Runoff

The Albuquerque City Council will see some new faces, and probably new political dynamics

(Sara Atencio-Gonzales)

By Andy Lyman, The Paper.

City Council elections don't usually draw the same massive crowds as statewide or national elections do, but they're arguably just as important. These are the folks who offer a check to the mayor's powers and make decisions in matters such as short-term rentals, whether we all should have to pay for the bus or, you know, whether we should build a shiny, new soccer stadium.

This year's election is far from breaking any records for being the most contentious in local history, but there was enough dirt digging and mudslinging to keep us all either enraged, entertained or both.

But now the fun is over. The dust has settled and districts have a clear winner and one is set for yet another election.

With one conservative-leaning incumbent keeping her seat and a tough-on-crime newcomer who campaigned on less regulation for businesses and eliminating taxes, the council will likely see a shift in political alliances, which could also mean a tough road for Mayor Tim Keller's administration and its goals moving forward.

District 4

Early voters seemed to be nearly equally divided between incumbent City Councilor **Brook Bassan** and her opponent **Abby Foster**. Initial early voting results showed barely a percentage point between the two, but Election Day votes put Bassan ahead

of Foster by about 150 votes. Foster, in a questionnaire from *The Paper*, says the most pressing issue for District 4 is "no question" crime and that she would like to see more investments in public safety and more readily-available addiction treatment.

"We must invest in neighborhood policing, reduce drug addiction, fund and make treatment more readily available, and fully fund our police, fire and Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) departments," she says. "We know that more officers in the community have a deterrent effect on crime."

Bassan did not respond to the questionnaire, but she has historically pushed back against the Keller administration's proposals and she regularly finds herself in alliances with other politically conservative councilors, which often create roadblocks to Keller's pet projects.

District 4 was a close second for having the most drama. With only one challenger, all of the negative attention was slung in Bassan's direction. First, Bassan's flub on what kind of degree she received came to light—she has an associate degree in criminal justice, not a bachelor's degree. Then one of her constituents filed an ethics complaint against Bassan after it was discovered that her policy analyst had registered to vote at Bassan's address but kept a mailing address outside District 4. The analyst later said she had moved in with Bassan as a result of a personal matter and had no intention of voting in District 4.

District 8

Former cop and current small business owner **Dan Champine** will take the District 8 reins from Councilor Trudy Jones, who did not run for reelection. Champine won by almost 10 percentage points over his opponent Idalia Lechuga-Tena. Champine ran on opposing tax increases and "wasteful pork projects," a crack-down on "homeless tent encampments" and reducing regulatory barriers for businesses.

Although Jones often sided with business interests and had a conservative view on many issues, her votes often transcended politics, making her an occasional trusty ally to both progressive councilors and the Keller administration.

In September, for example, Jones ultimately broke with conservative councilors to uphold a Keller veto aimed at allowing safe outdoor spaces. Jones earlier this year also sponsored legislation that aligned with Keller-backed housing initiatives.

District 6

Candidates Nicole Rogers and Jeff Hoehn will face off in a runoff election next month, thanks to a city election provision that requires winners to get at least 50 percent of the votes. Rogers finished with about 40 percent of the votes and Hoehn had about 32 percent.

Rogers, who until recently worked at the City of Albuquerque's Equity Inclusion office, racked up endorsements from



(Sara Atencio-Gonzales)

progressive groups such as the local Working Families Party and Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains. She made housing access, public safety reform and combating poverty major planks of her campaign. Hoehn, a nonprofit executive director, ran on improving economic development in the International District, improving public safety and expanding homeless outreach. He snagged endorsements from the Greater Albuquerque Hotel and Lodging Association and the *Albuquerque Journal's* editorial board.

The race for District 6 was hands down, the wildest of the bunch. What was already a crowded race to replace outgoing City Council President Pat Davis* and was all but guaranteed to result in a special run-off election, turned into quite the show.

Local businesses owner **Abel Otero** quickly snagged Davis' endorsement, and Otero's backstory probably would have given him an advantage in the mostly left-leaning district that includes the city's International District. Otero proudly shared his story of addiction and incarceration until an *Albuquerque Journal* story highlighted that there is no record of Otero ever serving time. Otero's explanation: Because of abuse as a child, he convinced himself he had been to prison. The story came out after early voting ballots were printed with Otero's name, so Otero couldn't exactly drop out of the race. Davis pulled his endorsement but held off backing anyone else until the expected run-off election. Otero said he planned to vote for himself and urged any voters who couldn't stomach voting for him to cast a

ballot for Rogers. Even with Otero essentially bowing out, he received about 10 percent of the votes

Kristin "Raven" Greene, an independent contractor and a longtime resident of the International District, ran on similar issues as her opponents, but also stressed the importance of elevating visibility of the "forgotten" parts of District 6. Greene garnered nearly 20 percent of the votes.

**Davis is part owner of The Paper., but has no editorial control.*

District 2

Joaquin Baca will take over as councilor for District 2 after he handily won the election by more than 25 percentage points over both of his opponents. Baca boasted a long list of endorsements by progressive organizations, unions and high-profile politicians like outgoing Councilor Isaac Benton, U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich and U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury. Baca is a military veteran, former teacher and currently a hydrologist who ran on reducing crime through community policing, combatting homelessness and addiction through funding the city's Gateway Center and increasing affordable housing by creating a housing authority.

"To build more housing, we need more public/private partnerships that leverage federal, local and private dollars for homes, parking and transit," Baca says in a questionnaire from *The Paper*.

After nearly two decades serving Downtown and parts of the North Valley, Benton opted to not run again for his District 2 seat. Benton has largely made public safety, affordable housing and economic development his priorities while in office. He also had a hand in revamping the Albuquerque Rail Yards and restoring the historic El Vado Motel and surrounding property—which now includes an outdoor food court.

Loretta Naranjo-Lopez, who got about 24 percent of voters' approval, didn't respond to questions from *The Paper*, but told the *Albuquerque Journal* that her biggest priorities would have been public safety—which she said could be improved with more police—and increased funding for affordable housing and homeless shelters. Naranjo-Lopez's name also hit headlines earlier this year thanks to a public dust-up over allegations that she tried to misuse money as a member of a public employee retirement board—which probably didn't help when folks looked up her name online.

Documentary filmmaker and former teacher **Moises Gonzales** nearly tied with Naranjo-Lopez. He ran heavily on public safety reform, increasing public transportation and affordable housing initiatives and made *iNo podemos esperar!* His campaign slogan. In a questionnaire from *The Paper*, Gonzales named homelessness as the biggest issue that needs to be addressed in District 2 and "mixed-income housing" as the way to fix it.

New School Board, Who's This?

The Albuquerque Public School Board will see three new members and say goodbye to a long-time incumbent



(Albuquerque Public Schools)

By Andy Lyman, The Paper.

School board elections, much like City Council races, don't always get the attention they deserve. Sure, school board meetings can be dry for those who don't have school-aged kids, but school boards are getting a ton of attention lately. Between issues such as parents' rights, school choice and support for transgender students, school board meetings are really starting to heat up.

This year's Albuquerque Public School Board election resulted in mixed results for union backed candidates, but a clear defeat for those backed by the controversial and Hitler quoting Mom's for Liberty activist group.

District 1

Incumbent Yolanda Montoya Cordova opted not to run for reelection, opening the door for three candidates vying for the spot. **Janelle Astorga** scored a sizable win of almost 400 votes over **Robert Trujillo**, a construction business owner.

Astorga boasts growing up in historical South Valley neighborhoods and campaigned on restorative justice in schools (see: avoiding suspensions for kids who might just need some extra attention at school), pushing back against institutional racism and making schools safer overall.

"I do not believe armed

police in schools will help any of our district's issues and more specifically gun violence in our communities," Astorga wrote in response to a questionnaire from *The Paper*. "Instead of treating our students like criminals, we need to focus on creating safe spaces for our youth to become leaders and feel ownership of their community. One way we can do this is by bringing in parent volunteers and community organizations to engage students in 'real-world' activities."

Trujillo received endorsements from a sizable list of local politicians and both teachers and labor unions. But that didn't stop a local parents group from bringing up Trujillo's record of assault charges and outstanding tax liens. Trujillo, who was somewhat vague about specific policy plans on his campaign website, did offer an explanation that was just shy of an apology.

"This situation has been hard for me to talk about because I am not proud of my behavior that day, and it does not reflect who I am," he wrote. "I believe our community deserves total transparency and honesty, and that is why I'm writing this letter." , who boasts growing up in historical South Valley neighborhoods, campaigned on restorative justice in schools (see: avoiding suspensions for kids who might just need some extra attention at school), pushing back

against institutional racism and making schools safer overall.

Substitute teacher **Verland Coker Verland Coker**, who opted for a more bare-bones campaign, got less than 10 percent of the votes. He told *The Paper* in his questionnaire that he thinks the district is long overdue for "pedagogical reform."

"Specifically transitioning to a 21st century district," he wrote. "This is the best way to ensure that students are leaving with the skills they need for a 21st century economy. This transition requires a complete reinvestment in teacher training, school infrastructure, logistical policies and curriculum policies."

District 2

Though union endorsements didn't see success in District 1, a union-backed candidate in District 2 took the seat of a long-time incumbent, who's politics align with Mom's for Liberty.

Ronalda Tome-Warito, an education consultant, ousted longtime school board member **Peggy Muller-Aragon** by more than 250 votes. Tome-Warito had maybe the hottest take on the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit against the state in one of her answers to the questionnaire from *The Paper*: "It's not Yazzie and Martinez, they are two separate lawsuits. There are misnomers that are greatly affecting these lawsuits: One,

Martinez represents Hispanic students and Yazzie, Indigenous students, which are not true statements. The other area of concern is Hispanic students are not represented in the lawsuit and many people thought this population of children were included. My focus will be special education and students with disabilities."

This was by far the most crowded school board race with the most public attention. Muller-Aragon's long list of challengers included teacher and self-proclaimed "watch dog" **Adrian Nogales**, who has some major issues with sexual topics being discussed in school, except in "high-level classes," and came short of 20 percent of the votes.

Eric Toledo and Karen Sanchez-Griego, two other candidates, dropped out of the race several weeks ago.

District 4

District 4 just might have been the tamest of all the school board races, but also the one with the most pronounced win. **Heather Benavidez**, a former staffer in the State Treasurer's Office and a candidate for the same office, won by more than 60 percentage points against **Stephen Cecco**, who ran, at least partially, on school choice. Benavidez was the unions' choice to take over for outgoing board member Barbara Petersen.

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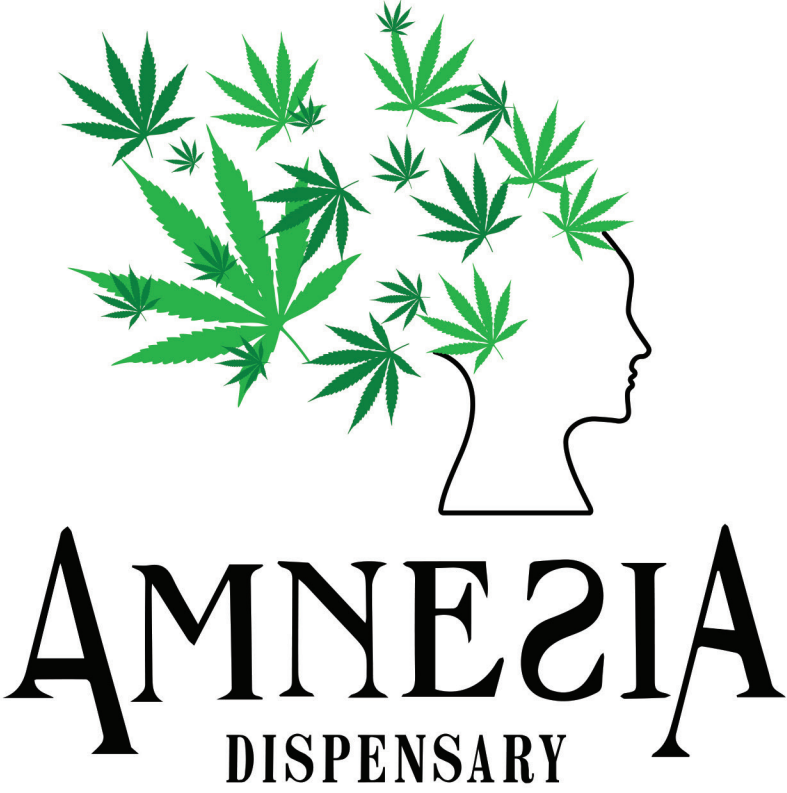
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Regulators Call For More Authority

CCD says it can't discipline bad actors

(Cannabis tours at Wikimedia Commons)

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

State regulators are calling on lawmakers to update New Mexico's statutes to give the regulators the authority to confiscate illicit cannabis products. Leaders say it's tough to enforce the rules when criminal charges are not being brought against bad actors in the weed industry.

Last month, during a Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee meeting, former New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) Superintendent Linda Trujillo told lawmakers the department and its Cannabis Control Division (CCD) do not have the authority to seize and destroy illicit marijuana when it's discovered.

"Even if we did have the authority to confiscate them, what would we do with it?" she asked during the hearing.

The RLD is asking legislators to make regulation enforcement protocols clearer in the Cannabis Regulation Act. It's also asking for a faster turnaround time on injunctions against companies that flout the rules.

Meanwhile, law enforcement authorities are asking lawmakers to rethink the way they penalize marijuana trafficking.

New Mexico State Police Chief W. Troy Weisler told the committee that cannabis businesses that are caught selling illicit products face little if any threat of criminal prosecution under current state laws.

"There's a lot less statutory authority to do things on the criminal side," he said.

Weisler said marijuana penalties make little sense. He claimed that trafficking cannabis

to juveniles carried less of a penalty than trafficking alcohol to kids and pointed out that people who get caught trafficking large amounts of illicit weed face the same penalties as those who have much smaller amounts.

"If I have my bag here—and I have 8.1 ounces of marijuana in my bag—that's the same penalty as if I have 4,000 pounds of marijuana in my tractor-trailer," he said.

Jeff Grayson, chief deputy attorney general for the state's Office of the Attorney General, said that the state's cannabis law has made weed distribution a misdemeanor crime while leaving possession of more than eight ounces a fourth-degree felony—a reversal of the traditional system that dished out more punishment for dealing than using.

If law enforcement authorities are right, these oversights could be encouraging bad behavior among less scrupulous marijuana license holders.

This is evidently the case as a number of bad actors have been caught brazenly breaking the rules over the last few months. During state inspections, CCD compliance staff have reportedly found out-of-state products being sold on New Mexico shelves, products that have not been accounted for in the state's BioTrack marijuana tracking system and plant counts that exceed license allowances.

Since July, the CCD has revoked three cannabis licenses.

Paradise Exotics Distro was the first to fall when CCD staff reportedly found products with California labels being sold in its dispensary and

discovered discrepancies in its sales reporting and shipping manifests.

The second license to be revoked for selling out-of-state weed belonged to C.M.F. Productions. It was taken in August.

Only weeks ago, the CCD announced it was revoking the license of Albuquerque-based Golden Roots for allegedly moving illicit out-of-state marijuana through the BioTrack system, improperly transporting cannabis and nine other violations.

"In such cases, there is a need for authority to seize those unlawfully possessed plants and products, and an accompanying need for the authority to properly carry out the destruction of those unlawful plants and products," writes RLD representative Andrea Brown in an email to *The Paper*. "Unlawfully possessed cannabis plants and unlicensed and untested cannabis products pose a serious risk to public health and safety."

In August, the CCD filed its first ever injunction against Sawmill Sweet Leaf for allegedly selling out-of-state weed as well as operating an unlicensed extraction operation. The division said the company's disregard for licensing regulations could have posed a danger to the community. A judge granted the injunction and the dispensary was shut down.

Recently appointed CCD Director Todd Stevens told *The Paper* in September that compliance is his top priority. "And that's probably two and three as well," he said.

He said he wanted to set up "some very black-and-white, stringent compliance operations for those folks who want to try to operate in the illicit market."

The CCD hired a number of new compliance officers over the summer, bringing the total up to 13. Stevens said that the division is paying closer attention to BioTrack data and looking for indications of bad actors. Compliance officers will also be conducting yearly inspections of all licensed facilities. The state has granted over 1,000 licenses since it legalized adult-use cannabis in 2021.

But that doesn't guarantee that licensees will be on their best behavior if there is no accountability. The CCD says it needs the authority to act when it finds violations. The state's cannabis law doesn't specify who is in charge of disciplining bad actors and removing illicit goods.

"As the Cannabis Regulation Act (CRA) is currently written, the CCD do not have the authority to confiscate or destroy illegal cannabis plants or other illegal cannabis products," wrote Brown. "The legal authority to seize and destroy unlawfully possessed cannabis and cannabis products needs to be clearly established under the CRA, whether that authority is provided to the CCD or some other state agency or law enforcement agency selected by the Legislature."

If lawmakers agree, it could be the beginning of the end for the Wild West days of Weed in New Mexico. It may also help curb the flood of illicit marijuana coming into the state and help to strengthen businesses that are operating in compliance.



“ IT'S LIFE CHANGING

Finally! A local practitioner is helping cancer survivors live their lives free from the constant pain and suffering associated with Peripheral Neuropathy!

Irreversible is not a word you want to hear from your Doctor but it's a common one if you've been diagnosed with Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.

Elliott S. of Los Lunas survived testicular cancer only to be living life with constant pain. He felt as though he was walking on pins and needles, becoming weaker and weaker every day. "I was beginning to be worried that one day I would be wheelchair-bound"

Nearly half of patients who undergo chemotherapy will develop Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy or CIPN.

Chemotherapy meds travel throughout the body and attack cancer cells; sadly they can also cause severe damage to healthy nerves.

CIPN can begin within weeks of starting treatment and can worsen as treatment continues. Many people will endure the symptoms associated with CIPN for months, even years after they've completed chemo.

When asked how CIPN was affecting his quality of life, he responded, "It was difficult to even walk up and down stairs and do other things we usually take for granted."

The most common symptoms include:

- **pain, tingling, burning, weakness, or numbness in arms, hands, legs or feet**
- **sudden, sharp stabbing or shocking pain sensations**
- **loss of touch sensation**
- **clumsiness and trouble using hands to pick up objects or fasten clothing**
- **loss of balance and falling**

For some, their nerves will recover over time. For most, the nerve damage is 'irreversible.' Which is what Elliott had been told by a series of Doctors and specialists. Essentially, they could cure his cancer but couldn't fix the damage done by the drugs used to cure his cancer.

Elliott then made a call to Doctor Andrea Brogdon of AAIM | Albuquerque Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine, right here in Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Andrea Brogdon is using the time-tested science of Acupuncture and technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitation disease.

After a series of treatments, Elliott was taking stairs with stride!

"We have a house and it has stairs. This morning I walked right down the stairs and got in the car," Elliott shared.

"I remember thinking, 'that's becoming mighty easy for me', I didn't have to hold on to the handrail or anything! It's life-changing to have this mobility back!"

Again and again, we meet with patients who were once diagnosed as "untreatable" or "incurable" but after receiving Doctor Brogdon's treatments they are now living lives free from pain and suffering. For many years she has been reversing the effects of CIPN and other varieties of Peripheral Neuropathy, including that caused by diabetes without invasive surgeries and medications that come with uncomfortable side effects.

If you've recently beat cancer only to find that you're living a life in constant pain and discomfort or you're struggling with the same symptoms as a result of either Idiopathic Neuropathy or Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy, Doctor Andrea Brogdon and the incredible team at AAIM can help!

Doctor 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.

Call **(505)355-1984** now to schedule a consultation.

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cannabis news shorts



Every week, we round up our favorite cannabis-related news stories in bite sized edible pieces. Here's some of our favorites!



NM Weed Discrepancies Highlighted

Questions arise about the state's cannabis accounting

(My 420 Tours at Wikimedia Commons)

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

One of New Mexico's more prominent cannabis companies says there are discrepancies between state tax data and reported marijuana sales which indicate a major problem in the industry.

According to a news release from Ultra Health, the state's Cannabis Control Division's (CCD) reports that the adult-use weed industry has generated more than \$501 million in revenue since sales began in April last year. With a Cannabis Excise Tax rate of 12 percent, the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) should have collected \$60 million.

But the TRD reports it only collected \$47 million in excise tax. According to that figure, the industry has sold \$391 million worth of pot products—\$110 million less than the cannabis division reports.

Ultra Health did not speculate on the source of this discrepancy but said the cannabis division's numbers could skew the perceived level of demand in New Mexico. It also said that inflated sales figures could lead new operators astray if they are making business decisions based on the data.

NM's Weed Diversity Overstated

Nearly a third of the state's weed business owners are women and a quarter are members of minority groups, according to a new report. But the state's data may be misleading since New Mexico has less stringent standards than the rest of the country.

According to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Cannabis Industry report from MJ Biz Daily, the percentage of women and members of

minority groups who hold executive positions in the marijuana industry has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

The report found that 29.5 percent of New Mexico cannabis businesses were owned by women and about 24 percent were owned by members of minority groups.

This places New Mexico in high standing compared to other states, but the report's authors point out that the state's method of counting these businesses is much more lenient than in other parts of the nation. New Mexico counts businesses where a person owns at least 10 percent while other states only count majority stake-holders.

DEA Wants More Drugs

The federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is looking to increase its production quotas

of cannabis, psilocybin and other drugs for research purposes.

According to a news release from the agency, the DEA is proposing to adjust the 2023 aggregate production quotas for several controlled substances, including doubling the quota of delta-9 THC and psilocybin mushrooms, and producing five times the amount of ibogaine, a psychedelic substance.

The agency says it needs to increase production of these controlled substances to keep up with increased medical, scientific and industrial demand, as well as for lawful export requirements and to maintain reserve stocks.

Although the DEA is proposing an increase in delta-9 THC production, it isn't calling for an increase in cannabis plants.

The proposal is up for a 30-day open comment period at regulations.gov that ends Nov. 30.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of November 8

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your victories-in-progress are subtle. They may not be totally visible to you yet. Let me describe them so you can feel properly confident about what you are in the process of accomplishing. 1. A sustained surge of hard-earned personal growth is rendering one of your problems mostly irrelevant. 2. You have been redefining what rewards are meaningful to you, and that's motivating you to infuse your ambitions with more soulfulness. 3. You are losing interest in a manipulative game that doesn't serve you as well as it should. 4. You are cultivating more appreciation for fascinating and useful problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus physicist Richard Feynman was a smart and accomplished person who won a Nobel Prize. He articulated a perspective that will be healthy for you to experiment with in the coming weeks. He said, "I can live with doubt and uncertainty and not knowing. I think it's much more interesting not knowing than to have answers which might be wrong. I have approximate answers and possible beliefs and different degrees of certainty about different things, but I'm not absolutely sure of anything, and there are many things I don't know anything about." Give Feynman's approach a try, dear Taurus. Now is an excellent time to explore the perks of questioning everything. I bet you'll be pleased with how free and easy it makes you feel.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): To earn money, I have worked as a janitor, dishwasher, olive picker, ditch-digger, newspaper deliverer, and 23 other jobs involving hard labor. In addition, I have done eight artistic jobs better suited to my sensitive temperament and creative talents. Am I regretful or resentful about the thousands of hours I toiled at tasks I didn't enjoy? A little. But mostly I'm thankful for them. They taught me how to interact harmoniously with a wide array of people. They helped forge my robust social conscience. And they motivated me to eventually figure out how to get jobs I really loved. Now I invite you to take an inventory of your own work life, Gemini. It's an excellent time to evaluate where you've been and where you want to go in the future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There are so many kinds of sweetness. Zesty spicy sweetness. Tender balmy fragrant sweetness. Sour or bitter sweetness. Musky piquant sweetness. Luscious succulent sweetness. One of my favorite types of sweetness is described by Cancerian poet Stephen Dunn. He wrote, "Often a sweetness comes as if on loan, stays just long enough to make sense of what it means to be alive, then returns to its dark source. As for me, I don't care where it's been, or what bitter road it's traveled to come so far, to taste so good." My analysis of the astrological omens suggests to me that you are about to commune with at least three of these sweetnesses, Cancerian. Maybe most of them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Author Dan Savage advocates regular indulgence in sloth. He notes that few of us can "get through 24 hours without a little downtime. Human beings need to stare off into space, look out the window, daydream, and spend time every day being indolent and useless." I concur, and I hope you will indulge in more downtime than usual during the coming weeks. For the sake of your long-term mental and physical health, you need to relax extra deep and strong now—to recharge your battery with delicious and delightful abandon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): According to my deep and thorough analysis of your astrological rhythms, your mouth will soon be a wonder of nature. The words emerging from your lips will be extra colorful, precise, and persuasive. Your taste buds will have an enhanced vividness as they commune with the joys of food and drink. And I suspect your tongue and lips will exult in an upgrade of aptitude and pleasure while plying the arts of sex and intimate love. Congratulations, Mouthy Maestro!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In addition to being a masterful composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) played the piano, violin, harp, bassoon, clarinet, horn, flute, oboe, and trumpet. His experience led him to believe that musicians best express their skills when they play fast. It's more challenging to be excellent when playing slowly, he thought. But I will invite you to adopt the reverse attitude and approach in the coming weeks, Libra. According to my astrological analysis, you will be most successful if you work gradually and incrementally, with careful diligence and measured craftiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In my horoscopes for Scorpios, I tend to write complex messages. My ideas are especially thick and rich and lush. Why? Because I imagine you as being complex, thick, rich, and lush. Your destiny is labyrinthine and mysterious and intriguing, and I aspire to reflect its intricate, tricky beauty. But this time, in accordance with current astrological omens, I will offer you my simplest, most straightforward oracle ever. I borrowed it from author Mary Anne Hershey: "Live with intention. Walk to the edge. Listen hard. Play with abandon. Choose with no regret. Continue to learn. Appreciate your friends. Do what you love."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In her poem "Requiem," Anna Akhmatova says, "I must kill off memory . . . and I must learn to live anew." I think most of us can benefit from periodically engaging in this brave and robust exercise. It's not a feat to be taken lightly—not to be done more than once or twice a year. But guess what: The coming weeks will be a time when such a ritual might be wise for you. Are you ready to purge old business and prepare the way for a fresh start? Here are your words of power: forgiveness, clearing, cleaning, release, absolution, liberation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): We need stories almost as much as we need to breathe, eat, sleep, and move. It's impossible to live without them. The best stories nourish our souls, stimulate our imagination, and make life exciting. That's not to say that all stories are healthy for us. We sometimes cling to narratives that make us miserable and sap our energy. I think we have a sacred duty to de-emphasize and even jettison those stories—even as we honor and relish the rich stories that empower and inspire us. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Capricorn, because you're in a phase of your cycle when you will especially thrive by disposing of the bad old stories and celebrating the good ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I could be wrong, but I don't think so: You are smarter and wiser than you realize about the pressing issues that are now vying for your attention. You know more than you know you know. I suspect this will soon become apparent, as streams of fresh insights rise up from the depths of your psyche and guide your conscious awareness toward clarity. It's OK to squeal with glee every time a healing intuition shows up. You have earned this welcome phase of lucid certainty.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In Indigenous cultures throughout history, shamans have claimed they have the power to converse with and even temporarily become hawks, coyotes, snakes, and other creatures. Why do they do that? It's a long story, but one answer is that they believe animals have intelligences that are different from what humans have. The shamans aspire to learn from those alternate ways of seeing and comprehending the world. Many of us who live in Western culture dismiss this venerable practice, although I've known animal lovers who sympathize with it. If you are game for a fun experiment, Pisces, I invite you to try your own version. Choose an animal to learn from. Study and commune with it. Ask it to reveal intuitions that surprise and enrich you.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 No longer fizzy
- 5 Nobel, for one
- 10 A deadly sin
- 14 Poison ivy woe
- 15 One of the von Trapps
- 16 "Heat of the Moment" band
- 17 Yosemite photographer
- 19 Clay-rich soil
- 20 Be unsteady
- 21 Particular
- 23 "Gunsmoke" marshal
- 25 Corn holder
- 27 Crumpet's cousin
- 28 Train tracks
- 32 "Wise" birds
- 34 "Solve for x" subj.
- 35 Short snooze
- 36 Oblivious

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- 61 Hoe target
- 62 It talks, in a saying
- 63 ___ and there

- 10 Coated with plastic
- 11 Military branch
- 12 iPhone assistant
- 13 Barber's supply
- 18 "___ go!"
- 22 Snorkeling sight
- 24 Big name in pineapples
- 25 "How ___ you?"
- 26 Deed holder
- 29 Like some assets
- 30 Coffee bar order
- 31 Go 80 mph, say
- 33 Expletive
- 35 Averse to being filmed

- 37 Machu Picchu locale
- 38 Southern side?
- 40 Early hunter
- 43 Haitian witchcraft
- 44 Quarters, slangily
- 47 Sweet-talk
- 48 Stable sound
- 49 Vegas attraction
- 50 Stem joint
- 51 Wind instrument
- 53 Speak unclearly
- 54 Viral GIF, e.g.
- 57 Hotel freebie

DOWN

- 1 Campus group
- 2 Place for pins
- 3 Gathering, as of things
- 4 Letter before iota
- 5 Key substitute
- 6 Load of money
- 7 Wiping off
- 8 Smile feature
- 9 Art display stand
- 46 Getting better
- 49 Winter footwear
- 52 Certain discrimination
- 55 Boxcar rider
- 56 Like some evidence
- 58 Smell
- 59 Kitchen invader
- 60 Like a sad sack

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Solution to Crossword:



