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ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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A Foster Teen Has Gone Missing. Why, His Family Asks, is No One Looking for Him?

New Mexico's child welfare agency is supposed to safeguard children in its custody and report them immediately if they vanish. In this case, it didn't.

Kimberly Chavez holds her newborn as Vincent Chavez Sr. shows photos of their missing teenage son. (Nadav Soroker/Searchlight New Mexico)

Ed Williams, Searchlight New Mexico

On September 25, 16-year-old Vincent Chavez—Junior, as his family calls him—ran away from his aunt's house, where the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department had placed him and five of his siblings in foster care the month before. Vincent has Tourette's syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder, and he had become agitated and angry before running, according to an Albuquerque Police Department report.

His aunt called the police and officers arrived quickly. They briefly spotted someone matching Vincent's description running into an apartment complex off of Central Avenue and Wyoming Boulevard; they found his red hoodie at the scene, but the teen was able to give them the slip, their report said. Officers entered his information into the National Crime Information Center database, available to law enforcement only. Then they left.

Eight weeks have passed, and nobody has seen Vincent. CYFD has still not posted his photo and information on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website—a step the agency is required to take within 24 hours of a child's disappearance, as mandated by federal law.

"It's making us sick," Vincent's mother, Kimberly Chavez, said during an interview at

her home in Albuquerque's South Valley. "We can't sleep at night. He's out there without his medications." Caseworkers have not answered family members' repeated pleas for information, according to phone records shared with Searchlight New Mexico.

"We drive around every day looking for him, because nobody else is doing anything to find him," Chavez said. "Why isn't anyone else looking for him?"

CYFD removed Vincent and his siblings from their parents' home in mid-August, after investigators alleged abuse by Vincent's father. The family maintains that those allegations are untrue; the matter is currently pending in children's court. Vincent had never run from home before he was taken into foster care, his parents said.

More than 50 missing kids

New Mexico's child welfare system has struggled to deal with runaways for years, according to interviews with attorneys and CYFD employees. As of October 31 of this year alone, 52 kids were listed as runaways, according to CYFD.

Some teens, like Vincent, flee from foster homes, angry at being removed from their parents or unhappy with their living situation. Others routinely run away because of CYFD's practice of housing teenagers in

youth homeless shelters or department office buildings.

Trying to find a kid can be an uphill battle. The law does not allow CYFD employees or foster parents to physically stop a child from running away. Law enforcement is required to enter missing children into the NCIC database, but officers don't usually proactively look for missing teens unless they believe them to be in imminent danger, according to attorneys.

"It really does feel like the kids just fall into a black hole" when they run from foster care, said Alison Endicott Quiñones, legal director of Advocacy Inc., an Albuquerque-based nonprofit that provides legal services for at-risk youth and children in CYFD custody. "There really isn't a mechanism for requiring a kid to return, or ways to bring them back."

If police do find a runaway, they usually drop them off at the CYFD office in Albuquerque, where the kids often run away yet again, she said.

A juvenile who runs from foster care "is treated as any other runaway or missing person," said Albuquerque Police spokeswoman Franchesca Perdue. Officers review the case to see if the runaway qualifies as endangered, in which case "a flier is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Vincent Chavez Sr. and Kimberly Chavez stand on either side of their son's prized car, left behind in the yard of the family home. (Nadav Soroker/Searchlight New Mexico)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

completed by the detective and the media is contacted along with DPS [the New Mexico Department of Public Safety],” she said.

Missing persons are considered endangered if they are believed to be at imminent risk of harm, if they have been victimized by a member of their household, or if their health and safety are in jeopardy, among other criteria. Law enforcement has not publicly issued a missing person’s advisory for Vincent.

There are numerous steps that CYFD is supposed to take when children in its custody — currently numbering 1,988—run away. Crucially, foster care workers must alert law enforcement and contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children “immediately but no later than 24 hours” after they’re discovered missing. The name of the youth’s CYFD worker and other key details should be provided in their report, “including but not limited to the child or youth’s basic demographic information, a recent photo and particular risks the youth might face,” the policy states.

Sometimes caseworkers follow those steps and work aggressively to find a missing child, advocates say. Often they do not. Attorneys for foster youth have

long complained that CYFD does not work quickly to find missing foster children. Those complaints were underscored in a 2023 audit by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which found that 51,115 out of 74,353 missing foster children were not reported in keeping with federal requirements. New Mexico was among the many states that failed to follow the rules. CYFD declined to comment about the high number of runaways.

Adding to the challenges, CYFD employees have been leaving the department in droves—the agency currently has a 27 percent vacancy rate—and the workers who remain often have crushing caseloads.

“That kiddo’s worker would have had at least 30 other cases they had to deal with at the same time,” said a CYFD employee who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the news media. The employee was not involved with Vincent’s case but was well familiar with the overall problem.

“We never want kids to go missing,” the employee said. “We never want this to happen. But if a kid does run away there’s only so much we can do. We’re not allowed to chase a child, we’re not allowed to restrain a child. He’s in our custody, absolutely, but our job is to report to police.”

The streets, needless to say, can be a dangerous place for kids, who can be hurt, trafficked or arrested, among other perils. The problem is devastating nationwide: As many as half of foster kids in America run away at least once and an estimated 40 percent go missing multiple times, research shows. The vast majority of those who run have mental health diagnoses, alcohol or drug use, or other factors that make them especially vulnerable.

As the days and weeks pass with no news of Vincent’s whereabouts, his parents keep patrolling the streets, stopping to look whenever they see a panhandler, they said.

He has loved cars since he was little and has wanted to become a mechanic so he could work at his dad’s auto repair business, his mother said. After he went missing, his parents felt sure he would at least come home to get his prized possession: a blue Chrysler 300 that his father, Vincent Chavez Sr., bought him a few months before his 16th birthday in September.

“That car is his baby,” his father said. “He has a spare key. It’s not a good sign that he hasn’t come back to get it.”

Searchlight New Mexico is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization dedicated to investigative reporting in New Mexico.



Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley/ The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley

The Adobe Theater (9813 Fourth St. NW) and the Vortex Theatre (2900 Carlisle Blvd NE) have teamed up to give audiences two different views of Christmas in merry old England. Miss Bennet looks in on **Christmas at Pemberley**, the aristocratic Mr. Darcy's country estate from Jane Austen's Georgian era novel *Pride and Prejudice*. **The Wickhams**, on the other hand, takes audiences into to Pemberley's downstairs servants quarters for the holiday celebration. Both plays open **Friday, Dec. 1 at 7:30pm**. Miss Bennet runs Dec. 1 through 24. The Wickhams runs Dec. 1 through 17. Shows at both theaters are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2pm. Ticket are \$24 general admission and are available at adobetheater.org/2023-season.

Thursday, November 30

- Art
- Art Exhibit by Martha Liebert, Edward DeLavy, Ken Kloeppel and Bob Montoya 9 am-12 pm Sandoval County Historical Society/The DeLay House 151 Homestead Lane, Bernalillo
- Class / Workshop
- Beginning Square Dance Classes (18 weeks) \$120 All Day 4915 Hawkins St NE 4915 Hawkins Street Northeast
- Comedy
- First Friday Comedy Contest 8-10 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW
- Trivia Mafia 7-9 pm Lizard Tail Industrial 3351 Columbia Dr. NE

- Dance
- Back in the Day Thursdays at The Momo Lounge 7-10 pm Monterey Motel 2402 Central Ave. SW
- Friday Night Square Dancing 7 - 9 PM Fridays Albuquerque Square Dance Center 4915 Hawkins St NE
- Drink
- Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Boese Brothers Brewpub (NE Heights) 7-9 pm Boese Brothers Brewpub NE Heights 7849 Tramway Blvd, Suite C
- Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Sunday Service Motor Company 7-9 pm Sunday Service Motor Company 2701 4th Street NW

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Fri Dec 1 10:30pm

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NZ wilderness horror LOOP TRACK

Sat Dec 2 10:30pm

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Mon-Tue Dec 4-5 8:00

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7:00PM

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SUN DEC 10

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12/03

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12/07

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with IMANU, Jon Casey, Sayer

12/08

G Space Live

with WizDumb

12/09

Paint & Sipz

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12/09

The Sponges

with MNTRA, Galaxy

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Festival

Pueblo Gingerbread Experience
All Day Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th St. NW

Food

Indian Pueblo Kitchen Showcases
“A Taste of the Pueblos” All Day
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
2401 12th Street NW

Markets

59th Annual ASUNM Arts &
Crafts Fair 10 am-6 pm UNM
Student Union Building The
University of New Mexico

Miscellaneous

River of Lights \$7-\$17 5-10 pm
ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden
2601 Central Ave NW

Music

Gilbert Uribe 7-9 pm Tractor
Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE
Latin Night 8:30-11:45 pm JUNO
brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st
Street Northwest
Live Mic Karaoke 7:30-11:30
pm Lizard Tail Brewing 9800
Montgomery Blvd NE STE 7
Music on the Patio: Float Like
a Buffalo 6-9 pm Canteen
Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road
Northeast

Open Mic Karaoke 7-10 pm on
Wednesdays Lizard Tail Brewing
Nob Hill 3417 Central Ave. NE
Suite C
Public Academy for Performing
Arts Modern Band Show 7-9 pm
FUSION 700-708 1st St NW
Y2K Night \$5 7-11 pm Launchpad
618 Central Ave SW

Friday, December 1

Art Openings

12x12 Fundraising Exhibition
5:30-7:30 pm Harwood Art
Center 1114 7th Street NW

Comedy

The Show - Live Comedy
Improv \$12 8-9 pm The Box
Performance Space 114 Gold Ave
SW

Community

Pueblo Shop and Stroll 4-8 pm
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
2401 12th Street NW
Winter Wonderland NM \$49
6:00pm to 10:00pm EXPO New
Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Dance

Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque
Dinner Show \$75-\$85 7-10 pm
Hotel Albuquerque 800 Rio
Grande Blvd NW

Family

Old Town Holiday Stroll 5-9 pm
Old Town Albuquerque 2005 N.
Plaza St. NW Albuquerque

Festival

World AIDS Day 2023 6-8:30
pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San
Pedro Dr NE

Film

Stephane Wremble Band \$25-
\$30 7:30-9:30 pm Outpost
Performance Space 210 Yale
Blvd., SE

Literature/Poetry

Luna & Poesia 6-8 pm Flock of
Moons Brewing Company 111
Harvard Dr. SE
Ross Van Dusen Book Signing
5-9 pm Treasure House Books &
Gifts 2012 S Plaza St NW A

Markets

59th Annual ASUNM Arts &
Crafts Fair 10 am-6 pm UNM
Student Union Building The
University of New Mexico

Miscellaneous

River of Lights \$7-\$17 5-10 pm
ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden
2601 Central Ave NW

Music

Chatter Late Works :: It Came
From The West \$15 9 pm Chatter
912 3rd St NW
Cumbia Night with El Gozao \$15-
\$40 9 pm-12 am JUNO brewery
+ cafe + art 1501 1st Street
Northwest
First Fridays w/ DJ Flo Fader 8-11
pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118
Tulane SE
Graham Nancarrow 6-8 pm
Public House ABQ 201 Hermosa
Dr NE

Hooks & The Huckleberries
\$12 7-10:30 pm Launchpad 618
Central Ave SW

James Whiton 6-9 pm
Albuquerque Distilling 5001
Central Ave NE Suite A5

Kompany Presents: Quorum
Tour \$23 9:30 pm-2 am Electric
Playhouse 5201 Ouray Rd. NW

Skid Row \$45-\$55 8-9:30 pm
Isleta Resort and Casino 11000
Broadway Blvd SE

Sugar: The Nu-Metal Party \$14
9 pm-12:30 am Launchpad 618
Central Ave SW

Performance

Miss Bennet: Christmas at
Pemberley \$20-\$24 7:30 pm
Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

The Music Man \$21-\$24 7-9 pm
Rodey Theatre 1 University of
New Mexico

The Wickhams: Christmas at
Pemberley \$19-\$24 7:30-9:30
pm Vortex Theatre 2900 Carlisle
Blvd NE

Saturday, December 2

Art

The 7th annual EPC ART pARTy
5:30-9 pm Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Road NW

Class / Workshop

Sonicality Workshop with
Agnieszka Kazimierska \$50 6-8
pm FUSION 700-708 1st St NW

Comedy

Rene Vaca \$25 8-11 pm
Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW
The Show - Live Comedy
Improv \$12 8-9 pm The Box
Performance Space 114 Gold Ave
SW

Community

Holiday Jingle at Avanyu Plaza 11
am-3 pm Avanyu Plaza

Dance

Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque
Dinner Show \$75-\$85 7-10 pm
Hotel Albuquerque 800 Rio
Grande Blvd NW
White Mountain Apache Crown
Dancers (Apache) 12-1 pm Indian
Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th
St. NW

Markets

4th Annual Holiday Pop-Up
Market 11 am-2 pm La Salita
Restaurant 1950 Juan Tabo Blvd.
NE Suite H

Annual Holiday Market 12-5 pm
Bow & Arrow Brewing Co. 608
McKnight Ave NW

Rayos Del Sol Holiday Mercado
12-4 pm Rayos del Sol Mercado
6780 Fourth St. NW

Miscellaneous

River of Lights \$7-\$17 5-10 pm
ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden
2601 Central Ave NW

Music

90s Courty Covers Night with
Back in the Saddle 8-10 pm
Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800
Fourth St. NW

Adobe Disco \$10 8 pm-1 am
Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW
Casey Mraz Christmas Set 7-9
pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118
Tulane SE

Deorro \$45-\$60 7:30-10:30 pm
Revel Entertainment Center 4720
Alexander Blvd NE

EXNQ Jazz 6-9 pm Enchanted
Circle Brewing 6001 San Mateo
Blvd NE

Exmortus \$17 8 pm-12 am
Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Metal, Rock, and Hip Hop show
feat Medusa's Madhouse \$5
6-11:30 pm JUNO brewery + cafe
+ art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Roust the House/Rock 101 Music
Academy Performance Night \$3
7-9 pm Outpost Performance
Space 210 Yale Blvd., SE

Sauce Walka \$40 8-11:30 pm
Historic El Rey Theatre 622
Central Ave SW

THE NEW MEXICO HOLIDAY
ESCAPE \$50-\$60 7-10 pm
African American Performing
Arts Center and Exhibit Hall 310
San Pedro Dr NE

Outdoors

Twinkle Light Parade 5:15 pm
Nob Hill From Girard to Carlisle
on Central Avenue

Performance

Christmas in New Mexico
2023 \$27-\$37 7-9 pm National
Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th
Street Southwest

Christmas in New Mexico
2023 \$27-\$37 2-4 pm National
Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th
Street Southwest

Miss Bennet: Christmas at
Pemberley \$20-\$24 7:30 pm
Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

The Music Man \$21-\$24 7-9 pm
Rodey Theatre 1 University of
New Mexico

The Wickhams: Christmas at
Pemberley \$19-\$24 7:30-9:30
pm Vortex Theatre 2900 Carlisle
Blvd NE

Sunday, December 3

Class / Workshop

Sonicality Workshop with
Agnieszka Kazimierska \$50 6-8
pm FUSION 700-708 1st St NW

Comedy

Brain Gang Trivia 12-2 pm
Lizard Tail Brewing 9800
Montgomery Blvd NE STE 7

Community

The Historic Lobo Theater's
Pajama Brunch and a Movie! \$10
10 am-2 pm The Historic Lobo
Theater - Lounge & Event Venue
3013 Central Ave NE



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Winter Wonderland NM \$49 6-9 pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Dance

White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers (Apache) 12-1 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th St. NW

Drink

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Tractor Brewing Wells Park 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

Lecture

Panel Discussion: News for the People 1-2 pm Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Road NW

Markets

The Hidden Holiday Market 10 am-4 pm The Groove Art Space 309 Gold Ave. SW

Miscellaneous

River of Lights \$7-\$17 5-10 pm ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden 2601 Central Ave NW

Music

3rd Annual A Very Jazzy Christmas with the Band of Enchantment \$0-\$25 6 pm Keller Hall Center for the Arts & Art Museum, 203 Cornell Dr.

Albuquerque Concert Band Free Holiday Concert 3-4 pm KiMo Theatre 423 Central Avenue NW

Brightsmith 4-7 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

Hayden Pedigo \$12 7-10 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Let IT Grow 6-9 pm The Groove Art Space 309 Gold Ave. SW

Sunday Service 1 Year Anniversary - Beer & Coffee Extravaganza 10 am-10 pm Sunday Service Motor Company 2701 4th Street NW

Performance

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley \$20-\$24 2 pm Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

New Mexico Young Actors Present: Stuart Little \$12-\$14 1:30-3:30 pm Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Road NW

New Mexico Young Actors Present: Stuart Little \$12-\$14 4-6 pm Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Road NW

Nicholas' Pajama Party 3-6 pm Sidewinders Bar and Grill 4200 Central Avenue NE

Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque Sunday Matinee \$25-\$35 3-5 pm Tablao Flamenco at Hotel Albuquerque 800 Rio Grande Blvd NW

The Music Man \$21-\$24 2-4 pm Rodey Theatre 1 University of New Mexico

The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley \$19-\$24 2-4 pm Vortex Theatre 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE

Monday, December 4

Comedy

Comedy Open Mic Night 7-10 pm Lizard Tail Brewing Nob Hill 3417 Central Ave. NE Suite C

Drink

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Santa Fe Brewing (Tin Can Alley) 7-9 pm Santa Fe Brewing (Tin Can Alley) 6110 Alameda Blvd NE Suite #1

Games

Brain Gang Trivia 6-8 pm Canteen Taproom 417 Tramway Blvd NE

Miscellaneous

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Bow & Arrow Brewing 7-9 pm Bow & Arrow Brewing Co. 608 McKnight Ave NW

River of Lights \$7-\$17 5-10 pm ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden 2601 Central Ave NW

Music

Hotline TNT \$13 7:30-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Performance

Open Mic: Feat. Karaoke, Original Music, Comedy, Poetry hosted by Babsy 8-10 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Tuesday, December 5

Comedy

Brain Gang Trivia 7-9 pm Lizard Tail Industrial 3351 Columbia Dr. NE

Drink

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at 505 Central Food Hall 7-9 pm 505 Central Food Hall 505 Central Ave NW

Geeks Who Drink Trivia Night at Poki Poki Cevicheria (Wyoming Blvd) 7-9 pm Poki Poki





When Leaders Resort to the Unthinkable

By Merilee Dannemann, *Triple Spaced Again*

In an episode of the original "Star Trek," the Enterprise lands on a planet where inhabitants have lined up submissively to die at the Disintegration Chamber.

The planet is at war with a rival planet, a war fought entirely by computers. After a simulated battle, some people from the losing side will present themselves for disintegration. Because the war is so bloodless, nobody is trying to end it.

They have made the unthinkable acceptable.

The episode ends with Captain Kirk destroying the computers and persuading the opponents to begin peace negotiations.

Like that planet, we have made the unthinkable acceptable. It is called a government shutdown.

Who could have conceived the United States government shutting down programs from food safety to border patrols because Congress can't agree to continue funding it?

Yet it has happened. It almost happened twice this year, in

September and November. And we're not done. Because the budget agreements are short term, we are in suspense again until January and February deadlines. That includes me, and I'm angry.

The first shutdowns, during the Reagan administration, lasted just a day or two. But during the mid-90s, a newly emboldened conservative majority in the House of Representatives rebelled against what they perceived as a bloated and intrusive government. They were probably partly right. But they took their refusal to compromise too far. And their successors have done it again repeatedly.

That first mid-90s shutdown was terrifying, partly because it was unknown. But the process has been tamed. The unthinkable has been made acceptable.

Congress has turned our national budget into a gunfight at the OK Corral and made it appear almost normal.

The trick is that it's not a real shutdown. It's only partial.

Between the Office of Management and Budget and individual agencies, work-

arounds have been found, such as identifying essential workers who are expected to work even though they won't be paid until the shutdown ends. If some low-paid employees can't pay their rent, that's their personal problem.

Every federal agency has a detailed shutdown plan, publicly posted on the White House website. I looked through 34 pages of the Department of Transportation plan, dated August 3. In the Federal Aviation Administration, part of DOT, it says 25,489

employees are necessary to protect life and property; 17,251 others will be furloughed. Air traffic controllers are among the essential ones. We will trust them to keep millions of Americans safe in the air while not getting paid. Who buys their coffee?

Those plans also identify jobs that won't be done, like safety inspections and maintenance—omissions that will cost the taxpayers later.

Members of Congress will continue to get paid. Their staffs won't.

There are 94 federal agencies operating in New Mexico,

including the military. Some will stop working. Food assistance under several programs will be jeopardized for more than a half million New Mexicans. Most funding for tribes would stop.

In the 35-day shutdown of 2018-2019, thousands of federal workers resorted to food pantries.

Reports say the hardest hit will be the lowest paid workers of federal contractors, like people who clean the buildings, who will not get back pay.

The number one job of Congress is to pass a budget that funds the government. This basic job has been ignored during the recent shenanigans by the semi-anarchist caucus on the far right.

Thanksgiving is over. Congress should immediately go back to work and enact a full-year budget.

A member who thinks we're spending too much on a particular item should argue the point in committee and then accept the majority result. Anyone who believes a shutdown is an acceptable tool should not be in Congress.

It's unthinkable.

Contact Merilee Dannemann through www.triplespacedagain.com.

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(Andy Lyman)

Ecclesial Endeavor

Father Anne looks to change Catholicism for good

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

Father Anne knows quite a bit about being excluded.

Like many others before her, she's been excommunicated from the Catholic Church, but unlike others, she hasn't lost faith. Her major infraction, according to the Church, is being a female priest. She is not only barred from taking part in religious ceremonies, but she's extra cautious to not even step foot on Church property.

Father Anne has made a name for herself by touring, advocating and campaigning for her cause, in the name of women everywhere. Her deeply-held convictions have led her down a difficult path fraught with naysayers and fundamentalists, but she continues to raise her voice in a call for reform.

When someone is excommunicated, they are no longer allowed to work or volunteer with the Church or take Sacrament. They are permanently pushed away from the Church and are no longer welcome.

"Women that get ordained are automatically excommunicated," she explains. "It's considered a crime as serious as

the sexual abuse of a child by a male priest."

The only difference is that male priests are rarely excommunicated for that sin. Instead, they are often laicized—meaning they are no longer allowed to be priests, but they are still considered members of the Church.

"[Excommunication is] the harshest punishment that the church can levy against someone who just wants to serve," says Father Anne. "It's terrible."

But Father Anne continues to practice her faith despite her excommunicated status. She says that's because she has no choice in the matter.

"My vocation is not a choice," she says. "It comes from God. I was called by God to work for change."

Father Anne's journey has been a difficult one. She says she was living a "secular life" until she had a spiritual experience at the age of 29 that changed the trajectory of her existence.

"I began to seek God," she says. "I checked out different faiths, and I ended up finding my way to the Catholic Church."

She was living in Portland, Oregon, and

managing a band when she started to study Christianity. She lived less than a mile from a Jesuit parish, where she began to learn the practices that would eventually lead her to become a priest.

"I started to learn how to pray," she recalls. "The Jesuits taught me about spirituality and how to pray. That was when I started to hear the call to priesthood."

Father Anne says she did all sorts of liturgical volunteer work and even started a young adult ministry. She went on to get her masters degree in divinity—the degree required for every Roman Catholic priest.

"And then I got to a point where I could no longer grow," she says. "The institutional church that had formed me, that helped me and my relationship with God, that helped me blossom as a Catholic—it became the obstruction to the full expression of my vocation to priesthood."

She says she was forced onto a parallel track because the institutional church obstructed her ability to live out her vocation. She became ordained through the Roman Catholic Woman Priest movement, which started in 2002, when male priests

ordained seven women as priests. The next year, several women were ordained as bishops and given the power to ordain other women priests. There are now about 260 female Roman Catholic priests that have been ordained. Each of them has been excommunicated for breaking what they consider to be an unjust Canon law.

“That law is supported by a fundamentalist interpretation of scripture,” says Father Anne. “It violates the Church’s own teachings against fundamentalism. It’s hypocrisy at its finest.”

She says the law that keeps women out of the priesthood is also based on a false narrative that aims to downplay the role of women in the Church.

“The Church claims that women have never been ordained, and that’s really a misleading statement that obscures the rich history of the participation of women,” she notes.

Father Anne believes the Canon law is steeped in the sexist interpretation that women are inferior by God’s design and are meant to be subjugated by men. “This deeply conflicts with the values of Christianity and the life of Jesus, of course,” she points out.

“Because I can be harshly critical, it can get lost that I actually do this out of a deep love for the institution,” says Father Anne. “I just want to be a parish priest. I want to be part of the institution, accepted as fully human.”

But Father Anne’s drive to reform the Church isn’t solely based in her desire to be welcomed back. She says that convincing the Church to accept female priests could have significant ramifications in all walks of life where women are treated as second-class citizens.

“The thing about the Roman Catholic Church is that it is one of the most powerful institutions in the world,” she notes. “It’s the largest provider of non-governmental healthcare and non-governmental education in the world. It has a seat at the U.N. It’s one of the largest landowners in the world. And not one woman has ever had a say at the highest levels.”

By allowing females to serve as priests, Father Anne says, the Church will set a precedent that will affect all women.

“That Roman collar on a man in the institutional Roman Catholic Church symbolizes the oldest lie in all creation: That women are inferior by biological design and deserve to be subjugated—not only in the sanctuary, but everywhere else,” she says.

Father Anne will be celebrating an online Mass on Dec. 17, at 9am on Zoom. The mass is open to anyone who wants to attend, and RSVPs can be made by sending an email to vaticanreject@gmail.com.

“Right now is a pivotal time,” says Father Anne, “because the Church is discerning the role of women, and ordination for women is on the table through the Synod on Synodality, which concludes in October 2024. The goal of the #GodSaysNow campaign is to make this issue impossible for bishops to ignore.”



(Andy Lyman)



Grape Education

CNM’s new facility offers state of the art education for wine makers

By Gwynne Ann Unruh, The Paper.

As New Mexico’s wine industry prepares for its 400-year anniversary, Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) wine production classes will prepare students to join the winery’s needed workforce.

CNM already offers an associate of applied science in beverage production and management with two distinct concentrations: One in brewing and one in distilled spirits. Next year it will start another in wine. Many students choose to do more than one certificate or more than one concentration. The brewery program was launched in 2016, the spirit program launched in January of 2023, and the wine program will launch in January of 2024.

Antonio Fernandez, a full-time

instructor with the beverage production and management program at CNM, tells *The Paper*. the new facility is already decked out with equipment normally found “in any full-size professional winery,” including crushers, wine presses and fermentation tanks as well as more scientific equipment.

“We have a very well outfitted micro lab with all of the fancy equipment for measuring everything that needs to be taken care of for producing high quality beverages for testing, alcohol pH, and microbiological testing,” Fernandez says. “We even have a machine that does comparative DNA testing to see if you have COVID or other things that we can use for testing for wild yeast or bacterial infections in the beverages.”


Cultivation of vineyards in New Mexico dates back to nearly 400 years. Today, the

Land of Enchantment’s wine industry is thriving and rapidly expanding. The 2022 National Economic Impact Study of the Wine Industry shows that New Mexico’s more than 50 wineries produced 900,000 gallons of wine, generating over \$1 billion in revenue. As the state moves towards celebrating the industry’s 400-year anniversary in 2029, a large workforce need is being created among wineries across the state.

Anticipating the need for qualified winemakers as the industry grows, New Mexico Wine approached CNM about creating a formal education program for the industry. The wineries were looking for professional development opportunities for their staff, so that they could learn, grow and be promoted from within.

CNM rose to the challenge and expanded


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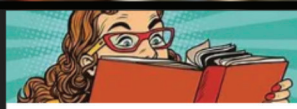
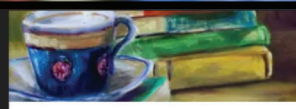


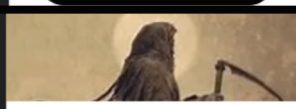


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their beverage program. With support from New Mexico Wine, they created the educational environment and curriculum needed to learn the knowledge and the skills to break into the industry, and also help those that are in the industry grow their businesses.

“Many wineries look outside New Mexico for their workforce and we wanted to make sure that New Mexicans have the opportunity and access to get the training and education that they need to fill these jobs,” Victoria Sanchez Martinez, associate dean of CNM’s beverage production and management tells *The Paper*.

In 2019 CNM broke ground on a new beverage facility expanding their existing facilities by renovating about 10,000 square feet and adding an additional 10,000.

Sanchez Martinez says as students finish the program, they can go right into the industry prepared to work. Embedded within the associate of applied science degree are a beverage management certificate for those students who are interested in managing tasting rooms and a wine technology certificate. The wine technology certificate program teaches wine production and equipment styles, maintenance, winery operations, seller operation, food, safety and workplace safety.

CNM works very closely with an advisory committee of wine industry representatives, including Executive Director of New Mexico Wine Chris Goblet and several of his board members.

“Our industry partnerships are really vital to the success of our program,” Sanchez Martinez explains. “They’re the ones who



(Courtesy CNM)

help inform some of the decisions that we make on equipment and keep us on track with trends and needs of the industry.”

Sanchez Martinez says CNM has created a real-world experience in the classroom by making sure that they’re teaching students what they need to know.

“We want to be able to retain that talent

and support the industry. If our wineries want to grow and they want to be able to hire folks and to hire them at wages that are meaningful, then we need to help them grow by providing them with that talent,” she says. “By supporting the workforce, we support the wine industry.”



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Why I support Jeff Hoehn for our future District 6 City Councilor...

As a retired teacher and architect who has been a resident of District 6 for over 40 years, I have witnessed severe decline in our area. I understand the importance of economic development, beyond just the presence of over 50% of the providers of services to the unhoused. Prior to buying my home in Parkland Hills, I lived in an apartment on South San Mateo for nine years .

Jeff Hoehn is a candidate who understands the need for economic development, housing, and business development in District 6, and how these critical measures will benefit not only housed residents like me, but the vulnerable community he has been serving throughout his professional career - children who are in homeless families and children with disabilities. He has seen the ways our city has marginalized and failed District 6, and he has an eye to the future with a vision to revitalize our neighborhoods.

His administrative experience instills confidence: he has worked as Director of Carrie Tingley Foundation and as Executive Director for Cuidando Los Niños. He has demonstrated his abilities to successfully run and financially manage organizations with large budgets, while meeting all federal, state, and local laws for businesses and nonprofits.

	✓	✗
	JEFF HOEHN	NICHOLE ROGERS
FINANCIAL AND NONPROFIT EXPERIENCE	As the Executive Director of Cuidando Los Niños, Jeff manages a \$3.5M budget and a staff of 35 and every penny is accounted for.	Nichole's Welstand Foundation was not in compliance, had no staff, and no financial records are available for review.
WORK TENURE	Jeff worked for Carrie Tingley Foundation for 5 years and has been at Cuidando for 6 years.	In addition to longtime work as a financial advisor, Nichole's tenure at most jobs is 2-3 years.
	✓	✗

This level of responsibility and accountability is crucial in managing the finances of a city as large as Albuquerque. He is also working with the development community to invest in District 6. As the city has demonstrated, they cannot fund the needed development for our communities on their own. New developments include partnership between the city AND the development community. Combining these two goals may seem at odds, but you need to understand both in order to address our district’s divergent and complex needs.

If you care about the **economic vitality of our neighborhoods, and finding solutions from a candidate who has been successful in managing a substantial budget, provided services to those who are marginalized by society and the most in need, and has worked in collaboration with the business community**, please elect Jeff Hoehn as our next District 6 City Councilor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Kalitsis
District 6 Resident

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When a Weed is Not a Weed

Regulators clarify “hemp” policies

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

Following a local dispensary’s very public fall from grace, New Mexico’s marijuana regulators clarify that an amount of THC exceeding the legal limit of “hemp” is enough to categorize a product as “cannabis,” and place it under the state’s regulatory authority—no matter how it was sourced.

Earlier this year, a judge ordered Albuquerque dispensary Sawmill Sweet Leaf to shut its doors after Cannabis Control Division (CCD) staffers found out-of-state products on the shop’s shelves and an unlicensed and unpermitted THC extraction operation in the back.

When it came to the out-of-state cannabis products, Sawmill Sweet Leaf initially told CCD staffers that they contained Delta-8 THC, an unregulated compound that’s sourced either from the marijuana plant itself or, more commonly, synthesized from CBD. According to the dispensary, the CCD should have had no regulatory authority over the products in this case.

Delta-8 THC is not the same THC you find listed on cannabis product labels in New Mexico dispensaries. Those labels are referring to Delta-9 THC, the compound usually associated with the psychotropic effects of weed and regulated by the state. Delta-8 THC only shows up in trace amounts in weed plants, and it’s said to produce a mild state of intoxication—much less inhibiting, compared to Delta-9 THC.

The compound has received little scientific scrutiny but has been outlawed in many states. New Mexico is one of the states where Delta-8 THC is legal.

Sawmill Sweet Leaf told regulators that the products it was selling that were labeled to suggest that they came from California contained only Delta-8 THC. If that were true, then the division would have had no authority over them. The CCD has confirmed to *The Paper* that it has no regulatory power over Delta-8 THC products.

But According to CCD records, the products were tested and found to contain the regulated Delta-9 THC, meaning it was illegal

to transport them across state lines and sell them to New Mexico consumers.

As for the extraction setup, regulators said the unlicensed closed-loop system presented an explosion danger that could have injured or killed employees. Sawmill Sweet Leaf also lacked the required permits from the construction industries division to operate the potentially dangerous equipment, including a liquefied petroleum gas permit and a certificate of occupancy.

For the first time ever, the CCD filed a petition for preliminary injunction against the dispensary. A judge granted the injunction and the dispensary was ordered to cease and desist all operations.

At an administrative hearing held in October, division environmental scientist Christopher Romero and division compliance officer Santiago Silva—the staffers who conducted the site visits and discovered the violations—were called as witnesses for the state.

Romero said that the dispensary claimed the out-of-state products were widely available online and were sourced from hemp, a claim that was repeated at the hearing by Sawmill Sweet Leaf’s witness, Cloud Duran (listed as a company principal, according to the Better Business Bureau), who said the products were purchased legally.

Since hemp is defined as cannabis with less than 0.3 percent Delta-9 THC, it would take an incredibly large amount of hemp to produce any useful amount of the compound.

And by the CCD’s definition, whether the products’ Delta-9 THC was sourced from hemp or not doesn’t actually matter. In an email to *The Paper*, Andrea Brown, Public Relations and Marketing Specialist for the Regulation and Licensing Department, which oversees the CCD, clarified that if a product contains more than 0.3 percent Delta-9 THC, it is no longer considered “hemp” and will be considered a cannabis product by the division.

Duran also claimed that the extraction setup had been installed by a consultant associated with Sunny Slabs extract company in Colorado. He claimed that he had been suffering from an injury and was unable to

oversee what the consultant was up to at the facility. He claimed he wasn’t aware of any manufacturing that had taken place there and said that dust found on top of the extraction equipment was proof that it wasn’t being used.

Silva, the compliance officer at the site during the inspection, testified that he’d found 20,000 grams of hydrocarbon THC wax at the site, which he said was a much larger amount of wax than what is usually found at local dispensaries. He also noted seeing labels for the Sunny Slabs brand.

Duran said the wax must have been brought onsite by the consultant or made by them while they were working at the dispensary without his oversight.

The CCD ultimately decided to revoke Sawmill Sweet Leaf’s license. The dispensary was ordered to transfer all of its legally obtained weed products and destroy the rest.

This story serves as a reminder to marijuana businesses that selling out-of-state cannabis products *will get them shut down*. Regulators say the purpose behind the law is to protect consumers—not just to rain on the parade of pot dispensaries.

New Mexico’s cannabis law was written with specific standards in mind. Importing illicit products produced in other markets means selling products that don’t necessarily meet those standards—even if they come from another regulated market.

If Sawmill Sweet Leaf is given the benefit of the doubt, and its managers really did believe they were selling Delta-8 THC products, then this story highlights why dispensaries should stick to products produced in New Mexico, where the chain of regulation is explicit and easy to follow. If it wasn’t born in the state, it can be tough for dispensaries and consumers to determine its quality and content.

Just to put it in perspective: A study published in August in the *Journal of Cannabis Research* found that 92 percent of unregulated cannabis in Canada tested positive for dangerous pesticides. Without being able to track a plant from seed-to-sale, it’s impossible to know exactly what is in a product.

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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!

Feds Say Pot Users Can't Put Away Their Guns

By Josh Lee. The Paper.

The federal battle over weed and guns is heating up as the Department of Justice (DOJ) says pot users probably won't store their weapons correctly.

According to federal law, cannabis users are not allowed to own firearms, whether they live in a state that has legalized the drug or not.

But that law has been challenged on a number of occasions over the recent years as lawmakers and cannabis advocates have argued that it turns marijuana users into second-class citizens.

In this recent case, which involves the arrest of a cannabis user who possessed a firearm, the DOJ defended the rule by claiming that cannabis users are more likely to be involved in crime to support their drug habits and engage in violence as part of their criminal career. It

claimed that regular weed use could lead to schizophrenia. It also claimed that pot users may forget to safely put away their guns.

"Users are unlikely to put their guns away before using drugs and retrieve them only after regaining lucidity," claimed the department.

Weed Worker Suffers Fatal Asthma Attack

A new federal report is highlighting a lesser known danger associated with working in the cannabis industry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a Massachusetts marijuana worker died from a weed-related asthma attack in 2022. The worker experienced progressively worsening respiratory symptoms in the months that she was employed at a cannabis processing plant

before succumbing to the deadly asthma attack while on the job that ended her life. Her medical history showed no sign of allergies or asthma.

The employee worked throughout the facility as a cycle counter—or inventory checker. Four of the ten other employees with the same job reported respiratory or skin symptoms.

The CDC says the case was the first of its kind in the U.S. but warned that multiple respiratory hazards have been identified in the marijuana cultivation and production industry. It recommends evaluating workers for signs of new-onset or worsening asthma recognizing "work in cannabis production as potentially causative."

The agency is also calling for research into prevalence and risk factors for cannabis-related occupational allergies.

Zoning Changes Proposed

An Albuquerque city councilor is looking to change the zoning rules for weed shops.

City Councilor Renee Grout is proposing changes to the city's Integrated Development Ordinance that would increase the space between dispensaries.

According to the city's current zoning rules, pot shops can't open within 600 feet of each other. Grout wants to extend that buffer to 660 feet. She also wants to make the buffer apply to microbusinesses, and remove the Conditional Use exemption.

Grout told reporters that the proposed change could help with market oversaturation. A number of New Mexico marijuana companies have called for a statewide moratorium on new cannabis licenses, citing an overabundance of operators.



“ 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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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of November 29

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): As a child, I loved to go to a meadow and whirl around in spirals until I got so dizzy, I fell. As I lay on the ground, the earth, sky, and sun reeled madly, and I was no longer just a pinpoint of awareness lodged inside my body, but was an ecstatically undulating swirl in the kaleidoscopic web of life. Now, years later, I've discovered many of us love spinning. Scientists postulate humans have a desire for the intoxicating vertigo it brings. I would never recommend you do what I did as a kid; it could be dangerous for some of you. But if it's safe and the spirit moves you, do it! Or at least imagine yourself doing it. Do you know about the Sufi Whirling Dervishes who use spinning as a meditation? Read here: tinyurl.com/JoyOfWhirling and tinyurl.com/SufiSpinning

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your power creature in the coming weeks will not be an eagle, wolf, bear, or salmon. I don't advise you to dream of being a wild horse, tiger, or crocodile. Instead, I invite you to cultivate a deep bond with the mushroom family. Why? Now is a favorable time to be like the mushrooms that keep the earth fresh. In wooded areas, they eat away dead trees and leaves, preventing larger and larger heaps of compost from piling up. They keep the soil healthy and make nutrients available for growing things. Be like those mushrooms, Taurus. Steadily and relentlessly rid your world of the defunct and decaying parts—thereby stimulating fertility.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gemini novelist Geraldine McCaughrean wrote, "Maybe courage is like memory—a muscle that needs exercise to get strong. So I decided that maybe if I started in a small way, I could gradually work my way up to being brave." That is an excellent prescription for you: the slow, incremental approach to becoming bolder and pluckier. For best results, begin practicing on mild risks and mellow adventures. Week by week, month by month, increase the audacious beauty of your schemes and the intensity of your spunk and fortitude. By mid-2024, you will be ready to launch a daring project.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian neurologist and author Oliver Sacks worked with people who had unusual neurological issues. His surprising conclusion: "Defects, disorders, and diseases can play a paradoxical role, by bringing out latent powers, developments, and evolutions that might never be seen in their absence." In not all cases, but more often than seemed reasonable, he found that disorders could be regarded as creative—"for if they destroy particular paths, particular ways of doing things, they may force unexpected growth." Your assignment is to meditate on how the events of your life might exemplify the principle Sacks marvels at: apparent limitations leading to breakthroughs and bonanzas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I am falling in love with how deeply you are falling in love with new ways of seeing and understanding yourself. My heart sings as I listen to your heart singing in response to new attractions. Keep it up, Leo! You are having an excellent influence on me. My dormant potentials and drowsy passions are stirring as I behold you waking up and coaxing out your dormant potentials and drowsy passions. Thank you, dear!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo journalist Sydney J. Harris offered advice I suggest you meditate on. He wrote, "Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable." I bring this to your attention because now is a favorable time to take action on things you have not yet done—and should do. If you put definitive plans in motion soon, you will ensure that regret won't come calling in five years. (PS: Amazingly, it's also an excellent time to dissolve regret you feel for an iffy move you made in the past.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In contrast to false stereotypes, Medieval Europeans were not dirty and unhygienic. They made soap and loved to bathe. Another bogus myth says the people of the Middle Ages believed the Earth was flat. But the truth was that most educated folks knew it was round. And it's questionable to refer to this historical period as backward, since it brought innovations like mechanical timekeepers, moveable type, accurate maps, the heavy plow, and illuminated manuscripts. In this spirit, and in accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to strip away misconceptions and celebrate actual facts in your own sphere. Be a scrupulous revealer, a conscientious and meticulous truth-teller.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio poet John Berryman said, "To grow, we must travel in the direction of our fears." Yikes! I personally wouldn't want to do that kind of growth all the time. I prefer traveling cheerfully in the direction of my hopes and dreams. But then I'm not a Scorpio. Maybe Berryman's strategy for fulfilling one's best destiny is a Scorpio superpower. What do you think? One thing I know for sure is that the coming weeks will be an excellent time to re-evaluate and reinvent your relationship with your fears. I suggest you approach the subject with a beginner's mind. Empty yourself of all your previous ideas and be open to healing new revelations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian poet Nina Cassian said, "I promise to make you so alive that the fall of dust on furniture will deafen you." I think she meant she would fully awaken the senses of her readers. She would boost our capacity for enchantment and entice us to feel interesting emotions we had never experienced. As we communed with her beautiful self-expression, we might even reconfigure our understanding of who we are and what life is about. I am pleased to tell you, Sagittarius, that even if you're not a writer, you now have an enhanced ability to perform these same services—both for yourself and for others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Sometimes I get lonesome for a storm," says Capricorn singer-songwriter Joan Baez. "A full-blown storm where everything changes." That approach has worked well for her. At age 82, she has released 30 albums and is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She has recorded songs in eight languages and has been honored by Amnesty International for her work on behalf of human rights. If you're feeling resilient—which I think you are—I recommend that you, too, get lonesome for a storm. Your life could use some rearrangement. If you're not feeling wildly bold and strong, maybe ask the gods for a mild squall.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Science educator Neil deGrasse Tyson tells us that water molecules we drink have "passed through the kidneys of Socrates, Genghis Khan, and Joan of Arc." The same prodigious truth applies to the air we breathe: It has "passed through the lungs of Napoleon, Beethoven, and Abraham Lincoln." Tyson would have also been accurate if he said we have shared water and air that has been inside the bodies of virtually every creature who has ever lived. I bring these facts to your attention, Aquarius, in the hope of inspiring you to deepen your sense of connectedness to other beings. Now is an excellent time to intensify your feelings of kinship with the web of life. Here's the practical value of doing that: You will attract more help and support into your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I am saying a prayer for you. I pray to the Fates that you will not accept lazy or careless efforts from others. You won't allow their politeness to be a cover-up for manipulativeness. I also pray that you will cultivate high expectations for yourself. You won't be an obsessive perfectionist, but will be devoted to excellence. All your actions will be infused with high integrity. You will conscientiously attend to every detail with the faith that you are planting seeds that will bloom beautifully in the future.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

- ACROSS**
- 1 Type of bonding
 - 5 Martini base
 - 10 Gravy holder
 - 14 Xerox competi-
tor, once
 - 15 Ear-related
 - 16 Writer Quindlen
 - 17 Steinbeck's
"The Winter of
Our ____"
 - 19 Organ knob
 - 20 Like some jokes
or jobs
 - 21 Military lockup
 - 23 Takes a
breather
 - 25 Social outcast
 - 26 "Thunderstruck"
band
 - 29 Beginning
 - 32 Socrates, for
one
 - 35 Non-____ (food
label)
 - 38 More than a few
 - 39 Trappings of
royalty
 - 41 Poetic
contraction
 - 42 "Spellbound"
actor
 - 44 Type of voyage
 - 45 Potpie
ingredients
 - 46 Frequently
 - 49 Himalayan nation
 - 52 Horse
maneuvering
 - 55 Make possible
 - 59 Dinghy pair
 - 60 "Rio" singers
 - 62 Court order?
 - 63 Shower feature

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- 64 Mortar ingredient
 - 65 Downhill racer
 - 66 Hero pilot played
by Hanks
 - 67 Storm centers
- DOWN**
- 1 Skirt length
 - 2 Comparable (to)
 - 3 Tax write-off
 - 4 Completely
surround
 - 5 Windmill parts
 - 6 Umpire's call
 - 7 Prepare for a
formal
 - 8 German philoso-
pher Immanuel
 - 9 Type of sax
 - 10 Cager's target
 - 11 Like draft beer
 - 12 Positive pole
 - 13 Slender candle
 - 18 Laudatory lines
 - 22 Ordained ones
 - 24 Hand-____
leather
 - 26 Church nook
 - 27 "Silkwood" star
 - 28 Shabby joint
 - 30 Royal seat
 - 31 Fortune teller
 - 33 Eyes and ears
 - 34 Hindu garment
 - 35 Singing group
 - 36 Flaky rock
 - 37 Hardwood trees
 - 40 Audience's
approval
 - 43 Military bigwig
 - 44 Bungled, with
"up"
 - 46 Signs of
spoilage
 - 47 Weak
 - 48 Short-winded
 - 50 Piggy-bank item
 - 51 Come-go link
 - 53 Says in a post-
script
 - 54 Wise one
 - 56 Donkey's call
 - 57 Diane of 2020's
"Let Him Go"
 - 58 Culminates
 - 61 Feel poorly

The Paper.

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Solution to Crossword:



¡Mota Buena!



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