

The Paper.

FREE
FEBRUARY 14, 2024
VOLUME 05 | ISSUE 07

ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Cover Art by Rachel Mills

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The Paper.




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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



Heinrich Bill Directs \$20M to Building, Construction Trades

*An apartment complex under construction near the intersection of Osuna and 4th street NW
(Roberto E. Rosales/The City Desk)*

‘PATH Act’ would train underrepresented populations for skilled jobs

By Damon Scott, City Desk

This story was originally published by City Desk ABQ.

The construction industry in New Mexico and much of the country continues to struggle to hire enough skilled workers to meet the demands of new projects — a problem that’s caught the attention of many in Congress. With that in mind, U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-NM, filed legislation last week that would help shore up such workforce shortages in the building and construction trades by expanding pre-apprenticeship programs.

The “Pre-Apprenticeships to Hardhats Act” (PATH Act) is designed to prepare trainees — high school students and underrepresented populations — for skilled jobs in roofing, carpentry, bricklaying, plumbing, painting, masonry, electrical, HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) and more. The program also covers basic literacy, math skills, and soft skills such as communication and time management.

If passed, the PATH Act will provide \$20 million in competitive grants each fiscal year for employer’s training costs, curriculum development, assessments and evaluations. The bill requires employers — whether unions, school districts, small businesses or veterans’ service organizations — to focus on hiring racial minorities, tribal members, veterans, women, and those in low-income communities.

“By expanding access to quality pre-apprenticeship

programs, the PATH Act will help connect New Mexicans to these new opportunities, address workforce shortages, build the middle class, grow our economy, and provide more New Mexicans with the careers they can build their families around,” Heinrich said in a statement.

The industry is trying to head off further workforce shortages over the next decade. Construction industry trade association Associated Builders and Contractors estimates that the sector will need 342,000 new workers in addition to normal hiring demands in 2024 alone.

“We strongly believe in the investment in pre-apprenticeship as a pathway for young people into apprenticeship and great careers,” Courtenay Eichhorst, business manager of the United Association Local 412 Plumbers and Pipefitters Union in Albuquerque and the president of New Mexico Building Trades, said in a statement. “The United States is facing a critical shortage of skilled trades people ... we must provide workforce development to achieve the most out of those investments. Pre-apprenticeship is a crucial stepping-stone ... and provides a pathway out of poverty.”

Congress has proposed various legislation in recent years, like the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, to help address workforce shortages, not only in the building and construction trades, but in sectors like computer science, health care, manufacturing, technology, telecommunications and early childhood education.

The PATH Act’s companion bill, which has bipartisan support, has been filed in the House of Representatives. If approved by both chambers of Congress, the bill will be sent to President Joe Biden for consideration.

Weak in Review: Feb. 7

Quick hits on this week’s news bits

Sandia Peak Ski Area opened for the first time in years.

Just in time to start shutting things down for spring



Albuquerque was hit with several inches of snow...

And like clockwork, everyone lost their shit until it all melted a few hours later.

A couple of roads are shut down on the Westside while the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority conducts “water pipe testing.”

Coincidentally, our dream job in high school was being a water pipe tester.

Joe Biden’s Twitter/X campaign account leaned into the conspiracy theory that a Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl win was all part of a master plan to get him reelected.

Nothing mobilizes the progressive base like sticking it to that conservative bastion known as San Francisco.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. publicly apologized for a Super Bowl ad using his uncle’s likeness.

All part of Biden’s plan

The Albuquerque Police Department launched a pre-police academy program to help prepare would-be cadets, partially due to many not meeting physical requirements.

Isn’t this how the Police Academy film franchise started?



Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday fell on the same day this year.

No, you can’t give up buying flowers for Lent, we already checked.

This week marks the end of this year’s legislative session.

If you happen to see any lobbyists wandering about Santa Fe, remember not to feed them. They’ll find their way home eventually.

Assault charges, stemming from an incident at a Popeye’s Chicken, against the owner of a local private security company were dropped after the alleged victim stopped cooperating with prosecutors.

We’ve said it all along, that cajun gravy can lead to world peace.



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Live Action: Fri Feb 23 – Sun Feb 25
3:45, 7:00PM

Bizarro Burque dark comedy
THE SOKKA SHOW: SEASON 2
Friday February 16 10:30PM

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John Sayles' 1987 western **MATEWAN**
Sat–Sun Feb 17–18 12:30PM

KZRR 94 Rock Listener's Pick!
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Friday February 16 10:30PM

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Breakin' Hearts

The 21st Annual outing of **Breakin' Hearts** dances back into town this weekend. This all-ages hip hop event hits the **National Hispanic Cultural Center (1701 Fourth St. NW)** on **Saturday Feb. 17** from noon to 10pm. It features dozens of live hip hop performers, MCs, DJs, a beatbox competition, a breaking tournament, soul/reggae/funk bands, a vendor market, a canvas art competition, a hip hop fashion show, spoken word poetry performances, food trucks and more. All-day passes (**my.nmculture.org/29963/29964**) are **\$27** general admission. And to get the flow going, the **El Rey Theatre Mezzanine (622 Central Ave. SW)** will host the Breakin' Hearts 1 vs.1 MC/DJ Scratch Battle the night before on **Friday, Feb 16**. This is a **21+** event and gets underway at **9pm. \$10** gets you in the door.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- Dance**

Friday Night Square Dancing
7 - 9 PM Fridays Albuquerque
Square Dance Center 4915
Hawkins St NE

Exhibit

Colors That Speak Words/Phase II
9am -4pm Indian Pueblo
Cultural Center 2401 12th Street
NW
- Dark Honey Karaoke 6-9 pm
Gold Street Pizza & Brew
3211 Coors Blvd SW Suite H1,
Albuquerque

Music on the Patio: Duke City
Swampcoolers 6-9 pm Canteen
Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road
Northeast

Performance

The Art of Raising Anything \$24
7:30-9:30 pm Vortex Theatre
2900 Carlisle Blvd NE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- IPCC's 43rd Annual Native American Student Art Show: Celebrating Our Pollinators 9am - 4pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Nikesha Breeze and Alex Ponca Stock Thursday-Saturday 11-4 Richard Levy Gallery 514 Central Ave SW

Music

Ballistic Batz \$10 8:30-11:30 pm Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest
- Comedy**

Jerry Seinfeld \$235-\$415 7-9 pm Kiva Auditorium 2nd St & Marquette Northeast

Pete Lee \$25-\$35 9:30-11 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Potential Problems Podcast LIVE! \$5 7:30-9 pm Dry Heat Comedy Club 521 Central Ave NW STE G

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

Dance

Crimson Ball \$30 7-10 pm
Holiday Dance Studio 5200
Eubank Blvd. NE Suite D

Noche de Familia: Fiesta de
Baile 5-7 pm National Hispanic
Cultural Center 1701 4th Street
Southwest

Noche de Familia: Fiesta del
Baile 5-7 pm National Hispanic
Cultural Center 1701 4th Street
Southwest

Film

Family Film: Selena (1997) 7-9
pm National Hispanic Cultural
Center 1701 4th Street Southwest

The Sokka Show Season 2
Premiere \$10 10-11 pm Guild
Cinema 3405 Central Ave NE

Food

Mardi Gras at the Winery \$35
6-9 pm Pasando Tiempo Winery
and Vineyards 277 Dandelion
Rd., Corrales

Winter Winederland \$85 6-8 pm
Electric Playhouse 5201 Ouray
Rd. NW

Music

'90s Country Cover Night w/
Back in the Saddle 7:30-10:30
pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park
1800 Fourth St. NW

21st Annual Breakin' Hearts \$10
9 pm-12 am National Hispanic
Culture Center 622 1701 4th St
SW

Amy Grant \$59-\$79 7:30-9:30
pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr

Augmentality [Hyperpop Night]
\$5 8 pm-12:30 am Sister 407
Central Ave. NW

Cam Kimbrough 7-9 pm
Albuquerque Distilling 5001
Central Ave NE Suite A5

Carnival Night w/ Casey Mraz
6-8 pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill
118 Tulane SE

Casa Flamenca 2024 Tablao
Season Featuring Artists From
Spain \$35 8-9:30 pm Casa
Flamenca 401 Rio Grande Blvd.
NW

Cupid Shuffle w/ DJ Soiree 8-11
pm Two Cranes Bistro + Brew
901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW 190 &
192 Suite A

Historias De Amor-Albuquerque
\$35 8-9:30 pm Casa Flamenca
401 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Latin Rock & Comedy:
Denankius+ Baby Dreamer
8-11:30 pm JUNO brewery + cafe
+ art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Nathaniel Krantz 9-11:30 pm
Isleta Resort & Casino 11000
Broadway Blvd SE

Youngsville - 'Hometown Relics'
Vinyl Release Party \$10 8:30-
11:30 pm Launchpad 618 Central
Avenue Southwest

Outdoors

New Mexico Outdoor Adventure
Show \$0-\$3 12-6 pm EXPO New
Mexico, Manuel Lujan Jr. Exhibit
Complex 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Performance

The Art of Raising Anything \$24
7:30-9:30 pm Vortex Theatre
2900 Carlisle Blvd NE

Reading

Animal Tales With the ABQ
BioPark 1-2 pm San Pedro
Library 5600 Trumbull SE

Sports

New Mexico Runners vs. El Paso
Rhinos \$13 3-5 pm Rio Rancho
Events Center 3001 Civic Center
Cir NE, Rio Rancho

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Art Openings

Opening Reception - Geohaptics:
Sensing Climate 6-8 pm 516 Arts
516 Central Ave. SW



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Class / Workshop Taxes For Creatives \$10 1-3 pm Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest	Zuni Olla Maidens 12-1 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW	Cooper Alan \$18 7-9 pm The Dirty Bourbon Dance Hall & Saloon 9800 Montgomery Blvd NE	RJ Perez 7-9 pm Marble Brewery NE Heights 9904 Montgomery Blvd NE
Comedy Pete Lee \$25-\$35 7-8:30 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004 Pete Lee \$25-\$35 9:30-11 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004 Sarah K's Playhouse \$15 7:30- 9 pm Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest The Show - Live Comedy Improv \$12 8-9 pm The Box Performance Space 114 Gold Ave SW	Markets El Vado Valentine's Market 12-5 pm El Vado 2500 Central Ave SW Music 21st Annual Breakin Hearts: All Ages Hip-Hop Event \$27 12-10 pm National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest Beer & Jazz on the Hill 5-10 pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE Black Jacket Symphony Presents Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon \$35-\$40 7-9 pm KiMo Theatre 423 Central Avenue NW Casa Flamenca 2024 Tablao Season Featuring Artists From Spain \$35 8-9:30 pm Casa Flamenca 401 Rio Grande Blvd. NW Color Green \$10 7 pm-12 am Sister 407 Central Ave. NW	Dogsmack & Shistr 6-9 pm Gold Street Pizza & Brew 3211 Coors Blvd SW Suite H1, Albuquerque EQNX Jazz Quintet 6-9 pm Enchanted Circle Brewing 6001 San Mateo Blvd NE Emo Nite Live - Live Band Karaoke 7:30-9 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW Gone Country Saturdays with DJ Dolla Bill 6-9 pm Ponderosa Brewing Company 1761 Bellamah Ave NW Historias De Amor-Albuquerque \$35 8-9:30 pm Casa Flamenca 401 Rio Grande Blvd. NW Let IT Grow \$12 7-11 pm Tortuga Gallery 901 Edith SE	Saturday Night Techno Affair 9 pm-1:30 am Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW Tornillo \$38 8 pm-12 am Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest Music - Classical New Mexico Philharmonic: Mahler Resurrection \$35-\$90 6-8 pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr Outdoors New Mexico Outdoor Adventure Show \$0-\$3 9 am-6 pm EXPO New Mexico, Manuel Lujan Jr. Exhibit Complex 300 San Pedro Dr NE Performance The Art of Raising Anything \$24 7:30-9:30 pm Vortex Theatre 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE

Celebrating Black History Month

BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY



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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Dance

Veils & Valentines Belly Dance Fundraiser 2-4 pm FUSION Theater 708 1st St. NW

Discussion / Lecture

CE5 Explore with Daphne Pearson and Joe Lonesome 1:30 pm Taylor Ranch Library 5700 Bogart NW , 87120

Games

Brain Gang Trivia 5-7 pm Lizard Tail Industrial 3351 Columbia Dr. NE

Brain Gang Trivia 2-4 pm Lizard Tail Brewing 9800 Montgomery Blvd NE STE 7

Literature/Poetry

Rosalie Rayburn Reading & Book Signing 1:30-3:30 pm Treasure House Books & Gifts 2012 S Plaza St NW A

Miscellaneous

Diamond Dash Wedding Show \$5-\$10 1-4 pm Embassy Suites Hotel and Spa 1000 Woodward Pl NE

Music

Casa Flamenca 2024 Tablao Season Featuring Artists From Spain \$35 7-8:30 pm Casa Flamenca 401 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Glenn Miller Orchestra \$25-\$65 3-5 pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr

Historias De Amor-Albuquerque \$35 7-8:30 pm Casa Flamenca 401 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Music on the Patio: Le Chat Lunatique 4-7 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

The Suffrajettes \$20 7-10:30 pm Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

Outdoors

New Mexico Outdoor Adventure Show \$0-\$3 10 am-5 pm EXPO New Mexico, Manuel Lujan Jr. Exhibit Complex 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Performance

Drag Brunch 11 am-2 pm Craft Republic - Albuquerque 4301 The Lane at 25 NE

The Art of Raising Anything \$24 2-4 pm Vortex Theatre 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE

Music

Excision: Nexus Tour \$79-\$139 7-11:30 pm Revel Entertainment Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE

Justin Adams & Mauro Durante \$25 7:30-10:30 pm FUSION | 708 708 1st St NW

Zulu \$15 7:30-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest

Performance

African Dance Class with Live Drummers \$7 6-7 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Film

Black History Month Political Education Film Series - Palestinian Solidarity 6-8 pm East Central Ministries 134 Vermont St NE

Games

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


TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Games

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

Music

Crypta \$20-\$25 8 pm-12 am Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest



© Jonathan Marquis, *Earth Eater*, 2016

GEOHAPTICS: Sensing Climate

516 ARTS presents *Geohaptics: Sensing Climate*, a group exhibition uniting poignant works that enact a somatic, empathic collaboration with the Earth. Curated by Daniela Naomi Molnar, the exhibition features Athena LaTocha, Mitsu Salmon, Beili Liu, Ella Morton, Alexis Elton, Jason Francisco, Carol Padberg, Jonathan Marquis, Heidi Gustafson, and Sarah Gerats. Learn more about the exhibition and upcoming public programming at 516arts.org.



OPENING RECEPTION:
Saturday, Feb. 17, 6-8pm

EXHIBITION DATES:
Feb. 17 – May 18, 2024

GALLERY HOURS:
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Everyone Belongs

And the youth will lead us



(Courtesy Cathryn McGill)

By Cathryn McGill, Founder and Director of the New Mexico Black Leadership Council

“I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me.” - Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
This is the history of why I am committed to empowering New Mexico’s Black youth.

My early years in New Mexico

I moved to New Mexico in 1984. At that time, I was a young woman with high hopes for what I wanted to do with my life and career. I was an artist, an activist and a young Black woman with a strong desire to find my place in the world. When I arrived here 14,461 days ago, I planned to stay for two years (730 days) and then

go on to New York City to take my place on a Broadway stage—acting and singing my way into fame and fortune. While that dream is never far away in my psyche, my life and career have become focused on finding ways to ensure that New Mexico’s Black/African American communities are recognized and celebrated.

As a young Black woman here and feeling left out myself, I began by focusing on belonging. “Everyone Belongs” has become my mantra in every conversation and every situation. As adults, we have a certain agency afforded to us—even in the face of relative invisibility and amid the prevalence of the “tricultural myth” here. Our state’s tricultural myth—which oversimplifies its cultural narrative to harmonious coexistence among Indigenous,

Latina/o/x and White communities—often leaves Black folks entirely out of the equation. It erases us from the political, social and cultural landscape. This oversight undermines the diversity and richness of New Mexico’s cultural tapestry, perpetuating a lack of representation and inclusion. I, and others like me, understand in a very real way that our work is primarily to support those in our communities who are most vulnerable and who need our guidance and support to be seen and heard despite the refusals of the dominant culture.

Who’s looking out for Black youth?

Inclusion and visibility are crucial for the healthy development of young people.

When youth see themselves reflected in all areas of community life, it enhances their sense of belonging and validation. For youth of color, especially those from Black/African American communities, visibility is critical.

In 1984, I noticed there were very few community spaces here that focused on the arts for Black students. Kids who looked like me were curiously absent within public schools and the dominant culture community arts spaces I found my way into. Shoutout to Juba Ometse Clayton, a University of New Mexico staffer and community activist who ran an arts program for Black youth, and to Debra Johns, Mary Juzang (Excel) and Roberta Ingram (Hands On Minds On) who had science and math programs in the greater Albuquerque metropolitan area. Every single one of the visionaries listed here invested their personal time, talent and treasure to ensure that Black youth had the opportunity to succeed here. What these organizations lacked in money, they made up for with devoted time and attention to the needs of Black youth in New Mexico.

The Roots Summer Leadership Academy – One approach

“And my roots are deep to keep me strong. I stand proud and I know I belong. Everybody, hear me when I say that I am Somebody. I am Somebody.” - excerpt from the Roots Academy camp song

Fast forward to 2013: The New Mexico Black History Organizing Committee (now New Mexico Black Leadership Council) started the Roots Summer Leadership Academy, an out-of-school time program for students ages eight to 16 that focused on using the arts and STEM education as tools to teach self-esteem and leadership. Many of those young people have gone on to excel in the arts and STEM fields and are showing up as leaders equipped to speak powerfully for themselves in every setting. Other programs like the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. program were also going strong. However, many of these programs have had to host bake sales and rely on donations to continue their good work. Funding remains an



(Courtesy Roots Summer Leadership Academy)

issue, but we remain committed to ensuring that our youth have a solid foundation and platform to be seen and to launch their careers. If we can help our youth to understand their history, origin and culture and to believe they belong—to be able to proudly say, “I am somebody”—our work is done. They will do the rest.

True New Mexico and Sawubona - I see you seeing me (Zulu culture)

More than a decade ago, the State of New Mexico Tourism Department started a campaign called New Mexico True. In large part, this campaign depicted images that perpetuated the exclusionary narrative of the triculture.

It is now 2024, and that campaign continues perpetuating the adverse, divisive effects of marketing the tricultural myth. After more than 14,461 days in the trenches—with more days behind me than in front of me—I wonder what more needs to be done to effect real, lasting change. We’ve learned over time that programs are not enough by themselves. We have to give young people

the mic and finally hand over the reins of changemaking for true inclusion to manifest.

During the height of the pandemic in 2020, Sachi Watase—the brilliant young director of the New Mexico Asian Family Center—and I created a program to center the voices of Black/African American, Asian American, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian youth. We flipped the phrase New Mexico True and TrueNM was born. The 2024 cohort chose the theme “Sawubona,” a Zulu term that means “I see you seeing me.” These young artists understand what demanding to be seen does for them and have their own ideas about how they will use their voices to dismantle the tricultural myth in our state. For me, this is a full-circle moment. I harken back to the first day I stepped foot on New Mexico soil, wanting to find my place in the world. While the journey to be seen continues, with the support and participation of these brilliant young people, I can see a New Mexico that’s getting closer to the embodiment of “Everyone Belongs.” And that’s good for everyone.

Cathryn McGill has been working in various projects in New Mexico since 1984 having held senior management positions at the City of Albuquerque and in several nonprofit organizations around the state of New Mexico. Cathryn is firmly committed to being a part of seeing New Mexico rise to the top of all of the “good lists” in every area of New Mexico Black Leadership Council’s impact focus.





Gov't Mule (credit - Emily Butler)

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

Gov't Mule has been combining elements of classic Southern rock, blues and jam into a cohesive voice for 30 years and is still managing to come up with fresh, new albums. Their tour will bring them through Albuquerque on Feb. 21, at Kiva Auditorium. We sat down with band frontman Warren Haynes for a talk about their latest offerings, *Peace...Like a River* and *Time of the Signs*.

The Paper.: I just listened to the newest EP, *Time of the Signs*, last night. I know the material for *Peace...Like a River* was created during the pandemic, when did you put together *Time*?

Haynes: That was all during the same time period. We just felt

like those songs had a theme and feeling of their own.

Are you gonna be playing any of those songs at the show?
We're just starting to play some of the tunes from *Time of the Signs*. Every show is different. We never know until a day or two before the show what we're actually going to play, because we like to make a point of doing three or four shows in a row without repeating anything. And we also like doing a completely different show than we did the last time we were in any particular market. So, it's hard to say at this point what we're going to play, but it'll most likely be songs from each different period of our career, so to speak.

Do you have any more material from that time still hanging around?
No, there's a few unfinished

songs left. But those are all the ones that we completed. We did a lot during that time. We did *Heavy Load Blues* in that same time period as well. We recorded a lot of material, but we managed to make most of it available.

Peace has a lot of guest spots on it. Was it weird bringing other people into the process with you?
No, you know, with the exception of [singer-songwriter] Celisse—who I've only known two or three years now—everybody else was folks that I've worked with in the past or we've worked with in the past. Old friends.

Once we got into the process, it was like: "Oh, it would be great to have Ivan [Neville] and Ruthie [Foster] on this. It would be great to have Gibbons on that. It would be really cool to have Billy Bob [Thorton] do the spoken word thing for "The River Only Flows One Way." Celisse and I had just

worked together at a benefit, and I had become a fan of her music, and I thought it would be really cool to get her involved.

So what's on the horizon?
We're going to tour up until sometime in March. At that point, we'll have been on the road on-and-off for about a year. So I think Gov't Mule is going to take some well deserved time off.

This is our 30th anniversary, so we're going to be scouring the vaults to see what unreleased music we can make available in honor of that.

Gov't Mule
Feb. 21 7:30PM
Kiva Auditorium
401 2nd Street NW
Tickets: \$25-\$59

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Giving ‘em Some-wings to Taco-bout

Old Town has a new spot looking to build culinary bridges



Carnitas tacos from Yapopup (Andy Lyman)

By Andy Lyman, The Paper.

Rainbird Taylor had an epiphany in his early 20s. After spending most of his life living on the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo and helping to prepare food for celebrations, he realized peeling 50 pounds of potatoes and preparing pork was a lot like working in a commercial kitchen. Now, almost a decade later, Taylor is bringing his years worth of experience in culinary fusion to Old Town.

After getting furloughed from an upscale kitchen when COVID reared its head in 2020, Taylor went on to open his Indigenous soul food eatery Yapopup in a stall of Chomp, a Santa Fe food hall. Yapopup is a portmanteau of sorts that Taylor came up with while he was traveling the country with the James Beard Award Legacy Network. The first part of the name—Yapop—honors a revolutionary figure from Ohkay Owingeh, but the name also includes the term “pop-up,” which references his time traveling with the legacy network.

“It’s honoring Po’pay, the leader of the Pueblo Revolt, and it’s also just honoring the fact that what we were doing at the time,” he says.

Now his limited menu of wings and tacos infused with flavors from Ohkay Owingeh can be found in Tiny Grocer ABQ, just around the corner from the Old Town Plaza. The small menu is deliberate—he wants to show customers some consistency before expanding—but he tells *The Paper*, he’s excited about a larger kitchen and more room for customers.

“I went from a 12’ by 12’ space to now I have a 2,000 plus square foot restaurant and that’s not including the patio,” he says. “The seating that I have here, at this current spot, is like 125 people.”

Taylor has grand plans to expand his operation, which includes fine dining at some point. But first, he says, he’s looking to bridge a culinary gap.

“I have a ton of friends who live on the reservation, and they’re just always there, they never want to leave. But then they’re like, ‘Oh, cool, we have a friend’s restaurant we can go try out,’” Taylor says.

On the flip side, he adds, people who “have never been to the rez and tried to rez food” can get an introduction through familiar fares such as tacos and hot wings.

Everything on his Old Town menu includes a nod to those

days of preparing food for celebrations.

“We have dances and feed everybody, and that’s basically like running a restaurant,” says. “So, it was just kind of an eye opener, realizing that I had been around cooking like this my entire life.”

Taylor found his fusion inspiration after a trip to New York City. He says he had \$600 in his pocket and was out to find new flavors. His Chimayo Korean wings were one result of his East Coast flavor odyssey.

“I tried out so many different types of foods, and one of the best things I tried was a Korean sauce,” he says.

When Taylor got home he learned from a friend how to make the sauce that tickled his taste buds and started playing around with substitutions. The result was a crispy wing, with a familiar sticky, sweet and nutty sauce, but with an even more familiar kick.

“I substitute half the Korean chili flakes for New Mexico red chile powder,” he says.

Those strategic substitutions that he says connect different culinary worlds can be found up and down his menu.

“Everything is soul food, but it’s indigenized,” he says. “So, the lemon pepper wings, we added

green chile and then we made ourselves a cactus blue cheese.”

Thanks to a hungry, yet generous editor, *The Paper*, recently swung by Yapopup for lunch. The small menu makes ordering easy and justifies ordering one of everything. Food in a newsroom always goes fast, but the 18 wings and nine tacos disappeared faster than an Oxford comma. While all of the offerings were delicious, one of the stand out stars was the carne asada tacos, which had familiar spicy notes, but with a much smokier flavor. Both the lemon pepper and Korean wings tied for a close second, with both offering their own unique flavors.

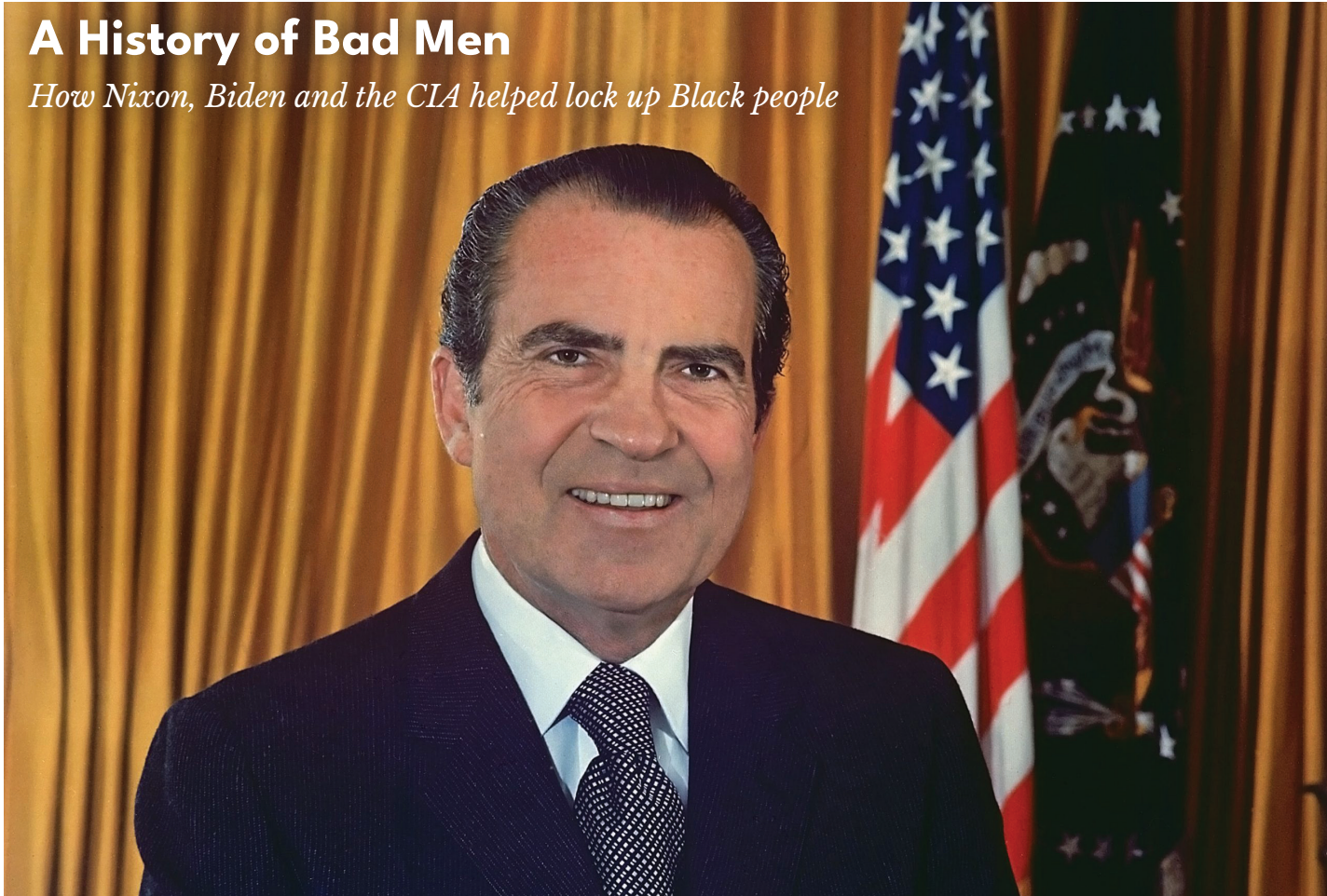
Taylor says he and his fiancé and co-owner Nessa Belin, along with a line cook, are all still living in Española and commuting about 200 miles, round trip, each day.

“We don’t really have a plan B,” he says. “This is our plan right here.”

Yapopup: Indigenous Soul Food
1919 Old Town Road NW #6
12 pm-6 pm, Wednesday -Thursday

A History of Bad Men

How Nixon, Biden and the CIA helped lock up Black people



(White House Photo Office at Wikimedia Commons)

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

On the first day of February, the beginning of Black History Month, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made the brazen decision to honor former President Richard Nixon with a commemorative statement about his efforts to lead the War on Some Drugs.

In a post on X, the agency showed an image of Nixon being handed a “certificate of special honor” in recognition of “the outstanding loyalty and contribution to support narcotic law enforcement.” Needless to say, the post rubbed some people the wrong way, considering the many social crimes that have been perpetrated against Black people in the name of fighting drug use.

The War on Some Drugs has disproportionately targeted and demonized Black people. That fact cannot be argued. But most Americans are still unaware that the Drug War was actually *created* as a way to silence dissenting Black voices in the early ’70s.

Let’s take a trip through time, dear reader. The year was 1970 and the Nixon regime was in full swing. The only problem: Antiwar protesters and Black activists kept interrupting the peaceful status quo with demonstrations and political movements.

In a 1994 *Harpers* interview, John Ehrlichman, Nixon’s domestic policy adviser and fellow Watergate co-conspirator, told journalist Dan Baum that the Controlled Substances Act was created in response to political dissent in the country.

“The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: The antiwar left and Black people,” said Ehrlichman. “We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or Black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and Blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. ... Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did.”

The ploy worked. Too well, in fact. Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) that year, criminalizing the use of marijuana, heroin, LSD, psilocybin and a host of other drugs. Cops started arresting Black people and hippies, and the Peace Movement was cut off at the knees. The Nixon administration said it was looking to battle the dangers of drugs. It said the CSA was implemented to protect public health. Never was it mentioned that the new law was a political shortcut to silence angry constituents that were causing trouble for the administration.

And that one politically-

motivated move has fostered a cascade of negative consequences that the U.S. is still struggling to overcome in the 21st century—over half a century later. Not only did it help to incarcerate huge swaths of the population, it has also cost taxpayers trillions in spending, according to the Center For American Progress. The War On Some Drugs even spread to other nations, turning Nixon’s little shortcut into a decades-long problem for the global community.

Talk about short-sightedness. Nixon really did believe that drugs were dangerous though. One of the most curious aspects of the former president’s personality was his well-known tendency toward paranoia. Nixon secretly recorded everything that happened in the oval office during his presidency (readers will find a cache of racist and homophobic diatribes in the thousands of hours of available recordings). In a number of those recordings, the president claimed that the “drug problem” was a Jewish–Communist conspiracy to destroy the country. So he probably thought the CSA would kill two birds with one stone.

The move was absolutely detrimental to the Black community, but it wasn’t the final blow by a long shot.

Twenty years later, in the 1990s, arrests of Black Americans for violence and property crimes dropped dramatically, but overall

incarceration rates were rising. Why, you ask? Because arrests of Black men for drug-related crimes rose during that time.

According to Human Rights Watch, Black inmates currently make up 80 to 90 percent of people sent to state prisons for drug offenses and Black men are sent to prison for drugs at 13 times the rate of white men. The ACLU says that Black people are 3.64 times more likely than white people to be arrested for marijuana possession, even though Black and white men consume cannabis at roughly the same rate in the U.S. Black people are also more likely to be stopped and searched.

The roots of this issue go all the way back to the dawn of the CSA and Nixon’s struggles with the Black community, but it was kicked into high gear in 1994 when President Joe Biden (who was a senator at the time) pushed the so-called Crime Bill through Congress. It was eventually signed by President Bill Clinton. The law provided billions in grants to fund prison expansions.

The Crime Bill used mandatory minimum sentencing disparities between crack and cocaine set in law by the 1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act to target Black men as grists for the prison mill. There isn’t a huge chemical difference between crack and cocaine, but between 1986 and the signing of the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act, five grams of crack carried the same sentence as 500 grams of coke.

It’s too hefty a topic to go into here, but crack was essentially the product of cocaine market glut following a CIA scheme to funnel the drug into the U.S. from South America so the profits from illegal cocaine sales could be used to fund a secret proxy war.

With all the cocaine floating around, demand dropped and dealers were losing money. Turning cocaine into crack (baking soda and coke are added to water and heated to produce crystals) allowed the dealers to spread out their product and get more profits.

As a result, highly-addictive crack, at cheaper prices than cocaine, flooded Black communities in the 1980s. By the time the Crime Bill was signed, those communities became the perfect feeding grounds for hungry prisons.

The rest is history—a gut-wrenching history that has yet to be rectified.



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

Biden Oversells Pardons

By Josh Lee, The Paper

President Joe Biden recently claimed that his administration has released federal marijuana prisoners and expunged cannabis records. The only problem is that it never happened.

“A promise made and a promise kept,” said Biden during a South Carolina campaign event. “I keep my promises. When I said no one—no one—should be in prison for merely possessing marijuana or using it, and their records should be expunged.”

The president is referring to a mass pardon that he announced in 2022 for federal-level simple possession of marijuana. The White House said it would affect thousands of Americans.

But the pardon never actually freed any prisoners. All arrests for simple marijuana possession are made at the

state level. Federal marijuana prisoners are there for felony-level crimes.

As for his claim about expungements, thousands have reportedly received the pardon and were given a certificate from the Department of Justice (DOJ) that reportedly says: “The pardon means that you’re forgiven, but you still have a criminal record.”

The president has repeatedly made similar false claims about the nature of the pardons in the past.

Cannabis Bill Passes in NM Senate

The New Mexico Senate has passed a bill that would make a number of changes to the state’s adult-use cannabis laws.

Last week, state senators passed the bill in a 25-15 vote along party lines—Democrats favored the bill while Republicans opposed it.

The changes include giving the Cannabis Control Division

authority to seize suspicious products, freeing up restrictions on juvenile cannabis charges, making it easier for legacy medical cannabis businesses to convert to corporations and fixing some language.

An amendment that will allow dispensaries to continue operating drive thru windows was passed hours before the bill was passed as a whole.

The bill will now move to the House Judiciary Committee.

Federal Report Considers Bank Protections

Last week, the Congressional Researcher Service released a report that found cannabis businesses’ lack of banking access makes them targets for violent crime.

The report covered policy issues for the Federal Reserve and highlighted issues with cannabis banking.

Under federal anti-laundering laws, banks and

financial institutions are prohibited from working with known criminal organizations. Since weed is still illegal at the federal level, these laws bar banks from accepting cannabis businesses as clients.

The service found that state-legal cannabis businesses are forced to operate on a cash-only basis, making them perfect targets for robbers. The report also found that the ban on cannabis banking causes weed businesses to face higher borrowing costs than businesses in other sectors.

The researchers said the Federal Reserve will need to reconsider policy issues like whether banking services should be offered to state-legal businesses that are violating federal law, whether weed businesses have been harmed by federal barriers to banking access and whether banks should be protected from marijuana laws when other sectors aren’t.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of February 14

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Some stories don't have a distinct and orderly beginning, middle, and end. At any one point, it may be hard to know where you are. Other tales have a clear beginning, middle, and end, but the parts occur out of order; maybe the middle happens first, then the end, followed by the beginning. Every other variation is possible, too. And then there's the fact that the beginning of a new story is implied at the end of many stories, even stories with fuzzy plots and ambiguous endings. Keep these ruminations in mind during the coming weeks, Aries. You will be in a phase when it's essential to know what story you are living in and where you are located in the plot's unfoldment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): As I meditate on your destiny in the near future, I sense you will summon extra courage, perhaps even fearless and heroic energy. I wonder if you will save a drowning person, or rescue a child from a burning building, or administer successful CPR to a stranger who has collapsed on the street. Although I suspect your adventures will be less dramatic than those, they may still be epic. Maybe you will audaciously expose corruption and deceit, or persuade a friend to not commit self-harm, or speak bold thoughts you haven't had the daring to utter before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Lately, you have been learning more than you thought possible. You have surpassed and transcended previous limits in your understanding of how the world works. Congratulations! I believe the numerous awakenings stem from your willingness to wander freely into the edgy frontier—and then stay there to gather in all the surprising discoveries and revelations flowing your way. I will love it if you continue your pilgrimage out there beyond the borders for a while longer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): As I study the astrological omens for the coming weeks, I suspect you will feel more at home in a situation that has previously felt unnerving or alien. Or you will expedite the arrival of the future by connecting more deeply with your roots. Or you will cultivate more peace and serenity by exploring exotic places. To be honest, though, the planetary configurations are half-mystifying me; I'm offering my best guesses. You may assemble a strong foundation for an experimental fantasy. Or perhaps you will engage in imaginary travel, enabling you to wander widely without leaving your sanctuary. Or all of the above.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Of your hundreds of wishes and yearnings, Leo, which is the highest on your priority list? And which are the next two? What are the sweet, rich, inspiring experiences you want more than anything else in life? I invite you to compile a tally of your top three longings. Write them on a piece of paper. Draw or paste an evocative symbol next to each one. Then place this holy document in a prominent spot that you will see regularly. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you are in a phase when focusing and intensifying your intentions will bring big rewards.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Actor and travel writer Andrew McCarthy hiked across Spain along the famous pilgrimage route, Camino de Santiago. On the way, he felt so brave and strong that at one point he paradoxically had a sobbing breakdown. He realized how fear had always dominated his life. With this chronic agitation absent for the first time ever, he felt free to be his genuine self. "I started to feel more comfortable in the world and consequently in my own skin," he testified, concluding, "I think travel obliterates fear." I recommend applying his prescription to yourself in the coming months, Virgo—in whatever ways your intuition tells you are right. Cosmic forces will be aligned with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the natural world, there are four partnership styles. In the parasitic variety, one living thing damages another while exploiting it. In the

commensal mode, there is exploitation by one partner, but no harm occurs. In the epizoic model, one creature serves as a vehicle for the other but gets nothing in return. The fourth kind of partnership is symbiotic. It's beneficial to both parties. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Libra, because the coming weeks will be an excellent time to take an inventory of your alliances and affiliations—and begin to de-emphasize, even phase out, all but the symbiotic ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio author Dan Savage says, "I wish I could let myself eat and eat and eat." He imagines what it would be like if he didn't "have to monitor the foods I put in my mouth or go to the gym anymore." He feels envious of those who have no inhibitions about being gluttonous. In alignment with astrological aspects, I authorize Savage and all Scorpions to temporarily set aside such inhibitions. Take a brief break. Experiment with what it feels like to free yourself to ingest big helpings of food and drink—as well as metaphorical kinds of nourishment like love and sex and sensations and entertainment. Just for now, allow yourself to play around with voraciousness. You may be surprised at the deeper liberations it triggers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Dear Wise Gambler: You rank high in your spacious intelligence, intuitive logic, and robust fantasy life. There's only one factor that may diminish your ability to discern the difference between wise and unwise gambles. That's your tendency to get so excited by big, expansive ideas that you neglect to account for messy, inconvenient details. And it's especially important not to dismiss or underplay those details in the coming weeks. If you include them in your assessments, you will indeed be the shrewdest of wise gamblers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn golfer Tiger Woods is one of the all-time greats. He holds numerous records and has won scores of tournaments. On 20 occasions, he has accomplished the most difficult feat: hitting a hole-in-one. But the weird fact is that there were two decades (1998–2018) between his 19th and 20th holes-in-one. I suspect your own fallow time came in 2023, Capricorn. By now, you should be back in the hole-in-one groove, metaphorically speaking. And the coming months may bring a series of such crowning strokes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Poet Anna Akhmatova (1889–1966) lived till age 76, but her destiny was a rough ride. Her native country, the authoritarian Soviet Union, censored her work and imprisoned her friends and family. In one of her poems, she wrote, "If I can't have love, if I can't find peace, give me a bitter glory." She got the latter wish. She came close to winning a Nobel Prize and is now renowned as a great poet and heroic symbol of principled resistance to tyranny. Dear Aquarius, I predict that your life in the coming months will be very different from Akhmatova's. I expect you will enjoy more peace and love than you've had in a long time. Glory will stream your way, too, but it will be graceful, never bitter. The effects will be heightened if you express principled resistance to tyranny.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Piscean perfumer Sophia Grojsman says, "Our lives are quiet. We like to be disturbed by delight." To that end, she has created over 30 best-selling fragrances, including Eternity Purple Orchid, Désir Coulant (Flowing Desire), Spellbound, Volupté (Pleasure), and Jelisaveta ("God is abundance"). I bring this up, Pisces, because I believe it's now essential for you to be disturbed by delight—as well as to disturb others with delight. Please do what's necessary to become a potent magnet for marvelous interruptions, sublime interventions, and blissful intrusions. And make yourself into a provider of those healing subversions, too.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Goya's "Duch-ess of ____"
- 5 Tumbler, e.g.
- 10 Track figures
- 14 Lender's protection
- 15 Renegade
- 16 Sign of secrecy
- 17 All-powerful
- 19 Salinger girl
- 20 Bringing up the rear
- 21 Obtained
- 23 Knotted neckwear
- 25 Except that
- 26 Part of HMO
- 29 Reach, as a goal
- 31 World Series mo.
- 32 Radio and TV, e.g.
- 34 Hero's award
- 37 Resistance unit
- 38 Dye ingredient
- 40 Tavern offering
- 41 Meat and pota-toes, e.g.
- 43 Amber or umber
- 44 Hound
- 45 Volleyball position
- 47 Linux software package, infor-mally
- 49 Habanero, for one
- 51 Pasta topper
- 53 Get what's coming?
- 55 Keyboard in a Bach title

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- 59 Tied up
- 60 Mosquito repel-ling candle
- 62 Parachute pull
- 63 They may buckle
- 64 Lunar trench
- 65 Shirley Temple film, "Bright ____"
- 66 Perception
- 67 Slip (into)

DOWN

- 1 Skin cream ingredient
- 2 Portray artistic-ally
- 3 Fudge, as a rule
- 4 Kind of cracker
- 5 Old coin

- 7 Get on in years
- 8 Phoenix team
- 9 Embark, as on a journey
- 10 Rest on top of
- 11 Progeny
- 12 March of ____
- 13 Mushers' vehicles
- 18 USPS manager
- 22 Part of HUAC
- 24 Clothes pros
- 26 Horseshoe locale
- 27 Sound effect
- 28 It covers the earth
- 30 Lobster part
- 33 Chop up

- 35 Banned apple spray
- 36 Danish toy company
- 39 Lumpy
- 42 Relies (upon)
- 46 Magic show makeup
- 48 Like arctic winters
- 49 Chessman
- 50 Diplomatic messenger
- 52 "Green ____"
- 54 Rake part
- 56 Hip bones
- 57 Building additions
- 58 Breathing rattle

The Paper.

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Solution to Crossword:



"I'M SO GRATEFUL I NEVER STOPPED SEARCHING!"

Bernalillo resident Maria R had been experiencing the debilitating side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy.

"I was beginning to have other health issues due to the lack of sleep. I needed help just standing up and when I was standing I was afraid I would fall because I had no feeling in my feet. My life felt like a nightmare."

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

"I was so desperate to the point of giving up" exclaimed Maria R. from Bernalillo. "I was in so much discomfort due to the numbness, tingling, and burning on the back of both legs and in my feet."

Maria R had been diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy and had seen a neurologist with no relief. To complicate things further, Maria had been diagnosed with two fractured discs in her back that were causing her severe pain. "I was no longer able to do surgery and all other treatments didn't work. I was starting to feel hopeless."

Maria is one of 3 million people in the United States suffering from peripheral neuropathy, a degenerative disease of the peripheral nervous system. "Those with peripheral neuropathy experience numbness, tingling, burning and even severe cramping due to the dying off of the peripheral nerves," explains Dr. Andrea Brogdon of Albuquerque Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine. "These nerves continue to die off until they have completely expired leaving sufferers with numbness and debilitating balance issues. Patients come to see me after having seen many other doctors with no relief. They have been told that there is nothing they can do or that they just have to live with it."

"I was beginning to have other health issues due to the lack of sleep. I needed help just standing up and when I was standing I was afraid I would fall because I had no feeling in my feet. My life felt like a nightmare," says Maria.

"I learned about Dr. Andrea Brogdon from an article I read and learned that she helped others like me, experiencing the same symptoms.

I made an appointment hoping she was going to be able to help me. It was my last resort."

Dr. Andrea Brogdon has helped thousands of patients get their life back after being diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy and living with the debilitating effects of the disease. How does she get such amazing results? "Acupuncture has been used for centuries to improve circulation but the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance BioTherapy™." By using modern technological advancements alongside the time tested science of acupuncture, Dr. Brogdon is able to reverse the effects of this degenerative disease, regardless of its origin.

"Early detection is key when it comes to improving your chances of a full recovery," explains Dr. Brogdon. Which is why she starts every patient with an initial consultation during which a sensory exam is performed. "This helps to determine just how much nerve damage has occurred," tells the doctor. "This is important because if the patient has suffered more than 95% sensory loss there is very little I can do at that point."

"After several treatments, I experienced tremendous relief. Life is good! I have seen a huge improvement in my walking, I sleep better, even my mood is better! I am so grateful I never stopped searching!"
exclaims Maria.

If you or a loved one are living a life of suffering due to peripheral neuropathy and your pain has prevented you from doing the things you love with the people you love, it's time to call Dr. Brogdon and the staff at AAIM.

Call (505) 355-1984 today to schedule an initial consultation or visit AAIM-ABQ.com to read more incredible success stories.



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