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ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

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**STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS:**

**Admin:**  
**Pat Davis**  
Owner & Publisher  
pat@abq.news

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

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

**Sales:**  
**John Hankinson**  
Account Executive  
johnh@abq.news  
**Muhammed Abdel-Hack**  
Account Executive  
muhammed@abq.news

**Production:**  
**Rachel Mills**  
Art Director

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ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



## Long-Vacant Buildings Irk Officials, Business Owners

Is a “vacancy tax” one solution?



By Damon Scott, City Desk

**E**ditor’s note: This is the second installment in a series titled *Downtown Albuquerque Reboot*, about Downtown Albuquerque, its challenges and the plans to address them. The first installment, “Why does Downtown matter,” is available at [citydesk.org](http://citydesk.org).

Downtown Albuquerque features some big-name property owners: the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are two, as both host the majority of their operations there. Jim Long, founder and CEO of Heritage Hotels & Resorts, owns the two tallest Downtown buildings—the Albuquerque Plaza office tower and the Clyde Hotel. There is Albuquerque’s Garcia family—of the Garcia Honda car dealership enterprise—who own many Downtown properties and have projects either completed or in the works. Douglas Peterson, president of Peterson Properties and owner of the historic Simms Building, is highly invested in the corridor.

But if you take a stroll through the heart of Downtown you’re likely to come across properties owned by those less familiar—ones that represent some of the more attractive and less attractive the corridor currently has on offer.

Some of the more attractive serve as bookends to the key stretch along Central Avenue from the railroad tracks to Eighth Street—known as the center of the heart. At the east end, there’s InnovateABQ owned by the University of New Mexico, and the One Central ABQ development owned by three partners. At the west end is an under construction boutique hotel, owned by Paligroup Management, and a highly anticipated second location of the locally-owned Ex Novo Brewery. Your stroll in between the bookends feature more of the best, too, like the 505 Central Food Hall owned by architect Mark Baker, the city-owned KiMo Theatre, and the oft-praised,

locally-owned restaurant Oni.

Along the way, though, you’ll also pass an alarming number of shuttered businesses and vacant buildings—some that have been closed and empty for many years. Such sites are known to attract unseemly behavior and crime, from vandalism and loitering to urination and defecation.

“The greatest problem Downtown has is the vacant buildings,” said Leba Freed, who owns two Downtown properties. “It thwarts business. People don’t want to pass by vacant buildings. When a building is vacant, it blights the whole Downtown.”

Freed is president of the Wheels Museum at the historic Albuquerque Rail Yards located just south of Downtown, which she is credited with helping to preserve. Her family has had a presence in the Downtown core for decades as the owners of 415 Central Ave. NW—known as the Freed Building—located next to the KiMo Theatre. Freed & Co. businesses operated there from the early 1970s to the early 1990s. It’s currently leased by the Jam Spot—an all ages event space. Two of Downtown’s long vacant buildings are its neighbors to the east—the former *Weekly Alibi* building, which included a one-time restaurant.

### ‘Do something with them’

When discussing Downtown’s vacant buildings, Freed and others often mention two that are prominent and particularly frustrating—410 Central Ave. SW (known as the “Gizmo Building”) and its neighbor, the historic Kress Building at 414 through 416 Central Ave. SW.

The Gizmo Building is owned by the Church of Scientology, while former Albuquerque business woman and Downtown fixture Anna Muller, owned the Kress Building. Muller died in late 2020 at 77 and the Kress building

## Weak in Review: March 6

Quick hits on this week’s news bits

New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez joined a lawsuit trying to block a Kroger-Albertsons merger, saying it would result in higher prices and lower wages.

Plus, it doesn’t roll off the tongue like Skaggs Alpha Beta or Jewel-Osco.

City officials issued a health alert due to blowing dust.

It spells misery for almost everyone except weed smokers looking for an excuse for red eyes.



Another officer implicated in the APD DWI scandal resigned just ahead of his interview with Internal Affairs.

We call that pulling a Nixon.

Hundreds of people were stranded in their cars on Donner Pass, in California.

Maybe people should stop taking that route?

Almost two dozen people have filed lawsuits against the City of Albuquerque over asbestos exposure at the Gateway Center.

More like as-worst-os.

Everyone got an extra day in February, thanks to Leap Day.

This happens because it actually takes the earth a little more than 365 days to orbit the sun. Just kidding, time is a flat circle.



This week also marks the start of daylight saving time.

Spring forward and change your analog clocks, boomers.

New Mexico legislators approved a pension increase for themselves.

Maybe this will encourage some of them to quit.

An APD spokesman attributed a rise in shoplifting to more businesses reporting them.

And our rise in typos is because people started telling us about them.

The parents of an injured Volcano Vista High School student are suing APS after a teacher allegedly encouraged a class to sword fight one another.

Whatever happened to Heads Up, Seven Up?



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

was subsequently left to her sister.

The Gizmo Building was the home of JC Penney department store from 1915 to 1986—a popular Downtown amenity that residents still reminisce about. While no one expects such a store to return, the building has the potential for a mixed-use project. The aforementioned Baker completed such a project at 505 Central Ave. NW in the building once occupied by Sears: his food hall is on the bottom floor with residential lofts on the two top floors.

Colliers International commercial broker Terrie Hertweck, an Albuquerque real estate veteran representing the owners, said the Gizmo Building is a “great property that has attracted interest,” but wouldn’t disclose if any deals were in the process of being inked.

Meanwhile, mixed-use ideas for the Kress Building have been bandied about over the years: a roller skating rink, a speakeasy, lofts, a pop-up performance space and a recording studio are a few. Nevertheless, patience has worn thin among those focused on putting Downtown on more solid footing after navigating rough pandemic seas.

“Unoccupied buildings are a blight on our success,” Freed said. “Any incidents where there is a vacancy for a long time, the government should try and get it leased and open to the public.”

Freed said she’s leased her buildings at low rates to keep businesses open and avoid prolonged vacancies. She also owns the building Juno Brewery occupies at 1501 1st Street NW in the Wells Park neighborhood just north of the Downtown core.

“Maybe there are opportunities to do art or photography shows and not have them be vacant,” Freed said. “Open these buildings up. Do something with them.”

Freed, Albuquerque City Councilor Joaquín Baca, and others say they’d also like to see the facades of vacant properties more well maintained—whether with fresh paint or other exterior repairs and updates. Baca, whose District 2 encompasses Downtown, said he will soon host a series of meetings with Downtown residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to come up with ways to beautify and maintain the key area between First and Eighth streets.



*Pictured are vacant building in Downtown Albuquerque along Central Avenue. (Photo by Roberto E. Rosales/The City Desk)*

### No simple solution

The Bernalillo County assessor said he’s aware of the problem and has a strategy he thinks will help.

Bernalillo County Assessor Damian Lara, who took office in 2023, said one way to motivate owners of long vacant properties is to correctly assess them. While such a task for an assessor’s office might seem obvious, he said it’s one that hasn’t always been done properly.

The effort has been called a “vacancy tax,” a term Lara doesn’t use.

“We are ensuring that non-residential property—which includes vacant property, industrial property, commercial property, retail property, is equitably assessed so that everybody pays their fair share,” he said. “That includes buildings that are abandoned or that the city or county have identified as non-habitable or substandard.”

Lara said sometimes properties like the Gizmo Building aren’t on substandard lists, because owners know to do “just enough not to become a nuisance property.” He said owners of vacant properties have historically received a “very low” valuation because it’s boarded up or the roof is leaking.

“Is it possible to do something else with that property other than to have it vacant? We will value it at the highest and best use, which is what our industry standards require for an appraisal,” Lara said. “The fact that it hasn’t been done correctly before is a different story.”

Lara said his focus on vacant properties is an economic

development tool and incentive.

“There is no magic bullet, but we are mandated by state law to value property at its current and correct valuation,” he said. “It has not been done with vacant properties, which is not fair or equitable to the business owners who are utilizing their property, who are generating income, who are investing in renovations and remodeling and upkeep and maintenance, to have another property owner across the street or next door who is not doing any of those things.”

### Why sit on it?

Lara said there are different reasons an owner—including some who may live out of state and have sizable real estate portfolios—might let a vacant property stay empty. It could be a form of land banking (holding it for future use without specific plans), speculation (anticipating profits based on predicting changes in local market conditions rather than physical improvements or rents) or for a tax write off, he said.

“If I make a lot of money in real estate in California and in New York, I want to offset those profits with some losses somewhere,” Lara said. “They say: ‘We’re better off in a state that has me under-assessed and has a low property tax so I can write off all of these losses and still pay almost nothing in taxes.’”

New Mexico has one of the lowest property tax rates in the country.

“We’re going to value vacant properties at its highest and best use, which is going to be a much higher valuation,” Lara

said. “It’s what the industry standard requires, not to just simply say that the property is valued as it stands currently—vacant, boarded up, dilapidated, a nuisance property.”

While the assessor’s office doesn’t set property tax rates—called the mill rate—Lara said if a vacant property’s value is doubled, its taxes would likely double, too.

### Assistance for owners

Lara added that his office is also open to working with owners who are maintaining and updating their vacant property in good faith.

“But they need to come in and say, ‘Here’s my estimate; here’s my quotes from my general contractor or my subcontractor; and we’ll take a look at that,’ he said. “We will revalue that property for the year and see what repairs, remodeling, restorations are being done to ensure that it is being put to the highest and best use. But we’re not going to let that go on year after year. We’ve got to see some progress.”

Other options officials use to help address vacant properties are city industrial revenue bonds and metropolitan redevelopment bonds.

Revitalization specialist Rhea Serna wrote a vacant building ordinance white paper in 2019 on behalf of New Mexico MainStreet, a division of the New Mexico Economic Development Department. She thinks one of the most effective tools available to property owners and the city are incentives through the Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency (MRA).

“I really like what we can do in New Mexico through the MRAs—it’s one of the best opportunities for private property owners to get some kind of assistance,” Serna said. “Especially for the property owners who are low income.”

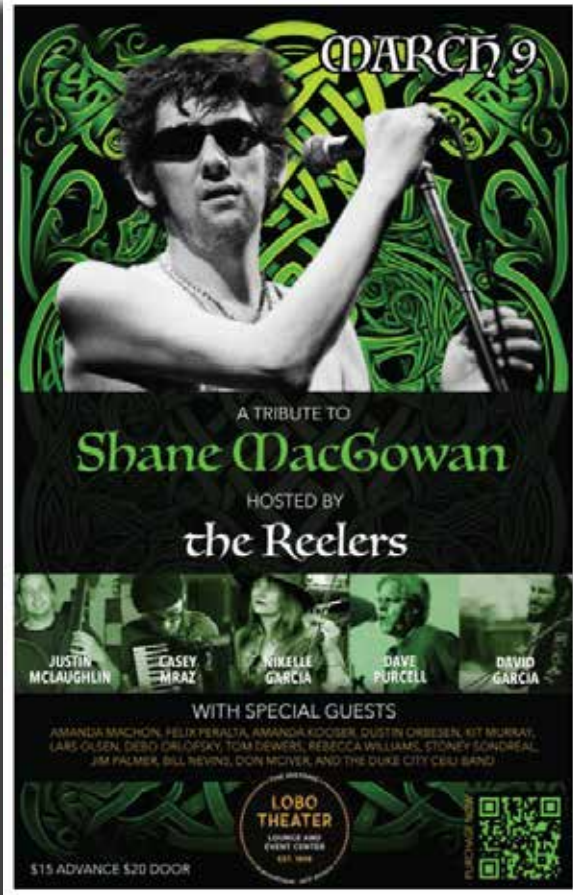
Serna said sometimes low income property owners don’t have access to the funds needed to maintain a vacant building to standards. She said programs like Albuquerque’s Downtown Storefront Activation Grant can help, too.

“An owner of a vacant property could use it for critical repairs and expenses—to repair and rehabilitate a building under existing building codes,” she said.

*\*City Desk ABQ contacted Douglas Peterson and the Garcia family for comment on this story but did not hear back as of press time.*

This story was originally published by City Desk ABQ





## A Tribute to Shane McGowen

Shane McGowen, lead singer of the legendary Irish punk band The Pogues, passed away last November. On **Saturday, March 9**, the **Lobo Theater Lounge and Event Center** (3013 Central Ave. NE) hosts a night of Pogues covers courtesy of Albuquerque Celtic rock band The Reeler and some of their musical friends. Among the many special guests offering up their takes on classic Pogues tunes are Amanda Machon from Red Light Cameras, Felix Peralta from Felix y los Gatos, Tony Orant from Let It Grow and Dustin Oberson & Kit Murray from Squash Blossom Boys. The show starts at **7pm**. Tickets are **\$15** in advance (at [holdmyticket.com/event/427499](https://www.holdmyticket.com/event/427499)) or **\$20** at the door.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 8

**Art**  
ABQ Artwalk 5-9 pm Downtown  
Albuquerque Downtown

**Art Openings**  
Florecente Sagrada Art Opening  
5-8 pm El Chante: Casa De  
Cultura 804 Park Ave SW

Triple Take Art Group Presents  
“Go Big or Stay Home” Exhibit  
5-9 pm FUSION | 708 708 1st St  
NW

“Florecenta Sagrada” Art Exhibit  
Opening 5-8 pm El Chante: Casa  
De Cultura 804 Park Ave SW

**Class / Workshop**  
Keshet’s 2024 Makers Space  
Experience Visiting Artists  
Movement Classes 9:30am-  
11:00am Keshet Dance and Center  
for the Arts 4121 Cutler Ave NE

**Comedy**  
Annie Lederman \$20-\$25 7-8:30  
pm Quezada’s Comedy Club at  
Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon  
Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo,  
Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Annie Lederman \$20-\$25  
9-10:30 pm Quezada’s Comedy  
Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez  
Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana  
Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

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

**Dance**  
2024 Choreographers’ Showcase  
6:30-8 pm Keshet Dance and  
Center for the Arts 4121 Cutler  
Ave NE

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

Wim Wenders’ **PERFECT DAYS**  
Mar 8 & 11 2:00, 7:15 / Mar 9–10 7:15

Juliette Binoche: **THE TASTE OF THINGS**  
Fri–Mon March 8–11 4:30pm

30th Anniversary! **PULP FICTION (1994)**  
Friday March 8 10:30pm

**BOB DYLAN: DON’T LOOK BACK (1967)**  
Sat–Sun March 9–10 1:00pm

Jodorowsky’s **SANTA SANGRE (1989)**  
Saturday March 9 10:30pm

Chilean frontier epic **THE SETTLERS**  
Tue–Wed March 12–13 3:30, 5:45pm

Women’s medical rights: **AT YOUR CERVIX**  
Tue–Wed March 12–13 8:00pm

**THE DECLINE OF SOUTHWESTERN CIVILIZATION** Thu March 14 6:00pm

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**Discussion / Lecture**  
Science on Tap: Bringing Healthcare to the Streets \$10 5:30-7:30 pm National Museum of Nuclear Science & History 601 Eubank Blvd SE

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

**Film**  
Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2024 \$18 7-9 pm KiMo Theatre 423 Central Avenue NW

**Music**  
3 On A Match Kabarett Ensemble 7-9 pm FUSION | 708 708 1st St NW

Anesthesia \$10 8:30-11:30 pm Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest

Boogarins x Levitation Room \$17 7-11:30 pm Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

DJ Caterwaul Spins Out 8-11 pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE

Goth Night & Dark Market: Celtic Goth Edition 8-11 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

Hype or Die Fest \$25-\$40 9 pm-2 am Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW

Killer Queen \$45-\$80 8-10 pm Revel Entertainment Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE

Mesmerica 5:30 pm New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science 1801 Mountain Rd NW

Nuevo Mexicanas in Music 6-8 pm National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest

PAPA Spring Dance Concert 2024 \$10-\$20 7-9 pm South Broadway Cultural Center 1025 Broadway Blvd SE

The Mango Cakes \$10 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest

The Wicked Fest Feat. Wicked Meadows \$10 7-11:30 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

War \$40-\$60 8-9:30 pm Isleta Resort & Casino 11000 Broadway Blvd SE

**Performance**  
Cirque de Soliel: Crystal \$42-\$120 7:30-9:30 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

Proud Tina: The Ultimate Tribute to Tina Turner \$25-\$75 7:30-9:30 pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr

THE ODD COUPLE (FEMALE VERSION) \$10-\$24 7:30-9:45 pm Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

Tacos Ricos: A Culinary Comedy! 7:30 pm National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest

**Sports**  
Ice Wolves vs. Colorado Grit \$15-\$27 6:30-9:30 pm Outpost Ice Arenas 9530 Tramway Blvd NE

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

**Art Openings**  
A Bug's Dream 2-4 pm Remedy Coffee 1816 Lomas Blvd. NW

**Class / Workshop**  
Beer Brewing Class - Beginner \$15 1-3 pm Southwest Grape & Grain 3401 Candelaria Rd, NE suite e/g

Model Railroad Workshop \$5 10 am-12 pm The Wheels Museum 1100 Second SW, Albuquerque

**Comedy**  
Annie Lederman \$20-\$25 9-10:30 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Annie Lederman \$20-\$25 7-8:30 pm Quezada’s Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

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

Community

Pueblo Women’s Heritage Celebration 10:30 am-1 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Discussion / Lecture

Adventures with Hardy Cacti and Succulents for Central New Mexico 10-11 am Albuquerque Garden Center

UFOs Over New Mexico with Author Preston Dennett 1-3 pm Central & Unser Library 8081 Central Ave NW, 87121

Exhibit

Opening - Reflective Presence: The Art of Jesse Littlebird & Jonathan Loretto 9 am Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Pueblo Baseball: Stitching Our Community Together 9 am Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Family/Kids

IPCC’s Family Story Time 1-2 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Film

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2024 \$18 7-9 pm KiMo Theatre 423 Central Avenue NW

Health & Wellness

Experience A Lotus Sound Bath with Douglas Cardwell \$35 6:30-7:30 pm FUSION | 708 708 1st St NW

Literature/Poetry

Cindy Sloan Butts Book Signing 1:30-3:30 pm Treasure House Books & Gifts 2012 S Plaza St NW A

Markets

Oddities & Curiosities Expo \$10-\$15 11 am-4 pm EXPO New Mexico, Manuel Lujan Jr. Exhibit Complex 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Miscellaneous

Friends of the Public Library Monthly Book Sale 10 am-4 pm Main Library 501 Copper Ave NW

We Love Barbie Party 4-7 pm Blo Blow Dry Bar 6400 Holly Ave NE, Suite B

Music

A Tribute to Shane McGowan \$15 7-11 pm The Historic Lobo Theater - Lounge & Event Venue 3013 Central Ave NE

Danny Roses 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE

Experience a Lotus Sound Bath at FUSION | 708 \$35 6-7:30 pm FUSION | 708 708 1st St NW

Fixed Idea \$10 7:30-11:30 pm Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW

J Boog \$27-\$77 8-11 pm The Historic Lobo Theater - Lounge & Event Venue 3013 Central Ave NE

Kendra Morris \$10 7-11:30 pm Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

PAPA Spring Dance Concert 2024 \$10-\$20 2-4 pm South Broadway Cultural Center 1025 Broadway Blvd SE

Sounds Like Fun \$10 8 pm-1:30 am Revel Entertainment Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE

The Hight Desert Playboys 3-7 pm The Mine Shaft Tavern 2846 Hwy. 14, Madrid

Music - Classical

New Mexico Philharmonic: Song Plays Beethoven \$35-\$90 6-8 pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr

Performance

Ahhlmaa’s Triple AAA Cabaret \$10 9:30-10:30 pm The Box Performance Space 114 Gold Ave SW

Cirque de Soliel: Crystal \$42-\$120 3-5 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

Cirque de Soliel: Crystal \$42-\$120 7-9 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

Famous on the Weekend presents Anime Night \$5-\$10 8 pm-12:30 am JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Neon Nightclub featuring Mirage Amuro \$23 10 pm-1 am Revel Entertainment Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE

THE ODD COUPLE (FEMALE VERSION) \$10-\$24 7:30-9:45 pm Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

Tacos Ricos: A Culinary Comedy! 7:30 pm National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest

Sports

Ice Wolves vs. Colorado Grit \$15-\$27 6:30-9:30 pm Outpost Ice Arenas 9530 Tramway Blvd NE

Film

Night At The Oscars With AFMX 5-10 pm The Historic Lobo Theater - Lounge & Event Venue 3013 Central Ave NE

Games

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

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

Literature/Poetry

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

Markets

Lovers and Friends Pop-Up 10 am-2 pm Zendo Art + Coffee 413 2nd St SW

Oddities & Curiosities Expo \$10-\$15 11 am-4 pm EXPO New Mexico, Manuel Lujan Jr. Exhibit Complex 300 San Pedro Dr NE

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**Miscellaneous**  
Drive-Thru Vaccine & Microchip Clinic 11 am-3 pm Isleta Amphitheater 5601 University Blvd SE (Formerly Hard Rock Casino Albuquerque Presents the Pavilion)

**Music**  
Chase Petra \$17 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest

Music on the Patio: Squash Blossom Boys 4-7 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

**Music - Classical**  
NMPhil Power Concert 3 \$9-\$20 3-5 pm Immanuel Presbyterian Church 114 Carlisle Blvd SE

Sandia Performing Arts Company: Tacos Ricos \$15-\$20 2-4 pm South Broadway Cultural Center 1025 Broadway Blvd SE

THE ODD COUPLE (FEMALE VERSION) \$10-\$24 2-4:15 pm Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

**Reading**  
Open-Hearted Horizon: An Albuquerque Poetry Anthology Book Launch 1-3 pm The Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Rd NW

**Sports**  
Ice Wolves vs. Colorado Grit \$15-\$27 2-4:30 pm Outpost Ice Arenas 9530 Tramway Blvd NE

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

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

**Music**  
The Kills \$27-\$77 8-11 pm Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave SW

**Performance**  
Open Mic: Karaoke, Original Music, Comedy, Poetry hosted by Queneesha “Q” 8-10 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

**Performance**  
Bluey’s Big Play \$33-\$134 6-7:30 pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**

**Games**  
Brain Gang Trivia 6-8 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

Geeks Who Drink 7-9:30 pm Boese Brothers Brewpub NE Heights 7849 Tramway Blvd, Suite C

Geeks Who Drink 7-9 pm Ponderosa Brewing Company 1761 Bellamah Ave NW

Geeks Who Drink 7-9 pm Santa Fe Brewing Co. (Albuquerque Taproom) 3600 Cutler NE

MONDAY, MARCH 11

**Performance**  
Cirque de Soliel: Crystal \$42-\$120 1-2:30 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

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

Geeks Who Drink 7-9 pm M’tucci’s Bar Roma Restaurant 3222 Central Ave. SE

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

**Food**  
Chef’s Table Dinner Experience \$75 6-8 pm D.H. Lescombes Winery & Bistro 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW #B-100

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

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

**Literature/Poetry**  
Duke City Story Slam 6-8 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

**Music**  
Blue Midnight 6-7:30 pm Cherry Hills Library 6901 Barstow NE ,

Death Lens 8-11 pm Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave SW

Los Locos + No Confidence \$5 7-10 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Night Lovell \$25 8-11 pm Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave SW

Tractor Trivia League 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE

Trivia For a Cause: The Golden Girls \$25 6-9 pm Bosque Brewing Heights Public House 5210 Eubank Blvd. NE

**Literature/Poetry**  
Burque Revolt Poetry Slam - Second Annual It’s All Love Edition 7-9 pm Canvas Artistry - Kitchen Bar Art Music 1 Central Ave NW Suite 3A


**Miscellaneous**  
Gregory Alan Isakov: Appaloosa Bones Tour \$29-\$59 7:30-10:30 pm Kiva Auditorium 2nd St & Marquette Northeast

**Music**  
Blue Midnight 6-7:30 pm Erna Fergusson Library 3700 San Mateo Blvd NE

DHP Presents: Karaoke at Voodoo Girl 7-10 pm Voodoo Girl Pizza & Pints 1401 Second St. NW

Flogging Molly - Road to Rebellion Tour \$45-\$220 8-11 pm Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW

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By Hakim Bellamy, The Paper.

Apparently, the guy who invented the vending machine was a hero. As in, his name was Hero (sometimes Huron). While history sleuths are still undecided as to whether our Hero (of Alexandria) ever actually constructed his machine, his plans are proof of the idea's existence as far back as first century Rome. Unironically enough, his machine was designed to be installed in a place of worship on a pay-per-squirt basis. For a penny, parishioners could receive a measure of holy water, thanks to a plate-and-lever mechanism that allows the weighted coin to slide off the plate into the secured catch box. Pretty "clutch," if you ask me. The next time vending machines captured our popular imagination was in the 17th century, when they began showing up at bars as honesty boxes. Honesty boxes in England allowed pub patrons to purchase a pinch of snuff or tobacco for a halfpenny.

Fast forward to the 20th century and modern innovations in Black vending. In 1933, Colt, an Arkansas native, and World War I veteran Sandy H. Love would secure a patent for the refrigerated vending machine. Much like Black History, refrigerated vending items should *never* have an expiration date (and if it *must*, it ought to be more than a *month*). Which brings us to today and the future of vending. Just a few years ago, polymath and multihyphenate Marya Errin Jones piloted the Wyrd Machine at Sister Bar (407 Central Ave NW) in Downtown Albuquerque.

Journalist, artist, musician, actor and ABQ Zine Fest founder, Jones is shattering yet another glass ceiling—this time in the vending industry—as she oversees dispensing creative confections (primarily of the non-edible variety) from a meticulously curated network of makers. All this while also pursuing her Master of Fine Arts in dramatic writing at the University of New Mexico, yet she still made time for a few curiosities about her nonperishable curios.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**The Paper.:** What's the hardest part of the business?

Jones: Packaging is always a challenge. It takes some creative thinking to decide how to



## Vending the Rules

*Marya Errin Jones takes vending to a new level*

(Photo credit Hakim Bellamy)

package things (if they don't come vending machine-ready). I try to use recycled materials where I can (like cardboard backing for items), but it's most important to me that items look like fun to have. The next challenge is the stuff—what goes in there! I am trying to get more local art in the machine—that's the real goal for me. As it stands, most of the items come from women-owned, national companies, and a few local friends. I enjoy supporting artists who make vending-ready items—they get it. It's a weight off my chest to know that those items will drop just right! I also like helping artists new to this type of vending.

**Sounds like "vending school" is in order. So, when I think about vending machines, at least as a snack aficionado, I think about serving size. How does the "bite-sized-ness" of items in an art vending machine come into play?**

Items are designed to fit the machine—I like exploring those size items. Books and tote bags are the largest things that fit in my machine. I still have to meet the challenge of filling the gum and candy slots. I don't know if form and function is the goal—

just trying things to see what works. What's fun.

**Micro Machines are the first thing that come to mind for me. I loved those lil' toys growing up! Speaking of childhood "feels" what is the unique magic of vending machines? The visual menu. The anticipation. The turning coils and the mystery of choice. Why does it stir up all the childhood goosebumps, regardless of the consumer's age?**

I remember traveling the Florida Turnpike in the 1970s to see my grandparents. We'd stop at this rest stop that had a vending machine that produced wax items, like an orange, or a pirate or something. You made your selection and then you watched the machine "make" our item. I still have this green Loch Ness Monster bank from one of those trips. Today, like back then, I like to watch those coils turn, as the item "drops." Your anxiety warns you that there's always a chance the item gets stuck—but your youthful hope and joy is what keeps the machine working.

**I'd say! Generation after generation, it just works. Unless, of course, it doesn't. Then a lil' booty bump is in order, I reckon. So, what got you into vending, Marya?**

Many years ago, Taylor Valdes, who owns The Venderia, a fleet of vending machines in Portland, Oregon, asked to carry some of my zines in her vending machine. I was thrilled to have been asked. When Taylor created her creative vending online course, I took a leap, took the course, then I decided I wanted to move forward with my own creative vending machine business. I'm also very grateful to Zeus at Sister Bar for giving me a chance!

**Boom! The magic of buying local inside of a place where you are also buying local. Love it. So, what's next? Where is the most improbable place, other than the White House, that you'd put on your wish list of locations for a Wyrd Machine to pop up?**

The Sunport. But aside from a New Mexico machine at the airport, I would like to do what these folks did at the Oakland Cafe x Bakery. Maybe even a history book vending machine, and put it in schools.

*Anyone interested in partnering with Wyrd Machine as a small batch maker, a location host or a fan, can contact Marya at [https://www.instagram.com/wyrd\\_machine/](https://www.instagram.com/wyrd_machine/).*





(Photo credit Sara Atencio-Atencio)

By Sara Atencio-Gonzales, The Paper.

No fooling: Dry Heat Comedy Club is closing the curtains at its current location on April 1 and teaming up with another iconic downtown performance space.

The two-year-old comedy club's move into The Box Performance Space's annex also

marks a reunion of sorts. The Box is where Sarah Kennedy, co-owner of Dry Heat got her start. Kennedy says she spent five years as a member of the Broad Humor Production Group and produced more than a hundred shows and developed many show concepts. During her time there, Kennedy's shows ran

alongside The Box's well-known house improv team, The Show.

"They were gracious enough to let me, and my producing partner at the time, do weekly stand up shows. We did that for quite a few years before I moved to New York and we've just always stayed in touch," says Kennedy.

Kennedy's collaborative relationship with The Box co-owners Kristin Berg and Doug Montoya was reignited when Kennedy moved back to Albuquerque. But like nearly all plans in March 2020, cold water was thrown on the trio's plans to open a local comedy club, thanks to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. By 2022, Kennedy launched "Comedy Ghost Town," a podcast examining Albuquerque's decade-long absence of a comedy club. By the end of the podcast's run, Kennedy, along with her wife Kelli Trapnell, decided to open their own comedy club and Dry Heat was born.

Kennedy says the move will help expand the reach of Dry Heat.

"We get a chance to kind of branch out a little bit more and hopefully bring in bigger out of town talent that needs spaces larger than 45 seats," she says.

Berg says finally combining resources will help both Dry Heat and The Box.

"I think it's really important for our local comedy scene to have a place where they can regularly perform. There just hasn't been a place that stuck around long enough to do that," says Berg. "Having dry heat here, we can really sustain each other and sustain the comedy scene here in Albuquerque."

The Box will continue to host improv classes as well as its regular weekly improv shows.

Dry Heat's "grand reopening" is on April 1 and will include cocktails from Hollow Spirits as well as performances from a bevy of local comedians.

#### Dry Heat's Grand Re-Opening

100 Gold Ave SW Suite 112

April 1, 7:00 P.M.

Tickets: \$1518+/Bar with ID

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## Cutting Corners for Big Savings



By Muhamed Abdel-Hack, The Paper.

If you have enough money in your bank account, move along. There's nothing to see here. For those of us that need the occasional reminder of ways to plug our leaky financial pipes, let's talk.

The world has made it entirely too easy to spend a few dollars hither and thither for immediate gratification and little thought to pocketbook consequences. After all, a morning cup of coffee is only \$3.00 per day, and an online streaming service is only \$8.00 per month. What's the harm?

With the cost of seemingly everything meaningful in our lives going up, this type of nonchalant thinking about small-dollar spending should be checked, especially if you're looking for ways to build up savings. Surprisingly, tiny adjustments in lifestyle will not have the inconvenient impact many think it will, and a careful scrutinization of spending can lead to better choices and long-term savings.

The best way to start setting up a savings strategy is to understand the data you're working with. In other words,

track your spending. Fortunately, banking apps, as well as many other free financial apps, make this a very easy step and provide clear and understandable information to review. By tracking your spending, you'll begin to see where your hard-earned money is going, even down to the category. Get ready for some "am I really spending THAT MUCH!?" moments.

Once you've come to terms with where you're spending, now you can begin to budget more effectively. Budgeting does not have to be complicated, it's sticking to it that's the hard part. Those same financial tracking apps have features that will help you in budget setting. Start by identifying what you *need* vs. what you *want*. Just make sure that you're budgeting off of your *ACTUAL* income and not your *IMAGINARY* income. Ask yourself, what can I make at home for a fraction of the cost (coffee and daily meals come to mind) that I would usually purchase? Consider other ways to consolidate, or eliminate, spending:

- Cut back on paid subscription services such as music, gaming or TV streaming. (Do you really need 4 streaming services with all

of the same content?)

- Clip digital coupons when shopping for groceries and shop with a plan

- Look for reward programs that will discount gas fill ups

- Look for ways to reduce your home energy usage like turning off appliances not in use. Lower the temperature on your water heater. Swap out your lightbulbs to efficient LEDs. Close your blinds on hot days to keep your home cooler.

- Stop using credit cards and consider consolidating your debt. Only spend what you have and what you've budgeted for. Don't have enough for that cool new thing? Sorry, Charlie! Live without it.

For anyone with savings in mind, you work hard and should live comfortably, but not frivolously. Cutting corners in simple spending can create baby steps toward better savings. For even more detail, consider speaking with a financial advisor for more direct guidance to your unique situation. Your handsome author, while best-intentioned, doesn't know everything and is not a financial advisor.



## Letter to the Editor: March 6

*Modernization of the New Mexico state Legislature; a perspective from a former State Rep.*

As a state representative in the 1990s representing southern Sandoval County, I introduced legislation to pay legislators a part-time salary and tied it to term limits. Times have changed—NOT!

Several decades later, we are still debating if our Legislature should be paid and if they deserve it. The answer is—yes they should be paid and if they don't deserve it vote them out. And add term limits since 96 percent of incumbents are re-elected in spite of low approval ratings.

BUT, it is a big BUT, if we pay them we must tie to that salary strong conflict of interest measures, making it clear no one can vote on any issue they or their

family have any interest in. And, further, that they can't accept other government salaries (as a teacher for example) if they are getting a salary as a legislator—no double dipping.

There are three legitimate arguments for paying legislators:

- There is an old saying around the Roundhouse that is said somewhat tongue-in-cheek—that only rich or retired people can afford to serve in the Legislature. The truth is that a cross section of New Mexicans can't afford to serve and that is wrong.

- Paying them and implementing a ban of accepting anything of value from anyone with legislation in front of them would go a long way in cleaning

up the mess up there during the session where lobbyists are wining and dining legislators while their bills are being heard in front of the committees the representatives serve on.

- Paying them and providing staff would allow legislators better research and better constituent services. Only leadership has staff and that puts more power in fewer hands, which is less democratic. Everyone deserves staff support.

No, we don't need district offices—coffee shops are just fine. But staff support, a salary and strong conflict-of-interest measures offer a balanced solution to upgrade our Legislature and its work product.

And here is the rub:

Republicans don't want any of this for no logical reason, while the Democrats generally don't want term limits or the other ethics pieces I discuss above. I believe this middle ground I lay out above made sense in the 1990s and it still makes sense. Let's compromise and pay them, rotate them in and out of service, give them staff to work smarter and ban them from accepting anything of value from anyone.

-Bob Perls

*Bob Perls, a registered declined-to-state voter, has lived in Corrales since 1990 and represented the village in the state Legislature for two terms in the 1990s. He is a former tech entrepreneur, former U.S. diplomat and the founder of New Mexico Open Elections.*







## New Tests Needed for Drugged Driving

*Federal researcher calls for better impairment policies*

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

**W**eed regulators in states where the drug is legal are on the hunt for ways to catch drugged drivers. Many of them have latched onto tests that determine the THC concentration in a driver's blood or urine. But a researcher with the Department of Justice (DOJ) says testing THC levels in a person's body is an inaccurate way of determining whether they are intoxicated.

During an episode of the DOJ podcast, *Justice Today*, Frances Scott, a researcher for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, said the popular model for determining weed impairment by testing THC concentration is flawed in a number of major ways.

Scott said that scientists understand the effects and chemical interactions of alcohol consumption and determining intoxication based on the concentration of alcohol in the blood is "relatively easy."

But with marijuana, there are too many complicating factors involved to find reliably universal THC markers for intoxication.

Scott points out that there's a big difference in intoxication levels when someone consumes edibles compared to smoking flower. Smoking produces a high that quickly escalates to a peak

and then quickly recedes. Edibles produce a high that gradually builds and gradually recedes over many hours.

Edibles are also much more potent by volume because some of the Delta-9 THC that makes smokers high converts into the much stronger 11-hydroxy-THC in the liver. A driver who ate their weed instead of smoking it will be much more intoxicated than one who smoked the equivalent amount.

Scott says another issue is tolerance. Regular cannabis users—especially daily users—are able to consume large amounts of weed without experiencing the same level of effects as infrequent users.

In New Mexico, DWI law forbids driving while under the influence of marijuana "to a degree that renders [the driver] incapable of safely driving a vehicle." Implied consent law makes it so that every driver must give their consent to be tested for drugs, but the law doesn't specify a legal driving limit for THC or any other weed compound like it does with alcohol.

State police are left to their own devices to determine whether someone is high or not. Officers are trained to recognize signs that a person is under the influence of pot (like glassy eyes, impaired speech, inability to focus, dilated pupils and slow pupil reaction) through the Drug Recognition Expert certification

program, but there's no way to conduct any sort of roadside pothead test.

There have been a few attempts to invent an industry-standardized THC breathalyzer in recent years, but none of them have really panned out. There are even some products on the market that claim to accurately determine recent cannabis use.

One problem with these devices is that weed and alcohol do not interact with the body in the same way. It's easy to test for the presence of ethanol vapors in breath (the way alcohol breathalyzers work). But marijuana smoke just doesn't produce vapors like alcohol. Weed breathalyzers instead look for aerosol particles and those aren't as easy to detect.

According to researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) at CU Boulder, people exhale a million times more ethanol in a single breath than cannabis users exhale THC in 12 breaths.

The researchers were looking for a way to produce a standardized marijuana breathalyzer, but they said they were running into problems. Not only is it tough to detect the physical evidence of cannabis in breath, initial research showed that all that evidence disappears within an hour of weed use.

As for blood and urine tests, the results are next to useless for determining if someone is

currently high. The body stores THC in fatty tissues, where it can stay for days in infrequent users. For people who use cannabis regularly, THC can stay detectable for weeks or even months.

That means that someone can smoke weed in March and test positive for it in April. It would be ridiculous to claim that the drug's effects last that long, and it would be really tough to convince anyone that the presence of THC in blood or urine was an indication that a driver was high while operating a vehicle.

Scott told the DOJ podcast that state regulators should stop trying to determine marijuana impairment by measuring THC in breath or body fluids. She noted that scientists aren't even sure if THC is the right cannabinoid to be used as a metric when it comes to measuring impairing effects.

Scott also noted that current standardized field sobriety tests might not be the greatest metric to determine whether someone is impaired. These tests are designed to detect if someone is impaired by alcohol—not whether the skills needed to drive are impaired.

Standardized sobriety tests aren't designed to detect the specific impairments that differentiate drugged driving from drunk driving. According to Scott, alcohol tends to negatively affect equilibrium and balance and alters the information that's being received. Cannabis, on the other hand, tends to make users hyper-focused on specific aspects of their experience while losing focus on others.

New Mexico police are being trained to recognize signs of marijuana impairment that differ from signs of alcohol impairment. It's a smart move, considering the vast differences between the two. But does it take into consideration the unique effects that weed has on perception?

Leading researchers say that currently there are no tests that appropriately measure those effects. But they are working on it. Scott highlighted the NIST work on the weed breathalyzer and a recently-completed DOJ-funded study that had participants smoke marijuana and take various field sobriety tests.

Scott said researchers were also taking a completely different tack by testing weed's effect on peripheral vision.





# Blunts.

## 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!

## Germany Legalizes Weed

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

Germany's government officially legalized weed last week, making it the third European country to do so.

Under the new law, adults over the age of 18 can legally possess up to 25 grams of pot in public and 50 grams at home. Purchases at non-profit weed clubs will be limited to 25 grams a day and to residents over 21. Purchases will also be limited to 50 grams per month. Adults under 21 are limited to 30 grams per month.

The law passed on a 407-226 vote, with German Conservative Party members opposed to legalization.

The only other two European countries to legalize marijuana are Malta and Luxembourg. The drug is decriminalized in the Netherlands.

The European Union has long opposed legalization of recreational marijuana but has eased its policies toward medical cannabis in recent years. Members of the European Parliament adopted a 2019 resolution to research medical cannabis and ways to implement a regulatory system for it. The resolution called on member states to consider revisiting cannabis policies with their eyes on reform and provide patients with access to the drug.

### Jamaica Sends First Legal U.S. Weed Import

A Canadian-Jamaican company reportedly shipped the first federally-approved cannabis import to the U.S.

According to a new release from Pure Jamaican and its cannabis manufacturer, Seven-10 Pharmaceuticals, the company sent small amounts of eight different types of tinctures and three different distillates to researchers in the U.S.

The samples will reportedly be used for study purposes by DEA-licensed research facility ACS Laboratory in Sun City Center, Florida.

The companies say they plan to start shipping products to U.S. medical marijuana patients if the Biden administration reschedules cannabis. The company already ships products directly to patients in Brazil.

### Weed May Raise Odds For Heart Attack and Stroke

A new study found that cannabis use is associated with higher risk of heart attack and stroke.

The study was published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* last week. Researchers analyzed the data of about 434,000 adults between the ages of 18 and 74 who had smoked cannabis or hashish in the previous month. The data was collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) between 2016 and 2020.

According to their analysis,

daily weed users were 25 percent more likely to suffer from a heart attack and 42 percent more likely to suffer a stroke, compared to non-users.

While people who used cannabis less often decreased their chances of heart attack

and stroke, those who used only once a week were still three percent more likely to suffer a heart attack and had five percent higher risk of a stroke, compared to non-users.

The study was based on survey results.

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LEGAL NOTICE

**Navy Federal Credit Union - NOTICE OF RESCISSION & OPPORTUNITY TO CURE 2ND NOTICE**  
Re: Account No. 43001593220524 for ERIC NELSON: Approximate Loan Amount \$100,000.00

I, Nelson, Eric the (Trust Protector) of the SERVUS DEI ENTERPRISE EXPRESS TRUST write to your attention on the behalf of the Borrower, ERIC NELSON, the account subscriber with your financial institution NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION (“NFCU”), federally insured by NCUA by way of Promissory Note (“insured note”) between ERIC NELSON “consumer(s)/obligator(s)” (40960 CALIFORNIA OAKS ROAD #358, MURRIETA, CALIFORNIA 92562) and NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION, otherwise known as “claimant” (820 FOLLIN LANE VIENNA, VA 22180-4907), for the security interest known as an automobile, VIN #1GT49WEYXRF255502.

It has come to the obligor’s attention, upon reviewing all documentation from the consumer credit transaction the Federal Required “**Rescission Forms**” in accordance with the regulations of the Bureau (Consumer Financial Protection Bureau) was not provided to the obligor(s). The obligor(s) did not receive full material disclosure forms, to exercise their right to rescind the transaction until midnight of the third business day following the consummation of the transaction as stipulated in (*Pub. L. 90-321, title I, § 125, May 29, 1968, 82 Stat. 153; Pub. L. 93-495, title IV, §§ 404, 405, 412, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1517, 1519; Pub. L. 96-221, title VI, § 612(a)(1), (3)-(6), Mar. 31, 1980, 94 Stat. 175, 176; Pub. L. 98-479, title II, § 205, Oct. 17, 1984, 98 Stat. 2234; Pub. L. 104-29, §§ 5, 8, Sept. 30, 1995, 109 Stat. 274, 275; Pub. L. 111-203, title x, § 1100A(2), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2107.*) and interactive Bureau Regulations - 12 CFR part 1026 (Regulations Z). Please refer to [Title 15 USC 1635]; no “**Rescission Forms**” or clause stating the consumer/obligor’s right to cancel, rescind or terminate the transaction per Federal Law [15 U.S. Code § 1635] - *Right to rescission as to certain transaction(s), the obligor has the right to rescind until midnight of third (3) business day following the consummation of the transaction, by use of rescission forms required and provided by the seller, creditor and/or obligor.*

Due to failure to provide lawful disclosures, Federal Truth in Lending Disclosure (“FTILD”) and/or providing “**Rescission Forms**” and/or rescinding clause with the (“insured note”), is cause WITHIN FIVE YEARS, statute of limitations, (Cal. Code of Civil Procedure Section 337(a)) a legal or equitable action founded on fraud and action to rescind a contract in California, for Breach of Contract; the obligor seeks an opportunity to cure (arbitration) as in equity for equity and remedy, to prevent further **irreparable injury**. This notice shall serve as a **Notice of Rescission and Opportunity to Cure** for the lack of full material disclosure.

The obligor, hereby gives notice to (“NFCU”) that the obligor will provide the claimant a draft or drafts with conspicuous statements in payment in full to satisfy the claim. All payments after the first applied payment shall serve as **payment under duress**, should the claim remain open and if the claimant (“NFCU”) decides to assign the insured note, will be subject to legal action for breach of contract under the laws of 1863 National Banking Act.

Furthermore, the obligor demands the claimant to provide in writing, under penalty of perjury, whether the President, Chairman, C.E.O. or any other representative have or have not countersigned the “borrower’s” signature on the “insured note” upon receiving at closing. Should the claimant not respond in writing this will serve as a default in any court of record. Please understand this notice is not an attempt to defraud the claimant or avoid a debt, but only to satisfy lawful due process.

Authority by Prescribed Law  
According to the 1781 Articles of Confederation, the style of this Confederacy shall be “The United States of America” and the Great Governor of the World has approved the Articles of Confederation as a perpetual Union.

**Article XII**  
“All bills of credits emitted, monies borrowed, and debts contracted by or under the authority of Congress, before the assembly of the United States, in pursuance of the present confederation, shall be deemed and considered a charge against the United States, for payment and satisfaction whereof the said United States, and public faith are hereby solemnly pledged.”

LEGAL NOTICE

**Alliant CU - NOTICE OF RESCISSION & OPPORTUNITY TO CURE 2ND NOTICE**  
Re: Account No. 2010026542xxxx for ERIC NELSON: Approximate Loan Amount \$94,643.79

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of March 6

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**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** "Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow talent to the dark place where it leads." So wrote Aries author Erica Jong. Is that true? Is it hard to access the fullness of our talents? Must we summon rare courage and explore dark places? Sometimes, yes. To overcome obstacles that interfere with ripening our talents, there may be tough work to do. I suspect the coming weeks and months will be one of those phases for you, Aries. But here's the good news: I predict you will succeed.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** In October 1879, Thomas Edison and his research team produced the first electric light bulb that was viable enough to be of practical use. In September 1882, Edison opened the first power plant on the planet, enabling people to light their homes with the new invention. That was a revolutionary advance in a very short time. Dear Taurus, the innovations you have been making and I hope will continue to make are not as monumental as Edison's. But I suspect they rank high among the best and brightest in your personal life history. Don't slack off now. There's more work to be done—interesting, exciting work!

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** I watched as the Thai snake charmer kissed a poisonous cobra, taming the beast's danger with her dancing hands. I beheld the paramedic dangle precariously from a helicopter to snag the woman and child stranded on a rooftop during a flood. And in my dream, I witnessed three of my Gemini friends singing a dragon to sleep, enabling them to ramble freely across the bridge the creature had previously forbidden them to traverse.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** The horoscopes you are reading have been syndicated in publications all over the world: the US, Italy, France, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Netherlands, Russia, Cambodia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Venezuela, Ireland, and Finland. Yet it has never appeared in a publication in the UK, where there are over 52 million people whose first language is English—the same as mine. But I predict that will change in the coming months: I bet a British newspaper or website will finally print Free Will Astrology. I prophesy comparable expansions in your life, too, fellow Cancerian. What new audiences or influences or communities do you want to be part of? Make it happen!

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Author Jean-Dominique Bauby wrote, "Today it seems to me that my whole life was nothing but a string of small near misses." If you have endured anything resembling that frustration, Leo, I have good news: The coming months won't bring you a string of small near misses. Indeed, the number of small near misses will be very few, maybe even zero. Instead, I predict you will gather an array of big, satisfying completions. Life will honor you with bull's eyes, direct hits, and master strokes. Here's the best way you can respond to your good fortune and ensure the arrival of even more good fortune: Share your wealth!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Virgo advice expert Cheryl Strayed wrote some rather pushy directions I will borrow and use for your horoscope. She and I say, "You will never have my permission to close yourself off to love and give up. Never. You must do everything you can to get what you want and need, to find 'that type of love.' It's there for you." I especially want you to hear and meditate on this guidance right now, Virgo. Why? Because I believe you are in urgent need of re-dedicating yourself to your heart's desire. You have a sacred duty to intensify your imagination and deepen your willpower as you define what kind of love and tenderness and togetherness you want most.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Author Adam Alter writes, "Perfect success is boring and uninspiring, and abject failure is exhausting and demoralizing. Somewhere between these extremes is a sweet spot that maximizes long-term progress." And what is the magic formula? Alter says it's when you make mistakes an average of

16 percent of the time and are successful 84 percent. Mistakes can be good because they help you learn and grow. Judging from your current astrological omens, Libra, I'm guessing you're in a phase when your mistake rate is higher than usual—about 30 percent. (Though you're still 70 percent successful!) That means you are experiencing expanded opportunities to learn all you can from studying what doesn't work well. (Adam Alter's book is Anatomy of a Breakthrough: How to Get Unstuck When It Matters Most.)

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Sometimes you Scorpios are indeed secretive, as traditional astrologers assert. You understand that knowledge is power, and you build your potency by gathering information other people don't have the savvy or resources to access. But it's also true that you may appear to be secretive when in fact you have simply perceived and intuited more than everyone else wants to know. They might be overwhelmed by the deep, rich intelligence you have acquired—and would actually prefer to be ignorant of it. So you're basically hiding stuff they want you to hide. Anyway, Scorpio, I suspect now is a time when you are loading up even more than usual with juicy gossip, inside scoops, tantalizing mysteries, taboo news, and practical wisdom that few others would be capable of managing. Please use your superpowers with kindness and wisdom.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Here's a little-known fact about me: I am the priest, wizard, rabbi, and pope of Parish #31025 in the Universal Life Church. One of my privileges in this role is to perform legal marriages. It has been a few years since I presided over anyone's wedding, but I am coming out of semi-retirement to consecrate an unprecedented union. It's between two aspects of yourself that have not been blended but should be blended. Do you know what I'm referring to? Before you read further, please identify these two aspects. Ready? I now pronounce you husband and wife, or husband and husband, or wife and wife, or spouse and spouse—or whatever you want to be pronounced.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** "You don't have to suffer to be a poet," said poet John Ciardi. "Adolescence is enough suffering for anyone." I will add that adolescence is enough suffering for everyone, even if they're not a poet. For most of us, our teenage years brought us streams of angst, self-doubt, confusion, and fear—sufficient to last a lifetime. That's the bad news, Capricorn. The good news is that the coming months will be one of the best times ever for you to heal the wounds left over from your adolescence. You may not be able to get a total cure, but 65 percent is very possible. Seventy-five percent isn't out of the question. Get started!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A psychic once predicted that I would win a Grammy award for my music. She said my dad and mom would be in the audience, smiling proudly. Well, my dad died four years ago, and I haven't produced a new album of songs for over ten years. So that Grammy prophecy is looking less and less likely. I should probably give up hope that it will come to pass. What about you, Aquarius? Is there any dream or fantasy you should consider abandoning? The coming weeks would be a good time to do so. It could open your mind and heart to a bright future possibility now hovering on the horizon.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** I invite you to entertain the following theory: Certain environments, companions, and influences enhance your intelligence, health, and ability to love—while others either do the opposite or have a neutral effect. If that's true, it makes good sense for you to put yourself in the presence of environments, companions, and influences that enhance you. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to test this theory. I hope you will do extensive research and then initiate changes that implement your findings.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 "\_\_\_ we forget"
- 5 Salon service, briefly
- 9 Water park feature
- 14 Initial chip
- 15 Fever with chills
- 16 Former Russian leader
- 17 Tech support caller
- 18 Not too bright
- 20 Palace figures
- 22 Intrepid
- 23 Macho dude
- 24 Luxury watchmaker
- 25 Of the Vatican
- 27 Storage medium
- 30 West African country
- 33 De Niro's "Goodfellas" co-star
- 36 Gardner of film
- 37 Payback seeker
- 39 Piece keeper?
- 41 Faddish disk of the '90s
- 42 Forest worker
- 44 Composes
- 45 Credit card motion
- 47 Washing machine cycle
- 49 Defame
- 52 Macaroni shape
- 56 Religious offering
- 58 Sandwich meat
- 59 Whip
- 61 Kind of tea
- 62 Baby-to-be
- 63 Landfill emanation

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- 64 NASA scrub
- 65 Word with tooth or heart
- 66 Part of A.P.R.
- 67 Chew like a squirrel

- 10 Good as new
- 11 Review unfairly
- 12 No-win situations?
- 13 Stopping points
- 19 Stetson, e.g.
- 21 Paternity identifier
- 24 Terrier type
- 26 Court statement
- 28 Place to broil
- 29 Big name in candy
- 30 Navigator's aids
- 31 State confidently
- 32 Lay down the law?
- 34 "A League of \_\_\_ Own"
- 35 Conflicted

- 38 Part of G.O.A.T.
- 40 Grade school subject
- 43 1980s invasion site
- 46 Deadly epidemic
- 48 Deep blue
- 50 Zippo
- 51 Great sadness
- 53 Breakfast strip
- 54 Last Greek letter
- 55 Lehar operetta "The Merry \_\_\_"
- 56 Rubs out
- 57 "Black \_\_\_" (2021 Marvel movie)
- 58 Very dry
- 60 Day care candidate

DOWN

- 1 Bust a gut
- 2 Occur as a result
- 3 Pressing need?
- 4 Small turtle
- 5 Mountain route
- 6 Something that's bruisable
- 7 Mark who plays the Hulk
- 8 Taxi feature
- 9 Like some errors

The Paper.

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M	A	N	G		E	T	A	R		T	E	E	W	S
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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](http://AAIM-ABQ.com) to read more incredible success stories.



**PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY?  
Call (505) 355-1984  
to schedule a consultation!**

**10400 Academy Rd NE Suite 210  
Albuquerque, NM 87111  
[WWW.AAIM-ABQ.COM](http://WWW.AAIM-ABQ.COM)**