

# The Paper.

ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE

MAY 22, 2024  
VOLUME 05 | ISSUE 21

Roberto E. Rosales

After a year of riling up fans, an Albuquerque professional wrestling group is set to partner with the big dogs.

p. 10 Michael Hodock







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3



## Fees for Fun Things in ABQ Won't be Raised

*Council replenishes city budget*

*Flamingos at the ABQ BioPark. (Source: ABQ BioPark)*



This story was originally published at City Desk ABQ, a local nonprofit daily newsroom covering

local government, politics and more. If you like this story, please support local, independent journalists like these by reading more and donating today at [citydesk.org](http://citydesk.org)

By Rodd Cayton, City Desk ABQ

Albuquerque City Councilors have dropped proposed fee increases from Mayor Tim Keller's draft budget for fiscal year 2024-2025.

At the May 16 Committee of the Whole meeting, members voted to make a few changes to Keller's \$1.4 billion budget.

Among the amendments was allocating an additional \$250,000 for the ABQ BioPark, eliminating the need for fee increases. Keller had proposed raising admission to the zoo, aquarium and botanic garden complex by \$1 or \$2 for New Mexico adults and children and \$5 for out-of-state visitors.

Councilors also cut out proposed hikes in greens fees at city-owned golf courses and higher fees at senior centers and other city attractions.

"Even though New Mexico continues to see historic lows in unemployment numbers, higher than anticipated inflation continues to persist, while potential interest rate cuts seem further away," the council wrote in a letter sent to Keller after the meeting. "We therefore cannot ask our residents to pay for higher fees at our senior centers or cultural landmarks."

Also included is a doubling of technology money for the libraries to \$400,000, along with a new food inspector in the Environmental Health Department. \$238,000 more was added for senior centers and \$250,000 for the Animal Welfare Department.

### Cost Of Living Adjustments

Councilors cited unexpected hikes in higher interest rates and included a cost-of-living adjustment for the city's non-unionized employees. In the amended budget, there is a 5% raise for employees making less than \$50,000 a year, and hikes of 4% for those making between \$50,000 and \$75,000 3% for those who make more than \$75,000 and 2% for those making more than \$100,000.

Councilors said the information shared at the May 3 University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research meeting projections showed better conditions than expected in January. The bureau's increased confidence in revenue projections means there will be another \$3.8 million available for the city budget, according to city documents.

The council's substitute budget includes general fund spending of \$851 million, an increase of 0.6% from the mayor's proposed budget. It leaves the general fund with an unreserved fund balance of \$1.1 million.

Councilor Klarissa Peña, who chairs the Committee of the Whole, said the budget is solid and fiscally responsible.

## Weak in Review: May 22

Quick hits on this week's news bits

A couple of New Mexico residents are challenging a new state law requiring a seven-day waiting period when buying guns.

That's the problem with today's generation: They want everything right now.



Prosecutors dropped charges against an Albuquerque man who was accused of assault at a local bowling alley after an alleged scuffle over lanes and now the man is suing the establishment and APD.

Leave it up to Burqueños to make bowling a contact sport.

*Breaking Bad* creator Vince Gilligan started filming a new series in New Mexico.

We're hoping it's a show about the seedy underworld of bowling called *Striking Sad*.

The City of Albuquerque finished the first phase of building new pickleball courts at Manzano Mesa Park.

We're creating a new sport called jalapeño ball. It's where you get nachos and a beer on a patio somewhere and talk about getting into pickleball some day.



Golfer Scottie Scheffler was arrested outside a PGA tournament for allegedly dragging a police officer with his car, but still made it to his tee time several hours later.

When will those rich, white golfers finally get a break?

UNM police arrested journalists Bryant Furlow and Tara Armijo-Prewitt while the two were trying to cover protests on campus.

Pro tip: A loaded golf bag and a pocket full of tees goes a long way these days.

Pope Francis told *60 Minutes* in an interview that all he can do about the ongoing conflict in Gaza is "pray a lot for peace" and "to suggest, 'Please, stop. Negotiate.'"

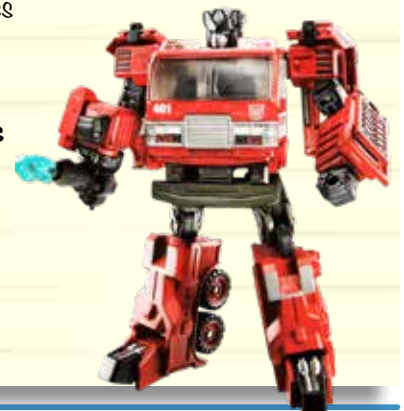
Why didn't we think of that?

Red Lobster filed for bankruptcy, partially because of its endless shrimp deal.

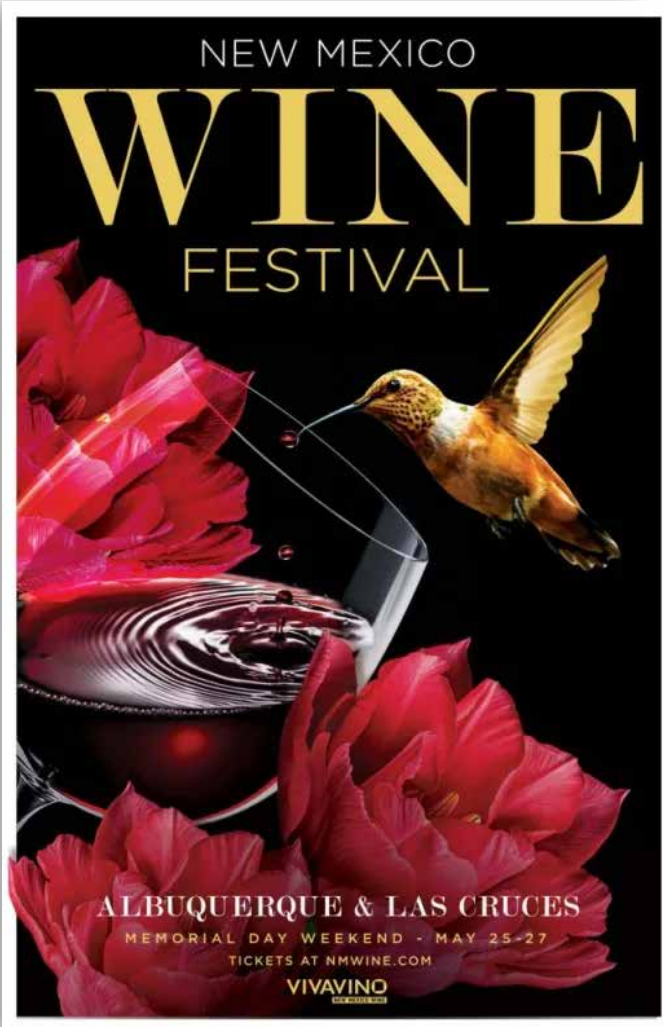
So it's true: Everything mediocre comes to an end eventually.

Bernalillo County announces plans to buy a hybrid fire truck.

Meh, call us when they buy one that turns into a robot.







New Mexico Wine Festival

The 2024 New Mexico Wine Festival pours its way into Balloon Fiesta Park this Memorial Day Weekend. Starting Saturday, May 25, from noon to 6p.m., vintners from all across New Mexico shine a light on their liquid wares. Sample from over 200 Southwestern wines and get the option to purchase by the bottle or the case with special discounts. Live bands, food trucks, a fine art fair and a variety of locally produced food and drink vendors give patrons something to do between sips. The festival continues Sunday, May 26, and Monday, May 27. This is a 21+ event. Advance tickets are \$30 general admission, \$25 military discount and \$10 for designated drivers. You can get tickets at newmexicowinefestivalalbuquerque.holdmyticket.com/tickets/428291.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

Games

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

Geeks Who Drink 7-9 pm Sunday Service Motor Company 2701 4th Street NW

Geeks Who Drink 7-9 pm Outpost 1706 301 Romero St NW

Music

Afro Beats X Reggaeton \$5 9 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Andy Milne & Unison \$15-\$35 7:30-9:30 pm Outpost Performance Space 210 Yale Blvd., SE

DHP Presents: Karaoke at Gold Street 6-9 pm Gold Street Pizza & Brew 3211 Coors Blvd SW Suite H1, Albuquerque

Dark Honey Karaoke 6-9 pm Gold Street Pizza & Brew 3211 Coors Blvd SW Suite H1, Albuquerque

Karaoke w/ Swords Entertainment 7:30-11:30 pm Lizard Tail Brewing 9800 Montgomery Blvd NE STE 7

Keeping Up With The Joneses 6-9 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

Mariah The Scientist \$30-\$115 8-11 pm Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW

**GUILD cinema**

Maya Hawke as Flannery O'Connor: **WILDCAT**  
Fri-Mon May 24-27 3:00, 7:15

Absurdist comedy **SASQUATCH SUNSET**  
Fri-Mon May 24-27 5:15

Intense home invasion horror **INVADER**  
Friday May 24 10:30pm

Summer series **SATURDAY MORNING TOONS**  
Saturday May 25 11:30am

Willem Dafoe: **THE LOVELESS (1981)**  
Sat-Sun May 25-26 1:00pm

Horror classic **POLTERGEIST (1982)**  
Saturday May 25 10:30pm

Deadpan humor and righteous anger: Iranian **TERRESTRIAL VERSES**  
Tue-Thu May 28-30 2:15, 6:15

Art therapy on the Seine: **ON THE ADAMANT**  
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“As a nurse practitioner in a critical access hospital, I care for patients and families and constantly collaborate with fire fighters, police, EMS, and other health professionals.”

“I listen to our communities’ voices, not special interest groups. I approach policies in a non-partisan manner, seeking input from local experts. We can attain sustainable change.  
**Progress is possible!”**

*- Gloria*

Vote Democrat **Gloria Doherty** PhD, RN  
State Representative House District 18

Paid for by Gloria for HD 18, Luke Esquibel, Treasurer.

Matt Venuti Performs  
AmeriCosmos \$20 7-9 pm  
FUSION | 708 708 1st St NW

Memphis May Fire \$25-\$75  
8-11:30 pm Sunshine Theater 120  
Central Ave SW

Music at St. John’s Presents: Lyyra  
\$10-\$20 7-9 pm St Johns United  
Methodist Church 2626 Arizona  
NE

Nick Versoza and Joshua Lee 7-9  
pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118  
Tulane SE

Trash Sound Conglomerate with  
Lung and Soviet Science Fair \$8  
8-10:30 pm JUNO brewery + cafe  
+ art 1501 1st Street Northwest

### FRIDAY, MAY 24

#### Comedy

Dustin Ybarra \$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

Dustin Ybarra \$20-\$25 9:30-11  
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 \$10-\$12 8-9 pm The Box  
Performance Space 114 Gold Ave  
SW

#### Dance

Fishback Studio Presents: Dance  
Fever \$25-\$37 7-9 pm Popejoy  
Hall 203 Cornell Dr

Ryedale Largo Dine Dance Group  
(Navajo/Apache) 2-3 pm Indian  
Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th  
Street NW

Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque  
Dinner Show \$75-\$85 7-9 pm  
Hotel Albuquerque 800 Rio  
Grande Blvd NW

#### Music

7 Summers \$20-\$25 8-9 pm Isleta  
Resort & Casino 11000 Broadway  
Blvd SE

Bad Things at the Moose 7-11 pm  
Loyal Order of Moose 2121 Edith  
Blvd. NE

Beer & Jazz: Tractor Beer Week  
Edition 8-10 pm Tractor Brewing  
Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

Da Boogie Mane Tour Starring  
Acetone Boogie 8-11 pm Historic  
El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave  
SW

Friday Night Live: Sol de la  
Noche 6-8:30 pm El Vado 2500  
Central Ave SW

Hot Club Time Machine 8 pm-1  
am Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

RJ Perez 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing  
Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE

Salsa Night with Calle 66 \$10-\$40  
8-11 pm JUNO brewery + cafe +  
art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Slim Belly Blues Band 6-9  
pm Boxing Bear Brewing Co.  
(Firestone Taproom and Brewery)  
8420 Firestone Lane NE

Space Disco w/ DJ Ren & DJ  
Moonside \$10 8 pm-1:30 am  
Insideout 622 Central Ave SW

The Stray Dawgs 7-9 pm Marble  
Brewery NE Heights 9904  
Montgomery Blvd NE

The Taylor Party: The TS Dance  
Party \$18 9 pm-12 am Sunshine  
Theater 120 Central Ave SW

Tony Orant 6-9 pm Albuquerque  
Distilling 5001 Central Ave NE  
Suite A5

Uada \$17 7:30-11 pm Launchpad  
618 Central Avenue Southwest

We House Fridays f/ DJ Susan \$10  
9 pm-2 am Effex NightClub 420  
Central Avenue Southwest

### SATURDAY, MAY 25

#### Comedy

Dustin Ybarra \$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

Dustin Ybarra \$20-\$25 9:30-11  
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 \$10-\$12 8-9 pm The Box Performance Space 114 Gold Ave SW

**Community**  
Birds of a Feather Parrot Rescue Fundraiser w/ Ross Bros. Band and PARROTS! 2-6 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Downtown Growers' Market 8 am-12 pm Robinson Park 810 Copper Ave NW Albuquerque

**Dance**  
ABQ Dance Club 6:45-10 pm Albuquerque Square Dance Center 4915 Hawkins St NE

Fishback Studio Presents: Dance Fever \$25-\$37 7-9 pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr

Fishback Studio Presents: Dance Fever \$25-\$37 2-4 pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr

Ryedale Largo Dine Dance Group (Navajo/Apache) 11 am-12 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Ryedale Largo Dine Dance Group (Navajo/Apache) 2-3 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Tablao Flamenco Albuquerque Dinner Show \$75-\$85 7-9 pm Hotel Albuquerque 800 Rio Grande Blvd NW

**Drink**  
2024 New Mexico Wine Festival \$10-\$35 12-6 pm Balloon Fiesta Park 5000 Balloon Fiesta Pkwy NE

Ciderday Night Fever 12-11 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

**Family/Kids**  
Brick Fest Live \$19-\$34 9 am-5 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

IPCC's Family Story Time: Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story 1-2 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

**Festival**  
Bear Fest 2024 12-6 pm Boxing Bear Brewing Co. (Firestone Taproom and Brewery) 8420 Firestone Lane NE

Printers' Planet ABQ Pop-Up Festival 10 am-4 pm FUSION | 708 708 1st St NW

Summer at the Alvarado Transportation Center Street Fair 9 am-1 pm Alvarado Transportation Center 100 First St. SW

**Games**  
Drag Queen Bingo Pride Edition 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

**Music**  
Bush League 6-9 pm Marble Brewery 111 Marble Ave NW

Cumbia Night with El Gozao \$15-\$40 8 pm-12 am JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Friktona: A Reggaeton Experience \$15 8 pm-1:30 am Revel Entertainment Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE

Gone Country Saturdays w/ DJ Pete Nic 6-9 pm Ponderosa Brewing Company 1761 Bellamah Ave NW

Jim Messina \$50-\$80 7:30-9 pm KiMo Theatre 423 Central Avenue NW

Restorative Gong Bath \$25 11 am-12 pm The Remedy Day Spa & Wellness Center 113 Vassar Dr SE

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

The Japanese House \$30-\$80 8-11 pm Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave SW

**Performance**  
The Monologists \$10 4-10 pm Orpheum Community Hub 500 2nd Street Southwest



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- Former County Treasurer
- Former State Senator
- Current AMAFCA Board Member

Bernalillo County's Most Experienced Candidate

Tim Eichenberg was elected in 2014 as the 29th State Treasurer of New Mexico, and was reelected in 2018 for another four-year term. Raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, he attended Albuquerque Public Schools and graduated from the University of New Mexico.

TIM EICHENBERG  
BERNALILLO COUNTY TREASURER



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Rely on Trust and Experience in HD18 Primary

Marianna Anaya, Democrat, Candidate for House District 18

After twenty-seven years of Representative Gail Chasey’s leadership, on June 4, the voters of House District 18 will have the opportunity to decide who will represent them next in the NM State House of Representatives. In a crowded field of candidates with similar values, I ask voters to rely on trust and experience to make their decision at the polls.

After Representative Gail Chasey announced her retirement, I was honored to receive her endorsement. Representative Chasey has seen, first-hand, my ability to help pass the toughest legislation in the Roundhouse. She supports my work as a community organizer and legislative advocate in repealing the 1969 abortion ban, passing the Voting Rights Act, expanding the Human Rights Act and leading the coalition for Paid Family and Medical Leave. The most meaningful aspect of Representative Chasey’s endorsement is that she recognizes how my lived experience will help our district and our state.

I was born and raised in Albuquerque’s North Valley by my mother, grandmother and eight aunts. Our family has experienced poverty for generations and I have the honor and responsibility of being the first in my family to attend college. I have spent my life helping my family navigate systems- whether that’s helping those struggling with substance use, homelessness, CYFD, the mass incarceration system, or the violent death of their own children.

Because of these experiences, I’ve always worked harder, faster, and with more creativity in problem solving than others. The skills I’ve acquired in navigating systems for my family, being a queer woman of color, and leaning on first-hand experience allows me to bring compassionate and practical solutions to the table as a legislator.

Representative Chasey recognizes my strengths in getting legislation over the finish line and bringing lived experience to the table. So do a host of others – that’s why I’ve earned the trust of organizations like Planned Parenthood Votes NM, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, Conservation Voters NM, Equality NM, Voices for Children Action Fund, NM Native Vote, Working Families Party, OLÉ, Dreams in Action NM and many of our labor unions including the National Education Association NM, the NM Building and Construction Trades Association, Teamsters, AFSCME, LiUNA, Carpenters, CWA and IBEW. Additionally, I’ve earned the support of 24 Democrats in the New Mexico House and Senate, countless medical and legal professionals, and passionately committed community leaders.

During the primary, I humbly ask Democrats in HD18 for their vote- to add your name to the list of those who trust me to “hit the ground running” as HD18’s next state representative. I feel a deep responsibility as the home-grown candidate in this race. I understand first-hand the complexities of our community, bring the energy we need to inspire a new generation of voters, fight for the values we care about most as Democrats and bring the experience necessary to not just dream about the policies we want to see passed, but to introduce those policies and see them through.



Learn more at [www.mariannaform.com](http://www.mariannaform.com)

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Marianna Anaya, Shannon Gilbert, Treasurer.

Reading

Bad Mouth in Springtime! 7-8:30 pm q-Staff Theatre 400 Broadway Blvd SE

Sports

Duke City Championship Wrestling: Birthday Bash! \$20-\$130 5:30-9:30 pm Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW

New Mexico United vs. San Antonio FC \$19-\$47 7-10 pm Isotopes Park

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Comedy

Stand-up Comedy with Alex Benton \$10 8-10 pm The Nob Hill Stage 3619 Copper Avenue Northeast

Dance

Ryedale Largo Dine Dance Group (Navajo/Apache) 11 am-12 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Ryedale Largo Dine Dance Group (Navajo/Apache) 2-3 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Family/Kids

Brick Fest Live \$19-\$34 9 am-5 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

Festival

Bear Fest 2024 12-6 pm Boxing Bear Brewing Co. (Firestone Taproom and Brewery) 8420 Firestone Lane 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 Brewing Nob Hill 3417 Central Ave. NE Suite C

Markets

May Shop Small Sunday 11 am-4 pm Sunday Service Motor Company 2701 4th Street NW

Rail Yard Market: Indigenous Peoples’ Day 10 am-2 pm Albuquerque Rail Yards 722 3rd St SW

Miscellaneous

Cafe Close Encounters 2-4 pm Lala Coffee and Tea 6239 Montgomery Blvd NE

Music

Bashfortheworld \$27-\$75 7-10 pm Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave SW

Good Hangs & Head Bangs ‘24 f/ Fighting the Phoenix \$10 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Avenue Southwest

Hondo Coyote 3-6 pm Rio Bravo Brewing Company 1912 Second St NW

Sunday Jazz Jam 5:30-8 pm Lizard Tail Industrial 3351 Columbia Dr. NE

The Stray Dawgs 4-7 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

Performance

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

MONDAY, MAY 27

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



View the full list of events at

[calendar.abq.news](http://calendar.abq.news)

The Paper.





# Letter to the Editor: May 22

## No shirt, no car, no problem

I have OWNED NO CAR for 44 years. I have had NO DRIVER'S LICENSE for 23 years. I am GLAD I OWN NO CAR! I would NOT keep any car if given to me FREE!

NO monthly payments, NO car insurance to pay, NO unexpected breakdowns, NO expensive repairs, NO waiting in traffic jams, NO traffic tickets, NO spending big bucks for car gasoline or electricity, NO vehicle inspections, NO hassle finding a parking space, NO parking tickets, NO driving SLEEPY (as I foolishly did often years ago), NO car vandalism, NO flat tires... I SAVE LOADS of MONEY!

If you have a fancy new car, do you worry every time you park your car that someone deliberately out of jealousy or that someone accidentally will damage it?

Before the hit-and-run I suffered one year ago, I had NOT RIDDEN in any car for 22 years. Since the hit-and-run, I have sometimes ridden in cars. But I mostly WALK and ride city buses. I WALK MILES on MANY days. I meet and talk with many people on buses.

CARS are one HUGE cause of the catastrophic CLIMATE CRISIS! CARS POISON Mother Earth — our ONLY HOME! CARS have caused WARS for OIL — KILLING MANY people.

I know OWNING NO CAR is easier for me as a single person than for families with children.

Having NO CAR takes me longer to go places and do things in town, but WHY RUSH through my life?

Two of my best DOCTORS are my two FEET for MUCH WALKING!

-Don Schrader



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## Pile Driving Partnership

*After a year of riling up fans, an Albuquerque professional wrestling group is set to partner with the big dogs*



Fans cheer and jeer at an April Duke City Championship Wrestling event (Source: Rusty Rutherford)

By Michael Hodock, The Paper.

Professional wrestling allows fans to indulge in carnage, without having to visit the hospital. After a year filled with jumps from the top ropes, combatants gripped in crippling submission holds, and deafening screams from a vehement crowd, a local wrestling organization is taking the next step to create a pipeline for up and coming local entertainers.

Duke City Championship Wrestling (DCCW) is an Albuquerque-based organization celebrating its one-year anniversary and is the brainchild of Fred Slow.

Slow, who squeezes in running the wrestling operation when he's not co-hosting a daily sports radio show, says he's amassed a group of about 50 fans and helpers who come out every month to help set up chairs, shoot video or anything else he might need a hand with.

"We have a lot of really tough individuals that support us," Slow says.

DCCW is now preparing to team up with the National Wrestling Alliance (NWA), famously owned by Billy Corgan of The Smashing Pumpkins. The NWA is also the governing body of a group of smaller, independent wrestling territories. A partnership with DCCW could mean a direct path to the pros for local wrestlers and some special guest stars coming to Albuquerque. Slow says that if everything goes according to the plan, the local production will still go on as usual, but with "a

little icing on top of that cake."

"That icing will be the talent of the National Wrestling Alliance," he says.

Brian Idol, a national promoter for the NWA, tells *The Paper*. they're "in the process of evaluating" DCCW as a potential territory.

"I would say to this point, everything has been exceptional and I think both sides see the upside in doing it," Idol says.

His hope is that the partnership will lead to famous faces from the world of professional wrestling.

"The goal of the NWA, on a local level, is to present fans with big-name, national talent that they otherwise may not get a chance to see in their area," Idol says.

But it's not just Slow and Idol who are working towards putting Albuquerque on the map — or mat.

Slow and company transform the Historic El Rey Theater into something almost unrecognizable. They assemble an entire ring that takes up the majority of the venue's standing-room space. Most of the main stage is converted into a VIP section with seats close enough to see every detail of the elaborate matches. DCCW is a local production in its truest form, and the owners literally do a lot of the heavy lifting required to make the operation run smoothly and safely. On any given match day, Slow and his business partners can be found tightening straps and turnbuckles or testing equipment. That

community support often results in new jobs and, in at least one case, new business partners.

Fernando Gonzalez, a co-owner of DCCW, was a fan at first. He returned one night to the venue after an event was over with the intention of becoming part of the DCCW family.

"I went back in while everybody was cleaning up and I introduced myself to the other members of the ownership group and just asked them for a job basically," Gonzales says. "They were more than amenable to seeing if there was a use for me in DCCW."

In hindsight, Gonzales seems like he was made for his role as announcer. In addition to

wearing sharp suits and yellow aviator-style sunglasses, he has a booming announcer voice that rivals many in show business.

Slow's other partners include Joe Singer, better known to fans as the wrestler Hobo Hank, as well as Aaron Burnett, co-owner of El Rey, who can be found at the door handing out wristbands.

All hands will be on deck on May 25, not only in honor of the imminent partnership with the NWA, but also to celebrate DCCW's one year milestone.

No birthday bash would be complete without surprises. Slow doesn't want to give away too much, but says there will be some "fun gimmick matches." Duke City Toys has donated some party favors and fans are encouraged to bring wrapped presents that can be used as weapons in the ring.

Slow says the one year anniversary is the perfect reminder of exactly what goes into a DCCW show, but also what wrestling means to both performers and fans.

"[We have to] remember why we're all doing this and that it's because it's an art form," Slow says. "I'm regularly impressed by the individuals who are able to express their art through my business."

**Duke City Championship Wrestling:  
Birthday Bash (you over the head)**

**Saturday, May 25**

**Doors open at 5 p.m.**

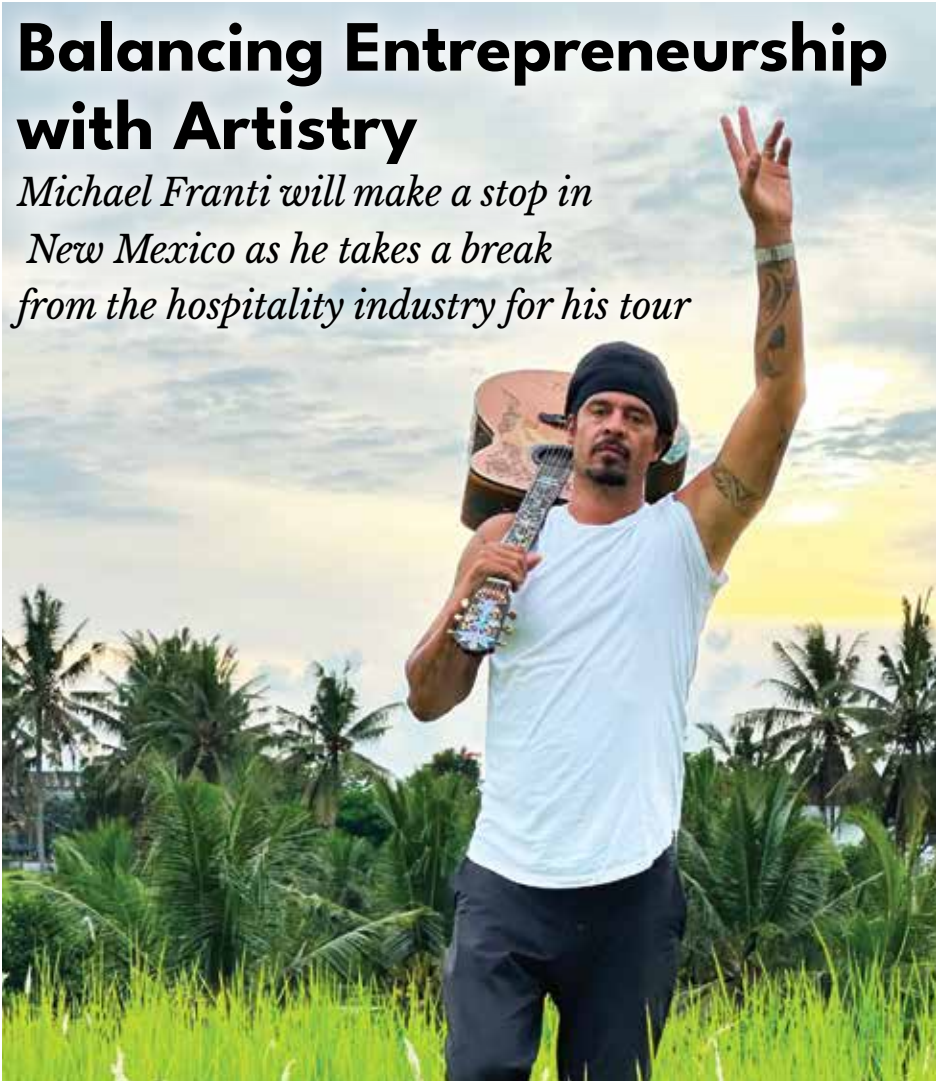
**El Rey Theater**

**All ages**



Fred Slow, co-owner of Duke City Championship Wrestling untangles straps ahead of an April event. (Andy Lyman / The Paper.)





(Source: Nathan Thoen)

By Thomas Crone, Last Word Features

These days, Michael Franti knows that every summertime means a long tour across America, about 60 dates timed to coincide with as many outdoor amphitheater show opportunities as possible, mixed in with club and theater dates too. The music he plays with his longest-standing band, Spearhead, is perfect for the season, but he's also got a lot of non musical responsibilities on his plate. The five-dozen or so U.S. shows a year allow him to cover a majority of this country, while maintaining interests around the world.

Not many musicians, for example, can claim business interests in Bali, but Franti's one of them. Not content to just dabble in investments there, he's committed a chunk of his creative life to an ever-growing hotel and service industry role in Bali.

Bouncing between "being an artist and an entrepreneur," as he puts it, is a challenge.

"We have a hotel in Bali that I started in 2008. We started with five rooms and we've gotten to 32 rooms, two restaurants and a nightclub there," Franti says in a recent phone interview. "I shift gears between everything that has to do with the hotel and everything else I do in music and film. And now, with media and

writing. With the hotel, we have over 100 employees now and a lot of what I do is working with the team there. It's incredible to work with people and empowering them to use their own creativity to find solutions to problems we're facing at the hotel. My job there is to do the big picture stuff, to think about what's next."

The retreat he and his family run is called Soulshine Bali, and the vibe is definitely in line with the messages that Franti and Spearhead have been channeling over the past number of years, a positive approach to life and the human connection.

His live shows with his band Spearhead, he says, are intended to hit a sweet spot with the audience, no matter how familiar they may be with the band's material. Of course, many will be super-fans. Others will leave as fans.

"I'm super passionate about both," Franti says. "I do feel that the ultimate pinnacle of music, where the rubber meets the road, is when the music is played to an audience and you see the reaction and feel the reaction. It's humbling...Every time I'm writing a song, I'm thinking about how it will be played live. There's the draw."

Franti says that despite the amount of time spent on the road, there's always time for a bit of remote studio work, even if

it's just plugging in his guitar to a simple recorder.

"I love the studio," he says, estimating he puts thoughts and music down some 250 days a year, each and every year.

The most recent batch of creative work resulted in the completion and release last November of his latest album, *Big Big Love*, and now this summer's Togetherness tour.

"Togetherness is the central theme in all the songs on our latest record 'Big Big Love,'" Franti said in announcing the tour. "How do we get that feeling of togetherness, that feeling of closeness, that we so often overlooked and took for granted, but now has become so important? How do we bridge these gaps so that people can feel close to one another again? I want to really use my music and my time in my life to bring closeness to people and help them feel like they're not alone in this world."

The excitement and sense of community that comes with being able to get back on tour post-pandemic was something Franti felt deeply.

"It's one of the great passions of my life," Franti says. "I went from touring half the year, to mostly the summer months, to not being able to tour at all with COVID. That was a very emotional time for me. I have this thing that I always thought would be there and is so integral to who I am as a person and suddenly it was pulled out from under my feet. It really made me think about who I am in the world. I've always known why I do what I do."

I love connecting with people and seeing them bring their emotions to the joy of our music. I always thought that would be there. But when it was taken away, I went into a dark place for a while. Now on the other side of that, I have this incredible gratitude to do this thing we do."

Franti's music has taken him through a variety of settings, from early punk and industrial bands (like the Beatnigs, 1986-90), to hip-hop (notably the short-lived Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy, 1991-93) to Spearhead, which brings in a host of influences, though a soul/rock/reggae amalgam characterizes much of the group's shimmering, summery sound.

All of those experiences, Franti says, have allowed him to travel the planet in a way that few get to experience.

"I've always had a lust for finding a new corner of the world, meeting people and experiencing new cultures," he says. "Architecture, art and natural wonders...I've had an incredible opportunity to see these places and play."

**Michael Franti and Spearhead**  
w/ Bombargo

7 p.m. Saturday, May 25

HIPICO Santa Fe

Tickets: \$44 - \$69

All ages

community public radio

**KUNM 89.9 FM**

albuquerque / santa fe



# Top Shelf Deals

## *Market pressures shape prices*



By Josh Lee, The Paper.

New Mexico marijuana prices have dropped since the state opened its recreational weed doors, but are still higher than those in more mature markets. With an overabundance of competition and product — both legal and illegal — and a high demand, retailers may be forced to drop those prices even lower in the coming year.

On a recent trip to Pueblo, Colorado, your plucky reporter bought an ounce of mid-shelf recreational-use marijuana for \$49 (including taxes). It was an amazing deal, and the flower was covered with a dense layer of trichomes that did not disappoint — better than some top-shelf flower found in New Mexico.

The high quality and low price point of the Colorado weed raised some questions about the current cannabis market in New Mexico.

### Oversaturation

Throughout 2023, New Mexico cannabis operators were ringing the alarm about oversaturation. In October, the Cannabis Control Division (CCD) confirmed that over 600 retail cannabis licenses were active. In comparison, there were 679 active retailer licenses in Colorado at the time. According to state data, the CCD has issued

over 1,500 retail cannabis licenses since New Mexico started adult-use sales.

While the state's recreational marijuana industry is still in diapers compared to the mature market found in Colorado, reports of oversaturation and oversupply should presumably have driven retail weed prices down.

### Comparative Shopping

According to an April report from the Oxford Treatment Center in Mississippi, the average cost of an ounce of high-quality marijuana in New Mexico is \$284, compared to \$242 in Colorado. The average price of mid-range weed in New Mexico is \$228 an ounce, compared to \$200 in Colorado. The report was compiled using data submitted to the Price of Weed global marijuana index.

New Mexico prices appear to be steadily dropping as the market grows. According to a recent report from Cannabis Benchmarks, wholesale cannabis prices in New Mexico dropped by 30% between 2022 and 2023. So far in 2024, they've dropped by 13%. Other states are also following the trend, and weed is getting cheaper across the country. Between 2021 and 2024, the average retail market rate for a pound of bud in Colorado dropped by more than half — from around \$1,700 to \$750

— according to the Colorado Department of Revenue.

That could be good news for retailers and might lead to lower price points for consumers. The bad news for retailers is that not only are they competing with one another — they're also competing against black market dealers who are selling lower-priced products without the additional burden of taxes.

In Albuquerque, illicit weed goes for \$70 to \$120 an ounce. In comparison, a good price for an ounce of state-approved mid-shelf weed can hover around \$110. With the addition of taxes, the take-home price for the consumer would be around \$130. That means illicit dealers already have a pricing edge over licensed outfits — and that's before factoring in overhead costs that legal operators have to deal with like paying for licenses, renting retail space and dishing out payroll.

### How Is Price Determined?

Back when weed was illegal, it was a simple matter for a dealer to settle on a price for their wares. The wholesale price was considered alongside the danger of operating an illegal business that could potentially land the dealer in prison. The prices that local competing dealers were charging were also factored in.

In this environment, buyers were left with limited knowledge about market prices and quality standards and were stuck paying whatever they could afford to get marijuana.

Retailers in state-approved markets have to consider their own list of complicating factors when setting weed prices. Costs associated with keeping the business running and training staff are passed down to the consumer along with production and manufacturing costs.

While the cost of business makes illicit weed cheaper compared to regulated weed — even in the age of legalization — the overall price of the drug from both sources has actually dropped since prohibition. That's because it's much easier for consumers to compare prices between a large number of competitors and dealers are no longer in dominant positions.

When setting prices, retailers have to consider production costs, quality of the product, the competitive landscape and the cost of retail operations.

### Smart Shopping

There's a real opportunity here for the resourceful shopper. The average price for an ounce of weed in New Mexico is higher, but comparable to the price in Colorado. But there are more dispensaries in New Mexico.

So while average weed prices in New Mexico are slightly more expensive than those in Colorado, with the abundance of competing dispensaries in larger towns like Albuquerque and Santa Fe, the determined shopper should be able to find flower at comparable prices (although they may not be of comparable quality).

The operator oversaturation that currently vexes the New Mexico marijuana industry is actually a boon for consumers. The overabundance of dispensaries in a smaller market is creating a tense environment that Colorado operators haven't experienced. With all of those businesses in close quarters, competing for consumers' dollars, there's bound to be some hidden deals out there.

In a cursory shopping excursion in Albuquerque last week, your plucky reporter found mid-shelf ounces priced anywhere between \$75 to \$200 before taxes. The most expensive ounce was found in the North Valley at a whopping \$600. It looked impressive, but some other poor soul will have to discover whether it's actually worth it.





# 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!

## Texas Considers Banning Delta-8 THC

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (R) ordered the Texas Senate in April to consider banning hemp-derived psychoactive products containing Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC.

The Texas Senate won't be in session until next year, but Patrick wants the Senate Committee on State Affairs to begin researching whether to ban the substances before it starts. Under federal law, Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC products are legal as long as they are sourced from hemp. However, both have psychoactive properties.

Meanwhile, a case weighing the legality of Delta-8 THC products is currently being considered in the Texas Supreme Court.

A coalition of attorneys general from across the country last month sent a letter to congressional agriculture committees that called for stricter laws on which hemp products are allowed to be manufactured and sold under the federal Farm Bill. The letter called for lawmakers to fix the "glaring vagueness" of the 2018 Farm Bill "that has led to the proliferation of intoxicating hemp products."

If Congress changes the definition of hemp in the bill, it could spell the end for Delta-8 and Delta-9 markets in a number of states.

### NJ Lawmaker Proposes Price Cap

A New Jersey state senator wants to put a pricing cap on the state's medical marijuana products.



(Source: Elsa Olofsson at Wikimedia Commons)

According to the *New Jersey Monitor*, Sen. Troy Singleton (D) used a Pennsylvania statute as a model for the bill, which would allow the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission to set six-month price caps on dispensaries, manufacturers and producers if their prices are deemed "unreasonable and inconsistent" with wholesale costs.

Singleton called the state's medical cannabis prices "concerning." Advocates say the state's high prices — an eighth of an ounce can reportedly be found for around \$60 — are due to corporate control over the

market. The majority of New Jersey's cannabis producers are large corporations while only a few are independent.

Singleton told reporters that it's hard to get any cannabis reform bills passed in the state's Legislature. He said the price cap bill hasn't progressed beyond private conversations.

### Newsom Touts Wins Over Illicit Weed

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said his administration is leading the way in stopping illicit marijuana trade in the state.

A news release from

Newsom's office highlighted the governor's efforts to halt black market marijuana sales and reported the state's Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force has seized over \$61 million in illegal cannabis products since January. Officials have reportedly seized nearly 36,600 pounds of unlicensed weed and destroyed 62,000 illegal plants since the beginning of the year.

"Putting a stop to illegal cannabis operations also means stopping organized crime, human trafficking, and the spread of illegal products that harm the health of Californians and our environment," Newsom said.



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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of May 22

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**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In the coming weeks, you will experience uncomfortable weirdness if you do the following: 1. Meander without focus or purpose; 2. give yourself permission to postpone, procrastinate, and engage in avoidance behavior; 3. ignore the interesting though challenging truths that are right in front of you; 4. hang out with people with mediocre ambitions. But you will experience healthy, uplifting oddness if you do the following: 1. Trust your instincts and intuitions; 2. authorize your spontaneity to invigorate and guide you; 3. take the straightforward path that gets you to the destination most efficiently; 4. be crisp and nimble.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Mysterious energies will soon begin healing at least some of the wounds in your financial genius. As a result, I predict new powers of attraction will awaken in you, making it likely you will add to your wealth in the coming months. To synergize these happy developments, I recommend you give yourself permission to have joyous fun as you lust for more cash. More good news: I will supplement your good fortune by casting a benevolent spell to boost the flow of riches into your bank account.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** When I first got my job writing a horoscope column, I wasn't looking for it. It found me. My bike had been stolen, and I was looking for a new one in the classified ads of the *Good Times*, the local Santa Cruz newspaper. There I serendipitously spied a "Help Wanted" ad. The publisher of the *Good Times* was hiring a new astrology writer to replace Robert Cole, who had just quit. I quickly applied for the gig and got it. Ever since, Robert Cole has been a symbol for me of an accidental and unexpected opportunity appearing out of nowhere. I mention this, Gemini, because when I meditate on you lately, I see the face of Robert Cole.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** In myths and legends, the consummate spiritual goal has various names: the Holy Grail, philosopher's stone, pearl of great price, nirvana, alchemical gold, key of life, and many others. I appreciate this profusion of sacred symbols. It encourages us to not be too literal about identifying the highest reward. The old fables are equally equivocal about where the prize can be found. Is it in an empty desert or dark forest? In the deepest abyss, on a mountaintop, or in the backyard? I bring these thoughts to your attention, Cancerian, because the coming months will be an excellent time to conduct a quest for the marvelous treasure. What do you need most right now? What's the best way to begin your search?

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** I have good news for any Leos who are devoted to pragmatism and rational analysis. Just this once, my horoscope will offer no lyrical teasers or mystical riddles. Your pressing need for no-nonsense grit has moved me to offer straightforward, unembellished counsel. Here it is, dear: Cultivate connections that will serve your passionate ambitions. Make vigorous use of your network and community to gather information that will serve your passionate ambitions. Meditate on what course corrections might be necessary to serve your passionate ambitions.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** For many of you Virgos, your health seems chronically unsettled. You may be constantly hyper-vigilant about the next glitch that could possible affect your well-being. There's a problem with that approach: It may intensify your fear of frailty, which in turn saps your vigor. But I'm happy to report that in the coming months, you will have an enhanced power to break out of this pattern. To get started, try this: Every morning for four minutes, picture yourself overflowing with vitality. Visualize every part of your body working with joyful heartiness. Send streams of love and gratitude to all your organs. Do this for the next 21 days.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Many people regard the word "faith" as referring to delusional hope or wishful thinking. But I ask you to rethink its meaning—and

consider the possibility that it could be an empowering force in the coming months. How? Imagine a faith that's earthy and robust. You actually feel it vibrating in your heart and gut. It literally alters your brain chemistry, fortifying your natural talents and attracting needed resources. It liberates you to feel pragmatically excited as you pursue your goal of fulfilling your soul's code.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** When I was born, my parents gave me the name "Robert." It's derived from an Old North French word meaning "shining" and "bright with glory." In Middle English, though, "robert" was a designation for "a wastrel, a marauder, a good-for-nothing." I use this dichotomy as a reminder that my own nature is a mix of brightness and darkness. A lot of me is shining and inspirational, but there's also a part that's ignorant and confused. And what's true about me is true about everyone else, including you: We are blends of the best and the not-so-best. Now is a good time to draw strength and wisdom from meditating on this reality. Your shadowy aspects have important and interesting truths to reveal to your brilliant aspects—and vice versa.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Here are some meditations on emotions. They are as key to our intelligence as our thoughts! But it's crucial that we distinguish between emotions generated by delusions and emotions that are responses to true perceptions. Let's say I get angry because I imagine a friend stole money from my room while visiting, but then later I put on my vest and find the supposedly stolen cash in the vest pocket. That is a delusional emotion. But if I am sad because my friend's beloved dog is sick, that is emotion based on an accurate perception. I bring this to your attention, Sagittarius, because I believe it is essential that in the coming weeks you discern between the two types.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** As an adjunct to the Ten Commandments, I have formulated the Ten Suggestions. Here's Suggestion #1: Wash your own brain at least three times a year. I'm speaking metaphorically, of course. What I mean is that like me and everyone else, you are always accumulating junky thoughts and useless feelings. Some are generated by our old, conditioned responses, and some pour into us from the media and entertainment industries. And it's best to be proactive about the toxic build-up—not allow it to become monumental. In my astrological opinion, now is an excellent time for a regular mind cleanse.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** So many writers have said terrible things about our existence on planet Earth. "Life is a disease," wrote George Bernard Shaw. "Life is a bad dream," declared Eugene O'Neill. Life is "a vast cold junkpile," according to Stephen King. There are thousands more of these unnuanced disparagements. Why? Here are the facts, as I see them: As tough as it can be to navigate through problems and pain, being alive in our miraculous bodies with our dazzling awareness is a sublime gift. We are all blessed with a mysterious and fascinating destiny. In accordance with the astrological omens, Aquarius, I invite you to celebrate being alive with extra gratitude and ebullience. Begin the jubilee by feeling amazement and awe for your mysterious and fascinating destiny. Second step: Identify five sublime gifts in your life.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** In the coming weeks, I ask you to refrain from indulging in extreme nostalgia. On the other hand, I encourage you to explore the past and sift through memories with the intention of clarifying what really happened back then. Pluck new lessons from the old days that will help you forge smart decisions in the near future. Use your history as a resource while you redefine the meanings of pivotal events. For extra credit, create a new title for the book you may someday write about your life story.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Contrail's makeup

6 Radar screen image

10 "Father Knows \_\_\_\_"

14 Treasure

15 Streaming device

16 Chorus voice

17 Birth-related

18 Game with Cavity Sam

20 Waste away

22 Galaxy rival

23 Part of a URL

24 Turned a key, perhaps

25 Heart of the matter

27 Novice

28 Sundial's seven

29 Sculpted work

31 Big fusses

35 Reunion goer

37 Heartbeat sound

39 Street performer

40 Wanderer

42 Walking \_\_\_\_ (elated)

44 Cheese partner, briefly

45 Copter's fore-runner (var.)

47 Lenient

49 Got in shape

52 Tough guy

53 Wheel's cover

54 Ladies' man

57 Without oxygen

59 Baltimore player

60 Apt to snoop

61 "Loving" actress Negga

63 "Trick" joint

64 Peach or beech

65 Charlie Brown's sister

11 "Silas Marner" novelist

12 Oscar-winning Emma

13 Sculpted, as muscles

19 One way to fall

21 Fancy necktie

24 Overeater's woe

25 2007 Steve Carell film, "\_\_\_\_ Almighty"

26 Storage cylinder

30 Phoenix NBAer

32 Piece of pulp fiction

33 Neighbor of Yemen

34 Religious

36 90s optical illusion fad

38 A whole bunch

41 Mideast money

43 Notes

46 School paper

48 Tomorrow, in Tulum

49 Word in an Oscar speech

50 Talk a blue streak

51 Demean

54 Give a ticket to

55 Butcher's offering

56 Taylor of Mayberry

58 Prickly seed case

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Solution to Crossword:





# “PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY RELIEF!”

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.



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