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The Paper.

ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



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ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

This Bites: New Ankle-Biting Mosquito May Suck ABQ's Summer Fun

Environmental Health Department is seeking a full-time technician to control the biters



The Environmental Health Department is seeking a full-time employee to handle a growing and aggressive mosquito population. (Source: Environmental Health Department)



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

By Elizabeth McCall, City Desk ABQ

This summer may bite. For years the Environmental Health Department (EHD) has relied on part-time, seasonal “mosquito technicians.” This year, after seeing a rise in the city’s least favorite residents, it is looking to hire someone full time.

While the species was first documented in the city in 2018, the *Aedes aegypti* population — also known as the yellow fever mosquito — is rapidly growing in the area. The mosquitoes are considered aggressive biters, targeting ankles and elbows and are active during the daytime — unlike other mosquitoes in the city.

“In the last several years this species has become established over much of the metro area and has become problematic in areas that generally have not had mosquito issues in the past,” said Maia Rodriguez, spokesperson for the EHD. “This species is a challenge to effectively control for and is an extreme nuisance with the potential to be a vector.”

The EHD has been approved to receive \$12,527 for the new position in its Urban Biology

Division. The full-time job will replace the current seasonal positions that require intensive and highly specialized training annually, according to an issue paper that requested the funding.

The department will combine the funding it has for the seasonal positions with the new funding to hire a full-time technician, according to Rodriguez.

However, she said the department will have a seasonal technician this summer because the department won’t receive the funding until mid-summer. The department expects to hire a full-time technician in the fall for next summer.

Rodriguez said this technician will conduct surveillance for the department’s mosquito control program, assist with vector-borne disease investigations and participate in community outreach and education efforts.

Native to South America and Africa, the species are a vector for yellow fever along with other mosquito-borne viruses including Zika, Chikungunya and dengue fever. Since humans are the primary host for these viruses, these mosquitoes thrive in urban areas, especially homes.

These diseases have not been found in New Mexico, according to EHD.

City or county residents can call 311 if they have questions regarding the mosquito species or to request mosquito control services.

Weak in Review: June 12

Quick hits on this week’s news bits

Albuquerque saw an early heat wave this month, followed by a couple of days of monsoon weather.

It’s moth and mosquito season from here on out, folks.



Scientists discovered cannabidiol, or CBD, in a Brazilian plant.

Just like that, weed’s 15 minutes is up.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham says she’s “encouraged” by Joe Biden’s executive order to limit illegal border crossings.

Does that mean the feds will stop harassing legal weed businesses at internal checkpoints?

Japanese researchers say they’re ready to move forward with a new drug that might allow humans to regrow teeth.

Aside from maybe helping a bunch of people, this is what nightmares are made of.



A group of military veterans called out mixed martial arts Jackson Wink Academy for flying an American flag upside down.

We’d be shocked if it weren’t for the Q-Anon sign that mysteriously appeared above the building several years ago.

A new paddle game created by Albuquerque firefighters, called Dot Ball 360, is gaining national popularity.

Now all of our insufferable pickleball friends will be insufferable Dot Ball 360 friends.

A radio signal coming from space that repeats every hour has scientists scratching their heads.

Great, this is probably an alien version of a paddle game.

Donald Trump told a crowd in Nevada, “I don’t care about you. I just want your vote.”

He’s always been great at saying the quiet part out loud.

Downtown strip club Knockouts is appealing the city’s decision to revoke the club’s liquor license.

We’ve all heard about food deserts, but are strip club deserts a thing?



Albuquerque Pride Parade

Thousands lined the streets of Nob Hill Saturday morning as revelers decked in rainbows and costumes marched down Central Avenue for the annual Albuquerque Pride Parade. (Photos by Roberto E. Rosales / City Desk ABQ)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

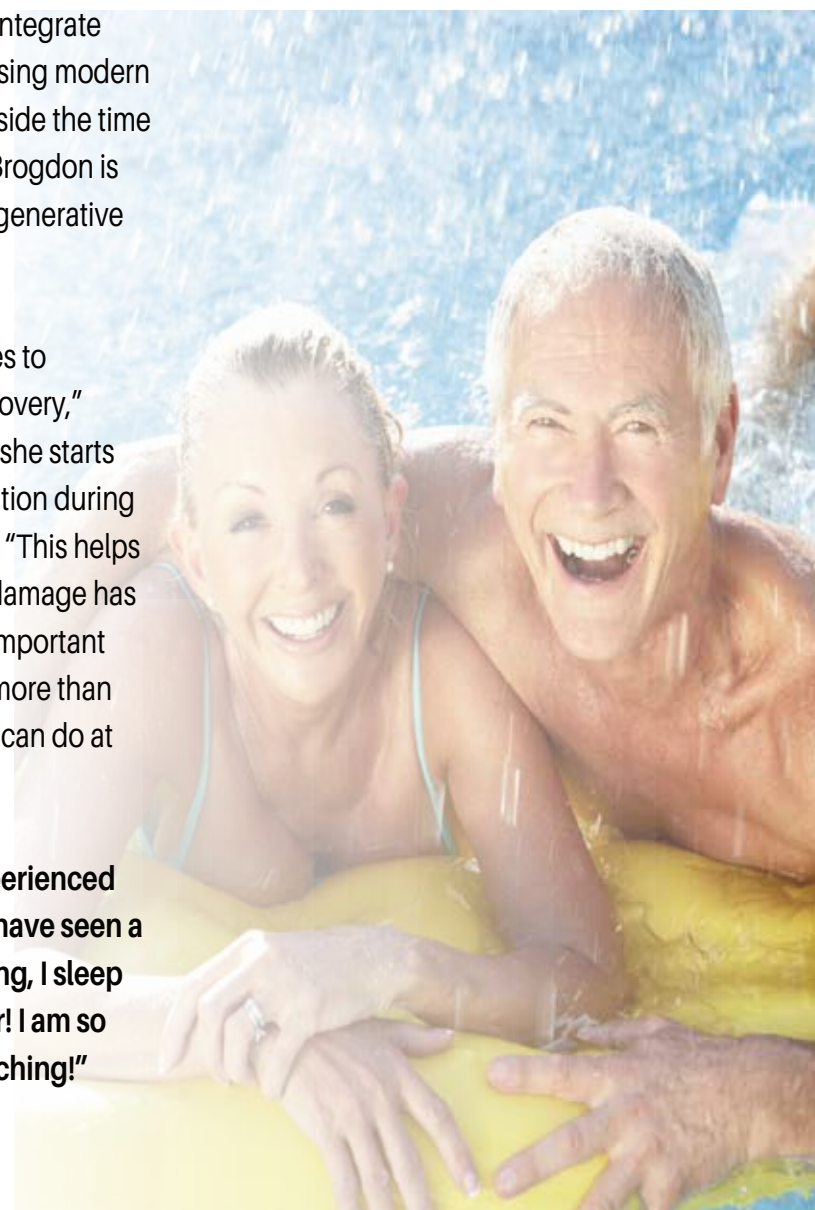
Dr. Andrea Brogdon has helped thousands of patients get their life back after being diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy and living with the debilitating effects of the disease. How does she get such amazing results? "Acupuncture has been used for centuries to improve circulation but the real magic happens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

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

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

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

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



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Albu-queer-que

Get to know some of the people in the LGBTQ+ community

By Andy Lyman, The Paper.

Celebrating our LGBTQ+ community often gets distilled into one day, one parade and one PrideFest, even though Pride Month is — well — a whole month. We here at *The Paper*. wanted to make sure to keep the celebration going by highlighting some community members. We sent out questions to those community members and below are their answers.

*Do you want to share your story?
Drop us a line at editor@abq.news.*



Kathy Hash (she / her / hers)
Title/position: Owner / Agent
Organization: Escape Travel USA
escapetravelusa.com

Tell us a little about yourself.

I opened in 2018 because I love to travel and help others make their dreams come true as well. Everyone deserves a great vacation and support for where they travel and make memories to last a lifetime.

What does Pride Month mean to you?

My daughter is gay as well as many of my friends. I think everyone has their right to live their life and love who they want. We need to respect people for just being good humans, regardless of anything else. Lend a hand. I love supporting the community and helping where I can. I love to see the support for our community from so many different types of people and feel like we should keep working on making sure everyone has a safe and loving place.

What are some of the best things about Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community?

I think it's the support that is offered in Albuquerque. I was part of the OUT Chamber for quite awhile and know they offer all types of help and support, as well as many other local organizations.

I love that so many from the community give back in some way. Helping others, donating and helping to work on legislation as well.

What can community allies do to show more support?

Banners, signs, donate, give back, show that you serve every type of person and that you will stand up for that.

What's something most people might be surprised to learn about you?

I put on a good front but really am not all that sure of myself anymore. I love techno and love to dance!



Shanon Jaramillo (she / her / hers)
Title/position: Chief Empowerment Officer
Organization: SeedCrest, Inc.
seedcrest.io

Tell us a little about yourself.

Hello! I'm a seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in recruiting and licensing across various industries nationwide. Originally from New Mexico, I've lived in nine states and spent time abroad. I've dedicated my career to helping professionals secure jobs and start businesses. In 2017 I founded SeedCrest, Inc., a Woman, Latina, Native, LGBTQ+ recruitment and training company. We pioneered New Mexico's first workforce education and certification programs and developed a unique training and workforce tracking software used statewide. Our curriculum, designed in collaboration with state regulations and top colleges, serves many of New Mexico's leading cannabis businesses. I'm passionate about the future and eager to help more people achieve their professional goals!

What does Pride Month mean to you?

Being part of the LGBTQ+ community, especially as a Latina, means embracing my identity with

pride and standing up for equality and representation. It's about fostering a sense of belonging and paving the way for future generations to thrive without fear or prejudice. Pride is a testament to our collective strength and an affirmation of our right to live authentically and unapologetically.

What are some of the best things about Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community?

Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community is diverse and there are a lot of places where people can be themselves while enjoying our culture and food. Albuquerque is ranked as the Nation's LGBTQ+ friendly and safe place to live according to the National Human Rights Campaign for LGBTQ+ inclusivity! I am proud of our community where nondiscrimination laws, employee benefits, services, programs, law enforcement, and leadership on LGBTQ+ equality exist for those who identify.

What can community allies do to show more support?

Community allies can be a force for amplifying LGBTQ+ voices and support for businesses. Create more funding and business resources for LGBTQ+ founded companies, and provide more upscale spaces for professionals to gather and network.

What's something most people might be surprised to learn about you?

I am fluent in Spanish and my nephews call me "Nina" for Madrina or Godmother in Spanish.



pamm meyers (she / her / hers)
Title/Position: CEO
Organization: pamm meyers Social Media and Two Flower Productions
facebook.com/pammmeyerssocialmedia
twoflowerproductions.com

Tell us a little about yourself.

I believe in giving back to our community, in any way one can, is important. I host 3Q, New Mexico's Business and Nonprofit Podcast and Lip Service, a podcast of Our Coming Out Stories.

Both podcasts are under the nonprofit umbrella of Two Flower Productions. 3Q, which launched in 2020, provides New Mexico business owners with an opportunity to share what they do and talk about events they want to promote. Lip Service, which launched Valentine's Day 2022, has subscribers in 39 counties and was created to record the Coming Out Stories of the LGBTQ+ community, to help create awareness and empathy for our community and to support those that are still struggling, to know they are not alone.

What does Pride Month mean to you?

We are queer 365 but Pride Month does provide a focused time of the year, like Easter or Hanukkah, to celebrate the resilience of our community. We walk in the footsteps created at Stonewall in June of 1969. We have made great progress with human rights and LGBTQ rights. I am proud that we live in the most protected state, on paper, for our LGBTQ+ community. But we all know how quickly our rights can be taken away. So we celebrate love, diversity, kindness, and the power of Queer Pride during Pride Month.

What are some of the best things about Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community?

We have a fantastic Queer community here in Albuquerque. There are multiple drag shows every week. Queer people are protected here, as much as we can be.

You don't have to file a notice in the paper to change your name now, this is important, not just to queer people but to abused women trying to remain protected.

We have a bathroom bill that says anyone can use a public single-stall bathroom and not risk persecution, just like you would use your bathroom at home, imagine that!

We have a vibrant and beautiful queer community that is celebrated with queer happy hours like Friends of Dorothy,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

hosted by Lucas Romero and Luke Rogers and New Mexico Hot Flash Women's Dance, hosted by Kathy Kunda and Kathy Barber, and important organizations like Equality New Mexico, the Transgender Resource Center, the Pride Circle with the Albuquerque Community Foundation and Albuquerque Pride.

We have many local and statewide representatives that are queer. That is a lot to celebrate.

What can community allies do to show more support?

Most of the organizations that work for the protection of our queer community rely on donations and the groups that organize events all do it on their own. We are all nonprofits and rely on the support of the entire community in our area, not just the LGBTQ+ community. We are less than 5% of the population. We are a small group here and we need the support of our allies to retain a great community.

I recently attended a Juneteenth event in Santa Fe where the Grandmother of Juneteenth, 97-year-old Dr. Opal Lee, talked about the value of unity for all. We can not sustain a vibrant community individually, it takes a village.

What's something most people might be surprised to learn about you? I share lots of information on events around town. People think I am so busy attending all these events and I do attend quite a few but like all extroverts it is important to carve out alone time and unplug. I relish my alone time with my five dogs in quiet Placitas. That said, hosting two podcasts, running a digital marketing company, and volunteering for Equality New Mexico as well as the Human Rights Alliance of Santa Fe, take a fair amount of time, particularly during Pride Month.



Jakey Onassis (she / her / they / them)

Title/position: The First Lady of Albuquerque

Organization: Off Broadway Vintage Clothing And Costumes
offbroadwayvintage.com

Tell us a little about yourself.

Born and raised here in the Duke City. I've often felt like a rose that has come through the concrete. There have been some roadblocks to become Jakey Onassis, but here I am. When I'm not out at a local restaurant, art show or concert I'm at home snuggled up on the couch reading *The Paper*. (Editor's Note: Awww shucks)

What does Pride Month mean to you?

Pride month is a very special time of year, it's the time not only to receive love and acceptance but to be loving, accepting and free.

What are some of the best things about Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community?

I see such a strong sense of community, love and support for one another here in Albuquerque. I also love to see all the creativity the community brings to Albuquerque.

What can community allies do to show more support?

I have seen such a positive change in how far the LGBTQ+ community has come, even in the past few years. We couldn't have done it without help from our allies. Keep speaking up, keep asking questions, and keep spreading love and support.

What's something most people might be surprised to learn about you?

I may seem really extroverted, but I am actually really shy, but I push through that.



T. Michael Trimm (he / him / his / sir)

Title/position: Executive Director

Organization: Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico (TGRCNM)

tgrcnm.org

Tell us a little about yourself.

I joined TGRCNM in November 2020 as director of operations and was promoted in February 2022 to executive director of Services & Administration.

Originally from Ohio (and with eight siblings!), I now call the Southwest region home and sought the opportunity to join the center to be part of uplifting, encouraging, and empowering transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

What does Pride Month mean to you?

Pride month is an additional opportunity for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them to publicly express their love, support and affirmation of all of who they are, including identities that are LGBTQ and more. Pride, for me, is done all year long, and the month of June is an opportunity to be a little extra.

What are some of the best things about Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community?

One of the best things about Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community is the diversity in experience, mindset, values and beliefs. This community is not a monolith and there is a richness found in every person who makes up the robust community.

What can community allies do to show more support?

Allies should strive to be active accomplices when supporting LGBTQ+ people. While support looks different for everyone, active accomplices are people who physically show up to support people, events, and organizations doing good for and with the community, donating financially when possible to community based LGBTQ+ causes, volunteering their time and/or talent, voting their values in every election, and treating others in a kind, compassionate manner.

What's something most people might be surprised to learn about you?

I am a huge fan of Batman and the Cincinnati Bengals.



Chris Wright-Garcia (they / them)

Title/Position: Founder / CEO

Organization: LeatherDaddy Skin Co.

leatherdaddyskin.com

Tell us a little about yourself.

I am the Non-Binary founder of LeatherDaddy Skin Co., a plant-based skincare company that blends sensuality with high-quality, natural ingredients. Launched after losing my serving job to the pandemic, my mission is to create products that not only nurture the skin but also celebrate self-expression and intimacy. In addition to my professional pursuits, I'm a two-time award-winning chef and am deeply passionate about the LGBTQ+ community. I am married to KOB Chief Meteorologist Eddie Garcia, and we live in the beautiful north valley with our two rescue dogs, Barclay and Boomer.

What does Pride Month mean to you?

Pride Month is a celebration of identity, love, and the progress we've made as a community. It's a time to honor the history of our struggles and triumphs, reflect on the ongoing challenges we face, and come together in solidarity. For me, it's about visibility, acceptance, and the unapologetic celebration of who we are.

What are some of the best things about Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community?

Albuquerque's LGBTQ+ community is incredibly diverse, vibrant, and supportive. The community events, support groups, and inclusive spaces make Albuquerque a fantastic place for LGBTQ+ folx to connect and thrive.

What can community allies do to show more support?

Community allies can show support by actively listening and educating themselves about LGBTQ+ issues, standing up against discrimination and advocating for equality in their everyday lives. Voting, attending LGBTQ+ events, supporting LGBTQ+ businesses and fostering inclusive environments in workplaces and social circles also make a significant impact.

What's something most people might be surprised to learn about you?

Most people might be surprised to learn that I am a huge Trekkie fan. Star Trek has inspired me in an infinite amount of ways, particularly in its vision of a diverse and inclusive future where everyone is valued for who they are. We can all learn a lot from Star Trek.

The Rainbow Intersection



Megan Malcom-Morgan at Rainbow Walk in 2023 (Source: Jerah R. Cordova)

By Michael Hodock, The Paper.

Since 2021, a New Mexican curator and gallery owner has set out each year to contribute to the art district in Belen with an exhibition celebrating Pride Month. The Rainbow Walk, hosted and created by Megan Malcom-Morgan (“3M”), is not a typical Pride parade compared to those in bigger cities like Albuquerque or Santa Fe. The first annual event had about 25 to 30 participants, mostly close friends and family members, but attendance has grown to about 200 since its inception.

“We don’t have an open pride presence,

really at all,” Malcolm-Morgan, who describes herself as “the town liberal,” says. “Belen itself is a small town — about 7,000 people — and it’s very, very religious. We have more churches than we do anything else.”

Although the Rainbow Walk takes place during Pride month, the event is not explicitly announced as an LGBTQ+ event, but rather an experimental art performance. Six community members each pick different rainbow-colored chalk powder and throw it in an aerial display that resembles fog or mist. Community members play in the chalk clouds until they settle, and the end result is a rainbow in the street.

“That feeling of playfulness and euphoria [is] experienced by everyone because that’s what the exhibition is supposed to do,” Malcolm-Morgan says. “It’s supposed to just make you happy and make you proud and really elicit the feelings of love and happiness. So to me that’s what it does.”

The event is family-friendly and kids are encouraged to participate because according to Malcom-Morgan, it is “like playing in art.”

Malcom-Morgan describes the Rainbow Walk as “a very ephemeral, joyful event,” but she is also well aware that not everyone in the community approves of the celebration.

“The very first year I did it, the Chamber of Commerce wouldn’t support it,” she says. “The local churches will use sidewalk chalk to write things on the sidewalk [like] ‘Marriage is between a man and a woman,’ and ‘The rainbow is God’s promise.’”

Literally speaking, she says, the art project is “just a rainbow in the street” created with chalk.

“All we do is throw [powdered] chalk in the streets, make a rainbow and people lose their minds. So that’s enough to tell me that this is the perfect place to do it.”

The entire Rainbow Walk event lasts from 12-6 p.m. on June 15 and takes place at the intersection of Becker Avenue and Second Street. The aerial chalk display starts at 3 p.m. and lasts about 15 minutes.

Rainbow Walk

12-6 p.m. June 15

201 Becker Ave., Belen

Free

community public radio



KUNM 89.9 FM albuquerque / santa fe

ONE GOOD
CUP OF coffee



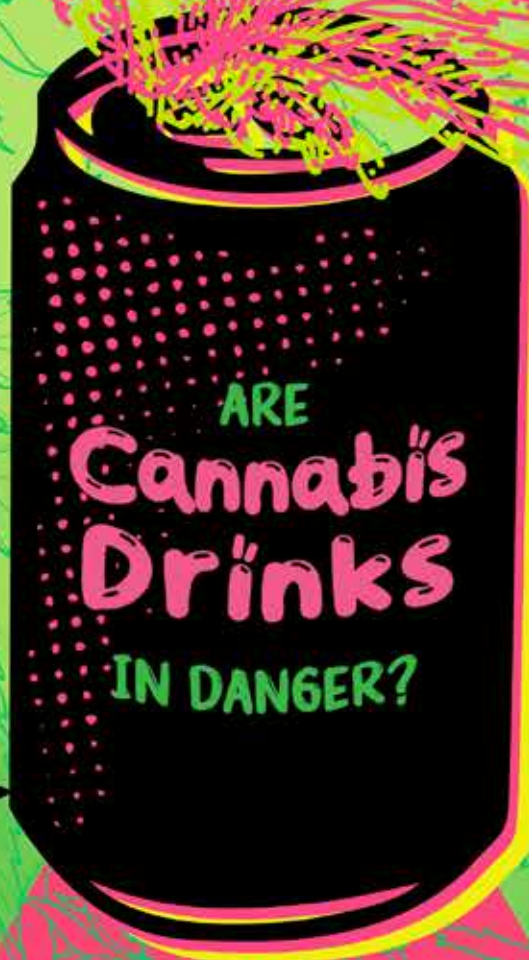
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The Rolling Paper.

Warning: Do not smoke the newsprint. Extreme enlightenment may occur.



By Josh Lee, The Paper.

Summer is on its way, and pretty soon we'll be begging for relief from the fiery rays of an angry sun. Luckily, the new trend of THC-infused seltzers that has taken over the imaginations of the nation's brewers means we'll be able to cool off and get high at the same time. But hemp-based THC drinks could be on the chopping block if federal lawmakers decide to close a loophole in hemp law that allows them to be produced.

Drinks infused with THC have been around for years in states where the drug is legal. But enterprising companies have found a way to sell intoxicating drinks made with hemp-derived THC in recent years, creating a market that started out small but has bloomed into a full-blown competitor against legal weed operators.

Even in its immature state, the THC drink market is already finding ways to cater to niche consumer bases. Not only are there crisp, bubbly seltzers to tickle buyers' tastes buds, but there are also infused sports drinks, infused vitamin beverages, infused energy drinks, infused relaxation elixirs and infused ciders.



(Source: Will Shenton at Wikimedia Commons)

These drinks are on sale (even in states that still prohibit marijuana) thanks to a loophole in hemp law. When hemp was legalized through the 2018 Farm Bill, it was defined as cannabis with less than 0.3% THC by dry weight. But the law doesn't ban using hemp to produce intoxicating products, meaning companies are able to extract the minuscule amount of THC they find in hemp and collect it until they have enough to get a person high.

Hemp isn't a different type or a cousin of marijuana, as is often said. It *is* marijuana. It's just

marijuana with less than 0.3% THC. That means that hemp-derived THC seltzers deliver the exact same punch as any designated "marijuana-infused" edible.

The loophole has also been used by companies to produce those highly controversial Delta-8 and Delta-10 THC products (which also use hemp-based intoxicants) that have caused an uproar over the last couple of years.

The free ride for these products could be coming to an end, though. Federal lawmakers have finally caught on and U.S.

House Agriculture Committee Republicans are pushing for an amendment to the Farm Bill that would close the loophole by specifically banning the production of hemp-derived intoxicants. If that happens, it could be curtains for THC seltzers.

The good news is most legal cannabis dispensaries in New Mexico already offer THC-infused drinks that aren't reliant on the Farm Bill for their existence.

Weed industry advocacy groups are torn on whether to support closing the loophole or not. On the one hand, the sale of intoxicating hemp products affects the bottom line of cannabis operators in states where marijuana is legal.

In April, the U.S. Cannabis Council sent a letter to lawmakers calling for them to close the loophole and "tackle the national crisis caused by unregulated intoxicating hemp products."

On the other hand, more than a few big operators like Curaleaf have their fingers in both industries, selling marijuana in legal states while selling hemp-based THC products in prohibitive states. Closing the loophole would mean a loss in revenue for them.



Dispensary Near Me (Source: Town of Bernalillo)

Bernalillo dispensary ordered to repaint after public complaints

By Jesse Jones, Sandoval Signpost

The Bernalillo Town Council reversed the planning commission's approval of a dispensary painted bright green, citing community concerns regarding historic preservation.

Dispensary Near Me, a cannabis dispensary located at 413 South Camino Del Pueblo in Bernalillo, has been ordered to repaint its building following public complaints. At the May 28 meeting, the town council

overturned an earlier decision by the Planning and Zoning Commission that had permitted the dispensary to use a bright green color for its exterior paint.

The council's decision came after community members voiced their concerns about the aesthetic impact of the green paint on the historic ambiance of Camino del Pueblo.

After the variance was approved, Trevor Donaldson, owner of Dispensary Near Me, added color above the building's

portal which was not approved by the planning department, prompting residents Sterling and Margarita Amoit, who were worried about preserving the town's heritage, to appeal the Planning and Zoning Commission's approval of a variance request.

"We are here representing many concerned citizens who have expressed strong feelings about the color change of the building at 413 South," Margarita Amoit said. "They feel that the color green is disturbing and does not represent the character of main street."

The council unanimously sided with maintaining historical integrity, mandating that the dispensary should select a more appropriate color in line with the Mainstreet Overlay Zone's guidelines.

According to Stephanie Shumsky, the town's planning and zoning director, the guidelines for Bernalillo's Mainstreet Overlay District do not specify a color palette for historic buildings. Although the dispensary is not listed on the state or national register, it is included on a list of buildings the overlay considers historic. Shumsky said buildings in this district are expected to emulate

historic structures, which traditionally feature a muted yellowish-tan color.

In a letter to the planning commission, Donaldson argued that the "paradise green" paint color was integral to the company's brand identity. He emphasized that the color of the building was crucial for brand recognition and he said it adds brightness to the community.

Rhonda Mitchell, a resident of Bernalillo disagreed, "That building was one of my favorite buildings in the town and so to see that drastic change was shocking to me." She continued, "Even though we have different colors in our neighborhood, they're compatible and they complement one another. So I would hope to see this building restored to its previous form."

At the end of the discussion, the councilors agreed with the residents and voted to approve the appeal. This means Donaldson will need to choose a color that suits the character of the town.

"I got more calls about this one than anything I've gotten calls about in a while because it really does not hit on the character of the town that we've grown up in and that we all love," said Mayor Jack Torres.



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!

NYC Raids Raise Eyebrows

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

New York City's campaign to shut down unlicensed cannabis shops has hit a snag following questionable police raids.

A recently released clip from surveillance video shows New York Police Department officers raiding an alleged unlicensed dispensary. In the footage, officers ask an employee to allow them behind the counter and the employee asks the officers to present a court order. The officers tell him that they don't need a court order and physically restrain the man before arresting him for obstruction of justice.

The man's lawyer told reporters that the officers violated both personal civil rights protections and due process.

According to the state's cannabis regulations, individuals can refuse an inspection but will be fined. The state's regulatory body is then expected to obtain a court order allowing officers to enter the establishment. The police in the video clip appear to violate this rule, however.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams' office has said it is investigating the incident.

DeSantis Sidles Up to Hemp Intoxicants

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) is reportedly planning to veto a bill that would ban hemp-derived intoxicants like Delta-8 THC from the state as a way to gain support from the hemp industry in fighting a proposed constitutional amendment that would legalize marijuana.



(Source: Wikimedia Commons)

According to a report from CBS News, staff in DeSantis' office say that the Florida governor plans to veto SB-1698, which would ban the manufacturing and sale of products containing Delta-8 and Delta-10 THC and restrict the sale of products containing Delta-9 THC. The staffers told reporters that the governor is banking on gaining funds from the hemp industry to finance a campaign against state Constitutional Amendment 3, which would legalize recreational marijuana for anyone 21 and older.

Some cannabis advocates have questioned DeSantis'

seemingly contradictory stances against recreational marijuana and in favor of intoxicating hemp products.

Guns Denied to Hawaiian MMJ Patients

The leading reason people were denied firearms in Hawaii last year was the use of medical cannabis.

According to a report from the state, more than 500 firearm applications were denied in Hawaii in 2023. Of those, 40% were denied because they admitted to having been or being enrolled in the state's

medical marijuana program, which has been active since 2015. Most counties in the state allow former medical cannabis patients to apply for a gun a year after their enrollment card expires, although Hawaii County automatically disqualifies anyone who has ever been enrolled.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court is deciding whether it will hear an appeal from the federal government of a court ruling that found the federal regulation that keeps legal marijuana users from owning firearms violates the Second Amendment.

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Heights Summerfest

Albuquerque's Summerfest season kicks off with **Heights Summerfest**, happening **Saturday, June 15 from 5 to 10 p.m.** at **North Domingo Baca Park (7521 Carmel Ave. NE)**. These popular City of Albuquerque-sponsored block parties heat up neighborhoods around the Duke City (the Heights, Nob Hill, Westside) over the sweltering summer months. This first one features local vendors, kids' activities, food trucks, libations from area breweries and loads of entertainment. Albuquerque bands **The NOMS**, **Alex Maryol** and **Red Light Cameras** will play on the main stage starting at 5 p.m. The national headliners, reggae legend **Bob Marley's** original backing band **The Wailers**, will go on at 8:30 p.m. Admission is **free** and open to the public.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Class / Workshop

Cycle Health 101 \$44 4:30-7:30 pm URBANMAMA505 1014 Central Ave SW

Community

Speaker Series: Chronic Wasting Disease in New Mexico 7:30-9 pm Friends Meeting House 1600 5th St NW

Victorian Girls Summer Tea Camp Version 2 \$250 1-4 pm Escape in Time 1100 San Mateo Blvd NE, Unit 21

Exhibit

Making a World of Difference: Stories About Global Health Traveling Exhibit 8 am-5 pm UNM Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center North Campus, Building 234, 2400 Marble NE

Pueblo Baseball: Stitching Our Community Together 9 am-5 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Reflective Presence: The Art of Jesse Littlebird & Jonathan Loretto 9 am-5 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Film

Summer Series Film Screening: Street Heroines (2021) 5-10 pm National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest

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

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A 94 Rock and Cat & Cobra Special! Rock animation **AMERICAN POP (1981)**

Saturday June 15 10:30pm

Japanese **BEIJING WATERMELON (1989)**

Tue-Fri June 18-21 3:15, 7:45pm

Lost film restored: **TIME OF THE HEATHEN**

Tue-Fri June 18-21 6:00pm

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Music

Eileen & the In-Betweens 6-9 pm
Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec
Road Northeast

Felix Gato Peralta Duo 6-8 pm
Town & Ranch 1318 Fourth St.
NW

Hoods \$15 7:30-11 pm Launchpad
618 Central Ave SW

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

Karaoke with DJ Q 8-10 pm Luxe
Lounge 303 Romero St NW N-117

Lara Manzanares 5-7 pm Rudolfo
Anaya North Valley Public Library
7704 2nd Street Northwest #B

Man Cub \$5-\$10 9 pm-1:30 am
Effex NightClub 420 Central
Avenue Southwest

Trinity Soul 6-9 pm Rio Bravo
Brewing Company 1912 Second
St NW

Performance

New Mexico Shakespeare Festival
6:45-10 pm New Mexico Veterans
Memorial 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE
#5009

Sports

Albuquerque Isotopes vs. El Paso
Chihuahuas \$14-\$28 6:30-9 pm
Isotopes Park

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Comedy

Bobcat Goldthwait \$30-\$40
7-8:30 pm Quezada's Comedy
Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez
Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana
Pueblo

Bobcat Goldthwait \$30-\$40 9:30-
11 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at
Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon
Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo

Comedy Night 7-10 pm Flatiron
Bites & Brews 6001 San Mateo
Blvd NE

Kate Willett \$15 9:30-11 pm The
Box Performance Space 114 Gold
Ave SW

The Show - Live Comedy

Improv \$10-\$12 8-9 pm The Box
Performance Space 114 Gold Ave
SW

Community

Victorian Girls Summer Tea
Camp Version 2 \$250 1-4 pm
Escape in Time 1100 San Mateo
Blvd NE, Unit 21

Dance

Water Strider Dance Group (Zuni
Pueblo) 2-3 pm Indian Pueblo
Cultural Center 2401 12th Street
NW

Film

Movies in the Park: The Marvels
7-10 pm Westside Community
Center 1250 Isleta Blvd SW

Written on the Landscape:
Mysteries Beyond Chaco
Canyon Premiere \$8 6:30-8:30
pm New Mexico Museum of
Natural History and Science 1801
Mountain Rd NW

Miscellaneous

The Golden Age of Jazz Flower
Show 1-4 pm Albuquerque
Garden Center 10120 Lomas Blvd
NE

Music

Casa Flamenca 2024 Summer
Season Continues \$40 8-9:30 pm
Casa Flamenca 401 Rio Grande
Blvd. NW

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

Hello Darlin' 6-9 pm Boxing Bear
Brewing Co. (Firestone Taproom
and Brewery) 8420 Firestone
Lane NE

Live Music In The Lobo Lounge
Featuring Casper Gomez 5 pm
The Historic Lobo Theater -
Lounge & Event Venue 3013
Central Ave NE

Night Moves 5:30-8:30 pm
Canvas Artistry - Kitchen Bar Art
Music 1 Central Ave NW Suite 3A

Omni \$13 7-11:30 pm Sister 407
Central Ave. NW

Only Perreo Party \$16 9:30 pm-
1:30 am Revel Entertainment
Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE

Orange Lala Vinyl Club Spins Out
8-11 pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill
118 Tulane SE



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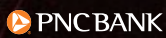
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Reik - Panorama Tour \$46-\$76 8-10 pm Kiva Auditorium 2nd St & Marquette Northeast

Salsa Under the Stars ft. Son Como Son \$17-\$20 7-9 pm Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Road NW

The 30 & UP R & B Experience \$15-\$20 9:30 pm-1 am The Box Performance Space 114 Gold Ave SW

The Emo Night Tour \$17 8 pm-12 am Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave SW

The High Curbs \$15 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Turner & Grimes Trio 7-10 pm Lizard Tail Brewing 9800 Montgomery Blvd NE STE 7

Performance

Kinky Boots \$25-\$28 7:30-9:30 pm Musical Theatre Southwest 6320B Domingo NE

New Mexico Shakespeare Festival 6:45-10 pm New Mexico Veterans Memorial 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE #5009

The Outlaw, Lawman and Ghost Magic Show \$25 8-9:15 pm Painted Lady Bed & Brew 1100 Bellamah Ave. NW

The Outsider \$10-\$24 7:30-10 pm Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

Sports

Albuquerque Isotopes vs. El Paso Chihuahuas \$14-\$28 6:30-9:30 pm Isotopes Park

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Art Openings

NMX Standard Art Show 12-5 pm Canvas Artistry - Kitchen Bar Art Music 1 Central Ave NW Suite 3A

Class / Workshop

Cooling Your Summer Garden 10 am-12 pm Rio Grande Community Farm 1701 Montañño Rd NW

Fostering Friendship With the Fae \$13 7-8 pm Abitha's Metaphysical Shop 2231 Wyoming Blvd NE

Sketchbook Basics w/ Cheryl Kelley \$80 10 am-1 pm Artisan ABQ 3017 Monte Vista Blvd. NE

Comedy

Bobcat Goldthwait \$30-\$40 7-8:30 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Bobcat Goldthwait \$30-\$40 9:30-11 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Kate Willett \$15 9:30-11 pm The Box Performance Space 114 Gold Ave SW

Saturday Night Stand-Up 7:30-9 pm Bosque Brewing Co. Nob Hill Public House 106 Girard Blvd. SE B

The Show - Live Comedy Improv \$10-\$12 8-9 pm The Box Performance Space 114 Gold Ave SW

Community

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

[EVENTS.] The Paper.

Summer at the Marketplace: a patio pop-up event 9 am-1 pm Poulin Marketplace 8600 Pan American Fwy NE

Dance

Water Strider Dance Group (Zuni Pueblo) 11 am-12 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Water Strider Dance Group (Zuni Pueblo) 2-3 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Drink

Homebrewer's Happy Hour 10 am-3 pm Southwest Grape & Grain 3401 Candelaria Rd, NE suite e/g

Festival

2024 Heights Summerfest 5-10 pm North Domingo Baca Park 7521 Carmel Ave NE

Misfits of Oz Celebration of Oddities 12-5 pm Flock of Moons Brewing Company 111 Harvard Dr. SE

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Ask the Experts: Upgrading Your Swamp Cooler to Cool A/C For Hotter Summers

Sponsored by Kidzz Mechanical

It is the time of year when many Albuquerque homeowners begin the arduous task of opening up their swamp cooler and wondering if this is the year they should finally convert to A/C.

To learn what the process really looks like, and how new financing options help homeowners manage, we asked Chad Redford, CEO at Kidzz Mechanical, an Albuquerque-based HVAC firm with more than 200 5-Star reviews on Google about today's conversion process.

Chad, a lot of homes around Albuquerque were built with swamp coolers, but those don't seem to work as well as they used to. Why is that?

The biggest issue with swamp coolers in our climate is that 10 or 20 years ago our monsoon season occurred in late August/early September. Now in recent years we get our monsoon season in early/mid July.

When the rains come the relative humidity increases from our usual 5-10% humidity to 25-35% relative humidity. When the relative humidity increases to over

20% a swamp cooler only has the ability to change the temperature or air by 6-7°.

This change in climate has encouraged many people to convert to refrigerated air so that they have the ability to stay comfortable during the hottest days of the year.

And, we all know that swamp coolers can lower inside temperatures by up to 20-degrees. On our hottest days, inside temps can still be unbearable. The National Weather Service shows us that ABQ is seeing more high temperature days each year.

How long does it take to upgrade or install a new air conditioner?

In most cases we can install a new air conditioning system in one day.

Many people think they can't afford an upgrade, but you have lots of reviews online from customers who did. What financing is available now?

At one time, homeowners had to pay the full cost before installing or upgrading to a new unit. But we've made upgrading more accessible.

We have worked with Wells Fargo to provide hundreds of our



customers with many different rate plans that accommodate their budget. Wells Fargo offers many different options based on your credit.

• If I'm not ready for an upgrade yet, do you handle smaller jobs like opening my swamp cooler?

If you're not ready to upgrade your system yet, we have some of the best service technicians in the state. Sometimes your system just needs a tune up and some maintenance to get it operating properly

and heating or cooling your house like it should. We offer very affordable maintenance packages and repair options.

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- Phone: (505) 526-2368
- kidzzusa.com

NM Juneteenth 2024 11 am-11 pm
Albuquerque Civic Plaza 1 Civic Plaza

Film

Animal Humane New Mexico: Feline Film Festival 2024 \$22-\$87 4-7:30 pm National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest

Movie Under the Wings: Jurassic Park \$11-\$17 7:30-9:30 pm National Museum of Nuclear Science & History 601 Eubank Blvd SE

Health & Wellness

Juneteenth Freedom Flow Yoga Class 9-10 am Academy Hills Park 9709 Layton Ave. NE

Literature/Poetry

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

Ronn Perea Reading & Book Signing 11 am-1 pm The Wheels Museum 1100 Second SW, Albuquerque

Miscellaneous

Kombucha Pride Party w/ New Mexico Ferments 12-3 pm New Mexico Ferments 2506 Washington St. NE

Music

Babyface \$80-\$115 8-9:30 pm Isleta Resort & Casino 11000 Broadway Blvd SE

Beer & Jazz on the Hill 5-11 pm Craft Republic - Albuquerque 4301 The Lane at 25 NE

Caifanes and Cafe Tacvba - North America Tour 2024 7:30-11 pm Isleta Amphitheater 5601 University Blvd SE (Formerly Hard Rock Casino Albuquerque Presents the Pavilion)

Casa Flamenca 2024 Summer Season Continues \$40 8-9:30 pm Casa Flamenca 401 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Disclaimers 6-9 pm Flatiron Bites & Brews 6001 San Mateo Blvd NE

Enchantment Blues and Guitars (Part 1) \$22-\$25 7-10 pm Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Road NW

Flashback '80s Music Video Dance Party 8 pm-12 am Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

Jawny BadLuck - 'Just My Luck' EP Release Party 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

June Sparks 8-11:30 pm Lizard Tail Brewing Nob Hill 3417 Central Ave. NE Suite C

Neon Nightclub Pride Edition \$23-\$40 8 pm-1:30 am Revel Entertainment Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE

Seth Hoffman 7-9 pm Marble Brewery NE Heights 9904 Montgomery Blvd NE

Split Mica Soft Launch Party \$10 9 pm-1 am Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW

Summer Music Saturdays: Melissa Rios 1-4 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

Swag Duo 6-8:30 pm D.H. Lescombes Winery & Bistro 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW #B-100

The Mango Cakes 8-11 pm Marble Brewery 111 Marble Ave NW

TrillBot 8-11 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

Performance

Kinky Boots \$25-\$28 7:30-9:30 pm Musical Theatre Southwest 6320B Domingo NE

New Mexico Shakespeare Festival 6:45-10 pm New Mexico Veterans Memorial 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE #5009

The Outsider \$10-\$24 7:30-10 pm Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

Sports

Albuquerque Isotopes vs. El Paso Chihuahuas \$14-\$28 6:30-9:30 pm Isotopes Park

Duke City Gladiators vs. Vegas Knight Hawks \$18-\$53 6-8:30 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

Class / Workshop

18th Edition of International Conference on Catalysis, Chemical Engineering \$739 10 am-5 pm Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish 5415 Fortuna Road NW

Ayurvedic Yoga in the Park \$6-\$15 8:30-9:30 am Wildflower Park San Mateo & Eagle Rock NE

The Hidden Meaning of Dreams 1:30-3:30 pm Albuquerque Baha'i Faith Center 5700 Ouray Rd. NW

Yoga for Addiction Recovery 6:30-7:45 pm Yogasaar Studio 2205 Silver Ave. SE

Community

Maisels Murals 2-3:30 pm Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Road NW

Dance

Water Strider Dance Group (Zuni Pueblo) 11 am-12 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Water Strider Dance Group (Zuni Pueblo) 2-3 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Discussion / Lecture

Extraterrestrial Encounters Through Quantum Hypnosis w/ Melanie Aguirre 1:30-3:30 pm Taylor Ranch Library 5700 Bogart NW , 87120

Family/Kids

The Dad Games! \$35 12-2 pm Dave and Buster's - Albuquerque 2100 Louisiana Blvd NE

Literature/Poetry

Sarah Kotchian Poetry Reading and Book Signing 1:30-3:30 pm Treasure House Books & Gifts 2012 S Plaza St NW A

Markets

Rail Yard Market: Earth & Energy Day 10 am-2 pm Albuquerque Rail Yards 722 3rd St SW

Music

Casa Flamenca 2024 Summer Season Continues \$40 7-8:30 pm Casa Flamenca 401 Rio Grande Blvd. NW

Daniel Ward Trio \$20 7:30-10:30 pm FUSION 700-708 First St. NW

Keeping Up With the Joneses 6:30-9 pm Tijeras BioZone Open Space 1/2 mile east of Tramway on (or Central Ave.)

Motorbabe 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

New Mexico Peace Choir Concert - To Walk in Beauty \$0-\$20 3-5 pm Central United Methodist Church 201 University Blvd NE

Salsa on Sunday at the Gazebo 6:30-9:30 pm Old Town Albuquerque 2005 N. Plaza St. NW Albuquerque

Sebastian Bach - What Do I Got to Lose Tour 2024 \$27-\$226 8-11 pm Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave SW

Silver Sky Blues Band 4-7 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

Sunday Jazz Jam 5-7:30 pm Flatiron Bites & Brews 6001 San Mateo Blvd NE

Music - Classical

Chasqui String Quartet \$25 3-4:15 pm Cathedral Church of St. John 318 Silver Ave SW Albuquerque

Trio Valtorna \$35-\$50 4-6 pm Simms Center for the Performing Arts at Albuquerque Academy 6400 Wyoming Blvd. NE

Performance

As Is Told Storytelling Series: Legacy--Fathers, Family and Other Lore 4-6 pm Monte Vista Community Church 3501 Campus Blvd NE

High Desert Playback Presents Where We Belong: Stories of Sanctuary + Solidarity \$35 2-3:30 pm FUSION 700-708 First St. NW

Kinky Boots \$25-\$28 2-4 pm Musical Theatre Southwest 6320B Domingo NE

New Mexico Shakespeare Festival 6:45-10 pm New Mexico Veterans Memorial 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE #5009

The Outsider \$10-\$24 2-4:30 pm Adobe Theater 9813 4th St NW

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Keeping Affordable Housing Affordable

I'm haunted by an online post I saw recently. A young woman said she'd been homeless for months and living in her car. She had lost her apartment because she couldn't afford it. "Yes, I'm working," she informed readers. A Good Samaritan had given her a camper shell, and she found a place to park it but needed help with the move.

In the furor over homelessness, let's remember that this category includes regular people who simply can't afford any rentals that might be available. In the parallel furor over affordable housing, consider the bigger picture.

Rentals are now an industry. Forget your friendly local landlords. In recent years out-of-state companies have bought up properties of all kinds and raised rents — 20% in 2022. Whether the renters could afford that hike is of no concern to them because somebody will pay the price. I saw this in action with a family member who shared a run-down house near UNM with fellow students.

It's a national trend. With the consolidation of housing stock

ownership came automation of property management, wrote an investigative reporter in Harper's Magazine. Now faceless management companies rent the units, collect money, and may or may not maintain the property. Renters who fall behind hear from an attorney who specializes in evictions; investors and property managers don't have to be involved in the messy part of the business.

This industry model thrives in an unbalanced market — too many renters, too few rental units. What else thrives? Homeless camps.

New Mexico legislators have passed some creative bills to stimulate construction of affordable housing, but this doesn't help somebody who needs a place to live now. We should also note that lawmakers killed a rent-control bill, knowing that it discourages new building.

There's more that government can do to help balance the market. Create tax incentives for homeowners who convert space to rental units or

to property owners who convert derelict buildings. Streamline regulatory approvals for builders of affordable housing. Require owners to maintain their properties. And offer mediation between owners and tenants to avoid eviction.

Here's a development we're likely to see more.

Last week tenants sued owners of the troubled La Vista Del Rio Apartments in Española to "stop illegal rent increases and evictions, and enforce the affordable housing

requirements at the property, including making necessary repairs to keep the housing safe and habitable," according to a news release from the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, which is representing tenants along with the National Housing Law Project.

In their federal lawsuit, tenants said the out-of-state owner collected millions in rent and federal subsidies but denied requests for maintenance and security. Last year the U.S. Department of Agriculture

allowed the apartments to leave a federal loan program that provides affordable housing in rural areas. The owner then sold the complex to investors and evicted 121 tenants.

The same company is the target of another tenant lawsuit for failing to maintain the Santa Clara Apartments, Española's only other affordable housing complex, which led the city to condemn the building. When apartments like these close, however dilapidated they've become, tenants have no place to go.

Española isn't unique. Housing is a troubling issue across the state.

Which raises a question. New affordable housing will enter the market in the future. How do we assure that it stays affordable? How do we see that owners care for the property? After all, tenants of La Vista Del Rio and the Santa Clara and probably even the owner hailed the original agreements as a win for everyone. What happened?

Lawsuits always complicate open discussions, but these two might teach us a useful lesson.

All She Wrote



Sherry Robinson

Half Truths, Outright Lies and Gas Stoves

In a campaign season filled with distortions, half truths and outright lies, the least I can do is correct my own mistake.

I made a factual error in my last column by writing that state House District 31 had three Republican candidates and no Democrat. I missed Vicky Estrada-Bustillo, Democratic candidate for that seat. The error has been acknowledged and corrections have been published.

But what worries me are all the distortions, half truths and outright lies that will not be corrected, because most of them are not in newspaper articles written by journalists but in mailings sent by campaigns.

There was some very nasty mud-slinging in some of the contested legislative races. Most of the allegations were delivered in glossy card-stock mailers that, according to one legislator I asked, cost at least \$5,000 per mailing — and many of them were not from one candidate to the other but from anonymous political action committees.

One mailer accused an incumbent of "selling us out" because she didn't vote for one version of a bill but failed to mention there were two versions. Another accused a candidate of lying by "taking credit for things she didn't do," and "misrepresenting her record."

All in all, I'm concerned that these groups were able to spend so much money in supporting candidates for unpaid legislative positions.

But here's one that came directly from a candidate. Martin Heinrich "wants to ban gas stoves."

This accusation is in a fundraising letter from Nella Domenici, the Republican candidate opposing Heinrich for the seat in the U.S. Senate.

This statement was embedded in a paragraph of allegations about Heinrich's alleged "socialist policies" and environmental extremism. I focused on it because it's a simple statement that can easily be proven or disproven.

Heinrich's office sent me this response:

"Senator Heinrich has never voted to ban gas stoves. In fact, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he voted for legislation to prevent the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission from banning gas stoves."

That vote should not have been necessary because nobody was trying to ban gas stoves. The frustration is that this kind of accusation turns a subject that should be a reason for legitimate discussion into a political symbol.

The gas stove issue arose a few years ago. A commissioner on the Consumer Product Safety Commission observed that gas stoves emit toxic chemicals that are bad for people's health and suggested that a ban could be considered. Even though he later said this would only apply to new stoves in the future, he should have known better.

The chair of the commission stated that no ban is under

consideration, but Republicans started saying that all Democrats — ALL Democrats — want to take your stove away. The House of Representatives has now passed the Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act while life and death legislation like the bipartisan border bill languish without a vote.

The scientific information about gas stoves has come to public attention in the last few years. If you have a child with asthma or any respiratory illness, changing your stove might be worth considering. But if you can't get rid of an appliance that might be harming your child because the political symbolism is more important than your child's health, that's really too bad.

By the way, Nicole Chavez is the unofficial winner of the primary in District 31 and will face Vicky Estrada-Bustillo in November. I'm glad I was able to straighten that out. *Contact*

Merilee Dannemann through www.triplespacedagain.com.

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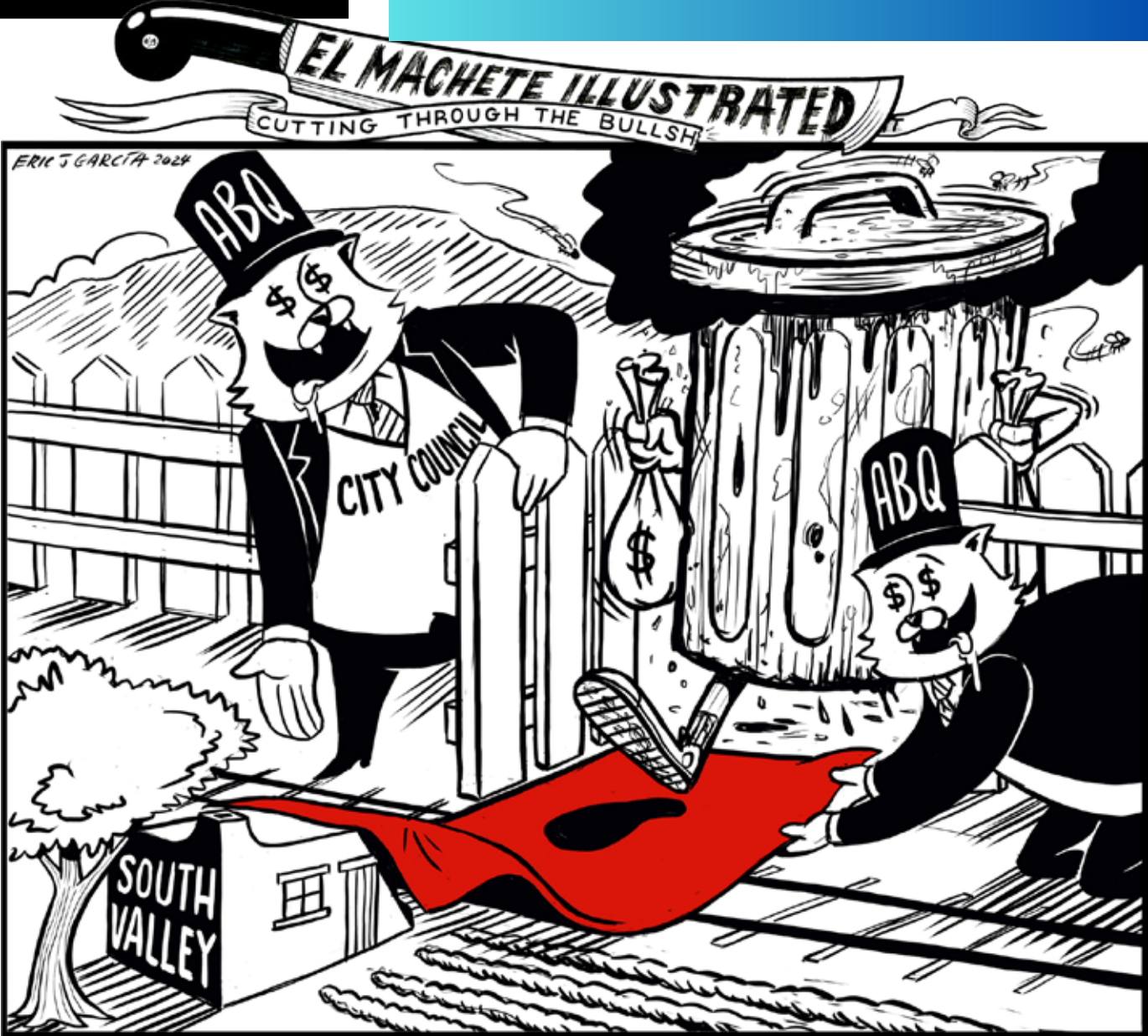
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of June 12

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): The term "maze" has various meanings. Most commonly, it signifies a puzzling cluster of choices that lead nowhere and bode frustration. But there are more positive meanings of the word. In ancient myths, a maze was where heroes underwent ritual tests. There they might summon ingenuity to win access to a hidden treasure. In modern psychology labs, the maze is a structure used to stimulate learning in rats. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, the maze you are now in is metaphorically akin to the second two meanings, not the first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There is an abundance of good news, Taurus. In the coming weeks, your conversations could awaken realizations that will augment your wealth—both the financial and emotional kind. So be eager to commune with vigorous souls who inspire your power to attract resources and goodies. Furthermore, you could generate enriching benefits for yourself by engaging with unfamiliar influences that are outside your web of expectations. Don't be too sure you already know everything you need. Helpful surprises could arrive if you're extra open-minded.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Though 2024 isn't even half over, you have already earned the title "Least Boring Zodiac Sign of the Year." Or maybe a more positive way to frame it would be to award you the title "Most Scintillating, Interesting, and Stimulating Zodiac Sign of the Year." Please keep doing what you have been doing, Gemini. Entertain us with your unruly escapades and gossip-worthy breakthroughs. Encourage us to question our dull certainties and dare us to be more fun. If we seem nervous to be in your stirring presence, disarm our worries with your humor.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your subconscious mind is full of marvelous capacities and magic potencies. But it also contains old habits of feeling and thinking that influence you to respond to life in ways that are out of sync with what's actually happening. These habits may sabotage or undermine your conscious intentions. Now here's the good news: In the next nine months, there's a lot you can do to dissolve the outmoded imprints. You will have more power than ever before to perform this wizardry. So get started! How? Ask your subconscious mind to send you intuitions about how to proceed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The fairy tale "Jack and the Beanstalk" will serve as a prime metaphor for you in the coming weeks. Ruminates on its themes as being applicable to your life. I'll refresh you with the main points of the story. Young Jack and his mother need money, so she decides to take drastic measures. She bids him to sell the family cow at the marketplace a few miles away. But on the way into town, Jack meets a man who coaxes him to sell the cow in exchange for magic beans—not money. When Jack returns home, his mother is angry at his foolishness. In disgust, she flings the beans out the window into the dirt. Later, though, the beans live up to their promise. They grow into a giant beanstalk that Jack climbs to reach the lair of a giant who lives in the clouds. There Jack retrieves three of his family's lost treasures, which had been stolen by the giant long ago.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Before the reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang in the third century BCE, Chinese people had built many local walls designed to keep out invaders. Qin Shi Huang initiated a great public works project to connect all of these fragments into what's now known as the Great Wall of China. He also erected a vast system of roads and a city-sized mausoleum filled with the Terracotta Army: sculptures of 8,000 soldiers with their chariots and horses. Qin Shi Huang was a big thinker who was also highly organized! In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to glide into your very own Qin Shi Huang phase. What long-lasting structures do you want to build in the next 11 months?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Psychologist Carl Jung believed we could accomplish profound self-transformation by working hard on our psyches' unripe and wounded aspects. That might entail honest self-examination, objective observation of how we affect others, and a willingness to recognize and forgive our mistakes. Jung also recommended another way to heal our neuroses: through the power of numinous experiences. By "numinous," he meant mystical, sublime, or awe-inspiring. Jung said that such visitations could radically diminish our painful habits of mind and feeling. They might arrive through grace, thanks to life's surprising interventions. They may also be coaxed to appear through meditation, dreamwork, communing with myth and fairy tales, and spiritual practices. I foresee a wealth of numinous events in your life during the coming months, Libra. May they bring you a steady stream of healing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In a moment, I will list events I foresee as being possible for you during the next 11 months. They are cosmic tendencies but not cosmic mandates. Whether or not they actually occur will depend on how you wield your willpower—which, by the way, could be freer and more muscular than it has been in a long time. Now here are the potential developments. 1. An offer to create one of the most symbiotic unions or robust collaborations ever. 2. Great chances for you to capitalize on the success of others. 3. Alterations in the family configuration. 4. Major shifts in loyalty and affinity. 5. A raise in rank. 6. Revelations of secrets you can use to your advantage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Have you been metaphysically itchy and psychologically ticklish? Are you unsure whether those tingling sensations you're feeling are worrisome symptoms or signs of healing and awakening? I believe they are signs of healing and awakening. They suggest you are doing the metaphorical equivalent of what a snake does when it sheds its skin. Expect imminent redemption, Sagittarius! Reframe the discomfort as a herald of relief and release.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's time for Super Mom to make an appearance. Some circumstances in your life could benefit from healing tweaks best initiated by her. And when I say "Super Mom," I'm not necessarily referring to your actual mother. I'm envisioning a wise older woman who sees you as you really are and who can assist you in living your destiny according to your own inner necessity, no one else's. If you have no Super Mom in your world, see if you can locate one, even hire one. I also recommend creating an inner Super Mom in your imagination. You need and deserve sympathetic input from the archetype of the sage crone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I suspect that later in 2024, I will authorize you to commune with boisterous adventures and tricky risks. But right now, I advise you to flirt with modest adventures and sensible risks. Can you contain your burning, churning yearnings for a while? Are you willing to coax your crazy wild heart into enjoying some mild pleasures? By early autumn, I'm guessing you will have done the necessary preparations to successfully roam through the experimental frontiers. Until then, you are most likely to corral X-factors on your behalf if you pace yourself and bide your time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Oh God, if there is a God, save my soul, if I have a soul." That prayer was the handiwork of Piscean philosopher Joseph Ernest Renan. If his ironic minimalism is the only spiritual aspiration you can manage right now, so be it. But I hope you will strive for a more intimate, expansive, and personal connection with the Divine Intelligence. The coming weeks will be an extra favorable time for you to speak and listen to mysterious powers beyond your rational comprehension. Please take advantage! Go in quest of the sweet, deep lowdown directly from the Sublime Source!

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
1 Nile vipers	14					15					16				
5 Race segment	17					18					19				
9 Ladybug's array	20									21					
14 Enticement															
15 Idris of "Luther"															
16 Tiny South Pacific nation	24	25	26		27				28			29		30	31
17 Pine or spruce	32				33							34			
19 Mink's cousin	35										37				
20 Uncheck, say	38										40				
21 Sour	41														
22 Lightbulb measure															
23 Plumped-up fowl															
24 Despondent															
27 Funhouse item	48	49										51	52	53	
29 Spiritual leader	54														
32 Like a smart kid	56											58			
34 Grabber in an arcade game	59											61			
35 Turbine part															
36 Let go															
37 Indian yogurt dip															
38 "You got that right!"															
39 Charles Ingalls was one															
41 Football gain															
42 In a class by															
43 "Later"															
44 Full of gooey dirt															
46 Wacko															
48 Trite remark															
50 Angry letters															
54 Gossipmonger															
55 Lowest female voice															
56 Nasty look															
57 Fairy tale starter															
58 Footfall															
59 Lincoln's in-laws															

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60 Miller, for one	10 "Adam-12" ride	37 Roof support
61 Pitcher's target	11 In a risky situation	39 Water barrier
	12 Uno y dos	40 Move like a butterfly
	13 "Why not?!"	45 Burns a bit
	18 Alluring beauty	47 Huge hit
	21 Neighbor of Earth	48 Abnormal sac
	23 Expression	49 Former NBC host
	24 Waterfall effect	50 Sharpen, as skills
	25 Scent	51 High in the Andes
	26 Keeping at it	52 List entry
	28 Makes like a lion	53 Easy stride
	30 Word after "ahoy"	55 Corn core
	31 In the loop	
	33 Led an orchestra	

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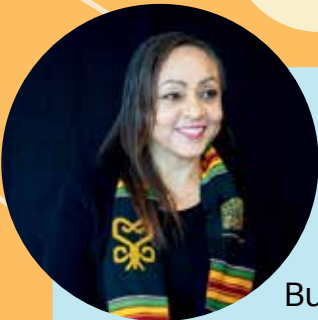
SBCC Gallery, Thursday, June 13 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Post Covid Bomb exhibition at the South Broadway Cultural Center, reflects the resilience required to endure the pandemic shutdown. This exhibition features a diverse collection from more than 30 artists who exhibited their work between 2020 and 2023.

Showcasing both previously displayed and new works, the exhibition highlights the unique experiences of creating and presenting art during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Show run through August 17th.**



JUNETEENTH EXHIBITION
Friday, June 14 from 4 - 6 p.m.
City Hall, 8th Floor Lobby
Show runs through August 17th.



LISTEN AND LEARN SERIES

w/ Kirsten Pai Buick, Ph.D.

Gallery One, Thursday, June 27 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Buick is a professor of art history at the University of New Mexico. Her research and teaching interests encompass histories of science, medicine, religion, as well as monuments, and the use of public space. She publishes primarily in the realm of the history of African American art and its roots in US cultural formations.



INTERPRETIVE REFLECTIONS

Gallery One, Thursday, June 20,
public reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

Introspection is the tool of artists and Interpretive Reflections is an exhibition of works by local artists who offer an innovative approach to introspection and self-portraits.

Interpretive Reflections features artworks by Gael Luna, Al Na' Ir Lara, Jocelyn Salaz, Eric Romero, Vicente Telles, Karl Bautista, Derrick Montez, Pico de Hierro-Villa, Nacho Jaramillo, Ronn Cancino, Felix Lucero, Oscar Lozoya, Samantha Chavez, and Vanessa Alvarado. **Show runs through August 2nd.**

Gallery One is located first floor of City Hall at 1 Civic Plaza NW.
To learn more about Gallery One and the exhibitions, visit cabq.gov/galleryone