

# The Paper.

ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE

AUGUST 21, 2024  
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Cover art by Rachel Mills

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favorite fire  
prevention  
bear turned  
80 this month**

By Michael Hodock p.10



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2

ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



## Herrell Affirms Support for Expanding Radiation Compensation as Dems Criticize GOP for Inaction

*Downwinders call on her to arrange meeting with Speaker Johnson, who let RECA bill languish, when he visits NM next week*



Gabe Vasquez and Yvette Herrell during a debate Oct. 21, 2022. Herrell said she supports the RECA extension and expansion bill currently languishing in the House. (Screenshot via KOB-TV)

This story is republished from Source NM as a part of our commitment to bringing you the best in independent news coverage that matters to Albuquerque.

By Patrick Lohmann,  
Source New Mexico

Amid increasing Democratic criticism, Republican Congressional candidate Yvette Herrell said Wednesday that she is broadly supportive of extending and expanding the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, including the \$50 billion bill that sits unheard on GOP House Speaker Mike Johnson's desk.

Herrell is seeking to reclaim her House seat from incumbent Democrat Gabe Vasquez in one of the nation's most hotly contested elections. She told *Source New Mexico* on Wednesday that she believes RECA should be expanded.

"I will support any and all of the efforts," Herrell said. "I think there's a responsibility from the government, the federal government, to the downwinders and the uranium workers."

She said the program should be expanded to downwinders in New Mexico and multiple states who haven't been compensated, and uranium mine workers exposed after 1971.

Among those deserving, she said, are downwinders in Guam, who were exposed to nuclear weapons testing between the 1940s and 1960s.

A group of House Democrats, including Vasquez, gathered Tuesday evening in Albuquerque for a campaign rally, calling on Johnson to give the RECA bill a vote before the general election. Johnson in late May announced he would not bring to a vote a bill extending RECA, citing the price tag.

Several of the roughly 30 attendees at the rally wore oxygen masks, which they said they needed due to lung damage sustained from exposure to uranium mines or mushroom clouds decades ago. Advocates say thousands in New Mexico were sickened, along with their descendants for generations.

"Think about the trauma that we've suffered," said Paul Pino, who grew up in Carrizozo about 40 miles from the Trinity Site

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Weak in Review: Aug. 21

Quick hits on this week's news bits

ExxonMobil will be the first title sponsor for Balloon Fiesta since Kodak in 2001.

Makes sense, since oil slicks have the same rainbow of colors as a sky filled with balloons.



City Councilors Brook Bassan and Renée Grout said they want to hold off on lowering the city's tipped minimum wage until they can find a "fair and equitable" solution for both restaurant owners and employees.

Finally someone is thinking of those poor business owners instead of those money hungry servers.

"A Future Worth Fighting For" was the theme of Mayor Tim Keller's State of the City address.

If Downtown on a Saturday night is any indication, there's no shortage of things worth fighting for.

Albuquerque Police want to expand the number of gunshot detectors, license plate readers and speed cameras around the city.

All eyes are on, well...us.

The *Santa Fe Reporter*, an alt-weekly newspaper in The City Different, now shares an owner with *The Paper*.

Just in case anyone's ever wondered what a free newspaper version of Voltron would look like.



Donald Trump shared artificial intelligence generated content on social media implying Taylor Swift and her "Swifties" are supporters of the former president.

We're not too sure what her song "Blank Space" is about, but the title seems apropos here.

MTV is moving its Video Music Awards by a day to avoid conflicting with the presidential debate between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.

Do they really think there's an audience overlap here?

The 2024 Pokémon World Championships is apparently a thing and just wrapped up last week.

Luckily it did not conflict with a presidential debate.

Organizers of the Burning of Zozobra this year are requesting the last four digits of Social Security numbers of journalists covering the event.

We'll just add public relations folks to the list of things that have us anxious and stressed this year.

It's tarantula mating season, which means parts of New Mexico could see the hairy spiders walking out in the open.

Nope, this is what's actually giving us anxiety and stress.







Democrats held a rally last week calling on U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson to allow a vote on an extension and expansion of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. They called on GOP House candidate Yvette Herrell to pressure Johnson to release the bill from his desk. Johnson and Herrell will campaign next week in Las Cruces, Herrell said. (Patrick Lohmann / Source NM)

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and said he lost a mother and brother to cancer. “And think about how people like Mike Johnson just are unmovable, just like they have no heart.”

Vasquez and other House Democrats also criticized Herrell. He alleged she didn’t support the RECA expansion for New Mexico downwinders, which Herrell denies. Democrats also said she was unwilling to hold Johnson’s feet to the fire about the issue.

“What action do you think Yvette Herrell will take when she’s in Congress, supported and endorsed by the very person who is blocking this legislation?” Vasquez told the crowd at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. “The refusal to support the reauthorization and expansion of this critical act is not a failure of government, but a deliberate disregard for the suffering of New Mexicans for generations.”

Johnson will campaign for Herrell in New Mexico next week, including a visit to Las Cruces on Wednesday, Herrell said.

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act expired about two months ago, despite bipartisan calls to extend

and expand the program for different categories of workers and residents sickened by radiation exposure. The bill that Johnson refuses to bring to the floor, sponsored by U.S. Sens. Josh Hawley (R-Missouri) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), passed the Senate 69-30. Twenty Republicans voted for the measure.

Time is running out for the expired RECA program to be reauthorized and expanded this year. Congress meets in Washington, D.C., for only a few weeks in September before the general election, and Democrats said it was unlikely Johnson would change his position.

Vasquez, citing a recent *Albuquerque Journal* article, told reporters after the meeting that he believed Herrell was opposed to expanding the program for downwinders in the Tularosa Basin area, which falls into Congressional District 2.

Tina Cordova, a longtime advocate on behalf of downwinders impacted by the Trinity blast in 1946, also told *Source New Mexico* on Wednesday that Herrell has been quoted or paraphrased in news articles having different positions on RECA, including advocating for less than a full expansion or saying she wanted a separate program for downwinders.

Hoping to set the record straight, Herrell said she endorses an expansion. She said she believes she and her opponent want the same groups of people to be covered by RECA, even with the high price tag. She pointed to her record as a cosponsor to the RECA Amendment Act when she served in Congress before Vasquez took her seat.

Out of office, she said she’s met with uranium workers in Grants and brought the issue up with Johnson in private. Herrell stopped short of saying she disagreed with Johnson about his decision, saying it was “his discretion” to bring bills for a vote, but she’ll urge him to take action on the bill when they meet next week in Las Cruces.

“I’ll be meeting with him privately. Obviously, this is the top of my list for something that I’d like to see them take action on,” she said.

Cordova called on Herrell to go a step further and arrange a meeting between downwinders and Johnson during his visit.

“Everybody across this country who’s a downwinder and a uranium worker has been begging to meet with him,” she said.

While Herrell supports a full expansion, she said she understands why some of her

former colleagues in the House are worried about costs, citing the mounting national debt and other spending.

“That kind of money gives a little bit of pause to some of the members,” she said.

Herrell said she was more optimistic than her Democratic opponents about chances for a RECA expansion this year. She pointed to a separate bill that she hoped would spur the House leaders into action, should it pass the House Judiciary Committee and head to the Speaker’s desk.

Sponsored by U.S. Rep. Harriet Hagemen (R-Wyoming), the bill provides compensation to uranium miners in 11 states, including New Mexico, and extends but does not expand RECA. It also uses unspent COVID-19 pandemic funds to pay for it, she said, which might make it more appealing to fiscal conservatives.

“Certainly having both bills at the speaker’s table would be a great catalyst and opportunity for the speaker to broker a deal with a compromise bill,” she said.

*Source New Mexico reporter Danielle Prokop contributed to this report.*





## MLB Home Run Derby X Albuquerque

In 2022 Major League Baseball introduced an exciting, fast-paced new baseball format with Home Run Derby X. It's a 3-on-3 coed competition built around power hitting and defensive hustle. Players include former MLB players, softball and women's baseball players, rookies and "influential content creators." The global sports tour passes through Albuquerque's Isotopes Park (1601 Avenida Cesar Chavez SE) on Friday, Aug. 23. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Game starts at 7:10 p.m. The first 3,000 fans 16 and older through the gates get exclusive Albuquerque Mariachis jerseys. Standard admission seats are \$20, or you can sit right in the Home Run Zone on the grass for \$30. Get those tickets in advance at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

#### Art Openings

Harwood Art Center Presents: be(love) by Southwest Black Arts Collective and Recall: Sculptural Myth and Memory by Lauren Dana Smith 10am-3pm Harwood Art Center 1114 7th Street NW

#### Discussion / Lecture

Exploring a New World: The Journey of the Perseverance Rover - Larry Crumpler, Ph.D \$5-\$8 6:30-8 pm New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science 1801 Mountain Rd. NW

Ghosts of Old Town Albuquerque 7-9 pm Painted Lady Bed & Brew 1100 Bellamah Ave. NW

#### Exhibit

Desert Stories: The Art of Kelly Frye & Jazmin Novak 9 am-5 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Poeh Ah Ka Wohatsey: The Emergence Teachings of Resilience 9 am-5 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

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

Trees 11 am-4 pm Richard Levy Gallery 514 Central Ave SW

#### Film

Drive-In Movie: Transformers: Rise of the Beast 6-9 pm Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Park 4401 Alameda Blvd NE

#### 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

## [EVENTS.] The Paper.

**ALBUQUERQUE MINDFIELD FILM FEST**  
Fri-Sat Aug 23-24 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Mindbending horror **HOSTILE DIMENSIONS**  
Friday August 23 10:30pm

NM Entertains: **SATURDAY MORNING 'TOONS**  
Saturday August 24 11:30am

Japanese cult classic **BATTLE ROYALE (2000)**  
Saturday August 24 10:30pm

**MADE IN ENGLAND: FILMS OF POWELL & PRESSBURGER** Sun Aug 25 12:30pm

40th anniversary! **REPO MAN (1984)**  
Sun-Tue Aug 25-27 4:00, 8:00

30th anniversary! **CLERKS (1994)**  
Sun-Tue Aug 25-27 6:00

Matt Smith horror **STARVE ACRE**  
Wed-Thu Aug 28-29 4:30, 8:15

One-of-a-kind one-room thriller **THE EARL**  
Aug 28-29 6:45 / Aug 30 10:30pm

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

Trivia Night 7-8:30 pm The  
Historic Lobo Theater - Lounge &  
Event Venue 3013 Central Ave NE

## Music

Chris Baker 7-9 pm Tractor  
Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE

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

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

Me First & The Gimme Gimmes  
\$27 8-11 pm Sunshine Theater 120  
Central Ave SW

Summer Thursday Jazz Nights:  
Howard "Tubby" Cloud and  
Zenith \$15-\$30 7:30-9:30 pm  
Outpost Performance Space 210  
Yale Blvd. SE

Terry Winchell & The Fine Line  
6-9 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381  
Aztec Road Northeast

Vinyl Club 6-9 pm Enchanted  
Botanicals Nobhill 3417 Central  
Ave. NE

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

### Art Openings

Danielle Orchard: Tender  
Observer - Opening Reception  
5-7 pm Tamarind Institute 2500  
Central Ave. SE

### Comedy

Dry Heat Presents \$15 9:30-11 pm  
Dry Heat Comedy Club 100 Gold  
Ave SW Suite 112

Paul Rodriguez \$35-\$45 7-8:30  
pm Quezada's Comedy Club at  
Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon  
Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo

Paul Rodriguez \$35-\$45 9:30-11  
pm Quezada's Comedy Club at  
Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon  
Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo

The Show - Live Comedy Improv  
\$10-\$12 9-10:30 pm The Box  
Performance Space 114 Gold Ave  
SW

### Dance

Friday Night Square Dancing \$8-  
\$9 7-9 pm Albuquerque Square  
Dance Center 4915 Hawkins St NE

Sky City Buffalo Ram Dancers  
(Acoma) 2-3 pm Indian Pueblo  
Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

### Discussion / Lecture

Science of Tap: Water, Water,  
Everywhere! \$10 6-9 pm National  
Museum of Nuclear Science &  
History 601 Eubank Blvd SE

### Drink

Explora's 2024 Science of  
Beer 7-10:30 pm Explora 1701  
Mountain Rd NW

### Exhibit

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

Trees 11 am-4 pm Richard Levy  
Gallery 514 Central Ave SW

### Festival

Bosque Chile Fest \$12-\$20 5-10  
pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San  
Pedro Dr NE

### Markets

La Familia Farmer's Market 5-8  
pm Westside Community Center  
1250 Isleta Blvd SW

### Miscellaneous

Bubonicon 55 \$0-\$55 3 pm-12  
am Uptown Marriott Hotel 2101  
Louisiana Blvd NE

### Music

Arsenic Kitchen w/ Ashes of  
Jupiter and Hell Doubt 8-11:30 pm  
JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501  
First St. NW

Casa Flamenca Summer Tablao  
Weekends with Artists From  
Spain \$40 8-9:30 pm Casa  
Flamenca 401 Rio Grande  
Boulevard NW

DJ Wae Fonkey 8-11 pm Tractor  
Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE

Gin & Jazz: Speakeasy Edition  
5-10 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

Jokes & Jamz "Country Vibes"  
\$15-\$100 8-11:30 pm Revel  
Entertainment Center 4720  
Alexander Blvd NE



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Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Parker McCollum \$24 7:30 pm  
Rio Rancho Events Center 3001  
Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

Shine On Floyd: Tribute to Pink  
Floyd \$28-\$43 7-9:30 pm KiMo  
Theatre 423 Central Avenue NW

## Sports

MLB Home Run Derby X  
Albuquerque \$20-\$30 7-10 pm  
Isotopes Park

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**

### Class / Workshop

IPEC Farmer Training 8-10 am  
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center  
2401 12th Street NW

Musical Theatre Southwest Little  
Women Workshop 10 am-12:30  
pm Musical Theatre Southwest  
6320B Domingo NE

## Comedy

Dry Heat Presents \$15 9:30-11 pm  
Dry Heat Comedy Club 100 Gold  
Ave SW Suite 112

Left on Read \$10 7-8 pm The Box  
Performance Space 114 Gold Ave  
SW

Paul Rodriguez \$35-\$45 7-8:30  
pm Quezada's Comedy Club at  
Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon  
Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo

Paul Rodriguez \$35-\$45 9:30-11  
pm Quezada's Comedy Club at  
Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon  
Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo

The Show - Live Comedy Improv  
\$10-\$12 9-10:30 pm The Box  
Performance Space 114 Gold Ave  
SW

## Community

Cheater Tie Dye 10:30 am-12:30 pm  
Color Wheel Toys 6855 4th St NW Ste D

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

## Dance

Sky City Buffalo Ram Dancers  
(Acoma) 2-3 pm Indian Pueblo  
Cultural Center 2401 12th Street  
NW

Sky City Buffalo Ram Dancers  
(Acoma) 11 am-12 pm Indian  
Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th  
Street NW

## Exhibit

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

Trees 11 am-4 pm Richard Levy  
Gallery 514 Central Ave SW

## Family/Kids

IPCC's Family Story Time: Rock  
Your Mocs 1-2 pm Indian Pueblo  
Cultural Center 2401 12th Street  
NW

The Family Event That Will Save  
The World 2-6 pm Sister 407  
Central Ave. NW

## Festival

2nd Annual 3R Festival 1-10 pm  
Avanyu Plaza 2500 12th St. NW

Bosque Chile Fest \$12-\$20 11  
am-5 pm EXPO New Mexico 300  
San Pedro Dr NE

## Games

Drag Bingo \$20-\$150 2-4 pm The  
Historic Lobo Theater - Lounge &  
Event Venue 3013 Central Ave NE

## Literature/Poetry

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

## Miscellaneous

Bubonicon 55 \$0-\$55 9 am-11:30  
pm Uptown Marriott Hotel 2101  
Louisiana Blvd NE

Parkland Village Presents: A  
Parkland Hills Historic District  
Tour \$10 10-11:30 am Parkland  
Hills Neighborhood

## Music

Brightsmith 8-10 pm Tractor  
Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth  
St. NW

Casa Flamenca Summer Tablao  
Weekends with Artists From  
Spain \$40 8-9:30 pm Casa  
Flamenca 401 Rio Grande  
Boulevard NW

Cumbia Party with Super Verza  
\$15-\$40 8 pm-12:30 am JUNO  
brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street  
Northwest

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*Justin Gallegos Mayrant*

*Michael Worthen*

*Richard Gabriel Jr.*

*Roberto Gallegos*

### Poets Laureate

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*Jessica Helen Lopez*

*Hakim Bellamy*

*Anna C. Martinez, Esq.*

*Mary Oishi*

*Michelle Otero*

## Take Another Look

Albuquerque Public Art Podcast

Tune into the September 2024 episode of the Public Art Podcast, to learn more about the Punched Tin and Poet Laureate project with punched tin artist Esteban Duran and 2016-2018 Albuquerque Poet Laureate Manuel Gonzalez.

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End of Summer with Burque Jazz Bandits 2-4 pm Sawmill Market 1909 Bellamah Ave NW

Gipsy Kings \$60-\$170 8-9:30 pm Isleta Resort & Casino 11000 Broadway Blvd. SE

Joel Martin’s Grateful Zone 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE

Lamb of God & Mastodon: Ashes of Leviathan Tour \$49 6 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

Launchpad “27 Club” Birthday Bash - Night 2 \$10 6 pm-2 am Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Marblefest 2024 \$10 12-10 pm Marble Brewery 111 Marble Ave NW

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

Sabor Latin Night \$5-\$10 9 pm-1 am Hotel Andaluz 125 Second St. NW

Strange Mix \$10 8 pm-2 am Insideout 622 Central Ave SW

The Dance Party That Will Save the World 7 pm-1 am Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

Traveler in Pain Late Summer Night’s Scream 2024 6:30-9:30 pm Skidmore’s Holiday Bowl 7515 Lomas Blvd NE

Sports

2024 Pueblo Golf Classic 7 am-5 pm Santa Ana Golf Club 288 Prairie Star Rd, Santa Ana Pueblo

Kidical Mass Annual Fundraiser 1-4 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Class / Workshop

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

Sip & Wax Candle Making Night \$45 11 am-1 pm Noisy Water Winery 301 Romero St. NW

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

Comedy

Stand-up Comedy 7-9 pm Public House ABQ 201 Hermosa Dr NE

Dance

Sky City Buffalo Ram Dancers (Acoma) 11 am-12 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Sky City Buffalo Ram Dancers (Acoma) 2-3 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Exhibit

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

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

Literature/Poetry

Patricia Smith Wood Book Signing 1:30-3:30 pm Treasure House Books & Gifts 2012 S Plaza St NW A

Markets

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

Miscellaneous

Bubonicon 55 \$0-\$55 9 am-5 pm Uptown Marriott Hotel 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE

Minnie Madness Moto-Meetup 9 am-2 pm Rust Is Gold Coffee 3732 Eubank Blvd. NE

Music

Casa Flamenca Summer Tablao Weekends with Artists From Spain \$40 7-8:30 pm Casa Flamenca 401 Rio Grande Boulevard NW

Funeral Process \$10 8-11:30 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

REZN \$20 7-11 pm Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

Seth Hoffman 2-4 pm Marble Brewery NE Heights 9904 Montgomery Blvd NE

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

The Rudy Boy Experiment 4-7 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

Class / Workshop

Sabor Cubano - Casino Salsa \$20-\$60 5:30-7:30 pm National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest

Sip & Wax Candle Making Night \$40 6-8 pm The Craftroom 2809 Broadbent Pkwy.NE

Exhibit

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

Games

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

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

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

Pixels & Pints 5-9 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

Health & Wellness

UNMH/BernCo Community Health Listening Session 5:30-7 pm International District Library 7601 Central Ave NE

Music

Dark Honey Productions Presents: Karaoke on the Hill 7:30-10:30 pm Tractor Brewing Nob Hill 118 Tulane SE

Rozy with November Radio and Arkane \$10 7-11 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Wolf Eyes \$18 7-11 pm Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

Performance

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

Class / Workshop

Colcha Community Stitch A-Long 9:30-10:30 am National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest

Exhibit

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

Games

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

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

Health & Wellness

Yoga in the Barrel Room \$10 6-7 pm Rio Bravo Brewing Company 1912 Second St NW

Music

Falling In Reverse - The Popular MonSTOUR II: World Domination \$41-\$155 5:30-10:30 pm Isleta Amphitheater 5601 University Blvd SE (Formerly Hard Rock Casino Albuquerque Presents the Pavilion)

Nob Hill Stage Open Mic 6 pm-12 am Public House ABQ 201 Hermosa Dr NE

Roadside Attraction 6-8:30 pm Steel Bender Brewery 8305 Second St. NW, Los Ranchos de

Performance

Open Mic Night in Old Town 5-8 pm The Taproom at Old Town 524 Romero St. NW

Sports

Albuquerque Isotopes vs. Reno Aces \$16-\$28 6:30-9:30 pm Isotopes Park



# Bands of Enchantment is Back

*Reality show features Albuquerque talent mixing it up with the pros*

By Michael Hodock, The Paper.

New Mexico's Emmy Award-winning TV show *Bands of Enchantment* is back for a fourth season and will be filming in Downtown Albuquerque Sept. 12-15 at the KiMo Theatre — smack dab in the middle of a beloved hotspot for the Burque music scene.

*Bands of Enchantment* showcases some of Albuquerque's most popular rock, hip-hop, indie, country and folk groups. Season 4 features a slew of bands representing the most popular musical genres of 2024. Many of Burque's finest who were selected this season to appear on the show tap into multiple styles and influences during each performance — both on the local stage and the international screen.

Dust City Opera is a multi-instrumental ensemble including trombone and accordion that expertly blends electronic folk and alt-rock. Their music tells a story tinged with sadness, joy, a bit of crazy, and even the supernatural. Songs like "Alien Summer" sound like they could have been written on a spaceship or in ancient Egypt. Maybe both.

Indie singer-songwriter Kevin Herig's tunes might make some listeners feel relaxed,



some might feel like jumping up and dancing and others might begin contemplating life choices. It's extremely likely that his soft voice and soothing acoustic guitar riffs — reminiscent of Paul Simon — will make you smile.

Willajay's voice is pleasant and poppy at times, but her band throws elements of hip-hop, jazz, and EDM in the mix. The subject matter is both pretty and gritty, just like

Willajay's commanding vocal performance and stage presence.

The Jacob Shije Trio plays old-school rock n' roll, and does it with authenticity, but Shije, originally from the Santa Clara Pueblo, is a versatile singer and guitar player whose musical repertoire spans ages. The band seamlessly draws from old influences to perform songs that would get feet moving in any era, and performs them with modern swag.

"We're excited to welcome *Bands of Enchantment* back to Downtown Albuquerque," Mayor Tim Keller said in a statement. "This show not only brings joy to our community, but also showcases our unique city to an international audience."

National acts featured on season 4 include Philadelphia's soulful pop artist Zinadelphia, Grammy-nominated AfroCuban funk and hip-hop musician CimaFunk, Austin blues and country band Uncle Lucius, Toronto's disco and R&B sensation The Free Label, and a surprise band.

The show gives exposure to local on-screen talent, employs local crews behind the scenes and offers training to a new crop of future New Mexican film workers.

Executive Producer Vince Chavez said, "We're proud that our production staff is predominantly made up of New Mexico residents. This season, we're continuing our commitment to the community by offering paid internships to high school, college, and post-college students."

Tickets to the Season 4 live filmings and concerts are available at [linktr.ee/bandsfenchantmentofenchancement](https://linktr.ee/bandsfenchantmentofenchancement).

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ALBUQUERQUE LITTLE THEATRE



# Happy Birthday Smokey



(Created by artist Rudy Wendelin)

By Michael Hodock, The Paper.

Many people, even those who have lived in New Mexico for a while, might be under the impression that “Capitan’s favorite son,” the real-life Smokey Bear, is the inspiration behind the creative poster-campaign Smokey who tells us, “Only you can prevent wildfires.” However, an artist’s illustrated representation of the bear, complete with the park ranger uniform and shovel, predates the discovery of the badly-burned and orphaned cub.

Mary Lavin, the park manager for the Smokey Bear Historical Park in Capitan says, “It would make sense that the bear came first. The living symbol came first and the campaign came after, but that’s not the way it happened.”

Just after the iconic, anthropomorphic bear turned 80, Lavin gave *The Paper* a history lesson on Smokey, and how a local New Mexico story spread across the country to Washington, D.C., and eventually, the whole world. She also gave *The Paper* the low-down on everything to know when traveling to Capitan and the beautiful mountainous

country surrounding it.

“We here at the Smokey Bear Historical Park celebrate two birthdays: One, the official Smokey Bear birthday, which is August 9, and then we also celebrate what I affectionately call ‘Gotcha Day,’” Lavin says. “If you were adopting a child, the child would have his birthday and then would have a celebration of the adoption day. We do that here as well. We call it Smokey Bear Days, which happens in May.”

Lavin says that the fictional Smokey was created, in part, as a national security measure. During WWII, Japanese submarines were actively patrolling the Pacific and Atlantic seaboards equipped with weapons called incendiary bombs. The idea, Lavin says, was to launch the bombs into U.S. forests to attack one of our most important resources for the war — lumber for producing paper. The National War Ad Council — now the National Ad Council — created Smokey Bear for two reasons: To prevent human-caused forest fires by convincing the American public to be more cautious in the woods, and to be watchful and report smoke or suspicious activity.

“The idea of a bear just took hold right away because the bear can stand up right. You can put pants on a bear, put a hat on a bear, give him a shovel, Lavin says. “And if he tells you to do something or not to do something, you’re gonna pay attention to the bear. And so that idea was just fully embraced.”

Lavin says a fire crew rescued the “tiny little guy who had been badly burned” from the human-caused Capitan Gap forest fire May 9, 1950. Smokey came into the custody of Ray Bell, a New Mexico game and fish warden, who came up with the idea of connecting the true story of the bear cub to the national wildfire prevention program. The lucky little bear — originally named Hotfoot Teddy — lived 26 years as a celebrity in the nation’s capital city.

“The real smokey — the living symbol — was sent to the Smithsonian Zoo in Washington D.C., to become a wildfire prevention ambassador. People would come to Washington and they would see the Smithsonian museums and stop by the zoo. He had over 4 million people visit the Smithsonian Zoo every year, and most of them would stop by and pay their respects.”

Smokey’s campaign is managed by the National Ad Council, the Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Smokey Bear Historical Park was established in 1979 to honor the real-life Smokey’s passing. The New Mexico State Park is managed and operated by the New Mexico Forestry Division. It is also his final resting place and home to the New Mexico Wildland Fallen Firefighter Memorial. Lavin says it was important to the state of New Mexico and the people of Capitan to have Smokey brought back home.

Besides mixing up which bear came first, the fictional character or the real bear, people tend to call him “Smokey the Bear” instead of “Smokey Bear.”

“You won’t get a black eye, I promise,” Lavin says. “People do it all the time here, but you will get corrected if you come to Capitan.”

Recent wildfires in the area near Capitan have paradoxically boosted community interest in fire prevention while preventing local travelers from actually making the trip to the park.

“Visitation in the area has been affected because people are



not sure what to expect when they come,” Lavin says. “Smokey Bear Historical Park hasn’t been affected at all with regards to the facility or anything, but the community really has been impacted largely by the fires and then the subsequent floods. So the message makes more sense now, perhaps because people are listening, right? When a catastrophe happens, people become very interested in what happened and how we can prevent it from happening again.”

There is more to see around Capitan than Smokey Bear Historical Park, and Lavin has the inside scoop on the best areas and attractions to visit in the area.

Lincoln, New Mexico, is 57 miles west of Roswell and just south of the Lincoln National Forest. Best known for being the home of Billy the Kid, the whole village is a historic district, complete with supposedly haunted ghost towns. The village holds an annual festival in August which includes a reenactment of “The Last Escape of Billy the Kid.” About 20 miles from Capitan lies the Valley of Fires, a Bureau of Land Management area in the El Malpais lava fields.

And of course, there’s the Lincoln National Forest, which is where they found Smokey Bear. The forest has ample recreational opportunities such as trails, campgrounds and spots for birders and people who like to “nerd out on trees” as Lavin puts it.

Since the quickest route to Capitan from Burque is to take I-25 South then head west at the San Antonio exit, there are

a couple of spots well worth stopping to eat. Two burger joints boast the best green chile cheeseburgers in the world, and they are right across Highway 380 from each other.

The Owl Bar and Cafe hasn’t changed their “Owl Burger” recipe since 1948 because it ain’t broke, so why fix it? If travelers can get a seat at the bar, they can try and count the owls adorning the walls and occupying the same shelves as the liquor bottles, while drinking a Miller High Life with their piping hot lunch — the burger can make it from the grill to the plate hot enough to burn your mouth. Leave your mark — literally — by signing a dollar bill and tacking it to the wall, a tradition at the Owl.

While The Owl has quirkiness and street cred, The Buckhorn Tavern has credentials. Their green chile cheeseburger has been named No. 7 in the list of GQ Magazine’s “hamburgers you must eat before you die.” The Buckhorn was also featured on a 2009 episode of “Throwdown with Bobby Flay” where their burger beat Flay’s.

A trip to Capitan might take travelers through some of the most beautiful places in the state, but hopefully it will make them think about the fragility of those places.

“[Smokey’s] message is more important now than ever before for people to understand how to work, live, and play responsibly in the forest, woodlands and grasslands. We have the most recognized iconic figure — second only to Santa Claus — in the world,” Lavin says. “It’s a foothold to get this really important message out to the public in a really positive way.”



(Rachel Mills / The Paper.)

ONE GOOD CUP OF coffee

A person wearing a grey hoodie is shown from the chest up, holding a dark mug with both hands and drinking. The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

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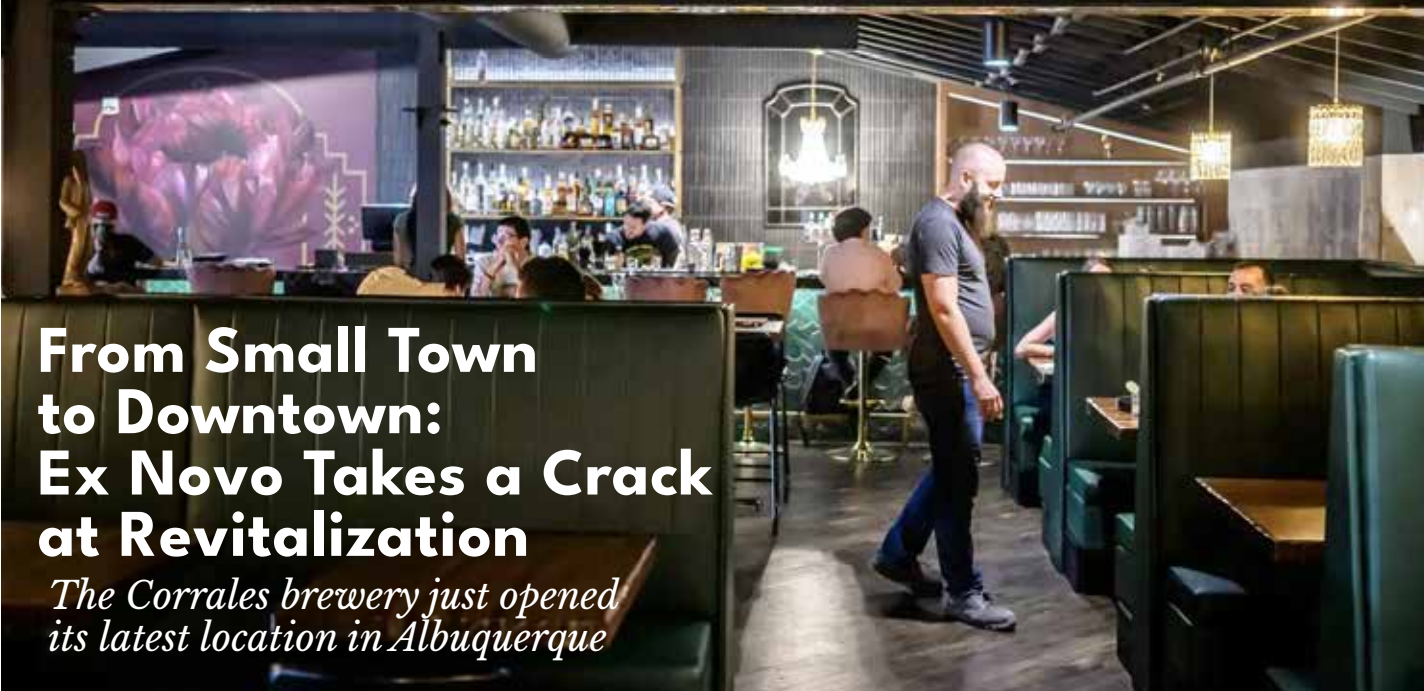
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The Paper.

A hand is shown writing the words "Dear Editor" in purple ink on a yellow notepad. The notepad has a spiral binding on the left. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a purple and blue gradient.

Have something to tell us?  
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## From Small Town to Downtown: Ex Novo Takes a Crack at Revitalization

*The Corrales brewery just opened its latest location in Albuquerque*

(Roberto E. Rosales / City Desk ABQ)

By Devin O'Leary, The Paper.

“Ex Novo means from scratch,” points out storied Albuquerque chef Mark Quiñones. Talking excitedly in between shouting orders to his kitchen crew of more than 20 at the newly opened Ex Novo Brewing Company’s Downtown location, Quiñones recalls that when he met Corrales brewpub founder

and owner Joel Gregory the two got to talking “about what mattered to us most. And what we had in common was people and our love for community. And doing things from scratch.” So it’s no surprise to see the new business partners have constructed a vibrant, modern food-and-drink space out of an abandoned automotive service station in Downtown

Albuquerque.

After a week of “soft openings” to test out the staff, the newest location of Ex Novo Brewing Company has peeled back the construction fencing on a multifaceted restaurant/brewery/cocktail lounge/delicatessen concept. The space on the corner of Central Avenue and Seventh Street formerly housed a Firestone tire and

auto repair shop. The iconic art deco garage was built in the early 1930s, but the business shut down in 2020 at the height of the COVID pandemic. It sat empty until it caught Gregory’s eye.

A resident of Corrales, Gregory first launched his beer-based, mini-empire in Oregon, founding brewpubs in Portland and Beaverton. Gregory took the leap in 2019 and returned to his hometown, constructing a third Ex Novo location in Corrales. The pandemic of 2020 hit bars and restaurants hard, however, prompting some tough decisions. Gregory admits that, “The Pacific Northwest just wasn’t working out for a number of factors.” In December of last year, he sold off the two Portland locations to concentrate on his New Mexico holdings — including the Downtown location, which had been in the works for nearly four years.

Interviewed at the newest Ex Novo location’s final soft opening, shouting over a teeming crowd of happy patrons, an animated Gregory says from the moment he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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Ex Novo Brewing. (Roberto E. Rosales / City Desk ABQ)

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

returned home to Corrales, he started looking for a second New Mexico location.

“Corrales is a wonderful, beautiful destination, but some people don’t like to cross the river,” he says.

In addition to providing easier access to Albuquerque residents, Gregory wanted the opportunity to add “a full-on restaurant.” The original Oregon locations and the popular Corrales spot all rely on food trucks to keep hungry patrons tied to their chairs.

Gregory “put the word out to some friends who are in real estate.” That’s when the old Firestone building cropped up.

“We toured this place over four years ago for the first time and started sketching out plans,” he says.

What drew Gregory and his brew crew to Downtown Albuquerque “first and foremost was this building. I don’t think I would have just gone Downtown without a building with character and a bit of a story and in a place that really needed it. Also, we just really want to see Downtown thrive. And we wanna be part of that.”

The result is Ex Novo’s biggest location “by far.” There’s

an outdoor patio with fire pits and space for more than 100 guests. There’s an upscale casual restaurant downstairs with plenty of local beer on tap. Upstairs is an atmospheric cocktail lounge called The Bitter Nun, whose cocktails spotlight New Mexico-made spirits. And in the building’s southwestern wing sits the soon-to-open Sammy’s deli, named after Gregory’s son.

“We originally wanted to rent out the space, but we heard from residents: ‘We need more sandwich spots, we need more casual lunch options,’” he says.

So Gregory opted to add the deli to his already stacked list of priorities. Sammy’s is billed as a “grab-and-go deli” with “family pricing,” a pay-what-you-can model for breakfast and lunch. It is expected to open in a few weeks.

But Gregory’s main reason for opening a new location was the opportunity to collaborate with Marc Quiñones, who serves as director of culinary operations and executive chef. Quiñones worked at Sandia’s Bien Shur for five years, at the Inn at Loretto for three years, at Hotel Andaluz for six years and at Hotel Chaco for more than a year. He was nominated for a James Beard Award and has appeared on numerous televised

cooking competitions, including *Hell’s Kitchen* and *Beat Bobby Flay*. (Spoiler alert: he did not.)

“Honestly, one time I just looked up award-winning chefs in the area, and he came up,” confesses Gregory. “We have mutual friends who connected us as a potential fit. So we had lunch one time and just talked visions, talked where our careers were going and where business was going. And the intersections were amazing... Ever since then his energy and his passion for the cuisine have been driving a lot of the decisions we’ve been making about what the space is really going to be. It’s a really good partnership.”

The focus at Ex Novo is on small plates. As Gregory sees it, “A really exciting way to experience food is getting to try a lot of different things.”

A trip down the menu will yield such temptations as Berkshire pork belly, asparagus calabacitas, guajillo chile Brussels sprouts, New Mexico pinon and bacon fried rice and honey bacon wrapped almond stuffed dates (a favorite dating back to Quiñones’ time at Hotel Andaluz’ MÁS Tapas y Vino).

According to Quiñones, “This menu is New Mexico Ranch cuisine. It’s for New Mexico, it’s by New Mexico, and it honors ancestral New

Mexican ingredients and our people. A hundred years ago, New Mexicans, by necessity, were hunters and ranchers. A lot of people don’t know this but we’re high desert—4,000 to 10,000 feet. When you walk outside, we’re not Phoenix, we’re not Nevada. A hundred years ago someone would walk outside and what was available? Wild game. It was carne asada elk. It was buffalo. They had to kill it. And they didn’t have any ovens or refrigeration. So they’d have to figure out how to cook it. They would preserve it with salt, chile and aromatics and cooking in kettles in the ground.”

A glance around Quiñones’ bustling kitchen does, indeed, reveal a wealth of simmering kettles filled with elk, buffalo, pork ribs and other Southwestern favorites.

If the fully booked opening weekend of Ex Novo is any indication, Albuquerque’s Downtown neighborhood might be on the upswing. As little as two years ago, large swaths of the area were boarded up. As Gregory puts it, “This whole block was vacant, dark. That can’t happen for too long. I think it means a lot to see places lit up.”

Between Ex Novo and other projects (renovations are finally back on down the street at Hotel Blue), Gregory thinks Downtown business is on an upward swing.

“I think it’s early, but I like the signs. I like the people involved. There’s a lot of really great developers that have this all-in mentality on Downtown,” he says. “I’ve gotten to ride on their coattails, see what they’re excited about. I’m like, ‘Yeah that makes sense. Let’s all work together to make it happen!’”

Chef Quiñones is similarly bullish on a Downtown revival, and says “Our Downtown is among the best in the world.”

As for Ex Novo’s Downtown debut, he’s nothing but excited.

“Hopefully this is the cornerstone of love and prosperity and a place for everybody to come for company,” he says.

Ex Novo Downtown

Open 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

701 Central Ave. NW

exnovobrew.com



## Las Cruces' Sanctioned Homeless Encampment Works

Since the U.S. Supreme Court blessed local government bans on public camping, many have tried to sweep away their homeless camps. They just pop up again somewhere else, or individuals fan out to new places.

Where are they supposed to go? Courts don't answer that question. Neither do local governments.

Except Las Cruces, where Camp Hope, a sanctioned homeless encampment, has been thriving for 13 years at no cost to taxpayers. I often wonder why officials of every New Mexico community with a homeless problem haven't made a pilgrimage south to see the Las Cruces model.

Camp Hope began in 2011 as an experiment. Nicole Martinez, executive director of the nonprofit Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH), asked the city for a three-month trial of a small tent camp on city land to give people living on the

*All She Wrote*



Sherry Robinson

street a temporary place to stay. The city agreed.

Today Camp Hope can house up to 50 people in tents. Many tents are in three-walled, roofed shelters that protect them from sun and wind. The camp has restrooms, showers, laundry, kitchen and a community garden. Next door at MVCH, residents have access to a food bank, medical care, case management and a menu of services to help them get back on their feet.

Camp Hope hasn't hobbled its programs with so many restrictions that people are discouraged from getting shelter. People can keep their pets. They can't use drugs or alcohol on site, but if they return to camp after imbibing elsewhere, they can stay as long as they don't bother others. There is no minimum or maximum stay.

The camp does have rules (no violence, no weapons, help with maintenance, for example), but it's largely governed by residents, who have helped make the rules.

Camp Hope operates on the principle of Housing First, which holds that people can't effectively respond to treatment and help until they're safely housed. Once

they have the basics, residents are more open to such services as behavioral health treatment, education and training, or eventually permanent housing.

Some residents aren't ready to move quickly from tent to apartment — they need some transition time to develop trust and self-confidence. Camp Hope allows this transition time, but managers are clear that permanent housing is the ultimate goal.

"I see this 100% as a good investment for the city," Natalie Green, Las Cruces' Housing and Neighborhood Services manager, told *Searchlight New Mexico* in 2022. "Studies show that when we house someone experiencing homelessness, it's much more cost-effective."

Last year the Legislative Finance Committee reported that the homeless population statewide had grown by 48% to about 4,000, and that's probably a dramatic undercount. The increase goes hand-in-hand with the lack of affordable housing. Wages can't keep up with spiraling rents, and affordable rentals are half what they were in 2020.

Our largest cities have the worst shortages, but the report showed seven rural counties in the next tier of need: Curry, Grant, McKinley, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan and San Miguel.

Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Española have waged the most public struggles with their homelessness, and they're no closer to a solution.

Since closing the unsupervised camp in Coronado Park in 2022, Albuquerque has tents scattered around the city. Albuquerque and Santa Fe refuse to consider sanctioned camps mostly out of NIMBYism. The prevailing sentiment: Take care of "those people" somewhere else. Albuquerque actually had a nonprofit ready to supervise an encampment but after blowback, city councilors ran the other way. Santa Fe didn't get that far.

From my time volunteering at a homeless center, I know this group varies from working people who simply can't find affordable rentals to the most down-and-out addict. They will respond to choices individually. For some, the sanctioned encampment is a godsend.

## Election Time for The PERA Board

If you are a retiree from New Mexico state or local government, you probably recently received a letter from PERA telling you about your pension increase starting in July. PERA is the Public Employees Retirement Association, which administers your pension.

You probably also received a packet from PERA inviting you to vote in the PERA board election, which is taking place now by mail. That packet contains a mail-in ballot, which must be received by Sept. 13 to count. You must sign the outer envelope.

Municipal and state employees will also be electing representatives this year and should have received their mail-in ballots.

Please take the time to vote for a representative on the PERA board. Information about the candidates is on the PERA

*Triple Spaced Again*



Merilee Dannemann

website under "Board Elections." It is important to show you are paying attention. You almost lost the right to choose a board representative a couple of years ago, in a legislative attempt to reconstruct the board with mostly appointed instead of elected members.

Don't get excited about the pension increase. The amount is puny. For most retirees, it's one-half of one percent — not enough to keep up with inflation.

Some years ago, my accountant advised me that I could afford to retire from state government. He cheerfully explained that my pension would include a 3% cost of living adjustment or COLA every year, and what a great deal that was.

That's long gone. It's not likely coming back any time soon. The analysts realized that with the COLA, the fund would run out — the phenomenon known as unfunded liability.

The PERA trust fund comes from two sources: deductions from the paychecks of active employees and their government employers, and the investment earnings of the fund. The

number of retirees has been growing — 45,000-plus at the last report — and the number of active employees has been declining — recently 47,000-plus, affecting the ratio of money out compared to money in.

To recall the history: After 20 years with a 3% COLA, and a couple of years of strident arguments, the COLA was cut to 2% in 2013. Retiree organizations supported that change because it might save the fund — but it wasn't enough.

In 2020 a more drastic change was enacted. The COLA was reduced to 0.5% for most retirees, with a possible future profit-sharing increase if the fund performs well, and adding a so-called "13th check" — an extra benefit check that, critically, does not compound — for three years. The three years are over.

The 13th check required an infusion of cash from the state general fund. If you want to wish for something that's possible, wish for another year of that.

The 0.5% increase is not keeping up with inflation, and some legislators are talking about whether they can help retirees in

2025. But restoring the COLA is unlikely.

On the back of the letter announcing your pension increase, you might see a little chart, indicating that your July pension would have a \$30 deduction for your membership contribution to RPENM, the Retired Public Employees, a private nonprofit organization whose purpose is to represent retirees.

If you had the deduction, you joined the organization and authorized the deduction. There's a similar line for AFSCME retiree members. Both organizations have made endorsements in the upcoming election.

The PERA board had a great deal of disruption a couple of years ago, but it's calmed down (thank goodness) and now its politics receive very little press coverage. So it's up to you to decide whether to follow any of these endorsements or do your own analysis before voting. Just please vote.

Contact Merilee Dannemann through [www.triplespacedagain.com](http://www.triplespacedagain.com).



# "I HAVE TWO WORDS FOR LONG COVID: THE WORST!"

Albuquerque resident Eric T had been suffering from the lingering effects of Long Covid symptoms. That was until he met Albuquerque's Dr. Andrea Brogdon of Albuquerque Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine and got his life back!

While the initial alarm of the Covid-19 outbreak has subsided, the fallout from the pandemic is ongoing. Many continue to feel long term impacts from their infection. In fact, nearly 23 million Americans (and 100 million people globally) have learned that regardless of the severity of their initial infection, they may continue to experience debilitating symptoms for weeks, months or even years. In a number of these cases, symptoms worsen with time, even turning deadly.

**"I got Covid early last year and it was pretty bad," shares Eric. "I was hospitalized for 9 days and there was a point where I wasn't sure I was going to make it. I'm still here so I guess God had other plans but months passed and I was still gasping for air. I couldn't do everyday tasks like cut the grass or work in the yard, much less enjoy a quick bike ride. And then there was what my doctor called, 'brain fog'. I'd lose my train of thought mid-sentence or forget words for stupid things like plates and toilet paper. It felt like I'd had a stroke more than it did a virus."**

Officially dubbed Long Covid, the aftermath of the original virus has taken on a life of its own. Dozens of symptoms have been reported and include everything from shortness of breath and cognitive issues to a sudden onset of diabetes and cardiothoracic conditions. These symptoms are so well-documented and common that those suffering now qualify for disability assistance.

Unfortunately for Eric and so many others, the treatment options thus far have been limited. "I started with my primary care doctor and saw specialist after specialist. A pulmonologist finally told me, 'This is the best we can do for you, it's time you start thinking about how you're going to live with Long Covid.' Apparently, their best was letting me live what felt like half a life."

Eric wasn't satisfied with that and decided to do his own research, which is how he ended up at AAIM Albuquerque Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine in Albuquerque.

**"I fully believe the human body has the ability to heal itself, but sometimes it needs a little push. I've used acupuncture in the past to help me through a bout of sciatica and just knew if anyone could help me with this Long Covid business, it was going to be Dr. Brogdon."**

You might think that a novel virus needs a novel solution, but if so, you'd only be half right. While the staff at AAIM Acupuncture does use innovative solutions like ATP Resonance BioTherapy® to combat Long Covid, because it aids in the healing and repair of specific cells and tissues, it's a much more time-tested science that's getting patients back to living their lives.

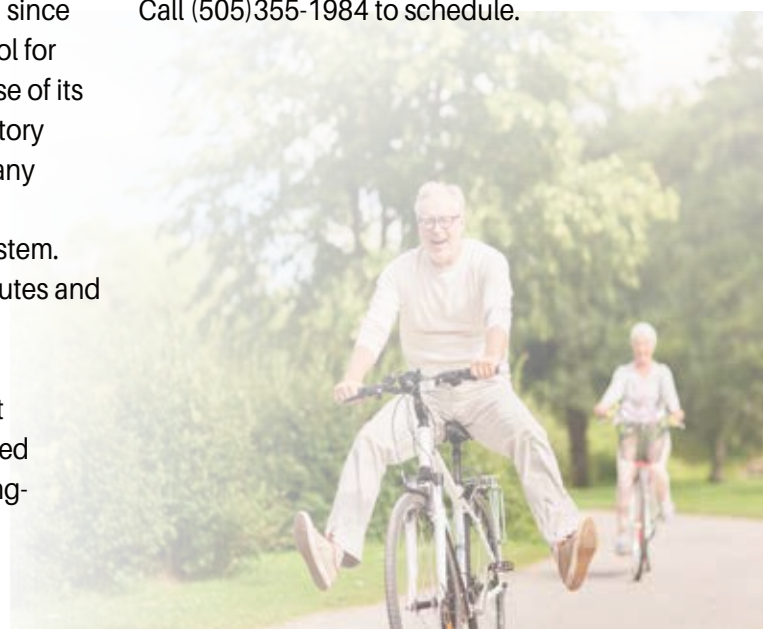
"Our O3 ReBoot Therapy® has all-encompassing and powerful healing capabilities," shares Dr. Brogdon. "Ozone therapy has been used since the 1800's and was actually a popular tool for Doctors during the first world war because of its antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-inflammatory properties. We use it today to inactivate any residual Covid virus, stimulate oxygen metabolism, and activate the immune system. The whole treatment takes about 15 minutes and is completely noninvasive."

As with AAIM's other services, O3 ReBoot Therapy® requires consistent and repeated treatment to achieve measurable and long-lasting results.

**"I'm in my second month of treatment and back to riding my bike and breathing better than before I even had Covid. Everyone [at AAIM] has been amazing! I really feel taken care of every time I walk in the door." says Eric.**

Dr. Andrea Brogdon, AAIM's founder and leading practitioner, has been successfully treating chronic pain and complicated conditions for over two decades. She has pioneered effective protocols to treat seemingly hopeless conditions like peripheral neuropathy, fibromyalgia, and postherpetic neuralgia. When Covid-19 emerged three years ago, she and her team got right to work researching and developing therapies that would effectively address that complex virus. Based on the testimony of patients like Eric, it seems their efforts have been a smashing success.

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## Trump Implies Support for Decriminalization

*Comments point toward a new  
direction for GOP*



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By Josh Lee, The Paper.

As the presidential election approaches, it's becoming clearer that cannabis policy might be a point of interest for voters. With the Kamala Harris campaign leaning into the vice president's pro-weed agenda, contender Donald Trump is now shifting his position to the soft support of legalization. The former president is also attempting to use Harris' poor history of cannabis prosecutions as a talking point against her.

During a press conference at Mar-a-Lago earlier this month, Trump hinted that he might support the legalization of adult-use cannabis in Florida. While not committing outright, he expressed a growing acceptance of marijuana legalization, noting that it is becoming more common across the country.

"As we legalize it, I start to agree a lot more because, you know, it's being legalized all over the country," Trump said.

Trump acknowledged the inconsistency in keeping people in jail for actions that are increasingly legal nationwide.

"As we legalize it throughout the country — whether that's a good thing or a bad thing — it's awfully hard to have people all over the jails that are in jail right now for something that's legal," Trump said.

It's somewhat of a turning point for Trump, who has praised countries that execute

drug traffickers since his time in the Oval Office (although he more recently walked that back).

During his time as president, Trump refrained from making any moves to help or harm the legal cannabis industry. He seemed willing to allow states to experiment with their own cannabis policies and even reportedly chastised then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions when he chose to rescind an Obama-era Department of Justice memorandum that instructed federal prosecutors to leave state-approved marijuana businesses alone.

Although Trump has repeatedly opposed marijuana legalization, he's also repeatedly voiced concerns about disproportionate enforcement and overly harsh punishments for cannabis use. He even pardoned or commuted the sentences of three cannabis prisoners in the final weeks of his presidency.

Those remarks were made in response to a question about Harris' stance that people should not be arrested for low-level marijuana crimes and the Biden administration's attempt to reschedule the drug under the Controlled Substances Act, and they appear to place Trump on equal footing with Harris when it comes to the criminalization of marijuana.

To give himself the upper hand in the matter, Trump

recently attacked Harris for her less-than-golden record with cannabis prosecutions during her time in the California justice department.

"She was a bad prosecutor. She was a prosecutor of black people," Trump said in an interview on Fox News. "She put thousands and thousands of black people in jail over marijuana. But when it came to big crime — murders and everything else — she was weak."

Notably, the former president briefly mentioned Florida's upcoming vote on cannabis legalization. "Florida has something coming up," he said. "I'll be making a statement about that fairly soon."

This ballot initiative proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow adults 21 and over to possess, purchase or use marijuana for personal, nonmedical purposes. The amendment would also enable medical marijuana treatment centers and other state-licensed operators to cultivate, process and sell marijuana products. If approved by 60% or more of voters, the amendment would take effect in May 2025. If passed, individuals will be allowed to possess up to 3 ounces of marijuana and 5 grams of concentrate.

If Trump chooses to support the measure, it would present an interesting contrast with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a

Republican leader who has been a vocal opponent of marijuana legalization and who recently faced off against Trump in the Republican primaries. At a recent breakfast meeting during the GOP convention in Milwaukee, DeSantis urged the Republican Party of Florida to oppose the ballot measure. He criticized the amendment, arguing that it would grant individuals an unlimited right to possess and smoke marijuana. DeSantis also expressed concerns about the potency of modern cannabis products and reiterated the claim that drug dealers might lace marijuana with fentanyl.

While most elected Republicans in Florida remain against legalization, Joe Gruters — a Trump ally and candidate for the state's chief financial officer — publicly supported the amendment. Gruters decided to back Trump instead of DeSantis in 2023, and his support of cannabis legalization could be a hint at how Trump's policies might differ from more traditional GOP leaders like DeSantis.

The potential alignment of Trump with the pro-legalization movement in Florida reflects the evolving national landscape on cannabis policy. If Trump publicly endorses the amendment, it could influence the upcoming vote in Florida and drastically change Republican sentiment around marijuana across the country.

The only fly in the ointment might be Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance.

In November, Ohio voters legalized recreational marijuana, with nearly 60% support, despite opposition from Vance, who recently expressed his disapproval of marijuana legalization during an interview with conservative Christian Right Wing talk show host Bob Frantz in Cleveland.

Vance explained his opposition by saying that he does not want marijuana to be prevalent in public spaces where children play or people go about their daily activities. He expressed concerns that cities in states like Colorado and California, where recreational marijuana is legal, have become "open-air drug markets."

While Vance opposes recreational marijuana, he clarified that he does not believe people caught with small amounts, such as a joint, should be imprisoned. However, he emphasized his personal disapproval of marijuana use.





# 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!

## Fla. Official Says Legalization will Fill Prisons

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

Florida Department of Corrections Secretary Ricky Dixon, who was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, claims there are no low-level marijuana offenders in Florida prisons and that legalizing the drug would pose a risk to public health.

Dixon recently wrote an op-ed that appeared in the *Tampa Bay Times*, calling for Florida voters to reject legalizing cannabis in November. He said pro-cannabis activists have been intentionally lying about the amount of inmates serving time for low-level marijuana offenses in Florida prisons. He claims that there are no prisoners behind bars in Florida who were arrested for possessing 20 grams of marijuana or less and that Florida law forbids such an arrest.

"The narrative being promoted by some activists that individuals are imprisoned solely for minor marijuana possession is a lie," wrote Dixon.

Dixon said that there are currently only 37 individuals serving prison sentences for the primary offense of possessing more than 20 grams of cannabis and that all of these individuals had their sentences enhanced by either an extensive criminal record or severe accompanying crimes.

Dixon wrote that he believed legalizing cannabis would lead to more traffic fatalities and emergency room visits, which would in turn lead to more people being incarcerated.



(Source: GuHKS at Wikimedia Commons)

### NJ to consider case of cop fired for weed use

This month, the New Jersey Civil Service Commission is expected to hear the case of a police officer who was fired for off-duty cannabis use.

Former Jersey City police officer Mackenzie Reilly was fired from the force in August 2023, after a urine test returned positive for THC. He and four other officers are fighting cannabis-related terminations. All five are seeking to dismiss a lawsuit filed by Jersey City against the state of New Jersey that seeks to overturn the state's legalization of recreational cannabis.

New Jersey legalized cannabis in 2021, and the state attorney general said police officers cannot be disciplined for using marijuana

while off duty. But Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for governor in 2025, has refused to comply with the state's directives and is not allowing the city's police to use marijuana.

The Civil Service Commission has already ordered the city to reinstate two of the five terminated officers, but it is unclear if they've been rehired. The commission is set to hear Reilly's case some time this month. The judge overseeing the lawsuit declined to make a decision on the case until all five officers have gone through hearings with the commission.

### Iowa THC drink companies drop lawsuit

Two Iowa THC-infused beverage manufacturers have

dropped a lawsuit against the state that sets a THC limit for consumable hemp products.

In June, Field Day Brewing Co. and Climbing Kites filed the suit claiming the state's Department of Health and Human Services is improperly interpreting a bill that limits the amount of THC in hemp consumables.

Both companies decided to drop the suit earlier this month and have reportedly reformulated their drinks to contain an amount of THC that is under the new limits.

Field Day Brewing Co. told reporters that it will not be moving forward with another lawsuit at this time.



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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of August 21

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**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Some centenarians testify they have lived more than a century because they smoked many cigarettes, drank a lot of booze, and ate a steady diet of junk food. Should the rest of us adapt their habits? Of course not. The likelihood of remaining healthy while following such an unsound regimen is infinitesimal. Just because a few lucky people miraculously thrived like that is not a sound argument for imitating them. I bring this to your attention, Aries, because the coming weeks will be an excellent time to upgrade your commitment to healthy habits. If you've been waiting for the right time to love your body better, this is it.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Taurus stage magician Doug Henning had lavish ambitions. They served him well as he became a star performer in theater and on TV. "If I produce a 450-pound Bengal tiger," he said, "it's going to create a lot more wonder than if I produce a rabbit." That's the spirit I invite you to embrace in the coming weeks, Taurus. The cosmos is authorizing you to expand your understanding of what you can accomplish—and then accomplish it. Dream bigger dreams than you have previously dared.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** The color of planet Earth is predominantly blue with green, brown, and white mixed in. And for people all over the world, blue is more often their favorite color than any other. Why? In part because blue typically evokes peace, tranquility, security, and stability. It's often used in therapeutic environments, since it makes us feel more at ease about expressing our feelings. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Gemini, because you are entering a blue phase of your cycle. It will be a favorable time to harvest the benefits of relaxing and slowing down. You are more likely to feel at home with yourself and accept yourself just as you are.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Harvard Business School professor Gerald Zaltman, born under the sign of Cancer, says that 95 percent of our buying choices originate in our subconscious minds. Behavioral psychologist Susan Weinschenk believes 90 percent of all our decision-making is unconscious. But I propose that in the coming weeks, you increase the amount of conscious awareness you bring to sorting out your options. Cosmic energies will conspire in your favor if you do. You will receive unexpected boosts and generate creative enhancements if you resolve to rouse more lucid analysis and careful thoughtfulness.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** A wealthy hedge fund manager named Raj Rajaratnam paid Leo singer Kenny Rogers \$4 million to perform at his epic birthday party. But the night turned nightmarish for Rogers when Rajaratnam insisted that he sing his hit song "The Gambler" over and over again. Finally, after 12 repetitions, Rogers refused to do more. I wonder if you, too, might soon have to deal with a situation that's too much of a good thing. My advice: Make sure all agreements between you and others are clear and firm. Get a guarantee that you will receive exactly what you want, and don't do more than you have promised.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Now and then, zoologists decide that their classifications of species need to be revised and refined. For example, three subspecies of soft-furred, teardrop-shaped hedgehogs in Southeast Asia were recently elevated to distinct species of their own. They are no longer considered to be subspecies of *Hylomys suillus* but, but are now named *H. dorsalis*, *H. maxi*, and *H. peguensis*. I bring this to your attention, Virgo, because I suspect that you, too, are ready for an upgrade to a new category all your own. It's time for you to claim greater sovereignty. You will be wise to define how distinctive and unique you are, to distinguish yourself from influences that are superficially like you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** When mega-famous artist Pablo Picasso was asked how he felt about NASA landing people on the moon in 1969, he said, "It means nothing to me. I have no opinion about it, and I don't care." I invite you to use his statement as one of your power mottoes in the coming weeks. Now is an excellent time to identify the experiences, influences, events, and people about which you have absolutely zero interest. Once you do that, I predict you will have a rush of clear revelations about the most interesting experiences, influences, events, and people you want in your future.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** The ancient Chinese philosopher Lao-Tzu made an observation that could serve as your watchword in the coming months. "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength," he wrote, "while loving someone deeply gives you courage." In my astrological opinion, Scorpio, you are now primed to embody and express these states with unique intensity. If you embrace the inspiring challenge of loving deeply and being loved deeply, you will reach new heights of strength and courage.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Many musical instruments must be constantly adjusted to ensure they stay in tune. This usually means that the note A above middle C vibrates at 440 cycles per second—with all other notes tuned in relation to it. Having sung in bands for years, I have seen how guitarists, bass players, violinists, and even drummers have to continually attend to their tuning during performances. Imagine the diligent finesse it takes to keep an entire orchestra of many instruments in tune with each other. I suspect that one of your jobs in the coming weeks, Sagittarius, will have similarities to this kind of management and coordination.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Dancing is always good for you, but it will be extra healthy and energizing in the next four weeks. I hope you will be inspired to dance as often as possible, even if you just do it alone in your kitchen or bedroom while listening to music that moves you. Do you need rational explanations for why this is a good idea? OK, here are the hard facts: Dancing reduces stress, raises serotonin levels, enhances well-being, and is excellent physical exercise. Here's another motivational reason: Dancing literally makes you smarter. Scientific research clearly says so (<https://tinyurl.com/SmartDancing>). Furthermore: In the near future, you will be in a playful, sexy, exuberant phase of your astrological cycle.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** "Quo signo nata es?" is the Latin expression for "What's your sign?" Did anyone in ancient Rome ever say that? Probably not, since it's a modern idiom. However, astrology was very popular in that society and era. According to scholar Rhianna Padman in her essay "Astrology in Ancient Rome," Romans "believed that the specific positions of celestial bodies at the moment of a person's birth could greatly impact their life and character." Back then, Thrasyllus of Mendes was a prominent astrologer who became a key advisor to Emperor Tiberius. Anyway, Aquarius, I bring "Quo signo nata es?" to your attention so as to inspire the following assignment: Update all your old favorite things. Put new spins on symbols and ideas that have served you for a long time. Take the best parts of your traditions and transplant them into the future.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** The coming weeks will be an excellent time to declare amnesty about all matters affecting your close alliances. Dissolve grudges, please. Tussle less, play more. Relax your demands and expectations—and nicely ask your companions to relax their demands and expectations. If possible, forgive others and yourself for everything; failing that, forgive as much of everything as feels right. You might even convene a ritual in which you and your intimate collaborators chant the following affirmation: "We are gleefully free to reimagine and reinvent the ways we fit together!"

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1

Pet lovers' org.

5

Photographer's request

10

Whole lot

14

Grad student's grilling

15

Moulin Rouge city

16

Fed. watchdog

17

Setting for the 2005 film, "Waiting"

19

Costner flick "\_\_\_ Range"

20

Hay fever medicine

21

Finger-wagger's word

22

Parks on a bus

23

Home follower

25

Prickly bush

28

Hercules type

30

Boring routine

33

Golf spots

35

Battlefield worry

37

Comics canine

38

Dry, in a way

40

Skiing mecca

41

Cockpit reading

43

Folded food

45

1950 film noir classic

46

Greyhound, e.g.

48

Melancholy verse

49

Bake in a shallow dish

51

N.Y. summer times

53

Bit of info

55

Know-how

60

Knock about

61

Shasta's home

62

Passionate about

63

Subway entrance

64

Takes out

65

Use a spyglass

66

Cut, as ties

67

Big name in applesauce

DOWN

1

Put out

2

Type of school

3

Carry's partner

4

Superheroes often have them

5

Cowboy gear

6

Grammy-winning Carey

7

Persia, today

8

Football official

9

Not an exact fig.

10

Hullabaloo

11

Casual canvas shoe

12

"Pardon me"

13

Glazier's sheet

18

Love to pieces

21

E-mail command

24

Dance that "takes two"

25

Vast

26

10:1, e.g.

27

Type of commerce

29

Fail to say

31

Clear a cribbage board

32

Quick to get ticked

34

State under oath

36

Turbulent situation

39

Bring back, say

42

Stiffly formal

44

Urban area, for short

47

Stack again

50

Comic's specialty

52

Yield

53

Plumbing problem

54

Crackerjack

56

Caesar's 44

57

Skinny

58

Strain, as flour

59

Toward sunrise

61

HTML go-with

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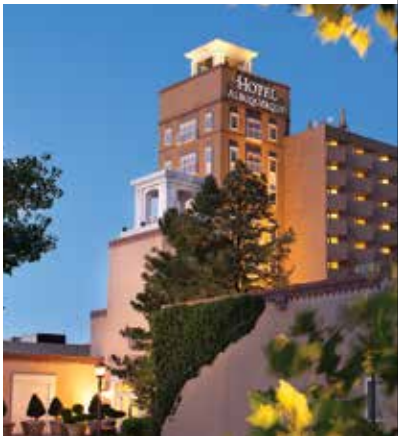
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