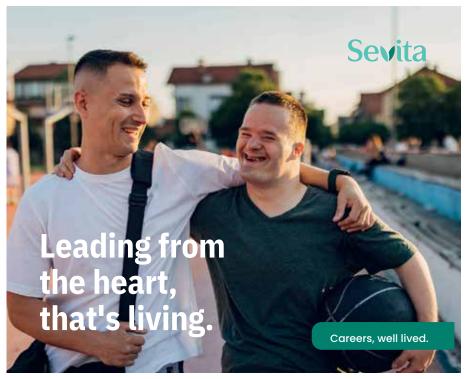


The Paper. ________December 25, 2024



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APS Board Approves Campus Shakeup

Taft Middle School closure, new international high school part of package

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

By Rodd Cayton, City Desk ABQ

divided Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education Wednesday night voted 4-3 to approve a "rightsizing" plan to close the North Valley's Taft Middle School and repurpose the campus as the new home of Coronado Dual Language K-8 Magnet School.

Coronado is currently a K-5 elementary school. District staff says approval of the plan means it will get a larger space and be able to serve students who wish to continue their dual language

education beyond fifth grade.
About 60% of the students
who finish fifth grade at Coronado leave the district, according to agenda documents. One new grade will be added during each of the next three school years.

Among the motions approved is a boundary change to assign the current Taft attendance area to Taylor Middle School, which is 2 miles north of Taft. Superintendent Gabriella Durán Blakey told board members Taft families will be given transfer priority to enroll their children at the new Coronado school.

Another option, she said, is to transfer to Garfield STEM Magnet & Community Middle School 3 miles south of Taft, which will be the target of extensive investment.

The existing Coronado building near Downtown will serve as a newcomer resource center, as well as a new high school to serve immigrant students.

According to an application filed with the New Mexico Public Education Department, those students will benefit from the innovative pedagogical approaches and communal social-emotional learning support offered at the International High School.

The decision came about four hours into the meeting, and almost all who spoke during the meeting's public forum

chose rightsizing as their topic. More than a dozen people asked board members to reject the proposal or table the matter until more community input could be gathered.

Many of those said they had not been adequately informed by district staff of the matter and said the process felt rushed. Others expressed concerns about additional traffic in the area.

Blakey said the rightsizing initiative in APS began more than a decade ago to address declining enrollment. She has acknowledged some missteps in keeping the affected populations informed. Blakey said one oversight was in failing to engage the families of this year's fifthgrade students, who would have started at Taft in the fall.

Deputy Superintendent Antonio Gonzales said district officials have been trying to connect with families "on an individual basis" to prepare students for the transition, pending approval.

Several public forum speakers encouraged board members to approve the creation of the international school. Those included immigrants who shared their struggles in adjusting to life in a new country and professionals who work with newcomer students.

Of the board members who voted against the rightsizing package, Josefina Dominguez and Heather Benavidez specified that they were voting against the process, not against the establishment of the international school.

'My no vote is against insidiously pitting one kind of group against another," Dominguez said.

How they voted

The tally was identical on four agenda items: the boundary change, the repurposing of the Taft campus, the move of Coronado and the creation of the international school.

Yes: Janelle Astorga, Danielle Gonzales, Courtney Jackson, Crystal Tapia-Romero

No: Heather Benavidez, Josefina Dominguez, Ronalda Tome-Warito



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A large banner reading "remembering lives unhoused" was displayed during the silent march.
(Roberto E. Rosales / City Desk ABQ)

City
Desk
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 Damon Scott, City Desk ABQ

t was a solemn occasion Wednesday afternoon in Albuquerque when about 100 people gathered in the International District to recognize the deaths of those experiencing homelessness in the city this year. The event coincides with Homeless Persons' Memorial Day — a national day to mark homeless deaths. This year, more than 180 U.S. cities were expected to participate.

A silent march started at the Compassion Services Center, located at 541 Mesilla St. SE, where walkers headed east on Zuni Road to the American Indian Center for a ceremony, located a little less than a mile away at 105 Texas St. SE.

While the day was largely about remembering friends and family members who died, the volatile issues of city encampment sweeps and shelter conditions were also on the minds of many who attended.

'You know, I think sometimes we're going backwards," Joanne Landry, director of the Compassion Services Center, said. "They are not going to go to any of the shelters — they are just not going to do it,

unfortunately. We need to find a place for them that is adequate, that's going to work for them. Let's get them off our streets."

People walked with signs featuring the names of people who died — hand-painted by artists from ArtStreet, a program located on the campus of Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless. Some in the crowd softly played drums on the walk.

Those in attendance included Mayor Tim Keller and City Councilors Tammy Fiebelkorn and Nichole Rogers, as well as many representatives of homelessness service providers such as the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness, which helped organize the event.

In all, 127 names of those who died were read aloud while people held lit candles. The number is considered an undercount, as accurate mortality data for the city's homeless population is hard to come by.

Anna Martinez, a former Albuquerque poet laureate, shared a personal story about her daughter.

"Amanda Alison Archuleta passed away one street up from here on the corner of Tennessee and Central on September 26, she said. "Amanda was the light of our lives, the star of our family."

Martinez said her daughter was living on the streets and had struggled with substance abuse issues.

'She found a home in the community here. She chose to be with people she knew were ignored, unseen, unheard ... she chose to shine her light here,"

Martinez, who said she was a civil rights attorney, said.

Martinez said she was angry about the stigmatization of those experiencing homelessness, including "targeting by police, constant relocation and the constant destruction of the only small personal things that they have."

But she was hopeful, she said, that things would change for the better in the New Year. She read one of her poems — Labor of Love.

"[It's] about my favorite time of year, and I'm hoping that it will remind us that every single one of them that is out there struggling is a ... precious life and soul that needs nurturing," Martinez said.

Others shared personal struggles or memories of those they knew who had died.

"This is my 'hood. I still live here, but I'm a year and three months sober," Esther, a case manager at Crossroads for Women, said. "I can't imagine what these mothers are going through.

Amy said she was at the memorial to stand-in for brothers Eric and Kendall Salina, whose father died a few weeks ago.

"They can't be here ... and I just wanted to be able to tell them that we remembered Ernest Salina, an absolutely fabulous artist," she said. "And that you all remember him here today, so that they'll know that he wasn't forgotten."





New Year's Ever Before Dark

Tew Year's Eve can be a tough holiday for younger kids (and, quite honestly, some of us adults) for whom staying up until midnight partying can be a real chore. The Albuquerque Museum (2000 Mountain Rd. NW) has a solution, however. New Year's Eve Before Dark invites folks to ring in the New Year while the sun is still up with an afternoon of family friendly activities. Admission is free and all of the museum's exhibits are open for the exploring. There will be live music plus arts and crafts activity stations. Slate Street Cafe and the Museum Store will be open. The event happens from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

ECLECTIC CINEMA 7 DAYS A WEEK John Lennon, Yoko Ono: DAYTIME REVOLUTION Fri-Mon December 27-30 2:45, 8:00 Time-traversing Indigenous tale **EUREKA** Fri-Mon December 27-30 5:00 John Carpenter's DARK STAR (1974) Friday December 27 10:30pm WE ARE FUGAZI FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. Saturday December 28 12:30pm Stanley Kubrick's THE SHINING (1980) Saturday December 28 10:30pm **OMAR & CEDRIC: IF THIS EVER GETS WEIRD** Sunday December 29 12:00pm New Year's Double Feature: Dec 31-Jan 1 SHREK 2:00. 6:30 SHREK 2 4:15. 8:45 Mumbai drama ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT Thu-Mon January 2-6 2:45, 5:15 Daniel Craig in Luca Guadagnino's QUEER Thu-Mon January 2-6 7:45 3405 Central Ave NE 255-1848 www.guildcinema.com



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Art Openings

Guadalupe Art Exhibit daily 10am - 6pm South Broadway Cultural Center 1025 Broadway SE

Community

Albuquerque Animal Welfare's Operation Silent Night Donation Drive 8am-6pm Eastside Animal Welfare Dept. 8920 Lomas Blvd NE

Annual Pueblo Gingerbread House Contest All Day Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Exhibit

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

Family/Kids

Sawmill Winter Experience All Day Sawmill Market 1909 Bellamah Ave NW

Festival

Winter Wonderland NM 2024 \$50 6-9 pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Games

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

Miscellaneous

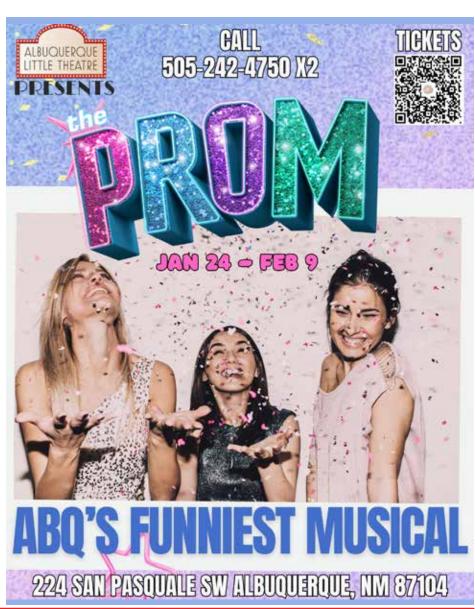
River of Lights \$8-\$19 5-10 pm ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden 2601 Central Ave NW

Music

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

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

The Asteroids 6-8 pm Steel Bender Brewyard 8305 Second St. NW, Los Ranchos de





Thursday Night Rinse \$10 9 pm-2 am Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

Comedy

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

Nick Guerra \$25-\$35 7-8:30 pm & 9:30-11 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo

Wheel o' Bits \$15 7:30-9 pm The Box Performance Space 114 Gold Ave SW

Festival

Winter Wonderland NM 2024 \$50 6-10 pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Winter Wonderland NM 2024 \$50 6-9 pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Miscellaneous

River of Lights \$8-\$19 5-10 pm ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden 2601 Central Ave NW

Music

360° House Sessions \$10 9 pm-2 am Effex NightClub 420 Central Avenue Southwest

AOR 6:30-9:30 pm Skidmore's Holiday Bowl 7515 Lomas Blvd NE

Gin & Jazz: Winter Cocktail Edition 5-10 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

Levi Platero 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Performance

Open Stage DRAG NIGHT + Dance Party 8-11:30 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 lst Street Northwest

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Comedy

Dry Heat Presents \$15 9:30-11 pm Dry Heat Comedy Club 100 Gold Ave SW Suite 112 Nick Guerra \$25-\$35 7-8:30 pm & 9:30-11 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo

Stand-up Comedy: Bryan, Sarina and Nax \$15 7-9:30 pm Nob Hill Comedy Club 3619 Copper Ave NE

Zach Abeyta & Friends \$15 7:30-9 pm The Box Performance Space 114 Gold Ave SW

Dance

Water Strider Dance Group (Zuni) 12-1 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Family/Kids

IPCC Family Story Time: Water is Life 1-2 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Festival

NM Shrine Princess Tea Party \$60 11 am-5 pm Ballut Abyad Shriners 6600 Zuni Rd SE

Winter Wonderland NM 2024 \$50 6-9 pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE Winter Wonderland NM 2024 \$50 6-10 pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Miscellaneous

Pre-New Year Party \$65-\$400 7:30-10:30 pm Sid Cutter Pilot's Pavilion 4900 Balloon Fiesta Pkwy NE

River of Lights \$8-\$19 5-10 pm ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden 2601 Central Ave NW

Music

After Christmas Party 7-10 pm Hops and Dough Taproom 6361 Riverside Plaza Ln

Prism Bitch 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Silver Sky Blues Band Duo 8-10 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St. NW

Sports

Duke City Championship Wrestling: Bosque Blizzard \$20-\$130 7-9 pm Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW



NEW *ICONIC*Signs

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FRIENDS OF THE ORPHAN SIGNS



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Art

"PROTEST 2024!" Closing Reception 2-4 pm FUSION 700-708 First St. NW

Class / Workshop

Zen & Zooted Yoga \$10 11 am-12 pm Thrive Craft Cannabis Dispensary & Lounge 5926 2nd St

Stand-up Comedy 7-9 pm The Nob Hill Stage 3619 Copper Avenue Northeast

Community

Sunday Meditation sittings: Open to all 10 am-12 pm Albuquerque Shambhala Meditation Center 1102 Mountain Rd. NW

Dance

Water Strider Dance Group (Zuni) 12-1 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Festival

Winter Wonderland NM 2024 \$50 6-9 pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Miscellaneous

River of Lights \$8-\$19 5-10 pm ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden 2601 Central Ave NW

Music

Cracker \$40 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

EQNX Jazztet weekly jam session 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, DECEMBER 30

Class / Workshop

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

Games

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

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

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

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

Pixels & Pints 5-8 pm Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St.

Miscellaneous

River of Lights \$8-\$19 5-10 pm ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden 2601 Central Ave NW

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Comedy

Jay Mohr \$60-\$75 7-8:30 pm & 9-11:30 pm Quezada's Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo

Community

Time Travelers Ball \$5 7-11 pm Thrive Craft Cannabis Dispensary & Lounge 5926 2nd St NW

Festival

ABQ NYE Studio 54 The Party of The Year \$75-\$125 10 pm The Historic Lobo Theater - Lounge & Event Venue 3013 Central Ave NE

Food

ABQ NYE Studio 54 The Party of The Year \$75 10 pm-2 am The Historic Lobo Theater - Lounge & Event Venue 3013 Central Ave NE

New Year's Eve Dinner Celebration \$95 4-9:30 pm D.H. Lescombes Winery & Bistro 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW #B-100

Blazed and Confused Trivia Night 6:30-8 pm Thrive Craft Cannabis Dispensary & Lounge 5926 2nd St NW

EVENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

MARKET-WIDE SPECIALS LDJ + DANCING* SPARKLING TOAST AT, MIDNIGHT NYC SIMULCAST PRIZES * GIVEAWAYS NYE2024 MARKET-WIDE SPECIALS .. DJy+ DANCING * SPARKLING * TOAST AT MIDNIGHT NYC SIMULCAST PRIZES + GIVEAWAYS NYE2024 MARKET-WIDE SPECIALS DJ + DANCING* SPARKLING TOAST AT, MIDNIGHT NYC SIMULCAST PRIZES + GIVEAWAYS NYE2024



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25 Things We Love **About ABQ**

Oh, Albuquerque, how do we love thee? Let us count the ways.

By The Paper. Staff

There's no shortage of shade thrown at our city — often from residents themselves, and sometimes justified. As we prepare to say goodbye to 2024 though, we wanted to share some of the reasons why we love our scrappy city. What's not to love about a long list of music venues, diverse dining options and outdoor activities minutes from home? The following submissions are from the staff of The Paper. and its sister publications (but not the Santa Fe Reporter).

1. We're actually better than Santa Fe

Tourists often see Albuquerque as nothing more than a city you have to fly into to get to Santa Fe, and most of us have pretty much come to terms with it. The thing most of those visitors don't get is that our bars stay open past 10 p.m. and we've got a public transit system that actually works. Oh, it's also cheaper to live here. If we get that urge to drink an overpriced cocktail with our pinky up, we can cosplay as a Fancy Pants McGee for a few hours and still make it home by dinner. (Andy Lyman)

2. Black and yellow por vida

Somos Unidos. A magical 2024 season ignited an already-rabid fan base in Albuquerque that loves its Black and Yellow. This year, United hosted a playoff game for the first time in team history and set club records for wins and points. What will NMU do for an encore in 2025? (Kevin Hendricks)

3. Java Joe's is still standing

Many Burqueños still feel the sting from the 2019 closure of Winnings Coffee after a 24-year run near the University of New Mexico campus. The local hangout had it all — unpretentious vibes, killer prices, good food and great coffee. Thankfully, you've still got an alternative: Java Joe's (906 Park Ave. SW #3045). When you step through the doors of the West Downtown habitat, you can't help but relax. It's got chill vibes, great art, bottomless coffee (\$2.75) and great food you can't go wrong with the \$8.75 green chile veggie omelet. Here's hoping its almost three-decade run continues for three more. (Damon Scott)

4. We know how to be loud and proud at The Pit

Catching a Lobo basketball game at The Pit is one of the best things to do in town. My wife



New Mexico United currently plays games at the Rio Grande Credit Union Field at Isotopes Park. (Andy Lyman / The Paper.)

and I love the energy — it's always fun, win or lose. Pretty much every seat has a great view and the fans are so into it, which makes the whole experience even better. (Jesse Jones)

5. Art house movies aren't dead

Although the mainstream movie industry remains in flux, surrendering further ground to home streaming, it's encouraging to see a grown-up, old-school, single-screen cinematic destination like Guild Cinema still doing what movie theaters have always done best: exposing enthusiastic audiences to independent, foreign, cult and classic films. Owner/projectionist/ticket seller Keif Henley serves up a celluloid smorgasbord every week. Like psychedelic animation? Indian drama? '80s slasher films? Punk rock documentaries? Queer cinema? Local films? Something by Werner Herzog? A film festival about fly fishing? Yeah, that covers barely half of January's calendar. (Devin O'Leary)

6. El Machete keeps cutting through the bulls*it

Old-school Burgeños likely recognize the work of Eric Garcia, especially his biting political cartoons published in The Paper. When I started as editor, I knew I wanted to include some subversive content. As luck would have it, Eric contacted me asking if I was interested in running his El Machete cartoon. A product of the South Valley, Eric successfully taps into what it's like to live in the city and speaks truth to power, all while cranking out work every week. (Andy Lyman)

7. The kids are alright

Any night of the week, you can catch performances in underground venues throughout Albuquerque from old bands that have maintained a devoted, unstoppable following for decades or innovative, undiscovered groups keeping rock 'n' roll dangerous. Angry, energetic young people who soak up music like spiky-haired sponges, along with old punks who might have lost some hair but haven't lost their edge, pack venues such as Ren's Den (900 4th St. SW) with little thought about how rough school or work might be in the morning. You can watch legendary locals with centuries of combined extreme music experience at their fingertips open for extreme music acts from all over the world and leave with a car full of CDs for the amount of money you would spend at the movies. (Michael Hodock)



Guild Cinema is located in the heart of Albuquerque's Nob Hill. (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)

8. We've got bloodys, buddy

There's no better way to recover from a fun Saturday night than hitting up Rio Grande Social (6631 Conrad Ave. NW) for a Sunday brunch. You don't even need to order food thanks to the Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar, which includes up to two skewers (\$20 for one skewer, \$25 for two). You can pack each skewer with as much food as you can fit, including bacon, crab legs, chicken wings, doughnuts, pickles, shrimp, meatballs and pepperoncini. (Kevin Hendricks)

9. There are taco trucks on every corner

Between ABO Food Park (6901B San Antonio Dr. NE), The Block (7805 Enchanted Hills Blvd. NE), Food Truck Fridays at Civic Plaza and the front curb of just about every brewery in town, Albuquerque has got some positively baller food trucks. Lots of cities do. But we'd put our homegrown profusion of tasty taco trucks up against any other city's. On a weekend night, you can cruise Zuni Road east of San Mateo Boulevard or Central Avenue up Nine Mile Hill or troll the Forbidden Tacos page on Facebook looking for a near-endless supply of birria, carnitas, al pastor, carne asada, barbacoa, etc. In Albuquerque, every day is Taco Tuesday! (Devin O'Leary)

10. All the fitness opportunities

Albuquerque residents: You have #noexcuses to be a couch potato. Our weather is hard to beat for at least nine months of the year, which opens up countless outdoor recreation options: A walk in the park or a hike on easyaccess trails are but two. If staying indoors is more your speed, choose from dozens of gyms with a range of amenities. Drop in to local favorite **Liberty Gym** (2401 Jefferson St. NE) for \$5. And if barbells don't do it for you, how about hot yoga? Group fitness? The point: We easily live in one of the best cities in the country to stay fit. (Damon Scott)

11. A plethora of public parks

One thing I love about Albuquerque is its plethora of neighborhood parks. Parks and Recreation Department Spokesperson Emily Moore says the city has about 300 neighborhood parks, and that 90% of Burqueños live within a 10-minute walk of one of them. I live in City View Estates, and a park is within an easy walk for myself and my two small dogs.

[ARTS & CULTURE.] The Paper.





UNM Children's Hospital (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)

There are three other parks I take them to for variety, none more than six minutes away. The parks are clean and well-kept, and have enough going on to please both dogs and humans.

There's a social contract between the community and its pet owners that says we have to clean up after our dogs. Park volunteers make this easy by keeping the bag dispensers stocked. (Rodd Cayton)

12. UNM Children's Hospital

After a sinus infection gone awry, my kid recently had to spend seven nights in the hospital. The stressful and horrifying situation was countered with the friendly and helpful medical staff who never wavered, even when our stress got the best of us. The cherry on top was Child Life, a center at the hospital jam-packed with games, books and art supplies that help kids stay kids, even in trying times. Special shout out to Dr. Scott for chatting about Dungeons and Dragons with my fantasy-loving and bedridden son. (Andy Lyman)

13. The pinball community

There are a million tiny communities in Albuquerque, including some you would never think about if you weren't involved. For me, that's the pinball community, which I discovered earlier this year. With pinball machines at a handful of bars and breweries around town, you can play games with your friends and even play in the monthly tournaments at Sister Bar (407 Central Ave. NW) Downtown (don't worry if you're not very good — I'm not and I have a lot of fun) or the monthly Belles and Chimes tournaments for women and nonbinary players. (Matthew Reichbach)

14. We've got some secret spots for sipping

Thanks to some changes in the law, Albuquerque has tons of up-and-coming breweries. Appreciate a good IPA? You're spoiled for choice! When it comes to cutting-edge cocktail lounges, though, the town still lags behind big-city legends like Death & Co. (New York, Denver, LA, Washington), Aviary (Chicago), Ranger Station (Atlanta), The Portrait Bar (New York), Smuggler's Cove (San Francisco). But the exquisitely clandestine Founder's Speakeasy, hidden in the basement of the El Rey Liquors (622 Central Ave. SW), is as metropolitan as ABQ gets. Fresh local



Pinball machines inside Sister Bar in Downtown Albuquerque. (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)

ingredients, obscure libations, inventive combinations and alchemist-like bartenders result in concoctions as delightful as they are incomprehensible. Just make sure you've got the password before you go. (Devin O'Leary)

15. Pho-king delicious food

Who would have thought there'd be so many amazing Vietnamese restaurant choices in the heart of New Mexico? My family and I love to go out for Vietnamese food at least once a month, and there is no shortage of options in Albuquerque. Some of our favorites to frequent are Basil Leaf (1225 Eubank Blvd. NE) and Lime (9800 Montgomery Blvd. NE). If you go, be sure to try the pho and spring rolls. Alternatively, Coda Bakery (201 San Pedro Dr. SE) is an Albuquerque favorite for its giant bahn mi sandwiches. Don't forget to grab a slice of the green pandan cake on your way out! (Rachel Mills)

16. Rail Yards Market

The Rail Yards Market is a fun way to see and taste New Mexico culture. You can get fresh produce, honey, loose-leaf tea, roasted green chile and much more from the numerous vendors on sight. Enjoying the yummy food while looking at local artwork and listening to live music creates a festive atmosphere that is perfect for visitors and residents. The market has brought the community together for 10 years and continues to thrive through volunteers and visitors who support local businesses. (Elizabeth McCall)

17. ABQ Bio Park

The BioPark is such a fun spot for the family. Whether we're checking out the animals at the zoo or wandering through the botanical garden, there's always something cool to see. The city puts on great events there too, such as Zoo Music and the River of Lights, so there's always a reason to go back. (Jesse Jones)

18. Quiet breweries

As I get further into my "grumpy old man" phase of my life, I'll leave the loud, crowded bars of decades past behind in favor of a good, local brewery with a low buzz of conversation. Sidetrack Brewing (413 2nd St. SW) on a weeknight with the regulars? Perfect. Thirsty Eye Brewing (206 Broadway



El Rey Liquors in Downtown Albuquerque. (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)



Ren's Den (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)



The Pit in Albuquerque (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)



Pho, rice dish and Thai tea at Basil Leaf Vietnamese restaurant (Rachel Mills/ The Paper.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

The Puper. [ARTS & CULTURE.]



The La Comidita Cubana Food truck parked outside Sidetrack Brewing Co. in Downtown Albuquerque (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)



The Remedy Day Spa (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)



Roadrunner (Source: Sami Solomon)



(Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Blvd. SE) with a jazz band on a Friday night? Relaxing. With breweries everywhere in the city, I always seek out the ones where you can sit at the end of the bar and chat with the bartender or read a book — or, of course, the latest edition of *The Paper*. (Matthew Reichbach)

19. We know how to treat ourselves

We may not have the natural geothermal hot springs of the Jemez, but we do have a plethora of luxurious day spas perfect for a me day" or a spa-cation. Many Albuquerque spas specialize in treatments that use local ingredients, such as red mud from the Jemez Mountains or piñon oil for a unique spa experience. One of my favorites is Betty's Bath and Day Spa (1835 Candelaria Rd. NW). Betty's has a seasonal treatment on rotation and is now featuring a "Winter Facial" special that includes Barbados cherry root and snow mushroom extracts with a cranberry foot treatment. That sounds good enough to eat. Remedy Day Spa (113 Vassar Dr. SE) has a great zen vibe and offers yoga classes, sound therapy events and a great outdoor space to soak in one of their many private hot tubs. (Tierna Unruh-Enos)

20. Randomly seeing a roadrunner

As someone who regularly walks around his neighborhood, I get to see all kinds of urban wildlife — mostly stray cats. But every Burqueño gets a little rush when they see a roadrunner in someone's yard or crossing the road. If the roadrunner lives near you, you'll even get used to seeing it. When I lived in Nob Hill, I'd see a one-legged roadrunner hopping around almost every week. (Matthew Reichbach)

21. Fishing the Rio Grande Bosque

We all know the state doesn't have much water, but if you have the right bait and know the right holes, you can catch some respectable fish within Albuquerque city limits. In the summertime, you can hit the grocery store for some nasty chicken liver and maybe a couple of your favorite beverages, pack a small cooler and take a stroll through the cottonwoods to the Rio Grande for medium-sized channel catfish. In the winter, park the car on the bank of a



The Rio Grande. (Tierna Unruh-Enos / The Paper.)

lucky drainage ditch, pitch a line out the car window, crank up the radio and the heater and wait for a trout to bend that fishing rod. I won't say where, but I've seen someone pull a giant pike out of about a foot-and-a-half of water in the middle of a neighborhood. (Michael Hodock)

22. Empire Board Game Library

The Empire Board Game Library offers a unique, cozy café experience with a large inventory of board games to play with friends and family. There are a variety of drinks and tasty food to enjoy while playing your favorite board games or challenging yourself to new ones. The friendly staff is also available to help walk you through any game. (Elizabeth McCall)

23. (Regular) Libraries

In almost any city, the public library is a special place. Albuquerque is no different. The Lomas Tramway, South Broadway and Main Public Library locations are airy, welcoming and convenient. At the latter two branches, the books are the main attraction, though it should be noted that the Lomas Tramway Library has special programs going on several days each week, including Read to the Dogs," book groups and "Adult Crafternoon.'

At the Main location Downtown, there's enough activity to fill a day, plus meeting and study rooms and a genealogy center. Always wanted to try a massive jigsaw puzzle, but have nowhere to keep it? The first floor of the Main Library is sure to have one going, and there's likely to be someone to work alongside and chat with. (Rodd Cayton)

24. KUNM spins us right 'round

In the early '90s, rumors circulated the playground that the college radio station played unedited music late at night — with all the cussing, of course — so I recorded KUNM programming over my unused, parentapproved cassette tapes. Today I can buy my own blanks, and I still love making mix tapes of KUNM's Tombstone Rock, which plays extreme genres such as metal, hardcore punk and grindcore. Sometimes you can hear DJ Greg Markham switching the vinyl live on air, as he spins as many releases from brandnew or long-gone death metal bands as he can fit into his three-hour time slot. A bonus: he tells you the name of every single song, band and album. (Michael Hodock)

25. We're comfortable crying in front of our friends at the Fiery Foods Show

They call it "The Hottest Show on Earth." The National Fiery Foods & BBQ Show in Albuquerque has grown from 47 exhibitors and 500 attendees in 1988 to a 20,000-person event with more than 1,000 smoking-hot products to purchase, or, more importantly, to sample. The show has sweet and savory foods from around the world tinged with just enough spice to satisfy sophisticated pallets, but even the toughesttongued Burque badasses with something to prove will suffer immensely if they don't heed the warnings from certain vendors. If you can handle the first dose, many of the stands have a secret stash of the REALLY hot stuff hidden away. (Michael Hodock)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Health & Wellness

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

Literature/Poetry

Sawmill Market New Year's Eve Celebration \$55 10 pm-1 am Sawmill Market 1909 Bellamah Ave NW

Miscellaneous

Classic Hollywood New Year's Eve Party \$100 7:30 pm-1 am Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown 2600 Louisiana Blvd NE

New Year's Eve Before Dark 10 am-1 pm Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Road NW

Music

A Very Taylor Swift NYE w/ DJ Fishbowl 9 pm-12:30 am Tractor Brewing Wells Park 1800 Fourth St.

Felix y Los Gatos NYE Show 5-8 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast

Millenium Video Music Dance Party \$10 9 pm-2 am Sister 407 Central Ave. NW

New Year's Eve Dance Party \$10 9 pm-2 am Historic El Rey Theatre 622 Central Ave SW

New Year's Eve Party at the Star \$75 9 pm-1 am Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Rd, Santa Ana Pueblo

New Years Eve Party with the Burque Jazz Bandits \$20-\$80 8 pm-1:30 am JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest New Years Eve With the Brandon Saiz Band \$20 9 pm-2 am The Dirty Bourbon Dance Hall & Saloon 9800 Montgomery Blvd NE

New Year's Eve with Cuarenta y Cinco and Los Blue Ventures \$35 8:30 pm-12 am Revel Entertainment Center 4720 Alexander Blvd NE

Rockin' New Year's Eve w/ Traveler in Pain \$25-\$45 9 pm-12:30 am Skidmore's Holiday Bowl 7515 Lomas Blvd NE

Scared of Chaka \$20 7 pm-12 am Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Performance

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

Opera Southwest: New Year's with the Opera! \$35-\$85 2:30-4:30 pm National Hispanic Cultural Center 1701 4th Street Southwest



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Dance

Albuquerque Open Tango: Free Beginner Lesson & Social Dance 7-9:30 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 lst Street Northwest

Literature/Poetry

Cultural Programs Raffle - Featured Artist: Michael Tenorio 9 am-5 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Music

Peeling Flesh \$20 7-10 pm Ren's Den 900 Fourth St. SW

Sports

Resolution Maker & Breaker 5K \$30 12-4 pm Canteen Brewhouse 2381 Aztec Road Northeast



View the full calendar or add your events at calendar.abq.news





"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.

LONG COVID?
Call (505) 355-1984
to schedule a consultation!

"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.

For more information, visit AAIM-abq.com. In an effort to do their part in helping people through this difficult time, they are waiving the \$240 new patient consultation fee for Long Covid patients. Call (505)355-1984 to schedule.



10400 Academy Rd NE Suite 210 Albuquerque, NM 87111 WWW.AAIM-ABQ.COM



Blooming cannabis plant (Source: My 420 Tours by Cannabis Tours, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0)

By Josh Lee, The Paper.

The biggest weed story this year was the tug-of-war happening between statelicensed marijuana businesses and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) over interior checkpoint seizures.

Border Patrol agents have seized hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of legal marijuana products, cash and even worker vehicles from licensed businesses at checkpoints inside the New Mexico border since the beginning of the year. Products are neither returned nor accounted for, raising concerns about misuse or destruction of property. There have also been reports of cannabis workers being detained under harsh conditions. Workers have also reportedly been placed on international drug trafficker lists, despite no charges or prosecutions being pursued.

Despite talks between Gov.
Michelle Lujan Grisham and
the Department of Homeland
Security — which oversees
Border Patrol — and efforts
made by the state's congressional
delegation, it seems that no
solution was ever reached, and
seizures continue to this day.

In October, a coalition of eight marijuana businesses filed a still-pending lawsuit against Homeland Security and Border Patrol over the seizures. The lawsuit calls for policy changes to protect licensed businesses from unjust confiscations without due process. The coalition's attorney argues that the seizures violate property rights for state-legal cannabis businesses.

Oversaturation

Nearly everyone agrees: There are just too many pot shops in New Mexico, and the intense competition is causing many small businesses to go under. What they can't agree on is whether the state should halt new licenses or not.

Legacy operators like Minerva Canna and Sacred Garden announced permanent closures in 2024, and Ultra Health reportedly shuttered 20% of its New Mexico stores.

The state's Cannabis Control Division (CCD) has issued more than 1,500 retail cannabis licenses since adult-use sales began, and a number of critics have argued that the "open faucet" approach to licensing needs to be paused to prevent further closures of smaller operators.

But many disagreed with the idea, arguing licensing caps go against the spirit of the law and that they won't help small businesses since the big operators are already established in the market.

DEA drags feet on rescheduling

The long wait for President Joe Biden's administration's promise to reschedule marijuana continues as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) takes its precious time to follow through.

In October 2022, Biden instructed the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to begin the process of investigating whether marijuana could be reclassified under the Controlled Substances Act. It currently sits on the federal list of the most dangerous drugs, alongside heroin and LSD.

In August 2023, the HHS recommended moving cannabis to Schedule III, which would allow researchers to study it with fewer limitations and allow pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs based on it. The recommendation was presented to the DEA, which was tasked with rulemaking.

The agency in September

The agency in September quietly accepted the HHS recommendation and began the rulemaking process after receiving over 43,000 public comments.

However, it doesn't appear that the agency will make its final decision before the new administration comes into power, and experts are unsure how the changeover will affect the process.

New Mexico regulators drop the

New Mexico's cannabis regulators significantly stepped up rule enforcement over the last year under the leadership of CCD Director Todd Stevens.

The CCD has revoked the licenses of several bad actors and penalized others for major rule violations. But it now says it needs more authority to root out illicit operators.

Lawmakers are proposing a bill to expand that authority to include the power to seize or destroy non-compliant products. The proposed legislation would establish a Compliance Bureau staffed with certified law enforcement inspectors authorized to seize illegal cannabis and arrest unlicensed operators. The bill would also allow inspectors to mark noncompliant products and notify licensees of alleged violations. If the products are deemed illegal, CCD would be able to destroy them.

State officials, including
Stevens and incoming state Sen.
Linda Trujillo — who's also the
former head of the Regulation
and Licensing Department —
support the bill. They argue that
stronger enforcement powers
are necessary to combat illicit
operators who sell unregulated
cannabis, undercut licensed
businesses and endanger
consumers.

The move follows reports of unlicensed vendors openly selling black-market cannabis at public events.

Weed recalls

New Mexico saw three major product recalls in the weed industry this year — all of them over the use of banned pesticides.

The CCD in March ordered a recall of products from Got Greens for containing the prohibited pesticide malathion. In September, the division ordered a recall of flower from Maggie's Farm that tested positive for pyrethrins. And the division recalled Stash House products from various state retailers after they tested positive for the banned pesticide spinosyn.

There were reportedly no health-related complaints filed about any of the recalls, and the chemicals involved are only slightly toxic to humans.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF BERNALILLO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

No. D-202-PB-2024-00875

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

DAVID W. CREMER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that John C. Cremer has been appointed personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or within sixty (60) days after mailing or other delivery of this notice, whichever is later, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to: 1) the undersigned personal representative at his attorney's address as listed below; or 2) filed with the Second Judicial District Court at the following address: 400 Lomas Blvd NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102.

DATED: December 4, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

HURLEY TOEVS STYLES HAMBLIN & PANTER PA

By ____Signed /s/ Mandeep S. Talwar Mandeep S. Talwar, Esq. Attorneys for Personal Representative PO Box 31670 Albuquerque, NM 87109 (505) 888-1188

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF BERNALILLO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

No. D-202-PB-2024-00923

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARGARET FILYK, DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that PATRICK J. FILYK has been appointed personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or within sixty (60) days after mailing or other delivery of this notice, whichever is later, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to: 1) the undersigned personal representative at her attorney's address as listed below; or 2) filed with the Second Judicial District Court at the following address: 400 Lomas Blvd NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102.

DATED: December 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

(505) 888-1188

HURLEY TOEVS STYLES HAMBLIN & PANTER PA

By Electronically signed /s/ Mandeep S. Talwar Mandeep S. Talwar, Esq. Attorneys for Personal Representative PO Box 31670 Albuquerque, NM 87109







FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of December 25

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): In 2025, I would love for you to specialize in making new connections and deepening your existing connections. I hope you will summon extra creativity and panache as you regularly blend your beautiful energies with others' beautiful energies. I predict you will thrive on linking elements that should be linked but have never been before. What do you think, Aries? Does it sound fun to become a playful master of mixing and combining? Would you enjoy generating splashy unifications that serve your dreams?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Confidence is 10 percent hard work and 90 percent delusion," declared Taurus comedian Tina Fey. But I believe you will disprove that assessment in the coming months. The work you do will be unusually replete with grace and dynamism. It will be focused and diligent work, yes, but more importantly, it will be smart work that's largely free of delusion. That's why I'm inclined to revise Fey's formula for your sake. In 2025, your brimming levels of confidence will be primarily due to your fine, conscientious, effective work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the 1960s, a Swedish journalist tried an experiment. He wanted to see if art critics could distinguish between abstract paintings made by skilled artists and those created by a four-year-old chimpanzee whose pseudonym was Pierre Brassau. Surprise! Many of the critics treated all the paintings with equal respect. One even gave special praise to Pierre Brassau, describing his strokes of color as having "the delicacy of a ballet dancer." I'm authorizing you to unleash your inner Pierre Brassau in the coming months, Gemini. Be an innocent rookie, a newcomer with great instincts, an exuberant amateur who specializes in fun experiments. Do you know what beginner's mind is? You approach every experience with zero assumptions or expectations, as if you were seeing everything for the first time. For more, read this: wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshin

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Ohio's Cuyahoga River used to catch on fire regularly. The cause was pollution. For a hundred years, industries had poured their wastes into the waterway. The surface was often dotted with oil slicks. But after a notorious river fire in 1969, the locals decided to remedy the situation, aided by the newly established Environmental Protection Agency. Today, the Cuyahoga still isn't 100% clean, but it's far better. It hosts kayaking, fishing, and paddle boarding. I propose we use its rehabilitation as a symbol for you in 2025. You will have welcome opportunities to clean up messes that have lingered for far too long. Please take full advantage of these cosmic Please take full advantage of these cosmic invitations to sweep karmic debris out of your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Steve Jobs, founder of Apple computers, said, "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." I propose that you make this one of your mottoes in 2025. More than ever before, you will have exceptional power to transform the environments you share with others. You will have an enhanced ability to revise and reinvigorate the systems and the rules you use. Don't underestimate your influence during the coming months, Leo. Assume that people will be listening especially closely to your ideas and extra receptive to be affected by you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

I will give you four related terms to describe your key motif in 2025: 1. Your Soul's Code. 2. Your Master Plan. 3. Your Destiny's Blueprint. 4. Your Mission Statement. All four are rooted in this epic question: What is your overarching purpose here on earth, and how are you fulfilling it? The coming months will be a time when you can make dramatic progress in formulating vivid, detailed visions of the life you want to live. You can also undertake robust action steps to make those visions more of a practical reality. I encourage you to write your big-picture, long-range dreams in a special notebook or a file on your tech device. Keep adding to the text throughout the coming months.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):
People in India were the first to discover diamonds buried in the earth. Most historians believe it happened in the 4th century BCE. For the next two millennia, India remained the only source of diamonds. Finally, new stashes were found in Brazil in 1725 and in South Africa in the 1870s. Let's use this 2,000- year gap as a metaphor for your life. I suspect that far too many months have passed since you have located a fresh source of a certain treasure or bounty you crave. That will change in 2025. Here come long-delayed blessings!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):
In my vision of your life in 2025, you will dramatically enhance how togetherness works for you. Below are four questions to help guide your explorations and breakthroughs. 1. Is it feasible to change yourself in ways that enable you to have a more satisfying relationship with romantic love? 2. Will you include your intimate relationships as an essential part of your spiritual path—and vice versa? 3. What work on yourself can you do to heal your old wounds and thereby make yourself a better partner and collaborator? 4. Can you help your best allies to heal their wounds and thereby become better partners and collaborators?

SAGITARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
In Japanese, the word for "frog" sounds similar to the word meaning "to return." That's one reason frogs have been lucky in some circles of Japanese culture. They symbolize the blessing that occurs when travelers return home safely, or when health is restored, or when spent money is replenished. I bring this to your attention, Sagittarius, because I suspect 2025 will be a time when satisfying and enjoyable returns will be a key theme. Consider keeping the likeness of a lovable frog in your living space.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):
Since 1985, musician David Gilmour has led Pink Floyd. The band has sold over 250 million records. He's in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in both the UK and the US. But my favorite thing about Gilmour is that he's a passionate activist who has crusaded for animal rights, environmentalism, poverty, and human rights. A few years ago, he auctioned off 120 of his guitars, raising over \$21 million for an environmentalist charity. In accordance with astrological omens, I propose we make him one of your inspirational role models in 2025, Capricorn. May he mobilize you to use your stature and clout to perform an array of good works that are of service to your world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):
Aquarian author Virginia Woolf extolled the virtues of cultivating a supple soul that thrives on change. She pledged to be relentless in her commitment to be authentically herself and not succumb to groupthink. I recommend you make these two of your featured themes in 2025. To inspire your efforts, I will quote her radical perspective at length: "Movement and change are the essence of our being; rigidity is death; conformity is death: let us say what comes into our heads, repeat ourselves, contradict ourselves, fling out the wildest nonsense, and follow the most fantastic fancies without caring what the world does or thinks or says."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):
In 1992, two friends promised each other that if either of them ever won the lottery, they would share it with the other. Twenty-eight years later, that's exactly what happened. In 2020, Thomas Cook bought a ticket that turned out to be the winner of the Powerhouse jackpot in Wisconsin. He called Joseph Feeney with the good news. After paying taxes, both men were \$5.7 million richer. I am not predicting the exact same sequence for your future, Pisces. But like Cook and Feeney, I expect you will glean pleasing rewards generated from seeds planted in the past.

HOMEWORK Make the most positive prediction about your future that you can dare to imagine.

The Weekly Crossword ACROSS

39

59

62

Romeo 1

- 5 It's sold in bars
- 9 Canned meat since 1937
- 13 Pale anagram 14 More than
- suggest
- 15 Madcap comedy
- 16 Fluid rock
- 17 Like the fabled piper
- 18 Motionless
- 19 Be in charge of
- 21 Summer quencher
- 23 "Hondo", for one
- 24 Prickly shrub
- 25 Very skillful 27 Hoops grp.
- 30 Maintain
- 33 Sign before Virgo
- 34 Think tank nugget
- 35 Krasinski of Hollywood
- 36 Work shirker 38 In the vicinity
- 39 Quite often
- 40 Piece of pipe
- 41 Parody 43 Detail on some
- tickets 44 Acme
- 46 Medium's deck
- 48 Classic Dodge
- 52 Bond's drink 54 Franc division
- **55** Words to live by
- 56 Flower part
- 58 Iris's place
- 59 "Cheers" role

- **60** Coloring
- 61 Road turn
- **62** Vogue rival
- clock
- at times

DOWN

- 1 Give the OK
- 2 Way off base?
- 3 Top picks, informally
- bearings

- 63 Adjusts, as a
- 64 Means justifiers,

- 4 Common rental
- 5 Lucky horseshoe, e.g.
- 6 Get one's
- 7 Go gray

- 8 AKC concern 30 Cracked
- 9 Smooths, as wood

48

10 Made believe 11 Part of a plot

40

60

63

- 12 Prefix with
- physics or data 15 Like some
- speeches 20 Char, as a steak
- 22 Decorator's concerns
- 26 Pompeo of "Grey's
- Anatomy" 28 Bridges of Hollywood
- 29 Org. for seniors

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by Margie E. Burke

- 31 Without help
- 32 Rigged court proceeding 34 River float, at
- times 37 ADA members
- **42** Zip
- 44 Kind of number
- 45 Actor's study, perhaps
- 47 Make amends
- **49** 1999 film, "Any Sunday"
- 50 Revise
- **51** Digests digests
- 52 Like some beds
- 53 Leaf-stem angle
- 57 Corn site

The Paper.

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SELS 3 7 7 3 B E N D I O N E 3 N A I G S T E M A B V U M O I X A BOW PINNACLE T E E S E N D N B 9 0 A P U R G E P I E D F A R C E M A 9 8

Solution to Crossword:

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