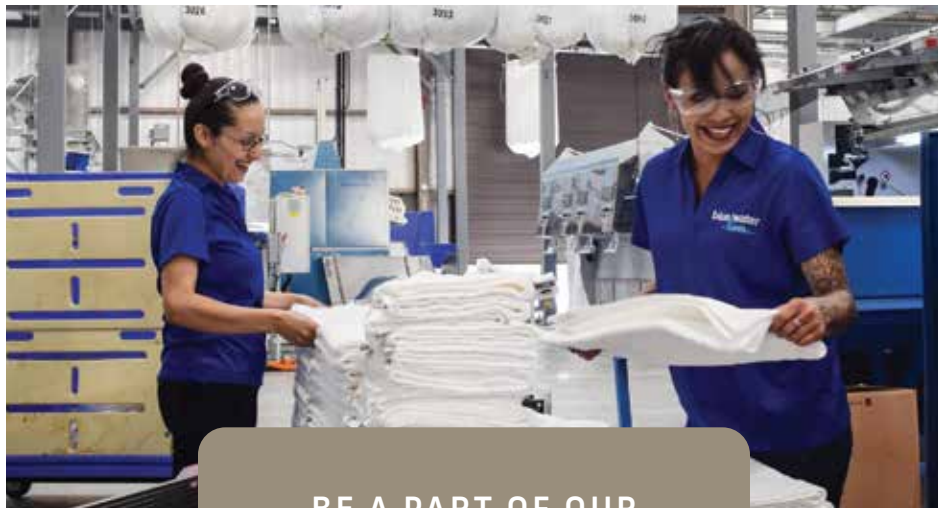


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VOLUME 05 | ISSUE 51

ALBUQUERQUE'S INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS





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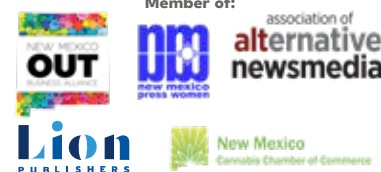


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Too Sick for the Street, Too Well for the Hospital

Gateway Center unveils medical respite unit

The Gateway Center on Gibson Boulevard is part of the city's Gateway-branded network intended to address its homelessness crisis. Credit: (Roberto E. Rosales / City Desk ABQ)

“Collaboration is where we identify the issue; in this case it was identified years ago by our hospital partners, our service providers, by people experiencing homelessness and did not have a place to go,” Jennifer Metzler, CEO of AHCH, said.

AHCH was a lead on the project and is a key provider at the center, tasked to make sure patients are enrolled in public benefits and have access to specialty care. Their team will also try to place patients who discharge into housing. The city has allocated \$900,000 in housing vouchers to help.

AHCH, UNMH and First Nations Community HealthSource will refer patients to the 50-bed center. First Nations will provide medical care. The beds are available for up to 60 days, and officials estimate about 400 patients could be served each year.

“We know that that’s not enough. We could fill many times over that number of beds,” Kate Morton, AHCH chief clinical officer, said.

“We know the need is much, much greater — but now we’re able to demonstrate [that] we’re making the investment, we’re closing those gaps,” Mayor Tim

Keller said. “We just have to keep doing more of it and scale this up even further.”

The director of the city’s Health, Housing & Homelessness Department (HHH), Gilbert Ramírez, said the 50-bed start is a critical one.

“We’re going to meet a gap that’s so important,” he said. “We’ll show the offset of individuals who have a safe place to go and heal and not have to return to a costly cycle and enter back into the system.”

HHH is the city department in charge of the Gateway Center, which currently operates a 50-bed shelter for women, as well as a first responder receiving area (with private assessment rooms for those who don’t need medical attention) and a medical sobering unit (for those who need medically-supervised treatment for alcohol and substance use disorders).

Albuquerque Heading Home was awarded a city contract to oversee the medical respite center’s overall operations.

“I think we now have over a dozen partners [operating] at the Gateway,” Keller said. “I want folks to know that roughly 500 people are getting help here everyday — and of course we want to continue to expand that more.”



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

The typical scenario goes something like this: After a procedure in an Albuquerque hospital, a family member or friend picks you up for a ride home to begin your recovery. While you were gone, your pets were cared for and someone made you a pot of soup that’s ready to be heated up. Life starts to return to normal. But the scenario is a foreign one to those living on the streets.

Their most common experience is this: A medical need means going to an emergency room — often at University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) — to receive care and then exit back to the street. It’s a costly situation that very often results in return visits, because trying to heal when you’re homeless and in unsafe environments rarely works.

“Too often those patients return to us after we discharge them, for preventable reasons,” Kate Becker, CEO of UNMH, said. “Maybe a suture became infected while they were on the streets; they became sick again because they didn’t have a safe place to continue to recover after a procedure or surgery. Hospitals are not set up to be respite centers.”

Becker and others joined city officials on Tuesday, Jan. 7 to unveil a 22,500-square-foot medical respite unit at the Gateway Center on Gibson Boulevard to help fill the gap in care for those experiencing homelessness. To mark the occasion, officials gave tours of the \$16 million project (funded through American Rescue

Plan Act of 2021 and capital outlay monies) and reflected on the eight years it took to see it through. Annual operating costs are expected to be about \$1.5 million.

The project is important for a patients’ dignity, they said, and also because readmissions to the hospital are two times higher for those who are homeless, according to an Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless (AHCH) analysis. Further, those patients stay about four days longer on average.



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Fri-Mon January 17-20 8:15

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Friday January 17 10:30pm

Civil rights documentary **THE RIGHT TO READ**
Saturday January 18 1:00pm

Powerful, haunting classic **FREAKS (1932)**
Saturday January 18 10:30pm

The NM Cheese Guild presents **SHELF LIFE**
Sunday January 19 1:00pm

NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING
Tuesday January 21 5:00pm

Frontlining Filipino nurses: **NURSE UNSEEN**
Wednesday January 22 4:00, 7:00

NM Food & Water Watch presents **THE JUNGLE**
Thursday January 23 6:00

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Get Out!

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Fri 1/17 (Music)

Yächtly Crëw

Come experience the glory that is "yacht rock" (dad-band soft rock drawing liberally from '70s R&B, smooth jazz and disco) with kings of the genre **Yächtly Crëw**. If you wanna bang our head to some Christopher Cross-style action, slip on your deck shoes and get out to **Revel Entertainment Center (4720 Alexander Blvd. NE)** on Friday, Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. for an all-ages show. Tickets are \$35 and available in advance at prekindle.com/event/91183-yachtley-crew-albuquerque.

Sat 1/18 (Kids/Family)

Brick Convention LEGO Fan Expo

Brick Convention returns to **Expo New Mexico (300 San Pedro Dr. NE)** with the promise of twice as many LEGO displays as last year! Fans of plastic building blocks can experience hands-on fun with activities, exhibits, artists and a vendors area. It happens **Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18 and 19**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Timed tickets for morning or afternoon are \$14.99 in advance (brickconvention.com/newmexico) or \$20 at the door.



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Wed 1/22 (Class/Workshop)

Tricks of the Trade: How to Make a Cocktail Class w/ Filly

Tractor Brewing Wells Park (1800 Fourth St. NW) plays host to an introductory cocktail making class with brand and cocktail manager **Filly**. On **Wednesday, Jan. 22** from 6 to 8 p.m. learn what to mix, what not to do and how to wow your friends at the next dinner party. Plus, you get to leave with some goodies! Tickets are \$20 a person (getplowed.com/product/cocktail-making-class), and space is limited.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Art

Third Thursday: Free Museum Night 5-8:30 pm Albuquerque Museum 2000 Mountain Road NW

Class / Workshop

Puff and Pour Paint Night by The Paint Experience \$45 6-8 pm Thrive Craft Cannabis Dispensary & Lounge 5926 2nd St NW

Dance

Beginning Square Dance Lessons \$45-\$120 7-9 pm Albuquerque Square Dance Center 4915 Hawkins St NE

Exhibit

Celebrations Thursday-Saturday 11am-4pm Richard Levy Gallery 514 Central Ave SW

New Mexico Fly Fishing Film Night \$18 7-9 pm Guild Cinema 3405 Central Ave NE

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

Family/Kids

Animal Tales With the ABQ BioPark 10:30-11:30 am Westgate Library 1300 Delgado SW

Games

Quiz Runners Trivia Night 7-9 pm Brew Lab 101 - NE Heights 3107 Eubank Blvd., Suite 12

Literature/Poetry

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

Music

The Heart Club \$10 8-11 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Comedy

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

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

Dance

CONTRA_FORMA \$35-\$45 8-10 pm The Experimental Theatre UNM Fine Arts Center

Music

360 House Sessions feat. Swaylo \$15 9 pm-2 am Effex NightClub 420 Central Avenue Southwest

Coffin Club w/ DJ Batboy 8-11 pm The Hall ABQ 107 Jefferson St. NE

Gilbert Uribe 7:30-9:30 pm M'tucci's Twenty-Five 4939 Pan American Freeway

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

Nu Metal Night \$14 9-11:30 pm Launchpad 618 Central Ave SW

Ruvlo \$10 9 pm-2 am Effex NightClub 420 Central Avenue Southwest

Vakenn 7-9 pm Skidmore's Holiday Bowl 7515 Lomas Blvd NE

Performance

Capitol Fools \$25-\$70 7:30-9:30 pm Popejoy Hall 203 Cornell Dr

Glitz Biarritz, Zero Batz, Smoking Dolls \$10 7-11:30 pm JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

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Metamorphosis \$19-\$24 7:30-9:30 pm Vortex Theatre 2900 Carlisle Blvd. NE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Class / Workshop

Home Composting Basics Workshop 10 am-12 pm Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center 6500 Coors Blvd NW

Comedy

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

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

Dance

CONTRA_FORMA \$35-\$45 8-10 pm The Experimental Theatre UNM Fine Arts Center



Capitol Fools (Jan. 17 Popejoy)

Sky City Buffalo Ram Dancers (Acoma Pueblo) 12-1 pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th Street NW

Games

Pokemon Trivia Night 4-6 pm ABQ Food Park 6901 San Antonio Dr. NE

Exhibit

Brick Convention LEGO Fan Expo New Mexico 2025 10 am-5 pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San Pedro Dr NE

Literature/Poetry

Smut Night - An Evening of Erotic Readings \$30-\$50 7-9 pm Stoned Desert Dispensary 1027 San Mateo Blvd. SE

Miscellaneous

The Craftroom Pet Adoption Event 11 am-3 pm The Craftroom 2809 Broadbent Pkwy. NE

Music

Cumbia Party with Super Verza \$15-\$45 8 pm-12:30 am JUNO brewery + cafe + art 1501 1st Street Northwest

Pearls of Change | 30 Years of Song \$13-\$25 7 pm South Broadway Cultural Center 1025 Broadway Blvd SE

Songs & Stories of the American West \$10 1-2 pm The Wheels Museum 1100 Second SW, Albuquerque

State of Mind 7-11 pm Loyal Order of Moose 2121 Edith Blvd. NE

The Taylor Party: T Swift Night \$18 9 pm-12 am Sunshine Theater 120 Central Ave SW



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Music - Classical

The New Mexico Philharmonic
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\$90 6-8 pm Popejoy Hall 203
Cornell Dr

Performance

Metamorphosis \$19-\$24 7:30-
9:30 pm Vortex Theatre 2900
Carlisle Blvd. NE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Class / Workshop

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

Comedy

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



Maxwell (Jan. 18, Route 66 Casino)

Community

The People's March 11 am-1 pm
Albuquerque Civic Plaza 1 Civic
Plaza

Dance

Sky City Buffalo Ram Dancers
(Acoma Pueblo) 12-1 pm Indian
Pueblo Cultural Center 2401 12th
Street NW

Exhibit

Brick Convention LEGO Fan
Expo New Mexico 2025 10 am-5
pm EXPO New Mexico 300 San
Pedro Dr NE

NM Wedding Expo \$10-\$15 12-5
pm Isleta Resort & Casino 11000
Broadway Blvd. SE

[EVENTS.] The Paper.

Miscellaneous

A Royal Affair Fundraiser 3:30-7
pm Sidewinders Bar and Grill
4200 Central Avenue NE

Music

EQNX Jazztet weekly jam session
5-7:30 pm Flatiron Bites & Brews
6001 San Mateo Blvd NE

Gilbert Uribe 4-7 pm The
Craftroom 2809 Broadbent
Pkwy.NE

Jazz Brasileiro 6-9 pm The Hall
ABQ 107 Jefferson St. NE

Pearls of Change | 30 years of
Song \$13-\$20 4 pm Mesa View
UMC 4701 Montano Rd NW

TX2 \$17 7:30-11 pm Launchpad
618 Central Ave SW

Performance

Metamorphosis \$19-\$24 2-4 pm
Vortex Theatre 2900 Carlisle
Blvd. NE

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Former addict walks across America for awareness

By Michael Hodock, The Paper.

Kyndal Edwards has long dreamed of walking across the United States. He just didn't plan for the dream to unfold the way it has. At 31 years old, he's already done a whole lot of living, and a lot of it has been unpleasant. On his Facebook page, entitled "A Walking Testimony," he talks openly about his struggles with addiction.

"As somebody who has tried to take my life twice, who has overdosed, been in county jail 11 times, in prison twice. I'm a firm believer that my past does not define me and there's always hope," he writes.

Today, Edwards is approaching six years of sobriety and flashes his bright smile in virtually every picture on his Facebook page where 61,000 people follow his journey to all four corners of the lower 48 states to raise awareness and remember those who have lost their lives to mental health and/or recovery issues. It might be the smile, but maybe his trip is getting

all that attention because he's walking the entire way. On Jan. 1, 2022, he departed on foot from Jacksonville Beach Pier in Florida and traveled 3292 miles across 13 states to the Pacific Ocean in Long Beach, Washington where he arrived in 2023. Last September he started the second coast-to-coast part of his voyage.

On his Facebook page, someone asked which of the states he has visited has been the best so far. He said it was a tie between Utah, Oregon, Washington and New Mexico. He says the Navajo tacos helped us make the list.

"New Mexico has just been too good to be crazy weird for me. I haven't seen any UFOs or skinwalkers or anything," he says.

About a week into 2025, Edwards is powering through the cold, following the state's highways and traveling east to Texas. *The Paper.* spoke to Edwards via phone at his temporary home at a hotel room at the Isleta Casino Resort. While paused for a couple of days to rest up and do laundry, he

discussed his next leg of the trip, which will cover the distance from Isleta to Belen. He had just finished visiting Albuquerque.

"Everybody warned me about going through Downtown Albuquerque. I didn't have any issues or anything like that. I didn't even really see anything crazy," Edwards says. "I had a dude from the warzone comment on a post. It was like, 'Bro, I'm out in the warzone. We got hot coffee, you're more than welcome out here. It is a rough area, but we need love out here too.' I thought, 'Dang, I got invited to the warzone,' you know?"

As he travels, Edwards wears a shirt that says "A Walking Testimony." The shirts, which he sells online, also display 180 names — 90 on the front and 90 on the back — of individuals who have died due to mental health and recovery issues. Edwards says the "180" represents taking a 180° turn from things that have ended the lives of "beautiful souls who lost the battle with depression and addiction." The first featured post under his bio on the Facebook page is dedicated to taking names to add to the next edition of the shirt. Even though some of Edwards' loved ones are gone, he wants to give them the journey of a lifetime and remember them in a very special way.

"I walk as somebody who has struggled with certain things before that a lot of people are struggling with now," Edwards says. "I want to let people know that there is hope, that we do recover, that our paths do not define us, that no matter how deep of a hole we dig ourselves in, we can get out if we put our heart and minds in the right spot and put in the work to get out. I just want to spread love and hope and positivity while living my dream in

the process."

From Belen, he plans to continue walking east to Mountainair. He's spoken with the mayor and says they're trying to hook him up with some lodging when he gets there. According to his calculations, Texas will be about 256 miles away, and he knows he's got a chilly week ahead of him as he travels through the eastern part of New Mexico. If he can't find a place to stay indoors, he might just have to do some camping.

Edwards has already traveled in bad weather, including temperatures below zero. He says he's walked some of the most dangerous stretches of highway in the United States. He's had to tow broken carts and lost five or six tents due to tears and flooding — he says he even had a fire inside his tent once. He got a hernia in Alabama and walked to Colorado with it, where he had hernia surgery. That caused him to put the trip on pause for two months while he healed up. He says meeting amazing people along the way keeps him motivated.

"I have met so many incredible angels that have stopped on the side of the road

"I have met so many incredible angels that have stopped on the side of the road to see how I am doing, make sure I'm OK and make sure I have supplies,"

-Kyndal Edwards



Kyndal Edwards documents his trip across New Mexico. (Courtesy Kyndal Edwards/Facebook)



On the road in New Mexico (Source: Kyndal Edwards/Facebook)

to see how I am doing, make sure I'm OK and make sure I have supplies," he says. "Cops do stop occasionally, but they have never given me a hard time. They have been nothing but nice and kind to me. Almost every single day I get tons of honks and waves. Sometimes it's not safe for people to stop. But every single one that does [stop], I try to get a picture."

Edwards is employed as a digital creator and sells merchandise through his website and Facebook page to finance his travels. He says right now he's blessed to be in a financial position that allows him to walk without having to do side work, but there have been plenty of times when he has had to put the trip on pause when he needed extra money.

"I'm not saying that I won't have a hard time," he says. "But doing what I'm doing gives me the opportunity to go into crazier situations and receive less of a hard time because these are people that are struggling too. They need to know that they're loved and cared about as well. A lot of times in those situations, people are happy to see me."

Edwards says there are reminders of drug addiction across the entire country, which is exactly what he is trying to bring attention to. Part of his mission is to interact face-to-face with people who suffer from mental health issues, especially people who are actively addicted to alcohol and other drugs. He has seen, firsthand, the effect drugs have had on communities across the country and since 2022, he has seen a shift in popularity from drugs such as methamphetamine to fentanyl. The level of addiction Edwards has seen in New Mexico isn't any worse than what he's seen in other states.

"Every town I went to,

everybody said, 'The meth here is worse than it is anywhere in America.' I hear that about a lot of different drugs: 'It's worse here than a lot of other places,' which just shows me that it's a really bad problem everywhere."

Although he hasn't encountered imminent danger walking the streets of Albuquerque, he says one thing about his trek through New Mexico has stood out in a "heartbreaking" way: the high number of memorials on the side of the highways.

"Walking Highway 550 there's just been an incredible amount, and I've heard that a lot of it is from drinking and driving. It's just super sad," he says. "I'm walking this super dangerous highway that so many people have lost their lives on, speaking about things that are so important that revolve around the reason why a lot of these people have lost their lives — whether they were the person using or not."

After Edwards is done walking the United States, he'd like to walk 100 miles on every continent — maybe set a record or two. He doesn't plan on moving back to Florida and says the Pacific Northwest is "definitely a highlighted option" for places to settle down. He says no matter what he does in the future, he wants to spread a positive message about mental health and recovery.

"As of right now, I plan on putting my feet back in the Atlantic Ocean. My goal is April 12, which would be my six-year drug-free day," he says.

You can follow Edwards' journey through New Mexico and beyond on [facebook.com/AWalkingTestimony2022](https://www.facebook.com/AWalkingTestimony2022). The official A Walking Testimony shirts are available for purchase at [Kyndalray.com](https://www.kyndalray.com).



(Source: Kyndal Edwards/Facebook)

Continued from page 7

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Games

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

High Stakes & High Vibes:
Monday Night Poker ??? 6:30-
8:30 pm Thrive Craft Cannabis
Dispensary & Lounge 5926 2nd
St NW

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Games

Blazed and Confused Trivia
Night 7-8:30 pm Thrive Craft
Cannabis Dispensary & Lounge
5926 2nd St NW

Brain Gang Trivia 7-9 pm The
Tatted Bee Brewhouse 11500
Menaul Blvd NE

Trivia Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 pm
Dave and Buster's - Albuquerque
2100 Louisiana Blvd NE

Music

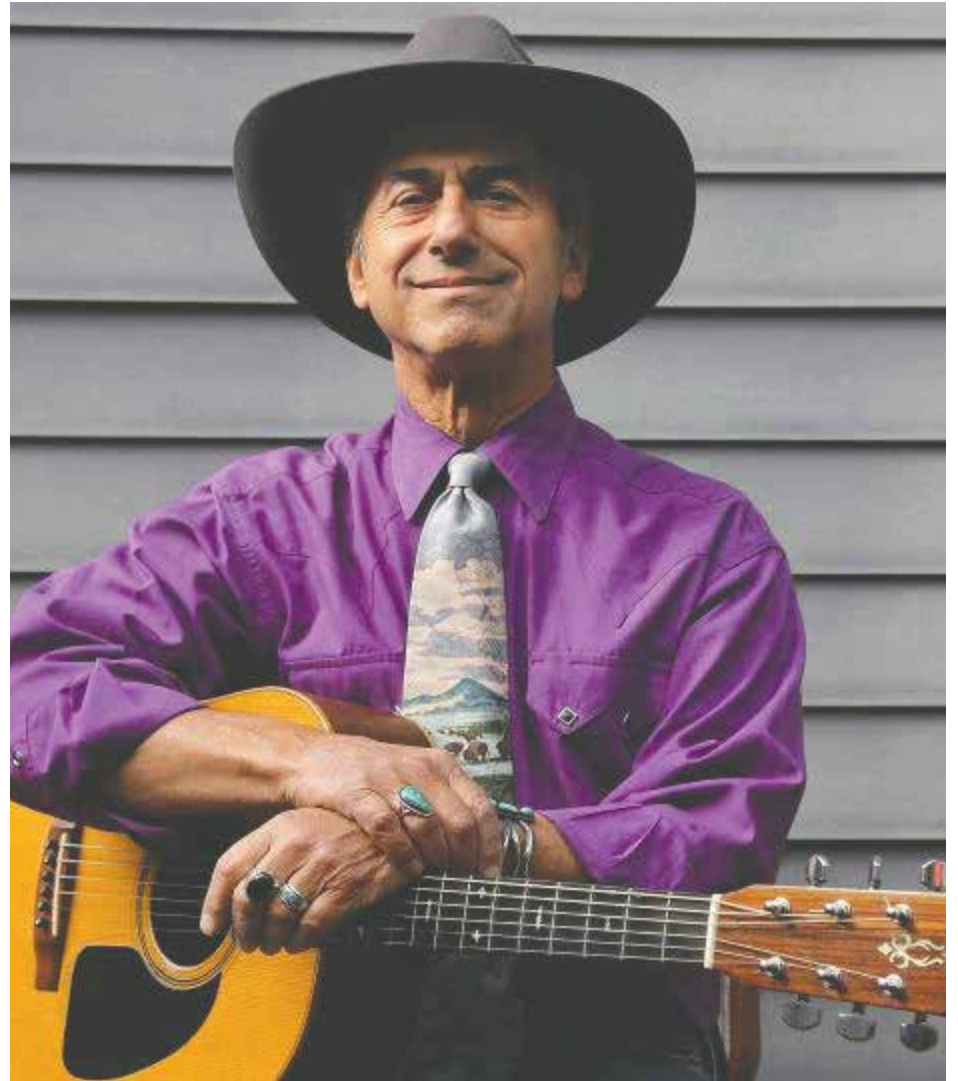
Albuquerque Songwriter's
Cooperative Open Mic 5-8:30
pm Ancora Cafe and Bakery 148
Quincy St NE

Sober Sound Lab: Open Jam 4-8
pm Ancora Cafe and Bakery 148
Quincy St NE

Performance

John Bush "The Queen's
Demise" Book Reading and
Solo Performance 7-9 pm JUNO
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Songs & Stories of the American West (Jan. 18, Wheels Museum)

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The Sultan of Sweet

Dubai chocolate trend satisfies Burque's sweet tooth

By Devin O'Leary

Every few months the foodies go crazy over some new gustatory trend. Even here in Albuquerque, we've witnessed firsthand the birria explosion, the charcuterie panic, the Korean corn dog craze. (It seems we dodged the "fluffy Coke" trend – don't ask.) And if online food blogs, TikTok influencers and local foodie chat boards are any indication, the latest "gotta try it" food craze has arrived. And its name is Dubai Chocolate.

Dubai Chocolate is basically a honkin' big milk chocolate bar packed with pistachio cream and tahini and knafeh (also known as kunafa), a crispy shredded phyllo pastry. The sweet-and-crunchy trend began late last summer when the Dubai-based Fix dessert Chocolatier started importing its "Can't Get Knafeh of It" candy bar to American shores. Before long, caught up in the viral rush of demand, Middle Eastern bakeries and restaurants across the country started making their own overstuffed chocolate bars.

In Albuquerque several enterprising home chefs are producing the bars (MAD Macrons, Milly's Dubai Chocolate). Monaco Market (4400 Wyoming Blvd. NE) and Alquds Mediterranean Grill and Grocery (5555 Montgomery Blvd. NE) both stock the imported candies in limited quantities. "Dubai strawberries" have shown in several different food trucks. And Pop-Pop's Italian Ice (6300 San Mateo NE) now makes a Dubai chocolate ice cream cone. Folks with a sweet tooth are in the middle of a full-blown Dubai chocolate rain.

In November of last year, longtime UNM-area eatery Sahara Middle Eastern Food (2622 Central Ave. SE) announced it was starting a whole new affiliate business, Sahara Sweets, which would produce specialty Arabic deserts, including Dubai chocolate. Owner Haytham Khalil – known to friends and loyal customers as "Tom" – says he learned about the Dubai chocolate trend because, "My wife follows it on TikTok. That's how I knew it was so big." Inspired by that

knowledge, Khalil took his family on a vacation/business trip to Dubai in July of last year. There, he says, the family "met the right people" and spent two weeks "learning how to perfect the chocolate." And now, says the newly minted chocolatier, "Mine is even better than Dubai."

Instead of the usual milk chocolate, Sahara Sweets uses "high quality Belgian dark chocolate." Although some makers experiment with new flavors, Khalil sticks with the traditional Dubai fillings and insists his "mix of dark and sweet" gives Sahara's bars the edge. Evidently, he's correct. By December the company put up a vending machine in Cottonwood Mall, which regularly sells out of the in-demand items (\$20 for large bars, \$15 for pistachio truffles and \$12 for small bars). On January 3 a second Sahara Sweets Dubai Chocolate machine went in up north at Santa Fe Place Mall.

"I was the first one to put Dubai chocolate in a vending machine," brags Khalil. Now, of course, he's stuck filling those machines. "I am the service man, the stocker, and I make the chocolate," says Khalil, who opens up his restaurant at 10:30 a.m. only after making the trip to Santa Fe and Rio Rancho to make sure the vending machines are full and functional.

All of Sahara Sweets' products are produced "in-house" at the company's flagship restaurant. The company spent three months getting health department approval for their processing license. This allows them to sell through the vending machines as well as to other stores and restaurants who want to stock Dubai chocolate.

If things continue to pan out, Cottonwood and Santa Fe Place Mall are just the beginning. Khalil is already in talks with UNM to sell inside the Student Union Building. And "just yesterday" he got a call from someone in Las Vegas, Nevada to install a vending machine in the high-end Premium Outlets Shopping Center. With a quick raise of his eyebrows, Khalil admits the chocolate biz is "very good" — and as some of his customers might say, "very sweet."



A customer buys chocolate snacks from a Dubai Chocolate vending machine located in the food court at Cottonwood Mall in Albuquerque's westside. (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)



Pictured are chocolate snacks from a Dubai Chocolate vending machine located in the food court at Cottonwood Mall in Albuquerque's westside. (Roberto E. Rosales / The Paper.)



Iconic Marble Brewery Finds New Owner

Some rumors put to rest about fate of iconic brewery

Marble Brewery has a new owner ready to take over, officials said Friday. Pictured is its original location at 111 Marble Ave. NW. (Roberto E. Rosales / City Desk ABQ)

By Damon Scott, City Desk ABQ

One of Albuquerque's original and most well-known breweries will soon have new owners.

Members of a new ownership group — led by Bert Boyce and Jarrett Babincsak, formerly of Santa Fe Brewing Co. — said in a statement issued just after the New Year that a management agreement had been finalized and the finishing touches were being put on the purchase.

The release said the sale would be finalized when liquor licenses were issued for the new owners — expected in the next 90 days. A sale price wasn't disclosed.

Babincsak is the former vice president of sales and marketing at Santa Fe Brewing, which first opened in 1988 and now has six locations. Boyce is its former brewmaster.

"Marble's roots run deep in this community," Boyce said in the statement. "With a long history of high quality and creative brewing, Marble was not only on the cutting edge of our beer scene but has really provided a home for culture,

music and the arts."

The announcement comes after months of rumors about the potential fate of Marble, particularly on social media, about its possible closure, bankruptcy and the future of dozens of Marble employees.

Albuquerque's beer lovers have since been worried that a favorite community gathering spot would significantly change, including the availability of its award-winning beers. It wasn't immediately clear from the statement, however, if Marble's name would change or if its popular beers would be replaced.

The statement did say that the new owners and Marble officials would "work closely together ... to bring stability and support to the organization now, and ensure Marble remains a pillar of the Albuquerque community for its staff and drinkers."

"The recent outpouring of support has shown us how much love our town has for Marble, and we are honored to guide this organization into a bright future," Boyce said in the statement. "We are committed

to bringing to the team the resources, energy and leadership that they need to be successful, and we're excited to pull our boots on and get to work."

Marble's original location opened in 2008 at 111 Marble Ave. NW, just north of Downtown in the Wells Park neighborhood. Craft beer aficionados quickly welcomed the business and its beer. The spot soon became a go-to community hangout for craft beer lovers who had access to a large outdoor patio and frequent live music.

Marble would later expand to two other locations — one in the Northeast Heights and one on the Westside. It has dozens of employees and its beer is also distributed in Arizona, Colorado and Texas.

"Bert and I have long-admired Marble," Babincsak said in the statement. "We are humbled to lead this organization and excited to be investing in Albuquerque. ... And ultimately, create something unique and enduring for Albuquerque and our team."



Producers Call For Ban on Hemp Products



(Source: [elsaolofsson](#) at [Wikimedia Commons](#))

Company highlights evidence of illegal THC levels

By Josh Lee, *The Paper*.

A cannabis industry leader is calling on New Mexico's marijuana regulators to stop the sale of intoxicating hemp products in the state. But the regulators say their hands are tied as long as those products contain levels of delta-9 THC that are below the legal threshold.

Last month mega-operator Ultra Health sent a letter to leaders at the New Mexico Cannabis Control Division (CCD), demanding that the agency step in and halt the sale of intoxicating hemp products in head shops and gas stations.

These unregulated products are available thanks to a hemp law loophole.

Hemp was legalized when Congress passed the 2018 Farm Bill, which defined "hemp" as marijuana with less than 0.3 percent delta-9 THC concentration by dry weight. New Mexico's recreational and medical laws use the same definition.

But in recent years, hemp manufacturers have discovered that delta-9 THC isn't the only intoxicating cannabinoid in weed. Delta-8 THC and THCA have been found to have some psychoactive effects, and since

they aren't specifically named by state and federal hemp laws, including them in unregulated products is technically legal.

According to the letter, Ultra Health representatives gathered a variety of hemp products and brought them to Rio Grande Analytics lab, where tests showed that although the products were labeled as containing hemp-derived THCA or delta-8 THC, the majority of the samples also contained concentrations of delta-9 THC that were over the legal limit for hemp.

"Ultra Health urges the Division to devote attention to this emerging crisis," wrote Ultra Health Chief Legal Officer Kristina Caffrey. "Ultra Health is willing to share the details of the products it purchased, the locations where it purchased them, and the detailed test results. Ultra Health is willing to go along with Division employees to these locations."

The letter says the problem is growing as time passes. "They have access to a network of smoke shops and gas stations," Caffrey wrote. "They can evidently move bulky materials efficiently from state to state. And they are hydra-like: If one head gets cut off, the criminal endeavor just sprouts two more."

But the CCD says that it has no jurisdiction over hemp products. In an email to *The Paper*, the division said: "The CCD's regulatory jurisdiction is limited to overseeing cannabis and cannabis-related products

as defined under [cannabis and hemp laws] ... Regulation and enforcement related to hemp-derived products falls under the purview of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), which oversees compliance under the Hemp Manufacturing Act. Facilities involved in hemp processing, transportation and sales are required to adhere to NMED's permitting, testing and labeling requirements."

The CCD goes on to say that it may seek to impose civil penalties for unlicensed activity on businesses that produce products containing higher levels of delta-9 THC than the law allows. "However, to take such action, the CCD would be required to have sufficient evidence to support the claim, such as laboratory confirmation of THC content exceeding 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis," writes the division.

Regulators would also have to offer due process to suspected violators, "including the opportunity for an evidentiary hearing pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act before a regulatory order may be issued."

When it comes to seizing suspected illegal products, the CCD says it has not been given the authority to do so. In fact, the agency has been asking lawmakers for the power to embargo, seize and destroy illicit, adulterated or misbranded cannabis, a request that is expected to go before the

legislature this year.

The CCD says that if anyone suspects a business is selling illegal cannabis products, they should report it to law enforcement for investigation and action. "The CCD works closely with other state agencies, including the NMED and law enforcement, to address potential risks associated with unregulated and mislabeled products," writes the division. "Ensuring consumer safety and preventing underage access to intoxicating substances remains a top priority as we fulfill our statutory responsibilities."

"The CCD/RLD is passing the buck to another state agency while simultaneously claiming they need expanded 'police powers,'" says Ultra Health president and CEO Duke Rodriguez. "This is a perfect example of not enforcing the laws on the books that already exist."

Rodriguez says the law is clear on how these products are defined. "In this case it's not hemp," he says. "It's cannabis, and the CCD/RLD has the statutory duty to enforce the law."

Rodriguez has been one of the most prominent voices sounding the alarm about market oversaturation in New Mexico. In the past he and other operators have called for a temporary pause on issuing new cannabis licenses as a way to ease pressure from weed businesses as the market stabilizes. Advocates of a moratorium have cited the unique hurdles faced by cannabis industries, including lack of access to banking, an inability to file business tax deductions and competition with tax-free illicit cannabis.

Intoxicating hemp products represent a new vector of competition to an already shaky foundation.

"Look at the nature of the industry—a perishable commodity product with high fixed costs, high exit barriers and near-perfect substitutes (hemp and the illicit market)," says Rodriguez. "That is a perfect storm for a huge bust."

Rodriguez says the state needs to do something about these alleged illegal products before they do irreparable harm to the state's licensed industry.

"Unlicensed operators, untested products, untaxed sales leaves a race to the bottom the only possible outcome," he says.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 On February 20, 2025 at 1:00 PM the undersigned will offer to sell the following described motor vehicle in order to satisfy charges for towing, storage and/or labor charges incurred against same 2012 Subaru Impreza VIN JF1GPAL63CH243393. NM license plate BHGJO9. Last known registered owner is Kaitlynn Kimberly Maestas of Albuquerque, NM. In the amount of \$1148.40. Terms: Cash in hand at time of sale. Lee's Auto Service 2401 Wyoming Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87112 505-299-3421

Amy Biehl Charter High School Report Card
 The Amy Biehl High School Report card is available at:
https://www.nmvistas.org/Amy_Biehl_Charter_High_School/Amy_Biehl_Charter_High_School
 ABHS has been designated a SPOT-LIGHT SCHOOL receiving a score of 70.4
DISTRICT PROFICIENCIES
 Reading: 71% Math: 17% Science: 71%

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 On March 19, 2025 at 2:00 PM the undersigned will offer to sell the following described motor vehicle in order to satisfy charges for towing, storage and/or labor charges incurred against same 1982 Ford F250 VIN 1FDEF27F5C-TA71560. No license plate. Last known registered owner is Unknown. In the amount of \$1796.44. Terms: Cash in hand at time of sale. A-Albuquerque Towing 305 Conchas ST SE Albuquerque, NM 87123 505-292-2880.

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**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
 SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 COURT**

**No. D-202-PB-2024-00924
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ES-
 TATE OF
 FREDRICK BUTLER, JR.,
 (a/k/a FREDERICK BUTLER,
 Jr.) Deceased.**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 ANGELA WHITE has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate of FREDRICK BUTLER, JR., (a/k/a FREDERICK BUTLER, Jr.), deceased. 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 the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the Personal Representative, in care of Wayne G. Chew, P.O. Box X, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125, or filed with the Second District Court of Bernalillo County, New Mexico. /s/Wayne G. Chew WAYNE G. CHEW, P.C. Attorney for the Personal Representative Post Office Box X Albuquerque, NM 87125 Telephone: (505) 842-6363 Email: wgchew@wgchewlaw.com

**FILED
 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
 COUNTY OF SANDOVAL
 THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 COURT**

**No. D-1329-PB-2024-00202
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
 OF DAVID ALAN COTTER, Deceased.
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 13th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
 Sandoval County 11/20/2024 8:45
 AM AUDREY GARCIA CLERK OF
 THE COURT Patricia Trujillo
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
 STEPHEN C. BROWN 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 ad-
 dress as listed below; or 2) filed with
 the Thirteenth Judicial District Court
 at the following address: 1500 Idalia
 Rd, Bernalillo, NM 87004.
 DATED: NOVEMBER 20, 2024
 Respectfully submitted,
 HURLEY TOEVS STYLES HAMBLIN
 & PANTER PA
 By Electronically signed /s/ Mandeep
 S. Talwar Mandeep S. Talwar, Esq.
 Attorneys for Personal Representa-
 tive PO Box 31670
 Albuquerque, NM 87109
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Week of Jan 15

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Abdurazak Gurnah is a Tanzanian writer who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2021. He has also been shortlisted for four other prestigious awards. I find it odd that his acclaimed novels have received mediocre scores on the prominent book-rating website, Goodreads, which has 150 million members. Why is there such a marked difference between expert critics and average readers? I speculate that those in the latter category are less likely to appreciate bold, innovative work. They don't have the breadth and depth to properly evaluate genius. All this is my way of encouraging you to be extra discerning about whose opinions you listen to in the coming weeks, Aries—especially in regard to your true value. Trust intelligent people who specialize in thoughtful integrity. You are in a phase when your ripening uniqueness needs to be nurtured and protected.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Every joke is a tiny revolution," said author George Orwell. I agree, which is why I hope you will unleash an unruly abundance of humor and playfulness in the coming days. I hope you will also engage in benevolent mischief that jostles the status quo and gently shakes people out of their trances. Why? Because your world and everyone in it need a sweet, raucous revolution. And the best way to accomplish that with minimum chaos and maximum healing is to: 1. do so with kindness and compassion; 2. be amusing and joyful and full of joie de vivre.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Research suggests that if you're typical, you would have to howl with maximum fury for a month straight just to produce enough energy to toast a piece of bread. But you are not at all typical right now. Your wrath is high quality. It's more likely than usual to generate constructive changes. And it's more prone to energize you rather than deplete you. But don't get overconfident in your ability to harness your rage for good causes. Be respectful of its holy potency, and don't squander it on trivial matters. Use it only for crucial prods that would significantly change things for the better.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I invite you to write a message to the person you will be in one year. Inform this Future You that you are taking a vow to achieve three specific goals by January 15, 2026. Name these goals. Say why they are so important to you. Describe what actions you will take to fulfill them. Compose collages or draw pictures that convey your excitement about them. When you've done all that, write the words, "I pledge to devote all my powers to accomplish these wonderful feats." Sign your name. Place your document in an envelope, write "MY VOWS" on the front, and tape the envelope in a prominent place in your home or workplace.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Congratulations on all the subtle and private work you've been doing to make yourself a better candidate for optimal togetherness. Admitting to your need for improvement was brave! Learning more about unselfish cooperation was hard work, and so was boosting your listening skills. (I speak from personal experience, having labored diligently to enhance my own relationship skills!) Very soon now, I expect that you will begin harvesting the results of your artful efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Construction on the Great Wall of China began in the 7th century BCE and lasted until 1878. Let's make this monumental accomplishment your symbol of power for the next 10 months, Virgo! May it inspire you to work tirelessly to forge your own monumental accomplishment. Take pride in the gradual progress you're making. Be ingeniously persistent in engaging the support of those who share your grand vision. Your steady determination, skill at collaborating, and ability to plan will be your superpowers as you create a labor of love that will have enduring power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): We are all accustomed to dealing with complications and complexities—so much so that we may be tempted to imagine there's

never a simple solution to any dilemma. Copious nuance and mystifying paradox surround us on all sides, tempting us to think that every important decision must inevitably be taxing and time-consuming. As someone who specializes in trying to see all sides to every story, I am especially susceptible to these perspectives. (I have three planets in Libra.) But now here's the unexpected news: In the coming weeks, you will enjoy the luxury of quickly settling on definitive, straightforward solutions. You will get a sweet respite from relentless fuzziness and ambiguity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): When my daughter Zoe was 11 years old, she published her first collection of poems. The chapbook's title was Secret Freedom. That's a good theme for you to meditate on in the coming weeks. You are currently communing with a fertile mystery that could ultimately liberate you from some of your suffering and limitations. However, it's important to be private and covert about your playful work with this fertile mystery—at least for now. Eventually, when it ripens, there will come a time to fully unleash your beautiful thing and reveal it to the world. But until then, safeguard it with silence and discretion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): From a distance, Brazil's Rio Negro looks black. The water of Rio Solimões, also in Brazil, is yellowish-brown. Near the city of Manaus, these two rivers converge, flowing eastward. But they don't blend at first. For a few miles, they move side-by-side, as if still autonomous. Eventually, they fuse into a single flow and become the mighty Amazon River. I suspect the behavior of Rio Negro and Rio Solimoes could serve as a useful metaphor for you in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. Consider the possibility of allowing, even encouraging, two separate streams to merge. Or would you prefer them to remain discrete for a while longer? Make a conscious decision about this matter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): During the next three weeks, doing the same old things and thinking the same old thoughts are strongly discouraged. For the sake of your spiritual and physical health, please do not automatically rely on methods and actions that have worked before. I beg you not to imitate your past self or indulge in worn-out traditions. Sorry to be so extreme, but I really must insist that being bored or boring will be forbidden. Stated more poetically: Shed all weak-heart conceptions and weak-soul intentions. Be of strong heart and robust soul.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Wilderness campers have developed humorous terms to gently mock their fears and anxieties. The theory is that this alleviates some of the stress. So a "bear burrito" refers to a hammock. It addresses the worry that one might get an unwanted visit from a bear while sleeping. A "bear fortune cookie" is another name for a tent. "Danger noodle" is an apparent stick that turns out to be a snake. "Mountain money" is also known as toilet paper. I approve of this joking approach to dealing with agitation and unease. (And scientific research confirms it's effective.) Now is an excellent time to be creative in finding ways to diminish your mostly needless angst.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you were producing the movie of your life, what actor or actress would you want to portray you? Who would play your friends and loved ones? How about the role of God or Goddess? Who would you choose to perform the role of the Supreme Being? These will be fun meditations for you in the coming weeks. Why? Because it's an excellent time to think big about your life story—to visualize the vast, sweeping panorama of your beautiful destiny. I would also love it if during your exploration of your history, you would arrive at interesting new interpretations of the meanings of your epic themes.

Homework: What life would you be living if you weren't living this one?

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Up to it
- 5 Mover's challenge
- 10 Task for Perry Mason
- 14 USPS concern
- 15 Key
- 16 Enthusiastic
- 17 Facts, briefly
- 18 Sparkling
- 20 Kind of diver
- 22 Geriatrics focus
- 23 Dieter's no-no
- 26 Like notebook paper
- 27 Triumphant cry
- 29 Male hormone
- 31 Rock Hudson flick, "___ Come Back"
- 33 Willing to go along

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65				66					67			

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DOWN

- 37 Haiku, e.g.
- 38 Long suit
- 40 Molten rock
- 41 Toothed wheel
- 43 Up and about
- 44 Producing tears
- 47 Bit of advice
- 48 Use an SOS pad
- 51 College life
- 53 Carl Sagan series
- 55 "Thinking Out Loud" singer Ed
- 58 Pick up speed
- 61 Jazz singer Simone
- 62 Pained sound
- 63 Zealous
- 64 Places for props
- 65 Component
- 66 Bodega, for one

67 Qatar's continent

12 Barely burn
13 Sharp-___
19 Corby of "The Waltons"

39 Red Cross supply

42 Actress Channing

43 On the calm side

45 Tony, to Jeannie

46 Cleave

48 Rascal

49 Winter drink

50 Acting award

52 Brainy bunch

54 Matches, as a wager

56 Pro's opposite

57 "Hidden Figures" org.

59 Squeal (on)

60 Long ___

The Paper.

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Solution to Crossword



"SHE SAVED MY LIFE"

Albuquerque resident Dawn R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy. **"My feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. That I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life."**

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

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort and numbness caused by nerve damage of the peripheral nervous system. Dawn explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful. "How can you live for the next 30 years when you don't even want to get out of bed to do simple things?"

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling and sharp pains that those suffering with neuropathy often describe. "The way that I would describe it, it's equivalent to walking on glass." Dawn hadn't worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would 'touch' her feet.

Unfortunately Dawn's story is all too familiar for over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.

If you're unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis you're not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You're struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you to 'just live with the pain' and you're taking medications that aren't working or have uncomfortable side effects.

Fortunately, four months ago Dawn read an article about Dr. Andrea Brogdon and the work she was doing to treat those suffering from

Peripheral Neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications.

Dr. Brogdon, founder of AAIM | Albuquerque Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine, is using the tested science of acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

"Now when I go to bed at night I don't have those shooting pains. I don't have that burning sensation. I don't have pain coming up my legs," Dawn enthusiastically describes life after receiving Dr. Brogdon's treatments.

"I can wear socks and shoes!"

Dawn and her sister now operate a successful dog walking business, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day.

"It's life altering. As far as I'm concerned Dr. Brogdon saved my life!"

Dr. Brogdon is helping the senior community using the most cutting edge and innovative integrative medicine. Specializing in chronic pain cases, specifically those that have been deemed 'hopeless' or 'untreatable', she consistently generates unparalleled results.

What was once a missing link in senior healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of Albuquerque.

If you've missed too many tee times because of pain or you've passed on dancing because you're afraid of falling, it's time to call Dr. Brogdon and the staff at AAIM.

It's time you let your golden years BE GOLDEN!

Dr. Brogdon is now accepting new patients but only for a limited time. In an effort to protect her patients, both current and future, she has made the difficult decision to limit the number of patients seen in her clinic. Only 10 new neuropathy patients will be accepted before the end of June so call (505) 355-1984 now to schedule a consultation.



PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY? Call (505) 355-1984 to schedule a consultation! **10400 Academy Rd NE Suite 210 Albuquerque, NM 87111 WWW.AAIM-ABQ.COM**