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## Advocates stay busy while awaiting BLM minerals plan

~BILL DIVEN

As the release of a management plan for federal lands remain pending, efforts to protect the more than 4,300 acres in Placitas from mineral development continue on multiple fronts.

In the U.S. Senate, the Buffalo Tract Protection Act, covering the four Bureau of Land Management parcels in Placitas, has reached the markup stage. During markup, a bill can be accepted, rejected, or possibly amended by a committee.

The bill, introduced in February by Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, underwent its first hearing before an Energy Committee subcommittee on May 14 where no formal action was taken.

Aaron Morales, Heinrich's press secretary, said the committee markup would be in coming months, although there is no schedule yet. A similar bill introduced in the House by Reps. Deb Haaland and Ben Ray Lujan has not yet had a hearing.

If approved as is, the legislation would permanently withdraw development of federal mineral rights for gravel mining and oil and gas development, while leaving the land available for other uses. The land here is part of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office covering nearly a million surface acres and 3.6 million acres of subsurface mineral rights spread across six counties.

The main target is the 3,142 acres known as the Buffalo Tract in northwest Placitas. Lying adjacent to two of the four active gravel mines in western Placitas, it is home to an estimated 36-million cubic yards of marketable sand and gravel, according Department of the Interior testimony before the Senate Energy subcommittee.

In June, Heinrich, during a visit to the Four Corners, won a commitment from Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt to hold off for a year on oil and gas leasing within a ten-mile radius of Chaco Culture National Historic Park. That will allow Congress time to consider legislation similar to the Buffalo Tract bill in that it would permanently withdraw the BLM lands around Chaco from development of federal mineral rights.

"I especially appreciate the tribal leaders who shared their views with the Secretary during his visit," Heinrich said in a news release. "Their testimony clearly had an impact on him... After seeing how special Chaco Canyon is in person, Secretary Bernhardt committed to work with us on our legislation."

The BLM also withdrew its opposition to the bill with Bernhardt saying he would consider additional ways to protect the land in the RMP nearing completion in the BLM Farmington District. It is not known if Heinrich and Bernhardt discussed the separate RMP affecting Placitas.

The final draft of Rio Puerco RMP is still on track to be released for final comments sometime this summer and the official decision will come after, a BLM spokesperson said in June.

The RMP updates a 1986 planning document. The preliminary draft was released in 2012 and drew fifty thousand comments from across the region.

A new concern among local advocates has arisen since a 2017 executive order signed by President Trump overturned Obama-era rules changes intended to speed up BLM RMPs, increase

—continued on page 3

—U.S. FOREST SERVICE



Using a road as a fire break, firefighters on June 9 set a backfire in the Gila National Forest four days after the Spring Fire was first reported. As of June 23, the lightning-caused fire northwest of Winston was 100 percent contained after charring 3,500 acres of short grasses and forest understory.

## Smoke plume traced to Arizona

~SIGNPOST STAFF

Summer drifted into Bernalillo and Placitas on a cloud of smoke, trailed by health warnings—it must be fire season.

While New Mexico has several wildfires burning, the culprit in clouding the Rio Grande valley was the 80,000-acre Woodbury Fire in the Tonto National Forest about 25 miles east of metro Phoenix and three hundred miles southwest of Placitas.

The National Weather Service, early on June 20, began warning of southwest winds bringing smoke into western and central New Mexico. By that evening, the city of Albuquerque Air Quality Division was issuing health alerts.

A shift in wind direction to northwesterly, on June 21, cleared the air here.

Sandoval County also issued a temporary burn ban into June 24 due to a Red Flag warning from the weather service. Such warnings are issued when a combination of heat, low humidity, and high winds increase fire danger.

By *Signpost* deadline, the Woodbury Fire was 24 percent contained and active in higher terrain heavy with grass, shrubs, and piñon and juniper trees. The fire began on June 8; its cause is unknown.

Meanwhile, in late June, the multiagency Incident Information System at inciweb.com showed seven wildfires in New Mexico, four in the Gila National Forest, two in the Lincoln National Forest, and one in the Carson National Forest. The cause of one fire is undetermined, but the rest are blamed on lightning.

Several controlled burns also are underway. One burn was planned to treat up to 1,520 acres in the Tent Rocks area, about 3.5 miles north of Jemez Springs in the Carson National Forest Jemez Ranger District. Smoke from that burn was expected to be visible from U.S. Highway 550 and State Road 4.

While seasonal fire restrictions by local, state, and federal agencies had not yet been issued by *Signpost* deadline, the Forest Service, in late May, issued a regional order covering national forests in Arizona and New Mexico. The order continues a prohibition against fireworks and requires functioning spark arresters on internal- and external-combustion engines.

As fire restrictions are announced, they'll be posted on [FireRestrictions.us/nm](http://FireRestrictions.us/nm) and elsewhere. Restrictions on smoking, campfires, and outdoor burning in general typically end when monsoon rains arrive in July.

Find the *Signpost* online at [www.sandovalsignpost.com](http://www.sandovalsignpost.com)



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# UP FRONT

## from page 1—Buffalo

public input at the beginning of the process, and stress science-based decision making. The Department of Interior has signaled it will release proposed rules in August that include cutting in half the time the public and governors can comment on final RMPs.

That would give the public 15 days to respond, and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham thirty days to review the RMP for consistency with state laws and policies.

"Their rationale was to speed up the process," Sandoval County Commissioner Katherine Bruch of Placitas said. "This is really contrary to what many of us are interested in."

It would be very difficult for the county to take an official position on the RMP, given the timeline for publishing agendas and voting on resolutions, she added.

"What they're doing is really ramrodding things through," said Dick Ulmer, board chair of the Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association (ES-CA) Land Protection Trust. "It's not specific to us, but it affects us."

Ulmer also said he and representatives of ES-CA and the Las Placitas Association recently met with Lujan Grisham and her cabinet secretary for Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources. He said the gover-



U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich (right) and Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt met with tribal leaders at Chaco Culture National Historical Park on May 29. With their backs to the camera are (from left) Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Acoma Pueblo Gov. Brian D. Vallo and E. Paul Torres, chairman of the All Pueblo Council of Governors and past governor of Isleta Pueblo.

nor understands the issues in Placitas and is willing to work with the community.

Ulmer also said that residents interested in joining in the effort can contact ES-CA or the Las Placitas Association. Both have additional information on their websites: ES-CA.org and Las Placitas.org.

## County horse council plans range-science presentation

—SIGNPOST STAFF

An update to the fertility-control program and a presentation on the science of range management are among items on the tentative agenda for the July 10 meeting of the Free Roaming Horse Advisory Council.

The quarterly public meeting is scheduled for 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the former Sandoval County Courthouse, 711 S. Camino del Pueblo, in downtown Bernalillo. The final agenda and additional information will be posted on [SandovalCountyNM.com/Placitas-Horses](http://SandovalCountyNM.com/Placitas-Horses).

Past presentations and other documentation are on the main web page. Agendas, minutes, additional materials, and links for sign up for email alerts or to submit comments can be found by clicking the link Learn More About the Council.

Angel Martinez, the Bureau of Land Management

representative to the council, is scheduled to discuss the science of range management. One of the issues surrounding the bands of horses roaming Placitas is the carrying capacity of the land, that is, how many horses could the range support.

Dr. Karen Herman of Mount Taylor Mustangs—which manages the fertility-control program and is conducting a population survey—is to present an update on her organization's work in Placitas. Mount Taylor Mustangs received a two-year contract from Sandoval County to administer the contraceptive PZP with darts, provide the first accurate count of the horse population in Placitas, and advise the council on management strategies.

At the council's last quarterly meeting in April, Herman reported the head count had identified 99 horses in 18 bands. At that time, PZP had been

administered to fifty mares and fillies, 33 of which had received a required booster.

After the initial shot and booster, PZP is administered annually.

The council of four appointed members and representatives of various agencies was created in November by the Sandoval County Commission. Actions in the previous months, and since then, derive from a county-funded task force led by the nonpartisan New Mexico Force.

In 2014, the twenty-member task force produced 15 suggestions on ways to manage the horses and local conflicts. Informal population surveys in 2013 and 2014 had counted slightly more than one hundred wandering horses in the immediate Placitas area, although estimates for the population in the broader area ranged above five hundred.



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Man shooting at officers killed outside Bernalillo apartments

PUBLIC SAFETY

-SIGNPOST STAFF

New Mexico State Police are investigating the fatal shooting of an armed man by Bernalillo police.

According to a State Police news release, on June 5, officers respond to a report of shots being fired by a resident of the Villa Elena Apartments off Camino del Pueblo, near U.S. Highway 550. When two officers approached the apartment, they found Fabian Rivera, 28, outside and carrying a gun.

Garcia is reported to have fired at the officers before retreating into his apartment. The veteran officers took cover and yelled orders for Rivera to surrender.

Instead, Rivera emerged with the weapon and began shooting at the officers, both of whom returned fire striking Rivera. They then rendered first aid until paramedics arrived and transported Rivera to a trauma center where he was pronounced dead at about 1:30 p.m.

The officers were placed on standard leave but soon returned to work. During the June 10 Town Council meeting, Mayor Jack Torres thanked the department and officers for handling a tough situation.

The results of the State Police investigation will be turned over to the appropriate district attorney for review, according to the news release. That may be a district attorney whose jurisdiction does not include working with the Bernalillo Police Department.

One issue lingers as lawyers resolve lawsuit, inquiry into suspect's death

-SIGNPOST STAFF

The criminal investigation into officers' actions is over and a lawsuit largely settled, nearly four years after a suspect died in Bernalillo police custody.

"There's not going to be any criminal action," special prosecutor David Foster told the *Signpost* in late June. "After a review of everything, it does not appear a criminal prosecution would be sustained or warranted."

A lawsuit filed by the estate of Ben C de Baca also has been resolved without trial, save one issue not affecting the town of Bernalillo, the city of Rio Rancho or their police officers.

C de Baca, 45, died in the parking lot of the Bernalillo Walmart on September 6, 2015, while being restrained, in part, by officers who held him face down with their knees on his back. He had fled to the store after trying to take control of the car his wife was driving, which led to a crash at a nearby fast-food restaurant.

Court records describe C de Baca as agitated and calling for help as he pushed over televisions in the Walmart and threw a soda bottle at an employee before being subdued by customers, one of whom was sitting on him when police arrived. Two Bernalillo Police Department officers soon had him handcuffed and face down behind a squad car.

In the process, C de Baca bit one officer's leg.

Officers placed a mask-like covering called a spit shield over C de Baca's face. Whether the shield, intended to prevent spitting and biting, was properly applied was one issue in the lawsuit.

Officers from Rio Rancho and Santa Ana Pueblo also responded to the scene.

While being restrained, C de Baca stopped breathing and could not be revived. The Office of the Medical Investigator reported finding high levels of cocaine in his blood, evidence of extensive past cocaine use and severe heart disease.

OMI also categorized the death as a homicide, a broad term covering everything from deliberate murder to justified actions by police. The decision on whether a crime was committed was delegated to Foster, a Santa Fe attorney, to avoid a conflict of interest between local prosecutors and the law enforcement agencies with whom they work.

The wrongful-death lawsuit filed in state court in September of 2017 moved to federal court due to alleged civil-rights violations. The lawsuit named BPD and the town of Bernalillo, Sandoval County, and Bernalillo, Rio Rancho, and Santa Ana officers.

—continued next page

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## PUBLIC SAFETY ~CONTINUED

from page 5

### —Lawsuit

Early in the process, U.S. District Court Judge James Browning dismissed from the case Sandoval County and the Santa Ana officer, who was commissioned as a special deputy sheriff, allowing him to back up officers off the pueblo if called.

"Judge Browning granted my motion but said he'd write an opinion," said attorney Michael Dickman, who represented the tribal officer and the county. "This goes to the county's liability for cross-commissioned officers."

Dickman successfully argued that the Santa Ana officer was not employed by the county and that the state wrongful-death law central to the lawsuit doesn't apply to

tribal police agencies.

Browning also ruled that the tribal officer was entitled to immunity from the civil rights complaint as well. Attorneys representing the C de Baca family earlier served notice that they intend to appeal Browning's ruling once his written opinion is released.

Details of the settlement are not contained in the court record, and the case except, for the appeal specific only to the county and the tribal officer, was dismissed on April 10. Other than Dickman, none of the attorneys involved in the lawsuit responded to *Signpost* requests for comment.

## Placitas killing brings call for unity

~BILL DIVEN

The violent death of one Placitas village man, allegedly at the hands of a near neighbor, brought a call from the bereaved family for peace and unity in the community.

The funeral for Manuel "Manny" Nieto Jr. on June 17 brought together a large number of relatives and other mourners. Among them were people related to both families caught up in the tragedy.

A theme of not letting Nieto's death rend the community emerged during the funeral mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Bernalillo, the burial in Placitas, and among speakers, including a member of the Nieto family. Instead, they said, it was important people come together.

"I was very encouraged to see, in the midst of the pain, people working toward peace rather than perpetuate the cycle of violence," Rev. Michael Niemczak of Our Lady of Sorrows told the *Signpost*.

While the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office has yet to release details of the investigation, events apparently began on June 6 with Nieto confronting members of the Gurule family about racing up and down Paseo de San Antonio where both lived near each other. Court records allege Martin Gurule, 39, and his son, Isaiah Gurule, 20, later went to the Nieto home intent on fighting Manuel Nieto, 58, and his brother Joseph Nieto.

A sheriff's deputy, writing in support of the criminal charges, reported that Isaiah Gurule claimed that Manuel Nieto pulled a knife, which Isaiah claimed he took away and used to stab Nieto while standing over him. Nieto later died at UNM Hospital.

Meanwhile, Martin Gurule is accused of using a piece of rebar to beat Joseph Nieto before throwing the knife over a wall. He is charged with aggravated battery and tampering with evidence for disposing of the knife and has since been released from jail.

Isaiah Gurule has been charged with second-degree murder and remains in the Sandoval County Detention Center. Prosecutors, in their motion to keep him jailed until his trial, contend Nieto had a right to draw the knife, if that were the case, to defend himself from "angry intruders" at his home, and that once Gurule had the knife, he was in control of the situation and should have backed off.

A hearing on whether Isaiah Gurule would be detained until trial was scheduled for late June.

Manuel Nieto is survived by his wife, son, two daughters, eight grandchildren, his mother, four sisters, and two brothers. The Nieto and Gurule families also are related.



County offers support for neighborhood National Night Out events

Sandoval County is encouraging neighborhoods, homeowners, and neighborhood associations to host community events during National Night Out in August.

The county also is offering to have county officials and representatives of the Sheriff's Office and Sandoval County Fire Rescue join in the events. A limited number of personnel are available with a July 19 deadline for registering local events online.

National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign created by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), will be held across the country on August 6. The goal is to strengthen relationships among neighbors and with police agencies and first responders.

Among the activities that local sponsors organize are block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts, youth events, all with visits by emergency responders, according to the NATW website.

More information and a link to register with the county can be found at SandovalCountyNM.gov/National-Night-Out-2019. There is no charge for having any of the county representatives attend.



a portion of stolen jewelry

Jewelry theft

-SIGNPOST STAFF

Between March 27 and April 4, an unknown subject forced entry into a residence in Placitas, NM. The unknown subject forced entry through a back sliding glass door, which was left ajar, and exited through the front door, which was also left ajar. The only items taken were several pieces of jewelry worth approximately \$80,000. If you have any information, call Crime Stoppers at 843-STOP. Anonymous tips can be submitted at P3tips.com.

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Mrs. Pickel has a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Estate Planning and Elder Law, is the former chair of the Elder Law Section of the New Mexico Bar, is the division chair of the Estate and Trust division of Real Property, Estate and Trust Section of the New Mexico Bar, is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and was a prior board member of the Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity.

She served as an Assistant Judge Advocate General (JAG) with the U. S. Air Force before settling in Placitas.



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## Rio Rancho to host free Fourth of July fireworks show

The fireworks show at Loma Colorado Park will again be a showstopper this year on July 4, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Entry is free. Bring the whole family for some summer fun. Listen to live music and check out the dazzling fireworks display. Blankets and coolers are permitted. Food vendors will be on-site. No glass or alcoholic beverages allowed. Held at 735 Loma Colorado Drive NE in Rio Rancho. For further information, call 891-5015.

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~CONTINUED

—BILL DIVEN



*The front of a home on Casa Terrenos shows the results of a June 19 fire that did extensive damage to the interior.*

*The State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause.*

## Investigators probe cause of Placitas house fire

~SIGNPOST STAFF

The cause of a fire that extensively damaged a Placitas home and drew firefighters from neighboring communities remains under investigation.

Whether a battery-powered e-cigarette played a role appears to be part of the investigation. At *Signpost* deadline, State Fire Marshal's Office investigators who responded to the scene had yet to conclude their work.

"We can't comment on ongoing investigations," state Deputy Fire Marshal John Kondratick of the Fire Investigation Bureau said.

An occupant of the house reported a problem with an e-cigarette, although at last report its role if any was unconfirmed, Sandoval County Public Information Officer Melissa Perez said.

E-cigarettes, the use of which is known as vaping, are smoking devices with a heating element powered by a lithium-ion battery. Numerous fires, small explosions, and burn injuries have been linked to e-cigarettes, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The fire on June 19 was reported at 7:44 a.m., on Casa Terrenos, near State Road 165, just east of the Homestead Village Shopping Center. The Sandoval County Fire Department initially dispatched firefighters and apparatus from Stations 21, 41, and 43.

Additional help from the Bernalillo Station 2 and Rio Rancho Station 5 was called in under mutual-aid agreements. The occupant escaped the house, and there were no reports of injuries to people or pets, Perez said.

With no hydrants in the area, water was trucked in from the nearest hydrant about three miles away.

Witnesses described significant flames emerging from the home and a plume of black smoke visible from much of Placitas. The fire was contained to the kitchen and main living room, with heavy smoke damage throughout the rest of the house.

Firefighters kept the flames from spreading and remained on scene until about noon.





Ordinance rewrite  
vests more power in  
the county fire chief

-SIGNPOST STAFF

An overhaul of the ordinance governing Sandoval County fire and emergency services has left some rural residents wondering whether they might lose their volunteer department.

That's the case in La Madera, tucked into the far southeast corner of the county, east of the Sandia Mountains. The ordinance, which in its 2005 version specifically named eight fire districts including La Madera, now has the fire chief determining annually the number of departments and staff needed.

"This will be the end of volunteerism in our fire department," said Judith Richey, a member of the Tecolote Auxiliary, which helps raised money in support of the La Madera Volunteer Fire Department. "How can you expect a volunteer to commit to the rigorous training schedule they sign on to when they don't even know if they will be arbitrarily dismissed in a year?"

Richey, citing how the county "severely stung" La Madera when it developed and awarded a solid-waste franchise in 2017 with no notice to the community, said the fire ordinance was moving too fast. Better to wait until a permanent county fire chief is named, she added.

There also is concern that the county could shrink the twenty-person department and rely more on the full-time paid personnel of a Bernalillo County fire station on Frost Road in Sandia Park. By agreement, those fire and rescue personnel respond to all calls in La Madera, county Interim Fire Chief Eric Masterson said.

Peggy Fleming, another member of the Tecolote Auxiliary, recalled a fire in a three-story house in the forest. The house could not be saved, but the fire didn't spread, she said.

"Seventy thousand gallons of water it

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took to save that forest and hundreds of houses, and that took manpower and dedication," Fleming added. "That's what you get from our volunteer fire department."

County commissioners unanimously approved the rewritten ordinance at their June 6 meeting.

Masterson said he considered the idea of closing a fire station to be unlikely. While Algodones and Placitas were consolidated into a single fire district several years ago, the last station closure came after a wildfire raging across Cochiti Mesa incinerated the station and the homes it was there to protect.



Eric Masterson  
County Interim Fire Chief,  
La Madera

"The public outcry over closing a fire station would be second to none," Masterson told commissioners. "The ISO ratings in that community would increase substantially. The homeowners (insurance) rates would increase substantially... And it would be a very negative reflection on the fire chief and the county and the commission."

The new ordinance also does away with the Sandoval County Chiefs Association, comprised of the chiefs of the volunteer departments. Under the previous ordinance, the county chief was required to consult with the association on all administrative, personnel, and budget matters.

Masterson said meetings with the district chiefs, since the ordinance was introduced in early May, have calmed most of their concerns. At the May commission meeting, Masterson said the volunteer chiefs would still be part of the process and retain oversight of their districts, but the department needed a chain of command with the county chief in charge and answering to the county manager.

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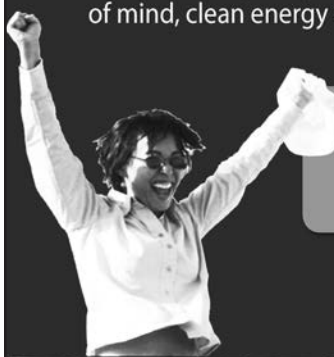


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## Placitas educator walks quickly to victory at Senior Games

~BILL DIVEN

When Vincent Sheehan saw the 2019 National Senior Games coming to Albuquerque, he sensed opportunity and found gold.

And silver and bronze.

"I really took it serious because I knew they were coming to Albuquerque," Sheehan said. "I wanted to be on the (medal) stand."

A dedicated and successful high school, collegiate, national marathon and La Luz Trail runner in his earlier days, Sheehan's sport now is race walking with its ambling gait somewhere between walking and sprinting.

"It's the hips and the arms," the Placitas resident told the *Signpost*. "It's the form; it's the cadence."

It's also the rules. In race walking, an Olympic sport since 1908, the runner must maintain contact with the ground at all times.

And the knee must be straight when the leading foot touches the ground and remain straightened as the foot passes under the body.

Sheehan retired this spring, after 33 years as a teacher, starting in special education before moving to elementary classrooms. He taught at Kirtland Central High School, Cochiti Elementary School for 18 years, and spent his last eight years at Placitas Elementary.

Along the way, Sheehan collected medals and honors, including a 2011 masters-category victory in the nine-mile Las Luz Trail Run to the top of the Sandia Mountains, nearly won the Detroit marathon, coming in second once and fifth another time, and finished in the top 65 overall among the thousands of runners in the Boston Marathon in

1984. He took up race walking twenty-some years ago after running began to take its toll.

"It's easier on the body, for one thing," Sheehan said. "It's really a great sport for the seniors for that reason."

Once an immensely popular sport in the United States, race walking fell behind as long-distance running gained prominence. Now the U.S. doesn't support the sport as much as other countries do, and the whirligig motion of swinging arms and lurching hips makes it too easy to mock.

One wag compared the event to a desperate search for a bathroom. And sportscaster Bob Costas, who later apologized for what he called a good-natured quip, famously—or infamously—said during an Olympics broadcast, "(A) contest to see who can walk the fastest is like having a contest to see who can whisper the loudest."

Chuckle if you must, but maintaining the motion and cadence for twenty to fifty kilometers in the Olympics, or in the Senior Games for 1,500 or five thousand meters, is no stroll in the bosque.

—TERESA SHEEHAN



*The gold glistens in the sunlight as Vincent Sheehan of Placitas displays the medals won for race walking and running during the National Senior Games.*

*In Sheehan's four events, he gathered first-, second- and third-place medals before finishing fourth in his last event.*

REAL PEOPLE

~CONTINUED

Sheehan, sixty, finished second by 15 seconds in the sixty-64 age group in the 1,500 meter race with a time of 8:15.58. Two racers were disqualified when judges positioned around the University of New Mexico track spotted them bending their knees.

In the five-thousand-meter event, staged at Balloon Fiesta Park, Sheehan, at 29:03.37, bested a field of 12, winning the gold 25 seconds ahead of his nearest challenger, according to results posted on the Senior Games website. His overall pace was 5.4 mph.

He also took the bronze medal in the five-thousand-meter run and finished fourth in the 10k.

Sheehan was one of a record 13,712 athletes, age fifty and over, who registered for this year's national games based in Albuquerque on June 14-25. Sandoval County also played a role hosting the bowling event at Santa Ana Pueblo's Starlight Bowling Alley and the triathlon at Cochiti Lake.

Sandoval County's Community Services Department and Senior Programs began preparing two years ago after Albuquerque was announced as host city for the 2019 games. Volunteers joined in working the events.

Local athletes also participated in the statewide Senior Games torch run, carrying the torch from

—continued next page



# AROUND TOWN



—TERESA SHEEHAN

Vincent Sheehan (left) of Placitas waits to receive his silver medal for finishing second in the 1,500-meter race walk during the National Senior Games. Sheehan went on to capture the gold medal in the 5,000-meter race walk.

## from page 10—Games

Bernalillo Town Hall to the annual Sandoval County Senior Picnic at Rotary Park on May 17.

“Sandoval County Senior Programs Staff deserve their own medal for the immense—and intense—level of dedication and support they provided towards making the National Games such a success,” Director of Community Services Anne Ryan wrote in an email to the *Signpost*. “Not only did they represent as some of New Mexico’s best Ambassadors, but also as some of the most generous and gracious Ambassadors of the Human Heart.”

Sheehan was not alone in bringing medals to Placitas, as Willie Arriola brought home a bronze medal in horseshoes. About 180 Sandoval County residents registered for the twenty medal events.

Final results in all events had not been posted by the *Signpost*’s deadline. Look for more local results in next month’s edition.

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## Placitas Community Flea Market—2019

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## July Night Sky

~CHARLIE CHRISTMANN

### I REMEMBER:

I still remember May 5, 1961. My mother could not understand what interest a young four-year old had in a rocket launch. I had to beg to have the small 13-inch black-and-white television on a table in the living room turned on to watch Alan Shepard blast-off as the first American to leave the Earth. The space program was what inspired my interest in science, engineering, and astronomy. I rarely missed a launch; only school prevented me from pasting myself in front of the TV well before the appointed time to soak in the commentary about the mission.

In February of 1969, I recall yanking the Moon Map, compiled using NASA lunar orbiter photographs, from the National Geographic magazine and pouring over the features it showed. I marveled at the ruggedness of the never visible far side of the Moon. That map hung on the wall in my room until I moved to New Mexico to work on government aerospace contracts in 1984. Yes, I was, and still am, a science geek.

Even after fifty years, I can still see my family crowded around the new, massive, 25-inch color TV residing in a large console against a wall in our living room, occasionally adjusting the rabbit ear antenna to get the best picture possible. Earlier that afternoon, I had helped my father double check that the glowing vacuum tubes inside the TV’s chassis were in good shape so there would be no interruptions during the event. It was July 20, 1969; my father and I lay on the carpeted floor just feet away from the screen, my mother and younger sister sat on the sofa behind us. All our eyes and ears focused on CBS’s Walter Cronkite as he outlined the sequence of events happening, as Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin prepared to leave the Lunar Lander for the first time. We sat in awe watching the grainy, washed-out, overexposed video feed originating from the moon as future U. S. Senator Armstrong descended the ladder to the Moon’s surface. Around 650 million people around the world watched the height of American pride and accomplishment during the Cold War era that day—having beat Russia in the moon race. I still can’t believe, after fifty-ish years, humans have only visited the surface six times.

Some still believe the Apollo missions were faked, that our feeble technology just was not up to a moon landing. What a feat that would have been for NASA and Hollywood to fake the mission—think about the special effects needed to have pulled that off. It would have been almost as challenging as the actual mission in 1969. I also had the privilege of meeting and talking with New Mexican astronaut Harrison Schmitt. I don’t believe he, and the other eleven moon walkers, could make up such a detailed story, and keep it consistent. Finally, I do not believe that NASA would have contrived a disastrous Apollo 13 mission, especially during the propaganda-filled Cold War era. There are also the science packages left behind on the lunar surface. The laser reflector arrays, used to bounce earth-based lasers back to earth from the moon, alone prove we were on the surface. Those arrays are still in use today. Yes, we really did go to and land on the Moon in 1969.

There are still many unknowns about the Moon, including some of the observations made by early robotic probes, astronauts, and earth-bound telescopes. In the mid-1960s, the Surveyer lunar landers seemed to see a glow on the horizon, but the Moon’s gravity is too low to hold on to a real atmosphere. But some Apollo astronauts orbiting the Moon also saw the same thing. Scientists speculated that there is a dust cloud surrounding the lunar surface ranging from six- to 160-miles high. NASA’s LADEE lunar orbiter mapped the density of dust at various altitudes. It found a few dust grains; the entire cloud likely weighs less than three hundred pounds, not enough to cause a glow. The mystery remains.

Then, there are the occasional flashes seen on the surface. These have been seen since the 1950s. Some suggest the flash might be the result of an impact from micrometeoroids hitting the surface. Others think it might be some unknown phenomena originating below the surface. It is such a mystery still today that Hakan Kayal, Professor of Space Technology at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg in Bavaria, Germany is setting up two telescopes in Europe to continuously watch the moon each night looking for a flash. His goal is to find an answer to this enigma.

As several nations and private companies finally contemplate a return to the Moon, we may finally find answers to questions still confounding us about our nearest celestial body.

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### JULY 2019 NIGHT SKY CALENDAR

Morning Planets	Venus (until Jul 8), Saturn (until Jul 9)
Evening Planets	Mars (until Jul 18), Jupiter, Saturn (after Jul 9)

Date	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Moon
Jul 2	New Moon at 1:16a, begin Lunation 1194; Total solar eclipse (not visible in U.S.)						
Jul 4	Watch out for many shooting stars and stripes; Mercury 3 deg S of Moon; Earth farthest from sun						
Jul 5	r 5:56a s 8:24p	r 7:43a s 9:28p Mag +1.7	r 5:08a s 7:39p Mag -3.9	r :37a s 9:37p Mag +1.8	s 4:11a r 6:17p Mag -2.6	s 6:26a r 8:30p Mag +0.1	r 9:04a s 11:08p Ill 12%
Jul 9	Moon 1st Qtr; Saturn at Opposition						
Jul 12	r 6:00a s 8:22p	r 7:16a s 8:51p	r 5:19a s 7:48p	r 7:21a s 9:24p	s 3:41a r 5:46p	s 5:55a r 8:00p	s 2:41a r 4:47p Ill 83%
Jul 13	Jupiter 3 deg S of the Moon						
Jul 16	Full Moon at 2:31a; Saturn < 1 deg N of the Moon; Partial Lunar Eclipse (not visible in U.S.)						
Jul 19	r 6:05a s 8:19p	r 6:33a s 8:06p	r 5:31a s 7:55p	r 7:15a s 9:10p	s 3:11a r 5:16p	s 5:26a r 7:31p	s 8:31a r 10:23p Ill 92%
Jul 20	50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing in the Sea of Tranquility						
Jul 21	Moon last Qtr; Mercury passes in front of the sun						
Jul 26	r 6:10a s 8:14p	r 5:45a s 7:25p Mag +3.6	r 5:44a s 7:59a Mag -3.9	r 7:10a s 8:57p Mag +1.8	s 2:42a r 4:57p Mag -2.5	s 4:56a r 7:01p Mag +0.1	r 1:20a s 3:06p Ill 33%
Jul 27	Aldebaran 3 deg S of the Moon						

Key: r = rise, s = set, a = am, p = pm, Qtr = quarter, Mag = magnitude (negative values are brighter than positive values), deg = degrees, N = north, E = east, S = south, W = west, Ill = Illumination. \*next day, \*\*previous day. Three middle fingers together at arm's length span 5 degrees; the width of your little finger at arm's length is about 1 degree.

### Rio Rancho Astronomical Society meets

On July 5, the Rio Rancho Astronomical Society will host its regular monthly public meeting at Rainbow Park Observatory. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public. RRAS Vice-President, Melanie Temple, will give a presentation on the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission. Telescopes will be available for stargazing after the meeting, weather permitting. Rainbow Park Observatory is located at 301 Southern Boulevard SE (behind Rainbow Pool), in Rio Rancho. For more information, visit our website at [www.rrastro.org](http://www.rrastro.org) or call 220-5355.







Placitas Community Library board member Harriett Neal (left) and past board member and current volunteer Connie Goodwin look over sketches of the planned library addition. The current goal is to break ground on the project this fall.

# Funds flow as Placitas library nears expansion goal

~BILL DIVEN

The expansion of the Placitas Community Library took two big steps forward recently with a highly successful fundraising event and acceptance of a state appropriation toward design and construction.

"We are getting close to the million-dollar mark, which is what it's going to take," County Commissioner Katherine Bruch of Placitas said. "So we need more money."

Bruch also congratulated the Placitas Community Library on its May 25 dinner and auction at Anasazi Fields in Placitas that raised more than \$100,000. Her comments came during the June 6 commission meeting where commissioners formally accepted \$350,000 in state capital-projects funding approved by the 2019 Legislature.

"They're about \$200,000 short right now, but they'll get there," said county Public Works Director Mark Hatzenbuehler.

The Placitas library is an independent nonprofit, reliant on donations, fundraising, and about ninety volunteers for its operations. It leases its property from the county, which acts as fiscal agent and will handle bidding for the construction.

Still to come are the final designs, which would add about 2,200 square feet to the current 3,500-square-foot library at 453 Highway 165, and putting the project out to bid.

Library board chair Ruth Bouldes told the *Signpost* that the success of ongoing fundraising efforts won't be confirmed until bids for the construction are opened. If all goes well, the library hopes to break ground on the addition in early fall.

"If Mother Nature is kind to us, we're hopeful of opening next spring," Bouldes added.

During June, the library held seven public meetings to show off the preliminary expansion plans and explain the project. The conceptual plan would add on to the west side of the building to double the space for meetings and programs, which now often reach capacity and have to turn people away.

Enclosing a breezeway on the west and expanding into what is now a patio on the north will create a classroom, and computer, book, and reading space.

"It's a wonderful addition to our community, and there definitely is a need," Connie Goodwin, a past board member and current volunteer, said after reviewing architect sketches during one of the public meetings.

The May fundraising event at Anasazi Fields Winery generated \$104,000 and counting, said board member Harriett Neal, who chaired the event committee. More than 130 people enjoyed a gourmet dinner prepared by volunteers with revenue coming from ticket sales, a silent auction, sign-up activities like donated

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cooking classes, and participants challenging others to match their donations.

"Everybody worked so exceedingly hard," Neal said. "It would not have been possible without immensely reliable people... You'd ask, and Presto! It was done."

There also was "husband help" plus others who chipped in to make the event a success, she said.

Author Anne Hillerman, the evening's special guest, contributed an opportunity to name a character in her next novel, even if it is the name of the donor. At last report, the library still had fifty copies of her latest work, "The Tale Teller," for sale—which Hillerman provided at her cost.







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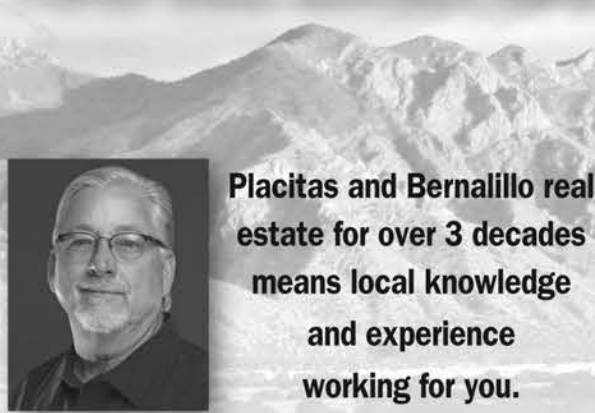
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## BUSINESS

### Sandoval County receives Risk Awareness award

New Mexico Counties presented Sandoval County with a Risk Awareness Program (RAP) Award during the 2019 NMC 83rd Annual Conference on June 21, hosted by Curry County in Clovis. The county completed its fifth year of RAP with a 34 percent reduction in the number of law enforcement claims for 2019. RAP is a workplace risk control education program that aims to reduce the frequency and severity of county claims through better risk awareness and safety practices.

“The Sandoval County Human Resources and Risk Management Department have worked very hard to educate our staff in order to reduce risk, reduce injury, and reduce claims that cost taxpayer dollars,” said Sandoval County Manager Dianne Maes. “This award shows how dedicated the County is to being responsible with taxpayer dollars.”

New Mexico Counties is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing New Mexico’s 33 counties since 1936. Its mission is to strengthen New Mexico counties’ ability to govern their own affairs and to improve the well-being and quality of life of their constituents. New Mexico Counties provides numerous services to counties including legislative advocacy, self-insurance administration, legal assistance, and professional development.

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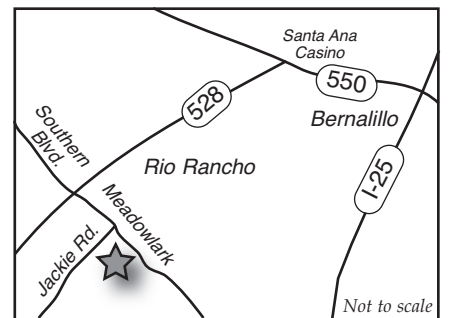
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## Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association (ESCA) report

~GEORGE FRANZEN, PRESIDENT, ES-CA

On June 20, Sandy Johnson, President of Las Placitas Association (LPA); George Franzen, President of Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association (ESCA); Mary Rose de Valladares, member of LPA and ESCA; and Dick Ulmer, Chair of the ESCA Land Protection Trust, had the opportunity to meet with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, her Cabinet Secretary for the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, and her Deputy Chief of Staff, Caroline Buerkle.

The purpose of this meeting was to thank Governor Grisham for her previous support to try to stop the BLM from gravel mining in the Buffalo Tract, and to ensure that she and her staff were prepared to respond appropriately to the anticipated Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision that would potentially allow a gravel mine larger than any of the four currently in our area. While a member of Congress, she had toured our area and knows well the impact of existing mines on our economy and quality of life—and she understands the squeeze play on our community that is being proposed.

We wanted to alert our Governor of proposed changes to BLM that has just been reported to us by our County Commissioner, Katherine Bruch. The BLM presented an overview of their proposed changes to the overall land use management rules in a webinar this past Friday. We believe the intent is to streamline the process for leasing and disposing of property. BLM did say that they want to work more closely with State and local governments, but that would be discretionary. The BLM

expects the proposal to be published in the Federal Register in August.

It is our understanding (from multiple sources) that the BLM will try to “fast track” this revised RMP in their desire to quickly lease the land to a mining operator, and, as the *Signpost* reported recently, Vulcan has already been permitted to drill a significant number of exploratory holes—some extremely close to private residential property in the Mustang Mesa area of Placitas. As we explained to the Governor, the changes proposed in the new BLM process would reduce the Governor’s time to respond to the RMP to thirty days from the current sixty, and cut the public comment period on applications from thirty to 15 days.

Clearly such an attempt by the BLM to ramrod land use proposals sends a clear signal about the importance of the efforts by our Congressional Delegation to stop further mineral extraction in our area. But it also needs to loudly signal the importance of our community being ready to respond with extreme speed once the RMP is published for public comment. The reversal of the BLM, regarding their plan for Chaco Canyon, demonstrates that these inappropriate land uses can be stopped—but we all must work together and do our part.

The next ES-CA Board Meeting, open to the public, will be held on July 8, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Note new meeting time! Our meetings are held at the Placitas Community Library—NM Highway 165.

## GAUNTLET

LETTERS • OPINIONS • LOCAL ISSUES

The Signpost welcomes letters of opinion.

Letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, libel, and other considerations.

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## Don’t take your rubber ducky into the Rio Grande

~JANET BLAIR

The Corrales Fire Department in conjunction with the NM State Parks Department and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, along with first responders, held a safety briefing at the Corrales North Beach river access point on May 9. The Rio Grande was running at 4,800 cfs in the Albuquerque area and will likely go higher as the summer continues, presenting conditions that could be dangerous for any unprepared or ill-equipped rafters or kayakers.

“Last weekend, we had to help two people out of the river. They were attempting to float down the river on swimming pool inflatables, and they were not equipped with personal floatation devices,” said CFD Fire Chief Anthony Martinez. “The river is going to get faster and more difficult before this runoff season is done, and we don’t want see anyone injured or killed. They have to be prepared and understand what risks they are taking.”



Local business  
helps youth

(right:) Chuck Bulow, president of Manufacturing Technologies Inc., displays the certificate presented to him by the Bernalillo Town Council in recognition of his company's support of Coronado Little League. MTI, a precision machine shop that moved to Bernalillo in 2017, most recently produced an intricate metal door than added both decoration and security to the Coronado concession building. "It's really beautiful, and it's secure," said Mike Kloeppel, town director of economic and community development. In the background (from left) are Councilors Dale Prairie and Tina Dominguez, Mayor Jack Torres, and Councilors Ronnie Sisneros and Marian Jaramillo.



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Appreciation  
Day

(right)  
Jennise Phillips, President  
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Commerce, and Karen  
Croxtan, designer  
of this year's  
Chamber t-shirt and  
caption "Untamed  
Beauty" based  
on the diverse  
landscape of Placitas.



(right)  
"Wrigley" was elected  
Mayor of Placitas at Placitas  
Appreciation Day  
2019—an annual  
community event held at  
Homestead Village Shop-  
ping Center in Placitas  
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Farmers' market underway in Bernalillo

The annual Bernalillo Farmers Market opened on June 14 and will be offering fresh fruits, produce, herbs, and more through October. Staged under the pavilion at Rotary Park, the market is open from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Fridays. SNAP EBT dollars are doubled. Questions about the market or becoming a vendor can be directed to 228-5801.

Flea Market thrives at Homestead Village

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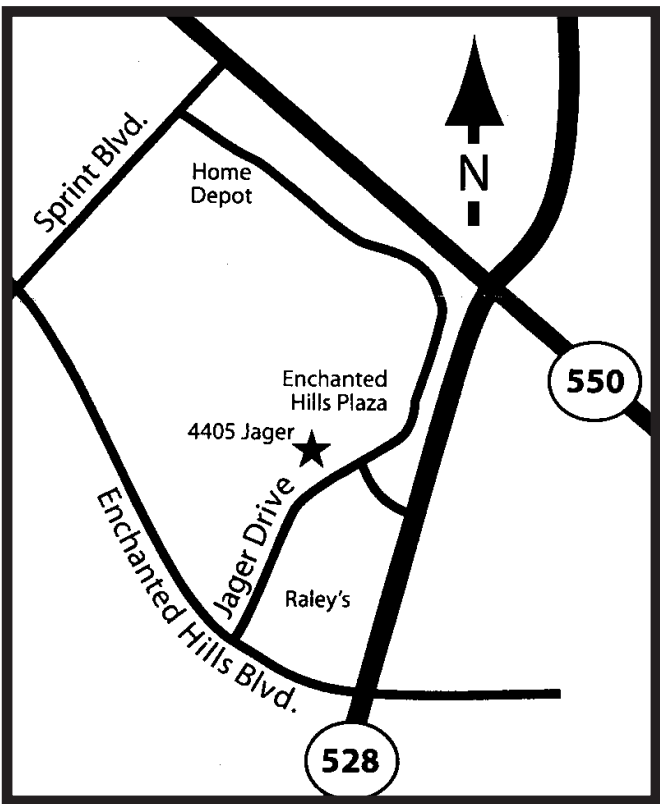
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## Archaeological Society of NM annual volumes —free to download

~MATTHEW J. BARBOUR, PRESIDENT,  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

Over the last fifty years, the Archaeological Society of New Mexico (ASNM) annual publication, the “*Papers in Honor of...*” series, has featured academic quality articles on all aspects of New Mexico archaeology, anthropology, and history, written by notable researchers such as Patricia Crown, Bertha Dutton, Stephen Lekson, Florence Lister, and Douglas Scott. Many of the projects reported on in the annual volume have never been published elsewhere and were, until recently, becoming more difficult to acquire.

ASNM is pleased to announce that the first forty volumes are available online and free to download. This is part of an ongoing commitment, by ASNM, to make the archaeology of New Mexico more accessible to academic institutions and the general public. More recent annual volumes and our special publication series are also available for purchase, including the 2019 annual volume *Scholar of the City Different: Papers in Honor of Cordelia Thomas Snow*. Since 1900, ASNM has been at the forefront of research into New Mexico’s unique his-

—continued next page





The Hemish People

~JOSHUA MADALENA, JEMEZ PUEBLO-WALATOWA

The Fremont Culture derives its name from the Fremont River in present-day Utah, but at its height, the culture extended from eastern Nevada to western Colorado and from southern Idaho to northern Arizona. The culture flourished between AD 700 and 1300; and it is typically characterized by the presence of distinctive pottery, basketry, granaries, and pit houses. Most notable among the Fremont Culture was their rock art, which include many warlike images of what appear to be head-hunters. From these depictions, it is often assumed that raiding and warfare played a substantial role in their society.

To archaeologists, the Fremont is something of an enigma as it combines traits of both Great Basin and Anasazi culture groups. Their use of moccasins and their basketry patterns are clearly derivative of contact with other Great Basin cultures, but their utilization of pottery, pit house architecture, and emphasis on agriculture are all things that they share with the Anasazi. Hence, a debate has developed as to their origins. Are they a Great Basin peoples with Anasazi traits or are they Anasazi peoples who migrated into the Great Basin?

The most recent research by archaeologists, such as Dr. Scott Ortman at the University of Colorado, has suggested the latter. They argue that the Fremont people spoke a Tanoan Language and derived from the Sambrito Culture of the Basketmaker III Period (AD 500 to 700). The Tanoan Language Family, also known as the Kiowa-Tanoan Family, is a language group believed to have originated in the Four Corners Area. Today, it has four branches: Kiowa spoken by the Kiowa, a plains tribe in Oklahoma; Towa spoken by the Jemez; Tewa spoken by the Pueblos of Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, and Tesuque; and Tiwa spoken by Isleta, Picuris, Sandia, and Taos.

Of the four branches, linguists believe that the Kiowa and Towa languages are the most similar to what was spoken by the Fremont peoples. However, the

from page 18—Archaeology

toric and prehistoric past. It unites avocational archaeologists with professionals to discuss topics of interest, to search for sites, to record their locations, to participate in excavation, analysis, and report writing, and most importantly to preserve these important cultural resources. Visit [newmexico-archaeology.org/](http://newmexico-archaeology.org/) to peruse our publications and while there, we hope you will also consider becoming a member.



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Kiowa claim in their origin myths to have descended to the Great Plains from Wyoming or Montana, whereas archaeologists, such as Dr. Neal Ackerly of Dos Rios Consultants, have clearly tracked the Towa speakers, now known as the Hemish or Jemez people, to the Sambrito Culture. From that point forward, the Jemez People can be identified in the archaeological record transitioning seamlessly from Sambrito (AD 500 to 700) to Rosa-Piedra (AD 700 to 1150) to Largo-Gallina (AD 1050 to 1300) to Vallecitos-Jemez (AD 1250 to 1700) to present-day Jemez Pueblo (AD 1700 to present).

In fact, Joshua Madalena's decade of research has led to the rediscovery of this three hundred year-old lost art tradition of Jemez Black-on-White pottery. A similar pottery technology, utilizing Jemez spiritual motifs was maintained throughout all periods of cultural change from Rosa (AD 700) to Jemez (AD 1700) Black-on-White pottery. A one-thousand-year-old tradition such as this clearly demonstrates continuity between their present day Pueblo and their Anasazi ancestors of the greater Four Corners area, including the Fremont Culture. For more information on this, go to [www.jemezoldway.com](http://www.jemezoldway.com).

Many mysteries continue to baffle archaeologists in regards to the American Southwest and Anasazi culture. The connection between Fremont and the Jemez People is not one of them. However, as with most of history, it is likely more nuanced than we fully understand. This is not to say that the Kiowa are not Fremont. They likely are. However, their connection is more speculative and is not as well understood in the archaeological record.

The Jemez or Towa people trace their origins to the landscape of the northern Four Corners area. Archaeologists believe they can distinguish these ancestral populations from as early as the eighth century, a time when they lived in the mountains and valleys of the headwaters of the San Juan River. Their pottery is distinguished by the early but ephemeral use of as galena-derived lead paint, followed by reliance on a vegetal or carbon paint and a distinctive design style called Rosa Black-on-white. While the lowland residents of the Four Corners area and the San Juan Basin pursued their lives in areas that would become known today as the Chacoan world, the highland peoples held themselves apart, living in and defending their mountain homes. They moved inexorably southward through the centuries, carrying their distinctive approach to pottery with them. Vegetal paint techniques and a unique approach to design continued to set apart the pottery that archaeologists now call Gallina Black-on-White.

As climate change restricted the farming potential of the northern Southwest in the thirteenth and later cen-

Jemez Black-on-White pottery,  
by Joshua Madalena

turies, the ancestral Towa people continued their southern movement along the highlands. In the fourteenth century, communities were established in the Jemez Mountains, building the foundations for the strong and independent Towa communities that were encountered by the Spanish. While under the Spanish, many tribal peoples forcibly lost a substantial portion of their indigenous culture, including their Black-on-White pottery, traditional agricultural practices, and religion. These institutions remain intact among the Jemez people.

In 2014, Governor Joshua Madalena of the Pueblo of Jemez wrote a formal notice to the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the United States National Forest in Washington DC to begin to consult on any issues pertaining to lands historically used or occupied by the Fremont Culture, given our undeniable affiliation to these lands, based upon the current information we have (oral traditions and customs passed down through centuries of the Hemish societal way of life). As we increase our technological skills, more information will be gathered for a larger affiliation claim by the People of Walatowa of the Jemez Nation.

Joshua Madalena is former 3-term Governor of Jemez Pueblo-Walatowa and former Chair of the Sandoval County Commission. He is from Jemez Pueblo.

Credits: Matt Barbour, Manager, Jemez Historic Site; Dr. Eric Blinman, Director, Museum of New Mexico; Joshua Madalena, Artist/Historian, Pueblo of Jemez



SANDOVAL SIGNPOST • SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1988 • JULY 2019 • PAGE 19



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# COMMUNITY BITS

Donations to the town's annual School Supply Drive and Winter Coat drive also will be accepted.



# HEALTH

If I could get across one point today, it would be that people should be putting lemons in blenders. Everything but the seeds. Don't stop blending until all the lemon flesh, pith, and zest have been homogenized into a creamy vor-



Eaten straight with a spoon, it's a blast of sharp, refreshing complexity. The aromatic oils from the zest, sour sweetness of the fruit, and bitterness of the pith create a symphony of citrus that many will find exciting as is, without sweetening or salting. The thick structure won't separate, thanks to pectin from the pith, which binds it all together.

I'm still glowing from a recent batch of scallops, marinated in the fridge overnight in blended lemon puree, with lime juice and soy sauce. Since then I've mixed blended lemon with olive oil, lime and salt, into a simple, refreshing salad dressing.

But let's be realistic: you will probably be adding sugar to your blended lemon, along with that lime. Blending in the sugar makes the texture even smoother, and makes the slurry so dangerously edible you might need to hide the spoons. You are now at the lemonade stage of the blended lemon sequence. From here, mix this concentrate with water, in a blender or in a glass, at about a tablespoon concentrate per cup of water. You are now ready for summer.

The next stage of the blended lemon sequence is what I call the custard stage. It includes the likes of blended lemon pudding, pie, curd, pots de crème, and bars.

Pots de crème have a decadent, cheesecakey body, but the cream is slightly at odds with the lemony zing. Cream would be better added in whipped form, atop a lemony treat. A pot of blended lemon curd, meanwhile, stirred carefully in a double boiler, has a taffy-like density and piercing lemony flavor. But at the end of the day, it's a pot of yellow goop. A pie is basically a baked version of curd, and the baking gives it a rich texture and dense texture, but who has time for crust? Not I.

You won't find me shaving frozen butter or rolling out batter or powdering the room with flour. I just apply a dusting of flour on the bottom of a pan, and pour the curd mixture over it. The butter in the curd seeps down into the flour while it's baking, forming a crust-like material that does what I need crust to do. Namely, allow me to remove my goodie cleanly, with no chunks left behind, and leave the pan easy to clean, and disappear. The relative blandness of this invisible crust does, admittedly, offer a pleasant refuge from the deluge of bright flavors in the baked custard. The flour humbly does its job, giving the curd a platform on which to do its golden, lemony thing.

Most blenders will need at least two or three whole lemons' worth of material in order to form a smooth vortex. Here we use four, just in case.

Four lemons

Wash them, slice off the nub at one end of each fruit, and cut the lemons into quarters. Squeeze them through a strainer, as if you are making lemon juice. Be sure to push out all of the seeds. Add the lemon quarters and lemon juice to the blender, and start it on low. Stop and scrape down the sides if necessary, and keep it on low until it makes a smooth vortex. Turn up the speed progressively higher, as high as you can and still be able to still have a vortex. When you get to the highest speed, hold it there for about thirty seconds.

You are now at a crossroads, with many directions to explore. I submit that a blended and baked lemon curd is a good place to start. All that pectin-filled pith dulls the yellow flavor a bit from what you would expect from a lemon bar. Reducing the eggs and halving the depth of the curd will brighten deepen the



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yellow, but whatever the hue, if a flavor could make you wish for sunglasses, this would be it.

My lemon *con* lime curd is based on a lemon curd filling, made in a double-boiler, at the center of a phyllo puff pastry recipe from the World in a Pocket blog. Baked curd has more body than stirred, but not the dry stiffness of a lemon bar, and must be treated accordingly. The flour at the bottom keeps it from sticking, but the soft pieces must be handled gingerly.

Fills a 13 x 9-inch pan,  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inches deep

4 blended lemons (see above)

1/4 cup lime juice

2 cups sugar, which will leave the curd on the sour side; add more to taste if you wish (Or dust the finished product with powdered sugar)

8 tablespoons butter, room temperature

2 teaspoons vanilla

6 eggs

1 tablespoon flour

2 teaspoons salt

Optional: a cup of frozen blueberries; whipped cream; powdered sugar  
Preheat oven to 350.

Add the sugar and lime to a blender that contains four recently atomized lemons, and blend at high for thirty seconds. If you are keeping score, this is the lemonade stage.

Add the butter and vanilla, blend on high until mixed, about 15 seconds. Finally, add the eggs, and blend once more until smooth. This is the custard stage.

Scatter the flour and salt on the bottom of a nonstick or glass baking pan. Spread it evenly but not obsessively; don't try to cover every place where you can see the bottom of the pan. Slowly pour the raw curd into the pan. It will be about an inch deep in a 13-inch pan. Place it in the center of the oven.

After thirty minutes, scatter the frozen blueberries, if using, atop the deep yellow curd.

The sides cook first, bubbling under a shiny skin that creeps inward toward the middle. When the edges start to lightly brown—about 45 minutes—turn off the oven. Leave the oven door closed and let it cool to room temperature; overnight is OK. Chill until serving time.





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# A Feast for the Eyes: Food as Art

-REBECCA COHEN

Giuseppe Arcimboldo was a 16th-century Italian artist who composed fascinating—occasionally disturbing—portraits in which he substituted fruits and vegetables for cheeks, nose, ears, and hair. Arcimboldo’s classically styled paintings incorporated food as both subject and medium in decidedly imaginative ways: painted pear as chin, peas in a pod indicating a half-smiling mouth, corn cob ears and grapes, olives and berries with related foliage suggesting hair in wild disarray. The viewer clearly recognizes a human visage and yet wonders at the artist’s intent. Why this obsession with using food to convey information about the characters he portrays.

Fast forward to the 21st century. During the month of July, visitors to the Collin Meeting Room at the Placitas Community Library, will have an opportunity to see how area artists have also used food as a form of communication. The exhibition of the month, *A Feast for the Eyes: Food as Art*, presents still life paintings in a variety of styles, both in the tradition of 19th-century painting, as well as simplified, more graphic renditions of edibles.

There will be a quilted exhortation to “eat organic” and small sculptures replicating pieces of candy that look good enough to eat and much more. Artists in the exhibition include Ellen Baker, Patty Baron, Lynda Burch, Julie Fear, Annie Gross, Linda Heath, Sue Ortiz, Steve Palmer, Judith Roderick, Karen Shatar, Claire Sweeney, Pam Troutman, Geri Verble, Fehrunissa Willett, and Katherine Wilson

Exhibition coordinator, artist and jeweler Geri Verble describes food as “the ultimate storyteller,” an eloquent way to indicate cultural heritage, where we live and how we live our lives. This is a show that promises to be a “feast for the eyes,” she writes, “serving up an aesthetic banquet that will delight the senses while nourishing mind, body, and soul.” To that end, the artists’ reception on July 12, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., promises to be not only tasty offering to the public, but also a tasteful nod to the artists’ creativity in the kitchen as well as the studio.

As always, works in the show will be for sale and a portion of the sales price will benefit the Placitas Community Library.



Kiwi on Fiestaware, by Steve Palmer



“Forever 21, by Lynda Birch

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Visitor’s stroll through the Big Tent at a past Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale. Other locations include Anasazi Fields and Placitas Elementary School.

## Call for artists for the 38th annual Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale —application deadline approaching

The Placitas Mountaincraft and Soiree Society is seeking artists for the 2019 Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale, an annual event held each year on the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 23 and 24, in the village of Placitas. This is a juried show and all artists will need to submit digital images of their artwork to be accepted. Artists do not have to be from Placitas to apply.

This event is organized by the Placitas Mountaincraft and Soiree Society, a 501(c)(3) organization that has supported the arts in Placitas for more than 46 years.

The artist application is online at [www.placitasholidaysale.com](http://www.placitasholidaysale.com). Also on the website, artists can get information about the show and print the application. If you need an application sent to you, contact the Placitas Holiday Sale, 3 Canon del Apache, Placitas, NM 87043 or send an email to [info@placitasholidaysale.com](mailto:info@placitasholidaysale.com). The deadline is July 23, 2019, and all applications must be postmarked by this date.





José Eloy Cabaza ~ *The Art of Black and White Prints*  
Please join me for an afternoon of coffee, biscochitos and the wonder and awe of the fine print done well.  
Placitas Community Center  
Saturday July 13, 2019 and Sunday July 14, 2019  
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

José Eloy Cabaza in black-and-white

Raised in Santa Fe and South Texas, graduate of Texas A&M University, and well-traveled on many journeys, José Eloy Cabaza remains old-school, practicing both film and digital photography. He writes, “The aesthetics of black and white versus digital photography will be debated until the cow jumps over the moon or when film is no longer available. In the end, it is always the finished print that can take your breath away and live well on any wall with wonder and awe.”  
See his work and talk with the artist on July 13 and 14 at the Placitas Community Center (41 Camino de Las Huertas, 87043), anytime between 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Stephen Fehér--Sharing the joy of creation

-ROSEMARY BREEHL

Bringing joy to others is what Stephen Fehér does best.  
As a licensed psychologist for many years, Stephen was concerned with helping others work through their pain and suffering and to find healing. After he retired, he decided to do joyful work. So he began experimenting with some very unlikely materials to create unique and beautiful sculptures, and it brought him joy. He didn’t expect it, but his work continues bringing enjoyment, delight, and surprise to others.



Sun, bike chain sculpture,  
by Stephen Fehér

Stephen Fehér is the featured artist at Wild Hearts Gallery with his exhibition running from through July 28. The public is invited to the artist’s reception on July 12, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Wild Hearts Gallery is located in Placitas, at the Homestead Village, 221-B State Highway 165.  
The images in this series *The Joy of Creation* use unusual and unexpected materials to create beautifully fluid sculptures. Fehér gives life to bicycle chains and occasionally marries them with molten metals with surprising results.  
“For me, emergence of image is creation; transforming image into form is my art, a form that is concrete, visible, recognizable, yet contains the meaning, mystery, and essence that is invisible. The process involves transforming material that is both flexible and hard into something that is fixed, yet curvy and soft.”  
Fehér was born in Brazil and, at 12, moved to the US. After completing high school, he spent four years in the Air Force in upstate New York. He attended UNM and completed a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. Since 2015, he has had his work in galleries in Albuquerque, Taos, and in Austin, Texas. His sculptures have won five First Place Awards, a Gold Medal, and a Best of Show in Regional and National Veterans Creative Arts Festivals.  
Wild Hearts Gallery is an artists' collective, supported by 14 longtime local artists. Gallery hours are: Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Stephen Fehér  
Sharing the Joy of Creation

June 25 -July 28, 2019

Artist Reception Friday, July 12, 4 -7 p.m.

We are a  
collective of  
painters, sculptors,  
photographers,  
potters, jewelers,  
woodworkers,  
glass, fiber and  
mosaic artists.

Wild Hearts Gallery  
an artists' collective  
221-B Hwy 165, Placitas 87043  
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wildheartsgallery-nm.com



First Sandia Chill concert at Homestead  
Village Shopping Center

(right) Hillary Smith and the Chillhouse  
Band perform a tribute to Aretha Franklin  
at New Mexico Jazz Workshop’s Gala  
last February.

—DR. JAMES GALE



Sandia Chill concert  
on July 14 in Placitas

-SANDRA LIAKUS

The second Sandia Chill outdoor concert will take place on July 14, at 7:00 p.m., at the Homestead Village Shopping Center. The admission tables will open at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to bring your own lawn chairs and a picnic. The Sandia Chill concerts are presented by the Canyon Blues and Jazz organization.  
Hillary Smith and the Chillhouse Band will perform the songs and stylings of the late Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul. Toni Morgan and Carla Van Blake will back up Hillary on the vocals. These amazing female vocalists will be accompanied by the popular six-piece ChillHouse Band, led by Jim Casey on guitar. Other band members performing are be Milo Jaramillo on bass, Glen Kostur on sax, Brad Dubbs on trumpet, Jim Ahrend on keys, and Mark Clark on drums.  
If you missed this group’s Aretha Franklin musical tribute at the Outpost last October or at the New Mexico Jazz Workshop’s RESPECT

gala in February, this will be your chance to experience them here in Placitas.  
Canyon Blues and Jazz thanks their members, sponsors, volunteers, and the June 9 inaugural concert goers for their support. Close to two hundred attendees braved the fierce wind but were treated to an outstanding Albuquerque Jazz Orchestra concert, the beautiful vocal interpretations of Hillary Smith, and a marvelous sunset. Because of the generosity of the June concert attendees, the Canyon Blues and Jazz will be presenting a beneficiary check to the Casa Rosa Food Bank from a portion of the proceeds. The Placitas Animal Rescue will benefit from the July 14 concert.  
For more information, contact: FB.com/ Canyon Blues and Jazz@sandiachillconcerts, Canyon-bluesandjazz@gmail.com, or Jim Casey at 214-544-5827.



# SIGNPOST COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To submit a listing, send it to: [email@sandovalsignpost.com](mailto:email@sandovalsignpost.com). Deadline for submission is the twentieth of the month prior to publication. The calendar is a free community service provided by the *Signpost* to nonprofits and for cultural events of interest to residents of Sandoval County.

Example: “First Monday” means the first Monday of each month.

Daily: **The Mayor Hull Show.** Go to [rrnm.gov/mayorhullshow](http://rrnm.gov/mayorhullshow). Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull talks about issues facing Rio Rancho.

Daily: **Free hikes at Valles Caldera National Preserve—from Magma to Magpie.** For a complete list of activities at the National Preserve, go to <https://www.nps.gov/vall/index.htm>.

Monthly: **Various community events at Rio Rancho Libraries.** Rio Rancho libraries—Esther Bone and Loma Colorado—will be hosting a variety of events all month long ranging from book signings, to poetry readings, lectures, concerts, arts and crafts, meet and greets, etc. For more information about the library or each month’s activities, visit [www.riorancholibraries.org](http://www.riorancholibraries.org).

Monthly: **Urban Horticulture Classes.** Sponsored by the SandovalMasterGardeners.org. Free. Open to public. Registration preferred. [sandovalmastergardeners.org/public-class-registration](http://sandovalmastergardeners.org/public-class-registration).

Mondays: **Bernalillo/Placitas open Al-Anon meeting for families and friends of alcoholics/problem drinkers.** 7:30-8:30. Held at the Bernalillo United Methodist Church, 136 Calle Don Andres (behind Abuelitas), Bernalillo, 262-2177.

Second and fourth Mondays: **Bernalillo Town Council meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Held at Bernalillo Town Hall. Info: call 867-3311, [townofbernalillo.org](mailto:townofbernalillo.org).

Second and fourth Mondays: **Westside Neuro Choir—A chorus for adults living with brain challenges & caregivers. Includes ALS, brain injury, MS, Parkinson's, strokes, and others.** 5:45-7:15 p.m. Held at Grace Outreach Church, 2900 Southern Blvd, Rio Rancho. Use southern entrance. For more info contact Sheri at 917-7981 or [sheriarms@gmail.com](mailto:sheriarms@gmail.com)

Mondays through Fridays: **Placitas Mothers’ Day Out childcare.** A caring, cooperative, community childcare program since 1989. Hours: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. daily, \$23. Info: Ms. Debbie Steuber, 867-3371.

Tuesdays: **Teen Hang Out at the Martha Liebert Public Library.** 4 p.m. 867-1440. Tuesdays: **Yoga with Patricia,** 1-2 p.m., at the Town of Bernalillo Martha Liebert Public Library, 124 Calle Melinche, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-1440.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: **Pickleball at the Bernalillo Community Center.** 1-4 p.m. Pickleball is a game played on a court with paddles and a whiffle ball. The court is smaller than a tennis court and allows people to play who no longer want to run and jump as they did in their younger years. Anyone can play, even if they have never played tennis. 934-2649.

First Tuesdays: **Albuquerque Newcomers' Club Welcome Coffee.** 10 a.m. Held at Sandia Presbyterian Church (not affiliated with church)—10704 Paseo del Norte. Membership is open to residents who have lived in the Albuquerque area (including Sandoval County) for five years or less, or who are having major changes in their lives. Make new friends and increase your social life. Sign up for monthly luncheons and speakers, dining out, visits to area attractions, book and movie groups, bridge, bunco, mah jongg, walking, wine tastings, etc. Singles’ and men’s groups. [www.abqnewcomers@gmail.com](http://www.abqnewcomers@gmail.com). 321-6970.

First Tuesdays: **Coronado Kennel Club Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. All-breed kennel club. Schedule changes in August and December. Call 867-4510 for meeting location.

Second Thursdays: **Visionary Arts & Crafts Guild (VACG).** 6-8 p.m. VACG is a group of juried artists whose mission is to develop a fellowship among craftspeople and facilitate a market for crafts. The VACG supports the “Art of Craft” through exhibitions, education and public awareness to promote the development and appreciation of craftspeople and their work. Baptist Church of Rio Rancho Adult Education Center, 1909 Grande Avenue, Rio Rancho. [VisionaryACG@gmail.com](mailto:VisionaryACG@gmail.com), 948-3132.

Third Tuesdays: **Sandia Vista Amateur Radio Club.** 7 p.m. Help provide emergency communications in Placitas. Become a “HAM” radio operator. We will help you get your FCC license. Visitors welcome. Held at the Placitas Fire Station No. 41, Hwy 165, near the Library. Info: [sandiavista.net](mailto:sandiavista.net).

Fourth Tuesdays: **Pathways: Wildlife Corridors of NM monthly meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Held at Placitas Community Center. Open to the public. [pathwayswc.wordpress.com](http://pathwayswc.wordpress.com).

Fourth Tuesdays: **Eastern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (ESCAFCA) meeting.** 6 p.m. Held in the Town of Bernalillo Council Chambers. Persons wishing to be on the agenda or persons with disabilities who need accommodations should call 771-7110 by the first Tuesday. Board meeting agenda is posted on the ESCAFCA website ([escafca.com](http://escafca.com)) and at the front desk of the Town Hall by Friday preceding the meeting.

Fourth Tuesdays: **Placitas Democrats and Friends.** 6-7:30 p.m. Held at Placitas Community Library. Meetings are open to the public and feature candidates for local, state, national offices. [www.sandovaldemocrats.org](http://www.sandovaldemocrats.org), 259-5860.

Tuesdays: **Haven House Domestic Violence Support Group for women whose lives have been touched by domestic violence.** 6:30-8:00 p.m. Topics include: Dynamics of Domestic Violence, Safety Plans, Developing Healthy Relationships, and information about available services. All sessions are confidential and free of charge. Held at Rio Rancho First Baptist Church, corner of Route 528 and 19th Avenue. 896-4869 or 1-800-526-7157.

Wednesdays: **Seniors (62+) ride free on the Rail Runner.** Bring valid photo ID (with birthdate).

Wednesdays: **Thinking Straight open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.** 6-7 p.m. Have a Desire to Stop Drinking? Celebrate Sobriety with us and learn how to stay sober. Held at the First Assembly Church, 274 Camino Don Tomas (Room 8), Just south of Highway 550 in Bernalillo. 266-1900.

Wednesdays: **Cub Scout meetings.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Held at the LDS Church Center in Bernalillo, west of I-25’s Exit 240. New members are always welcome. 867-4689, 867-2047.

Wednesdays: **Rotary Club of Rio Rancho Sunrise.** 7 a.m. For breakfast, fellowship, a great speaker, and a chance to get involved in local and worldwide service projects. At Club Rio Rancho (used to be Chamisa Hills CC), 500 Country Club Drive, Rio Rancho. Info: Mac McKinney, 892-4313.

Wednesdays: **Urban Horticulture Class Continuing Series.** 1-3 p.m. Sponsored by the SandovalMasterGardeners.org. Free and open to the public. Registration preferred. [sandovalmastergardeners.org](http://sandovalmastergardeners.org). Sandoval County Ext. Office, Bernalillo. 929-0414.

First Wednesdays: **Free civil legal clinic offered.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Held in the third-floor conference room of the Second District Courthouse, at the southwest corner of Lomas and Fourth, NW. Free legal advice on a number of civil legal issues. No family law services will be offered. Attendance is limited to the first 25 persons who qualify for low-income assistance. Interpreters and bilingual attorneys will be on hand. Attendees should bring all of their paperwork. Expect about a thirty-minute, free legal consultation. 797-6077.

Second Wednesdays: **Rio Rancho Art Association (RRAA) monthly membership meeting.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. RRAA is a non-juried/all mediums regional art association. You need not be a resident of Rio Rancho to join. Held in Don Chalmer’s Ford Community Room, 2500 Rio Rancho Boulevard, Rio Rancho. [www.rraasa.org](http://www.rraasa.org), [www.rioranchoartassociation.blogspot.com](http://www.rioranchoartassociation.blogspot.com) or 301-2009.

Second and fourth Wednesdays: **Sandoval County Civitans.** 6:00 p.m. Held at Fair Winds, 920 Riverview Drive SE, Rio Rancho. 898-6884.

Third Wednesdays: **Meeting of the Coronado Optimist Club.** 6-7 p.m. Held at the Range Cafe in Bernalillo.

Third Wednesdays (except December): **Las Placitas Association Board meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Held at the Placitas Community Center. [lasplacitas.org](http://lasplacitas.org).

Thursdays: **Using Microsoft Word at the Martha Liebert Public Library.** 10 a.m. Registration a must. 867-1440.

Thursdays: **El Club del Libro—Our monthly Spanish Book Club.** 6-7 p.m. Recurring. Held at Loma Colorado Main Library Rio Rancho History Room. Join us in reading a book in Spanish, improving conversation skills, and meeting interesting friends who wouldn’t have the opportunity to cross paths without “El Club del Libro.” This month, in coordination with PBS’s The Great American Read program, we will discuss *Bendiceme, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya. No registration required. Walk-ins welcome! Please note new day and time.

Thursdays: **Sandoval County Historical Society archives and library are open** to members and the public for family research, 9 a.m.-Noon. Bernalillo. Info: 867-2755.

First Thursdays: **Sandoval County veteran's outreach and business counseling.** 1-4 p.m. Held at the Sandoval County Administrative Building, 1500 Idalia Road in Bernalillo. All honorably-discharged veterans may be entitled to VA benefits and state Veteran benefits. Come learn about your potential benefits. Bring your DD-214. 383-2414.

First Thursdays: **Art and Music at the Loma Colorado Main Library Auditorium, Rio Rancho.** Info: [riorancholibraries.org](http://riorancholibraries.org), 505-891-5013.

First and third Thursdays: **Sandoval County Commission meeting.** 6 p.m. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held in the Sandoval Administration Building, 1500 Idalia Road Building D, Bernalillo. Info or meeting agenda: [www.sandovalcounty.com](http://www.sandovalcounty.com), 867-7500.

Second Thursday: **The New Mexico Parkinson's Coalition (NMPC) meets.** 1:30-3 p.m. Held at Grace Outreach at 2900 Southern Boulevard SE in Rio Rancho. The NMPC works to enhance the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson’s through education, awareness and support for those with the disease. For more information, call 219-5065 or visit the website: [nmparkinson.org](http://nmparkinson.org).

Third Thursdays: **Placitas Community Library Board of Directors Meetings.** At the Placitas Community Library, 453 Hwy 165. 6:30 p.m. Open to the public. Meeting agendas are posted at the library and Placitas Post Office.

Fourth Thursdays: **Sandoval County Development Planning & Zoning Commission.** 6 p.m. Held at the Sandoval County Administration Building, 1500 Idalia Road., Bldg. D, Bernalillo.

Last Thursdays: **Sandoval County veteran's outreach and business counseling.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Held at 433 Meadowlark SE in Rio Rancho. All honorably-discharged veterans may be entitled to VA benefits and state Veteran benefits. Come learn about your potential benefits. Bring your DD-214. 383-2414.

Fridays: **Toddler Time at the Martha Liebert Public Library.** 10 a.m. 867-1440.

Fridays: **Sandoval County Stroke Support Group.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Provides weekly support to survivors of stroke, their caregivers, adult family members, and health care providers. Water and light snacks provided. No charge for meetings. Social outings arranged six times a year. Geri: 620-8802.

Fridays: **Celebrate Recovery—12 steps to finding freedom from hurts, hang-ups, and habits.** 6:30 p.m. Held at the First Assembly Church, 274 Camino Don Tomas, Bernalillo. 867-7226.

First Fridays: **Monthly luncheon of the Democratic Party of Sandoval County.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Range Cafe in Bernalillo, 925 Camino del Pueblo. Sandoval Democrats gather once a month (most months) to welcome speakers, candidates, and government representatives. You pay for your lunch from the menu, or come for just the meeting. [www.sandovaldemocrats.org](http://www.sandovaldemocrats.org).

Saturdays: **Jemez Historic Site hosts Hummingbird Music Camp concert series.** 6-8 p.m. Held until July 27. Free, open to the public. 575-829-3530.

Saturdays: **Wildflower walks on the Sandia Ranger District.** Starting at 9 a.m. There will be an amenity fee of three dollars. Be sure to bring a hat, water, and sunscreen. Sandia Ranger District: 281-3305.

Saturdays: **Casa Rosa Food Bank.** Open 9-11 a.m. Held in the pink house east of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church at 640 Highway 165, six miles east of I-25. Community outreach program provides nonperishable food items as well as dairy, frozen meats, and fresh produce as available for Placitas residents in need. Donations, volunteers welcome.

Saturdays: **Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque Growers’ Market.** Free. May-Aug.—7 a.m.-noon. Sep.-Nov. 8 a.m.-noon. Fresh vegetable, fruits, herbs flowers, jams, cheeses, arts and crafts. Live music. Voted “Best In City.” Accepts WIC/Senior. At Village of Los Ranchos tennis court parking lot. [losranchosgrowersmarket.com](http://losranchosgrowersmarket.com).

Second and fourth Saturdays: **Placitas Community Flea Market.** 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Held at Homestead Village on Highway 165 in beautiful Placitas. Vendor spaces are \$10 for each 10x15 space. Spaces are on a first come basis. We cannot sell food, beverages, or firearms. Vendor set up time is from 5:30 a.m. Bring your own table, chairs and tents, which must

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be weighted down in case the winds pick up. All vendor fees go to a selected charitable organizations. For additional information, contact Nancy Holley at 515-4323.

Third Saturdays: **Rio Rancho Northwest Mesa NAACP meets.** 11 a.m. Held at Don Newton Community Center. Public is invited. [www.rnmwnaacp.org](http://www.rnmwnaacp.org).

Sundays: **Corrales Growers’ Market.** 9-noon. Located at Corrales and Jones Road. 259-0203.

July 1: **Xeric Club presents, Some Like It Hot—But Not Tree Roots!** 10-11 a.m. Docent Janet Herbst will give a tour and speak about heat-island effect due to improper xeriscaping. Albuquerque is losing an alarming amount of its tree canopy due to lack of knowledge on how to have a proper xeric landscape. Tour is at the Xeric Garden Club’s Certified Wildlife Habitat Garden. Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas NE. Free. For further information go to [www.xericgardenclub.org](http://www.xericgardenclub.org).

July 4: **Placitas Fourth of July parade.** 11 a.m. The annual Placitas Fourth of July Parade will spring into action once again, with horses, floats, bicyclists, marchers, and decorated cars. Join the local fire department and emergency medical services vehicles and others along Highway 165, from Placitas Heights through the Village of Placitas. Parade participants should line up in front of Placitas Heights at 10 a.m. No registration is necessary to be in the parade. The public is welcome to bring camp chairs and coolers and line the streets along the parade’s path to enjoy this lively community event.

July 4: **City of Rio Rancho Fourth of July parade.** 10-noon. The parade lineup will be in the City Center area beginning at 9:00 a.m. and travel throughout the City Center area. Enjoy beautiful floats, marching bands, veteran groups, kids’ floats, and more. The public is encouraged to attend the parade and enjoy the free festivities. For additional information, call the Cabezon Community Center at 892-4499.

July 4: **Rio Rancho hosts free fireworks show.** 5-9 p.m. The fireworks show at Loma Colorado Park will be a showstopper again this year. Free. Live music, and a dazzling fireworks display. Blankets and coolers are permitted. Food vendors will be on-site. No glass or alcoholic beverages allowed. 735 Loma Colorado Drive NE, Rio Rancho 87124. 891-5015.

July 5: **Rio Rancho Astronomical Society monthly meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. There will be a presentation on the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission. Telescopes will be available for stargazing after the meeting, weather permitting. Held at Rainbow Park Observatory—301 Southern Boulevard SE. [www.rrastro.org](http://www.rrastro.org); 220-5355.

July 5-7: **16th Annual Pork & Brew.** 2-8 p.m. on July 5; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on July 6; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on July 7. Held at the Santa Ana Star Center. Featuring New Mexico’s favorite breweries, BBQ masters, and live musicians.

July 8: **Monthly meeting of the ES-CA.** 4:30 to 6 p.m. Note new meeting time! Open to the public. Held at the Placitas Community Library—NM Highway 165.

July 10: **Jardineros de Placitas monthly meeting.** 9:30 a.m. at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. This month features Jim Hammond speaking on “New Mexico Wine and Beer.” Jardineros de Placitas is a social, benevolent and charitable community-based organization for residents of Placitas. In addition to monthly meetings, members support local community organizations and participate in community service projects and twenty varied interest groups. For more information, see [www.jardinerosdeplacitas.org](http://www.jardinerosdeplacitas.org) or contact Karen Cox at 867-2399.

July 12: **Aritst reception for sculptor Stephen Fehér at Wild Heart Gallery.** 4-7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Located in Placitas, at the Homestead Village, 221-B State Highway 165. Artwork on display through July 28.

July 12: **Artist reception for A Feast for the Eyes: Food as Art,** the art exhibit of the month at Placitas Community Library. 5-7 p.m. The show hangs as month. NM Highway 165. [www.placitaslibrary.com](http://www.placitaslibrary.com); 867-3355.

July 13: **Opera Unlimited presents their production of the fable, Jack and the Beanstalk.** 10 a.m. Held at Placitas Community Library. [www.placitaslibrary.com](http://www.placitaslibrary.com); 867-3355.

July 13 and 14: **José Eloy Cabaza—The Art of Black-and White Prints.** 1-5 p.m. Join the artist for an afternoon of coffee, biscochitos, and the wonder and awe of the fine print done well. Held at the Placitas Community Center, 41 Camino De Las Huertas.

July 14: **Sandia Chill concert in Placitas.** 7 p.m. Held at the Homestead Village Shopping Center. The admission tables will open at 6:00 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic. Hillary Smith and the Chillhouse Band will perform the songs and stylings of the late Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul. A portion of the proceeds will go to Casa Rosa Food Bank. For more information, contact: FB.com/ Canyon Blues and Jazz@sandiachillconcerts, [Canyonbluesandjazz@gmail.com](mailto:Canyonbluesandjazz@gmail.com), or Jim Casey at 214-544-5827.

July 15: **Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque Growers’ Market—18th Annual Lavender and Garlic Festival.** 7-noon. Free. The Market is open every Saturday with fresh locally grown produce, fresh flowers, herbs, fruit, jellies/jams, arts/crafts, music, and special events. Accepts WIC/Senior. At Village of Los Ranchos tennis court parking lot. [losranchosgrowersmarket.com](http://losranchosgrowersmarket.com).

July 27: **Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque Growers’ Market Flower Festival.** Free. 7-noon. The Market is open every Saturday with fresh locally grown produce, fresh flowers, herbs, fruit, jellies/jams, arts/crafts, music and special events. Accepts WIC/Senior. At Village of Los Ranchos tennis court parking lot. [losranchosgrowersmarket.com](http://losranchosgrowersmarket.com).



July 1: 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. bingo  
July 2: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 10:00 a.m. local shopping, 12:30 p.m. senior advisory meeting, 1:00 p.m. Power yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting  
July 3: 8:00 a.m. Roadrunner Mobile Food Pantry, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
July 4: Closed in Observance of the 4th of July  
July 5: 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. billiards  
July 8: 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 10:00 a.m. one stroke painting with Maria, 12:30 p.m. bingo  
July 9: 9:00 a.m. Walmart, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:00 p.m. Power yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting  
July 10: 10:00 a.m. Natural History Museum, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
July 11: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:00 p.m. Power yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting  
July 12: 9:00 a.m. Rio Grande Nature Center, 12:30 p.m. billiards  
July 15: 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 10:00 a.m. one stroke painting with Maria, 12:30 p.m. bingo  
July 16: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:00 p.m. Power yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting  
July 17: 9:00 a.m. Echo Commodities, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

Monday: 9:30 a.m. yoga, 11:15 a.m. enhanced fitness, 1:30 p.m. qi gong

Tuesday: 8:15 a.m. pilates, 9:30 a.m. zumba, 12:30 p.m. billiards, 1:00 p.m. bingo, every 2nd and 4th 2:30 p.m. fused glass workshop

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. project linus blanket making, 1:00 p.m. cards, 9:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m. billiards, 2:00 p.m. chair yoga, 3:30 p.m. tai chi

Thursday: 8:15 a.m. pilates, 9:30-11 a.m. yoga, 11:15 a.m. enhanced fitness, 1:00-4:30 p.m. beading class, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Beyond the Brush/Mixed Media

Friday: 8:00 a.m. zumba, 9:30 a.m. having fun with clay, 9:30 a.m. painting open workshop, 12:00 p.m. enhanced fitness, 1:00 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. billiards

**SPECIAL CLASSES/EVENTS:**  
 July 2: 9:30 a.m. haircuts by appointment only  
 July 3: 7:45 a.m. depart for food pantry at Bernalillo Senior Center, 11:30 a.m. Independence Day Celebration Luncheon/potluck  
 July 4: center closed in observation of Independence Day  
 July 5: 10:00 a.m. Chinese herbalist mini treatments  
 July 8: 12:30 p.m. essential needs shopping at Wal-Mart, Albertsons, and Walgreens  
 July 10: billiards game day

July 1: Swedish meatballs over fettuccine, steamed broccoli, garden salad with dressing, garlic breadstick, peaches

July 2: Polish sausage with diced onions, relish and gc, roasted potato wedges, steamed green beans, carrot and raisin salad, fresh watermelon

July 3: Pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, steamed corn, macaroni salad, fresh grapes, apple pie

July 4: Happy Fourth of July all centers closed

July 5: Country fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed mixed veggies, garden salad with dressing, biscuit with margarine, fresh apple slices

July 8: Santa Fe chicken, ranch style black beans, garden salad with dressing, cornbread with honey, strawberries and bananas

July 9: Salisbury steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed Brussels sprouts, garden salad with dressing, ww roll with margarine, fruit cocktail

July 10: Chef's salad with turkey, ham, tomato, cheese and egg, club crackers, croutons, fresh cantaloupe, vanilla pudding

July 11: Roast beef with au jus, scalloped potatoes, steamed broccoli, garden salad with dressing, ww roll with margarine, fresh banana

July 12: Chicken salad pita sandwich, pasta salad with olives, green onion, bell pepper, broccoli and grape salad, fresh orange

July 15: Hot breaded pork sandwich with cream gravy, steamed white rice, steamed mixed veggies, kaleslaw, pears

July 16: Breakfast for lunch, pancake sandwich, breakfast potatoes, spinach, mushroom and onions, orange juice

July 17: Chicken cordon bleu, wild and white rice, honey glazed baby carrots, spinach salad with dressing, homemade soda bread, watermelon

July 18: Green chile cheese lasagna steamed Italian veggies, three-bean salad, garlic breadstick, grapes

July 19: Baked ham with pineapple glazed, roasted red potatoes, steamed cauliflower, ww roll with margarine, garden salad with dressing, pineapple chunks

**TUESDAYS—July 2 through July 16:**

- Toddler time at 10:00 a.m.—stories, music, and crafts
- Movie time at 1:00 p.m. for ages 12 and up
- Teen “hangout” group meets from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.—fun crafts, time with friends, good books

July 18: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican dominoes,  
12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz

July 19: 8:30 a.m. Zoo, 12:30 p.m. billiards

July 22: 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 10:00 a.m. one stroke painting with  
Maria, 12:30 p.m. bingo

July 23: 9:00 a.m. Walmart, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:00 p.m.  
POWER Yoga, 1:30 p.m. group painting

July 24: 10:00 a.m. train to Santa Fe (shuttle to Plaza) 10:00 a.m.  
line dancing, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi

July 25: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican dominoes,  
12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz

July 26: 10:30 Edward Jones Fraud Presentation, 10:30 a.m. billiards  
game day, 12:30 p.m. birthday social, 1:00 p.m. birthday bingo

July 29: 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 10:00 a.m. one stroke painting with  
Maria, 12:30 p.m. bingo

July 30: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:00 p.m. Power yoga, 1:30 p.m.  
group painting, 4:00 p.m. Pizza Party and Bingo

July 31: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. popcorn and games,  
1:30 p.m. Tai Chi

For further information on all events contact the Placitas Community Center at 867-1396 and pick up the complete newsletter at site located at 41 Camino De Las Huertas.

IN THE GALLERY —by Rudi Klimpert

A black and white sketch by Rudi Klimpert titled "IN THE GALLERY". The central focus is a large, rectangular frame that contains a detailed architectural scene of a gallery. Inside the frame, there are several columns and figures, suggesting a museum or art installation. Outside the frame, on the right, is a smaller, tilted rectangular object with text on it, and a large, crumpled object on the floor. The signature "©Rudi" is in the bottom left corner.

**DAILY:**  
The “Zone” is a great place to come and have some fun playing computer games, board games, working with STEM projects, and creating art. Open Monday through Friday, from 12:00 to closing and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For ages six and up. Six to nine year old children must be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. (Zone hours will be adjusted when school starts in August).



# YOUTH

## Native gardening day camp for kids

From July 29 to August 2, there will be a gardening summer camp in Albuquerque called, “Growing Native—Garden Guardians Summer Day Camp.” This camp is for children entering first through sixth grades. Campers will explore our regional plants, bugs, and animals. While outside playing and discovering, kids will learn about native plants that can thrive in our own backyards. Kids must bring lunch and curiosity, and the camp provides everything else, including healthy snacks. The registration deadline is July 15. Cost is \$124 for first camper, \$100 for each sibling. Scholarships available. Held at the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Boulevard NE. Call 296-6020 for further info or go to [www.albuquerquegardencenter.org](http://www.albuquerquegardencenter.org).



Gardening Day Camp kids from last year



Pictures from a recent “cross-over” ceremony as two cub scouts are accepted into Boy Scouts.

## Scout news

~AMANDA GRIEGO

In June, our cub scouts took advantage of the free fishing day to take their family members up into the Jemez to fish for trout. That was a prelude to day camp where, for three days, they practiced their aim with sling shots, BB guns, and bow and arrows, in addition to crafts, nature study, STEM projects, nature study, sports, and scout skills.

In July, they will take part in the Independence Day parade in Placitas and our annual family overnight camp in the woods. Each of the dens will have completed their goals for the year and the cubs will be moving up to the next grade level den as the new school year starts.

The boys in Troop 708 have also been active with service projects and will be going to a week-long camp at Gorham Scout Camp in the Sangre De Cristo Mountains in July. They have begun preparing for next year by undertaking a fundraising project, wherein on each of thirteen days of national holiday observations they post the American flag on the property of patrons on the morning of the holiday and retrieve it at sunset.

For more information, call Amanda at 507-1305, or David at 867-4689.

## Game and Fish cautions public to leave young wildlife alone

~TRISTANNA BICKFORD

As we head into summer, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish again reminds the public to leave alone any deer or antelope fawns, elk calves, bear cubs, or other wild animals they may find.

Please remember that young wildlife often hide while awaiting their parents’ return from foraging nearby.

Removing these young animals can cost them their lives, Orrin Duvuvuei, department deer and pronghorn biologist, warned. “You might think it has been abandoned, but in reality, the mother is typically a few hundred yards away,” Duvuvuei said. “In most cases, the best thing to do is just leave it alone and quietly leave the area.”

Returning a young wild animal to its natural environment after it’s been carried off by a human can be very difficult and may not work in many cases, Duvuvuei said.

If you see young wildlife, follow these guidelines:

- Do not approach. Its mother is likely close by and aware that you are in the area.
- Leave the area quickly and quietly
- Observe the animal from several yards away. You can safely take their pictures from a safe distance, but don’t linger in the area or touch the animal.
- If you think the animal has been abandoned, mark the location using a GPS and contact the department by calling (888) 248-6866.

For more information about living with wildlife in New Mexico, visit the department website, [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).



## ANIMAL NEWS

## Bring your herd to the 43rd Sandoval County Fair

The 2019 Sandoval County Fair will soon be offering some traditional good times.

The main events kick off on August 3, with a 10:00 a.m. parade through downtown Cuba. By then, though, the fairgrounds will have become increasingly busy as exhibitors check in, RV parking becomes available, baked goods and 4-H small animals and livestock are judged, and the exhibit hall opens.

A flag-retirement ceremony is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on August 1. There will be a dance on the evening of August 2. August 3 includes a pow-wow with grand entry and gourd dancing, a youth rodeo, and another dance. August 4 opens with a 9:00 a.m. church service and concludes with the 4-H animal scramble at 11:00 a.m.

4-H events happen daily, beginning on July 31, with showings of various livestock and smaller animals leading to the junior livestock auction at 1:30 p.m. on August 4.

Admission fees range from \$15 to \$50 for weeklong adult and family pass if bought by July 15. Fees increase by \$10 and \$15 respectively thereafter.

Daily admissions are \$5 for children six through 12 and adults 65 and older, free for children five and under, and \$10 for those 13 through 64.

Additional information is available at [SandovalCountyFair.org](http://SandovalCountyFair.org).





# LALO'S PET PRINTS

Email your animal photos to "Lalo" at:  
email@sandovalsignpost.com



Baby squirrels! Look out below!

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Mama coyote

—TODD RENNECKAR



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## ANIMAL HOTLINE

A service to help reunite lost and found pets with their people.

If you lose or find an animal in Sandoval County,  
email the information to:  
**email@sandovalsignpost.com**

We will place it in the upcoming issue at no charge.

If the animal you reported no longer needs  
attention, please email the *Signpost* by the 20th  
of the month to have the listing not included.

The Animal Hotline is a free service of the *Signpost*.



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## ANIMALS

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—“FOR SALE: HOMES / LAND,” continued next page



FOR SALE:  
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~ CONTINUED ~

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FOR SALE:  
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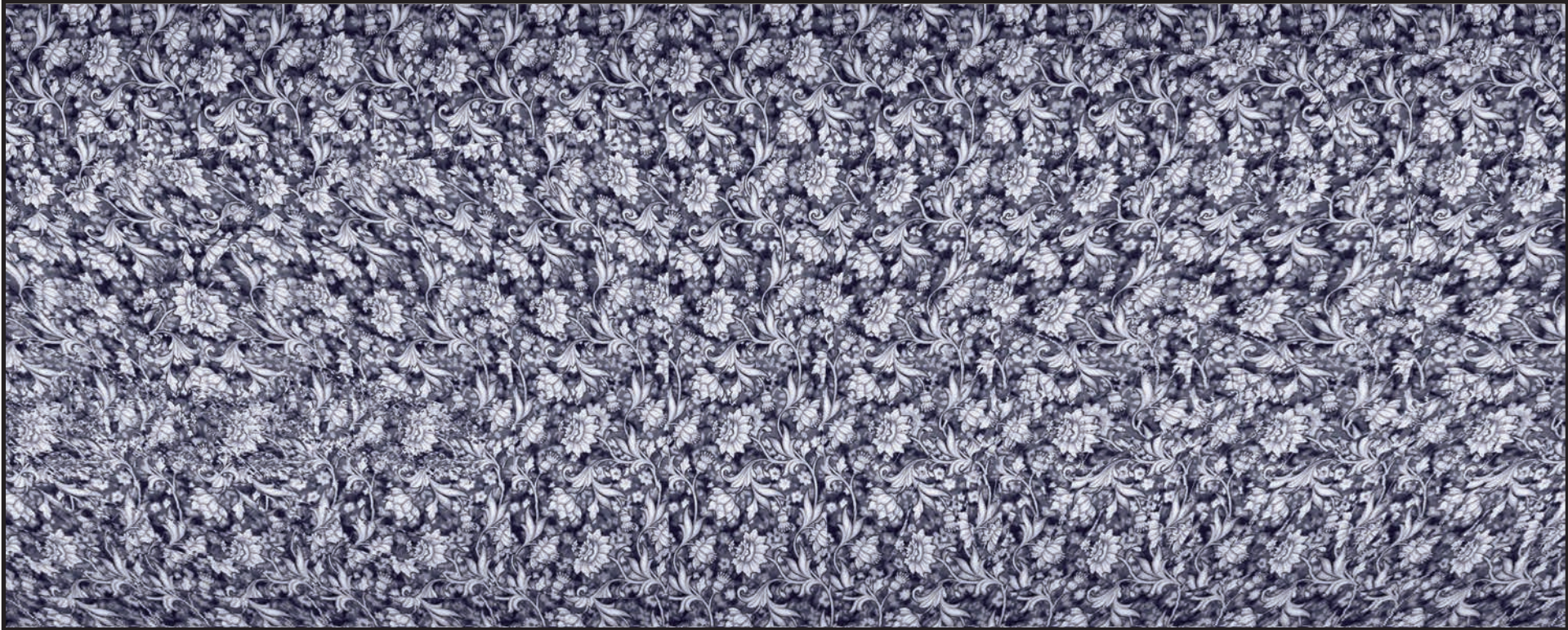
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