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County may, at last, regulate oil and gas development

—BILL DIVEN

Just over three years since a proposed oil well near Rio Rancho set off a frenzy of public concern, the Sandoval County Commission was poised to vote on a zoning ordinance regulating oil and gas drilling and production.

The vote was scheduled for the November 29 meeting as the December *Signpost* was going to press. Regardless of the outcome, the debate and any court action are far from over.

Only two items of substance appeared on the November 29 agenda: the oil and gas ordinance and a four percent pay raise for newly elected county officials. That recognizes a likely lengthy meet, as the commission had banned public comment on the ordinance during the drafting process, except when formal votes were to be taken.

The proposed ordinance runs more than forty pages and is an amended version of the draft prepared by the Citizens Working Group (CWG) Science Team. The CWG Ordinance Team drafted a competing document that, while similar in protecting groundwater, contained notable differences in how to handle drilling in the Albuquerque Basin beneath Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, Placitas and much of the surrounding area.

The commission authorized the CWG, which met publicly with the aid of relevant experts and legal consultants as it split into rival camps.

If approved, the ordinance would divide the county in two with lighter regulation in the northwest third where extensive oil and gas production has been a fact of life for decades. Greater regulation of wells would apply in the rest of the county with drilling approvals requiring public hearings and approvals by the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission and the County Commission.

The county's jurisdiction is limited to unincorporated areas and excludes municipalities and state, federal, and tribal lands.

The ordinance would allow exploratory activities short of actual drilling anywhere in the county to be approved administratively by the county P&Z director after public notice and subject to appeal. Those activities include seismic surveys, core testing and other explorations that do not cause significant surface disturbances.

In the northwestern District A, the P&Z director could also grant well applications administratively, again subject to appeal to the P&Z Commission and then the County Commission. A review committee that includes the county attorney, fire chief, and directors of the Economic Development, Public Works and P&Z departments would advise on approving or denying the permit.

The focus of controversy falls on District B where oil and gas development would be limited to vertical wells. Unconventional drilling—drilling horizontally a mile or more from a vertical well and fracking the formation to release oil and gas—would be banned.

Fracking, which uses a high-pressure solution of water and chemicals to fracture rock, has been around for decades. It is the advent of horizontal drilling that led to the ongoing boom in U.S. oil production and rising concerns about protecting groundwater.

One oil partnership already has leased 55,000 acres adjacent to Rio Rancho for exploration and potential production.

—continued on page 5

—BILL DIVEN



Dr. Clay Mathers discusses his archaeological work at Kuaua and Santiago pueblos and the metal military artifacts that confirm the presence of Spaniard Vázquez de Coronado at the sites in 1540.

New discoveries confirm Coronado's presence and battles at pueblo sites

—SIGNPOST STAFF

It's been a year of discovery in and near Coronado Historic Site where evidence of violent conflict is rewriting the history of 450 years ago.

For the first time, tangible evidence linked to the 1540 expedition led by Vázquez de Coronado has been discovered at the Kuaua pueblo site above the west bank of the Rio Grande in Bernalillo. Military items revealed by an ongoing metal-detecting survey begun in August, 2017, debunk the idea that residents fled in advance of Coronado's two-three-thousand-strong force of soldiers and Mexican allies.

"They tell a story of military force being used to subdue this village," Matthew Barbour, New Mexico Historic Sites regional manager for the Coronado and Jemez sites, said in a video release by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. "People resisted here at Kuaua. They resisted at most pueblos in the Southwest."

The artifacts include copper tips from the wooden shafts fired by crossbows, chain mail from armor, lead shot, and t-shaped nails. Military hardware had evolved beyond those items by the time the Oñate expedition arrived in 1598 bringing the first Spanish colonists.

Visitors to the Coronado Historic Site can expect to see the artifacts on display beginning next summer.

"Coronado Historic Site obviously prides itself as being one of the places Coronado came to in the winter of 1540-1541," Barbour said. "However, up until this point, there had been no real documented hard evidence, archaeological evidence, that Coronado has visited specifically this site."

Archaeologist Dr. Clay Mathers of the

nonprofit Coronado Institute leads the metal-detecting survey with support from New Mexico Historic Sites, New Mexico Preservation Division, the pueblos of Isleta, Sandia and Santa Ana, and Holman's Inc., which provide some of the survey hardware.

Mathers also has been looking at the nearby site of the smaller Santiago pueblo, studied and excavated in 1930-35, but presumed wiped away by quarrying in the 1950s. There the evidence points not just to a battle but a siege, lasting perhaps two months.

"It's the biggest siege between Europeans and natives in America in the 16th century," Mathers told the *Signpost*. He cited as a telling sign that while the metal Spanish artifacts have been found inside pueblos where Coronado's men fought, at Santiago they accumulated outside the walls.

While the Spanish forces carried crossbows and an early firearm known as an arquebus, they also deployed cavalry. Santiago's warriors effectively returned fire with arrows (possibly poisoned) and sling stones and could wield stone axes and hammers and perhaps drop hot ashes on their foes.

The pueblo—sited for defense on high ground with steep, sandy approaches difficult for horses—was built with projecting walls where defenders could catch their attackers in a cross fire, he said.

"They're clever," Mathers told an audience on November 10 at the Coronado site after the announcement of his findings. "They're really understanding some things that people understood in the medieval period in Europe."

—continued on page 7

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www.sandovalsignpost.com

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- At Under Charlie's Covers Books, 160 S. Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo

All concerts are at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church on Hwy. 165 in Placitas.
Contact: 505-867-8080 (voicemail) or email info@PlacitasArtistsSeries.org

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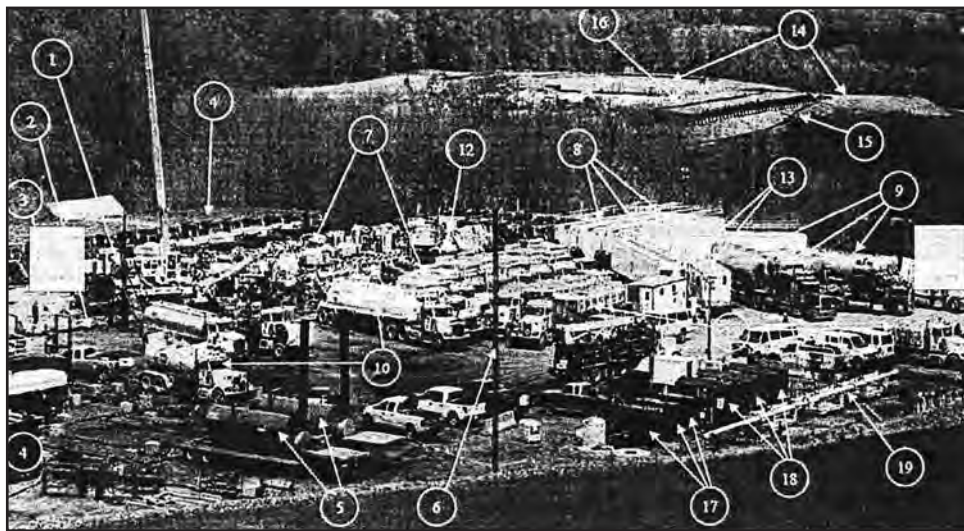
They have *not* been “fracking for over 50 years” in the way they are today. Not by a long shot! HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING for oil and gas as practiced now is a radically more extensive, high pressure, water and chemical intensive process that has little in common with older methods and has only come into any real commercial use in the *last 10 years*. See illustration. Here is the reality today.

After building a well pad that can accommodate eight or more individual oil/gas wells, containment pits and ponds are dug for spent drilling and fracking fluids. Vertical wellbores are then made up to a mile or more deep, at which time a horizontal bore is made up to a mile or more into a shale layer. Fracturing the shale is done through ports at intervals in the piping to release gas/oil by using explosives and the injecting water and a very toxic variety of fluids at extremely high pressures of up to 10,000 pounds per square inch (psi), along with sand and ceramic “proppants” to keep the fractures open. **THIS PROCESS REQUIRES 3 TO 7 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER FOR EACH WELL AND FRACKING EPISODE (UP TO TEN OR MORE).** This water and fluid comes back out of the well as “flow-back” waste water containing brine, hydrocarbons, radioactive substances, and toxic chemicals which must be stored and dealt with as hazardous waste. Be very aware of just *some* of the other things that come with a fracturing operation. Including: The transporting of hundreds of thousands of tons of equipment, sand, water, chemicals, and other supplies to and from the well site with eighteen-wheel diesel trucks. This involves thousands of round trips on local roads per well, ringing the well with 12 to 18 high pressure diesel pumps on flatbed trucks; all of this often goes on 24/7 with accompanying noise, dust, lights, etc.

As to the issue of “groundwater contamination”:

POPULATIONS THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY HAVE FOUND, AND EXPERTS HAVE PROVEN, THAT HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING CAN AND DOES CONTAMINATE GROUND WATER.

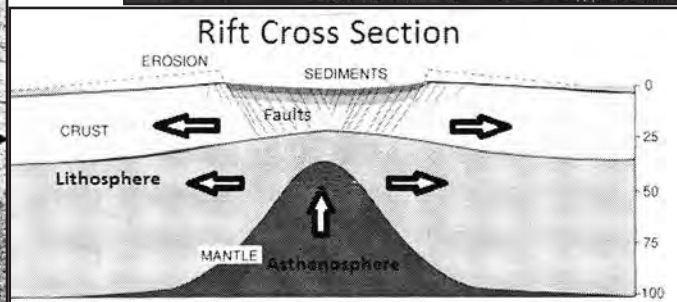
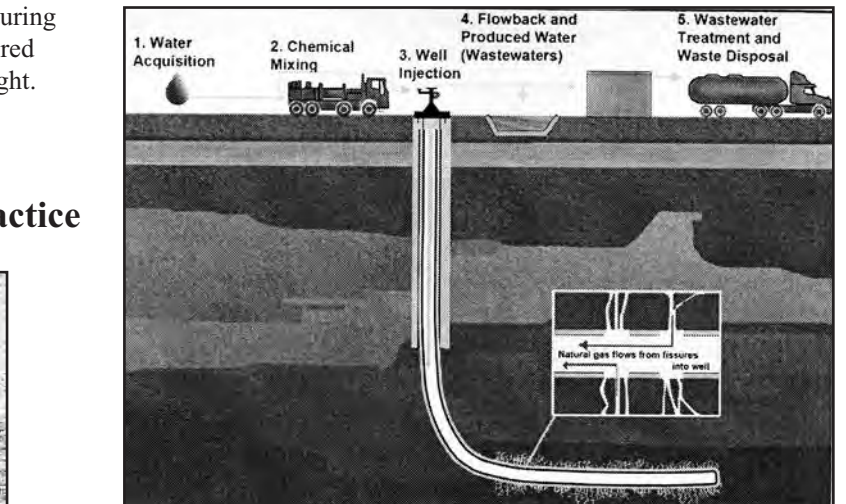
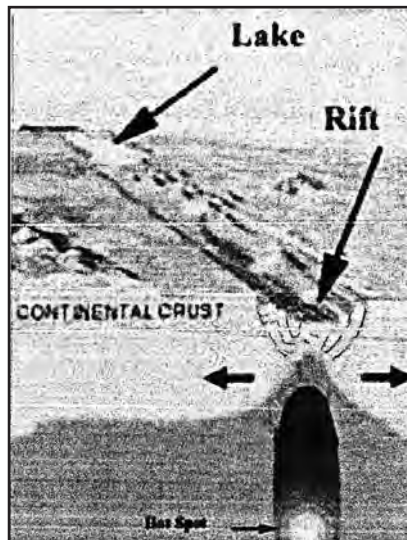
Plainly, the oil and gas industry have their sights set on *two* things in the Albuquerque Basin.....oil and gas, and, equally important, vast amounts of *our* water. We, in our drought-prone area can, in no way, afford either the water or the risk of its contamination.



1. Well head and frac tree with 'Goat Head'
2. Flow line (for flowback & testing)
3. Sand separator for flowback
4. Flowback tanks
5. Line heaters
6. Flare stack
7. Pump trucks
8. Sand hogs
9. Sand trucks
10. Acid trucks
11. Frac additive trucks
12. Blender
13. Frac control and monitoring center
14. Fresh water impoundment
15. Fresh water supply pipeline
16. Extra tanks
17. Line heaters
18. Separator-meter skid
19. Production manifold

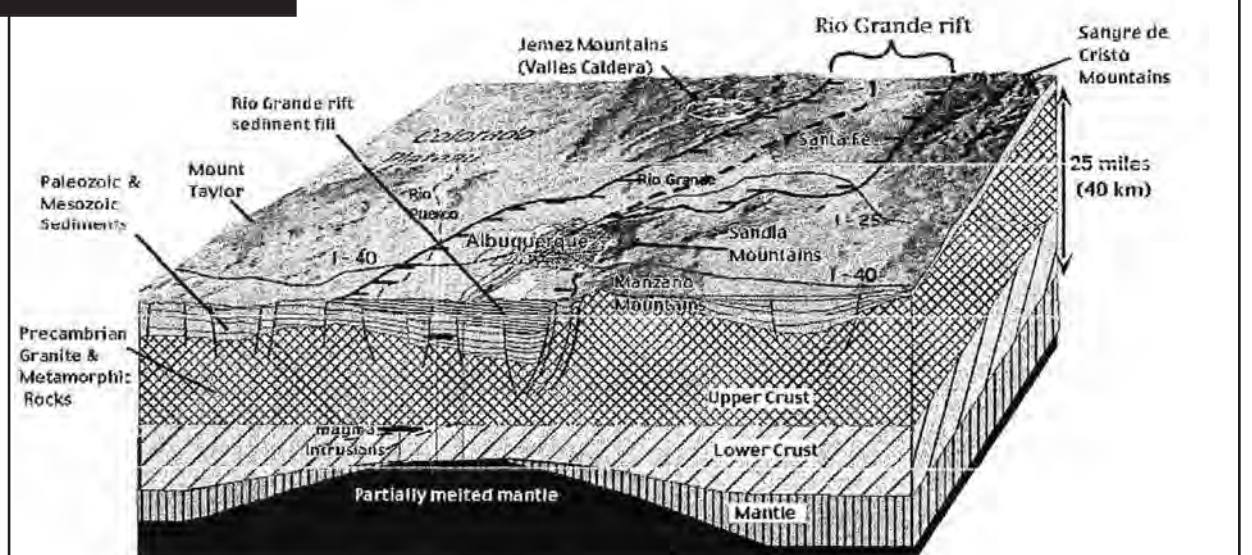
Above: Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing well pad as operated with numbered descriptions of components on right.

Current Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing Practice



Rio Grande Rift between Albuquerque and Taos

In each illustration, note faulted, irregular collapsed substructure



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At the November 8 meeting, county Commissioner Jay Block of Rio Rancho tried and failed to amend the draft to remove the ban on unconventional drilling. His preference was substituting language from the CWG Ordinance Team's proposal that would judge drilling applications on a case-by-case basis.

"We're going to get sued real quick and real fast, and I'd like to know who's going to pay for it," Block said.

Block's amendment failed on a tie vote with him and Placitas Commissioner James Holden-Rhodes of Placitas voting yes, and Commission Chair David Heil of Rio Rancho and Kenneth Eichwald of Cuba voting no. Commissioner Don Chapman of Rio Rancho abstained.

While Mora County lost a federal court case when it tried to ban fracking outright, members of the CWG Science team have defended their plan as aligning with state law and details of the federal judge's ruling.

"Even if there is a lawsuit coming, and assuming it's coming regardless, the county will pay," Eichwald said. "But it won't be an action for damages but for an opinion on whether the action is allowed."

County Attorney Robin Hammer agreed the lawsuit would be on the legality of the ordinance.

Jim Manatt—whose company Thrust Energy Inc. of Roswell, working with Cebolla Roja LLC of Roswell, leases the 55,000 acres west of Rio Rancho—told the Signpost Thrust doesn't threaten lawsuits and only sues when actual harm occurs. He does, however, note a ban on horizontal drilling is not only unnecessary and likely unconstitutional, but it affects many property owners and the owners of mineral rights.

"They don't realize how much this draft ordinance harms each of them personally," Manatt said in a written response to *Signpost* questions. "If they have mineral revenue rights, they are potentially being taken in big time in their pocket books by this ordinance."

AMREP Corp., which developed Rio Rancho and owns the undeveloped property Thrust and Cebolla Roja are leasing, retained mineral rights on the land it sold. Yet many homeowners' deeds contain provisions granting them a piece of the action for any mineral revenue generated beneath their properties.

The county and schools also stand to lose out on significant tax revenue, Manatt added.

Executive Director Jim Winchester of the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico said his board has not taken a position on the proposed ordinance. When the County Commission considered an attempt to create an ordinance a year ago, IPANM said current state and federal regulations were adequate to protect human health and the environment, he added.

Meanwhile the *Rio Rancho Observer* quoted a New Mexico Oil and Gas Association spokesman as saying his organization is poised to sue if the proposed ordinance passes.

During preparation of the ordinance drafts, representatives of pueblos and tribes in the county pressed for more consultation on cultural resources and environmental issues outside tribal boundaries that still affect tribal lands and members. The proposed ordinance includes the option of bringing in tribal members during reviews of drilling applications.

Chairman Heil said the commission is working on a broader resolution that would make government-to-government consultations with the tribes and pueblos an ongoing process.

Leading up to the November 29 County Commission vote are countless hours of public meetings beginning with the December 10, 2015, meeting of the P&Z Commission. That was the first of several hearings on the application by Sandridge Production and Development of Oklahoma to sink a 10,000-foot well on the land leased by Thrust and Cebolla Roja.

Since the site on private land four miles west of Rio Rancho was zoned for residential development, Sandridge needed a zone change to proceed. While that request was later withdrawn, the county P&Z staff said at the time it lacked the in-house expertise and specific zoning rules to evaluate such requests.

Since then, the P&Z Commission twice failed to draft an oil and gas zoning ordinance instead sending two significantly different proposals to the County Commission. The County Commission rejected the first try a year ago, but this time rejected a proposal with lesser regulation and amended the CWG Science Team plan into the document that by now has been either passed, voted down, or delayed.

A section of the county website SandovalCountyNM.com is dedicated to all this and can be found through a link on the homepage.

Ask the Lawyer



James P. Plitz
MH Partner &
Attorney at Law

Q: I have an estate plan, but what are the next steps once a death occurs?

In the previous edition of *Ask the Lawyer*, we began to look at the steps that need to be taken after a death. This is a continuation of those best practices.

Allocation of Assets. Married couples who have a proper estate plan through a living trust may have created either an A/B or an A/B/C trust. Upon the first death, the assets must be properly allocated to the appropriate sub-trusts. This ensures that the deceased spouse's assets remain available for the surviving spouse, while mitigating taxes and providing asset protection.

Retitling of Assets. Once the allocation of assets are made, each asset shall be renamed to reflect the allocation. This maintains the protections against extra taxes, creditor claims, spending everything for nursing home expenses and other dissipation of trust assets.

Necessity for Qualified Disclaimers. The determination must be made whether to disclaim or not. This is one of the most frequently used postmortem techniques to correct lifetime planning errors.

There are many things to consider after someone passes away, so it is essential that you consult with a qualified estate planning attorney prior to taking any of these steps.

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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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Children's Corner:



Celebrate a New Mexican Christmas and the traditions and principles of Hanukah and Kwanzaa on **Saturday, December 8, 2018 starting at 10:00 AM.**

Visit with Santa and bring a new children's book to donate to the Sandoval County Blessings Day.

SACRED LAND, SACRED WATER: Confluences in the Rio Grande Valley

This 53-minute documentary features the story of science and citizens working together to resist the oil and gas lobby's ongoing efforts to pass a fracking-friendly ordinance in Sandoval County.

Wednesday, December 12, 7 PM

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—DR. CLAY MATHERS

Among the artifacts found during the metal detecting at and near Coronado Historic Site are (top) a copper crossbow bolthead, (bottom left) caret-headed nails, and (bottom right) links of mail from chain mail armor. (Images not to same scale).

from page 1—Discovery

While Kuaua and Santiago share a common history, it was the discovery of a distinctive kiva with wall murals at Kuaua during an excavation in the 1930s that would preserve it as a historic site. It helped that the state needed a Coronado site for the 1940 celebrations planned for the 400th anniversary of the Spaniard's *entrada*.

The results of the excavations at Santiago proved disappointing, so it became an afterthought ultimately reduced to a source of sand and gravel.

Other recent work at Kuaua also is expanding knowledge and dispelling past ideas of pueblo life there. Beginning in 2016, work led by Ethan Ortega,

site education coordinator and supervisory archaeologist, took a fresh look at 1930s mapping of Kuaua and the more than 50,000 artifacts collected then. With the kiva the focus of attention, and the 1940 Coronado events passed, the artifacts had only been lightly studied since.

Combining 1930s maps and sketches with modern satellite imagery created a more comprehensive view of the pueblo. Ortega, site staff, and dedicated volunteers inventoried and photographed all the artifacts and consolidated that, with other information from the pueblo, into a single database.

They also conducted excavations showing Kuaua

to be larger than once thought and home to a thriving turkey flock.

Separately, a summer excavation at the Jemez Historic Site revealed a 9-by-16-foot ground-floor room that appeared to have an upper story crash onto it unexpectedly. The type of ceramics found broken in the rubble suggested the building was abandoned between 1650 and 1700.

That, in turn, raises still-to-be answered questions about whether the damage happened during the 1680 Pueblo Revolt that ejected the Spanish from New Mexico for twenty years.

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Land acquisition slows US 550 project in Bernalillo

~SIGNPOST STAFF

The timeline for reconstructing and widening about two miles of U.S. Highway 550 through Bernalillo has slipped a little more.

Bidding documents that were to be available in mid-November now are scheduled for release to interested contractors on December 31. Contractors normally have a month or more to submit bids, which then are opened and analyzed before the winning bidder is selected and a contract awarded.

So Spring of 2019 appears to be the earliest that work between Camino del Pueblo and State Road 528 in Rio Rancho can begin, assuming no further delays, according to the New Mexico Department of Transportation. For now, the hang-up in the \$25.5 million project is acquiring all the new right-of-way to turn four-lane US 550 into a six-lane thoroughfare with bicycle lanes, raised medians and a reconfiguring of the NM 550/NM 528 intersection.

Under Federal Highway Administration regulations, work on projects involving federal funds can't start until the state has all the needed right-of-way, Kimberly Gallegos of NMDOT District 3 said in response to a query from the *Signpost*.

This is the second phase of the project with the first phase—a \$13 million widening the Rio Grande bridge and adding a third lane for a short stretch westward—nearly complete. New Mexico Gas Company is continuing its installation of a twenty-inch gas line to replace a similar line in the way of the widening.

The town of Bernalillo already has paid the state \$1 million to move utility lines during the upcoming work. Area legislators chipped in another \$500,000 in state capital-improvement funds.

Sandoval County, as it prepares its budget for the next fiscal year, is considering a request from the town for \$300,000 toward its tab.

The town asked the county for help due to the volume of Rio Rancho commuters and cross-country traffic using Bernalillo to access Interstate 25. The rebuilding of the US 550/I-25 interchange completed in 2014 made US 550 six lanes for 0.3 miles from the interstate to Camino del Pueblo.

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—BILL DIVEN

A descanso marks the site of one of the many pedestrian fatalities on the railroad tracks in Bernalillo. Construction of a fence and designated pedestrian crossing with warning systems is underway.

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Cost of clean recycling boosts Bernalillo trash rates

—BILL DIVEN

Upheaval in the international recycling market is contributing to a rate increase for trash collection in Bernalillo.

Roughly a quarter of the \$1.38 monthly hike in residential rates stems from China deciding not to accept recycled material from U. S. suppliers, said Lee Dante of Road Runner Waste Services of Algodones to town councilors on November 13. The material laden with food waste and jammed into shipping containers would be a reeking mess by the time it crossed the Pacific, he added.

"That business turned upside down about a year ago," Dante said. Recyclables, which had been a small source of revenue, now cost the company \$25 a ton

—continued next page

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ALL PRICING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

from page 9—Bernalillo

when delivered to an Albuquerque facility where a line of workers hand separates the clean from dirty items like pizza boxes.

"It's not a Bernalillo problem; it's a U.S. problem," Dante said. "You either educate customers like we do, or find another process... What nobody wants to do is stop people from recycling."

About 19 percent of Bernalillo's waste is recycled, up from 11 percent when Road Runner won the bid for the town's business in mid-2016. Fuel, labor, and landfill disposal costs also have risen, but even with the new rate of \$14.32, residential customers will still pay less than under the previous waste hauler, Dante said.

Also during recent council meeting: Residents of Old Highway 44 complained of traffic problems on their narrow street increasingly used by westbound commuters trying to dodge congestion on parallel U.S. Highway 550. "It's unsafe to exit our driveways," Anthony Jaramillo told councilors.

"After the 550 expansion, traffic will only get worse," Councilor Ronnie Sisoneros said.

Public Works Director Andy Edmondson said the town is pondering solutions from speed bumps to making the street one-way eastbound although those pose issues for fire trucks and school buses.

Councilors also discussed an industrial revenue bond issue of up to \$5 million for Bosque Brewing Company, recently

—continued next page

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from page 10—Bernalillo

opened on U.S. 550 west of the Rio Grande. The money would go toward the property and building with final approval scheduled for the November 26 council meeting.

With industrial bonds, the town acts only as the middleman assuming no responsibility for the debt while Bosque enjoys a tax savings. A second industrial bond of up to \$2.5 million still is in the works for equipping the brewery.

Councilors also learned the town will be paying \$100 an hour for a New Mexico Department of Transportation "construction observer" to record technical work on the project now underway to fence railroad tracks through part of the town and provide a pedestrian crossing. Edmonson said the town will be hiring a part-time person at \$50 an hour to monitor and record non-technical work on the project.

The first phase of the project extends from the south end of town to north of the downtown Rail Runner Express station with a second phase extending to the northern station awaiting funding. More than a dozen people, some intoxicated, others with earphones or earbuds or planning suicide, have died on the tracks in Bernalillo since 1995.

County creates group to work on Placitas horse issues

—BILL DIVEN

Actions recommended more than two years ago by a task force on free-roaming horses in Placitas are taking shape as Sandoval County moves to reduce community conflicts and hazards to both people and animals.

County commissioners at their November 8 meeting voted to create a nine-member Free Roaming Horse Advisory Council of residents and government agencies with a stake in the horse issues. That would include three county representatives and designees of the New Mexico Livestock Board involved in livestock and wild-horse laws and the Bureau of Land Management, which oversees about 3,400 acres of public land in Placitas.

The initial proposal had county staff selecting the four citizen members, but commissioners voted to make those appointments themselves. One each was allocated to the Placitas district of Commissioner James Holden-Rhodes and Rio Rancho/Corrales Commissioner Jay Block with two to Cuba Commissioner Kenneth Eichwald.

A notice posted the next day on the county website SandovalCountyNM.gov solicited applications for the citizen slots beginning immediately with a closing date of December 1. While the council resolution calls for citizen members with relevant experience and expertise, the application further asks about grant writing and management and experience in recruiting and managing volunteers.

Terms would be for up to two years with a maximum of eight years. The selections are to be announced at the December 13 commission meeting.

Placitas would effectively have two members of the council since Holden-Rhodes, or, beginning

—continued on page 13

AROUND TOWN

~CONTINUED

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DECEMBER 2018 NIGHT SKY CALENDAR

| Date | Sun | Mercury | Venus | Mars | Jupiter | Saturn | Moon |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dec 3 | Venus 4 deg S of Moon; Hanukkah begins | | | | | | |
| Dec 5 | Mercury 2 deg S of Moon | | | | | | |
| Dec 7 | r 7:01a s 4:53p | r 5:30a s 3:55p Mag +0.3 | r 3:33a s 2:38p Mag -4.6 | r 12:19p s 11:43p Mag +0.1 | r 6:18a s 4:19p Mag -1.7 | r 8:43a s 6:30p Mag +0.5 | r 7:12a s 5:31p Ill 0% |
| Dec 7 | New Moon at 12:20a, begin Lunation 1187 | | | | | | |
| Dec 8 | Saturn 1.5 deg S of Moon | | | | | | |
| Dec 14 | r 7:06a s 4:54p | r 5:22a s 3:41p | r 3:29a s 2:28p | r 12:03p s 11:38p | r 5:58a s 3:57p | r 8:18a s 6:06p | r 12:10p s 11:41p Ill 38% |
| Dec 14 | Geminid Meteor Shower peak; Mars 4 deg N of Moon | | | | | | |
| Dec 15 | Moon 1st Qtr | | | | | | |
| Dec 21 | r 7:10a s 4:57p | r 5:35a s 3:39p | r 3:39a s 2:19p | r 11:46a s 11:33p | r 5:38a s 3:35p | r 7:54a s 5:42p | s 5:49a r 4:20p Ill 97% |
| Dec 21 | Winter Solstice, winter begins at 8:22a | | | | | | |
| Dec 22 | Full Moon at 10:49a; Ursid Meteor Shower peak | | | | | | |
| Dec 25 | MERRY CHRISTMAS | | | | | | |
| Dec 28 | r 7:13a s 5:01p | r 5:54a s 3:35p Mag -0.4 | r 3:31a s 2:13p Mag -4.5 | r 11:30a s 11:28p Mag +0.4 | r 5:18a s 3:13p Mag -1.8 | r 7:30a s 5:18p Mag +0.5 | r ** s 11:53p Ill 64% |
| Dec 29 | Moon last Qtr | | | | | | |
| Dec 31 | Bye Bye 2018 | | | | | | |

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.

December Night Sky—

~CHARLIE CHRISTMANN

NIGHT SKY

REDUCE NIGHTTIME GLARE. PLEASE TURN OFF OR SHIELD YOUR OUTSIDE LIGHTS DOWNWARD. ENJOY THE STARRY NIGHT SKY.

Hurricane warnings are up—no, not for New Mexico, or even the United States, or our planet. This warning is extending well beyond our planet to the entire solar system, but don't worry, you won't feel a thing.

The storm began about a billion years ago when our home galaxy, the Milky Way, started cannibalizing a smaller dwarf galaxy that came too close. This instance of cannibalism is likely not the first.

In our galactic neighborhood, creatively called the "Local Group," there are two large spiral galaxies, the Milky Way and Andromeda, along with forty or so known smaller galaxies all within a volume of ten million light-years. The rest of the group is made up of a myriad of dwarf galaxies that mainly orbit either our galaxy or Andromeda.

The best known of the dwarfs orbiting the Milky Way are the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, but other, more recently discovered, dwarfs are much closer to us, such as the Canis Major Dwarf and the Sagittarius Dwarf Elliptical Galaxy. Yet, astronomers think there are many more satellite galaxies orbiting the Milky Way.

Just recently, a new satellite galaxy, named Antlia 2, has been found using the European Union's Gaia satellite during its stellar survey. It was difficult to spot because it is hiding our own galaxy's bright disk and it is a lightweight. Antlia 2 is spread out and dim, more so than expected for a galaxy 7,000 light-years across, about the same as the Large Magellanic Cloud, which is much brighter. There could be others like Antlia 2 hiding in the neighborhood.

Astronomers now believe that, again using Gaia data, that the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds collided millions of years ago and the smaller cloud lost. There is a blob of stars associated with the smaller galaxy that is moving away from the main body. These were likely separated by the collision.

Further studies of stars in our home galaxy show many star streams that are out of place. These seem to be the remnants of former dwarf galaxies consumed by the Milky Way, ripped apart by our galaxy's gravitational tidal forces. One example is the stream of stars arching out of the Sagittarius dwarf galaxy, discovered by astronomers Vasily Belokurov and Daniel Zucker using data from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey II (SDSS II).

"The stream appears forked," Belokurov said. "We are seeing different wraps superimposed on the sky, as the stream goes around the galaxy two or three

times."

In addition to the Sagittarius arches, the SDSS II shows faint trails of stars torn from globular clusters, and other rings, trails, and lumps that appear to be the remains of disrupted dwarf galaxies. Another large stream wrapping around our home galaxy is called the Monoceros stream, discovered by Heidi Jo Newberg of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., and Brian Yanny of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill.

Unlike Antlia 2, which is large but lightweight, most dwarf galaxies are filled with bright stars and should be loaded with dark matter that holds them together. Yet dark matter has never been directly detected. It is only known by its gravitational effects. Dark matter was first conjured up to explain why spiral galaxies, like ours and Andromeda, spin faster than expected without flying apart, like a rider not holding on to a merry-go-round.

Several large experiments, using many tons of different materials, have tried to detect a collision between a dark particle and an ordinary atom—no luck in several decades of trying. Even though physicists think dark matter outweighs ordinary matter five-to-one, we still just can't seem detect it.

Last year, astronomers, again using Gaia data, have found one of those streamers of stars (dubbed S1) is heading in our direction, moving in the opposite direction from the stars in the galactic disk. If this streamer is from a "normal" dwarf galaxy, it should have a slug of dark matter moving along with it. The outer reaches of this dark matter blob, if it exists, should be reaching our solar system now traveling at a relative oncoming speed of 310 miles per second.

But, do not fret; as we have been unable to detect dark matter, it must interact very weakly with ordinary matter. Over your lifetime, many billions of particles will pass through your body unbeknownst to you. So, this so-called dark matter hurricane heading our way will in reality be a nonevent for most of us. Scientists, though, may finally have a better chance of detecting a dark matter particle, if they do exist.

from page 11—Horses

January, 1 newly elected Commissioner Katherine Bruch, would serve on the council by virtue of their office. They could, however, designate someone as their representative.

The additional county members would represent the Sheriff's Office and Community Services Department.

The action came after Heather Balas of nonpartisan New Mexico First presented the results of an online survey asking primarily Placitas residents about horse issues. A community survey, like the advisory council, was among the recommendations from the 2014 task force managed by New Mexico First but never acted upon by the county.

Of the 514 who responded to the survey, 418 were Placitas residents or property owners. Sixty-eight percent of the Placitas group supported forming an advisory board, and 47 percent said they were willing to pay an assessment not exceeding \$100 annually to support it, Balas said.

"It's worth it for you to know that far more people favor protecting the horses than removing them," she added. However, added comments showed a "culture of distrust" between neighbors, which speaks to the need in the community to find solutions, Balas said.

Comments also expressed support for using contraceptives to keep the horse population from growing, creating sanctuaries, using range science to determine a maximum population and building strategies around that, relocation of the animals, and more fencing of roadways. Balas also cited a broad mix of responses she labeled "slow down" from people suggesting a lot of problems would be solved by changing driver behavior and reducing speed limits in Placitas.

In the week following the commission meeting, two more horses died after being hit by vehicles in Placitas. (See related story on page 19, this *Signpost*.)

Meanwhile the county is moving toward limiting the horse population through a pilot program to administer the contraceptive PZP. The county has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for the administration and management of what is billed as a Pilot Fertility Control Program for the Free Roaming Horses of the Placitas Area.

Responses to the RFI are due in the county purchasing office by December 18.

The PZP contraceptive is administered by darting mares. Previous attempts to start such a program have been blocked by a Livestock Board regulation limiting its use to owners, under the supervision of a veterinarian, applying it to their own horses.

AROUND TOWN

~CONTINUED

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**\$550,000 - 39 Petroglyph Trail
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**\$590,000 - 3 Cloud View Court
3 BD 2 BA - 2,778 SF**

Light, luxurious CUSTOM Southwest Contemporary abutting the BLM land for privacy and a quiet peaceful atmosphere. This one of a kind transgenerational home features a wide range of innovative, cutting edge architectural components, appliances, fixtures and products.



**\$428,828 - 6 Strahl Avenue
3 BD 3 BA 2,281.7 SF**

Step into a Placitas master piece, and a dream! This tranquil home has generous natural light, brick and wood floors, viga ceilings, a sunken living room with a cozy kiva fireplace, a relaxing and airy master suite upstairs with a private office. Spacious lovely kitchen, hints of southwest accents.



**\$575,000 - 95 Overlook
3 BD 3 BA - 3,045 SF**

Perched high on a ridge this 1.3 acre property has an expansive view from every window. Recent complete remodel of kitchen featuring Distress cherry cabinets with soft close and pull outs, volcano satin granite, GE Profile appliances, RO system.



**\$564,000 - 10 Solar Court
3 BD 2 BA - 2,700 SF**

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**\$538,000 - 23 Mimbres Court
3 BD 3 BA - 2,180 SF**

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**\$439,000 - 6 Norte Trail Court
3 BD 2 BA - 2,850 SF**

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re: dead owl found

If you're using poison to kill mice and packrats on your property, PLEASE STOP! You are killing the owls and other animals that prey on rodents. If packrats are getting into your [car] engine, put a 2x6 plank under your hood to prop it open six inches and secure it with a bungee cord. That's all you need to do to keep them out!

I posted this notice in my neighborhood and at our local library. I felt bad about this little brown speckled owl that I found in my backyard under a bush. A new neighbor, recently relocated from the city, admitted to putting out poison pellets for the packrats. She agreed to stop and try our 2x6 remedy for the packrats—which can be an expensive problem. People either put out poison or call in a pest control company to do it for them. There are reputable pest control companies who practice IPM or Integrated Pest Management (aka pest proofing) rather than just put out poison traps or worse yet, cruel and inhumane glue boards to immobilize the mouse until it dies from exhaustive struggling to get free.

If you hire a pest control company, by all means quiz them to find out exactly what they plan to do. In most cases, you can do the job yourself. The most humane method is curiosity traps like Tin Cats or Repeater that will collect several mice that can then be released back into the wild away from your house.

If you can stand the gruesomeness of it, snap traps will do the job, but be sure to bait them with gum drops or tootsie rolls that will stick to the mouse's teeth and not get nibbled and licked away.

Whatever you do, DO NOT put out poison pellets inside or out. If it's in your house, the mouse could crawl off and die in some hidden place and stink to high heaven. If you poison around outside, you will endanger your pets, children (some baits look like candy), and other animals that feed on the poisoned mice. They will drag their weakened selves off and make easy prey to owls, coyotes, your dog or cat. And it won't work! For every rodent you kill, there will be a new one to fill the vacancy you've created. You will be starting a destructive cycle that will ripple through the environment causing death and disease far beyond the poison pellet. Coyotes who eat poisoned mice have weakened immune systems leading to all kinds of diseases.

I hope you're now thoroughly alarmed and sworn to never using rodenticides. Don't despair. Visit naturalcleaning-guide.com for ten non-toxic methods to get rid of mice, ranging from peppermint oil-soaked cotton balls to instant potatoes to dryer sheets. My personal favorite—get a cat! But please, don't use rodenticides.

—BARBARA ROCKWELL, Placitas

Sandoval County Proposed Oil and Gas Ordinance

~PETER J. ADANG, COMMISSIONER, SANDOVAL COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

Dear Readers: for those citizens of Eastern Sandoval County who are concerned about the proposed new Sandoval County oil and gas ordinance, an article in the November 17 issue of the *Albuquerque Journal* entitled "Dunn: Oil 'Gold Rush' Ravaging Environment" should come as a warning bell.

As a member of the Sandoval County Planning and Zoning Commission, I participated in its consideration of as many as five different oil and gas ordinance proposals for submission to the County Commission for adoption. During those proceedings, I heard the assertion made numerous times that environmental protections, particularly aquifer protection, contained in a couple of those ordinance proposals, were unnecessary because "the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division (OCD) takes care of those matters." According to State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn that isn't true.

Dunn, who was a supporter of oil and gas development when elected to the State Land Commission office, claims that there are "hundreds of violations by oil and gas operators on state lands... that pose a risk to the environment." Dunn blames the OCD for failing

to enforce environmental regulations. He says that: "I have great concerns whether the OCD is adequately performing its regulatory functions to protect the citizens of New Mexico."

It isn't surprising that the OCD does little or nothing to protect the environment. As U.S. District Judge James O. Browning pointed out in his decision on the legality of a Mora County oil and gas ordinance: "The [New Mexico] Oil and Gas Act is focused primarily on the prevention of waste and the drilling and maintenance of oil and gas wells. The Oil and Gas Act prohibits the production or handling of oil and gas in a manner that constitutes or results in waste." In other words, the New Mexico Oil and Gas Act is not an environmental protection statute.

The OCD has attempted to rebut Dunn's claim that there are more than five hundred non-operating wells that have been "plugged up" without remediating the surrounding areas, leaving abandoned tanks, batteries, flow lines and other equipment that poses a risk to the environment. The OCD, as might be expected, denied

—continued next page

Local author Mary E. Carter wins New Mexico-Arizona Book Co-op award

I, Sarah Steinway, a novel by Mary E. Carter, is a 2018 WINNER in the annual New Mexico-Arizona Book Co-op Awards. Her novel features a seventy-five-year-old woman who survives a huge rise in sea levels by living in her treehouse. It is available on amazon.com and at Bookworks in Albuquerque on Rio Grande Boulevard.

Reviews have been enthusiastic:

- “The character of Sarah Steinway is indeed a human being; feisty, flawed, and utterly engaging. Highly recommended.” — Sheryl Stahl, Director, Frances-Henry Library, HUC-JIR, Los Angeles

- “Sarah is the joyful, complex hero figure in Carter’s post-apocalyptic novel set in the not-so-distant future.” —David Steinberg, *The Sunday Albuquerque Journal*

- “An utterly original imagining of a post-apocalyptic world, lightly using the tropes of dystopian and disaster fiction, while depending on ingenuity and emotional depth to carry the story.” —*Publishers Weekly* Quarter-Finalist BookLife Prize



Mary E. Carter book cover and plaque

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re: Our Lady of the Open Road needs Placitans' stories for book

I'm and writing on behalf of my mom, Denise Miller, our lady of the open road. Over the years the city of Placitas has cheered her on with waves, smiles, words of encouragement, and stories of how her friendly waves have touched them. She truly is touched by the support and would like to request that if anyone has a story they would be willing to share, that they reach out to us at Connelly_33@yahoo.com.

As some of you may have heard when my mom was on the radio a few weeks ago, she hopes to write a book about her running journey, filled with not only her own stories, but those of the people of Placitas. So any help you can give us, we'd greatly appreciate it.

Thank you in advance,
—LISA RICHARD

from page 16—Ordinance

Dunn's assertion; and the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA), the industry's paid "mouthpiece," predictably claimed that oil and gas operators were acting responsibly.

However, the fact that the state has already been paid millions of dollars by oil and gas operators to settle environmental claims belies the OCD and NMOGA assertions that everything is "hunky dory." NMOGA's assertion that the industry invests "hundreds of millions of dollars each year...to protect against impacts on the environment" rings particularly hollow in light of the environmental disasters caused by horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing around the United States. It is doubtful that residents of Colorado, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wyoming who have experienced contamination of fresh water supplies from fracking fluids, or residents of Oklahoma and Arkansas who have suffered property damage from earthquakes caused by fracking fluid waste disposal injection wells would be comforted by NMOGA's excuses.

The additional fact pointed out in the *Albuquerque Journal* article that the New Mexico legislature has been cutting OCD's budget in recent years doesn't increase public confidence that, once oil and gas development takes place in eastern Sandoval County, the environment in general, and our Santa Fe Group fresh water aquifer system, will be protected by the OCD.

The Sandoval County Commission will be voting on a proposed new oil and gas ordinance before the end of the year. The ordinance was originally drafted by a Citizens Working Group (CWG) appointed by the County Commission. The mandate to the CWG was to create an ordinance that assured aquifer protection. The CWG draft complied with that mandate by proposing a ban on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in eastern Sandoval County because that is the only way to insure against aquifer contamination. However, by the time that the CWG draft got through the County Commission initial review process, many of the environmental protections were stripped out of it, including the complete ban on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in this part of the County. Instead, as a concession to bullying threats of litigation by a single property owner with deep pockets and large, unproductive land holdings, there is a possibility, if not likelihood, that horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing will be taking place right under our drinking water aquifer.

I have grave concerns about this proposed ordinance and urge every interested citizen of eastern Sandoval County to make known to the County Commission that we won't tolerate this threat to our most precious natural resource—our vital water supply. It's time that the people who live and work here in eastern Sandoval County face up to the outsiders whose only objective is to make a quick profit regardless of their impact on our environment and quality of life.

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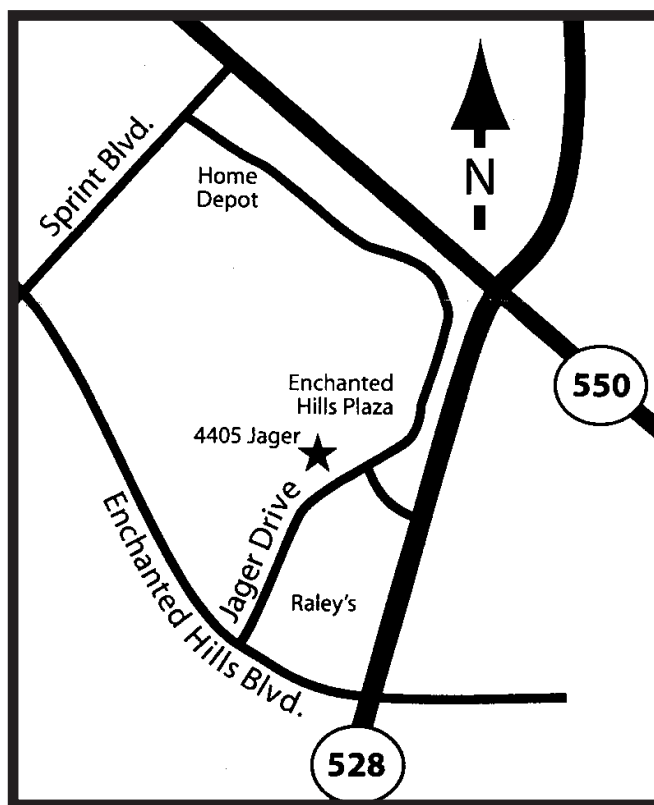
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Scammers targeting PNM customers, PNM working with FBI

~SHANNON JACKSON, PNM

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) is receiving reports from business and residential customers that scammers claiming to be with PNM are threatening to disconnect electricity unless a payment is made. Nearly 550 scam reports from PNM customers have been received since October 26 and that number continues to grow.

PNM is working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) because these fraudsters are using VoIP telecommunication phone lines to scam customers out of money, which is a federal crime. PNM and the FBI are asking New Mexico customers for help by reporting the details of any scammers that may have contacted them to the FBI so the agency can track and analyze them against similar scams and suspects. Reports can be made at www.ic3.gov. PNM is also asking customers to report the same information by calling 888-DIAL-PNM.

PNM customers throughout New Mexico are being targeted with a steep influx in the last 3-weeks. Scamming electric customers out of money by threatening to shut off their power is not new, and utilities across the country see it often. The scam has been known to come in various forms so be on the lookout.

If customers ever feel like their safety is at risk, local law enforcement should be contacted immediately by calling 911.

Vehicle collisions claim two more horses in Placitas

PUBLIC SAFETY

~BILL DIVEN

Just as Sandoval County launched its effort to tamp down conflicts over free-roaming horses in Placitas, two more of the animals died after collisions barely 48 hours and a mile apart on State Road 165.

The first crash around 9:00 p.m. on November 12 just west of Placitas village left the driver showered in windshield glass and his 2015 Nissan totaled. The second involved a hit-and-run driver sometime on the night of November 15 near Placitas Elementary School.

The previous week, the County Commission approved creating a joint citizen-government advisory council to work on the human-horse conflicts in Placitas. (See related story on page 11, this Signpost.)

"I was driving, and the next thing I knew, my air bags deployed," Jacob Maes told the *Signpost*. "I got some glass shards on my head, my arms."

Maes, a utility contractor who maintains wells and water systems, said he's always on alert for horses and was at or below the 45 mph speed limit. He had just passed one of the recently installed highway signs warning of loose horses when one came out from behind brush and a guardrail.

"I didn't run into a horse; a horse ran into me," he continued. "I feel so bad for the horse. Nobody feels worse than I do... I have apple trees, and they were eating my apples that day."

Maes said he had been staying neutral in the ongoing horse controversy but sees a public-safety problem that is only getting worse as the population of people and horses increases.

"The horses are important, but my safety, my neighbors' safety, is more important," he said.

To make a bad situation worse, a woman stopped at the scene and began yelling about how "These damn speeders don't pay attention." The Sandoval County sheriff's deputy investigating the crash told the woman to leave.

"I could have lost my life, and she shows up and is telling me off," Maes said. "Neighbors shouldn't treat each other like that."

In the November 15 incident, Gary Miles, founder of Placitas Animal Rescue, told the investigating deputy he received an anonymous phone call that night about an injured horse but was unable to locate it. Another call the following morning helped Miles find the horse.

A sheriff's deputy who responded wrote in his report, "I also observed markings on the road consistent with the horse being struck or moved from a standing position and dragged westbound on the road where its hooves appeared to scratch the roadway. The horse itself had no markings or tags, and no evidence of tack or shoes on its hooves, consisted with a wild or un-owned animal."

Both horses survived the collisions but were so badly injured and suffering they were euthanized at the scene with gunshots. Maes was not cited for any traffic violations, and the case of the second horse was closed unless additional information surfaces.

Two horses died earlier this year after nighttime hit-and-run collisions on near the Placitas Community and Senior Center on Camino de las Huertas, a main road heading north and west from NM 165 in Placitas village. An adult horse was found dead in a ditch near truck grill parts several days after a collision in April, and, in June, a foal was put down on-site after being discovered badly injured and partially on the roadway.

New faces coming to County offices as recount ordered in House race

BUSINESS

~SIGNPOST STAFF


While the Placitas-area district elected a new county commissioner, the question of who will represent the area in the state House remains undecided.

At *Signpost* deadline, state Rep. Gregg Schmedes, R-Tijeras, led Jessica Velasquez, D-Sandia Park, by 140 votes out of 16,246 cast, according to official results. That is a difference of 0.86 percent, which, at less than 1 percent, is enough under state law to trigger an automatic recount.

The State Canvassing Board, meeting twice in late November, also ordered a recount in one other House race and was expected to do the same in another: District 20, where Rep. Jim Dines, R-Albuquerque, trailed Democratic challenger by 115 votes, and District 63, where incumbent George Dodge Jr., D-Santa Rosa is losing to Republican Martin Zamora by 27 votes.

Velasquez and Schmedes are competing in House District 22, which includes

—continued next page



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from page 19 —Election

Placitas, Algodones, and La Madera in Sandoval County as well as Albuquerque's East Mountains in Bernalillo County and three precincts in far-southern Santa Fe County. Velasquez won the Sandoval County vote by twenty percentage points, lost the Santa Fe precincts by 26 points, and trailed Schmedes by three points in Bernalillo County.

Schmedes was appointed to the House by the governor after winning the June primary to fill out the term of Rep. Jim Smith, R-Sandia Park, who resigned to run for the Bernalillo County Commission and was then appointed to fill a vacancy there. Smith lost that contest to Democrat Charlene Pyskoty 52 percent to 48 percent.

In the Sandoval County District 1 race, Democrat Katherine Bruch bested incumbent Commissioner James Holden-Rhodes 6,796-4,228 for a four-year term. Both are residents of Placitas.

She and other county officials will be sworn into office on December 31. Holden-Rhodes had been appointed to the commission in August 2017 to fill a vacancy.

In the contest of District 3 in Rio Rancho, Republican and former Rio Rancho Fire Chief Michael Meek defeated Independent Kathleen Colley 6,706-5,232. He will succeed Republican Commissioner Don Chapman who was term limited after two terms.

In other state House races, Rep. Derrick Lente, D-Sandia Pueblo, was reelected without opposition while Rep. Jane Powdrell-Culbert, R-Corralles, survived a challenge from Democrat Benton Howell of Bernalillo.

Newcomers to county offices include Democrats Ann Marie Maxwell-Chavez, elected Division 1 magistrate judge, Linda Gallegos as county treasurer, and Jesse James Casaus as sheriff. All are filling posts vacated due to term limits.

Democrat Charles Aguilar was elected probate judge, a position he held in the past.

Voters also approved three bond issues for libraries, public safety and telecommunications equipment and public safety projects. And a tax increase to support new trauma and behavioral health services at Sandoval Regional Medical Center also passed.

The bond issues and tax increase all passed by margins of at least 27 percentage points.



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Classical guitarists always draw a large and enthusiastic crowd when they appear in concert at the Placitas Artists Series. In recent years, PAS has presented guitarists from Greece, Italy, Bolivia, and the U.S. This month, Russian guitarist Irina Kulikova brings her special flair to Placitas.



Guitarist Irina Kulikova

Kulikova began playing guitar at age five and by the time she was a teenager was performing all across Russia and Europe. Since then, she has won top honors at several international guitar competitions and has broadened her performance territory to include Asia and North America. She has been lauded for "the rare beauty of her sound and the captivating way she tells stories with her guitar."

Kulikova's Placitas program, featuring works by Chopin, Bach, Rudnev, Barrios, Gallardo del Rey, and Vassiliev, will be held on December 16, at 3:00 p.m.

As a special treat, the Albuquerque Academy Honor Guitar Quartet, directed by Jeremy Mayne, will open the concert.

The concert is generously sponsored by Dianna and John Shomaker, and Wendy Wilkins and Jay Rodman.

At 2:00 p.m., immediately prior to the concert, a free visual artists reception will feature the art of Jane Fritz, watercolor; Pat Harrison, oil and egg tempera; Dianna Shomaker, oil on canvas; and Risa Taylor, acrylic on gallery wrap canvas. Their works, which are for sale, will be on display December 1-28.

The concert and visual artist reception take place at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church in the village of Placitas, located six miles east of I-25 on NM 165 (Exit 242). The facility is completely accessible. For ticket information and further details, see page 2 of this *Signpost*.

Placitas Artists Series projects are supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information email info@PlacitasArtistsSeries.org, call 867-8080, or visit www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org.

Corrales Winter Crafts Show benefits church

On December 1-2, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, at the Old San Ysidro Church and Casa San Ysidro —966 Old Church Road and 973 Old Church Road respectively—the Corrales Historical Society (CHS) and Corrales Society of Artists (CSA) have partnered to bring you an exciting new show. Formerly known as the Old Church Fine Crafts Show, it is now the Winter Craft Show. It will occupy expanded space in both historic Old San Ysidro Church and the historic hacienda, Casa San Ysidro (sponsored by the Albuquerque Museum). Approximately fifty of New Mexico's finest artists will be offering beautiful handcrafted works of art. Free admission. Free parking. Open to the public.

Winter Solstice poetry reading

As part of their Earth Care Fellowship program, Las Placitas Presbyterian Church will be presenting their annual Winter Solstice Poetry Reading on Friday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and there is no charge. The church is located at 7 Paseo de San Antonio, in Placitas. For further information, visit lasplacitaschurch.org or call 867-5718.

Call for artists for the Placitas Studio Tour

One of the most popular and anticipated studio tours in New Mexico, the Placitas Studio Tour, is held annually Mother's Day weekend when Placitas artists invite the public to tour their studios. This non-juried studio tour is a self-guided, free event.

New this year, the Placitas Studio Tour application will be available to download from the tour's website—www.placitasstudiotour.com—on January 1, 2019, with a postmarked deadline of January 25. All applications must be mailed to PO Box 946, Placitas, NM 87043. For additional information contact: info@placitasstudiotour.com.

For the first time, the Placitas Artists Series and the Placitas Studio Tour have joined together to create a collaborative event held the entire month of April 2019 at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church in Placitas. All 2019 Placitas Studio Artists are eligible to participate in this exciting collaborative event. In addition to the month-long event, a Gala Reception featuring participating 2019 Placitas Studio Tour artists will be held on April 13, 2019 at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Additional details on this first-time event is available at placitasstudiotour.com.

The Placitas Studio Tour Board is inviting Placitas Studio Tour artists to submit an eye-catching image to be chosen for the tour's brochure cover and other media outlets. This image, along with the individual artists images, will be used to promote the 2019 Placitas Studio Tour. Deadline for images to be received for consideration is December 31, 2018.

Gallery showcases small works, and Roger Evans

Placitas octogenarian Roger Evans never fails to deliver art that makes us smile but is often rooted in social commentary. From December 4 to December 30, Evans will be the Wild Hearts Gallery's featured artist of the month. There will be an artists' reception on December 8, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Evans came to Placitas in the 1970s, then a forty-year-old architect who was intrigued by the young non-conformists living off the grid in New Mexico. He bought 23 acres of land and dreamed of building a sculptural, communal space. Not a commune, but a place of shared values and both shared and individual spaces. His dream was never fully realized, but it planted visions of what was to come.

In the late 1980s, he began sculpting animal figures (some larger than life) that he sold at art fairs around the country. He found he could reach people with humor, using animals to express the human condition. Traveling the dirt road to his dome house in the mountains, you are greeted by a menagerie of creatures, including a very large pair of mosaic horses. Inside there are sculpted bats hanging from shelves, magical rabbits, and a bathing cow.

Evans joins gallery artists this December for a celebration of the holidays and the art of giving. Eleven of the gallery's 14 members will be displaying "small works" (12" or smaller), perfect for holiday gifting. On both December 7 and 8, ten percent of sales will be gifted to Casa Rosa Food Bank in Placitas.

Wild Hearts Gallery is located in Placitas, at the Homestead Village, 221-B State Highway 165.

Wild Hearts Gallery is an artists' collective supported by 14 longtime local artists. They are painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, woodworkers, potters, printmakers, glass, fiber, and mosaic artists who are committed to sharing with others the many ways they create. Wild Hearts Gallery is open 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. (Open Christmas Eve 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)



**December
Pant Sale!**
15% OFF
ALL PANTS
that are not already on sale.

The Galleria Tamaya uniquely New Mexican gallery features handcrafted jewelry, copper-work, alabaster sculpture, Zuni fetish carvings, authentic pueblo pottery, paintings from local artists and much more! Find gifts and collectibles that are truly special and exclusive to this area.

*"I love this gift shop.
Wonderful finds—
all in one place!"*



Galleria Tamaya

Located at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and Spa
1300 Tuyuna Trail, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004
OPEN: Mon. to Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. • Sun. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(505) 771-6081 • galleriatamaya@gmail.com

The ART of GIVING:

An all-gallery "small works" event
plus guest artist ROGER EVANS

December 4–30, 2018

Artists' Reception Saturday, Dec. 8, 1–4 p.m.

Placitas octogenarian Roger Evans never fails to deliver art that makes us smile but is also often rooted in social commentary.



Home Sweet Home, Roger Evans

Roger joins gallery artists in this celebration of the holidays with his sculpture plus an exclusive selection of cards and signed prints of *Home Sweet Home*.

On Friday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8, 10% of sales will be gifted to the Casa Rosa Food Bank in Placitas.

Join us for hot cider and biscochitos.

Wild Hearts Gallery



an artists' collective

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

Open Tues–Fri 11–5 and Sat–Sun 10–3. Open Christmas Eve 10–2.

Homestead Village 221 St Hwy 165, Ste B Placitas NM 87043

WildHeartsGallery-NM.com

"Oh my Santa!"



Open all Sundays in December (2, 9, 16, 23) 10am-4pm, except closed Sunday, December 30 • Open Christmas Eve until 3pm
Closed Christmas Day and December 26 • Open New Years Eve until 3pm
Closed New Years Day and January 2

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Harris'



JEWELERS &
GEMOLOGISTS
892-3841
909 36th Pl. SE
Rio Rancho
(Across from
Turtle Mountain Pub)

OPEN: Monday-Friday 10am-5:30pm
Saturday 10am-4pm • harrisjewelersnm.com

SANDOVAL ARTS—CONTINUED

"Passages" show comes to Placitas library

~BECKY COHEN

For the Placitas Community Library's December exhibition, artists were challenged to portray truth, beauty, and memory. Peering through doorways, staring across meandering streams toward mountainous expanses, and up at a seemingly endless starry sky these artists share a mystical journey that is both personal and universal.

Participants include Bunny Bowen, Deborah Cole, Linda Heath, Karl Hoffmann, Lazare Iglesias, Meg Leonard, Bobbye Middendorf, Bonnie Mitisek, Carol Mullen, Alfons Schuster, Pam Troutman, Alfons Schuster, and more. Their paintings, pastels, prints and mixed media

two- and three-dimensional works beckon viewers to follow along.

The public is invited to attend the artists' reception on December 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., and to view the exhibit during library hours. The exhibition will run from December 1 to December 27. Artworks are available for purchase and a portion of every sale will benefit the library.

The January 2019 exhibition is entitled, *Faces*.

The Placitas Community Library is located at 453 Highway 165.



Painting, by Bonnie Mitisek



"Ladder to the Cosmos," by Linda Heath



"Barn Door," by Karl Hofmann

Area's drinking water at risk from fracking

~CRAIG BARTH

The oil and gas industry has targeted the central Rio Grande Valley for horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracking. In 2017 they proposed an oil and gas ordinance to Sandoval County, which would, with few restrictions, have allowed unconventional drilling (a combination of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracking) in unincorporated areas of the county. Although it was rejected in December, other industry-friendly extraction ordinances were placed before Sandoval County this summer.

You've seen the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association ads: "We've been fracking for oil and natural gas for more than fifty years without one case of ground-water contamination." Are industry claims of fracking's safety true? Can horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracking be done anywhere in the Albuquerque Basin without endangering our drinking water aquifer?

To begin to answer that question, horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracking (quite different from conventional fracking associated with vertical drilling) have only been going on nationally for about 15 years. In New Mexico, it has been done predominantly in the San Juan and Permian Basins in the northwest and southeast regions of the state. It has never been tried in the Albuquerque Basin.

The subsurface geology of the San Juan and Permian Basins differs dramatically from what lies beneath us. The strata underlying those two basins are long horizontal layers which are relatively undisturbed by high-angle faulting. Thousands of feet of solid rock lie between the shale gas and the aquifers near the surface. For this reason, hydraulic fracking in those basins has not resulted in contamination of drinking water aquifers.

The Albuquerque Basin couldn't be more different. It lies within the Rio Grande Rift Valley where immense tectonic forces exert pressure on the earth's crust. For this reason our basin is *heavily* faulted. The faults carve up underlying strata into many segments of differing

depths.

In many cases, the Mancos Shale (target of the fracking industry) has been faulted into direct contact with the drinking water aquifer. It's not hard to see how vulnerable our drinking water aquifer would be if horizontal drilling were to penetrate the aquifer.

There is also the danger that drill bores could cross fault zones directly. In this instance, toxic fracking fluids could migrate upwards along the faults from the Mancos Shale, where fracking is being done, and wind up in our drinking water aquifer.

Authoritative sources have established that the aquifer underlying the Albuquerque Basin is, for the most part, a continuous aquifer. Since the aquifer is deeper below Albuquerque than it is below Peña Blanca, and since water flows downhill, fracking fluids contaminating the aquifer anywhere north of Albuquerque could wind up flowing toward Albuquerque.

The recently published multimedia documentary movie, *SACRED LAND, SACRED WATER*, presents geological evidence demonstrating the likelihood of contamination of our aquifer should hydraulic fracking be allowed anywhere within the Albuquerque Basin.

Since 85 percent of our drinking water is drawn from our aquifer, this represents an intolerable risk to public health and to the region's economic sustainability. The movie also tells the story of how science and citizens have worked together to resist efforts by the oil and gas lobby to pass a fracking-friendly ordinance in Sandoval County.

SACRED LAND, SACRED WATER will be screened December 12, at 7:00 p.m., at the Placitas Library. Admission is free.



HEALTH

Bernalillo church distributes food bags, lunch sacks to those in need

The First Baptist Church of Bernalillo held its fourth Annual Fall Festival on November 3. The fun-filled event for the town of Bernalillo was to celebrate an awesome year of community. Guests enjoyed games, food, face painting, music, crafts, and fellowship. This year we added a hay ride for the kiddos (and young at heart). We thank Paul Madrid for loaning us many bales of hay to give us the fall look and for the hayrides.

Bernalillo's First Baptist Church shares its abundance by distributing food bags each Tuesday with those in the community needing some help. Signup is at 9:00 a.m., followed by a bilingual Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Food bags are handed out immediately following the service. Our food ministry also provides lunch sacks to in-need children at local elementary and middle schools. Our Sunday morning worship is at 10:45 a.m., following Bible studies for all ages at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Pastor Al Carroll at 867-8807.

The Manzanos

-EVAN BELKNAP

TIME OFF

—PHOTOS BY KOBE JANE

Kobe and I went to the Manzanos on Saturday. Despite growing up here, it was not a place that I thought to go. I always ignorantly saw them as merely foothills to the real, proper Sandias. I've seen them almost every day and never was my imagination sparked of what wonders might be in there. The secrets of New Mexico hide well.

We looked up some directions and followed dirt roads from Belen east for a dozen miles. The road, rutted out, but easily maneuverable with some clearance, felt wild and rugged. We drove through piñons, junipers, and fields of cholla until we reached an old campground.

I could tell that this campground must have been highly frequented some years ago, but since forgotten; beautiful rock stairs and artfully selected campsites looked like ruins of another time.

Around 1:00 p.m., we parked, got a daybag ready, and started walking up into the canyon. A quarter-inch-thick steel sign, with bullet holes melted through, guarded the entrance. We entered and started our journey.

Kobe had backpacked through the Manzanos a couple years ago with a friend of hers. Then, it was the dead of winter and snow filled the canyon. After a day-and-a-half of wandering, they came to a wall of burnt fallen trees and a ghostly crisp wind. They turned around without a word, Kobe said; it was a clear message from the mountain that no good would come from going any further. They both felt something there, but said nothing about it until they were far away, days later.

She told me of how haunted the canyons had felt, how up there in the burn, huddled down in their tent, Hannah and her and Gus the dog, felt as if they were in the deepest woods, vulnerable to monsters of this world or any other. Throughout the days, they'd noticed deep scratches in the trees and broken limbs of junipers, hanging ravaged by bears and mountain lions, fresh piles of dung, and footprints that looked minutes old, left by one animal or another. Indeed, they felt watched, that there was a presence there, not necessarily good or evil, but they kept a keen eye on Gus the dog and each other.

Leaving, a couple days later, she felt that she'd been on a great adventure in a separate reality, communing with nature, but even back at the trailhead, she looked over her shoulder periodically. Something was definitely up there.

Instead of never wanting to go back, she wanted to get back immediately, and she wanted me to come, too.

It took us almost a year, but finally back and hiking now, definitely Fall, the last golden leaves carpeting the trail, I was transfixed by the place. Firstly, there were Alligator Juniper trees everywhere, two hundred years old, I'd guess. I'd known



The target at the trailhead to the Manzano Mountain Wilderness

many old ones, up to 500 years old in Prescott, Arizona, where I went to college, and I've seen some old ones in the Zuni Mountains, as well.

We walked for a long ways. We had to get to the white wall, Kobe told me. I envisioned a sunny meadow where we could put down a blanket and enjoy our late lunch.

The sun teased us from nearby slopes. We were down with the cold shady wind. Miles of dark willows, cottonwoods, oaks, mountain mahogany, and all colors of granite boulders, eventually gave way to fins of black rock. And then the white wall emerged.

This dragon-like spire of white glass, green and black and red and gold, too, shimmered in the last tendrils of sunlight and, sure enough, there was a small clearing in the scrub oak to lie back and rest and take in the scene for a small moment in the sun. So profoundly moved was I to see such a diamond hiding in these mountains that I couldn't speak for many moments, staring upwards and outwards and inwards.

In my gazing, my eyes focused on some small dark shining spots, and sure enough, a few lines of ancient rusty bolts, from climbers long ago, dotted up the monolith. Nostalgia overwhelmed me, and I felt as if whomever that climber was, seeing that rock for the first time, and bolting those lines must have been me. Or, at the very least, I could feel exactly what whomever put those bolts in and climbed that rock felt: that a powerful force lived in this space, and it was cool to meet it.

Soon darkness took over once again. A cold wind picked up, cruelly. Kobe and I realized that we had no concept of when the sun might set. We huddled together bracing ourselves against the wind, and I was forced to acknowledge all the creepy feelings



Walkin' shoes

of ghosts and ghouls I'd been feeling since entering the canyon. I, too, had felt watched. I revisited all the strange markings and carvings I'd seen along the way that were far more subtle than any love note scratched into the trunk of a tree—odd modifications that made no sense. We pressed closer and I thought about how no matter how uncomfortable any particular moment might be, a hug just feels so right and good. And after all, it was a marvelous view: hillsides of granite, whole trees growing from the cracks.

The wind let out a howl like an animal, and I shivered. Kobe was laughing, in love with this other world. The whole place snarled and smiled at us as we hunkered together against that wall of glass.

Back at the parking lot, hours later, it was already dark—how could the day have slipped away so quickly? The sunset filled the sky from left to right—yellow to purple. We sat on my tailgate and watched until the stars gleamed above. A few dark clouds separated us from the glow of Albuquerque and, way out in the distance, the red lights from the towers on the Sandias blinked.

We were in no hurry to get back. We felt very peaceful and far away.

Rio Rancho public libraries invites the community to winter open houses

On December 5, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at Loma Colorado Main Library, all are invited to a special performance of *A Christmas Carol* by The Hampstead Stage Company. Afterwards there will be crafts for all ages, refreshments, hot drinks, and a festive atmosphere of good cheer.

On December 11, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., come to Esther Bone Memorial Library for hot

drinks and light refreshments, harp music by Anne Eisfeller, and activities for all ages in a cozy atmosphere. Build a gingerbread castle, make a magic wand, and more.

Patrons are invited to donate mittens, hats, and scarves to decorate the Mitten Tree at both locations. Canned food for local food banks will also be collected.

The Loma Colorado Main Library is located at 755 Loma Colorado Boulevard NE. The Esther Bone Memorial Library is located at 950 Pinetree Road SE.

All activities, refreshments, and entertainment are generously funded by the Friends of the Library of Rio Rancho.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To submit a listing: go to sandovalsignpost.com and click on Calendar. 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. "First Monday" means first Monday of the month.

Daily: **The Mayor Hull Show.** Go to 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.

Ongoing/Monthly: **Urban Horticulture Classes.** Sponsored by the Sandoval Master Gardeners.org. Free. Open to public. Registration preferred. SandovalMasterGardeners.org/public-class-registration.

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

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 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.

Mondays through Fridays: **Mothers' Day Out Preschool.** 18-months to 5 years old. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Aftercare 3-5 p.m. available. Held at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, 7 Paseo de San Antonio, Placitas. \$19 dollars per day. 867-3371, PlacitasMothersDayOut@gmail.com, www.PlacitasMDO.com.

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. This club gives you an opportunity to learn of the Clubs' many varied activities. 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. It's a great way to 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. 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.

Third Tuesdays: **Book Sale at the Martha Liebert-Town of Bernalillo Public Library.** 4:30-6:30 p.m. Located at 124 Calle Malinche in Bernalillo. 867-1440, kbanks@townofbernalillo.org.

Third 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) and at the front desk of the Town Hall by Friday preceding the meeting.

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.

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.

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, 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. 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.rraausa.org, 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.

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.

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, 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, 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 web site 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: **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 the meeting. www.sandovaldemocrats.org.

Second Fridays: **Monthly meeting of the San-Bern Federated Republican Women.** 11:30 a.m. The group offers meet-and-greet luncheons to discuss business and politics for both Sandoval and Bernalillo County Republican interests. They aim to promote an informed public through political education and activity. Republican women and men are invited to attend. Held at Pelicans West. www.sanbernfrw.org, or call Julie Wright at 720-4883.

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

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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. losranchos-growersmarket.com.

Second and fourth Saturdays: **Placitas Community Flea Market.** 7 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10 per vender site. 515-4323.

Third Saturdays: **Rio Rancho Northwest Mesa NAACP meets.** 11 a.m. Held at Don Newton Community Center. Public is invited. www.rrwmnaacp.org.

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

December 1: **Bernalillo Nighttime Christmas Parade and bonfire.** 6 p.m. "Theme: A Gingerbread House Christmas." Join the fun. Watch the parade down Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo. Catch candy. Concludes at Rotary Park with a bonfire, biscochitos, and hot cider. All welcome.

December 1: **Corrales Starlight Parade, St. Nick Night, and bonfire.** Starts at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to design and enter holiday floats with lights and seasonal decorations. Floats line up early at Wagner Farms. Parade heads south from there on Corrales Road to the Rec Center. Kids will get goody bags from St. Nick. Hot cider, cookies, coffee. Corrales Fire Department will offer free green Chile stew and tend a giant bonfire.

December 1-2: **Los Ranchos Holiday Stop and Shop.** Held in the Village of Los Ranchos. Drop in any participating business to pick up map. Along North Fourth Street, Albuquerque. Shop specials and refreshments along the way.

December 1 and 2: **Rio Rancho Youth Chorus Toy Drive.** 2 p.m. The (RR-YC) will present "Home for the Holidays" at Rio Rancho United Methodist Church, located at 1562 Abrazo Road NE. The community is encouraged to bring at least one new unwrapped toy to the concert. Tickets are available at www.rr-yc.com. Prices for concert tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Military, Seniors (65+), and Children (under 13).

December 1 and 2: **Village of Los Ranchos Holiday Stop and Shop.** Drop by any participating business in the Village of Los Ranchos—Kelly Jo's Design/Design by Wine, Dan's Boots and Saddles, the Antiqui Coop, A Few Old Things, Found on 4th, La Parada, and Rustic Home—for a quality holiday shopping experience.

December 1-2: **Thirtieth annual Winter Craft Show.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. Held at the Old San Ysidro Church and Casa San Ysidro—966 Old Church Road, and 973 Old Church Road. Approximately fifty of New Mexico's finest artists will be offering beautiful handcrafted works of art. Free admission. Free parking. Open to the public.

December 5: **Loma Colorado Main Library holiday open house.** 4:30-6 p.m. All are invited to a special performance of *A Christmas Carol* by The Hampstead Stage Company. Afterwards, there will be crafts for all ages, refreshments, hot drinks, and a festive atmosphere of good cheer. Rio Rancho.

December 8: **Artist reception for Roger Evans and Wild Hearts Gallery artists.** 1-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Ten percent of all proceeds will go to Casa Rosa Food Bank in Placitas. Evans never fails to deliver art that makes us smile but is often rooted in social commentary. Evans' work will be on display from December 4-30. Located at the Homestead Village, 221-B State Highway 165.

December 10: **Santa Fe Opera Holiday Concert.** 7 p.m. Free. Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. Details in "Sandoval Arts," this *Signpost*.

On December 11: **Esther Bone Memorial Library holiday open house.** 4:30-6:30 p.m. Come for hot drinks and light refreshments, harp music by Anne Eisfeller, and activities for all ages in a cozy atmosphere. Build a gingerbread castle, make a magic wand, and more. Rio Rancho.

December 12: **SACRED LAND, SACRED WATER—a fracking documentary.** 7 p.m. Screened at the Placitas Community Library. Admission is free.

December 16: **Placitas Artist Series.** Artist reception at 2 p.m.; concert at 3 p.m. Featuring Russian guitarist Irina Kulikova and visual artists Jane Fritz, watercolor; Pat Harrison, oil and egg tempera; Dianna Shomaker, oil on canvas; and Risa Taylor, acrylic on gallery wrap canvas. Their works, which are for sale, will be on display December 1-28. The concert and visual artist reception take place at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church in the village of Placitas, located six miles east of I-25 on NM 165 (Exit 242). The facility is completely accessible. For ticket information and further details, see page 2 of this *Signpost*. 867-8080.

—For more holiday calendar events, see "Christmas season brings..." next page

Bernalillo Senior Center activities

December 3: 9:30 a.m. bingo, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. Gestures game, 2:00 p.m. local shopping
 December 4: 9:00 a.m. WalMart, 9:30 a.m. crafts with Gina, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. senior advisory meeting, 1:30 p.m. group painting
 December 5: 8:00 a.m. Roadrunner Mobile Food Pantry, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 December 6: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 11:00 a.m. Central Grill for lunch and El Super Market, 12:30 p.m. Mexican Train dominoes, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz
 December 7: 10:00 a.m. Coronado mall, 12:30 p.m. billiards
 December 10: 9:30 a.m. bingo, 10:00 a.m. coffee social and Treasurer's Outreach Program, 12:30 p.m. Pictionary, 4:30 p.m. River of Lights \$12
 December 11: 9:30 a.m. crafts with Gina, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. crafts with Janet, 1:30 p.m. group painting
 December 12: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:30 p.m. tai chi, 4:00 p.m. potluck dinner and white elephant gift exchange
 December 13: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican train dominoes, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz
 December 14: 10:00 a.m. Enchanted Hills plaza shopping, 12:30 p.m. popcorn and games

Placitas Community Center activities

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

Monday: yoga 9:30 a.m., enhanced fitness 11:15 a.m., age reversing Essentrics 1:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: Pilates 8:15 a.m., Zumba 9:30 a.m., bingo 1:00 p.m., billiards 11:00 p.m. ukulele workshop 3:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: project Linus blanket making 9:30 a.m., cards 1:00 p.m., billiards 9:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m., tai chi 3:30 p.m.
 Thursday: Pilates 8:15 a.m., yoga 9:30-11:00 a.m., enhanced fitness 11:15 a.m. beading class 1:00-4:30 p.m.
 Friday: Zumba 8:00 a.m., having fun with clay 9:30 a.m., painting open workshop 9:30 a.m., enhanced fitness 12:00-1:00 p.m., Beyond the Brush/Mixed Media 1:30-3:30 p.m., billiards 1:30 p.m.
 SPECIAL CLASSES/EVENTS:
 December 1: dinner and Twinkle Light Parade at Nob Hill depart 3:00 p.m.
 December 3: Placitas history through photographs 1:00 p.m.

Christmas season brings town and church events

~SIGNPOST STAFF

With Christmas season upon the land, much is happening in and around Placitas and Bernalillo.

In addition to its regular worship services, Las Placitas Presbyterian Church is hosting a Christmas recital by Karen Green on December 10, at 3:00 p.m., a Santa Fe Opera Holiday Concert on December 13, at 7:00 p.m., and Candlelight Christmas Eve on December 24, at 7:00 p.m. Additional information is available from the church by calling 867-5718.

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Bernalillo will celebrate mass on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. with a children's choir and at 7:00 p.m. with another choir. Mass is also planned for San Jose Mission in Algodones at 6:00 p.m., the San Antonio Mission in Placitas at 8:00 p.m., and Sandia Pueblo mission at 11:00 p.m.

Bernalillo United Methodist Church, at 136 Calle don Andres in Bernalillo, will present a free short stories and Christmas carols program entitled "No Child Of Mine," starting at 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. All are welcome to attend.

Las Posadas processions, commemorating the journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem, will be held from December 15 through December 23, at 6:30 p.m. at various locations in Bernalillo and elsewhere. Hosted by families and parishioners, Las Posadas will be held in Algodones on December 18 and on Paseo de San Antonio in Placitas on December 20.

The town of Bernalillo is planning public events starting with a tree lighting ceremony outside Town Hall on November 29, at 6:00 p.m. and a Christmas parade on Camino del Pueblo on December 1, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The town's annual Christmas Fund toy drive is accepting new toys and donations to benefit children in Bernalillo through December 10. Toy and donations can be dropped off at Town Hall during business hours.

Applications for toys for children who otherwise might not receive any are being accepted through December 3. Last year more than 140 families and about four hundred children benefited from the fund.

The town also is hosting its holiday social on December 22, and Santa Claus will make an appearance at Town Hall on Christmas Day, continuing a tradition started by the Bernalillo Fire Department years ago. Children receive goody bags and can have their pictures taken with Santa.

COMMUNITY CENTERS

December 17: 9:30 a.m. bingo, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. family feud game, 2:00 p.m. local shopping
 December 18: 9:00 a.m. WalMart, 9:30 a.m. crafts with Gina, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. senior advisory meeting, 1:30 p.m. group painting
 December 19: 9:00 a.m. Echo Commodities, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. tai chi
 December 20: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican Train dominoes, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz
 December 21: 10:00 a.m. Big Lots, target, Burlington (shopping in Rio Rancho), 12:30 p.m. billiards
 December 24: 9:30 a.m. bingo, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. Gestures game
 December 25: closed
 December 26: closed
 December 27: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican Train dominoes, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz
 December 28: 10:30 a.m. billiards game day, 12:30 p.m. birthday social, 1:00 p.m. birthday dance
 December 31: 9:30 a.m. bingo, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. Pictionary

December 4: haircuts by appointment 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
 December 5: Road Runner food pantry depart at 7:40 a.m., trimming of the tree 10:00 a.m.
 December 6: trip to Chili Traditions and At Home 10:00 a.m.
 December 7: Chinese herbalist mini treatments 10:00 a.m., Sandoval County treasures office will be on site for property tax payments 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., local grocery shopping 12:30 p.m.
 December 10: holiday gift tags class 12:30 p.m.
 December 12: trip to Jemez Pueblo mariachi dancers and arts and crafts fair 9:00 a.m.
 December 14: tamale class 9:30 a.m., holiday candy class 1:00 p.m.
 December 17: health checks 11:00 a.m., birthday social 11:30 a.m., pinecone ornaments 12:30 p.m., white elephant gift exchange 2:00 p.m.
 December 18: field trip to river of lights at Botanical Gardens and dinner depart at 3:30 p.m.
 December 19: holiday open house 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Corrales Senior Center activities

Activities include exercise classes, yoga, line dancing, Latin Dance/Salsa dancing, aerobics, Bingo, board games, ceramics, arts and crafts, billiards, music, and computer and Spanish classes. Activities vary month to month. The Center also celebrates special events, and holds holiday parties, birthday socials, dances, and informal presentations.
 AGE REQUIREMENTS: 60+ years

OPERATION TIME:

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 4324-A Corrales Road, Corrales

ONGOING:

Open gym equipment, pool table available daily.

MONDAYS: Bingo, ceramics class

TUESDAYS: Morning Aerobics, Spanish class

WEDNESDAYS: Morning yoga, morning computer class, Bingo, ceramics class, afternoon Latin dance (Salsa)

THURSDAYS: Morning Aerobics, Spanish class

FRIDAYS: Bingo, ceramics class

Call the Center to check the activities schedule at (505) 897-3818.

Sandoval County Senior Centers' lunch menu

December 3: Shepherd's Pie, steamed cabbage, garden salad with dressing, biscuit with margarine, chilled apricots
 December 4: Stuffed bell peppers, steamed winter vegetable, garden salad with dressing, whole-wheat roll with margarine, chilled peaches
 December 5: Chicken a la King with carrots and peas, steamed green beans, garden salad with dressing, garlic toast, fresh banana
 December 6: Santa Fe Chicken, Spanish rice, steamed zucchini and onions, garden salad with dressing, cornbread with honey and margarine, apple crisp
 December 7: Fish fillet sandwich, roasted red potatoes, steamed peas and carrots, coleslaw, fresh orange
 December 10: Breaded chicken sandwich with lettuce and tomato, baked beans, steamed Italian veggies, garden salad with dressing, chilled peaches
 December 11: Breakfast for lunch, sausage and egg, pancake sandwich, breakfast potatoes, grilled pepper/ onions, chilled apple-sauce
 December 12: Beef stew with potatoes, carrots, onion, celery, steamed green beans, Garden Salad with dressing, whole wheat roll,

fresh banana
 December 13: Red Chile cheese enchilada, pinto beans, steamed chuck wagon corn, shredded lettuce and tomato, baked apples
 December 14: Spaghetti with meat sauce, steamed Italian green beans, cucumber and tomato salad, garlic breadstick, chilled pineapple
 December 17: Salisbury steak with mushroom gravy, parslid potatoes, steamed Winter veggies, Garden Salad with dressing, biscuit with margarine, chilled apple sauce
 December 18: Chef's salad with turkey, ham, tomato, cheese, and egg, croutons, Club crackers, fresh orange
 December 19: Pork posole, steamed zucchini and onions, Garden Salad with dressing, flour tortilla, fresh apple
 December 20: Baked ham and sweet potato, green beans almandine, Garden Salad with dressing, sweet roll with dressing, pineapple slice with fruited Jell-O
 December 21: Baked salmon with lemon butter, wild and white rice, steamed Italian vegetables, coleslaw, garlic breadstick, chilled peaches
 December 24: Country fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed cauliflower, garden

What's for lunch?

Also read the Sandoval County senior centers' menu on the *Signpost* website at: www.sandovalsignpost.com

salad with dressing, biscuit with margarine, chilled pears
 December 25-26: Merry Christmas—all centers closed
 December 27: Santa Fe chicken, rice with black beans and corn, Garden Salad, corn bread, orange
 December 28: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and gravy, steamed broccoli, Garden Salad, biscuit, banana
 December 29: Four-cheese lasagna, steamed Italian veggies, three-bean salad, garlic breadstick, grapes
 December 30: Chef's salad with turkey, ham, tomato, cheese, egg, croutons, Club crackers, fruit cocktail, pudding
 ...

Bernalillo Kiwanis Club forms **YOUTH** in support of area youth

~SIGNPOST STAFF

The international service club called Kiwanis is organizing in Bernalillo to expand its work helping kids grow and succeed.

It takes 15 members to start a club, and California-based Alan Guire, Kiwanis area chair for the western U.S., said they exceeded that goal on November 15.

"Last Thursday proved to be a great day for the community of Bernalillo and for Kiwanis as we were able to officially open the Kiwanis Club of Bernalillo with 16 members and growing," Guire said in an email to the *Signpost*.

Kiwanis, founded in 1915, operates under the motto "Serving the children of the world" and became co-ed in 1987. It boasts about 6,500 clubs worldwide with 200,000 members volunteering in support of young people.

The membership number swells to 600,000 when members of youth programs from preteen through college are added. Kiwanis tally about

150,000 community projects a year.

It is perhaps best known for Key Clubs first established in 1925 and billed as the oldest and largest service leadership organization for teens.

When Guire met with the Bernalillo Town Council on November 13, a couple of months had passed since he helped start up a Kiwanis club in Socorro. It began with 15 members and is now up to 27, he said.

The two communities face similar challenges, especially at the middle school level, he added. Kiwanis clubs look for creative ways to provide kids with a sense of purpose often while dealing with issues like fighting hunger and dealing with literacy.

"We're here to empower the kids to bigger and better things," Guire said. Membership is not limited to Bernalillo residents, he added.

Additional information is available on the website—www.Kiwanis.org. Guire can be reached at (800) 549-2647 extension 828 or aguire@kiwanis.org.



Generations of the Arriola family of Placitas spend part of the Sunday after Thanksgiving stringing lights and planting an inflatable Winnie the Pooh on the roof. From left are great-grandson Joseph Maes, his friend Daekoda Arias, granddaughter Sandra Chavez and grandfather Willie Arriola.

Cub Scout activities

~AMANDA GRIEGO

Cub Scout Pack 708 had a successful recruitment in November with a number of boys and girls and their families joining us from Placitas, Algodones, and Bernalillo. We welcome them and their enthusiasm.

We are grateful for the donations of food to the annual Thanksgiving food drive in which we participate with our sponsor, the Coronado Optimist Club, and with the Sandoval County Sheriff's Posse. The Posse members contributed turkeys, labor, and other food to make it possible to serve over seventy families in our area.

In December, the cubs will be in the Bernalillo Christmas Parade for the sixth year. We will also visit a nursing home again this year to sing Christmas Carols with the residents and share Christmas ornaments made by the cubs. At the same time, we will distribute Pinewood Derby kits to the cubs so that they can begin to design and fashion their racecars for the Derby in January. The Derby is one of the signature events of Cub Scouting, and the owners of the fastest cars can go on to compete in the Rio Grande District derby, held in March or April. Those with unique designs may also display their cars at the district derby. With the addition of new cub scouts, we will have more cubs earning rank advancements, with an increase in Bobcat badges being awarded. All of this is occurring as we recharter our pack for another year.

To find out how to join, contact Committee Chair Amanda Griego (507-1305), Cubmaster David Gardner (867-4689), or Coronado Optimist Club Liaison Snow Watson (867-2047).



Home For The HOLIDAYS!

Shelters & Rescue Groups from around the state will be joining Watermelon Mountain Ranch at this special holiday event!

Dec 14th Fri. 12pm-5pm
Dec 15th Sat. 10am-5pm
Dec 16th Sun. 10am-4pm





For more info
505-771-0140
wmranch.org



Donate Dog & Cat Food to Help Feed the Rescue Groups of New Mexico



Choose a Wish Card from the WMR Giving Tree and Give a Gift to a Homeless Pet This Holiday Season!

In The Big Tent
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10248 Coors Bypass Northwest
Albuquerque, NM

ANIMAL NEWS



Rio Rancho Mayor Gregg Hull and his wife Carrie enjoy attending Watermelon Mountain Ranch's annual Fur Ball.

Rio Rancho Youth presents "Home for the Holidays," a winter concert and toy drive

~NEAL SHOTWELL, PRESIDENT, RIO RANCHO YOUTH CHORUS

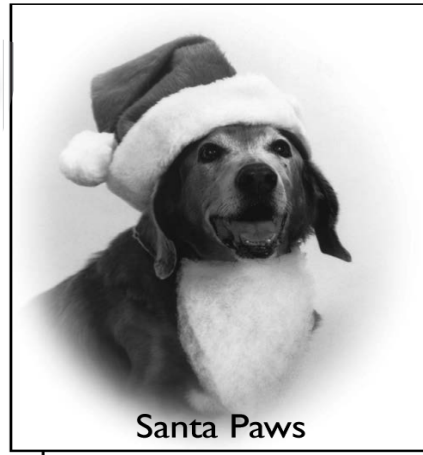
On December 1 and 2, at 2:00 p.m., the Rio Rancho Youth Chorus (RR-YC) will present "Home for the Holidays" at Rio Rancho United Methodist Church, located at 1562 Abrazo Road NE. RR-YC is a community chorale ensemble for middle school and high school youth and young adults. RR-YC is partnering with St. Felix Pantry to collect new unwrapped toys for distribution this holiday season.

We would like to invite the community to join us with an afternoon of beautiful classic and contemporary holiday music. We encourage all attendees to bring at least one new unwrapped toy to the concert to help us spread a smile or two this holiday season.

Tickets are available at www.rr-yc.com. Prices for concert tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Military, Seniors (65+), and Children (under 13).

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"Who, me?" Mr. Innocent, hanging around the backyard bird feeders. —VERONICA HAVENS, Bernalillo



Oh my darlin',
Oh my darlin',
Oh my darlin',
"Clementine!"

—ERICA SEDILLO



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ANIMAL HOTLINE

A free service of the Signpost to help reunite lost and found pets with their people. Lost, Found Seen: Fill in the form online at:
www.sandovalsignpost.com • Click on "Animal Hotline"

LOST Dog: Our female dog got loose on November 26 at about 3:30 p.m. She is a small Chihuahua, all black, and weighs only five pounds. Her name is "Pepper." She has a purple collar and blue bone-shaped tag with name and address/phone #. She was last seen at our house at 22 Mimbres Court in Placitas. She was wearing a red skirt/sweater. Photo attached. Please contact Chris Noyes at 703-405-8463 if you find her.

(right): "Pepper"
If you see me, email the Hotline!



Want to become a Master Gardener? Applications are being accepted now.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Sandoval County Master Gardener Program. Classes begin January 15 and meet every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. through April 30. The classes will be held at the Sandoval County Administration Building, 1500 Idalia Road, Room 2047 (2nd floor), in Bernalillo. Cost is \$175 and includes all course materials.

This training class is ideal for anyone interested in improving their home gardening knowledge. A variety of classes are taught by area specialists and NMSU professors, here are a few of the topics: Permaculture and Sustainability, Plant Identification, Fruit and Vegetable production, Tree Selection and Care, Pest Management. The class is open to all area residents.

Applications and more information are available at the website:
sandovalmastergardeners.org.

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ANIMALS

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Go to sandovalsignpost.com; click on Animal Hotline.

**WILDLIFE RESCUE—Call 505-344-2500.**  
An all-volunteer wildlife rescue program to assist injured or orphaned wildlife. A service of the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**  
Sandoval County is requesting information for the Administration and Management of a Pilot Fertility Control Program for the Free Roaming Horses of the Placitas Area. Sealed RFI's must be clearly marked on the outside of the package with the Offeror's Name and: "Administration and Management of a Pilot Fertility Control Program for the Free Roaming Horses of the Placitas Area and RFI# FY19-SCCS-01" which should include (1) original and (1) copy, and will be accepted by the Sandoval County Finance Division—  
Purchasing Office, Attention: Trish Greene, 1500 Idalia Road NE, Building D, 2nd Floor (NW corner of NM 528 and Idalia) in Bernalillo, NM until December 18, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.  
It is the responsibility of the Offeror to deliver the RFI to the appointed place by the appointed time. Late Requests for Information will not be accepted.  
The detailed RFI may be obtained at [www.sandovalcountynm.gov](http://www.sandovalcountynm.gov) (preferred) or from Trish Greene, Senior Procurement Specialist: (505) 404-5873 or [tgreene@sandovalcountynm.gov](mailto:tgreene@sandovalcountynm.gov).  
Sandoval County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, waive any and all informalities or irregularities and the right to disregard all non-conforming or conditional proposals and to contract in a manner deemed in the best interest of the County.

**NOTICE OF ELECTION**  
For  
**Ranchos De Placitas Water & Sanitation District Board of Directors**  
The Ranchos de Placitas Water & Sanitation District will conduct an election for the purpose of selecting two (2) new members for the Board of Directors of the District. The Board of Directors consists of three members. All positions are voluntary. One position will be a 4-year term and one position will be a 6-year term. The election will be conducted by mail-in ballots in January, 2019.  
Declarations of Candidacy for a position may be filed with the Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 8, 2018. Obtain a Declaration by calling (505) 404-8690.  
Ballots will be mailed out to qualified tax-paying electors of the Ranchos De Placitas Water & Sanitation District on December 28, 2018. Qualified tax-paying electors of the District, as defined in Section 73-21-4 (D) NMSA 1978, are eligible to vote in the election. Non-residents of the District may be required to provide proof that they are New Mexico registered voters and qualified tax-paying electors of the District. Qualifying tax-paying electors who do not receive a ballot by January 1, 2019 can receive one by contacting the District Secretary at 867-4559. Ballots will be due on, or before, 5:00 PM January 7, 2019 at 20 Chaparral, Placitas, New Mexico 87043. The ballots will be opened, qualified, and counted on January 8, 2019.

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| <p><b>Janice M. Fowler</b><br/>REALTOR®<br/>505-250-6946<br/>voice/text</p> <p>Property Management<br/>Home and Land Sales, Purchases<br/>Janice@PlacitasRealty.com<br/>www.PlacitasRealty.com<br/>Find us on </p> | <p><b>Placitas REALTY</b><br/>03 Homesteads Road, Suite A<br/>Placitas, NM 87043<br/>phone 505-867-8000<br/>fax 505-867-4113</p> <p>Working in<br/>Albuquerque, Placitas,<br/>Rio Rancho, and metro area</p> |
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