



# Besieged Sean ‘Spicey’ Spicer Calls for Backup

BY MARK FLEISHER

A telephone rings in an ornate office at the Kremlin.

“Press office,” says the man who answers the call.

“Give me Dmitry Peskov, and make it quick!”

“This is Peskov. Who the hell are you?”

“Sean Spicer. You might say I’m your counterpart in the White House in America soon to be great again.”

“Counter what? Oh yes, I know that word. We use it often, as in ‘counterterrorism,’ ‘counterrevolution-ary.”

“Yeah, right. Listen, Peskov, I was reading what you said about no Russian involvement in that guy getting offed in Ukraine. And the one about that fellow — what’s his name — who wanted to run against your president but can’t cuz he’s been convicted of fraud and embezzlement. I love it when you say of course he had a fair trial.

“You know, Dmitry, if I said things like that here, the press would be jumping down my throat in a heartbeat. Those a-holes already think we’re trying to do away with freedom of the press.”



“Sean, my friend, you’re just starting to get rid of press freedom now?

“Well, Dmitry, we’ve got this thing called the First Amendment in our Constitution that gives the press these freedoms.”

“Sean, there’s a Russian folk song ‘Me and Bobby McGeeovitch,’ and there’s a line that says ‘Freedom’s just another word for nothing left to lose.’ So let me assure you, Sean, freedom around here comes with the barrel of an AK-47. You get my drift?”

“Well, you know, Dmitry, we’ve had these lily-livered clowns and losers running this country for so long ... just horrible. But my boss and your boss have the same idea — standing up for the little guy. They’re partners, like Bonnie and Clyde.”

“I do not know this Bonnie and this Clyde, Sean. I was maybe thinking Sacco and Vanzetti. Listen,

while I got you on the phone, my boss says your boss’ daughter can sell her clothes here in Moscow — any store she wants, no questions asked.”

“Good to hear, Dmitry, but I better be quiet about that. You heard what happened to Kellyanne Conway, didn’t you?”

“Oh, yes, that blonde bimbo....”

“Not bimbo, Dmitry, not bimbo. Bombshell, please.”

“Not bombshell, Sean. We don’t use that word around here.”

“OK, Dmitry, they screamed bloody murder because she...”

“Sean, Sean, we don’t use the M word around here either. It may be too late. My office may be bugged and the phone tapped.”

“Sorry, Dmitry, listen, maybe we should text or email, instead.”

“No, you idiot! Didn’t you hear? We have hackers, too.”

*Albuquerque poet Mark Fleisher is a former newspaper reporter and editor.*

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**Our Mission Statement:**

ABQ Free Press Weekly exists to provide another point of view for people disserved by other news media, to expose facts that the powerful don’t want known, to call lies what they are, to stand up for the little guy, to demand fairness, justice, and common sense, and to entertain, inform and celebrate the good and beautiful in our world.

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**Corrections policy:**  
It is the policy of ABQ Free Press to correct errors in a timely fashion. Contact the editors at the email addresses on this page.

# Let the Spittle Fly

Gordon Sanders, a former KOB-TV news director-turned-commentator, ran for mayor of Albuquerque — twice.

In 1981, he didn’t stand a chance. Harry Kinney easily defeated Sanders and incumbent David Rusk, thanks to an unseasonably wet summer that led the city to become overrun by ragweed that Rusk’s crews couldn’t keep up with.

In 1985, the mercurial Sanders, known for his blistering TV attacks on government, ran again. By then, some of his former underlings, with nothing better to do than hang out at the Albuquerque Press Club, and knowing his penchant for tantrums and invectives, tried to mount a rump campaign on his behalf with the motto, “A Vote for Gordon is a Vote for News.”

To understand how Sanders was publicly perceived, at that year’s annual Press Club Gridiron roast, state Rep. Ted Asbury portrayed Sanders in a mayoral debate skit. With toothpaste in his mouth that foamed and kept foaming as he ranted and raved, Asbury finished his performance looking like a rabid animal.

I bring this up because we now have Gordon Sanders in the White House, except this one has nuclear weapons.

We can only hope the public doesn’t develop Donald Trump fatigue with each successive outrage as he sells out this nation to Wall Street, the Russians, or both.

With that rant out of the way, let me tell you a little bit about what’s in this issue.

The debate over expansion of medical marijuana in New Mexico has, sadly, taken a tragi-comedic turn as one side of the aisle treats the whole subject as a joke. You’ll find Melissa Wood’s account on Page 7.

Also on Page 7, you’ll read an account of Farm & Table Executive Chef Carrie Eagle’s turn in the national TV spotlight on “Chopped.”

On Page 17, meet former APD cop Michelle Garcia Holmes who wants to be Albuquerque’s next mayor.

And just to show that we can’t let it go, you’ll note that we’ve doubled our coverage of the Trump White House. That starts on Page 14.

— Dan Vukelich, editor

## Wayback Machine



Since we’re caught in some sort of geopolitical space-time anomaly, the Japanese group Pizzicato Five may be fitting for just this moment in history. Recording in the kitschy Shibuya-kei style of Japanese pop, this enduring group, with its Twiggy-skinny lead singer, wearing Daniel Boone coonskin caps and doing lame college-dorm dance moves, may take your mind off the man in the oval office — at least until the missiles start flying. Search for “Twiggy Twiggy” on YouTube.

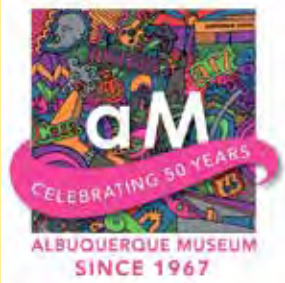
## Must See 3

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

### Klezmer and Knishes

9 am, Free, New Mexico History Museum, 113 Lincoln Ave, Santa Fe, (505) 476-5200, nmhistorymuseum.org

February’s 3rd Thursday Events is a celebration of Jewish culture through food, music, and art. This free event is full of music, performances and hands-on activities.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

### Chispa: Pimentel Concert Series, Pimentel Guitars 65th Anniversary

1 pm, Free, South Broadway Cultural Center, 1025 Broadway Blvd SW, 848-1320, southbroadwaytickets.com



This 9th Annual event showcases guitarists ranging from classical, to popular, to flamenco persuasion. The line-up includes Dan Lambert and the Creatures of Habit, Out of Nowhere Jazz Band, and Harry Irizarry.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

### Pulling Back the Veil: Kirk and Sheila Ellis

2 pm, Free, KiMo Theatre, 423 Central Ave NW, 768-3544, kimotickets.com

Join award-winning screenwriter and producer Kirk Ellis and wife, Sheila as they share their

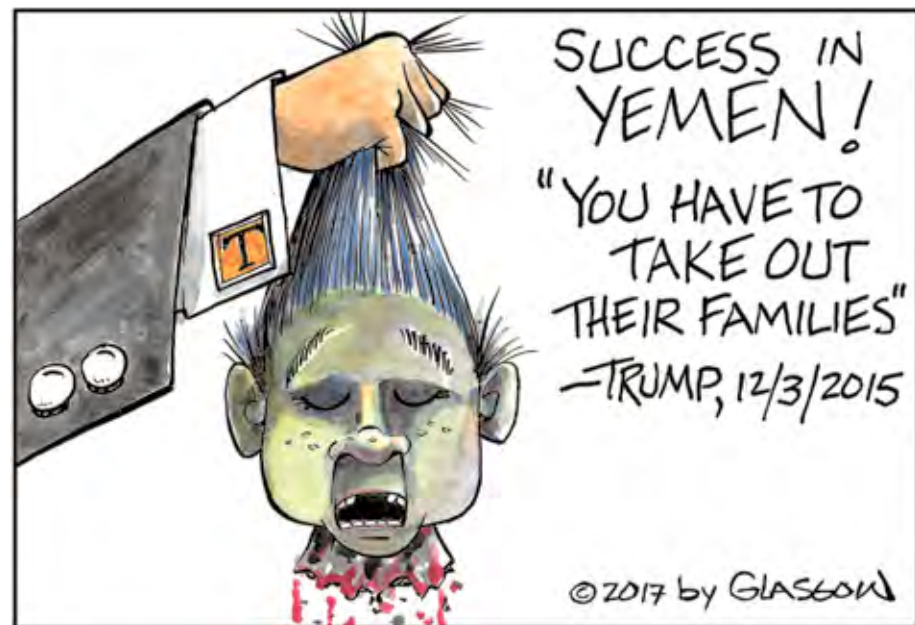


adventures through Teheran, Yazd and Isfahan, Iran. Learn more about Persian-Islamic Art, an ancient culture that has been clouded by media portrayal, and what it is like to travel as a woman in Iran.



## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



## To the Editor:

Your style manual change regarding not using the term “President” and “Trump” together was pure genius [Feb. 1-7 issue].

I have decided he is not my president and would love someone to question my American credentials because of my decision to not accept this president. My ready response is as follows:

President Barack Obama twice won the popular vote and the electoral vote, yet for 7 1/2 years Trump refused to accept him as our president. If not accepting the person who occupies the White House is un-American, then the present occupant is as un-American as any person in this country.

I enjoy the ABQ Free Press Weekly immensely and look forward to every edition. Keep up the good work.

— Richard Gonzalez

## To the Editor:

So, the otters and the penguins are to blame?

At least, that is the clear inference from a Journal article about our “manageable” [Berry’s words] shortfall of \$24 million. But that promises to be just the start:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is demanding more than \$1 million be returned due to the city’s mismanagement. Or is the root cause contempt and indifference? HUD first raised its concerns in early 2015.

APD remains out of control with a chief of police dedicated solely to blocking the DOJ Consent Decree. How many more millions will be spent while Eden’s command structure thumbs its nose? How many more multi-million dollar settlements are in the pipeline? Imagine the additional millions in settlements if the claims that videos were altered prove true?

ART, a delusion built on lies, has turned Nob Hill and the rest of Central into a wasteland. Millions in city money has already been spent, and there remains no assurance that a Republican administration will honor a pledge from the previous Democratic administration.

It will be hard to blame all of that on the otters and penguins.

I have a different culprit in mind: All nine of you city councilors – regardless of party affiliation.

All of you sat on your hands while the HUD problem festered, while the APD/DOJ Consent Decree spiraled

out of control and while you eagerly chased federal dollars for ART.

Do any of you travel? Can you not see that what attracts today’s urban professionals is a FULL urban experience, starting with a vibrant job market?

Do any of you visit your own district? You want federal money? Ask for some to fix the streets as a starter.

Don’t have the legal power to change any of it? Well then, use the bully pulpit that is always available to a creative politician. Everyone knows the Journal has declined to cover Berry’s administration objectively. But it would be difficult for the paper to ignore op-ed pieces signed by one, some, or ALL of you.

Refuse to allow Berry’s “management” of the shortfall to be an even greater scaling-back of essential services. Don’t we have enough street corners with beggars on them? One would think we have reached saturation.

Can’t fire Eden? You can surely pass a no-confidence vote.

Freeze ART. Right now. Before we spend even more city money on a project that may never see Federal funding.

This is not a question of seeking Democratic or Republican advantage. It’s not a question of positioning for the next mayoral race. It is a question of doing what is right for the city you have sworn to serve.

Shame on all of you for failing to do so.

— Bruce Shah

## To the Editor:

If you’re from Albuquerque, you might want to stay away from Rio Rancho. The majority of Red Flex red-light camera tickets are issued to Albuquerque addresses.

The City of Rio Rancho continues to ignore the several citizen complaints regarding this program. The City of Rio Rancho continues to ignore more than 40 percent of people who protest this program by refusing to pay the tickets, and it continues to ignore several U.S. Department of Justice investigations around the country involving the Red Flex Company.

The City of Rio Rancho continues to ignore the convictions of this company in relation to illegal actions in this state and all over the country. This program has pumped millions of dollars out of our city and millions of dollars out of our state.

— Anonymous

## Pulp News

COMPILED BY ABQ FREE PRESS WEEKLY STAFF

## Ming of beers

Stanford University students have used a 5,000-year-old Chinese recipe to make beer. First came the discovery this past May of ancient Chinese pottery that contained residue that later turned out to be beer made from cereal grains. Later analysis revealed the grains to be millet, barley and traces of lily roots and yams. Next came the brewing, which produced a fruity, cider-like beer now recognized as the oldest known alcoholic beverage. The pottery came from an excavation in northeast China.

## Bee-pocalypse



Scientists are experimenting with drones as possible replacements for the bazillion of bees that are dying off and depriving crops of needed pollination. Scientists at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology in Japan have successfully used drones with a surface coated with a sticky gel-like substance to bounce through flowers, picking up and depositing pollen. If you wondered about the numbers, there are about 80 million honeybee hives in the world, each containing about 40,000 bees.

## Inside job

Doctors in India pulled a live cockroach from inside a woman’s skull in a 45-minute operation using suction and forceps. Entering through the 42-year-old woman’s nose while she slept, “the cockroach had burrowed into the roof of the nose, almost near the skull base, which is the dividing point between the brain and the nose,” one of the doctors said. Had she ignored the burning, itching sensation, she likely would have died from infection.

## ‘All In’

A poker-playing artificial intelligence program won \$1.7 million in chips at a

20-day Texas Hold ‘em poker tournament in Pittsburgh. “Libratus,” an AI designed by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, beat four top human players and left them all with



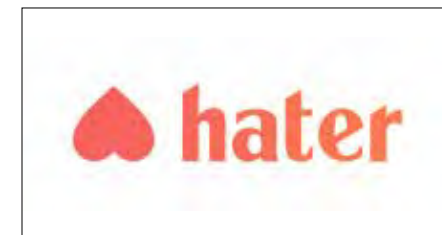
negative chip counts after 120,000 hands. “The bot gets better and better every day,” one of the poker pros said nine days into the event. “It’s like a tougher version of us.”

## Cause-effect

Where did we get our news during the 2016 presidential election? In a poll of American voters, Fox News came in first with 19 percent, followed by CNN at 13 percent, followed by Facebook and local TV news with 8 and 7 percent, respectively, according to the Pew Research Center. Among Trump voters, four in 10 said their leading source was Fox.

## Sharing

A new online dating app dubbed “Hater” matches people based on things they mutually despise: Donald Trump, paying extra for guacamole, people who walk too slowly, for example. “Hater is making serious



online dating more approachable by replacing cumbersome surveys and bios with a fun, alternative way to express your personality,” says the app’s website. Available now on iOS devices in the United Kingdom, Hater is expected to be available on Android devices in the spring. A recent Reuters/Ipsos poll found 13 percent of Americans ended relationships because of disagreements over the 2016 presidential election.

## Bendy Solar Panels?

BY JAMISON WAGNER

We may someday have solar panels that are lighter, cheaper, more flexible and in wide use – provided we can overcome some major challenges.

Luis Mejiaortega, a chemical engineering student at UNM, has been working for UNM Professor Yang Qin on developments that combine solar cell technology and polymers to make a new type of flexible solar cell for power generation.

These solar cells have a platinum core bonded with a polymer chain, making it easy to coat almost any surface with the stuff. Any surface could have the potential of acting as a solar panel.

“You can coat it onto windows or a thin plastic film. It reduces weight, the amount of materials used and the cost,” Mejiaortega said.

However, one of the challenges to overcome is that the compounds Mejiaortega and Qin use are harder to control and less efficient than traditional solar cells.

“The best traditional solar panels get about 30 percent efficiency, right now we’re at about 10 percent,” Mejiaortega said.

For the technology to become more usable, the panels must reach at least 15 percent efficiency. After that, Mejiaortega and Qin can focus on their long-term stability. That would make solar panels more affordable and more widely available.

“If we can make a system that is lightweight, that costs less and you do not have to have high tech or a huge facility to build these panels, that removes a lot of the barriers that prevent solar from powering areas,” he said.

There are concerns in the lab on how the recent presidential administration change will affect the lab’s ability to answer these questions.

“With this new election, [Qin] is now worried about securing funding for these projects, as we receive funding through the Department of Energy and National Science Foundation,” Mejiaortega said, adding that the lab may have to shelve the project indefinitely if they can’t secure funding.

*Jamison Wagner is an engineering student who enjoys playing with electricity. He suspects it may one day come to a shocking end.*

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# Persian Food: Cuisine from the Cradle of Civilization

BY STEVE “MO” FYE | food@freeabq.com

I like to write about cuisines from all lands. There are few mainstream American dishes that are not at least influenced by immigrant cuisines. For some reason, I am feeling like discussing dishes from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen over the next several weeks.

Iran, historically known as Persia, has some of the oldest written recipes. Aquifers and oases allowed more variety of edible plants and agriculture than found in most parts of the stereotypically arid Middle East. Ancient ingredients of the region include walnuts and pomegranates.


A classic dish of northern Iran is Kebab-e Torsh. This is as retro as it gets: hunks of lamb marinated in a mix of ground walnuts and pomegranate, then skewered and grilled. With the addition of herbs and aromatics, it has a great complexity of flavor that rivals modern haute cuisine.

Be sure to get actual pomegranate syrup rather than grenadine. Go to a Middle Eastern market or specialty store to find pomegranate syrup or molasses. The first (and ideally only) ingredient should be pomegranate concentrate. Most of the exotic ingredients I purchased for this column came from Ariana Halal Market (607 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Albuquerque). Tell Mohammed, the proprietor, that Mo sent you.

So, is it kebab, kebob, kabob or kebab? Trick question. All those terms refer to cooked meat. Translation and transliteration are difficult when dealing with languages with no common alphabet. Use whichever you like and someone will tell you you’re wrong.

Americans use the term loosely for anything on a skewer, but “shish” is really the word that should have been appropriated, as it is Turkish for skewer. The real question here is whether to use wooden or bamboo, or invest in metal skewers.

Disposable skewers are cheap, but need to be soaked before use and can leave splinters in your food. Dry skewers can catch fire and drop food into the flames. Stainless steel skewers are ideal. They transfer heat into



*Here's what's cookin'* Kebab-e Torsh: Grilled Lamb Skewers

with pomegranate and walnuts *Serves two, with rice and a vegetable*

*Recipe from the kitchen of* Steve “Mo” Fye

**Equipment:**

Food processor or blender; Gas or charcoal grill; Skewers;

Large bowl (or vacuum marinator) for marinating

**Ingredients:**

1 pound boneless lamb (leg is the easiest to find); 1/2 cup pomegranate syrup; concentrate or molasses; 1 cup walnut pieces; toasted; 4 cloves garlic; 1/2 bunch cilantro or parsley; plus 1 tablespoon chopped fine as garnish; 1/2 cup olive or canola oil or blend; 1 tablespoon salt; 2 teaspoons black pepper; 1 tablespoon ground sumac or lemon zest plus more for garnish

This recipe is best when marinated overnight, as the acids tenderize the lamb, but a quick marinade, especially under vacuum, will work. Trim the lamb of fat and silverskin, then cut into one- to two- inch cubes.

Toast the nuts over low heat or in the oven and let cool. To toast in the oven, spread the walnut pieces in a single layer on a sheet pan and bake for eight to 11 minutes at 325 F. Nuts can be toasted in a pan on the stovetop, but require careful attention to avoid burning. Stir constantly over low heat.

In a blender or food processor, grind the nuts finely. Add the garlic, herbs and spices and puree until smooth. Continue to blend and add the oil slowly.

When the mixture is emulsified, pour over the lamb and let marinate under refrigeration for two to 12 hours. If you are using wooden or bamboo skewers, soak the skewers while the meat marinates.

For a great side vegetable, slice summer squash lengthwise and marinate in lime juice, salt and olive oil.

Heat a propane or charcoal grill and start cooking long-grain rice seasoned with saffron and sumac. If you don't have a grill or it is too windy (it happened to me) use a stovetop grill.

Thread the cubed lamb on the skewers, leaving at least a half inch between chunks.

Toss ripe Roma tomatoes in a touch of oil, pierce once with a fork and place on the grill away from direct heat. Let the skin char lightly. When the tomatoes collapse under their own weight, they are done.

Grill the kebabs until the outside is just charred and the interior is rare to medium-rare (140 F to 155 F).

the center of pierced food and are easier to handle. Since steel skewers are usually flat in the cross-section, there is little risk of the meat pivoting and cooking unevenly.

Pita bread, lavash or sangak are traditional breads for this dish. All are among the easiest breads to make and take very little time to make. If you are not confident in your baking skills, these breads are available at any Middle Eastern market.

I garnish the plate with a drizzle of walnut oil and a sprinkle of finely chopped parsley and sumac. Pickled vegetables go great with this dish.

Nooshe jan! (Farsi for “bon appétit!” according to omniglot.com)

Steve “Mo” Fye is an Instructional Tech in the Culinary Arts program at Central New Mexico Community College and can't resist new cuisines.

## FOOD

### The Feed

BY BENJAMIN WEBB | food@freeabq.com

All the best food news for Albuquerque and beyond



#### Frontier

This past Friday, the Albuquerque landmark restaurant celebrated its 46th birthday.

2400 Central Ave. SE, Albuquerque

#### 505 Food Fights

Next month's 505 Food Fights will take place at New Mexico Fiery Food Show at Sandia Casino on March 4 at 1 p.m., and again on March 5 at 4 p.m. This special edition of the local food competition will feature six chefs and benefit Albuquerque Public School students who are overdrawn on their food accounts.

#### Humble Coffee

has added kombucha on tap as part of “the kombucha project,” an initiative to get kombucha on tap broadly available in Albuquerque and the greater New Mexico area.

4200 Lomas Blvd. NE, Albuquerque

#### Ruth's Chris Steakhouse

is hiring capable line cooks. Interested parties should apply in person.

6640 Indian School Rd. NE, Albuquerque

#### La Casa Sena

in Santa Fe welcomes chef José Rodriguez, whose 26-year-long career includes stints at Swig, Café Solera and Geronimo.

125 E. Palace Ave., Santa Fe

#### Frost

will open an additional gelato shop in the former Kurt's Camera Corral space, as part of a multi-restaurant food court in Nob Hill. The grand opening date has not yet been announced.

3417 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque

## FOOD/CANNABIS NEWS

### Intention on a Platter

BY NITA KELLY | food@freeabq.com

Executive chef Carrie Eagle isn't new to the local culinary field.

She helped to start JC's New York Pizza Department, has worked at Season's, Zinc and Savoy, worked as an executive chef for the catering company Taste and opened Desert Fish. She's participated in a number of local culinary challenges and fundraisers. Eagle comes across as approachable, honest, and engaging.

Eagle, who was featured on and won Food Network's “Chopped,” is executive chef at North Valley favorite, Farm & Table.

A big part of Farm & Table's mission is to create healthful, nutritional, beautiful food from local products. In fact, during the summer, 80 percent of the menu comes from local farms. She said working with local farmers is one of her favorite things about working there.

“We've got really dynamic, smart, committed farmers in the community,” Eagle said. “I've got a really great team.”

Eagle said one of the moments that shaped her love of cooking was cooking comfort food for the all-female band, Hazeldine.

“When Dingo bar was in full swing, I got the chance to live and work with these three drop-dead-gorgeous and artistic women,” Eagle said. “There's

a soul connection. Making that comfort food for people who are constantly on the move; it lit a fire inside me.”

She compares cooking food to writing a song, where it just lands with someone. What stuck with her was the dual-sided heartfelt gratification and moments of connection that comes from sharing food. She learned to cook things like eggplant parmesan and green chile stew — things she still puts on her menus today.

Eagle reminisced, “[In Iowa] I had one of those grandmothers who grew roses and canned her own vegetables. We always had a simple family dinner at Grandma Eagle's house. It wasn't until college that I had fine dining.”

Eagle's other grandmother, who lives in Belen, makes taquitos from scratch and old school rustic New Mexican food.

When asked about her experience on “Chopped,” Eagle said that in every round “I believed that I put up the losing dish.”

Eagle felt good about her time on “Chopped,”



Chef Carrie Eagle excels under pressure. Photo: Courtesy City of Albuquerque

saying that during experiences like that, the only thing left to do is to deliver under that pressure. She compared it to experiences in sports where athletes are under pressure to achieve.

“Every time, it's made me a better person.”

Nita Kelly is a freelance reporter.

### Why Don't Republicans Do Research?

BY MELISSA WOOD | melissa@freeabq.com

At what point is medical marijuana going to be treated as more than a joke by the Republican side of the aisle? Republicans can't seem to resist remaining ignorant on the subject.

Senate Bill SB177 included multiple provisions for medical cannabis patients, including protections for organ transplants.

The Senate passed it on Monday with a vote of 29-11, but not without some shocking commentary from Republican members.

Sen. William Sharer (R-Farmington) was easily the most clueless of the senators who spoke.

“In here we talk about chronic conditions, how do we define chronic conditions? Is the fact that I'm chronically ugly a reason to do this?” he asked, implying that medical marijuana law is constructed so recklessly that a self-diagnosis of ugliness could be considered on par with the debilitating conditions people use medical marijuana to treat.

Sen. Cisco McSorley (D-Albuquerque), the bill's sponsor, agreed that Sharer is, in fact, ugly, but said chronic ugliness wasn't approved for treatment with cannabis.

McSorley explained the law, outlining where Sharer could have read the definition for “chronic condition” himself.

Sharer did not stop there however; he also commented on another change to the bill: the removal of rulemaking authority on THC potency.

As explained by McSorley, it was removed by recommendation of the medical board to reflect best practices across the nation. Sharer's rebuttal is a familiar one: the increasing potency of marijuana.

He questioned whether McSorley understands that marijuana being grown over the Colorado border is significantly stronger than what he may be proposing to regulate with this bill.

“No, this isn't your mother's medical cannabis,” McSorley said, explaining that marijuana with lower THC potency just isn't effective as medication for patients.

Sharer wasn't the end of the clueless parade.

Sen. Craig Brandt (R-Rio Rancho) said of Colorado's medical marijuana program that he is “not sure why they even still have medical marijuana up there.”

Sen. Cliff Pirtle (R-Alamogordo) made it obvious that he has never spoken to a patient, nor researched a single medical marijuana program, when he suggested things like requiring all PTSD patients to be prescribed the same type of marijuana and restricting their access to any other products.

Someone might want to remind Pirtle that without the presence of years of medical research, these types of prescriptions are impossible. For anyone paying attention, this is old news, but medical marijuana research is in its infancy.

The level of pride that these senators took in being ignorant about medical marijuana was appalling, sidestepping every opportunity for legitimate discourse to deliver punchlines or sling insults.

Melissa Wood is a card-carrying medical marijuana patient whose quality of life has been greatly improved by its use.

### Dispensary News

BY MELISSA WOOD

Two new locations are opening this week:

**Minerva-Bernalillo**

133 W. 550, Bernalillo

- All flowers are \$8/gram through Feb. 18

Specials at all Minerva locations:

- 10 percent off all edibles every Tuesday
- 15 percent off all concentrates every Wednesday

**Sacred Garden**

3600 Cutler Ave. NE

- Doors open at 4:20 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15
- Scheduling for appointments with a doctor or RN will be available
- Free Pre-roll to new patients with \$30 purchase







BY BRADLEY T. SCHUMAN | [music@freeabq.com](mailto:music@freeabq.com)

**“F**in,” the latest from singer/songwriter Syd, is pop rhythm and blues with slick instrumentation and production, reaching back to 90’s R&B superstars like Alliyah, Usher, and Brandy.

Syd’s vocal complexity and skill are fantastic on this album – she’s not just sticking to a gimmick, she’s got breadth as a performer. She’s self-assured and confident, and it shows in every part of the record.

Things bounce around, feels and flavors from other genres shine through, but “Fin” is, at its core, an R&B album, and it’s probably going to be one of the best of this year.

“Fin” has a complex and enthralling downtempo sound, there’s a lot of thick, syrupy bass grooves, distorted electro melodies, bubbling chill-out hooks, and Syd’s voice and whisper-rap lyrics are incredibly smooth and inviting. I would listen to Syd whisper dictionary entries into my ear if she would do it, I love her sound and delivery that much.

“Shake Em Off” starts with a weird blast of distorted synth, then settles into toy piano and crunchy bass, with Syd delivering languid vocals that remind us it’s none of our business how she deals with her stresses.

“Know” absolutely takes it’s feel from an Alliyah track – layered harmonies, popping drums, swooping vocals, and breathy sing-talk delivery. It’s the classic “Nobody can know we’re hooking up” story, telling the girl to stay the night, get one in in the morning, and, oh, just don’t tell anyone.

“No Complaints” is a little more than a minute of rapid-fire delivery that reminds me a little of Astronautalis. Things roll back into the soft, syn-copated R&B realm with “Nothin to Somethin,” a victory track to drinking and success.

There’s a sudden shift in tone, as “All About Me” has a creepy vibraphone loop I can’t stop hearing in the back of my head. It has the feeling it’s being delivered by a Syd sitting alone on a



broken piano in a haunted house, and the video isn’t far off. I desperately want there to be more tracks like this in Syd’s future.

“Smile More” moves from frozen warehouses to warm tones, soft lighting and having “company” over. “Got Her Own” is another in the same vein, with a brief poppy-er interlude following in “Drown in it.” “Body” is absolutely this album’s sex anthem. I will

let the lyrics speak for themselves: “Baby we can take it slow, say my name / Don’t let go, I can hear your body when I / Pull your hair, what’s my name / Girl I swear, I can hear your body babe.” Many people are going to get laid to this song in the future.

“Dollar Bills” has a pop and snap strip club party feel, with a lounge-y vibe, and it’s followed by “Over” which is a “We’re done here” style break up jam.

Things finish on “Insecurities” which is brilliant, vulnerable, and for some reason the chorus reminds me of “Lovely Day” by Bill Withers, which isn’t a bad thing. The song finishes on a rough note with the fantastic line “Nah, I ain’t calling you the devil but / I rebuke your evil ways.”

Syd’s tour is hitting Philly, New York, and California, and that’s it so far. It looks like more tour dates may be added.

*Bradley T. Schuman is a pop culture nerd with too many records and opinions.*

## Bay Area Band Comes to Albuquerque



BY JOSEPH HILLMAN | [music@freeabq.com](mailto:music@freeabq.com)

**A**ngelica Tavella and Sean Galloway are accustomed to long drives, even when they aren’t on tour.

After playing together in different groups for more than a decade, the two joined forces with the band TV Heads, and recorded their debut EP, “Total Fucker,” with famed producer Jeff Saltzman and OIM Records in Oakland, CA – a five-hour trip from their LA home.

“We would sometimes finish playing a show and get an idea and just drive through the night, sleep for a couple of hours, and then hop in the studio,” Galloway said.

Their passion and determination worked like fertilizer, and soon their band grew another member, bassist Vince Gutierrez.

“We were touring with each other and backing each other up a lot, and Sean, Vince and I basically had the same bands with different names,” Tavella said.

After recording their EP, the band sprouted another new member in the form of drummer Jessica Lankford.

Finally, fully formed, the four-some will hit the road for their first Southwest tour, stopping in Arizona, Nevada, Texas and, of course, New Mexico.

Galloway and Tavella share duties as songwriters, and the raw, personal lyrics reveal a relationship steeped in music and collaboration. The two first met as teachers at a band camp, and while they love writing and recording songs, touring is what really brings them back.

“In terms of childlike joy, it’s like being at summer camp doing your

favorite thing with your best friends,” Galloway said.

Friendship obviously plays a big part in their creative lives, which can be seen even in their name. “TV Heads” is a song originally performed by a band called Tear It Down.

“About eight years ago, the singer of that band, our dear friend Alex, passed away,” Galloway said. “So we picked that name as a kind of homage.”

And “Total Fucker”? “When we were playing in different bands, we would always say ‘oh, you fucker!’ when somebody was doing something great that we wanted to do. A kind of loving jealousy,” Tavella said.

Galloway added, “I wanted it to be the name of the band, but there was already a great post-punk band out of Chico named it. I still maintain it is a great name.”

When not making music, each member of the band has a day job that reflects their passion for music: Galloway writes scores for documentaries, Tavella works for music-making software company Ableton, Gutierrez is a music festival producer and Lankford is an assistant to a professional composer.

They said they are excited to see Albuquerque for the first time, and are itching to get back in the van again. TV Heads will perform at Sister Bar (407 Central Ave. NW) on Thursday, Feb 23. Local talent Lindy Vision and Tear Pressure will open for them. For more information, visit [sisterthebar.com](http://sisterthebar.com)

*Joseph Hillman is a freelance journalist.*



## Adobe’s Original Murder Mystery Marvelous

BY ASHLEY KURTZ | [theater@freeabq.com](mailto:theater@freeabq.com)

**E**veryone loves a good murder mystery, and “Sanctuary” at the Adobe Theater is a perfect, enigmatic treat.

Set in Medieval England, “Sanctuary” tells the classic story of an accused murderer vs. the people and the pursuit of justice.

The show focuses on a young man, Thomas Fletcher, who has been accused of killing a beloved young woman of the village, Maggie.

It’s a fun, quick production that asks important questions about murder, injustice and love.

Its protagonist, Father Amaury D. Godfrey, really brings the show together. Played by Stephen Zamora, the father is a witty, kind and outstanding character. Zamora plays the role of the priest so well – trying to keep an impartial stance on the accused – even giving Fletcher sanctuary from villagers who would rather tear him apart for the crime. He provides safety, while trying to solve the crime.

Not much more can be said without

spoiling it for others, so I’ll quote Director George Williams who said, “The characters in ‘Sanctuary: A Medieval Murder Mystery,’ are just like you and me. They laugh, love, fear, hate, wonder and, as they understand it, try to live their lives in a meaningful way. You may see a bit of yourself or someone you know in their story.”

*Ashley Kurtz is a freelance theater reviewer.*



“Sanctuary” runs through March 5 at The Adobe Theater  
9813 Fourth St. NW, Albuquerque  
[adobetheater.org](http://adobetheater.org)



Send us your lyrics, limericks and verses dedicated to the rights you've lost (or are losing, or suspect you will lose soon) for a chance to win tickets to “Motown the Musical.”

- First Place: 4 tickets
- Second Place: 3 Tickets
- Third Place: 2 Tickets

Winners will be announced on March 1

Send submissions to [jjillian@freeabq.com](mailto:jjillian@freeabq.com)

\* Entries may be published on ABQ Free Press Weekly social media accounts and in print editions.



## It’s All About the ‘Company’ You Keep

BY ASHLEY KURTZ

**“C**ompany” is the first of Musical Theatre Southwest’s 2017 season, and it’s a fun, jaunty and relatable experience that shouldn’t be missed.

Centered on a 35-year-old singleton’s birthday party, Stephen Sonheim’s musical shows Robert (Colin Burdge) as he struggles with dating while all his friends are couples.

Robert is surrounded by friends who seem to have happy marriages.

Watching Robert go from one woman to another was hilarious – he fails to remember April’s name, can’t relate to Marta’s eccentricity, and is abandoned by Kathy, who leaves New York to get married.

As his marriage prospects dwindle, Robert learns that he isn’t looking for what he thought he wanted. Instead, he desires a marriage despite all of its flaws, he wants a real relationship



even though it could be difficult. Burdge provides a stunning performance that causes the audience to really sympathize with Robert and his conflicting feelings about retaining his independence while seeking love.

“Company” runs through March 5 at Musical Theatre Southwest  
6320 Domingo Rd. NE, Albuquerque  
[musicaltheatresw.com](http://musicaltheatresw.com)



## Vortex Showcases WWII Parody

BY ASHLEY KURTZ

**“T**he Lady in Question” is quite a unique play. Based in the Bavarian Alps in 1940, it pits glamorous American pianist Gertrude Garnet (Kenneth Ansloan) against high level Nazi, Baron Willhelm von Elsner (Rick Huff) and his obstinate mother (Carolyn Wickwire).

Not knowing of the Nazi occupation and the Third Reich, Garnet arrives in Germany to play a piano concert. Tagging along and adding to the overall hilarity of the show is smart-mouthed, fast-talking dame Kitty, the Countess de Borgia (Lisa Fernstermacher), who resembles the women of “Golden Age” Hollywood with her witty quips and insults.

Because of its WWII setting, the audience might come to the show expecting something completely different – a drama, or historical play; but instead, it’s ridiculous and fun.

The fact that Garnet is played by a man in drag enriches the humor and takes the absurdity of the show

to a new level. While Garnet could have easily been played by a woman, I wouldn’t want her to be, simply because it makes the show more enjoyable.

The ultimate draw of the show though, is the conflict that Garnet faces: to do what is right or to do what she knows. Whatever her decision, it is a wonderful start to The Vortex’s 2017 season.

“The Lady in Question” runs through March 5  
The Vortex Theatre  
2900 Carlisle Blvd. NE, Albuquerque  
[vortexabq.org](http://vortexabq.org)





# Local Auditions in One Place

Do you dream of spotlights and cheering fans? Then maybe it’s time to take those dreams and make them a reality. And it all starts with picking up a copy of ABQ Free Press Weekly, where we make it easy to find all the local auditions for stage and screen. See? The first step is simple. The rest? [That’s up to you.](#)

## Screen

### MALE

Open ethnicity, 8-10 – Ben  
“Pieces of a Dream”  
Auditions in Santa Fe  
Send headshot and resume to  
srlomatthews@gmail.com

Open ethnicity, 18+ – Various  
“Hyde Park”  
Albuquerque/Santa Fe  
Send resume and headshot to  
nick@prestigiousfilms.com  
PAID positions available

Open ethnicity, 40s – Franklin  
Untitled sci-fi feature  
Filming in March/April, 2017  
Send resume and headshots to  
JBReflectionFilms@gmail.com

### FEMALE

Caucasian, 18-25  
“Alone On Earth”  
Shoots in Albuquerque,  
June 20-24  
Send resume and headshot to  
warheadfilms@yahoo.com

Open ethnicity, 18+ –  
Saloon Madame  
“Hyde Park”  
Albuquerque/Santa Fe  
Send resume and headshot to  
nick@prestigiousfilms.com

Open ethnicity, 30s – Andrea  
Untitled sci-fi feature  
Filming in March/April, 2017  
Send resume and headshots to  
JBReflectionFilms@gmail.com

### OPEN GENDER

Open ethnicity – Party Goers  
“Alone On Earth”  
Shoots in Albuquerque,  
June 20-24  
Send resume and headshot to  
warheadfilms@yahoo.com

Caucasian, baby (1 year old)  
“Alone On Earth”  
Shoots in Albuquerque,  
June 20-24  
Send resume and headshot to  
warheadfilms@yahoo.com

Open ethnicity, 20s-30s  
Unique look  
“Midnight, Texas”  
Must have valid ID  
Visit lathamcasting.com  
PAID

Open ethnicity, all ages  
People who look like they reside  
in a small Texas town  
“Midnight, Texas”  
Must have valid ID  
Visit lathamcasting.com  
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Photo: nicoletaionescu

## Stage

### MALE

Open ethnicity, 20s-30s  
“Come Blow Your Horn”  
Auditions Feb. 18,  
10 a.m. to Noon;  
Feb. 19, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Adobe Theater  
9813 4th Street NW, Albuquerque  
For more information, email  
martyepstein618@icloud.com

Open ethnicity, 50s-60s  
“Come Blow Your Horn”  
Auditions Feb. 18,  
10 a.m. to Noon;  
Feb. 19, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Adobe Theater  
9813 4th Street NW, Albuquerque  
For more information, email  
martyepstein618@icloud.com

Open ethnicity, late 40s –  
Captain Keller  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

Open ethnicity, mid-late 20s –  
James  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

Open ethnicity, 50s, – Anagnos  
Greek accent  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

Open ethnicity, late 50s – Doctor  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

African-American, 8-12 – Percy  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

### FEMALE

Open ethnicity, 20s-30s  
“Come Blow Your Horn”  
Auditions Feb. 18,  
10 a.m. to Noon;  
Feb. 19, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Adobe Theater  
9813 4th Street NW,  
Albuquerque  
For more info, email  
martyepstein618@icloud.com

Open ethnicity, 50s-60s  
“Come Blow Your Horn”  
Auditions Feb. 18,  
10 a.m. to Noon;  
Feb. 19, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Adobe Theater  
9813 4th Street NW, Albuquerque  
For more info, email  
martyepstein618@icloud.com

Open ethnicity, 12-18 – Helen  
Physically demanding role  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

Open ethnicity, 20s – Anne Sullivan  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

Open ethnicity, 20s-30s – Kate  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

Open ethnicity, late 40s-50s –  
Aunt Ev  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

African-American, 30s-45 –  
Viney  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

African-American, 8-12 – Martha  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

Open ethnicity, 8-17 – 6 Girls  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

African American, 20-40 –  
A Servant  
“The Miracle Worker”  
Auditions Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m.  
Albuquerque Little Theater  
224 San Pasquale SW  
Email age, resume and  
headshot to Miracle@abqlt.org

*Want your casting  
or crew call  
listed here?  
Send an email to  
[callboard@freeabq.com](mailto:callboard@freeabq.com)*



# Albuquerque Beauty Maven Invited to The Oscars



Photo: Liz Lopez

BY CHRISTA VALDEZ | [christavaldez@gmail.com](mailto:christavaldez@gmail.com)

Micaela Brown, founder & CEO of New Mexico beauty business, Blush & Whimsy, hails from a military family.

She’s been in Albuquerque for just four years now, and she said the city has been good to her, being very welcoming and supportive of new ideas and empowering for start-ups like hers.

Combining her marketing savvy with the use of social media tools and her indomitable spirit, Brown is unequivocally an Albuquerque Entrepreneur gone big time, fast. At a time when many New Mexican hopes and dreams are geared toward making headway in the world of film & media, her fledgling Albuquerque-based start-up is invited to entertainment’s biggest party.

With that, Brown’s goal of celebrating New Mexico and showcasing it to the world in a positive light is well on its way to fruition.

Brown said it started with a recent email from “The Oscars.” If her Blush & Whimsy suppliers can achieve the quantities in demand, Brown will be nicely positioned at the movie industry’s biggest night of the year on Feb. 26 in Hollywood, where she’s been invited to take up residence in a 10’x10’ Oscar event booth which will dole out upwards of 100 units directly to entertainment’s biggest names. The Academy has also asked that she be on hand at an upcoming Academy event in April.

Since launching last fall, with a minimal financial investment she charged to her own personal credit card, the majority of the publicity she’s received has been through social media followers sharing information about her products and her marketing content.

Since that initial investment, she’s more than tripled her bottom line. Most of her existing customers are in Chicago and New York where the bulk of the orders for her signature lipstick originate. Brown utilizes local businesses, talent and organizations to power her specialty brand.

In addition to having manufacturers in Taos, Florida and China, Albuquerque start-up resources helped to fuel the growth of Blush & Whimsy. Brown taps into working within the community by hiring local photographers and suppliers, and she’s partnered with Adelante Development Center, which employs people with disabilities in upwardly mobile industries.

With more than fifty thousand social media followers worldwide, expect to hear more about Micaela Brown and Blush & Whimsy as the New Mexico-based business continues to grow and make waves across the globe. See her unique beauty products at [blushwhimsy.com](http://blushwhimsy.com)

*New Mexico film expert Christa Valdez, of OneHeadlightInk.com and ChristaValdez.com, reports on movie industry news for ABQ Free Press Weekly.*



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5201 Ouray Rd. NW Suite E  
Albuquerque, NM 87120

### GRANTS LOCATION

411 W. Santa Fe Ave. Suite 1  
Grants, NM 87020

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9421 Coors Blvd. NW Suite C  
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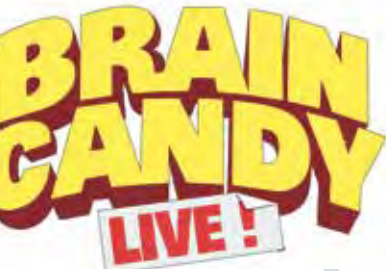
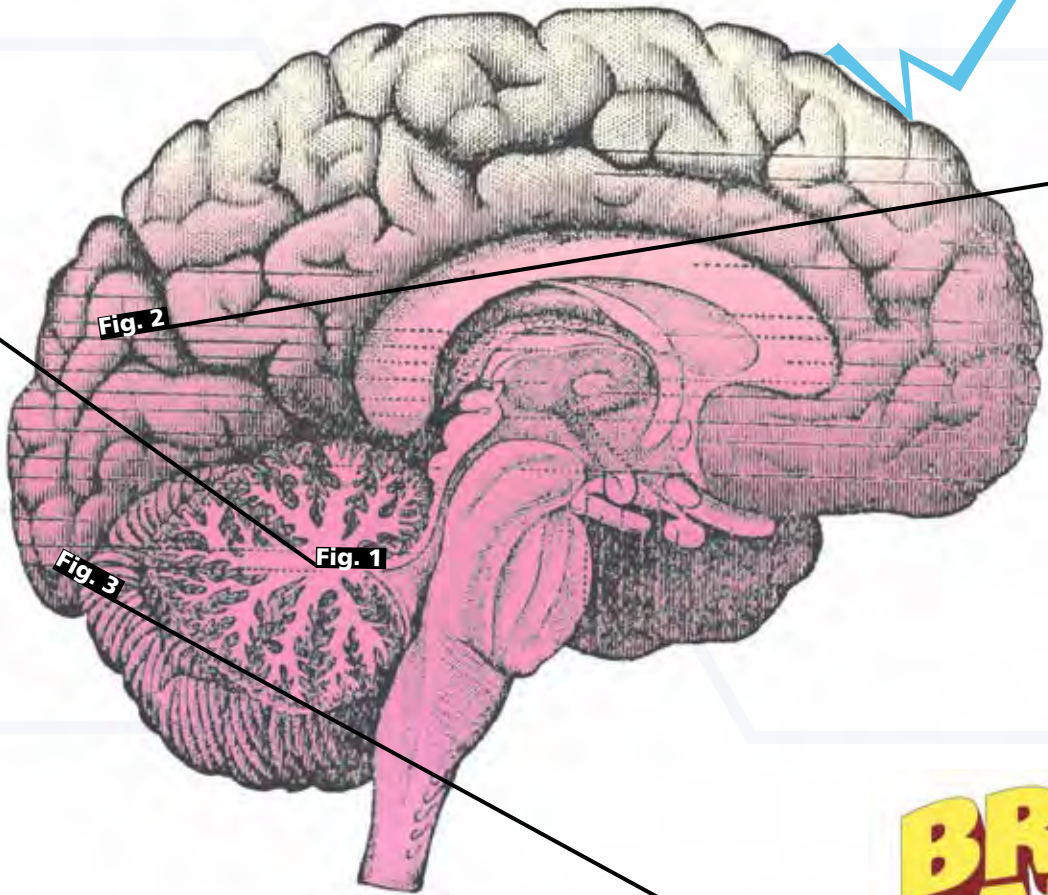
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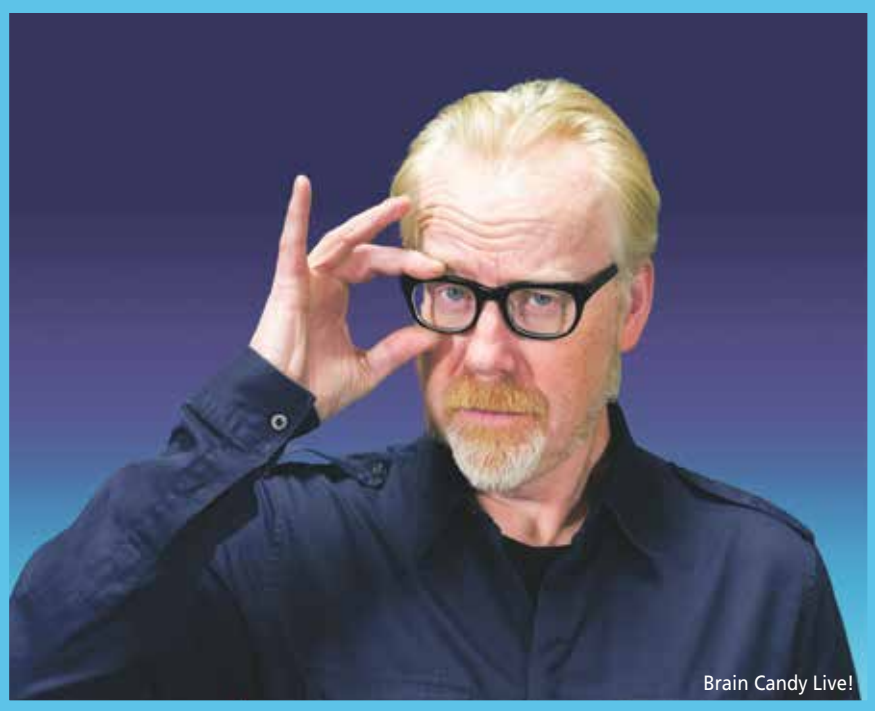




**Fig. 1: Michael Stevens, YouTuber.** Function is to coordinate and regulate intellectual activity.



**Fig. 3: Brain Candy LIVE!**  
Primary visual cortex



**Fig. 2: Adam Savage, Mythbuster.** Processes and makes sense of visual information.

# ADAM SAVAGE, MICHAEL STEVENS COMING TO ABQ

BY DAVID LYNCH

Searching for answers to the most dubious scientific mysteries in our world doesn't have to be a total white lab coat affair. It can be pretty fun too, and change the way we view ordinary things.

That's the idea behind "Brain Candy Live!," an upcoming tour set to visit Albuquerque in March. The tour features Adam Savage of "Mythbusters" fame and Michael Stevens, the YouTube star who has amassed millions of followers while exploring questions like "What is déjà vu?" and "What if the Moon was a disco ball?"

To capture the same sense of wonder that Stevens has offered through VSauce – and now through his YouTube Red-exclusive "Mind Field" – he needed some help with the technical side of things.

Enter Savage, who was looking for someone to tour with. A phone call would lead to a marriage

of the intellectual and logistical, and born from the union was "Brain Candy Live!"

"There are some things that I know nothing about that he knows everything about – actually making things and using tools. I only talk," Stevens said.

While the tour doesn't kick off until mid-February, Stevens called the planning phase alone a mind-blowing experience. Here was someone who made his name through YouTube videos paired with an icon of the modern science-entertainment-education arena.

"It's the best position to be in," Stevens said.

As far as the tour itself, its website likens the show to "a two-hour playdate with Walt Disney, Willy Wonka and Albert Einstein."

"[Audiences] can expect to leave with a whole new set of skills that they never knew were possible," said Stevens.

Topics like barometric pressure, how electricity

works and scientific principles discovered by pioneers with alphabet soup names? Stevens is confident attendees won't forget the science they witness after seeing it through his and Savage's eyes.

He said he is looking forward to a bit of a change of pace as well, returning to the stage – he did some theater in Chicago before finding a niche online – after spending nearly seven years establishing himself as a YouTuber.

"It's a totally different feeling – you get immediate feedback," Stevens said, adding that some interaction with the audience will also play a part in how individual shows go.

The subjects explored on the tour are different from anything Stevens has touched on as VSauce, which is almost hard to believe considering the dozens of videos on his channel. As it turns out, live performance is the best format for solving some of the lingering questions that

have dwelled in the back of his mind over the years.

"It became obvious that there are some things you just can't do with a camera and a microphone. You need to do it in person."

## Humble about the craft

Stevens first caught the science bug from his father – an engineer who possessed an unrelenting drive to understand the things around him. That eventually rubbed off on his son.

Stevens went on to become passionate about experimentation and research. A big part of that, as anyone who's taken a middle school science course knows, is admitting when your initial hypothesis may be wrong. Stevens embraces that.

"I'll go ask for help, or look it up in the dictionary. One of the most powerful things we can do is be humble about how little we know," he said.

To explore some of the heavier topics of science, you also need to have a little bit of fun. Stevens' YouTube videos are as lighthearted as they are informational, like when he says we would become "supersonic tumbleweed" if the Earth ever stopped spinning.

He said people can expect the same memorable approach at "Brain Candy Live!," the tour's name itself suggesting an educational experience of the sweetest kind. Their thirst for knowledge might not be quenched on the stage, but for Stevens it's as much about the curiosity as it is replacing a question mark with a period on a scientific inquiry.

"Nothing is impossible to understand," he said. "It just might take more time than you might think."

On a broad scale, Stevens said he's encouraged by the place science has in society. When he was just getting into the world of asking questions

and finding answers, all he had was "Bill Nye the Science Guy" and minimal literature at the library.

But while shows like "Magic School Bus" and "Mythbusters" aren't pop culture mainstays anymore, it's because the new generation of answer-finders are taking on that role in spades.

"Now you can watch channels (on the internet) covering everything from medicine to physics to music to biology, hosted by a more diverse group of people," he said. "It also means we all have a responsibility to share it."

Locals can take in the knowledge that Stevens and Savage themselves will be sharing when "Brain Candy Live!" visits Popejoy Hall on March 31.

*David Lynch is an award-winning film critic who occasionally writes about interesting events in ABQ.*



## Utility Work Sends ART's Price Tag Higher

BY DENNIS DOMRZALSKI | [dennis@freeabq.com](mailto:dennis@freeabq.com)

Add another couple million dollars to the cost of Mayor Richard Berry's \$126 million Albuquerque Rapid Transit Project.

That's the cost of all the water and sewer line work that the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority has done and continues to do along Central Avenue in preparation for full-blown ART construction. The \$7 million bill is being paid by local residents through their water and sewer bills.

The water authority said on Feb. 10 that the total cost of the ART-related work along Central would be \$7 million — nearly twice what was estimated to relocate water lines away from the center of the street and away from where ART stations are to be built.

Water Utility spokesman David Morris said much of the work would have been needed anyway over the next 10 years. To cover the cost, the water authority approved a bond

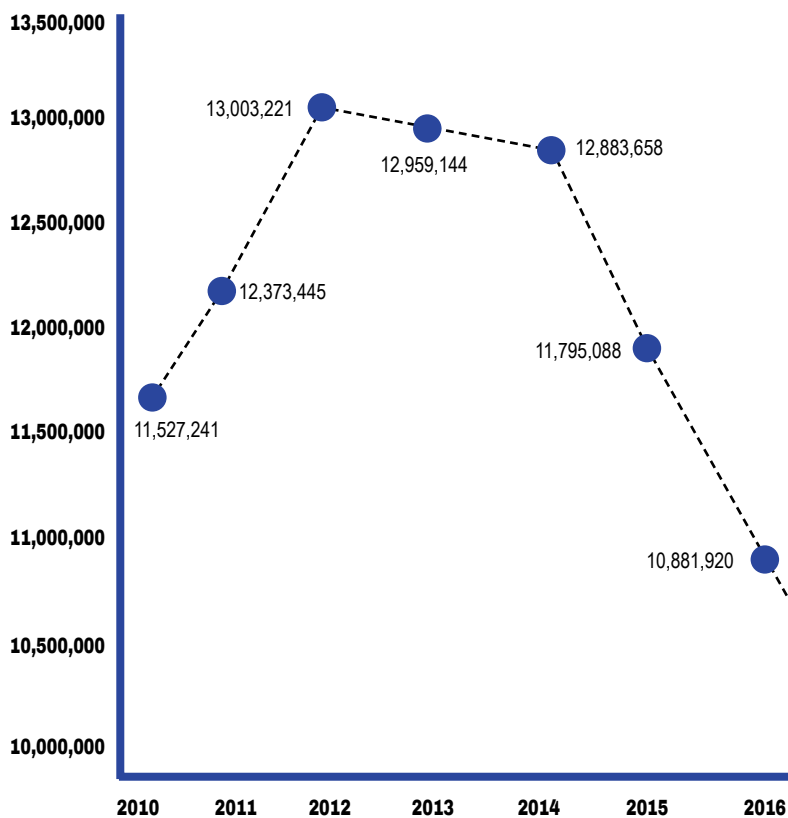
issue in January to raise \$15 million more than the \$56 million in bonds it sells every two years. About half of the extra \$15 million is for ART-related work, Morris said.

When the water authority's staff presented the proposed bond issue to its board in December, they did not mention that more money was needed for ART-related projects. Elaine Hebard, a water activist who attends the water authority's board meetings, said she was troubled by the lack of disclosure.

"It bothers me that they didn't say to the board or to the public that they were going to borrow an extra \$15 million," Hebard said. She said she wondered which other capital projects the ABCWUA has delayed so it could complete the work along a nine-mile stretch of Central.

*Dennis Domrzalski is an associate editor at ABQ Free Press Weekly.*

**Bus ridership in Albuquerque declined by 7.75 percent from 2015 to 2016, when ABQ Ride reported 10.9 million passenger boardings. That represented a drop of 913,168 from 2015. Bus ridership peaked in 2012 and has been declining since.**



## Trump Watch

COMPILED BY ABQ FREE PRESS WEEKLY STAFF

### Alternative truth

Forget catching Donald Trump in whopper after whopper because, as Bill Murray chanted in "Meatballs," it ... just ... doesn't ... matter. That's



because the Trump administration is more trusted than the news media among voters, according to a new Emerson College poll. When broken down by party affiliation, a clear partisan split emerges — 91 percent of Republicans find the Trump administration truthful, while 78 percent of Democrats find the administration untruthful.

### Branding

Melania Trump's lawsuit against a British tabloid says a false story damaged her ability as "one of the most photographed women in the world" to launch "a broad-based brand." Salon.com reports that despite a plain reading of those phrases in her lawsuit, her spokesman and her law firm both say Trump had "no intention" of earning money from being first lady, that "it is not a possibility" that she would have wanted to do so and that "any statements to the contrary are being misinterpreted."

### Alternative trust

Another poll, this one by Public Policy Polling, shows that American voters have so little trust in Donald Trump that they find "Saturday Night Live" to be more credible than the man in the Oval Office — 48 percent to 43 percent. The same polling company says Americans are evenly split on impeaching Trump, 46 percent to 46 percent.

### Job 1

From Politico.com comes this: "Being president is harder than Donald Trump thought, according to aides and allies who say that he's growing increasingly frustrated with the challenges of running the massive federal bureaucracy. In interviews, nearly two dozen people who've spent time with Trump in the three weeks since his inauguration said that his mood has

careened between surprise and anger as he's faced the predictable realities of governing — from congressional delays over his cabinet nominations and legal fights holding up his aggressive initiatives to staff in-fighting and leaks."

### Job 1A

Deadspin.com's take on the same story is this: "Corned-beef dirigible Donald Trump, a skill-free inheritance baby with a virtually unbroken lifelong track record of incompetence and failure, has found that running the United States government is a tougher job than lending his name to mail-order steak delivery scams run by other people."

### Vetting

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told Congress the Trump administration may require foreign visitors to hand over passwords to their social media accounts as a condition of entering the United States. "We want to get on their social media, with passwords: What do you do, what do you say?" Kelly said. "If they don't want to cooperate, then you don't come in." Iran has long required visitors to turn over passwords to ensure that critics of the regime don't enter the country.

### Bizarre

In a meeting with senators, Donald Trump taunted Democrats by telling them, "Pocahontas is now the face of your party" — his insult of choice for Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, sources told CNN. Trump used his pejorative campaign nickname for Warren — a reference to her claims of having Native American ancestry — several times during the meeting, which one source described as "equal parts bizarre and completely awkward."

### SNL

Ratings for Alec Baldwin's record-setting 17th hosting gig on "Saturday Night Live" on Feb. 12 were "yuge." Vanity Fair reported that Baldwin, who parodies Donald Trump on the show, got ratings that were far higher than those Trump garnered as SNL host in 2015. According to the Hollywood Reporter, Baldwin averaged a 7.2 rating among metered market households — the best the show has seen since 2011. The Feb. 12 episode featured Baldwin/Trump and three

judges from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals appearing on "The People's Court," Melissa McCarthy as a de-ranked Trump spokesman Sean Spicer at a White House press briefing, and Kate McKinnon in a spooky "Play Misty for Me"-esque portrayal of a nightgown-clad Kellyanne Conway stalking CNN's Jake Tapper.

### Real POTUS



The Dominican newspaper El Nacional apologized after mistakenly using a photo of Alec Baldwin dressed as Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live," instead of the president himself. The photo appeared in the paper next to a photo of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

### Band played on

CNN reported that an hour before Donald Trump was set to dine with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, North Korea launched a ballistic



missile 300 miles into the Sea of Japan. Trump and Abe sat down in the center of the Mar-a-Lago patio to review the situation and plot their response over dinner as scores of club members and guests watched. A wedding went on in the background, and guests mingled among White House staff and even took selfies of themselves with a Trump military aide whose duty is to carry the "football," a briefcase with nuclear-strike codes.

### Alternative reality

With a Politifact falsehood rating of 69.9 percent in his public pronouncements, Donald Trump's relationship with the truth is tenuous at best — which is why HBO "Last Week Tonight" host John Oliver is buying TV ads on CNN, MSNBC and Fox

News. Each ad features a man dressed up as a cowboy who explains things like what the nuclear triad is, demographics of urban areas and that there are other people in the world other than himself. According to the New York Daily News, Oliver is devoting a sizable segment of his show "to focus on the issue of Donald Trump living in his own reality and simply making up facts."

### Wage slaves

Donald Trump is driving a hard bargain with foreign workers staffing the Mar-a-Lago Club this winter. The Palm Beach Post reported he's paying some of them less than they made last season and that most get just a 1 percent raise. While still a candidate, Trump won approval to hire 64 foreign workers through the federal government's H-2B visa program, according to new data from the U.S. Department of Labor. Trump's new foreign workers — 19 cooks, 30 waiters and waitresses, and 15 housekeepers — will make between \$10.17 to \$12.74 an hour.

### Bannon's work?



Donald Trump was elected president while employing white supremacist, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric. Now the U.S. executive branch is actively seeking to reduce federal efforts to fight domestic right-wing extremism by removing white supremacist groups from the U.S. government "Countering Violent Extremism" program, Fortune reported. Earlier this month, the Trump administration proposed it would repurpose the program's task force to focus only on Islamic extremists, considering renaming it "Countering Radical Islamic Extremism." Fortune said it's hard not to see the influence of Steve Bannon — the White House chief strategist and senior counselor whose close ties to white nationalist and far right-wing groups are well documented.

## Senators Blast Trump's Mar-a-Lago Security Lapses

BY MATTHEW REICHBACH

Donald Trump's actions after North Korea launched a ballistic missile caught the attention of U.S. Sens. Tom Udall of New Mexico and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island.

Last week, U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich criticized Trump for his security practices in the oval office.

*'Trump's lingering Android habit makes him vulnerable to hacking, and this is the perfect example. The concern is a hot mic attack, in which a hacker uses the compromised phone to record private conversations'*

— TheVerge.com

During the North Korea missile test last weekend, a member at the president's Mar-a-Lago club posted a photo on Facebook of the president and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe looking at documents in a club dining terrace shortly after the ballistic missile launch. Staffers held up cell camera lights to help the two world leaders read the documents.

A number of experts noted this is "a really bad idea," as a reporter at TheVerge.com wrote. Why? It could allow hackers to gain access to the camera's microphones and listen into a conversation — or to turn on the camera to allow hackers to see what the camera sees.

From TheVerge.com:

"We've written before about how Trump's lingering Android habit makes him vulnerable to hacking, and this is the perfect example. The concern is a hot mic attack, in which a hacker uses the compromised phone to record private conversations. But as our demo showed, it's just as easy to compromise the camera, allowing the attacker to see whatever is in front of the phone. That's usually not as useful, provided the target doesn't physically hold up the phone and point it at sensitive intelligence documents, but here we are."

A Mar-a-Lago member, Richard DeAgazio, described to The Washington Post that the Japanese prime minister's staff "sort of surrounded

him, and they had a little powwow."

The "open-air situation room," as described by the newspaper, that impressed DeAgazio raised flags for Udall and Whitehouse.

"During the campaign, we listened to month upon month of Donald Trump complaining about the handling of important national security information," Udall and Whitehouse said in a joint statement.

"We've had years of inconclusive investigations by House Republicans over emails and classified documents," they wrote. "Now we have unknown and unvetted Mar-a-Lago members looking over the President's shoulder as he conducts our foreign policy."

The White House said later there were no discussions of classified material.

Udall and Whitehouse wrote a letter to the Trump administration criticizing Trump's use of the club and the recent increase in fees to enter to become a member to \$200,000 in early February.

They asked for the list of Mar-a-Lago members to be made public and to ask what screening would be done "to determine whether any have ties to foreign governments or other entities that seek to influence you or United States policy."

*'Your Winter White House will provide an audience with you for those who can afford it, not to mention an increasing cash-flow into your family-run organization'*

— Udall, Whitehouse

"Mar-a-Lago members are the same class of ultra-rich that you've nominated to your cabinet and surrounded yourself with at the White House," the two Senators wrote to Trump earlier this month. "Your Winter White House will provide an audience with you for those who can afford it, not to mention an increasing cash-flow into your family-run organization. Instead of draining the swamp, it appears you're bringing Washington right to the swamps at Mar-a-Lago."



# Have APD, DOJ Finally Ceased Their Quarreling?

BY DENNIS DOMRZALSKI | [dennis@freeabq.com](mailto:dennis@freeabq.com)

It looks like the city, APD and the U.S. Department of Justice have resolved most of the disagreements that just a few weeks ago were threatening to blow up the DOJ-mandated reform effort at the police department.

In a Feb. 10 report to the federal court judge overseeing the case, the parties said they had finally agreed on the role and responsibilities of James Ginger, the court-appointed independent monitor in the case.

It was their failure to agree on Ginger's role that led the parties to tell U.S. District Judge Robert Brack on Jan. 5 that after two years, the reform process was on the verge of collapse. A transcript of that meeting showed the tenuousness of the deal made back in 2014 to reform APD's pattern of excessive use of force and unconstitutional policing.

"There has been no meaningful effort by the city to work with the parties and the monitor to identify points of agreement and disagreement," DOJ attorney Luis Saucedo told Brack during the meeting.

"Your Honor, our conversations have not been easy. They have involved feelings of frustration and confusion," Saucedo told Brack. "We spent much time discussing conversations that have taken place in the past, rehashing old controversies and pointing fingers for delays and problems."

But the Feb. 10 report to Brack, although short on details, signaled that most of those disagreements are now in the past. The report suggested

that the city might be done trying to fight Ginger, who has been highly critical of APD's command staff and their willingness to implement the promised reforms.

"The Parties and the Monitor agree that the Monitor is essential to the successful implementation of the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA), and that his primary duties are to assess the City's compliance with the CASA in an independent, objective, and reliable manner, and to report on the City's progress toward full compliance and provide recommendations regarding the necessary steps to achieve compliance," the Feb. 10 report said.

"Through this report, the Parties and the Monitor notify the Court that they have resolved many of their concerns and have agreed upon a path forward which should enable them to address their remaining points of disagreement without the need for the Court's intervention."

During the combative Jan. 5 status conference, City Attorney Jessica Hernandez threatened to publicly embarrass Ginger. She also asked that Brack appoint a federal magistrate to settle the differences in opinion over Ginger's role.

At the time, Brack said he'd have no part in dragging a magistrate into the case and that he wasn't concerned about the potential public embarrassment of any parties.

*Dennis Domrzalski is an associate editor at ABQ Free Press Weekly.*

## City, State News in Brief

COMPILED BY ABQ FREE PRESS WEEKLY STAFF

### Intel

It looks like Intel's Rio Rancho plant has missed out on another round of technology upgrades by its chip-making parent. But its Chandler, Ariz. plant hasn't. Intel said it will invest \$7 billion over the next four years in its uncompleted Fab 42 in Chandler,



a suburb of Phoenix, a move the company said will "create approximately 3,000 high-tech, high-wage jobs for process engineers, equipment technicians and facilities-support engineers." The Chandler plant will produce cutting-edge, 7-nanometer microprocessing chips. Intel hasn't made a major investment in the Rio Rancho plant since 2009 when Sandoval County approved a \$16 billion industrial revenue bond deal for the facility. As of 2016, the company had used about \$6 billion of that bonding capacity; it has until Oct. 25, 2019 to access what remains of the IRB. Former employees have told ABQ Free Press Weekly that as few as 700 people work at the Rio Rancho facility. Intel officials have declined to discuss workforce levels.

### Risky business

The City of Albuquerque needs to put more money every year into its risk management fund or run the risk of not being able to pay out all future liabilities claims. That's what State Auditor Tim Keller said in a Feb. 13 letter to the city that accompanied the city's annual audit. The city currently puts \$35 million to \$40 million a year into the fund, which covers claims against the city. Last July, the city said the fund faced future potential liability claims of \$92.4 million. The city said it adopted a plan in 2015 to put an extra \$2.1 million to \$3.6 million a year into the fund. Keller said it needs an extra \$6.3 million a year. From 2010 to 2016, the city paid \$62.3 million in civil rights claims against the Albuquerque Police Department.

### Co-op shakeup

Heads have started rolling at La Montañita Co-op now that the "Take Back the Co-op" group has control of the organization's board. Dennis Hanley is out as the general manager, and so is the assistant he hired. On Feb. 10, the board sent co-op members an email detailing some of the changes. "We are streamlining the operations, increasing efficiency and decreasing cost. So, what will we look like???" The General Manager, Operations Director and Merchandizing Category Man-



ager positions are being eliminated, and there will be two new Divisions: Cooperative Retail Division and Cooperative Support and Operations Division," the email said. Two sources told ABQ Free Press Weekly that Hanley was released on Feb. 9. Hanley could not be reached for comment.

### UNM Regents

Gov. Susana Martinez has nominated Alex Romero for appointment to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents. His nomination must be approved by the Senate. Romero announced he would be retiring in April as executive director of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, a job he held for 12 years. Romero is a replacement for former House Speaker Don Tripp, a Socorro Republican, who was appointed to the UNM Regents board by Martinez in January but he withdrew his name from consideration because he feared his appointment might violate a state constitutional prohibition against legislators being appointed to any state post during their term or for a year after their term ends.

## Ex-APD Cop Would Fire Gorden Eden, for Starters

BY DENNIS DOMRZALSKI | [dennis@freeabq.com](mailto:dennis@freeabq.com)

Former police Officer Michelle Garcia Holmes believes that until Albuquerque solves its crime problem, it will languish and not reach its full potential. That potential involves becoming a premier vacation destination, a place where businesses want to move, and a place that people see as an ideal location to start a business, she said.

"I think crime is out of control in Albuquerque. We have to make Albuquerque safe again," Holmes said in explaining her decision to run for mayor.

"I want to be the mayor that takes care of the crime issue and then bring Albuquerque back to the jewel it is. Once we start to reduce crime issues, I think Albuquerque is going to be one of those places where businesses want to come to."

To start, Holmes would fire Albuquerque Police Chief Gorden Eden, get the department on track to meet the U.S. Department of Justice's reform recommendations, ramp up APD's recruiting efforts so the department has 1,100 cops and slowly return the department's focus to community policing efforts.

"I want to bring new leadership to the police department. I want to bring in a new police chief," she said. The new chief must be someone "who believes in communication and who believes in working with the DOJ."

"I understand there are divisions of the department that have come into compliance [with the settlement agreement], so what is hindering us from doing that departmentwide?" she asked.

"I want a police chief who will understand the police department as a whole and understand the DOJ mandate and who is a good communicator and who can collaborate with other agencies," she said. "That will be crucial in achieving my goal of reducing crime."

*'I think crime is out of control in Albuquerque. We have to make Albuquerque safe again'*

— Michelle Garcia Holmes

To bring APD's ranks up to 1,100 officers, Holmes, who after leaving APD worked as chief of staff to state Attorney General Gary King, said she'd run three training academy classes a year, each with 50 to 60 cadets. In her first year, she'd run an academy for 50 police service aides. Those aides would respond to calls that don't require uniformed officers, and the aides often go on to become police officers, Holmes said.

### Battling crime

Not only will it take more cops to reduce crime, but it will take collaboration and cooperation between the police department and other law



Dennis Domrzalski

enforcement agencies such as the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office, the courts and probation officials, Holmes said.

She wants to see APD embark on what she called "Problem Oriented Policing" in which cops and neighborhood associations work together to identify certain crime problems and then attack them. "You can resolve issues if you communicate with neighborhoods," Holmes said. "I would encourage whichever police I hire to endorse POP projects. We have to be innovative because of the smaller department."

*'I want a police chief who will understand the police department as a whole and understand the DOJ mandate and who is a good communicator and who can collaborate with other agencies'*

— Holmes

Holmes said she would also like to see APD restart a gang resistance program in middle schools and make more less-than-lethal force options available

to cops in the field. "We need something that can create more distance between officers and offenders. We have a lot of less-lethal weapons out there, and training officers in less-lethal weapons is a good thing."

### The economy

To help boost the city's struggling economy, Holmes said, she would focus on Albuquerque's positives and work on increasing tourism.

*She would work to build a new arena in the city during her first term in office*

"We have a beautiful city here. We are a premier vacation destination. The next mayor has to address the economic issue and hone in on tourism," she said. "Why don't we have two balloon fiestas? Why don't we have a bike ride? We need to have more events throughout the city and have them throughout the year so we can have an influx of tourism."

"I would love to see people hike the La Luz Trail, jump on a bike and ride to Tingley Beach and have a big fiesta. We need things to do here." She would work to build a new arena in the city during her first term in office, she said.

### ART and public transit

Holmes said she isn't sure that the city will get all of the federal money it needs to complete Mayor Richard Berry's Albuquerque Rapid Transit project. But if it is completed, she'd try to have a "Free after Five" program in which the nine-mile-

*Holmes said she would also like to see APD restart a gang resistance program in middle schools and make more less-than-lethal force options available to cops in the field*

long bus route on Central Avenue would be free after 5 p.m. She added that the city needs to work on expanding other bus routes, keeping buses clean and making them safe.

Finally, Holmes said she'd work to make Albuquerque better overall.

"We can't be 50th in everything," she said. "I want to be 25th so we can say we're not 50th anymore."


*Dennis Domrzalski is an associate editor at ABQ Free Press Weekly.*



## Lunchtime Protest

**Mike Sullivan, a staffer with U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich, addresses a crowd of about 50 protesters outside the senator's 400 Gold Ave. SW office on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The group was the first of what organizers hope will be a weekly protest of Donald Trump's policies.** Photo: Johnny Vizcaino





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## The Rise and Fall of American Democracy is Playing Out

BY JOHN SCOTT

Since the early 20th century, the United States has gradually become more democratic. U.S. senators are now elected directly by common citizens. One no longer need be a property owner to vote. The right to vote was granted to women and protected for non-White citizens. The Great Depression and World War II resulted in a more democratic economy. Greater economic opportunities were available to greater numbers of Americans, and a vibrant middle class was created. In 1944, the G.I. Bill gave free higher education to servicemen and women returning from war. This helped to build a shared prosperity never before seen in this country.

The people who appreciate democracy the most are the common people. They benefit from a greater voice in government than in other systems. The people who appreciate democracy the least are the elites. These elites make up a very tiny part of the population, but they possess and control the most significant portion of wealth and power.

At some point, the common people or the working class will demand a portion of what they consider the excessive wealth possessed by the elite. The elite then have a choice. They can either construct a repressive police state to keep the rabble in line or they can allow a welfare state to pass a few modest crumbs to the lower classes.

One result of the New Deal and Great Society programs that arose out of the Great Depression was the beginnings of a welfare state. It was a relatively modest example of a welfare state compared to some of the Scandinavian countries. Worker protections and financial regulation brought increased stability to the economy.

In the 1970s, however, the forces of plutocracy started their coordinated pushback against the forces of democracy. A memo circulated by corporate lawyer and later U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell articulated the need for the wealthy business ruling class to assert themselves.

The 1976 Supreme Court ruling *Buckley vs. Valeo* – which in practice gave corporations free speech rights and equated money with speech – paved the way for the domination of the U.S. by corporate power. The corporate wealthy elite, who were typically billionaires with vast inherited wealth, created think tanks like the Heritage Foundation, like Americans for Prosperity, and the Cato Institute to promote an ideology that favored their interests at the expense of those of the lower classes. They created media outlets like Fox and used the concentration of media outlets to lessen opposing points of view while ceaselessly promoting the

perspective of the billionaire class. The billionaire class manufactured consent to convince Americans to allow the push to injure their own economic and social futures.

The billionaire class used dark money to buy and control governors and state representatives. Districts were drawn to favor Republican officeholders who implemented voter suppression legislation to address the phony concern of voter fraud. Working-class Americans were duped into believing their diminishing economic situation was caused by immigrants and people of color – while in reality it was the corporate masters of mankind who had exported our manufacturing capacity at the expense of the laboring class.

*In the 1970s, the forces of plutocracy started their coordinated pushback against the forces of democracy*

The shifting of our manufacturing to overseas locations and the domination of finance in our economy gradually created an extreme inequality with a fraction of the top one percent owning the majority of wealth in the world. This inequality weakened our already fragile democratic institutions. Great wealth sought even greater power to rig the rules to allow themselves to even greater wealth and power. This cycle has played out viscerously to bring greater insecurity to the working class.

With the ascension of Donald Trump, we have a government controlled by a single party. He has surrounded himself with fellow billionaires. The merging of state and corporate interests is no longer subtle. The flavor of his young administration is militaristic, belligerently nationalistic, and racist, with open hostility to criticism.

Trump is bent on crippling many of our federal agencies, and he has concentrated power in the hands of those intimate to him. His actions and strategy have many of the characteristics of a fascist regime. What can be done to resist the Trump regime?

We need to work to save and rebuild our democratic institutions. Subscribe to and support media outlets that provide honest reporting like The New York Times and The Washington Post. Support and participate in movements like Indivisible in your local, state and national communities. Collaborate and communicate with your friends and neighbors. You are not alone.

*John Scott is an Albuquerque doctor of oriental medicine.*

## Public Option Would Stop Medical Costs Shell Game

BY BILL HUME

We see these TV ads all the time: 'The amazing solar-powered beer can opener! Regularly \$129.95! Now available for a limited time for only \$49.95!

"But wait – there's more!"

This style of American commerce is creeping into the healthcare field as well.

Consider a recent "this is not a bill" from one of New Mexico's leading healthcare providers for a 20-minute visit with a physician's assistant:

"Amount Billed: \$353.87"

"But wait – there's more!"

"Amount allowed: \$108.25"

"Amount not covered: \$0.00"

"But wait ..."

"What Your Plan Paid: \$68.25"

"Your Cost Sharing: \$0.00"

There's no arithmetic continuity through this "not a bill." It pretty much details a shell game. At the end, the amount allegedly paid, \$68.25, is perhaps a reasonable fee for 20 minutes of a professional's time.

But WTF with all this opaque "Explanation of Benefits" jive?

What this "not a bill" illuminates is how today's business practices in healthcare have been reshaped and distorted by every player's shucking and jiving to finesse the other guy's position.

It is possible that Medicare accounted for some or all of that disappearing difference between "Amount Allowed" and "What Your Plan Paid," but this "not a bill" doesn't offer any clues into that. These "not a bill" notices that healthcare subscribers routinely receive do nothing to reassure consumers they are getting the best deal for their premium dollar.

Game-playing also continues at the top of the healthcare food chain:

A few months ago, I wrote about how the CEO of Anthem Healthcare threatened to withdraw from Obamacare if the government didn't allow it to merge with Cigna. Basically, it was a case of corporate interests winning out over patient service in the free market.

More recently, a federal judge made a damning disclosure in blocking the other proposed merger between two healthcare giants – that of Aetna and Humana.

U.S. District Judge John D. Bates in Washington, D.C., declared that Aetna withdrew from Obamacare in certain markets "specifically to evade judicial scrutiny" over anti-competitive effects of the merger.

The chief of Aetna's Florida market had questioned Aetna's headquarters about the decision to leave his market. The judge said the response, which was a directive to communicate by phone "instead of email," was an example of Aetna's "repeated efforts to conceal a paper trail about this decision-making."

This week, the judge's exposure of the truth led Aetna to drop its appeal and walk away from its planned \$37 billion merger with Humana. So, yet another of the Big Four in American healthcare is exposed for putting corporate profit ahead of any obligation for service to their client base – but why should we be surprised?

In the meantime, with Donald Trump and the Republican Congress champing at the bit to end Obamacare just as soon as they can agree on a replacement, the whole field – from solo practitioners to the Big Four – is in a state of chaotic arrested development.

Republicans say Obamacare is history just as soon as they figure out how to eliminate provisions that pay for it while keeping its nascent promise of affordable healthcare for all.

The only approach with any potential for steadying the American healthcare industry is the establishment of a public option – something along the lines of Medicare for all citizens. Insurance companies could sop up the healthcare gravy with supplement plans – just as they do today with Medicare Advantage. But their greed would be at least partially checked by the steadying backstop of a universal program.

The government would provide a basic package, as is true in virtually all the rest of the civilized world. Then the better off and the industry could frolic in the marketplace for enhanced benefits. This dual program seems to work reasonably well in the Medicare marketplace.

Healthcare in the United States will never be healthy until the needs of all citizens – not corporate profits – are given a dominant place at the negotiating table.

*Bill Hume is a former editorial page editor of the Albuquerque Journal and later served as a policy adviser to former Gov. Bill Richardson.*

**Where's Joe?**  
**Joe Monahan is taking some much-needed time off.**

## Lunchtime Protests, Immigrant Law Fundraiser, Homeless Kids

BY SAYRAH NAMASTÉ | sayrahn@hotmail.com



Heinrich. Organized by the local chapter of the Working Families Party, the weekly protest has been going on since January.

The protesters' message is "Stop the Swamp Cabinet," a response to Donald Trump's campaign promise to "drain the swamp" of corruption in Washington while, at the same time, he appoints Wall Street bankers and billionaires to Cabinet positions.

*The Albuquerque downtown lunchtime protest action is just one of many nationally coordinated protests occurring in most large cities under the rubric of 'Resist Trump Tuesdays'*

The protest, which has attracted many social justice groups and some local unions, demands that New Mexico's two senators oppose his nominees. As Trump's executive orders have rolled out each week, the protestors have added messages against the refugee ban, building a border wall and most recently, his U.S. Supreme Court pick.

The Downtown lunchtime protest action is just one of many nationally coordinated protests happening in most large cities under the rubric of "Resist Trump Tuesdays." Local organizers say they have no plans to stop any time soon. You can join them from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Tuesday at 400 Gold Ave. SW. Bring a creative sign, vent with your fellow activists and talk to the senators' staff, who often come out to mingle among the crowd.

### The fight

If you've been cheering the lawyers who have been battling Trump in the courts recently, you'll want to attend an event supporting the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, which provides

pro bono and affordable legal services to immigrants.

The "Borderlands Benefit" is from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 516 Central Ave. SW. Funds raised will support the law center's work as well as an upcoming exhibition at 516 Arts titled "The U.S./Mexico Border: Place, Imagination and Possibility."

Guests will include New Mexico poet Jimmy Santiago Baca, who was abandoned as a child and later began writing poetry in prison. He has written a dozen books of poetry as well as essays, stories and a screenplay.

Las Flores del Valle, a musical duo, will perform some of the musical genres native to the border region. Cash, check, or credit card donations will be accepted. To learn more about the law center, visit nmilc.org.

### Homeless kids

Does billionaire U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos know there are homeless children attending U.S. public schools? The Interfaith Hunger Coalition is educating the community about the issues such children face.

The coalition has invited Patrick Scott, who serves as liaison for the Title I Homeless Project for the Albuquerque Public Schools, to speak at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at First Presbyterian Church, 215 Locust St. NE. The public is invited to the event and learn about how the APS Title I Homeless Project offers services and support to homeless students and families.

**The 'Borderlands Benefit' is from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 516 Central Ave. SW.**

"With almost 4,000 homeless children in the Albuquerque Public Schools, we know that housing instability is a major challenge for our students," Scott said. "Hunger and food insecurity is another factor impacting learning." Children can't focus on learning when they are hungry. New Mexico ranks first in the nation in child hunger, according to a 2014 study by the group Feeding America.

*Sayrah Namasté is an organizer with the American Friends Service Committee in Albuquerque. She writes about events of interest to Albuquerque's activist community.*



# CALENDAR

## SHOWS

### FEBRUARY 16-18

**Dirty Bourbon**  
9800 Montgomery Blvd NE, 296-2726, thedirtybourbon.com  
**February 16**, Chad Freeman & Redline  
**February 17**, Casey Donahew  
**February 18**, Chad Freeman & Redline

### FEBRUARY 16-19

**Launchpad**  
618 Central Ave SW, 764-8887, launchpadrocks.com  
**February 16**, Jonathan Richman  
**February 17**, Torture Victim  
**February 18**, Blinddryve  
**February 19**, MC Magic

### FEBRUARY 16-20

**Sister Bar**  
407 Central Ave SW, 242-4900, sisterthebar.com  
**February 16**, The Spins Vinyl Listening Party  
**February 17**, Beneath Babylon w/ AMIT  
**February 18**, Green Chile Donuts — J Dilla Tribute  
**February 21**, NOTS

### FEBRUARY 16-22

**Low Spirits**  
2823 2nd St NW, 344-9555, lowspiritslive.com  
**February 16**, Michigan Rattlers  
**February 17**, David Gans, Let it Grow  
**February 18**, The Riddims  
**February 22**, Open Mic

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**The Harmaleighs**  
6 pm, Free, Taylor Ranch Library, 5700 Bogart St NW, 897-8816, abqlibrary.org  
**The Rebbe's Orkestra**  
5 pm, Free, Albuquerque Museum of Art & History, 2000 Mountain Rd NW, 242-4600, albuquerquemuseum.org

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**Granger Smith**  
Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino, 287 Carrizo Canyon Rd, Mesclero, (800) 545-9011, innofthemountaingods.com  
**The Harmaleighs**  
Noon, Free, South Valley Library, 3904 Isleta Blvd SW, 877-5170, abqlibrary.org  
**Palenke Soulttribe**  
National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St SW, 724-4771, nhccnm.org  
**Tim and Chitty of Medicine for the People**  
8 pm, Taos Mesa Brewing, 20 ABC Mesa Rd, El Prado, (575) 758-1900, taosmesabrewing.com  
**Unbreakable w/ Unlimited Aspect**  
Meow Wolf, 1352 Rufina Cir, Santa Fe, (505) 395-6369, meowwolf.com

### FEBRUARY 17-19

**The Rebbe's Orkestra**  
Nahalat Shalom, 3606 Rio Grande Blvd NW, 343-8227

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**Chispa: Pimentel Concert Series, Pimentel Guitars 65th Anniversary**  
7:30 pm, National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St SW, 724-4771, nhccnm.org



On view at Tortuga Gallery



On view at Tortuga Gallery



On view at Tortuga Gallery



On view at Sumner & Dene

## Route 66 Artful Saturday, February 18

### Matrix Fine Art

3812 Central Ave SE, Suite 100 A - 280.8659 - matrixfineart.com - map  
Teachers and Students Reception 1-4pm  
Teachers from Media Arts Collaborative Charter School, along with their students, will be featured in an afternoon event. Hot teas and homemade baked goods will be available to raise money for a wonderful public charter school.

### Sumner & Dene

517 Central NW - 842.1400 - sumnerdene.com - map  
ARTful Saturday Open House 12-4pm  
Sumner & Dene presents February: Its About LOVE showcasing the humorous side of Love with works by Angus Macpherson, David Zaintz, David Snow, Michelle Allen, and Dawn Estrin. Exhibits feature love in paintings, jewelry, clocks, and mixed media. Exhibit runs through February 25th.

### Tortuga Gallery

901 Edith Blvd. SE - 506-0820 - tortugagallery.org - map  
ARTful Saturday 2-4pm, Film Viewing at 5pm  
Art and Music celebrating the Turtle Show featuring the work of many local artists, 2-4pm. Followed by John Bolenbaugh's new film, 'Stop All New Pipelines' at 5pm.

## EVENTS

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 22

**True North Financial Ministries — Money Academy**  
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Free, New City Church, 6300 San Mateo Blvd. NE F-1, 314-3470, tnbq.org

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 23

**Recycled Heart: the Artists of ArtStreet**  
Harwood Art Center, 1114 7th St NW, 242-6367, harwoodartcenter.org  
**Transform Your Life with Meditation and Buddhist Wisdom**  
Thursdays, 7 pm, Kadampa Meditation Center, 142 Monroe St NE, 292-5293, meditationinnewmexico.org

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 24

**Placitas Artists Series February Visual Artists**  
Reception, Sunday, February 12, 2-3 pm  
Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, 7 Paseo de San Antonio, Placitas, 867-8080, placitasartistsseries.org

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 25

**Biologique — New Mexico Art League**  
New Mexico Art League, 3409 Juan Tabo NE, 293-5034, newmexicoartleague.org

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 26

**Old Growth: Tim Lee**  
Stranger Factory, 3411 Central Ave NE, 508-3049, strangerfactory.com

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 27

**Warms Quilts for Cold Nights — Thimbleweeds Quilt Exhibit**  
Loma Colorado Main Library, 755 Loma Colorado Blvd NE, Rio Rancho, 891-5013x3033, riorancholibraries.org

### THROUGH MARCH 1

**Tope Series: Randal Romwalter**  
Zendo, 413 2nd St SW, Albuquerque, 926-1636, zendo-coffee.com

### THROUGH MARCH 2

**Mask de Arte**  
Placitas Community Library, 453 Hwy 165, 867-3355, placitaslibrary.com

### THROUGH MARCH 3

**Sanctuary: A Medieval Murder**  
Adobe Theater, 9813 Fourth St NW, adobetheater.org

### THROUGH MARCH 5

**Company**  
Musical Theatre Southwest, 6320-B Domingo NE, 265-9119, musicaltheatresw.com

**The Lady in Question**  
The Vortex Theatre, 2900 Carlisle NE, 247-8600, vortexabq.org

### THROUGH MARCH 11

**In the Offing: Cedra Wood**  
Central Features, 514 Central SW, 243-3389, centralfeatures.com

### THROUGH MARCH 12

**Inside the Forces of Nature: Athena LaTocha**  
IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, 108 Cathedral Pl, Santa Fe, iaia.edu/museum

### THROUGH MARCH 25

**Park Place Gallery: Founders and Friend, Then and Now**  
David Richard Gallery, 1570 Pacheco St Ste A1, Santa Fe, 983-9555, davidrichardgallery.com

### THROUGH MARCH 31

**Yearning for What Could be Above and Beyond What is: Victoria Mlady**  
Sierra Club Gallery, 2215 Lead Ave SE, 243-7767  
**Wonderland: An Exhibit of Past and Present Members of the APS Fine Arts Department**  
South Broadway Cultural Center, 1025 Broadway Blvd SW, 848-1320, southbroadwaytickets.com

### THROUGH APRIL 1

**We are in mysterious contact with the powers besieging us, ready to call forth a miracle: UNM Graduate Art Association**  
Paper Visions: Karsten Creightney 516 ARTS, 516 Central Ave SW, 242-1445, 516arts.org

### THROUGH APRIL 16

**The Carved Line: Block Printing in New Mexico**  
Albuquerque Museum of Art & History, 2000 Mountain Rd NW, 242-4600, albuquerquemuseum.org  
**Now is the Time: Investigating Native Histories and Visions of the Future**  
IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Helen Hardin Media Gallery, 108 Cathedral Pl, Santa Fe, iaia.edu/museum

### THROUGH APRIL 21

**Life in Pieces — Quilts: Emilie Bezzeg**  
Oasis Albuquerque Gallery, 3301 Menaul Blvd NE Ste 18, 884-4529, oasisabq.org

### THROUGH APRIL 22

**Local Eight**  
Reception, Friday, February 24, 5-7 pm  
photo-eye Gallery, 541 S. Guadalupe St, Santa Fe, (505) 988-5152, photoeye.com

### THROUGH JUNE 15

**New Impressions: Experiments in Contemporary Native American Printmaking**  
IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, 108 Cathedral Pl, Santa Fe, iaia.edu/museum

### THROUGH OCTOBER 8

**Critical Assembly, the Secrets of Los Alamos 1944: Jim Sanborn**  
National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, 601 Eubank Blvd SE, 245-2137, nuclearmuseum.org

4	8	9	7	3	2	6	1	9
2	6	1	9	9	8	3	7	4
9	3	7	6	4	1	9	8	2
8	9	6	4	9	7	2	3	1
9	1	4	3	2	6	8	9	7
3	7	2	1	8	9	4	9	6
7	2	3	8	1	4	9	6	9
6	4	8	9	7	9	1	2	3
1	9	9	2	6	3	7	4	8

### THROUGH JANUARY 7, 2018

**I-Witness Culture: Frank Buffalo Hyde**  
Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, 710 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe, (505) 476-1269, indianartsandculture.org

### THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2018

**The Ceaseless Quest for Utopia: Daniel McCoy**  
IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Helen Hardin Media Gallery, 108 Cathedral Pl, Santa Fe, iaia.edu/museum

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**Borderlands Benefit**  
6 pm, 516 ARTS, 516 Central Ave SW, 242-1445, 516arts.org  
**The Constitution at a Crossroads: Akhil Reed Amar**  
6 pm, Free, UNM School of Law, 1117 Stanford Dr NE, lawschool.unm.edu

**Klezmer and Knishes — a celebration of Jewish culture**  
5 pm, Free, Albuquerque Museum of Art & History, 2000 Mountain Rd NW, 242-4600, albuquerquemuseum.org

**Salud y Sabor: Brasil**  
5:30 pm, Free, National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St SW, 724-4771, nhccnm.org

**Santa Fe Watershed Presentation**  
5:30 pm, Edition One Gallery, 1036 Canyon Rd, Santa Fe, (505) 570-5385, editionone.gallery

**The Sun, the Moon, and Chaco Canyon: Soltice Project**  
7 pm, New Mexico Natural History Museum, 1801 Mountain Rd NW, nmnaturalhistory.org

### FEBRUARY 16-19

**Our Glass Figures**  
The Cell Theatre, 700 1st St NW, 766-9412, liveatthecell.com

### FEBRUARY 16-26

**Solving for X: The Education Project**  
National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St SW, 724-4771, nhccnm.org

Have something to include in our weekly calendar? Send the details to [calendar@freeabq.com](mailto:calendar@freeabq.com)

Puzzles on page 23

N	Y	W	S	A	W	V	S	B	S	D	O	C
B	A	B	N	N	V	B	N	B	I	W	V	N
T	O	G	I	N	I	H	I	L	B	E	L	V
B	N	I	N	I	H	O	I	L	V	B	H	
				G	T	O			Y	O	B	
S	S	B	T	R	V	T	T	O	C		B	M
N	B	X	V	L		T	V	d		O	B	L
B	A	V				B	B	L	I	B	I	N
W	B	O	L	S	B	N	L	S	B	I	V	
				B	R	L			S	T	S	
				O	N	V	S	I	R	B	O	N
O	B	R	V	B	d	T	N	d		V	N	L
B	O	V	T	d		V	O	A		B	I	V
L	V	L	d	S		S	O	L	L		L	V



# On A Tank of Gas: Hub City Adventures

BY MORIAH CARTY | moriah.carty@gmail.com

Belen, 35 miles south of Albuquerque, is yet another New Mexico town that evolved from its agricultural roots to become the transportation hub it is today, after the arrival of the railroad in the late 1800s.

That’s where the nickname “Hub City” came from – the junction of major railways. We’ll explore more of its origin later.

Despite the hustle and bustle of the railroad, the town is certainly mellow. The land of mañana rings true, but without the negative connotation it often carries. Belen offers a comfortable space to relax, from museums to small retail shops and scrumptious food options.

Hit the road with your favorite tunes for a casual afternoon not too far from home. On I-25, the Sandias slowly morph into the Manzanos. Despite the jagged rock faces, the Manzanos slide into mesmerizing slopes, its altitude hidden behind soft fronts.

## Albuquerque to Morgan’s Cakes and More: 36.4 miles

121 S Main St., Belen

Confections dusted with confectioner’s sugar. The icing melts into your mouth. What more could you ask for on a lazy afternoon?

If you need a custom cake order, here is the place to do it. Maybe you didn’t need a whole cake, but some cupcakes for a get-together – not to worry, fineness is commonplace.

Delicate flowers top heavenly pastries. There is no such thing as too early or too late for a sweet. Breakfast is so important, it merits a perfectly decorated treat.

There are more breakfast-like pastries for those who wish for it.

Most important of all, savor every bite, you’ve got nowhere to be but here. Once the palate has been temporarily satisfied, make your way to the center of Belen’s sightseeing.

## Morgan’s Cakes and More to Belen Harvey House Museum: 0.8 miles

104 N 1st St., Belen

Sometimes hanging out with antiques is an easy way to get lost in the past and escape the mayhem of daily routines.

The Harvey House Museum is one of a few remaining Harvey Houses. In the early 1900s, the house was a restaurant for passengers, where Harvey Girls waited on them.

The now-museum showcases art from local artists. The current show, Artful Threads, features fiber. Spectacular colors await your approval.



Photo: Courtesy of Morgan’s Cakes

While you’re there, you might notice some paranormal activity. The Harvey House has quite the history of curious happenings. Check in with the docent for more eerie details.

After blasting through the interesting history, make the short drive over to the brewery.

## Belen Harvey House to Hub City Brewing Co: 0.6 miles

202 De Soto Ave., Belen

What can I say, there just isn’t a better way to end the day than with a cold beer, regardless of the time of year.

Flavorful variations of crisp and bubbly assault your taste buds. You might see a glimpse of local life since the brewery is literally next to the train station. Commuters come and go, so do the tourists.

Train travel always seems a relaxing, old-fashioned way to get around. I much prefer it to cars and highly recommend a trip by train.

## Hub City Brewing Co to Albuquerque: 36.1 miles

The clear sunny day turns to dusk and the short drive home beckons you.

**Stops: 3; Miles: 73.9**

Moriah Carty is an Albuquerque local with a heavy sense of wanderlust.



Photo: Courtesy of Harvey House



Photo: Moriah Carty

# SLIDOKU

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle, each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9.

	4	7	3		2			1
	2		5		6	8		
5	9	6	4			3		7
			6	8			7	
	6						1	
	3			5	4			
2		5			9	7	3	6
		3	8		5		9	
6			2		7	5	8	

Level: EASY

Solution on page 21

## What are cannabis units regulated by the NM DOH?

Answered by: Joshua Walls, Clinic Manager at R. Greenleaf, 4414 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM  
Edited by: Erin Sue White and Austin Overpeck

In 2016, The NM Department of Health Cannabis Program began limiting any one patient to purchase 230 units of cannabis in a 90-day rolling period. That means a patient can buy roughly eight ounces of flower from any given 90-day rolling period. For example, the period between January 1st until March 31st, 2017. On April 1st, the ninety-first day of the year, the units purchased on January 1st, will drop off of the limit. This allows a patient to purchase more units on April 1st.

A unit of cannabis is easy to track. One unit equals one gram of flower medicine. So if a patient buys a 3.5g bag of flower, it is counted as 3.5 units. In order to track edibles and derivatives, it gets a bit trickier. A single unit is breaks down to 200mg of THC in an edible or other cannabis-derived-product. All edibles will already be in milligram dosing and not by THC percentage, but concentrates can vary. Assume that the gram of BHO you purchased from R. Greenleaf was 70% THC, that would equal 700mg of THC. 700 divided by 200 mg, equals 3.5 units.

Patients are primarily responsible for keeping track of their units, but can contact the NM DOH (505-827-2321) for a current amount. Feel free to contact a Peer Educator at any one of your favorite R. Greenleaf clinics for a further explanation of units and how they affect you.

Do you have a cannabis question for ask the experts?  
Email us at questions@reynoldgreenleaf.com

R.GREENLEAF

ABQ FREE PRESS WEEKLY

NM MCCC

# Crossword

by Myles Mellor and Sally York

## Across

- Second baseman?
- In this way
- Comics sound
- Locks
- Anahat \_\_\_\_
- Come in second
- Sight from Taormina
- Magazine type
- Dog-\_\_\_\_
- Jay Ferguson hit
- Start of a cheer
- Burn up
- When calm arrives
- Nescient
- Belgium village
- So out it's in
- Lassie portrayer
- Bilked
- Yeanling producer
- Type of shirt or jacket
- Perfectly fine
- Gaudy scarf
- Smoke
- Faint flash on the horizon
- Argus-eyed

## Down

- Sharpen
- Biblical verb
- Hokkaido native
- Manhattan \_\_\_\_
- Compose
- Appointed time
- Unattractive tangelo?
- Exhausts
- Catches, in a way
- Krypton, e.g.
- Piecrust ingredient
- One in a suit
- Poet Hughes
- "Likewise"
- Dissembled

- Doctor
- Move, in a way
- Start of a refrain
- "\_\_\_\_ bells!"
- Woody
- They may be seeded
- Kind of room
- Organic compound
- Time piece
- Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
- Taking a side
- \_\_\_\_ room
- Tell tale activity
- Old World herbs
- Col. Sanders feature
- Cord fiber
- American journalist Lisa
- It may be fixed
- \_\_\_\_ rock
- Footnote word
- Astronomer's sighting
- Secluded spot
- Electric \_\_\_\_
- Pathet \_\_\_\_

Level: DIFFICULT

Answers on page 21

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21						22				
			23						24					
		25				26	27	28				29	30	31
32	33											34		
35						36				37	38			
39					40					41				
42			43	44										
			45						46					
		47					48	49	50			51	52	53
54	55					56					57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			





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