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County Clerk Hosting Voter Roll Accuracy Event

*New website will
help increase voter
participation*



Sandoval County Clerk Anne Brady-Romero
(Courtesy Sandoval County)

Sandoval Signpost staff

Sandoval County Clerk Anne Brady-Romero is hosting a Voter Rolls Accuracy event on May 6.

The public is invited to attend the event at the County Administration Building from 1-4 p.m.

The event includes a media campaign and polling site promotional signage and is part of the continuing effort by the clerk's office to further improve the accuracy of the voter rolls through resident participation and to increase voter confidence in elections.

"Our goal is simple; voter rolls accuracy and voter confidence. This office is committed to upholding

— See VOTER ROLL on page 3

Sandoval County Businesses See Soaring Property Values



(Credit Roberto E. Rosales)

By Jesse Jones, Sandoval Signpost

Property values in Sandoval County have seen a huge increase this year.

In particular, Rio Rancho business property owners have seen some of the highest increases in the county. Several property owners urged county commissioners at the April 24 meeting to do something about the high property values from the Assessor's Office.

During the commission meeting's public comment section, frustrated business owners expressed their concerns to the commissioners about their properties' skyrocketing valuations.

"Based on the sample review we see anywhere between 30% to 600% increases," Jerry Schalow, president and CEO of the Rio Rancho Regional Chamber of Commerce, said. "We

looked at a number of different properties and this is everywhere from Guerrero Plaza (Rio Rancho) which saw a significant increase of 142% to \$2.2 million to the subway in Cuba had a 93% increase of \$753,000."

In an interview with the *Signpost* following the meeting, Sandoval County Assessor Linda Gallegos said, "I don't think there's a question whether evaluations are correct, because we have enough information to defend our values. The concern is the percentage of increase and the way that we can help ourselves in the future is to have legislation changed."

According to the county website, the Sandoval County Assessor's Office assesses property values for tax purposes and maintains records for all real (land and improvements) and business personal properties

in the county. Property owners receive valuation notices by April 1 annually, which determine their tax obligations based on the assessed value, exemptions and applicable tax rates set by local agencies. Taxable value is calculated as one-third of the appraised value, adjusted for exemptions, and multiplied by the tax rate, with different rates for residential and nonresidential properties.

"We just analyzed the information that's available to us to be able to do our valuations but the market itself is set by buyers and sellers, not our office, and nothing we do is arbitrary," Gallegos said.

According to Gallegos, the distinction is between residential and commercial property assessments in the county, noting a 3% maximum cap for residential properties and access to sales disclosure for accurate assessments. However, for nonresidential properties like commercial and vacant land, there is no cap on assessed values and limited sales disclosure, leading to challenges in valuations.

"I think the main idea that you're hearing through the public comments, wasn't that our values were wrong. It was about the percentage of increase that went up," Gallegos said. "That is not something that is within the control of the Assessor's Office. In fact, I would go so far as to say that the state needs to make some changes to that. That is through the Legislature, which actually needs to amend state statutes to mandate the disclosure of the selling prices of nondisclosed nonresidential properties to ensure

— See PROPERTY on page 3

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STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS:

Admin:

Pat Davis

Owner & Publisher

pat@newmexico.news

Tierna Unruh-Enos

Managing Editor

tierna@newmexico.news

Editorial:

Sara Atencio-Gonzales

Reporter

sara@sandovalsignpost.com

Michael Hodock

Reporter

michael@sandovalsignpost.com

Jesse Jones

Reporter

jesse@sandovalsignpost.com

Sales:

John Hankinson

Sales Executive

john@abq.news

Chiara Sullivan

Sales Executive

chiara@abq.news

Production:

Rachel Mills

Art Director

Jordan Bourne

Digital Engagement Manager

–PROPERTY from page 1

that our valuations can be as accurate as possible.”

The commissioners voiced their concerns during the meeting regarding the property valuation assessments affecting local businesses.

“Every one of us up here wants to help you. We want you to be successful, I want you to hire employees so they stay here in Rio Rancho. I’m very concerned about this,” Commissioner Jay Block said.

Vice Chairman Michael Meek, Commissioner Katherine Bruch and Commissioner Joshua Jones stated they wanted to hear from Gallegos to understand the situation.

Chairman David Heil encouraged business and property owners not to miss the deadline to submit protests but said the commission does not have authority over the assessor’s decisions.

According to the county website, only the state Department of Taxation and Revenue may direct the assessor’s activities.

“Our job is to make sure (the valuations are) current and correct,” Gallegos said.

After the notice of value goes out on April 1, individuals have 30 days to dispute the valuation. To file a dispute before the May 1 deadline, property owners can either visit the office in person or mail in their protest, which must be postmarked by the due date.

Property owners can apply for regular exemptions as well. There are head of household, veteran and value freeze exemptions.

The protest and exemption forms can be found at sandovalcountynm.gov/elected-officials/county-assessor/forms/.

The Sandoval County Assessor’s Office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday at 1500 Idalia

Road, Building D, Bernalillo, on the first floor.

The assessor can be contacted at 505-867-7562 or by email at lgallegos@sandovalcountynm.gov.

Other business

Commissioners also passed a series of resolutions for the county’s infrastructure development. They include:

• Funding to create a safety corridor on County Road 13 in Cuba. The engineers’ estimate for the planning and design came in at \$243,609.16. The County’s 5% match would be \$12,180.45 and \$231,428.17 will be requested from NMDOT.

• Funding assistance for the phase 3 and 4 Bosque Road/Guadalupe Road improvements in Bernalillo. The engineers’ estimate came in at \$2,337,390.27 and the county’s match would be \$116,869.51.

• Funding for a total reconstruction of N474 in Ojo Encino, which is the main road for residents to get to the Ojo Encino clinic. The engineer’s estimate for plan and design totals \$217,221.96, with the county’s 5% match amounting to \$10,861.00. The county is seeking \$206,360.96 from NMDOT to cover the remaining project costs.

The commission also approved an agreement between the county and an architecture firm for the relocation of the County Commission room to the ground level for the amount of \$509,098.99. The relocation aims to improve accessibility and incorporate safety standards.

Get involved

The next county commission meeting is at 6 p.m. May 8 at the Administrative Building Commission Chambers, 1500 Idalia Road, Building D in Bernalillo.

– VOTER ROLL from page 1

the integrity of the election process. A component in that process is accurate voter rolls," said Romero.

Interactive website

Last week, Romero announced her office was updating its website with new features to help voters in Sandoval County.

One of the updates includes an interactive tool where residents can find their nearest and most convenient voting location for both early voting and Election Day.

In addition to new tools for voters, the clerk’s website has been updated to include scheduling appointments online for marriage licenses and accessing more details for property records, such as deeds, plats and mortgages.

Residents will be able to view more easily all the services offered by the county clerk, and wherever applicable, be able to access additional websites and resources.

How to vote

The deadline to register to vote online at NMVote.org or by mail is May 7.

As long as a voter goes in person to a polling place in Sandoval County, they’ll be able to register and vote in the same transaction. This is called “same-day voter registration.”

Eligible voters who want a mail-in ballot can apply online at portal.sos.state.nm.us/ and search voter services.

Voters can request a mail-in ballot by filling out the form on the secretary of state’s website and returning it to their county clerk.

If residents don’t want to register to vote online, they can register to vote through the mail. Official paper applications in English or Spanish can be found on the secretary of state’s website and then voters will need to mail it to the County Clerk’s Office.

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Placitas Artists Series Wraps 37th Year

World-renowned duo performs for final concert

By Sandoval Signpost staff

After another successful season, the Placitas Artists Series is wrapping up its 37th season on May 19, with the renowned Fischer Duo performing chamber works.

The farewell concert features cellist Norman Fischer and pianist, Jeanne Kierman, who have been playing together for more than 50 years. Music critics laud the Fischer Duo's repertoire choices, spanning classics like Brahms, Beethoven and Schumann, alongside rediscovered gems by Busoni, Boulanger and more. Fischer and Kierman have commissioned new works from composers like William Bolcom and Augusta Read Thomas.

Fischer, a Grammy-winning cellist, broke onto the music scene with a bang when he played with the Concord String Quartet. In his career, he has premiered contemporary cello works and collaborations with renowned quartets and festivals worldwide.

Kierman, an accomplished pianist, has a rich background in ensemble repertoire and teaching. She's toured extensively and taught at Rice University.

According to a news release, the Fischer Duo have toured in South America and South Africa, and have been praised for musical maturity and audience accessibility. Their residency work includes recent engagements in China, Germany, and Singapore.

The program featured at the concert in Placitas includes François Couperin's Pièces en Concert, Robert Sirota's Family Portraits, William Grant Still's Mother and Child, and Introduction and Allegro from Sonata No. 2 by William Bolcom.

Individual concert tickets can be purchased at PlacitasArts.org. K-12 students accompanied by an adult ticket holder get in free.

Organizers encourage concertgoers to come early for a monthly artists' reception in the Fellowship Hall at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church,



The Fischer Duo (Courtesy Placitas Artist Series)

located at 7 Paseo De San Antonio Rd. Admission to the gallery is free. On exhibit will be the works of Tony Mattson, landscape photography; Lynne Kearny, pastel painting; Deb Evans, oil landscape painting; and

Lynda Burch, mixed media and collage. These artists are on exhibit from May 5 through June 8. All artwork on display is available for purchase.

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'We Want to Keep it Small But Help It Grow'

Bernalillo's new development coordinator brings wealth of experience

By Jesse Jones, Sandoval Signpost

The new Bernalillo development coordinator wants to help people's construction projects become reality, as the town continues to grow.

Martin Martinez aids residents in project construction by simplifying the permitting process and ensuring regulatory compliance for a smoother process.

"I always wanted to make a difference and help people, that's my ultimate goal, to make it safe and good for people and have them know that we're on their side," Martinez says. "That's my job to impart that information to them so they can understand it and they can comply with those rules without feeling like we're subjugating them in some way or making them feel like we're an ugly, mean government entity."

Martinez has been in the position for about six months and has already adapted to his new role.

Martinez, who grew up in Corrales, has been involved in construction since the age of 12, gaining

experience in nearly every aspect of the field.

"Every goal I've accomplished, every step I've taken, every fall I've taken has helped me become better at what I do now," Martinez said.

Before working for the town, Martinez worked as an inspector for almost 20 years. He has a diverse background, including experience as a roofer, welder, fabricator and heavy mechanic, and he's worked with tile, asphalt and styrofoam fabrication.

Martinez said his goal is to preserve Bernalillo's old-town charm while revamping older areas to meet safety standards.

"We want to keep it small but help it grow without becoming a big city or becoming a polluted, horrible place," he said.

He also says he wants Bernalillo's businesses to be successful and to continue to be competitive with Albuquerque and Rio Rancho.

With his extensive background in construction, his focus is not just on enforcing regulations, but also on understanding and supporting



Martin Martinez (Credit Jesse Jones)

residents' needs and helping them come up with practical solutions that benefit everyone.

"We're being competitive because we have a good product, we have a safe environment and a good, clean town," Martinez said.

Open office hours

Martinez invites residents with questions or concerns to visit his office for assistance and guidance at the Planning and Zoning Department, 829 S. Camino del Pueblo.

Fresh Farm-to-Table Produce at the Los Ranchos Growers' Market!

It's Springtime...and the Market's Regular Season is Open!

Every Saturday from May to November, the market offers a wide selection of fresh farm-to-table produce including salad greens, cabbage, kale, carrots, radishes, eggs, honey, jams/jellies, baked goods, dried fruits, and so much more. Don't forget to pick up some vegetable and flower seedlings for your garden.

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During this time, we will be offering phone and video conferencing. We also have emergency procedures for isolated individuals to complete documents.

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

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



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Rio Rancho Teen Accused in Homicide



(Photo by Scott Rodgerson on Unsplash)

Michael Hodock, Sandoval Signpost

A Rio Rancho teen was arrested and charged this week in connection with the recent stabbing death of an Albuquerque woman. According to a press release, the Rio Rancho Police Department Criminal Investigations Division identified the suspect as 17-year-old Joshua Xavier Mora who is facing charges of first-degree murder and tampering with evidence.

The victim, 44-year-old Heather Nicole Lamb of Albuquerque, was located by RRPD in the Open Space

area off Riverside Dr. NE on April 16. She was suffering from apparent stab wounds. Lamb later died in the hospital from her injuries.

According to a petition for pretrial detention, detectives said that Lamb may have met Mora on a dating app called "Skip the Games."

Mora is currently being held in the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center. The investigation is still active and anyone with information about the case is asked to contact Detective Aaron Lopez at alopez@rrnm.gov or leave a message at 505-891-5857.

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Adventure to Cabezon Peak

Ghost towns and open wilderness near greater Mount Taylor

By Justin Schatz, columnist
Trail Mix is a monthly column featuring off-the-beaten-path adventures in New Mexico.

Rising over 1,100 feet from the Rio Puerco Valley, Cabezon Peak dominates this remote and rugged valley just west of Albuquerque. Despite its relative isolation, it's just over an hour's drive from Albuquerque and an easy stop to cooler temperatures in the higher elevations of the Jemez and offers plenty of recreation opportunities for just about any adventure.

The towering plug is part of the greater Mount Taylor volcanic field that was active between 1.5 -4 million years ago. The plug itself rises 1,100 feet from its base and 2,000 feet from the Rio Puerco Valley floor to an elevation of 7,785 feet. The neck of the plug is composed of highly resilient fine-grained porphyritic basalts offering trad climbing opportunities and a notable class 3 scramble opportunity to the summit.

Visitors venturing into this remote corner of the state will be greeted by empty roads, public lands stretching as far as the eye can see, ghost towns

and several adjacent wilderness study areas that include Chamisa and Ojito Wilderness study areas that are also rugged geological gems.

The easiest route to access the remote and rugged peak is from U.S. 550 between Cuba and San Ysidro. Take Old State Highway 279 south. A small parking lot is located at its base. An off-roading vehicle is recommended but not necessary.

The trail to the base of Cabezon is 1.9 miles out and back from the small dirt parking lot located at the end of BLM 1114. From the parking lot, a well-marked trail — follow the cairns — will lead to the east side of the neck. Even at the base of the neck, the views of the valley are nothing short of breathtaking. Mount Taylor towers to the west. The Jemez lies to the north, and dozens of smaller plugs dot the Rio Puerco to the south. Vast mesas, most notably Mesa Prieta, tower above the valley floor and the smaller volcanic plugs.

For those desiring a little more adventure, the scramble to the summit of Cabezon Peak is not for the faint of heart. Despite its resilient nature, some of the organic material



Cabezon Peak. (Credit Justin Schatz)

from the original scoria cone remains near the summit and offers a much less reliable hold than the basalt spires. The trail is only distinguished by cairns that wind their way through questionably navigable cracks in the neck. The summit is worth the sometimes painful climb, offering an unparalleled view of the valley and the Rio Grande rift to the west.

Cabezon Peak and the surrounding

Rio Puerco Valley have no shortage of recreational opportunities for those seeking a weekend off the beaten path. Hikers and climbers will revel at what Cabezon Peak holds. Endless and often forgotten BLM roads are a mountain biker's delight. Those with high-clearance vehicles can even spend a weekend exploring the ghost towns that dot the arid valley. Just don't forget to bring plenty of water.

Cuba School District Wins National Recognition

Sandoval Signpost staff

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced the winners of the 2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees.

Only two New Mexico schools and districts were chosen.

Polk Middle School in Albuquerque Public Schools was chosen as a 2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School and the Cuba Independent School District was selected as a 2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee.

“Congratulations to the students, faculty and staff of Polk Middle School and Cuba Independent School District,” said Public Education Secretary Arsenio Romero. “Your dedication to sustainability not only sets a commendable example for your peers but also paves the way for a brighter, greener future for generations to come.”

Awards are granted to those who show incorporation of environmental learning with improving

environmental and health impacts.

Cuba Independent School District has been integrating outdoor and environmental learning for years. Their work in the community includes healthy walking paths, paths that connect the classrooms to the wilderness, gardens, and a greenhouse. As the *Signpost* reported, the district implemented in-house food growing operations to reduce its carbon footprint and save on shipping and operational costs.

The district also initiated waste reduction programs, such as repurposing and composting, significantly reducing landfill waste and lowering disposal expenses.

Across the country, 41 schools, 10 districts, three postsecondary institutions and one early learning center are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education. Representatives from each school will go to a ceremony in Washington, D.C., where they receive a plaque and have their efforts celebrated.

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Māori Delegation Visits With Jemez Pueblo Singers



Black Eagle Singers from Jemez Pueblo welcomed the visiting Māori delegation of New Zealand prior to the beginning of the Gathering of Nations last week at Expo New Mexico.

*Photos by
Roberto E. Rosales,
Sandoval Signpost*



Ozone Pollution Continues to Plague New Mexico

Sandoval County received a D grade

 **Hannah Grover, NM Political Report**

Four of the nine New Mexico counties evaluated in the annual State of the Air report received failing marks for ozone pollution.

The counties with failing grades were Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Eddy and San Juan.

The annual State of the Air report looks at ozone and particulate matter pollution in more than 200 metropolitan statistical areas. The American Lung Association began releasing its State of the Air report in 2000.

The American Lung Association assigns letter grades to counties based on the air pollution.

Lea and Sandoval counties received D grades for ozone.

Of the nine counties in New Mexico included in this year’s report, Rio Arriba County had the best grade when it comes to ozone pollution—a B.

Santa Fe and Valencia counties received C grades.

Only five counties in New Mexico

were evaluated for particulate matter pollution. Of those, Bernalillo and Doña Ana counties received failing scores.

Lea, Santa Fe and Taos counties received B grades for particle pollution.

The report ranked the El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces region as having the 15th worst ozone pollution in the country and the Albuquerque-Santa Fe-Las Cruces region as having the 21st worst ozone pollution.

This is the same report that is often cited by Republican politicians in the state house as showing that Farmington had the best air in the country. In its 2016 report, the American Lung Association did rank the Farmington metropolitan area—which essentially consists of San Juan County—as having the best air in the country when it came to particle pollution. However, the region still received a failing grade for ozone pollution. San Juan County is no longer included in the counties that the American Lung Association evaluates for particle pollution.

Nationwide trends

Ozone pollution tends to be worse in the west and southwest region of the United States. Ten of the 25 most polluted metropolitan areas are in California while 12 others are in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas or Utah.

This comes even as there are efforts underway to cut ozone precursor pollution.

But climate change is leading to higher temperatures, arid conditions and sunny skies as well as more frequent stagnation events. The American Lung Association says those factors contribute to the number of unhealthy ozone days.

“Simply, climate change is undercutting the progress we would have made,” the report states.

According to the new report, about 39 percent of Americans, or 131.2 million people, live in areas that have unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution. That number has increased in recent years and 11.7 million more people are breathing unhealthy air compared to last year’s report.

This is due to a variety of factors, many of which are related to climate change. Those include an increase in days with extreme heat as well as the ongoing drought and wildfires. Those conditions contribute to an increase in pollution from particulate matter, especially in the western United States.

The American Lung Association also states that it used the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s new national air quality standards for year-round levels of fine particle pollution, which are more stringent than previous standards. That likely contributed to the increase the report notes in the number of people breathing unhealthy air.

Communities of color are more likely to face unhealthy air pollution. The report found that while people of color make up 41.6 percent of the nation’s population, they represent 52 percent of the people living in counties with unhealthy air.

When it comes to places with the worst air quality, about 63 percent of the 44 million residents are people of color.

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Ask the Experts: Upgrading Your Swamp Cooler to Cool A/C For Hotter Summers

Sponsored by Kidzz Mechanical

It is the time of year when many Albuquerque homeowners begin the arduous task of opening up their swamp cooler and wondering if this is the year they should finally convert to A/C.

To learn what the process really looks like, and how new financing options help homeowners manage, we asked Chad Redford, CEO at **Kidzz Mechanical**, an Albuquerque-based HVAC firm with more than 200 5-Star reviews on Google about today’s conversion process.

Chad, a lot of homes around Albuquerque were built with swamp coolers, but those don’t seem to work as well as they used to. Why is that?

The biggest issue with swamp coolers in our climate is that 10 or 20 years ago our monsoon season occurred in late August/early September. Now in recent years we get our monsoon season in early/mid July.

When the rains come the relative humidity increases from our usual 5-10% humidity to 25-35% relative

humidity. When the relative humidity increases to over 20% a swamp cooler only has the ability to change the temperature or air by 6-7°.

This change in climate has encouraged many people to convert to refrigerated air so that they have the ability to stay comfortable during the hottest days of the year.

And, we all know that swamp coolers can lower inside temperatures by up to 20-degrees. On our hottest days, inside temps can still be unbearable. The National Weather Service shows us that ABQ is seeing more high temperature days each year.

How long does it take to upgrade or install a new air conditioner?

In most cases we can install a new air conditioning system in one day.

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New Mexico Is Neither a Blue Nor a Red State

I am doing a couple of interviews this week to provide a Republican perspective on New Mexico politics in 2024. That might seem amusing to some of you who perceive New Mexico as a Democratic state. But as I gathered my thoughts ahead of these interviews, I realized that for the last 50 years until 2018, New Mexico has never been an entirely Democrat or Republican state, but always a mix.

At its heart, I think it still is.

As of March 2024, the Secretary of State's voter registration numbers attest to this fact. No one party has a majority of voters. 43.3% of voters are registered as Democrats, 31.1% as Republicans, and 23.5% as independents or as we call it in New Mexico "decline to state." The remaining 2% are registered with another, smaller party.

For many years, Republicans held many or most statewide offices, while Democrats controlled the legislature and the governor's office flipped around except for a long streak in the 1970s and 1980s when it was solidly Democrat. During the 1980s and 1990s, the majority of

Commentary



Merritt Hamilton Allen

our Congressional delegation was Republican: we sent one Republican and one Democrat Senator and two Republican and one Democrat members of the House to Washington. Clearly, no one was voting a straight party ticket.

We kept this balance largely until 2018. I was covering Election Night that year for NM PBS – KNME TV, and we saw race after race being called for Democrat candidates. One of my co-correspondents called it a "blue wave"; I replied it was a "blue tsunami."

Just four years before, Republicans took control of the state House of Representatives for the first time in history. That night in 2018, the GOP lost nearly every legislative seat in Albuquerque, and nearly every statewide race, including governor's race and the 2nd Congressional District. What happened?

The short version of the story is that MAGA and far-right extremism don't win elections in New Mexico. Elections in New Mexico are won in the middle, as our mixed slate of elected officials for the last five decades would attest. In 2018, the state Republican Party made a decided shift to the right and made then-President Trump a key element of the platform. RPNM also leaned

into the emerging rural-urban divide, focusing efforts in the southern part of the state and rural counties in general.

Thing is, you can't win statewide races without Albuquerque. The numbers just don't support you. Undaunted, the state GOP doubled down on this strategy in 2020 and 2022 with similar results. Republican voter registration has not changed significantly since 2018, either. The message isn't working.

The Democrats don't exactly have a mandate, either. They simply have a more palatable, if not ideal platform. And because we do not allow independents to vote in our primaries, more extreme candidates from both parties are able to be more successful, since they do not have to come to the center to earn independent votes.

(Taxpayer funded elections should not bar entire categories of registered voters from participating in those elections. This is "one person, one vote" stuff, dear reader.)

The most interesting outcome of the elimination of the Republican Party as a credible political threat in New Mexico is the fracturing of the Democratic Party into different factions. A growing progressive movement among the Democrats has met growing resistance from "pro-business" Democrats.

This year that resistance is taking PAC form with the announcement by Jeff Apodaca that The New Mexico Project, his anti-progressive political action committee, has raised close to \$1 million to "amplify Latino and moderate Democrat voices." Apodaca is the son of former Governor Jerry Apodaca and a well-known businessman. Bottom line, Apodaca's goal is to push the Democratic caucus back to the center.

The New Mexico Project website notes that Latinos in NM are underserved in the Legislature and underrepresented in voter registration with more than 60% of the Latino population not registered to vote. If Apodaca's PAC moves the needle on this latter statistic, the impact on the 2024 election will be considerable, given our majority-minority demographics.

I don't see much change from RPNM in the 2024 campaign season, so the best chance New Mexicans have of seeing their elected officials move back to the center will be

**Read the full
Commentary at
sandovalsignpost.com**

Historians Look at Oñate

In history we find things that make us feel uncomfortable, said Jon Ghahate, a Laguna and Zuni pueblo educator. "Sometimes it's very challenging. For New Mexico it's embedded in everything we do."

Ghahate spoke on a panel about Don Juan de Oñate, the Colonizer of New Mexico. In 1598, Oñate led soldiers and settlers up the Rio Grande, opening the Spanish presence in the region.

The panel was the brainchild of Carol Sullivan, vice president of the Historical Society of New Mexico. In planning the society's annual conference, which just concluded, Carol was determined to stage an informative and civil discussion. Her first two speaker prospects turned her down, afraid of more violence around a subject that's sparked two shootings. (Disclosure: I'm on the HSNM board.)

Ghahate disputes calling Oñate controversial. "We wouldn't call Hitler controversial because we

All She Wrote



Sherry Robinson

know what he did," he told a packed room. Because the Spanish faithfully recorded everything, we know about their treatment of the Pueblos – the brutality, slave taking, and demands for food and shelter that would now be considered war crimes.

Jemez Pueblo's Marlon Magdalena, who is instructional coordinator for the state Jemez Historical Site, explained: "Our religion is our way of life; it's who we are. Everything around us is part of our religion."

The Spanish interrupted daily life, Magdalena said. Pueblos could no longer practice their religion and were forced to accept the Catholic Church. Because they now had to feed unwanted guests, they could no longer trade with Utes and Navajos. Those tribes still needed the previously traded goods and began raiding. Now the Pueblos depended on the Spanish for protection. Disease and starvation became more prevalent.

"Oñate – this man represents a lot," Magdalena said. "He represents colonialism."

Sullivan studied Oñate and found that his soldiers and settlers didn't like him. He was neither

an admirable nor a moral leader. Ultimately, he was recalled to Mexico and tried.

Moises Gonzales, an associate professor at UNM, took us to the Hispanic side of the issue and more recent developments.

In the 1920s Santa Fe, with no railroad and no industry, decided to focus on tourism. Driven by Anglo businessmen, the town began to create an image, complete with architectural style and cultural movements. John Gaw Meem's arrival in New Mexico delivered Pueblo Revival architecture, along with new architectural restrictions in Santa Fe.

"They created the tricultural myth," Gonzales said. "They created the Santa Fe Fiestas" and the annual De Vargas pageant and invited Hispanic and Pueblo communities to participate. "They were fascinated with Don Diego de Vargas. Oñate came later." (De Vargas reconquered New Mexico after the Pueblo Revolt.) The pageant entertained tourists and locals for decades before erupting in controversy.

In 1928 Anglos created the Spanish Colonial Arts Society, which began

holding markets.

What Gonzales calls "the tension of narratives" began in the 1990s, about the same time as the statues. In Rio Arriba County, political heavyweight Emiliano Naranjo got money from the state for Oñate Center.

"It was Naranjo's project, and he shoved it down everyone's throat," said Gonzales. Next Albuquerque put up an Oñate statue. "Then El Paso needs a bigger statue." All three have provoked conflict. Hispanic identity, he indicated, is more than a pageant and some statues.

Magdalena and Ghahate asked us to respect their history and remember what they suffered, but Magdalena allows there's more to the story. The Spanish introduced useful agricultural practices and new foods, for example. "It's good to put it all together."

It was a lively, civil discussion. Most members of this learned crowd knew about the Pueblos' experience, as well as Oñate's complicated impact, but we all learned a few things. That's the key – to maintain an open mind and keep learning.

Primary Election is Coming Right Up

New Mexico's primary election is a few weeks away, on June 4. As attentive voters know, in New Mexico the primary election is at least as important as the general. Depending on your district, you might have a little work to do researching your choices, and it's time to get started.

As usual, many counties are dominated by one party or the other and the primary is the decisive race for local positions like county commissioners and county clerk. Chavez and Lea counties, for example, have only Republicans running for county commission. Taos County has only Democrats. Valencia County has three Republicans and one Democrat running for treasurer. Torrance County has only one county race – commissioner of District 3 – with four Republicans running.

A number of legislative seats have contests in the primary. One of them

Triple Spaced Again



Merilee Dannemann

might be the House or Senate seat in your district, so you will want to know who's who. You might need to read a few websites, attend a community forum or talk to the candidates in person.

If there's any doubt whether you are registered, you can check at nmvote.org. That's a section of the Secretary of State website that also links to other information, such as your sample ballot.

To find out who's running in your district, first look around your neighborhood for yard signs. Then look online for the voters' guide published by the League of Women Voters, which will be as complete and comprehensive as these dedicated volunteers can make it. It is expected to be completed by May 7, which is also the opening day of early voting and the close of registration by mail or online. Go to centralnmvoterguide.org or to Vote411.org.

The entire list of candidates for this election, from president on down, is on the Secretary of State website at (sorry for the long

address) candidateportal.servis.sos.state.nm.us/CandidateList.aspx?eid=2876&cty=99. Options at the top of the page allow you to select just your own county or specific races.

In several legislative races there is no contest; I counted 14 Senate seats unopposed (9 Democrats, 5 Republicans) and 24 House seats, with no challenger in either the primary or the general. Almost all are incumbents.

Some people think it's a problem when a candidate gets a free ride back into office. I don't – at least, not for our part-time unpaid Legislature. If the community is happy with the legislator's performance, it's okay to let him or her back into office without the burden of campaigning. It's a vote of confidence and a huge relief for the legislator.

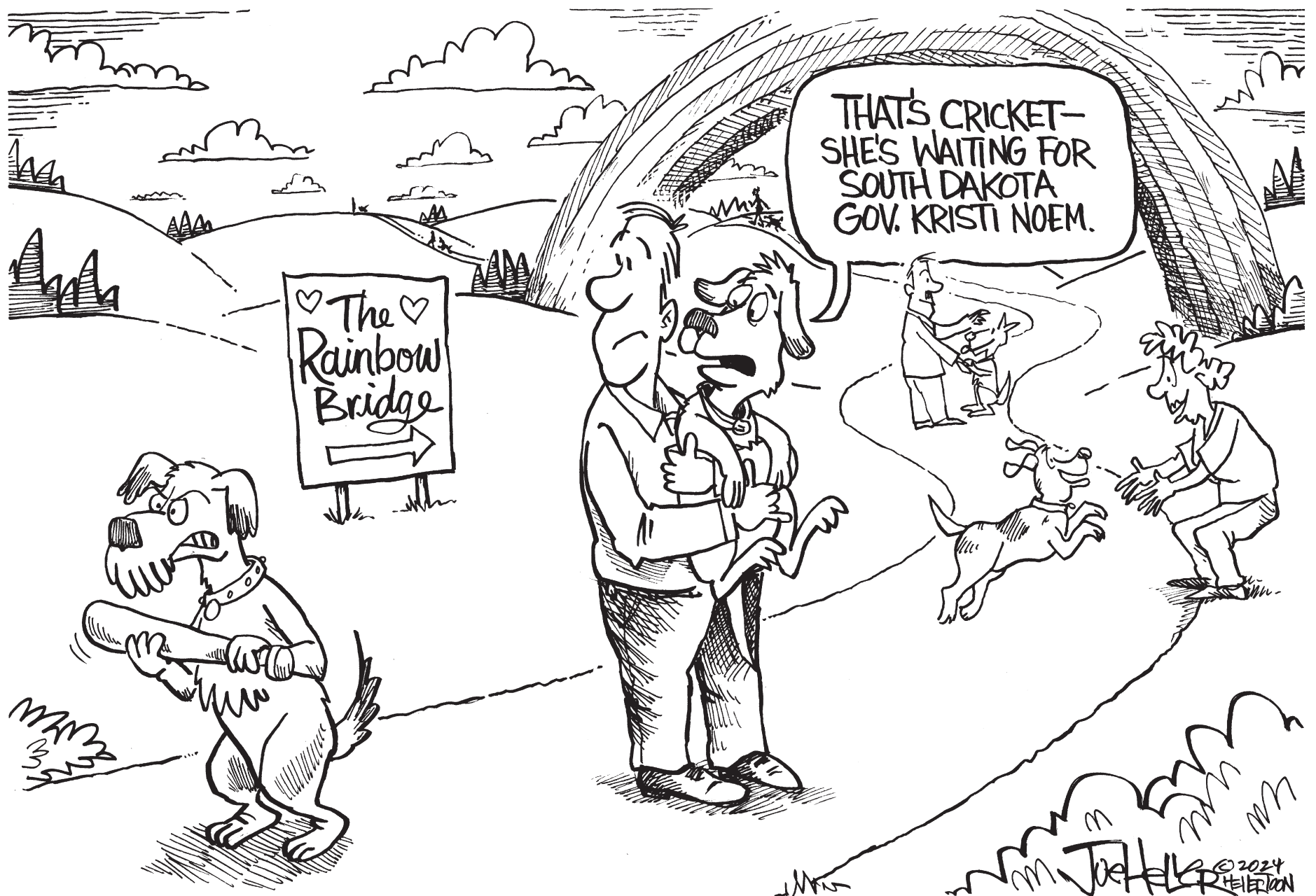
On the other hand, a nasty rivalry has arisen between centrist and progressive Democrats, causing some several primary contests among legislators. This accounts for some of the primary challenges to incumbent Democrats.

If you are a constituent in one of these districts, in deciding which candidate to support you may want to do a little research and make up your own mind about the issues in dispute, such as the paid family and medical leave bill that failed this year. I tend to favor the incumbents, in part because they took a sensible position on a badly written bill.

For Congress, the only primary contest is in District 1 between two Republicans running to oppose incumbent Democrat Melanie Stansbury. There is no primary contest in the U.S. Senate race.

As always, because we are so late in the national calendar, New Mexico's vote for president will not help to pick the nominees, but if you are an anti-Trump Republican and would like to express your feelings by voting for Haley, Christie, DeSantis or another candidate, now's your chance to do so without affecting the outcome.

Contact Merilee Dannemann through www.triplespacedagain.com.



The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Tijuana locale, briefly

5 Urge

9 Two together

13 Russia's _____ Mountains

14 "Get outta here!"

15 City of India

16 Economic downturn

18 Bagel variety

19 Go on and on

20 Ready for a nap

22 Salma who played Frida Kahlo

24 Insolence

25 Hiker's route

27 Audited, with "on"

29 Many a time, in poems

32 Drunk, in slang

34 Paper clip alternative

36 Summit

37 Musical work

39 Obey

40 Essential

42 Lent an ear

44 Miscalculate

45 Stack at a shower

47 Done in a rush

48 Kind of surgeon

49 "All kidding _____"

51 Grinder's instrument

55 Tree trickling

58 "Satchmo" Armstrong

59 Sometimes life throws this

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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61					62				63		
64					65				66		

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DOWN

1 Put under?

2 Kind of code

3 Pavement pounder

4 Stein contents

5 Progeny

6 Solidly built

7 Prepare

8 "It's true!"

9 Gives in

10 Varied mixture

11 Holier-than-_____

12 Help for the stumped

15 Fails to

17 Fashion sense

21 Elevates

23 Drew a bead on

25 Scottish title

26 Indy entrant

28 Ticket category

29 Magic words from Ali Baba

30 Naval force

31 Presidential nickname

33 Phone button

35 Out in front

38 Be of two minds

41 Place to exit

43 Belonging to thee

46 Shepherds' charges

48 Corbeled window

50 Socks away

51 Uninteresting

52 Top-drawer

53 Hardly genteel

54 Mystical old letter

56 Some charity

57 Builder's map

60 London's Big _____

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Meetings Schedule

SANDOVAL COUNTY

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/sccmeetings/

Board of Finance
 May 8, 5 p.m.
 Sandoval County Chambers
 1500 Idalia Rd., Building D

Sandoval County Commission
 May 8, 6 p.m.
 Sandoval County Chambers
 1500 Idalia Rd., Building D

RIO RANCHO

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit rrnm.gov/2303/Watch-and-Download-City-Meetings

Arts Commission
 May 9, 6 p.m.
 Rio Rancho City Hall

Governing Body
 May 9, 6 p.m.
 Rio Rancho City Hall

Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful
 May 13, 5:30 p.m.
 Rio Rancho City Hall

BERNALILLO

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit tobnm.gov/government/town-council/agendas_and_minutes.php

Town Council
 May 13, 6:30 p.m.,
 Bernalillo Town Hall

Town Council
 May 27, 6:30 p.m.,
 Bernalillo Town Hall

VILLAGE OF JEMEZ SPRINGS

To view the agendas for upcoming meetings and read past meeting minutes, visit jemezsprings-nm.gov/meetings/

Planning & Zoning
 May 16, 6:30 p.m.

Village Council
 May 21, 6 p.m.

EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Comedy

Jon “Polar Bear” Gonzalez \$20-\$25
 7-8:30 pm Quezada’s Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Jon “Polar Bear” Gonzalez \$20-\$25
 9:30-11 pm Quezada’s Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Dance

The Desert Darlings 7:30-9 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

Exhibit

Charcoal, Pen & Ink and Painting Artist Alan Charlee: “Remembering Grandfather” All Day Wild Hearts Gallery 221 B Hwy. 165, Placitas

Music

Galactic Funk Star Wars Party w/ D Kaleido 7-10 pm Tractor Brewing Westside 5720 McMahon Blvd NW bldg 5 ste a, Albuquerque

Stratus Phear 7-9 pm Casa Vieja Brewery 4541 Corrales Rd, Corrales

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Art

26th Annual Corrales Art & Studio Tour 10 am-5 pm Corrales Corrales

Comedy

Jon “Polar Bear” Gonzalez \$20-\$25
 9:30-11 pm Quezada’s Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Jon “Polar Bear” Gonzalez \$20-\$25
 7-8:30 pm Quezada’s Comedy Club at Santa Ana Star 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, 004

Community

Aldo Leopold Land Ethic Discussion 10:30 am-12 pm Corrales Community Library 84 W. La Entrada, Corrales

Exhibit

Charcoal, Pen & Ink and Painting Artist Alan Charlee: “Remembering Grandfather” Reception 1-3 pm Wild Hearts Gallery 221 B Hwy. 165, Placitas

Markets

Bernalillo Indian Arts Festival 9 am-5 pm Loretto Park 237 S Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo

Miscellaneous

Greater Albuquerque Mastermind Networking 11 am-1 pm Flying Star Cafe (Corrales) 10700 Corrales Rd. A, Albuquerque

Mother’s Day Tea Party \$10 1:30-4 pm Cabezon Community Center and Park 2307 Cabezon Blvd. SE, Rio Rancho

Music

Coalesce Blue 7-9 pm Casa Vieja Brewery 4541 Corrales Rd, Corrales

Joe Daddy Warner & Friends 12-3 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

Saturday Night Barn Dance w/ The Dust Devils 6-9 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

Outdoors

Storybook Garden Spring Planting 10 am-2 pm Corrales Community Library 84 W. La Entrada, Corrales

Sports

Derby Day Benefit \$100 1-5:30 pm The Salt Yard - West 3700 Ellison Drive Northwest, Albuquerque

SUNDAY, MAY 5

Art

26th Annual Corrales Art & Studio Tour 10 am-5 pm Corrales Corrales

Comedy

Nate Bargatze: The Be Funny Tour \$79-\$265 7-10 pm Rio Rancho Events Center 3001 Civic Center Cir NE, Rio Rancho

Food

Corrales Growers’ Market 9:30 am-12 pm Corrales Parks & Recreation 500 Jones Rd., Corrales

Markets

Bernalillo Indian Arts Festival 9 am-5 pm Loretto Park 237 S Camino Del Pueblo, Bernalillo

Cinco De Mayo Mercado 1-5 pm Bosque Brewing Co. (North) 834 US-550 , Bernalillo

Music

Kaktus Kats Blues Jam 2-5 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

Kaktus Kats Presents Hillary Smith 2-5 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

The Radiators de Mexico 5-7 pm Casa Vieja Brewery 4541 Corrales Rd, Corrales

Outdoors

Dawn to Dusk at Coronado Historic Site 6 am-7:30 pm Coronado Historic Site 485 Kuaua Rd., Bernalillo

MONDAY, MAY 6

Games

Singo Music Bingo 7-9 pm Brew Lab 101 3301 Southern Blvd. SE, Rio Rancho

Trivia! With Trivia Mafia 6-9 pm Ex Novo Brewing 4895 Corrales Rd, Corrales

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Class / Workshop

Tuesday Tech Classes 1-3 pm Corrales Community Library 84 W. La Entrada, Corrales

Games

Chess Club 6-7 pm Corrales Community Library 84 W. La Entrada, Corrales

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Discussion / Lecture

Theology on Tap: Not Just a Ceremony w/ Dcn. Jacob Romero 6:30-8:30 pm Village Pizza 4266 Corrales Rd., Corrales

Games

Geeks Who Drink 7-9 pm Tractor Brewing Westside 5720 McMahon Blvd NW bldg 5 ste a, Albuquerque

Music

Kaktus Jazz Jam 6-9 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

Kaktus Kats Jazz Jam 6-9 pm Kaktus Brewing Co. 471 South Hill, Bernalillo

Sports

Spring Cornhole League \$80-\$100 6-9 pm Ex Novo Brewing 4895 Corrales Rd, Corrales

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"SHE SAVED MY LIFE"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peripheral Neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY?
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to schedule a consultation!

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