Sandoval County revives effort to resolve Placitas horse conflicts

**SIGNPOST STAFF**

Four years and little progress later, New Mexico First is again trying to bring together the people, agencies, and governments who deal with the free-roaming horses of Placitas.

"Horses are a part of the fabric of Placitas," Placitas-area Commissioner James Holden-Rhodes said during the October 4 Sandoval County Commission meeting while adding, "The horses in Placitas are a public safety issue... We need to find a solution, and I think there's a common ground for us to reach out to."

In pressing for solutions, Holden-Rhodes helped arrange for the county to re-engage with New Mexico First.

The county first contracted with the nonpartisan public-policy organization in 2013 to lead a task force of residents and governmental and tribal representatives. At the time the horse population had spiked to by some estimates more than one hundred animals, increasing conflicts between horses and vehicles, horses and landowners, and among residents.

Earlier this year, an adult horse and a foal died in separate hit-and-run collisions on Camino de las Huertas near the Placitas Community and Senior Center.

The task force report released in 2014 listed 21 suggested actions for possible follow up. Those ranged from creating a sanctuary and counting the horse population, neither of which has happened, to increasing highway signage, which happened recently through Holden-Rhodes' efforts.

An area of agreement was not letting the horses be sold for slaughter.

One popular idea, a survey of Placitas community attitudes, is now in play after wrapping up in mid-October. Results of the two-week online survey currently are being analyzed.

The survey raised four questions: Should a multiagency board be formed to deal with horse issues? Are you willing to pay for such a board? If not such a board, what do you want? Where do you live?

The next step would be up to the county.

Support was also strong for using the dart-administered contraceptives (PZP) to reduce the natural growth of the wandering herds. Legal barriers previously encountered may now be lessening.

"The county has been working with the Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico State Veterinarian on a joint-power agreement on fertility control," Anne Ryan, the county's community services director, said during an October 4 presentation to the County Commission. "It's been slow but steady as we work through the legal matters... We recognize fertility control will not solve all the problems, but it's a step in the right direction."

---continued on page 6---

**Commission aims at passage of oil, gas zoning ordinance**

**~BILL DIVEN~**

A zoning ordinance regulating oil and gas drilling and production in Sandoval County is on the calendar for approval this month.

However, the final form of the document remains uncertain. On October 18, Sandoval County commissioners took their first stab at melding competing proposals into a single draft before adjourning for another day.

"We're here to cuss and discuss," Commissioner Jay Block said as the meeting moved into its fourth hour. "Two ordinances were submitted. It's time to move on."

Commissioner James Holden-Rhodes suggested, and Chairman David Heil agreed, the commission could hold a separate work session to focus on crafting the final document. Commissioner Don Chapman proffered each commissioner submitting his own tweaks, comments or full drafts.

"I can just imagine if each one of us presents an ordinance next time," Heil said. "It's going to be a donnybrook, as how we figure out which one of those you're going to accept."

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary -- donnybrook: free-for-all brawl)

By Signpost deadline, a work session had not been scheduled, although three regular meetings are planned during November.

Commissioners were to meet on November 1 to finalize and publish an ordinance for a final vote on November 29 with a November 8 meeting intended to take care of other business.

Meeting agendas and documents including the draft ordinances under consideration are posted on the county website SandovalCountyNM.com.

The County Commission, as it did in 2017, tasked the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission with drafting and recommending an oil and gas zoning ordinance. And, as happened a year ago, the P&Z Commission voted two distinctly different draft ordinances to the County Commission, both of which were rejected last time.

"What we face tonight is of our own making," Chapman said.

Complicating the process this time is that a third ordinance also remains in play. That reflects a split within the Citizens Working Group (CWG), appointed by the County Commission to craft an ordinance protecting water, public health, and cultural resources while still allowing oil and gas production.

Two working groups with the CWG came up with competing proposals, one recommended by the P&Z Commission, the other not.

Regardless, major issues remain unresolved. Those include how to engage tribes and pueblo in meaningful consultations in dealing with drilling applications, how or whether to divide the county into districts with separate zoning rules, and whether to ban fracking outright in and near the Rio Grande Valley or make case-by-case decisions on well applications.

Or they could adopt a simplified draft that largely defers air, water, inspection, Native American, and enforcement concerns to state and federal laws and regulations.

---continued on page 5---
The Placitas Artists Series
Continues its 32nd Season
with a Performance by
Willy Sucre and Friends
Piano Quintets
Sunday, November 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

THE VISUAL ARTISTS
Reception will be held at 2:00 p.m.
The Placitas Artists Series welcomes visual artists:
Mary Dereseke, Photo Books and Canvas Prints
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See you at the Concerts! www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org
Half-Season tickets offer significant savings and are still available at:
http://www.placitasartistsseries.org/concerts-tickets.htm
Individual concert tickets $25; students with ID $15; any student through Grade 12 may be admitted free of charge with a paying adult.

Tickets may be purchased:
- At the door one hour before the show, subject to availability
- At http://www.placitasartistsseries.org/concerts-tickets.htm
- At The Merc Grocery Store, Homestead Village Shopping Plaza, Placitas
- At Under Charlie’s Covera Books, 160 S. Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo

All concerts are at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church on Hwy. 165 in Placitas.
Contact: 505-867-8808 (voicemail) or email info@PlacitasArtistsSeries.org
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DESPITE WHAT THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IS TELLING YOU ON THEIR ROSY TV COMMERCIALS.....

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE NOT TELLING YOU ..... 

THE FACTS:

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

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

As to the issue of “groundwater contamination”: POPULATIONS THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY HAVE FOUND, AND EXPERTS HAVE PROVEN, THAT HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING CAN AND DOES CONTAMINATE GROUND WATER.

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

We in the Albuquerque Basin (which includes several counties and our Middle Rio Grande River Valley) have a unique circumstance because this Basin is part of the Rio Grande Rift. It is a collapsed geology and contains our GREATEST AND ONLY REAL WATER SUPPLY. This geology has multitudes of irregular faults, fissures, and porous layers through which toxic chemicals, gas/soil from hydraulically fractured areas below can easily rise to find their way to our water table. See illustration above.

Take a good photo of this info for later. Zoom in, read, and share with others.

Thanks!
In play by the names assigned for convenience are:

Baseline Ordinance—Reflects the county P&Z staff position that zoning governs surface land use while state and federal laws preempt local regulation of drilling and environmental issues. This would give the county P&Z director the power to approve drilling permits administratively except in existing community and overlay zones where the P&Z Commission would decide after a public hearing.

CWG Science Team—Approved by the P&Z Commission, this divides the county into three zones allowing administrative approval of drilling in the northwest where the oil and gas industry already is established. Public hearings would be required in the central transitional zone and in the southeastern zone. Horizontal drilling and fracking would be prohibited in the southeast where the county’s major population centers rely on the Rio Grande Basin for their water.

CWG Ordinance Team—Treats the county as a whole with the P&Z Commission holding public hearings and making decisions based on issues with individual sites. Requires applicant to demonstrate surface and ground water and tribal water interests won’t be harmed. Wells would not be allowed in flood plains.

While the CWG teams are at odds in some areas, they agree on the county having the legal power to regulate more than traditional zoning surface issues. The Science Team quoted state statutes on extensive zoning powers granted counties, both cited the ruling by U.S District Judge James Browning that threw out Mora County total ban on fracking.

Browning found the state law governing oil and gas production was aimed at conserving the resource, hence the state Oil Conservation Division as the prime regulator, they said. Since that law is silent on environmental issues, the counties can freely regulate in those areas including groundwater protection.

“The Citizens Working Group Ordinance Team is just providing a further way to protect water without banning in case there was a legal concern of the commission by having banning be the major way of protecting the groundwater,” said team member Phoebe Suina, an environmental engineer and member of Cochiti and San Felipe pueblos.

Commission James Holden-Rhodes chastised the P&Z Department for favoring the oil and gas industry and clinging to the notion that zoning regulations are limited to surface activities.

“They refuse to admit that subsurface are the things that a county can look at,” he said. “The Baseline Ordinance is useless. Lets move on. Lets go to the Science Ordinance.”

Details among the three proposals also vary as to distances wells are set back from homes and schools, groundwater monitoring, water usage, noise and light controls, waste disposal, road and emergency plans, insurance amounts, proof of corporate financial viability, and tribal consultation.

Nearly two hours of the October 18 meeting involved comments from governors, lieutenant governors, and other tribal leaders representing the county’s pueblos and Navajo chapters. While they praised Heil for making meetings with tribal governments a priority since he became chairman on January 1, more work is needed to establish relations with the sovereign governments, speakers said.

They also found the draft ordinances leave questions about dealing with road rights-of-way, identifying and protecting cultural sites outside tribal boundaries, and what to do if human remains are found. Tribal leaders might come up with needed language but not under the tight deadlines set by the commission, said Acoma Pueblo Gov. Kurt Riley, who also serves as chairman of the 10 Southern Pueblos Council.

“A one-time conversation between two governments does not constitute consultation,” Riley said. “It’s also an ongoing conversation… That’s what the pueblo leadership has been used to at the federal and the state level.”

Representatives of New Mexico Tech, the county’s technical consultant in drafting an ordinance, added to their initial report on oil and gas potential and risks to surface and groundwater. They said they used new modeling to identify potential drilling sites being unable to access proprietary seismic data held by Thrust Energy of Roswell, which leases 55,000 acres west of Rio Rancho for exploration and development.

Among their findings, they raised the risk level west of Rio Rancho citing the city’s permitted but undrilled water wells needed for future development. Risks in the Rio Grande Basin remain high given the fractured geology that could allow fracking chemicals and released methane to find ways into the aquifer.

“I want to emphasized that there are concerns regarding ground water contamination with the unconventional drilling operations,” hydrogeologist Ales Rinehart, Ph.D., said using the industry term for horizontal drilling and fracking. “It is vital to go out and monitor your water quality before oil and gas operations begin.”

Inventory of Assets. All of the person’s assets need to be identified and a determination is to be made as to how the assets are titled. The items in the home should also be noted (taking pictures of the personal affects can mitigate future issues).

Valuation of Assets. All of the assets need to have a proper and official value. This is important for income tax, capital gains tax, as well as potential estate and inheritance tax implications.
With its widened U.S. Highway 550 Rio Grande bridge now carrying traffic, the New Mexico Department of Transportation is ready for Phase 2: adding more than two miles of new lanes through Bernalillo to Rio Rancho.

First NMDOT needs someone to build the six-lane project. The process of picking a prime contractor is scheduled to begin on November 16 with the monthly release of projects ready for bidding, according to the NMDOT website.

Highway contractors typically have a month or more to submit bids, which are then opened together in a public setting. The winner, usually the low bidder, receives a notice to begin work soon thereafter suggesting construction could begin early in 2019.

The timeline in this case, however, is somewhat uncertain. At last report NMDOT had yet to acquire all the right-of-way needed to add traffic lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks. The work is expected to cost more than $20 million overall and covers 2.4 miles from Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo’s main street, to State Road 528, the primary north-south route into Rio Rancho. A major reconfiguration of the US 550/NM 528 intersection is planned.

Rebuilding the Interstate 25 North Bernalillo interchange completed in 2014 included widening US 550 to six lanes from the freeway to Camino del Pueblo. Currently the four-lane road, a cross-country route into Colorado and the sole connector between northern Rio Rancho and I-25, carries upwards of 40,000 vehicles a day creating significant backups during peak travel times.

The $13 million bridge project expanded...
from page 6—US 550

the four-lane bridge to the north and installed a third westbound lane as far as the existing three-lane segment near Santa Ana Star Casino. Meanwhile, the town of Bernalillo was on the hook for $1.5 million to relocate water and sewer lines on each side of US 550 throughout the project. The town received $500,000 in capital-improvement funds from the Legislature reducing the town portion to $1 million, which it has already paid the state.

Still pending is the town’s request to Sandoval County to chip in $330,000 toward the utility work. The town previously paid more than $300,000 for utility relocations as part of the bridge widening.

New Mexico Gas Company is also caught up in the project and has been installing a new 14-inch pipeline south of US 550 to replace a similar line in the way of the upcoming construction.

Highs and lows of 2018 political campaigns come down to Election Day

—Bill Diven

As the Signpost goes to press, the countdown to the midterm election is measured in days.

Still, by many accounts, it can’t get here soon enough.

Yet, there is still a last opportunity to vote early before Election Day arrives on November 6. Eleven early voting locations around the county are open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. through November 3.

Those include Las Placitas Presbyterian Church in Placitas and the county Voting Machine Warehouse at 800 S. Hill Road in Bernalillo. Early voting at the Sandoval County Administrative Building ends on November 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Those locations also will serve as voting convenience centers on November 6 where any registered Sandoval County voter can vote regardless of whether they are in their home precinct. Other convenience centers include Bernalillo High —continued next page
UP FRONT
-CONTINUED

from page 7
—Election

School and Middle School and the Placitas Community Library. Election Day polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with anyone in line at 7:00 p.m. allowed to vote.

In addition to filling three U.S. House seats and a U.S. Senate seat, New Mexico voters will be electing a new governor and other top state officials, deciding on local candidates and bond and tax questions and voting on two constitutional amendments.

Sample ballots, polling locations and information on bond and tax questions can be found via a home-page link on the county website www.SandovalCountyNM.gov. The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (www.LWVCNM.org) has published an election guide containing candidate profiles and pro-and-con arguments for ballot questions.

The Sandoval County ballot contains four financial questions. Three would authorize bond issues totaling more than $13 million to support libraries and for public safety projects and telecommunications equipment. Because previous bond issues are being paid off, property taxes would not rise if the bond issues pass. Conversely taxes would tick downward if they don't.

The fourth question would create a new property tax to support Sandoval Regional Medical Center in northwestern Rio Rancho. The money would expand behavioral health services and establish a Level 3 regional trauma center with 24-hour staffing.

The tax rate is set at 1.9 mills. That means a property with an assessed value of $100,000 would pay an additional $190 a year during the eight-year life of the tax.

In 2016 voters rejected continuing a tax of more than twice that rate and bond and tax questions and voted no. Conversely taxes would tick downward if the bond issues pass. Con-versely taxes would tick downward if they don't.

Sheriff’s office reminds shooters of prohibited areas
—SIGNPOST STAFF

Citing an increase in the unlawful discharge of firearms, the Sandoval County Sheriff’s Office has launched an educational campaign on off-limits areas.

The campaign is using social media as well as local news media, according to an SCSO news release.

In addition SCSO is reminding operators of all-terrain vehicles about safe operations following two recent fatalities.

Sandoval County has in place an ordinance prohibiting firearm use in two specific areas. One is the open territory west of Rio Rancho from the city limits to the Rio Puerco bordered on the north by U.S. Highway 550 and on the south by the Sandoval-Bernalillo county line.

Firearm use also is banned in the Rio Grande bosque in and near Bernalillo between Sandia Pueblo on the south and Santa Ana Pueblo on the north.

In the ATV incidents, one rider out alone in the Dunes area died of dehydration after being stranded by a mechanical breakdown. Another rider, out at night and believed to have consumed alcohol, drove off a cliff and died at the scene.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish offers classes on proper off-road use of recreational vehicles and ATVs. More information and registration materials are on the agency website www.Wildlife.State.NM.US under Education/OHV Safety Training.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

A woman hiking on U.S. Forest Service land in Placitas was held up at gunpoint, losing her daypack and cell phone but surviving without physical injuries.

The Sandoval County Sheriff’s Office reported the robbery happened about noon on October 2 along Forest Loop Road East also known as Forest Road 445. That’s the unpaved road defining the perimeter of the Bernalillo Watershed Research Natural Area, popular with hikers and fat-tire bicyclists south of State Road 165 near mile marker 3.

It’s not clear from the SCSO incident report if the holdup occurred within the research area or on an adjacent forest trail.

According to the report, the 53-year-old woman said she was walking along a trail when she noticed a man dressed in black with black pantyhose on his head crouched as if trying to hide. The man then jumped in front of the woman and demanded she hand over her possessions.

“He pointed a handgun at (the victim) who froze in fear,” the investigating sheriff’s deputy wrote in his report. “When (the victim) did not give the male her backpack, the male grabbed it from her in a forceful manner.”

The woman described him as Hispanic, about 25 years old, stocky and with very short hair.

As the robber left, the woman contacted a male friend from Albuquerque who was on the trail. He then ran to the parking lot and confronted the gunman.

“Don’t be a hero,” the robber is quoted as saying while he pointed his gun at the man. “You didn’t see me.”

The robber was last seen fleeing west on NM 165 in a silver Toyota Solara with a New Mexico balloon license plate. Deputies aided by Bernalillo police swarmed the area but were unable to locate the vehicle.

The woman’s daypack contained a water bottle and an iPhone. Her cell-service provider tracked the phone to Calle Industrial in south Bernalillo, although a search of the area did not turn up the stolen goods, suspect, or Toyota.
When the construction of a mixed commercial-residential development is done, Bernalillo will have something in common with San Antonio, Texas: a river walk. Granted, the Texas version is 15 miles long and Bernalillo’s will be just a quarter mile. For now, though, the developers of @Rio are thinking big about the property once known for its Jackalope store.

Fans of the Bernalillo Jackalope remember fondly the eclectic mix of furniture and furnishings, much of it imported from India. The Santa Fe-based company operated for about forty years before falling into bankruptcy in 2015.

One force behind the @Rio project is co-developer Harpal Singh, who had been a long-time supplier to Jackalope maintaining a close relationship with its owner. Singh had previously bought the Albuquerque store property and acquired the Santa Fe property along with the Jackalope trademark in the bankruptcy auction.

Both stores continue in operation. The purchase of the Bernalillo site was a separate transaction with its owner. "A few years ago when we bought it we thought we could do something with it," Singh said during the September 26 ground breaking. "We had no idea this was how it was going to turn out."

Singh said he fell completely in love with New Mexico after relocating from India to New Mexico 35 years ago and maintained his connections after moving his business to California. That business, Classic Home Inc., uses sustainable practices to manufacture furniture and textiles in India, according to its promotional materials.

Albuquerque Mayor Jack Torres said. "It's well used and well received."

The project is adding value not just to Bernalillo but to the entire region, Torres added.

The conceptual plan for @Rio on the west bank of the Rio Grande will cover 14 acres on either side of U.S. Highway 550 connected by a riverside pedestrian walkway running under the highway bridge. With Bosque as the anchor tenant, the upper portion of @Rio envisions four additional structures, two of them two stories. —continued next page
from page 10—Riverside

BUSINESS

~CONTINUED

with river frontage.

A third two-story riverside building and another structure are proposed south of U.S. 550. Together, the developers describe space for 22 new businesses, a ‘lifestyle mix’ to include restaurants, retail, and recreation, plus residential. The river walk will eventually be deeded to the town of Bernalillo. “We want everybody to be able to come to the Rio Grande, enjoy it, enjoy the views,” said Zach Snyder, a partner in the project and CEO of Albuquerque-based Snyder Construction, which handled the Jackalope makeover. “This project is much bigger than we are, and we felt it was our duty to do something like this for economic development.”

How the Placitas Community Library is funded

~CONTINUED

Most people think that a local library receives its funding from the local and/or county government. While that is true for all the municipal libraries in Sandoval County, it is not true for the Placitas Community Library (PCL).

The funding to operate the PCL comes from you. All of the operating expenses are paid from contributions, revenue from fundraisers, donated books, and other events such as art shows.

Our book purchases come only from money received from the County and State bonds. That is why it is important to vote for the Library Bond Issue in this year’s election. Without the bond money, we would be unable to buy new books.

It is an exciting time for PCL with a new library Director, installation of energy saving lights and solar (all done by the County with no cost to us), and a proposed expansion. The PCL Board of Directors is constantly reviewing the budget to see where expenses can be cut and how we can maximize revenues, as well as looking for new revenue sources.

But, as always, we must raise enough funds to pay our new Director and to pay for our utilities (including our high-speed Internet), as well as the remainder of our yearly expenses. We can only do this with your help and the help of the Placitas community. We know that there are many organizations that need funds, and we sincerely appreciate every dollar that is contributed to the PCL.

We hope that this information will help residents to understand how the PCL is funded and to know that we greatly appreciate the support of the Placitas community.

How the Placitas Community Library is funded

~PAM TROUTMAN, PCL VOLUNTEER

Your Vote Counts

Library Bond [For 17 Libraries]

This bond would authorize Sandoval County to issue up to $3,185,000 of general obligation bonds, to be paid from property taxes, for the purpose of purchasing library books and resources, including equipment, upgrades and improvements for 17 public libraries in Sandoval County. Election Day is November 6, 2018

“Because the County is responsible with your tax dollars, and there is debt that has fallen off the books this year, there will be no increase in your property taxes if any or all of these bonds are approved.” Sandoval County Manager Diane Mares

Learn more at SandovalCountyNM.gov/2018bonds

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Balloon incidents knock out power, lead to rescue

Separate incidents during the last mass ascension of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta left the town of Bernalillo without electricity and the rescue of a balloonist from a tree.

Shortly after 9:00 a.m. on October 13 a pilot attempting to land in or near Rotary Park clipped a power line but otherwise landed safely. PNM reported more than 1,300 local customers lost power for an hour or so.

During the Balloon Fiesta, PNM has crews on standby ready to respond to such incidents or when the envelopes of landing balloon drape over power lines.

A short while later another pilot made a hard landing in the bosque on the west side of the Rio Grande resulting in minor injuries. The balloon became entangled in a cottonwood tree requiring the help of the Sandoval County Fire Department to rescue a person from the basket.
JENNISE PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT, PLACITAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Placitas Chamber of Commerce Balloon Glow and Chili Cook-Off was a hit. There were more than thirty dishes entered in the Chili Cook-Off with the winner being Randall Phillips with his Creamy Potato Leak Green Chile Soup and Judy McCallister’s Shrimp Queso came in a close second. The Chamber raised over $200 for Placitas Elementary School. Lonnie Carreathers of Rio Rancho brought his balloon, “Spectrum,” for the glow. The Placitas Chamber of Commerce looks forward to this as an annual event for the whole community to enjoy.

Placitas Chamber of Commerce heats up, helps children

-JENNISE PHILLIPS, PRESIDENT, PLACITAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Established in 1992, the Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign is a broad and growing coalition of over 150 statewide and local organizations representing diverse interests. Our members and supporters include consumers, labor, health professionals, farmers, ranchers, business owners, and human rights, faith-based, and environmental organizations. Our mission is to establish a system of guaranteed, comprehensive, and affordable health care coverage for the entire population of New Mexico by enabling New Mexico to set up its own health care plan, structured like a cooperative, with freedom of choice of doctors and providers, and a comprehensive benefit package.

The Health Security Act will be introduced during the 2019 Session of the State Legislature. For more information, go to www.nmhealthsecurity.org.

The Health Security Act moves forward toward affordable health care coverage

-FONDA KIRCHMEYER

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The Health Security Act moves forward toward affordable health care coverage

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Established in 1992, the Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign is a broad and growing coalition of over 150 statewide and local organizations representing diverse interests. Our members and supporters include consumers, labor, health professionals, farmers, ranchers, business owners, and human rights, faith-based, and environmental organizations. Our mission is to establish a system of guaranteed, comprehensive, and affordable health care coverage for the entire population of New Mexico by enabling New Mexico to set up its own health care plan, structured like a cooperative, with freedom of choice of doctors and providers, and a comprehensive benefit package. The Health Security Act will be introduced during the 2019 Session of the State Legislature. For more information, go to www.nmhealthsecurity.org.

Last year our community came together to help 114 families with over two hundred children by sharing our blessings during the Christmas season. To continue this tradition, we will need the help of the community to share our blessings with families in need in 2018.

Blessing Day is all about sharing our blessings. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is providing a box of food and Jardineros members are providing turkeys for families. We are asking for your assistance in providing an outfit or toy for each child in these families. We will put up an Angel Christmas Tree in the vestibule of Our Lady of Sorrows Church on November 9. The tree will be filled with tags for toys for each child. Those wishing to purchase an outfit for one or more of the children may contact Nancy for a name of a child. All toys must be returned by November 30 to Our Lady of Sorrows Church with the tags attached. Clothing gifts are needed by December 2 at San Antonio Mission or our Lady of Sorrows. We also need help wrapping the toys. If you can help us, we will be wrapping on December 8 at the San Antonio Mission in Placitas from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Mission is located on Paseo de San Antonio in Placitas. Contact Nancy Hawks at nhawks09@gmail.com if you need additional information about taking a family, a child, or if you can help wrap the clothes and toys.

Town of Bernalillo collects coats for kids

The Town of Bernalillo has launched its annual drive to collect new coats for underprivileged youth. All sizes are needed from infant to 2XL. Donations can be dropped off during business hours through November 30 at Town Hall, 829 South Camino del Pueblo. Parents with a child in need of a coat can contact Maria Santillan at Town Hall or by calling 771-7113 during business hours.
Important mosquito species found in Albuquerque

MARK A. DIMENA, PHD, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department and the New Mexico Department of Health have determined that a species of mosquito called *Aedes aegypti* is now being collected in the Rio Grande bosque area of Albuquerque. This is the first time that this mosquito vector capable of transmitting Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and other diseases has been recovered in Albuquerque or Bernalillo County.

To date, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes have also been found in Chaves, Curry, Doña Ana, Eddy, Guadalupe, Hidalgo, Lea, Luna, Otero, Quay, Roosevelt, Sierra, Socorro, and Valencia counties. “We have been monitoring mosquito populations here for decades and never collected *Aedes aegypti*,” said Dr. Mark DiMenna, Deputy Director at the City’s Environmental Health Department. “We are grateful to have made this detection early so we have the best possible opportunity to track and prevent illness.”

**Aedes aegypti**—the mosquito capable of transmitting the Zika virus

*Aedes aegypti*, also known as the yellow fever mosquito, is an important vector of mosquito-borne disease worldwide. The species originated in Africa but has been carried around the world along trade routes. In addition to most tropical countries, it has historically been found throughout areas of the southern and eastern United States. Over the past several years, a range expansion has been reported in New Mexico as additional monitoring has found populations of the mosquito established in several counties where it had not previously been known to exist.

There has been no local transmission of Zika virus attributable to *Aedes aegypti*.
Town Holiday Festivities

**Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**
November 30th • 6 pm
Town Hall
829 Camino del Pueblo
Please join us for caroling, cookies, and hot cider!

**2018 Nighttime Christmas Parade**
December 1st • 6 pm
This year’s theme:
“A Gingerbread House Christmas”
Join the fun as the parade makes its way down main street, Camino del Pueblo!
Dress warm and be ready to catch candy from the floats! The parade concludes at ROTARY PARK with a bonfire, bizcochitos, & hot cider!

**Children’s Christmas Toy Applications**
The Town will begin accepting applications from less fortunate families for children that will need a toy this year for Christmas.
Applications can be found online at TOWNOFBERNALILLO.ORG or picked up and turned in at Town Hall, 829 Camino del Pueblo. For more information contact Maria Santillan at 771-7114. Santa will deliver toys December 15th.
Applications are due: December 3rd.

**2018 Holiday Social & Movie**
December 22nd • 5-7 pm
Recreation Center
370 Rotary Park Road
The Recreation Department is once again hosting its annual holiday social! Holiday displays, refreshments, and LIVE entertainment! Santa Claus will make an appearance for the children and give out goodies and take photos!
“How the Grinch Stole Christmas” starts at 7!
This event is FREE and open to everyone!
For more info, call 238-0689.

**Santa at Bernalillo Town Hall**
December 25th
Noon - 1 pm
829 Camino del Pueblo
Please join us as Santa hands out goodie bags, takes pictures, and hang out with the Bernalillo Fire Department.

For additional information visit: www.townofbernalillo.org
Zika, dengue, or chikungunya virus in New Mexico, so although the mosquitoes can be found in several counties in the state, the risk remains very low for New Mexicans. According to the State Epidemiologist with the New Mexico Department of Health, Dr. Mike Landen, “the risk for these diseases is primarily to persons traveling to an area in the world where those diseases are actively transmitted.”

Current monitoring indicates that *Aedes aegypti* is limited to areas near the bosque in the central extent of the city. The City of Albuquerque’s Urban Biology Division, part of the Environmental Health Department, operates a mosquito control program in collaboration with Bernalillo County. Staff from this program are evaluating options in an effort to stop or delay the further establishment of this new species; because monitoring has detected the presence of this mosquito early, the City will have the best possible opportunity to track, and hopefully slow, its establishment. In addition, knowing that this species is present provides a significant benefit in protecting public health if viruses that it transmits turn up locally.

In addition, the Environmental Health Department is asking the community to take steps to reduce mosquito breeding around their homes and property. *Aedes aegypti* breeds primarily in containers found around human development and housing. People can reduce breeding and slow the establishment of this mosquito by dumping out any containers that hold water and scrubbing them out to remove any mosquito eggs. Although the mosquito season is nearly over, mosquitoes may still be breeding, and eggs can survive through the winter.
It was August 20, 1977: Voyager 2 lifted off from Cape Canaveral Launch Complex 41 sixteen days before its twin Voyager 1 for a trip of a lifetime. A special alignment of the solar system allowed the spacecraft to save fuel by using the gravity of the planets they visited to change their speed and direction. Such a special planetary alignment only occurs every 175 years.

The path of each spacecraft was slightly different. Voyager 1 took a more direct path that would allow the craft to only visit Jupiter and Saturn. One special aspect of this trajectory allowed Voyager 1 to explore and photograph Saturn’s moon Titan, considered to be important because of the hazy cloud cover surrounding the moon. Had Voyager 1 not completed its mission to Titan, Voyager 2, taking a slower path, could have been redirected to observe Titan.

Voyage 2’s path, if not redirected to Titan, would allow the spacecraft to continue on to Uranus and Neptune. Fortunately, Voyager 1 completed its task and Voyager 2 could continue to the other two planets.

At Jupiter, the Voyagers took close-up images showing the swirling cloud tops, studied the red spot and measured the intense magnetic fields, and associated extreme radiation around the planet. They also took pictures of the moons, discovering that the moon Io was the most volcanically active body in our solar system. Io spews Sulphur from ever-changing volcanos on its surface. Voyager 1 passed Jupiter on March 5, 1997; Voyager 2 visited on July 9, 1979.

At Saturn, the focus was on the moons and rings, with some attention to the planet cloud tops. Looking at the cloud tops, near the Equator, the Voyagers measured winds blowing at 1,100 mph. Intricate patterns were seen for the first time in the rings—no better pictures were available until Cassini orbited Saturn. While studying Titan, the thick haze prevented seeing the surface of the moon, but the measurement of the atmosphere’s composition, temperature, and pressure led to speculation that lakes of liquid hydrocarbons could exist on the surface. These observations were
Groundwater in the Placitas area

- Pam Troutman, volunteer, Placitas Community Library

On November 10, at 2:00 p.m., at the Placitas Library, we'll be discussing groundwater. Stacy Timmons, from the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, will present results from work done by previous workers in the area on geology and hydrology, and then discuss groundwater level measurements, how, and why we need to do it—especially in Placitas.

Because groundwater is usually out of sight, except where it flows from a spring, it is often poorly understood and often left unchecked—until a well goes dry. The Aquifer Mapping Program at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources is currently working to broaden the coverage of groundwater monitoring across New Mexico in an effort called the Collaborative Groundwater Monitoring Network. By examining the trends in groundwater levels in wells, which can be affected by numerous factors including pumping, long term drought, groundwater recharge, or land use changes, we can get a sense of the changes to the amount of stored groundwater.

Placitas was the focus of hydrologic research in the late 90s, but little monitoring of groundwater has taken place since. This is a call to action. We would like to re-visit some of these wells to measure groundwater levels to see where it's at now, twenty years later.

The Collaborative Groundwater Monitoring Network is working to build a small water level monitoring network in the Placitas area, and we need your help. We will talk about sharing your well for science, by allowing Bureau of Geology staff to inventory and periodically measure groundwater levels. We are hoping that a few community members lead in organizing a local network of wells, by collaborating and coordinating a one-day schedule with Bureau of Geology staff.

Tracking our groundwater resources in New Mexico with sound data will help us protect our groundwater future. Attend this presentation if you are interested in learning more about the Collaborative Groundwater Monitoring Network, the aquifers in Placitas, or simply how groundwater levels are measured. You can also email us at nmgb-waterlevels@nmt.edu.

Watershed restoration project continues

-Carolyn Kennedy, District Manager, Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District

Coronado is pleased to announce that it has received a Water Quality and Conservation grant from the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission to continue its work on watershed restoration in the Placitas Open Space in Fiscal Year 2019. The grant will fund four on-site workshops by Jim Brooks of Soilutions, who is a permaculture expert.

The first hands-on workshop of 2018 took place on September 15. Jim assessed the site and explained some effective new techniques and methods, including the use of mulch on the bare hillsides. A small amount of mulch was spread by volunteers at the work session. This site, and the surrounding drainages, are very challenging, due to the looseness of the soil, a tendency to dryness, combined with torrential storms, and a history of overgrazing for centuries. Many of New Mexico’s lands are in similar shape. Finding practices that can effectively improve these lands is necessary, as more places deteriorate into lifeless deserts.

The next on-site workshop with Jim Brooks is scheduled for November 3, at 10:30 a.m., by which time we hope the access road will be repaired and more biomass brought in. The final two workshops will take place in the Winter and Spring.

Coronado is requesting volunteers to do the actual work, and work sessions will be scheduled on alternate Saturdays beginning in December. The workshops and work sessions are generally scheduled for four hours (bring lunch), depending on the weather. If you are interested in volunteering for this important project, contact Carolyn Kennedy, District Manager, at 867-2853 or email info@coronadoswcd.org. For more information, go to www.coronadoswcd.org.
Wishing you a harvest of blessings, good health and good times. Happy Thanksgiving Day!
later confirmed by the Cassini-Huygens mission.  

Closest approach to Uranus occurred on January 24, 1986. The unusual chemistry and weather of Uranus was examined. The unusual weather is caused by this planet being tipped on its side with its poles pointing along the planetary plane, not up and down. The spacecraft also found unknown moons, later named Cordelia, Ophelia, Bianca, Cressida, Desdemonona, Juliet, Portia, Rosalind, Belinda, Perdita, and Puck. 

August 25, 1989, Voyager 2 passed Neptune. Because this was the last planet to be visited, flight controllers made the decision to direct the craft so it would pass over the north pole of Neptune, then down behind the planet toward the moon Triton. The spacecraft passed over Triton’s North Pole and left on a trajectory down and out of the planetary plane. Voyager 2 discovered the “Great Dark Spot”, thought to be a hole in the clouds. Observations by the Hubble Space Telescope later showed the spot has disappeared. 

Launched on January 19, 2006, again from Cape Canaveral Launch Complex 41, New Horizons took exceptional images of Pluto and its large moon Charon. The data from that encounter will keep scientists busy for years. Surprisingly, Pluto seems to be geologically active, including cryovolcanism, and has a thin atmosphere. Its surface is covered in water ice, nitrogen ice and red-colored organics. After passing Pluto on July 14, 2015, New Horizons set its sights on Kuiper belt object 2014 MU69, discovered after the craft was launched, along the outbound flight path. Closest approach to MU69 should occur on January 1, 2019. 

These three spacecraft, along with Pioneer 10, which flew by Jupiter in 1973, and Pioneer 11, that flew past Jupiter in 1974 and Saturn in 1979, are leaving our solar system. Voyager 1 is the first to penetrate interstellar space, leaving our solar system in August 2012. Voyager 2 is now nearing the edge of the heliosphere. It is estimated to leave the solar system in late 2019 or early 2020. 

Both Pioneer spacecraft are silent, but the Voyagers are expected to operate until at least 2025 before their nuclear-powered generators run out of fuel.
The U.S. Forest Service has closed the trailhead area rebuilt while the parking lot, access road, and west face of the Sandia Mountains usual access to La Luz Trail on the news release. According to a statement released by the Cibola National Forest. Depending on the weather, the closure may only last through March, according to a release by the Federal High-sides of the narrow access road. The parking lot full with later arrivals parked wherever possible on both sides of the narrow access road. The project funded by the Federal High-
Dig Giusewa update

MATTHEW J. BARBOUR, MANAGER, CORONADO & JEMEZ HISTORIC SITES

This summer, Jemez Historic Site hosted its first major archaeological excavation in over fifty years. The project, entitled “Dig Giusewa,” was part of New Mexico Historic Sites award winning Public Archaeology Program. The project was undertaken to address long held questions about the Jemez people involving their origins and how their lives changed after the arrival of the Spanish. Over an eight-week period, New Mexico Historic Site Staff, University of New Mexico Students, Friends of Coronado Historic Site, and Jemez Pueblo Tribal Members excavated a large room just north of the Visitor Center in Giusewa, or San Jose, Pueblo.

After removing debris and rubble, the room was found to be quite large, measuring approximately 16 feet north-south by nine feet east-west. It appears that the room was on the first floor and was part of a much larger multi-story room block, or apartment-like complex. Walls were constructed of stone and adobe and were plastered with gypsum to form a black and white banded design. A small doorway along the east wall was the only access to the room, which may have been used for storage.

The upper story had crashed down into the room—possibly unexpectedly. Beneath the rubble were several broken Rio Grande Glazeware and Jemez Black-on-White vessels. These vessels were almost certainly lying on the floor or on a shelf at the time of architectural failure. Manufacture dates for these bowls and jars suggest abandonment sometime between AD 1650 and 1700. It is very possible that the destruction occurred during the uprising of August 10, 1680. Better known to history as the Pueblo Revolt, this uprising led to the Spanish being expelled from northern New Mexico for over a decade.

Other items associated with the structure included several projectile points, a candlestick holder, two cloud blower pipes, bobcat and elk skulls, and a woven yucca mat. Animal skulls are often left attached to pelts and could have adorned the walls of the structure, while the yucca mat extended over at least the northwest corner of the room’s floor. As the room had no hearth, light from candles may have been the only illumination. Most of the projectile points were made of obsidian and were of the Pueblo Side-Notched tradition with concave bases in a “Pecos Style.” Collectively, these items could archaeologically represent a quiver of arrows.

No human remains were encountered. However, butchered animal bones were dispersed throughout the fill and found on the floor. These included portions of elk, deer, bison (or possibly cow), sheep/goat, fish, and a number of large birds and rodents. It suggests Jemez people living at Giusewa had a diverse diet that included hunting in the fields, the mountains, and along the river with possible forays as far away as Llano Estacado or the San Luis Valley.

The pottery, both the vessels found on the floor and in the fill, is unusual for a Jemez Pueblo. There were a large number of non-locally produced decorated vessels, especially Rio Grande Glazewares. Glazewares were rare at the nearby Jemez Pueblo of Unshagi. Most of the glazeware pottery at Giusewa, based on a shiny basalt temper, was manufactured in around the Keres-speaking Pueblo of Zia and was likely acquired through trade. However, it is possible that some Keres also lived at the site with the Towa-speaking Jemez.

All of these findings are very preliminary and will be refined as archaeologists struggle to address questions associated with Jemez origins and acculturation. In the meantime, laboratory analyses and artifacts are on display to the public in the Visitor Center at Jemez Historic Site. Preservation, staging, and opening of the excavated room to visitors is anticipated to occur in the spring of 2019 with a final report detailing the results of archaeological investigations out later that year. Jemez Historic Site is located at 18160 Highway 4 in Jemez Springs and is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admittance is $5 per adult. Children and Jemez tribal members are free. For more information, call 575-829-3530 or visit www.nmhistoricsites.org.

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On October 20 (the date of this release), ES-CA held our General meeting with Don Phillips as our “keynote speaker.” We appreciate the substantial efforts Don has made to help us, and the County, avoid a cataclysmic result with the potential to wipe out our water supply (and economy) through this entire valley. And equally important, we thank the ES-CA membership for demonstrating the interest and willingness to get involved. Only by such monitoring and pushing of governmental agencies will we be able to protect our property investments and quality of life in this beautiful area of our United States.

ES-CA continues to remind its membership to vote and to be informed about the bond and taxation issues that will be on the November 6 ballot. Information on these can be found on the County website (www.sandovalcountynm.gov) and the ES-CA site (www.es-ca.org).

On stopping the BLM from additional mining in the Placitas area, our Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham, has requested a hearing in the House Committee on Natural Resources on her proposed legislation—H.R. 1085: Buffalo Tract Protection Act—upon recommendation by community organizations ES-CA and LPA. We have also reached out to Representative Steve Pearce to solicit his support as he is member of that important House Committee. Senator Martin Heinrich and Senator Tom Udall have also been asked by ES-CA and LPA to request a hearing on their proposed bill, S. 390: Buffalo Tract Protection Act, before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Meanwhile the BLM seems close to approving an exploratory drilling permit, which potentially EXPANDS THE AREA TO BE MINED beyond the limits previously feared.

The ES-CA Land Protection Trust (LPT) has engaged our Commissioner Holden-Rhodes and have his help to ensure that Sandoval County has the ability to monitor compliance with the Vulcan settlement agreement. When we approached the County about the annual review (October) of progress against the reclamation plan for the Placitas mine, it was clear that no one in the County acknowledged “accountability” for this.

re: “Placita,” the horse

On October 21, “Placita, the Wild Horse Open Space greeter and panhandler,” was relocated to a safe environment. The Placitas Community and other area horse advocates came together to facilitate this transition. We thank all who participated in this group community effort to ensure the safety of this wild horse. We also thank all those who showed kindness and concern to her while she was in the Open Space. Straight To The Horses Mouth, one of the Placitas nonprofit organizations involved with the Wild Horses of Placitas, is now providing for her safety and well-being, along with a generous community member who is sponsoring part of her upkeep. Donations are always welcome and needed for feed, veterinary care, birth control, and shelter for the herd of now eleven formerly wild horses.

—WWW.STRAIGHTTOTHEHORSESMOUTH.ORG, a 501(c)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

re: New speed limits on Camino de Las Huertas unreasonable

The speed limit has been reduced to 25 mph of which no one obeys. There are federal guidelines as to how speeds are to be set: www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/13sepoct/02.cfm. The County obviously just did this because two feral horses were hit and killed here. We need the speed set to the 85th percentile as per federal guidelines. Many people live up to three miles up this road. 25 mph is absurd.

—MARK FORSHEE, Placitas

Eastern Sandoval Citizens Association (ES-CA) report

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—continued on page 26
Mother, daughter, and horses connect in special place

BY BILL DIVEN

Wild horses stroll by, too skittish to be approached but not so wild they run when people enter their open pasture near the Rio Grande in Placitas.

Across the road, more horses and several donkeys are anything but wild. Stand still and Chimney Girl nuzzles against you; stand your ground, and you’ll lose to a friendly nudge.

Welcome to Happy Rascal Ranch, refuge to some of the free-roaming horses corralled in Placitas in recent years. Between the ranch and a Placitas property that Sally and Clea Hall care for are nearly thirty horses, six donkeys, and a few mules.

Call it a labor of love and a continuous exercise in creative fundraising.

The ranch is named after the favorite horse of Clea’s grandmother, Mimi Hall, who lived in upstate New York. It was Mimi’s daughter Sally who hit the road in the 1960s and discovered Placitas.

“I came out here in a VW bus as a seeker, looking for my place and found it,” said Sally, who operates a landscaping business in Peña Blanca.

She also renewed her affinity for horses with some of her own, others received from friends who were downsizing, and from aiding in the rescue of wild horses rounded up in Placitas.

Wild horses become less so with feeding, but only to a point.

“This is the primal thing,” Sally said. “This is how it was when people began to domesticate horses. It’s a special thing to spend time with them. They’re semi-wild, and they won’t come to you unless they want to.”

Clea, born after Sally’s journey to New Mexico, took her first riding lessons at age six or seven during summers with her grandparents. She would find her place in Placitas as well, despite some uncertainty on her return in 2012 after caring for Mimi during the last seven years of her life.

While staying at the mesa-top home where she kept her first horse, and where she now lives, a band of free-roaming horses welcomed her on her first morning.

“Wild horses were in my backyard growing up,” Clea said. “It really feels full circle for me.”

She returned just as the population of horses wandering Placitas grew into a community controversy over safety on the roads and damage to a fragile landscape. Corralling horses with no sign of ownership led to the animals being trucked away to auction barns in many cases only to be bought and returned to rescuers’ Placitas properties.

Clea began applying skills learned at the College of Santa Fe, where she earned a degree in documentary studies and photography in 2005.

“That was how I reconvened with the wild horses here—photographing them and their transition from wild to domestic and what went on with them,” she said.

While fostering some of the captured horses and returned horses and the new babies from pregnant mares, she found the Reach Out to Horses (ROTH) program and took courses in its techniques of non-dominance training.

“Basically you’re giving a voice and choice to the horse,” she said. “It’s the wild ones that teach us the language of the horse the best.”

She has since become certified as a ROTH holis-tic horsemanship trainer, using the skills to gentile the adults for horsekeying and the younger ones as they come of age to be under saddle.

Happy Rascal Ranch occasionally adopts out a horse, but it’s not taking in any more. Even with the help of friends and volunteers, making a living and sustaining the horses merge into a single occupation.

Both Clea, a server at Placitas Café and Blades Bistro, and Sally sell essential oils, incorporating these into wellness teachings, their own lives, and horse training with the proceeds going into the ranch hay fund. With the horses consuming three hundred bales of hay a month, and the price of hay rising from $7.75 a bale two years ago to $11 to $15 today, fundraising has become an avoca-

A Placitas connection to the cable TV show “Longmire,” shot in New Mexico helps support the Halls’ work. Clea worked as a background extra in season four, five, and six of the Wyoming-set series. A donated case of Wyoming Whiskey seen in the show and autographed by “Longmire” author Craig Johnson and cast members is one source of raffle prizes raising money for hay. Suggested donations can yield a book on the Reach Out to Horses program with a chapter by Clea or a copy of the newly released DVD documentary “Sacred Land, Sacred Water,” in which Sally appears commenting on the current fight to protect local water from oil and gas development. The few riding horses at the ranch make an occasional contribution as well. And most Sundays Sally conducts workshops on connecting with horses through art and journaling for a suggested $25 donation.

Organizations such as Animal Protection New Mexico have helped with gelding of stallions and hoof trimming. A friend allows use of the pastures. Two artists—nature photographer Lynne Pomeranz, known for her images of wild horses, and Jewel, whose paintings depict free-ranging horses—donated works for display and sale at Placitas Café with all proceeds going to the horses.

Straight donations are appreciated, although Clea said she enjoys giving something in return. Most of this activity is managed online through Facebook and Clea’s page that can be found by searching Clea G. Hall. Her secure PayPal link for donation is PayPal.me/Hayclea, and she can be contacted for more information at cleag.hall@gmail.com.

REAL PEOPLE

KENNETH K. SHEPPERD

Kenneth K. Shepperd, 74, passed away unexpectedly September 29, 2018. He is survived by his brother, Richard Shepperd of Arizona, and a select group of friends.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, Douglas and Ruth Shepperd. He served our country honorably in the United States Army. Mr. Shepperd received his Bachelor’s degree from Clark University in Worcester, MA.

In his later years he was a gifted handyman and enjoyed restoring older homes. As a hobby, he crafted quality writing implements.

Cremation has taken place at his request. Please visit our online guestbook for Kenneth at www.FrenchFunerals.com

FRENCH—Lomas
10500 Lomas Blvd. NE
505.275.3500
www.frenchfunerals.com
The LPT also is tracking the issues made evident in a recent hearing by the P&Z Commission, which authorized a business permit for a B&B in a Placitas HOA, whose covenants and rules such a conditional use differ. Actions taken during that hearing by the County potentially undermine the ability of the covenants that protect the property values in such developments to be upheld. The HOA has appealed the P&Z ruling to the County Commission. We have also been informed that the County staff intends to propose new legislation concerning such lodging businesses (prompted by new business models such as AirBnB). The LPT will track this to ensure such proposals do not also conflict with existing or future residential neighborhoods that desire to have property restrictions.

The next ESCA Board meeting has been changed to November 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and will be at the Placitas Community Library on Route 165. All residents are welcome to attend.

from page 24—ES-CA

Important checkpoint or any other compliance monitoring.

Steven L. Hartman, MD, Medical Director
Matthew B. Wilson, MD • Rachel Marzec, FNP-PMHNP
Felina Ortiz, CNM • Rebecca Casalino, CNP
Marissa Cortes Mendez, CFNP, CNM
Tamara Righettini, CFNP • Stephen V. Roper, CFNP
Jennifer Webb, LPCC • Madeleine Stevens, LPCC

Participating providers for all major health insurance plans

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Important checkpoint or any other compliance monitoring.

The LPT also is tracking the issues made evident in a recent hearing by the P&Z Commission, which authorized a business permit for a B&B in a Placitas HOA, whose covenants and rules such a conditional use differ. Actions taken during that hearing by the County potentially undermine the ability of the covenants that protect the property values in such developments to be upheld. The HOA has appealed the P&Z ruling to the County Commission. We have also been informed that the County staff intends to propose new legislation concerning such lodging businesses (prompted by new business models such as AirBnB). The LPT will track this to ensure such proposals do not also conflict with existing or future residential neighborhoods that desire to have property restrictions.

The next ESCA Board meeting has been changed to November 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and will be at the Placitas Community Library on Route 165. All residents are welcome to attend.

Important checkpoint or any other compliance monitoring.

The LPT also is tracking the issues made evident in a recent hearing by the P&Z Commission, which authorized a business permit for a B&B in a Placitas HOA, whose covenants and rules such a conditional use differ. Actions taken during that hearing by the County potentially undermine the ability of the covenants that protect the property values in such developments to be upheld. The HOA has appealed the P&Z ruling to the County Commission. We have also been informed that the County staff intends to propose new legislation concerning such lodging businesses (prompted by new business models such as AirBnB). The LPT will track this to ensure such proposals do not also conflict with existing or future residential neighborhoods that desire to have property restrictions.

The next ESCA Board meeting has been changed to November 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m., and will be at the Placitas Community Library on Route 165. All residents are welcome to attend.
re: Oil and gas ordinance

There are two Sandoval County Citizen Oil and Gas Ordinance Drafts that were submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Science Team (ST), Ordinance Team (OT) and a third ‘Baseline’ industry-friendly draft. See a comparison chart of all three ordinances and background documents at sites.google.com/view/cwg-ordinance-team

SITE-SPECIFIC APPROACH:

The OT Ordinance protects the waters of Middle Rio Grande Basin (MRGB) with a ‘Site-Specific’ approach. On the other hand, a fracking ban along a portion of the MRGB, as defined by districting in the ST draft, would still allow for vertical drilling and surface spills, in which case, a major source of ground water contamination would continue to commonly take place.

Additionally, Site-Specific would regulate well location based on surface geologic, hydrologic, and seisimologic factors as well as cultural and Tribal input. Site-Specific regulations cover drilling locations as they relate directly to ground water resources for each specific site proposed across the County. No other ordinance draft or state regulatory agency e.g. Oil Conservation Division or NM Environment Department look at site-specific characteristics when permitting oil and gas drilling. A Site-Specific approach is more protective of all water resources throughout the County including the MRGB.

PUBLIC HEARINGS A MUST!

Of grave concern, the lack of public hearings in the NW part of the county under ST and Baseline draft provisions. It is as important to address concerns in this part of the county as it is to address the concerns of all county residents. Ground water may be “naturally” more protected given the San Juan Basin geology, but noise, roads, emergency services, waste management, and setbacks are among the issues of concern to many residents in Cuba, Navajo Tri-Chapter, and surrounding communities.

How does any elected official justify foregoing public hearings when permitting such a heavy industry with serious risks to the health, safety, and welfare of residents? Unfortunately, neither the ST nor Baseline drafts would require public hearings before permitting drilling in the NW area of the county. Alternatively, the OT draft requires public hearings across the county, a right afforded to every citizen.

The OT sought expert legal counsel on matters such as dividing the county into districts, right to public hearings, and treatment of Tribes as States. Among other complex legal issues, these had to be researched thoroughly by counsel before the OT could address such in their draft ordinance.

Sound legal advice, thorough debate, and public and Tribal input at every turn lead the OT to take a stance in favor of a Site-Specific approach, where in each applicant’s proposed drilling site shall be approved or negotiated by expert consultants, hired at industry expense, not in terms of geology alone but, as importantly, in terms of cultural preservation and respect, Tribal input, and community right to know. Additionally, the OT draft is unique in that it provides for the right to revoke a permit and requires a 2021 Formal Review by the County P&Z Department.

It is the hope of many that county residents and leadership will put their support behind the OT Ordinance Draft. This is the most important decision we will make for decades to come: Water is Life!

—RESPECTFULLY, DONNA DOWELL, Placitas

re: Fracking the watershed

Most of us have heard about the upcoming BLM oil and gas lease/sale that will effect the Greater Chaco Area and the people who live there. But maybe you didn’t know that some of this BLM lease/sale land is in the Rio Chama watershed on the east side of the Continental Divide. If it’s in the Rio Chama watershed it’s in the Rio Grande watershed. 70% of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority drinking water is San Juan Chama River and Reservoir water. A pollution event on the Rio Gallina could shut down the surface drinking water usage for over 600,000 users of the ABCWUA. See the short ABCWUA film below. We are all stakeholders and it’s all connected.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k075dyipz1I

This article published and written by Laura Faskas can help tie our current and future water dilemma all together.


The water in the Chama is at risk. Horizontal fracking has changed everything. When they extract the 6 million gallons from the aquifer to frack a single well it may cause a draw on the surface water. This is exactly what the current Texas v New Mexico lawsuit is all about. It’s also what the Texas v New Mexico lawsuit on the Pecos was all about. And we lost that suit. This is a water issue from the potential surface and subsurface pollution standpoint. As well as a water issue from the extraction of water to frack and the disposal of water in only who knows where. We are not putting all of the pieces together.

Here is a link to the new documentary film Sacred Land Sacred Water. It explains the extreme dangers of fracking in the Albuquerque Basin. Watch it. Protect the water.

https://sites.google.com/site/sacredlandsacredwaterfilm/download-of-full-video

—MIREM MEAS, Placitas

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37th Annual
PLACITAS HOLIDAY
Fine Arts & Crafts Sale
November 17 & 18
Saturday 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday 10 am – 4:30 pm
80 Artists at 3 Sites
Anasazi Fields
The Big Tent (east of Presbyterian Church)
Placitas Elementary School
Refreshments at each location • Art Raffle display at the School

2018 Featured Artist

We wish to thank our generous sponsors:
Platinum: John Roth, Rock Hill Electric, Bernalillo
Turquoise: Judy & Orville McCallister, the Merc, Placitas
Matt DiGregory, The Range Café, Bernalillo & Albuquerque
Dave Harper and Janice Fowles, Placitas Realty, Placitas
Gold: Rachael Tingen, DMD, Placitas Dental PC, Placitas
John Franklin, Placitas Café, Placitas
Jennise Phillips, La Puerta LLC, Placitas
Silver: Bernalillo Storage, Bernalillo
Copper: John Sapien, State Farm Insurance, Bernalillo
Dr. Diedra Casaus, The Vision Store, Bernalillo
Coronado Pet Hospital, Bernalillo
Wild Hearts Gallery, Placitas

Just a few examples of the fine work you will see
Barb Belknap, Stained Glass
Site 1, Anasazi Fields

Nancy Wood, watercolor drawings
Site 2, The Big Tent

Jon & Nancy Couch, Water Prisms
Site 2, The Big Tent

Geri Verble, Jewelry
Site 3, School Hall

Bunny Bowen, Paintings & Silk
Scarves, Site 3, School Gym

Dana Patterson Roth, Photography
Site 2, The Big Tent

preview all of the artists at www.PlacitasHolidaySale.com

The Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale is organized by a board of local artists and sponsored by the Placitas MountainCraft and Snare Society, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the community, the arts, and artists.
The best art shows in New Mexico stand the test of time. For 37 years, on the weekend before Thanksgiving, the Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale has welcomed the public to Placitas to discover the amazing boutiques to be found in the village each year. The result is a fresh line up of artists in all media.

The Placitas Holiday Sale is spotlighting metal sculptor Terry Adams from Cuba, New Mexico, as the 2018 featured artist. Adams designs and creates home decor and sculptures with a distinct primitive aesthetic. His pieces often incorporate a welded steel framework, combined with china, found objects, and glass. His inspiration is a cross between celestial skies and Stonehenge.

Adams has logged thousands of hours in the beautiful red rock canyons of the Four Corners region studying rock art and ancient pottery designs—his designs reveal the spirit and emotion of ancient artists. He will be showing his work at Site #1 Anasazi Fields.

Site #1: Anasazi Fields has always been a cozy and pleasant venue with rustic decor and a fire cracking in the fireplace. Homemade organic goat cheese and delectable chocolates and local honey make great gifts.

New this year, Kathryn Brewing Co. from Bernallillo will be serving Bernallillo-brewed beer and hard cider, and Nevada wine at the Anasazi Fields site.

Site #2: The Big White Tent is located in the center of the village next to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church and heated for the comfort of all. It has a fun, festive atmosphere with plenty of room for all artists, dreams and conversations between artists, patrons, and friends getting together. The artists decorate their booths with work, inviting people to come down each side to see what they have created. The clear window walls bring light into the tent and illuminate the diverse artwork on display.

Site #3: Placitas Elementary School is a popular hotspot with almost fifty exhibitors. Booths fill the gym and some of the halls, giving this venue a colorful market-like atmosphere.

The artists of the Holiday Sale have been donating their art to the raffle and have raised more than $18,000 in the past fifteen years for the Placitas Elementary School Program. The Holiday Sale will be donating 100% of all proceeds from the raffle to this program to buy art supplies for the children of the School. The public can purchase tickets costing $1 for the chance to win a piece of artwork. All raffle items will be on display at the School.

Food and drinks will be available at each of the sites. At Site #1: Stuffed Last Sepailla Co. will be serving their authentic New Mexican-styled stuffed sopapillas with a twist of delicious ingredients. At the Big Tent, Site #2: The Chile Pepper Cafe operated by the Presbyterian Church kitchen will open next door and they will be cooking a variety of homemade Mexican dishes and desserts. Site #3: Placitas Elementary School will have La Casita from Bernallillo serving their traditional New Mexican dishes.

Discover warm hospitality and high quality arts and crafts at this holiday event, located six miles east of I-25 on Highway 163. Take exit 242 from I-25, follow the colorful signs and banners to the historic village of Placitas. All sites are centrally located.

To preview the artists, artwork, map, and sites visit the website at www.placitasholidaysale.com.

The Placitas Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Sale is organized by local artists and sponsored by the Placitas Mountain Craft and Soiree Society, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to serving the community, the arts, and artists.

For more information, contact Nancy Couch at 867-2403 or go to info@placitasholidaysale.com.
Placitas Artists Series presents acclaimed pianist Sandra Rivers

On November 25, at 3:00 p.m., the Placitas Artists Series will feature pianist Sandra Rivers, a Steinway artist and faculty member at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. The program will include Emőd Dohnányi’s Piano Quintet No. 1 in minor, Op. 1 and Antonín Dvořák’s Piano Quintet No. 2 in A Major, Op. 81.

Rivers has performed with many orchestras and chamber groups in major concert halls around the world. In this “Willy Sucre and Friends” concert, she will join violinist Willy Sucre and three other well-known Albuquerque-area musicians: Krzysztof Zimowski and Julanie Lee on violin and Joan Zucker on cello.

She last appeared in a Placitas Artists Series concert in 2014 in an ensemble that also included Sucre, Zimowski, and Lee, along with cellist Joanna de Keyser.

The concert is generously sponsored by Kristie and Doug Doll. At 2:00 p.m., immediately prior to the concert, a free visual artists reception will feature the art of Mary Dereske, photo books and canvas prints; Rebecca Nolda, mixed media; Erica Wendel-Oglesby, mosaics and jewelry; and P.K. Williams, mixed media. Their works, which are for sale, will be on display from November 3 to November 30. Light refreshments will be served.

The exhibit and visual artist reception take place at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, located six miles east of I-25 on NM 165 (Exit 242). The facility is completely accessible.

For more information, email info@PlacitasArtistsSeries.org, call 505-867-8080, or visit www.PlacitasArtistsSeries.org.

Holiday Faire returns to San Antonio Mission

A Holiday Faire will be held on November 17 and 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the San Antonio Mission on Paseo San Antonio in Placitas. Find the perfect gift or treat yourself.

Our artisans will display their artistry for sale in a number of mediums: Pat Oshel, beaded jewelry; Ellen Baker, fused glass; Mary Lou Skelton, gourds; Patti Baron, clothing. There will be other artisans showing their artistic talents in woodworking, painting, pottery. Food will be available.

To find the San Antonio Mission, go east seven miles on up Route 165, turn right onto Paseo de San Antonio. Follow the red holiday stocking signs.
**Sandoval Arts**

—CONTINUED

Placitas Studio Tour donates to Placitas Elementary School’s art department

**DENISE ELVRUM**

For the first time in its twenty-one-year history, the Placitas Studio Tour was able to give back to the community by donating to the Placitas Elementary School’s Art department. Earlier this month, on a beautiful fall day, the Placitas Studio Tour’s board members, representing the artists who have participated in the Placitas Studio Tour for past years, met with the Placitas Elementary School Principal Demetria Navarrette and Art Teacher Patti Jordan-Bell and surprised them with a donation to the school arts program.

Placitas Studio Tour Board Member Mary Hofmann had met earlier with Art teacher Patti Jordan-Bell to see what equipment, or items, were needed for the students—or was there one thing she really wished for? After reviewing the wish list, the Placitas Studio Tour Board voted to donate a clay slab roller, racks to dry the children’s art work, and a monetary donation for a grand total of $2,000.

Many Placitas artists did not start out as artists but were introduced to the arts through community classes or an art teacher. Placitas Studio Tour Board Member Dorothy “Bunny” Bowen recalls an event in 1980 when an artist-in-the-schools event offered a free week-long workshop to the community. There, in the school gym, Bunny was introduced to batik, which has been her medium of choice as an artist for the past 38 years! “We never know what seeds we plant when we help to provide art education to our children and community.”

Principal Demetria Navarrette and art teacher Patti Jordan-Bell expressed that Placitas Elementary is very lucky “to have such wonderful community members and organizations that are always so willing to step up and support the school, especially arts education.”

The Placitas Studio Tour Board would like to thank New Mexico Clay for their help in acquiring the clay slab roller for the school. Without their generosity, the gift would not have been possible.

“Libraries Rock The Land”

—Jemez Landscapes

From October 23 to November 23, the Jemez Pueblo Community Library will be presenting “Libraries Rock The Land—Jemez Landscapes,” an art exhibit with paintings by Judy Asbury and others.

The mission of the Jemez Pueblo Community Library is “to serve, assist and educate the community through books, computers, advanced technology, and ensure access to information for all in order to enhance learning and strengthening knowledge while reinforcing language, traditional and cultural concepts through oral history.”

The library is located at 20 Mission Rd, Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024.

For further information, call 575-834-9171.

“For Reading the Signpost and for your Support of Signpost Advertisers. News and information of interest to the residents of Sandoval County. See the current issue and back issues online at: www.sandovalsignpost.com”
Sandoval Signpost Community Calendar

To submit a listing, go to sandovalsignpost.com and click on Calendar. Deadline for submission is the twentieth of the month prior to publication. The calendar is a free service provided by Sandia Master Gardeners and is intended for community events of interest to residents of Sandoval County. “First Monday” indicates the first Monday of the month.

Daily:

Mayor Gregg Hull talks about issues facing Rio Rancho. 9 a.m. Held at the City Hall, 2650 Corrales Road.

FreeKick at Villa Calypso—22 pm. Held at 1300 Corrales Road in Bernalillo.

Mayor of Bernalillo talks about issues facing Bernalillo. 11 a.m. Held at the Bernalillo City Council Chambers, 124 Calle Malinche.

 daily:

To submit a listing: go to sandovalsignpost.com and click on Calendar.

Submit today’s listing:

Monday, May 23:

Safeguarding Pregnancy Through Pregnancy Resource Centers. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Held at Placitas Community Center. 124 Calle Malinche in Bernalillo. 867-7074.

Tuesday, May 24:

Sandoval County Master Gardener Volunteer Orientation. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Held at Sandia Master Gardener’s office at 124 Calle Malinche in Bernalillo. 266-1900.

Wednesday, May 25:

Sandoval County Master Gardeners: Open to Public. Registration preferred. SandovalMasterGardens.org, public-class-registration.

Saturday, May 28:

Placitas Community Flea Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Held at Placitas Community Center, 124 Calle Malinche.

Sunday, May 29:

Sandoval County Master Gardeners: Open to Public. Registration preferred. SandovalMasterGardens.org, public-class-registration.

Monday, May 30:

Sandoval County Master Gardeners: Open to Public. Registration preferred. SandovalMasterGardens.org, public-class-registration.
**Placitas Community Center activities**

**Weekly Programs:**
- Monday: yoga 9:30 a.m., enhanced fitness 11:15 a.m., Age Reversing Essentrics
- Tuesday: Pilates 8:15 a.m., Zumba 9:30 a.m., Haircuts 9:30 a.m., bingo 10:00 a.m., Ukulele workshops 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: Project Linux blanket making 9:30 a.m., bingo 10:00 a.m., billiards 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., tai chi 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday: Pilates 8:15 a.m., yoga 9:30-10:00 a.m., enhanced fitness 11:15 a.m., head class 1:00 p.m.
- Friday: Zumba 8:00 a.m., having fun with clay 9:30 a.m., bingo 10:00 a.m., enhanced fitness 12:00-1:00 p.m., Beyond Mixed Media 1:00 p.m.

**Special Events:**
- November 6: Hair Cuts 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- November 7: Hispanic culture Center field trip

**Sandoval County Senior Centers’ luncheon menu**
- November 1: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, steamed green beans, garden salad, dinner rolls, peach cobbler, tea
- November 2: Chicken Parmesan, vegetable medley, steamed corn, garden salad, chocolate cake, lemonade
- November 3: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, garden salad, black bean soup, banana bread, milk
- November 4: Spaghetti with pineapple, baked sweet potatoes, steamed carrots/potatoes, garlic bread, whole-wheat roll, fruit cocktail
- November 5: Baked ham with pineapple glaze, baked sweet potatoes, steamed carrots/potatoes, garden salad, sweet roll, fruit cocktail
- November 6: Baked chicken breast with gravy, brown rice pilaf, steamed cabbage, salad, whole-wheat roll, fresh apple
- November 7: Green Chile cheese enchiladas, pinto beans, garden salad, croutons, club crackers, fruit cocktail
- November 8: Grocery Shopping
- November 9: Veterans celebration
- November 10: AARP Safety Driving course, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- November 11: Billiards game day, pool tournament at 10:30 a.m.
- November 13: Thanksgiving luncheon, turkey, mashed potato with gravy, stuffing with cranberries, green beans almondine, garden salad, whole-wheat roll, pumpkin pie with whipped topping
- November 14: Fish filet sandwich, parillaed red potatoes, steamed peas/carrots, cole slaw, fruit cocktail
- November 15: Happy Thanksgiving all centers closed
- November 16: Southwest meatballs, fetuccine, steamed cauliflower, cucumber, tomato and onion salad, whole-wheat roll peaches
- November 17: Frito pie chicken, rice with black beans and corn, garden salad, hibachi burger
- November 18: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, steamed broccoli, garden salad, hibachi burger, banana
- November 19: Four-cheese lasagna, Italian steel salad, three-bean salad, garlic breadstick, grapes
- November 20: Chef’s salad with turkey, ham, tomato, cheese and egg, crostini, club crackers, fruit cocktail, pudding

**Corrales Senior Center activities**

Activities include exercise classes, yoga, line dancing, morning aerobics, computer class, Bingo, board games, arts, crafts, billiards, music, and computer and Spanish classes. Activities vary month to month. The Center also celebrates special events, and holds holiday parties, birthday/baby showers, dances, and informal presentations.

**Requirements:** age 60+

**Operation Time:**
- Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Location: 4234-A Corrales Road, Corrales

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**Bernalillo Senior Center**

**Center activities**

November 1: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 11:00 a.m. lunch club at Mike’s Café, 12:30 p.m. Mexican train dominos, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz

November 2: 9:00 a.m. local shopping, 12:30 p.m. popcorn and games

November 4: 1:00 p.m. Dia de Los Muertos Parade at Westside Community Center

November 5: 9:00 a.m. Echo commodities, 9:30 a.m. bingo, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. joint games

November 6: 9:00 a.m. Wal-Mart, 9:30 a.m. crafts with Gina, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. senior advisory meeting, 1:30 p.m. group painting

November 7: Roadrunner mobile food pantry, 12:30 p.m. bingo, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi

November 8: 10:00 a.m. Cottonwood Mall, 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican train dominos, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz

November 9: 9:30 a.m. coffee/cooker social, 11:00 a.m. Veterans appreciation luncheon, 12:30 p.m. tai chi

November 10: Pilates 8:15 a.m., Zumba 9:30 a.m., Haircuts 9:30 a.m., bingo 10:00 a.m., Ukulele workshops 3:00 p.m.

November 11: Project Linux blanket making 9:30 a.m., bingo 10:00 a.m., billiards 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., tai chi 3:30 p.m.

November 12: Center closed

November 13: 9:30 a.m. crafts with Gina, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. crafts with Janet, 1:30 p.m. group painting

November 14: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. bingos, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi

November 15: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving luncheon, 12:30 p.m. Mexican train, 1:30 p.m. snack packets and prize bingo (bring a snack/dish/drink to share) prizes provided

November 16: 9:00 a.m. Bouquet deApache, 10:00 a.m. local shopping, 12:30 p.m. Billys

November 17: 9:30 a.m. bingo, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. Pictionary

November 19: 9:30 a.m. Billys, 9:30 a.m. crafts with Gina, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:30 p.m. group painting

November 21: 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi

November 22: Center closed

November 23: Center closed

November 24: 9:30 a.m. Bingo, 10:00 a.m. coffee social, 12:30 p.m. family feud

November 27: 10:00 a.m. group painting and movie, 10:00 a.m. line dancing, 12:30 p.m. bingos, 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi

November 28: 10:00 a.m. group painting, 12:30 p.m. Mexican train dominos, 12:30 p.m. crochet with Liz

November 30: 10:30 a.m. Billards game day, 12:30 p.m. birthday social, 1:00 p.m. birthday dance

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**Years of effort produce new senior center**

**Bill Diven**

The new senior center in Bernalillo was a long time coming.

“Finally,” Sandoval County Community Services Director Anne Ryan said at the October 5 dedication ceremony: “Almost nine years in the making, and here we are.”

Seniors, officials and visitors streamed into the building after the ribbon cutting. Within a few minutes, old friends were chatting across tables, and both pool tables were in use.

About 125 people attended the open of the 7,200-square-foot building located in southern Bernalillo next to the town recreation center and Rotary Park. The center, which sits on 1.5 acres provided by the town of Bernalillo, replaces the former center crowded into a high-maintenance and seventy-year-old former home on Camino del Pueblo near Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

The new building includes an exercise room, space for classes and social activities, and a commercial kitchen to supply meals to local members and visitors in Placitas, Algodones, Peña Blanca, and other communities.

The road to the new center actually dates to the early 2000s with the first attempts at legislative funding, said Rebecca Martinez of the state Aging and Long-Term Services Department. The project never rated very highly but some 2009 money was forthcoming to keep the old building in operation, she said.

From there, the continue push led to design and planning money in 2013, then $1.8 million from a voter-approved bond issue and lastly money for the parking lot and fencing. When the first round of bids came in too high, the size of the building was reduced.

“The challenges to be worth the battle because so much was accomplished,” Martinez said.

Wielding the big scissors for the official ribbon cutting were two center volunteers, Gina Aragon and Ward Keller. Aragon is the mother of center supervisor Desi Aragon while Keller is retired from county senior programs.
Placitas Las Montañas FunRacer
—a big success

—Dave Kinney, Race Director

The inaugural race was held on September 22 and was a resounding success. Thank you to all the sponsors in the Placitas area who provided their support to this fundraising event for the Placitas Mother’s Day Out Program—KUPR Radio and the Placitas Community Library. We had almost one hundred participants in the 10K, 5K, Children’s Runs and Walks, and Doggie Walk. Thanks to all who participated in this annual event. Next year’s Las Montañas FunRacer is already scheduled for September 21, 2019.

To see pictures of the race, go to our Facebook page, Las Montañas FunRacer.

Las Montañas FunRacer recipients: (l. to r.) Debbie Stueber of Placitas Mother’s Day Out, Ruth Bouldes of Placitas Community Library, John McNerney of KUPR Radio, stand with Dave Kinney, Race Director and KUPR disk jockey.
Here is "Billy." He's a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who first lived with Betty Milstead in Placitas. He now lives with the Stropp family—John, Dianne and "Mikki," who is his Cavalier King Charles Spaniel sister. Billy loves to retrieve and he got his blanket one day and was running around with it, when I snapped this picture. He is a love and is full of personality and ENERGY!

—DIANNE STROPP, Placitas

Red-tailed hawk with mouse
—TODD RENNECKER

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LOST:
Cat: All grey, 13-year-old male cat named “Spaulding.” No tags. Lost at 167 Camino de las Huertas. If found, email to dscoffey01@aol.com, or call Deborah Coffey at 586-909-2122.

FOUND:
Cat: Grey. Contact Anita Easley at 249-6687.

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~ CLASSES ~

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