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by August March

Here is a selection of our favorite letters from 2019, in no particular order, by Weekly Alibi News Editor August March.

Municipal Wells Uncontaminated

Dear Alibi,

The July 25 Kirtland fuel spill article by August March [v28 i30] quotes a representative of the SouthWest Organizing Project, Juan Reynosa, who refers to a “toxic plume of jet fuel in our water supply.” Mr. Reynosa goes on to say that SWOP’s community garden is “using city well water” and that “some members of the community wonder if we’re raising crops that are going to have poison in them.”

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, which operates the municipal wells serving Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, wishes to reassure Mr. Reynosa and other concerned members of the community that no Water Authority wells have been affected by the fuel spill. The jet fuel plume lies to the southwest of our nearest well field, and sentinel wells between the leading edge of the plume and the nearest Water Authority well would provide ample warning before contamination of any of our wells occurred. We also sample and test the drinking water wells nearest to the plume on a monthly basis to ensure that the water remains safe to drink. Should any drinking water wells face an imminent threat of contamination, we would of course cease to use them before allowing jet fuel constituents into the water supply.

The Water Authority and its governing board have been working diligently with the Air Force and with the New Mexico Environment Department to ensure that no municipal wells become contaminated as a result of the fuel spill. Certainly some wells are under threat, but we are hopeful that ongoing cleanup efforts will completely eliminate the possibility of contamination. Albuquerque’s water supply, meanwhile, continues to meet all federal standards for safe drinking water and can be consumed with utmost confidence. A complete report on water quality in Albuquerque, updated annually, is available on our website at www.abcvwa.org/Water_Report.aspx.

—David Morris,
Public Affairs Manager
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority

Gun Control, Quirky Style

Dear Editor

I have mixed feelings about banning guns at City Council meetings. “Gun Free Zones” seem to attract mass shooters like flies attract flies. However, there is a similarity between Council meetings and rowdy bars, where we have long banned guns. Just make sure the councillors go through the metal detectors with the rest of us.

As to “lock Up” requirements: Why do I never see this suggested as to automobiles? Stolen cars are just as big a threat to public safety as stolen guns. There would be less threat of theft of guns from cars if there were fewer places where lawful CCW holders were nevertheless prohibited from carrying. This requires leaving the weapon in the car.

I have only seen one government program that actually and significantly reduced gun violence.

In the early ‘90s, Richmond, Va. was a shooting gallery. Gang bangers were doing drivebys that left more noncombatants dead than rival gang bangers. The local cops and prosecutors got together with the federal prosecutors and federal judges, forming Project Exile. This program not only had the backing of the normal ethnic groups, but also the NRA, which gave at least two $100,000 contributions to help fund it. It resulted in a 50 percent reduction in gun homicides (and even more for noncombatants) in one year, and continuing.

What was the program? Every time a convicted felon was caught in possession of a firearm, he was taken to federal court to be tried and sentenced under existing federal law, providing a minimum sentence of at least 5 years. It was also arranged that this prison time be served in a federal prison as far away from Richmond as available. If Freddy Felon missed his mommy—great! That was the idea. This program was widely publicized, giving Freddy fair warning. It made gun carrying by felons extremely unfashionable.

The same program could work here, if law enforcement and courts have the huevos to do it.

Ken McDaniel
Rio Rancho

You Gotta Keep ‘Em Separated

Dear Alibi,

To the author of “Confute Church and State” [v28 i45]:

You sound like you are from the great WWII generation, when our flag stood against imperialist regimes—like Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan—that were actually invading other countries as well as killing and/or imprisoning people of different religions within their own nation. Maybe you have forgotten how we imprisoned Japanese-Americans during the war on no more evidence than that they were of Japanese descent.

Since WWII, people of color in this country did not enjoy all the “liberty and justice for all” that the Pledge of Allegiance states in its opening line. Hence, the Civil Rights Movement gained momentum and was actually signed into law (Civil Rights Act of 1964) by President Johnson. But just because a law is made doesn’t mean people actually follow it.

Many injustices are still being done against the underprivileged here, and it has only gotten worse under the present administration, whose focus seems to be for the 1 percent, extremely wealthy and white class. So really, there is no common belief here that all men and women are created equal. That is in your idealistic mind, which is not a bad thing—except that you see everything in black and white, or maybe red, white, and blue.

The reality is that people have been kneeling during National Anthems to show that we have a lot of problems here at home that need to be addressed, with no disrespect to the flag itself. Why, don’t you kneel to pray to the God that you think is common to all here? We allow freedom of religion here; that’s what makes this country great.

One of those current problems is our borders that were once open to the world are now being closed (Mexican border) under the pretense that only criminals are coming here. Mostly, they are families trying to escape the nightmares that their countries have become from corrupt governments, supported by the USA, in Central and South America, as well as gangs that commit crimes, for the flow of drugs and guns between our country and theirs. And we don’t even have enough immigrant workers to harvest crops in the US anymore, and Americans won’t do it because it’s “peasant labor.”

Many European countries would argue that this is the greatest country in the world. Many Native Americans would tell you that this land has been taken from them by force. We don’t even stand united with the rest of the world on climate change. Do I have to say it: Dissent is patriotic, or we would probably still be a territory of England.

If you look at the Constitution, the First Amendment prevents our government from officially recognizing or favoring any religion. That is the reason the Ten Commandments (Judeo-Christian) are not allowed in public buildings. And until liberty and justice is for all here in the USA, I don’t see how you can force us to pray to the flag itself. Why, don’t you kneel to pray to the God that you think is common to all here? We still need, as the present government, is only going to build more walls and continue.

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Letters should be sent with the writer’s name, address and daytime phone number via email to letters@alibi.com. They can also be mailed to PO. Box 81, Albuquerque, NM, 87103. Letters—including comments posted on alibi.com—may be published in any medium and edited for length and clarity, owing to the volume of correspondence, we regretfully can’t respond to every letter. Word count limit for letters is 300 words.

Mark Nolan
Albuquerque
**Dateline: Arizona**

A man has registered a swarm of bees as his emotional support animals. According to WTRF in Arizona, Prescott Valley resident David Keller told reporters that he thought the process for registering an emotional support animal is too easy and encourages fraud. To prove his theory, he attempted to register a swarm of bees with USA Service Dog Registration, a website that allows users to register a support animal and print a registration page for free online. Keller says he was able to successfully register the swarm and even uploaded images of the insects to the website. He told reporters he did it to “bring awareness to the issue that anyone could do this.” There are reportedly numerous websites similar to the one Keller visited that unofficially register pets as service animals. His stunt highlighted a rampant problem with fraudulent claims of service animals in the US. It is a crime in some states to attempt to pass a pet off as a legitimate service animal—although registering a service animal is not required. At the federal level, only dogs and miniature horses are recognized as legitimate service animals. Keller says he wants the fraudulent websites to stop handing out fake registration papers. “It’s making people believe all animals are service animals when they’re not,” he said. “There’s a clear difference.”

**Dateline: Nevada**

Wildlife officials are concerned about the welfare of Las Vegas’ pigeons after two of them were found to inexplicably be wearing tiny cowboy hats. According to KVVU in Las Vegas, Nev., a video showing two pigeons wearing miniature pink and red cowboy hats went viral last week. A number of people captured footage of the birds, and they became an instant social media success. But pigeon advocate Mariah Hillman—of Lofty Hopes, a bird rescue organization—told reporters she was worried that someone had harmed the animals to make them more photogenic. “At first, I was like, oh my god that’s cute!” she said. “Then, I was like—wait a minute. How did they get those hats on there?” She told CNN that during one sighting, rescuers noticed “some loose feathers in the glue around the hat,” leading them to believe that it had been glued onto the pigeons’ head. The rescue group is trying to capture the birds—whom they dubbed Chuck Norris and Coolamity Jane—to get a better assessment of their health status. Rescuers are also on the lookout for a rumored third pigeon rumored to be wearing a brown hat.

**Dateline: Florida**

An artist’s controversial exhibit faced destruction at the hands of another artist, defacement by conspiracy theorists and unimpressed reviews last week. Miami Herald reports that a man entered Art Basel Miami Beach and used red lipstick to write “Epstein (sic) didn’t kill himself” on the white wall to which a banana had been duct-taped as part of an art installation that sold for $120,000 last week. The piece, titled “Comedian,” was the work of Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. It garnered some controversy in the press and on social media, where many seemed offended by it. Last week, the man who vandalized “Comedian,” identified as Rodnick Webber of Massachusetts, reportedly asked a security guard, “This is the gallery where anyone can do art, right?” As he was escorted off the premises, Webber shouted, “If someone can eat the $120,000 banana and not get arrested, why can’t I write on the wall?” Exhibitors were forced to cover the slogan with white cardboard following the incident. Webber’s final comment referred to an incident that had occurred just days before. Performance artist David Datuna ate the banana in front of shocked witnesses and a camera earlier in the week. He told those gathered that he ate it because he was hungry. The gallery director of museum relations, Galerie Perrotin, pointed out that Datuna’s act did not destroy the art work. “The banana is the idea,” he said. This isn’t the first time a piece by Cattelan created controversy. He made headlines in recent years for creating an installation that featured a fully-functional 18-karat golden toilet titled “America.”

**Dateline: Michigan**

A man admitted to police that he’d been spraying deer repellent around his brother’s hunting stands as an act of revenge. MLive reports that Mike Wells, a conservation officer with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, recently received a complaint of hunter harassment. The complainant met with Wells and handed off two SD cards from trail cameras that showed footage of a subject using a yellow backpack sprayer to distribute an unknown substance on two hunting stands. The complainant said the man in the footage was his brother, and the property was located next to a private camp willed to both men by their father. According to the man, the brothers had been disputing over the land, and their father. According to the man, the brothers had been disputing over the land, and he was suffering from a campaign of harassment. Wells went to the stands and collected samples of a liquid that had been sprayed. He then confronted the brother, who admitted to spraying “liquid fence,” a deer repellent, on the complainant’s blinds. He said she’d done it because his brother was intentionally hunting deer in the public land next to the camp to cut them off from the private land. He said he’d let his emotions get the best of him and apologized.

Compiled by Joshua Lee. Email your weird news to josh@alibi.com.
Most Police Surge Arrests Dismissed

More than half of the cases resulting from a state police surge in Albuquerque earlier this year have been dismissed.

According to KOAT, more than 50 New Mexico State Police officers were sent to Albuquerque for 59 days last summer as part of Operation Surge—an attempt to curb rising crime statistics. State police reportedly made around 200 felony arrests in the city and spent nearly $1 million on salaries and hotel accommodations for officers.

But according to reports, 52 percent of those cases were dismissed within four months. There were 133 cases that lacked evidence or paperwork, and prosecutors said there wasn’t enough evidence for an arrest in 27 cases. State Police officers failed to appear to testify in court on 13 cases. In 15 cases, prosecutors said more investigation was needed. In others, witnesses or victims reportedly didn’t cooperate. And in one case, a suspect was never transported from jail to court.

State Police Chief Tim Johnson told reporters that he plans to refile charges in 49 of the cases with the district attorney. Most of the cases have a statute of limitations of five years.

Johnson said he will be investigating why his officers did not show up for court and turn in necessary evidence on time. “We will be holding those folks accountable for missing court,” Johnson said. “But most importantly I need to hold myself accountable.”

New CYFD Policy Raises Concerns

A proposed rule change by the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) to make fostering children easier is receiving criticism from some foster care advocates.

According to KOBI, the proposed policy would make it easier for relatives of children in state custody to receive a license to foster those children. Deputy Public Information Officer Charlie Moore-Fabst told reporters that “the parent who has had their rights terminated can be licensed to foster their own child if they have resolved their issues.”

The new policy would be more lenient toward those who had committed crimes in the past—leading some foster parents to voice concerns over the rule change. It would also allow undocumented relatives to become licensed.

CYFD says it is extending the online period for public comment. New Mexico residents can email their comments to cyfd.comments@state.nm.us.

NM Gets Funding to Fight Opioid Crisis

Last week, the US Justice Department announced that it is awarding more than $3.8 million in grants to New Mexico state and county and tribal programs to combat opioid addiction.

The Associated Press reports that the grants will be used to coordinate emergency responders, police and health professionals who are responding to overdoses. They will also be used to improve adult treatment court programs and provide services to children affected by the opioid epidemic.

The DOJ is awarding more than $333 million in grants to communities across the nation specifically to fight against the opioid crisis.

The Lion in Winter

Council says goodbye to Bregman’s replacement

A lbuquerque City Council said goodbye to its longest-serving member, welcoming onboard a new Council member. Then, the body politic gave a shout-out to some very good soccer champs—all at its December meetings.

Score!

With lots of smiles and pride, Councilors presented a proclamation to the Volcano Vista High School girls’ soccer team for bringing home the 2019 5A State Championship. The Hawks dominated their division with skilled playing.

See Ya, Old Man Winter

With all due respect, we bid a fond adieu to longtime Councilor Brad Winter. District 4 Councilor Winter (and one of Tejana’s favorite political appointees) will soon be officially retired from 20 years at the City Council table. Winter started his two decade vault with a win over incumbent Sam Bregman in 1999. He says he never thought he would win and win he did, a total of five times. He served under four mayors and sat at the table with 34 other councilors—and continues to pole vault at the Senior Olympics. For all this, he got accolades from his colleagues along with a serenade by a barbershop quartet to send him on his way in style. After humming along with the barbershop version of “Breakin’ Up is Hard to Do,” Winter thanked the citizens who show up at each meeting to speak, his colleagues and the city staff over the years who he said, “want to do right by the city.” He said he was thankful for the non-partisan form of government that this City Council participates in. And to wrap up, he said after 20 years, that there was something to be said for term limits.

New Model Council

A bit later, Councilor Trudy Jones introduced the newly elected Brook Bassan, who will be taking Winter’s seat at the table in January. Bassan faced Ane Romero in a run-off election to claim the Northeast Heights seat. Councilor Isaac Benton held onto his seat during a contentious run off against Zach Quintero. Councilors Pat Davis and Trudy Jones did not need a run-off to keep their seats. When the Councilors reconvene in January, they will pick new officers. Benton has served on the Council for 14 years. Councilor Klarissa Peña said this will be the first time in City Council history where there has been a majority of women at the table. The Council is non-partisan and the political party composition stays the same with three Republicans and six Democrats.

Bagism

Time to get on board with carrying your own reusable bags or be shamed. Just kidding, well maybe just a little shaming if you forget your reusable bags when going into places where you will be carrying things out such as grocery stores, convenience stores and gift shops.

The new law goes into effect Jan. 1 and prohibits businesses from providing single-use plastic bags to customers. Retailers can offer a paper bag or a multi-use plastic bag. Restaurants, dry cleaners and food banks are allowed to use single-use plastic. It is estimated that the ban will keep 120 million plastic bags out of Albuquerque area landfills.

South Campus TIDD

Councilors approved entering into formal negotiations to set up a special Tax Increment Development District for the University of New Mexico’s South Campus, athletic venues and Science and Technology Park. It is estimated that the tax revenue collected over 25 years could be up to $516 million and go towards building infrastructure, stores, offices and other businesses. The developers behind this project will be going to Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico to get those entities on board, as well.

Stepping Up

Looking for a New Year’s resolution? Check out the many boards and commissions at both the city and county level. Local politics hit us in the face everywhere we go about our day, so it is important to stack the decks with helpers.

A handful of kudos to these fine Burqueños who stepped up to walk the talk:

- Michael Cadigan to the Ethics Board
- Teri L. Neville to the Metropolitan Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Skye C. Morris-Devere and Leah Nauman (Black) to the Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board
- David J. Chapek to the EMS Providers Advisory Committee
- James Breen to the Board of Ethics and Campaign Practices
- Steven C. Garcia to the Civilian Police Oversight Agency Board
- Brittany Schulman, Rebecca Riley, Kimberly D. Gleason, Kyle J. Tapaha Dr. Lloyd Lee and Dr. Maggie George to the Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs
- Jessie M. Calero to the Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Council
- Rodney E. Bowe to the Public Safety Tax Advisory Board
- Memar D. Ivy to the Youth Advisory Council
- brands Stone to the Library Advisory Board
- Alex Montano to the Albuquerque Energy Council
- Dr. Scott Crago to the Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee
- and Manilal (Manu) Patel to the Public Safety Tax Advisory Board

Stepping up to walk the talk:

- DR. MAGGIE GEORGE TO THE COMMISSION ON
- AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
- JESSIE M. CALERO TO THE AMERICANS WITH
- DISABILITIES ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL
- RODNEY E. BOWE TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY TAX
- ADVISORY BOARD
- MEMAR D. IVY TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
- BRANDI STONE TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
- ALEX MONTANO TO THE ALBUQUERQUE ENERGY
- COUNCIL
- DR. SCOTT CRAGO TO THE GREATER ALBUQUERQUE
- RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE
- AND MANILAL (MANU) PATEL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY
- TAX ADVISORY BOARD

Send your comments about the City Council to carolyn.alibi.com.
NEW YEAR’S EVE DINNER

THE CROWN ROOM

STARTER | Choice of one
- Seared Jumbo Sea Scallop
- Braised Wild Boar Osso Bucco

SOUP/SALAD | Choice of one
- Apple & Spinach Salad
- Pancetta Potato Leek Soup

INTERMEZZO
- Lemon Sorbet, Citrus Zest, Raspberries

ENTREÉ | Choice of one
- Pimento Smoked Prime Beef Striploin
- Fresh Maine Lobster Many Ways

DESSERT
- Espresso Chocolate Crème Brulée
  with Dark Chocolate Biscotti

$59.99 per person
5pm - 10pm

FIRST TURN LOUNGE Celebrating 2020

New Year’s Eve
Tuesday, December 31

Black Pearl
Ring in the New Year with a
Champagne Toast!
No Cover Charge

LIVE MUSIC

WEEKENDS
- Dec 20-21 | Gonzalo
- Dec 27-28 | Fat City

LADIES NIGHT THURS
- Dec 19 | Westwind Band
- Dec 26 | Northern Revolution

First Turn patrons must be at least 21 yrs old. Management reserves all rights. Schedules, events and specials are subject to change.
**Metal Mayor Makes Progress**

**Accomplishments, challenges and advances**

**BY AUGUST MARCH**

It’s well after 5pm on a Monday night at City Hall and the bright lights are still burning in the Mayor’s office on the 11th floor.

In a series of roomy, comfortably appointed offices displaying the essential Albuquerque—including a hand-carved santo, books on our history, a certificate from the Boy Scouts of America and a painting by UNM postmodern master and painter John Wenger—Mayor Tim Keller and company are busy reshaping the city.

On the coffee table adjacent to Keller’s desk, there’s a book. It’s The New Localism by Harvard scholars Bruce Katz and Jeremy Nowak, and it’s pointing right to Keller’s seat at the center of our city government as the Mayor enters and is seated for our yearly interview.

Weekly Alibi: What’s new, Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Tim Keller: In many ways, our city has actually made a lot of progress in two years. We know that in one key area—obviously violent crime—we’re just getting started. Sustainability is one issue where we’ve been able to take our city from a kind of infancy. We’re on a path to be a national leader. We will be 100 percent renewable in terms of how this government gets its electricity. By 2030—and that’s not too far away—we’ll be using 100 percent renewable energy.

You’re talking about powering all city buildings and facilities with solar power, right?

Yes. The cool thing is we’re going to be able to do half of it in just a couple of years. By 2025, we’ll be half done. We put solar panels on every [city] building we could. That got us 25 percent of the way there. We’re building a giant solar power plant with Silver City, out in the Jicarilla Nation, out by Dulce, N.M. That power plant is going to provide about half the electricity for city government. We’ll get another slice through energy savings, through efficiency. Now, our fire stations have solar panels, the plaza and the zoo have solar panels. There are recharging stations for electric cars, too.

I know with the term “sustainability” and ideas about transportation, we also start talking about public transport and urbanism.

We’re working on that on a couple of fronts. We’re diversifying our fleet into hybrids and electric vehicles. We’re starting with our 40-foot buses, because the technology is ready to make those electric. We use those all over and for the River of Lights and so forth. Those buses will slowly be replaced by electric buses. When the technology is ready, we’ll move ART over. We expect a 10-year life span for the ART buses. I think they’ll last longer, but financially, we’ll begin considering replacements after 10 years. With garbage trucks, we’re going to go CNG [compressed natural gas].

What about ART?

The ART project is designed to really get more riders onto public transit.

ART is still an important part of changing the city dynamic toward sustainability. We do think drivers in this town need to sharpen those skills. What do you think? We’ve been reminding folks for two years now. But, yeah, the project, whether you like it or not, the concept is all about more ridership and more activity on Route 66. Just because it’s already there, we want the concept to work. We’re going to do what we can. We’re going to put some heavy marketing behind ART. Next year we’re going to roll out a half-million-dollar campaign to sort of reinvigorate Route 66. Part of that is because you can take a rapid transit bus through there. I think, in some ways, the stations—there are lots of design pieces that I didn’t particularly like—we’ve added some color to them and we tried to make them identifiable locally, so ART stations have names like “Old Town” and “Nob Hill.”

Are the new ART-related rules of the road on Central Avenue problematic for Albuquerque drivers?

On the one hand, it’s like, “Now you have to follow some rules instead of playing Frogger.” Before, that kinda worked but now there are specific paths for cars and for buses [on Central]. We have to acknowledge that safety is really important. Even if you don’t like the setup, we want everyone to be safe. It’s really important to follow rules, use the crosswalks, read the signs, things like that. We are going to revisit the situation this summer, are going to look at anything else we can do that’s within regulatory boundaries. Can we improve striping, can we add pin curbs? We also want to create pedestrian refuges. Right now, at Nob Hill, there’s just an ocean of asphalt.

Other issues that readers have expressed concern over include homelessness and violent crime. Those are big topics for such a short interview, but could you tell our readers what you’re doing to lift our city up from such scourges?

Let’s start with homelessness. We’re working on this challenge and it’s huge. Over the last few years, there have been [at least] 500 more homeless people every year in Albuquerque. I’m just grateful it’s not worse. Other cities in America are being overwhelmed by homelessness, but we can fix this in Albuquerque. The good news is we have a good group of providers involved. At a high level, there are some things we’ve done. We have to keep the Westside shelter open year-round. That facility takes 300 people off the street. The downside is that they’re on the edge of town, in an old jail and that doesn’t necessarily work for getting people help, but we’re starting to get healthcare [providers] out there.

The city is poised to build a central service center to help the homeless. Tell our readers about that.

We need a gateway where homeless folks can access all the existing providers. Right now, by default, that gateway is basically Coronado Park. In other words, the system is already telling us the answer we need. We need to have one place where people can get the help they need. The voters wonderfully approved that by a good margin, and so now we’re having this wonderful fight about where to put it [the facility]. No one really wants it in their neighborhood, but we did have a positive meeting last week. We have six sites in mind; no decision has been made yet—until we do our homework. Eventually, the City Council will vote on the matter of location. We might have multiple sites, but we have to start somewhere, we have to have that one gateway. We stepped up, the city stepped up for the first time and said, “We are going to do something about homelessness.”

What’s driving the crime in the city and how are you working on that?

It’s by far the number one challenge, both for our city and for my administration, and obviously for the police department. Therefore, it’s our number one priority. We know that almost all of the violent crime is at the intersection of a weapon, a gun and either domestic violence or addiction and drug trafficking. That fact gives us an idea of where we need to focus. These challenges are totally interrelated. And of course, poverty is at the base of all that. Adding an addiction, or adding a weapon in the home when there is already domestic abuse, that’s when violent crime happens. We do know that we’ve seen meaningful, albeit small, decreases in things like burglary and auto theft, but we’re aware that violent crime, especially homicide, are up.

We’re approaching this like homelessness [issues]. We’re really working and are coordinating with all local agencies to get chronically violent criminals off the street. Historically, that interagency coordination wasn’t happening. The other thing is that we are looking at those overarching issues, and that’s the administration’s violence intervention work, its called VIP, the Violence Intervention Program. That’s a version of something called C Spire which has shown double-digit reductions in violent crime in cities from Oakland to New Haven to Stockton. It has to do with meeting victims to talk about domestic abuse and addiction.

Is this part of getting behavioral health services back in place?

We’ve also got to rebuild the behavioral health system that was destroyed five years ago. I actually believe that one of the major drivers of crime in our city was the dismantling of that; I don’t have a study on that [yet] but that’s my intuition.

What about our city police force and related reform issues?

We fixed use-of-force. It was the longest-standing issue. It was why DOJ was here. We pushed to get all parties involved to agree to a new policy. And that was what was being avoided in the past because it was such a delicate topic. But we got the ACLU, the courts, the union and the judges to agree. And now we’re training all our officers on that. It will be done in February. That was a major hurdle that had been holding us back as a city for decades. You can feel the change [in culture] when you meet officers. They are now more confident and comfortable because they know the rules and understand our community a lot better.
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A Year in the Life
If it was real, you read it here

BY AUGUST MARCH

As a preface to rounding up this year’s news as it appeared in Weekly Alibi in 2019—cowboy-style because that’s still how we roll in New Mexico, even after all these years when OG Land of Enchantment journalists like Emie Mills, Ralph Looney, Howard Bryan and Ben Moffett have gone on to their heavenly rewards, a place where there are no errors and every copy editor is your friend—we’d like to remind you of some words.
The words were tweeted by President Donald Trump in 2018 and concern the media in the United States of America, “The Fake News hates me saying that they are the Enemy of the People only because they know it’s TRUE. I am providing a great service by explaining this to the American People. They purposely cause great division & distrust. They can also cause War! They are very dangerous & sick!”

Trump’s words get read by millions of Americans. The stuff you’re reading here, well maybe it reaches a few thousand. Nonetheless, we’re providing a great service by explaining this to the American People.

January
After eight years of mismanagement under the Tejina Susana—including significant damage to the state’s education and public health systems—New Mexico voters elected a Democrat. Michelle Lujan Grisham was sworn in on Jan. 1, 2019 after a decisive Nov. 2018 election some in the press called a “blue wave.”
The new donkey queen’s ascent was heralded by progressives in the Party, while contrarian Dems like Jeff Apodaca continued to bray from the edge of new round corrals.

February
Here, at the beginning of the month that sometimes promises spring but also delivers ice on occasion, Weekly Alibi reported on the ice on occasion, Weekly Alibi reported on the return of TJ Trout, a known menace to freedom and security, according to the definition drawn from the words we quoted above. Anyhow, the return of the majestically dry, inventively relevant and familiar-voices-forever radio personality brightened up a city that was aching for a return to form from an uniquely salty visionary.

March
The New Mexico economy is driven by the oil and gas industry. The practice that industry uses to find and exploit the forever-rarifying dinosaur juice in the ground has become increasingly intrusive. Fracking, the practice of using high-pressure water to fracture deep shale fields in search of that precious commodity—which contributed $1.06 billion to the state’s primary, secondary and post-secondary coffers—formed the basis for an investigative report we featured in issue 10.

April
As spring advanced and fruit trees blossomed again in Nuevo Mexico, the immigration crisis in the South reached epic proportions. An influx of asylum seekers, some under threat of deportation and family separation, made their way to The Duke City as they continued a stressful journey in a new home. Weekly Alibi met with a group of those humans from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, as well as their protective patrons from Albuquerque Interfaith and across our state.

May
If you’ve been living here for any length of time, then you realize that May is a transitional month, full of the promise of summer, but without the 100-degree temperatures that haunt the sidewalks and metal railings in these parts come June. As such is the case, there was a whole lot of things we found newsworthy. How about ranked choice voting? We talked to an expert on that currently failed city initiative. It still seemed complicated to our Gen X brain and we worried about what nuestros abuelas would think. We also took the seasonal optimism as an opportunity to wax poetic about all things nuclear in Dirt City, something we’ve taken pride in, since Dad signed off at the Watermelon Ranch all those years ago.

June
For this year’s Pride, we sent Alibi reporter August March to visit with Reverend Judith Maynard over at her church. Everyone had a joyful time and we talked all about peace, love, acceptance, understanding and Jesus Christ, too. Reverend Maynard’s beatific demeanor made for a lovingly readable piece of news about people that live in our city. At the end of June, just as temperatures became intolerable, and after a windy but totally substantial meeting at Java Joe’s, we endorsed Ane Garcia for City Council District 4. She didn’t win—a rarity for Alibi prognosticators—but we know she has a future en la politica Burqueña.

July
July was the month dominated by our coverage of the Kirtland Fuel Spill, a thing which we initially approached as a potentially poisonous thorn in our city’s side but came to believe was equally created out of the dust of unfocused governance in previous administrations, state and federal; poor communication among different stakeholders; and the propagation of what amounts to an urban mythology floating lightly as a coating over the whole smear. Although noted for candid and informed interviews throughout, the report really comes into focus in part three, when scientists get involved.

August
Ah, late summer in El Burque: The leaves wagging in the long day, the nights that don’t quite seem dark; and oh yea, the news! Education reform—a thing almost wholly made possible from the proceeds gleaned from our state’s underground storehouse of dinosaur juice—became a topic of discussion on our Feature page. Further debate on gun violence and the beginnings of our in-depth examination of candidates for Congress in New Mexico District 3 commenced on our news page. By the way, we haven’t endorsed for District 3 yet; we’ve heard from everyone important except for Plame but have not yet given up hope. ... Yet.

September
Deb Haaland talked to us about the climate change emergency. At a town hall held by the US Representative earlier that summer, our reporter complained that most of the people in the filled-to-the-brim auditorium at the Albuquerque Museum were older than he; in fact, the only young folks in any number all seemed to be working for the Congresswoman, which is a good thing but a sad thing, in our opinion. This situation repeated itself at a climate change awareness film festival that our reporter was invited to speak at that same ninth month. They’re the ones inheriting this whole lot from old slackers like those reading this, que no!

October
As the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta was flying high all over El Duque, Weekly Alibi met with US Senator Martin Heinrich. Over a hot cuppa joe, we talked about President Trump, the problem with Mitch McConnell, the importance of New Mexico’s defense infrastructure and renewable energy. In what proved to be a detailed and clarifying interview, Senator Heinrich made it clear why he is such an excellent and sustainable voice for this state. Weekly Alibi also interviewed New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Secretary Lynn Trujillo about the tragically persistent problem of missing and murdered indigenous women in this city, in counties like McKinley and Sandoval and throughout the state and nation. The scope of this relentless evil is being uncovered by Trujillo and her colleagues as we enter a new progressive era in state governance.

November
The November municipal election yielded results that hewed to the parameters we announced in our yearly endorsements. We were three for five with our dang fine Eric Williams cover photo—which is still decent odds in baseball, we’ve heard. The urbanist vision of Isaac Benton as well as the progressive leanings of Virginia Trujillo and Pat Davis will continue to shape the city in positive ways that are too many to list here in a round-up type format. We also covered a big press conference over at the Office of the State Auditor. It seemed like a pretty big scoop, and we still think so but wonder why we’ve heard so little about this so-called “abuse of office” in subsequent reporting from the merry roundhouse.

December
In news that’s warm, but not quite hot off the press, the municipal run-off election came and went. In District 2, the incumbent, a dedicated urbanist/scholar/good guy with a solid vision for this town, won over the young maverick who is still learning the ropes. In District 4, Republicans continued to prevail. We’re pretty sure that portion of town has a red tint to it that even tons of donkey-style confidence will take years to displace. As the year came to a close, we opined that Mayor Keller’s success in the next two years is riding on sustained, government-assisted economic development programs like those developed and put into use at the International District Economic Development Center. Why? Because when you ameliorate root problems, subsequent issues like crime wither.
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Nine to Remember
A look back at art in Albuquerque in 2019

BY CLARKE CONDÉ

My old art history professor would say that it was easier to study art history than the regular kind of history because there were pictures. A decent selling point for the art history program, perhaps, but what I took from that statement was the benefits of using the art of a specific culture created to better understand how they saw themselves. In Albuquerque, we have the benefit of a year’s worth of art created here to help us understand how we see ourselves in 2019. To that end, these nine works reflect some augmented with public programs, workshops and performances, all focused on ways to look at our place in the Anthropocene as we contend with the escalating impact of a changing climate. It was a needed time of reflection. As one of the exhibiting artists Cannupa Hanksa Luger said, “We keep looking for these instant solutions and I think what we really need to do is take a moment that may last a lifetime to really contemplate where we are and how we exist.”

This is the year we displayed a dumpster as art.
This year, Albuquerque’s Open Space displayed some of the most thoughtful and consistently high-quality contemporary artwork in Albuquerque. As part of ArtPark 21, Lance Ryan McGoldrick’s dumpster with a mirrored top More Clouds to Come sits at the Pueblo Montaño Trailhead disappointing people that want to throw out their trash. As McGoldrick said, “Why isn’t the way we dispose of things more thoughtful?” Let it be a marker to future generations that we are now a people that pack it in and pack it out.

This is the year we ran the ART bus.
Albuquerque Rapid Transit is here. Like it or not, it is part of this city and will be forever a part of our culture in 2019. Critics of these Central Avenue buses abound, from the changes to our urban Mother Road landscape to the operational conflicts cars and buses can have. When it comes to the art of ART, things are looking up. As we approach 2020, let’s consider it the moving, evolving canvas of an emerging artist. It is all potential.

Festival Ballet Albuquerque brings to the stage The Nutcracker in the Land of Enchantment for five performances beginning on Friday, Dec. 20 at 7pm at the National Hispanic Cultural Center (1701 Fourth Street SW). What makes this rendition of the classic holiday ballet more enchanting than the usual varieties found in other states? Coyotes. Plus, the territorial splendor of 19th century New Mexico. Expect lavish costumes, brilliant dancing and music to match. Tickets range from $12 to $49. Find tickets and more information about this all-ages event at nhcnm.org.

Old Rays of Light
Opening Saturday, Dec. 21 is the long-awaited exhibit Let the Sunshine In at the Albuquerque Museum (2000 Mountain Rd. NW). Documenting life in Albuquerque from 1968 through 1972, Let the Sunshine In is a time capsule of street photography that was commissioned five decades ago and shot primarily by local photographer Walter McDonald on color slide film. This exhibit is also the first time the museum’s photo archives department has exhibited color photography from their permanent collection. The exhibit runs through May 24, 2020 and is included with museum admission. For more information on this all-ages event, see cabq.gov/museum.

Singing for Supper
Help visiting songbirds feel welcome and feed them by joining in on the making of the annual Winter Solstice Seed Mandala at Open Space Visitor Center (6500 Coors Blvd. NW) on Sunday, Dec. 22 from 10:30am to noon. You and others design and make the mandala out of birdseed right then and there. After that, birds fly in from all over the place to eat the seeds throughout the week. It’s a pretty great deal for them and if you come back and listen, they will sing you a song of appreciation. For more information on this free, all-ages event, see openspacealbuquerque.org.

A Medium Good Time
Gather up your entrails, chicken bones and crystal balls and head on down to The Divination Shou opening Friday, Dec. 27 at Fourteenfifteen Gallery (1415 Fourth Street SW) from 6pm to 10pm. What does the new year have in store for you? Will you find your soul mate? Will you crash into an ART bus? In addition to the 10 artists showing work on procrastination, there will be live divination all night long. For more information about this free, all-ages event, see fourteenfifteengallery.com or check with your local oracle.
This is the year we put Jesus in a cage.
Raymond Sandoval’s Send Her Back is one of the most important works shown in Albuquerque this year. Not only does it reflect the greater context of the times we live in here in this country, but it does so in a perfect New Mexican style. Iconographic, this bas-relief helped spur conversations about how we treat migrants months before the caged nativity scenes in California disturbed the consciousness of Christmas. Here’s to the South Broadway Cultural Center continuing to show work of this caliber in 2020.

This is the year we got a home team.

Noé Barnett’s mural on the corner of Second Street and Coal Avenue sums up the first year of our very own soccer team, New Mexico United. Yellow, black and white, it also contains some of the best sports photography around. As a time marker, the mural stands as a testament to a noteworthy accomplishment by this city and this state.

This is the year that we heard our own sounds as art.

Robert Stokowy’s Structures (Albuquerque) remains a departure for Albuquerque. The eight performative, radically site-specific sound installations scattered throughout the city and up into the Sandia Foothills are still a bit abstract for many. You bring with you what you have and absorb what is already there based on the prompts. As Stokowy says, “I want people to really find out something about their own perception, about their own creativity.” It was an exceptional addition to the outstanding artwork of 2019 here in Albuquerque and once again, thanks go out to Albuquerque Open Space for making this unique, contemporary work part of our landscape and available to everyone.

The is the year we turned a castle into a museum.

The building on Second Street between Lead and Coal Avenues remained closed off to the public, and was frankly a little strange until it became the Turquoise Museum. The Zachary family was a bit obsessive about the turquoise businesses and the museum that opened at this new location is a testament to all that is good about that obsession.

This is the year we fixed Paul Bunyan.

It was painfully sad to see the great mythical lumberjack with his arms cut off. Twenty-five feet above May Café, he looks out on Route 66 from a previous age. The May Café, was recently given the Route 66 Heritage Award for restoring this Muffler Man Paul Bunyan to his original condition, axe and all. His restoration in 2019 is a good omen for Albuquerque in 2020. May it be full of art that continues feed and reflect the spirit of this city.
Pyrocene Witnesses

Fire Ghosts by Philip Metcalf and Patricia Galagan

Burning at a rate of an acre per second, fire ripped through the Jemez Mountains in the middle of the summer of 2011. At the time, it was largest fire in the state’s history. It burned over 150,000 acres and threatened to burn down Los Alamos National Labs. When it was over, two photographers, a husband (Philip Metcalf) and wife (Patricia Galagan) team walked into what was once a forest to tell the story of what happened and what will happen next.

The result of that seven-year effort is the exhibit and book Fire Ghosts on display now at Photo-eye Bookstore’s Project Space in Santa Fe. A project of local importance with global significance Fire Ghosts looks into the future of the Pyrocene, a term given to the time when our burning of fossil fuels commands the direction of the planet. By putting carbon into the atmosphere, we change the climate and thus the frequency and intensity of forest fires. We burned. It burned. More will burn.

Finding beauty in death is a cornerstone of artistic creation in New Mexico. These burnt, blackened trees left in the Jemez have a stark elegance against monochrome skies. The namesake piece of the exhibit, “Fire Ghosts” by Philip Metcalf, illustrates the abstraction of the Pyrocene as it devolves into a Wyethesque landscape of hashmarks and textures modified by man, loosely grounded in the reality that this place was burned. It takes a moment to remember that this is a photograph, not a drawing. This is what remains of hills that were violently and uncontrollably on fire. You can go there today and it still looks spooky, as you would expect of anyplace so full of the dead.

We can name movements, epochs and eras, but the term “Pyrocene” is just another way to come to terms with our actions. Fire Ghosts is an attempt to do the same thing, trying to show others what the photographers saw in the aftermath of the Las Conchas fire. A cautionary tale, perhaps, but more importantly it is the prerogative of New Mexican artists to stand witness to our lands and to confront the ghosts that inhabit the hills. If they don’t, who will?
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**The Dish**  
**By Dan Pennington**

**Think It Over A Drink**

It’s the last column of the year. I could direct you to events happening, but most are buffets and New Year’s Eve dinners, which you’ve got covered in our Event Horizon. I could direct you to restaurants to go and eat at, but we’ve got that sorted out with Chowtown. I could just give you another section of rambling thoughts, but I think I’ve done far too much of that already. So instead, I figured I’d reward you with a couple of treats. It’s no secret that I’m a bit of a fan of two things: sweets and alcohol. My health has never been better. Thankfully, the holidays allow us to have the two meet in perfect harmony, with a breadth of seasonal ingredients that just naturally mesh together well. Included this week is a new take on eggnog (with a short history lesson to boot) and a mulled cider recipe. The year is almost over, so why not drink and make merry?

**Use Your Noggin**

It can be easy to forget that the South, and especially Georgia, has an abundance of peaches. What is one to do with all of them if they don’t sell? Well, make alcohol of course. With the natural sugars of a peach being perfect for it, distillers found peach brandy to be easy, delicious and really cost effective. It’s a wonder we don’t see it used more often, as it’s a delightful spirit with delicate flavor, but maybe it’s because we’re afraid to experiment and try new things. For example, I was offered an eggnog with peach brandy this weekend, and found it to be my new favorite holiday drink. The creamy smoothness of eggnog mixed with the succulent peach flavor, as well as a splash of nutmeg and cinnamon, allowed all pieces to work in a delicate harmony that would assuredly get me in trouble if it existed in mass quantities at a company party. Peach brandy and eggnog both can be grabbed relatively inexpensively, and it’s an extra little twist that adds the real joy to it that you don’t normally see in a spiked eggnog. Give it a shot, I promise you, it’ll be the hit drink of any party you throw.

**To Mull It Over**

Do you have a pot suitable for a large amount of liquid? Do you love a nice hot drink on a cold winter evening? How do you feel about your kitchen smelling heavenly for a whole day? I’ve got a crazy surprise for you. Mulled cider is relatively easy to pull off using simple ingredients and a short prep time (though if you go longer, you get more flavor from the ingredients at the expense of less alcoholic content.) A good rule of thumb is twoos, according to a friend. If you have two quarts of apple cider, just toss in two sticks of cinnamon, two whole cloves, two sliced oranges (if it’s a really big one, you can get away with one, but use your best judgment) and two allspice berries. Let that simmer long enough to absorb the good flavors of everything you tossed in, and then ladle it into a cup and you’re good to go. It’s quick and simple, and will always be a crowd quick and simple, and will always be a crowd

**BY DAN PENNINGTON**

It’s the end of the year, which means we have to find a way to wrap up 2019 in a nice and simple way. But, as with most things, there is no nice and simple way to wrap anything up. Or so I thought before I began writing this. The thing is, we have no way to succinctly amalgamate complex ideas and experiences into a solid singular thought that is easy to digest yet conveys the depth of the moment where it originated. In a way, food fits this template. While ingredients on their own are all very simple, what they amount to is so indescribably different than the sum of their parts that you can’t ever portray it in full. My job, as wonderful as it is, requires my doing my best in spite of the challenges, to rise above and excel. When I visited the new location of Sushi & Sake in Nob Hill, I was presented with that never-ending challenge.

Open in Nob Hill since September, Sushi & Sake has a long respected history in the city as a brand that the new location needed to live up to. With the revival of Nob Hill beginning as ART becomes fully operational, now is the best time for them to spread their wings and take off as the go-to Korean BBQ and Sushi joint in the area. The real trick is: Does the consistency and quality carry over?

I’m very pleased to report that it does. Let’s start with the two obvious orders, the sushi and the sake. For sake, we went with a hot Gekkeikan sake ($7.50), which is earnestly a solid starter sake. With no overly dominant flavors, this rice wine fills your head from chin to brow with that smooth, almost buttery warmth and joy that can only be found in a good glass of hot sake. For the sushi, we rolled with the Fire Cracker ($12.99), which featured asparagus, jalapeno and spicy crab meat all wrapped up with the addition of tuna, a house dressing and kaiware. It’s literally a work of art, with the vibrant colors holding court with your eyes and the spicy flavors dominating your taste buds. The asparagus helps wrangle in those immense spicy sections, giving you a chance to enjoy the bounty of quality seafood. A true testament to their sushi though was the fact that in the hour we were there, four massive boats (yes, a whole table-sized boat) of sushi were sold and delivered to tables. I felt sushi envy.

Additionally, there were the Korean BBQ offerings I had to get my hands on. I went with the Chadolbagi ($21.95 for a pound), which was a thinly sliced beef brisket that was generously seasoned and came surrounded by a ton of garlic chunks. The aroma alone would be enough to sell me on the love of this dish, but then you get waves of flavor in every bite, leading to a voracious consumption of meat in an aggressive fashion. For good measure, I also snagged the Donkatsu Don ($14.99) which had panko-breaded and fried pork, rice, a wide spectrum of veggies and eggs. The sauce drizzle they added to the fried pork was something of legend. It had a touch of sweetness that truly opened up some of the more ignored facets of pork flavor, letting it blossom in your mouth. The crunchy panko crust helped hold onto that flavor and gave it the oomph it needed to be spectacular. Add in all that egged-up rice and veggies, and you’ve got a bowl of food that will leave you so full, you won’t be worrying about your next meal for a while.

Finally, I had dessert. I noticed they had mochi, and immediately knew there was no other choice. For $4.50, you get two shoeable mochi, sliced into quarters and dressed with whipped cream. Between the strawberry and the mango that we ordered, it was hard to pick a favorite because both were so exuberantly delicious. Just the right amount of chewy texture to let your mouth find intrigue in between the double-sweet punch combo of fruity goodness and whipped cream.

When looking at the offerings at Sushi & Sake, complexity makes sense. There are always multiple pieces that go into any meal, allowing different ingredients to either highlight other aspects or to step up for the shortcomings of something else. Sushi & Sake manages to have a consistent level of genuinely amazing dishes that balance both of those aspects, leaving you with something absolutely worth your time and energy.

---

**FOOD | RESTAURANT REVIEW**

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**Alibi Recommends:** Firecracker Sushi, Donkatsu Don, Mochi

**ERIC WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY**

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A New Year’s Story

What, if anything, did we learn in food this year?

I woke with a start in the middle of the night. The air felt cold, uncomfortable, and I had a feeling of being watched. Lo and behold, when I opened my eyes, before me stood a specter. Floating in front of the bed, its judging eyes took in the state of my room. “Ah crap, I knew this place was haunted,” I mused sleepily.

“Nay, sir. I take no residence here, only passing through. Tonight I come bearing a message,” it said, very spookily.

“No, I got roped into doing this by some other ghosts actually. It was super weird. Yeah, no, I’ve been doing good actually. Just got a promotion at work. The wife isn’t super happy about me being out this late, so I was hoping we could, like, just get this over with,” he rambled, gesticulating with his hands wildly, as ghosts are want to do. “Here’s the deal: Tonight, you’re getting visited by the spirit of Food Past! Are you ready for this?”

“Tell me more,” I asked eagerly.

“You sound familiar. Why do I recognize that voice?” A memory tugged at the back of my mind, and with it, the pieces fell into place. “Oh my God, you’re Jacob Farley. We ran a lemonade stand together when we were kids. Wait, you died?”

“No, I got roped into doing this by some other ghosts actually. It was super weird. So, let me explain. I just finished running through all the food I wrote about this year, trying to see if I was thinking about it, would that make me Scrooge? If I were to write this as a story, that would be a really weird thing to do. Is there any way we can make me more favorable? I could be Tiny Tim. I use a cane sometimes,” I mused emphatically, as I uncomfortably dressed in front of the not-dead ghost of a childhood friend.

“Nah, in fact, your ego deserves to take a hit. I gotta go. Wife stuff. Uhhhm, best of luck with these ghosts though.” He vanished, his words still hanging in the air.

Fire of Food Past

Upon his arrival, I noticed he looked quite full, as if he’d just finished a huge meal. He had a very generic ghost, all things considered. I was expecting more, but I guess the creativity just wasn’t there. “Let me guess. You just finished running through all the food I wrote about this year, trying to see if I was right?”

“That’s right! Let’s talk about those articles, but not in dialogue form, because I’m sure this would be hard to transcribe, and even harder to come up with!” it joyously expressed.

“Gazing into what I guess was a portal that showed newspaper articles, which is a wild thing that exists in this story, I saw all the pieces we published this year. I saw the shift of tone, from the very talented and in-depth articles, to something to sip on during a bad date. VARA Winery had a new food program launch from the talented team behind Malagueña’s Latin Tapas, giving us even more reason to go visit them. I even got the chance to dig through them. I even got the chance to dig through the large swath of independent donuteries, but not in dialogue form, because I’m sure this would be hard to transcribe, and even harder to come up with!” it joyously expressed.

“Gazing into what I guess was a portal that showed newspaper articles, which is a wild thing that exists in this story, I saw all the pieces we published this year. I saw the shift of tone, from the very talented and in-depth work of Robin Babb to the strange ramblings of a man who had never really done this before, finding a voice and a love of food through writing. I saw Hosho McCreesh tackling the feel-good eateries that fill the comfort food spots our hearts crave. I saw the rise of amazing new restaurants, the fall of a long-held love for older ones, a series of food weeks and events of the past that stretched on for miles.

Often asked and rarely properly answered is what my favorite discovery this year was. I find it hard to say because so frequently, everything I tried stood out so immensely for different reasons. Red Rock Deli, for example, surprised me with the absolute level of taste and excitement I found in every bite at their location. Conversely, places like Founder’s have taken the craft cocktail scene in Albuquerque and pushed it to new heights, leading a growth in the sector of people who truly appreciate their drinks as more than something to sip on during a bad date. VARA Winery had a new food program launch from the talented team behind Malagueña’s Latin Tapas, giving us even more reason to go visit them. I even got the chance to dig through the large swath of independent donuteries (it’s totally a word, I declare it so) in a day-long trip filled with fried, sweet goodness.

Speaking of eating a ton of one thing, our food weeks saw more success than ever before this year, with hamburgers, tacos and craft cocktails. All in all, there was a lot that happened in food this year, all of it exciting.

The ghost and I just nodded, staring into the portal. “Is that it?” I asked. They shrugged. “I dunno, I just expected more out of this. Who organized all these ghosts anyways? And we’re really gonna skip over the whole Reddit thread tearing into me? I
Ghost of Food Present

Now, mythos-wise, I knew Scrooge went back to sleep, which is kind of a wild thing to do after being visited by ghosts. Not me, though. I needed coffee. Thankfully, I remembered the wonderful discussion we had with Amanda Turpin, noted local coffee expert, on brewing at home and the office on how to make the best coffee. It was 3am, why not sit around with coffee and wait for the next ghost? Unfortunately, I accidentally made decaf and fell asleep in my chair. That’s when I heard jolly laughter. Opening my eyes, there sat a jolly green giant. Actually, it was the Jolly Green Giant. “Come friend! Let’s talk about the here and now!” he exclaimed.

“Yeah this is super normal and ok. Let’s do it,” I replied groggily. There was a flash of light, and I was no longer in my living room. I looked around to find we were standing on a newspaper, and oh my goodness, it was this week’s issue! It hadn’t even come out yet! I was left unanswered. “He’s not even local. Why is your tunic so short? I mean, wear what you want but that thing is scandalous!” But why is your tunic so short? I mean, wear what you want but that thing is scandalous!“Ok, no, you’re not chill at all. I’m not liking this,” I yelled after him. “This clearly wouldn’t work great for the prompt. I still have questions! Am I Tiny Tim yet? And why is your tunic so short? I mean, wear what you want but that thing is scandalous!” But he was already gone, and my tunic question was left unanswered. “He’s not even local. Why is your tunic so short? I mean, wear what you want but that thing is scandalous!” But he was already gone, and my tunic question was left unanswered. “He’s not even local. Why is your tunic so short? I mean, wear what you want but that thing is scandalous!” But he was already gone, and my tunic question was left unanswered.

Two ghosts down, one left to go. I had never felt more like Shaggy from “Scooby-Doo” than I did in this moment. What was left? Oh right, the really morbid and creepy one. As if on cue, a dark mist rolled across the pages where I stood. The bright warmth of the Jolly Green Giant was gone, and now had arrived the...

Ghost of Food Future

“Ok, no, you’re not chill at all. I’m not liking the energy you’re bringing to this space.” A stereotypical hooded figure, his spectral hand came out, upturned as if to say, “What did you expect? I do what I gotta do.”

“Alright, ghost. Here’s the deal. You want to show me pain and sadness, but that’s not me. I’m all about the good vibes in the food section. It’s about positivity and highlighting what is working and improving New Mexico. So don’t bring forth any graves or anything. We lost too many good places this year. Scalo, Elaine’s, Winning Coffee, Zacatecas and Poki Poblano to name a few. But so many more came after, and the new year will carry even better new places to find and discover!” If ghosts could feel shame, this one definitely did.

“As a matter of fact, let me tell you what I want to see for food in 2020. I want to see restaurants continue to be bold, creating strange and new combinations and pushing the boundaries on what we hold near and dear. I want to see ART bring life back to Nob Hill, and for the places that held on through it all to thrive and grow immensely. I want to see culinary styles we don’t normally have here start giving us more options when we go out to eat. There has been a trend of food events geared toward helping people learn to try and eat new and strange things, and there needs to be even more of that. Finally, we need to keep the old guard up.

All our favorites from childhood that are entering their later years are still around and kicking while the city continues to grow, and they need the business to keep their dreams going. I still have questions! How’s that for you, future food ghost!” I cheered in its face, or more accurately, at the hood that covered what I assumed was a skull. It looked around nervously.

“All done? Have I learned anything from this? You know what, I think I have. Conceptually, this idea was saved, but man, execution wise? Not as much fun as I thought.” I mused. Finally, the ghost nodded, and receded away with the mists it rode in on. It also never took me back home. This was insane. These ghosts were certified dicks.

I walked off toward the end of one of the pages, hoping to find a doorway or ladder. Yet, in my hubris, I forgot that newspaper doesn’t hold weight well, and as I approached the corner, the floor began to crumble underneath me, leading me to fall endlessly into a dark, inky nothingness. I woke back up in my recliner, with my now cold coffee spilled all over me. Was it all a dream? That’d make the best coffee. It was 3am, why not sit and read my article again, which is located very near this page for your own reading pleasure, if Korean BBQ and sushi are your thing.

Two ghosts down, one left to go. I had never felt more like Shaggy from “Scooby-Doo” than I did in this moment. What was left? Oh right, the really morbid and creepy one. As if on cue, a dark mist rolled across the pages where I stood. The bright warmth of the Jolly Green Giant was gone, and now had arrived the...


**FOOD | YEAR IN REVIEW**

It’s the Ultimate Date Night

BY DAN PENNINGTON

New Year’s Eve should never be stressful, but it inevitably ends up being kind of a mess. Do you have a good party to go to? Are you ready to commit to staying up until midnight for the thrill of kissing someone (hopefully) when the clock strikes 12? If you do go out for dinner, where do you go? Will you get a reservation in time? And how much will it cost you? We here at Weekly Alibi have you covered on the food, but when it comes to kisses, let us refer you to our Personals section. Your magic kiss could be just a phone call away.

Listed below, you’ll find a combination of two types of nights out: Expensive, classy and guaranteed-to-impress dinner, and the two types of nights out: Expensive, classy and the thrill of kissing someone (hopefully) when the clock strikes 12? If you do go out for dinner, where do you go? Will you get a reservation in time? And how much will it cost you? We here at Weekly Alibi have you covered on the food, but when it comes to kisses, let us refer you to our Personals section. Your magic kiss could be just a phone call away.

**DOWNTOWN**

**ARTICHOKE CAFÉ**

424 Central Ave. SE, 243-0200 • $$$

[Fine Dining, American] Artichoke Café is a swanky underground spot for good eats and high times, delivered speakeasy-style. The dining room is walled with lustrous, ebony adobe, and the tables are clothed in crisp, black and white linens. By the glass or bottle, there’s plenty of quality hooch. The menu is classic steakhouse stuff with beef tournedos in a silky demi-glace, fresh fish and a damn fine veal Oscar. Check out the Black Diamond Lounge to take in the fancy cocktails and live music.

**FAIRGROUNDS**

**CAFÉ DA LAT**

5615 Central Ave NE, 266-5559 • $ [Vietnamese, Asian] Consistently one of the best Vietnamese joints in town, Da Lat does a magnificent breaded frog leg appetizer. The crispy golden legs are scruptious dipped in Da Lat’s spicy, tangy nuoc cham sauce.

**THE CROWN ROOM**

145 Louisiana Blvd NE, 767-7180 • $$$

[Fine Dining, Steakhouse] Located at the end of a long corridor in the Downs Casino, the Crown Room’s very existence is something of a surprise. Even more surprising is just how elegant the cozy dining room is. The chaos of the casino outside the door quickly fades away as you dive into cuts of steak that rival the finest in town. Sure, it’ll set you back a few bucks, but the experience is not to be missed.

**FAR NORTHEAST HEIGHTS**

**PELICAN’S RESTAURANT**

9800 Montgomery Blvd NE, 298-7678 • $$$

[Steakhouse, Seafood, Bar and Grill/Pub] Rough-hewn wood planks lead you into this nautically-themed steak and seafood restaurant, which doesn’t start seating for dinner until 5pm. Luckily, happy hour begins at 4pm. Have a Lady Godiva hot cocktail and a baker’s dozen of topless oysters in the bar while you wait. Then dive into creamy clam chowder, butter-sweet Australian lobster tail and Ranchero center-cut top sirloin. There’s plenty of key lime pie in the icebox and Phil Collins on the speakers.

**NORTH VALLEY**

**VERNON’S SPEAKEASY**

6855 Fourth Street NW, 341-0831 • $$$

[Steakhouse, Seafood, Fine Dining] Vernon’s is a swanky underground spot for good eats and high times, delivered speakeasy-style. The dining room is walled with lustrous, ebony adobe, and the tables are clothed in crisp, black and white linens. By the glass or bottle, there’s plenty of quality hooch. The menu is classic steakhouse stuff with beef tournedos in a silky demi-glace, fresh fish and a damn fine veal Oscar. Check out the Black Diamond Lounge to take in the fancy cocktails and live music.

**NORTHEAST HEIGHTS**

**AN HY QUAN VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT**

1405 Juan Tabo Blvd NE, 332-8565 • $ [Vegan, Vegetarian, Vietnamese] These piquant dishes will satisfy all with flavor and price. Try the papaya salad: slivers of papaya in a light chili sauce, topped with fresh basil and crushed peanuts, this is something that we could literally eat everyday. An Hy Quan only serves up Vietnamese vegetarian and vegan dishes.

**OLD TOWN**

**HIGH NOON RESTAURANT & SALOON**

425 San Felipe St NW, 765-1455 • $$$

[American, New Mexican, Steakhouse] This Old Town favorite offers something to suit most appetites, from green chile cheeseburgers to rock shrimp pappardelle, and it’s all served up in the adobe warmth of a 200-year-old hacienda. Don’t skip the drinks: They offer several excellent Margaritas to slake your thirst.

**FOOD TRUCK**

**CHEESY STREET**

@cheesy_street • $ [American, Deli/Sandwiches] What warms the soul and makes you feel like a kid more than a grilled cheese sandwich? The Cheesy Street set out to make quality grilled cheese available to all (including the vegan and gluten free crowd!), and the city is better for it. Deviate from the standard a bit with one of their signature sandwiches like the king: grilled cheese with crispy bacon and hot green chile. Follow them on Instagram (@cheesy_street) or Facebook to see their schedule for the week.
Join us for the holidays!
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THE VOCAL LIFESTYLE

The Swingles come to Popejoy Hall as part of the esteemed Popejoy Presents entertainment series on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7:30pm to perform seasonal classics. That’s right, lovers of a cappella choral music, the UK musical phenomenon, founded by American singer Ward Swingle in the early 60s, continues to make headway as they push boundaries and make big hits, collaborating with notable musicians like the Modern Jazz Quartet and composer Luciano Berio. This tour features robust reimaginations of songs by John Martyn and Mumford & Sons, among others. With singers Federica Basile, Joanna Goldsmith-Eteson, Imogen Parry, Oliver Griffiths, Jon Smith, Kevin Fox and Edward Randell at the ready, you can count on amazing harmonies and lush arrangements cascading lovingly from the stage. Tickets for this show are available for purchase for between $25 and $69. POPEJOY HALL 203 COUNCIL DR NE, 7:30PM alibi.com/v/lwmp. (August March)

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

On Saturday, Dec. 21 at 8pm, the legendary Launchpad presents a hang-out style concert that has become a holiday legend in Burque. Tom Waits for Christmas is a total seasonal party with libations, piped-in Christmas music to reminisce over and covers of tunes by musical madman and major dude Tom Waits. The covers part of the show features performances by the likes of Billy Crooze, the Silver String Band with special guest Los Bebes, Carlos Jose Rafael Garcia, JD Dame, Avenge Apollo, William Sunday and Darlin’ & the Rodeo Runners. Basement Films, a local legend in its own right, is there to screen old-timey holiday favorites like “Interlock” and “Ninth Dimension.” Tickets for the trip to this $10 cover. LAUNCHPAD 618 CENTRAL AVE NW, 8PM alibi.com/v/6yyz. (August March)

BIG BURQUE FEAST

On Wednesday, Dec. 25, it’s Christmas, which I’m sure you already know, as you begin preparing gigantic family plans. What if, instead, you had the chance to chill out and just not give a … well, you know. Hotel Albuquerque holds a Garduños of Mexico-crafted buffet from 10am to 2pm. With everything your stomach needs to be happy on Christmas morning, from a fresh egg station to an entire mess of desserts and entrees to soothe your hunger pangs, avoid dishes and cooking mishaps in favor of letting others do the hard work for you. Ticket prices for adults are $31.95, seniors are $19.95 and children 12 and under are $11.95. For more info or to make a reservation, call 843-6300, HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE 800 RIO GRANDE BLVD NW, 10AM TO 2PM alibi.com/v/lbad. (Dan Rayne Pennington)
**EVENT PREVIEWS**

**TUESDAY DEC 31**

**EL PRIMO**

The New Year's Eve celebration at Route 66 Casino Hotel's Legends Theatre features bandleader, trumpeter and singer Louis Prima, Jr. in concert with his latest band, The Witnesses. There are two performances on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 3pm and 8pm. Prima is a hip player who is following in his parent's footsteps. Louis Prima, Sr. and mother Gia Malone were big jazz personalities in the '50s and their son carries that signature sound capably into the next decade with a style that is part traditional and all contemporary. Prima's expressive explorations of jazzed up rock, soul and swinging blues get audiences dancing and New Year's Eve is the perfect time to indulge the band's joyous sound. This all-ages concert celebration costs only $20. LEEGNDS THEATER @ ROUTE 66 CASINO 14900 CENTRAL AVE SW, 3PM alibi.com/v/6zea. (August March) ©

**A ROarin' GOOD TIME**

The Roaring '20s: What a time to be alive! Infamously the best decade of its century, with literally nothing but great times and ending on the highest of notes, relive those good times and attend the New Year's Eve Roaring '20s Dinner at Gruet Winery on Tuesday, Dec. 31 from 7pm to 10pm, which means you get to celebrate the New Year with New York, but are on your own for New Mexico. General admission tickets are $100 and cover a four-course dinner that ends with a spiked Gruet wine and poached pears with honey crème fraiche. Themed outfits are appreciated, though not required, but do you really want to be the one out of sync with the night's theme? Drink a bottle of Brut with dinner or take it home for later. For more info, find the event at eventbrite.com. GRUET WINERY 8400 PRAIRIE AMERICAN HWY SW, 7 TO 10PM alibi.com/v/6zic. (Dan Rayne Pennington) ©

**DUBLIN DOWN ON FUN**

O’Neill’s Pub holds their annual New Year’s Eve tradition of the Dublin Toast on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 5pm. Why 5pm? Maybe you're tired, and you want the thrill of that midnight kiss to ring in the new year, but have trouble staying awake late. Thankfully, Ireland refuses to adhere to the laws of America and starts its New Year’s Eve party earlier than the rest of us, so share in a toast to Ireland. There are all-ages New Year’s Eve parties and dancing the night away while a dance-only jamming out as the clock closes in on 2020.

Does the thought of a Caribbean-themed New Year's Eve celebration just make you wanna continuously jam to that tropical island sound all night long? Well, then perhaps you should partake in Embassy Suite’s Havana Nights, happening on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 8pm and continuing until the wee hours of the morning on Jan. 1, 2020. For just $250 per couple, participants enjoy a full dinner buffet featuring Cuban Cuisine, live music by Swag, a mojito bar, a chance to shop for “Havanas” at a special tent set up by Monte’s Cigar Shop, a photo booth and champagne toast. Topping it all off, this package deal also features an overnight stay in one of Embassy’s suites and a fully cooked, made to order breakfast the next morning. For $80 per pair of people can skip the overnight and just eat and dance until about 1am. EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL 1000 WOODWARD PI NE, 7PM alibi.com/v/6zi7. (August March) ©

**PHAT CITY**

The Santa Ana Star Center is certainly one of the most happening places to be for the annual New Year’s Eve Dinner and Dance on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 7pm, and features a gourmet buffet complete with prime rib, fresh seafood, international specialties and exquisite, artisan deserts. The party continues at 9pm with a dance hosted by longtime local music masters Fat City jamming out as the clock closes in on 2020. For only $45 per person, patrons enjoy both eating and dancing the night away while a dance-only ticket to this 21-plus party costs but $28. Party planners tell our reporters that those in attendance are reminded to dress their best to help rock in the coming year so get your bling and things together and prepare for a shiny new year under moonlit New Mexican skies. SANTA ANA STAR CASINO 54 JUVEZ DR NW, 7PM alibi.com/v/6zfd. (August March) ©

**TOAST THE END**

Introduce yourself to the next decade with class and style at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and Pueblo Harvest Café’s New Year’s Eve Dinner. Enjoy fine cuisine from a special one-night dinner menu from 5 to 9pm. Enjoy a unique three-course meal, tailored to your tastes, before heading out to crush the old decade beneath your heel. Tickets to this special event are $50 plus tax-with an a la carte option. Call 724-3510 for more info or to make a reservation. PUEBLO HARVEST 2401 12TH STREET NW, 5 TO 9PM alibi.com/v/6zd. (Joshua Lee) ©

**A NEW YEAR’S EVE TO ECLIPSE ALL OTHERS**

Maybe it’s just a phase but so many terrestrial New Year’s Eve events are full of lunatics and most events on the moon just have no atmosphere. This year, the tide may be turning now that the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science has risen to the occasion with an enormous floor map of the moon they borrowed from NASA. From 9am to 11am on New Year's Eve, folks of all ages can walk the map, try their hand at the lunar scavenger hunt and other space-related activities at New Year’s Eve on the Moon. This event is included with museum admission and registration is not required, but you might want to get there early to find your spot on the moon map before it's full. It goes without saying that while 2019 is waning, this event is out of this world.

**Compiled by Ashli Kesali. Submit your events at alibi.com/events.**

DECEMBER 19, 2019-January 1, 2020
Plan ahead and enjoy responsibly, friends.

**THURSDAY DEC 19**

**KIDS**
CABELA’S Santa’s Wonderland. Families enjoy an enchanting Christmas village, 4x4 studio-quality photos with Santa and holiday activities including fun crafts and games. 5151 Lang Ave NE. 9am-9pm. ALL-AGES! 336-2700. alibi.com/v/6gwa.

**CORRALES COMMUNITY LIBRARY, Corrales Mrs. Claus and Storytelling Fun. A delightful performance from Lady Claus herself with stories, magic, sing-a-longs, giveaways and more. B4 W La Entrada. 6:30-7:30pm. ALL-AGES! (505) 897-0733. alibi.com/v/6yu.

**ESTHER BONE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, Rio Rancho Storytime. Kids enjoy stories, rhymes, activities, and more, highlighting new stories and long-time favorites. This program is for ages 3 to 6 with a parent or caregiver. 950 Pinetree SE. 4pm. 891-5012. alibi.com/v/6d9p.

**SOUTH BROADWAY LIBRARY STEM Program. Get slimy in the name of science, tech out over robots, solve real world engineering problems and math it up with indoor rockets. 1025 Broadway Blvd SE. 2-3:30pm. 764-1742. alibi.com/v/6hxq.

**FRIDAY DEC 20**

**KIDS**
CABELA’S Santa’s Wonderland. 5151 Lang Ave NE. 9am-9pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/19 listing.

**LEARN**
SELF SERVE Non-Monogamy Meet and Greet. Find resources and information about polyamory, non-monogamy, open relationships, swinging and more in a safe, comfortable environment. 112 Morningside Dr NE. 6:30-8:30pm. 18+. 265-5815. alibi.com/v/6w0.

**WELLNESS/FITNESS**
LEAP into Science: Science of a Vital Nature. A science workshop for kids ages 6 to 9 to learn to sort or classify living things and better understand the complex natural world, sing observation and classification skills. 8205 Apache Ave NE. 2-3pm. 291-6264. alibi.com/v/6x2a.

**SUNDAY DEC 22**

**FUSION THEATRE COMPANY** Last Chance Holiday Market. Enjoy live music, food trucks, winter beverages, vendors, kids’ activities and a book drive. 700 First Street NW. 1-5pm. ALL-AGES! alibi.com/v/6y8d.

**WELLNESS/FITNESS**
ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER Yoga with a View. A guided yoga class in a unique setting overlooking 18 acres of agricultural fields. All abilities and levels welcome. 6500 Coors Blvd NW $5-$15. 9am. 897-8831. alibi.com/v/6yu.

**WEDNESDAY DEC 25**

**PIGGY’S SQUEEZEASY** LGBTQ Support Group. A community support group for all ages open to anyone needing comfort, relief or a voice. 526 Washington St. 7:30pm. ALL-AGES! alibi.com/v/6x6d.

Compiled by Ashli Kesali. Submit your events at alibi.com/events.
THURSDAY DEC 26

WELLNESS/FITNESS
MAPLE STREET DANCE SPACE Embodied Magic: An Inclusive Movement Laboratory. 3215 Central Ave NE. $5-$15. 5:30-6:45pm. 13+. See 12/25 listing.

FRIDAY DEC 27

KIDS
MAIN LIBRARY STEM Labs. Program activities provide hands-on and minds-on lessons for kids including activities where these fields are fun and interesting. 501 Copper Ave NW. 3:30-5pm. 768-5141. alibi.com/v/6b6.

WELLNESS/FITNESS
YOGASAAR Raja H.I.I.T with Apama. Learn to bring greater energy, stability and balance to yoga practice using high intensity interval training. 2205 Silver Ave SE. $10. 10:45-11:15am. 15+. 227-7765. alibi.com/v/6uA.

SATURDAY DEC 28

WELLNESS/FITNESS
YOGASAAR Raja H.I.I.T with Apama. Learn to bring greater energy, stability and balance to yoga practice using high intensity interval training. 2205 Silver Ave SE. $10. 9-45-10:15am. 15+. 227-7765. alibi.com/v/6ugs.

MONDAY DEC 30

50/50 COFFEE HOUSE Nerd Night. 2122 Central Ave SE. 4-8pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/22 listing.

LEARN
NEW MEXICO GIFT AND FOOD SHOWCASE, Los Ranchos VA Hospital Claim Clinic. 6920 Fourth Street NW. 8:30am-4pm. 18+. See 12/22 listing.

WELLNESS/FITNESS
NEW MEXICO VETERANS HOSPITAL VA Hospital Claims Clinic. Veterans learn about the nuances and complicated details regarding the VA and state veterans benefits. Bring your DD-214 form. 1501 San Pedro SE. 8am-noon. 18+. 383-2414. alibi.com/v/6ff.

WEDNESDAY DEC 25

SPORTS
RED DOOR BREWING COMPANY Gridiron Gameday. 1001 Candelaria Rd NE. 11am-10pm. 21+. See 12/22 listing.

KIDS
CARE FOR YOUR PETS! Bunko Bash. 701 Silver SE. 6pm-10pm. 13+. See 12/22 listing.

NEW MEXICO VETERANS HOSPITAL VA Hospital Claims Clinic. Veterans learn about the nuances and complicated details regarding the VA and state veterans benefits. Bring your DD-214 form. 1501 San Pedro SE. 8am-noon. 18+. 383-2414. alibi.com/v/6ff.

WELLNESS/FITNESS
RED DOOR BREWING COMPANY Wednesday Night Wrestle Wars. Watch NXT and AEW Dynamite side by side with all the suplex mayhem and super kick parties a brain can handle. 1001 Candelaria Rd NE. 6-8pm. 21+. 633-6675. alibi.com/v/6yfn.

MONDAY DEC 23

BOOFY’S BEST FOR PETS Boofy’s Annual Festivus Fielta. Pets and owners wear ugly sweaters and celebrate the holiday season with some cathartic airing of grievances and feats of strength with treats, snacks and beverages. 8201 Golf Course Rd NW. 9am-9pm. 227-7765. alibi.com/v/6uga.

KIDS
CARE FOR YOUR PETS! Bunko Bash. 701 Silver SE. 6pm-10pm. 13+. See 12/22 listing.

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THURSDAY DEC 26

WELLNESS/FITNESS
MAPLE STREET DANCE SPACE Embodied Magic: An Inclusive Movement Laboratory. 3215 Central Ave NE. $5-$15. 5:30-6:45pm. 13+. 366-4982. alibi.com/v/6uq.

MAPLE STREET DANCE SPACE Embodied Magic: An Inclusive Movement Laboratory. Through guided improv, learn to respond to movement prompts that invite time with space in our bodies and create dynamic and embodied topographies. All identities, abilities and movement experience welcome. 3215 Central Ave NE. $5-$15. 5:30-6:45pm. 13+. 366-4982. alibi.com/v/6uq.

Compiled by Ashli Kesali. Submit your events at alibi.com/events.
**CALENDARS**

CHERRY HILLS LIBRARY New Year’s Before Dark Party, 6901 Barstow St NE. 11am-noon. ALL-AGES! See CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY listing.

ERNA FERGUSSON LIBRARY New Year’s Before Dark Party. 3700 San Mateo Blvd NE. 11am-12:30pm. ALL-AGES! See CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY listing.

RUDOLFO ANAYA LIBRARY New Year’s Before Dark Party. 7704 Second Street NW. 11am-noon. ALL-AGES! See CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY listing.

SOUTH VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY New Year’s Before Dark Party. 3904 Ileta Blvd SW. 11:15am-noon. ALL-AGES! See CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY listing.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY New Year’s Before Dark Party. 423 Central Ave NE. 11:15am-noon. ALL-AGES! See CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY listing.

LEARN

NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENCE New Year’s Eve On the Moon. Look toward the future with a large, lunar floor map from NASA, space-related activities, a lunar scavenger hunt, NASA videos, Apollo info and more for the entire family. 1801 Mountain Rd NW. 9-11am. ALL-AGES! 841-2840. alibi.com/v/6ym1.

WELLNESS/FITNESS

LLOYD SHAW DANCE CENTER Newcomer Swing and Latin Classes. 5506 Coal SE. $5-$10. 6:30-8pm. 15+. See 12/24 listing.

**THURSDAY DEC 19**

SONG & DANCE

POPEJOY HALL The Swingles: Winter Tales. The seven-piece acaPELLA group performs jazz, baroque and folk hits and mixes in seasonal specialties, including traditional carols, winter-themed originals and nostalgic classics. 203 Cornell Dr NE. $25-$69. 7:30pm. ALL-AGES! 277-9771. alibi.com/v/6wmp.

LEARN

SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY OF VISUAL ARTS Figure Drawing. Sharpen figurative skills working from a live model in a relaxing and supportive environment. All skill levels and media welcome (no photography). 5000 Marble Ave NE. 7-9pm. 13+. 254-7575. alibi.com/v/6jrz.

FILM

USTUDIOS The Colt Balok Show. Participate in a live taping of the talk show as member of the audience. 912 Third Street NW. 11am-1pm. 15+. alibi.com/v/6yv4.

**FRIDAY DEC 20**

SONG & DANCE

POPEJOY HALL Twas The Night Before Christmas. Explore the wild adventures of a mouse, an elf and a little girl who just won’t take no for an answer in this play written by celebrated Ken Ludwig. 203 Cornell Dr NE. $25-$69. 7:30pm. ALL-AGES! 277-9771. alibi.com/v/6wmp.

LEARN

SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY OF VISUAL ARTS Earring-Making. Participate in a live art competition with vendors and the release and Market of original jewelry designs. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7-8pm. 15+. See 12/24 listing.

FILM

JUAN TABO PUBLIC LIBRARY Holiday Storytime and Movie: The Polar Express. Wear pajamas and enjoy a reading of the holiday classic and then a screening of the film with treats to take home and snacks served. 800 20th Street NW. 5-6pm. ALL-AGES! 291-6260. alibi.com/v/6xh0.

ART

MAMA’S MINERALS Basic Earring Class. Learn the basics of earring-making and create a pair of earrings. Bring your own beads. 800 20th Street NW. 5-6pm. 13+. 266-8443. alibi.com/v/6yv5.

**SATURDAY DEC 21**

WELLNESS/FITNESS

RED DOOR BREWING COMPANY Wednesday Night Wresting Wars. 1001 Candelaria Rd NE. 6-8pm. 21+. See CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY listing.

ART

TRACTOR BREWING WELLS PARK Art Fight Holiday Challenge. A live art competition with vendors and the release of the Indigenous and Chicano created coloring book De La Tierra in collaboration with the local non-profit CESOSS. 1800 Fourth Street NW. 6-10pm. 21+. 841-2840. alibi.com/v/6wmp.

LEARN

MAMA’S MINERALS Earring-Making. Participate in a live art competition with vendors and the release and Market of original jewelry designs. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7-8pm. 15+. See 12/24 listing.

**KIMO THEATER**

423 Central Ave. • Albuquerque • kimotickets.com

**ARTS & LIT**

**THURSDAY DEC 19**

SONG & DANCE

POPEJOY HALL The Swingles: Winter Tales. The seven-piece acapella group performs jazz, baroque and folk hits and mixes in seasonal specialties, including traditional carols, winter-themed originals and nostalgic classics. 203 Cornell Dr NE. $25-$69. 7:30pm. ALL-AGES! 277-9771. alibi.com/v/6wmp.

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FILM

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**FRIDAY DEC 20**

SONG & DANCE

POPEJOY HALL Twas The Night Before Christmas. Explore the wild adventures of a mouse, an elf and a little girl who just won’t take no for an answer in this play written by celebrated Ken Ludwig. 203 Cornell Dr NE. $25-$69. 7:30pm. ALL-AGES! 277-9771. alibi.com/v/6wmg.

LEARN

SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY OF VISUAL ARTS Earring-Making. Participate in a live art competition with vendors and the release and Market of original jewelry designs. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7-8pm. 15+. See 12/24 listing.

FILM

JUAN TABO PUBLIC LIBRARY Holiday Storytime and Movie: The Polar Express. Wear pajamas and enjoy a reading of the holiday classic and then a screening of the film with treats to take home and snacks served. 800 20th Street NW. 5-6pm. ALL-AGES! 291-6260. alibi.com/v/6x92.

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MAMA’S MINERALS Basic Earring Class. Learn the basics of earring-making and create a pair of earrings. Bring your own beads. 800 20th Street NW. 5-6pm. 13+. 266-8443. alibi.com/v/6yv5.

**SATURDAY DEC 21**

WELLNESS/FITNESS

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ART

TRACTOR BREWING WELLS PARK Art Fight Holiday Challenge. A live art competition with vendors and the release of the Indigenous and Chicano created coloring book De La Tierra in collaboration with the local non-profit CESOSS. 1800 Fourth Street NW. 6-10pm. 21+. 841-2840. alibi.com/v/6wmp.
**STAGE**

**ADOBE THEATER** An Adobe Christmas Carol. 9813 Fourth Street NW. 7:30pm. See 12/20 listing.

**ALBUQUERQUE LITTLE THEATRE** Miracle on 34th Street. 224 San Pasqual Ave SW. $15-$23. 7:30pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/20 listing.

**MOTHER ROAD THEATRE COMPANY** All is Calm. 6320 Domingo Rd NE. $18-$24. 2pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/20 listing.

**NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER** The Santaland Diaries. 1701 Fourth Street SW. $22. 7:30-9pm. 13+. See 12/20 listing.

**VORTEX THEATRE** Almost, Maine. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7:30-9pm. 13+. See 12/20 listing.

**SUNDAY DEC 22**

**STAGE**

**ADOBE THEATER** An Adobe Christmas Carol. 9813 Fourth Street NW. 2pm. See 12/20 listing.

**ALBUQUERQUE LITTLE THEATRE** Miracle on 34th Street. 224 San Pasqual Ave SW. $15-$23. 2pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/20 listing.

**MOTHER ROAD THEATRE COMPANY** All is Calm. 6320 Domingo Rd NE. $18-$24. 2pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/20 listing.

**NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER** The Santaland Diaries. 1701 Fourth Street SW. $22. 2-3:30pm. 13+. See 12/20 listing.

**SUNDAY DEC 22**

**WORDS**

**TRACTOR BREWING CO.** Writing Workshop. Learn a new skill and craft a last-minute gift. Tickets include a pint of choice. 13170 Central Ave SE. $35. 6-8pm. 21+.

**SOUTH BROADWAY LIBRARY** Family Movie: Frozen. Enjoy a screening of the Disney film, rated PG. 1025 Broadway Blvd SE. 1-3pm. ALL-AGES! 764-1742.

**SATURDAY DEC 28**

**LEARN**

**ESTHER BONE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, Rio Rancho** Craft Club. Make wintry themed greeting cards and gift tags to give to family and friends. 950 Finetree SE. 2-4pm. 15+. 891-5012.

**LEARN**

**CONGREGATION NAHALAT SHALOM** Kindling the Light: Hanukkah Concert and Dance Party with The Abiee’s Orchestra. The Vascellaro ensemble presents a multicultiral concert and participatory dance event including a variety of Hanukkah music, including pieces in Yiddish. 3606 Rio Grande Blvd. NW. $5-$20. 7-9pm. ALL-AGES! 243-6276.

**LEARN**

**SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY OF VISUAL ARTS** Figure Drawing. 5000 Marble Ave. NE. 7-9pm. 18+. See 12/19 listing.

**SATURDAY DEC 28**

**LEARN**

**CONGREGATION B’NAI ISRAEL** Reighting the Lamp: Using Torah to Rededicate Ourselves to a Covenant of Healing. Dr. Jonathan Weinick gives a lecture and discusses his book with a Secula Sh’tshhit, a third meal, and evening Havdalah service. The lecturer also be performs a concert with a dessert reception. 4401 Indian School Road NE. $25. 3pm. ALL-AGES! 730-4572.

**SATURDAY DEC 28**

**STAGE**

**VORTEX THEATRE** Almost, Maine. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7:30-9pm. 13+. See 12/20 listing.

**LEARN**

**SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY OF VISUAL ARTS** Figure Drawing. 5000 Marble Ave. NE. 1:30-3:30pm. ALL-AGES! 764-1742.

**THURSDAY DEC 26**

**LEARN**

**SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY OF VISUAL ARTS** Learn to Draw: Mandala. An annual community art-making event to celebrate the coming of the winter season. The seeds of the mandala serve to feed migratory birds and the mandala remains in place for about a week. 6500 Coors Blvd NW. 10:30am-noon. ALL-AGES! 897-8831.

**FRIDAY DEC 27**

**STAGE**

**VORTEX THEATRE** Almost, Maine. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7:30-9pm. 13+. See 12/20 listing.

**WORDS**

**THIRSTY EYE BREWING COMPANY** Thirsty Word. Calling all poets for a monthly open mic hosted by Jim Burbank. Ten poets may sign up for a three-minute reading. 206 Broadway SE. 7-9pm. 21+. 639-5831.

**WEDNESDAY DEC 25**

**WORDS**

**TRACTOR BREWING CO.** Writing Wednesday. A place for writers to write and get critiques on pages. 118 Tulane Dr SE. 5-8pm. 433-5654.

**SUNDAY DEC 29**

**FILM**

**CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY** Sunday Movie: Elf. Enjoy a screening of the comedic Christmas film, rated PG. 8081 Central Ave NW. 1:30-3:30pm. ALL-AGES! 768-4320.

**WEDNESDAY JAN 1**

**WORDS**

**THEATRE ALBUQUERQUE** Mariachi Christmas. Celebrate Christmas in Mexico with the winter-time classic as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Ballet Folklórico dances to the music of Mariachi Azteca, an all-female group. 203 Convent Drive NE. $25-$65. 3pm. ALL-AGES! 277-9771.

**LEARN**

**ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER** Winter Solstice Seed Mandala. An annual community art-making event to celebrate the coming of the winter season. The seeds of the mandala serve to feed migratory birds and the mandala remains in place for about a week. 6500 Coors Blvd NW. 1:30-3:30pm. ALL-AGES! 897-8831.

**LEARN**

**CONGREGATION NAHALAT SHALOM** Light: a Celebration of Winter Solstice in Story and Song. Celebrate the cycle of the sun as it begins its return from the south with Regina Ross and Scott and Johanna Hongell-Danne as they bring winter and holiday tales and songs from around the world. 6500 Coors Blvd NW. 12:30-2pm. 897-8831.

**LEARN**

**ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER** Winter Solstice Seed Mandala. An annual community art-making event to celebrate the coming of the winter season. The seeds of the mandala serve to feed migratory birds and the mandala remains in place for about a week. 6500 Coors Blvd NW. 1:30-3:30pm. ALL-AGES! 897-8831.

**LEARN**

**ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH** Joyful Day. Música Antigua de Albuquerque presents a concert of Christmas music from the Middle Ages and Renaissance performed with voices and period instruments. 601 Montano Rd NW. $10-$20. 4pm. 13+. 842-9613.

**LEARN**

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**STAGE**

**VORTEX THEATRE** Almost, Maine. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7:30-9pm. 13+. See 12/20 listing.

**SATURDAY DEC 28**

**LEARN**

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**STAGE**

**VORTEX THEATRE** Almost, Maine. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7:30-9pm. 13+. See 12/20 listing.

**ST. STEPHEN’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Solid Grounds Coffeehouse. Lincoln County Band plays live, traditional Americana and bluegrass. 4601 Juan Tabo NE. 7-9pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/20 listing.

**FILM**

**CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY** Sunday Movie: Elf. Enjoy a screening of the comedic Christmas film, rated PG. 8081 Central Ave NW. 1:30-3:30pm. ALL-AGES! 768-4320.

**THURSDAY DEC 26**

**LEARN**

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**FRIDAY DEC 27**

**STAGE**

**VORTEX THEATRE** Almost, Maine. 2900 Carlisle Blvd NE. $24. 7:30-9pm. 13+. See 12/20 listing.

**SATURDAY DEC 28**

**FILM**

**CENTRAL & UNSER LIBRARY** Men in Black: International. Enjoy a screening of the comedic action film, rated PG-13. 8081 Central Ave NW. 1:30-3:30pm. ALL-AGES! 768-4320.

**TUESDAY DEC 31**

**SONG & DANCE**

**HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE** New Year’s Eve Tablao Flamenco. An unforgettable evening with world-class flamenco, tapas, sangria, house cava and more. 800 Rio Grande Blvd NW. 8pm. 222-8736.

Compiled by Ashli Kesali. Submit your events at alibi.com/events.
### CALENDARS

#### Food

**THURSDAY DEC 19**

**ENCHANTED CIRCLE BREWING**

Steak Night Thursdays. Enjoy delicious steak with a pint on the most delicious night of the week. 6001 San Mateo Blvd NE. 4-9pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/19 listing.

#### Music

**THURSDAY DEC 19**

**BLUES GRASSHOPPER BREWERY, Rio Rancho**

Rhonda Herd and Bob Dodson - variety - Rob Roman - variety - 4:30pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**BLUE GRASSHOPPER BREWERY WESTSIDE TAPROOM**

Austin Van - country - 6:30pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**CANTEEN BREWHOUSE**

High Desert Playboys - country, Americana - 6pm - FREE

**CANTERO BREWING COMPANY**

Last Call - swing, jazz, soul, blues, R&B - 6pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**DIRTY BOURBON**

Nathan Dean and the Damn Band - country, rock - 6pm - $5 - 21+

**FIRST TURN LOUNGE @ THE DOWNS CASINO**

Westwind Band - country - 8pm - FREE - 21+

**LA LUNA BAKERY AND CAFE**

Above Average Open Mic - 6:30pm - FREE

**LAUNCHPAD**

ShadowHouseMob - Roachkxng - Skata Jay - Skog - black metal - 8pm

**LAVA ROCK BREWING COMPANY**

RJ Perez - funk, blues - 6pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**MARBLE BREWERY**

Ugly Sweater Party - DJ Ware Fonkey - hip-hop, R&B - 7pm - FREE - 21+

**MOLLY'S BAR, Tijeras**

Elderly Brothers - variety - 6pm - FREE - 21+

**THIRSTY EYE BREWING COMPANY**

Smokin' Saturdays. Mighty Mike's Meats is smokin' on the patio. 206 Broadway SE. 4-8pm. 21+. See 12/19 listing.

**TUESDAY DEC 24**

**B2B BARRIO**

Taco Tuesday. Enjoy 12 different gourmet tacos and 50 local beers on tap to create over 600 possible combos. 2201 Louisiana Blvd NE. Noon. 508-4406. See 12/24 listing.

**RIU BRAVO BREWING COMPANY**

Taco Tuesday. Enjoy $2 tacos for a celebratory Tuesday. 1912 Second Street NW. ALL-AGES! 900-3909. See 12/24 listing.

**THURSDAY DEC 26**

**ENCHANTED CIRCLE BREWING**

Steak Night Thursdays. 6001 San Mateo Blvd NE. 4-9pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/19 listing.

**SATURDAY DEC 21**

**GREEN HOUSE BISTRO AND BAKERY, campus of the Center for Ageless Living**

Winter Solstice Dinner. Celebrate with a three-course dinner and enjoy a meditative stroll in the Walk in the Light Labyrinth. 5 Thomas Rd. $21. 5-8pm. See 12/20 listing.

**SAVORY DECEMBER 21**

**GREEN HOUSE BISTRO AND BAKERY, campus of the Center for Ageless Living**

Winter Solstice Dinner. 6001 San Mateo Blvd NE. 4-9pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/20 listing.

**THIRSTY EYE BREWING COMPANY**

Smokin' Saturdays. Mighty Mike's Meats is smokin' on the patio. 206 Broadway SE. 4-8pm. 21+. See 12/24 listing.

**Monday DEC 23**

**EL VADO ABQ**

Rude Boy Cookies Presents. Enjoy a variety of activities, including pictures with Santa Claus, cookie decorating, Christmas novellas with Lil Baby Dreamer, holiday-themed arts and crafts and more. 2500 Central Ave SW. 2pm. 508-4406. See 12/24 listing.

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Steak Night Thursdays. 6001 San Mateo Blvd NE. 4-9pm. ALL-AGES! See 12/19 listing.
**CALENDARS**

**MTUCCI’S MODERNO ITALIAN RESTAURANT**
- Amy Olser - singer-songwriter - 7pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**RED DOOR BREWING CO.**
- Halfway Decent Karaoke - 7pm - $5 - 21+

**RED VELVET UNDERGROUND**
- South3m Tupke3 Brth3zr - variety - 7pm - $5 - 21+

**SANDIAGO’S GRILL AT THE TRAM**
- Craig Miller - pop, classic rock - 6pm

**SISTER**
- Eric McFadden - rock - 7pm - $5-$10

**THIRSTY EYE BREWING COMPANY**
- Sloan Armitage - acoustic, singer-songwriter, indie - 7pm - FREE - 21+

**TRACTOR BREWING CO.**
- Beer Choir Christmas Edition - choral, holiday - Quintessence Choral Artists of the Southwest - 7:30pm

**TRACTOR BREWING WELLS PARK**
- Gin and Jazz: Christmas Edition - jazz, swing - 7pm

**SISTERS**
- Leftover Soul - vinyl dance party - Morning Remorse - 8pm - $5

**TRACTOR BREWING WESTSIDE**
- Kamikaze Karaoke - 7pm

**COMEDY**

**BLUE GRASSHOPPER BREWERY SECOND STREET TAPROOM**
- Niko’s Comedy Club - stand-up comedy - Korey Herrera, Joshua Fourteen, Sarah Kennedy, Elijah Williams - 6:30pm - $10 - 21+

**NEXUS SILVER TAPROOM**
- Buck D. Presents Laughter Witta Side of Soul Food - stand-up comedy - 8pm - FREE - 18+

**TRACTOR BREWING CO.**
- Benny Bassett - acoustic rock - 6pm

**TRACTOR BREWING WELLS PARK**
- Throwback Friday - DJ Wae Fonkey - hip-hop, R&B - 6pm

**TRACTOR BREWING WESTSIDE**
- Drag Queen Bingo: Christmas Edition - 8pm

**TRICKLOCK PERFORMANCE LABORATORY**
- Headliners 505 Comedy Presents Friday Night Fools - stand-up comedy - 9:30pm - $10 - 18+

**SUNDAY DEC 21**

**B2B2 BARRIO UPTOWN**
- Shimon’s Free Agents - jazz - 6:30pm - FREE

**BLUE GRASSHOPPER BREWERY, Rio Rancho**
- Beg, Borrow and Steal - variety - 7pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**BLUE GRASSHOPPER BREWERY SECOND STREET TAPROOM**
- Lexy Pettis - singer-songwriter - 4:30pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**BLUE GRASSHOPPER BREWERY WESTSIDE TAPROOM**
- Trinity Soul - variety - 7pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**DIRTY BOURBON**
- Nathan Dean and the Damn Band - country - 6pm - $5 - 21+

**DRAGON HORN TAVERN**
- Odd Dog - jam band - 8:30pm - FREE - 21+

**FIRST TURN LOUNGE @ THE DOWNS CASINO**
- Gonzalo - Spanish, New Mexican, country - 9pm - FREE - 21+

**HISTORIC EL REY THEATER**
- Parade of Lasers: ATLiens - trap - 13: YOKKE - 9pm

**HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE**
- Sage Cornelius - variety - 7:30pm - $20 - ALL-AGES!

**LAUNCHPAD**
- The Big Spank - ska - The Riddims - roots, rock, reggae - Good Green - 8pm

**TRACTOR BREWING COMPANY**
- Melissa Rios - singer-songwriter - 8pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**MARBLE BREWERY**
- YC and the Moondance Kids - Americana, folk - Julian Dossett Trio - blues, roots, rock, soul, jazz, swing, Western - 7pm - FREE - 21+

**MINE SHAFT TAVERN, Madrid**
- Susan Charlie - singer-songwriter - 5pm - Next 2 the Tracks - outlaw country - 8pm

**MOLLY’S BAR, Tijeras**
- MoonHat - jazz, soulful groove, eclectic funk - 6pm - FREE - 21+

**MOONLIGHT LOUNGE**
- KashiKarma - hard rock - The Ground Beneath - metal - 9pm

**MTUCCI’S MODERNO ITALIAN RESTAURANT**
- Lani Nash - singer-songwriter - 8pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!

**SISTER**
- Leftover Soul - vinyl dance party - Morning Remorse - 8pm - $5

**TRACTOR BREWING CO.**
- Benny Bassett - acoustic rock - 6pm

**TRACTOR BREWING FOUR HILLS**
- Mumbojumbo Jazz Band - jazz - 6pm

**TRACTOR BREWING WESTSIDE**
- Throwback Friday - DJ Wae Fonkey - hip-hop, R&B - 6pm

**COMEDY**

**TRACTOR BREWING WELLS PARK**
- Drag Queen Bingo: Christmas Edition - 8pm

**TRICKLOCK PERFORMANCE LABORATORY**
- Headliners 505 Comedy Presents Friday Night Fools - stand-up comedy - 9:30pm - $10 - 18+

**RAILYARD FICTIONS WRITING COMPETITION**

share your vision of the future of the albuquerque railyards in a short story, poem, or other fiction... ...and you could win up to $200 and get published!

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DECEMBER 19, 2019—JANUARY 1, 2020

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CALENDARS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22

CANTEEN BREWHOUSE Squash Blossom Boys bluegrass, folk, Americana 4pm FREE
HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE Sage Cornelius variety 4pm $20 ALL-AGES!
KAKTUS BREWING COMPANY Bernalillo Kats Blues Jam 3pm
LAUNCHPAD Levi Platero Band blues, rock, soul 8pm
MARBLE BREWERY The Dee Brown Situation variety 3pm FREE 21+
O’NEILLES PUB Nob Hill RJ Perez funk, blues 4pm FREE ALL-AGES!
RED VELVET UNDERGROUND Southside Turpik3 BROTHER3z variety 7pm $5 21+
STEEL BENDER BREWERY Kevin Cummings rock, blues, pop Judy and The Jets variety 5pm

COMEDY

BLUE GRASSHOPPER BREWERY SECOND STREET TAPROOM Smooth Sunday Comedy Open Mic stand-up comedy 730pm FREE 21+

MONDAY DECEMBER 23

TRACTOR BREWING CO Old Time Jam Cicle 730pm
TRAIL RIDER PIZZA Cedar Crest More Love Monday variety Elliott Christmas jams 6pm FREE ALL-AGES!
FOUNDERS SPEAKEASY Idiot Revolution Open Mic 8pm FREE 21+
RED DOOR BREWING COMPANY OG Monday A Comedy Open Mic stand-up comedy 730pm FREE 21+
TRACTOR BREWING WESTSIDE Simpsons Trivia 7pm

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24

CORRALES BISTRO BREWERY Corrales John Urban acoustic folk, blues 9am
FIRST TURN LOUNGE AT THE DOWNS CASINO Karaoke 7pm FREE 21+
HOLLOW SPIRITS DISTILLERY tips Americani mariachi 7pm FREE 21+
MOLLY’S BAR Tijeras Cowboy Scott country 3pm FREE 21+
RED DOOR BREWING COMPANY Jam Night 5pm Bring Your Own Vinyl 6pm FREE 21+
TRACTOR BREWING WELLS PARK Kamikaze Karaoke 8pm

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25

FIRST TURN LOUNGE AT THE DOWNS CASINO Karaoke 7pm FREE 21+
TRAIL RIDER PIZZA Cedar Crest Karaoke Wednesdays Karaoke Wednesday 6pm FREE ALL-AGES!

THURSDAY DECEMBER 26

CANTEEN BREWHOUSE The Amazing Honeyboys swamp blues 6pm FREE
DIRTY BOURBON Brahma country 6pm $5 21+
FIRST TURN LOUNGE AT THE DOWNS CASINO Northern Revolution Spanish, oldies country 8pm FREE 21+
LA LUNA BAKERY AND CAFE Above Average Open Mic 630pm FREE 13+
LAVA ROCK BREWING COMPANY Oscar Butler contemporary folk 6pm FREE ALL-AGES!
MTUCCI’S MODERNO ITALIAN RESTAURANT Adlib variety 7pm FREE ALL-AGES!
RED DOOR BREWING CO Halfway Decent Karaoke 7pm 21+

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29

ISLETA RESORT & CASINO ZZ Top classic rock 8pm

SANDIAGO’S GRILL AT THE TRAM Craig Miller pop, classic rock 6pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27

DIRTY BOURBON Joe Mark Angelo country 6pm $5 21+
FIRST TURN LOUNGE AT THE DOWNS CASINO Fat City hip-hop, R&B funk 9pm FREE 21+
HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE Sage Cornelius variety 730pm $20 ALL-AGES!
LAVA ROCK BREWING COMPANY DJ BuddhaFunk hip-hop experimental neo-soul 8pm FREE ALL-AGES!
LAZY LIZARD GRILL Cedar Crest Odd Dog jam band 7pm FREE 21+
MARBLE BREWERY Tiffany Christopher rock, pop, blues The Moon Thieves Duo Keith Sanchez rock, blues, singer-songwriter 7pm FREE 21+
MINE SHAFT TAVERN Madrid Jim Almand blues, singer-songwriter 5pm Uncle DT and the Smokehouse Crew Americana 8pm
MOLLY’S BAR Tijeras Mike Butterfield and the 10 O’clock Blues blues, rock 6pm FREE 21+
MTUCCI’S MODERNO ITALIAN RESTAURANT Leah Leyva classic rock, blues, singer-songwriter 8pm FREE ALL-AGES!
TRACTOR BREWING CO Jean Kennedy singer-songwriter 6pm

Compiled by Ashli Kesali Submit your events at alibi.com/events.
TRICKLOCK PERFORMANCE LABORATORY
Headlines 505 Comedy Presents Friday Night Fools - stand-up comedy - 9:30pm - $10-18+

SATURDAY DEC 28
B2B2 BARRIO UPTOWN Shimon’s Free Agents - jazz - 6:30pm - FREE
DIRTY BOURBON Danny Duran and The Sla Bumin’ Band - rock, blues - 6pm - $5 - 21+
FIRST TURN LOUNGE @ THE DOWNS CASINO Fat City - hip-hop, R&B, funk - 9pm - FREE - 21+
LAUNCHPAD Let it Grow - Grateful Dead tribute - Phrakid - funk, garage rock - Morning Mushroom - 9pm
MARBLE BREWERY Geshom Brothers - folk, Americana, Dirty Brown Jug Band - outlaw country, bluegrass - 7pm - FREE - 21+
MINE SHAFT TAVERN, Madrid Connie Long and Fast Patsy - country, Western - 3pm - Odd Dog - classic rock - 8pm
MOLLY’S BAR, Tijeras Rudy Boy Experiment - rock, blues, 1:30pm - Memphis P-Tails - blues, rock - 6pm - FREE - 21+
RED DOOR BREWING COMPANY Halfway Decent Karaoke - 7pm - FREE - 21+
RED DOOR BREWING COMPANY Moroccan Underbelly - blues - 6pm - FREE - 21+
RED VELOCITY UNDERGROUND Mike Butterfield and the 10 O’clock Blues - blues, rock - 7pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!
SISTER Flashback ‘80s Music Video Dance Party - new wave, punk, pop - 8pm
SUNSHINE THEATER Virtual Riot - Modestep - electronic - 7pm
TRACTOR BREWING C0. Paul Hunton and Brad Edwards - variety - 6pm
TRACTOR BREWING FOUR HILLS DJ D-Monic - funk, hip-hop - 6pm
TRACTOR BREWING LOS LUNAS, Los Lunas Austin Ven - country - 8pm
TRACTOR BREWING WELLS PARK DJ Riff Rat - punk, new wave, glam, goth, ska, 70s to 90s, vinyl - 6pm
TRACTOR BREWING WESTSIDE Melissa Rios - singer-songwriter - 6pm

COMEDY

CANTENE BREWHOUSE Comedy Night - stand-up comedy - 8:30pm - FREE
RED VEIL UNDERGROUND Saturday Stand-Up Spectacular - stand-up comedy - 9:30pm - $5 - 18+

WEDNESDAY JAN 1
TRAIL RIDER PIZZA, Cedar Crest Karaoke Wednesdays - Karaoke - 6pm - FREE - ALL-AGES!
Christmas Train

Celebrate Christmas with a holiday fare at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science's 5-story DynaTheater. Released in 2004 and based on the beloved children's book by Chris Van Allsburg, The Polar Express was one of the first feature films to employ motion capture and photorealistic CGI. Movie technology has long since surpassed what The Polar Express was able to accomplish, but the holiday sentiment remains. Tom Hanks provides the voice of a conductor who takes a young boy on a magical train ride to the North Pole. The film will be screened in its original 3D format. The screening takes place Friday, Dec. 20 at 7pm and Saturday, Dec. 21 at 4pm. Children of all ages are encouraged to show up in their pajamas! Tickets are $10 for adults, $6 for seniors and $5 for children ages 3 to 12. Kids 2 and under get in for free. To secure your tickets in advance, go to naturalhistoryfoundation.org/polar-express. NMMNH is located at 1801 Mountain Rd. NW.

Whistle Stop

If you missed the premiere of StormMiguel Florez' enlightening LGBTQ documentary The Whistle Stop this earlier year at KiMo Theatre, you've got another chance to catch it on Sunday, Dec. 29 starting at 1pm at Guild Cinema (3405 Central Ave. NE). In the film, Florez—a 45-year-old Latinx trans man—returns to his birthplace of Albuquerque to chronicle the underground culture (and its secret social codes) of growing up as a teenage lesbian in the '70s and '80s. Thanks to Albuquerque's Transgender Resource Center, Florez will be on hand for the screening and a post-film Q&A. Admission is free, but seating is limited. So get there early to grab one of the limited door tickets—or reserve a seat by going to thewhistlebpt.me. For more info on the film (including access to a trailer) visit stormflorez.com/the-whistle.

Campy Movies

Do you have a kid out of school and stuck at home for the holiday break? Do they love movies? Do you love having them out of the house? Have I got a deal for you! Sol Acting Academy is offering up a New Year’s Movie Camp for Youth. Aimed at kids ages 7 to 15, this 5-day camp provides a crash course in filmmaking. Campers will work with each other to write, produce and act in a professionally shot short film. Local professional filmmakers will assist campers to create an ensemble piece with strong characters and a compelling story. Once the movie is edited, Sol Acting Academy will host a red carpet premiere for friends and family on Jan. 31. The Movie Camp takes place daily from 10am to 4pm—Monday, Dec. 30 through Friday, Jan. 3. Cost is $350 per camper. To register go to solacting.com/new-years-movie-camp. Sol Acting Academy is located at 5500 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Ste. 114.

Bring Out Your Junk!

The History Channel show “American Pickers” is being brought back through New Mexico. Producers are looking for “interesting characters with interesting items” willing to sell to junkers/pickers/antique dealers Frank Fritz and Mike Wolfe. (Private collections only—no stores, malls, flea markets, museums or anything open to the public.) If you’re a collector willing to let the guys from Iowa into your crowded backyard or overflowing shed, call the producers of “American Pickers” at 1-855-OLD-RUST or email them at AmericanPickers@cineflix.com.

REEL WORLD
BY DEVIN D. O’LEARY

FILM REVIEW

Knives and Skin

Feminist thriller goes deep

Written and directed by Jennifer Reeder
Starring Raven Whitley, Ty Olwin, Iren Roach, Kayla Carter, Grace Smith
Unrated; Opens Thursday 12/26.

Comparisons of Jennifer Reeder’s ’80s-flavored coming-of-age thriller Knives and Skin to Lynchian cult classic “Twin Peaks”—as well as to the work of auteurs like Gregg Araki and Yorgos Lanthimos—are well earned. Drawing on an essential narrative and stylistic conventions similar to those in David Lynch’s “Twin Peaks”—the seismic impact of a beguiling teenage girl’s disappearance has on her tiny town and dreamlike visuals featuring slow dissolves, fades and close-ups—Knives and Skin transcends a simple additive formula comprised of any of the numerous influences that Reeder wears proudly on her sleeve. But the thing is … Reeder’s biggest influence is herself.

Maximalism and melodrama are Reeder’s métier, and excerpts of dialogue and artsy action included in this film originated with the director’s earlier short films, especially recent work like “A Million Miles Away,” “Blood Below the Skin” and “Crystal Lake.” From Reeder’s early transgressive social satire as “White Trash Girl!” to this, her hot pink-washed original feature film debut—Reeder directed Fawzia Mizra’s 2017 indie Pakistani/Muslim/lesbian drama Signature More—her work has explored phenomena familiar to the average American teenage girl: for starters, self-injury, misogyny, slut-shaming and “mean girls.” In Knives and Skin, a choral practice of New Order’s “Blue Monday” reveals Reeder’s penchant for using captions to spell out a whispered, secret language only known and spoken by teenage girls. A cheerleader caption-whispers in a language only known and spoken by teenage girls: “I wear black on the outside because… I’m more More Worried Than I Let On.”

For unabashed cinephiles and dedicated genre fans, Knives and Skin’s substantial runtime—nearly two hours, or 112 minutes, to be precise—won’t present an obstacle but be forewarned: Each of those moments is generously endowed by its creator with a labyrinthine web of human connection among the teens, their parents and their teachers—from a budding schoolgirl romance to the end of a doomed affair, from hallway bullying to myriad clandestine transactions and transgressions. An impressive, diverse cast takes on the uncanny characters in Reeder’s magical realist-cum-Boschian landscape, which itself inhabits a nameless small town in the Midwest.

After a cryptic, Medea-tinged opening, Knives and Skin joins weird, lovely band nerd Carolyn Harper (Raven Whitley) in a reluctant outdoor makeout session with jerky jock Andy Kitzmiller (Ty Olwin). Carolyn seems more concerned about keeping her new eyeglasses and plumed band shake safe than she is motivated by more than a modicum of attraction to her date. After Carolyn scratches her initial into Andy’s forehead, she firmly rejects his clumsy advances toward third base. A livid Andy stalks off, leaving poor Carolyn to humble, fall and find herself alone, bleeding in the grass and unconscious (or dead).

Other than the unhappy couple, a triptych of youthful female characters stand out among Reeder’s menagerie. The stories of three teens—eccentric artist Charlotte Kurthich (Iren Roach), haunted cheerleader Laurel Darlington (Kayla Carter) and deadpan hustler and toxic bro Andy’s sister Joana Kitzmiller (Grace Smith)—anchor the film’s smart, satirical feminist dialogue amid a multitude of tragicomic storylines that don’t discriminate on the basis on youth or wisdom.

While it’s not technically a character, Knives and Skin’s eerie synth-driven soundtrack was dreamed up by Nick Zinner (Yeah Yeah Yeahs). In literal concert with Zinner’s original OST, a cappella renditions of ’80s hits are performed ably by the cast. Sung sadly, lustily, dreamily or madly, both together and alone, everything from The Go-Go’s “Our Lips Are Sealed” to The Icicle Works’ “Birds Fly (Whisper To A Scream)” offers lyrical reflection on the characters’ fears, desires and traumas.

But the adults aren’t just background here and their delusions, fetishes and foibles provide a fertile breeding ground for some standout characters. The missing girl’s mother Lisa (Marika Engelhardt, “Chicago Fire”), who also coaches the girls’ school chorus, brings an intensity and vulnerability to the grieving process rarely seen outside Shakespearean drama. Laurel’s mom Renee (Kate Arrington, “Ray Donovan”) is a note-perfect dissatisfied wife and narcissistic mother endowed with a walk-in closet full of skeletons and a massive baby bump. Joanna’s mom Lynn (Audrey Francis, “Empire”) and her dad Dan (Tim Hopper, “Chicago Fire”) both excel as largely absent, wildly flawed role models who somehow stillinvoke sympathy.

Reeder pays meticulous attention to framing, visual narrative elements and story arc detail—feminist icon-branded T-shirts, lovers passing notes over a bathroom stall, a dress fitting that doubles as a detante, a T-shirt’s airbrushed lion that issues an admonition to its owner (yes, you read that right)—and employs cinematography that conjures interior color and chiaroscuro that gives even the most delectably overvivid giallo efforts (think Suspiria, Blood and Black Lace, The New York Ripper) a run for their ticket money. Devote a couple hours’ worth of dedicated attention to Knives and Skin, and you’ll never see making meatloaf, giving books report or recycling tinfoil quite the same way again.

I wear black on the outside because… I’m more More Worried Than I Let On.”

BY SAMANTHA ANNE CARRILLO
**Top TV**

Best television of 2019

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**The Best:**

“Barry” (HBO) Bill Hader’s tragicomedy about a morose hitman from the Midwest who finds his “purpose” moonlighting as a community theater actor in Los Angeles welcomed in a second season as dark, funny and unpredictable as the first. The creator-producer-star and occasional director (who’s also busy on IFC’s excellent “Documentary Now!”) has established himself as one of the the more multitalented recent graduates of “Saturday Night Live.”

“Chernobyl” (HBO)—Tense and terrifying, HBO’s chronicling of the world’s worst nuclear disaster is closer in spirit to a horror movie than a historical drama. Only the “monster” in this case is a government convinced of its own infallibility and a population cowed into accepting “official explanations” over the actual facts staring them in the face. Over the course of five nearly excruciating episodes, we witness the errors and the arrogance that led to and compounded the disaster as well as the direct effect it had on thousands in the immediate area.

“Fleabag” (Amazon) Certifiably brilliant writer-director-producer-actress Phoebe Waller-Bridge (who also gave us “Killing Eve”) first transformed her improvised, one-woman show into a wonderfully astringent sitcom back in 2016. In 2019 we finally got the (perhaps conclusive?) second season. It was worth the wait, seeing Waller-Bridge continue to move the series from a slightly uncomfortable dramedy to a painfully self-aware look at relationships (sexual, romantic, familial, financial) in the modern-day world.

“Fosse/Verdon” (FX) Sam Rockwell and Michelle Williams brought Oscar-level acting to television with their transformative roles as choreographer/director Bob Fosse and his muse/far-better half Gwen Verdon. The often tricky timeline and rattle-dazzle editing disguised most if not all of the more common biopic tropes of this eight-episode maxi-series. But the energy, anger, joy and pain of the lifelong relationship between these two volatile artists came leaping off the screen thanks to the uninhibited work of its committed leads.

“The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance” (Netflix)—Here we have a textbook example of how to do a sequel/prequel to a much beloved cult effort. The love and respect for Jim Henson’s 1982 puppet-animated feature is evident in this massive expansion of that beloved fantasy world. French action flick director Louis Leterrier (The Transporter) added a surprising element of action and energy to the proceedings, making this irresistible binge-watching material.

“Pen15” (Hulu)—Give it up for the ladies, who have had a spectacular year expressing themselves in deeply personal comedies that hit at far deeper sexual and sociological truths. Here, 13-year-olds, played by Anna Konkle don braces and rainbow-colored wardrobes to play 13-year-olds of themselves in what amounts to a painfully honest, R-rated version of “Degrassi Junior High.” Killing off the rest of their cast with actual 13-year-olds would seem gimmicky, but it drives home the idea that those awkward, uncomfortable and terribly confused teenagers inside all of us never really go away.

“Russian Doll” (Netflix) Who would have guessed that a trippy, Groundhog Day-esque sci-fi comedy about poor decisions would be 2019’s most humanist offering? Natasha Lyonne, Amy Poehler and Leslye Headland are the ladies behind this surprisingly ruminate tale about a hard-partying game developer (Lyonne) who can’t seem to stop dying one fateful, never-ending night in NYC. There’s plenty of inventive humor along the way, but what really sticks with you is the message that simple human connection is the thing that gets us through this mad, magical mess known as life.

“UnReal” (Amazon)—A companion piece if you will to “Russian Doll,” this rotoscope-animated series also uses science-fiction to tell a mourful tale of a seemingly irresponsible woman cast adrift in the wake of her own life. Rosario Dawson (Alita: Battle Angel) does deep work as poor Alma, a snarky deaf woman involved in a bad auto accident. She gains the ability to talk to her long-dead father (Bob Odenkirk) or loses her mind. (Both are strong possibilities.) Visually stunning, incisively acted and suffused with some deep psychological understanding.

“Watchmen” (HBO) Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons’ 1986 graphic novel examined the end of the Cold War through an angry, socially conscious lens of superhero comics. For this eight-episode sequel/reimagining, Damon Lindelof (“Lost”) does the same thing—only using the history of America’s racial divide. I dare say Lindelof’s grasp of our country’s history is deeper and more nuanced than Moore’s. His finely and lacerating genre exercise effectively buries Martin Scorsese’s argument about the irrelevance of superhero stories.

“What We Do In The Shadows” (FX) New Zealanders Jemaine Clement and Taiki Watiti turn their 2014 cult “mockumentary” about vampires living in the modern day world into a weekly series. And if it were nothing but clueless bloodsuckers Kayvan Novak, Matt Berry, Natasia Demetriou and Mark Proksch arguing about proper ory, this etiology could still be one of the most beautifully silly shows on TV. But 2019’s single best episode of anything belongs to the chapter in which our vampires face the wrath of the vaunted Vampire Tribunal. I haven’t seen it, I won’t spoil all the ridiculous movie star cameos. Let’s just say I fully support the idea of Tilda Swinton as queen of the vampires.

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**THE WEEK IN SLOTH**

**THURSDAY 19**

“Twice Upon a Time” (Netflix streaming anytime) Lindsay Usich (best known as Hannah Lear in 2001’s Hannibal Rising) stars in this French romantic drama about a man, still reeling from a breakup, who receives a package with “mysterious properties” that could give him a chance to win back his ex.

A Christmas Carol (FX 8:30pm) English writer-director Steven Knight (Dirty Pretty Things, Eastern Promises, Locke) ties his hand at adapting Charles Dickens’ classic Christmas tale, amping up the ghostly visitations and turning the whole thing into a wintry horror tale, amping up the ghostly visitations and turning the whole thing into a wintry horror story (which it pretty much is).

The HeartRadio Jingle Ball 2019 (KWWQ-19 7pm) Taylor Swift, the Jonas Brothers, Halsey, Neil Harman, Lizzo, Dan + Shay and Monsta X are among the performers scheduled to hit the stage this year.

**FRIDAY 20**

“The Witcher” (Netflix streaming anytime) The popular book series (and its arguably more popular video game spin-off), about a mutated monster hunter struggling to find his place in a monster-filled world, becomes a live-action series with Henry Cavill (Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice) in the title role.

**SATURDAY 21**

“Battle of the Christmas Movie Stars” (Lifetime 8am) Popular Lifetime movie stars are put to the test in holiday-inspired challenges (gift wrapping, wearing ugly sweaters, decorating cookies).

“The Ultimate Hanukkah Challenge” (Food Network 7pm) Our Jewish friends finally get a little love in this holiday-themed cooking competition.

**SUNDAY 22**

“The Price is Right At Night: A Holiday Extravaganza With Seth Rogen” (KQRE-13 7pm) It means, it sounds better than the cast of “SEAL team.” But still, weird, right? What’s Seth even gonna do with a brand new car?

**MONDAY 23**

“The Price is Right At Night: A Holiday Extravaganza With the Cast of SEAL Team” (KQRE-13 7pm) Wow. The entire cast? Even David Boreanaz. Because that guy can price a can of peas like nobody’s business.

“The Year: 2019” (KOB-4 8pm) Oy. Don’t remind me.

“A Home For the Holidays With Idina Menzel” (KQRE-13 8pm) Idina Menzel, Adam Lambert, Ne-Yo and Kelly Rowland sing a few songs—then try to guilt you into adopting an orphan. That’s how they get you.

**TUESDAY 24**

**FRIDAY 27**

“America Salutes You-Presents Guitar Legends 3” (KWQV-19 7pm) Rock & Roll Hall of Famers Billy Gibbons hosts this benefit concert raising funds for brain and mental wellness charities assisting veterans and first responders. Among the all-singing legends joining Billy: Warren Haynes (Allman Brothers), Steve Luthaker (Toto) and Nancy Wilson (Heart).

**SATURDAY 28**

A New Year’s Resolution (Hallmark 6pm) In a new turn of direction, this long-running holiday tradition introduces us to three women who see their futures turned upside down by identity theft, forbidden love, betrayal and emancipation in the wake of the devastating 1897 Paris fire.

“Fast & Furious: Spy Racers” (Netflix streaming anytime) How given cartoonish this can-cinematic movie series has become of late, it’s only natural that it would morph into an actual cartoon one day. Today is that day.

**MONDAY 30**

“The Disastrous Life of Saiiki K.: Reawakened” (Netflix streaming anytime) Based on the absurdist Japanese manga series, this comic anime centers on a hapless high school student beset by all manner of ungodly abilities who does everything he can to hide his powers and live a normal life.

**TUESDAY 31**

“Dick Clarke’s Primetime New Year’s Rockin’ Eve With Ryan Seacrest” (KJLA-7 7pm) Paula Abdul, Green Day, Salt-N-Pepa, Sheryl Crow, Usher, Dan + Shay and Dua Lipa.

“Fox’s New Year’s Eve With Steve Harvey” (KASA-5 2pm) Sting, Robin Thicke, Florence + The Machine and Jason Aldean.

“NBC’s New Year’s Eve Special” (KOB-4 9:30pm) Keith Urban, Blake Shelton, Kalie Shorr, Ne-Yo and Chrissy Teigen.

**WEDNESDAY 1**

“The Explosion Show” (Science 8pm) Science Channel cuts to the chase and just starts blowing stuff up.

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DECEMBER 19, 2019-JANUARY 1, 2020 WEEKLY ALIBI
The Avengers vs. Martin Scorsese

The best films of 2019

BY DEVIN D. O'LEARY

What constitutes a “best” film? It’s not a particular style or genre or mood. It’s not even, necessarily, the acting or the directing or the screenwriting. It’s an inextricable melding of all of these. The most important criteria: How strongly did the film connect with you? How much are you still thinking about it weeks or months later? Here—for your perusal, comparison and possible rejection—are the “best” feature films I saw in 2019 (in alphabetical order).

Ash Is the Purest White
Chinese kitchen sink realist Jia Zhangke’s multi-part tribute to cultural change and social evolution centers on tough gangster’s moll Qiao (Jia’s wife and muse Zhao Tao). Trapped between old world Communism and new age criminality, Qiao represents modern China in all its flawed glory. But when her cowardly boyfriend ditches her with an illegal firearm, she ends doing a five-year stint in prison. Released in 2006, Qiao takes a boat trip up the Yangtze River, getting a firsthand glimpse at the seismic industrial changes happening in China. Shot on handheld DV cameras in dark back rooms and dusty, overcrowded neighborhoods, our heroine’s meandering trip though time and space amounts to a beautifully unglamorous journey of discovery.

Avengers: Endgame
I, like a lot of people, grew up on comic books. And my inner 8-year-old continues to freak out on the sheer volume and pure quality of superhero movies hitting theaters these days. Despite what the esteemed Mr. Martin Scorsese thinks, this 21-movie series capper is epic, exciting, emotional and full of surprises. So many storylines come to so many satisfactory conclusions. And the risky directions the filmmakers take pay off beautifully. Sure, “Fat Thor” is amusing. But he’s also a thoughtful encapsulation of grief and depression—and the fact that none of that makes us any less “worthy.”

The Farewell
Awkwafina proves she’s more than just the comedienne à la Judd Apatow’s tearjerking autobiogahphy about a Chinese-American family unwilling to tell grandma that she’s dying of cancer. (It’s a traditional thing, evidently.) Instead, they cobble together a last-minute wedding (between two rather unwilling participants) as an excuse to unite the extended clan for one last get-together back in Mainland China. More than just a story about intergenerational ties, this humble dramedy expresses the ineffable loss of identity, history and culture felt by immigrants the world over.

The Irishman
It’s kind of amusing that legendary director Martin Scorsese would make headlines by bad-mouthing superhero movies as overly familiar, trope-filled franchises—and then release his umpteenth East Coast Mafia drama starring Robert DeNiro. Well, guess what, Martin: I’m capable of loving both Mean Streets and Black Panther. And The Irishman—though long, languid and (yes, Marty) comfortably-familiar—is a fascinating look at mid-century American history as seen through the eyes of organized crime.

Jojo Rabbit
Like Ernst Lubitsch (To Be or Not to Be) and Roberto Benigni (Life Is Beautiful) before him, increasingly essential comic genius Taika Waititi (What We Do in the Shadows, Thor: Ragnarok) walks a swaying tightrope in this controversial Holocaust-era comedy-drama. But the story—about a fatherless German kid who imagines that Hitler himself is his invisible friend—manages to be funny, touching, sad and jubilant, all at the same time.

Honeyland
This year’s best and most surprising documentary takes us to Macedonia (a country most people know nothing about) to introduce us to a traditional bee hunter (a career few have ever heard of). Hatidze Muratova, the film’s subject, is a fascinating woman all on her own: living in an abandoned mountain village, caring for her elderly mother and lovingly tending to her hives of wild bees. But the documentary takes an incredible narrative turn when a rambunctious, itinerant Turkish family moves in next door with designs on getting rich off honey. Suddenly, the contemplative cultural observation transitions into a riveting cautionary tale about respect for nature and tradition.

Parasite
South Korean writer-director Bong Joon-Ho’s resume is enough to mark him as one of the best international filmmakers working today.
Almost, Maine
December 6-29: Vortex Theatre
2900 Carlisle Blvd. NE
(505) 247-8600
www.vortexabq.org
$24 Tickets
yours for $12

Dialogue
Brewing & Art
1501 First St NW
(505) 585-1501
info@dialoguebrewing.com
$20 Certificates
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Rio Bravo Brewing
1912 Second St. NW
riobravobrewing.com
(505) 900-3909
$20 Certificates
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Self Serve Sexy Shop
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(505) 265-5815
selfservetoys.com
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7900 San Pedro Blvd. NE, Ste. 04
(505) 356-2600
$25 Voucher
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A Celebration of Love
Wedding Chapel
106 Wellesley Dr. SE
(505) 243-LOVE (5683)
$100 Certificates
yours for $25

Vivid Dance Studio
4615 Menaul Blvd NE, Ste. A
(505) 917-4270
vividdancestudio.com
$10 Class Voucher
yours for $2.50

Wild Moon Boutique
Wild Moon Boutique
206 San Felipe St. NW # 3,
(505) 247-2475
wildmoonboutique.com
$30 Certificate
yours for $15

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**NEW**

**Botero**
Colombian Fernando Botero, one of the world’s most prolific living artists, is the subject of this poetic documentary. First-time feature director Don Miller traces the artist from his birth in Medellin in 1932 through the violent and tumultuous political landscape of the Colombian Civil War and onto the current international success of this 86-year-old painter/sculptor. 84 minutes. Unrated. (Opens Thursday 12/26 at Guild Cinema)

**Cats**
The enduringly popular stage musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber (and based on some weird-ass cat poems by T.S. Eliot) comes to life on the big screen. Idris Elba, Ian McKellen, Rebel Wilson, Judi Dench, Taylor Swift, James Corden, Jennifer Hudson and Jason Derulo are among the actors wearing CGI cat suits and singing about “the Heavyside Layer.” (Opens Thursday 12/19 at AMC Albuquerque 12, Century 14 Downtown, Century Rio, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Flix Brewhouse, High Ridge, Icon Cinemas Albuquerque, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Winrock Stadium 16 IMAX & RPX)

**Edie**
Following the death of her husband, 83-year-old Edie (British actress Sheila Hancock, who started her movie career back in 1960) breaks free from years of his control and rebels against her daughter’s wish for her to move into assisted living by embarking on an adventure she and her father had always longed for—a trip to the Scottish Highlands to climb the world famous Mt. Suilven. Along the way, she hires young camping shop owner Jonny (Kevin Guthrie) to be her guide. Despite the generational differences, Jonny encourages Edie to fulfill her dream, 102 minutes. Unrated. (Opens Friday 12/20 at Guild Cinema)

**Knives and Skin**
Review of the issue. 111 minutes. Unrated. (Opens Tuesday 1/7 at Winrock Stadium 16 IMAX & RPX)

**Mystify: Michael Hutchence**
Late, great INXS frontman Michael Hutchence gets the documentary treatment with this insightful musical portrait. 125 minutes. Unrated. (Opens Tuesday 1/7 at Winrock Stadium 16 IMAX & RPX)

**Parole**
Kolin Dayish and siblings present their latest, locally shot film. James Junes, Kody Dayish and Billy Crawford are among the cast. 134 minutes. PG. (Opens Wednesday 12/25 at AMC Albuquerque 12, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Flix Brewhouse)

**RETURNING**

**A Christmas Story (1983)**
Still one of the funniest holiday films ever made, this cult classic is based on the warped nostalgic musings of humorist Jean Shepherd. Peter Billingsley is forever enshrined as the Depression-era kid eager to get his hands on a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. 94 minutes. PG. (Friday 12/13 at Movies 8, Movies West)

**It’s a Wonderful Life (1946)**
The holiday classic starring James Stewart and Donna Reed returns to the big screen. You’ve probably seen it at least a dozen times on TV. But it’s the perfect movie about suicide to get you in the holiday mood. 130 minutes. Unrated. (Opens Monday 12/16 at Flix Brewhouse, Century Rio)

**National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation (1989)**

**The Polar Express (2004)**
The simple story of this computer-generated toy has a skeletal kid boarding a magical train to the North Pole and meeting Santa Claus. The “photo-realistic” CGI was faintly impressive from a technical perspective way back in 2004, but is still flat-out creepy to watch. 100 minutes. G. (Saturday 12/14 at Movies 8, Movies West)

**Sherlock Jr. (1924)**
Comic legend Buster Keaton stars in this silent film classic about a movie projectionist who daydreams himself into the movies he’s showing—including one about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s master detective. Double-featured with The Navigator. 45 minutes. Unrated. (Opens Tuesday 12/31 at Guild Cinema)

**They Shall Not Grow Old (2018)**
Peter Jackson (The Lord of the Rings series) directs this humble historical documentary about World War I, featuring never-before-seen footage, to commemorate the centennial of the conflict’s end. 99 minutes. R. (Opens Tuesday 12/17 at Century 14 Downtown)

**STILL PLAYING**

**21 Bridges**
Chadwick Boseman (Black Panther) stars in this taut but familiar crime thriller about an embattled NYPD detective thrust into a manhunt for a pair of cop killers. In order to stop them, he takes the unprecedented step of shutting down all 21 bridges out of Manhattan Island, uncovering a citywide conspiracy in the process. 93 minutes. R. (AMC Albuquerque 12, Century 14 Downtown, Century Rio, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Winrock Stadium 16 IMAX & RPX)

**A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood**
Beloved actor Tom Hanks takes on the role of stylist’s wish for her to move into assisted living by embarking on an adventure she and her father had always longed for—a trip to the Scottish Highlands to climb the world famous Mt. Suilven. Along the way, she hires young camping shop owner Jonny (Kevin Guthrie) to be her guide. Despite the generational differences, Jonny encourages Edie to fulfill her dream, 102 minutes. Unrated. (Opens Friday 12/20 at Guild Cinema)

**Ford v Ferrari**
James Mangold (Walk the Line, Logan) directs this historical biopic about the time legendary American car designer Carroll Shelby (Matt Damon) and infamous English race car racer Ken Miles (Christian Bale) took on the seemingly impossible task of trying to build a vehicle fast enough to beat iconic Italian sports car manufacturer Ferrari at 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1966. 152 minutes. PG-13. (Flix Brewhouse, AMC Albuquerque 12, Century 14 Downtown, Century Rio, Cottonwood Stadium 16, High Ridge, Icon Cinemas Albuquerque, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, Winrock Stadium 16 IMAX & RPX)
and Olaf (Josh Gad) must leave the kingdom of Arendelle to travel to an ancient, autumn-bound forest and discover the origin of Elsa’s mysterious powers—and, you know, save the guy. (The story’s biblical namesake, Black Nativity). Cynthia Erivo (Bad Times at the El Royale) stars as the extra-ordinary woman whose escape from Segregation-tainted South laid the tracks for the Underground Railroad, which allowed hundreds of slaves to make the perilous journey to freedom in the North. 125 minutes. PG-13. (Century 14 Downtown)

Honey Boy
Occasionally tiresome indie actor Sha LaBeouf wrote this autobiographical drama about a hot-headed young actor (Lucas Hedges from Manchester By the Sea and Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri) sent to rehab after a DUI arrest. The mangy-looking, scraggly starlet and childhood chum under the thumb of a ne’er-do-well father with mental health issues. LaBeouf plays the father—that is to say, his own thinly disguised father—which is enough to make audiences wonder if this is a conventional indie drama or a form of art therapy for its creator. 94 minutes. R. (Century Rio)

Jojo Rabbit
Taika Waititi, What We Do In the Shadows, Thor: Ragnarok) writes, directs and stars (as Adolf Hitler) in this irreverent, occasionally surreal and surprisingly big-hearted dрама. Our titular Jojo (Roman Griffin Davis) is an undersized German kid who wants desperately to be a good Nazi. Unfortunately, he’s too sensitive and kindhearted. But that doesn’t stop him from forming unlikely alliances with his imaginary childhood friend Hitler (Waititi). But when Jojo finds a young Jewish girl hidden in the attic by his conscientious mother (Saoirse Ronan), he experiences a crisis of dogma (and grows up just a little). This is a tough-tonal balancing act, and Waititi nails both the silly satire and the painful drama—even if the story is ultimately a slight one. Reviewed in v28 i44, 108 minutes. PG-13. (Century 14 Downtown)

Jumanji: The Next Level
Dwayne Johnson, Karen Gillan, Jack Black and Kevin Hart are back as a group of friends transported back into their digital avatars in the magical video game Jumanji. This time around, the game is broken, and the quartet find themselves fighting new and different digital landscapes—from snowy mountain tops to arid deserts. Awkwafina, Nick Jonas and Danny DeVito are among the many new characters for this go-around. In this one, the family of a crew of rugged, manly, muscle-bound firefighters who rescue three rambunctious kids from a major California wildfire only to end up taking care of them in the firehouse. Hijinks ensue! Fans of comedy involving people getting bonked on the head, falling on their buttocks or otherwise getting in the time-honored tradition of pratfalls will certainly laugh their guts out with this one. Also poop and fart jokes. So many poop and fart jokes. 96 minutes. PG. (AMC Albuquerque 12, Century 14 Downtown, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema)

Playmobil: The Movie
Warner Bros. made a lot of money on The LEGO Movie, so it was only a matter of time before the toy line’s less popular German equivalent jumped in with its own CGI spin-off. In it, two orphaned kids find themselves transported into a tiny Playmobil alphabet world. Directed by Dan Radcliffe’s ex-Girlfriend Gugu Gaffigan, Adam Lambert, Kenan Thompson and Meghan Trainor provide voices for the various (resourceful pirates to robots to Vikings to Super Spies). Honestly, it’s as bland and derivative as it sounds. 99 minutes. (AMC Albuquerque 12, Century 14 Downtown, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Rio Rancho Premiere Cinema, CocoWalk Studio 16, Icon Cinemas Albuquerque, Movies 8, West)

Queen & Slim
A young guy on the make (Daniel Kaluuya, Get Out) and a self-serious lawyer (Jodie Turner-Smith, “Nightfyvers”) meet a Tinder date but it is off horrifically. As he takes her home, however, the two run afoul of a belligerent cop. The traffic stop goes from bad to deadly when the officer pulls his gun. “Slim” acts in self defense, saving “Queen”—but killing the officer. Suddenly these two unwitting fugitives, who more or less hate one another, are forced to embark on a cross-country Thelma & Louise-style flight in a vintage turquoise Pontiac Catalina. R. (73-year-old Sylvester Stallone) has retired to the roof of her apartment and vows to return the magical furry fellow to his home atop Mount Everest. 97 minutes. PG. (Movies 8, Movies West)

The Addams Family
Charles Addams’ endured ghoul cartoon characters return (appropriately enough) in computer-animated form. The all-star voice cast includes Oscar Isaac (Gomez), Charlize Theron (Morticia), Chloë Grace Moretz (Wednesday), Finn Wolfhard (Pugsley), Nick Kroll (Uncle Fester), Bette Midler (Grandma) and Snook Dogg (Cousin It)—all of whom are given free rein to bring their eccentrical characters to life. Unfortunately, the Addamses’ latest cinematic outing wasn’t so boggling in its creative misfire. 87 minutes. PG. (Movies 8, Movies West)

Arctic Dogs
Jeremy Renner, Angelica Huston, James Franco, Alec Baldwin, John Cleeve and Heidi Klum provide voices (eh, it pays the bills) for this computer-animated Canadian cartoon about a fox who works for a packaging delivery service and stumbles across a secret lair of an evil warlord who wants to melt the Arctic. 93 minutes. PG. (Movies West)

Countdown
A smartphone app predicts people’s deaths in this origin-of-life variation on Final Destination/One Missed Call/The Ring. 90 minutes. PG-13. (Movies 8, Movies West)

Gemini Man
Eisner’s graphic novel about an over-the-hill hitman (Will Smith), and he’s obliged to do battle with his younger replacement (Will Smith, but CGI). Ang Lee (The Life of Pi, Breaking Bad) makes the switch, for some reason. 117 minutes. PG-13. (Movies 8, Movies West)

Hustlers
Jennifer Lopez, Constance Wu, Julia Stiles, Keke Palmer, Cardi B and a group of strippers in NYC who decide to embezzle money from the stock traders and CEOS who visit their club during the late-2000s financial crisis. 109 minutes. R. (Movies 8, Movies West)

Little Women (2018)
Louisa May Alcott’s classic novel gets the modern-day update you never knew it needed. Unknown young actresses (Marielle Heller, Sarah Durham, Allie Jennings and Elsie Jones) star as the teenage March sisters who live in “genteel poverty” and deal with such hurdles as the American Civil War, underage marriage and scarlet fever. (I’m guessing those will be among the first things to change in the update.) 123 minutes. PG-13. (Winrock Stadium 16 IMAX & RPX)

Motherless Brooklyn
Jonathan Lethem’s award-winning 1999 detective novel finally gets a cinematic adaptation, courtesy of director Edward Norton, who also plays the screwy tail-pursuing, vis-à-vis being derailed, infant-franchised from society and reinventing himself as an outsized supremacist for the ages. Reviewed in v28 i41, but (maybe) this time around... R. (Century 14 Downtown, Century Rio, Winrock Stadium 16 IMAX & RPX)

Rambo: Last Blood
Seems that ass-kicking Vietnam vet John Rambo (73-year-old Sylvester Stallone) has retired to the quiet life as a rural Southwest rancher. Unfortunately (and somewhat inevitably), members of an evil Mexican drug cartel kidnaps his young niece. Silly drug cartel. 89 minutes. R. (Movies 8, Movies West)

Terminator: Dark Fate
James Cameron returns as producer (but not as direct or screenwriter) for this sci-fi sequel, which ignores the last few Terminator films and functions as a direct sequel to 1991’s Terminator 2: Judgment Day. Seems that the apocalyptic Judgment Day was merely postponed, forcing waitress-turned-assassins Sarah Connor and Cameron Diaz to try to stop the new bad guy, an unstoppable hybrid...of HALEN and Abigail Breslin) return, facing off against some frighteningly evolved zombies with the help of some new additions (Zoe Deutch, Rosario Dawson). 99 minutes. (Century 14 Downtown, Century Rio, Cottonwood Stadium 16, Movies 8, Movies West)

SECOND RUN
Abominable
DreamWorks Animation’s (Shrek, Kung Fu Panda) returns with a cuddly, kid-centric fable about a Shanghai teen who encounters a runaway yeti on the roof of her apartment and vows to return the magical furry fellow to his home atop Mount Everest. 97 minutes. PG. (Movies 8, Movies West)

The Life of Pi, Brokeback Mountain
Directed by the late-2000s financial crisis. 109 minutes. R. (Movies 8, Movies West)

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I don’t know what else to tell you. This album is amazing. I listen to music all the time. At work, at home in the evening and morning and while driving all around The Duke City. I am jamming to everything I can cram into my brain. My doctor says this has resulted in a neurological condition called hyperthymesia. Don’t worry, I’ll live, especially if I can listen to this record over and over during the few days between now and Christmas.

That will be my gift to myself because I do spend all damn day doing it with the musical muse and danged if I don’t occasionally stumble onto the mother lode—and get to listen to and write about it besides.

In this case, I’m not going to talk influence or directionality. Each of the songs on Caruthers’ new work is singular and clear and quick and detached and produced with passion and precision. The dude can bat it outta the park with hooks that are hotter than hell.

This is clearly a case of the same sort of genius possessed by a small number unsung American pop music composers who absorb everything they hear. How else do you account for the nuance and syncopation on rockers like “Dahlia” or the baroque dream-pop on “But Still.”

Seriously, I was going to write this review as a short one, full of punch and politics, but this album is so damn good, I must continue writing about it as I listen for at least the tenth time this morning.

Caruthers’ skill as a rock arranger comes through on each of the tracks on this 14-piece hot rocks dinner and his powers of introspection are matched by his ability to play. “Some People’s Amusements” is simple enough, but what begins as a dark ballad with sentimental falsetto transitions into an epic pop rock extravaganza, rich with sonic detours as well as musical truths. Caruthers says during that song that “Cordelia finds it bizarre,” but this is a kind of weird that is more than rewarding to engage; it’s absolutely liberating.

Caruthers’ maximalist aesthetic carries much weight on this record, but it all seems to emanate from simple structures that the artist meticulously builds into powerfully stated but totally accessible musical moments, from shimmeringly sad evenings remembered, as on track 3, “Over Coffee,” to the canned no wave-badassery evident on the next tune, “Workers, Artists And Stars."

Rocanrol is about command and control and the freedom that comes through grasping certain inevitable sonic structures. In Caruthers’ case, the musician has learned the deep secrets used to build that musical ark and uses them joyfully to create his own world. And that rocks.

“Wow, do you think you’re going to be able to cram two weeks’ worth of rocking events into a half-page preview column?” August March practically shouted at me as he approached the office in his moza while some OG tuneage by Outkast poured out of the speakers like liquid Southern summer sunshine in the middle of a New Mexican autumn.

“Well, just watch me,” I gravely intoned, as I raised a bowl of guitar picks—upon which lay a crossed pencil and drumstick—into the air and began humming the tune to “Kim Smoertz” by Ween.

“Darn good,” March replied with a tolerant smile, curling his lip as we headed for rocklandia.

**Friday, Dec. 20**

Eva Torrez, a mainstay of the New Mexico music scene who specializes in Latinx dance and rock music—she had a hit in 1989 with the song “Los Ojos de Mi Madre”—will be joined onstage by Burqueño guitarist Ray Lucero (otherwise known as “Rockin’ Ramon”) for a Rockin’ Christmas Show at the Barelas Event Center (907 Fourth Street SW). This big community dance will also feature the music of John Vigil, Geneva Esquivel and Larry Tafoya. It’s bound to be a traditionally twinkling sprinkled with red and green. 6pm • $15 • All-ages.

**Saturday, Dec. 21**

Someone on the staff at Weekly Alibi just read an article about how they celebrated Christmas in the old world compared to similar December celebrations in the modern United States. It turn out that Euro-Xmas can be quite a bit more frightening for expectant kids. We have a fat and jolly elf who delivers toys; they have Krampus. He’s expectant kids. We have a fat and jolly elf who delivers toys; they have Krampus. He’s a crossed pencil and drumstick—into the air and began humming the tune to “Kim Smolzr” by Ween.

**Sunday, Dec. 22**

Levi Platero, a for-real bluesman from Dinéteh, releases his latest CD at Launchpad (618 Central Ave. SW) on Sunday, Dec. 22. Platero is renowned for his straight-ahead style and super chops. A frequent award winner in Weekly Alibi’s Best of Burque Music Reader’s Poll, Platero will be performing with his band, an estimable quartet that can handle the blues as well as they rock, making for a sound that—while focused on Platero’s bluesy expertise—highlights the rocking blues ensemble playing at its best. CW Ayon Duo and Innastate open. 8pm • $10 • 21+.

**Saturday, Dec. 28**

Whoa, bro, is there ever gonna be a savage show over at Launchpad (618 Central Ave. SW) on Saturday, Dec. 28. It’s, like, all about the jams, brothers and sisters, when the city’s best and most badass Grateful Dead tribute band, Let It Grow, is joined onstage by Morning Mushroom and, for heaven’s sake, freakin’ Phishkid. These three bands will be getting it on with such hep, spaceworthy vibes that you’ll wanna toss your shoes at the ceiling and dance, dance, dance all night! It’s alright; everyone else will be doing it, too. Plus the Launchpad is warm and cozy, so what the hell, it’ll be a damp hippie sock hop! 9pm • $10 presale, $15 at the door • 21+.
The Big Spank at 20

Rollin’ with that big bad band

BY AUGUST MARCH

I dare you to name the names of the Burque bands who have been successfully gigging for the past 20 years.

Ok, time’s up, cowpards. I know your list is gonna be a short one, including the names of stellar outfits like Concepto Tambor and maybe even radically altered-but-with-the-same-name outfits like The Shines. Otherwise, they’ve certainly come and gone. You’re about as likely to hear a reunion concert by Bring Back Dad as you are to find that UNM class ring you left sitting on the fabled bar at the Golden West Saloon back in 1997.

But, in the meantime, if you get to the top of that rarified directory without thinking about The Big Spank, then you’re the rare one, cowboy. After all, Weekly Alibi readers voted The Big Spank into the Number One position for Best Band Ever in our 2018 Best of Burque Music Reader’s Poll. And they’ve been contributing members to the local music scene for more than two decades now, including the release of the critically acclaimed album Ese Gallo a couple years ago.

These cats have a sound that’s as universal as it is fun and supremely danceable. With a killer combination of ska, reggae and Latinx music—from Nuevo Mexican rancheras to Cuban cumbias—mixed lovingly into a sound guided by bandleader and vocalist Mike Garcia, The Big Spank is the essence of upbeat—musically, thematically and philosophically, too.

The current lineup, consisting of Garcia, lead guitarist Javier Sandoval, bassist Christopher Tickner, drummer Bert Lujan and trombonist Retzen, have been playing together for the past 13 years. This Friday, Dec. 20, the band celebrates its 20 years on the scene with a huge sonic shindig at Launchpad.

The Saturday before that historic gig goes off, August March and Alibi Assistant Art Director Corey Yazzie drove up to the humble hogan where the band was practicing. Inside ezte chante it was loud and vibrant and 20 years of good vibes—and the lead singer—were bouncing off the walls as March began his conversation with the esteemed quintet.

Weekly Alibi: This morning, I read through the 20-year anniversary story Weekly Alibi did on you all. It was written by Simon McCormack, I believe. And it made me think, “Wow, man, these guys have been around and were part of the scene that was super-huge.” And of course, you all are still here! Tell me some more.

Mike Garcia: Concepto Tambor has their 20-year music anniversary coming up in two years.

Javier Sandoval: That’s how I met these guys. I was playing in Concepto Tambor. A lot of the musicians are still around; they’re just playing in different bands now.

I’ve started to notice that, too, especially in the world music and jazz scenes around town. There’s a central cast of characters that has been at it, working hard for as

The Big Spank

many as 30 years. But tell me a little bit about The Big Spank.

Mike: We haven’t played as regularly as we would have liked in the past 5 years. But we do several shows a year.

Retzen: We’re select. Fun shows.

Mike: Yeah, fun shows. We toured a lot. So after that, we decided to play just the shows we want to play, not the shows we have to play.

For awhile you guys were touring all over the country in a converted school bus.

We lived full time in our tour bus. We converted it.

Retzen: Two years, five guys, full time. Everyone within arms’ reach of each other.

It says something that you all are still able to be here today in a small room, jamming out. It takes a certain personality to sustain that sort of thing. Two hours of practice is hard, even compared to sleeping in a different Walmart parking lot every night.

Mike: We had a lot of adventures!

It sounds pretty cool, though. Those sorts of adventures are tales of beatnik glory, really.

Retzen: That was coast to coast twice.

Javier Sandoval: Also, we didn’t know any better.

Retzen: Diesel was, like, five bucks a gallon.

Mike: During 2007 and 2008, gas prices really changed and diesel was 50 cents more per gallon. The first year, we ran the numbers. We spent $20,000 on diesel fuel for the bus.

But you survived. You’re still here and rocking. Tell me a little bit about that. How’s that going?

It feels good to be rehearsing for a 20-year anniversary show. It’s pretty cool.

Bert Lujan: We love Albuquerque. We love the people here. We mean, it feels really good to be part of the scene. Albuquerque has a really great music scene. We’re still here for the love, the people we meet at shows, the people who come out that we’ve known for so long. We just couldn’t stop.

You know what I wanna say. That mumble rap thing is the big path rap is taking right now. It’s so different than the hip-hop from ‘98, not in terms of the instrumentation, but rather the delivery.

And that’s bled into a lot of different styles in pop music today.

What’s up with that?

Javier: You just make up lyrics; it doesn’t even have to rhyme.

I’m glad we’re having this conversation. I was afraid to bring it up with our peers.

Mike: I started listening to it for two reasons. Number One: I don’t wanna get taste freeze. Number Two: I listen to enough shitty rap to sieve out the not so shitty rap. I’ve got a taste for it now. There’s a difference between the real artists and the ones who just drank so much lean that they’re mumbling.

Javier: In any genre, there are going to be real, authentic creators and then the followers who come after.

Tell our readers about your big gig, coming at Burque this weekend.

Retzen: It’s celebratory. You know, the Launchpad’s only a couple of years older than us. I remember when I brought Joe Anderson a cassette tape that I made on a boombox of the band playing some of the raunchiest punk rock you can imagine. It was all 90-second songs like “Fuck You” and “Abortion Is Murder.” That was our first demo, but it had some ska on it. It’s celebration about making music for 20 years. Mike’s our primary songwriter. If it wasn’t for good songs, we wouldn’t have made it for so long. And so we’ll keep playing.

If someone who heard your live show—they could be young or could be old, maybe someone who’s not from Burque; they could even be from the future or something—listened all night and danced like crazy then approached you afterwards and asked, “What’s The Big Spank and why do I love it?” what would you tell them?

Javier: I think Bert nailed it when he said it was fun music.

Mike: Our live show has good energy and people leave thinking, “What the funk just happened?”

Retzen: It speaks to people’s souls. They feel free when they hear us. 0
Yow, There Goes 2019!

The year in music, examined

**BY AUGUST MARCH**

On Earth, the humans wake and sleep and eat and make things. One of the things they make is music, a sort of organized system of sounds that convey meaning that goes well beyond the boundaries of language. Since there are a lot of them and because music comes as naturally as eating or waking or sleeping to a fairly vast number of those fragile, strong and sentient beings, a lot of music gets made in one year on the planet called Earth.

Here in a very tiny crevice in the Earth, the humans of the Middle Rio Grande were quite engaged this year in the aforementioned process. Let’s take a look at their musical activities for the year they call 2019. We’ll keep it telegraphic, so it sounds like it’s coming from a transdimensional entity tasked with observing you cabrones.

**January**

Dillon Cullinan’s project, Adult Beverage, played a really fine show at Sister on Jan. 4. Dude moved on to CaliFux, but his influence can still be heard in the local psych scene. Space rockers Atonounaut released a kickbutt album called Inner Space Vol. 2. Thursday Night Night Girl Fight celebrated their tenth year with a concert at the Launchpad that featured those funky female collaborators of Rettin. Chicharra, hONEyUSEx released a wonderfully piquant CD titled Kick Up The Dust while Dust City Opera rose from dirt city with an exciting new Americana-ish twist at month’s end.

**February**

The month that sometimes features a false spring here in the Burkes started off with an authentic performance of Paul Simon’s Graceland by local jam masters Pherkad on Friday, Feb. 8. By the middle of the month, hot and wonderfully piquant CD titled Chicharra by local jam masters Cabrones.

**April**

To start the month off with a bang, we interviewed the longawaited high desert space-rock gang called SuperGiant and then, wanting to top off that big Burque music talk, talked to M.O. Music, the winner of this year’s BOB Music hip-hop music category. April also saw the release of the album Dream Trails by the late, great Albuquerque rapper Def-I. Folk punk provocateur Cactus Warmuth dropped Attackuss at month’s end, proving that the genre called punk rock still had a chance to conquer some new ears in an otherwise rapped-out town.

**May**

In May, they built a Monolith on the Mesa. It was out by Taos, yo, and it happened to be the best thing to happen to heavy metal in this state since Randy Castillo rose up outta el Norte like a burning, drum-beating eagle demon. The two-day fest featured everyone who is anyone and local bands like Beard, The Horned God, Black Maria and Prey for Kali got props for properly repping Dirt City’s abundant, authentic and abysmally awesome metal scene. Pherkad, a jam band to be reckoned with, got our issue 20 cover—Cheese and all—while Manhigh talked to Weekly Alibi about their meteoric rise to recognition near the end of the month. Meanwhile, Prism Bitch continued their slow climb to national fame at an acoustic gig at Tractor Brewing. Wells Park right at the very beginning of June.

**June**

In June, Russell James, a stalwart of Burque’s Americana scene, packed his bags and headed out to Oregon. James talked about his musical journey in an exclusive interview published here. In issue 24, we had a fantastic conversation with Val James, one of this city’s most gifted young musicians and then tragically misspelled the names of members of Marty Crandall’s post-Shins project, Carrier Waves, in a review that turned some heads with its newish slang. By the end of the month, we were chatting with fellow City of Gold alumnus Ron Crowder, wondering whether “cholo Goth” was really a thing and listening with great joy to UNM professor Kristina Jacobsen’s new album of on-target Americana titled Shelter.

**July**

Mysterious and prolific folk-rock magician Fast Heart Mart made a special appearance at Marble Brewery on my birthday, July 6. That’s Albuquerque native Martin Stamper, in case you want to know, and he rocks. In other news, Pawn Drive, an outfit fronted by Alibi special forces technician Darrell Sparks, released a CD of a live performance at the Albuquerque Press Club from 2017 that absolutely proved who is the most handsome amongst them all. Skata Jay had a cool gig at the Launchpad on Thursday, July 11 and the New Mexico Jazz Festival began its 14th season on that same night. The next day, The NM Jazz Latino Orchestra played to a sold-out house at the Albuquerque Museum Amphitheater and the Graceland Superjam rocked the Marble Brewery at month’s terminus.

**August**

My favorite month started out with two notable album releases. Far left-field, post-horrorcore rapper SUMMON became ALONEWOLF and released one of the most compelling hip-hop records to come outta Burque in years. Jazmyn Crosby, recording as Glitter Vomit, dropped a record that defied simple categorization, filling both sides of that thick vinyl with noisy nuance and wondrously, sparkly sonic regurgitations from the mouth of life itself. In the middle of August, Festival Eclipsa came to Angel Fire and Amanda Machon of Burque’s inimitable Red Light Cameras was on that heady, heartfelt hill. As August reached its peak, Weekly Alibi charted with native New Mexican rocanrol legend Jimmy Stallings while Jeremy Barnes of A Hawk and a Hacksaw sat in.

**September**

On Sept. 5, Dave Payne and Salt Cedar released a sly and sublime embonpoint album that caused bassist Cory Van Minefee to tear up like it was something decreed by Boognish himself. In slightly more serious news, the local psych scene.

**October**

The tenth month of 2019 saw another delightful and dawn-busting Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta take flight while in the music section we talked jazz and funky soul with Ryan Montaño and up-and-coming guitarist Isaac Aragon of The Healing. Over at Sonic Reducer we considered the vastly lo-fi genius of fuggers’ cove’ latest, Execution Drone, while also examining the hauntingly beautiful sounds of LAD and Gypsy’s landmark record Penumbra. As All Hallow’s Eve approached, the Launchpad gave it up to a grateful Burque with at least three more iterations of the now-epic Night of the Living Cover Bands series; among the best of the best this year were Burque Sol covering Amy Winehouse, The Timewreckers, Big Sabbath and M.E. and Fury of Bandwidth No Name as Salt-N-Pepa. Oh, all that plus The Bellmont dropped a smashing record called Hide Your Tracks.

**November**

The middle of this past month saw the inevitable rise of country rockers August James & The Lovesick Symphony as the band invaded Alibi HQ before a particularly tasty show at the Launchpad. Rosie Hutchinson, a Burqueña composer with salt, sanity and subtle connections to heaven, released a deeply affecting record, too. It’s titled Hosie and it’s a holy thing, we think. As the month proceeded into December, we also charted with Mayling Garcia about and mysterious musical instrument invented by Ben Franklin.

**December**

December means winter holidays and we figured that Entourage Jazz was the perfect seasonal rep for local musical excursions into the festive fun waiting under the trees and menorahs at winter’s glorious gate. Last week, the music department at Weekly Alibi told you all about Manny Rettinger, the mythic sound engineer from The Duke City who may have been responsible for the local music you are listening to right now. Speaking of right now, that’s a wrap. I’m ready for the first paid vacation in, like, 2020 years. See you in 2020.
DECEMBER 19, 2019 - JANUARY 1, 2020
WEEKLY ALIBI

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THE RIDDIMS • GOOD GREEN
DJ BUDDHAFUNK

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TOM WAITS FOR CHRISTMAS, VOL. 5

Sunday DEC 22 7:00pm Doors
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CD RELEASE
INNASTATE
CW AYON DUO

Friday DEC 27 8:00pm Doors
WINTER WRECKING BALL
LILITH • VOID DANCER
CONSTANT HARMONY
ALL THICC

Saturday DEC 28 8:00pm Doors
LET IT GROW
PHERKAD
MORNING MUSHROOM

Sunday DEC 29 7:00pm Doors
TESTIFY
A TRIBUTE TO RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE
KNIFEPRY
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GREEN DRUID
ANESTHESIA
BLUE HERON
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Saturday JAN 4 8:00pm Doors
ABQ START MAKING SENSE 2020!
A TRIBUTE TO THE TALKING HEADS

Sunday JAN 11 8:00pm Doors
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Year In Review

Our favorite dispensaries and strains
It’s been a wild year for all of us. The world seems to be falling apart outside our window, and all we can do is sink further into our nests while watching another season of “Friends” on Netflix. The Constant War rages on, quantum computers trade information with parallel universes, and you’re still paying for cable. We cry to God, Krishna, Quetzalcoatl and Superman for deliverance, but a voice from Heaven just answers: “Hold on a minute. I want to see where this thing is going.”

Thank goodness we have cannabis. While the world was degenerating into a tangerine hippie fantasy that can bring an immediate smile to fans of citrus and candy. It notably improves mood and can induce extreme fits of giggling. It’s also been known to make you a drooling mess staining the couch. Its heady powers are legendary. Expect to be turned into a staring zombie with nothing useful to say. This strain is perfect for those suffering from insomnia, headaches and chronic pain. It also pairs well with daytime talk shows.

Favorite Strains
Tangie—This tasty strain is bright and citrusy. A classic sativa-dominant, Tangie is perfect fare for anyone approaching cannabis to treat depression or anxiety. The taste and smell alone are enough to brighten your day. As the name implies, Tangie smells like a tangerine hippie fantasy that can bring an immediate smile to fans of citrus and candy. It notably improves mood and can induce extreme fits of giggling. It’s also been known to make people very talkative so keep that in mind before placing flame to bud.

Harle Tsu—Lou-THC, high-CBD strains are finally starting to catch people’s attention. Blasting into outer space on a THC rocket ship isn’t always practical. And for patients suffering from epileptic seizures, getting high doses of CBD is crucial for their health. But there still aren’t a ton of varieties out there. Harle Tsu is a classic CBD strain that is known for its sweet flavor profile and soothing effects. It can tame anxiety and pain, leaving patients feeling refreshed and calm. This strain is great for those needing relief from inflammation.

Girl Scout Cookies—The best hybrids on the market are still Girl Scout Cookies and its derivatives. It tastes as sweet as its name would have you believe and smells comforting. The effects of this incredible strain are what make it stand out, though. Relieves pain? Check. Battles inflammation? Check. Enhances mood? Check-o-roony. This strange hybrid has the power to relax patients’ bodies while leaving their minds sharp and focused and their dispositions sunny.
Prepare For Update
Weed news in 2019

It's time to blow the last decade to smithereens! Usually, I'm terrified of change. These days, I'm scared of things staying the same. Have you been listening to the current state of hip-hop? Dreadful.

Of course the future is still scary as hell. It looks like Kanye will be keeping his promise not to run for president in 2020, but he also seems to be sticking to his guns about running in 2024. I'm absolutely terrified about what the one-joke-issue voters out there will make of all this. There's a saying in the world of realpolitik: “When Kanye rises, the empire sets.” It sounded like gibberish 20 years ago, but look where we are today.

Cannabis, on the other hand, seems to be doing splendidly. It's on a roll to win the hearts and minds of the American people in 2020, a shocking change from years gone by. A recent Pew poll found that two-thirds of the country supports legalization of recreational marijuana and 90 percent support legalization of medical cannabis. Chew on that.

In case you've been too busy watching “The Mandalorian” to keep up, here's what you missed in marijuana news last year.

Patient Bump
According to the most recent New Mexico Department of Health statistics, there are 78,810 active patients enrolled in the state's Medical Cannabis Program. That's almost four percent of the population. You can compare that to the 66,725 patients enrolled at this time last year and the 45,374 that were enrolled at the end of 2017.

The qualifying condition for the largest portion of patients by far is post-traumatic stress—affecting over 40,000 patients. The second largest portion is taken by severe chronic pain, at over 26,000 patients. The portion of patients by far is post-traumatic stress—affecting over 40,000 patients. The second largest portion is taken by severe chronic pain, at over 26,000 patients.

About a third of all patients enrolled in the program reside in Bernalillo County. There are 215 out-of-state patients enrolled in the program.

“Did you say out of state?”

Read on, dear friend, read on …

Nonresident Medical Cards
Back in June, a bizarre back-and-forth started up between the NMDOH and a group of nonresidents that would ultimately lead to 215 out-of-state patients being accepted into the state’s Medical Cannabis Program.

With the passage of Senate Bill 406, the medical cannabis expansion bill, a number of big changes were put on the books. One change was the wording of a phrase. A "qualified patient" was originally defined as a “resident of New Mexico,” but new wording defined it as merely a “person.”

Lawmakers said they'd changed the wording to allow for a new reciprocity program that would allow nonresidents enrolled in their own state's medical programs to partake in ours. But a group of people seemingly led by Ultra Health CEO and Arizona resident Duke Rodriguez filed a lawsuit against the Department, claiming that the new language meant nonresidents should be allowed to participate in the program.

It sounds crazy, but a judge actually agreed with the plaintiffs and ordered the DOH to start issuing cards to nonresidents. Now, you might actually bump into a Texan or Arizonan while buying your meds.

The state is still trying to reverse the order, so we’ll have to see how it pans out in 2020.

Medical Marijuana Changes
Senate Bill 406, “Medical Marijuana Changes,” passed into law earlier this year.

We’ve only seen some of the changes implemented so far, but a number of improvements were made to the program and the laws governing it. It was the first major statutory change to be made to the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act since its inception in 2007.

Under SB 406, the renewal period for registration in the medical program has been extended from one year to three. Students enrolled in the program who attend public schools are now allowed to be administered medical cannabis at school. THC concentration in cannabis products will no longer be limited by the Department of Health. Patients enrolled in another state’s medical cannabis program are given immunity from arrest for consuming or possessing cannabis “if the quantity of cannabis does not exceed the limit identified by department rule.” It also bars employers from taking “an adverse employment action against an applicant or an employee based on conduct allowed under the Lynn and Erin Compassionate Use Act.”

Decriminalization
Earlier this year, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the “Decrease Marijuana Penalties” bill into law, officially decriminalizing cannabis possession.

Under the new law, anyone caught with less than a half-ounce of cannabis or paraphernalia in their possession will be subject to a $50 fine and issued a penalty assessment (which is not considered a criminal conviction). First-time offenders with more than half an ounce but less than an ounce will be found guilty of a misdemeanor and punished with a fine of not less than $50 and not more than $100 and not more than $1,000 or by imprisonment for less than a year.

Vape Scare
Just as quickly as the mania came, it seems to have passed again. A slew of vaping-related lung injuries were cropping up all over the nation back in October, frightening parents of teens and giving tobacco lobbyists ammo against the vaping industry.

Turns out, the culprit was an additive called Vitamin E acetate. Unscrupulous black market dealers were cutting THC oil cartridges with the stuff and have caused a total of 2,409 hospitalizations. The Centers for Disease Control confirmed 52 deaths in 26 states and the District of Columbia as a result of vaping the bootleg cartridges.

In New Mexico, the DOH has confirmed 20 cases of vaping-related injuries. All of them were connected to illegal cartridges obtained through the black market. No legitimate cartridges made by licensed producers were implicated.

CBD and the Law
After the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, hemp was distinguished from “marijuana” and removed from the list of controlled substances. A big push behind the move came from investors who wanted to capitalize on the CBD market and wished to produce hemp-derived CBD products.

This all seemed like a perfect plan until the federal Food and Drug Administration reminded everyone that CBD is the active ingredient in Epidiolex, a pharmaceutical drug used to treat a rare form of epilepsy. According to US law, no active ingredients used in pharmaceutical drugs can be sold over the counter. That meant that the only CBD products that could legally be sold in the US were topicals—no consumables like food or supplements. The FDA is currently in the process of setting up regulations that will bypass this rule and allow over-the-counter CBD products to be sold.

For the most part, the feds have kept their mitts off of CBD companies, but they have sent warning letters to those who are making specific health claims.

Several senators recently pressed the FDA to get a move on, and it seems like everybody but the agency is chomping at the bit for a resolution in 2020.

Legalization in 2019
New Mexico is still being sluggish about legalizing recreational cannabis, but we’re crossing our fingers that 2020 is our year.

In the meantime, recreational cannabis is legal in 11 states and Washington DC for adults over 21. Medical cannabis is legal in 33 states.

According to Forbes, there’s a chance we’ll see up to six other states legalize in 2020 (other than New Mexico), including New York, New Jersey, Arizona, Florida, Ohio and Montana. Not all of them have legislation ready to go, but the public support seems to be there.
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ARIES (March 21-April 19): The English word “hubris” means prideful, exaggerated self-assurance. In the HBO TV series *Rome*, the ancient Roman politician and general Mark Antony says to his boss Julius Caesar, “I’m glad you’re so confident. Some would call it hubris.” Caesar has a snappy comeback: “It’s only hubris if I fail.” I’m tempted to dare you to use that as one of your mottoes in 2020, Aries. I have a rather expansive vision of your capacity to accomplish great things during the coming months. And I also think that one key to your triumphs and breakthroughs will be your determination to cultivate a well-honed aplomb, even audacity.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I won’t be surprised if you’re enamored and amorous more than usual in 2020. I suspect you will experience delight and enchantment at an elevated rate. The intensity and depth of the feelings that flow through you may break all your previous records. Is that going to be a problem? I suppose it could be if you worry that the profuse flows of tenderness and affection will render you weak and vulnerable. But if you’re willing and eager to interpret your extra sensitivity as a superpower, that’s probably what it will be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Composer Igor Stravinsky was born a Russian citizen, but later in life became a French citizen, and still later took on American citizenship. If you have had any similar predilections, Libra, I’m guessing they won’t be in play during 2020. My prediction is that you will develop a more robust sense of where you belong than ever before. Any uncertainties you’ve had about where your true power spot lies will dissipate. Questions you’ve harbored about the nature of home will be answered. With flair and satisfaction, you’ll resolve long-running riddles about home and community.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Does the word “spirit” mean anything to you? Or are you numb to it? Has it come to seem virtually meaningless—a foggy abstraction used carelessly by millions of people to express sentimental beliefs and avoid clear thinking? In accordance with astrological omens, I’ll ask you to create a sturdier and more vigorous definition of “spirit” for your practical use in 2020. For instance, you might decide that “spirit” refers to the life force that launches you out of bed each morning and motivates you to keep transforming yourself into the ever-more beautiful soul you want to become.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “Friendship is a very taxing and arduous form of leisure activity,” wrote philosopher and educator Mortimer Adler. He was exaggerating a bit for comic effect, but he was basically correct. We all must mobilize a great deal of intelligence and hard work to initiate new friendships and maintain existing friendships. But I have some very good news about how these activities will play out for you in 2020, Scorpio. I expect that your knack for practicing the art of friendship will be at an all-time high. I also believe that your close alliances will be especially gratifying and useful for you. You’ll be well-rewarded for your skill and care at cultivating rapport.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the English language, the prefix “re” comes at the beginning of many words with potent transformational meaning: reinvent; redeem; rediscover; release; relieve; redesign; rethink. With potent transformational meaning: reinvent. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) wrote about marshes with supreme artistry. Until the age of 60, her poetic output was less than abundant. But she went on to write about reeds and herons and muddy water, my favorite that ecosystem more than any other. While communing with reeds and herons and muddy water, I know that Leo, you are high standards. Secondly, Capricorn, you will be especially gratifying and useful for you. You’ll be well-rewarded for your skill and care at cultivating rapport.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): For years I’ve lived in a house bordering a wetland, and I’ve come to love that ecosystem more than any other. While communing with reeds and herons and muddy water, my favorite poet has been Taurus-born Lorine Niedecker, who wrote about marshes with supreme artistry. Until the age of 60, her poetic output was less than abundant because she had to earn a meager living by cleaning hospital floors. Then, due to a fortuitous shift in circumstances, she was able to leave that job and devote more time to what she loved most and did best. With Niedecker’s breakthrough as our inspiration, I propose that we do all we can, you and I, as we conspire to make 2020 the year you devote more time to the activity that you love most and do best.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): “There are people who take the heart out of you, and there are people who put it back,” wrote author Charles de Lint. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, your heart will encounter far more of the latter than the former types of people in 2020. There may be one wrangler who tries to take the heart out of you, but there will be an array of nurturers who will strive to keep the heart in you—as well as boosters and builders who will add even more heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 20): Composer Igor Stravinsky was born a Russian citizen, but later in life became a French citizen, and still later took on American citizenship. If you have had any similar predilections, Libra, I’m guessing they won’t be in play during 2020. My prediction is that you will develop a more robust sense of where you belong than ever before. Any uncertainties you’ve had about where your true power spot lies will dissipate. Questions you’ve harbored about the nature of home will be answered. With flair and satisfaction, you’ll resolve long-running riddles about home and community.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Historians once thought that 14th-century Englishmen were the first humans to track the rhythms of the planet Jupiter using the complicated mathematics known as calculus. But in 2015, researchers discovered that Babylonians had done it 1400 years before the Englishmen. Why was Jupiter’s behavior so important to those ancient people? They were astrologers! They believed the planet’s movements were correlated with practical events on earth, like the weather, river levels, and grain harvests. I think that this correction in the origin story of tracking Jupiter’s rhythms will be a useful metaphor for you in 2020. It’s likely you will come to understand your past in ways that are different from what you’ve believed up until now. Your old tales will change.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): China produces the most apples in the world. The United States is second. That wasn’t always true. When Europeans first reached the shores of the New World, crab apple was the only apple species that grew natively. But the invaders planted other varieties that they brought with them. They also imported the key to all future proliferation: honeybees, champion pollinators, which were previously absent from the land that many indigenous people called Turtle Island. I see 2020 as a time for you to accomplish the equivalent, in your own sphere, of getting the pollination you need. What are the fertilizing influences that will help you accomplish your goals?

Getting pollination: Aries

What are the fertilizing influences that will help you accomplish your goals? 

**Weekly Alibi**

**Homework:** Start dreaming about who you can be in 2020. My long-range audio horoscopes are here: [https://realastronomy.com](https://realastronomy.com)
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Across
1 Tres ___ cake
7 Dangerous reptiles
11 Indicted Giuliani associate Parnas
14 Breathe out
15 Monument Valley state
16 Windows file extension
17 100% correct
18 It may be an acquired taste
20 Comment about a loud blockbuster after thinking it was a Chaplin movie?
22 "___ Tu" (1974 hit song)
23 Shoe bottom
24 "Nailed It!" host Nicole
26 Mountain suffix
27 Permit
29 "Beefy" Trogdor feature
31 Academic URL ender
32 Fake device
34 "Where did ___ leave off?"
36 Phrase you won’t hear from me or other solvers?
39 Winding
41 Den-izens?
42 Planned Airbnb event in 2020
43 Throw in
46 "A Dream Within a Dream" writer
47 "Charlie's Angels" director, 2000
50 "That ___ funny"
52 Island with Pearl Harbor
54 Country singer McCann
55 Like the most lenient newspaper ever?
59 Word before band or papers
60 2001 A.L. MVP Suzuki
61 Pint at a pub
62 Service rank
63 Home-___ (local athlete)
64 "That's it"
65 Steering wheel adjunct
66 Finely decorated

Down
1 Apartment renter
2 Become invalid
3 Irascibility
4 Has no love for
5 Tesla CEO Musk
6 Airmailed
7 Pub quiz round format, maybe
8 "A Streetcar Named Desire" shout
9 Four-time Masters champion
10 It’s between the knee and the ankle
11 2020, for one
12 Goes beyond
13 "Oy ___!"
19 Summer cookout leftover
21 Aperture setting on a camera
25 9-to-5 grind
27 "Threepenny Opera" star Lotte
28 "Baudolino" author Umberto
30 Creator of Piglet and Pooh
32 Driver's license agcy.
33 "The King and I" star Brynner
35 "___ Miserables"
36 Hematite and pyrite
37 Close, as a jacket
38 Exhibit site
39 10% of MXX
40 High-end
44 Two-ended tile
45 De Niro’s wife in “Meet the Parents”
47 Smallest possible quantities
48 Bordeaux red wine
49 Apology
51 “American Chopper” network
53 Hulkamania figure
54 “Mean Girls” actress Lindsay
56 “Trouble’s in store”
57 “Mambo King” Puente
58 “Happy Birthday” writer
59 Indy 500 month

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