

# Man accused of stealing over \$20K in gasoline



Alfredo Hechavarria

*Police: Suspect allegedly used multiple vehicles to steal fuel*

**BY GREGORY R.C. HASMAN**  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

An Albuquerque man was recently arrested after allegedly trying to steal fuel from a Santa Fe gas station.

Alfredo Hechavarria, 37, of Albuquerque, is charged with larceny — over \$20,000 — receiving stolen property, possession of a controlled substance and criminal damage to property — over \$1,000. Hechavarria's wife, Dania Guerra, 37, is charged with multiple conspiracy charges.



Dania Guerra

Hechavarria and Guerra are being held at the Santa Fe County Adult Detention Center. It is unclear if they have attorneys.

The case is still under investigation, according to Santa Fe Deputy Chief of Police Ben Valdez.

At about 5:15 p.m. Friday, the Santa Fe Police Department received a call of possible fuel theft at a Speedway in the 2600 block of Sawmill, near St. Francis Drive.

When officers arrived, they found a man later identified as Hechavarria filling up a pickup. Officers learned that over the past few weeks he had altered a gas pump so the pump would dispense more fuel than it could

calculate. Hechavarria had also modified his truck with an additional fuel tank in the bed to contain large amounts of fuel. In total, more than \$20,000 in fuel had been taken, Valdez said.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office deputies went to Hechavarria's home and found an additional vehicle that has also been linked to several fuel theft incidents, which was seized as evidence, Valdez said.

"We thank the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in this case," Valdez said.

Gregory R.C. Hasman covers crime and is the road warrior. You can contact him at ghasman@abqjournal.com.



JON AUSTRIA/JOURNAL

**A hazard sign in the Navajo language posted on an abandoned pump jack in northwestern New Mexico.**

## DINÉ >>

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connection to this language long before they take formal classes.

For example, for Bahe, who grew up on the Navajo Nation with her grandparents, Navajo is her first language.

Additionally, Navajo student Lia Garcia's mom speaks Navajo to her, so she understands the language well, even though speaking it can be difficult. That's where school classes come in to help.

"I learned a lot through activities, mainly through games, and just digging deeper into the culture," said Garcia.

This connection to the language is what gives many students an interest in the formal classes.

"I never really took interest in it growing up, just 'cause I couldn't really see any value in it," said Wesley Kozad, a Navajo stu-

## Navajo Nation

About 11% of people in New Mexico are Indigenous, according to 2024 data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Though the census doesn't break that down by affiliation, Navajo Nation is the largest reservation in New Mexico — and the U.S.

dent at Cibola High School. "But as I grew up, I learned more about my traditions, I learned more about my culture, I learned more about why we need to start speaking it more."

As learning opportunities become more widespread, many Navajo students hope to see more integration of the Navajo language into New Mexican society. Kozad said there are a lot of Native tribes in New Mexico but "not enough recognition of them."

"It's unfortunately a dying language," Kozad said. "Not a lot of people know this language, so why shouldn't I go and try to help that cause?"



JESSICA BACA/JOURNAL

**The iconic Breaking Bad house, 3828 Piermont NE, has drawn curious visitors from around the world.**

## BREAKING >>

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300 cars stopping by daily and up to 1,000 during events like Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta. Fans from as far away as Greece come to snap photos, at times tossing pizzas on the roof to reenact one of the show's memorable moments — even prompting the owners to build a fence to dissuade pizza-throwers.

Having to repeatedly clean up pizzas from the roof wasn't necessarily the driving factor behind selling.

For the owner, deciding to find a

new home wasn't an escape from the house's fame, but rather an opportunity to "flip the chapter and start new," Christensen said.

"It's been a family home for decades," he said. "Toward the end, (the owner) was caring for her parents here. And after they passed, she felt it was time to start fresh."

The Journal was unable to reach the owner for comment.

While some homebuyers might not like the attention the home draws, the Christensen Group isn't targeting the typical family looking for a residential property. The team sees the 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house as a "global attraction," appealing to

buyers from outside New Mexico and possibly even outside the U.S.

"We're looking at it more of an investment property," said Christensen. "The likely buyer is someone looking to turn it into something for fans, like an Airbnb or a museum."

Indeed, Christensen Group agent Sonya Avila described the sale as giving the property to the fans.

"I think the owner just felt like it's time to give it up to the universe to see if there's a way that this house could be kind of locked into the lexicon and given to the fans," Avila said.

The listing can be found at walterwhiteshouse.com.



## Obituaries

### Carlos Fernandez

Carlos Fernandez, age 88 and long-time resident of Albuquerque, passed away peacefully Wednesday, December 25, 2024.

A Rosary will be recited Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 8:00am at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, followed by the Service of Christian Burial at 9:00am. Interment will follow at Vista Verde Memorial Park in Rio Rancho. Carlos' care has been entrusted to: Daniels Family Funeral Services, Alameda Mortuary. For more information, visit: [www.danielsfuneral.com](http://www.danielsfuneral.com).

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## LEAVE >>

From **PAGE A1**

was about \$51.3 million, according to the annual SPO compensation report released last month.

That's nearly double the cost from three years ago, when the cost of sick leave totaled \$25.7 million.

The Lujan Grisham administration announced in November 2022 it would be ending the remote work policy adopted during the pandemic and bringing employees who had been allowed to work from home back to the office.

The back-to-the-office

mandate took effect in February 2023, despite warnings from labor union leaders it could lead to a mass exodus of state employees.

Despite the approval of pay raises for state workers in each of the last seven years, the number of rank-and-file employees, or those subject to the state's classified employment system, has remained largely flat in recent years and some state agencies have struggled to lower stubbornly high vacancy rates.

Currently, the average annual base salary for classified employees in New Mexico is \$66,976, according to the SPO report. But the total compensation increas-

es to \$108,607 when health insurance, pension contributions and other benefits are factored in.

Meanwhile, state employees are also able to cash out up to 120 hours of accrued sick leave once per year at half their usual pay rate, though only accrued sick leave in excess of 600 hours is eligible for such a payout.

A larger amount of accrued sick leave can be paid out upon an employee's retirement.

Dan Boyd covers state government and politics for the Journal in Santa Fe. Follow him on Twitter at @DanBoydNM or reach him via email at dboyd@abqjournal.com.

Harvest Four Corners, LLC (Harvest), announces publication of a Stage 1 Abatement Plan for groundwater impacts identified at the Lateral L-2 natural gas pipeline release location at latitude 36.660818 degrees (°) and longitude -107.858526° in Section 14 of Township 28 North, Range 10 West in San Juan County, New Mexico.

On July 20, 2017, a pipeline leak was detected, and the pipeline was immediately shut-in and repaired. The soil surrounding the leak area was excavated and subsequent analytical results from initial soil sampling indicated no detected concentrations of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes (BTEX), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), or chloride. Groundwater was observed within the excavation at approximately 6 feet below ground surface. Seven temporary monitoring wells were installed to delineate horizontal impacts to groundwater. Benzene concentrations exceeding the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (NMQCC) standards were identified in shallow groundwater that infiltrated the excavation. The extent of groundwater impact has been fully delineated with a subsurface investigation. After subsequent sampling events, impacts to groundwater have naturally attenuated with no detectable concentrations of contaminants of concern. No surface water was impacted.

The Director of the NMQCC has approved a Stage 1 Abatement Plan in which Harvest demonstrated lateral delineation of impacted groundwater. The data obtained from the Stage 1 Abatement Plan will be combined with previously collected subsurface data to continue monitoring for rebound of groundwater impacts. In determining that the Stage 1 Abatement Plan is administratively complete, the NMQCC Director complied with Subsection B of 19.15.30.15 of the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) by reviewing the document and concluding that it satisfies the requirements of Subsection C of 19.15.30.13 NMAC.

Members of the public may view a copy of the Stage 1 Abatement Plan at the NMQCC's Santa Fe office at 1220 South St Francis Drive, # 3, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Additionally, the Stage 1 Abatement Plan is available for viewing electronically on the NMQCC public database at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/OCD>.

The NMQCC is accepting written comments and requests for consideration if the NMQCC Director receives them within 30 days after the date of publication of this public notice. A person seeking to comment on a stage 1 abatement plan should submit written comments to:

New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

The NMQCC shall distribute notice of the submittal of the Stage 1 Abatement Plan with the next division and commission hearing docket following receipt of the plan.

Additional information can be obtained from the Harvest project contact:

Monica Smith  
Harvest Four Corners, LLC  
1755 Arroyo Road  
Bloomfield, New Mexico 87413  
505-632-4625

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Members of the public may view a copy of the Stage 1 Abatement Plan at the NMOCD's Santa Fe office at 1220 South St Francis Drive, # 3, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Additionally, the Stage 1 Abatement Plan is available for viewing electronically on the NMOCD public database at <http://www.enmrd.state.nm.us/OCG>.

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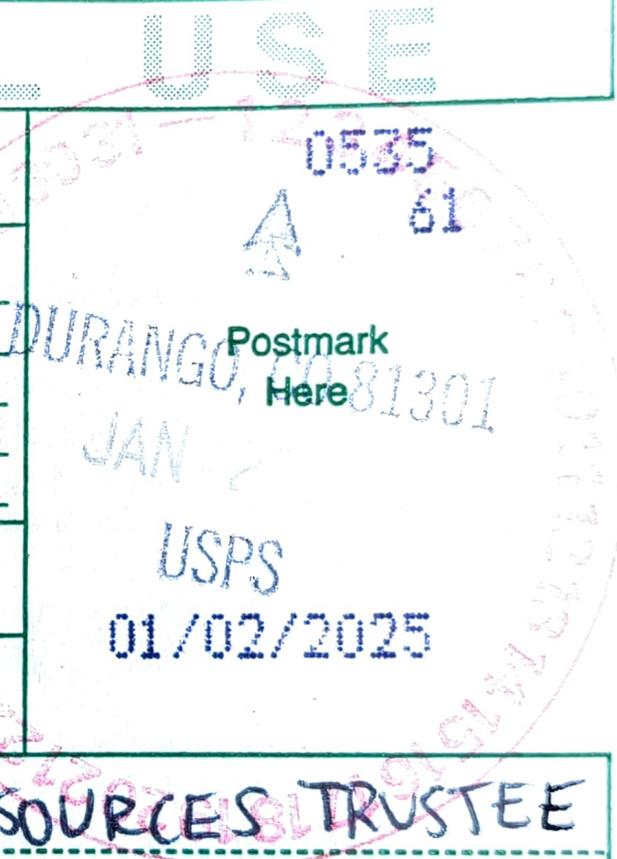
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Action 418367

**CONDITIONS**

Operator: Harvest Four Corners, LLC 1755 Arroyo Dr Bloomfield, NM 87413	OGRID: 373888
	Action Number: 418367
	Action Type: [UF-GWA] Ground Water Abatement (GROUND WATER ABATEMENT)

**CONDITIONS**

Created By	Condition	Condition Date
michael.buchanan	Proof of Public Notice has been circulated in the Albuquerque Journal, and submitted to the County Commission of San Juan County, BLM Farmington Field Office, Bloomfield City Office, and the Office of Natural Resources Trustee. Submitted on 01/06/2025. App ID: 418367	1/8/2025