

OPINIONS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remove the tree before someone is hurt

Dear Mayor Javier Gonzales: Please tell me that the big cottonwood tree just east of the old bridge is not going to stay ("DeFouri Street bridge project begins Monday, will cause detours," March 5). New bridge or old, that tree is the major obstacle to vision at that intersection. When you pull up on Defouri Street and stop at the "stop line" or even at the crosswalk and turn your head to the right, all you see is tree. Visibility to the east is totally blocked. You cannot see the oncoming traffic or pedestrians or runners (I know because I've almost been hit several times by cars rolling through the crosswalk. I even had to straight-arm one car to flip around his fender so he didn't go over me). When cars come to a stop, to actually see oncoming traffic, drivers have to pull clear across the crosswalk, almost into the lane of traffic, before they can see to the east. The cottonwood tree needs to go — otherwise the city of Santa Fe will be liable for accidents or deaths.

Steve Gigliotti
Santa Fe

A cynical prescription

When today's Republicans focus on our body politic, they're guided by The Hypocritic Oath: "First, do as much harm as you can, maintaining as you do so that the medicine you're prescribing will make your patient

better." With this in mind, we should by no means be surprised that the GOP's current objective is to replace "Obamacare" with a scheme that will deny health insurance to millions who finally enjoy it for the first time, supply less coverage at considerably more expense to those who can manage higher premiums, and provide a generous tax cut to wealthy constituents who don't need one.

It's now clear that what House Speaker Paul Ryan is pushing should be called the Curtailed Affordable Care Act. This yields a suitably revised acronym for what he and his House colleagues would substitute for the Affordable Care Act. And if Ryan can steer his plan or something like it to the president's desk, anyone who objects to it can be dismissed with a Trumpian variation of "Let them eat cake."

John F. Andrews
Santa Fe

Bustos for UNM

It was heartwarming to read about DJ Bustos' record-breaking basketball accomplishment ("Career scoring leader," Feb. 12) in *The New Mexican*. I would urge University of New Mexico head coach Craig Neal to immediately offer a full scholarship to DJ before other schools grab him. Neal has no need to go to Australia, Kenya or some country thousands of miles away to

find talented players. He should carefully look at the talented high school players from New Mexico. Coach Neal gave his son, Cullen, a full scholarship because of his shooting ability. Why not grant DJ Bustos, who has broken a 44-year record, the same privilege? DJ and other talented players from New Mexico would, without doubt, once again fill The Pit with loyal fans for New Mexico players. How short-sighted can it be not to see what an asset Bustos and others from New Mexico would be to the UNM basketball program?

Andres S. Vargas
El Prado

So sorry, so grateful

To our dear friends at Jambo Café: We are so sorry that this accident happened to all of you, the patrons who were hurt, and the dear Jambo Café staff and owners who treat our community so well. When these things happen, it is of course very sad and upsetting, but please know that we all support you and look forward to you rebuilding as soon as possible. May the injured heal quickly and thoroughly, and the elderly driver find peace in giving up driving. So grateful that there were no life-threatening injuries.

Cynthia Fulreader
Santa Fe