



'ROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE



New Mexico
STATE EMPLOYEES' NEWSPAPER

Volume 36, Issue Number 11
November 4 to December 8, 2024

Blue Ribbon Schools, pg 23

Tourism Sets New record, pg 12



ECECD Staff Supporting Breaking Bad Habits, pg 9



VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
November 11 2024



Where is Cooper?
pg 29

ROUNDTHEROUNDHOUSE.COM



VISIT US ONLINE FOR OUR DIGITAL EDITION!

Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us for the annual lighting of the State Christmas Tree with Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham

Monday, December 2, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.
Southwest corner of the Capitol

Caroling by:
The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus-Youth Choirs-Cantate, Anima, Choral Scholars and the National Guard 44th Army Band.

Enjoy biscochitos and hot cider.



www.facebook.com/roundtheroundhouse



Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Santa Fe
514 W Cordova
In Trader Joe's shopping center
(505) 974-8801
funnoodlesantafe.com



Albuquerque
5317 Menaul Blvd NE
(505) 881-6888
funnoodleabq.com

FUN

noodle bar

Rice Bowls · Ramen · Dumplings · Bao

We hand-pull all of our noodles fresh to each order so you are guaranteed to have the freshest dishes ever! Try our delicious ramen, bao, or classic Asian noodle dishes.



CHRISTUS ST. VINCENT

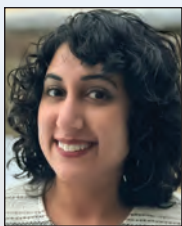
Leading the Fight Against Breast Cancer

with Expert Care at
CHRISTUS St. Vincent

At CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Cancer Center, we are deeply committed to raising breast cancer awareness and providing exceptional care to our patients. Our dedicated team focuses on the latest innovations in prevention and treatment for breast cancer. Our entire surgical breast oncology team is here to empower you with compassionate, patient-centered care every step of the way. Together, we strive to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer.

To schedule an appointment with our surgical breast oncology team, please call (505) 913-8900

Don't forget to schedule your screening mammogram—early detection saves lives!



Amani Jambhekar, MD, MBA
Medical Director
Surgical Breast Oncology



Justin Cooper, PA-C
Surgical Breast Oncology



CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Cancer Center
490 A W Zia Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 913-8900 • Fax (505) 913-6445
www.stvin.org



'ROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE

New Mexico
STATE EMPLOYEES' NEWSPAPER

A monthly publication for and about
New Mexico's State Employees

'ROUND THE ROUNDHOUSE
505.988.1135
rtroundhouse@gmail.com
320 Paseo de Peralta, Suite E
Santa Fe, NM 87501
www.roundtheroundhouse.com

Printed in cooperation with
the State of New Mexico
Printed at The Santa Fe New Mexican.
Copyright 2014 Big Sky Creative, Inc.
all rights reserved. Material may not be reproduced
without permission.

CAROL HETZLER
Publisher

In loving Memory
JOHN HETZLER
Former President and Publisher

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Nicole Bazzano, Kristine Bustos-Mihelcic,
Angela C'de Baca, Christina Claasen,
Michael Coleman, Eric Estrada,
Ami Evans, Carolyn Fittipaldi,
Marlene Gallegos, Janelle Garcia,
Christina Gauthier, Jenny Green,
Sidney Hill, Cody Johnson,
Bruce Krasnow, Jeff Levine,
Jodi McGinnis Porter, Nick Mandel,
Robert Nott, Dolores Martinez,
Renee Narvaiz, Jaime Phillips, Jason Ross
Jennifer Romero, Julia Sclafani,
Michelle Simon, Henry Valdez,
Robert Torrez, Kimm Wiens
and Silver Wilson

Next publication date is Dec 9th
Deadline is Friday, November 29, 2024

Mail Subscriptions are available for \$25 per year.

State Land Office Employee Celebrates 40 Years!

By State Land Office Staff

Employees at the State Land Office cheered for one of their own this past month thanks to an impressive milestone anniversary. Stella Sanchez, a Title Examiner in the Records Division, just reached her 40th anniversary of working at the State Land Office!

During a celebration at the State Land Office building in Santa Fe, Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard bestowed the moniker to Stella, "The 20 Billion Dollar Woman," for her work over the years. Since Stella joined the office back in 1984, the State Land Office has raised \$20,018,351,739.57 for our public schools, universities and hospitals all across the state. As a Title Examiner, Stella is instrumental in keeping track of the 13 million acres held in public trust and ensuring the State Land Office gets every dollar earned to distribute to our schools. Stella maintains the State Land Office's Master Title Tract Books and updates them with the lands that may have exchanged over the years – keeping all of us up-to-date.



Stella with the crew back in the day

Over the span of the past 40 years there have been six different Land Commissioners and seven different Governors who have served the state. Stella has been around for many major events in the State Land Office's history. That includes the last time the oil and gas royalty rate was increased in 1985, the installation of a barcode system in the Records Division in 1996, the first wind farm lease on state trust land in 2003, and the first time the State Land Office made a billion dollars in a year in 2019 (and so much more)!

The longevity of a career such as Stella's has earned her a very deserving reputation among her peers at the State Land Office. Director of Records Ley Schimoler said, "Thanks to her wealth of institutional knowledge she is our 'go-to gal' for any historical, and current, title information."

Pete Martinez, who has worked alongside Stella for years called her an "expert title examiner" and said, "The State Land Office is fortunate to have had her professionalism, knowledge, skills and abilities for so many years."

Stella's daughter, Melissa, who now works at the State Land Office herself said, "There are times when I am writing in the tract books, that I think how awesome it is that her handwriting and mine will exist side by side somewhere in New Mexico State Land Office history."

The State Land Office and Commissioner Garcia Richard would like to take this moment to recognize Stella for 40 years of working at the agency and thank her for all her efforts in ensuring that New Mexico public schools and hospitals receive every dollar that is owed to them.

"Thank you for all of your hard work over the years, Stella. The State Land Office wouldn't be what it is without you," said Commissioner Garcia Richard.

Gila Monster License Plates Available for Purchase in Support of Wildlife Conservation

New Mexico motorists have a new way to help support wildlife research, habitat enhancement, education and rehabilitation projects, as the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish's Share with Wildlife Program and the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division have released a Gila monster-themed license plate for purchase.



The Gila monster license plate is the fifth wildlife art plate released by NMDGF and MVD in recent years, with quail, mule deer, Rio Grande cutthroat trout and roadrunner plates also available. Proceeds from the plates go to Share with Wildlife, which funds innovative research, habitat enhancement and education projects conducted by universities and non-profit organizations to address the needs of the state's Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Share with Wildlife funds also help support wildlife rehabilitation efforts by licensed centers across the state. The program has provided more than \$2.2 million to such efforts over the past 10 years.

The Gila monster is an iconic animal in American Southwest desert habitats. It is rarely seen by the public, spending most of its life in underground burrows. As one of only two venomous lizards in North America, it uses its venom primarily for defense. However, a component of its venom is also used by humans as a key ingredient in a life-saving medication for Type-2 diabetes.

"The Department has developed a species recovery plan and funded research on the Gila monster in New Mexico for many years," said Karen Gaines, NMDGF's Share with Wildlife program coordinator. "Its charisma makes it a natural choice to feature on our newest wildlife license plate."

The art on the latest Share with Wildlife license plate was created by W. Howard Brandenburg, an accomplished scientific illustrator and 3rd-generation New Mexican.

All of the wildlife art license plate designs can be purchased directly from MVD's Eservices. By either clicking on the "Replace my Vehicle Plate" link in the "Vehicles" box or when renewing your registration by choosing the regular registration renewal, you can see the available wildlife art design options and choose your favorite.

INDIA

PALACE

Traditional Northern
Indian Food

Order Online:
indiapalacesantafe.com
UberEats, Dashing Delivery,
Grubhub, Door Dash

Serving Beer & Wine
Gluten Free &
Vegan Options

Behind E. Water parking lot
227 Don Gaspar Ave, Santa Fe | 505.983.2060
Open Tues-Sun, Lunch 12-3pm, Dinner 3-9:30pm

Lunch Buffet
12-3pm
\$16.95

Enjoy the Ride!

Save money, relax, and reduce your impact on the environment. Give alternative forms of transportation a try!

NORTH CENTRAL RTD
866-206-0754
RidetheBlueBus.com



Santa Fe Trails
505-955-2001
takethetrails.com



Rio Metro RTD
866-795-7245
riometro.org



NMDOT Park & Ride
866-551-7433
nmparkandride.com



Call Santa Fe RideFinders to find out how to use them all!
505.955.2001

State Leverages Over \$200 Million in Federal Funding Through \$57.81 Million in Matching Grants to 37 Public Entities

By Henry Valdez



The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) awarded \$57.81 million in matching grants to 37 public entities, leveraging over \$200 million in federal funding for 57 projects. Of the grants, 54% went to rural areas, including Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Tribe for fire recovery.

This first cycle of the New Mexico Match Fund supported 33 infrastructure, eight energy, four public safety, four emergency response, and eight general projects at 1 to 4 state-to-federal leveraged dollars. DFA began accepting applications on June 16, 2024.

"This investment is a commitment to the resilience and growth of our rural communities," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. "By removing barriers to federal resources, we are paving the way for sustainable development and improved infrastructure across New Mexico."

Enacted earlier this year, HB 177 created the New Mexico Match Fund to leverage once-in-a-generation federal funding for infrastructure, research, economic development, the energy transition, and other projects to leverage resources for the benefit of New Mexico.

"The New Mexico Match Fund has already jumpstarted dozens of vital infrastructure, rural development, and public safety projects in its first four months," said HB177 sponsor Representative Meredith A. Dixon. "This transformational program will continue to pay dividends for decades to come by improving our roads, strengthening communities statewide, and creating good-paying jobs for New Mexicans along the way."

"I am happy to see these much-needed funds for our local governments be put to use," said HB177 sponsor Representative Gail Armstrong.

"The New Mexico Match Fund is a prime example of how our executive and legislative collaboration can create meaningful assistance for our rural communities, as we've provided \$31 million to rural entities in the first four months," said DFA Cabinet Secretary Wayne Propst.

With an initial appropriation of \$75 million, and pursuant to the new law, DFA developed three grant programs providing eligible entities with a reliable and nimble source of funding to increase competitiveness for hundreds of federal grant program opportunities that require local match. Programs include the Matching Grant, Project Implementation Grant, and Federal Compliance Offset Grant. Earlier this year, the Village of Los Lunas received a \$3 million Federal Compliance Offset Grant to help cover increased project costs associated with federal requirements tied to a U.S. Department of Transportation grant for the I-25 Interchange project.

"Thanks to the New Mexico Match Fund, we can make available resources to provide our residents with the tools they need to succeed in today's technology-driven landscape," said Kevin Winner, Information Technology Director of the Pueblo of Jemez. "Our community has long recognized the necessity of digital access for growth and development."

Highlighted projects:

- City of Gallup — The matching grant of \$5,000,000 will leverage a \$40,000,000 federal award for the Allison Road Corridor Part A Construction project, improving mobility and increasing safety for Gallup residents.
- Lincoln County — The matching grant of \$12,500,000 will leverage a \$50,000,000 federal award for flood mitigation from South Fork and Salt Fires from the National Resource Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection Program.
- Mescalero Apache Tribe — The matching grant of \$2,392,750 will leverage a \$21,834,750 federal award for flood mitigation from South Fork and Salt Fires from the National Resource Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection Program.
- Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil & Water Conservation District — The matching grant of \$7,440,000 will leverage a \$14,300,000 federal award from the National Resource Conservation Service's Watershed Rehabilitation Program to repair Santa Cruz Dam Site-1.

View list with project information here, <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/2024/10/25/state-leverages-over-200-million-in-federal-funding-through-57-81-million-in-matching-grants-to-37-public-entities/>

- DFA is still accepting applications from public entities, <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/nmmatchfund/>



A service of SFT-CSF made possible through a grant from the Federal Transit Administration in cooperation with NMDOT.

DFA Names Cecilia Mavrommatis as New Local Government Division Director

By Henry Valdez

The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration named Cecilia Mavrommatis the new Local Government Division Director. Mavrommatis comes to the position with decades of experience serving in the military and working in federal and state government, most recently serving as principal executive policy and budget analyst for DFA.



"Cecilia is fully prepared for this opportunity, and our local communities will greatly benefit from her leadership, and experience in state and federal government, as well as from the lessons she took from her time as a Marine serving our country," said DFA Secretary Wayne Propst.

"It is both an honor and a privilege to serve in this role, and to continue building on the successes of the past and work jointly with our local government leaders and our organizations in efforts to streamline processes and procedures to vitalize our state together," said Local Government Division Director Cecilia Mavrommatis.

Cecilia joined the DFA in 2022 after working for the Department of Defense, managing fiscal responsibilities for U.S. military commands in the Indo-Pacific. A decorated Marine Corps veteran, she served both in the U.S. and overseas. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Hawai'i Pacific University and a political science degree from the University of Maryland. With over a decade of civil service experience, fiscal stewardship remains central to her work.

Doug Christopherson Appointed Workers' Compensation Judge

By Nicole Bazzano

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has appointed Doug Christopherson to serve as a workers' compensation judge for the Workers' Compensation Administration (WCA). Christopherson will assume his position on November 12, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Leonard Padilla in August.



"I am excited for and humbled by the opportunity to serve the workers' compensation community as a judge. My hope is that the care I have for this community will be reflected in my performance and conduct as a judge," said Christopherson.

Christopherson moved to New Mexico in 2012 after completing law school at the University of Utah and lives in the North Valley with his partner and daughter. Before attending law school, he spent several years managing psychiatric research studies for an outpatient research clinic. Following law school, Christopherson initially worked as a prosecutor for the State of New Mexico where he handled DWI and domestic violence cases. He spent the next decade as a defense attorney specializing in workers' compensation cases before joining the Workers' Compensation Administration as a mediator in September 2023.

Workers' compensation judges hear and decide disputes over benefits due to injured workers throughout New Mexico. The Workers' Compensation Administration works to assure the quick and efficient delivery of medical and indemnity benefits to injured workers at a reasonable cost to employers.

**GET READY FOR COLD WEATHER!
SAVE ON STOVES & FIREPLACE INSERTS**

Blaze King

CHOOSE FROM GAS
WOOD & PELLET

GET READY SALE
20% OFF
SELECT MODEL STOVES WITH

OFFERING EASY FINANCING with LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS*
OFFER ENDS NOVEMBER 30TH

Plus 30% FEDERAL TAX CREDIT ON QUALIFYING STOVES

WE DELIVER STATEWIDE

OUR BEAUTIFUL SHOWROOM IN SANTA FE
199 Paseo De Peralta
DeVargas Center (east end) | 505-982-4210
Monday-Saturday 10-5

*On approved credit. Not valid with other offers. See representative for details. **Refer to IRS tax code for details on qualifying products and tax credit details.

**DRIVE NOW,
PAY LATER!**

No payments for 60 days, \$200 cash back, and a free car sunshade on auto loans of \$10,000 or more when you finance or refinance from another institution by December 31st, 2024.*

**APPLY NOW FOR
YOUR HOLIDAY DEAL!**

GUADALUPE CREDIT UNION

Subject to eligibility and credit approval, see a loan officer for details. Loan must be a new purchase or refinance from another financial institution with a balance of \$10,000 or more. No payments for 60 days, \$200 cash back, and a free sunshade apply only to qualifying loans. With no payment for 60 days, your interest will accrue from the date of the contract. Loan promotion valid through December 31, 2024. GCU is an equal opportunity lender.

VOICES FROM THE PAST

By Robert J. Tórréz
Former State Historian
© 2014



The Abiquiú Agency, Part 2

In a previous column, we reviewed a brief history of the Ute and Jicarilla agencies at Abiquiú and Tierra Amarilla. Established in 1850, agents at the Abiquiú agency spent much of their time dealing with settler's complaints about Indian depredations on their crops and livestock while placating Indian complaints about citizen depredations on their property. These agents did the best they could to maintain the peace while struggling with the limitations of meager appropriations and the obstacles imposed by cumbersome bureaucracies.

The U.S. government made numerous efforts to convince the Utes to settle on reservations in northern New Mexico or southern Colorado but the Capote band resisted every effort to force them to settle down and become farmers. In the spring of 1855, Agent Lorenzo Labadí reported the Utes had told him that any occupation other than hunting was "unworthy of them" and for two decades, the Utes repeated this theme every time the government attempted to remove them from New Mexico.

But time was working against the Utes. As settlement penetrated further into the mountain valleys of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, so did pressures on the Utes' hunting grounds. Agent reports of the 1850s frequently commented on the depletion of

available game and the difficulties the Utes and Jicarilla Apache encountered when they tried to subsist solely by "the chase." The Utes were often unable to sustain themselves through hunting due to depletion of their hunting grounds but also because of constant conflicts with the Navajo. Many came to depend heavily on the annuity goods they received from the United States government.

The U. S. agents issued goods and supplies called "annuities" to the Indians whenever they received shipments from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Santa Fe. The items they distributed to the Indians varied, but the goods issued to the Utes in April 1856 was typical. They received seventy fanegas (a unit of measure equal to about two and a half bushels) of corn, thirty-six pounds of tobacco, fifty-four dozen shirts, two bolts of manta, salt, and twenty-two rams. That same day the Jicarilla received thirty-one fanegas of corn, six rams, one dozen shirts, and twelve pounds of tobacco. Both tribes also received tin cups and pans, brass kettles, butcher knives, a variety of farming implements and mundane items such as sewing needles.

The presence of the agency was also good for local business. In addition to renting agency buildings from local residents, agents often bought goods from local merchants to distribute to the Indians when

they came to visit the agency. During the 1860s, for example, the agency rented buildings from José Antonio Manzanares. The site included a ten room building for offices and storage rooms and three corrales for holding livestock. Rental was two hundred dollars a year, payable on a quarterly basis. Manzanares often sold other goods and supplies to the agency.

During the two decades that the agency was at Abiquiú, many local residents did business with the Ute and Jicarilla agents. The following is a partial list of individuals who provided thousands of sheep, beef cattle, hay, corn, flour, and blankets to the agency at Abiquiú:

Antonio Abeyta	José Damian Girón
Ramón Cordova	Felipe Madril
Julián Espinosa	Henry Martín
José Pablo Gallegos	Henry Mercure
Manuel García	Juan Andrés Quintana

Pedro Salazar
Bernardo Sánchez
Severo Trujillo
Adeliado Valdes
Antonio María Vigil

José Pablo Gallegos, for example, received a contract 1862 that included delivery of 700 fanegas of corn at \$5.00 a fanega; 400 fanegas of wheat at \$4.00, and 35,000 pounds of beef "on the hoof" at four cents a pound. The contract totaled nearly \$7,000, a substantial amount at that time.

There were other opportunities for business with the agency.

Manuel Salazar was regularly hired to freight goods from Santa Fe to Abiquiú, Taos, and other places where annuity goods had to be picked up or delivered. Padre Ramón Salazar, the parish priest at Santo Tomás, even made loans to the agency when the agent found himself short of cash to pay for supplies he bought locally. Local residents also provided important services to the agency as guides and interpreters. Most of the agents assigned to Abiquiú spoke only English so in order to communicate with the Utes and Jicarilla, local residents were hired as interpreters. At times more than one interpreter was needed – one to translate from English to Spanish and another to speak to the Utes and Jicarilla in their own language. William F. M. Arny, for example, hired his own son, William E. Arny, to translate from English to Spanish for Tomás Chacón, the Ute interpreter. Chacón then translated the Spanish message into the Ute language and the Ute response into Spanish so that William Arny could translate that into English for his father. It must have been an interesting process to observe. In addition to Chacón, agency records show Vicente Archuleta, Martín de Jesús Martines, Amador Sanches, Bernardo Sánchez, and Juan V. Valdez served as interpreters for the agency at various times.

Copyright 2023, Robert J. Tórréz

NIM NAPRAPATHIC MEDICINE We treat stress, aches, & pain without drugs.
NIM OF NEW MEXICO

In celebration of 20 years in Santa Fe, we are excited to announce our new Albuquerque clinic!

4223 Montgomery Blvd NE
Albuquerque
505.660.5000

25 NAPRAPATHIC SESSIONS PER YEAR!

Call now for your appointment.

2006 Botolph Rd. Suite A
Santa Fe
505.424.8990

nmnm.org

NO referral necessary!!! Per your SONM employee benefit, your deductible is waived for Naprapathic treatments.

Governor announces "Breaking Bad Habits" anti-litter campaign

Heisenberg returns to New Mexico talking trash

By Michael Coleman

On October 17th, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced an exciting new collaboration with Emmy Award-winning actor Bryan Cranston that resurrects Walter White—the iconic fictional "Breaking Bad" character—to help reduce litter in New Mexico.



The governor joined with state and city officials, Boys and Girls Club volunteers and others at the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe to announce the statewide beautification campaign. The news conference included the premier of two new television ads directed by "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan and featuring Cranston as Walter White.

"Keep litter out of my territory," the fictional White grows into the camera at the end of each ad while channeling "Heisenberg," the mild-mannered chemistry teacher's menacing alter-ego.

The "Breaking Bad Habits" promotional push also features billboards across the state, advertising on city buses in Albuquerque, social media ads, and t-shirts depicting a "Heisenberg" police sketch and the words "keep litter out of my territory."

The campaign launch also includes a statewide fall cleanup challenge consisting of volunteers from 28 Santa Fe Public Schools, six Boys and Girls Clubs, 31 state agencies, five community-based organizations, and inmate work crews around the state.

A new website at www.breakingbadhabits.nm.gov will serve as the centerpiece of the ongoing campaign and provide a place where residents can report illegal dumping, sign up for a volunteer cleanup event, learn more about the initiative and more. Lujan Grisham also plans to ask state lawmakers to approve anti-litter and state beautification initiatives in the upcoming 2025 legislative session.

"New Mexico is the most beautiful state in the nation, but I'm saddened and disappointed by the amount of litter I see carelessly tossed along roadways, public parks and other places," Lujan Grisham said. "It's time for all of us to commit to Breaking Bad Habits and do our part to eliminate litter and preserve our great state's spectacular beauty. I'm grateful to Bryan and Vince, who both love New Mexico, for returning to take part in this exciting and ambitious beautification campaign."

Gilligan said he jumped at the opportunity to give back to a state that served as backdrop for "Breaking Bad" during an epic five-season run that resulted in 16 Primetime Emmy Awards, including four Emmys for Bryan Cranston for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series. The production of the new "Breaking Bad Habits" commercials marked the first reunion of the cast and crew from the AMC series since the show's 2013 finale.

"When the Governor's Office approached me to make an anti-littering PSA, I immediately thought of all the stunning locations we used on 'Breaking Bad' and 'Better Call Saul,'" Gilligan said. "One stood out in particular—To'hajiilee. It's the place, 16 years ago, where the world got its introduction to Walter White. What a perfect spot to showcase the natural beauty of New Mexico."

"Hopefully, folks who see this commercial will take Walt's hint and think twice before they toss their trash across our beautiful state," Gilligan added. "Otherwise, Heisenberg just might come after them!"

Cranston lauded the irreverent nature of the new advertising campaign.

"Most public service campaigns work using common sense and empathy... that's not what we did here!" Cranston said. "Walter White represents a certain threat in the message... but all in good fun. I love New Mexico. It is a naturally beautiful state - rich in culture. Let's do what we can to keep it beautiful."

During the 2024 Legislative Session, the New Mexico Tourism Department (NMTD) received a special appropriation of \$2 million for a statewide beautification and litter reduction marketing campaign for FY25. This amount, combined with \$500,000 from the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and \$500,000 from NMTD's base budget, brings the total campaign budget to \$3 million. These funds will be used for creative production and media buys through Spring 2025.




BlueCross BlueShield
of New Mexico

Coverage for All of Life's Moments

At Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico, we have served New Mexico families for 84 years. We're proud of our commitment to local communities and look forward to continuing to serve you and your family. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico is by your side.

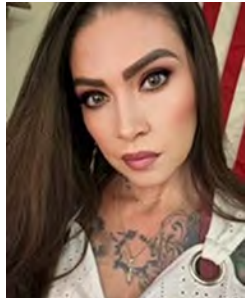
Visit BCBSNM.com today.

P2497 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

ECECD Employee of the Quarter FY25 Q1

By Angela C'de Baca

Administrative Services



Marie Lujan, ASD

Marie is professional, friendly, and always ready to help. She is dedicated and hardworking, making her a pleasure to work with and a valuable asset to the department. Whether assisting with purchasing, answering budget questions, or planning celebrations, she consistently goes above and beyond. Marie maintains a positive attitude and is, above all, a fantastic team player! Early Care, Education, and Nutrition



Kenia Anderson, ECEN

Kenia is a dedicated, adaptable, and confident employee. She has also demonstrated a strong commitment to learning. During the Weighted Risk Assessment project, Kenia remained actively engaged, willingly sharing her thoughts and providing valuable input, even though the project focused specifically on center regulations at that time.



Shannon Mikesell, ECEN

Shannon has consistently demonstrated exceptional performance in her role.

Her hard work, dedication, and positive attitude continue to have a significant impact on the team and her work. Additionally, Shannon played a crucial role in supporting child care providers in Ruidoso during and after recent wildfires and floods.

Family Support and Early Intervention



Anita Lozano, FSEI

Anita consistently goes above and beyond in her role as a Families FIRST Care Coordinator/RN III to serve her community. She manages one of the highest caseloads in the state among nurses performing similar work. Despite her workload, Anita ensures she takes the time to connect with families and provide them with the support they need. She exemplifies connection, compassion, and expertise with a family-centered focus.

Anita actively seeks opportunities to engage with community members and identify resources to meet her families' needs. She is often seen manning outreach tables in the community, sharing information about ECECD and Families FIRST with everyone who passes by. Anita embodies the commitment required to fulfill ECECD's vision of helping all New Mexican families and young children thrive.

Office of the Secretary

Jennifer Knapp, OTS

Jennifer consistently goes above

and beyond in every task she undertakes, willingly helping with assignments outside of her everyday duties. In her short time as a new supervisor, she has demonstrated effective leadership skills. Jennifer understands the importance of problem-solving and continuous learning. Her quality of work is outstanding, and she brings joy to the office.

Policy, Research and Quality Initiatives



Adam Archuleta, PRQI

Adam is recommended for Employee of the Quarter in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the PRQI team. He has consistently demonstrated proficiency in



Power BI, delivering reports that have significantly enhanced the data analysis capabilities. His ability to handle complex data requests with efficiency has been invaluable. Whether managing ongoing data requests or addressing urgent needs from leadership, Adam approaches each task with a positive attitude.

His willingness to assist colleagues and often go above and beyond his regular duties has made a notable impact on the overall performance and morale of the team. Adam's proactive approach to problem-solving and commitment to continuous improvement has been instrumental in streamlining data processes. The Data Assessment and Research Bureau is fortunate to have him as part of the team.



NEW MEXICO
Early Childhood
Education & Care Department



**ARTS AND COMMUNICATION
BUSINESS
TEACHER EDUCATION
LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
TRADES AND SUSTAINABILITY
HEALTH SCIENCES
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**



sfcc.edu/pathways

ACUPUNCTURE
for your health concerns
DR. SUZANNE OLIVA D.O.M.
PRACTICING IN NEW MEXICO FOR 30 YEARS

- ACUPUNCTURE
- MASSAGE
- HERBS
- HOMEOPATHICS

205 LOS ALAMOS HIGHWAY
SUITE C, ESPAÑOLA

505-699-8116 Most Insurance Accepted

State Land Office Wins Fall Culture Excellence Awards

By State Land Office Staff

The New Mexico State Land Office brought home some more hardware this month! The agency is a recipient of the 2024 Fall Culture Excellence Awards, winning the Top Workplaces 2024 Culture Excellence Award and the Top Workplaces 2024 Women-Led award, as announced in Business Wire. The Woman-Led Top Workplaces award celebrates outstanding organizations whose most senior leader is a woman who has fostered and built stand-out, people-first workplace cultures. The agency also received awards in the categories of: Innovation, Appreciation; Work-Life Flexibility; Employee Well-Being; Professional Development; Compensation & Benefits; and Leadership.

The awards are presented by human resources company Energage. The Top Workplaces and Culture Excellence Awards are based solely on employee feedback to an anonymous survey that measures 15 culture drivers that are critical to the success of any organization, including alignment, execution and connection.

“Getting recognized once again for our workplace culture is just more proof that we have the best staff around. Our employees show up every day motivated to deliver for the institutions and New Mexicans we serve,” said New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard.

According to the Energage survey that determined the awards:

- 94% of employees believe the agency operates by strong values.
- 92% of employees agree the agency is going in the right direction.
- 90% of employees are happy with their work-life flexibility.

The State Land Office finished in the top 1% within the public sector for employees’ willingness to refer others to work for at the agency.

“In recent years we have made deliberate investments in our employees with the understanding that they have a life and responsibilities outside of the confines of our building,” said Commissioner Garcia Richard. “We’ve also strived for fairness across the board, rightsizing salaries and making sure

employees are fairly compensated for the expertise they bring to the table. I couldn’t be prouder of this staff and the amazing work they do every day.”

The State Land Office won the Top Workplaces USA Award from USA Today in March

2024. Over 2,220 organizations participated in anonymous employee surveys as part of that national contest. The State Land Office was the only organization from New Mexico to rank in the top 25, regardless of size or sector. The agency was the top ranked government agency in its category.

The State Land Office also previously won a Woman-Led Organizations Award as part of the October 2023 Top Workplaces Culture Excellence national awards.

Over the past several years, Commissioner Garcia Richard has instituted agency-wide policies that invest in employees and promote fairness,



including correcting pay equity disparities, hiring and promoting diverse candidates to leadership positions, offering remote work up to three days a week, and much more. The State Land Office’s mission is to earn money for schools and other public institutions by responsibly leasing state lands for energy production, commercial development, and agriculture, among other uses. The State Land Office has continued to earn historic revenue, earning \$2.56 billion last year alone, as these cultural changes were implemented.

The State Land Office is currently hiring. Visit www.nmstatelands.org/job-opportunities to learn more!



HOLMANS USA

IT Solutions & Innovation

PREFERRED PARTNERS



Value Added Reseller






LOCALLY-OWNED AND OPERATED IN
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Holmans USA is a leading provider of IT product solutions for government and business, proudly operating in New Mexico for nearly 70 years. We specialize in HP Inc., Apple, and HP Enterprise products, offering a full range of solutions including desktops, laptops, servers, storage, and networking.

NM SWPA: 20-00000-21-00010, LAN/WAN
20-00000-21-00016, Toner
10-00000-20-00062(AA), HP NASPO

CES Contracts: 2021-19-C111-ALL
2021-19-C216-ALL
2022-050-C111-ALL

GSA Contract: 47QTCA20D001H



DATA CENTER & CLOUD



CLIENT HARDWARE & SOFTWARE



NETWORKING



HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING



SECURITY



PRINTING SOLUTIONS

CORE COMPETENCIES

Manufacturer Authorized Service
Customized E-commerce Capabilities
IT Asset Tagging
Computer Imaging Services

Field Consulting Expertise
Technical Services Portfolio
Dedicated Inventory



holmans.com | 800-545-0932 | sales@holmans.com

New Mexico's Mining and Minerals Division Earns National Award for Reclaiming Abandoned Coal Mine Site

Project addressed hazards that threatened to destroy road and pollute adjacent stream

By Sidney Hill

A project restoring vegetation on a Northern New Mexico site that had been covered by waste piles from an abandoned coal mine for nearly a century earned the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division the 2024 Small Project of the Year Award from the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

The Tin Pan Canyon Gob Reclamation project, located near Raton, was managed by the Mining and Minerals Division's (MMD) Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML) staff. MMD is part of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD).

The award-winning project stemmed run-off from two coal waste piles that was eroding a nearby road and threatening to pollute an adjacent stream. The New Mexico AML program staff accepted the award, officially known

as the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award, at the OSMRE's National Association of AML Programs conference in Canaan Valley, West Virginia, on Sept. 23.

"The Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards honor the best examples of AML reclamation in our nation," said OSMRE Principal Deputy Director Sharon Buccino. "Our state and Tribal partners work hard to remove health hazards and reclaim former coal communities. These awards showcase what is possible for reinvigorating former coal communities."

"This project is an example of the outstanding work our AML program staff consistently does to return former mining sites to productive use. This is a well-deserved honor," said EMNRD Sec. Designate Melanie Kenderdine.

Santa Fe-based San Isidro Permaculture, an environmentally fo-

cused design and construction firm, was contracted by the New Mexico AML program to implement the solution for the Tin Pan Canyon issues. The project team slowed the runoff from the waste piles by installing terraces made of straw bales and then planting seedlings directly behind them, hoping to eventually blend in with surrounding hillsides. The team also constructed a rock chute in a drainage channel to stabilize the road.

The New Mexico Forestry Division, also a part of EMNRD, provided the 5,000-plus seedlings that were planted behind lines of straw bales. These rooting zones were augmented with compost, wood chips, gypsum and organic fertilizer. The straw bales slow the water flow down the waste piles and the augmentations improve the rooting conditions.

This configuration is expected to improve water quality, enhance landscaping, and create safe recreational opportunities for the surrounding community.

"Most of the work on this project occurred during peak COVID restrictions in 2020 and 2021, which made for challenging conditions," said Mike Tompson, New Mexico's AML Program Manager. "San Isidro Permaculture did a lot of hard, manual labor, with half of it done in winter. Local property owners are pleased that the drainage channel no longer threatens



New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program staff accepting the Small Project Award from OSMRE Principal Deputy Director Sharon Buccino. (Left to right): Lloyd Moiola, Matt Peralta, Sharon Buccino, Mike Tompson

the road, and the adjacent stream is seeing less sediment. In our view, the project was a complete success."



Coal waste piles, otherwise known as "gob" piles, in their abandoned state before the project took place



Contractor adding compost and wood chips before straw bale terraces.



Vegetation growing two years after the project was completed.

The QUALITY MRI you demand.

The COMFORTABLE MRI you want.



Our new Siemens MAGNETOM Skyra 3T MRI is improving the MRI experience for both patients and doctors. Patients benefit from the most modern 3T in the west, as well as a wider opening for greater comfort and reduced anxiety. In fact, we can accommodate patients of almost any size and shape.

For doctors, our ultra high-density array enables higher spatial and temporal resolution for noticeably superior image quality, which can lead to a more accurate diagnosis.

All at prices much lower than you will find elsewhere.

For a better overall MRI experience, choose the center that makes quality, comfort and convenience a priority. **Choose Santa Fe Imaging!**



SANTA FE IMAGING

1640 Hospital Drive | Santa Fe, NM 87505
505.983.9350 | www.santafeimaging.com



FARMERS INSURANCE

More Options More Discounts

No one offers more discounts.

Even if you've checked us out in the past - You need to look again!

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS

MOBILE HOME • MOTORCYCLE

Call the Office nearest you

SANTA FE
David Roembach Agency
505-471-1099
550 Saint Michaels Dr.
Suite C



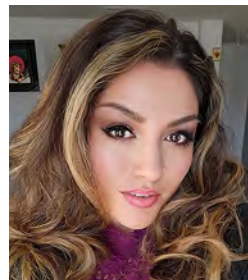
farmers.com

NMDVR Spotlight Awards Honor Outstanding Employees

By Jeff Levine

The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR) presents quarterly Spotlight Awards to recognize employees for outstanding work in support of the agency's mission to help New Mexicans with disabilities achieve their employment goals and thrive in their communities.

Congratulations to the 2024 Third Quarter Spotlight Award honorees: Deanna Anaya, Rudy Hernandez, Desiree Quintana, and Nicole Windle.

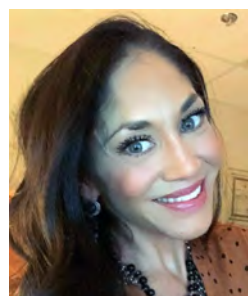


- **Deanna Anaya**, Budget and Grants Accountant & Auditor, Santa Fe State Office

Anaya recently switched roles from Accounts Payable to Grants and Budget. "Deanna is always eager to learn more...on Grant Drawdowns and Reporting, in addition to helping to review budget requests," says nominator Gregory Suko, Grants & Social Security Administration Claims Analyst. "She is professional and a pleasure to work with."

Suko adds that the team is always ready to help others and Deanna recently embodied this ethic by processing a tall stack of invoices for accounts payable when almost everyone in that area of the Administrative Services Unit was out on leave.

- **Rudy Hernandez**, Benefits Advisor/Work Incentive Counselor, Las Cruces
"Rudy has been a blessing to me and my NMDVR participants," says nominator Linda Fisher, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in Las Cruces. Those participants may be receiving Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or Social Security benefits due to age. "He is extremely knowledgeable about how employment affects Social Security disability benefits as well as little-known facts on how to navigate the Social Security benefits system, so participants can obtain relevant answers to their questions on how to maintain their SS benefits and their Medicaid and/or Medicare too." Fisher adds, "He is always willing to come to my office to meet with my participants and answer their questions, so they are served on a timely basis and provided with correct information and resources."



- **Desiree Quintana**, Vocational Rehabilitation Technician, Albuquerque-Research

"Desiree is always super helpful and goes out of her way to support our office in a professional way," says Kayla Damron, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Supervisor working in the Clovis office. "She helps us by training us on how we can provide services more efficiently and effectively. She also helps search for vendors to support our participants."

- **Nicole Windle**, Vocational Rehabilitation Technician, Clovis
Windle is currently supporting three "super-busy" vocational rehabilitation counselors as well as a transition rehabilitation counselor with coordination and scheduling for students moving from Pre-Employment Transition Services to the regular Vocational Rehabilitation program, according to Kayla Damron, one of those "super-busy" VRCs. She also supervises a trainee from the Goodwill Senior Community Service Employment Program who will be working as a temporary assistant in the Clovis office. "Nicki does her job very efficiently and effectively," Damron says. "She is always providing the most superb customer service to both us and our clients. She is patient, kind, helpful, and understanding."

NMED Drinking Water Bureau Chief Joins ASDWA Board of Directors

By George Estrada

New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau Chief Joe Martinez has been appointed to the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' Board of Directors, with his term starting Jan. 1, 2025.



This leadership role places New Mexico at the forefront of national drinking water policy discussions, with Martinez representing the interests of the state and EPA Region 6, encompassing Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas in addition to New Mexico.

By serving on ASDWA's Board of Directors, Martinez and New Mexico will have an active voice in shaping national drinking water policies — addressing challenges like the implementation of PFAS regulations, Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, and improving the technical and managerial capacity of small water systems.

"Serving on ASDWA's Board of Directors is an honor and a critical responsibility," said Joe Martinez, Drinking Water Bureau Chief. "This is an opportunity to bring New Mexico's experiences, particularly those of our rural and underserved communities, into the national conversation. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the country to develop solutions that help protect public health and improve access to safe drinking water."

"New Mexico faces unique and pressing water challenges, from maintaining infrastructure in rural areas to tightening regulations on dangerous contaminants like PFAS," said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. "With Joe Martinez serving on ASDWA's Board, our state will have a direct hand in shaping drinking water policies that benefit all communities, ensuring that our concerns and priorities are heard at the national level."

ENCHANTMENT DENTAL, PC.



Donna Kidby, DDS

1442-A St. Francis Dr.

505.988.2178

Most Insurance Accepted

www.enchantmentdental.com

MESSAGE ~ ACUPUNCTURE ~ NAPRAPATHY

SOL WELLNESS ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CLINIC

VOTED "BEST OF SANTA FE"

IN THE SANTA FE REPORTER 2 YEARS IN A ROW

WE TREAT PAIN, ALLERGIES, STRESS, ANXIETY, INSOMNIA, HEADACHES, MIGRAINES, FATIGUE, STRAINS, SPRAINS, CARPAL TUNNEL AND MORE

BEST OF ALL, YOUR INSURANCE COVERS OUR SERVICES!

*We Accept BCBS and Presbyterian group plans, no referral needed.

(No deductible, in most cases only a copay applies to State, County, and School Employee plans.)

505-216-1119

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK ~ BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

WWW.SOLWELLNESS.CLINIC



Voluntary Benefits Open Enrollment for 2025

By Jason Ross

Voluntary Benefit Open Enrollment is here for State of New Mexico (SoNM) and Local Public Body (LPB) employees. Enrollment begins December 1 and ends December 31, 2024. You can enroll for MetLife plans during this time. For Aflac, Globe Life, and The Hartford, you're able to enroll any time during the year.

Please visit www.mybenefitsnm.com and navigate to the Voluntary Benefits tile for more information.

Offered Voluntary Benefits:

- **AFLAC**
Accident Insurance | Cancer Insurance | Critical Illness Insurance | Life Insurance with accelerated benefits for Long Term Care
- **Globe Life**
Whole Life Insurance
- **Met Life**
Cancer Insurance | Critical Illness Insurance | Accident Insurance
- **The Hartford**
Critical illness | Accident Insurance



Disclaimer: Health Care Authority (HCA) does not directly or indirectly endorse, sponsor, guarantee, or recommend any coverage. HCA shall not be responsible for the quality of service or influence the terms and conditions of the individual policies.

NEW MEXICO TRUE NEW MEXICO TOURISM DEPARTMENT

New Mexico Sets New Record for Visitor Spending of \$8.6 Billion in 2023

By Cody Johnson

New Mexico set a record for direct visitor spending of \$8.6 billion in 2023, surpassing the previous record of \$8.3 billion set in 2022.

According to the New Mexico Tourism Department's (NMTD) annual economic impact report, the 3.8 percent increase in visitor spending was fueled by an estimated 41.8 million visitors to New Mexico in 2023.

One of the most significant insights from the report was the increase in international visitation. According to the report, New Mexico welcomed an estimated 680,000 international visitors in 2023, which represents a 34 percent increase from 2022 and matches the pre-pandemic level the state saw in 2019. Collectively, international visitors spent an estimated \$607 million during their trips to New Mexico in 2023. For context, the average domestic visitor spent \$194 per trip to New Mexico in 2023 whereas the average international visitor spent \$898 per trip.

According to inbound travel forecasts from Brand USA, international travel to the United States is projected to reach 98 percent of 2019 visitor volume numbers in 2024 and surpass pre-pandemic visitor volume by 2025. New Mexico meeting its own pre-pandemic levels of international visitor volume by 2023 demonstrates that the Land of Enchantment is outperforming the U.S. average in international visitation recovery.

"Witnessing such a sharp increase of international visitation, along with another boost in overall visitor spending, is an encouraging sign that the awareness and appeal of New Mexico as a leisure travel destination continues to grow," said Acting Secretary Lancing Adams. "With the Route 66 Centennial on the horizon in 2026, New Mexico is well-positioned to become a trending destination for visitors both domestically and internationally."

Direct visitor spending in 2023 supported an estimated 72,008 jobs in New Mexico, representing a 2.2 percent increase from 2022. Overall, the total economic impact of tourism in 2023 generated \$811 million in state and local taxes for New Mexico. Because of this, visitor spending reduced the tax burden on each New Mexico household by \$997.

Visitor spending in the categories of lodging, recreation and food and beverage all increased in 2023 compared to 2022. In total, visitors spent \$2.7 billion on lodging, 2 billion on food and beverage and \$1.1 billion on recreation in 2023.



MEETING the 2ND THURSDAY of the month 5:30-7:00pm
Upcoming Gatherings: 9/12/2024, 10/10/2024, & 11/14/2024

Paralegals of Santa Fe Networking Group

In conjunction with Santa Fe Community College's Paralegal Studies program, all Paralegal Studies Students, Northern New Mexico paralegals, legal assistants, and legal secretaries are invited to gather.

JOIN US TO:

- Meet fellow students
- Live networking opportunity
- Connect with legal professionals
- Learn and share tips
- Find support for our members
- Have fun!

SEE YOU THERE!
SFCC Higher Education Center [HEC]
1950 Siringo Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87505

For more information contact:
Ebony Monroe
505-920-6147

Call: 505.426.1660
Email program lead: Andrea Sassa, JD
andrea.sassa@sfcc.edu

SFCC
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.sfcc.edu/paralegal

Source: sfcc.edu/maps/map-to-hec/

SPINE SOLUTIONS
PHYSICAL THERAPY + WORKSITE STRATEGIES

WHERE THE WHOLE BODY IS EFFECTIVELY MANAGED.

ACCESS NOW!
PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR INJURED WORKERS.

CONTACT US TODAY! INFO@S2PT.COM | 505.424.1239

Isaac Romero Named Deputy Secretary of Economic Development

By Bruce Krasnow

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has named Isaac Romero, a commercial real estate professional and former legislative analyst, as deputy secretary of the New Mexico Economic Development Department.



Romero is an Albuquerque native and a graduate of the University of New Mexico where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in organizational leadership and a minor in philosophy. His experience includes working as a fiscal analyst with the Legislative Finance Committee.

He rejoins state government after working in Albuquerque as a commercial real estate broker with eXp Commercial and NAI Sun Vista. Romero's real estate experience extends to multi-family housing and commercial leasing and investment, working closely with companies on expansion and site selection in New Mexico.

"Isaac brings a unique skill set to the department with his combination of government and budgetary experience working with the Legislative Finance Committee and his private sector experience in commercial real estate and deal development. As New Mexico faces the challenges of competing in a global marketplace, Isaac will be integral to the Economic Development Department team," Economic Development Secretary-Designate Rob Black said. "Isaac will be a key player as we build a robust and dynamic economy for New Mexico's families."

While at UNM, Romero served as student body president from 2013-2014 and a resident adviser and new student orientation leader. His civic involvement includes serving as legislative committee chair for the New Mexico Association of Realtors and vice president of the New Mexico chapter of the CCIM Institute, and president-elect of the Commercial Association of Realtors New Mexico (CARNM), the trade and continuing education organization for the statewide commercial investment industry.

Romero believes that New Mexico has an unprecedented opportunity to build an economy that will provide economic security to future generations – but it needs to move quickly to improve infrastructure and location readiness because businesses have more choices than ever on where to expand and add employees.

"I am grateful to the governor for this opportunity to advance my long-time passion to leverage the joint tools of economic development and commercial real estate to build a more prosperous New Mexico, securing a better future for all who dream of living in New Mexico and staying here to build a career," Romero said.

Romero assumed his duties with the agency on Oct. 8, 2024.



CYFD supporting #breakingbadhabits

Whooping Cough Cases in New Mexico Nearly Double this Year

By Robert Nott



The number of whooping cough cases in New Mexico this year is almost twice as many the number last year – reflecting the same dramatic increase in whooping cough cases nationwide.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports, as of October 19, there have already been more than five times as many whooping cough cases in the United States than there were in the same time period last year. As of October 26, New Mexico accounts for 60 of the nationwide case totals.

Most of these cases have been reported from the Albuquerque metro area, but all regions of the state have reported at least one case since this summer.

Pertussis, better known as whooping cough, is highly contagious. It spreads from respiratory droplets that can happen naturally anytime a person coughs or sneezes. A person infected can spread it to other people for 21 days after their cough starts or until they complete five days of an appropriate antibiotic.

Common symptoms of whooping cough can include coughing fits, which may be followed by a "whoop" sound as the person takes a breath after a coughing fit. Sometimes a person can cough so hard they vomit. The coughing alone from pertussis can last for several weeks, and possibly lead to complications such as broken ribs, hernias, seizures, swelling in the brain, and even death.

"Pertussis is extremely dangerous in infants, especially those under six months old," said Dr. Chad Smelser, Deputy State Epidemiologist for NMHealth. "Young infants can sometimes show other symptoms such as gagging, eye-bulging, or apnea - where a child's breathing pauses for a period of time long enough to worry a caregiver."

The best way to protect against pertussis is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available without charge to the family or guardian of any child in New Mexico, regardless of insurance status, under the Vaccines for Children program.

To schedule whooping cough and other vaccinations statewide, talk to your pharmacist or healthcare provider. You can also call the NMHealth Helpline at 1-833-796-8773 for scheduling or questions about this and other medical issues.

OUR HELP YOUR HOME!



The Housing Trust is a non-profit organization that supports, educates and advocates for homebuyers to make their housing goals a reality. We also strengthen our community by forwarding housing efforts.

OUR SERVICES

- Mortgage Reduction Assistance
- Homebuyer Training Classes
- HUD Certified Counseling
- Reverse Mortgage Counseling
- Home Sales

FOR MORE INFORMATION

6005 Jaguar Drive, Ste 101
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507

505-989-3960

info@housingtrustonline.org

White House Approves New Mexico Cybersecurity Plan

By Renee Narvaiz

A state plan for protecting critical water and wastewater systems from cyber-attacks has received high praise and approval from the White House.

The National Security Council, Environmental Protection Agency and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency asked all states to prepare an action plan to mitigate cybersecurity risks in water and wastewater systems. The plan was submitted by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham in August and received approval in late September. The plan details cyber protections to cover public water systems and wastewater treatment facilities in New Mexico that serve a population of more than 3,300.

The New Mexico Office of Cybersecurity (OSC) collaborated on the plan with the state Environment Department (ENV) and Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM).

The three state agencies plan to work collaboratively with public water systems and wastewater treatment facilities to facilitate access to the federal and state resources. The state will provide guidance, services, and support to safeguard these critical infrastructure systems from cyber threats.

"I am excited to say that if we were asked to grade this outcome, the state can say it passed with an 'A,'" said Raja Sambandam, state chief information security officer. "The first step in this plan is to understand where the gaps are and where the great needs are. This will be done through a cybersecurity risk assessment. It is important for the state to continue this crucial and collaborative effort to assess, secure and protect one of our critical infrastructures from potential nation-state sponsored threats."

Notice of the plan's approval coincides with Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham proclaiming October as 'Cybersecurity Awareness Month' in New Mexico. The DoIT is offering tips through social media and can be followed on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or X. For other tips and information on how to participate in the Cybersecurity Awareness Month visit: cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month and staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/.



New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance Issues Emergency Order Following Governor Lujan Grisham's Executive Order

By Jennifer Romero

Pursuant to Governor Lujan Grisham's Executive Order 2024-155, issued October 21, 2024 in response to the devastating severe flooding impacting Chavez County, the New Mexico Office of Superintendent of Insurance (OSI) issued an Emergency Order to protect access to insurance and the stability of insurance markets during the emergencies declared in the Governor's executive order.



The Order requires health insurers to provide grace periods for premium payments, refill prescriptions early, cover out-of-network services, waive patient cost-sharing and prior authorizations, and cover replacements of essential medical supplies and equipment that were left behind due to evacuations. These emergency protections are intended to remove financial burdens and administrative hurdles to medically-necessary services.

The Order also requires property insurers, including those offering homeowners and automobile policies, to provide grace periods for premium payment and claims submission, waive deductibles, postpone cancellations and non-renewals, and suspend late payment fees.

OSI stands ready to serve New Mexicans when the time comes to resolve insurance issues. The agency's emergency hotline number for the Catastrophic Floods is 1-833-485-1336. To file a complaint, visit: <https://www.osi.state.nm.us/pages/misc/complaints>

PERA Annual Member Statements

By Christina Gauthier

For many years PERA has generated and mailed an Annual Member Statement to active members and inactive members with contributions on account of June 30th of the statement year. Unfortunately, thousands of statements are returned each year as undeliverable due to invalid or incomplete mailing addresses.

Statements for 2024 were mailed in September. This year's statements included each member's TIER status, PERA ID number, wages, contributions and current beneficiary designations. If you have questions about your statement, please visit <https://www.nmpera.org/about/faqs> for additional information. The statements also included PERA's updated phone numbers (866) 678-0670 toll-free and (505) 542-2660 direct dial.



A note just above Section 1 notifies members that PERA is going paperless after 2024. To continue receiving a paper copy of your annual statement, please visit your PERA Self-Service Account at <https://perass.state.nm.us/SelfService> to opt-in for this option. If you have never created a RIO Self-Service account, you can click the 'Open an Account' link at the top of the page. Once you provide some basic demographic information, the system will email a code that will be required to complete the registration process. If you receive an error message, please record the characters in the error message and contact PERA's RIO Helpdesk staff for assistance.

Once you are logged in, you will find a menu on the left side of the screen. Click on 'Mail Preferences' and follow the on-screen instructions to opt-in (or opt-out of receiving an annual mailed statement. Every active member and inactive member with a balance of contributions and interest are currently opted out of receiving a paper statement. For reference you can download three years of annual member statements from the 'Member Home' tab.



Savings are **closer** than they appear.

2.00% APR*

Drop your rate by up to

when you make the switch to Zia Credit Union



Get Started

ziacu.org | 800-392-7629



*This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.
*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Limited time promotion 04.01.2024 - 12.31.2024. Approved rate will be higher of 2.00% APR less than member's current external auto loan rate or Zia's current minimum floor rate. New rate cannot be lower than Zia's minimum floor rate. Members must meet loan qualifying criteria. All auto loans are subject to credit approval. Loans financed through dealer or manufacturer at 0.00% are ineligible. Zia reserves the right to extend, alter, or cancel this promotion at any time. Proof of current, external rate required. See credit union for more details.

Governor Issues Statement on the Death of John Arthur Smith

On October 7th, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham issued the following statement on the passing of Senator John Arthur Smith

"Today, I join New Mexicans in mourning the loss of Sen. John Arthur Smith, an extraordinary public servant and a cherished colleague and mentor of mine and many other public servants in our state.



Senator Smith was committed to fiscal responsibility while consistently aiming to improve quality of life for all New Mexicans. His leadership of the Senate Finance Committee helped put the state on sound financial footing and earned respect from colleagues across the political spectrum. Senator was not only a masterful legislator; he was kind and honest. He provided an example of ethical and decent conduct that all elected officials, including those in Washington, D.C., would be wise to follow.

Senator Smith's lifetime of dedication to New Mexico leaves a legacy that will continue to benefit our communities for generations to come. All New Mexicans owe him a debt of gratitude.

An announcement regarding lowering state flags in honor of Senator John Arthur Smith's many contributions to New Mexico will be forthcoming.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Janette, his family, and the countless individuals whose lives he touched. May he rest in peace."

Governor Issues Statement on the Passing of Rep. Dona Irwin

On October 10th, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham issued the following statement on the passing of former New Mexico Representative Dona Irwin, who served District 32 and the people of Deming with dedication and strength for 18 years:



"I had the privilege of working alongside Dona Irwin for many years, and I will always remember her as a stalwart advocate for New Mexico's children, families, and rural communities. She was especially skilled at connecting our agricultural heritage with educational opportunities, especially through her work with the Cooperative Extension Service. Dona understood the vital connection between agriculture, our land-grant, university families, and programs like 4-H that support the next generation.

Rep. Irwin's contributions to New Mexico extended far beyond that. Long before universal meals and healthy cooking became national priorities, Dona was ahead of her time, working to bring healthy meals and community gardens to senior centers across rural New Mexico. Her visionary leadership improved the lives of so many in our state.

Above all, when Dona gave you her word, she kept it. She embodied integrity and strength in everything she did. My deepest condolences go to her children, Craig and Janet, her grandchildren, and her entire family. Dona's legacy will live on through the many lives she touched."

Irwin represented Deming and New Mexico's House District 32 from 1999 to 2017, serving her district with determination and dedication.

Moody's Considers Upgrading our Bond Rating for the First Time in Over a Decade

By Harry Valdez

The national bond rating institution Moody's has upgraded the outlook on New Mexico's issuer and general obligation bonds from stable to positive based on strong general fund reserves and pension funding initiatives, according to its Credit Opinion Report highlighting New Mexico's recent fiscal practices.

"This new national report is great news that demonstrates we're making sound fiscal decisions that will benefit New Mexicans for years to come," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. "It's clear that our fiscal strategy is working, and we'll continue to make smart investments and prepare for the future."

According to Moody's report, "New Mexico's (Aa2 positive) already strong credit metrics are likely to improve as the state continues to maintain healthy operating reserves and forecasts further growth in its sizable permanent fund balances. On September 20, we [Moody's] revised the outlook on the state to positive, reflecting our view that this improved financial position will outweigh some risks inherent in its economy, which is concentrated in oil and gas and government employment."

Should current state actions continue, Moody's will consider upgrading the state issuer, general obligation, and severance tax bonds in the next 12 to 18 months.

"The improved bond rating outlook by Moody's reflects the administration's strong fiscal governance on several fronts," said DFA Sec. Wayne Propst. "These included reducing long-term debt issuance, maintaining healthy operating reserve balances exceeding 30%, stabilizing long-term pension liabilities, and an overall commitment to responsible debt management while increasing permanent fund balances to secure the state's future."

While changes to Moody's bond rating methodology adjusted the rating assigned to the state's severance tax and transportation bonds, those ratings should be restored to previous levels by the time any new bonds are issued. Because of strong revenue and financial investments, the state has no plans to issue long-term severance tax bonds for the foreseeable future.

All Moody's ratings on the state's long-term bonds are among the highest investment grade levels.

Medicaid Fraud Control Division

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

201 Third St. NW Suite 300 Albuquerque, NM 87102 Phone: 505-717-3585	1175 Commerce Dr. Ste. A Las Cruces, NM 88011 Phone: 505-717-3585
--	---

Webpage: <http://www.nmag.gov/medicaid-fraud-control.aspx>
Email a complaint: report.mfcu@nmag.gov

File a complaint on our website

We investigate and prosecute fraud committed by Medicaid providers & abuse, neglect, and exploitation of residents in facilities.

Medicaid Provider Types:

Doctors, dentists, nurses, caregivers, therapists, facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, laboratories.

Examples of Investigations

Billing For:

- ◆ Services not provided
- ◆ Unnecessary medical equipment
- ◆ Deceased or incarcerated individuals
- ◆ More expensive services than provided
- ◆ Duplicate services
- ◆ Caregiver battery, abuse, stealing medications
- ◆ Whistleblower cases involving Medicaid funds
- ◆ Bribes in connection with treatment or equipment
- ◆ Kickback schemes involving Medicaid providers

Our Office does not provide legal advice to private individuals. If you need legal advice or representation, you may want to contact a private attorney. The New Mexico State Bar can help you find an attorney: 505-797-6066.

The New Mexico MFCU receives 75 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award totaling \$3,039,464.57 for Federal fiscal year 2023. The remaining 25 percent, totaling \$1,013,154.86 for fiscal year 2023, is funded by the State of New Mexico.



Indian Affairs Department supports #breakingbadhabits

NMDOT, D5 Employees of the Month, September 2024

By Marlene Gallegos

New Mexico Department of Transportation, District 5 recognizes these employees for their hard work and dedication. Congratulations!



Joseph Muniz, Employee of the Month, and Randy Gonzales, Supervisor of the Month



Clines Corner Patrol, Crew of the Month: Brian Yoakum, Hector Barraza, Matthew Garcia, Tim Butz. (not pictured Randy Martinez)



Department of Transportation supporting #BreakingBadHabits

Are You Tired of Hurting? It's time to try Naprapathy.

Living with chronic pain can feel overwhelming, but there are solutions! At The Backbone-Naprapathic Rehab Clinic, we specialize in managing pain caused by posture, arthritis, fibromyalgia, migraines, stress, and more.



State employees have up to 25 Naprapathic treatments per year (regardless of deductibles)



Take advantage of your benefits!

Call today: (505) 591-6277

Schedule online: www.thebackboneclinic.com

Location: 4015 Carlisle Blvd. Abq, NM 87107

529s Can Be an Estate Planning Tool

By Carolyn Fittipaldi



By including a 529 plan in an estate plan, people can reduce their taxable estate, while investing in the future education of loved ones—providing both immediate and long-term financial advantages.

The Education Plan®, a 529 education savings program sponsored by the State of New Mexico, can help enhance estate planning, while empowering future generations. Contributions to a 529 account for a beneficiary are considered gifts for tax purposes. The federal annual gift tax exclusion allows for \$18,000 for a single individual and \$36,000 for married couples. One major opportunity for 529 plans is accelerated gifting - which allows people the opportunity to make five years of gifts in one year - \$90,000 per person or \$180,000 per couple at 2024 IRS gifting limits.

“Using 529 plans, grandparents can utilize the accelerated gifting and give to multiple grandchildren,” explained Natalie Cordova, Executive Director of the New Mexico Education Trust Board, the state agency that administers The Education Plan. This is a great way for grandparents to invest in their grandchildren’s future in a tax advantaged way.”

In addition to allowing for accelerated gifting, 529 plans grow tax-free, and withdrawals used for qualified education expenses such as tuition, books, and room and board, and more, are not subject to federal or state income tax. Contributions to The Education Plan are also tax-deductible on New Mexico state income tax returns. This enables families to grow their education savings faster, without the additional tax burden.

“Now is an important time for families to consider how they can plan for future educational needs while optimizing their estate planning strategy,” added Natalie Cordova. “A 529 plan offers significant flexibility, allowing families to set aside funds for education in a tax-efficient manner, and also provides an opportunity to reduce their taxable estate.”

The versatility of 529 plans makes them an attractive option for a variety of education-related expenses. The funds in a 529 plan aren’t limited to just traditional four-year colleges. Families can also use the savings to pay for K-12 tuition (up to \$10,000 per year, vocational training, and even registered apprenticeship programs. Additionally, up to \$10,000 from a 529 plan can be used to help repay student loans, providing flexibility for both beneficiaries and their parents.

“Education is one of the greatest gifts we can give to future generations,” said Cordova. “A 529 plan provides families with a purposeful financial tool to support lifelong learning, whether it's for college, technical training, or even K-12 education. “When planning your estate, consider looking ahead to future generations and contribute to a tax-advantaged 529 plan.”

For more information about The Education Plan® and how a 529 plan can enhance your estate planning efforts, visit <https://www.theeducationplan.com/>

Kids Discover Composting and Worm Wonders at ReUnity Farms!

By Kimm Wiens



In late October our ECE students visited ReUnity Resources, a five-acre regenerative farm in Agua Fria dedicated to fighting food insecurity and climate change, reducing food waste, and cultivating the community through shared food. Students explored compost piles and red wiggler worms, taste-tested produce and helped make an outdoor fire.

Curating a Rich Life

By Nick Mandel

During the summer I had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. and the National Mall. For those unfamiliar with the mall, it is an open area campus of museums and monuments occupying almost two miles of our nation's history and relics of the past. My plan was to visit four or five of the eleven Smithsonian museums located on the National Mall campus. Foolish me. At closing time, I had barely completed viewing the mammals exhibit hall at the Natural History Museum. Later, I learned that of the specimens I viewed and on exhibit, not all were on display. Other specimens were in storage, behind the scenes to be featured at some future date. A museum specialist called a curator would decide what specimens, what themes, the essence and even what colors on the walls might go with a certain exhibit. That curator handled presenting the entire tone and quality of an exhibit or display being viewed.

While the word curator has commonly been associated with the selection of exhibits in museums and art galleries, it has application in our profession and personal lives. Like the museum curator, our lives can resemble the challenge of having too much in front of us and not enough time, energy, and space to commit properly for each. Home improvement, exercise, children, community, church, leisure, and the list go on. We can have so much to do, not always having the agency to engage with them in a meaningful way.

Yen Lin Kong, in her TED talk, "How to Curate Your Own Life," offers one definition of the word curate that might aid in this dilemma. Derived from the Latin word, Cur, it means to take care of, oversee and manage a collection of precious objects as a custodian or guardian would do.

As an example, I have hundreds of books, more than 500 plus. And while I have given many away, many I do not want to part with, even if I am not currently reading them. I expect to reference or reread in some form in the months, many even years ahead. As I thought about it, we all have similar circumstances. The changing of

the seasons where summer clothes go into storage, winter clothes come out to wear, and we decide what to get rid of. Or friends from college or past employment that we no longer connect with regularly, only to reconnect years later.

This act of curation is not limited to things, but includes lifestyles, social media, preferred dining locations and your livelihood. Consider that job interview for a promotion. You curate your best self, ignoring the other stuff, as you present your accomplishments and achievements. We are constantly putting our best foot forward at work, with neighbors or at the grocery store. As Michael Lim blogs in Medium, (medium.com/better-advice/want-to-be-happy-stop-curating-your-life-and-start-creating-it) we are all self-curators in presenting our lives. Even when someone asks: how are you? We respond fine, even if we are not so fine.



© Melissa Camara Wilkins.com

The act of curation can include your professional career. The act of selecting and choosing with discretion those activities and development that will enhance your career. Or the choice of those websites and blogs to follow that provide the most value to you. Which new developments and trends emerging in your industry should you pay attention to? Or the meetings, conferences, and similar events that look of interest or you think you should attend. Your work life can be just as overwhelming as your personal stuff. You can curate this aspect of your professional life as well. Julie Perrine from her website AllthingsAdmin.com, (www.allthingsadmin.com/career-curation/) offers these five bullet points to aid in the curation process.



Source: Microsoft Copilot

1. Do your own Self-Discovery. Find your strengths and then how do you build them to create your best professional self,
2. Setting and establishing your SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) goals for your career that are cultivated from your self-discovery,
3. Continuing to learn and developed the skills that will enhance the SMART goals outlined and identified,
4. Building a network of professional relationships based on career and SMART goals and,
5. Leveraging your Personal Brand, and recognizing your personal brand is just that. A specialized niche limited to what you have identified and curated based on your Self-Discovery, SMART goals, and other items you curated from above.

As a final thought the act of curating a life is a continual process. Our life, relationships, and careers go through changes. It is not a one and done act, but one of evolution to create a satisfying and rich curated life. Gail Golden, in her terrific book, "Curating Your Life," (www.gailgoldenconsulting.com/insights) offers the following to aid in this process by acting with these three items in mind;

1. Say no to the unimportant- do not waste time and energy on them,
2. Be mediocre at the things that are important but not critical to you and your life,
3. Be great at the profoundly important things in your life.

Consider the process of curating your life, personally and professionally. In doing so, you can enhance and expand into a more satisfying and fulfilling life.

What is on your mind? Nick Mandel can be reached at promandel@gmail.com



FALL INTO FUN AT YOUR NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS!

UTE LAKE STATE PARK 3D BOW SHOOT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • 7AM - 12PM
FEES: \$26/PERSON PLUS \$5 REGULAR ENTRANCE FEE
OR VALID NM STATE PARKS ANNUAL PASS

LEASBURG DAM STATE PARK STAR GAZING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 • 5PM - 7:30PM
FEES: \$5 REGULAR ENTRANCE FEE
OR VALID NMSP ANNUAL PASS

CERRILLOS HILLS STATE PARK STUFFING STRUT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 • 11AM - 1PM
FEES: \$5 REGULAR ENTRANCE FEE
OR VALID NM STATE PARKS ANNUAL PASS

CERRILLOS HILLS STATE PARK HIBERNATION HIKE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 11AM - 1PM
FEES: \$5 REGULAR ENTRANCE FEE
OR VALID NM STATE PARKS ANNUAL PASS



VISIT OUR
CALENDAR



¡VÁMONOS!
LET'S GO NEW MEXICO!

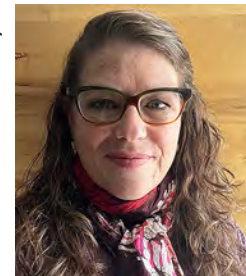
EMNRD.NM.GOV/SPD  1-888-NMPARKS

Shaping What You See: New Hires NM Department of Cultural Affairs Museums

By Christina Claassen

A wealth of professional experience, knowledge, and leadership comes to New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs museums in Santa Fe. Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA) promoted Felicia Katz-Harris as Director of Curatorial Affairs. David Newell joins New Mexico History Museum (NMHM) as the Head of Curation & Exhibits.

Felicia Katz-Harris has served as the Senior Curator | Curator of Asian and Oceanic Folk Art at the Museum of International Folk Art for almost twenty years. In her new position as MOIFA Director of Curatorial Affairs, Katz-Harris serves as the curatorial team lead and is responsible for overall exhibit strategy and schedule, as well as engaging audiences and partners using interactive, digital, and collaborative techniques. Her exhibitions include: Yōkai: Ghosts & Demons of Japan; Sacred Realm: Blessings & Good Fortune Across Asia; Tako Kichi: Kite Crazy in Japan; and Dancing Shadows, Epic Tales: Wayang Kulit of Indonesia, which won an award from the American Alliance of Museums for overall excellence in museum exhibitions.



David Newell, who joined NMHM on August 19, 2024, will lead the curatorial team and guide development of programs and exhibitions in line with the museum's "Framework for the Future." With a 25-year museum career, he most recently spearheaded the exhibition program for multiple museums at the State Historical Society of North Dakota. He also held positions at the Ruth Davis Design Gallery at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Newell is a proven force in creating captivating exhibitions, fostering collaboration with curatorial teams, and expertly managing budgets and staff.

"I am thrilled to be joining the staff of the New Mexico History Museum," said Newell. "To live and work in New Mexico, and Santa Fe in particular, has been a dream for almost 30 years. I am drawn to New Mexico on so many levels and can't wait to begin exploring its history and stories."

NMDOT Creates Traffic Safety Garden at Main NMDOT Campus

Open to Public for Use

By Kristine Bustos-Mihelcic

In an effort to improve Traffic Safety Culture in New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) launched a campaign to boost awareness, this October, during Pedestrian Safety Month. One of the activities from the campaign is the creation of a Traffic Safety Garden located on the NMDOT campus in Santa Fe. The garden was officially opened with the help of Cabinet Secretary Serna and the preschool class from Little Explorers Child Development Center. The traffic safety garden is located off Cerrillos Road near building SB-1 and is open to the public throughout the month.



A traffic garden is a mini transportation system, where children can practice positive traffic safety behaviors in a safe space away from the traveling public. Using play as an educational tool, children can learn and practice behaviors that will protect them, such as using crosswalks, looking both ways for oncoming traffic, recognizing stop and yield signs, and facing traffic while walking.

The NMDOT designed traffic garden is made with spaces commonly seen on New Mexico roads—intersections with and without marked crosswalks, railroad crossings, roads without sidewalks, and roundabouts. In a small space, children learn how to be good pedestrians and bicyclists, and develop good behaviors for driving, later in life.

"Ingraining positive traffic safety habits in children is an important part of the behavior change New Mexico needs. Children will become future drivers, and more immediately they'll encourage their parents to adopt these behaviors behind the wheel," said Cabinet Secretary Serna. He continued, "Pedestrian Safety Month is a great opportunity for our community to focus on early development of behaviors, which protect our vulnerable pedestrians."

LOST: Posterboard affixed with concert memorabilia and media badges somewhere between the Capitol Parking garage and the governor's office on the weekend of Oct. 12-13. Sentimental value; reward for return. Please contact Michael Coleman at 505-500-9095

Raton MainStreet is Semifinalist for 2025 Great American Main Street Award

Raton is one of eight national organizations selected for outstanding downtown revitalization work

By Jessica Mraz

On October 1st, the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) announced that Raton MainStreet has been selected as a 2025 Great American Main Street Award (GAMSA) semifinalist by Main Street America. The GAMSA recognizes communities for their excellence in comprehensive preservation-based commercial district revitalization. Three of the eight semifinalists will receive the coveted honor at the Main Street Now Conference in Philadelphia on April 7, 2025.



Raton MainStreet/Arts & Culture District
© Patricia Duran

“Congratulations to Raton MainStreet and to all the dedicated community members who are working to improve the quality of life for their residents everyday. The recognition is well deserved and we are honored to partner with such dedicated local leadership,” EDD Secretary Designate Rob Black said.

“As a Raton native, I know how special downtown Raton is and I'm proud that Main Street America is recognizing Raton MainStreet's outstanding efforts to revitalize their district,” EDD Division Director Mark Roper said.

A jury of community economic development professionals reviewed a nationwide pool of GAMSA applicants. After thoughtful deliberation, they unanimously selected eight semifinalists that demonstrate exemplary use of the Main Street Approach™ to lead community-based transformation strategies in their downtowns.

“Raton MainStreet has been an affiliated district continuously since 2005 and a perennial Main Street America Accredited program since 2014. We're very grateful for the for the extraordinary partnership between Raton MainStreet, the City of Raton, and NMMS State Coordinating program that has led to the positive transformation of Raton's MainStreet District. I'm so proud to congratulate them as a GAMSA semifinalist,” NM MainStreet Director Daniel Gutierrez said.

“I am honored to congratulate the eight Main Street organizations as 2025 Great American Main Street Award semifinalists and to celebrate their incredible accomplishments,” Main Street America President and CEO Erin Barnes said. “This year's semifinalists demonstrate exceptional achievements in reenergizing their downtowns through inclusive, collaborative organizing and innovative economic development, arts and culture, and historic preservation initiatives.”

Competing for the Great American Main Street Award is a significant achievement in the Main Street Movement, and receiving the award is an esteemed honor. Since its establishment in 1995, only 112 of more than 2000 Main Street programs have been acknowledged as GAMSA-winning communities.

“We are so honored to be named as a semifinalist. Some days the work we do feels like a struggle, but this makes it all worth it. We love Raton and we will continue to work hard to improve the quality of life for our community residents and visitors,” Raton MainStreet Executive Director Brenda Ferri said.

Collectively, the 2025 GAMSA semifinalists have generated more than \$695 million in local reinvestment, helped open 975 net new businesses, facilitated the creation of 7,190 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 1,568 historic buildings, and leveraged 333,050 volunteer hours.

Learn more about Raton MainStreet and the other semifinalists on Main Street America's website.

Governor issues statement on the passing of Navajo Code Talker John Kinsel Sr.

By Jodi McGinnis Porter

On October 20th, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham issued the following statement on Navajo Code Talker, John Kinsel Sr.



Donovan Quintero/AP

“John Kinsel's service as a Marine and Navajo Code Talker represented the values and valor that helped the U.S., and its allies prevail in World War II. His legacy is one of extraordinary courage and profound patriotism, not only as a warrior but as a protector of his Navajo heritage. I invite my fellow New Mexicans and Americans to join me in reflecting on Mr. Kinsel's bravery and sacrifice in honor of his service to America and the Navajo Nation. Manny and I extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Kinsel's family and loved ones during this difficult time.

As we honor Mr. Kinsel's life and contributions, it is also an opportunity to recognize the importance of the Navajo Code Talkers Museum. Although still in development, this museum will serve as a lasting tribute to the remarkable stories of Navajo Code Talkers like John Kinsel, ensuring that future generations understand and appreciate their vital role in history.”



NM PED supports
#BreakingBadHabits



INTEGRATIVE ORIENTAL MEDICINE

**JAPANESE ACUPUNCTURE
KOTOTAMA TRADITION**

**COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

ALLERGIES · ANXIETY & STRESS · ARTHRITIS
 DIABETES · INSULIN RESISTANCE · WEIGHT LOSS
 INFERTILITY IVF PROTOCOLS · MENOPAUSE & PERIMENOPAUSE
 IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME · PROSTATE ISSUES
 STOP SMOKING · VERTIGO · AUTO-IMMUNE DISEASES
 AUTO & SPORTS INJURIES · PAIN & TRAUMA MANAGEMENT
 SIDE EFFECTS OF CANCER TREATMENTS

Most Major Insurances Accepted

FIQUET HANNA DUCKWORTH, D.O.M.
1510 S. St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe

505.982.9626

FiquetHannaDuckworthClinic.com

New Mexicans Can Now Apply for Clean Car Tax Credit

Credits up to \$3,000 for purchase of electric and other low-emission vehicles

By Sidney Hill

e m n r d The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department is accepting applications for the state's Clean Car Tax Credit.

The tax credit, enacted during the 2024 legislative session, offers an income tax credit of up to \$3,000 to individuals or businesses who purchase or lease an electric vehicle, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle or fuel cell vehicle. It also offers a credit of up to \$25,000 for purchasing and installing a qualified vehicle charger for home or commercial use.

"With these tax credits in place, we are able to support more New Mexicans when they choose to drive low- or zero-emission vehicles," said EMNRD Sec. Designate Melanie Kenderdine. "This is part of the Lujan Grisham administration's overall effort to support affordable, environmentally friendly transportation options for all of our state's

residents." To target this tax relief to lower and moderate-income New Mexicans, the law placed a limit on the purchase price of qualifying vehicles and allows the credit to be claimed for used vehicles. New vehicles must have a base manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$55,000 or less, while previously owned vehicles must have a market value of \$25,000 or less and come with a dealer-provided warranty of at least one year against defects and repairs.

"These credits will make electric vehicles accessible to more New Mexicans, which will support New Mexico's transition to clean, reliable transportation," said Taxation and Revenue Sec. Stephanie Schardin Clarke.

The credits apply to vehicles and chargers purchased between May 15, 2024, and December 31, 2029. Federal tax credits are also available for the purchase of electric vehicles

and may be combined to greatly reduce the purchase cost of an electric vehicle.

Eligible taxpayers are individuals who purchase or lease (for at least three years) qualifying vehicles through a licensed dealer in New Mexico or on tribal lands. To be eligible, chargers must be installed by a licensed electrician and connected to a utility network.

Visit EMNRD's website at CleanEnergy.nm.gov to learn more and apply for the tax credit. After purchasing a qualifying vehicle or charging system, taxpayers can use the online portal to submit their application.

"We created the online portal to streamline the processing of Clean Car Tax Credit applications," said Rebecca "Puck" Stair, director of EMNRD's Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECAM), which is administering the tax credit program. "All of the information about the program—



including which vehicles and chargers qualify and instructions for filling out and submitting the application—is available in this single location."

Once an application is approved, ECAM will issue a Certificate of Eligibility, which the taxpayer must then submit to the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department when filing their state income tax return. If the credit exceeds the amount of taxes owed, the taxpayer will receive a refund for the excess amount.

The tax credits are transferable, which means the taxpayer receiving the credit can sell it to another individual. In some cases, taxpayers will be able to transfer the credit to the car dealer, in effect getting a discount on the car's purchase price at time of sale.



Santa Fe County Treasurer Office

Fall is upon us, and 1st half Property tax payments are due from November 12th –December 10th. Below is the 1st half outreach schedule. We hope to see you in the convenience of your community.



Outreach Program Convenience Locations

The outreach program was designed to cover a broad range of Santa Fe County's territory and is available during the two tax seasons which are: November / December and April / May. We offer the following convenience centers where you can pay your taxes from 10:30am – 1:00pm.

<p>Mary Esther Gonzales Senior Center 1121 Alto Street</p> <p>Tuesday, November 19, 2024 Tuesday, December 3, 2024</p>	<p>Edgewood Satellite Office 114 Quail Trail (CR-9)</p> <p>Monday, November 18, 2024 Monday, December 2, 2024</p>
<p>Eldorado Satellite Office 16 Avenida Torreon</p> <p>Wednesday November 20, 2024 Wednesday December 4, 2024</p>	<p>Pojoaque Satellite Office 5 West Gutierrez, Suite 9</p> <p>Thursday, November 21, 2024 Thursday, December 5, 2024 (4:00pm – 6:00pm)</p>

For more Information please visit our website at www.santafecountynm.gov/treasurer.



You can't predict their talent.
You can protect their future with
a **529 education savings plan.**

It's great to dream about your child earning an athletic scholarship. Reality is less than 2% actually earn one. It's even better to plan for their future with a 529 education savings plan from The Education Plan. A 529 plan not only covers the costs of going to college, but it can also be used for K-12 tuition, apprenticeships, and trade school. There are also tax benefits and the flexibility to change beneficiaries. The sooner you start the closer you'll be to helping your child's dreams come true.

Learn more at TheEducationPlan.com.



The Education Plan[®]
A little today goes a long way



KEEP LITTER OUT OF MY TERRITORY

Breaking Bad Habits

Above: SPO and DWS supporting #BreakingBadHabits
Below: DWS in Albuquerque supporting #BreakingBadHabits



\$2.4 Million in State Job Training Funds Approved for September

Job Training program to assist 12 companies, train up to 177 NM employees

By Bruce Krasnow

Twelve New Mexico companies were awarded job training funds through the Job Training Incentive Program in the September 2024 monthly round of funding, announced New Mexico Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary Rob Black. September funding could assist up to 177 New Mexico workers.

Jobs approved in September will have an average wage range from \$20-\$86 per hour. Eight of the companies awarded are returning to further expand their employment with the help of the Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP), while four are applying for the first time. Awarded companies are located in Albuquerque, Algodones, Moriarty, Santa Fe, and Santa Teresa.

“The Economic Development Department is proud to support businesses and workers using New Mexico’s remarkable Job Training Incentive Program,” Sec. Rob Black said. “It’s a joy to see New Mexico’s innovative and thriving companies utilize JTIP as a tool to expand their businesses, create new jobs, and help workers level up their skills.”

The total amount approved for September is just over \$2.4 million. Companies awarded include:

- **BlackVe, Inc.**, Albuquerque, 2 trainees at an average wage of \$86. BlackVe applies cutting-edge design, manufacturing, and production technologies to designing, manufacturing, and operating satellites. Award amended amount = \$98,384.
- **Franklin Mountain Packaging, LLC (FMP)**, Santa Teresa, 63 trainees at an average wage of \$20. FMP manufactures corrugated sheets and provides digital printing and die cutting services for the corrugated box-making industry. Total award amount = \$673,551.
- **Geobrugg North America**, Algodones, 25 trainees at an average wage of \$29. Geobrugg manufactures and sells high-tensile steel wire nets and matching services to monitor and protect against natural hazards such as rockfall, landslides, debris flows, avalanches, or coastal erosion. Total award amount = \$410,890.
- **Gonzo Family Farms**, Santa Fe, 19 trainees at an average wage of \$29. Gonzo Family Farms is a cannabis manufacturer specializing in unique, rapid-acting, recreational cannabis products. Total award amount = \$206,988.
- **Kairos Power LLC**, Albuquerque, 27 trainees at an average wage of \$51. Kairos Power is an advanced energy technology and engineering company launched out of a broad research effort at U.S. universities and national laboratories. Total award amount = \$699,660.
- **Mega Corp, Inc.**, Albuquerque, 2 trainees at an average wage of \$29. Mega Corp., Inc. manufactures water and fuel tanks, coal haulers, bottom-dump trailers, equipment transports, specialty dumper bodies, mobile pumps, and elevating scrapers for use around the world. Amended award amount = \$30,160.
- **Paseo Pottery**, Santa Fe, 2 trainees at an average wage of \$22. Paseo Pottery is a working pottery studio, factory, and showroom. Total award amount = \$22,370.
- **Robocasting Enterprises LLC**, Albuquerque, 2 trainees at an average wage of \$23. Robocasting’s industrial applications are mainly 3D-printed filters for filtering molten superalloys used in aerospace applications. Total award amount = \$23,570.
- **Sage Botanicals**, Santa Fe, 7 trainees at an average wage of \$33. Sage Botanical manufactures, assembles, distributes, and sells cacti and related botanical products, including custom soil blends. Total award amount = \$164,260.
- **Sceye, Inc.**, Moriarty, 1 trainee with a wage of \$55. Sceye is a manufacturer of High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) for the stratosphere at 65,000 feet. Total award amount = \$40,091.
- **STEM Boomerang**, Albuquerque, 25 trainees through the Step Up Program. STEM Boomerang addresses New Mexico’s workforce recruitment challenges by providing a training program aimed at helping businesses develop successful recruitment strategies to grow and retain their workforce. Total award amount = \$49,000.
- **Tumbleroot Brewing LLC**, Santa Fe, 2 trainees at an average wage of \$20. Tumbleroot is a boutique craft producer specializing in craft beer styles and premium spirits. Total award amount = \$18,098.

To learn more about JTIP, visit EDD.NewMexico.gov/JTIP.



Top: Paseo Pottery during the Rufina Street Block Party in Santa Fe Bottom: Geobrugg employees making metal fencing. Photos courtesy of Paseo Potter & Geobrugg North America

National Latino Behavioral Health Association **NUBHA** Proudly Presents

Mariachi Christmas 2024

Andrea Michelle Darren Cordova Dynette Marie




Special appearance by Ballet Folklorico and Ms. C's Children's Choir

Friday, December 6, 2024

The Lensic Performing Arts Center
Doors Open at 6:00pm and Shows Starts at 7:00pm

Sponsors:




Ticket Information:



Lentic Performing Arts Center
211 W. San Francisco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Tickets at Lentic.org,
505-988-1234 or Lentic Box Office

Three New Mexico schools honored with Blue Ribbon Award

By Janelle Garcia

Three New Mexico schools have been recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona as National Blue Ribbon Schools, a prestigious designation that reflects exemplary academic performance or progress.

The New Mexico schools—among 356 selected nationwide—are:

- **White Sands School—Las Cruces Public Schools**
- **Zia Elementary School—Clovis Municipal Schools**
- **Ventana Ranch Elementary School—Albuquerque Public Schools**

National Blue Ribbon Schools excel in academic performance (Exemplary High Performing School) or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups (Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School). All three NM schools were recognized as Exemplary High Performing Schools.

"Congratulations to all the 2024 New Mexico Blue Ribbon awardees," said Public Education Secretary Designate Mariana D. Padilla. "This accomplishment reflects the hard work that students, families, educators and administrators are doing together

across the state to improve student achievement."

National Blue Ribbon Schools are led by leaders who articulate a clear vision of instructional excellence and uphold high standards. They showcase effective teaching methods and offer robust professional development for their staff. Data-driven instruction is a hallmark, and there is a concerted effort to ensure every student succeeds. Collaboration among families, communities and educators is a key component of their success.

"This prestigious recognition is a direct reflection of our dedication to district initiatives, the curriculum and Las Cruces Public Schools' strategic plan to be a place where all learners thrive," said White Sands School Principal James Dickerson

"The Blue Ribbon Award is an incredible achievement and a true testament to the outstanding leadership and dedication of the White Sands staff," said Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent Ignacio Ruiz. "This recognition is well-deserved, and we're all thrilled to celebrate this success!"

"I cannot fully express how proud I am of our teachers and students for

their dedication and hard work every day," said Zia Elementary School Principal Kaylene Davis. "Their unwavering commitment to excellence is what makes Zia a National Blue Ribbon School. Our teachers use data-driven instruction processes to guide their teaching decisions, which has a profound impact on student performance and learning."

"We are incredibly proud of the dedicated staff, talented students and supportive families at Zia Elementary who work together to create a dynamic and thriving learning environment," said Clovis Municipal Schools Superintendent Renee Russ.

"Ventana Ranch Elementary School is genuinely honored to receive the Blue Ribbon Award, which reflects our school community's collective efforts and dedication," said Ventana Ranch Elementary School Principal Paula Garcia. "One of the unique strengths of our school is our unwavering commitment to following our curriculum with fidelity. This approach ensures consistency and clarity in instruction, allowing us to provide a high-quality learning experience for every student."

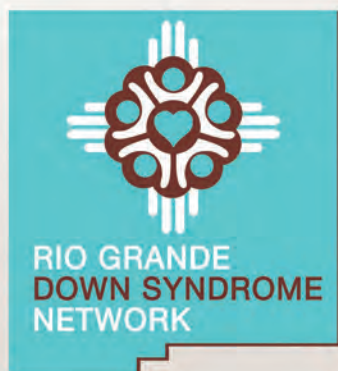
National Blue Ribbon Schools

Learning from Great American Schools since 1982

"Albuquerque Public Schools is thrilled by Ventana Ranch Elementary's selection as a Blue Ribbon School," said Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Gabriella Blakey. "It's confirmation that a school community working together can make a difference in students' education. I congratulate Principal Paula Garcia, her team at Ventana Ranch and the school's students, teachers and parents for all their hard work. They're an inspiration to all of us."

Each nominated school submits a comprehensive application detailing its school culture, curriculum, assessments, instructional practices, professional development, leadership and family and community involvement.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The U.S. Department of Education invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Award from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.



Rio Grande Down Syndrome Network is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower individuals with Down syndrome and their families through

advocacy, education and support. We are a collaborative network that seeks to create awareness, assure inclusion, and promote independence in individuals with Down syndrome. For more information, please visit www.rgdsn.org



In 2023, HOLMANS USA donated over \$200,000 to local charities. We believe in celebrating organizations that make New Mexico a better place. By shining a light on our local nonprofits, we aim to raise awareness and support for those making a difference in our New Mexico community. To learn more, please reach out to community@holmans.com

Inaugural Deam Conference And Hiring Event

By Jeff Levine

More than 250 people attended the first-ever New Mexico Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) Conference on October 17 at UNM Continuing Education in Albuquerque.

Attendees heard about what is happening in the state and what more can be done to support New Mexicans with disabilities in finding and maintaining meaningful employment. The conference portion of the day was followed by a well-attended job fair with 17 employers and a dozen community resource tables.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued a proclamation officially declaring October as Disability Employment Awareness Month throughout the state, presented by Gina DeBlassie, the health policy advisor to the governor. The keynote speaker was Hector Balderas, president of Northern New Mexico College and former attorney general, who shared his own family's story. Cabinet Secretary Sarita Nair of the Department of Workforce Solutions delivered the closing address.



Northern New Mexico College President Hector Balderas's keynote address including sharing his own family's inspiring story.



Cabinet Secretary Sarita Nair of the Department of Workforce Solutions holds the Disability Employment Awareness Month proclamation from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. With Nair are Lisa McNiven from the Governor's Commission on Disability (left) and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Director Casey Stone-Romero.

A disability employment panel discussion was moderated by Lisa McNiven, deputy director of the Governor's Commission on Disability. Panelists included representatives of the Department of Education's Office of Special Education, State Personnel Office, Disability Rights New Mexico, and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The event was made possible through the combined efforts of a coalition of state agencies and organizations committed to supporting New Mexicans with disabilities. They include the Governor's Commission on Disability, Department of Workforce Solutions, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Commission for the Blind, Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Department of Veteran Services, Developmental Disability Supports Division, Healthcare Authority, Developmental Disabilities Council, Disability Pride New Mexico, UNM Center for Development and Disability, Horizons of New Mexico, Willing to Work, and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

New Mexico State Police Showcase 2024 and Project New Goals In 2025

By Silver Wilson

The New Mexico State Police is highlighting what 2024 has shown to date and rolling out some goals for 2025.



One of those goals is to improve recruitment and retention. A new docuseries called "Forging the Future" follows New Mexico State Police recruits as they progress through the academy and documents their journey to becoming a New Mexico State Police Officer.

Technology improvements have shown increased efficiency in officers' daily duties. This includes a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system which makes it easier for officers to look up and combine information on calls. Officers are also transitioning to a new body camera system which has increased capabilities over the last system they wore. The Advanced License Plate Readers that have been put into the field have helped officers in locating stolen vehicles and other vehicles of interest that have been used in crimes.

Another goal for the New Mexico State Police is to adapt to the changing nature of crime. A new Digital Forensic Support Unit was created to assist our officers in collecting the increasing amount of digital data related to criminal activity. This helps solve crimes and build stronger cases.

Maintaining Accountability and Effectiveness of the department has always been a goal of the New Mexico State Police and will continue to be one. Comprehensive briefing videos for New Mexico State Police officer involved shootings are starting to be released to show transparency to the public. We have also provided ride alongs for both State and Federal Legislators to show the day in the life of an officer and how the goals being mentioned here are being accomplished first-hand.

Fiscal Year 2024, which wrapped up in June showed increased enforcement activity and productivity across the agency. For example, in FY24 officers issued 177,056 traffic citations compared to 159,643 in FY23, an 11% increase. Officers across the state have also increased DWI arrests by 38%. When it comes to violent crime cases, the State Police Investigations Bureau achieved a Homicide Clearance rate of 92%.

Notable increases from FY23 to FY24 are shown below:

- Overall Arrests- 11% increase
- Fugitive Apprehension Repeat Offender Arrests- 74% increase
- Investigations Bureau investigations- 18% increase
- Crime Suppression Bureau Drug Cases- 17% increase
- State Police Cases Investigated- 71% increase

In the months ahead State Police will continue to strive to maintain an extremely active presence around the state. We will continue to work with our local and federal partners to increase coordination for joint operations and intelligence sharing throughout the state as we continue to target problem areas for increased enforcement.

Audiology Associates™



HEARING AIDS ARE covered

FOR MOST NM STATE EMPLOYEES WITH PRESBYTERIAN AND BCBS INSURANCE

"We listen closely when it comes to your hearing."

ROMEROHEARING.COM
505-842-5810

460 ST. MICHAEL'S DR.
SUITE 901
SANTA FE, NM 87505

8300 CARMEL AVE NE
SUITE 104
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87122



Dr. Kathleen Romero

NMDOT D1 Employees of the Month, October 2024

By Ami Evans



Employee of the Month- Keith Gambrel 41-36

Keith has made outstanding contributions to the D1-Survey Team. His strong personality and character have made him an invaluable asset in coordinating and managing our day-to-day activities with both administrative and operational support teams throughout the district.

Since joining the survey team, Keith has not only elevated his performance and engagement with colleagues, but he also goes above and beyond outside of his regular duties. Following a dramatic accident involving team members, Keith has been incredibly supportive, ensuring that anyone in need—whether for transportation to and from work or for medical visits—receives the assistance they require without hesitation. Keith's selfless behavior sets a remarkable example for all.

Keith's willingness to learn and his desire to grow professionally reflects

his commitment to supporting this team and the district effectively. In a short period, Keith has become a trusted and relied-upon member of our team. Thank you, Keith, for your exceptional dedication and support!



Supervisor of the Month-Brenda Leyba 41-27

Brenda has been instrumental in reviewing salaries, coordinating with the General Office, and ensuring that HR transactions stay on track. Making thoughtful recommendations to the District Engineer for various HR needs, all while managing numerous demands with remarkable efficiency.

In addition to Brenda's core responsibilities, she actively assists the General Office and participate in statewide HR Council meetings to enhance NMDOT HR processes. Brenda's efforts provide invaluable support to District Engineer, ADEs, and the entire district. Streamlining

operations within the D1 HR group, focusing on organization, cross-training, and improving efficiencies has proven to be invaluable. Importantly, she also dedicates time to meet the needs of individual employees, providing assistance whenever necessary.

Moreover, Brenda really goes above and beyond by supporting fundraisers for employees facing financial difficulties due to on-the-job accidents or personal challenges. Brenda's positive and helpful attitude is a tremendous asset to both the district and the department as a whole. Thank you, Brenda, for your exceptional contributions!

Crew of the Month-Stores 41-25 Vicente Gallosa & Mike Moran




This crew has truly exemplified exceptional customer service by con-

sistently going above and beyond, all while being shorthanded and without a supervisor.

Despite the challenges, they have taken the initiative to assist both internal and external customers without being prompted. Their positive attitudes have not only enhanced their own department but have also fostered a welcoming work environment for everyone.

Recently, an internal customer reached out for assistance due to a weight restriction caused by illness, making it difficult for them to pick up their package. Without hesitation, you gentlemen volunteered to deliver the package directly to her, showcasing their commitment to service and teamwork.

This is just one example of how you have repeatedly taken initiative in various situations, demonstrating remarkable improvement in communication with both internal and external vendors. Their dedication to providing excellent customer service, always with a smile and genuine attitude, truly deserves recognition. Thank you for your hard work and commitment!




SANTAFEKIA.COM

ASK ABOUT OUR STATE EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT


HUGE USED CAR INVENTORY

CERTIFIED PREOWNED KIAs



\$19,998
98,529 MILES
Stock: N25120A

PRE-OWNED 2019 KIA SORENTO SX LIMITED V6 AWD AUTOMATIC



\$24,503
4,099 MILES
Stock: N25167A

PRE-OWNED 2024 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT FWD AUTOMATIC


EVERY CERTIFIED PREOWNED KIA HAS:

- ▶ 164 pt rigorous inspection
- ▶ 10yr or 100,000 miles power train warranty
- ▶ 12 mo/12,000 miles bumper to bumper protection
- ▶ 10 yr unlimited mileage roadside assistance


SANTA FE KIA, WHERE WE TREAT YOU DIFFERENT

1701 ST. MICHAEL'S DR
SANTA FE, NM 87505

505.982.1957
MON-SAT 9-7PM



2022 DEALER OF THE YEAR



Santa Fe Kia



CARFAX 5 STAR
2020 TOP-RATED DEALER

New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Businesses Making Waves

Series highlights 17 businesses shaping the future of outdoor recreation in the state

By Michelle Simon

The New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) is publishing a dynamic new editorial project celebrating the vibrant outdoor recreation landscape across the state. New Mexico Outdoor Ventures, features captivating stories of 17 outdoor businesses, highlighting their unique contributions to New Mexico.

The New Mexico Outdoor Ventures collaboration is designed to elevate the voices and experiences of New Mexico's diverse outdoor recreation community with authentic storytelling.

"The outdoor recreation industry is increasing economic prosperity while improving the health and wellness of New Mexicans," New Mexico Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary-Designate Rob Black said. "We are excited to celebrate and support our hardworking and resilient entrepreneurs in the outdoor industry."

From outfitters and guides to gear makers and adventure hosts, the featured businesses span the state, representing a broad range within the

outdoor industry. Through a compelling mix of photography and narrative, New Mexico Outdoor Ventures encourages residents and visitors to discover new ways to engage with New Mexico's outdoors and support the outdoor recreation economy.

"We're excited to bring these inspiring stories to light and give recognition to the entrepreneurs and creators who are driving New Mexico's outdoor economy," ORD Director Karina Armijo said. "This project not only celebrates the beauty of our landscapes but also highlights the individuals and businesses who help others experience the outdoors in meaningful ways."

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has identified outdoor recreation as a key sector to grow and diversify New Mexico's economy. In 2019, the governor signed New Mexico's Outdoor Recreation Division into law, housing it within the Economic Development Department. Since then, ORD has invested over \$1 million in small businesses through its Outdoor Marketing Grant, Outdoor Recreation Business Accelerator Grant, annual Adventure

Pitch startup pitch competition, and ActivatOR Outdoor Recreation Growth Accelerator program.

To explore the full editorial and learn more about the featured businesses, visit NMOoutside.com New stories will be released every Monday and Thursday through November 14, 2024.

Featured Businesses:

- Navajo Tours
- Desert River Guides
- Rift Cycles
- Enchantment Equitrekks
- Hangtime Gear
- JACO Outfitters
- Moss Adventures & Raton Adventure Centre
- Hikers Coffee Co. & Hikers Cimarron Inn & RV Park
- Zia Kayak Outfitters
- Dynamic Discs New Mexico
- Wolfhorse Outfitters
- Moon Rock Outfitters
- Evan Green Photography
- Enchanted Mountain Guides



Left: John Oliver of JACO Outfitters glasses Right: Connor Bryan and Everett Brophy, co-owners of Dynamic Discs
Photos by Roberto E. Rosales Photography



Left: Diné guide Kialo Winters, owner & founder of Navajo Tours USA, Photo by Roberto E. Rosales Photography

Below: Rift Cycles co-owners Rafael Guevara and Molly Crickman Photo by Mike Sandoval



LOOKING FOR A FREE RIDE TO THE SKI SLOPES?

Share the Ride, Share the Joy.

The Blue Bus offers fare-free transportation to three New Mexico ski areas: Ski Santa Fe, Taos Ski Valley, Red River Ski Area

NORTH
CENTRAL
RTD

Blue
bus

Contact us to confirm service
866-206-0754, ext. 1
Ridethebluebus.com

State Hosts Fall Semi-Annual Government -to- Government Indian Education Summit

By Julia Sclafani

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and state education cabinet secretaries joined leaders from New Mexico's Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations for the semi-annual Government-to-Government (G2G) Indian Education Summit last week at the Hilton Buffalo Thunder in the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

Attendees from the state of New Mexico included the governor, Public Education Department Secretary Designate Mariana Padilla, Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky, Higher Education Department Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez, and Indian Affairs Department Secretary Josett Monette.

The meeting included a discussion of literacy efforts in Tribal communities, an update from the Office of Special Education on school monitoring visits, professional development, and workforce outreach efforts, as well as an overview of proposed legislation regarding regalia, with input from Tribal leaders.

"As we work to build a more equitable and inclusive education system, it is crucial that our state government partners with the sovereign governments of Nations, Tribes and Pueblos. These meetings are not just about policy; they are about honoring the voices, traditions, and educational priorities of Native communities. Together, we can create pathways that respect cultural heritage while ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed," said Secretary Designate Padilla.

"Hearing directly from the governors and presidents of the 23 Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos about their priorities and concerns helps ECECD better align our efforts to improve outcomes for Native American children and their families," said Secretary Groginsky. "ECECD is investing in high quality, culturally and linguistically relevant early childhood Tribal education, enhanced professional development for early educators, and expanded early childhood language immersion programs."

"Government-to-government meetings like these are an essential piece of building the problem-solving framework that is required to empower Tribal communities throughout New Mexico. Our agency and this entire administration are committed to maintaining and improving the lines of respectful, productive dialogue as we work together to improve outcomes for Native American students and families," said Secretary Rodriguez.

"The insights shared by Tribal leaders are crucial to shaping our educational priorities for Native American New Mexico students. Together with our sister agencies, IAD is excited to champion legislation like the regalia bill and other important legislation which honor cultural heritage and tradition while also ensuring our schools promote academic success and are safe spaces for all students," said Secretary Monette.



Corrections department in Albuquerque, left photo, and DCA, bottom photo, supporting #breakingbadhabits



Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Staying Safe online

Office of Cybersecurity uses month to promote best practices

By Renee Narvaiz

The Office of Cybersecurity (OCS) announces its commitment to cybersecurity by participating in the 21st Annual Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Founded in 2004, Cybersecurity Awareness Month, held each October, is the world's foremost initiative aimed at promoting cyber information and best practices. This is a collaborative effort among government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, nonprofit organizations, tribal communities, and individuals committed to educating others about online cyber safety.

"The Office of Cybersecurity worked with Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to issue a proclamation in New Mexico recognizing October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month," said Raja Sambandam, state chief information security officer. "We recognize the critical role cybersecurity plays in safeguarding New Mexico's citizens and state's digital assets from malicious actors that could severely impact our state digital landscape."

The proclamation for New Mexico underscores the essential responsibility of the state to protect constituents from cyber threats by inspiring, engaging and informing the public about cybersecurity hygiene. There are four easy steps to begin improving online safety.

1. Understand the benefits of using a password manager and dispelling existing myths around password manager security and ease of use.
2. Turn on multifactor authentication on personal devices and business networks.
3. Recognize and report phishing – still one of the primary threat actions used by cybercriminals today.
4. Install updates on a regular basis and turn on automated updates.

OCS and the New Mexico Department of Information Technology are proud to support Cybersecurity Awareness Month with the theme Secure Our World, led by CISA and the National Cybersecurity Alliance.

For more information about Cybersecurity Awareness Month and how to participate, visit cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month and staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/.

JOIN BLACK MESA'S
PLAYER'S CLUB AND RECEIVE
\$10 LOYALTY PLAY!

CASINO

BLACK MESA CASINO
PLAYERS CLUB

WIN A FORD
BRONCO
ON NOVEMBER 24

Your chance to
qualify each Sunday
in November.

Complete details at Player's Club.

CHALMERS

Open 9AM to 2AM Daily
25 Hagan Road
San Felipe Pueblo, NM 87001
blackmesacasino.com
505-867-6700

BLACK MESA CASINO
Where Albuquerque & Santa Fe Meet™

Mining and Minerals Division Extinguishes Two Abandoned Coal Mine Fires near Gallup

Long-smoldering fires threatened infrastructure projects, including new water supply line

By Sydney Hill

Two underground coal fires that were emitting toxic gases and threatening to disrupt infrastructure projects near the City of Gallup and nearby tribal communities have been extinguished, thanks to efforts of the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD).

The Gallup Coal Fire Mitigation Project targeted two fires that had been smoldering at least since 2011 at separate abandoned mine sites.

The Enterprise-Brown and Navajo No. 1 mines operated from late-1800's to early-1900's before any environmental regulations existed. In 1891, a mine fire broke out near the Navajo No. 1 fire which lead to the mine being sealed in 1905. It is unclear from the records whether sealing the mine successfully put out the fire.

Staff from MMD's Abandoned Mine Land Program (AML) first encountered the fires in 2011 while taking inventory of abandoned mines across the state. After monitoring the fires for several years, MMD started

work to extinguish them after receiving funding from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. MMD is part of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD).

"This project is another example of the outstanding work MMD does to mitigate the potential harm abandoned mine spaces can have on our environment," said EMNRD Sec. Designate Melanie Kenderdine. "Tackling these underground coal fires is especially important because they have the potential to spark wild-fires in addition to other damage."

Kenderdine noted that these reclamation projects also bring economic benefits to local communities, creating jobs across multiple industries.

The AML program staff initially assessed the underground fires using geotechnical drilling and seismic surveys to determine their extents, which was not visible on the surface. The data indicated the Enterprise-Brown fire was burning in the

direction of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Line, a major infrastructure project that will move water from the San Juan River to the eastern section of the Navajo Nation, southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the city of Gallup.

The water, which is expected serve both residential and industrial users, will travel via about 300 miles of pipeline to nineteen pumping stations and two water treatment plants.

The Navajo No. 1 fire was burning near several residential communities in an area where a developer is planning a new recreation area catering to campers and hikers.

The fire mitigation project was a collaborative effort involving the land's owner—Gallup Land Partners—the project engineering firm Tetra Tech Consulting, Runyan Construction and the AML program staff.

The project was funded with money included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which authorized an appropriation of \$11.293 billion into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund administered by the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). Those funds are being distributed nationally according to a formula based on historic coal production. New Mexico, specifically the AML program, is scheduled to receive \$2.4 million annually from this fund for 15 years. The AML program team used \$384,543 of those funds to pay for this project.

Heavy equipment was used at the Enterprise-Brown and Navajo No. 1 fires to excavate the burning coal seams. A mixture of benign fill material was then placed in the seams to prevent the fires from reigniting.

Temperatures of the burning coal reached 500° at times. Once it was assured all areas were below 90°, the site was recontoured to blend in with the surrounding topography. Technical experts from Tetra Tech mapped the area using heat-sensing drones to



Geotechnical drilling (Authentic Drilling) to determine the extent of the coal fires.



Runyan Construction excavating the burning coal at the Enterprise Brown fire. Temperature measurements were taken regularly to identify fire limits.



Runyan Construction excavating the burning coal at the Navajo No.1 fire. Water trucks were used to cool the temperature of the piles and suppress excess dust.



Heavy machinery used to extinguish the coal fire at the Enterprise Brown mine.



Post-fire mitigation reclamation work at the Navajo No. 1 site. Wood mulch was applied over native seed.

make sure no hot spots remained. Native seed and wood mulch were then applied to the final graded area.

"Mitigating these fires was a priority for us," said MMD Director Albert Chang. "With the landowner and city of Gallup proposing additional recreational trails in the area, the conditions will be safer for recreationists, in addition to eliminating the risk to water infrastructure."

"It was nice to part a part of this team working to accomplish this mission of putting out these fires," said AML Program Manager Leeland Murray. "They had been burning for many years and we are proud to finally have them extinguished."

Bring your coupons!

3257 CERRILLOS ROAD
SANTA FE

"48 Years Strong and Counting"

8 Pc. FAMILY Meal \$5.00 off

4 Batter-Dipped Fish Fillets, 4 Pc. Chicken, Crispy Fries, Cole Slaw & Hushpuppies

Offer expires 12/8/24. Valid only at Cerrillos Road location. Not valid with any other coupon or discount. Sales tax not included.

8 Pc. FAMILY Meal \$5.00 off

4 Batter-Dipped Fish Fillets, 4 Pc. Chicken, Crispy Fries, Cole Slaw & Hushpuppies

Offer expires 12/8/24. Valid only at Cerrillos Road location. Not valid with any other coupon or discount. Sales tax not included.

8 Pc. FAMILY Meal \$5.00 off

4 Batter-Dipped Fish Fillets, 4 Pc. Chicken, Crispy Fries, Cole Slaw & Hushpuppies

Offer expires 12/8/24. Valid only at Cerrillos Road location. Not valid with any other coupon or discount. Sales tax not included.

8 Pc. FAMILY Meal \$5.00 off

4 Batter-Dipped Fish Fillets, 4 Pc. Chicken, Crispy Fries, Cole Slaw & Hushpuppies

Offer expires 12/8/24. Valid only at Cerrillos Road location. Not valid with any other coupon or discount. Sales tax not included.

New Mexico Writer-Photographer and Musician family receive 2024 Rounders Award

Carter, the Delk family celebrated for articulating Western way of life
By Jenny Green



New Mexico writer-photographer Julie Carter and musician Joe Delk received the 2024 Rounders Award Oct. 16 at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.



The award was named after "The Rounders," a classic Western novel that was written by Max Evans. Created in 1990 by former New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Frank DuBois, the purpose of the award is to honor those who live, promote and articulate the Western way of life. Max Evans was the first-ever award recipient. The Rounders tradition continues as this year's recipients join 36 previous honorees. Evans passed in 2020, however, the Rounders tradition lives on. These individuals are described as vivid creators of Western art that embody the tradition of the award.

New Mexico Agriculture Secretary Jeff Witte presented the awards to Carter and Delk and The Delk Band.

Top Photo: Julie Carter Photo courtesy of Julie Carter Bottom: The Delk Band Photo courtesy of Joe Delk

"I am proud of the legacy Max has left in Western culture, and this year's Rounders Award recipients definitely live and articulate the Western way of life. Max would be proud," said Witte. "Carter and the Delk family have built vibrant careers with unique talents that reflect the Western way of life. I am honored to welcome them to the group of Rounders recipients."

Julie Carter was raised on a ranch in Colorado and has lived on a ranch in New Mexico for 40 years. First a writer and later taking up photography to best define the unique reality of the cowboy, Carter has developed her own brand of wit. "A photo can be story," Carter says. "But sometimes a story needs a photo. I can't, with any justice, write enough words about a windmill in a New Mexico sunset quite like the right moment in a photo can show it. I can write about the sights of the branding corral, but a photo of the smoke from burning hair curling around everything and everyone close at hand just brings it to life." Carter freelances ranch family stories for RANGE Magazine, Livestock Weekly and New Mexico Cattle Growers. She also writes rodeo contestant features for the New Mexico Stockman.

Joe Delk's father Forrest, born in Santa Rita, New Mexico, first picked up the fiddle at the age of seven and went on to play at dances starting in 1934, in a group called "Forrest Delk and his Gully Jumpers." Joe, Forrest's oldest son, joined the group and started playing music with his father and brother in the 1950s. After moving his family to Las Cruces in 1988, Joe made sure his three sons also took an interest in creating music. Sons Neal, Byron and Mark perfected skills on the guitar, bass guitar and drums, respectively, developing tremendous talent that carried "The Delk Band" through the 1990s to venues across New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming. When Forrest passed away in 1996, Joe made sure to carry on his father's legacy and musical journey, eventually forming a nine-piece dance band that is still active today. "My dad had a real knack for playing good dance music," said Joe Delk. At the same time that Joe Delk and The Delk Band are honored with the Rounders Award, this year marks the 90th anniversary of the family band that "plays music for those that come and dance."

For a list of past Rounders Award recipients, visit the NMDA website.

Where in New Mexico is Cooper?

Can you identify the location of this picture? If so, you may be a winner of \$25 Gift certificate from **Joe's Dining, 2801 Rodeo Rd.**

Please submit the photo location to rroundhouse@gmail.com with the email title of *Photo Contest*. All correct entries will be placed into a drawing to select a winner. Entries must be submitted by November 29, 2024. Look in December's 'Round The Roundhouse for the winning announcement along with another photo contest to enter. Good luck!



Congratulations to the October's winner, Marietta Valdez, WCA. Her name was selected in the drawing of correct entries. October's photo location was the Albuquerque, the Rio Puerco Bridge. Bon Appetit!



Find your way to savings.



Belinda Maez-Ferrero, Agent
2641 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Bus: 505-471-1313
belinda.ferrero.le3j@statefarm.com

Save an average of \$500*

Stop here for great rates with America's #1 car insurance company**. Give me a call today.


*Annual average per household savings based on 2012 national survey of new policyholders who reported savings by switching to State Farm.
**Based on A.M. Best written premium.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®



statefarm.com*

1005000.1 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company - Bloomington, IL



Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
& Sunday Brunch

Indoor & heated outdoor patio dining

Call for your
Christmas Party
reservation now!

Locally sourced
European influenced
and utterly delicious
American comfort food

2801 Rodeo Rd/Carlos Ray
Open Tues-Sat, 8am-8pm
Sun 8am-2:30pm, Closed Monday
505.471.3800 | www.JoesDining.com

New Mexico Film Office Announces Netflix Series "The Boroughs" Begins Production in New Mexico

By Dolores Martinez

On October 3rd, The New Mexico Film Office announced that "The Boroughs," an eight-episode supernatural mystery from Netflix, will be filming in and around Albuquerque.

The production will employ over 2,000 New Mexicans – 275 crew members, 32 principal actors, and 1,934 background talent.

The series is set to star Alfred Molina ("Spider-Man: No Way Home"), Geena Davis ("A League of Their Own"), Alfre Woodard ("Clemency"), Denis O'Hare ("This Is Us"), Clarke Peters ("Missouri"), and Bill Pullman ("The Sinner").

"The Boroughs" takes place in a seemingly picturesque retirement community, where a group of unlikely heroes must band together to stop an otherworldly threat from stealing the one thing they don't have... time.

Ben Taylor ("Catastrophe") will direct multiple episodes, including the pilot. Taylor will also serve as executive producer alongside the Duffer Brothers and Hilary Leavitt on behalf of Upside Down Pictures, Jeffrey Addiss, and Will Matthews.

New Mexico's film industry continues to surge, shattering the \$1 billion mark in total economic impact for 2024. Total economic impact includes direct production spending within the state, wages earned by cast and crew members, and indirect spending on hotels, restaurants, and countless other New Mexico businesses that support and benefit from the film industry.

Additional information on Netflix's local productions can be found at [Netflix in Your Neighborhood, New Mexico](#), a website that makes it easier for fans to find and explore unique Netflix filming locations in the Land of Enchantment. *Netflix in Your Neighborhood, New Mexico, is the first U.S. site of its kind for Netflix. It encourages fans to explore the filming locations of popular films and series filmed in various parts of New Mexico. Featured projects on the site include "Chupa," "Stranger Things" Season 4, "End of the Road," "The Harder They Fall," "Army of the Dead," "Daybreak," and more.*



AG Day Showcases New Mexico Agriculture Nov. 9

By Jenny Green

Have you ever wanted to enjoy agriculture, food, friends, family and football all at the same time? Well, Nov. 9 is your lucky day. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) and the New Mexico State University (NMSU) College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) will host the tenth edition of AG Day prior to the NMSU Homecoming football game.

The street festival is free to the public and will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Pan American south parking lot and the Aggie Memorial Stadium northeast parking lot. The day will culminate with the NMSU vs. Western Kentucky football game at 4 p.m.

New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau and Farm Bureau Financial Services are the Grand Champion Sponsors of the event. AG Day is an opportunity to learn about agriculture through numerous educational booths, many of which by NMSU College of ACES departments, programs and groups and NMSU student organizations. Several booths will also feature local agricultural organizations and businesses.

"Through hands-on activities, engaging demonstrations and collaborative efforts between NMDA and the NMSU College of ACES, AG Day brings agricultural education to life for staff, students and families. Together, we are cultivating a brighter future, where learning is not only impactful but also fun and interactive," said New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte. "AG Day is a great way to come see what is new in the industry and cheer on the Aggies during their Homecoming game."

The College of ACES is excited about the event as it showcases the hard work students and faculty do to ensure New Mexico agriculture thrives in the future.

"The NMSU College of ACES is proud to participate in the 2024 AG Day, which helps to highlight how the College's innovative work and activities advance agricultural technology and resources in New Mexico," said NMSU College of ACES Dean Rolando Flores. "By blending cutting-edge research with hands-on experiences, we make agricultural education both fun and easy to understand, empowering the community to shape the future of farming and ranching with confidence and creativity."

There will be plenty of opportunities for families to learn about agriculture. Organizations such as NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service, New Mexico CowBelles and Elephant Butte Irrigation District will help educate the public about agriculture with fun activities. Attendees will also have a chance to listen to live music and sample New Mexico products.

For more information about AG Day, visit the AG Day webpage, email AGDay@nmda.nmsu.edu or call 575-646-1864.



Photos courtesy of NMDA



UPCOMING SHOWS AT RUFINA

11.1.24 Pupfish @ 8PM
 11.8.24 Chango @ 8PM
 11.14.24 Daisychain / St. Range @ 8PM
 12.1.24 Como Agua @ 1PM

SECOND STREET BREWERY

RUFINA TAPROOM

Full food menu // Beer, wine, cider and cocktails // Open daily
 Free concerts year round featuring local and touring musicians
 Mon-Fri 4-10 PM* // Sat 12-10 PM* // Sun 12-9 PM
 *open late on show nights
 2920 Rufina Street, Santa Fe NM 87507

THE RAILYARD

Full food menu // Beer, wine & cider // Open daily for lunch & dinner
 Geeks who Drink trivia Wednesdays
 Mon-Sat 11 AM-10 PM // Sun 12-9 PM
 1607 Paseo De Peralta, Santa Fe NM 87501

www.secondstreetbrewery.com

Indoor dining, heated patio, or carry out

Delicious variety of Moles!

Vegan options available!

fiesta Oaxaca

Traditional Southern Mexican Cuisine

Open 11:30am to 8pm
 Sunday 11am-3pm
 Closed Wednesdays

135 W. Palace Avenue, Santa Fe
 505 982 9525
fiestaoaxacasantafe@gmail.com

SPO Congratulates the October 2024 Advanced Team Leadership Program Graduating Class

By **Jaime Phillips**

The State Personnel Office Learning and Development Bureau wishes to recognize and congratulate the third graduating cohort of the Advanced Team Leadership (ATL)



ATL Program 10/22/24 graduates. Janette Kiraly, Jessica Benavidez, Claudia Trueblood, Toni Lowery, Robin Kualapai, Socorro Salazar.

Program. This group of twelve individuals successfully completed the ATL Program on October 22 and 23, 2024, by presenting their Capstone projects to their fellow cohort members. The participants all completed a 12-week program of study that included 12 eLearning courses, cohort meetings to discuss their learning and project progress, and design and implementation of their projects in which they applied the learning to their own team leadership experiences. The graduation of this third cohort brings the total number of ATL Program graduates to 39 since the program was launched at the beginning of 2024.

The Capstone presentation days were opened with remarks from Dylan K. Lange, Director of the State Personnel Office, and Johnna Padilla, Director of HR Services and Learning & Development at the State Personnel Office, who recognized the program participants for their dedication to advancing their leadership skills in service of the State of New Mexico. After that, each graduate presented the projects that they had designed and implemented to apply what they had learned from the 12 eLearning courses required for program completion. The graduates were then awarded certificates of program completion by State Personnel Office Learning and Development Manager Jaime Phillips. All of the ATL program graduates are to be commended for their commitment to excellence in leadership.

The October 2024 Cohort Advanced Team Leadership Program graduates are: Claudia Trueblood, NM Environment Dept.; Helen Tindel, State Investment Council; Janette Kiraly, NM Dept. of Health; Jessica Benavidez, NM Children, Youth, and Families Dept.; Jonathan Boyle, NM Dept. of Transportation; Melissa McBride, NM Health Care Authority; Nafis Fuad, NM Environment Dept.; Rhonda Moniot, Miners Colfax Medical Center; Robin Kualapai, NM Dept. of Health; Socorro Salazar, NM Dept. of Cultural Affairs; Toni Lowery, NM Regulation and Licensing Dept.; and Zach Wachter, NM Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Their capstone projects included topics such as “Commitment vs Compliance”, “The Impact of Curiosity and Positive Confrontation”, “Team Development Through Coaching”, “What Leaders Wish They Knew Before They Got Into Leadership Positions”, “Considerations for Team Development”, “Building a Problem Solving Culture”, and “How to Navigate Team Dynamics as a Leader”. The 12 graduates represented 10 different state agencies from facilities around New Mexico, including locations in Albuquerque, Farmington, Raton, Roswell, and Santa Fe.

Advanced Team Leadership is a program of study meant to take team leadership skills to the next level. The program is intended for State of New Mexico employees who have at least one year of supervisory experience and who are currently supervising at least two employees. Prior completion of the Essentials of Supervision and Management Program is strongly recommended. In the ATL Program, participants first complete a series of 12 eLearning courses, and then design, implement, and present on a Capstone Project in which they apply a strategy, tactic, or other idea from the learning to their own team leadership. The next cohort of the ATL program recently opened for enrollment. The program of study will get underway in January 2025, with graduation planned for late April. To apply to be in the next cohort or to find out more about learning and development opportunities, please contact the State Personnel Office Learning and Development Bureau at Learning.Development@spo.nm.gov, or visit their website at <https://www.spo.state.nm.us/learning-development/>.

Piñon Court

BY LA FONDA



CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT PIÑON COURT BY LA FONDA

(Formerly Old Santa Fe Inn)

Host your company holiday party in a stunning venue and enjoy custom cocktails, New Mexico spirits, and fresh, local flavors at the hotel's Bistro. Plus, explore our new event space – perfect for meetings and special occasions!





WARM UP WITH YOUR HOME'S EQUITY

A Better HELOC for the Changing Seasons

Keep your home cozy with a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) from State ECU. Whether you're updating your home, getting ready for winter, or preparing for a family gathering, your home's equity can give you the financial flexibility you need. Enjoy low rates, no closing costs, and easy access to funds, making your seasonal changes stress-free and affordable.

- No Closing Costs
- Flexible Access to Funds¹
- Rates Below Prime²
- Friendly Local Service

APPLY TODAY AT [SECUNM.ORG!](https://secunm.org)



800.983.7328 | [SECUNM.ORG](https://secunm.org)

NMLS# 402473. Available for primary and second single-family homes. Terms and conditions apply, rates are subject to change. 1) 5-year draw with interest only payments, up to 15-year repayment following. Maximum 75% Loan to Value (LTV). Maximum \$250,000 loan balance. 2) Variable rate based on Prime with a floor rate of 6.00%APR. Processing fees apply. On approved credit. Offer expires 12/31/2024. Visit secunm.org for more details. Federally insured by NCUA.