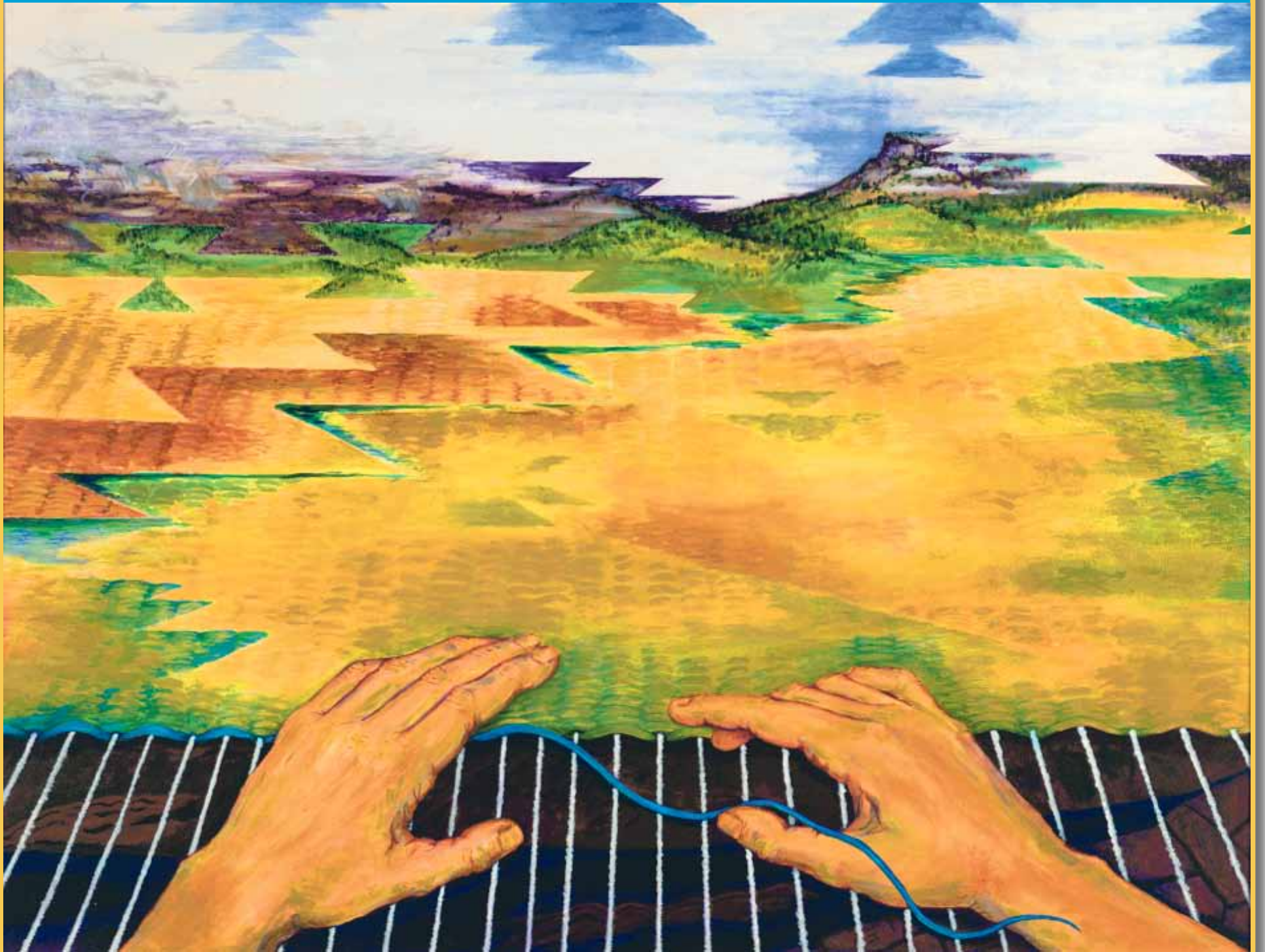


# GREEN FIRE TIMES

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE SUSTAINABLE SOUTHWEST



## VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF NEW MEXICO

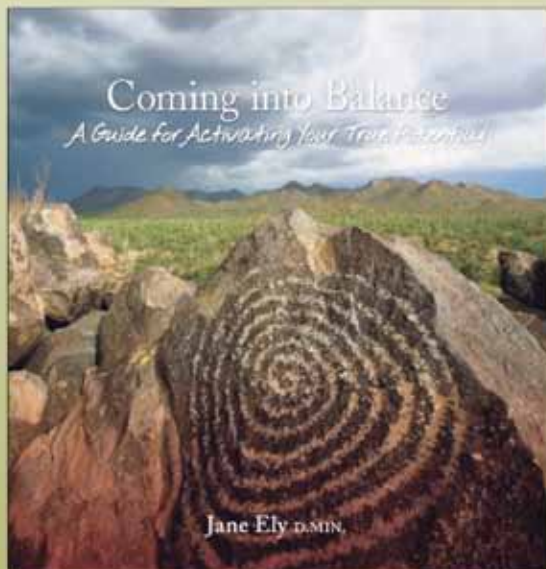
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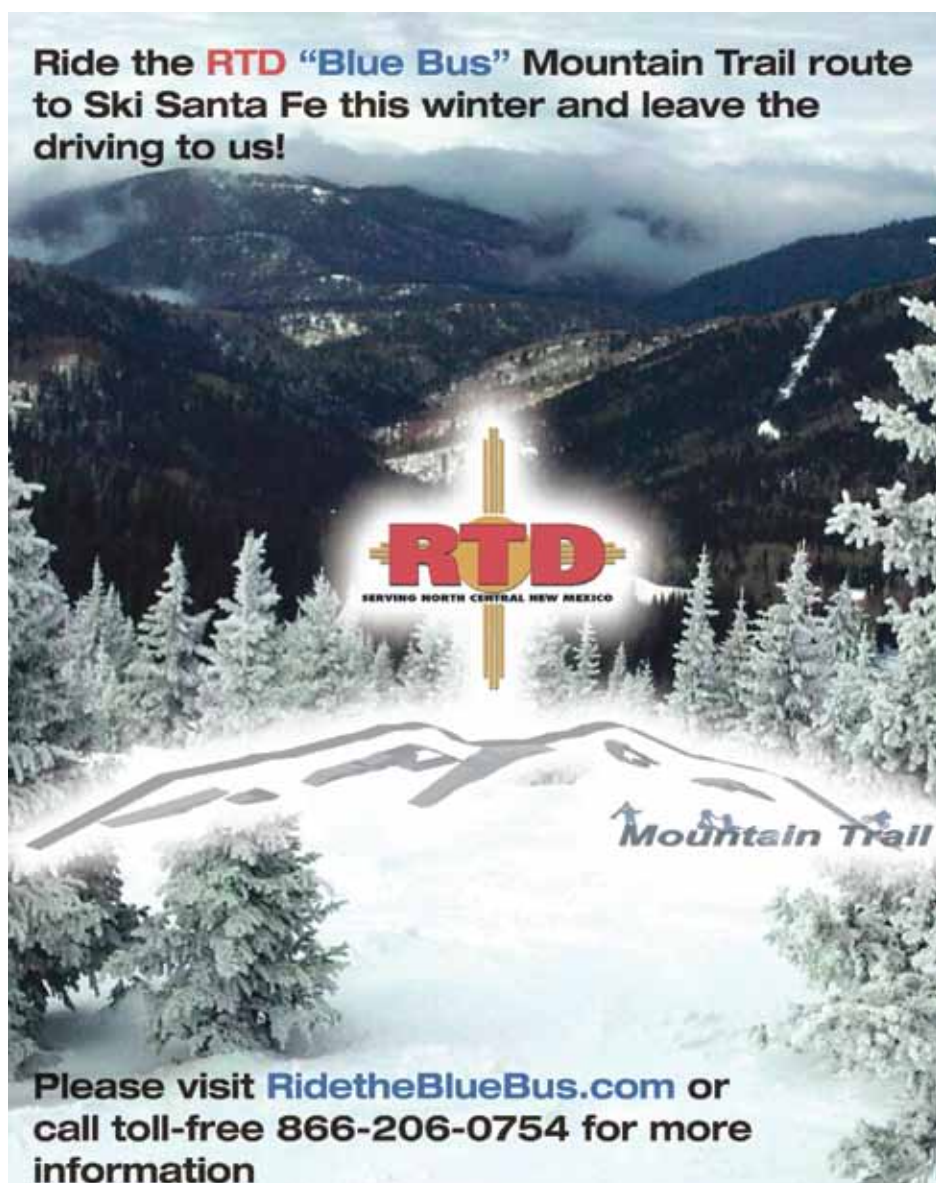


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GREEN FIRE TIMES provides useful information for community members, business people, students and visitors—anyone interested in discovering the wealth of opportunities and resources in the Southwest. In support of a more sustainable planet, topics covered range from green businesses, jobs, products, services, entrepreneurship, investing, design, building and energy—to native perspectives on history, arts & culture, ecotourism, education, sustainable agriculture, regional cuisine, water issues and the healing arts. To our publisher, a more sustainable planet also means maximizing environmental as well as personal health by minimizing consumption of meat and alcohol.

GREEN FIRE TIMES is widely distributed throughout north-central New Mexico as well as to a growing number of New Mexico cities, towns, pueblos and villages. Feedback, announcements, event listings, advertising and article submissions to be considered for publication are welcome.

# GREEN FIRE TIMES

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE SUSTAINABLE SOUTHWEST

WINNER OF THE SUSTAINABLE SANTA FE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

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## NEW MEXICO'S PRESSING CHALLENGES

To kick off 2016, this edition of *Green Fire Times* is focused around interrelated “Visions for the Future of New Mexico.” The lead article is from former U.S. Senator Fred Harris, and we are featuring excerpts from the recent book he edited, *New Mexico 2050* (UNM Press).

New Mexico continues to be identified at or near the bottom of many lists—from education to poverty to unemployment—at the same time that many positive things are happening here. New Mexico is a wonderful place to live, except for those who find themselves at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder. That sector is automatically much more susceptible to being impacted by a plethora of ills. Addressing the important issue of how to enhance the quality of life for a large class of dispossessed people, of course, raises the compelling question of “What would an ideal education for New Mexico’s children and youth look like if they are to become whole people and prepared for the challenges of these times?” Angelo Gonzales, executive director of the central New Mexico cradle-to-career education partnership, Mission: Graduate, has suggested that part of education reform should involve internships—connecting students with real-life opportunities within the for-profit and nonprofit business communities.


As this edition of *Green Fire Times* demonstrates, New Mexico is home to some highly progressive individuals, groups and movements. The articles presented here offer ideas on how our poor quality-of-life indexes can be reversed in order to develop a healthier, more equitable and culturally vibrant state. —SETH ROFFMAN



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COVER: *TEJIENDO EL RÍO GRANDE (WEAVING THE RÍO GRANDE)*  
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JUANITA LAVADIE'S ARTICLE IS ON PAGE 27.





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# NEW MEXICO CAN DO BETTER

FRED HARRIS

Unlike the nation or the states that surround New Mexico, our state is a long way from “recovery” from the recent Great Recession. And there is a lot we must do about that. New Mexico needs a jump-start!

But first, we must put New Mexico’s situation into context and deal with the fact that the national economic recovery itself has been dramatically uneven. There is a terrible—and worsening—inequality of income in this country.

## *Our state is a long way from “recovery” from the recent Great Recession.*

Here’s a quick recitation of today’s bald facts:

- For the three decades after WWII, the top 1 percent of American earners got between 9 and 10 per cent of total income; now, that figure is 20 percent.
- The top 20 percent of American earners now get one-half of total income, the bottom 20 percent, get 3.2 per cent.
- Since the recent Great Recession, the top 1 percent of earners have captured a whopping 95 percent of all income gains in this country.

The result of all this? Comparing the incomes of the richest 10 percent of the people with the poorest 40 percent, the United States ranks 44<sup>th</sup> out of 86 countries, well below every other developed country in the world and even one spot below Nigeria, for goodness sake!

How did things get this bad? One cause may not be so obvious: new technology. A lot of the old blue-collar jobs that used to put—and keep—American workers in the middle class don’t exist anymore.

But other causes of our serious income inequality are *quite* obvious. We’ve cut taxes for rich people and corporations. And while CEO compensation has skyrocketed, worker’s wages have stagnated or fallen, one reason being that the portion of American labor represented by unions has sunk to only 11 percent—and just 7 percent of private jobs.



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Fred Harris discusses the future of New Mexico and the United States at a book signing for *New Mexico 2050* at Collected Works Bookstore in Santa Fe, December 2015

Most American workers have no union to fight for them, and they are unable themselves to make demands for fear their employers would turn their jobs over to some of the great numbers of unemployed people who are willing to take a job at almost any wage—the median wage having stagnated since 2000 and, for the lower one-fifth, having declined 4.5 percent. American workers should have been protected by the federal minimum wage, but they weren’t because the federal minimum wage, with inflation, had lost much of its purchasing power and had become more of a ceiling than a floor, and Republicans in Congress blocked any action that would have brought it up to date and kept it current.

## *We need investments that will help right now and also bring about sustained and permanent economic growth.*

We’ve shipped a lot of American jobs overseas to unbelievably low-wage countries. Tax subsidies have actually encouraged this flight. Free-trade agreements have allowed our own runaway plants, as well as indigenous local foreign-country industry, to penetrate America’s great market with goods, the lower prices for which result from the fact that they are, in effect, subsidized by the home country through a low-wage system and a lack of environmental controls that come nowhere near matching our own. This unfairly competitive pressure has put a lot of American workers out of jobs here at home and has held down, or depressed, the wages of those who still have jobs here.

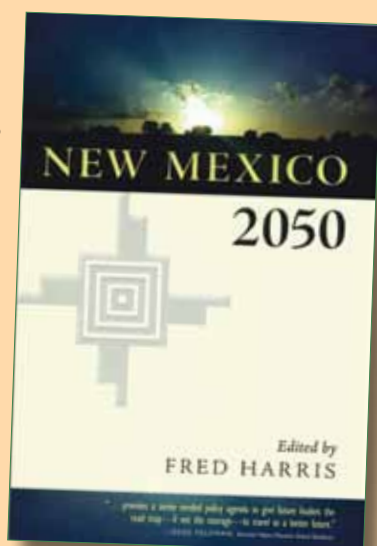
We took important federal safeguard regulation off the big banks and the financial industry, and many of them crashed, taking the rest of us with them and precipitating the recent Great Recession.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## “NEW MEXICO 2050”

EDITED BY FRED HARRIS  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS  
2015, 352 PAGES

In this book, edited by former U.S. Senator Fred Harris, some of the state’s most noted and qualified policy experts answer two vital questions: *New Mexico 2050*—What can we be? What will we be? Through a collection of essays focusing on economics, environment and water, education, healthcare, politics and demographics, and transportation, they describe the state’s present situation, prescribe recommendations to adjust course and predict what successes could occur. The book sets a policy agenda for pulling the state through a future of increased drought, rural-urban divides and sharp income disparities.



*New Mexico 2050* is a dynamic blueprint for the state’s future—a manual for leaders and public officials, a text for students, a sourcebook for teachers and researchers, and a guide for citizens who want the Land of Enchantment also to become the Land of Opportunity for all.

A partial list of contributors includes economists Lee Reynis and Jim Peach; education policy expert Veronica García; health and healthcare specialist Nandini Pillai Kuehn; political scientists Gabriel Sánchez and Shannon Sánchez-Youngman; sustainable economic-development entrepreneur Henry Rael; Native American scholar Veronica Tiller; New Mexico cultural-affairs editor/journalist V. B. Price; environmental journalist Laura Paskus; water attorney Adrian Oglesby; planner Aaron Sussman; and Albuquerque poet laureate Hakim Bellamy.

Harris has produced 19 nonfiction books on public policy, politics, and government, including the coedited *Locked in the Poorhouse: Cities, Race, and Poverty in the United States*.



## NM CAN DO BETTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Finally, when our national economy was in desperate need of jump-start stimulus, President Obama couldn't get enough of it out of Congress—and still can't.

What difference does it make that we have so much inequality of income and so much poverty in America—aside from the great harm it means for so many real people (a pretty big “aside”)?

*Reducing poverty and inequality of income take national action, but New Mexico can and should act, too.*

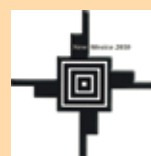
America's middle class has shrunk and shrunk even more, as so many millions of our people have fallen out, or have been forced out, of the middle class and into poverty,



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while the ranks of the rich have swollen. Most authorities think it is difficult to even have a true democracy without a large and stable middle class. Economic power translates into political power. Daniel Webster said that if we're to preserve our kind of democratic system, no person should be so rich as to be able to buy other people, and no person should be so poor as to have to sell. Think of the rich and archly right-wing Koch brothers or the giant corporations whom the U.S. Supreme Court has said are “people,” with freedom of speech and, therefore, who cannot be limited in how much they can spend of their special-interest money in political campaigns.

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Excerpt from *New Mexico 2050*

### THE FEDERAL PRESENCE IN NEW MEXICO

LEE REYNIS AND JIM PEACH

Clearly, Los Alamos helped put New Mexico on the cutting edge in terms of technology, as did the addition of Sandia National Laboratory...and the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base. These research institutions have large procurement budgets and have been sources of funding for many New Mexico suppliers and other businesses. And there is technology transfer from these powerhouse laboratories; patents are licensed and find commercial applications, private companies partner with the labs and develop new products, and lab scientists occasionally become entrepreneurs. But the promise of technology spinoffs has at best been only partially realized. The national laboratories, steeped from the beginning in secrecy, remain even today largely high-tech enclaves fenced off considerably from the rest of the New Mexico economy.

Our widening inequality of income suppresses economic growth. Why? It's middle-class people—if we still had them all—who would spend more of their income than rich people. But, as Nobel economist Joseph Stiglitz has written, “Our middle class is too weak to support the consumer spending that has historically driven our economic growth.”

Rich people live longer than poor people because of material and social conditions and the fact that they get more food and better nutrition and medical care. Talking about the top and bottom 10 percent in this country, in the 1980s, rich people lived an average 2.8 years longer than poor people. By the 1990s, that gap had almost doubled, to 4.8 years, and it's continued to grow since then.

Income inequality produces education inequality. This starts early. Children from low socioeconomic families begin kindergarten more than a year behind children of college graduates. And nine years later, that gap will have grown by one-half to two-thirds. These kids are far less likely to go to college. And speaking of higher education, of people born in America in the 1960s, 5 percent of poor people went to college and 36 percent of rich people did. One generation later, of people born

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## ECONOMIC DIVERSITY IN NEW MEXICO

A diverse economy can help a state weather economic downturns. According to the Labor Market Review, released in August 2015 by the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, New Mexico has one of the least-diverse economies in the country, ranking 45th among states. That is a score that does not indicate a balanced economy generally associated with economic stability. New Mexico has a large government workforce and a large mining and energy sector.

The Hachman Index location quotient is a calculation of a specific employment sector's size relative to total employment. A 1.0 means a sector's employment share is even with the national average. The Labor Market Review shows that New Mexico's location quotients are especially high for mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction, at 6.18; agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, at 1.70; and utilities, at 1.50. The state's location quotients are low for manufacturing, at 0.43; management of companies and enterprises, at 0.44; and educational services, at 0.65.

The larger counties in New Mexico have a more diverse workforce. Bernalillo is the most diverse, at 0.92, but still falls short of national norms; Otero is second, at 0.88; Santa Fe is third, at 0.83, followed by Doña Ana and Chaves counties.

## NEW MEXICO JOBS AND WORKER EMIGRATION

A recent study by the U.S. Census Bureau identified New Mexico as the fourth-most-active state in the United States for business startups.

New Mexico's job growth has been expanding but is still lagging behind the rest of the country. Despite adding 3,900 jobs between October and November 2015, the



state's 6.8 percent unemployment rate is the highest in the nation, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report released last month. The national rate is 5 percent. In October 2015, the Department of Workforce Solutions reported that the total number of workers in New Mexico had only grown by 7,600 over the past 12 months.

Notable job losses over the past year impacted the mining sector, which lost 10 percent of its workforce, and areas related to energy development such as construction, transportation and manufacturing. Hiring has continued to increase in healthcare, leisure and hospitality, business and professional services, and government. Goods and services from New Mexico sold internationally have also supported job growth, although many of the goods exported are produced elsewhere.

Exodus from the Land of Enchantment continues to increase, though at a slower rate (-0.02 percent) than the previous three years. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, New Mexico is one of seven states in the nation that lost population from July 2014 to July 2015. Many have left attracted by more employment opportunities elsewhere.

Business leaders are challenged to attract and keep trained employees. One of the state's most important public-policy issues is the exodus of educated young professionals. Data from the University of New Mexico show that the largest percentage of those leaving is educated professionals with a bachelor's degree. A significant number of those are millennials (born between 1981 and 1996). Two business advocacy groups, the Association of Commerce and Industry and the New Mexico Technology Council, have been surveying educated young professionals who have left the state to find out what it might take for them to return. The groups are taking the results of the survey, along with specific recommendations, to the state Legislature.

Middle-aged people have also been leaving. A recent Pew Charitable Trust study ranks New Mexico last among states when it comes to jobs for people in their prime working years—and far below the national average. The study says that New Mexico suffered a 7.1 percent decrease in employment since the Great Recession in 2008.



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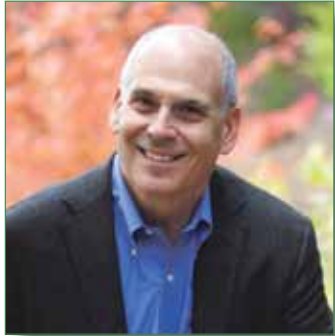
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# VISIONS FOR NEW MEXICO

ALAN WEBBER



I am convinced that New Mexico's future is hiding in plain sight.

It is a future with unlimited potential built on our unique qualities as a state and our strengths as a people. The keys to achieving that future are bold ideas and strong leadership.

**HERE'S WHAT I SEE WHEN I LOOK AT OUR STATE'S FUTURE:**

**A state with unmatched quality of life.** The land, the sky, the climate, dark nights and clear days are New Mexico's gift. For that reason, our future should be based on this goal: *We will be the most sustainable state in the country.* We will make sustainability our test for energy policy, water use, land use, how we invest in transportation and the way we cherish our resources. Embracing sustainability means that we will continue to take pride in New Mexico's uniqueness and that we will preserve and protect it for future generations. In the future, we will proudly live here—and others will come to visit us here—because of the wise decisions we will have made in the service of sustainability.

*Make sustainability our test for energy policy, water use, land use, how we invest in transportation and the way we cherish our resources.*

**A state with unsurpassed human talent.** The people of New Mexico are our real resource, the wellspring of our future, the foundation of the decisions we make and the opportunities we create. And the people of New Mexico are infused with the heart of the West; New Mexicans were raised in the spirit of Western independence and have lived by the practice of Western interdependence. The greatest investment we can make for our future is to invest in our people. Our goal: *We will invest in our children and our workers to give them the tools they need to create our future.* There is no doubt that early education for every New Mexico child is the smartest investment we can make. We should lead the nation in making early-childhood education the birthright of every New Mexican. And because we live in a knowledge economy,

we need to continue that investment all the way through higher education, making sure to include in the mix vocational education and workforce preparation and training.

**A state that attacks poverty relentlessly.**

The scourge of New Mexico is the poverty that afflicts too many of our people. In this we are not unique, but where we can be unique is in our determination to do something about it: to attack poverty and, by attacking poverty,

change the lives of our citizens and their families forever. Here again, common sense and experience tell us what must be done. Our goal: *go after the roots of poverty, and build a comprehensive strategy to produce real change in the lives of New Mexicans.*

Raise the minimum wage. Put a cap on payday lending. Offer individual savings accounts, children's savings accounts and emergency financial accounts to New Mexicans as a way to build real wealth in our families and teach financial skills.

**A state that has the most sustainable, most diversified economic base of any state in the country.** As President Bill Clinton once observed, "A good job is the best possible social program." Right now, New Mexico is lacking in both jobs and social programs. As we attack poverty, invest in people, improve education, preserve and protect our heritage, we can also build and grow our economic opportunities. Our goal: *to grow New Mexico jobs based on New Mexico's strengths.*

That means stopping doing things we know don't work. We won't create opportunities in the future by trying to be cheaper than Texas or dirtier than Arizona. We have to stop trying to "bribe" large out-of-state companies to come here; instead, we have to start investing in the grassroots economic opportunities that we alone have in New Mexico. If we do that, we create a future that is true to



## CHILD WELFARE IN NEW MEXICO

In 2015, for the second consecutive year, the Annie E. Casey Foundation ranked New Mexico 49<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in child well-being. It was 50<sup>th</sup> in 2013 and has been listed among the bottom five states for most of the past decade. The foundation's *The KIDS COUNT Data Book* used 16 indicators under the general categories of economic well-being, education, health, family and community. Data were culled from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention.

The report found 31 percent of the state's children living in poverty, up 2 percentage points from 2014. The national rate is 22 percent. Since the 2008 recession, the number of children in New Mexico living in high-poverty areas increased by 25,000—to 125,000—and children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment increased by 27,000—to 176,000.

The report highlights some improvements. New Mexico high school students not graduating on time dropped from 33 percent in 2008 to 26 percent. The rate of teens abusing drugs or alcohol in the same time period dropped from 9 percent to 7 percent. Children living with families in which the head of the household lacks a high school diploma declined from 21 percent to 18 percent.

"It all comes down to government resources at the state level, and if the state is providing children with such things as early education, access to healthcare, nutritional subsidies for low-income families and other targeted services," said Jill González, a spokeswoman and analyst for WalletHub. The Washington, D.C., consumer-based personal-finance website conducted a similar survey with similar results. "In the case of New Mexico, children are not flourishing," she said.



Excerpt from *New Mexico 2050*

## NEW MEXICO EDUCATION

VERONICA C. GARCÍA

I can say from my own experience that the nationally recognized education expert and advocate Diane Ravitch was right when she wrote, "We need broader and deeper thinking. We must decide if we truly want to eliminate poverty and establish equal educational opportunity. We must decide if we want to build a society with liberty and justice for all. If that is our true purpose, then we need to move on two fronts, changing society and improving schools at the same time."

"Changing society" in New Mexico means, among other things and quite basically, that we must do something about poverty and inequality of income.

...It is clear that there is no simple, single solution to New Mexico's education problems. We need a comprehensive approach. Education expert Pedro Noguera reports that in 2008 a coalition of scholars, policy makers and educational leaders issued a policy statement that called for three major revisions in education policy: Expand access to learning time through quality after-school and summer-school programs; provide universal pre-K programs; and provide universal healthcare for children. This reform was called the Broader, Bolder Approach (BBA) to education. The BBA reform agenda is part of a larger national effort to develop a comprehensive school-reform strategy and change the focus and direction of educational policy to include attention to the social and economic factors arising out of distressed social contexts within impoverished communities that often undermine schools and children.



our history, culture, values and traditions and, at the same time, capable of carrying us into the future with more opportunities for more New Mexicans.

### WHAT ARE THOSE CATEGORIES OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY?

- **ENERGY**—because we have so much of it, especially the energy sources of the future: solar, wind and geothermal.
- **WATER**—because we have so little of it, we should be the headquarters of water-management technology, water planning and water conservation.
- **TOURISM**—because we will be maintaining New Mexico's unspoiled environment and New Mexico's cultural heritage, giving us a unique opportunity to promote ecotourism, cultural tourism and historical tourism, as well as recreational experiences.
- **SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES**—because they are the backbone of our economy and because they make New Mexico unique and separate us from the homogenized, big-box-store, all-the-same look of other places that have killed off their home-grown businesses.
- **ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION**—because we have creative people who have always invented things, devised things, built things, made things their own way.



- **TRADE**—because it's time, especially with México, which is itself experiencing a boom in entrepreneurship.
- **AGRICULTURE**—because it's another New Mexico tradition, only now we can grow and raise value-added farm products that we can also brand as "Made in New Mexico."



These microeconomies—and more—are not only the unique endowments of New Mexico; they are also components of a unique strategy that we can create by weaving them, leveraging them and combining them in ways that no other state can replicate, duplicate, beg, borrow or steal. Built as they are on the values, history, culture and traits of our state, they will keep faith with the past while carrying us into the future.



All of this can be done. All of this is waiting to be done. All of this is what we can do, if we do it working together.

It is a future that, at the moment, we cannot see because we have chosen not to look at it.

But it is a future that is hiding in plain sight, waiting for us to discover it. ❌

*Alan Webber, founder of One New Mexico, is an entrepreneur and author and ran as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor of New Mexico in 2014. [www.onenewmexico.com](http://www.onenewmexico.com)*



### NATIONAL EDUCATION REPORT RANKS NEW MEXICO

In 2015, Education Week's Quality Counts released its annual state report card, giving New Mexico a D. The national report on educational achievement, which includes the District of Columbia, ranked New Mexico 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation, ahead of Nevada and Mississippi. Using data from the National Assessment for Education Progress, the National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, the report ranks states on how well they prepare students for college and careers, K-12 achievement and school finance.

New Mexico has moved up and down between an F in 2010—the year Gov. Susana Martínez was elected—to a C in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and a D-plus in 2014. The state has climbed in the national rankings of fourth-grade and eighth-grade math tests between 2003 and 2013 but ranks 50<sup>th</sup> overall in reading proficiency, with just 21.5 percent of students reading at grade level. The national average is 34 percent.

In 2014, New Mexico ranked 36<sup>th</sup> in per-pupil spending at \$9,736, according to the report, while the national average was \$11,735.



### GRADUATION RATES IN NEW MEXICO

According to U.S. Department of Education graduation rate data released last month, New Mexico remains in the bottom tier of states, at 68.5 percent. There was no improvement in 2013–14 over the previous year, despite some education reforms. An analysis of New Mexico Public Education Department data by the Associated Press last year found that some rural school districts saw about a 20 percent drop in high school graduation rates over three years while others declined by 15 percent in just a year.

Officials from the state's Public Education Department say the new federal data do not reflect updated graduation statistics that put the rate at 69.3 percent. That is still the second-lowest in the nation and 1 percent lower than 2012–13. The national rate is 82 percent.

The state's largest school district, Albuquerque Public Schools, which serves about 87,000 students, had a 6 percent decline in 2014. Its four-year graduation rate was 62.7 percent. Española Valley Public Schools had one of the highest increases—10 percent since 2011. The district's current graduation rate is 55.5.

Robert McEntyre, a Public Education Department spokesman, said, "New Mexico has made significant progress over the last several years and continues to have one of the fastest-growing graduation rates in the country." Referring to a 7-point increase between 2011 and 2013, McEntyre said, "Since 2011, our graduation rate has grown at three times the national average." Another positive trend showed that, in 2014, almost 67 percent of New Mexico's Hispanic students graduated, an increase of about 8.6 percent from the previous year.



# NEW MEXICO VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

## *A Testimonial from 2065*

PAULA GARCÍA

**I**NTRODUCTION: Creating visions for our future is about expressing hope and commitment, realizing that articulating a vision also commits you to manifesting that vision through a lifetime of collective work. We should all be encouraged to share our visions with one another in the hope of creating inspiration and resolve to affirm our values and challenge those things that need to change. This is a testimonial from 2065 in the voice of one of our grandchildren.

*In New Mexico,  
visioning for the  
future has to be  
rooted in history.*

Fifty years ago, New Mexico with all its beauty and rich history was in a time of crisis. For many years, New Mexico had fared poorly in national rankings, but even those had reached epic lows with childhood poverty being highest in the nation, and other attendant measures of health and well-being were similarly low. Other areas of the country were recovering from the Great Recession of 2008, but New Mexico's unemployment rate remained the highest in the United States and was not improving. We were one of the few states losing population, in large part because of the departure of younger people seeking opportunity. These numbers have never really told our story, but they were sobering nonetheless.

Then, a time of clarity emerged when long-time leaders who had spent

lifetimes working for the health and well-being of our communities were recognized and honored for their work, and emerging leaders looked to the elders for guidance. During this time, emerging leaders built upon a foundation of history, culture and social justice in order to create lasting change and communities where families would have livelihoods that are uplifting and inspiring and where they could practice a way of life in harmony with the land and each other.

The people drew upon ancestral memories learned from storytelling by the elders or through other ways of learning. In New Mexico, visioning for the future had to be rooted in history because native peoples have lived for millennia in this beloved land. We had to retain the memory of colonialism, injustices and violence even as we had to affirm the fundamental values about community survival that define New Mexico, such as the culture of sharing, the dignity of hard work, love of the land and water, seed saving and humility. With these enduring values as a foundation, our communities needed the space for reconciliation to recover lands, languages and equity to heal past injustices and to create a vibrant future together.

Through this reconciliation, a new ethic was forged, based on indigenous memory and heritage, the *querencia* articulated by land-based people, and the care of the Earth embraced by people from all walks of life. This ethic—a love of place and community—was the basis for core values that guided a profound transformation in New Mexico.



© Alejandro López

One of the transformational changes that catalyzed numerous other reforms was a decades-long effort to raise the ethical standards of our government at the local and state levels. With high standards of ethics not only codified but cultivated through a culture of service leadership, there was a remarkable increase in democratic participation in school-board elections, county commissions, city councils and all state level positions. Through a dramatic increase in civic engagement, there was a flurry of new ideas and reforms that were tested, with many of those resulting in meaningful changes affecting everything from education to natural resources.

Today, New Mexico is known as a place of hope and creativity where communities have deep roots, with an openness to embrace new ideas from other places and other peoples. Our communities breathe clean air, drink clean water and eat healthy, locally grown food because of a vibrant economy based in renewable energy

and sustainable agriculture. This new economy is not only green, but it is also socially just because of conscious decisions to create such an economy in a way that would lift families out of poverty and erase structural inequities that had persisted in the old economy.

*A robust local-food  
economy, rooted in  
an ancient legacy of  
food traditions*

Our economy was transformed when universities and national laboratories focused research and development on renewable energy. Numerous businesses grew around the growing use of solar and biomass energy, generating jobs and keeping our energy dollars in the local economy. New Mexico also became known as an innovation hub for water conservation. Driven by the reality of extreme water scarcity, local communities sought to adapt with a renewed ethic of water stewardship combined with the availability of



© Seth Rofman



Excerpt from *New Mexico 2050*

**TRADITION-BASED, CULTURE-BASED  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

HENRY RAE

Key elements of economic development approaches that...play to our assets include strategies that create and capture value for the state; initiatives that leverage our cultures, history and languages; structures that support alternative models of enterprise development; and approaches that make education directly relevant to our economic environment and what is happening in the world that our students inhabit. Projects and initiatives that find intersections among these elements will have the advantage of leveraging some of the most powerful—and often unrecognized—strengths that we have.



world-class water-conservation technology.

A robust local-food economy grew from a growing consciousness about health, well-being, and quality of life. This was rooted in an ancient legacy of food traditions but also driven by a broader movement toward fresh and healthy food. This was made possible because of the efforts of the caretakers of agricultural land and water rights decades before.

Fifty years ago, acequias protected agricultural land and water rights by countering the commodification of water by enacting rules and enforcing decisions to stop the transfer of water rights out of agriculture. In doing so, they protected the precious ribbon of green, the irrigated farmland of New Mexico, thereby ensuring the potential for local and regional food economies. At the same time, in a synergistic way, growers began to form cooperatives to leverage their ability to feed local communities in a collective strategy. Over several decades, acequias and cooperatives evolved a dynamic and vibrant food system in which all families have access to healthy, local and culturally meaningful foods. Today, agriculture is a legitimate profession and dignified vocation.

We continue to embark on a monumental effort to restore the health of our watersheds. Now, tens of thousands of acres of forest are thinned every year, generating more than enough biomass to provide heat and electricity in numerous communities and creating economic opportunities in local forest communities.

New Mexico was one of a handful of states, 50 years ago, that bravely established a system for universal healthcare, as part of a national movement for reform. Small business owners and workers were no longer burdened with the stress of the rising and unpredictable costs of healthcare, and there was a surge of entrepreneurship in everything from high-tech businesses to agriculture and value-added businesses.

Today, our children are raised in homes where families are much more likely to have a just livelihood, both in terms of income and fulfillment. Our schools cultivate young people with



© Seth Roffman

Paula García is presented with a golden shovel by New Mexico Acequia Association Concilio member Gilbert Sandoval at the 16th annual Congreso de las Acequias, November 2015.

a sense of purpose and responsibility to their communities and with the basic competencies to pursue their educational and career goals. Early-childhood programs are universal in all communities because of the consensus that early investment in our children creates stronger communities over the long term. Through years of support, encouragement and inspiration, young people graduate at a rate of nearly 100 percent, with confidence, critical-thinking skills and values needed to make positive contributions to their communities. Furthermore, because higher education and continuing education are free, all people—young and old—have the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education. This enables adults to adapt to changes in the economy, to explore new and inspiring career opportunities and to embrace life-long learning as a way of life.

Because of the efforts of those who came before us, we are grateful to those who had the courage to have a vision for the future and who set in motion the transformation that we enjoy today with healthy families and communities, a vibrant economy based on local food and renewable energy, and a society that views education and healthcare as part of the common good. All of this was possible through love and hope. ❖

*Paula García lives in Mora County, where she was raised on a small ranch with her extended family. She is currently chair of the Mora County Commission, where she was elected on a platform of ethics and good government. García is executive director of the New Mexico Acequia Association, a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to protecting water for acequia agriculture and food traditions.*

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# CREATIVE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES ENCOURAGE FARMING INTO THE FUTURE

PAM ROY

The culture of food and the practices of farming and ranching in New Mexico are at the core of many livelihoods and traditions. Farmers, ranchers and the many businesses and agencies involved in food production, processing and marketing contribute to the state's fourth-largest economic sector. While more than \$4 billion in sales of agricultural products and more than 97 percent are exported out of New Mexico, opportunities abound to grow in-state market options for products to be sold and exchanged.

*Food production and agriculture are an important way of life and economic opportunity.*

New coordination, advocacy and support programs have evolved over the last decade to provide more of these options. Fruit and vegetable producers like Danny Farrar of Rancho La Jolla in Velarde, Anthony Wagner of Wagner Farms in Corrales, Belen and Socorro, and Agri-Cultura, a group of farmers in Albuquerque's South Valley are all expanding through farmers' markets,

schools, restaurants and specialized delivery services. Organizations like La Semilla Food Center in Anthony and Farm to Table in Santa Fe help schools and communities create their own farm-to-school initiatives and encourage schools to purchase New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables for school meals and snack programs.

Through a program called New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals, more school food-services directors are learning about opportunities to purchase fresh produce from area farmers. With a plethora of regulations to sift through, organizations like American Friends Service Committee and Farm to Table help farmers and school districts coordinate efforts to make it possible for New Mexico's children to enjoy fruits and vegetables like watermelons, apples, salad greens and baby tomatoes. In addition to these efforts, a modest amount of state funding (\$364,300) provides an opportunity for the 218 school food authorities across the state to purchase New Mexico fruits and vegetables. As many as 342,000 students may have a chance to eat "New Mexico grown," coupled with learning experiences such as Cooking with Kids, in Santa Fe; Kids Cook, in Albuquerque; Las Cruces Public Schools Healthy Kids-Healthy Communities program; and La Semilla Food Center's on-farm and in-classroom education programs.

As the number of farmers' markets has grown across the state (now totaling 70), the New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association has worked to connect federal programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) clients to access locally grown-and raised produce and meat and dairy products. The organization has been able to pair up state legislative funding of \$400,000 for "Double Up Food Bucks" to double the



Gaia Gardens in Santa Fe

© Alejandro López

funds SNAP recipients can spend. This effort is also helping leverage additional federal support through a new program called the USDA Food Insecurity Nutrition Initiative (FINI). The Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute has seen great success with this program and has added locally raised funds through individuals and the city of Santa Fe to meet the needs of SNAP recipients.

In 2012, with less than 1 percent of New Mexico's total 13.3 million acres of agricultural lands growing fruits and vegetables, our farmers still produced 58.8 million pounds of apples, peaches and pears; 52.3 million pounds of melons; and over 544 million pounds of vegetables requested by schools that are also top sellers at farmers' markets, stores like La Montañita Co-op and roadside stands.

Cities and counties are working with organizations such as the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, Santa Fe Food Policy Council, Mesilla Valley Food Policy Council, Southwest Food Policy Council and organizations in the Albuquerque region to focus on ways to secure food production and agriculture as a continued, important way of life and economic opportunity. These cross-sector groups are focused on food, farming, health, land- and water use and the economy. Communities

are working hand-in-hand with their policymakers to create urban agriculture ordinances and programs to encourage food production in cities and towns. Similarly, counties working on long-range plans, such as Santa Fe's Sustainable Growth Management Plan, include food security and supporting farming and ranching as priorities. Numerous counties are looking at ways to encourage new farmers, who may not have the resources to own their own land, to produce by providing affordable ways to access land. Pitkin County in Colorado recently approved a program whereby new farmers have accessed 10 to 20 acres of county open-space land, negotiated 10-year leases and are growing a wide variety of vegetables for local markets.

At the state level, New Mexico policymakers will be considering expansion of the New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals appropriation during the 2016 legislative session. We are requesting their support. ✕

*Pam Roy is the executive director of Farm to Table, a nonprofit based in Santa Fe, and coordinator of the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council.*



Harvest at Danny Farrar's Rancho de la Jolla farm in Velarde, New Mexico

## 4TH ANNUAL NM FOOD AND FARMS DAY AT THE STATE LEGISLATURE • FEB. 3, 9-10 A.M.

Join New Mexico food and agriculture advocates at the State Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony honoring farmers, farm-to-school programs and school food-service providers who are working to provide fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals and education programs. For more information, call Pam Roy at Farm to Table, at 505.660.8403 or visit [www.farmtotablenm.org](http://www.farmtotablenm.org)





Excerpt from *New Mexico 2050*

## SUPPLYING ALBUQUERQUE WITH FRESH, LOCAL PRODUCE

HENRY RAEI

...According to the New Mexico State Extension Service, the market for fresh vegetables and fruit in the Albuquerque area is approximately \$170 million per year, with the vast majority of these dollars leaving New Mexico in favor of out-of-state producers. A successful initiative that increased the share of the Albuquerque produce market supplied by New Mexico farmers would create value and capture it in the state. Two key challenges to making this happen include a lack of adequate local farming capacity and a local supply environment that is too disorganized and inefficient to supply our food-based businesses. Solutions to these challenges can be found in the culture and history of New Mexico.

## FOOD ASSISTANCE IN NEW MEXICO

According to the Hunger in America Report 2014, hunger and food insecurity continue to be widespread throughout New Mexico. The report, compiled by Roadrunner Food Bank and Feeding America, showed that 70,000 people in the state seek food assistance each week: 30 percent of them are children under age 18; 8 percent are under age 5; 21 percent are senior citizens; and 53 percent of hungry families are among the working poor.

In 2014, AARP New Mexico developed a white paper that identified challenges to ending hunger. Cited were lack of employment or low wages, barriers that prevent people from seeking benefits, a focus on quantity of meals and not the quality of meals, and the increasing demand put on food banks even as donations are low.

As of Jan. 1, in order to receive federal food aid, any able-bodied, childless person aged 18 to 50 must participate in the state's job-training program if he or she is not in school or does not meet certain exemptions. New Mexico's proposed requirements go beyond federal requirements.

For the past two years, AARP New Mexico and the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District have been among the organizing agencies for the annual End Hunger Summit, held in Albuquerque, in September. Through workshops and exhibits, the summit examines hunger-related issues such as nutrition, public assistance, resources for the homeless, after-school snack programs and approaches to addressing food insecurity.



Excerpt from *New Mexico 2050*

## NEW MEXICO'S DAIRY INDUSTRY

LEE REYNIS AND JIM PEACH

In the late 1980s, New Mexico made a deliberate attempt to develop an industrial cluster that would support an emerging dairy- and cheese-product industry, as well as produce a market for New Mexico alfalfa. The growth of the dairy industry explains about 80 percent of the growth in alfalfa production.

A 2005 report from New Mexico State University noted that New Mexico "has been one of the fastest growing dairy states." According to the most recent data from the Dairy Producers of New Mexico, the state has "approximately 150 dairies and the largest average herd size (2,088) in the nation." In 2014 the state was ranked ninth for milk production and fifth for cheese.

There is no question that the dairy industry has brought economic benefits to the state. The question is, at what cost. Tight regulation might minimize the threats of groundwater contamination. Unfortunately, production of milk and cheese based on alfalfa takes an enormous amount of water. In its milk and cheese exports, New Mexico is effectively exporting water.



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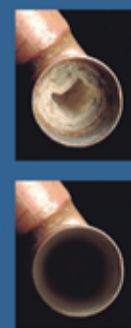
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around 1980, the number of rich people going to college jumped by 20 percent, while the number of poor people doing so grew by only 3 percent. Just 30 percent of American adults today have a higher level of education than their parents did.

Between 1979 and 2012, the annual gap between what an American family with two college graduates and a family of high school graduates make grew by \$30,000 after inflation. So, it's a cycle. Since those with more and better education wind up earning more, inequality of income produces inequality of education and, in turn, inequality of education produces more inequality of income.

*We need investments that will help right now  
and also bring about sustained  
and permanent economic growth.*

## WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

The major causes of income inequality are obvious, and so are most of the major solutions: a more progressive tax system; making rich people and giant corporations pay more of their fair share; stopping tax and spending subsidies that



now redistribute wealth and income in the wrong direction; strengthening unions and eliminating the legal and other barriers that now impede the organization of America's workers; and raising the federal minimum wage. Consider: Raising the federal minimum wage to just \$10.10, as President Obama has proposed, would give 30 million American workers a total increase of \$51 billion in new income, which would also be a giant boost to the nation's economy, while at the same time cutting billions of dollars in federal safety-net programs. And raising the minimum wage would not just help the working poor; it would bump up the wages of the middle class, as well.

We need reregulation of big banks and big finance, more stimulus, and jobs, jobs, jobs. We also need more investments in ourselves; that is, investments that will help right now and also bring about sustained and permanent economic growth, investments in education (especially early-childhood education), and investments in training, science, alternative energy and technology.

We should join President Obama in working to hold down increases in college tuition, and we should join Sen. Elizabeth Warren in finding a way to forgive or ameliorate the existing and crushing student debt—37 million people owe \$1 trillion, a great drag on our economy—and we must seriously rein in future interest rates and borrowing costs for college students.

## BUT WHAT ABOUT NEW MEXICO, PARTICULARLY?

Our state has great assets. Land. Wind. Sun. Wonderful environment. Diverse population. Marvelous recreational and tourist attractions. Strategic central location. I have been all over the world, and I would rather live here than anywhere else. People want to live here.

What we don't have, of course, are jobs. We have about the same terrible inequality of income as the nation as a whole, but we have much more poverty and too many poor people.

High levels of poverty make us less attractive to industry looking for new locations. New Mexico is 49<sup>th</sup> among the states in the quality of life for children, and poverty is the primary reason. Poverty is the primary cause, too, of bad education outcomes for so many of our children and young people, and of our failing schools.

There are two ways we might do something about our great numbers of poor people: Heartlessly, we might try to get rid of some of the poor people. Or, more humanely, we might get rid of the poverty.

One trouble with the first approach is that it's not poor people who are moving out of New Mexico. Most of them can't leave. That's not really an option.

It is true, though, that bad health and shorter life expectancy do reduce the numbers of poor people. And, believe it or not, some New Mexicans say that the solution to New Mexico's problem of so many of our people being on Medicaid is to cut Medicaid funds. I don't believe that is a solution worthy of what New Mexico and America stand for.

The other approach—reducing poverty and reducing our terrible inequality of income—is not only the “right” thing to do, but it is also in the best interests of all of us who are not poor because it can absolutely be shown that “everybody does better when everybody does better.”



### Excerpt from *New Mexico 2050*

#### HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN NEW MEXICO

LEE REYNIS AND JIM PEACH

The provision of needed healthcare services outside the major medical centers of Albuquerque, Río Rancho and Las Cruces remains a huge challenge. All but one of New Mexico's counties are presently designated as underserved. Dr. Dan Derkson, formerly with UNM Health Services, has estimated that 400 new primary-care physicians are now needed in New Mexico. Attracting and training more midlevel health personnel will help but not solve that problem.

Small-town private doctors are a disappearing breed in New Mexico. In some areas, they have been replaced or augmented by the opening of new health centers, many of them federally qualified health centers. At the same time, some rural hospitals in the state are shutting down services such as labor and delivery, with some threatening to close their doors permanently as key funding sources disappear.

## NEW MEXICO'S HEALTH RANKINGS

The public policy organization New Mexico First ([nmfirst.org](http://nmfirst.org)) has released a statewide progress report. It found many improvements. Heart-disease deaths and the number of smokers have gone down, and the number of children current on their vaccinations went up. The number of residents with health insurance has gone up significantly. The report attributes this to the Affordable Care Act. However, diabetes and substance-abuse deaths have not improved, and child hunger is still a problem, according to the report. And mental-healthcare access is only meeting 25 percent of the need.

The United Health Foundation's annual portrait of the nation's health, based on 30 factors that include clinical care, personal behavior and community and environmental conditions, has ranked New Mexico at the lower end of the scale, at 37<sup>th</sup>. That's down from 33<sup>rd</sup> in 2014 and 32<sup>nd</sup> in 2013.

On the plus side, the report shows that New Mexico has low rates of cancer and cardiovascular deaths, low rates of excessive drinking and good air quality compared to other states. That is contrasted with a high rate of diabetes (ranking 40<sup>th</sup> of the 50 states, with 11.5 percent of adults diagnosed), high rates of infectious diseases such as chlamydia, pertussis and salmonella, a lot of low-birth-weight babies (8.8 percent, reflecting poor access to prenatal care and many drug-addicted mothers), a high teenage-pregnancy rate and many children living in poverty.

The high poverty rate impacts high crime rates and drug addiction. New Mexico ranked among the highest—49<sup>th</sup>—for drug deaths. The state also has had a relatively high number of occupational fatalities (6.3 deaths per 100,000 workers). The full report can be accessed at [www.americashealthrankings.org](http://www.americashealthrankings.org)



We know how to reduce poverty and inequality of income—as outlined earlier—and we have the ability to do it. It takes national action on a wide front, but New Mexico can and should act, too.

What poor people need is money. And the best way for them to get it is by working. We need more jobs. Cutting taxes for corporations and those in the higher brackets and slashing programs that help the middle class and the poor don't produce economic development. Consider Kansas and Ohio, where this was tried in recent times—to very bad effect. And that approach, quite obviously, hasn't worked in New Mexico, either, and ought to be reversed. New Mexico is in a downward spiral—economically, in our expectations and hopes, and in our national image.

What if we adopted a strong and meaningful infrastructure-investment program, in schools, highways, alternative energy—paying for it with bonds, if necessary, while interest rates are still so low?

What if we substantially raised our own minimum wage and the earned-income tax credit?

What if we made a huge increase in our investment in education at all levels—particularly in early-childhood education, taking a small portion of the income from the Land Grant Permanent Fund for this purpose? What if we made community colleges free? What if we simultaneously slashed higher-education administration expenses and cut student tuition and fees?

People would say New Mexico is back! Going places! Things are looking up! We'd say it ourselves.

And it would be true. ☒

*Former U. S. Senator Fred Harris is professor emeritus of political science at the University of New Mexico, where he still serves as director of the UNM Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program. He is the editor of the new University of New Mexico Press book, New Mexico 2050.*



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# THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER'S TOP 10 ISSUES TO WATCH IN 2016

There are a lot of environmental issues on which New Mexicans will focus in 2016—drilling near Chaco Canyon, coal-fired power plants and wildlife issues to name a few—but here are the top 10 issues that the attorneys at the New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC) will focus on in the new year:

- 1) New Mexico Copper Rule.** This Martínez-era regulation, written by the Freeport-McMoRan copper company, allows all copper mines in New Mexico to pollute groundwater above water-quality standards. The Supreme Court is currently considering challenges by the NMELC and its clients, Amigos Bravos and the Gila Resources Information Project, as well as the state attorney general. The NMELC anticipates that the Supreme Court will hand down a ruling in this major precedent-setting case later this year.
- 2) Santolina sprawl.** In 2015, the Bernalillo County Commission gave its first level of approval for Santolina, a 90,000-person development on the western edge of Albuquerque. If built today, it would be the third-largest city in New Mexico. Even so, developers haven't proven its water resources, developed meaningful school or transportation plans, or effectively rebutted arguments that Bernalillo and Albuquerque residents will have to foot a hefty portion of the bill to pay for infrastructure. The NMELC and some of its clients—Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP), New Mexico Health Equity Working Group and Pajarito Village Association—have challenged the decision in court and expect a decision from state District Court this year.
- 3) Continued push for clean air in all of Albuquerque's neighborhoods.** Albuquerque has great air quality—except where it doesn't: the South Valley, the North Valley and downtown; that is, neighborhoods that are predominantly Hispanic and lower-income. With mounting evidence that air pollution is linked to poor health and even learning disorders and violent crime, it is time that this issue get resolved. Through both local and federal actions, the NMELC is working with SWOP to ensure that regulators enforce the New Mexico Air Quality Act equitably so that everyone can breathe easily.
- 4) Uranium mining on Mount Taylor.** With proposed oil and gas drilling near Chaco Canyon and a giant methane cloud hanging over the Four Corners area, Native communities continue to grapple with the negative impacts of extractive industries. One industry that continues to hold out hope for a renaissance is the uranium-mining industry: Look for continued resistance from grassroots organizations like the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE) and the Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM) as they fight permits for mines on Mount Taylor, as well as in Navajo communities.



Los Alamos National Laboratory

- 5) Los Alamos National Laboratory.** Managerial issues are not the only problems plaguing Los Alamos National Lab. It also continues to fail to clean up groundwater contamination. If the Lab's legacy waste is not effectively addressed—and soon—experts estimate that contamination will hit the Río Grande within a decade. That's why groups like the NMELC, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety and Tewa Women United will continue to fight in 2016 for better regulation and better cleanup.



Staff of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center

- 6) Kirtland AFB jet-fuel spill.** Albuquerque also has its share of federal groundwater contamination. The spill, which leaked 6–24 million gallons of toxic fuel into the ground (depending upon which source you read), threatens the city's Ridgecrest area drinking-water well field. After years of inaction followed by a year of slow action (only one extraction well was brought online before Christmas 2015), the NMELC and SWOP could no longer stand by. They plan to file a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Air Force in February, in hopes that a federal judge will require the adoption of enforceable goals and deadlines.
- 7) Return of New Mexico's most highly contested water grab.** The Office of the State Engineer is considering a third application from Italian billionaire Bruno Modena to speculatively appropriate more than 17 billion gallons of water every year—more than half of what Albuquerque used in 2013. The billionaire has already pulled his first two applications, but we'll have to see if the third time's the charm under State Engineer Tom Blaine. The NMELC will continue to represent nearly 100 residents of west-central New Mexico in their bid to keep water in the public trust in this hugely important water case.
- 8) Continued push by New Mexicans to gain international recognition of the "human right to water."** Communities of color and low-income communities across the United States grapple with lack of access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation. One example in New Mexico is the Red Water Pond Road community, a Navajo community north of Gallup, where residents are being asked to choose between living in a community surrounded by mountains of radioactive waste left from Cold War-era uranium mining or moving to a site that has breathable air but no water. The NMELC and its client, the Red Water Pond Road Community Association, will keep fighting for a tenable solution to this untenable problem.
- 9) Legislative efforts to preempt local control over the environment.** You may be familiar with the Santa Fe Oil and Gas Ordinance or similar county-level ordinances that put common-sense protections in place to protect human health and welfare, as well as the environment. Those types of protections have been under attack by state legislators and their industrial allies for years, and the NMELC anticipates that 2016 will be no exception. Make sure to keep your eyes open for alerts from the NMELC and Conservation Voters New Mexico for all the environmental updates from the Roundhouse this session.
- 10) Regulatory cheerleading.** In 2016, you'll probably continue to see state regulatory agencies whose leaders act like cheerleaders for the industries they regulate. From oil and gas to hardrock mining to coal-fired power plants to wildlife management, officials in the Martínez administration have failed to be the regulators we need them to be for today and future generations. Rest assured, however, that New Mexico has a mighty crop of community advocates and environmental organizations that keep the pressure on them to do the right thing for our state and its people. ❖

*The New Mexico Environmental Law Center, founded in 1987, is a nonprofit environmental law firm whose attorneys provide free and low-cost legal representation to concerned residents, grassroots organizations and local/tribal governments across the state. Find more information at [nmelc.org](http://nmelc.org)*



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# AN OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR JAVIER GONZALES AND THE SANTA FE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor, recently you had several meetings and asked for citizen input on the budget deficit that is facing Santa Fe. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the process and hopefully the solutions. Ask organized labor and film for an opinion and we are always happy to share our positions with you. We do so with a strong desire to move the city forward and to be a part of your vision to make this a just, equitable, and inclusive community, with opportunities for all and where everyone takes on their responsibilities to pay for the essential services and the quality of life projects that make us the world-class city that we all want to live in.

We ask that you and Finance Chair Councilor Carmichael Domínguez keep reminding us that this isn't a crisis and moving monies around from funds with a surplus allows us the opportunity to explore long-term solutions. We realize that everything is on the table, but cutting services, whether essential or quality of life, should be the very last resort. If we can achieve a balanced budget without layoffs we have succeeded on many levels. Eliminating city jobs should be considered our failure to come up with better, more creative solutions. There are "best practices" around the country and the world we can look to and smart minds right here in our own backyard. We can fix this without balancing a budget on the backs of the city workers.

From the Film, TV and multimedia community that I'm lucky to be a part of: Involve us; we can help. An alternative to cutting services or raising taxes is to grow our way out of this temporary dilemma. The NM film industry has created more private sector jobs than any other in New Mexico this century. After many studies to try to prove otherwise to the skeptical and dubious, even our biggest detractors now acknowledge that we are job creators and tax generators.

We don't need expensive, private, "nonprofit" marketers to promote our city, our county and Northern New Mexico as a premier shooting location. We've been that for 100 years. We have the crews, the vendors and equipment, the facilities and the locations right here. What we do need is the political will of the state to restore the arbitrary cap on film incentives back at least to where it was when it was imposed in 2012.

The city should look at ways to use its bonding capacity to help our own make their own products. SFUAD, St Johns, SFCC and the new higher learning center can be beacons of light, not just attracting eager young minds from around the country and the world, but keeping our own here to pursue 21st-century jobs and new-media careers. Santa Fe Studio has been an enormous "job generator." We should acknowledge that many of these jobs and much of the economic activity benefits the city as much as it does the county, and we should work with the studio owners, representatives of the workers and the County Commission to come up with solutions to their temporary issues, so we can move forward to expand that facility from something great for the region to the world-class studio complex Santa Fe deserves.

Your proposal to form a film commission of the best and brightest in film to energize and activate the best and brightest in our community is an effective and economical way to generate ideas and action. We look forward, not only to working with you, but hopefully to being both a part of the body and providing part of the budget to make it work.

We, the filmmakers, live here too and we want to be leaders in creating "reel" solutions. There are others in education, the artistic community, alternative energy, our vibrant immigrant community, and on and on, with so much to offer. Please continue to reach out and involve us all. This is your moment, this is why you were elected, this is your legacy.

Jon Hendry

Business Agent IATSE Local 480 (the Film Technicians union)  
President NM Federation of Labor AFL CIO, ba480@hotmail.com

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# AVERTING DYSTOPIA

JACK LOEFFLER

Arid New Mexico, where distant mountain ranges mark far horizons that encompass vast living emptiness, where major ecosystems are easily distinguished one from the other, where waterways are modest in their yield and thus recognized and valued as the life-giving source, where the sky is an upturned bowl of blue wherein clouds dance over mountains and refine human imagination, where wind passes through the grasses and rustles the boughs of mountain pines, where the greater chorus of the biotic community sings praise to existence—this is homeland so powerful as to grab the undivided attention of those with the consciousness to perceive meaning beyond personal self.

There are appropriate ways to live within, to participate in such a landscape. A primary prerequisite is to develop an abiding mindfulness of the needs of the landscape, which is itself a mosaic of habitats, of biotic communities, of ecosystems, of watersheds integrated into a pattern the complexity, all of which requires a lifetime of applied intelligence and intuition to even partially understand.

*My great hope is that  
we live sustainably  
within our home  
watershed.*

We humans have proven ourselves a peripatetic lot, although most of us have long since abandoned hunting and gathering as a lifeway. Here in New Mexico there remain cultures that are still rooted to landscape. There are Indian pueblos that have long adorned the banks of the northern Río Grande. There are Hispano communities rooted to the land, umbilicated to the río and ritos by acequias. And while no community is exempt from the economic imperative imposed on everyone by the dominant human culture, there remain indigenous cultural recollections within native communities that are treasure troves of both practice and attitude that are vital to home habitat.

## DYSTOPIA (NOUN)

an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one.

There is also an extraordinary scientific culture of practice in New Mexico that includes two national laboratories, a thriving university system, a spectacular radio telescope, and myriad scientific way stations scattered throughout. And there is a burgeoning back-to-the-flow-of-nature culture of practice that had its genesis in the counterculture movement, when this land of clear light beckoned thousands of youth disillusioned with the consumer-driven post-WWII American Dream.

This landscape has been as a magnet for adventurous humans for at least 12,000 years. Fairly recently, it has come to be called New Mexico, and in the 121,000 square miles of surface area presently contained within its geopolitical boundaries, there is less surface water relative to size than in any other state. Aridity is the prevailing characteristic. Governance has long been associated with water availability.

The acequia systems put in place by Hispano communities are based on equitably sharing the water during both wet and dry years. Ancestral Puebloans were driven from their homelands in and around Chaco Canyon when a major drought hit about a thousand years ago, causing many of their descendants to resettle along the Río Grande, a more permanent body of running water. Traditional Pueblo Indians perceive natural landscape as a great commons to be shared by all living creatures. The eminent human ecologist, Garrett Hardin, pointed out that the commons work as long as the human population does not grow too large—at which point the commons must be governed. Success is determined by who governs and how well. Elinor Ostrom pointed out that nowhere in his essay, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” does Hardin include such words as trust or mutual cooperation.

Governance itself becomes an enormous problem. It may begin as an ideal, as with the United States of 240 years ago when democracy was clearly defined and put into practice. But over time, human political hierarchy in consonance with individual and, finally, corporate quest for riches has endangered the commons, has jeopardized habitat. This is especially true when the human population, with its inequitable scale of standards of living,



Río Grande at White Rock overlook, New Mexico

© Anna C. Hansen

has in all likelihood finally exceeded the carrying capacity of the planetary commons. Referring to corporate control of government, my old compañero, Ed Abbey, aptly said, “A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government.” The human population of the planet has grown by well over a billion souls since Ed died 27 years ago, and the disparity between the rich and the poor has increased exponentially as vast habitat has been pillaged inexorably. All the while, the Internet has become an enormous factor in preservation and dispersal within the commons of human consciousness.

*The human species has  
become a force of nature.*

So how do we imagine our future in New Mexico? Last year, farmer/author Wendell Berry adamantly reminded me that he wasn't into predicting the future, citing Christ's aphorism, “Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” I agree that we cannot predict the future, but with sufficient collective energy, we can nudge at least one force of nature to the direction



Wendell Berry

of relative balance. It was our great friend, Rina Swentzell, who vigorously reminded me that the human species has become just such a force. Indeed, we as a species have become such a force of nature, such a dominant keystone species, that we are deeply affecting the flow of nature on this planet Earth that gave birth to us some ten thousand or so generations ago.



It was over 40 years ago, at a meeting of the Santa Fe County Commission, that then-chairman Art Trujillo advised those of us living in Santa Fe Canyon to form a neighborhood association to give grassroots voice in defense of our future. We did, and we elected Willie Apodaca as our president and Pat Feather as our secretary/treasurer. We canvassed the entire neighborhood to gather perspective. Virtually everyone agreed that we wanted to keep Cerro Gordo Park (Adam Armijo Park) as a natural area rather than have it become a paved-over tennis court surrounded by high wire fencing complete with nightlights that would despoil the character of the canyon, as defined in the proposal forwarded by then Mayor Louie Montaño. We prepared a petition that was signed by almost everyone in the neighborhood.

The evening arrived when Louie's proposal was put to the test by the Santa Fe City Council. Mayor Montaño, who was presiding, had prepared his own petition with many signatures that attested that the park should be turned into Louie's nightmare of progress. When input from the audience was requested by the mayor, my old friend and neighbor Gregorita Rodríguez, a renowned curandera and woman of

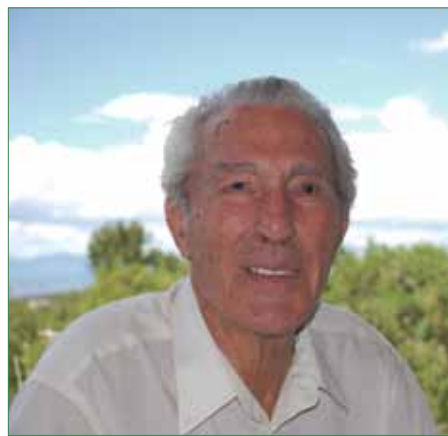
CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



wisdom, asked me to help her to the podium. I held her elbow as she spoke into the microphone for all to hear. She said, "Louie, that petition you got there was signed by people who've been dead for over 10 years!" Louie slumped in his chair as the audience cheered, and we won the right to keep the park natural by a single vote.

Today, politics is regarded with cynicism by almost everyone except many politicians dominated by their corporate regime. We in New Mexico have two fine, honest men who serve as senators in the Congress of the United States. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich are both deeply rooted in environmental ethics. I personally know this to be so.

Not long after our victory over Cerro Gordo Park, I called Tom's father, Stewart Udall, and asked him what advice he would proffer to Santa Fe as we edge into an uncertain future. Stewart's primary advice was that we should create a green belt surrounding the city where we could grow and graze food to thus become as self-sufficient as possible. Stewart had grown up on a farm in St. Johns, Arizona, during the Great Depression and well knew the importance of self-sufficiency. This lifestyle had shaped much of his thinking during his tenure as Secretary of the Interior throughout the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.



© Jack Loeffler

**Stewart Udall's primary advice to Santa Fe: *Create a green belt surrounding the city where we could grow and graze food to thus become as self-sufficient as possible.***

I've been extremely fortunate in my own long life to have met and befriended many whose opinions I value and whose perspectives have greatly contributed to my own. For well over half a century, I've been involved in one way or another in the environmental movement. I continue to work every day on behalf of what I interpret as the greatest good that includes seeking to comprehend the relationship between biological and cultural diversity within the great

mosaic of geophysical regions that comprise the face of our planet.

My great hope is that we live sustainably within our respective homeland—our home watershed—with as full and complete an understanding of the needs of homeland as we can muster, and that those needs supersede our own presumed needs if indeed we are to be sustained therein. This includes a large measure of grassroots governance from within the commons based on mutual cooperation and trust. At any meeting of any governing body, home habitat must sit metaphorically at the head of the table. We are equipped to intuit and recognize what is ethically correct and thus proceed accordingly.

I envision a tremendous shift of cultural attitude away from the prevailing economically dominated paradigm to an ecologically dominated paradigm. I recognize the need for partial decentralization from governance on high, that is, governance now held in sway by the corporate-industrial-military complex that we were warned away from by President Eisenhower just before he left office in 1961. I envision some form of polycentric governance, as presented by Elinor Ostrom in her insightful book, *Governing the Commons*, for which she received the Nobel Prize in 2009. This occurs within different levels of governance extending from the halls of Congress to the grassroots, where the real action is, where the

knowledge base is and where people actually abide in their home habitats, their home ecoregions.

From this mode of envisioning, I recommend three books. The first, *Desert Solitaire*, by Edward Abbey, can fire up one's personal sense of conviction. The second, *The Practice of the Wild*, by Gary Snyder, provides deep insight into a state of mind to which we must aspire to become rooted in homeland. The third, *Thinking Like a Watershed*, is an anthology of papers and transcribed interviews with leading thinkers from within indigenous communities and more recent cultures of practice that present alternative perspectives, which I co-edited, along with Celestia Loeffler.

As my great friend, Rina Swentzell, pointed out, the human species has become a force of nature. What a travesty if we as a species fail to muster the consciousness to recognize that our planet is our homeland, not a place to be shunned or plundered but rather revered, honored and loved—and restored.

Thus, we proceed in beauty. ❧

Jack Loeffler is an aural historian, author and radio producer whose perspective includes bioregionalism and systems thinking. He is just completing a 10-part documentary radio series entitled "Encounters with Consciousness." [www.loreoftheland.org](http://www.loreoftheland.org)



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# AN UNPRECEDENTED FUTURE

COURTNEY WHITE

Some years ago, Craig Allen, an old friend, stopped by the office to catch up. He's a forest ecologist stationed in the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico, and his career mirrors how ecological research has changed, as well as its likely future trajectory.

*Our actions today  
will greatly influence  
tomorrow.*

When I first met Craig more than 20 years ago, his focus was on the interlocking variables of ecological function, historical use and plant and animal community dynamics, in order to understand more clearly the condition of the region's forests. And what he discovered was worrisome. Specifically, he worried about forest "thickening" due to decades of fire suppression, overgrazing and other activities. In 1998, Craig summarized his concern in an article for the Quivira Coalition titled "Where Have All the Grasslands Gone?" His research revealed that open, grassy areas were

shrinking, due to tree encroachment, at the alarming rate of 1 percent per year. What was missing was fire.

"Most forests in northern New Mexico evolved with frequent, low-intensity fires," he wrote. "The removal of the natural process of fire by human suppression has disrupted these ecosystems in many ways; [these areas] need to be restored to more open conditions to protect both ecological values and human communities."

In the next phase of his career, Craig "walked the talk" of forest restoration by implementing innovative experiments, becoming an enthusiastic advocate of adaptive management in the process. As a result of this fieldwork, Craig joined a chorus of forest ecologists advocating proactive policies and practices aimed at returning ecosystems to health in the Southwest, principally by restoring natural fire cycles.

Today, Craig is focused on the threat posed to forests by global warming. He thinks the dangers have the potential to be catastrophic, not only for trees but also for the animal communities



Hopewell Lake, San Juan Mountains, New Mexico

© Anna C. Hansen

that depend on them, including us. His goal is resilience—figuring out ways to keep a forest healthy in the face of a changing climate. His research, however, says things don't look rosy under business-as-usual scenarios.

But it was something that Craig said at the end of our meeting that set me to thinking. He had been asked to speak to a gathering of federal land managers about the climate crisis. They were looking for options on how to meet that challenge. "What they told me," Craig said, "was that nothing in their education or experience had prepared them for what was coming down the road in terms of climate. Their training was for a stable climate, they said, not one that was changing. They literally had no idea what to do. They were facing an unprecedented future for which they were not prepared."

**His words stuck in my mind:** *an unprecedented future.*

For most of his career, Craig focused on a traditional goal of the conservation movement: fighting scarcity. Unhealthy forests, disappearing meadows, eroding topsoils, too few "cool," natural fires, too many "hot," catastrophic fires, and not enough grass are all indicators of scarcity at work—the scarcity of properly functioning ecosystems. His restoration work aimed at reversing such declines, at replacing scarcity with health and abundance.

Today, however, Craig is working beyond scarcity. He is confronting the specter of loss. Craig and his colleagues predict that the pine forests of New Mexico, as a result of repeated fires, will likely transition to shrublands

over the next century. Hotter and drier conditions under climate change are already feeding record fire seasons across the West and Alaska. When trees burn up and seedlings can't get established as a consequence of repeated scorching, forests die. In a recent interview for *The New York Times*, Craig said, "The future in a lot of places is looking shrubbier."

Is that a good thing or a bad thing? It depends on your perspective, I suppose. Either way, it's clear that the unprecedented future has arrived. In response, I've come up with four principles for adapting to this new era that I'd like to share:

1) *Get Used To It.* The previous era is over and gone. Exactly what our unprecedented future has in store for us isn't entirely clear yet, but we do know that our actions today will greatly influence tomorrow. We can't implement those actions, however, if we continue to live in the past, which we're still doing on many levels as a society.

2) *Solutions Exist.* Because we live in an era of *big* problems, we tend to spend our time thinking of *big* solutions. Instead, let's concentrate on the wide variety of low-cost, practical solutions available right now. There are many innovative practices, for example, that soak up carbon dioxide in soils, reduce energy use, sustainably intensify food production and increase water quality and quantity. Pick one that motivates you.

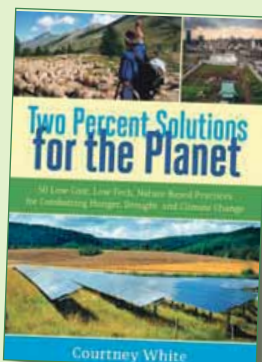
3) *Explore and Share.* Despite the daily cascade of dire predictions, sobering studies, and gloomy headlines, it's still

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

## TWO PERCENT SOLUTIONS FOR THE PLANET 50 LOW-COST, LOW-TECH, NATURE-BASED PRACTICES FOR COMBATTING HUNGER, DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

BY COURTNEY WHITE, CHELSEA GREEN PUBLISHING,  
2015, 240 PAGES

*Two Percent Solutions for the Planet* profiles 50 innovative practices that soak up carbon dioxide in soils, reduce energy use, sustainably intensify food production and increase water quality. The "two percent" refers to the amount of new carbon in the soil needed to reap a wide variety of ecological and economic benefits; the percentage of the nation's population who are farmers and ranchers; and the low financial cost (in terms of GDP) needed to get this work done.



As White explained in *Grass, Soil, Hope*, a highly efficient carbon cycle captures, stores, releases and recaptures biochemical energy, mitigating climate change, increasing water-storage capacities in soil and making green plants grow. Best of all, we don't have to invent anything new; a wide variety of innovative ideas and methods that put carbon back into the soil have been field tested and proven to be practical and profitable. They're mostly low-tech, too, relying on natural resources such as sunlight, green plants, animals, compost, beavers, creeks and more.

In *Two Percent Solutions*, White expands the "regenerative toolbox" to include holistic grazing, edible forests, biochar, weed-eating livestock, food co-ops, keyline plowing, restoration agriculture, bioenergy, aquaponics, animal power, bees, bears, wildlife corridors, rainwater harvesting, native seeds and various other projects across the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia. These short, engaging success stories will help readers connect the dots between diverse, exciting and pragmatic practices and inspire them, energized by the news that solutions abound.



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## UNPRECEDENTED FUTURE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

a beautiful, diverse, amazing world. Go see as much as of it as you can, starting in your own backyard. Share what you find with others. Share research, create art, give a lecture, write a book, post a photo, call a friend—whatever you like to do, big or small, to communicate what it means to be alive today.

4) *Focus on the Little Normals.* These are things that have persisted over the millennia, such as the way water moves across the land or the love a parent feels for a child. We need food to live. We need a sense of community; we like to belong. We like to live in proximity to other people. We feel a deep affection for animals. We are moved by spiritual

concerns. All of these things persist and can form the foundation for our actions. ✕

*Courtney White cofounded the Quivira Coalition, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building bridges between ranchers, conservationists and others around practices that improve economic and ecological resilience in western working landscapes. He is the author of Revolution on the Range; Grass, Soil, Hope; The Indelible West, a collection of black-and-white photographs with a foreword by Wallace Stegner; and the recently released Two Percent Solutions for the Planet.*



### CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS NEW MEXICO'S WOODLANDS

A recent study conducted by a Los Alamos National Laboratory researcher says that conifers like piñon and juniper that commonly dot some New Mexico hillsides could be wiped out by climate change by 2050, give or take a decade or two. Ecologist Nate McDowell is the lead author of a paper published last month by an international team in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. The study focused on lower-altitude, more-drought-tolerant trees but echoed earlier LANL research that had similar findings for higher-altitude forests with trees such as ponderosa pine, which may also be wiped out by long-term patterns of higher temperatures. Due to drought and bark beetles, higher-altitude trees in some areas have already been wiped out.



Paradoxically, the trees' survival mechanism may hasten their demise. To prevent water loss, coniferous trees close their stomata—openings in the needles that take in gases. But this also prevents the trees from taking in their food source—carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)—and stops photosynthesis. As it gets warmer, the trees may not take in enough CO<sub>2</sub>.

Five years of field experiments and other research showed that trees deprived of about 50 percent of the precipitation to which they are accustomed resulted in 80 percent mortality. Pockets of trees isolated from insects or fire might last longer, but wildfires could accelerate the rate of the trees' demise, the study says.

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# A VISION OF INTENSE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD AND WITH ONE ANOTHER

ALEJANDRO LÓPEZ

*Let there be an opening  
to the quiet  
that lies beneath  
the chaos,  
where you find the peace  
you did not think possible,  
and see what shimmers within the storm*  
—Anonymous

In our current world, it is easy to remain a passive observer of the state of things and simply turn on the television and reach for a beer. Or, worse, a weapon, as is apparently becoming increasingly prevalent in the United States, New Mexico included. It is much harder to dig through the massive amount of information available and figure out what is happening at our own front door, as well as further afield. It takes time and a commitment to dialoging with others, to grappling with ideas and listening to other people's points of view, even for a while, if we are to enrich our understanding of the world and its complexity.

Reading volumes on every discipline might help illuminate how on earth we got to this juncture in human history where, because of extreme climate change and our propensity for war and violence, we may not survive as a species much longer—a most sobering thought, indeed.

*To not take charge of our lives is to remain  
open to the prevailing general sense of  
helplessness or hopelessness.*

It often isn't easy to know how to do the right thing in the face of dwindling water supplies, trucked-in foodstuffs, depletion of natural resources and proliferating social crises of every kind. Thankfully, two articles in the December 2015 *Green Fire Times* provided us with viable alternative ideas that most of us can pursue in this hour of winter darkness, if we so choose. Deep thinkers Robert Christie and Rina Swentzell concluded that, in a world out of kilter in the way ours is, it makes sense to transform our individual lives and private spaces into microcosms of the world that we would like to live in. And actually do it!

Christie states that, in time, the effort by people to create such a world has the potential of coalescing into a huge, unstoppable movement. Such efforts would be joyous and creative, predicated on the adoption of a set of values different from those many currently adhere to, if “survival of the fittest or richest” can be



Consuelo Luz and friends singing before entering a sweat lodge in Santa Cruz, NM



© Alejandro López (2)

A blessing at a Las Cruces, New Mexico private home that was part of the 2014 Border Book Festival, honoring maiz (corn) and its legacy

considered a value. The cultivation of human beings with true appreciation for all living beings and our planetary home would indeed yield a completely different reality. As Greg Moss, author of *Revolution of Conscience: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Philosophy of Nonviolence* states in a recent article, “We human beings wield a cosmic power in the attitudes that we choose to take.”

Within the boundaries of our homes, yards and other private places, we are able to do things that enhance not only our lives but also the lives of all with whom we come into contact. We can garden and cook, read and study, write, meditate and exercise. We can play games, tell stories, create music, dance, celebrate, care for one another, make things and, of course, recycle all that we use.

A couple of people I know personify this process of redirecting human energy toward things that really matter. Bob, a man in his late 60s, spends much of his time testing alternative technologies, especially simple solar-energy solutions that address the challenge of inexpensively heating homes. He offers these options to his friends, neighbors and community. Stacie, a young Buddhist woman, has so completely devoted herself to recycling every item she uses, together with minimizing consumerism, that she has created a household that generates close to zero trash. Having accomplished this, she functions as both a role model and a fountain of knowledge about this profoundly important ecological process.

We can open our homes to others and pursue activities in small groups where people can develop solid friendships. The positive impacts generated by these activities will invariably spill out into the public spaces of neighborhoods, larger groups of people and community initiatives. Through grounding ourselves in such life-affirming activities, the media and the terrible things that occur in the world will have a lesser impact on our psyche and will not deter us from pursuing a self-reliant vision.

To not take charge of our lives and nourish our families and communities in these ways is to remain open to the prevailing winds of consumerism, militarism and a general sense of helplessness or hopelessness. At this time of serious global ecological crisis and social unrest, it would be a pity to not take the opportunity to plumb the depths of our reserves of intuition, intelligence, courage, strength and compassion in order to “seed” the world with joy, beauty and hope in all its forms and manifestations.

Alejandro López is a multimedia grassroots cultural worker who lives and works in northern New Mexico. For several years, he served as New Mexico coordinator for PeaceJam, an organization through which Nobel Peace Prize laureates worked with local youth toward the creation of a more just and empathetic society.







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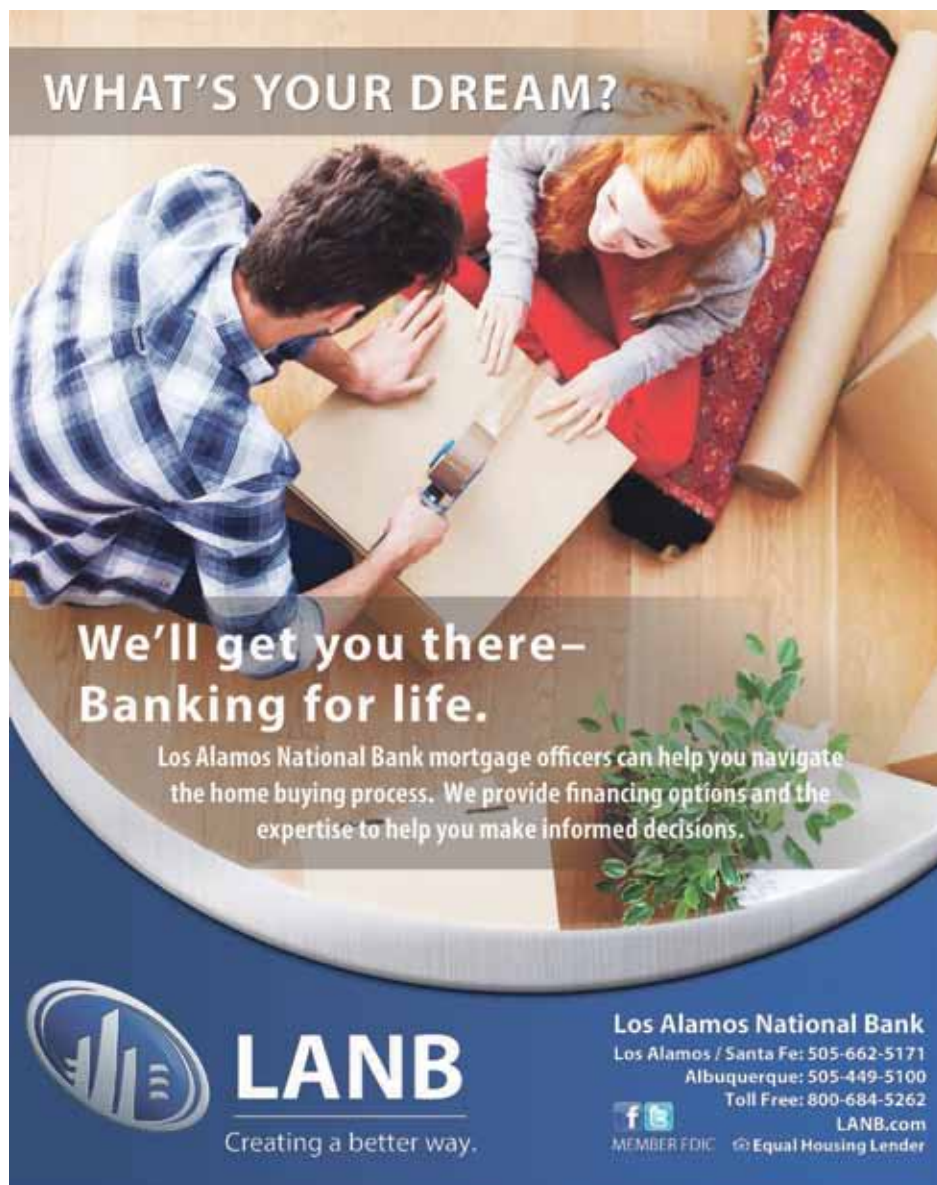
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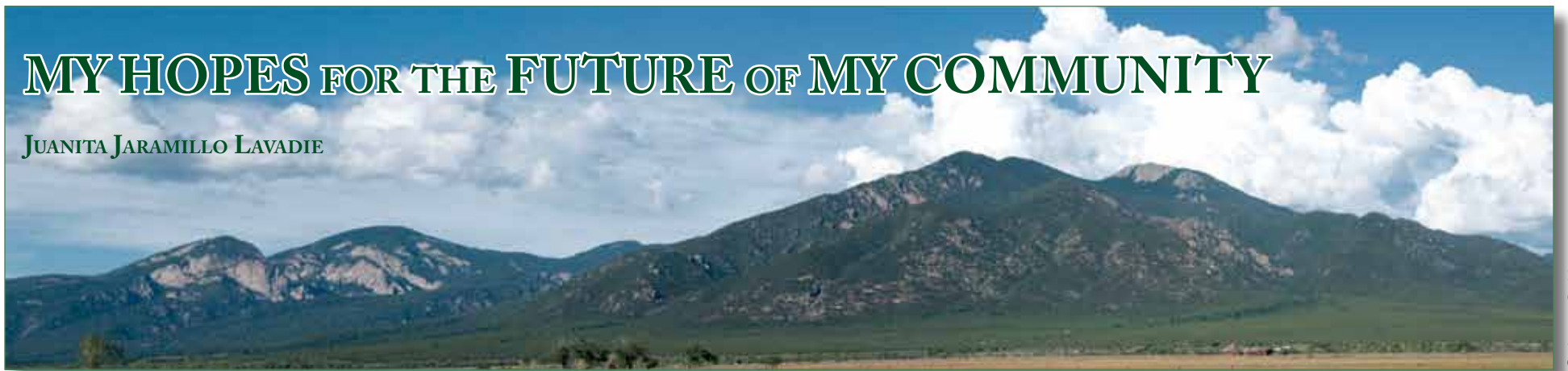
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# MY HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF MY COMMUNITY

JUANITA JARAMILLO LAVADIE



Taos, New Mexico

© Anna C. Hansen

I love my hometown. Although I was away for 10 years, I returned to teach for two more years and am now in my second year of retirement. As I get back into the broader social swing of events, through all the different societal layers, I note a great many newcomers in my neighborhood. But I often run into vecinos I have known since the days of my youth.

*When anyone feels called to do specific work as a labor of love, the soul of the culture and community works into the outcome.*

Taos has always been somewhat separated from downstream communities by beautiful but challenging terrain. Over generations, as a result of this isolation from the lower Río Grande Valley, my ancestral community tends to be insular. The mixture of people in this valley is one of celebrated interaction but also of more covert personal tendencies towards discrete existences. Mix this today with the awareness of random local, regional and national violence and international terrorism invading our mental and emotional states. Today's media are rife with volatile reactions, fear-mongering and the political football that plays on these fears. Instead of fanning the flames of emotional reaction, I would like to see my Taos and Earth vecinos rely on a solid base of common sense. Grounded with this sensibility, we can recognize what needs to be addressed by conscious cooperation and continual effort. We all need to meet hubris, hatred, anger and fear with respect, compassion, equanimity and courage. I would like to see us live together with our individual contributions to repair the casualties of modern-day pollution: water, land, sky and communication.

I would like to see my community flourish as we support our children and youth with love, patience, good health and opportunities to learn, create and play individually and with fellowship. Our youth represents our future as a new generation of capable leaders who can individually develop abilities and cultivate a personal vision toward a future of clarity, full of positive energy. For our children and

youth, personal exploration and active social interaction in imaginative and creative play are crucial to the future of our society's ability to adapt well. The solution finders of the next generation will be those who have applied their imagination in childhood, exploring options for ideas, troubleshooting basic problems and negotiating play with peers. Our education system has moved in the opposite direction with rigid, memorized regurgitation in tests. It needs to change, and it will, but I hope not as part of a pendulum ride of historical swings. This is a universal awareness that always needs to be recognized, honored and sustained.



Farmers' market on the plaza in Taos

© Seth Roffman (2)

I hope my community can express itself clearly, adding to the beauty of cultural traditions left by our *antepasados*, or ancestors, thereby adding a qualitative leap of intergenerational strength. My father loved to sing, and often he sang hymns he learned in church. One of his favorites was *Faith of Our Fathers*. The words relay a strong conviction to continue the sense of ethics held as a guide with the old-style elegance of heart and bearing that portrayed a sense of self-worth and shared confidence in truth and justice. I choose to work in my studio on projects that have strong meaning and far less monetary value. Yet, when anyone feels inspired, called to do specific work as a labor of love, transcending from the generations past into the hopes of the future, the soul of the culture and community works into the outcome. It is a way that each one of us can figuratively stand tall among our *antepasados* and joyfully sing in harmony, in the manner that my own dad loved so much.

This is when the community threads from the past, through the moment of now, weaves on towards the future with great pride, love, hope and confidence. ❖

*Juanita Jaramillo Lavadie is a retired public school teacher, acequiera, graphic artist, fiber artist and oral historian.*



© Alejandro López

Excerpt from *New Mexico 2050*



**NEW MEXICO TOURISM**

LEE REYNIS AND JIM PEACH

While tourism is one of New Mexico's largest industries, it could be much larger; the state devotes few resources to attracting tourists from other states. New Mexico visitor centers and other facilities, as well as many state parks, need substantial improvements. Rest areas in New Mexico are few and far between, and many of them were constructed decades ago and are badly in need of modernization. The New Mexico Tourism Department and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs have small budgets, and the state tourism industry spends little on advertising. Expansion of the state tourism industry requires a healthier national economy and additional investments by the state.





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## EVERYDAY GREEN

# “BLESSINGS” – A SPIRITUAL BUSINESS

SUSAN GUYETTE

**N**godup Dorjee, a Tibetan immigrant living in Santa Fe, is developing a new business form based on what he calls a spiritual business model. Through persistence, trial and error and hard work, his model, guided by community values rather than individual profit, is succeeding. More than 40 vendors are served through a cooperative structure at Blessings, his business at DeVargas Mall. Here, Dorjee explains the concept, why it works well as social entrepreneurship, and its potential for other businesses in New Mexico.

*A business with the intention to help the community rather than individual profit*

**SG: HOW DID YOU COME TO THE IDEA OF A SPIRITUAL BUSINESS?**

**ND:** I came from East Tibet to Nepal in 1987 when I was 14 years old, lived in Nepal for 19 years and came to this country in 2006. My family members are shopkeepers, and I learned the trade. When I first came to Santa Fe, I had a little bookstore at the Tibetan

Center on Airport Road for five years, but when Amazon and e-books came about, we had to close.

I had a bigger vision to do something for Tibetan art and merchandise. So, in 2011, I moved the business downtown to Galisteo Street but couldn't make it due to high rent and had to close within a year. I moved to the Tesuque Flea Market and sold on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Then, looking for a job to pay my bills, I applied to a department store as a clerk. The manager said that I didn't have the references or work experience. The Tibetan way of business doesn't work in corporate America. I'm a “people person,” so I got the job and worked at the store for three and one-half years.

During that time, I was always thinking of starting a business that would help local artists. I talked with almost 300 people, and everybody had a problem—somebody lost a job or somebody lost a house. In this tough economy, people had no money.

The time had come for me to give back to the community and try a business model away from greed. Two years ago, I went to DeVargas Mall to find a space. The management was hesitant to rent to me for an individual business, but I pointed out that this would be a co-op, and I was able to get the space.

**SG: IS THE SPIRITUAL BUSINESS MODEL WORKING?**

**ND:** This model works well for the artists, while working for me, since I sell Tibetan inventory. Most stores in Santa Fe take 50 percent commission from the vendors, and sales are slow. My goal was to make things happen while not charging a commission, and to bring local artists' work to the people. Then the inventory becomes affordable. Local artists dreamed of having a little retail space, but they didn't have the funds. So, I created this model—like a



Monks blessing the store “Blessings” at DeVargas Mall in Santa Fe, New Mexico

spiritual co-op—where different artists contribute a small amount monthly (\$25 to \$650) to pay the rent, and they don't have to be there. When shoppers come to see one vendor, they see the work of other artists.

I want to share this model, so that Native Americans and Hispanics and other people can find a way to have their own store and promote their businesses, while helping their community and give inspiration—that's the whole idea. They can contact me, and I can give suggestions and do what I can to help.

**SG: HOW IS THIS BUSINESS MODEL SUSTAINABLE?**

**ND:** A spiritual business is based upon community values, with the intention to help the community rather than individual profit. This business is resilient in times of economic fluctuations by sharing the risk of opening a business and pooling resources. The amount of capital to start up is minimal, about \$5,000–\$6,000 up front to pay rent for the first few months. The vendors provide the inventory, so there is no need to have capital for purchasing inventory.

**SG: WHAT IS YOUR LONG-TERM VISION?**

**ND:** I'm looking for one acre of land to build the Dorjee Foundation, a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



Artists' space at Blessings



Excerpt from *New Mexico 2050*

## ARTS AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN NEW MEXICO

LEE REYNIS AND JIM PEACH

Arts and cultural industries continue to be important to New Mexico's economy. Narrowly defined, this industry employs over 40,000 people, including some 6,000 who are primarily employed as independent professional artists, writers and performers—the fourth-highest concentration in the United States. If one includes, in addition, those employed in cultural tourism, art and cultural education, and industries linked to the unique culture and heritage of the state, arts and cultural industries account for 10 percent of total New Mexico employment. Access to new technologies, like broadband, have the potential of giving New Mexico, as well as New Mexico artists and cultural workers, wider exposure outside the state, as well as access to global markets.





## GALLUP GOES SOLAR

Gallup, New Mexico's mayor and city council recently voted unanimously to publish a request for proposals (RFP) for construction of a 10-megawatt solar park on 89 acres of city-owned land. This would be in the form of a tax-exempt lease purchase. Because the city is a nonprofit, the federal 30 percent tax credit would not apply, but the proposal not only includes construction of the park but also allows for a for-profit investor to fund it. This effectively leaves the city with no up-front cost. After five to 10 years, the investor would then sell the park to the city after benefiting from the 85 percent accelerated depreciation and selling the power to the city at wholesale cost during that time.

Fourteen solar companies attended the pre-bid meeting at Gallup City Hall on Dec. 7. Those companies had a deadline of Dec. 30 to submit plans, and the proposal is to be chosen by the end of January. The park should be up and running by December 2016.



A local nonprofit, Gallup Solar ([www.gallupsolar.org](http://www.gallupsolar.org)), claims key responsibility for the RFP by successfully advocating for the insertion of wording in the city's recent power-purchase agreement with Continental Divide Electrical Cooperative to allow the city to self-generate up to 10 percent of its peak power needs.

## \$64 MILLION NAVAJO SOLAR PLANT PLANNED

The Navajo Nation is planning its first utility-scale solar plant, capable of powering about 7,700 homes. The \$64-million, 27-megawatt project on 300 acres in Kayenta, Arizona, will be completed by the end of the year.

Federal loans and tax credits are being used to help finance the plant. It is economically feasible because it is accessible to an electric substation, and existing transmission lines can carry power to homes in the region. A major utility in the Phoenix area—the Salt River Project—will get renewable-energy credits from the plant to help meet a mandated goal of having 20 percent of its portfolio from sustainable sources by 2020.

Walter Haase, general manager of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, has said that the solar project “will be the first step in the green economy of the Navajo Nation.” Except for a few small solar facilities, the tribe doesn't currently generate any of its own electricity and spent \$30 million in 2014 on power from coal, natural gas and water.

## NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS INCUBATOR CERTIFIED

Last month, New Mexico Economic Development Department Secretary Jon Barela presented the Navajo Tech Innovation Center in Church Rock, with state certification, making it New Mexico's first Native American state-certified business incubator. The NMEDD will invest \$18,500 in the enterprise. Navajo Technical University submitted the certification application and is managing the incubator.

The center includes 27,000 square feet for both the incubator facility and production space next door, with a training room and arts center. Nearly five years of work has gone into developing the center, which will mentor Navajo businesses as they move from the incubation facilities to their own spaces. The center is already serving 27 client businesses.

Benjamin Jones, entrepreneurial director for the center, said, “Entrepreneurship is critical to our economy. Entrepreneurs create jobs and new revenue; they are typically dedicated to staying where they are and have chosen a business model accordingly; and they also generally provide indigenous products and services, which new companies from elsewhere are unfamiliar with.”

Small-business incubators provide startups with targeted support and resources to help launch a successful business. Incubators house and support businesses as they develop at their own pace. Studies have shown that incubated businesses have a survival rate of 87 percent, while only 44 percent of small businesses that work in isolation survive. Incubator-based enterprises are also more attractive to prospective investors. The incubator-certification process and requirements provide “best practice” standards to ensure the sustainability of the incubator. The new Navajo Tech Innovation Center brings the total to six active certified incubators in New Mexico.



Ngodup Dorjee and Susan Guyette in Blessings at the DeVargas Mall

nonprofit enterprise. I envision a design with galleries in the four directions, radiating out, with one direction being a Native American artisan co-op where Native people can have a space for a small contribution to the rent, and we will sell for them without taking a commission—working together like a community.

The second wing will be a New Mexico artisan co-op for people who live in New Mexico—such as Hispanic, Caucasian, Guatemalan or South American. The third will be a House of Tibet, for showing Tibetan culture, art, music, and a Buddhist and Tibetan museum. The Dalai Lama told us not to lose the culture, by showing younger people their language, culture and art—keeping their roots. He also told us to give back to the community. The fourth space will be a body/mind/spirit co-op focused on spirituality, with yoga, meditation, Tai Chi, Qi Gong, nutrition, solar energy and environment.

In the center will be a teahouse, a get-together space. The community can gather there and hold a workshop; for example, a yoga class or a talk about Native American art, environmental issues, solar energy, address poverty issues or help the food bank. There will be an interfaith statue, painting and symbols. The teahouse will be open until 10 p.m. Revenues to the foundation will support community programs such as the disabled-veterans' food bank, homeless shelters, environment and animal-rescue programs and Native American causes. This is my dream project, leaving a legacy for young people.

In the past nine years, New Mexico has given to me everything that I want, and it's now time to give back. If this Tibetan can do it, other people can do it the same way—helping all the different communities in New Mexico!

*Susan Guyette, Ph.D., is of Métis heritage (Micmac Indian/Acadian French) and a planner specializing in cultural tourism, cultural centers, museums and native foods. [susanguyette@nets.com](mailto:susanguyette@nets.com)*





# BREAKING BIG MONEY'S GRIP ON NEW MEXICO AND THE COUNTRY

BRUCE BERLIN

Any serious observer of government in America knows that, for the most part, Big Money controls our elections and public policy. In the beginning of my new book, *Breaking Big Money's Grip on America: Working Together to Revive Our Democracy*, I state the following premise:

While some individuals would argue that climate change or income inequality are the great challenges of our time, the chances of our successfully resolving them, or any other major problem, are virtually zero unless we break Big Money's grip on our government. In fact, according to one bipartisan political organization, 74 percent of all voters agree that it is necessary to fix our broken political system first, before anything can be done to solve other important national issues.<sup>1</sup>

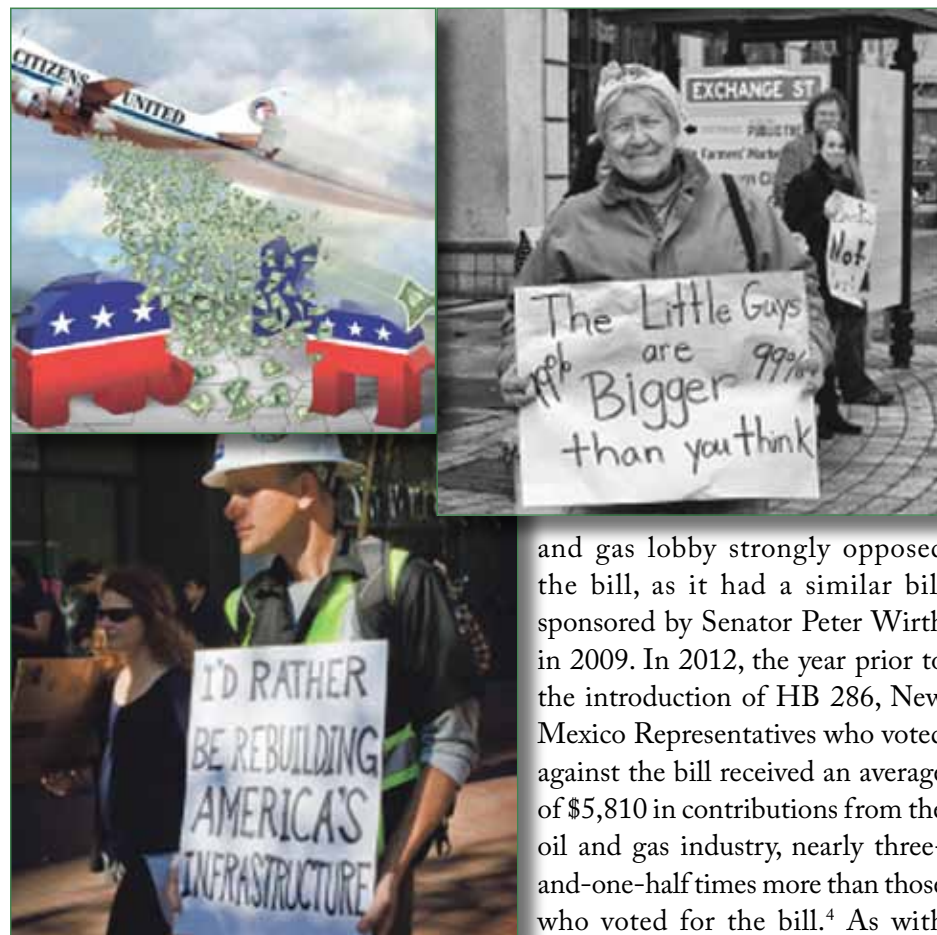
For example, take the issue of renewable energy. The extractive energy industry spends millions of dollars lobbying Congress to get its way with our government. As noted in my book:

Americans do not have an abundance of clean, inexpensive, renewable energy because the extractive energy industry—oil, gas, and coal—has a stranglehold on Congress. Former Senate Committee on Energy and

Natural Resources Chairwoman Mary Landrieu (D-LA) raised over \$1.5 million in campaign contributions from the extractive energy industry from 1999 to 2014. In her 2014 bid for re-election, she received over \$250,000 as of spring of that year. Landrieu supported the Keystone Oil Pipeline, tax breaks for big oil, and oil and gas exploration subsidies while she opposed alternative energy subsidies, the Environmental Protection Agency's regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, limitations on toxic emissions for power plants, and increasing tax incentives for oil companies to develop alternative energy programs.

*We need a movement of thousands of Democracy Organizing Committees in towns and cities across New Mexico and the nation.*

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), the former ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure, received over \$375,000 in campaign contributions from the extractive-energy industry for his 2014 re-election bid. Since 1999, Cornyn has received \$2.54 million in contributions from that industry. Cornyn supports the Keystone Oil Pipeline, tax breaks for big oil, and oil and gas exploration subsidies. He opposes: alternative-energy subsidies and tax credits, hydrogen fuel cells, clean-energy achievement criteria, and an increase in tax incentives for oil companies to develop alternative-energy programs. He has a zero rating from the



League of Conservation Voters. Many more members of Congress could be added to the list of officials who help keep Americans chained to the extractive energy industry.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, the same holds true here in New Mexico. The oil and gas industry is consistently one of the largest contributors to New Mexico legislators' election campaigns, giving a combined total of over \$7.6 million directly to candidates in state races from 2004 through 2012. According to a 2013 Common Cause New Mexico report, the industry has never fallen below third place among the top contributors to candidates. As a result, the New Mexico Oil and Gas Act, which sets fines and penalties for violations of the act and conditions for bringing suits against the violators, has not been updated since its enactment in 1935. Clearly, the fines and penalties for failure to abide by the act determined over 75 years ago are much less of a deterrent by today's standards.<sup>3</sup>

In 2013, New Mexico HB 286 would have updated the 1935 Act. Proponents of the bill contended that the current penalties were thousands of dollars lower than penalties in neighboring states like Texas and Arizona. The oil

and gas lobby strongly opposed the bill, as it had a similar bill sponsored by Senator Peter Wirth in 2009. In 2012, the year prior to the introduction of HB 286, New Mexico Representatives who voted against the bill received an average of \$5,810 in contributions from the oil and gas industry, nearly three-and-one-half times more than those who voted for the bill.<sup>4</sup> As with prior attempts at revising the 1935 Act, the bill was subsequently defeated.

This is just one of many examples of Big Money's ability to override the common good. While the oil and gas industry is important to New Mexico's economy, doesn't it stand to reason that the public interest of protecting our vital water supply from oil and gas contamination, as the 1935 Act intended, not take a backseat to commercial interests? The New Mexico legislators who continue to do the oil and gas industry's bidding by refusing to update the statute are more concerned with obtaining the industry's financial support than they are about protecting the citizens of New Mexico against industry violations that could harm our water supply or create other serious problems.

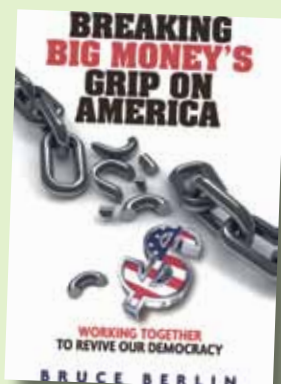
*Many of our representatives, both state and federal, are beholden to Big Money.*

Many of our representatives, both state and federal, are beholden to Big Money. Consequently, it is up to us, the people, to fix a broken political system that benefits special interests at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

**BREAKING BIG MONEY'S GRIP ON AMERICA:  
WORKING TOGETHER TO REVIVE OUR DEMOCRACY**  
BY BRUCE BERLIN, PENPOWER BOOK MARKETING  
2015, 160 PAGES, WWW.BREAKINGBIGMONEYSGRIP.COM

This book is a call to all Americans to focus on a critical issue: huge sums of money unjustly influencing U.S. elections and public policy. Some people see the United States as a plutocracy run by and for the very rich. *Breaking Big Money's Grip on America* provides convincing evidence to support this view and explores how a nationwide Democracy Movement can overcome Big Money's control and convert our government into one that serves the needs of the American people. It also demonstrates why breaking Big Money's grip is critical to solving other critical issues like gun violence and income inequality. Santa Fe-based author Bruce Berlin says that whatever your political persuasion, your participation is vital for fixing our broken political system.





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## BIG MONEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

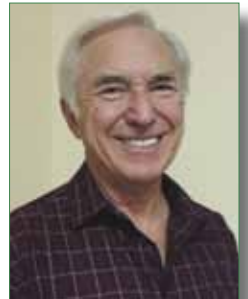
great expense of the true needs of the vast majority of Americans. I propose that we form a democracy movement to take control of our government away from Big Money and put it in the hands of the people. That movement would consist of thousands of Democracy Organizing Committees, or DOCs, in towns and cities across New Mexico and the nation.

DOCs would be nonpartisan and diverse, comprising representatives of business, civic organizations, education, government, labor, minorities, and religious groups. They would include community leaders from the left, right and center, from the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, League of Women Voters, church groups, environmentalists, peace activists and others. Participants would not be active members of a political party because this could represent a conflict of interest. Rather, DOC members would be civic-minded individuals whose primary political concerns are eliminating the corrupting influence of money in politics, developing political equity so every citizen has an equal voice, and creating a political process in which our policymakers are accountable to the people and the public interest.

In New Mexico, DOCs might take up the cause of updating the 1935 Oil and Gas Act. For instance, they could conduct a petition drive where voters would pledge to vote only for candidates in the 2016 election who agreed to support and vote for a modernization of the 1935 Act.

It's time we united against Big Money. *Breaking Big Money's Grip on America* provides a workable strategy for building a democracy movement and taking control of our government. ❖

*Bruce Berlin, a retired public-sector attorney, has worked on bipartisan approaches to such issues as United States-Soviet relations, the Nicaraguan War and the diversification of Los Alamos National Laboratory. For more information about his new book, visit [www.breakingbigmoneysgrip.com](http://www.breakingbigmoneysgrip.com)*



<sup>1</sup> Patrick Caddell, et al., "Americans Consensus: Fix the Corrupt System," PopularResistanceOrg, July 5, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1zNKGX1>

<sup>2</sup> *Breaking Big Money's Grip on America*, pp. 21-22.

<sup>3</sup> See [http://www.commoncause.org/states/new-mexico/research-and-reports/NM\\_100113\\_Lobbying\\_in\\_the\\_Land\\_of\\_Enchantment.pdf](http://www.commoncause.org/states/new-mexico/research-and-reports/NM_100113_Lobbying_in_the_Land_of_Enchantment.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



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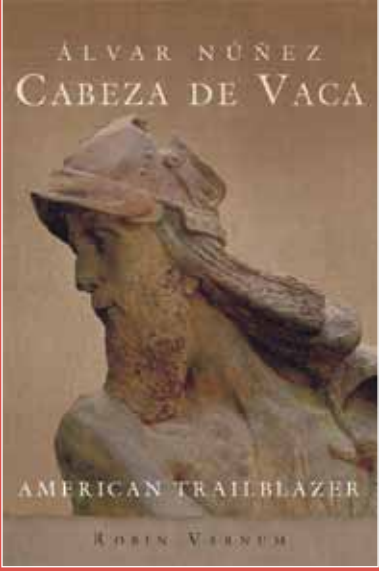


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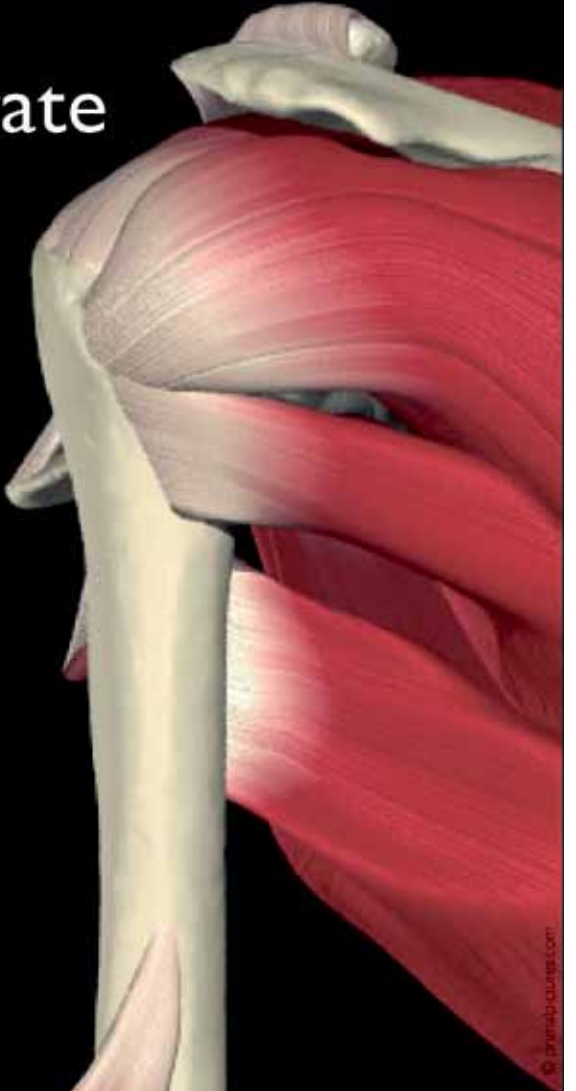
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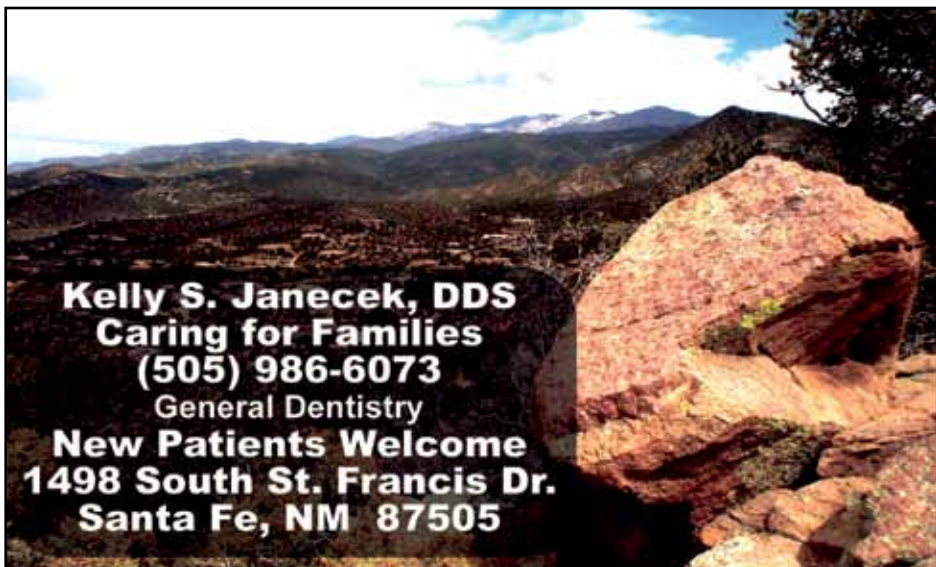
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# NEWSBITES

## ALBUQUERQUE RANKED AS ONE OF THE GREENEST CITIES

WalletHub analysts recently released their list of the greenest cities in the United States, based on their study of 100 cities. Cities were measured on 13 key metrics across four dimensions: 1) Environmental Quality, 2) “Greenness” of Transportation, 3) “Greenness” of Energy Sources and 4) Green Lifestyle and Local Policies.

Overall, Albuquerque ranked 17<sup>th</sup> but did best in Environmental Quality, ranking third. That category includes air quality, greenhouse-gas emissions, green space and water quality.

Since 2010, Albuquerque has completed 98 energy-efficiency projects, estimated by the city’s Environmental Health Department as having saved taxpayers more than \$2.6 million in energy costs and reducing the city’s carbon footprint by 11,500 metric tons—the equivalent of planting nearly 300,000 trees or taking 2,400 cars off the road. Albuquerque also has a program that ensures that vehicle emissions are within limits. Its transit system which, in 2014 and 2015, put 21 new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses in its fleet, boards approximately 13 million passengers each year. There are also programs to curb dust and smoke.

In 2013, through a public-private partnership, the city opened a new recycling facility and delivered blue bins to residences across the city. In its first year, residents recycled over 33,000 tons.

Albuquerque has been touted in various publications as a “Best American City for Parks” due to having 290 parks totaling 2,200 acres, as well as 29,000 acres of open space and over 140 miles of multi-use trails. ABQ BioPark’s Botanic Garden, with 1.5 miles of paths, is ranked by the Travel Channel as one of the best in the country.

The city also permits more green-certified homes than any metro in the country, according to Home Innovation’s Vice President Michelle Desiderio, as quoted in *Albuquerque Business First*.

## STATE AUDITOR’S REPORT ON GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL AUDITS

The New Mexico State Auditor’s Office released a first-of-its-kind report in 2015 that analyzes the most recent audits of hundreds of government entities, including state agencies, cities, counties and school districts. The results in “The Findings Report: A Summary of New Mexico’s Governmental Financial Audits” provide a snapshot of how government is working using three measures: the audit opinion (a measure of transparency); types of annual audit findings (a measure of good practices); and repeated audit findings (a measure of progress toward fixing what is broken).

Some of the report’s insights:

- 94 percent of entities are providing reliable financial information to the public. However, a handful of state agencies received less favorable opinions, including the Corrections Department, General Services Department, Regulation and Licensing Department and the Office of Secretary of State.
- Of the more than 2,000 “findings” across audited entities, 50 percent represented significant issues or problems. Entities with the most findings include the Public Education Department, Albuquerque Public Schools, city of Albuquerque and Cibola County. Some of the entities with no findings—indicating a clean bill of health—included the Legislative Finance Committee, New Mexico Supreme Court and Commission of Public Records.

Many findings related to “component units,” such as charter schools in a school district or housing authority in a city, which may require increased oversight.

The State Auditor’s Office will release The Findings Report yearly to give the public and policymakers a mechanism to track potential fraud, waste, abuse and public dollars. The report may be accessed at [http://osanm.org/government\\_accountability\\_office](http://osanm.org/government_accountability_office)

## THE FILM INDUSTRY IN NEW MEXICO

In fiscal year 2015, New Mexico hosted 25 major film productions, and the industry pumped a record \$288 million into the economy, according to the state’s Film Office. In a news release, Gov. Susana Martínez credited the state’s incentive program for film and television productions for the increase in revenue from 2014, when the industry brought in \$82.8 million. Tax rebates are provided on allowable expenses such as crew salaries, location rentals and rentals of equipment, vehicles and hotel rooms.

Up to \$50 million in New Mexico rebate expenditures are allowed each year. An analysis commissioned by the Film Office found that the industry brought in between 2,500 and 4,000 full-time jobs from 2010 to 2014 and generated nearly \$514 million for the state’s economy during that period.

## BP BUYS NEW MEXICO OIL AND GAS ASSETS

Because of the downturn in oil prices for more than a year, many independent oil and gas companies have been selling or contemplating selling their assets.

British Petroleum has acquired all of Devon Energy Corporation’s properties in the San Juan Basin, in New Mexico, and plans to take over operation of the 480 wells spread over 33,000 acres in early 2016. BP already holds 550,000 acres, with an average output of almost 100,000 barrels of oil per day in the San Juan Basin. The acquisition “highlights BP’s commitment to the San Juan Basin,” the company says. The purchase includes a section of federal lands in San Juan and Río Arriba counties.

## NEW MEXICO URANIUM MINES SETTLEMENT

A now-shuttered subsidiary of Energy Future Holdings extracted uranium from four mines in McKinley County, New Mexico, in the 1970s and ’80s, near lands occupied by the Navajo tribe. A review of the sites by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found uranium contamination still present decades later. The agency estimated the cost of the cleanup at \$23 million.

As part of a settlement with the Justice Department, Energy Future Holdings, without admitting any fault, has agreed to pay \$2 million to help the EPA clean up the now-closed mines. The deal is part of the company’s reorganization plan.

## GROUPS CHALLENGE FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT APPROVAL

On Dec. 21, regional and national conservation groups represented by the Western Environmental Law Center filed a notice of intent to sue the Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies for approving continued operation of the 52-year-old Four Corners Power Plant and its sole coal source, the Navajo Mine. The groups contend that there are significant deficiencies in the government’s impact study of the power plant and mine. The Navajo Nation owns the mine and has been negotiating with the plant’s operator, Arizona Public Service, to buy a 7 percent stake in the plant.

The groups’ joint legal action is based on what they allege are coal toxins’ impacts to communities, the San Juan River Basin and its ecosystems and endangered species. “While the rest of the world is transitioning to alternative forms of energy, the Four Corners Power Plant continues to burn coal and will do so for the next 25 years,” said Colleen Cooley with Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment. “Prolonging coal not only condemns our health and the water, air, and land around us; it undermines our community’s economic future. Even the former owner of the Navajo Mine, BHP Billiton, has exited many coal contracts across the globe because coal is no longer economically feasible.”

“Mercury is the top cause of water-quality impairment in New Mexico lakes and reservoirs,” said Rachel Conn, interim executive director for Amigos Bravos. “Over 60,000 acres of New Mexico’s lakes and reservoirs are polluted with mercury. It is unacceptable that in over half of the state’s lakes and reservoirs, New Mexicans can no longer fish without worrying about poisoning their families.”

## LAWMAKERS SEEK NM SOLAR TAX CREDIT EXTENSION

A bipartisan group of New Mexico legislators is again backing an extension of the state’s solar tax credit, an incentive program that is set to expire at the end of 2016. The credit benefits homeowners, businesses and agricultural entities by covering up to 10 percent—up to \$9,000—of a photovoltaic or solar thermal system. The legislators’ proposal would extend the credit through 2024, with the amount covered reduced in increments starting in 2019. A similar proposal was pocket-vetoed by Gov. Susana Martínez last year.

More than \$140 million was invested in solar panels in New Mexico between 2008 and 2014, with nearly \$29 million spent on labor to install the systems. Fourteen million dollars in tax credits was used. Thirty-one million dollars was spent on solar systems in 2015, according to preliminary data released by the state Energy Conservation division. New Mexico’s solar industry reportedly supports 98 companies and 1,600 homegrown jobs.

The federal solar investment tax credit of 30 percent was set to be reduced to 10 percent for commercial systems and disappear entirely for home-based systems at the end of 2016. Last month the Paris climate talks concluded with a strong agreement among countries to limit emissions. The U.S. recommitted to green policies, and many influential global companies signed on to get 100 percent of their energy from renewable sources. To get a budget and tax deal before the end of 2015, Democrats supported the Republican-backed lifting of the ban on oil exports in exchange for measures including a multiyear extension of renewable-energy credits. Congress voted to extend the solar tax credit through 2019 and then reduce it to 10 percent through 2022.





## ALBUQUERQUE

JAN. 4, 16, 20

### INDIAN PUEBLO

#### CULTURAL CENTER EVENTS

2401 12TH ST. NW

1/4, 11 am – 12 pm: Traditional Farming, Wellness & Recipe Exchange. Aaron Kie (Laguna/Isleta) will speak about the connection between traditional farming and wellness; 1/16, 1-2 pm: Bean Pot Cooking Demo with Therese Tohtsoni (Picuris). Cooking in a micaceous clay pot; 1/20, 5:30 – 7 pm: Wellness, Healing & Traditional Foods. Joseph Brophy Toledo (Jemez) will share his perspective as a medicine man. All events are free. 1.866.855.7902, [www.indianpueblo.org](http://www.indianpueblo.org)

JAN. 6, 13, 20, 27, 9-10 AM

### ONE MILLION CUPS

FAT PIPE ABQ, 200 BROADWAY BLVD. NE  
Network with local entrepreneurs and hear their stories. 505.227.8802, [fatpipeabq.com](http://fatpipeabq.com)

JAN. 6, 5:30-7 PM

### GREEN DRINKS

HOTEL ANDALUZ, 125 SECOND ST. NW

Network with people interested in doing business locally, clean energy alternatives and creating sustainable opportunities in our communities. Presented the

first Wednesday of each month by the ABQ and Río Rancho Green Chamber. [info@nmgreenchamber.com](mailto:info@nmgreenchamber.com), [www.greendrinks.org](http://www.greendrinks.org)

JAN. 7

### NEW MEXICO WATER DIALOGUE

INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER

2401 12TH ST. NW

Annual statewide meeting to address issues related to improving planning and implementation of a statewide regional water plan. Managing water resources to address climate change and other issues will be discussed as well. Agenda and registration: [www.nmwaterdialogue.org](http://www.nmwaterdialogue.org)

JAN. 7, 7 PM

### ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY & NONLINEAR CREATIVE RESEARCH

516 ARTS, 516 W. CENTRAL

A lecture by Nina Elder and Lucy Lippard to wrap up 516 Arts' season-long series on climate change. Free.

JAN. 12-31

### 16TH ANNUAL REVOLUTIONS INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

Drama, comedy and other performances highlighting the Southwest's heritage as a crossroad for global exchange and artistic innovation. Produced by Tricklock Company's theatre ensemble. 505.414.3738, [info@tricklock.com](mailto:info@tricklock.com)

JAN. 13, 9:30 AM-NOON

### RESILIENCE IN NM AGRICULTURE

ROUTE 66 CASINO & HOTEL

Farmers, ranchers, processors, distributors,

# What's Going On!

## Events / Announcements

market organizers, policymakers and advocates are invited to participate in a discussion about creating a strategic plan for NM's food and agricultural system. Presented by NMSU County Extension Service and NM First. A free lunch will be served. Reservations required. Additional meetings will be held around the state through March. [nmfirst.org/events/resilience-in-new-mexico-agriculture](http://nmfirst.org/events/resilience-in-new-mexico-agriculture)

JAN. 15, 2016, 5 PM

### PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE

The NMED is seeking public comment on the 2016 strategic plan for cleaning up the Kirtland Air Force Base fuel spill. Hard copy and electronic comments will be accepted. Send to: Dennis McQuillan, chief scientist, NMED, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502 or [dennis.mcquillan@state.nm.us](mailto:dennis.mcquillan@state.nm.us)

JAN. 16, 1:30-2:30 PM

### COMPOSTING WITH WORMS

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

6500 COORS BLVD. NW

Learn to use red worms to turn organic waste into high quality compost. Free. Registration: 505.897.8831, [register@nmcomposters.org](mailto:register@nmcomposters.org)

JAN. 22-24

### 2016 TEEN STARTUP ABQ WEEKEND

EPICENTER ABQ, BROADWAY

AND CENTRAL

Students ages 13-18 come up with an idea, create a business plan, pitch a proposal to a panel of judges; 20 coaches on site offer real-world advice and direction on building a business concept and taking it to market. Registration: \$25 before Jan. 8, \$25 after. Scholarships are available. [Tinyurl.com/SWTEENABQ](http://Tinyurl.com/SWTEENABQ)

JAN. 26, 6-7:30 PM

### NM SOLAR ENERGY ASSN. CHAPTER

REI, 1550 MERCANTILE NE

Meeting and presentation open to the general public. Learn how to transition to a more sustainable lifestyle. Meets bimonthly. [J.desjardins@hotmail.com](mailto:J.desjardins@hotmail.com)

JAN. 28 – MARCH 3, 3-4:15 PM

### VETERANS FARMER PROJECT CLASSES

BERNALILLO COUNTY EXTENSION

OFFICE CLASSROOM, 1510 MENAUL NW

1/28: Backyard Food Production; 2/4: Soil Preparation; 2/11: Planting for Pollinators and other Beneficials; 2/18: Holistic Orchard Strategies; 2/25: Seeds: Growing, Saving and Why Organic. Sponsored by La Montañita Co-op. Reservations/RSVP: 505.217.2027 or [robins@lamontanita.coop](mailto:robins@lamontanita.coop)

JAN. 31 APPLICATION DEADLINE

### CALL FOR WRITING & ART ABOUT ALBUQUERQUE INT'L. DISTRICT

Residents of Albuquerque International District (who live between San Mateo & Wyoming and Lomas and Gibson Blvds.) are invited to submit writing and art for cash prizes. The contest, directed by Artful Life, is part of the "Avenue ID" project that will create and install art banners along Central Ave. between San Mateo and Wyoming Blvds. [info@artful-life.org](mailto:info@artful-life.org), [www.artful-life.org](http://www.artful-life.org)

FEB. 19-20

### NM ORGANIC FARMING CONFERENCE

MARRIOTT ABQ PYRAMID NORTH

5151 SAN FRANCISCO RD.

An annual opportunity for farmers, ranchers and researchers from around the South-

west to share their experiences and expertise. 2/19: 7 am – 8 pm (6-8 pm: Agrarian Career Connection); 2/20: 7 am – 5 pm. Organized by Farm to Table, NM Dept. of Agriculture, NMSU Cooperative Extension Service and the Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute. CEUs available. Online registration ([www.farmtotablenm.com](http://www.farmtotablenm.com)) closes 2/16. \$100/\$65. Questions: 505.841.9427 or [jquinn@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:jquinn@nmda.nmsu.edu)

FEB. 25-26

### LAND & WATER SUMMIT

SHERATON AIRPORT HOTEL

Creating a new paradigm for living in arid lands. Guest speakers and workshops. Sponsored by the Xeriscape Council of NM. Info/Registration: [xquestions@xeriscapenm.com](mailto:xquestions@xeriscapenm.com), [www.xeriscape.nm.org](http://www.xeriscape.nm.org)

### "ABQ 2030 DISTRICT"

A voluntary collaboration of commercial property tenants, building managers, property owners and developers; real estate, energy, and building sector professionals, lenders, utility companies; and public stakeholders such as government agencies, nonprofits, community groups and grassroots organizers. Property partners share anonymous utility data and best practices. Professional partners provide expertise and services. Public partners support the initiative as it overlaps with their own missions. Info: [albuquerque@2030districts.org](mailto:albuquerque@2030districts.org)

## SANTA FE

JAN. 1-JAN. 31

### TREE SEEDLINGS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with the NM State Forestry Division, is offering applications for low-cost tree seedlings. Applicants must own one acre of land or more and plant seedlings for windbreaks, reforestation, Christmas tree sales or wildlife plantings. Sponsored by the Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District. 505.473.0410, ext. 3 (M-F, 7:30 am-4 pm)

THROUGH FEB. 29

### FLASHING ON THE SIXTIES

EL MUSEO CULTURAL

555 CAMINO DE LA FAMILIA

Lisa Law's photo exhibit. Free or by donation. 505.992.0591.

JAN. 2-9, 2016, 6 PM

### IAIA WINTER WRITERS FESTIVAL

IAIA CAMPUS LIBRARY, 83 AVANUPO RD.

Public invited to free nightly readings, which include published authors such as poet Joy Harjo along with Institute of American Indian Arts students. Film screening features such as Drunktown's Finest (Jan. 4, 7:30 pm) and documentaries. Jan. 5 writers: Jon Davis, Joan Navuyuk Kane and Lidia Yuknavitch. 505.424.2300, [iaia.edu/calendar/the-writers-festival](http://iaia.edu/calendar/the-writers-festival)

JAN. 4, 6 PM

### MARY COLTER, LA FONDA AND HER SW DESIGN INFLUENCE

LA FONDA HOTEL, NM ROOM

SW Seminars lecture by Barbara Felix, principal architect of La Fonda restoration project. \$12. 505.466.2775, [Southwestseminar@aol.com](mailto:Southwestseminar@aol.com), [SouthwestSeminars.org](http://SouthwestSeminars.org)

JAN. 4, 7-9 PM

### SF NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK DISTRICT 1 FORUM

SW CONFERENCE RM.

ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL

City Council candidates will make statements and answer questions. The forum will focus on issues concerning neighborhoods. Free.

JAN. 6, 11:30 AM - 1 PM

### GREEN LUNCH

SFAHBA OFFICES, 1409 LUISA ST.

Dist. 1 City Council candidates will be on hand for questions and discussion. Presented by the SF Green Chamber of Commerce. \$20/\$15. Reservations: 505.982.1774

JAN. 6, 6-8 PM

### 28-DAY HEALTHY PLANT-BASED (VEGAN) CHALLENGE

LA MONTAÑITA CO-OP COMMUNITY ROOM, 913 W. ALAMEDA

Learn how to change your diet with recipes, resources and friendly support. Free. Registration: [www.meetup.com/Plant-Powered-Santa-Fe](http://www.meetup.com/Plant-Powered-Santa-Fe)

JAN. 9, 10 AM – 12 PM

### SF CITIZEN'S CLIMATE LOBBY

LA MONTAÑITA CO-OP COMMUNITY ROOM, 913 W. ALAMEDA

Working for climate-change solutions that bridge the partisan divide, such as the Carbon Fee & Dividend, which gives all revenue back to households. Meets the second Saturday of each month. Visit the SF CCL Facebook page. [santafe@citizensclimatelobby.org](mailto:santafe@citizensclimatelobby.org)

JAN. 9, 12-3 PM

### SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE COUNSELING CENTER OPENING

3952 SAN FELIPE RD.

Ribbon cutting for Tierra Nueva Counseling Center that will provide low-cost counseling and art therapy services to children, teens, adults, couples & families of northern NM. RSVP: [pegghelmholz@swc.edu](mailto:pegghelmholz@swc.edu)

JAN. 12, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

### OPPOSITION TO FRACKING IN THE SF NATIONAL FOREST

SOUTHSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM, JAGUAR DR.

Public meeting.

JAN. 13 – FEB. 24, 9 AM – 12 PM

### HOW TO CREATE VOLUNTEER & INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

SF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

501 HALONA ST.

A nonprofit technical assistance workshop in 4 sessions. Sliding scale: \$195/\$135/\$75. 505.988.9715, [www.santafecf.org](http://www.santafecf.org)

JAN. 13, NOON

### THE FRENCH IN NEW MEXICO

HISTORY MUSEUM LIBRARY

(WASHINGTON AVE. ENTRANCE)

Brainpower & Brownbags lunch lecture by author François-Marie Patorni. Bring a lunch if you like. Free. 505.476.5200, <http://newmexicofrenchhistory.com/>

JAN. 15, 10 AM

### NM ACEQUIA COMMISSION MEETING

NM STATE ARCHIVES & RECORDS

CENTER (YUCCA ROOM)

1205 CAMINO CARLOS REY

Agendas: 505.827.4983 or [www.nmacequia.commission.state.nm.us](http://www.nmacequia.commission.state.nm.us), Info: 505.603.2879, [molinodelasla@gmail.com](mailto:molinodelasla@gmail.com)



**JAN. 18, 10 AM –2 PM**  
**SERVICE DAY EVENT**

MEET AT EARTH CARE, ZONA DEL SOL  
6600 VALENTINE WAY  
“Bring It Home.” The kickoff of a semester-long service and action campaign led by youth, teachers and community members in the interest of sustainability, stewardship and social justice, with support from non-profits and key stakeholders. 505.983.6896, [www.earthcarenm.org](http://www.earthcarenm.org)

**JAN. 21-24**

**SHAKESPEARE’S WINTER’S TALE**

SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE  
Santa Feans ages 11-17 perform William Shakespeare’s play. Th.-Sat: 7 pm; Sun: 2 pm. \$5. 505.466.3533, [www.upstartcrowsofsantafe.org](http://www.upstartcrowsofsantafe.org)

**JAN. 22, 8:30 – 10:30 AM**

**OVERVIEW OF NONPROFIT BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

SFCF, 501 HALONA ST.  
With Mike Méndez, SF SCORE and the SF Community Foundation. Registration requested: 505.988.9715, [www.santafecf.org](http://www.santafecf.org)

**JAN. 22, 9-11:30 AM**

**HIGH ALTITUDE BAKING CLASS**

SF COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS EXHIBIT HALL KITCHEN, 3229 RODEO RD.  
Hands-on cooking-tasting event. \$12. Pre-register: 505.471.4711 or [cydney@nmsu.edu](mailto:cydney@nmsu.edu)

**JAN. 26, 6-7:30 PM**

**IS YOUR CELL PHONE MAKING YOU SICK?**

LA MONTAÑITA CO-OP COMMUNITY ROOM, 913 W. ALAMEDA  
Learn about patented products that help neutralize potential effects and simple ways to decrease exposure with Jennifer Downey, RN. Free. 505.780.8283

**JAN. 29 9 AM-3PM**

**RENEWABLE ENERGY DAY**

THE ROUNDHOUSE (STATE CAPITOL)  
Exhibits and presentations for the public and legislators. [J.desjardins@hotmail.com](mailto:J.desjardins@hotmail.com)

**JAN. 30, 12 PM**

**22ND ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL**

SF COMMUNITY CONVENTION CENTER  
Tasting party and soup competition among local chefs to benefit The Food Depot. Silent auction and cookbook sale. \$30/ages 6-12: \$10/under ages 5 free. [Thefooddepot.org](http://Thefooddepot.org)

**FEB. 6, 5 PM**

**CANCER FOUNDATION OF NM 11TH ANNUAL SWEETHEART AUCTION**

SF COMMUNITY CONVENTION CENTER  
Dinner and desert buffet, silent and live art auctions, raffle of four vacation destinations. Admission: \$75. 505.7931, ext. 1, [Cffnm.org/sweetheart-auction](http://Cffnm.org/sweetheart-auction)

**FEB. 10, NOON**

**THE AT&SF RAILROAD AND THE PUEBLO INDIANS, 1880-1930**

HISTORY MUSEUM LIBRARY (WASHINGTON AVE. ENTRANCE)  
Brainpower & Brownbags lunch lecture by professor/author Richard Frost. Bring a lunch if you like. Free. 505.476.5200

**FEB. 13, 1-4 PM**

**KINDRED SPIRITS VALENTINE’S DAY PARTY**

3749-A Hwy. 14, 87508  
Animal sanctuary that offers wellness care and hospice. Come visit the animals. 505.471.5366, [kindredspiritsnm@earthlink.net](mailto:kindredspiritsnm@earthlink.net), [www.kindredspiritsnm.org](http://www.kindredspiritsnm.org)

**FEB. 13, 5:30 PM**

**MAYOR’S BALL 2016**

SF CONVENTION CENTER  
Benefits YouthWorks and Boys & Girls of SF and Del Norte. Info: [info@santafeyouthworks.org](mailto:info@santafeyouthworks.org)  
Tickets: 505.988.1234, [ticketssantafe.org](http://ticketssantafe.org)

**FEB. 18, 7 PM**

**WILDEARTH GUARDIANS TELLURIDE MOUNTAINFILM TOUR**

THE LENSIC  
Annual independent documentary-film festival celebrating outdoor recreation and environmental activism. \$17. 505.988.1234, [tickessantafe.org](http://tickessantafe.org)

**FEB. 18 – SEPT. 11**

**LLOYD KIVA NEW: ART, DESIGN AND INFLUENCE**

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY NATIVE ARTS, 108 CATHEDRAL PLACE  
A show featuring the late Cherokee artist/educator/IAIA director’s work. [www.iaia.edu](http://www.iaia.edu)

**FEB. 27**

**ARTSMART NM’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA**

ELDORADO HOTEL & SPA  
Dinner/auction in support of art programs benefitting SF youth. \$175/adv. at [artsmart.org](http://artsmart.org)

**SATURDAYS, 8 AM-1 PM**

**SANTA FE FARMERS’ MARKET**

1607 PASEO DE PERALTA (& GUADALUPE)  
Northern NM farmers & ranchers offer fresh greenhouse tomatoes, greens, root veggies, cheese, teas, herbs, spices, honey, baked goods, body care products and much more. [www.santafefarmersmarket.com](http://www.santafefarmersmarket.com)

**SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS**

**EL MUSEO WINTER MARKET**

EL MUSEO CULTURAL  
555 CAMINO DE LA FAMILIA  
Handmade crafts, jewelry, collectibles and antiques. Sat: 9 am-4 pm; Sun: 8 am-3 pm. [Elmuseoculturalwintermarket.org](http://Elmuseoculturalwintermarket.org)

**SUNDAYS, 10 AM-4 PM**

**RAILYARD ARTISAN MARKET**

FARMERS’ MARKET PAVILION, 1607 PASEO DE PERALTA  
Local artists, textiles, jewelry, ceramics, live music. 505.983.4098, [Francesca@santafefarmersmarket.com](mailto:Francesca@santafefarmersmarket.com), [artmarketsantafe.com](http://artmarketsantafe.com)

**TUESDAYS, 4:15-5:45 PM**

**DESIGN LAB FOR SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS**

HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER  
1950 SIRINGO RD., RM. 139  
Bring your ideas, passion and perseverance and join in to design and build mixed-use Santa Fe infill. To RSVP, google Meetup Santa Fe and find the Design Lab.

**FOUNDATION OF HERBAL MEDICINE COURSE**

MILAGRO SCHOOL OF HERBAL MEDICINE  
Enrollment is open for 250-hour intensive focusing on regional herbs and traditions. Course starts April 5. 505.820.6321, [info@milagroherbs.com](mailto:info@milagroherbs.com), [www.milagroschoolofherbalmedicine.com](http://www.milagroschoolofherbalmedicine.com)

**SANTA FE RECYCLING**

Make 2015 the year to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as you can. City residential curbside customers can recycle at no additional cost and drop by 1142 Siler Road, Building A, to pickup free recycling bins. At least 50 percent of curbside residential customers recycle now. Let’s take that number to 100 percent. For more information, visit [http://www.santafenm.gov/trash\\_and\\_recycling](http://www.santafenm.gov/trash_and_recycling) or call 505.955.2200 (city); 505.992.3010 (county); 505.424.1850 (SF Solid Waste Management Agency).

**SUSTAINABLE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SF COUNTY**

Hard copies \$20, CDs \$2. Contact Melissa Holmes, 505.995.2717 or [msholmes@santafecounty.org](mailto:msholmes@santafecounty.org). The SGMP is also available on the county website: [www.santafecounty.org/growth\\_management/sgmp](http://www.santafecounty.org/growth_management/sgmp) and can be reviewed at SF Public Libraries and the County Administrative Building, 102 Grant Ave.

**HERE & THERE**

**JAN. 6**

**KING’S DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Honoring of new pueblo tribal officials. Most pueblos open to the public. Picuris Pueblo: various dances; Nambe Pueblo: Buffalo, Deer and Antelope dances; Sandia Pueblo: various dances; Taos Pueblo: Deer and Buffalo dances; Santo Domingo Pueblo (Kewa): various dances

**JAN. 7 – MARCH 9**

**RESILIENCE IN NM AGRICULTURE**

**LOCATIONS AROUND NM**

Farmers, ranchers, processors, distributors, market organizers, policymakers and advocates are invited to participate in a discussion about creating a strategic plan for NM’s food and agricultural system. Presented by NMSU County Extension Service and NM First. A free lunch will be served. Reservations required. Las Cruces (1/7), ABQ (1/13), Silver City (1/15), Taos (2/11), Farmington (3/2) and Tucumcari (3/9) [nmfirst.org/events/resilience-in-new-mexico-agriculture](http://nmfirst.org/events/resilience-in-new-mexico-agriculture)

**JAN. 8-9, 9 AM – 5 PM**

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ESPAÑOLA, NM**

Become a tutor with the Río Arriba Adult Literacy Program. Training, study materials and on-going support provided. A volunteer commitment of two hours per week. Tutor-student pairs meet at public places at a mutually convenient time. 505.747.6162. [raalp2@gmail.com](mailto:raalp2@gmail.com), [www.raalp.org](http://www.raalp.org)

**JAN. 9, 9 AM – 12 PM**

**BALD EAGLE WATCH**

**ABIQUITÚ LAKE, ABIQUITÚ, NM**

Annual midwinter event hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the lake. Assists local and national tracking of the numbers of eagles. Open to members of the public who want to assist. Volunteers with binoculars and notepads meet at lake project office on NM 96, 2 miles west of NM 84 junction. 505.685.4371

**JAN. 9, 6 PM**

**WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL**

**WNMU LIGHT HALL, SILVER CITY, NM**

Inspiring short environmental films include “Everywhere is a Gila.” Benefits the Gila Conservation Coalition. 575.538.8078, [info@gilaconservation.org](mailto:info@gilaconservation.org), [www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org)

**JAN. 11, 12 PM, GALLUP, NM**

**JAN. 12, 12 PM, GRANTS, NM**

**CLEAN POWER PLAN MEETINGS**

The NM Environment Dept. is hosting public meetings to share information, answer questions and receive input on developing a State Plan in response to the EPA’s Clean Power Plan, which sets requirements for electric generators to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Gallup meeting: Octavia Fellin Public Library, 115 W. Hill Ave. Grants meeting: NMSU Multipurpose room #007, 1500 N. Third St. Info: NMENV-NMCP@state.nm.us, <https://www.env.nm.gov/aqb/CPPh.htm>

**JAN. 14, 5:30-7 PM**

**NM SOLAR ENERGY ASSN. CHAPTER**

**LITTLE TOAD PUB, BACKROOM**

**200 N. BULLARD ST., SILVER CITY, NM**

Every second Thursday. 575.538.1337, [scgreenchamber@gmail.com](mailto:scgreenchamber@gmail.com)

**JAN. 20, 5:30-8 PM**

**TAOS ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK**

**OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

**121 N. PLAZA, TAOS, NM**

Monthly meeting (every 3rd Weds.). Keynote and presentations by local speakers, exhibits of products and services. 575.921.8234, [Melissa@taosten.org](mailto:Melissa@taosten.org)

**JAN. 21, 7 PM**

**BACKCOUNTRY FILM FESTIVAL**

**REEL DEAL THEATER, LOS ALAMOS, NM**

Winter celebration at the 11th annual festival. Winter gear raffle. \$12 adv./\$15 day of show. [peecnature.org](http://peecnature.org)

**FEB. 21-28**

**NM RESTAURANT WEEK**

7th annual event includes numerous local restaurants offering a prix-fixe dinner and specially priced 2-course lunch. [NMrestaurantweek.com](http://NMrestaurantweek.com)

**FEB. 22 ENTRY DEADLINE**

**ULI OPEN SPACE AWARDS**

The Urban Land Institute is accepting entries for an award that recognizes outstanding examples of successful large- and small-scale public spaces that have socially enriched and revitalized the economy of their surrounding communities. To be eligible, the project must have been open to the public for at least one year and no more than 15 years. Details and entry forms: [awards@uli.org](mailto:awards@uli.org), [uli.org/awards](http://uli.org/awards).

**JAN. 25 APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**FOREST PROJECTS FUNDING**

**NEW MEXICO**

The U.S. Forest Service is seeking applications for forest restoration projects on public and tribal lands in NM. About \$3 million is available under the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. Grants up to \$360,000 will be given for projects implemented in four years or less. Tribes, conservation organizations, educational institutions, nonprofits and other public and private entities can apply and attend grant-writing workshops. [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp)

**FEB. 23-25**

**GREENBIZ**

**JW MARRIOTT CAMELBACK RESORT PHOENIX, AZ**

Get an in-depth look at the key challenges and opportunities facing sustainable business today, through more than 50 mainstage sessions, 30 workshops and lots of networking opportunities with professionals from around the country. Presented in partnership with Arizona State University’s Walton Sustainability Solutions. [www.greenbiz.com/events/greenbiz-forum/phoenix/2016](http://www.greenbiz.com/events/greenbiz-forum/phoenix/2016)

**TUESDAY-SATURDAY**

**PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

**3540 ORANGE ST., LOS ALAMOS, NM**

Nature center and outdoor education programs. Exhibits of flora and fauna of the Pajarito Plateau; herbarium, live amphibians, butterfly and xeric gardens. Weds, 10 am: Kid-centered Green Hour Hike (as weather allows). Free. 505.662.0460, [Losalamosnature.org](http://Losalamosnature.org), [www.pajaritoeec.org](http://www.pajaritoeec.org)

**WEDNESDAYS IN JANUARY, 6-8 PM**

**GALLUP SOLAR COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

**113 E. LOGAN AVE., GALLUP, NM**

The nonprofit Gallup Solar hosts educational presentations and potential solutions for all things solar. Questions, ideas and expertise are welcome. 505.728.9246, [gallupsolar@gmail.com](mailto:gallupsolar@gmail.com)







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## James H. Auerbach, MD and Staff

support Green Fire Times in its efforts to bring about a better world by focusing on the people, enterprises and initiatives that are transforming New Mexico into a diverse and sustainable economy.

### SOME OF THE TOPICS GREEN FIRE TIMES SHOWCASES:

GREEN Building, Products, Services, Entrepreneurship, Investing and Jobs;  
Renewable Energy, Sustainable Agriculture, Regional Cuisine, Ecotourism, Climate Adaptation,  
Natural Resource Stewardship, Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness, Regional History,  
Community Development, Educational Opportunities

James H. Auerbach, MD  
provides dermatology services in Santa Fe, NM  
(Sorry, we are no longer accepting new clients.)