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# PAYDIRT

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# Miscellaneous

## Study Shows NM Lottery CEO's Salary is 6th Highest in Nation

In our previous issue, 'Change of Pace,' Paydirt received an article from Fred Nathan of Think New Mexico, a "results-oriented think tank" that focuses on educating the public on issues within NM.

The group has specialized in sending funding to education in several different ways, including full-day kindergarten and protections for students benefiting from NM Lottery Scholarship. The article covered the raising of NM Lottery CEO David Barden's salary by 26%, with an unspecified 'car allowance' and golden parachute provision worth up to \$677,600. Fred and his association viewed this as extravagant, stating that "every dollar going to excessive compensation for the Lottery CEO is a dollar less for college scholarships for deserving New Mexico students."

On July 19, 2019, in an article in the Albuquerque Journal, Lottery Authority chair Dan Salzwedel stated that the compensation was "below market, comparatively speaking." Think New

Mexico, believing that this statement had the backing of a study, inquired the Lottery Authority about such a study. Instead, they received an email from Dan Slazwedel with no study attached.

Slazwedel, with "more than five years serving as Chair of the NMLA Board of Directors," stated that Barden "possesses a wealth of lottery experience as well as an advanced degree - attributes that are appropriate for determining compensation value." Mississippi, "a state of similar size and economic position" as Slazwedel claimed, just hired their Lottery Corporation President at \$225,000, \$3,000 over Barden's adjusted salary. Thus, Slazwedel stated, the two salaries were an "apt comparison."

Think New Mexico then decided to conduct their own study on Lottery CEO pay, since they did not receive one. They found that "CEO Barden is the 6th highest paid lottery director in the nation, even though New Mexico is the 40th largest (3rd smallest) lottery

in the nation by revenue. (This ranking does not include the golden parachute and car allowance, which likely boost his compensation package above every one of his peers)...States such as Texas, California, New York, and Florida, which have multi-billion dollar lotteries, all pay their lottery directors less than New Mexico." These states generate "40 times the size of New Mexico's lottery to 70 times the size of New Mexico's lottery."

Paydirt will continue to update this story as we receive information. A special thanks to Fred Nathan for providing his correspondence with Dan Slazwedel so that this article could be written.



## Science and Research

"Sometimes science is more art than science Morty." - Rick Sanchez

### To Bee or Not to Bee: Proposed Biology Teaching Garden

At the start of the semester the biology department proposed a new addition to campus. It would like to improve the unused flower bed along the north side of the "waterfall building" between Jones Annex and MSEC. Currently full of dead weeds and invasive plants, the bed would become an educational and

environmentally friendly garden for all to enjoy. Now, the only delay is approval from the university.

If approved, the garden will serve two purposes. First, it will be a teaching garden everyone in the Socorro community. Like in any botanical

garden, different plants will be labeled. A sign explaining about the plants, the environment, and naturally occurring processes will further educate anyone stopping by. It will also be a resource for numerous biology classes, including Biology 112 and Ecology, to help students engage with the material instead of simply reading about it in their textbooks. It may even inspire folks to go get a houseplant, which is possible for just a few dollars at Walmart.

The garden will also help the environment by supporting beneficial native insects. Most of us have heard of the importance of bees in the ecosystem for pollination. However, many other insects are important pollinators too! And some insects help in other ways, like by consuming pest insects like mosquitoes or aphids. The plants in the garden will be specifically chosen to support these organisms and make the campus nicer for all of us, big and small.

This effort is spearheaded by Vanessa Quiñones and is supported by both biology faculty and the TriBeta Biology Honors Society. Vanessa, the biology department secretary, is an experienced gardener and all-around plant guru. She is looking forward to sharing her knowledge with students and community members. She will also provide long-term continuity for the garden, which is necessary as students come and go through the years. If anyone can make this garden a success, it is Vanessa.

So, keep an eye out! If the university administration decides to give the green light, we'll all be seeing more green pretty soon.



### SGA Meeting Rundown: 9/10/19

1. **Chartwells' 'monopolistic practices' were discussed.** In the past, their deal has not allowed things like food trucks on campus. These problems are planned to be worked on in the future.
2. **The SGA is still hiring three positions, GAO, AFO, and AJ.** The GAO attends Socorro City Council meetings and advocates for NMT. The AFO works with the CFO on financing the SGA and drafting policy. Lastly, the AJ works on constitutional interpretation, running elections, etc.
3. **The Socorro Animal Shelter needs volunteers** to walk dogs for them. This can be done only once a week and is highly flexible.
4. **KTEK radio is now planned to be up and running by 49ers.**
5. Legislation to reduce election fatigue was a priority. Last semester, there was an election every month except for April, causing this fatigue for students. This **legislation would reduce the need for these special elections.**
6. **Inclusion spaces for minorities were discussed.** A survey is planned for students to see if the school is meeting their needs and whether or not these spaces should be created.



# Go. See. Do.

"The mountains are calling and I must go." - John Muir

## Student Hike a Success

As expected, the first group hike of the semester was a wonderful event. A glorious escape from Socorro into the majesty of the Maggies was had by all. Students, faculty, staff, community members, and a dog all enjoyed the nice, if somewhat warm, weather, and the incredible views of our little corner of the state.

We left campus at nine am, which was bright and plenty early for most of us students used to burning the candle late into the night. After piling into two Tech suburbans and a personal vehicle with plenty of character, we cruised west out of town on Highway 60.

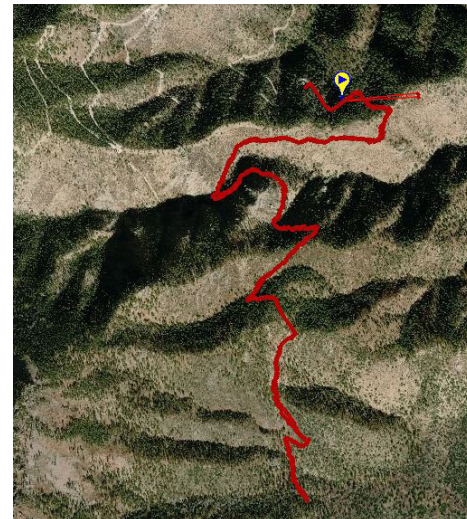
A hawk and some "people with hats on horses" (which some may know as cowboys) made an appearance along our way to Water Canyon. Soon we were winding up the moderately decrepit dirt road that ends ultimately at the Magdalena Ridge Observatory. About two-thirds of the way up, we stopped where an old track leads towards the remains of an old mine. There we parked and started on our hike along Trail 17, the Ryan Hill trail.

The sizeable crew of us soon strung out into several groups, each going at their own pace. Some blazed ahead, excited to see what was around each corner and cover plenty of ground, while others strolled, soaked in the views, and took plenty of pictures. As the trail handrailed along the canyon, we looked across at fellow hikers and waved. Then, up past the mine site with its filled mineshafts, aging log structures, and rusting metal we went.

After some more climbing, the trail crossed an open saddle area with a great view of Buck Peak. There, many hikers opted to rest, take in the scenery, and then head back. Others continued

down the other side into the greenery of Sixmile Canyon, a great decision even though it meant having to come back up.

In all, the out-and-back hike was about five miles over the course of two hours twenty minutes. It was a stellar hike, the first of many being held this semester by the gym. Group hikes are open to all regardless of hiking experience. For more information and upcoming hikes, check the Tech calendar or email Melissa Begay (melissa.begay@nmt.edu). We hope to see you out there!



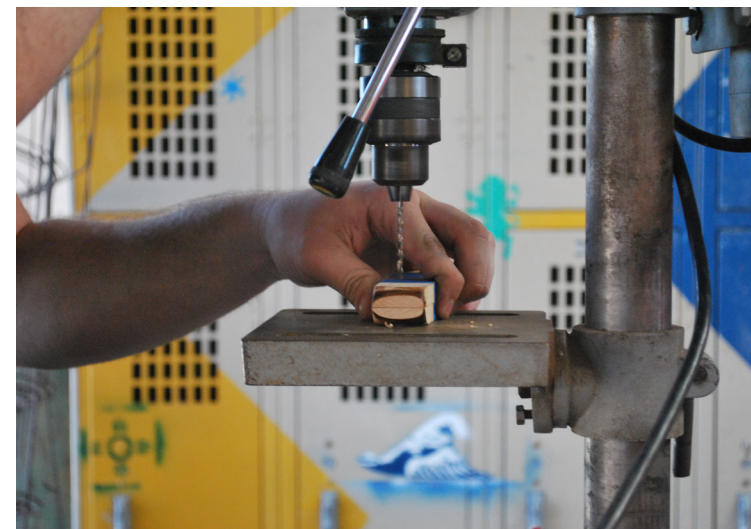
**TECH TALK:  
ADDICTION &  
TREATMENT**

when: September-17, Tuesday  
Time: 5:45 pm-7:00pm  
Where: Workman 101

There will be free food and a raffle for an electronic hard drive

Follow us on:   

**Drink Smart  
ASAP**  
ALCOHOL SAFETY & AWARENESS PROGRAM



# Student Spotlight

"This world is but a canvas to our imagination." - Henry David Thoreau

## Ryan Morelli, Jewelry Maker



Ryan Morelli is a mechanical engineering major with a minor in materials engineering here at New Mexico Tech. He was born in Virginia but moved to New Mexico 13 years ago, and he came to Tech because "it's a great school at a great price." However, what is even more interesting is his craft, jewelry making.

*How long have you been making the art you make?*

**R:**Around 6 years.

*Do you have a specialty or favorite kind of craft?*

**R:**My specialty is silversmithing; jewelry making. To be more specific, I do silver jewelry with stone inlay.

*You also fix things such as what?*

**R:**I fix almost anything, the main things I fix are jewelry, rings, bracelets, necklaces. But I also fix different metal objects like knives, and fireplace stands.

*What kind of knives have you made?*

**R:**I have made kitchen and utility knives. I'm currently restoring a kitchen cleaver.

*What are the different kinds of art work you do?*

**R:**I mainly work metal, so silver and steel. But I also work leather, stained glass, mosaics, scrimshaw; I have just completed a mosaic on a cow skull.

*What do you sell these art works for?*

**R:**I sell my art to put myself through school and to pay for living expenses.

*Do you do special requests?*

**R:**I do take special requests. Some of the most notable ones I have made have been engagement rings for several tech students.

*What the most complicated art piece you have created?*

**R:**That's a hard one. Each project has

its own challenges. But the hardest ones would be the engagement rings I have made. I try to give not only [engagement ring buyers] but all my customers a great price on one of a kind jewelry, but for engagement rings I put extra care into them, for example I have the men pick out the stones for the ring and we sit down face to face and design what they want. I try to make the ring as unique as possible for the one they love, which adds a lot of pressure.

*What kind of forging have you done?*

**R:**I have done forge welding and basic metal work. I use a propane forge.

Scattered across these two pages are examples of his work, including his transformation of the kitchen cleaver previously mentioned.

You can contact him here:

[ryan.morelli@student.nmt.edu](mailto:ryan.morelli@student.nmt.edu)



# Feature Article

*"A person has to remember that the road to success is always under construction." - Steve Harvey*

## Jones Hall Renovation

In the 8/27/19 SGA Rundown, it was stated that Jones Hall is planned to undergo a complete renovation starting in November. The construction is possible due to a surplus in NMT's budget. However, I knew little else, and decided to visit Dr. McDaniel, Vice President for Administration and Finance here at New Mexico Tech, with my questions about Jones Hall, its renovation, and more.

*Can you give me a basic description of the renovation?*

D: It's the renovation of a building built in the 70s. The renovation will [comprise of] major mechanical upgrades. Some of the labs but not all of the labs will be renovated. We are not tearing the building down...the structure is sound, but the mechanical parts need to be upgraded. The challenges we've had is that the cost estimates were too low. If we go over the estimation by 10%, you have to re-do the entire process, [including estimations and approvals]. [However], we got approval by the HED just



yesterday. We still need approvals from the State Board of Finance in October, then from the Board of Regents, also in October.

*How was this renovation made possible?*  
D: We are using internal reserves.

*You mentioned the estimates were too low?*

D: The cost will be 2.6 million more than originally planned.

*Do think this renovation will increase research output, interest in materials engineering, etc?*

D: We believe it will improve research. We are adding two new classrooms, so classroom space will improve [as well]. It will definitely improve the chemical engineering department.

*What are some common misconceptions students might have about Jones and its current state?*

D: Some think it hasn't been a priority. It has been a high priority since I came

here to get it done and get it done right. It's been the highest priority but also the most challenging because of cost issues and the approval process.

*What contributed to Jones' current state as far as you know?*

D: It's just age and use, and it's really starting to show. [For example], we on the campus have used swamp coolers. They can cause moisture issues. That may have contributed to the problems [in Jones].

*What hurdles remain for this renovation?*

D: The goal now is to have everything approved and ready for people to move out by the holidays, and construction would start early next year. It would take about 12 months. We still need the approvals, but we've done our homework. We can make a good case [for this renovation]. We are getting very close now.

To provide a bit of a roadmap over this renovation: HED has just approved the renovation, but the process still requires the approval of the State Board of Finance and NMT's Board of Regents. Both of these meetings are planned in October. If everything goes well, several people will be moved out of Jones Hall into Speare or another building, and construction will start over the holidays as to not interfere with classes. Then, in around 12 months, the building will be completely renovated with new lighting, ducts, etc. As Paydirt receives information we will create follow-up article over this project.

Scattered across these two pages are photos from Jones Hall in its current state.

