



Leland Gould
 NMPMA
 Executive Director



The 2024 New Mexico Convention was a Big Success

The land of enchantment once again provided beautiful weather for our golfers along with many convention members attending the 2024 NMPMA Trade Show and Steak Dinner Cookout.

To kick off the 2024 convention, the welcome and opening remarks were made by NMPMA President Alex Hodges-Swinford. Presentations at the general session included Brian McDonald, West Coast Regulatory Affairs Manager for Marathon Petroleum who reviewed Low Carbon Fuel Standards being implemented in New Mexico in 2025. The second presentation, by Lea McCullough, Executive Director of Washington Independent Distributors of Energy, was on preparation for the possibility of Cap and Trade being implemented in New Mexico. Brad Bell, Energy Marketers of America Chairman gave an EMA Washington DC update. WPMA President Matt Berry gave an update on activities throughout the WPMA states.



The Steak-Out Dinner entertainment was Standup Comic K-von, star of MTV's hit show "Disaster Date." He has also been on NBC's "Last Comic Standing," Showtime, CNN's "HLN," Good Morning America, BBC and NPR.



New Mexico's scholarship winner Anjelica Romero was awarded her WPMA scholarship award and was given an additional \$6000 award by her employer, Hodges Oil.

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 August 10, 2024

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New Mexico once again provided enchanting weather for our 80 golfers on the beautiful Sandia Resort golf course. Our **First-place team** with a score of 17 under par was John Buffett, Pat Bartucci, Dennis Kidd and Lauren Buffett.



Our **Second-place team** with a score of 15 under par was Jason Fitzpatrick, Tom Hennessy, Matt Berry and Amie Berry.

Women's closet to the Pin on hole 8 was won by Amie Berry.

Men's closet to the Pin on hole 12 was won by Craig Casttow.

Men's closet to the Pin on hole 16 was won by Kyle Call.

Women's longest drive was won by Amie Berry.

Men's longest drive was won by Matt Berry.



“The Legislature should be embarrassed at their inability to summon even an ounce of courage to adopt common-sense legislation to make New Mexicans safer.” The Governor added, *“For those of you who go home to the sounds of gunshots, who see hypodermic needles in your parks, and the families desperate to get a loved one living on the street the help they deserve, I’m sorry that most of our elected officials didn’t even try.”* Senate President Pro Tem Mimi Stewart, an Albuquerque Democrat, acknowledged concerns about the special session’s political fallout, saying, *“we hope the temperature calms down and we are talking more to each other.”*

It’s Hard to be Optimistic: Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Disappointed with Special Session Results:

Like Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce had hoped for substantial debate on public safety legislation during the special session. It quickly became apparent that wouldn’t happen, the Chamber said after the Legislature adjourned the same day after only passing one bill. Lawmakers in five hours passed a \$103 million appropriations bill, with \$100 million for disaster relief efforts and \$3 million for a judiciary pilot program focused on assisted outpatient treatment for competency diversion.

Despite her disappointment with the Legislature’s lack of action during the special session, the Governor signed into law the only bill that made it to her desk.

Frustration Mounts over Unspent Funds:

Nearly half of the \$424.7 million appropriated by lawmakers for New Mexico public safety initiatives over the past five years has gone unspent, due largely to high vacancy rates and other staffing issues. Rep. Christine Chandler, the chairwoman of the Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee, said the state and local officials have, in most cases, requested the funds but struggled to put them to use upon approval.

Changes in the Air for Balloon Fiesta: Nation’s Largest Energy Company Becoming Title Sponsor:

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is becoming the ExxonMobil Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. ExxonMobil, the largest energy company in the U.S. said it would become the event’s title sponsor starting in 2025 and running to 2029. ExxonMobil has been a sponsor since 2019 and was the event’s presenting sponsor for 2022.

Bart Cahir, senior vice president of ExxonMobil Upstream Unconventional, said in a statement the company is thrilled to expand its sponsorship. *“Balloon Fiesta is a unique economic driver that proudly showcases New Mexico’s rich cultural heritage, and we are proud of the role ExxonMobil plays in bringing the event to life,”* Cahir said.

News Around New Mexico

New Mexico Governor Calls Special Session:

“I will Keep Fighting” — That was the message of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to legislators that have yet to get on board with her agenda for the special session on crime. The five bills slated for the special session agenda, so far, include changes to the state’s criminal competency laws, a bill relating to civil commitment, a ban on panhandling in narrow medians, enhanced penalties for felons owning firearms and a bill on law enforcement data collection. Lujan Grisham rejected criticisms about the proposals. State House and Senate leadership released a statement detailing concerns about liberty and unintended consequences for vulnerable populations.

Democrats:

Governor needs to change her agenda to the special session:

Top Democratic lawmakers and Governor Lujan Grisham remain far apart on a package of crime-related bills pushed by the executive branch. Democratic leadership met at the roundhouse, again voicing disagreement with how the Governor plans to address public safety. At the same time, the Governor held a press conference in Albuquerque denouncing their criticism. The Governor needs policy makers to sponsor bills. No one has stepped up yet. Democratic leadership said the Governor needs to change her bills first. Majority Floor Leader Sen. Peter Wirth, said the Legislature has worked to find solutions on the governor’s proposed bills, *“we’re just not there yet.”* He said lawmakers need more time.

Governor Blasts Lawmakers:

Five hours and no action on her crime-related agenda. The outcome of a special session prompted fiery criticism from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, who called Thursday one of the most disappointing days of her career. *“The Legislature as a body walked away from their most important responsibility: keeping New Mexicans safe,”* Lujan Grisham said in a statement.

