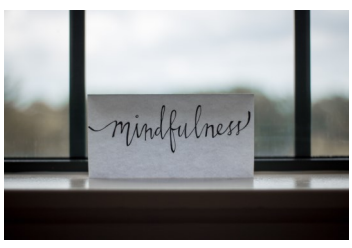
NEW MEXICO COUNTIES
33 STRONG

News Brief

October 14, 2021

Torrance County Wins! On October 12, 2021, Judge Mercedes Murphy issued findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the case Amparo Pacheco, et al. v Board of County Commissioners of Torrance County, in favor of Torrance County. Judge Murphy ruled that the County met or exceeded the standard of care in maintaining Lexco Road and rejected plaintiffs' allegations that faded road striping, rolling hills, and 45 mph speed limit were dangerous conditions that prevented a drunk driver, who killed three people and injured four others, from driving in the correct lane. Road Superintendent Leonard Lujan testified about the County's road policy, his inspections of the road, and that the County had no notice of a dangerous condition. "Our Road Department adequately documented and responded to citizen complaints, and we went above what was required by striping the road," said Janice Barela, County Manager. "This was an important case that could have had negative implications for all local governments, especially for small, rural counties like Torrance. Instead, it highlights an ever present problem in New Mexico. Drunk driving and repeated drunk driving cause these horrific tragedies that significantly impact families and communities for years."



NMC—Effective Employee Discipline Training

Thursday, Oct. 21, 9AM-11AM

- For any county supervisor, manager, and HR employees tasked with advising on discipline
- Correct poor performance in a fair and equitable manner without inviting litigation
- Understand the role of discipline and when it is warranted
- Learn progressive discipline and determine the appropriate discipline
- Draft effective disciplinary documents, conduct predetermination hearings, and understand the principles of due process
- Learn the roles of the supervisor/manager, HR, and legal and the keys to avoid liability when imposing disciplinary action.

Please register at: https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=E151D88383473B

Study outlines Top Scams on Popular Social Media Apps

SocialCatfish.com released Internet Scams 2021 study ranking the 10 most popular social media apps and accompanying platforms where people are being scammed online. Top 5 are:

1) **Facebook**, Account Cloning: Scammers use your photos/info to create a replica account
How to Avoid: Search for yourself regularly on the app and in search engines; report clone account to FB's support center

2) **Google Hangouts**, Romance Scam: Moving from dating apps to Google Hangouts
How to Avoid: Don't switch platforms or give $

3) **Instagram**, Fake Brand Giveaways: Brand offers free giveaways but no product rec'd
How to Avoid: Check it's the brand's account

4) **WhatsApp**, Hijack Scam: Receiving a code without requesting one; allows hijacking
How to Avoid: WhatsApp never sends a code

5) **Plenty of Fish**, Romance Scam: Claim to work oversees or in military, says can't meet in person, plays the victim
How to Avoid: Never send $ to anyone you have never met in person ~Govtech.com

Bureau of Land Management Seeks Advisory Council Nominations for the Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council

- Nominations considered until **Oct. 21, 2021**
- Advises the BLM on public land issues within the Las Cruces and Pecos District Offices and Socorro Field Office
- Helps the BLM carry out its stewardship of more than 10.4 million acres of public lands
- Consists of 12 members
- Download application here: https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/apply
- Or contact Glen Garnand, 575-627-0209 ggarnand@blm.gov

Meet the people from behind the scenes and find out the latest techniques, strategies, and resources for wildfire adaptation and resilience. It's a collaborative effort to host the Wildland Urban Fire Summit. Control/click the photo hear from the experts. Register HERE

NMC Board Actions Oct. 8, 2021

- Approved 2022 NMC Calendar
- Approved hybrid 2022 NMC Legislative Conference (in-person and virtual)
- Extended a one-year contract with Executive Director Steve Kopelman

Treasury publishes new guidance on the recoupment and reallocation of ERA funds

ERA grantees must submit an Obligated Funds Certification, outlining the amount of ERA1 funds obligated through Sept. 30, 2021.

Thu Oct 28 Webinar: Reducing Jail Populations through State/Local Policy Coordination 11AM-Noon

Link to NMC Meetings Annual Calendar

Link to NMC Loss Prevention Trainings RSVP

All trainings open to county elected officials & employees

Fri Oct 15	Webinar: 9-8-8 Implementation—Suicide Prevention Hotline 2PM-3PM Register free: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsceGvpzgtE912GYu-rvPT6r06etbjRAjk
Wed Oct 20	NACo Webinar: Is Cyber Insurance Coverage Holding Local Government Ransom? Noon-1PM
Thu Oct 21	Effective Employee Discipline Training 9AM -11AM Register free: https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=E151D88383473B
Thu Oct 28	NACo Webinar: Reducing Jail Populations through State and Local Policy Coordination 11AM-Noon
Thu Oct 28-29	Virtual Wildland Urban Fire Summit (WUFS)
Thu Nov 4-5	NMCIA Retreat and Board meeting **TBD**
Nov	NMC Executive Committee meeting 2PM NMC Office Date **TBD**
Nov	NMC /NMML Joint Legislative meeting 9AM Santa Fe County Date **TBD**
Thu Nov 18-19	Online CPR Instructor Development 8AM-Noon
Tue Nov 30	Advisory Council meeting 11 AM **TBD**
Wed Dec 8	NMCIA Board meeting 8:30 AM NMC Santa Fe **TBD**

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