

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: NM LEGISLATURE 2022

'People with money' invest in our state

WHY IS there such disdain in the Legislature for people who have money? I could not believe Eliseo Alcon's statement when he said "All we're doing is helping those that have money" when discussing the rescinding of the income tax on Social Security earnings. When all citizens have more money in their pockets, rich or poor, they have the opportunity to spend it in the local economy. But it's more than that.

Who creates jobs in the local private industry and signs paychecks? Who provides generous donations to nonprofit organizations that work their hearts out to serve low-income families, such as United Way and Habitat for Humanity, among dozens others? Who donates major sums of money to local universities to help with higher

education, asking only for their name on a wall or building in return? Good-hearted people with money who care about this community. Make some sense, be fair, stop discriminating, and think through your posturing, against many hard-working citizens of New Mexico.

MARGARET GARCIA
Albuquerque

Scholarship bill will help more graduate

I AM Debra Washburn of the O'ozei Tachinii, Tabahii clan. I'm of the Oraibi Clan adopted by the Red Running into Water Clan (Hopi/ Diné), born for The Water Edge People. A proper introduction of yourself is about more than just telling someone your name; it's about sharing where you come from. My clan identifies me as a strong Hopi/ Diné woman.

As a full-time student at Navajo

Technical University, receiving the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship last semester lightened my financial burden and has allowed me to focus on the most important aspects of my education. ... Expanding the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship by passing SB 140, the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship Act, will help other students pursue their dreams and achieve their goals to reach higher in life.

... I resumed my educational journey later in life after personal experiences interrupted my education and other hardships. When I decided to go back to school, I faced barriers including finding the money to pay for college, transportation and child care. ...

I will be graduating this fall with a degree in counseling with concentrations in crisis management, suicide prevention and substance use disorder. ... I want to increase suicide awareness and prevention

through our Navajo culture and teachings to help my Diné people who are struggling in their daily lives. ...

Receiving the Opportunity Scholarship has inspired me to help others and give back to the community, and I hope one day I will help the younger generations to succeed with their education and goals as I have done.

DEBRA WASHBURN
Student, Navajo Technical University

Voter proposals will keep us on bottom

AFTER GERRYMANDERING the heck out of New Mexico, making it almost impossible for a Republican to be elected, you would think the Democrats would be satisfied. But no, they want even more.

Let's take a close look at some of the components in Senate Bill 8. The bill would create a

permanent absentee ballot list. What happens to that ballot when the person dies or moves out of state? ... They also want to make Election Day a state holiday. Who will pay for this day off? ... With a day off, why will voters even need an absentee ballot? They want to allow 17-year-old children to vote. That would allow the ever-more progressive educational system to get high schoolers to believe what they believe. Since so many can't read at grade level, who's going to help them read a ballot?

... If the ill-conceived absentee ballot passes, make a rule against harvesting ballots. With ballots being sent year after year, that would be a gold mine for the harvesters. How about making IDs mandatory to vote? Nearly 80% of the country agrees with voter ID.

Voters need to pay attention to what's going on up in Santa Fe. ...

STEVE STILLMAN
Albuquerque



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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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Albuquerque, NM 87109-4343, by the
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