

INSIDE: STOCKS B2

# BUSINESS

SECTION B | THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015 | ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

### THE MARKETS

DOW	17,584.52	▲	+212.88
S&P 500	2,025.90	▲	+23.29
NASDAQ	4,650.47	▲	+57.73
NYSE	10,627.13	▲	+112.26

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## Gathering encourages right-to-work

Mayor, business groups promote bills pre-filed in state Legislature

BY ROSALIE RAYBURN  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Albuquerque's mayor and a host of business groups are solidly backing legislation that would make New Mexico a "right-to-work" state, saying it would help bring jobs to the state and boost the economy.

Several so-called right-to-work bills have been pre-filed for the legislative session that begins Jan. 20. The bills would prohibit private-sector employees from being required to join a union or pay union dues as a condition

of employment. "The economy today is not where we want it to be. It's time to do something different," Mayor Richard Berry said.

Berry was one of several speakers at a news conference arranged by the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday. About 50 people attended, including representatives of local businesses, business organization, chambers of commerce from Rio Rancho, Belen and the Hispano Chamber and Albuquerque Economic Development.

Berry said the bills are not an "affront" to unions. They don't outlaw bargaining and don't prevent unions from participating in the political

process, but they do give employees the right to choose whether or not to join a union and pay fees.

Chamber President and CEO Terri Cole said her organization has supported such legislation previously when it was introduced but failed to pass. Now that there is new leadership in the state House, the chamber plans to take a more active role in lobbying for the bills, Cole said.

Although Berry didn't name any specific companies that did not come to New Mexico because it isn't a right-to-work state, Gary Tonjes of Albuquerque Economic Development said site selectors he's worked with say companies often won't

even consider locating in a non-right-to-work state.

"We don't know whose lists we don't get on and that's the problem we're trying to fix," Cole said.

Before the news conference, Jon Hendry, president of the executive board of the New Mexico Federation of Labor, was skeptical that the bills would bring jobs.

"Right-to-work may or may not bring jobs in — that's certainly subject to debate," Hendry said, "What's not open to debate is the jobs that you get are lower-paid jobs."

Asked for a response at the news conference, Berry said studies have shown families in right-to-work states have higher earnings.



Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry addresses a news conference arranged by the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce in support of right-to-work.

## Intel pledges greater diversity

\$300M committed to speed progress

BY IAN KING  
BLOOMBERG NEWS

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Intel's chief executive, Brian Krzanich, has pledged to make the chipmaker's workforce match that of the U.S. population by 2020, and has committed \$300 million to help his company and the technology industry become more diverse.

In line with Silicon Valley's push to address the dearth of women and minorities among its workers, the Santa Clara, Calif.-based company is giving the money to a fund to help underrepresented groups get into the industry and stay there, Krzanich said at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. He said he's tying executive compensation, including his own, to the 2020 diversity goal.

"We've made progress, but not the amount of progress we need," he said on Tuesday after a speech at the event.

"CES is the best place to set out goals like this."

Krzanich's decision to declare a goal for the world's largest semiconductor maker and put money behind it came partly after Intel was dragged into a controversy called GamerGate last year, in which an online group targeted female video-game developers and journalists with threats and abuse. He was also prompted by the increasing scrutiny and awareness at other technology companies about diversity — the kind of information that Intel has been making public for a decade. It's also personal for Krzanich, who has two daughters.

"I want them to have an equal chance to run a company like Intel one day," he said.

The chipmaker has about 100,000 workers worldwide, with more than 50,000 of those in the U.S. In 2013, 24 percent of its U.S. employees were female. Among the U.S. total, 3 percent were black and 8 percent were Hispanic, according to the company's latest demographic report.

In his speech, Krzanich also showed off a new chiplet for wearable computing devices, designed to ensure the company doesn't miss out on a burgeoning market.

Curie, named for scientist and two-time Nobel Prize-winner Marie Curie, is a set of semiconductors that fit into a button-sized module capable of running all the functions and communications processes needed for connected gadgets that people can wear, Intel said.

### AROUND NEW MEXICO

JOURNAL AND WIRE REPORTS

#### IRS accepts returns starting on Jan. 20

The Internal Revenue Service will begin accepting tax returns electronically on Jan. 20. Paper tax returns will begin processing at the same time.

The decision comes after Congress renewed a number of "extender" provisions of the tax law that expired at the end of 2013. These provisions were renewed by Congress through the end of 2014. The final legislation was signed into law Dec. 19.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that filing electronically is the most accurate way to file a tax return.

#### Montoya elected new chair of PRC

Karen Montoya has been elected chairwoman of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, taking over from Theresa Becenti-Aguilar, who has left the PRC. Montoya represents the Albuquerque area.

Newly elected Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy, who represents the northwestern part of the state, was elected vice chair.

#### Pres Health Plan distributes \$180K

Presbyterian Health Plan is awarding a total of \$180,000 to 13 organizations that help improve the health of underserved populations and promote economic development:

- \$45,000 to Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless, which provides comprehensive health and integrated support services for homeless people.
- \$30,000 to A Park Above, a six-acre park for people of all ages and abilities, expected to open in late spring in Rio Rancho.
- \$25,000 to Mission Graduate, a partnership that seeks to add 60,000 new college degrees and certificates in Central New Mexico by 2020.
- \$15,000 to the National Alliance on Mental Illness-New Mexico.
- \$15,000 to the Street Food Institute for its Salud y Sabor project, which promotes healthy eating, arts and entertainment and health education with free monthly gatherings. The project also includes the National Hispanic Cultural Center and the Agri-Cultura Network.

#### Growth, income to talk themes

Registration is open for the talk by John Vazquez, first vice president of wealth management with UBS Financial Services at 7 p.m. Jan. 15 at the MCM Elegant Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE.

Vazquez, of Santa Fe, will speak about "Top Themes for Growth and Income" at the session hosted by the Albuquerque Chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors.

To register, send an email to [ail@albuquerque.gmail.com](mailto:ail@albuquerque.gmail.com).



## Digital, virtual, wearable, playable

Among the cool gadgets on display at the four-day Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nev., is a variety of smartwatches that can do nearly everything your smartphone can do. There are also virtual devices for play and health and 3-D everything, from clothing to cookies. The show ends on Friday.

ABOVE: Smartwatches based on Qualcomm chipsets are on display at the Consumer Electronics Show.

LEFT: Christian Martin uses the Omni by Virtuix virtual treadmill on Wednesday during the Consumer Electronics Show. The curved surface and special shoes allow the user to walk in place, while sensors transform that into forward motion in a virtual reality video game.

## BLM delays San Juan lease sale

More time allotted for public comment

BY SUSAN MONTYOYA BRYAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Bureau of Land Management has postponed an oil and gas lease sale for more than four square miles in northwestern New Mexico, saying more time is needed to review public comments that have raised concerns about environmental justice and other issues.

The BLM is in the process of updating its management plan for the San Juan Basin in the face of an expected shale oil boom, and a coalition of environmental groups has been pushing the federal agency to stop approving new drilling permits in the region until the plan is in place.

The groups contend more development and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking,

could harm the environment and sites such as the Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

"In an area already besieged by oil, gas, and coal extraction, BLM cannot continue surrendering our public lands to industry without understanding the long-term cumulative effect that such development has on our health, environment and sacred cultural resources," said Kyle Tisdell, an attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center.

Environmentalists, the Hopi Tribe in Arizona and others have long criticized the idea of drilling near Chaco Canyon, a World Heritage site that includes a series of monumental stone structures that date back centuries. The area was considered a ceremonial and economic center for the ancestors of many Native American tribes in the region.

Efforts to lease parcels near the park drew fire in 2013. The BLM proposed limiting the number of parcels to be leased after consulting with tribes. Those under consideration were several miles from the park and next to existing oil and gas operations.

Environmentalists and archaeologists unsuccessfully petitioned the agency to set aside more than 1 million acres around Chaco Canyon as an area of critical environmental concern. The agency followed up in January 2014, saying no parcels near the park would be put up for bid.

The BLM decided last week that three parcels that would have been offered during this month's sale will be considered again in October. The remaining two parcels will be deferred while the agency reviews the potential environmental effects of managing development in the basin.

## BeWellNM to hold 35 enrollment events Sat.

Free assistance timed to help guide people before Jan. 15 deadline

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

New Mexico's Health Insurance Exchange BeWellNM will hold 35 enrollment events across the state on Saturday to help individuals and families shop, compare and sign up for health insurance.

The events are timed to give people the opportunity to enroll before Jan. 15, the deadline to sign up for health insurance to be effective on Feb. 1. Those who do not sign up by then will have until Feb. 15 to do so, but their coverage will not begin until March 1.

Free assistance will be provided by state-certified enrollment counselors and brokers. Times and locations of the enrollment events can be found online at: [www.bewellnm.com/calendar/?events=a-state-wide-health-insurance-enrollment-event](http://www.bewellnm.com/calendar/?events=a-state-wide-health-insurance-enrollment-event).

Information about what paperwork may be needed to enroll for health coverage is available at: [www.bewellnm.com/how-to-enroll](http://www.bewellnm.com/how-to-enroll).

Individuals who are not covered by an employer plan, Medicare or Medicaid are required by the Affordable Care Act to have health insurance or face a penalty.

Those who enroll through BeWellNM can learn if they qualify for subsidies to help them pay the premiums.

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