

Local librarian wins esteemed 'I Love My Librarian' award

AN OUT-OF-THE-BOX LIBRARIAN WHO SEES THE LIBRARY AS THE COMMUNITY

By **Rachelle Nones**
Sun Correspondent

Within its walls, Gallup's Octavia Fellin Public Library has long provided a community space for its patrons to perform research, study, check out the latest bestseller, and participate in the library's numerous events and programs. During the last five years, OFPL Director Tammi Moe's leadership has boosted the library's sponsored program attendance by offering

inclusive culturally-relevant programming presented at the town's movie theatre, community fairs, and at various public events.

In recognition of Moe's successful expansion of public access to programs focused upon important issues impacting Gallup's large Native American population, Moe has been awarded the American Library Association's I Love My Librarian Award for 2022. Candidates for the award are nominated by the library's users.

"It really means a great deal to me that I have been recognized by the community here," Moe said. "It does speak volumes for the connections that have been able to be made and that I am actually serving this community the way that I should."

Moe told the *Sun* that when she initially started working at the library approximately five years ago, its program delivery was more traditional.

"The previous directors, in their minds, everything had to happen in the library," she explained. "They were

relegated to making the library their tool.

"I'm completely the opposite, I see that the walls of the library should not be a barrier for people to participate and access our system," Moe said. "I see the library as the community—serving the community where they're at—as opposed to saying you have to come into the library to benefit from what we're doing."

Under her guidance, OFPL has presented programs addressing issues specific to the residents of Gallup. One focused on The UNC Church Rock uranium mill spill, a dam breach causing uranium waste and radioactive water to contaminate the Navajo Nation's land and water sources.

"It was worse than Three Mile Island and they cleaned up Three Mile Island, but here they really didn't," she said. "There is a lot of uranium poisoning here in this area and a lot of studies done on how that has adversely affected their health."

OFPL has presented programs on the incarceration of Native Indian American activist Leonard Peltier and the forced sterilization of Indigenous women by the United States government.

"We have a community member here," she said. "Her name is Jean Whitehorse.

"She was actually a victim of that forced sterilization," she continued. "We've done a number of programs with her.

"There was a movie made, called *Amá* about her and two other Indigenous women's lives and what happened when that took place," Moe said. "It wasn't long ago that it happened.

"I think people don't realize how many different



Tammi Moe is one of the ten winners of this year's I Love My Librarian award out of more than 1,300 nominations. **Photo Credit:** Courtesy

problems that Indigenous people face."

Moe looks forward to the day when construction begins on the new library that has been in the planning stages for several years. The current OFPL library, which is a municipal library, has outgrown its physical space.

"Here, they really use the library heavily," she emphasized. "We are talking over 200,000 visitors a year to the library.

"The collections have very high circulations."

At the present time, the design concept for the new library has not yet been perfected.

"We can't pursue a funding source until the design concept is ready to go," Moe told the *Sun*. "Depending on how long it takes to get that

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OCTAVIA FELLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS
NAVAJO ASTRONOMY
The first virtual presentation in the series will describe traditional Navajo astronomy, constellations and the unique way in which Navajo people view the cosmos and their place within it.
Celebrating National Family Literacy Day. Astronomy kits are available using the Supply Request Form at ofpl.online.
Live on Facebook @galluplibrary
-OR-
Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89759901247>
-OR-
Main Library
115 West Hill Ave.
Thursday, January 27th
Starts at 2:00 PM
Call (505) 863-1291 for more information.
OFPL
OCTAVIA FELLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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an exemption and now have a change in ownership or status you must notify the Assessor of the change no later than the last day of February 2022 of the change. If required, application for exemption must contain the required information and must be on a form that is obtained from the Assessor's office. Section 7-38-17 NMSA 1978.

6. Property subject to valuation is presumed to be nonresidential and will be so recorded by the Assessor unless you declare the property to be residential no later than the last day of February 2022. If your property has changed in use from residential to non residential or from nonresidential to residential you must declare this status to the Assessor no later than the last day of February 2022. The declaration must contain the required information and

must be in a form that may be obtained from the Assessor's office. Section 7-38-17.1 NMSA 1978.

7. If you are a person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older or disabled, and whose "modified gross income" was not greater than \$37,300 in 2021 and you own and occupy a single-family dwelling you may be eligible for a limitation on the taxable value of your residence. The limitation of value specified in Subsections A, B and C under Section 7-36-21.3 NMSA 1978 shall be applied in the tax year in which the owner claiming entitlement files with the county assessor an application for the limitation. The application must contain the required information and must be on a form that is obtained from the Assessor's office. Section 7-36-21.3 NMSA 1978.

8. If your land was valued in 2021 in accordance with the

special method of valuation for land used primarily for agricultural purposes, and the land is still used primarily for agricultural purposes, you need to reapply for that special method of valuation in 2022. If your land was valued in accordance with the special method of valuation in 2021, but it is no longer used primarily for agricultural purposes, you must report the change to the Assessor no later than the last day of February 2022. If your land was not valued in accordance with the at method in valuation in 2021 and it is now used primarily for agricultural purposes, application must be made under oath, in a form and contain the information required by department rules and must be made no later than thirty (30) days after the mailing of the County Assessor's notices of valuation in order to be entitled to the exemption from taxation in 2022. Section 7-36-20 NMSA 1978.

9. If you own "livestock" that is subject to valuation for property taxation purposes, you must report such livestock to the Assessor. All such livestock present in the county on January 1, 2022 must be reported to the Assessor no later than the last day of February 2022. If the livestock is transported into the county after January 1, 2022, it must be reported to the Assessor no later than the first day of the month following the first month in which the livestock has been present in the county for twenty (20) days. The report must contain the required information and must be on forms obtained from the Assessor's office. Section 7-36-21 NMSA 1978.

10. If you own a manufactured home [that was not previously assessed] and it was present in the county on January 1, 2022, you must report it to the Assessor no later than the

last day of February 2022. The report must contain certain required information and must be on a form obtained from the Assessor's office. Section 7-36-26 NMSA. 1978

THIS NOTICE IS ONLY A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 7-38-8, 7-38-8.1, 7-38-13, 7-38-17, 7-38-17.1, 7-36-7, 7-36-21.3, 7-36-20, 7-36-21, AND 7-36-26 NMSA 1978, and related Taxation & Revenue Department Regulation. It is not intended to reflect the full content of these provisions, which may be examined at the office of the County Assessor.

Done this 24th day of November 2021 in Santa Fe, New Mexico
Santiago Chavez, Director
Property Tax Division

Publication: Gallup Sun
January 7, 2022
January 14, 2022
January 21, 2022

STATE OF THE STATE | FROM COVER

New Mexico Secretary of Education, has recently shown support for a \$50,000 starting minimum for Level 1 teachers, a \$60,000 starting minimum for Level 2, and \$70,000 for Level 3. In total, that would come out to a \$200.5 million increase to the public education support budget.

Lujan Grisham explained that some teachers could see as much as a 20 percent raise this year with this increase in place.

After discussing education, the governor turned to taxes. She began by sharing that the New Mexico sales tax hasn't been cut in 40 years.

"It's only gone up and up and up, for decades, burdening

New Mexico households and making it harder for our small businesses to be competitive," Lujan Grisham said.

She said her tax cut proposal would save New Mexicans more than \$170 million each year. She also supports cutting the taxes that are taken out of Social Security benefits. New Mexico is one of only 12 states that tax Social Security.

"This is good government, serving the people who have asked us to serve them," Lujan Grisham said. "... I believe we have an obligation to find ways to make life easier for the people of New Mexico, and I will keep looking for ways to do exactly that."

When it comes to jobs, Lujan Grisham noted that over 10,000 jobs had been created in the past three years and that those jobs have an

average salary of more than \$90,000. She made it clear that she doesn't plan to let the pandemic slow the state down.

"Unlike in the aftermath of the Great Recession, we're not going to let the pandemic stall us and take away years of growth; we will not have another lost decade - in fact, despite the challenges of the last two years, we've hardly lost a step," Lujan Grisham said.

She pointed out that New Mexico has seen unemployment go down every month for the past 10 months. The number of unemployed New Mexicans dropped by five percent in November alone.

The governor credits that achievement to the fact that the state is expanding its "economic footprint" into different industries, and she gave the

legalization of cannabis as an example.

"Legal cannabis is going to create thousands of jobs and serious tax revenue for local governments to support local services in every corner of our state," Lujan-Grisham said.

In an effort to stop crime and promote public safety, Lujan Grisham is supporting a 19 percent increase to public safety department budgets and a 19 percent raise for state police officers.

She also wants to crack down on people who repeatedly break the law.

"So we need tougher penalties for the worst of the worst, the repeat offenders and those who have proven themselves to be a danger to our communities; I support rehabilitation and this administration has done a lot of innovative good work in that area, but

at the end of the day I stand with the families and communities who have been victimized unnecessarily by the violent criminals that this system needs to secure," Lujan Grisham said. "The worst offenders, the most serious and dangerous criminals in our state, need to be behind bars, simple as that."

She briefly mentioned a law that would give courts more guidance when it comes to keeping people who were charged with violent crimes behind bars.

"We will put a wedge in the revolving door of violent crime in New Mexico," Lujan Grisham said. "The safety of our communities cannot be up for debate."

The second session of the 55th New Mexico Legislature began on Jan. 18, and continues until Feb. 17.

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funding to come in here, it could be two to three years before they break ground on that library."

The Library Advisory Board has been given strict parameters regarding the new library's location in Downtown Gallup.

"We're aiming for a 55,000

square foot library with room for growth and space around it for outdoor programming with plenty of parking," Moe said.

Moe's hope is that the new library fully addresses the needs of the people.

"What do they see their library as being?" she questioned. "It can be a multipurpose building.

"There is a stereotype that

persists in regard to libraries as quiet spaces where introverts come to read," she pointed out. "But the truth is community members want a conversation with other community members.

"A safe place where ideas can be shared and people will actually listen," she said. "That is what we strive for at the Octavia Fellin Public Library."

CELEBRATE TAMMIE MOE'S AWARD

Each honoree of the prestigious annual award, sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, receives a \$5,000 cash award and a \$750 donation to the library or institution where they work.

The I Love My Librarian

award winners will be honored at the ALA's 2020 virtual LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience conference.

To tune into the ALA's 2022 virtual award ceremony streaming live at 2:30 p.m. MST on Jan. 22, Visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/AmLibraryAssociation>.