

# HOME

## SANTA FE + NEW MEXICAN



Thanks for visiting Santa Fe New Mexican. If you are 7-day print subscriber, please create an online account and then click 'subscribe' to activate your unlimited access. Otherwise, you're entitled to view 5 free articles every 30 days. Then, if you enjoy our site and want full access, we'll ask you to purchase an affordable subscription.

4

Remaining

### Home Magazine / Real Estate Guide

Click above to view the latest issue of Home. Or click here to view previous issues.

### Vote MIKE ANAYA for State Senate in District 39

# State's book freed by Patti's tenacity

Print Font Size:

Posted: Sunday, October 4, 2015 6:00 am

Nate Downey/For The New Mexican

In the decade since contracting to be the “principal author” of the state’s free e-book, *Roof-Reliant Landscaping: Rainwater Harvesting with Cistern Systems in New Mexico*, water harvesting — the collection, conveyance, storage, filtration, and redistribution of rain, snow, sleet, hail, dew, and fog — has been gaining in popularity.

### NEWS VIDEO



As humans wake to the challenging water situation we face, I'm happy to report that Roof-Reliant Landscaping has stood the test of time. Originally produced by the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) in 2008, the how-to is a guide for anyone embarking on a cistern project. With the recent announcement that Patti Bushee will be leaving her Santa Fe City Council post at the end of her fourth four-year term, it's time for this book to get its due.

Coincidentally, in August I started the orderly posting of Roof-Reliant Landscaping at [www.permadesign.com/blog](http://www.permadesign.com/blog). The whole book should be out by February 2016 — just in time for peak cistern-system-design season. (If you want to get started sooner, no sweat. You can always get the entire shebang at the OSE's link, [www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/wuc\\_rainwater.php](http://www.ose.state.nm.us/WUC/wuc_rainwater.php). Or contact me directly.)

Starting with four chapters on the fundamentals of waterwise landscaping, cistern sizing, system design, and project planning, the Southwest-centric book provides assistance with the ever-nebulous worlds of cost estimating and water budgeting. Its core runs from page 46 through 80 — with specifics about the processes, components, and pitfalls of water-harvesting systems for a wide range of conditions.

The text — along with the bright-and-clear artistic presentation by editor Randy Schultz and designer Ken Wilson — wraps up with a helpful chapter about maintenance, a regulation-style glossary of terms, and eight informative appendices for the nerdy nerd in all of us.

The instigating and motivating forces at the OSE included the ever-brilliant John Longworth and the always-on-task Cheri Vogel. A grant from the Bureau of Reclamation also made the group effort possible, and finishing touches by the 11-member peer review committee were much appreciated.

One person deserves high praise for her strong commitment to elevating the general public's awareness with respect to what water harvesting really is. As a



**FREE** skills you need to land the job you want.  
**Online Courses**

---

**START LEARNING NOW ▶**



More videos:



The BMW X1



The Ultimate Driving Machine®

**THE BMW X1**  
LEASE ONE FOR  
\$369/MONTH

new employee of the OSE who happened to come on board during the book-writing process, Patti Bushee stepped up and singlehandedly freed passive water harvesting from some significant bureaucratic shackles.



At the project's outset, I was told to leave all of that "passive harvesting, let's-store-rainwater-in-the-soil business" (my words) out of it and write only about active harvesting (water stored in tanks called cisterns). Though frustrated by this gag order, I remembered that Bob Dylan tune, "Gotta Serve Somebody," and got back to it. Months later I was delighted to see a draft with passive water harvesting near the beginning of the manuscript. This was the direct result of Bushee's tenacity, wisdom, and experience both as a Northern New Mexican landscape designer and as a dedicated public servant.

These same qualities made for a decidedly successful career as a city councilor, too. On behalf of water lovers everywhere, thanks for your tenacity, Patti!

*Nate Downey, the author of Harvest the Rain, has been a local landscape consultant, designer, and contractor since 1992. He can be reached at 505-690-7939 or via [www.permadesign.com](http://www.permadesign.com).*

||||

#### More about Local

-  Presenting Princess Shaw
-  Tenacity



#### MOST READ

1. On mesa west of Taos, a grisly story of murder, but still no body
2. Last year's rains bring out more snakes
3. New principal to take helm at Santa Fe High
4. Driver who killed pedestrian jailed again on DWI charge
5. Hung jury in case against man accused of murdering El Rancho family
6. Many claim they've solved Forrest Fenn riddle, but treasure hunt continues
7. The City Different embraces mountain-town identity



Domain

▪ **ARTICLE:** Rock of ages: Leon Russell



Russell

Discuss

Print

Posted in Home/Real Estate on *Sunday, October 4, 2015 6:00 am.* | Tags: Local

### More Stories

### Most Read

On mesa west of Taos, a grisly story of murder, but still no body  
Last year's rains bring out more snakes  
New principal to take helm at Santa Fe

- 8. Ex-governor Richardson pleads no contest in hit-and-run case
- 9. State GOP seeks investigation of Democrats' House leader



New principal to take helm at Santa Fe High  
Driver who killed pedestrian jailed again on DWI charge  
Hung jury in case against man accused of murdering El Rancho family

To our readers, Santafenewmexican.com now uses Facebook to power its comments forum. You will need to login using your Facebook account to post comments to news articles. As always, we do require you to use your real, full name when posting and to be courteous to others when posting.

### 0 Comments



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin



**OBAMA URGES HOMEOWNERS TO PAY OFF THEIR HOUSE AT A FURIOUS PACE IF THEY HAVE NOT MISSED A PAYMENT IN 6 MONTHS**

If you owe less than \$625,000 on your home, use Obama's once in a lifetime mortgage relief program. The program is totally free and doesn't add any cost to your refi. The bad news is that it expires in 2016. You'll be shocked when you see how much you can save.

#### TAP YOUR AGE:

TAP YOUR AGE: 18-25	TAP YOUR AGE: 26-35	TAP YOUR AGE: 36-45
TAP YOUR AGE: 46-55	TAP YOUR AGE: 56-65	TAP YOUR AGE: OVER 65

### Calculate New House Payment

©2016 NMLS ID 167283; 3306 nmlsconsumeraccess.org [LowerMyBills.com](http://LowerMyBills.com)



## PROTECT YOUR SKIRTING

skirtguard.com

String trim against Skirt-Guard  
Hides Holes, easy to install



## Sections

- Home
- News
- Sports
- Opinion
- Pasatiempo
- Magazines
- Life
- Multimedia
- Weather

## Services

- Place Classified Ad
- Subscription Services
- Submission Forms
- Site Index
- Featured Ads
- Featured Ads Reprints
- Open House Listings
- Open House Re-Prints
- Add Search Toolbar
- Ad Rates

## Connections

**Phone number:** 505-983-3303

**E-mail:**

[webeditor@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:webeditor@sfnewmexican.com)

**Address:** 202 E. Marcy St.  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

- Contact us
- The Taos News
- The Sangre de Cristo Chronicle
- Enchanted Homes Real Estate Magazine

## Search

Search in:

- |   |                                     |                                  |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> Pasatiempo | <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News           | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines  | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports         | <input type="checkbox"/> Life       | <input type="checkbox"/> Video   |

© Copyright 2016, The Santa Fe New Mexican, Santa Fe, NM.