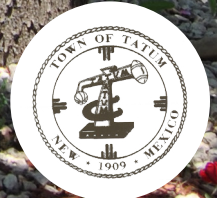


Issue 2 | March 2016

EDC isions

Economic Development
Corporation of Lea County,
New Mexico

*Lea County, New Mexico -
A great place to Live,
Work, and Play.*





Meet Our Team



Steve Vierck
President & CEO



Sally Tomar
Director of Human Resources
& Membership Services



Elyce Gobat
Coordinator of Research
& Special Projects



Barry Ricks
Director of Marketing &
Business Development



Sarah Bunch
Coordinator of
Digital Media



Sandy Wilkinson
Executive Assistant

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Board of Directors 2015-2016

Tres Hicks, Chair
Pettigrew & Associates

Finn Smith, Chair Elect
Watson Truck Supply

Monty Newman, Past Chair
Newman & Company

Lisa Hardison, Secretary (LC Chair)
URENCO

Gary Schubert (BLC Chair)
Schubert Construction

Stuart Roberts (BC Co-Chair)
TDS Broadband

David Shaw, Treasurer (FMA Chair, FHM Co-Chair)
Nor-Lea Hospital District

Joshua Grassham (MC Co-Chair, BC Co-Chair)
Lea County State Bank

Hussian Mahrous (MC Co-Chair, FHM Co-Chair)
Zia Park Casino Hotel & Racetrack

Tate Branch
Tate Branch Auto Group

Matthew Mulligan
HB Construction

Miguel Perez
Wells Fargo Bank

David Pyeatt
Elliott & Waldron

Robbie Robinson
Robinson & Associates Real Estate

Tim Thornell
Lea Regional Medical Center

Gary Don Reagan
Gary Don Reagan PA

Key

FMA: Financial/Audit Committee

MC: Membership Committee

LC: Legislative Committee

BLC: Building & Land Committee

BC: Broadband Committee

FHM: FlyHobbs Marketing Committee

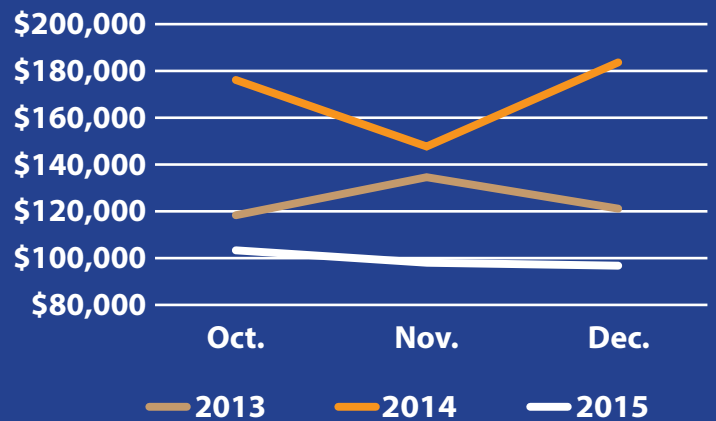
Economic Indicators



Rig Counts

	NM	LC
Oct.	43	25
Nov.	38	22
Dec.	38	21

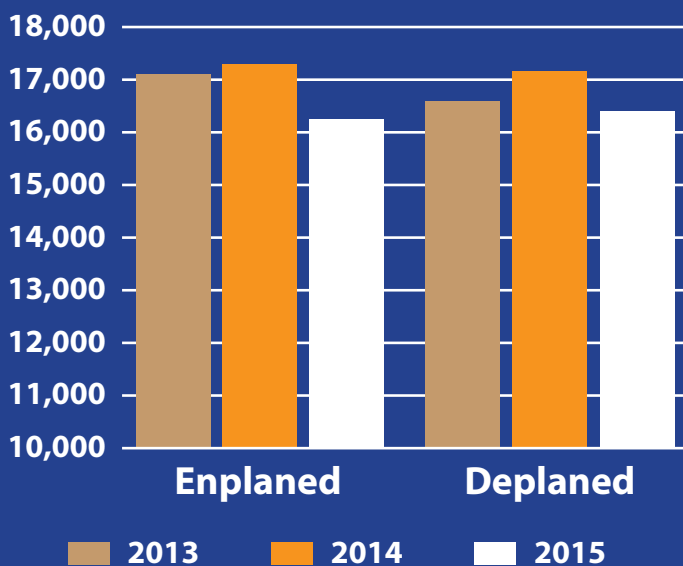
City of Hobbs Lodgers' Tax



Gross Receipts 2015

\$6,461,224,650

Lea County Regional Airport



Top 10 Largest Employers

in Lea County

Hobbs Municipal Schools	1,185
City of Hobbs	473
Halliburton Energy Services	469
Nor Lea Hospital	437
Lea Regional Medical Center	420
Ferguson Construction Co.	411
Key Energy Services	387
Walmart Supercenter	384
URENCO USA	350
Lea County	315

The EDCLC Welcomes Steve Vierck as the new President & CEO

Steve Vierck, previously with the New Mexico Partnership, has been named the new President/CEO of the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County (EDCLC). The nationwide search, conducted by Mike Barnes, of the **Mike Barnes Group**, brought in applicants from all over the country and Mr. Vierck accepted the position. Mr. Vierck comes to the EDCLC with an extensive background in economic development and four years as the President/CEO of the New Mexico Partnership.

“I’ve admired EDCLC since I first became acquainted with the group when Lisa Hardison headed their efforts, and I look forward to working with their strong leadership team to diversify their economy,” said Vierck about the prospect of coming to Lea County.

Mr. Vierck has worked many years in economic development in Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico, including the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance, Angelou Economics, and the New Mexico Partnership. He received his Master’s degree in geography from the University of Arizona, along with a Bachelor’s in business administration. Mr. Vierck is also a recipient of the “William Lampkin Award for Long Term Excellence in Economic Development.”

The EDCLC received many great candidates, and as Chairman of the EDCLC Board, Tres Hicks, stated,

“I am excited to have an individual with Steve’s expertise to lead our organization. Steve’s capabilities, experience, and perspective on New Mexico is a great fit, and we look forward to the future of Economic Development in Lea County.”

EDCLC Board member, Vice Chair, and Search Committee Chair, Finn Smith, would like to thank “everyone on the search committee for the time dedicated to finding a wonderful candidate and thanks to our stake holders at the county and city for their involvement in the interview stage to help us land this extremely qualified leader.”



Former EDCLC President/CEO and New Mexico Partnership board member, Lisa Hardison, commented that, “I have known Steve for several years and I am confident that he will provide excellent leadership for the EDC of Lea County. He has a broad depth of knowledge and experience in economic development and is well regarded within the State of New Mexico as well as the surrounding states. Our County will

be the beneficiary of the many industry relationships that Steve has spent years cultivating and I look forward to the continued growth and diversity of our community.”

The EDCLC is pleased to welcome Mr. Vierck to Lea County and is confident in this fruitful partnership and the continued economic development and diversification this will bring.



Wind Power in the EnergyPlex

Lea County, New Mexico is the EnergyPlex, a great amalgamation of opportunities for energy including wind power. Lea County's landscape is perfect for wind generation; with vast open plains, easily accessible transmission lines, and supportive governance for alternative energy, Lea County shines.

Since Lea County was branded the EnergyPlex in 2008, it has sought to bring diversity to the area's energy sector. With companies such as Wildcat Wind/Excelon, wind energy production has risen. The wind power generated by Wildcat Wind connects to the Lea County Electric Co-op, a local electrical co-op, and generates 20mW of wind.

Most recently, the EDCLC collaborated with Akuo Energy, a French company, to bring a

30mW windfarm to Tatum, NM. Akuo has signed a Renewable Energy Purchase Agreement with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, which when completed, will be the largest locally-owned power supply system in the region.

New Mexico is supportive of alternative energy, as evidenced by the renewable energy tax credits and incentives offered through the State. Lea County offers generous land and space for wind projects as well as a supportive government for energy-efficient projects. Wind power has great potential in Lea County and is growing every day to provide sustainable energy for Lea County and beyond.

[*www.EnergyPlexPark.com*](http://www.EnergyPlexPark.com)

With over 9,600 acres, EnergyPlex Park is easily customizable to suit any industry, including solar, petroleum, nuclear, manufacturing, wind, fabrication, mining, warehousing, research & development, and biofuels.





Preparing for Aviation Day 2016

FlyHobbs Aviation Day and Fly-In is happening again! This is the second annual event for FlyHobbs, celebrating Lea County Regional Airport, Hobbs, and Lea County and showcasing planes from all over the region. Last year, over 70 different planes flew in to Lea County Regional Airport to show off for the public. The free event featured a Military Osprey plane and attendees

were able to walk inside and take pictures with the pilots.

Last year, over 3,000 people attended. This year will be even bigger! FlyHobbs plans to have more food trucks, booths, and planes than ever before. There will be games for the kids, delicious food from local vendors, and planes galore. Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, June 18th, 2016

to come out and see what FlyHobbs has to offer.

For updated information about the event, check out the new website below and also follow FlyHobbs on Facebook. If you have questions about the event, feel free to contact the EDCLC for more information.

FlyHobbsAviationDay.com

*Join us on Saturday, June 18th, 8AM - 1PM
for more games, planes, and fun!*



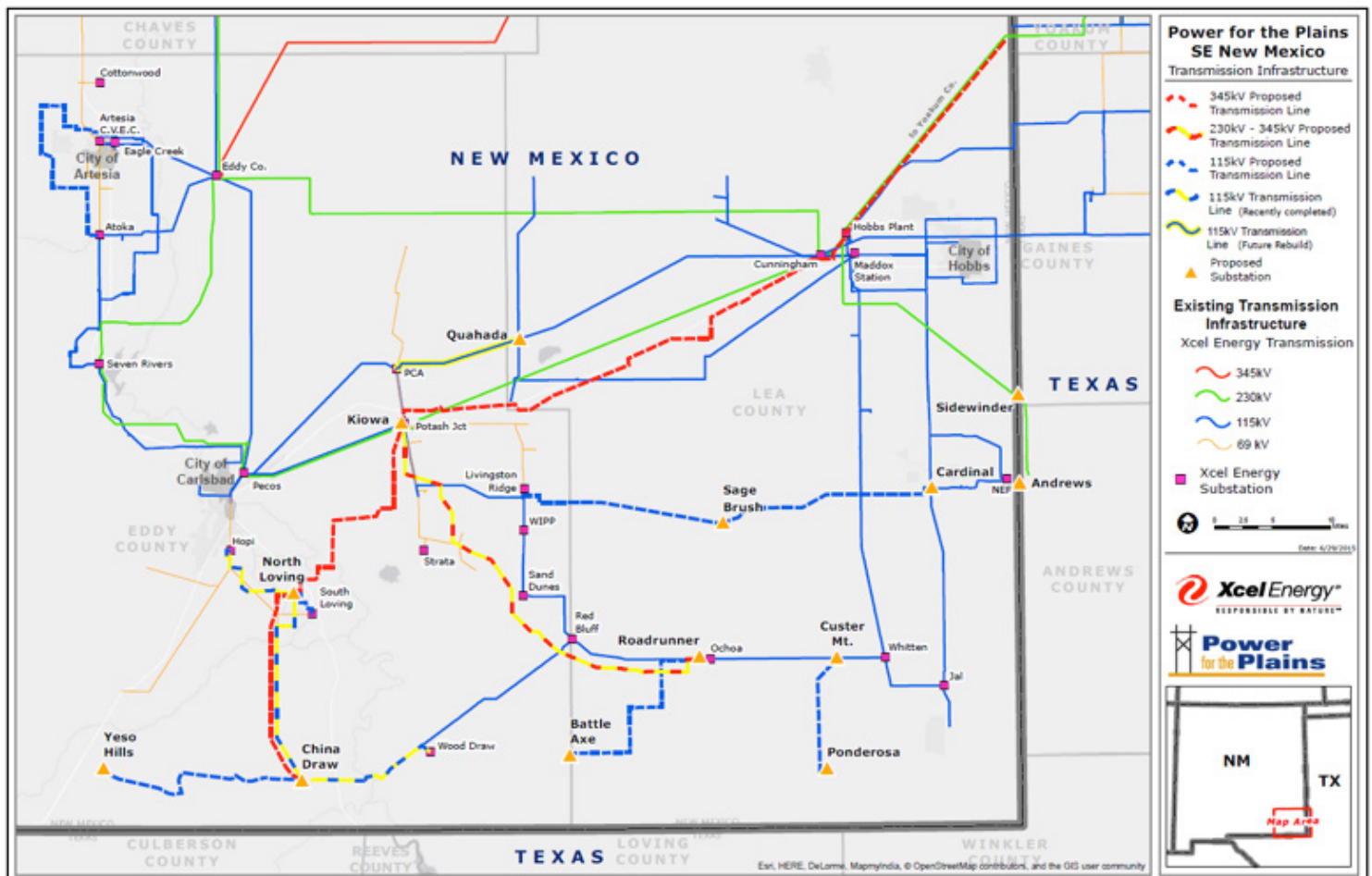
Xcel Energy: Power for the Plains

Xcel Energy continues to grow with more than 250 miles of new transmission and distribution lines and 7 new substations this year in Lea and Eddy Counties. They are also currently in the permitting and planning of a dozen more transmission projects in the area including the proposed TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs 345 kV transmission line, its largest planned, to be in service by 2020. The TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs project is estimated at \$242 million in which a 160 mile line will run between TUCO substation and the Hobbs Plant Substation.

Not only do they continue to improve reliability and capacity to the region, Xcel Energy is committed to serving Lea County by supporting local businesses and

giving back to the community. As of year-end 2014, they employ more than 242 individuals in NM, with 118 in Hobbs (includes bargaining, non-bargaining and temporary employees). Several local businesses have also been utilized for the new substations including Pettigrew and Associates (surveying) and Constructors, Inc. (assisted with work at the China Draw and North Loving Substations).

See the map below to view all the southeast New Mexico transmission projects and visit powerfortheplains.com for more information on Xcel Energy's Southeastern New Mexico expansions.





Live. Work. Play.

Housing in Lea County

With the continued growth in population, Lea County has seen a great demand for housing. This includes apartments, single-family homes, and temporary dwellings such as extended-stay hotels. Housing has been a priority for all of Lea County, and over the past few years, construction on new homes has increased. New residential permits in Hobbs more than doubled from 2013 to 2014 and is on track to meet and exceed 2014's numbers in 2015.

Recently, Hobbs has had several new apartment complexes come online or open continuing phases of construction including LedgeStone and The Sorrento apartments. New single-family homes have also increased in Hobbs with the opening of the first phase of Zia Park Crossing, as well as continued construction in other developments such as Gold Creek Homes, which includes Acoma

Heights, Ranchview Estates, Cottonwood Estates, and Windsor Estates. Hobbs has also added several new hotels, including ValuePlace Inn and the Hilton Garden Inn.

Exciting things are happening in Lovington where new apartments, Lovington Trails, are well underway in addition to a new Comfort Inn & Suites hotel. Southward in Eunice, several apartment units are planned for construction within the next year along with several single-family homes.

Housing is a top priority in such a rapidly-growing area like Lea County, and efforts are paying off with new, good-quality homes and apartments coming on the market.



MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Upcoming Events

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

New Horizons Foundation presents “Innovate Lea County”

Saturday, April 23rd from 8 am - 11 am

NMJC Larry Hanna Training & Outreach Center
Hobbs, NM



New Horizons Foundation, a 501 c(3) Foundation, was collaboratively established by Lea County and New Mexico Junior College to promote, develop, and administer technological innovations for applied scientific, educational, and economic wealth creation for the public benefit and economic growth.

“Innovate Lea County,” hosted by New Horizons Foundation and the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County, will provide you with an update on the foundation’s mission, purpose, and exciting progress since the model’s inception in 2013.

Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 8 am and the program is scheduled to start at 8:30 am.

For more information on this event and the New Horizons Foundation, visit www.NHFoundation.net

2nd Annual FlyHobbs Aviation Day and Fly-In

Saturday, June 18th from 8 am - 1 pm

Lea County Regional Airport
Hobbs, NM



Aviation Day features planes of all shapes and sizes flown-in by their pilots, local business giveaways, and plenty of great food! Come enjoy what the skies have to offer!

For more information on this event or to become a sponsor, visit www.FlyHobbsAviationDay.com

NM Association of Counties Annual Conference

June 20th - 24th

Lea County Event Center
Hobbs, NM



New Mexico counties began meeting on an annual basis in 1936 to address their concerns and collaborate on initiatives. In 2016, NMAC will celebrate 80 years of collaboration and partnership among New Mexico counties. Held the third full week in June annually, this business and educational conference presents an opportunity for county officials, employees and state leaders to interact. The focus is to develop and prepare NMAC legislative priorities for the next legislative session and provide educational programs specific to each affiliate.

Registration is required for this event.

For more information, visit www.NMCounties.org

For a full list of events, see our community calendar at EDCLC.org/LWP

Property Spotlight: *French Drive*

Lea County has many great properties for the expansion and growth of industries. Land is abundant within all communities, providing an opportunity for companies to be close to amenities and city-provided utilities. French Drive is one such property.

Located in Hobbs, French Drive is a 175 acre greenfield owned by the Grimes Land Company. The property sits just off Bender Blvd, a main street within Hobbs that cuts across town and connects to US 62/180. The property is partially bisected by French Drive, a two-lane road that connects to Bender, a four-lane road. Within a ten minute drive time, French Drive has access to both state and US highways: NM 18 and US 62/180, and Lea County Regional Airport that offers daily flights to Houston on United airlines.

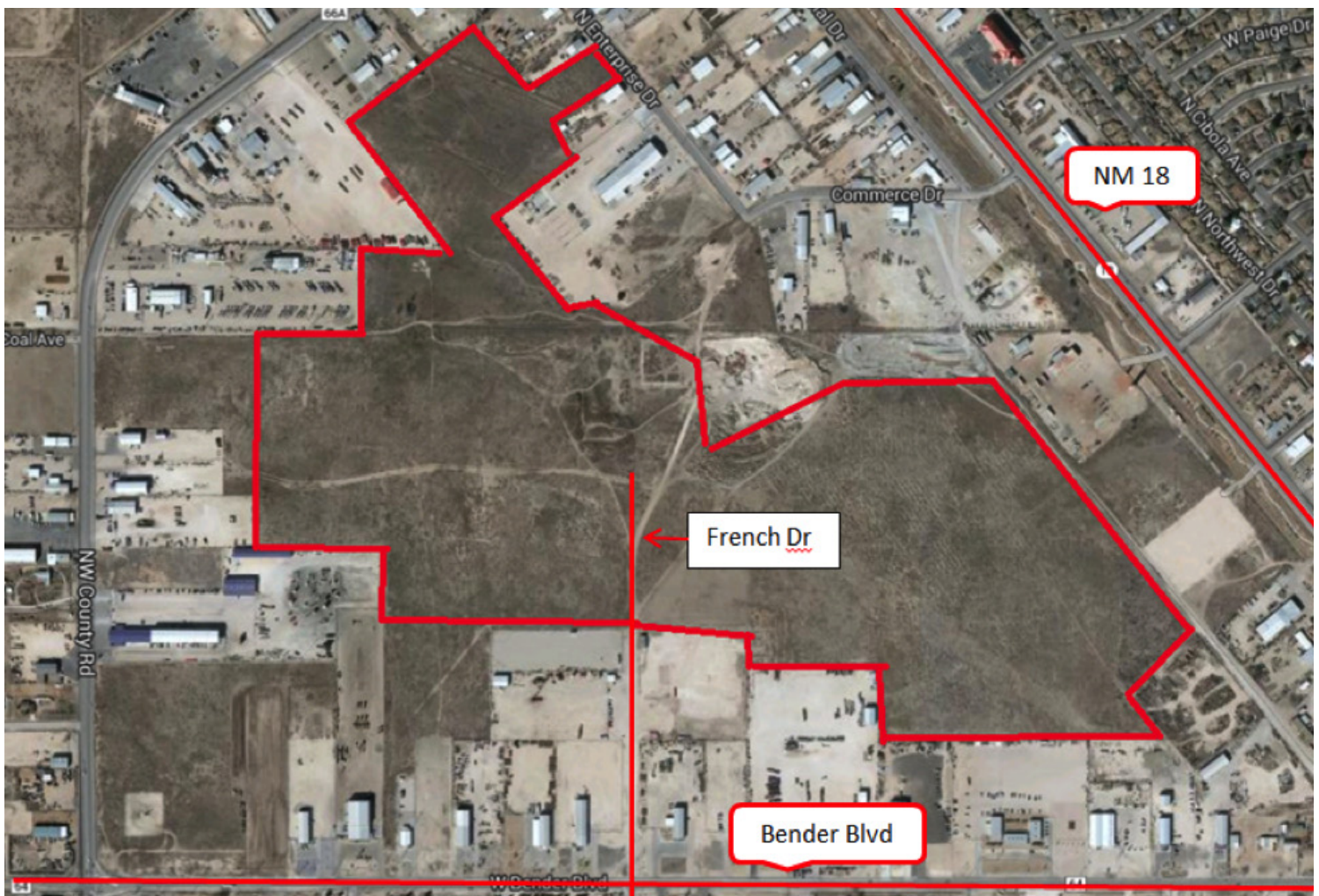
The site is ready for construction with utilities already in place including city-provided water and sewer,

natural gas by Zia Gas Company, electricity by Xcel, and internet from either TDS or Windstream. Construction on this property is estimated to take 9-10 months from approved plans.

The property can be divided in acreage, in either square or rectangular shapes depending on tract and need. The location is ideal for manufacturing, warehousing, research & development, and more. Close to amenities such as Lea Regional Medical Center, New Mexico Junior College and University of the Southwest, and the Workforce Training Center, French Drive offers much more than greenfield to locate a business.

French Drive is a property exploding with potential for all kinds of projects. With the rapid growth in all of Lea County, it won't last long!

For more sites and buildings, see our Building & Land Inventory. <http://www.leacountysites.com/>





Doing Business in the *EnergyPlex*®

Member Spotlight



A member of the EDCLC since 2014, TDS provides high speed internet, phone, and television to much of Lea County.

“Since acquiring the former Baja Broadband operations, Lea County has been a major focus of investment for TDS, and the investment is about to continue further,” explains Stuart Roberts, TDS’s local Market Manager for its Operations in Eastern New Mexico and West Texas. “We recently rebranded, highlighting the emphasis that TDS places on the quality of the services that it delivers, but we only did so when we knew that we really had started to deliver better services and value for money.”

In fact, TDS now has complete redundancy through its nationwide fiber backbone that delivers services to Hobbs, Lovington, Eunice and Jal, and this means that if TDS has an issue within the backbone network, the traffic will automatically be re-routed to avoid the problem meaning that TDS

customers get complete continuity of service.

“In our Business area, we have had many exciting new developments,” explains Renee Lopez, TDS’ Account Executive for the area, “and we now offer a very comprehensive range of services to local businesses whether they are looking for more conventional services such as Cable TV, Internet and Phone to more advanced services such as DIA (Direct Internet Access) services delivered over fiber and with guaranteed delivery speeds and an unbeatable Service Level Agreement.”

“Our investment in Lovington is something that the local community should be proud of,” comments Roberts. “When we purchased the network from Comcast in 2014, we knew that we wanted to completely rebuild the network to offer our services to every home or business over Fiber. The investment was all funded by TDS, without any grants or Federal support. We knew

that could offer the most advanced services in the State using our Fiber network and so we launched a whole new range of services to both Consumers and Businesses in Lovington. In fact, the town is one of very few across that United States that can claim every home is capable of being connected to a Fiber network. Even cities like New York, Dallas, San Francisco, LA or Chicago can’t claim that.”

For local businesses, the advances that TDS has made are unbeatable. Whether it’s using TDS’ Digital VoIP service or up to 100Mbps Internet, there’s something for every local business. Also for Hoteliers and Bulk Accounts, TDS is now able to offer a fully Digital TV service including HD channels at a very competitive price. They also offer a new service, Managed IP, which is one of the most advanced phone services for businesses.

“We are not complacent and are continually striving to be better,” says Roberts. “There will be more investments in the months and years ahead as we strive to offer advance services to all our Consumer and Business customers.”

The EDCLC appreciates TDS’ contributions to Lea County and as a member of the EDCLC.

New Businesses in Lea County

Hobbs

- Hilton Garden Inn
- Basin Environmental Service Technologies, LLC.
- ZKUT Machine Worx
- Pro Tag & Poly
- USA Auto Tech, LLC
- Dunn, Justin Air Conditioning
- Quality Sleep Solutions Inc. The Hobbs Sleep Center
- Links II, Inc.
- High Desert Equipment Repair
- Eye-Site Vision, LLC.

- Dattola, Daniel W., Broke
- Hobbs Medical Clinic by Nor-Lea Hospital
- Michael’s Prescription
- Jaramillo’s Trucking
- Jimmy John’s
- Wingstop

Lovington

- Saenz Welding
- Logistic Services
- Mr. Gomez
- All American Cleaners

- Desert Bee Supplements
- She Shack- Swanks
- Gary’s Heating & Air Conditioning

Eunice

- Excalibur Oilfield Services
- SKSM Equipment Rentals
- Coach’s Custom Trophy & Engraving

Jal

- Dollar General
- Senorita’s & Fajitas (Food Truck)