

McKinley still carries second highest jobless rate

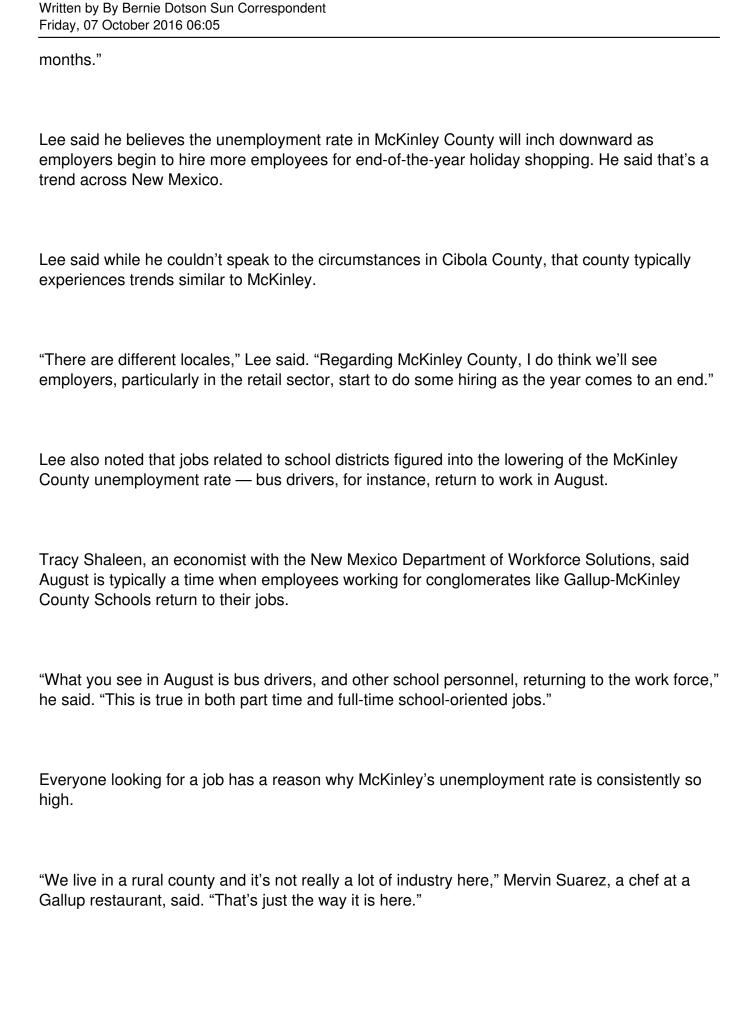
New Mexico's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in August, up from 6.4 percent in July and 6.5 percent a year ago, according to information from the state Department of Work Force Solutions.

In McKinley County, the unemployment rate for August was 9.8 percent, down from a 10.4 percent rate in July 2016. In neighboring Cibola County, about an hour east of McKinley County, the unemployment rate for August 2016 was 9.1 percent, a slight decrease from a 9.2 percent July rate.

At 9.8 percent, McKinley County has the second highest unemployment rate in New Mexico, and has seen a high unemployment rate for most of the summer — it never dropped below the Top 5 highest counties for unemployment in 2016.

"It's high – and it's consistently high," Bill Lee, CEO at the Gallup-McKinley County Chamber of Commerce, said. "I think you'll probably see it decrease, not a lot, but some over the next few

McKinley's jobless rate down, but still high at 9.8 percent



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Written by By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent Friday, 07 October 2016 06:05

Union County in the northeast sector of the state has the lowest unemployment rate for August 2016, with 4.5 percent. Luna County in southwest New Mexico has the highest, with an unemployment rate of 10.1 percent.

The national unemployment for August was 4.9 percent, unchanged from July and down from 5.1 percent in August of 2015.

There are 33 counties in New Mexico. The state's unemployment statistics are released one month behind due to the amount of time it takes to compile the data, officials have said.

By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent