

EL NIÑO LINKED
TO TORNADOES

DEVELOPING AFGHANISTAN'S
MINERAL RESOURCES

EARTH'S CORE
SECRETS REVEALED

EARTH

Geoscience Embraces

BIG DATA

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BUILDING RESOURCE CORRIDORS IN AFGHANISTAN

24 A SOLUTION TO AN INTERMINABLE WAR?

Afghanistan has been ravaged by decades-long conflicts that have left it economically depressed, but the country also holds a potentially huge natural resource base. Recently, support for resource extraction in Afghanistan seems to have reached a critical mass and the country may be poised to leap forward with a new development approach based on the concept of resource corridors.

John F. (Jack) Shroder Jr.



NEWS

- 12 "TRANS-NIÑO" YEARS COULD FOSTER TORNADO OUTBREAKS



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DIGITIZING EARTH

DEVELOPING A CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE GEOSCIENCES 32

Geoscientists are awash in data — from the massive streams of digital data collected by satellites to the “dark data” stored away in filing cabinets. The challenge now is to integrate all those data into a usable and useful form and share them online — in other words, to create a cyberinfrastructure that will usher the geosciences into the era of Big Data.

Sara E. Pratt



TRAVELS IN GEOLOGY

EXOTIC DUNES AND ATOMIC BOMBS IN NEW MEXICO'S WHITE SANDS 40

The Desert Southwest is famous for out-of-this-world landscapes — some places look like the moon, others like Mars — but New Mexico's White Sands National Monument offers an otherworldly backdrop like no other. Plus, where else can visitors see African antelope, enormous gypsum sand dunes, old U.S. missiles and an atomic bomb site all in one day?

Mary Caperton Morton



VIEWS

- 8 A COMMENT**
ENERGY 360: LEAVING OUR CORNERS FOR THE RADICAL MIDDLE: NEW ZEALAND SETS AN EXAMPLE
Considering the political ramifications of energy policies is both inevitable and important. The challenge with energy policy discussions is to manage bias and potential conflicts of interest and conscience.

Scott Tinker

- 64 GEOLOGIC COLUMN**
GET KIDS — AND PARENTS — OUTSIDE!
Despite their many advantages, being constantly “linked” via computers, tablets and smartphones eliminates quiet time and disconnects us from our surroundings and each other. Let's turn off the devices and take our kids outside.

Fred Schwab

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