

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

FARMERS' ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2023



Supporting Their Community

Indigenous students bring STEM
conference to Socorro **PAGE 14**

Jonnie Alisha Woody, left, and Taylor Cecelia Yazzie are the vice president and president, respectively, of the NM Tech chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. PHOTO BY CHRIS EBOCH

EARTH DAY

APRIL 22ND

JOIN US ON THE EARTH DAY COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION CHALLENGE!

All Gallup McKinley County Schools will participate in a school and area site cleanup during the week of April 17th – April 22nd. Last year we challenged all 32 of our schools to a cleanup challenge! The results exceeded anyone's expectations as our students collectively picked up 262 bags of garbage! Our winner of that challenge was Red Rock Elementary School, who alone picked up a whopping 58 bags of trash!

This year we want to extend this challenge to the community of Gallup and all of McKinley County! We want to challenge all business, leaders, and individuals to a friendly Earth Day Community Beautification Challenge! We know all our students will be ready for this challenge, are you? We'll see you out there McKinley County!

enchantment (ISSN 0046-1946) is published monthly by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 614 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87505. enchantment provides reliable, helpful information on rural living and energy use to electric cooperative members and customers.

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THE NEW MEXICO RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION provides legislative and educational services to the cooperatives that are members of the association and deliver electric power to New Mexico's rural areas and small communities. The mission of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association is to strengthen, support, unify and represent cooperative member interests at the local, state and national levels. Each cooperative has a representative on the association's board of directors, which controls the editorial content and advertising policy of enchantment through its Publications Committee.

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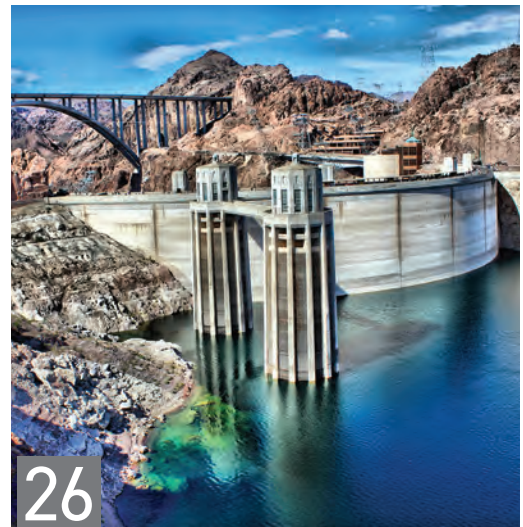
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Take a photo of you holding YOUR MAGAZINE AND WIN!

Take a photo of yourself or someone else with the magazine and email it with a few words about the photo. Include your name, mailing address and co-op name.

One lucky member will win \$20. Submitting your photo(s) gives us permission to publish or post the photo(s) in enchantment, on Facebook and in other media outlets.

Email tcondit@nmelectric.coop

Congratulations to monthly photo winner Bobby Marchbanks, a Farmers' Electric member, with his January enchantment magazine!

Alvin read the magazine at church.

Bobby Marchbanks wins \$20!





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Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees meets at 9 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Clovis cooperative boardroom.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Riley Retires From FEC Board of Trustees

Farmers' Electric Cooperative announces the retirement of Ernest Riley from his position on the board of trustees after 31 years of service.

Riley began his tenure on the board in April 1992, representing District 2 (Melrose) in the FEC service area. He replaced the retiring, Dawson Ridling. Riley served as secretary-treasurer on the board from 2008 to 2016. In 2012, he also served on the board of Western Farmers Electric Cooperative—FEC's wholesale power provider.

"Ernest played a vital role as a member of the board," longtime board President Mike West says. "Farmers' Electric saw significant growth during Ernest's time on the board. He was always an integral part of board decision-making. He and the value he brought to our board will truly be missed."

Riley graduated from Fort Sumner High School in 1963. He started in the Taiban school system when he was 5 years old but moved to Fort Sumner schools after Taiban was closed due to low enrollment. After graduating from high school, Riley went to work for South Plains Electric Cooperative in Lubbock, Texas.

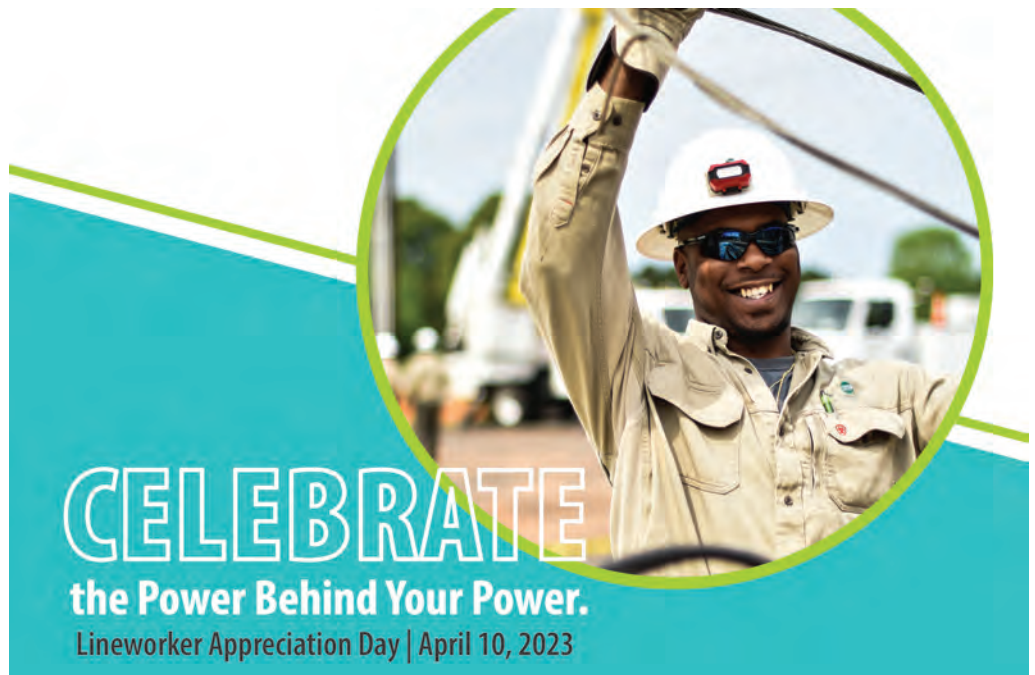
This was his first taste of the electric cooperative world.

Riley eventually moved back to Melrose, where he and the love of his life, Linda, raised their family. Riley is

a welder by trade and has owned and operated Riley's Welding Shop for many years.

"Ernest's presence on the board will be profoundly missed," Vice-President George Dodge says. "His extensive knowledge of Farmers' Electric and knowing the pulse of our members helped guide the cooperative for many years. I will personally miss him sitting across the table."

Mr. Riley, thank you for your many years of dedicated service to FEC. We wish you the best.



Operating Heavy Machinery?

Minimize risk by staying away from power lines.

If your to-do list involves working with ladders, irrigation pipes, awkward machinery or any tall implements, keep them as far away from power lines as possible.

Your first rule is to look up. Before carrying anything tall around your yard—such as a ladder—know where the overhead power lines are.

Here are some other things to keep in mind:

- Most local laws require you to leave a clearance of at least 10 feet from power lines (depending on voltage) when you are operating machinery. The best practice is to give your machinery twice the required clearance to minimize electrical risks.
- The manufacturer of your equipment might recommend even greater clearances. Follow those guidelines.
- If a chore requires you to work near a power line, enlist the help of a friend or

family member to watch you work and alert you if you're getting too close to the line.

- If your helper is going to take over the job for a while, stop and reevaluate the safe clearances. Talk about safety plans so anyone who operates equipment on your property is aware of necessary clearances.
- Use highly visible ground markers to let your helpers know they're near overhead power lines. Use maps or diagrams to show the location of power lines when planning or performing work.
- Machinery such as irrigation pipes, grain augers, silos, drill rigs, cranes, loaders and excavators can easily contact a power line if you change the position or elevation. Always lower machinery before relocating it.
- Designate areas for high-risk operations, such as elevating machinery. Evaluate



If you are operating heavy machinery, always make sure to look up and make note of power lines before starting work. Give your machinery twice the required clearance to minimize electrical risks.

machinery height before work begins when the tools are clear of power lines.

- Check power tools for rust and frayed cords before each use. Never store tools outdoors.
- Carry pipes horizontally—and get a partner to help you. If you try it on your own, you will wind up carrying the pipes vertically, which makes them more likely to contact a power line.
- Never touch a downed power line. Always assume it is live. If your vehicle, tractor or anything you have in tow comes into contact with a power line, do not exit the vehicle. Call Farmers' Electric at 575-762-4466. We urge you to enter this number in your contact list on your phone. You could also dial 911. We can disconnect the line so you can safely leave your vehicle. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

Save the Date!



We look forward to seeing you Saturday, May 13, at Farmers' Electric Cooperative's 85th annual meeting of members.

The meeting is in San Jon, New Mexico, at the San Jon High School gym. Door prizes are awarded, and lunch is served following the business meeting.

Because Farmers' Electric is locally owned and operated, your involvement in meetings and elections is crucial. Mark your

calendars today and plan to attend the annual meeting.

Registration is 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. and includes:

- Reports of officers, trustees and committees.
- Election of trustees from districts 3 and 5.
- Door prizes for adults and children.

Lunch is served following the business meeting around 11:30 a.m.

Farmers' Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is May 13.



A crew member aboard the International Space Station photographed a Lyrid meteor streaking through the center left, in 2012. The space station was over the Gulf of Mexico, and many coastal cities in several states can be seen as blurry lights in the background. PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

Planets Moving Through the Sky


Our solar system's two inner worlds put on a good show in our western skies during this month's evening hours. The primary showpiece is Venus, which shines brilliantly in our west for up to two hours after the end of dusk. Closer to the horizon—and quite a bit dimmer but still quite bright and conspicuous—is Mercury, which is at its highest a few days before midmonth. Within a few days, however, Mercury starts a rapid descent toward the horizon and is lost in twilight by the last few days of April.

Also visible in our evening sky this month is the red planet, Mars, which continues to fade as it keeps pulling away from Earth following their relatively close approach to each other late last year. Mars is high in the western sky as darkness falls and sets about two hours after midnight. Meanwhile, over in our morning sky, Saturn rises up to an hour before dawn and gradually climbs higher into our eastern sky during the coming months.

April's one semi-decent meteor shower is the Lyrid shower, which this year peaks the morning of Sunday, April 23. Normally,

Lyrids only produce about 15 to 20 meteors an hour, but on rare occasions—most recently 41 years ago—have produced much stronger displays.

A rare hybrid solar eclipse takes place Thursday, April 20. During this event, the moon is at such a distance from Earth that it is in total eclipse near the center of the path and annular (not large enough to cover the sun completely and thus leaving a thin ring, or annulus, around it) toward either end of the path. This month's eclipse takes place mainly over open waters of the eastern Indian and southern Pacific oceans, with the only landfall taking place over Australia's Northwest Cape and parts of the islands of Timor and New Guinea in Indonesia. These locations will experience slightly more than one minute of totality.

While New Mexico misses out on this eclipse, we get both of the next two solar eclipses. An annular eclipse October 14 passes directly across New Mexico from northwest to southeast, and a total eclipse crosses east-central Texas on April 8, 2024. New Mexico will see a relatively deep partial eclipse from that event. 

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Changing Habits Saves Energy

By Miranda Boutelle

Q: I want to lower my energy use, but I don't know where to start. How can I find out how much energy I use? What are some ways I can save energy without spending a lot of money?

A: You can change your energy use by changing your behavior.

When looking at electric bills, many people focus on the total dollar amount of the bill. When trying to manage your energy costs, I suggest changing your focus to energy use.

While you don't have control over the cost of the energy, you can control how much energy you use.

Set Goals

Instead of thinking about your bills in terms of dollars, think about them in terms of kilowatt-hours. A kilowatt-hour is the unit of energy used for most electric bills. Review your monthly kWh use to get an idea of how much you use every month.

Once you've reviewed your energy use, set goals for the next month. Try to use less energy than the month before, and check your results on your next bill.

When to Use Less Energy

Some utilities have time-of-use rates, which means electricity costs are dependent on the time of day. This pricing structure more closely reflects the cost to electric utilities and helps consumers understand



LEFT: Adjusting your thermostat can lower your heating and cooling costs. RIGHT: Changing your HVAC filters ensures your equipment works at peak efficiency. PHOTOS BY MARK GILLILAND

that energy costs more when the demand for it is higher.

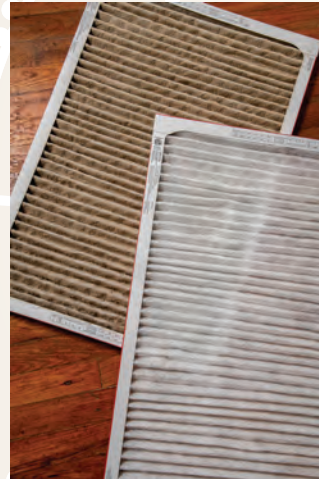
Even if your electric bill does not include time-of-use rates, it can be beneficial to delay your use to when demand is lowest. Peak hours are typically in the morning as we prepare for work and in the evening when we get home and start preparing food and turning on entertainment devices.

Doing laundry and running the dishwasher are easy activities to delay until after peak hours.

Turn Off for Energy Savings

When looking for energy savings, remember that off is the most efficient setting. Turning off lights is a classic strategy, especially if your lighting is incandescent. Consider switching to energy-saving LED lightbulbs.

Computers and gaming systems can waste energy



of Energy.


Installing smart power strips is an easy way to ensure your devices are completely turned off and not drawing power.

Adjust the Temp

When it comes to lowering your energy use, the settings on your thermostat are another great place to check. Keep in mind, the weather affects your electric bill for heating and air conditioning.

The closer you can keep the indoor temperature to the outdoor temperature, the more you will save. You want to protect your home from damage in extreme heat and cold, but if you can turn the temperature down a few degrees in winter and up in summer, you will save on energy costs.

Ensuring the filters in your heating and cooling system are clean is an easy way to keep your system maintained and operating efficiently. Adding annual servicing by a professional maximizes the efficiency and can lengthen the life of your system.

Understanding your energy use and making small adjustments to your routine will help you reach your energy use goals. 



Miranda Boutelle has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy. She has worked on energy-efficiency projects from the Midwest to the West Coast. Today, Miranda is chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy-efficiency company.

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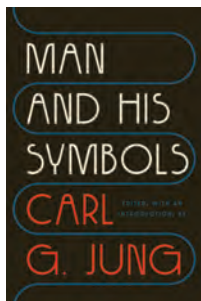
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A fabulous entry point for building an understanding and intimacy with the guiding principles of Carl Jung, the famed Swiss

psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and architect of analytical psychology. References to Jung's exploration of archetypes, shadow, individuation and collective unconsciousness continue to saturate contemporary vocabulary six decades after his death. "Man and His Symbols, Jung's final work, offers substantial reason.

By Carl G. Jung
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Sabrina & Corina: Stories

From an author raised in New Mexico, this is an award-winning collection of short stories centering on the lives of Latina women and

their communities. It is a National Book Award finalist and winner of an American Book Award. Kali is an emerging and exciting author shining light and piercing dimension on Southwestern life.

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Reimagining History from an Indigenous Perspective: The Graphic Work of Floyd Solomon

Pueblo history is detailed as seen through a series of famed etchings by

Floyd Solomon of Laguna Pueblo. Floyd was an artist who dedicated much of his massive talent to giving voice to a native perspective on history. This collection assembled by Joyce M. Szabo—the regents' professor of art history emerita at the University of New Mexico and specialist in Native American art and museum studies—showcases Solomon's stunning etchings while offering a broader view of his great life effort to pass along generational perspective, with deep attention given especially to the arrival of the Spanish in the late 16th century.

By Joyce M. Szabo
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DON'T attempt to **plug extension cords into one another**.



Make sure extension cords are **properly rated** for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and **meet or exceed the power needs** of the appliance or device being used.



Keep all **outdoor extension cords** clear of snow and standing water.



Do **NOT** overload extension cords.



A heavy reliance on **extension cords** is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have **additional outlets installed** where you need them.



Inspect cords for **DAMAGE** before use. Check for **cracked or frayed sockets**, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.



Do **NOT** nail or staple **electrical cords** to walls or baseboards.



Do **NOT** run through **walls, doorways, ceilings or floors**. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a **FIRE HAZARD**.



NEVER use **three-prong plugs** with outlets that only have two slots. **Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit**, which could lead to electric shock.



Buy only cords that have been **approved by an independent testing laboratory**.



Do **NOT** substitute **extension cords** for permanent wiring.



DO NOT use an **extension cord** or a **power strip** with **heaters or fans**, which could cause cords to **overheat and result in a fire**.



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Like millions of older Americans, I struggle with mobility. For years, I watched my quality of life slip away, as I was forced to stay home while friends and family took part in activities I'd once enjoyed. I thought I'd made some progress when I got a mobility scooter, but then I realized how hard it was to transport. Taking it apart and putting it back together was like doing a jigsaw puzzle. Once I had it disassembled, I had to try to put all of the pieces in the trunk of a car, go to wherever I was going, and repeat the process in reverse. Travel scooters were easier to transport, but they were uncomfortable and scary to drive, I always felt like I was ready to tip over. Then I found the *So Lite™ Scooter*. Now there's nothing that can hold me back.

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Supporting Their Community

Indigenous students bring a STEM conference to New Mexico

By Chris Eboch

In our modern world, young people with advanced technology skills have bright futures. The challenge is making sure students from every background can access that future. Underrepresented students have unique struggles, but peer support and professional guidance can help them succeed. The American Indian Science and Engineering Society—known as AISES—is a professional society focused on increasing the representation of Indigenous people of North America and the Pacific Islands in STEM studies and careers.

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It is sometimes called STEAM, with an added A for art. Employees with these skills are in high demand but often in short supply, and job opportunities are expected to keep growing. Proponents say these programs teach creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can be

valuable in many career fields and other aspects of life.

According to AISES, students do best when started on the STEM pathway early. Parents and educators need STEM-related information and resources to support learning. AISES helps Indigenous students by offering programs and services for pre-college, college and graduate students. The organization provides scholarships, professional mentorships, peer support and the Winds of Change magazine, which shares profiles and tips.

Byron Whitehorse, a staff adviser to the AISES chapter at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, speaks highly of the program.

“AISES has provided multiple opportunities for students to network, gain internship experience, provide scholarships and, most importantly, provide NMT Native students with a club with other students who share the same experiences and struggles,” he says.

New Mexico is part of AISES Region 3, which covers the American Southwest. The New Mexico Tech chapter has grown since the rise of the pandemic, providing connection in a time of isolation.

Students from the Tech AISES chapter hosted the university’s first-ever Native American Heritage Day last November.

“Indigenous students who attend New Mexico Tech come from areas where the communities are mostly Indigenous,” Byron says. “So, customs and traditions are vastly different when these students leave these areas.”

AISES helps students meet others who understand that background. Jonnie Alisha Woody, vice president of the New Mexico Tech chapter, is from Shiprock in the Navajo Nation.

“AISES is such an uplifting and exciting family to be a part of,” she says. “AISES has provided me areas where I can network and gain mentors and learn about opportunities.”

Jonnie is a senior majoring in biomedical sciences, planning to become a pediatric oncologist. She has been involved with AISES since eighth grade, when her middle school teacher had her work on electric cars.

“Being an Indigenous student can be hard,” says Jonnie, who is of the Salt people and born for the Bitter Water people. “I feel ashamed that I don’t learn my culture as much as my education. I feel overly privileged for the life I live off the reservation and the opportunities I receive. And I also feel sometimes I am just not smart enough or talented enough to be here. Being away from my culture and my family is hard, especially now that generational tides are turning, and my elders are starting to pass on to the next life.”

Participating in AISES helps keep her connected to her culture as well as her education and professional goals. Jonnie was one of eight AISES students from the Tech chapter who attended the 2022 AISES National Conference in California.

“You go and there are professionals,

Jonnie Alisha Woody, left, and Taylor Cecelia Yazzie are the vice president and president, respectively, of the NM Tech chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.





TOP: Students at the National AISES conference could participate in a career fair, research competitions, and take in keynote speeches. **RIGHT:** AISES is focused on increasing the representation of Indigenous people of North America and the Pacific Islands in STEM studies and careers. PHOTOS COURTESY OF AISES

elders, and peers that encourage you,” she says. “The wisdom and guidance I once received, I now have to live on my own and learn to help the next generation. AISES is a place where many indigenous professionals and students understand or have insight. You get to see their wins and successes and it makes me feel more than capable to be a pediatric oncologist someday.”

While at the national conference, AISES students from Tech successfully competed to host the 2023 AISES Region 3 conference in Socorro. Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint is partnering on this conference, which was held March 24 to 26. By bringing the AISES Region 3 conference to Socorro, the Tech chapter hopes to inspire more Indigenous young people to attend the school.

“New Mexico Tech is surrounded by many proud tribes, like Isleta Pueblo, Alamo Navajo, and Mescalero Apache,” Jonnie says. “I hope this brings these students to Tech and encourages them to pursue a degree. I hope this event erases any hesitation any student might have about their ability to be a STEM professional.”

They only had a few months to plan

the conference. The AISES student club has the support of staff and faculty at New Mexico Tech and Navajo Technical University, but the students did much of the work.

“Our biggest challenge is balancing our time for our club growth, our own educational goals, our own financial goals and our personal priorities, such as our families,” Jonnie says. “We are securing speaker positions, co-organizing events with Women’s History Month and working to find different ways to fundraise. The event is coming together.”

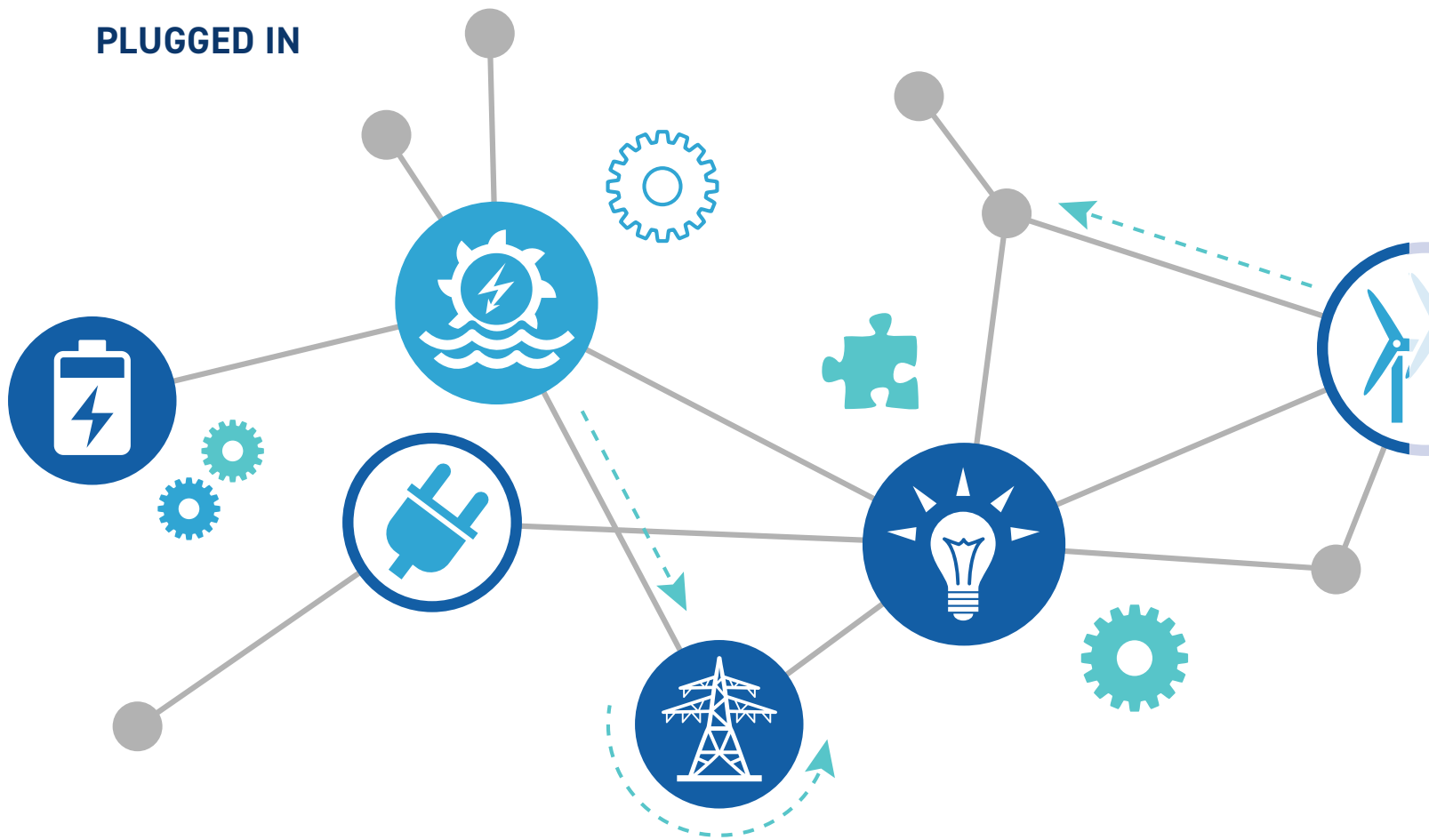
The New Mexico students looked forward to hosting an inspiring conference for students from Arizona, Utah, and Colorado as well as throughout New Mexico. Attendees could learn about STEM opportunities and find support for their educational and career growth. Jonnie’s goal was for attendees to leave feeling excited about where they can go.

While an annual conference brings students and experts from the region together, the campus groups help maintain those bonds throughout the year. Indigenous students aren’t the only ones who face obstacles in education, so



the AISES chapter partners with different groups in underserved communities. Together these groups hope to increase diversity in the STEM field while allowing students to find career success and fulfillment.

“We have our own close-knit AISES community on campus,” Jonnie says. “We help one another, and we work towards our goals together.”



ELECTRICITY 101

Understanding how power works can help you save

By Jennifer Paton

Close your eyes and let your imagination take over for a moment. The room is dark, quiet and peaceful. There's no hum of a freezer, no background music, no shouts from a noisy gaming system. No text alerts interrupt your thoughts.

Open your eyes, but imagine the room is still dark. You have to navigate with a flashlight or candle. Hopefully, you know where to find the spare batteries and matches. Your ice cream has melted, and you have no access to social media.

While the dark scenario has its merits, the truth is, most of us dread the version lacking electricity. While we could live without it, we don't want to.

You don't need to know how electricity works to enjoy it, but understanding some basics can affect your consumption.

The Basics

Electricity is the flow of electrical power or charge. It is considered a secondary energy source because it comes from the conversion of other primary sources of energy.

These primary sources include coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric and oil. Some energy sources—such as sunlight, wind and water—are renewable and can be replenished. Others—such as oil, natural gas and coal—are nonrenewable and cannot be replenished.

The Path of Electricity

In simplest terms, the power you receive originates at a generating plant. Transformers at the plant increase the voltage up to 345,000 volts. High-voltage transmission lines carry the electric energy over long distances.

After substation transformers reduce the

electricity to 7,200 to 14,000 volts, distribution lines carry it to transformers that reduce power levels to 120/240 or 120/208 volts for use in schools, farms, homes and small businesses.

Measuring Electricity

Electricity can be measured three ways.

- Volts (V): A unit of electric force that measures the pressure of electricity. House electricity is 120 volts. Flashlight batteries are 1.5 volts. Car batteries are 12 volts.

- Watts (W): The measure of power an electric current can generate. Most appliances are labeled with the wattages they use. Many have a range of settings, so the actual power consumed depends on the setting used. For example, a fan uses more power at a high speed than it does at a low speed. A kilowatt (kW)

The Costs of Energy

Use these formulas to calculate your energy use and projected costs.

Calculate Energy Consumption:

Power x Time = Energy

Example: Using a 100-watt bulb for 10 hours equals 1 kWh. (100 watts x 10 hours = 1,000 watt-hours or 1 kilowatt-hour.)

Calculate Energy Costs:

Power (kW) x Time (hours of operation) x Price (\$/kWh) = Cost of operation.

Follow these five easy steps to determine how much it may cost to run a specific appliance. You are billed per kWh, or for how much electricity you use in one hour. Examples are based on an average cost of \$0.144 per kWh.

1) Obtain the wattage (watts) from the appliance nameplate. Example: A space heater with a nameplate of 1,500 watts.

Note: If listed as kW, skip to step 3. If amps are specified, multiply amps x voltage to obtain watts.

2) Divide the number of watts by 1,000 to get kW.

Example: $1,500 \text{ W} \div 1,000 = 1.5 \text{ kW}$.

3) To find out how many kWh the appliance uses, multiply the kW times the number of hours* the appliance runs each day.

Example: The heater runs for 10 hours per day = $1.5 \text{ kW} \times 10 \text{ hours} = 15 \text{ kWh}$ per day.

**If the appliance operates for less than one full hour, divide the number of minutes by 60. Example: a hair dryer is used five minutes daily, or $5 \div 60 = 0.083$ hours per day. A 1,250-watt hair dryer = $1.25 \text{ kW} \times 0.083 \text{ hours per day} = 0.1 \text{ kWh per day}$.*

4) To calculate the daily operating cost, multiply the kWh of the appliance by the average cost per kWh.

Example: Space heater daily cost = $15 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.144 = \2.16 per day.

5) To calculate the monthly operating cost, multiply the daily cost by the number of days the appliance is used during the month.

Example: If you run the 1,500-watt space heater 10 hours a day, 30 days a month = $15 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.144 \times 30 = \64.80 .

ADOBE STOCK IMAGES BY J-MEL AND BORIS

is equivalent to 1,000 watts. A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a measurement of energy consumption. It is the amount of power used over time and the basis for how electric bills are calculated.

- Amperes (amp): The measure of how much electricity moves through a conductor. Amperes equal watts divided by volts. A typical household electrical outlet is 15 amps.

See above to learn how to calculate your energy use and projected costs.

Phantom Power

According to the Energy Information Agency, the typical U.S. household uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home contains 10 or more internet-connected devices.

There are many small ways to save energy, such as turning off the lights, ceiling fan or TV when you leave the room. A more encompassing way to save energy is to reduce phantom power.

Even when turned off, most electronics consume a small amount of electricity if they are still plugged in. Chargers for

mobile devices consume electricity if they are plugged in, even when not actively charging the device.

This wasted energy, called phantom load, accounts for as much as 10% of a home's total electric use.

Save money by unplugging your electronics when you are done using them. Using a power strip can help you unplug multiple devices at once. Smart power strips automatically cut off phantom loads.

Another way to combat phantom power is with the use of smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control items through a smartphone app.

With smart plugs, you can manage lighting, home office equipment and video game consoles.

Large Appliance Use

The combined use of large appliances such as dishwashers, dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Small steps will help save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes

before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Lightbulbs

You can't talk about saving energy without considering lightbulbs.

Switching from incandescent bulbs to LED smart bulbs can help save energy and money over the long run, despite a higher initial cost. LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels, lasting 15 to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

As we switch to more-efficient bulbs, we must change how we shop for them.

In the past, we selected lightbulbs based on wattage. But wattage indicates how much power is used rather than the bulb's brightness.

The term to learn is lumens. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Use lumens to compare the brightness of any bulb.

Once you know the brightness you need, you can shop wisely and get the most for your money.

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I guess I was a little bored. For the past hour, I'd been on the phone with Daniele, the head of my office in Italy, reviewing our latest purchases of Italian gold, Murano glass and Italian-made shoes and handbags.

"Daniele," I said, "What is the hottest jewelry in Italy right now?"

His reply? Woven gold bracelets studded with gems. He texted me some photos and I knew immediately that this was jewelry that Raffinato just had to have.

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Enjoy Locally Sourced Meals

Spring has sprung! The surging warmth around us calls us to renew our exploration of the great Land of Enchantment. The recipes included this month are simple to prepare, allowing us to plan family adventures far and near.

With food prices in a constant state of fluctuation, New Mexican ranchers depend on local customers to survive. Carrizozo-sourced, humanely raised, pasture-grain fed Wilson Beef is featured this month, as are local, free-range eggs.

Marinating beef chuck roast overnight tenderizes the meat and adds a savory flavor. Using a slow cooker provides cooks with nearly effortless meal preparation. Our browned pear sweet Frittata is a welcome treat for Easter, Passover or other special mornings. Enjoy great meals and the great outdoors.

Marinated Peppered Chuck Roast with Wedged Vegetables

Overnight:

- ½ cup orange juice
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 1½ teaspoons coarse black pepper
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom
- 2-3 pounds beef chuck roast, slightly thawed

Next morning:

- Vegetables cut in wedges:
- 3 red potatoes
 - 2 onions
 - 1 bell pepper, cored and seeded

Combine juice, soy sauce, pepper, ginger and cardamom until blended. In an airtight container, place cut-to-fit chuck roast. Add marinade. Seal the container, and shake or stir until all surfaces of the roast are saturated with marinade. Refrigerate overnight.

The next morning, spray a slow cooker with olive oil cooking spray. Prepare vegetables, and spread part of one onion on the bottom of the crock. In the meat container, drizzle marinade on chuck roast to recoat surfaces. Discard the remainder of the marinade. Layer sections of marinated chuck roast and onion, finishing with onion. Add potatoes and bell pepper.

Cover and cook on low heat until meat is browned and potatoes are soft, approximately 4-6 hours.

Collect cooking juices and serve roast au jus.



Browned Pear Sweet Frittata

- 2 firm pears, cored and cubed
 - 2 tablespoons butter
 - ¼ cup flour
 - 1 teaspoon ground ginger
 - ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 - 2 tablespoons sugar
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - 6 eggs
 - ½ cup milk
 - 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla
- For icing:**
- 4 ounces cream cheese
 - ½ cup powdered sugar
 - ¼ to ½ cup milk

Heat oven to 375 F.

In a 9-inch ovenproof skillet, melt butter and brown pears until golden and slightly soft. Remove the skillet from heat.

In a small bowl, combine flour, ginger, nutmeg, sugar and salt. In another bowl, whisk together eggs, milk and vanilla until incorporated. Whisk together the contents of both bowls until combined.

Pour egg mixture over pears in skillet. Bake for approximately 20-25 minutes or until frittata is set when the skillet is gently shaken. Remove from oven and cool for 10 minutes.

To make the icing, mix cream cheese until soft. Mix in powdered sugar until blended. Add enough milk to allow the icing to drizzle. Drizzle icing on the slightly cooled frittata. Serve warm. Leftovers may be refrigerated in an airtight container for up to one week.



Sue Hutchison was born and raised a block from the freeway in Southern California. She had an early start with industrial, large-scale cooking before age 20. She's always been both a beach bum and at home in the kitchen, where she enjoys making new creations.

UNIDENTIFIED FOOD INVESTIGATORS

On the road to a number of famed New Mexican adventures sits one of its own. Tinnie Silver Dollar Restaurant and Mercantile on Highway 70 in Tinnie stands alone and proud as a historic New Mexican landmark.

Eight-year owners Mike and Brenda Hurst are restaurateurs as well as ranchers. Their Star H cattle ranch is in the Oro Grande area.

The restaurant's history is replete with intrigue. Originally named Analla, the settlement has had a working post office since 1903. It was renamed Tinnie in 1909 for an owner's blonde daughter. Throughout the restaurant are works of art as well as furniture with history. The working full bar was brought in from Chicago, where it was reportedly once owned by gangster Al Capone.

Investigators sampled a few of Tinnie Silver Dollar's best sellers and found them to be delicious and well worth the stop. Investigators tried the baked brie with crostini and Tinnie's chicken fried steak made from select sirloin steak. They said it was the best and most tender chicken fried steak they'd ever tasted.

"We use ranch-to-table homegrown beef from the Star H Ranch, and I can be creative when I know my product is of such high quality," New Mexico- and Texas-trained Chef Daniel Romero says.

Gail's Super Deluxe Hondo salad—starring feta, cranberries, candied pecans, grilled

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: Tinnie's co-owner, Brenda Hurst. Tinnie's baked brie. The peanut butter cheesecake is a favorite.

chicken and field greens—is also a best-seller, according to Hurst. Chef Romero purposely lists his desserts in loose categories to enable him to use the freshest ingredients. His peanut butter cheesecake was quickly devoured by investigators, leaving only a delicious memory.

The location is still in operation after 110 years, with a beautiful boutique full of unique wares and elegant steakhouse and casitas. The Silver Dollar is the perfect venue for weddings, holiday parties or any other special gatherings.

Tinnie's Silver Dollar is at 28842 Hwy. 70 in Tinnie. It is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, visit TinnieSilverDollar.com or call 575-653-4425.

Beware: The UFI team may strike near you! Watch for the next enchantment installment to highlight New Mexico's finest local eateries. Feel free to recommend spots for the team to investigate.



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THE MARKET PLACE

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DATIL, COYOTE TRAIL, BLUEBIRD ROAD AND SUGARLOAF TRAIL, SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN SUBDIVISION. (SOLD, Lots 241, 268, 269, 273, 270). Choice of three remaining lots just over five acres each. \$14,500. per lot. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

DATIL, 0000 CRISWELL ROAD, FOREST ROAD 6A (East of Criswell Road, 40 acres) \$24,000. and **0000 RED FEATHER TANK ROAD** (off Criswell Road, property east of Red Feather Tank Road, 41.20 acres) \$25,800. Vacant land with hunting, hiking and off grid living potential. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

TUCUMCARI, 1120 S. SARATOGA, just over one acre along US 54 (Mountain Road). \$20,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

SANTA ROSA, 0000 WILL ROGERS DRIVE, PRICE REDUCED! 26 acres close to I-40 and old Route 66. Commercial potential. \$399,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

SAN MARCIAL, 0000 WINCHESTER ROAD, TRACT 27A, WILLOW SPRINGS RANCH SUBDIVISION. PRICE REDUCED! 432 acres in the foothills of the Chupadera Mountains. Close to I-25. \$303,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

SUMNER LAKE, 225 INDIAN PLACE, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on 20 acres with incredible view of Pecos River Valley. Custom built. \$325,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

DATIL, 31 OLD HIGHWAY 60, 2-bedroom, 1-bath home on 1/2 acre. Potential for rental/hunting cabin. \$47,800. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

MILAGRO, 0000 PECOS SPUR, PORTRILLO CREEK RANCH SUBDIVISION, 164 acres. Wide open space for livestock and/or home site. Close to I-40. \$94,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

SANTA ROSA, 1070 BAR Y ROAD, HOLLYWOOD RANCH SUBDIVISION, PRICE REDUCED! Three parcels (18, 19, 20) totaling just over 41 acres. Perimeter fencing and road. Water and electricity, \$187,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

CONCHAS, 631 CONCHAS DRIVE, MOTIVATED SELLER, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with detached garage and 30 x 40 boat storage. All electric. \$198,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING IN DEMING? Call Heather Wood at Lamplight Realty, LLC 575-936-4100 or cell 575-494-6331, e-mail heather@lamplightrealty.com or visit the website at www.lamplightrealty.com

GLADSTONE, 4386 SPRINGER HIGHWAY (US 56-412), 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with 36 x 45 barn and two open livestock sheds/lean-tos. Two wells (one is solar). \$270,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

CIMARRON COMPOUND, 636 E. 9TH STREET, 1,800 sq. ft. home, 2,000 sq. ft. shop and 1,040 sq. ft. office building/shop frontage. Versatile mixed use property facing HWY 64 in Cimarron. Shop was purposely built for working on semi-trucks. \$295,000. MLS 101154. O'Neill Land, LLC, 575-376-2341, Timothy O'Neill, broker, NMREL 15625, 575-447-2340. www.swranches.com

SAN ANTONIO, 1496 STATE ROAD 1, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with detached garage on just over 11 irrigated acres, well and community water. \$305,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

TUCUMCARI, 10445 STATE ROAD 104, 10.53 acres (total of two tracts) one with septic. Close to electricity and water. \$75,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

FOUR - 20 ACRE PARCELS SOUTH OF DOG CANYON ROAD ON SOUTHLAND ROAD. \$1,200. per acre. Owner will carry with 10% down. Contact Steven at 602-432-4141 for more information.

NEWKIRK, 0000 OLD CABIN ROAD, TRACT 9, BULL CANYON RANCHES DEVELOPMENT, 140 acres with scenic views of the Llano Estacado escarpment and surrounding mesalands. \$127,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

CURRY, ROOSEVELT, QUAY, HARDING, UNION, LEA AND CHAVES COUNTIES. We want your farm and ranch listings. Broker has a lifetime of experience working on a family farm in New Mexico and has been a family farm owner and operator since 1988. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

LOOKING FOR ANGEL INVESTORS, e-mail 25express505@gmail.com for more information.

2013 SCHULTZ MANUFACTURED HOME, on permanent foundation, front and back porches, two Coast To Coast buildings with shop, all on 1.5 acres off paved road, 20 miles east of Gallup. Great investment opportunity. Community water, separate septic, meter poles. \$279,900., incentive for cash buyers. Call 505-240-4467, serious inquiries only.

NINE LOTS IN THE JEMEZ RED ROCKS. Terrific location for alternative building or off grid living with remarkable solar possibilities. Nine lots with a total of 95.37 acres. Lot 2 - 10.050 acres, \$79,000. Lot 11 - 10.12 acres, \$45,000. Lot 12 - 10.20 acres, \$55,000. Lot 13 - 10.01 acres, \$55,000. Lot 14 - 10.08 acres, \$75,000. Lot 15 - 10.03 acres, \$70,000. Lot 16 - 10.02 acres, \$60,000. Lot 17 - 10.33 acres, \$60,000. Lot 23 - 14.53 acres, \$95,000. Call Misty Stacy with Jemez Homes and Land at 505-269-4538 for more information.

TWO NICE SIZED LOTS JUST NORTH OF JEMEZ SPRINGS. Are you looking for a spot to build your mountain getaway? One of these lots may be the one! Both have electricity nearby and access to Jemez Springs Domestic Water. Short commute to Los Alamos and Rio Rancho. 4.91 acres in the Eagle Heights Subdivision, \$85,550. 4.12 acres in the Eagle Heights North Subdivision, \$104,000. Call Misty Stacy with Jemez Homes and Land at 505-269-4538 for more information.

Vehicles

VEHICLES FOR SALE! 2003 Jeep Liberty, \$6,000., 2007 Chevy Truck, extended cab, 4 x 4, \$5,000., 1996 Blazer, \$4,000., 2003 Saturn VUE, \$3,000. All in good working order, low mileage and clean titles. Call John at 505-864-3248 or e-mail jfredericks77@gmail.com for detailed pictures and more information.

2017 IDLETIME, MODEL 221FB, 21' tandem, new tires in 2022. Trailer camping ready. \$13,500. Located in Fort Sumner. Text 575-512-9345 to start information and picture sharing.



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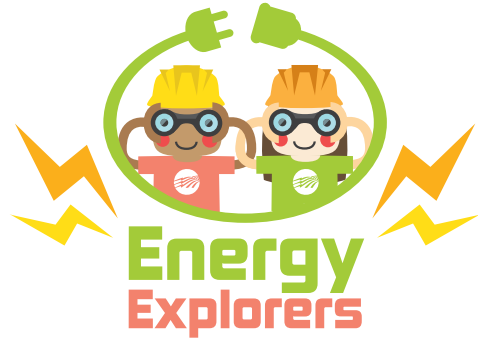
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SPRING EFFICIENCY WORD SCRAMBLE

Did you know there are several ways you can save energy during spring months?

Read the efficiency tips below and unscramble the bolded letters to reveal how you and your family can save energy during springtime.

Don't forget to check your work in the answer key below!



1. Sealing air leaks around doors and **diwwson** saves energy and keeps your home comfortable.

2. LED **hlgist** typically use 75% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs.

3. Unplug devices and electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone **scragher**.

4. Planting shade **esrte** around your home can block unwanted heat from the sun.

5. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room to save **yengre**.

Answer key: 1) windows 2) lights 3) chargers 4) trees 5) energy



The Hoover Dam is made of more than 3 million cubic yards of concrete. PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Hydro History

Hydropower tells a complicated tale of the nation's energy history

By Paul Wesslund

Electricity generated from hydropower tells an interesting story about today's energy trends that is deeper than just water flowing over the dam.

It's a story about a renewable resource that once generated nearly a third of the nation's electricity, a share that

has declined dramatically throughout the decades with the rise of nuclear power, natural gas, and wind and solar generation.

More recently, it's a story about how weather and climate can affect energy supplies, as an extended drought—especially in the southwestern United States—has reduced the amount of water available to generate power.

It's also a story about diversity in fuel sources. Although hydropower is less a part of our national energy picture than it was in 1950, when it produced 30% of the United States' electricity, it's still a useful part of today's energy mix. And in some places, it's one of the most important parts of a strong regional economy.

Hydro-Based Regional Economies

Hydropower converts falling water into energy. That could come in the form of a water wheel turning in a flowing river at an old grain mill, or a giant dam built on the Columbia River for flood control and to channel the water through a large turbine that generates electricity.

In the 1930s, dams went up across the Tennessee River Valley and in western states. Today, hydropower generates about 6% of the nation's electricity. That percentage hides its local importance. All but two states—Delaware and Mississippi—receive at least some of their electricity from hydropower.

While flowing water might seem to be an endless energy source, hydropower has a complicated relationship with the environment.

Some question hydro's claims as a provider of clean energy because larger projects involve building a huge dam that floods a river valley to create a reservoir. But the Environmental Protection Agency classifies hydro as a renewable resource, and U.S. Department of Energy figures list hydroelectricity as the source of 31% of the nation's renewable electricity.

Recent weather patterns also seem

to be redefining what renewable energy means. Nationwide, hydroelectric generation fell 9% during 2021 because of drought conditions.

Cost-Effective, Renewable Energy

Hydro is one of the cheapest forms of energy, especially after the initial investment. Its operation does not produce greenhouse gases. Importantly, utility grid operators like its flexibility as a source of electricity. It can be turned on and off relatively easily, especially compared with sources such as coal, nuclear, solar and wind.

Those benefits have raised interest in hydro projects. Around \$8 billion has been invested nationwide during the past 15 years to add enough capacity to power 1 million homes.

While many hydro dams have been around for a long time and are ready to be retired, new projects are planned, including modernizing older hydro facilities. The DOE reports proposed projects that could generate enough electricity to power yet another 1 million homes.

In addition to upgrading existing sites, DOE reports at least 200 dams that don't generate hydroelectricity could have generators added. Out of about 90,000 dams in the United States, only about 2,200 generate electric power.

Those efforts will get a boost from the federal infrastructure law passed in 2021. That measure includes more than \$2 billion in hydropower incentives for river restoration and dam rehabilitation.

Hydropower doesn't always get the attention of flashier advancements such as wind and solar technologies. But it dates back more than 2,000 years, when the Greeks used it to turn wheels that ground wheat into flour.

Only the future will tell the role hydro will play in the American energy grids, but its time-tested techniques and green energy benefits promise it will still be providing some level of power 2,000 years from now.

Enchanted Journeys

April 15

World Art Day Celebrations in Carrizozo

Events include live music presented by Carrizozo Music Inc, a poetry reading, a fashion exhibit and a sculpture unveiling.

Visit Carrizozo's historic arts district on 12th Street to experience this event.

For event details, go to:
www.worldartdaycarrizozo.com



Impacting the Grid

Electric vehicles play a major role in increased electrification

By Katherine Loving

Last year saw a record increase in electric vehicle sales, and experts are predicting that by 2035, many major vehicle manufacturers will only produce electric models.

A 2021 study by the Department of Energy showed increased electrification—replacement of direct fossil fuel use with electricity—would account for a 38% increase in electricity demand by 2050, and EVs will play a major role in this increased electrification.

The need for more electricity will have a major impact on the nation's grid, which means power supply and grid infrastructure must be carefully planned to accommodate the increased need for electricity.

New Challenges

EV charging presents new challenges in maintaining the electric grid.

Fully charging an EV battery requires the same amount of electricity needed to power a home during peak energy use times. However, EV charging is a concentrated pull of energy over an extended period, which can add stress to the local power grid by increasing the amount of electricity a utility has to provide.

A neighborhood transformer also needs adequate capacity to handle the increased load. EV charging can shorten the lifespan of transformers by straining and overloading their capacity if they are not matched to a neighborhood's energy needs.

Electric utilities are identifying ways to manage this new pattern of electricity use, though exact strategies will vary based on

each utility's unique needs.

Analyzing energy load patterns or identifying where and when the local grid has spikes in demand can provide electric utilities with data on where to place higher-capacity transformers. This can also provide a picture of overall energy use and patterns to help forecast energy consumption for the future.

Planning system maintenance and upgrades are also part of that long-range forecasting. However, this has been recently complicated by supply-chain issues with transformers, with wait times that are upward of one year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DCBEL

Playing Your Part

EV owners can play a role in reducing energy costs and system stress associated with charging. Check with your local electric co-op to see if they offer an EV charging rate.

Typically, an EV rate incentivizes charging during the night, when electricity demand and wholesale energy rates are lower. Charging at night is also a great way to ease demand in your neighborhood, even without a special EV rate.

Another potential change on the horizon is a new energy peak time.

EV drivers that plug-in to charge as soon as they return home from work would create even more of an electrical

demand during this busy time of day. However, if EV drivers use a timer to schedule charging at night, the demand could be spread over a longer period to reduce stress on the grid. This would be especially beneficial for neighborhoods with multiple EV drivers.

EVs are only expected to increase in number. Electric co-ops and EV owners have roles to play in accommodating increased demand.

If you own an EV, let your electric co-op know so they can better plan energy demand for you and your neighbors.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORD

youth art

May Topic:
Silver Star Service Banner Day is May 1. Draw a thank-you for those who received the Silver Star.

June Topic:
June 1 is National Dinosaur Day. Draw your favorite dinosaur!

Send Your Drawing
 By mail: Youth Editor
 614 Don Gaspar Ave.
 Santa Fe, NM 87505
 By email:
 tcondit@nmelectric.coop

Deadline: Submit by the ninth, one month prior to publication.

Hooray!
 Winners receive a \$15 gift card.

Have a Youth Art Topic?
 Email or mail to the addresses above, or call 505-982-4671.

5 items to include on the back of your drawing, otherwise YOU ARE DISQUALIFIED:

1. Name
2. Age
3. Mailing Address
4. Phone Number
5. Electric Co-op

DON'T FORGET THESE ITEMS!

Artwork accepted up to age 13.

Spending time with our pets! Congratulations to the Winners!

Desarae Dodson • Age 10
Farmers' Electric Cooperative



Adelina Martinez • Age 7
Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative



Eisley Penner • Age 9
Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative



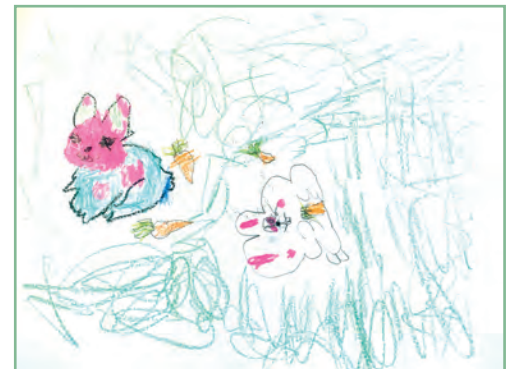
Mateo Morales • Age 9
Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative



Sophie Wilbur • Age 10
Socorro Electric Cooperative



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Knife Specifications:

- 12" overall length. 7" Damascus full-tang blade
- Includes genuine leather sheath

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IS AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) RIGHT FOR YOU?

As EVs become more accessible, you may be considering adding an electric vehicle to save money on fuel and maintenance while reducing emissions. To save even more, check for federal and state incentives and ask your local electric utility when it's cheapest to charge.

+ IS YOUR DAILY COMMUTE UNDER 330 MILES?

Most of today's electric vehicles have a driving range-per-charge between 50 to 330 miles. If your daily commute is under 250 miles per day, there is likely an EV model that will fit your needs.

+ DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE MORE THAN ONE CAR?

If you live in a household with more than one car, an EV likely represents a big opportunity for your family to use an EV for commuting. Use your current gas-powered vehicle when it is not convenient to use an EV.

+ DO YOU HAVE OFF-STREET PARKING AT YOUR HOME?

All plug-in electric vehicles require charging. Charging can be done with a standard 120V outlet or you can have a 240V charger installed in your garage or driveway.

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