



The Voice of New Mexico's  
Rural Electric Cooperatives

# enchantment

**FARMERS' ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE**

SEPTEMBER 2022

## Dr. Robert J. Sawl

Mountainair's beloved  
doctor brought life  
to the community for  
many decades

Page 14

Robert was known for his kindness,  
helping patients with bills and youth with  
college expenses. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE  
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September  
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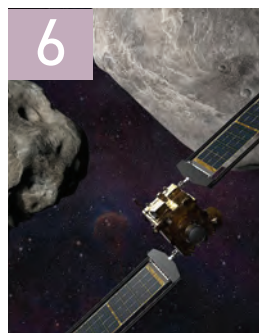
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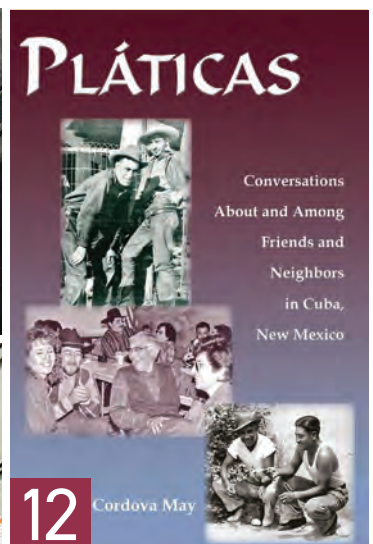
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**Congratulations** to Justin and Natalia Junedoza who took their July 2022 edition of *enchantment* to the beach in Block Island, Rhode Island while visiting friends. on a recent vacation.

**Continental Divide members Justin and Natalia Junedoza win \$20!**



## *enchantment*

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## view from enchantment

By Keven J. Groenewold, CEO  
New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association



# IRA Brings New Opportunity for Co-ops

In early August Congress passed landmark legislation and sent it to President Joe Biden. It is called the Inflation Reduction Act. The IRA contains several policy provisions of interest to electric cooperatives, including two of our top legislative priorities.

Direct pay tax incentives allow electric cooperatives—for the first time—to have direct access to energy tax credits that previously have been available only to for-profit companies. These tax credits apply to carbon capture, nuclear, energy storage and traditional renewables.

This is remarkable. While maintaining electric cooperatives' tax-exempt status, we now have access to the benefits of energy tax incentives.

A new voluntary \$9.7 billion grant and loan program is designed specifically for electric cooperatives that buy or build new clean energy systems. The wide range of eligible projects—including carbon capture, renewable energy, storage, nuclear, and generation and transmission efficiency improvements—allows each cooperative to determine its path based on its unique circumstances.

Co-ops will be able to receive an award for as much as 25% of their project cost, with a maximum amount of \$970 million for any one entity.

These provisions provide significantly increased capabilities for electric cooperatives as they invest in their systems. The bill includes no new mandates on electric cooperatives.

### Direct Pay Tax Incentives

When enacted, electric cooperatives will have tax parity with our industry counterparts when we deploy new energy technologies.

The direct payment will be available for all existing technologies for which clean energy tax credits are currently available and creates a direct payment for a new slate of technologies. The bill proposes a \$9.7 billion grant and loan program designed specifically for electric cooperatives that

purchase or build new clean energy systems.

This bill creates a direct payment option for electric cooperatives, which have not been able to take advantage of the existing suite of tax credits available for deployment of clean energy technologies. In addition to adding the direct payment option, this bill makes significant reforms and additions to those credits.

The bill contains investment tax credits and production tax credits for solar, wind, carbon capture, nuclear, manufacturing of clean energy components and other clean energy technologies. These credits are built around a “base credit” system. To realize the full credit amount under this system, an eligible entity must meet prevailing wage, apprenticeship and domestic content requirements. The bill provides additional bonuses for investment in low-income and marginalized communities.

### USDA Clean Energy Financing Program

The bill creates a financial assistance program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture specifically for electric cooperatives to buy or build new clean energy systems. Funds could be disbursed as grants, loans, loan guarantees or loan modifications. Funding would be available until 2031. Eligible uses include renewable energy, storage, carbon capture, nuclear, generation and transmission system efficiency improvements, and other projects that will achieve the greatest reduction in greenhouse gases and otherwise aid disadvantaged rural communities.

Under the program, co-ops would be able to receive an award for as much as 25% of a project cost, with a maximum for any one entity of \$970 million in financial assistance. Projects would need to comply with prevailing wage labor requirements.

As you can see, co-ops have been hard at work representing your interests in Washington, D.C. We are now reaping the fruits of our labor. 🍷



In this artist's conceptualization, NASA's DART mission approaching the near-Earth asteroid Didymos and its moon Dimorphos. PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

## Rising in the Fall Sky

After several months earlier this year with few—if any—bright planets visible in our evening sky, we are now again able to view several of our planetary neighbors in the hours before midnight.

Saturn is already well up in the eastern sky as darkness falls, and is highest above the horizon two to three hours after the end of dusk.

Jupiter, meanwhile, is at “opposition”—that is, directly opposite the sun in the sky—on September 26, and accordingly rises around sunset and remains visible in the sky throughout the entire night.

Mars also becomes an evening planet again this month. It rises in the east one to two hours before midnight and thereafter remains in

the eastern sky for the rest of the night. The red planet is at its own opposition, and will also be closest to Earth, in late November and early December. Between now and then, it will grow brighter and larger in our skies.

This month, we say goodbye to Venus, which has been a brilliant beacon in our morning sky since early this year. At the beginning of September, Venus can still be seen low in the dawn, but it disappears into twilight by the month's end.

Toward the end of the year, Venus will start to appear low in the dusk after sunset and will shine brilliantly in our evening sky for the first several months of 2023.

NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test mission, launched last November, is now arriving at its

destination: a quarter-mile-wide near-Earth asteroid known as Didymos, which is accompanied by a smaller moon named Dimorphos.

Either late this month or early next month, DART is expected to crash directly into Dimorphos, with any resulting orbital changes or other effects being measurements of how effective such an “impact” strategy can be in addressing threats from possible future Earth-threatening asteroids.

Didymos itself, incidentally, will be traveling late this month through the constellation of Fornax—low in our southern sky—around the midnight hours. A large backyard telescope will be necessary to detect it. 📷



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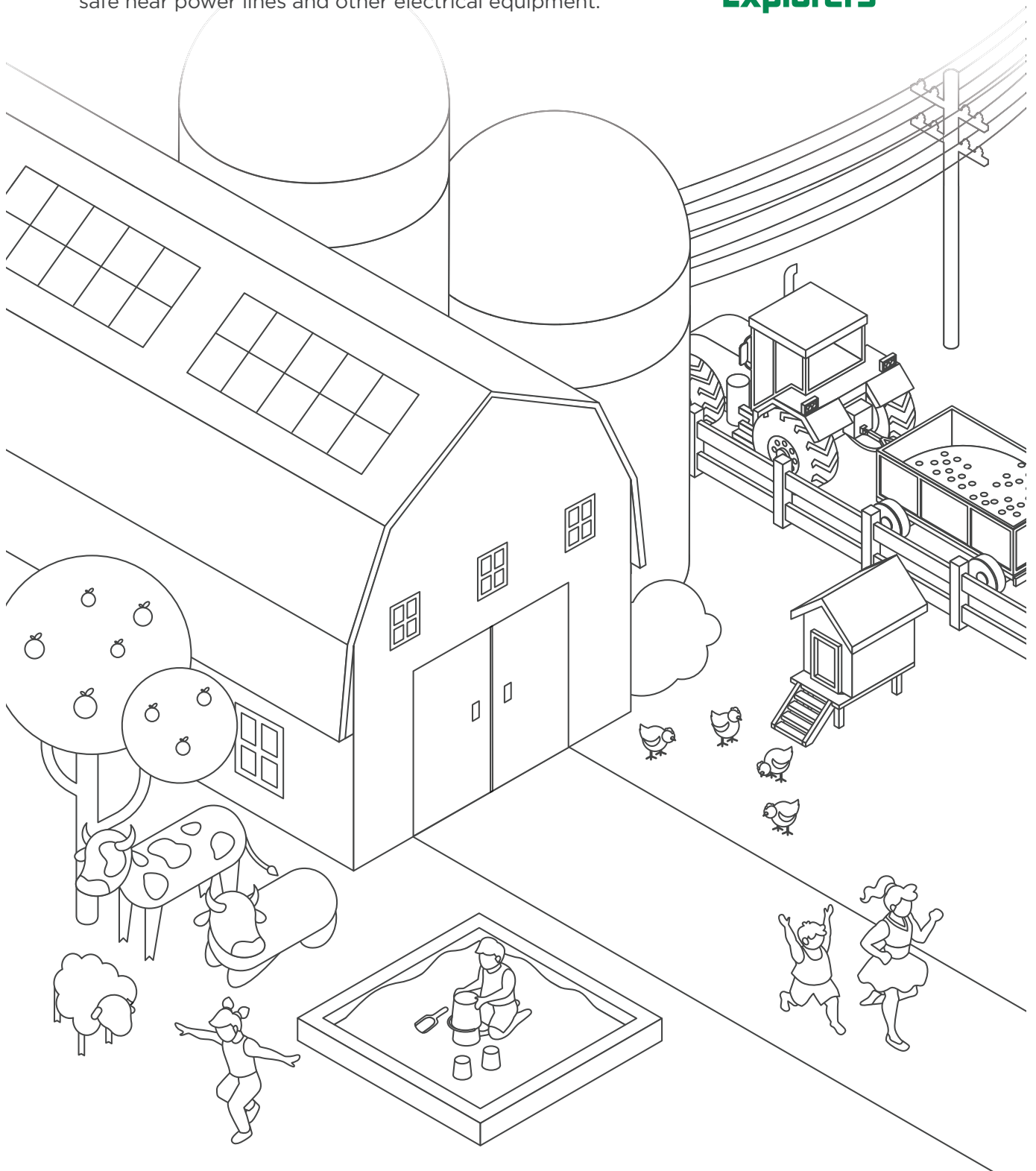
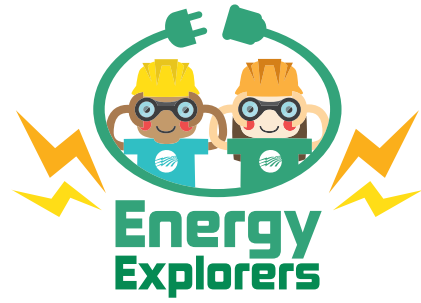
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Cruise Guide

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# National Farm Safety and Health Week

Farm Safety and Health Week is September 18-24!  
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# Easy Ways to Help a Neighbor Save Energy

**Q: How can I help others improve their energy savings at home?**

**A:** Helping people feels good. Supporting community is sewn into the fabric of your electric co-op, which is guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles that put the needs of members first.

On National Good Neighbor Day, which is September 28—or any day this month—join in the cooperative spirit and help your neighbors, friends and family save at home with these do-it-yourself energy-saving tips.

Tips range in physicality and cost, providing options based on your ability.

## Change Lightbulbs

Prioritize changing lights that are used the most, such as incandescent porch lights left on all night. LEDs use about 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Some neighbors can't climb step stools or ladders, so help them out if you are able. Be sure to check for power lines when using ladders outside.

## Swap the Filter

Furnace filters should be checked regularly and replaced when they are dirty. Simply writing down the dimensions of the furnace

filter can help your neighbor, who can pick up a pack of new ones in the store or order online.

If you find a really dirty furnace filter, don't remove it until you have a replacement. Operating your system without a filter allows dirt and dust in the system to go directly to the heating and cooling components, which can damage the system and necessitate costly repairs.

## Open the Dampers

Register dampers allow heated and cooled air to properly circulate throughout the home. If you have a central air heating or cooling system, dampers should be left open. The idea that closing registers saves energy is a common misconception. If furniture is on top of dampers, move it to a new permanent spot so it does not block air flow.

## Adjust the Water Heater

Check the water heater and set it for 120 degrees. Use a kitchen thermometer to test the water temperature. At the faucet nearest the water heater, turn only the hot water on and wait until it gets hot. Let the hot water run into a glass, and place a kitchen thermometer in it. Wait until it registers the highest temperature. If the water heater is set too high,



**Offer to clean up leaves and debris around your neighbor's air conditioner or heat pump. This will keep the system running efficiently.** PHOTO BY MARK GILLILAND/PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES

you can save energy by lowering the setting.

## Keep Outdoor Units Clear


Clean brush and debris from around the air conditioner or heat pump. If leaves or brush pile up around the outdoor unit of a heat pump or air-conditioning system, it can reduce the airflow, making the system work harder than it should. That uses more energy and can reduce the life of the unit.

## Remove the Window AC

By removing the unit before wintertime, the window can close properly. This prevents heat from escaping and

wasting energy. It also keeps the room more comfortable. Window AC units are heavy and awkward. This project is best done with a buddy. Get that person to commit to helping put the unit back next spring.

## Share Energy-Saving Programs

Information is a great way to help, and it's free. Look into programs your utility offers and share that with your neighbor. Don't forget to check the U.S. Department of Energy for federal tax credits for upgrades. Your state department of energy also may have energy-saving programs. 



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 director of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy-efficiency company.

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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.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a scooter that's designed with seniors in mind. They created Electronic Stability Control (ESC) that makes it virtually impossible to tip over. If you try to turn too quickly, the scooter automatically slows down to prevent it from tipping over. The battery provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the *So Lite™ Scooter* is the most portable scooter ever—but it can hold up to 275 pounds—yet weighs only 40.8 pounds without the battery!



## Why a So Lite™ Scooter is better:

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What's more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat, trunk or even on an airplane. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. Best of all, it's designed with your safety in mind, from the newest technology and superior craftsmanship. Why spend another day letting your lack of mobility ruin your quality of life? Call now and find out how you can get a *So Lite™ Scooter* of your very own.



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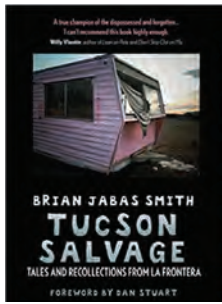
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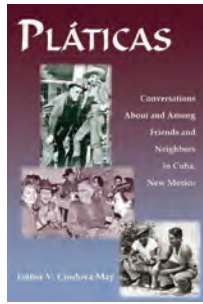
**Tucson Salvage: Tales and Recollections from La Frontera**

To be born and raised in Tucson—or any place that is at

once beautiful and tragic—is a specific cross to bear. Author Brian Jabas Smith found he could only maintain this cross by succumbing wholly to it.

With humanity, compassion and tender detail, this collection of stories based on Brian’s Tucson Daily column of the same name casts the soft light of an Arizona sunset onto the overlooked and dispossessed living in one of the Southwest’s most confounding locales.

**By Brian Jabas Smith**  
Eyewear Publishing



**Pláticas: Conversations About and Among Friends and Neighbors in Cuba, New Mexico**

Accomplished author Esther V. Cordova May holds a master’s in

folklore from the University of California, Berkeley. She has spent the better part of her life researching verbal accounts of pre-World War II life in her beloved hometown of Cuba, New Mexico.

Esther says “Pláticas” was written with urgency to convey the most precious conversations among her neighbors and friends before all memory of these treasures is lost. This book is more than an ode—it’s an emotional release of love, community, enduring joy and grief.

**By Esther V. Cordova May**  
Sunstone Press; Illustrated edition  
amazon.com



**Dharma Bums**

With only one lifetime to work with, what fighting chance do any of us have at reading both the pantheon of classics and the ceaseless onslaught of fabulous, important and

attractive books published each year?

If you were lucky—and I was not—you may have at least bagged some early classics in high school or college. Whatever the case, everyone gets a pass for blind spots on their bookshelf. Americans read an average of only 12 books a year after all.

Still, I could not take even one more conversation in which I nodded along, pretending to have read “Dharma Bums,” Jack Kerouac’s 1958 follow-up to “On the Road.”

If you’ve read it, you already know the wisdom, punch and brightness it beholds. If you haven’t, this may be your sign to finally extend your thumb out to hitch a ride on the vivid and wild ride through America in search of truth. I’m so glad I did.

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ADOBE STOCK PHOTO  
BY MOTIZOVA

# Bad to the Bone

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The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

**But we don't stop there.** While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

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*"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."*

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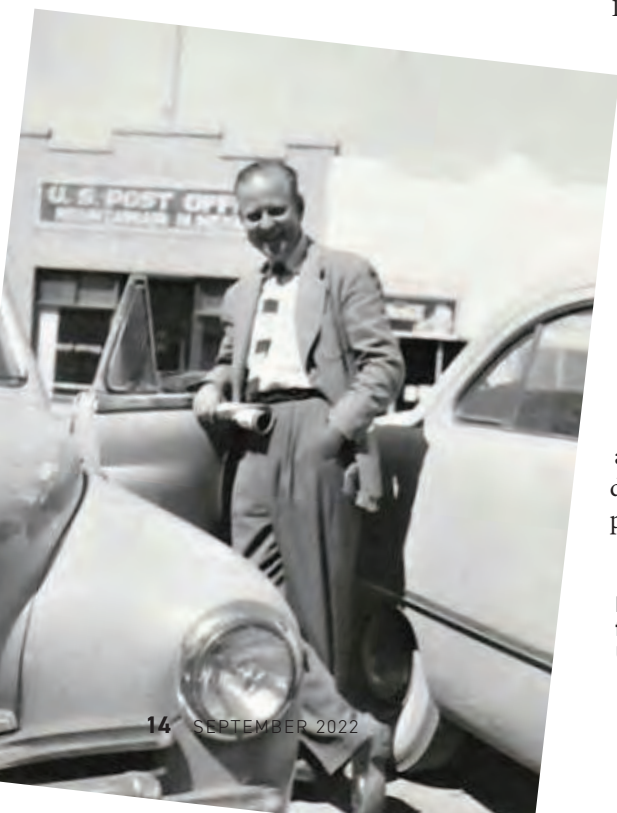
Rating of **A+**



# Robert J. Saul

Mountainair's beloved doctor brought life to the community for many decades

By Dixie Boyle



For close to half a century, Robert J. Saul took care of the medical needs of the people of Mountainair and Torrance County. He not only earned the love and respect of the community he came to serve, but was known throughout the area for his kindness and sincere interest in the needs of his patients.

Robert moved to Mountainair in 1949 at the age of 32. He remained the town doctor until his death in 1994.

"I just decided spur of the moment to go to New Mexico," Robert said in a 1983 interview conducted by Jake Spidle from the University of New Mexico.

"Nobody knew I was coming. When I came to Albuquerque, I stayed there a day or so to make up my mind whether I really wanted to do this or not. When I decided to come to Mountainair, I didn't know where it was and I didn't have a car. So, I took the train to Mountainair."

Robert chose Mountainair as his new home to help his friend Sidney Seid with his medical practice. Within a year of Robert's arrival, Sidney died of a heart attack. Robert took over the practice and developed a special relationship with the people of Torrance County.

The doctor grew up in Reading,

**Robert Saul served as doctor in Mountainair for decades.** PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO LIBRARY

Pennsylvania, and earned his medical degree at Gettysburg and Jefferson Medical Colleges. Because Robert received his degree during World War II and there was a need for doctors, his class was the first to be accelerated during the war years. Rather than graduating in June, students graduated in March.

Robert entered the U.S. Army in February 1944 and served with the 75th Infantry Division. Later, he was stationed at Bruns General Hospital in Santa Fe, where he assisted in the officer's ward with men who had been Japanese prisoners of war.

While working in Santa Fe, Robert met Sidney, and the two became good friends.

Robert's early practice in New Mexico consisted of an endless stream of house calls. He was constantly on the road, traveling to Carrizozo, Encino and Moriarty, as well as to the mountain communities in the foothills of the Manzano Mountains.

Once in a community, Robert stayed to see the patient's recovery through, or when the condition took the patient's life.

"The only way you could get an ambulance was to send somebody back for it," he said. "The mortuary had the ambulance service."

Robert had many patients in the mountain villages of Punta de Agua, Manzano, Abo, Torreon and Tajiague.



Robert was known for his kindness, helping patients with bills and youth with college expenses.



**TOP:** In 1993, the local community center was renamed the Robert J. Saul Community Center. **ABOVE:** Robert's medical practice was next door to the Weaver Hotel.

When he first made house calls to those communities, the roads were unpaved, treacherous and often full of ruts. Few of the homes were equipped with electricity.

"It was pretty violent up there in the mountain towns," he said. "They had a lot of desperados—or at least they say so—hanging around. But I was never afraid to go into any of those places. They always treated me nice."

By the 1960s, Robert was not making as many house calls. People started to come to his office in Mountainair. Most had dependable vehicles, so when an emergency occurred, they could get to the doctor faster than he could get to them.

Robert loved Western movies and was often seen at the local theater during his off time.

"Right up there where the post office is, we used to have a movie house," he said. "They had two or three movies a week, and I bet I saw every Western that was ever made. That was great because I only had to walk a block and there was a movie. Saw Gene Autry, Lash La Rue, all those guys. It was wonderful."

At first, Robert had his office in the back of the drugstore where he also lived, but he eventually moved into Weaver Hotel.

His office was next door. He often was seen walking across the street to Golden Grill Café, where he ate most of his meals.

The waitresses at Golden Grill were fond of Robert and knew his eating habits. Before he could be seated, they brought him a cup of coffee with cream already stirred in.

Robert did not care for Mexican food when he first arrived in Mountainair, but grew to like it—as long as it was made with mild green chiles. He was the only customer frequenting the café who could get away with ordering an enchilada with half an egg on top. His favorite Sunday meal was a chocolate banana malt and peanut butter sandwich. He ate a bag of potato chips by crushing the chips and then eating them with a spoon. When the doctor left the café, he would walk around the room, speak to everyone and pay for their meals on his way out the door.

Robert paid the college tuition for more than one of Mountainair's young people. When he knew his patient could not pay, he put the bill in a box that never went out. He was not only the town doctor, but he was a friend to the people of Mountainair and Torrance County. 📧



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575-355-2291

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Santa Rosa, NM 88435  
575-472-3971

**Report an Outage**  
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**Website**  
www.fecnm.org

**Office Hours**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F)

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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.

## Celebrate National Cooperative Month

October is National Cooperative Month! In recognition of this, Farmers' Electric Cooperative invites its member/owners to participate in a contest. You can test your cooperative knowledge by completing the quiz below. All correct entries will be entered into a drawing and FEC will award four, \$25 energy certificates.

### Cooperative Quiz Entry Details

- Entries are accepted from October 1 to October 31, 2022.
- Only one entry per household or business is allowed.
- Only correct entries will be placed in random drawing.
- The random drawing is November 1, 2022.
- Winners will be notified by mail by November 10, 2022. Winning energy certificates will accompany notification.

Thank you for being a member/owner of FEC. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you!

### Instructions

Circle or fill in the correct answers for the following questions. After completing your quiz contest form, cut along the dashed line and send to **FEC, ATTN: Quiz, P.O. Box 550, Clovis, NM 88102** to be entered into the random drawing.

1. Electric blankets are pretty efficient. Using an electric blanket (100 Watts/medium) eight hours a night will cost our member less than \$2.50 per month. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_

2. By 2025, electric vehicles are projected to account for approximately \_\_\_\_\_% of the new car market in the United States—even higher if battery technology has improved significantly.  
a.) 5            b.) 10            c.) 15            d.) 20

3. Using blinds and/or heavy draperies can help keep your home warm or cool depending on the time of year and method of application. It also will help keep your electric bills manageable. True or False?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The recommended winter setting of your central heating system is \_\_\_\_\_ degrees. For every degree you choose to set your thermostat above this recommended setting, you risk increasing your electric bill by 8% on the heating portion of your bill.  
a.) 65            b.) 68            c.) 70            d.) 72

5. LED bulbs are super-efficient, extra bright and have a very long lifespan. A good quality LED can last up to \_\_\_\_\_ years operating three hours per day.  
a.) 5            b.) 10            c.) 15            d.) 20





## Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out

By Abby Berry

Severe winds, lightning and even squirrels can temporarily cause the power to go out.

Farmers' Electric Cooperative understands power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your fridge is stocked with perishable foods.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures to take to avoid illness. Here are a few tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

### Before an Outage

A good rule of thumb is to

keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Include nonperishable food items such as bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal and protein bars.

If you have advance warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice in case the outage spans several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated, perishable items.

### During an Outage

If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless absolutely necessary.

An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours.

A half-full freezer will keep

food frozen for about 24 hours and a full freezer for 48 hours.

If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

### After an Outage

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. If any foods have an unusual color, odor or texture, they should be thrown away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour

exposure to 40+ degrees:

- Hard cheeses that are properly wrapped.
- Butter or margarine that is properly wrapped.
- Taco, barbecue and soy sauces.
- Peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish.

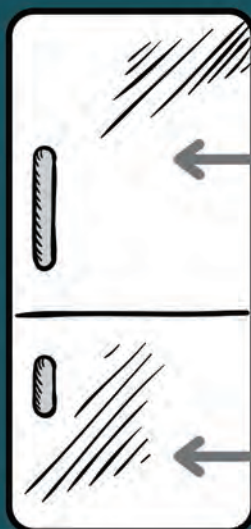
The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule of thumb.

After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming. Remember: When in doubt, throw it out. ■

To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [www.ready.gov/food](http://www.ready.gov/food).

## Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



4

Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

24 OR 48

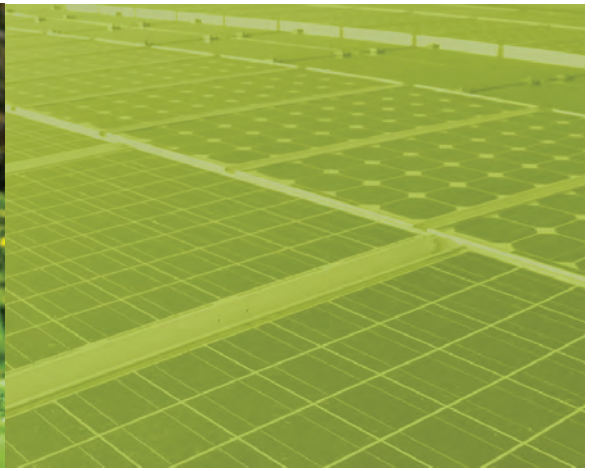
Food in a **half-full** freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a **full** freezer will last 48 hours.

### Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!





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**Powering community, powering life. That's the cooperative difference.**  
Read the full story at [tristate.coop/underthelights](http://tristate.coop/underthelights)



# Gather for Fun and Food

Having tasty snacks on the horizon is a time saver with fall ranch work ramping up and school schedules becoming the norm. Summer is passing and appetizer-snacks are on the September menu.

Pide (pronounce pee-day) originates from Turkey and is generally a flatbread that is stuffed or topped with any desired combination of toppings. Pide may be as simple or complex as the baker desires. Flatbread or a prepared loaf of French bread may be used as a base and The recipe at right brings a Southwestern flair to the Turkish dish. Any protein, cheese and combination of vegetables may be used to create a quick snack or a dish to share with friends around the table.

The fall season begins with apple and pear trees finishing their summer-long growing season. With the complex pairing of our pear-pecan cheese log ingredients, the snack remains tasty for a number of days after it is first crafted. Cheese logs are simple to prepare. Slice off a few pieces for a fantastic source of on-the-go protein.

Snacking is not only allowed but celebrated. Let's cook!

## Pear-Pecan Cheese Log

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened | 2 cups finely shredded sharp cheddar cheese |
| 1 firm pear, cored and finely chopped    | 2 green onions, finely diced                |
| 1 cup pecans, finely chopped             | 1 teaspoon cayenne powder                   |
|  | Selected crackers                           |

Tear off approximately a 1-foot section of plastic wrap or aluminum foil. Sprinkle wrap with ½ cup of pecans.

In a bowl, mix the cream cheese and pear with clean hands. Stir in shredded cheese, onion and ½ cup of pecans. Shape into a log, pressing sides continuously to firmly pack the log.

Roll log in the pecans on the wrap to cover the outside. Sprinkle cayenne on the surface and seal with wrap.

Refrigerate a minimum of 4 hours prior to serving. Place the log at the center of a serving dish and surround with crackers or appetizer toasts. Refrigerate leftovers for up to two weeks.



## Southwest French Bread Pide

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 loaf of French bread                                 | 1 teaspoon ground cumin                   |
| 1 15-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed         | 1 teaspoon dried oregano                  |
| 1 cup prepared salsa of choice                         | 2 green onions, thinly sliced vertically  |
| 1 10-ounce can tomato/chile combination, such as Rotel | 2 bell peppers, cored and thinly sliced   |
| 1 cup olive oil  | 1 cup Mexican cheese blend, finely grated |

Prepare a French bread loaf by cutting an oval out of the top; reserve it. Brush loaf and top with a mix of oregano and ½ cup olive oil.

Broil loaf and top until slightly toasted. Remove; set oven to 375 F.

In a food processor, pulse beans, salsa and canned tomatoes until well blended and beans are chopped. Drizzle in remaining olive oil and add cumin.

Spread bean mixture on prepared bread, sprinkle on bell peppers and top with cheese.

Place in the oven and bake for 15 minutes. Remove, sprinkle cheese on top and place back in the oven until cheese is slightly melted.

Sprinkle with green onions and top with broiled top of the loaf. Serve sliced or tear sections off.



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

Albuquerque's northside is host to Tomato Café, a locally owned Italian buffet. The restaurant serves not only hungry patrons but those who are food compromised in the Albuquerque area.

Kurt Wagner, owner since 2018, started at the Tomato Café in 1996 as manager. The café has been awarded Albuquerque's best buffet a number of times by Albuquerque The Magazine.

The café needed to get very creative during the recent pandemic. Kurt and his staff transformed the café into a to-go restaurant to keep open.

"We have a fantastic core of loyal employees who do an awesome job," Kurt says.

The café's community spirit is well known at Desert Harvest Food Rescue, where Tomato Café regularly donates food.

"We have donated well more than 750,000 pounds of food to Desert Rescue," Kurt says.

Tomato Café's reopened buffet offers fare for every taste and dietary need with not only a wide variety of pizza but a salad bar with fresh vegetables and gluten-free salad dressings. Soup selections are a daily addition, along with a pasta bar complemented by a number of sauces and pasta assortments.

Meatballs, ravioli, cooked vegetables—investigators loved the garlic green beans—are always a part of the buffet, as well as soft serve ice cream. The café's signature homemade tiramisu is available for a separate charge. UFI Junior Investigators Adah and Evan Young stated that the café's buffet is the best ever!

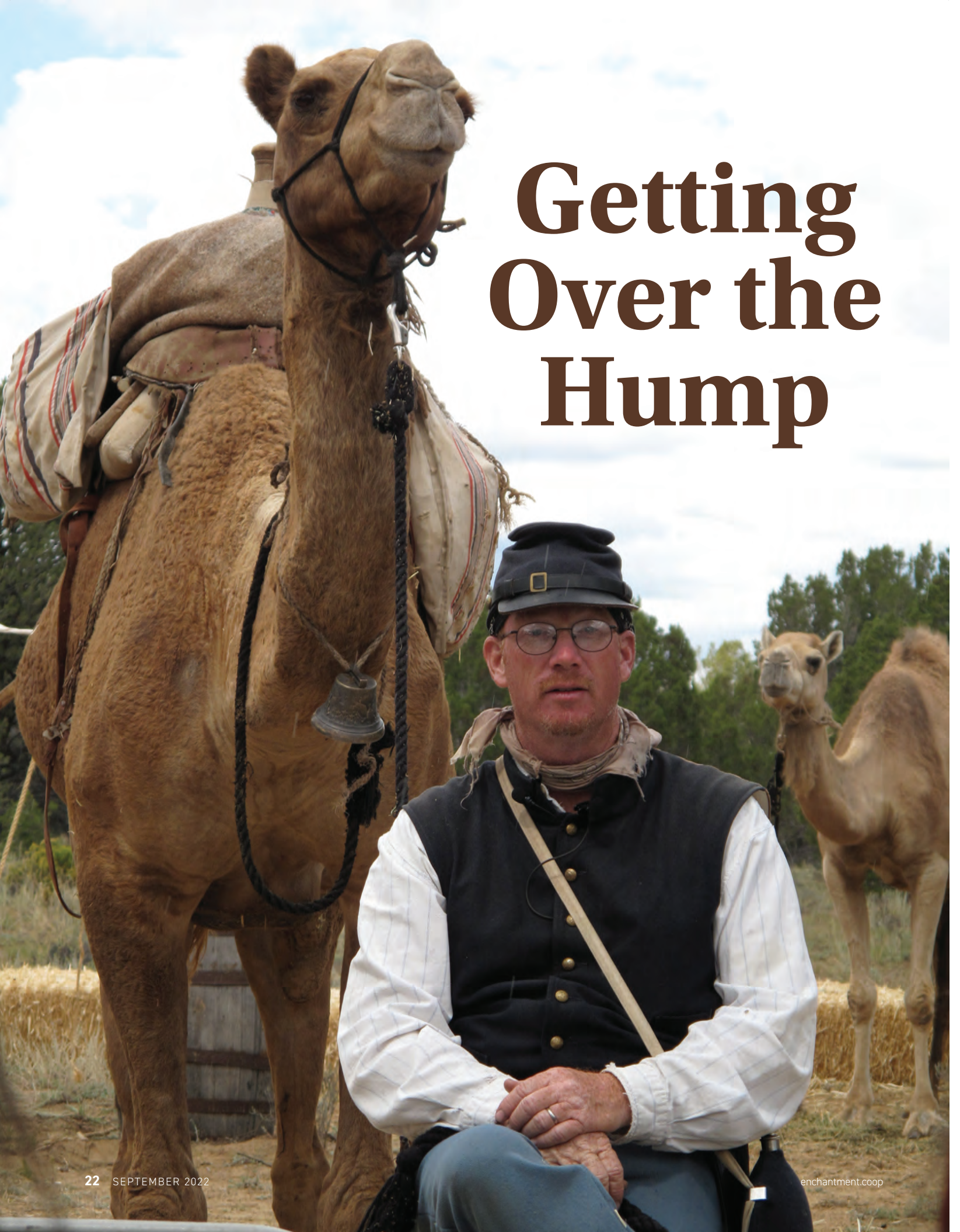
For more information or to arrange for catering or hosting a fundraising, call Kurt at Tomato Café at 505-821-9300. Tomato Café is located at 7900 San Petro NE in Albuquerque. Visit their website [tomatocafe.com](http://tomatocafe.com).

*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 future spots for the team to investigate.*

**TOP: Tomato Café's pizza bar has a variety of options. RIGHT: UFI Junior Investigators Adah and Evan Young give Tomato Café a thumbs up.**

BACKGROUND PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA/JPL-CALTECH/UCLA





# Getting Over the Hump

# El Morro Commemorates the U.S. Camel Corps

By Wendy Gordge

It was an improbable journey. In charge of the expedition was a young naval lieutenant, operating far from any ocean. His job was to blaze a new wagon route through the bone-dry deserts of the Southwest.

Ahead was a landscape, often unforgiving and largely uncharted. In tow was an odd company of men and beasts. Among them were 25 camels, loaded to the hilt, lumbering forward like walking mountains of gear.

The year was 1857 and this strange expedition was led by Lt. Edward Beale past Inscription Rock in what is today El Morro National Monument. Names such as Beale, P.G. Breckinridge and E. Penn Long carved into the rock bear testament to this little-known chapter of American history.

Their story began nine years earlier, when gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California. In numerous ways, Beale played a role in the gold rush. Returning from a trip to California in 1848, he brought back to Washington, D.C., the first gold nugget, proving to a skeptical Congress the existence of gold in the Far West.

This discovery set off one of the largest migrations in U.S. history. Within 10 years, hundreds of thousands of Americans traveled westward for the promised land.

Between these Western emigrants and their hope for new prosperity, however, stood danger, disease and seemingly endless distance.

Responding to demands to create shorter and easier routes to California, the U.S. government commissioned Beale to build a 1,000-mile wagon road from Fort Defiance, Arizona, to the Colorado River between Arizona and California. While doing that, Beale tested camels as potential pack animals, seeing if they could do the work of a horse or mule.

On June 25, 1857, Beale and the U.S. Army Camel Corps began their journey from their base at Camp Verde, Texas.

The Beale expedition is just part of the historic legacy evident at El Morro National Monument. To learn more about this Army odyssey of man and beast, join historic interpreter Doug Baum and the rangers of El Morro on September 10-11, 2022, for a special event to commemorate the U.S. Camel Corps. On this second weekend in September, there will be fun for the whole family with historic presentations, kids' crafts, hands-on activities and live camels. For more information, visit El Morro's website at [www.nps.gov/elmo](http://www.nps.gov/elmo).

From the outset, the expedition was fraught with difficulties. Camels imported from the Middle East were an unfamiliar sight. Their strange appearance terrorized horses and mules. Livestock initially reacted to them as if encountering some bizarre extraterrestrial life form.

In addition, American soldiers were clueless camel handlers. They packed cargo around the camels' awkward humps only to have the heavy loads tumble off, causing delays and flaring tempers.

At first, the entourage barely progressed, day after tedious day. May Humphreys Stacey—a member of the expedition—recorded his discouragement, lamenting in his journal, "It is my decided opinion that these camels will prove a failure."

As the travelers spent more time with the camels, their opinions changed. On September 26, Beale recorded in his journal, "My admiration for the camels increases daily with my experience of them. The harder the test they are put to the more fully they seem to justify all that can be said of them. They pack water for others four days under a hot sun and never get a drop; they pack heavy burdens of corn and oats for months and never get a grain; and on the bitter greasewood and other worthless shrubs not only subsist but keep fat."

The expedition found camels could walk faster than horses and mules while carrying three to four times as much weight.

The men's misgivings gave way to admiration. Despite first impressions, even the party's horses and mules grew



**ABOVE: Edward F. Beale led the 1857 expedition from Texas to California that tested the use of camels.** PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND.  
**OPPOSITE: Doug Baum, a historic interpreter at El Morro National Monument, tells visitors the history of the U.S. Camel Corps.** PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS.

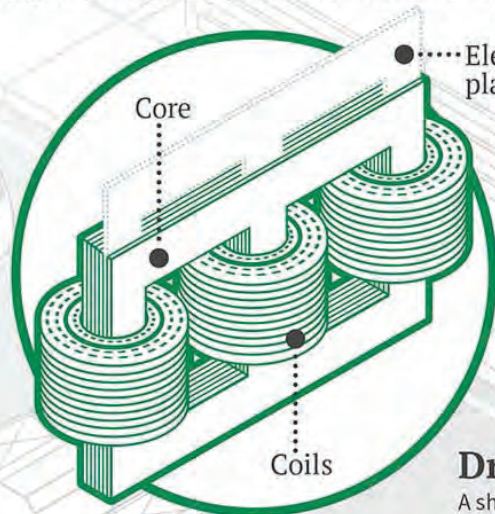
accustomed to their dromedary neighbors.

Beale completed the road survey and arrived in Los Angeles to great fanfare on November 9. With endless miles and countless setbacks behind him, Beale finally allowed the strain of the journey to drain away. His greatest achievement, he felt, was to have come so far across a vast land where danger and discomfort were the only certainties and to have not lost a single man.

The Beale wagon road was essentially the nation's first federally funded interstate highway. In time, much of the route would become Route 66. 📍

# Trouble With Transformers

Months of constricted operations at electrical transformer factories caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have strangled inventory of these essential grid devices. Add to that spiking demand from new housing developments, scarcity of raw and finished materials, bottlenecks at shipping ports and a shortage of freight drivers, and it's a recipe for a long-term supply crunch. Here are some of the key drivers of the current national transformer shortage.



**Electrical Steel**  
A global shortage of electrical steel, a key component in transformers, is slowing production.

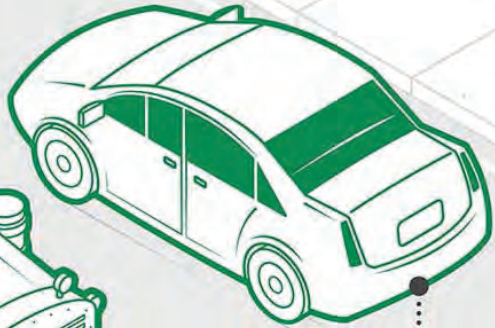
**Labor Shortages**  
A tight labor market is causing difficulties in hiring and retaining factory worker and technicians.



**Driver Shortages**  
A shortage of truck drivers and warehouse workers is impeding deliveries of finished products.

**High Demand**  
Developments in growing areas of the country and summer storm prep are spiking the need for new transformers.

**Shipping Bottlenecks**  
Imports of components made overseas are being delayed by labor shortages at U.S. shipping ports.



**Electric Vehicles**  
Much of the world's tight supply of electrical steel is being absorbed by the booming EV market.

Source: NRECA; Design: Kevin Kepple





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**ITEMS FOR SALE:** Bowflex Conquest Home Gym; Air Cloud insta-pool, 15 ft. in diameter 42 inches deep, 3,100 gallons with cover, pump and ladder; Sevylor K116, 5-person, 9 ft. boat with foot pump and carrying bag. \$100. each. Email [kay@aldoravilla.com](mailto:kay@aldoravilla.com) with any inquiries.

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**OLD SCHOOL SIGN PAINTER,** hand lettered signage. No vinyl, windows, walls, vehicles, wood, metal or plastic. For more information, call A. Sanchez at 575-758-7417 or cell 505-498-7743.

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**REAR WHEEL DRIVE OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS PARTS FROM 1980 TO 1988 FOR SALE.** Assorted parts for the exterior and the interior. Some parts are new, some used. Call 575-567-3020 for more information on available parts.

**HEIGHTS FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE CRAFT SHOW & FUNDRAISER!** November 19th from 9 am to 4 pm. Located at 8401 Paseo Del Norte, NE in Albuquerque. Reserve your 8 ft. x 8 ft. space and table, \$45. using a church table or \$40. using your own table. Contact Kelly for application, email [kydcrafter@yahoo.com](mailto:kydcrafter@yahoo.com) or text 505-239-7377.

## Real Estate

**2 MOUNTAIN CABINS,** 25+ acres at 8,000 feet, Wildhorse Ranch Subdivision, Pie Town, NM. Well on stream with 5,000 storage tank and fire hydrant. New Mexico Hunting unit 13. To view this property, go to: <https://fsbo.com/listings/listings/show/id/520104/>

**CONCHAS, 0 AND 00 RIDGE DRIVE, PRICE REDUCED.** Two tracts with two lots per each property (lots are 100 x 100 or .23 acre). Each tract has a permitted septic that has never been used. Electricity and co-op water nearby. \$40,000 per tract. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**SUMNER LAKE, 0 RIVER RANCHES ROAD,** (at intersection with State Road 203). Lot just over 20 acres. Scenic views, just west of lake. \$18,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**JEMEZ MOUNTAINS CABIN/LOFT,** 16243 NM Highway 126, 16.24 paved miles east of Cuba, NM. Approximately 4.45 acres with water, electric and sewer. 285 sq. ft. cabin/loft, one room with kitchenette and powder room. 40 ft. gazebo, 3/4 bath attached. Beautiful view of the Rio Las Vacas River and valley. Great for family gatherings or hunting parties. \$375,000. Call Yvonne at 505-347-8832 for more information.

**PIE TOWN, SOUTH OF WILD HORSE SUBDIVISION.** Two tracts with closest access from Goat Ranch Road. One is 20 acres for \$12,000. and one is 40 acres for \$24,000. Vacant land. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**NEW MEXICO LANDOWNERS, LET US SELL YOUR WORKING FARM OR RANCH.** 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](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**CURRY, ROOSEVELT AND QUAY COUNTIES, CLOVIS, PORTALES AND TUCUMCARI,** let us sell your farms, ranches, city residential and commercial properties. Broker is a life resident of Curry County and Clovis native. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**FENCE LAKE, 295 PINE HILL ROAD, PRICE REDUCED, MOTIVATED SELLER,** 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom home on just over 60 acres, well, outbuildings, corrals, abundant wildlife and scenic views. NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM. \$240,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**CANADIAN RIVER - WEST OF UTE LAKE. EAST OF QUAY ROAD AI.** Seven 40 acre (more or less) parcels with lake and mesalands views. One of the seven lots is west of Quay Road AI fronting Ute Lake. Call for appointment to show and pricing. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**CONCHAS, 204 CONCHAS PLACE, SALE PENDING**, 2-bedroom, 2-bath home with great views of the lake. Upper level has kitchen and deck. Carport for RV and boat. Two car garage. \$189,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**SAN MARCIAL, 27A WINCHESTER ROAD, WILLOW SPRINGS RANCH SUBDIVISION. PRICE REDUCED!** 432 acres in the foothills of the Chupadera Mountains. Close to I-25. \$324,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**DATIL, HERRINGTON CANYON ROAD.** Three properties, one east (40 acres) and two west/northwest (44 and 40 acres) vacant land. Starting at \$24,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**DATIL, 40 ACRE TRACT EAST OF CRISWELL ROAD** (Forest Road 6A) and a 40 acre tract East of Red Feather Tank Road (off Criswell Road). Vacant land. Starting at \$24,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://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](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**TUCUMCARI, 1120 S. SARATOGA,** 1.5 acres fronting US 54 (Mountain Road). \$20,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**DATIL, COYOTE TRAIL, BLUEBIRD ROAD AND SUGARLOAF TRAIL. SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN SUBDIVISION.** (SOLD, LOTS 241, 268, 269 and 273). Choice of eight lots just over five acres each. \$12,500. per lot. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**PORTALES/ARCH, 1884 STATE ROAD 88,** 3-bedroom, 4-bath home on just over one acre. Attached carport. Two wells. \$230,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**CLOVIS, 809 S. PRINCE.** Vacant land just under five acres south of intersection of Brady and Prince. Commercial. \$200,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**SANTA ROSA, 0 EAST OF LOS TANOS CREEK, HOLLYWOOD RANCH SUBDIVISION.** Ten acres with great views of surrounding mesalands. \$10,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**SANTA ROSA, 0000 WILL ROGERS DRIVE,** 26 acres close to I-40 and old Route 66. Commercial potential. \$450,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://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, \$200,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

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

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**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](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

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2. Email: [enchantment@nmelectric.coop](mailto:enchantment@nmelectric.coop)

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**CONCHAS, 116 NICKEL LANE,** airport runway access with two bay free span hangar. 3-bedroom, 2-bath home, community water. \$270,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

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**MAGDALENA, 332 CAMPFIRE ROAD, PINON SPRINGS SUBDIVISION.** 20 acres. Electricity and phone close by. Great mountain views. \$24,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. [www.bigmesarealty.com](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

**WANTED: LOW COST, OLDER,** single wide mobile home, two or three bedrooms in good condition. FOR SALE near Caballo Lake, .759 acre, electric near by, great view property. \$25,000. Mobile home allowed. Call Bill at 575-894-3362 for more information.

**CARRIZOZO HIGHWAY 54 SOUTH, 19.79 ACRES.** For sale by owner. Fully fenced, 3-bedroom, 2-bath-room, 1,280 sq. ft. garage, ten stall barn. Close to three race or training tracks. \$475,000. Call 575-491-0843 or email [dochawk@tularose.net](mailto:dochawk@tularose.net) for more details.

**LEASING GOOD FERTILE FENCED LAND IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO,** good for grazing cows. Call Rita at 505-231-9145 for more information.

**CONCHAS, 631 CONCHAS DRIVE,** 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](http://www.bigmesarealty.com)

## Vehicles

**1999 GMC SUBURBAN,** 4-wheel drive, automatic transmission, motor in excellent condition, very clean body and interior. Excellent transportation. Air conditioner and door locks not working. \$3,500. Please call Lee Cordova at 505-832-6812 in Moriarty, NM for more information.

**I NEED YOUR HELP!** I am a dialysis person who is handicapped and wheelchair dependent. I am in need of purchasing a used van which is handicapped equipped with a drop down ramp. Van should be 1985 or newer. Please call Lee Cordova again at 505-832-6812 in Moriarty, NM for more information.

**1982 MITSUBISHI COMPACT TRACTOR,** 136 hours, 4 cylinder diesel, 4 x 4, 5 ft. bucket, 5 ft. brush hog. \$10,000. No delivery available, located in Roy, NM. Call 505-217-8402 for more information.

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**1949 CHEVROLET 3600 PICKUP,** with fully restored original straight 6 engine. Four on the floor transmission. Truck is all original with the exception of the radio. Very clean interior and exterior. Body is in very good condition. Call Harvan at 832-474-8569 for more information.

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# youth art

## October's Topic:

**Happy Halloween!** Draw a carved pumpkin or something spooky!

## November's Topic:

**Happy Thanksgiving!** Draw your family enjoying a feast or a turkey.

## Send Your Drawing

By mail: Youth Editor  
614 Don Gaspar Ave.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

By email:  
enchantment@nmelectric.coop

**Deadline:** Submit by the 9th, one month prior to publication.

**Hooray! Winners Get Paid:** \$15

## 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
5. Electric Co-op

\*Accepted artwork up to age 13.

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Madeleine Edmonds • Age 10  
Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative



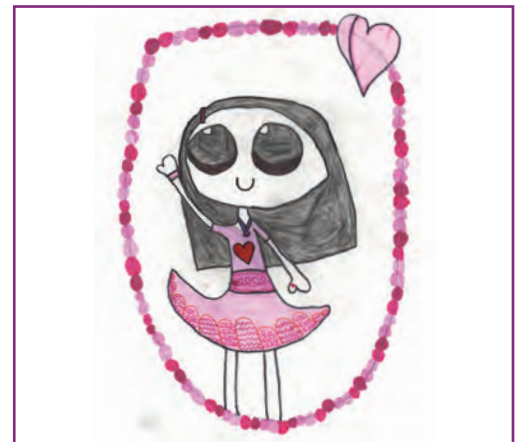
Kynsleigh Schlamann • Age 10  
Socorro Electric Cooperative



Sage Scandura • Age 4  
Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative



Lily Montoya • Age 9  
Mora San Miguel Electric Cooperative



Alanda Rougemont • Age 9  
Continental Divide



Tessa Peters • Age 6  
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